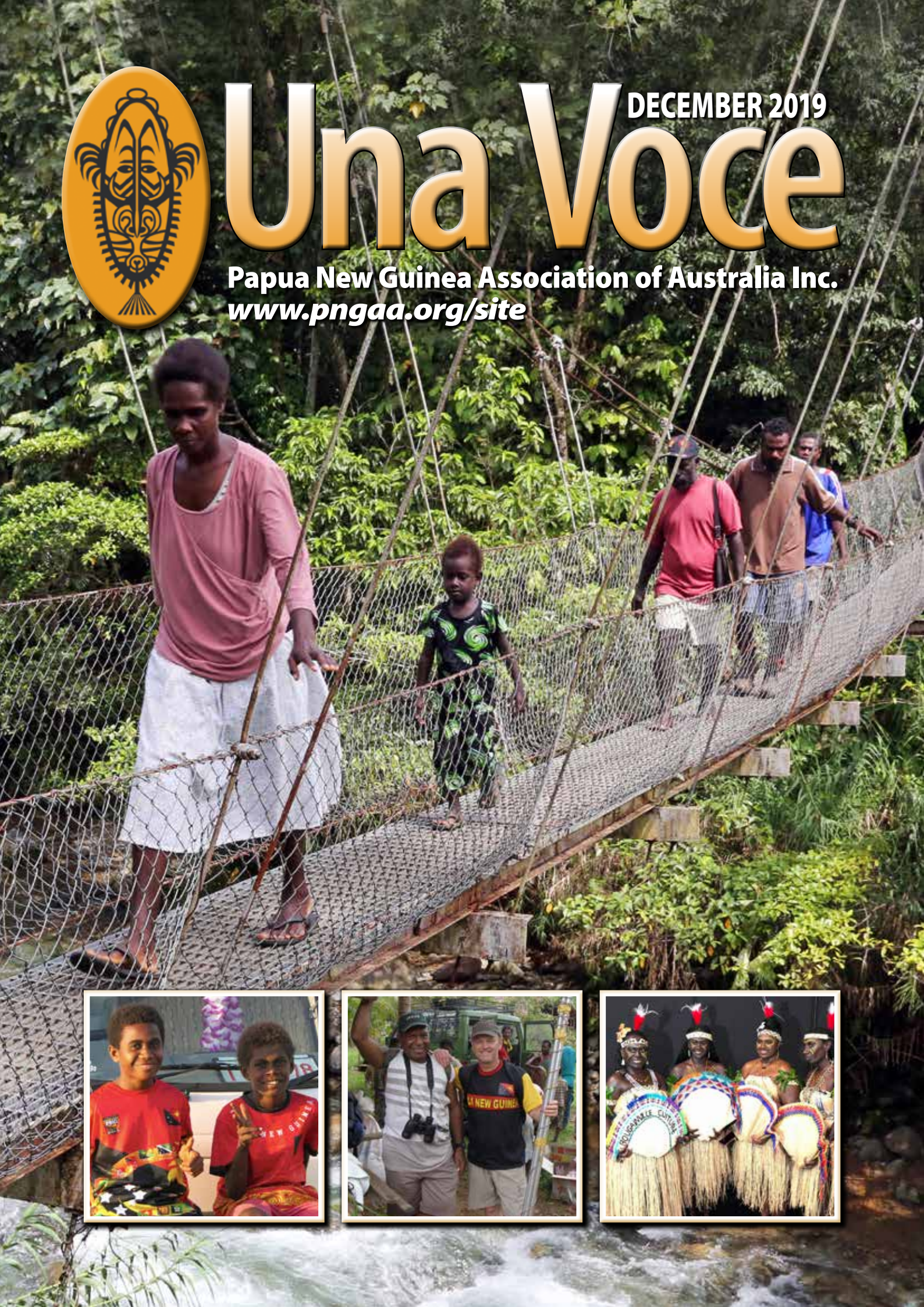


DECEMBER 2019



Una Voce

Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc.
www.pngaa.org/site



16th Pacific Games Apia, Samoa



The 16th Pacific Games were held from 7 to 20 July this year in Apia, Samoa, with 5,000 athletes from 22 countries participating. Team PNG sent 376 athletes and participated in 23 of the 26 events, winning 38 gold medals, 57 silver and 35 bronze, a total of 130. This resulted in them coming second in the total medal count, with New Caledonia coming first with 182 medals, and Samoa with 125 medals.

A key highlight for PNG was the success of the women's football team in winning gold, repeating their performance in 2015 when PNG hosted the event in Port Moresby. They defeated the host nation Samoa 3-1 on the final day of the sporting competition.

The PNG men's football team came second, with New Zealand being the overall winners in the men's competition. Another highlight for PNG was in athletics, where they won 14 gold, 20 silver and 17 bronze medals. The next Pacific Games will be held in the Solomon Islands in 2023.

Opening ceremony (top); PNG celebrate their medal haul on the track (centre); PNG Women's Football Team celebrate victory (bottom); PNG team march out first at the games (main)
(Photos by Misiona Simo, PNGBuzz & RNZ, information compiled from various websites)



**OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA Inc.**

ISSN 1442-6161, PPA 224987/00025 • Vol. 41, No. 164

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

2019–2020 PNGAA Office Bearers

PRESIDENT: Max Uechtritz

Email: president@pngaa.net

SECRETARY: Chris Pearsall

Mob: 0410 530 502—Email: admin@pngaa.net

TREASURER: Murrrough Benson

Mob: 0448 216 049—Email: treasurer@pngaa.net

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: Roy Ranney

Email: membership@pngaa.net

UNA VOCE EDITOR: Vicki Long

Mob: 0401 118 301—Email: editor@pngaa.net

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR: Sara Turner

Mob: 0401 138 246—Email: events@pngaa.net

RABAUL & MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL:

Andrea Williams—Email: admin@memorial.org.au

Membership: This is available to any person with an interest in PNG. Please refer to the *Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form*, at the end of this issue, for rates and payment options. Application forms also are available from the Membership Officer at membership@pngaa.net or our website, www.pngaa.org/site. No receipts are sent for subscriptions as it would add to our postage costs.

Membership Renewal: 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.

PNGAA Collection: For all donations to this collection (photographs, diaries, publications, etc.), please contact Cheryl Marvell at collection@pngaa.net or 0438 635 132.

PNGAA Mail: PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069

PNGAA Website: www.pngaa.org/site

PNGAA Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/PNGAA
If you do not have access to a computer and would like a hard copy of anything on the website please contact the Secretary.

Copy Deadline for March 2020 *Una Voce*

Friday, 31 January 2020

All contributions to: editor@pngaa.net

Contribution guidelines are available on the website
or by request from editor@pngaa.net



Una Voce

DECEMBER 2019

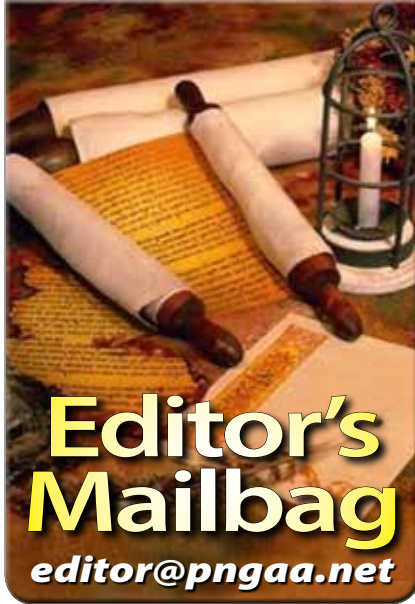
16th Pacific Games, Apia, Samoa	IFC
Editor's Mailbag	2
<i>From the Editor</i>	2
<i>Help Wanted</i>	4
What's On?	5
PNGAA Round-Up	8
<i>Membership</i>	13
PNG in the News	14
Bougainville Referendum	19
The Bougainville Referendum:	
Law, Administration and Politics	20
Keeping the Home Fires Burning Through Outreach and the Celebration of Culture	21
Kimbe to Kimbe—PNG Revisited	23
The Human Face of Kokoda	26
Bert and 'the Boss'— The Unsung Victors of Kokoda	29
Madang Field Trips, 2014 (<i>Part 2</i>)	32
The History of the ABC in PNG	33
Tisa: A Teacher's Experience in PNG 1962–75 (<i>Part 2</i>)	37
Youth	40
Art + Books	42
The Wallabies at War and the Hellships	47
Sing-Sing	49
The Passing of Pacific Man	52
Vale	54
Memorial News	58
Treasurer's Corner	
<i>Membership & Order Form</i>	63
Sydney Wantoks Celebrate PNG's 44th Anniversary of Independence	BC



FRONT COVER

MAIN: Suspension bridge near the village of Sipatako, Bougainville Island, p.2
Independence Day, Kokopo, p.50
Barry Conn and Kipiro Damas, p.44
Bougainville dancers, Brisbane, p.21

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 December Edition of *Una Voce*

It looks like the September 'bumper' edition size is continuing, with all the activities and stories we have to report.

This issue's front cover features villagers walking across a suspension bridge near Sitapako on Bougainville Island, in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. It is near the Panguna Copper Mine, which was owned and operated by Bougainville Copper Ltd, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto, but which closed in 1989 because of the armed uprising.

The Bougainville Referendum will take place on 23 November 2019 and those of us who care about PNG and Bougainville in particular, will watch with



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.

concern and interest in the hope that this process will unfold peacefully; we have included an article on the referendum—the background and issues—as well as a review of a book produced by ANU's Department of Pacific Affairs, which outlines the issues around the referendum itself. There is also an article, 'Keeping the Home Fires Burning', about the vibrant Bougainville community group in Brisbane.

The forty-fourth anniversary of PNG was celebrated in September and we have wonderful photos of celebrations in Kokopo, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

'PNG in the News' has had an emphasis on the activities of some of our youth: see articles on Gima Korimbo the recipient of the first Leigh Grant Vial scholarship; the Dixon girls and their remarkable achievements; and the Duntroon graduates. Sports articles showcase the great achievements of PNG athletes in the Pacific and the Arafura Games, often in the face of challenges in training and support.

Of particular note in 'Arts and Books' is the Paradise Palette exhibition, whose success owes a great deal to PNGAA member Belinda Macartney who did much to promote the exhibition, with 200 people attending opening night. Also the three volumes of *Trees of Papua New Guinea* is an exciting development and valuable resource, the first of its kind in cataloguing all the trees in PNG, the result of years of field work and research.

Please keep sending in your stories whether they be past, present or future; they are what makes *Una Voce* relevant and exciting. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition, through articles, providing feedback or information and general enthusiastic support. Thank you also to Jeannette, our very talented production designer. A reminder too to all our loyal members that subscriptions are due by 31 December 2019 if not already paid. (See *Treasurer's Corner* for membership details.)

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and happiness and prosperity for 2020.

VICKI LONG, Editor

Robert Forster's Post-Independence Article

Whilst I respect the need for our journal to not only record history and stories of members' memories of their (mainly happy) times in PNG, but also to report objectively and promote discussion, I am not too sure that there is a need for articles such as Mr Forster's (*Una Voce*, September 2019), which gives a negative and somewhat unfair view of the rural areas of PNG. There are a number of errors of fact in his article. It is not clear what he means by '... an estimated 2,000 official rest houses'? The only 'official' government establishments at independence were eighteen district headquarters, eighty-one sub-district offices and some seventy patrol posts. True, many

villages and other locations central to scattered populations did boast a bush-material rest house (*haus kiap*). Such was visited once or twice a year by administration patrols. However, being conveniences to save the patrol from having to pitch tents, they were for the most part ephemeral.

There were never, nor are there any, 'sub-provinces'. The old administration's eighteen districts became provinces and their numbers have increased to twenty-one. The old sub-districts became districts and boundaries were redefined to coincide with open electorate boundaries.

Kunimaipa was never under German rule and so never spelt with an 'ei'. Noted by Forster to be only about 130 kilometres from Port Moresby it might be no more of a 'no-go' area than some impoverished cities or suburbs in other parts of the world. In 1975 when Mr Forster left PNG, its population was about three million. It is now over nine million with a natural increase of over three per cent per annum. Combined with this, PNG's only welfare system—the extended family and village of birth—hardly exists for many of her youth any more.

In a book published forty-three years after he left PNG, Forster suggests that his authority for his writings was that the bulk



Photograph from Robert Forster's article, showing a flag being raised during routine patrol at Munumul near Nondugl in the Wahgi Valley in 1973 (Robert Forster on left)

of the information in it was typed up, with the help of records, over a three-month period starting eighteen months after his departure: 'The temptation to indulge in hindsight has therefore been resisted.' His current impressions of PNG seem to lack such authority.

C WARRILLOW

'The Patrol Post in the Sky'

And who wrote 'The Patrol Post in the Sky'? You won't believe it, but I did. It was first published in the June 2004 edition of *Una Voce*, pages 24 and 25, as part of the obituary for Mal Lang, another 1953 kiap. Mal had a dry, laconic wit, even on his deathbed. Bill McGrath and I went to visit him a few days before he died, and just to cheer him up we were teasing him and making jokes, and I said to him, 'After you die Mal, I will write plenty of funny stories about you in *Una Voce*.'

And he said, 'Don't write just about me, Chips, write a story for all kiaps when they die.'

For weeks after Mal's death Bill kept on pestering me to write the story for all kiaps, just as Mal had asked. But I did not know what to write or where to start.

Then one day I was listening to

country music on the radio and I heard the song 'The Gold Mine in the Sky'. It went something like this:

*There's a gold mine in the sky
far away,
We will find it, you and I,
one fine day,
And we'll sit up there
and watch the world roll by,
When we find that
long-lost gold mine in the sky.*

And I thought, that's it. If there is a gold mine in the sky, maybe there is also a patrol post in the sky, and that is how 'The Patrol Post in the Sky' was born. I wrote the words 'There's a patrol post up there in the sky' and then I thought, well, that rhymes with 'Samarai', and so I filled in all the blanks from there on.

After Mal's death there was a memorial gathering in the Manly Sailing Club and I wrote that event up for *Una Voce*, and included 'The Patrol Post in the Sky'—that was the first time it was published in *Una Voce*. It has been published several times since, and it also made its public debut at page 297 in my book *Sivarai*, published by Amazon in 2013. *Sivarai* is reviewed by Keith Jackson in the June 2018 edition of *Una Voce* on page 48.

And that is the story of 'The Patrol Post in the Sky'. Hope you enjoyed it.

CHIPS MACKELLAR

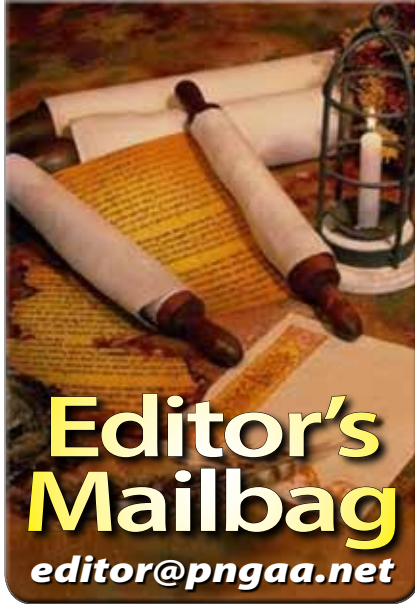
(UV: This letter was written in response to the query about who wrote the poem included in the tribute to Bill McGrath on page 52)

Mick Smith's Controversial Photo

I read with interest the article by Mick Smith on page 42 of the June issue of *Una Voce*, and Evan Cleland's response on page 4 ▶

Correction

The email address for Cheryl Marvell in her role as keeper of the PNGAA collection is collection@pngaa.net and her mobile number is 0438 635 132. They were incorrectly reported in the September edition of *Una Voce*. Apologies to anyone who had an 'undelivered mail/call' message.



Editor's Mailbag

editor@pngaa.net

of the September issue, and the controversial photo.

I was posted as a patrol officer to Popondetta in early 1953, after having participated in the rescue team after the Mount Lamington eruption two years earlier.

Later in 1953, just before the Coronation Day celebrations in June, I was instructed by District Commissioner Jack Bramell to escort a party of CDW tradesmen to the site of the old Higaturu Government Station to see what could be salvaged. At that time the devastated area was still out of bounds to everyone. I recall the recovery

of the lighting plant Mick referred to, and also an amount of timber. I have a number of photos (of indifferent quality) I took, showing all seven of the tradesmen, but can't remember which one is Mick. Copies are available on request. Several of these 'tradies' also appear in photos I took of the Coronation Day celebrations at Popondetta on 2 June 1953.

Patair in 1953 used a DH83 Fox Moth, usually flown by Frank Goosens, in which I travelled twice, until Frank managed to prang it at Lake Myola near Kokoda in about November 1953. I was deployed to Kokoda to assist in the search and rescue, but was not needed. Frank was found virtually uninjured. As Mick says, Patair introduced the lumbering old Avro Anson into service in 1953.

Regarding the photo. The man on the left is not Ceb Barnes, who was not elected to the Federal Parliament until 1958. It is most likely Paul Hasluck, Minister for Territories,

who led the proceedings, and his wife, Alexandra. The photo was taken in 1952, before my arrival in February 1953. The building was probably the old district office, which was demolished and replaced, maybe by Mick Smith's team. Others in the photo were certainly the Clelands. Sir Donald retired, as Evan said, in 1967.

Syd Elliott-Smith was replaced in 1953 as District Commissioner (DC) Northern District by Jack Bramell. As an amusing sidelight to Mick's lighting plant story, the DC and his wife, Pat, would invite us young patrol officers and cadets to dinner at the Residence. At about 9.30 Jack would disappear and come back with a set of neatly-folded pyjamas which he would place beside his chair. This was the signal for us to make our departure, knowing that the generator would be switched off at 10 pm and the station plunged into darkness! Them were the days!

QUENTIN ANTHONY



183 Recce Flight Reunion— Mooloolaba

183 (Independent) Recce Flight was a unit of the Australian Army's Aviation Corps and was based at Lae Airport from 1968 to 1976.

The Flight provided support to the PNG Defence Force, other units of the Australian Army who were operating in the Territory of PNG (such as Survey and Engineer units), as well as Search and Rescue

missions and civil aid support, including civil disasters.

Former members of 183 Recce Flight will be holding a reunion on 21 and 22 October 2020 at Club Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.



Bell Sioux helicopter used by the unit

Help Wanted

CONNECTIONS & RESEARCH

The reunion is being coordinated by Dave Williams, who is seeking input and/or photographs from anyone who had close contact with 183 Recce Flight during its operations in TPNG.

Dave can be contacted by email daveandmaxine@bigpond.com or mobile 0427 529 195.

RUSSELL WADE

PNGAA Member

Mobile: 0417 021 293 or email: sunray62holdfast@gmail.com



• **NEWCASTLE**
PNGAA Luncheon

Let's have a catch up ...

It is wonderful when old friends meet and even more wonderful that we all have PNG in our blood. So Sara Turner and I thought we would have a get-together lunch, so we all can just sit, relax, eat and chat.

When: Monday, 4 November, from 11.30 am

Where: The Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto, 6 Arnott Avenue, Toronto

Cost: Lunch from \$15.00. Lunch in the bistro overlooking the lake. Bar facilities available.

A small donation (please) to the PNGAA would be appreciated. There will also be a lucky door price of *Black Sand and Betel Nut*—childhood memories of PNG signed by the author.

Contact: Suellen 0405 407 939

RSVP: By Monday 21 October.

The Royal Motor Yacht Club is situated on the shores of beautiful Lake Macquarie at Toronto. For those who wish to travel by train, the nearest station is Fassifern. There are buses from Fassifern Station to Toronto Square shopping centre every fifteen minutes or so. The shopping centre is very small and

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 for more information.

the bus stop is just in front of the square.

For those travelling by train, I will be standing in Toronto Square from 11.00 am and can direct you (walk five to ten minutes to the yacht club). I can also deliver you back to the station after lunch.

Please call me anytime if you need more clarity.

Sara and I look forward to catching up with you all.

SUELLEN HOLLAND

• **MELBOURNE**
 **PNGAA Christmas Luncheon**

When: Saturday, 23 November, 11.30 am–3.30 pm

Where: Caulfield RSL, St George's Road, Elsternwick

Lunch: Christmas Menu TBA. Payment on day.

Approx cost: \$25–30 pp.

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.

To Book: Please contact Yana on E: coordinator@pngaa.net or Mob: 0425 771 359

RSVP: By Monday 18 November 2019 please. 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.

• **PERTH**
 **PNGAA Christmas Luncheon**

When: Friday, 29 November, at 11.30 am

Where: Royal Australian Air Force Association Club, Air Force Memorial Estate, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149 ▶



PNGAA lunch in Perth in March



Everyone is welcome and we are looking forward to meeting people who spent time in Papua New Guinea. The winners of the raffle for the beautiful quilt (*seen in the photo on the previous page*) made by Jill Worsley will be announced at the lunch. Proceeds will go to the PNGAA.

For all further details and bookings please contact Linda Cavanaugh Manning, Co-ordinator on
E: lindam121@bigpond.com

• SYDNEY

PNGAA Christmas Luncheon

When: Sunday, 1 December 2019
Where: Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara
Further Information: Please see full details on the opposite page.

• CANBERRA

PNGAA Christmas Luncheon

When: 14 December 2019 at 12 Noon
Where: The Pavilion on Northbourne, 242 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson
Cost: \$52.78, buffet style
Contact: John Reeves
E: neradaq@gmail.com
RSVP: By 6 December 2019

Book through website—
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pngaa-christmas-luncheon-tickets-74631888989>
Password is *pngaa*

Payment: Please refer to the Treasurer's Corner on page 64

National Film & Sound Archives (NFSA)

This event is to allow PNGAA members to experience film footage, sound and still images about PNG. There is a range of fascinating material in the NFSA 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.

When: Friday, 22 November 2019, Tour 1—10 am & Tour 2—2 pm
Bookings essential. Numbers limited (12 per group only).

Where: National Film & Sound Archives, McCoy Circuit, Acton

Cost: \$10.00 pp
Please refer to details in the Payments Section of Treasurer's Corner at the end of this issue.

RSVP: 8 November 2019

Parking: Very limited during the week. It is surveilled as well so don't get a ticket. Drop off is possible. Please note: there is free bus from Civic (loop).

Disability Access: Available, and there will be someone to assist.

Procedure: Signing in at the entrance will take some time, so please arrive early to address this (say you are with the PNGAA group).

The tour will be two hours long, with one large screen and

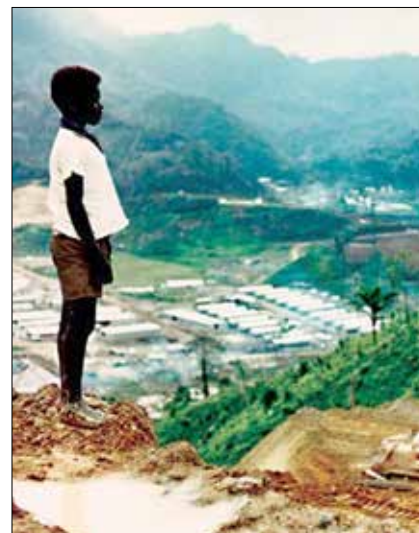


Image from NFSA archives

two smaller screens for the group to share. You may wish to meet up at the Biginelli Cafe at about 12:30 for lunch before or after the tour depending on the time of the tour (coffee, cakes & snacks).

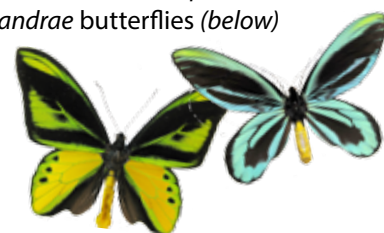
Contact: Sara Turner on 0401 138 246 or E: events@pngaa.net

Bob Gotts Butterfly Collection

It is with great pleasure I invite those interested in one of the beauties of PNG—its butterflies—to view the Bob Gotts Butterfly Collection, which was donated to the Australian National Insect



Bob Gotts, with the *Ornithoptera chimaera* and *Ornithoptera alexandrae* butterflies (below)





PNGAA 2019 Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, 1 December 2019

WHERE: Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Sydney,
from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm

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

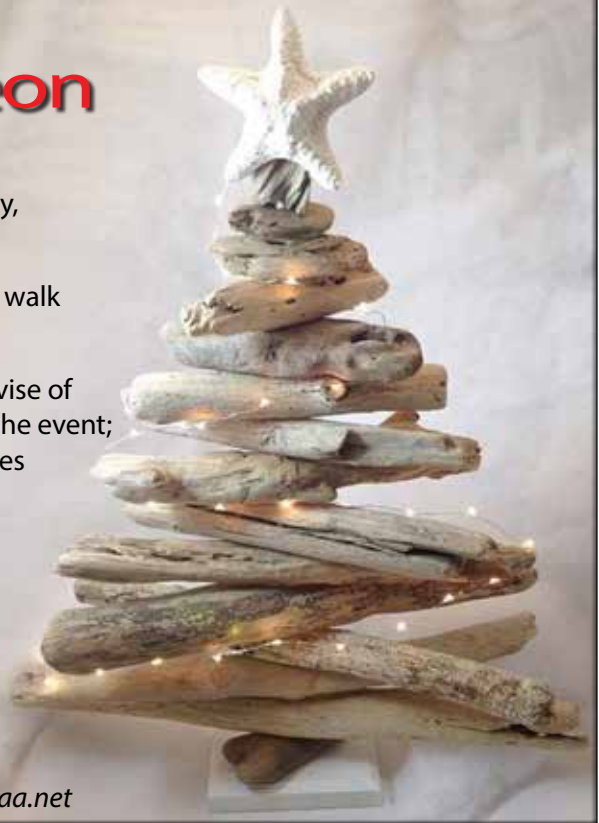
COST: \$70.00 pp includes two-course meal; please advise of
any dietary requirements when you are booking prior to the event;
attendees to pay for their own beverages at members' rates

SILENT AUCTION: Will be available so please start
earmarking your items now

RSVP: Friday, 15 November 2019

PAYMENT: Please see Treasurer's Corner at the back
of this issue for other payment options, and notify
treasurer@pngaa.net when payment is made.

CONTACT: Sara Turner 0401 138 246 or events@pngaa.net



Collection (ANIC), CSIRO,
Canberra.

When: Monday, 25 November,
2019—Tour 1 at 10 am & Tour 2
at 10.30 am (30 minutes each)

Where: Australian National
Insect Collection, CSIRO,
Building 101, Clunies Ross Street,
Black Mountain

Cost: Donation towards the
PNGAA Collection would be
appreciated, collected on the day.
The tour itself is free.

Booking Essential: Numbers
limited (12 per group only).

Parking: Limited free parking
about the building and at the
Discovery Cafe (500 metres
away). Parking also at the Botanic
Gardens or drop off.

NB: Please note that in the
display room there is a strong
smell of naphthalene for those
who may be sensitive.

Procedure: Please arrive early to
allow time for signing in—say
you are with the PNGAA group.

Attendees may wish to join up for
lunch at the Discovery Café after.

Disability Access: Available

Contact: Sara Turner on 0401
138 246 or E: events@pngaa.net

• SUNSHINE COAST A Reminder: Kiap & Friends Reunion— Sunday, 10 November 2019

This invitation is extended to all
kiaps, their families and friends
including teachers, 'didimen',
and anyone else who has been
associated with us in the past.

The reunion is on Sunday,
10 November, 2019 at the Kawana
Waters Hotel which is located at
136 Nicklin Way, near Kawana
Shopping Centre, on the main
road between Mooloolaba and
Caloundra. The same venue as for
many years. For further details
refer to the September edition of
Una Voce, page 11, or go to:

<https://exkiap.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=25&t=2088>

As at beginning of September
we have 136 acceptances. We'd
appreciate your indication as to
whether you will be attending,
mainly so that the Hotel Bistro
can provision itself accordingly
by replying to:

Bob Fayle at rjfayle31@bigpond.com
or 0411 138 884

Peter Salmon at editor@exkiap.net
or 0438 092 052

Denys Faithfull at hfaith@bigpond.com
or 0437 274 927

• CAIRNS Ex-Kiaps Gathering

The FNQ bi-annual gathering
of ex-kiaps and families and
friends will be held at the Cairns
Colonial Club on Saturday,
25 July 2020.

Further details will be in March
Una Voce, but in the interim
contact Deryck Thompson, M:
0428 207 558 or
E: dandy51@bigpond.net.au ♦



PNGAA
Round-Up
editor@pngaa.net

Stepping up Australia's Pacific Engagement

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is undertaking a program of regional engagement and, as part of this, Paul Murphy (Australian Consul-General in Lae, Papua New Guinea), hosted a luncheon on the NSW Central Coast on Friday, 13 September 2019 to discuss the Australian Government's engagement with Papua New Guinea. Several PNGAA members attended.

Three years ago, Australia opened a new diplomatic post, a Consulate-General, in Lae. The Consulate-General promotes

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

Australia's wide-ranging interests in northern Papua New Guinea and provides services to Australian business and citizens.

The Australian Government is revitalising engagement with our nearest neighbours under the banner of the Pacific Step-Up. This commitment to a more intensified engagement in the Pacific aims to support a more resilient region.

Paul Murphy asked attendees at the lunch to outline their ties with PNG. He was impressed by the depth and range of those connections. Some had strong family links going back more than a century; many were born there or had worked there for long periods, and all displayed a keen interest in PNG and her people.

The Consul-General spoke

of his role and experiences in establishing the Consulate in Lae two years ago, covering the northern and island regions of the country. He came across as a personable down-to-earth representative, with prior PNG experience and a practical understanding of PNG's complex economic, social and political dynamics.

PNGAA members mentioned ways in which personal and productive links between Australians and Papua New Guineans could be further strengthened.

**MARK LYNCH
& ANDREA WILLIAMS**

Event Co-ordinator Report

How exciting to see that Suellen has booked a get-together for the people living in Newcastle and surrounds. It is also great to have John Reeves organise the first Christmas 'get-together' for those living in Canberra and the surrounding areas. He has planned it so that people will have the opportunity to go to the Bus Stop Christmas Market. This has great quality crafts, art, food stuffs and plants whenever I have visited there. Congratulations to John and Suellen.

I am thrilled that the request from a member to have a viewing of films at the National Film and Sound Archives will finally be fulfilled after two years, to take place in Canberra in November.



The Consul General to PNG Paul Murphy is in the centre holding a copy of *Una Voce*. PNGAA members are Rebecca Hopper (first lady on the left), Andrea Williams (holding a copy of UV), Mark Lynch (to the right of Andrea), Phil Ainsworth (sixth from right), Jan and Quentin Anthony (third and fourth from right).



Sara Turner

Tours of Bob Gotts' PNG Butterfly Exhibition at CSIRO, Canberra, will be held around the same time. This allows a chance to have a weekend in Canberra or just come to one or the other of these events (please see 'What's on' page 6 for details). Spaces are limited so please book early!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas lunch in Sydney.

If anyone would be interested in something in particular as an event, you might like to let the event convenor in your area know or contact me by email on events@pngaa.net. Enjoy your gardens this Spring.

SARA TURNER
Events Co-Ordinator

How the Role of Women in PNG has Changed—Talk at Manly CWA

On Friday, 13 September, I had the pleasure of addressing approximately thirty ladies at the special International Meeting of the Manly (Sydney) Branch of the CWA (Country Women's Association). As everyone may know, the CWA throughout Australia adopts a particular country as their country of study for a specific period and Papua New Guinea is currently

the chosen country. During the period of study, each CWA branch tries to learn more about different aspects of the culture, history, government, etc., of the nominated country.

For my address, the Branch President, asked me to talk about the role of women in PNG, and how the role of women had changed over the years since the Second World War.

Of course, this topic is not a simple one and a topic that could easily fill more than the twenty minutes allocated for my address. It is fair to say that, historically, women in PNG have been disadvantaged and that barriers to participation have always existed.

We discussed the three major entities that have served to help the advancement of women, starting with the effect of Christian missionaries in the period 1930–50, which focused on assisting women to become better wives and mothers, followed by the rise of various institutionalised groups that create space in PNG society for women to unite, take leadership roles and participate in civil society, leading to the national eight-point plan launched in 1973



Chris Pearsall with Lisa Aijape from Goroka and Debbie Droit from Vanimo, both students at University of NSW.

calling for equal participation of women, and reaffirmed in the new PNG constitution in 1984, and the adoption of the National Women's Policy in 1991. In short, we noted that progress had been achieved through many organisations that have assisted in mobilising women and in enhancing women's participation.

We concluded by noting that much work still needs to be done to overcome cultural and other barriers still in place to make it easier for women to participate, and that many women leaders in PNG continue to draw attention to the government's lack of commitment in carrying out its rhetoric in enforcing existing policy designed to advance the role of women, including more public education, capacity building and the development and support of women's projects.

CHRIS PEARSALL,
PNGAA Secretary

PNGAA Collection

On taking over responsibility for the PNGAA Collection my first task was doing an inventory of a donation of 'whole of PNG life' of one of our late members, Geoff Burfoot, including an amazing number of beautiful artefacts. Luckily, the expert and lovely lady, Robyn Hodgson volunteered to help me name and place the pieces. What a start to the job of looking after our memories and treasured possessions!

I am loving invigorating my memories of an early life in PNG and being the keeper of the collection.

Special thanks at this stage goes to Robyn, my brother Steven (roped in to help me), Murrough Benson for generously showing me how to work everything, ▶



PNGAA
Round-Up
editor@pngaa.net

and Andrea Williams for her enthusiasm and great knowledge.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss a donation, by email on *collection@pngaa.net* or on 0438 635 132.

CHERYL MARVELL
Collection Archivist



Cheryl at work (top) and a figure from the Admiralty Islands, part of the Geoff Burfoot collection (below)

Independence and Sharing Stories

PNG Independence celebrations grow bigger and better in Australian cities each year and this 44th anniversary was no exception. It's a great opportunity for our PNG/Australia communities to get together and for Aussies and Papua New Guineans to celebrate our shared relationship. And, here in Australia, don't we all enjoy the wonderful colours to dress in, the *bilas*, the camaraderie, the opportunity to share traditional dance, dress and culture? We also think of extended family and friends in PNG.

It is also sobering to remember that it is forty-four years—and many children were born in PNG after independence and after the 'Australian years' there. Speakers are often asked what their memories of Independence are.

Listening to speakers born either during this time or after Independence recently, it was glaringly obvious that they feel little historical connection to Australia. And it was before their time, after all.

Did I hear that right? Yes, why should they? They don't learn about it—anywhere. Have a look in Google—how often and where does it mention Australia taking PNG to independence? Thankfully, a later speaker reminded the audience of the benefits of the Australian era in his village before independence and how life is now. But when our storytellers go, so does this history, unless Australia acknowledges it now.

Many of our PNGAA members have written articles for *Una Voce* sharing their memories of life in Papua New Guinea and

reflecting on this joint history. As a reminder:

Ken Humphrey's article (*Una Voce*, September 2006) reminds us that PNG was 'Never a Colony', and Terry Hewett writes a letter to the editor of *Una Voce*, June 2010, which includes:

I heartily agree with Mr Taylor that young Australians ought to be reminded of the contribution of kiaps and others to the development of Papua New Guinea. They should also be reminded that no part of Papua New Guinea was ever an Australian colony.

Graham Taylor's article 'My Kiap Medal Conundrum' (*Una Voce*, March 2010), discusses the Kiap Medal and includes the following excerpt:

It's then I begin to wonder whether for all of us—the living and the dead—there may well be justifiable cause to award such a medal. Not for its value as a trinket, but as a visual reminder of a noble cause well and truly served.

It could be argued that there are three compelling issues. The first is that Australians should be reminded of the contributions we kiaps made towards the development of Papua and New Guinea and its evolution as a sovereign self-governing democracy.

With the ravages of time and the passing of those of us involved there is reason to believe that much will be forgotten. I see this already in my own family. Might the publicity generated by such an award help Australians retain important memories of we kiaps as foot soldiers of a colonial past of which all Australians are justly proud?

The publicity surrounding the granting of the Kiap Medal will always serve as a reminder to Australians of the role played by kiaps in developing Papua New Guinea to become a sovereign self-governing democracy, but those of us who called PNG 'home' need to garner more Australians

to help understand and promote it so that it is not forgotten by younger generations. Many of our members actively do this by sharing their stories.

In December 2018 PNGAA was asked for assistance by the Country Women's Association NSW, whose country of focus this year has been PNG. Not only did we produce a booklet for the information of their members in January, but many, many of our members, both men and women, have spoken at CWA luncheons throughout NSW this year, sharing their stories to the delight of thousands of CWA members.

It was kicked off at the CWA seminar in Dubbo this year with several PNGAA and associated PNGNSW Inc. women's group members speaking to an audience of 300. This was co-ordinated by Sara Turner who also spoke at Branxton and Cessnock (*Una Voce*, March 2019, page 15) and with thanks to Roger Carroll, Liz and Greg Corner, Bob and Di McKeowan, Alison Kennedy and Kate Toynton.

On 7 May 2019 Andrea Williams spoke at the CWA NSW State Conference with 600 attending; Mark Lynch spoke at Maitland and Belmont, John Reeves spoke at Young, Terry Chapman, OAM, spoke at Wingham, Kylie Adams-Collier at Castle Hill and in mid-September 2019 Chris Pearsall spoke at a CWA event in Manly, NSW.

With PNGAA working alongside and introducing the PNGAA NSW Women's Group to the CWA, has also meant that Liz Corner and others have spoken at CWA events, too.

Sara Turner has initiated a number of successful speaking panels over the past years. ▶



Presenters and guests at 'PNG History in Perspective' presentation at Newcastle in July (top); Paradise Palette artists with curator Don Wotton and PNGAA member Belinda Macartney (centre); PNGAA's Alison Kennedy with PNGWANSW president, Lani Drosd, Jane Hickson (secretary) and Hane Pascoe at the CWA Seminar at Dubbo (left).



PNGAA Round-Up

editor@pngaa.net

Following the Sydney panel in May 2019 (*Una Voce*, September, page 46), an event was held in Newcastle on 6 July 2019 with Mark Lynch, Suellen Holland and Dr Jan McLeod speaking to an audience of eighty.

In early October 2019 Margaret and Scott Henderson shared their story as part of a wider presentation at the History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference in Adelaide.

Carole Worthy submitted a short story, 'Dear Grace', in a competition held by Stringybark Stories, and was awarded a highly commended, and her story will be included in a publication of all winning short stories, titled *Fault Line*. More in 'Memorial News'.

Belinda Macartney travelled to Port Moresby in late July to assist Don Wotton in preparation



Some of the VIP guests at the Brisbane Independence Day Celebrations (*Sean Dorney on right*)

for the hugely successful Paradise Palette art exhibition in Brisbane in late August and early September, supporting the work of street artists from Port Moresby.

The Tribal Art Fair on 17 August 2019 in Sydney shared stories about art and culture in PNG and the Pacific, attracting a wide audience. PNGAA took an exhibitor's stall with Sara's husband, Roger, co-ordinating it, due to Sara having pneumonia.

Cheryl Marvell has energetically embraced her new role as PNGAA Archivist for the PNGAA Collection. Items donated to the PNGAA Collection will take their place in sharing our stories, too.

Whilst the curricula do not tell of Australia's wide history in PNG, our members keep stories alive with our youth in other ways too—thirty-two students have been supported through their studies at Goroka Grammar thanks to the Leigh Grant Vial (LGV) Scholarships provided by Brian Vial and Andrea Stevenson. Gita Korimbo's piece is a wonderful read (*see page 40*) Then there are the enormous achievements of the three Dixon girls who live in Australia but retain strong cultural ties with PNG (*also on page 40*).

So you can see that PNGAA members share their stories in a variety of ways, including in *Una Voce*. We'd love to hear how you share your story, too! And it would help to let your local member in on it, as well, requesting more recognition in the Australian curriculum and the need for an Australian Pacific community centre, one of the projects of the PNGAA. Let us know if you write!

Gatherings for PNG

Independence celebrations are a great opportunity to share stories and showcase this rich history. Keep an eye out next year and take an Aussie friend along!

This year in Brisbane seventy-two stallholders and seventeen traditional dance groups attended and performed to a crowd of hundreds at Bill Norris Oval, Beenleigh, organised by PNG Federation QLD Inc.

There are many amazing photos of this day—thanks to PNGAA member Kieran Nelson for sharing the information enabling so many to attend, and obtaining approval to share the photos for our enjoyment.

Yana Pelikan, Geraldine Tyler and PNGAA members celebrated with PNG Wantoks Group of Victoria—with thanks to planning by Bibra, Gorothy and Lucy. Two inspiring speakers spoke—Suzette Dela Cruz Regalo on her upcoming work as a theatre nurse aboard the YWAM Medical Ship bound for Alotau, and Kristine Seko spoke of where PNG is now, where it is going and where she sees her role within the international sector.

PNGAA's Victorian Regional Co-ordinator, Yana Pelikan said: *This day in 1975 was the beginning of the journey of independence. Australia and Papua New Guinea are not just close neighbours! We share decades of history. We are friends of PNG. It was an absolute pleasure to share this day with you all.*

Sydney Wantoks (SYDWAN), with associates PNG NSW Women's Association NSW, held several events for the 44th anniversary. A 'PNG44 Independence picnic and bung' was held on 14 September with cultural performances and stalls together with sports including

Membership

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

Ms Mari ANDERSON
PO Box 3471, Tamarama
NSW 2026

Mr Julian CRAIG
19 Methuen Street, Fitzroy
SA 5082

Ms Liz JOHNSTON
PO Box 758, New Farm
QLD 4005

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*.

Mr Gerald LACEY
Flat #2, 1 Cullen Street,
Unanderra, NSW 2526

Mr Donal MacKENZIE
120A Wyndham Road,
Pinehaven, Upper Hutt
NZ 5019

Ms Anthea MATLEY
VIC 3448

Mrs Cathy PARRY-McLENNAN
c/- The Islander Noosa Resort,
187 Gympie Terrace, Noosaville
QLD 4566

Mr Ian RITCHIE
PO Box 428W, Westcourt
QLD 4870

Ms Carole SAUNDERS
Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Mr Richard SAVAGE
14 Montgomery Crescent,
Spotswood, VIC 3015

Ms Lilla STEWART

Mr Michael SULLIVAN
2/6 Challis Avenue, Potts Point
NSW 2011

Ms Maureen WEBB
(O'MALLEY)
1 Callaghan Street, Evatt
ACT 2167

Change of Address

Mr Bruce DUNN
Unit 134, Palm Village,
63 Caloundra Road,
Little Mountain,
QLD 4551

Mr Ernest HOERLER
22/120 Mudgeeraba Road,
Mudgeeraba, QLD 4213

Mr Ian McMAHON
Unit 22, Southern Cross
Retirement Village, 20 Loane
Drive, Edens Landing,
QLD 4207

Mr Lester ROHRLACH
273/1215 Grand Junction Road,
Hope Valley, SA 5090

Mrs Winsome SHARP
c/- Kurrajong Nursing Home,
129 Old Bells Line Of Road,
Kurrajong, NSW 2758

Membership Renewal

rugby touch, volleyball and soccer. There was a *lotu* (church service) and lunch provided by the PNG NSW Women's Association on Sunday, 15 September (*see the back cover of this issue*).

Thank you for supporting PNGAA activities in 2019 ensuring PNGAA remains vibrant and meaningful for members. With Christmas and holidays approaching, the PNGAA Management Committee wishes all members a happy, healthy, safe and peaceful time. With all best wishes for 2020.

ANDREA WILLIAMS

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.

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, and ensure all our communications are delivered and not wasted. Our database is kept confidential and your details will never be revealed or traded. ♦



Graduates of the Royal Military College Duntroon

The inspiration and photos for this article have come to me via Greg Ivey, from the PIB NGIB HQ PIR (Papuan Infantry Battalion/ New Guinea Infantry Battalion/ Headquarters/Pacific Islands Regiment) Association, who is also a member of the PNGAA.

At the graduation parade at the Royal Military College (RMC) at Duntroon on 25 June this year, there was a double first for Papua New Guinea. Staff Cadet Mark Rakatani was the first PNG student to graduate from the Australian Defence Force Academy and RMC, while Staff Cadet Nikita Urum was the first female PNG cadet to graduate from RMC.

Mark Rakatani is the great-grandson of Sergeant Major Katue, MM, a decorated member of the Papuan Infantry Battalion during World War II. An image of Sergeant Major Katue and several other PIB soldiers is a feature of the Rotary Kokoda Memorial Wall located at Broadbeach, Queensland.

Photos taken by Luke Foster and courtesy of Rick Moor

and the PIB NGIB HQ PIR Association. (The former PIR Association amalgamated with the PIB and NGIB associations and still has surviving members of the PIB and NGIB).

RUSSELL WADE

New PNGAus Partnership Secondary Schools Initiative

PNG Prime Minister James Marape visited Cherrybrook Technology High School in New South Wales, one of Australia's highest performing schools in late July 2019.

While at the school, Prime Minister Marape talked about how Papua New Guinea is approaching the challenges of ensuring access to high quality education for all students, and how the Papua New Guinea-Australia partnership can work with his government to achieve this ambition.

The visit was also an opportunity to discuss a new joint education initiative, announced by Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Prime Minister Marape after the inaugural Papua New Guinea-Australia Leaders' Dialogue on 22 July 2019.

The new PNGAus Partnership Secondary Schools Initiative will strengthen enduring education linkages between Papua New Guinea and Australia. It will pair Papua New Guinean and Australian secondary schools to build education and leadership skills and deepen people-to-people and institutional links.

The initiative, worth nearly PGK23 million over three years (2019–2021), will connect Papua New Guinean and Australian students, teachers, principals



Family, supporters and officials following the graduation parade at RMC Duntroon (top); Staff Cadets Mark Rakatani and Nikita Urum with Lieutenant General Rick Burr, Chief of Army (left); and Lieutenants Nikita Urum and Mark Rakatani celebrate their promotions (right)

and education authorities to better prepare future generations to thrive in a technology-driven and globally interconnected twenty-first century.

This new program will reach more than 2,400 students across twenty-four schools in Papua New Guinea and Australia, particularly in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and youth leadership, giving students invaluable opportunities to learn about each other's countries.

Partnerships and people-to-people links are at the heart of Australia's Step-Up Program.

Further information on the new initiative, including information on an official launch, will be provided as activities and schools are determined.

With words from: <https://png.highcommission.gov.au/pmsb/1046.html>

2019 Australia-Papua New Guinea Emerging Leaders Dialogue in Wewak

The Australia-Papua New Guinea Emerging Leaders Dialogue is the flagship event of the Lowy Institute's Aus-PNG Network,



occurring once a year and alternating between PNG and Australia. This year it will be held in Wewak, East Sepik Province on 5 and 6 November 2019.

Participants represent a range of experience, expertise and industry and society groups, and an outcomes paper—based on the discussions of a range of topical issues over the two days—is forwarded to the two countries' Foreign Ministers and is published on the Network's website: <https://auspng.lowyinstitute.org/emerging-leaders/>



Participants at the 2018 Dialogue (top) and discussion in action (below)

Memorial Education Scholarships in Memory of Kiap and Coastwatcher Leigh Vial

(Details of Leigh Vial's time as a kiap and coastwatcher are in the September edition of *Una Voce*)

In the early years of the twentieth century, two branches of the Vial family grew up together in Melbourne's Camberwell. The four boys in both families were of an age, and spent much time together playing tennis and joining the Camberwell Scouts, as well as every sort of outdoor pursuit, including hiking, and skiing, long before chairlifts.

My father, Ken, was one of the four boys from the Vial families who fought in the New Guinea campaign. At war's end, three returned home, but Leigh had been killed in an air crash near ▶



PNG Prime Minister, James Marape, at Cherrybrook High School, Sydney



PNG in the News

Goroka in 1943. My father felt Leigh's death very deeply as they had been extremely close. I grew up with a picture of Leigh in his RAAF uniform on our mantelpiece.

After visiting PNG in 2010, I became interested in family history, and in particular the Vial family contributions in New Guinea. I, with one of my sisters, decided that we would investigate setting up a Memorial Education Scholarship in Leigh's name.

This was easier said than done, but eventually we obtained phone numbers for several Goroka schools. One of these was Goroka

Grammar, a private school founded by Paddy Kelly. Paddy, of Irish/English background, was teaching in East London. Thirty years ago, he volunteered to do two years' teaching in Africa. Instead he was sent to the Southern Highlands of PNG, and never left.

When I called the school in 2013, I was put through to Mr Kelly, who was inclined to hang up, thinking the Memorial Scholarship offer was the latest scam. Because I mentioned Leigh Vial by name, Paddy stayed on the line, as he had lived in Leigh Vial Street, Goroka. In April 2014, Leigh's youngest daughter, Lindy, and I travelled to Goroka to present the first Leigh Grant Vial Scholarships to Year 11 student Gita Korimbo of Bena, and runner-up Year 10 student Vivian Kiyo of Porgora. It was Gita who showed us how the same amount of scholarship money could be targeted to help several students with different needs.

In 2015 I returned with my daughter and two teenage



Lindy Gilham presenting the inaugural Leigh Grant Vial Memorial Scholarship to Gita Korimbo, at Goroka Grammar School, in 2014. To the right is School Principal Nelson Huanaromo (*left*); Brian Vial & Lindy Gilham (youngest daughter of Leigh Vial) standing beneath the sign for Leigh Vial Street in Goroka (*top*); Brian's granddaughter, Claire Crawford, presenting a class prize at Goroka Grammar End of Term Assembly (*centre*); Brian's granddaughter Evelyn Crawford presenting a class prize (*bottom*)

granddaughters, and presented five scholarships to students the teachers had recommended as needing assistance to complete their Year 12 education.

Over six years we have been able to assist nineteen girls and fourteen boys to complete their schooling, and in almost all cases, to gain tertiary admission to university or other colleges. Both Gita and Vivian had visited us at Benalla in north-east Victoria. Our culture was an eye-opener for both of them, just as their experiences were for many of our Benalla friends.

During Leigh's kiap years he wrote articles about his many patrols for *Walkabout Magazine*. Each year we have made a presentation booklet of one of his patrols for the scholarship winners and their teachers. These have created a lot of interest, as for many people in PNG, prewar history is little known.

Many Goroka Grammar students are at university or technical college in Lae, and at weekends, sometimes visit the nearby war cemetery. We told them how to locate Leigh's grave, and last April they put flowers on his gravestone, on the anniversary of his death.

As an aside, it was very difficult to obtain visitor visas from the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby, for the students' two-week stay with us in Australia. This seems regrettable as PNG is our nearest neighbour, and our two countries have shared a long history together.

BRIAN VIAL

(UV: Please see article by Gita Korimbo, recipient of the inaugural scholarship, in the Youth section on page 40)



The PNG swim team (top) with Rick van der Zant (Photo by Glenn Campbell); Dika Toua on the podium with her gold medal (below) (Photo Arafura Games website)

Arafura Games, Darwin, May 2019

The Arafura Games were held in Darwin Australia from 14 to 22 May 2019. The games are an international multi-sport event attracting athletes from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond, held every two years. Seventeen sport disciplines were featured, including athletics, badminton, basketball, basketball 3x3 pro hustle, beach volleyball, boxing, football, indoor

volleyball, muaythai, netball, sailing, sepak takraw, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis and weightlifting.

Twenty-one athletes from PNG participated in the sports of athletics, badminton, boxing, para athletics, swimming, tennis and weightlifting. They won a total of thirty-three medals: four gold, twelve silver, and seventeen bronze.

The swimming team

No one can accuse Australian ▶



Sydney 2000 Olympic Games 200 m individual medley swimmer, Rick van der Zant, of not putting back into his sport. For the past twenty-two years van der Zant has been the head coach of the Papua New Guinea (PNG) swim team, dividing his time between his Brisbane home and PNG in his quest to develop the sport and increase that country's participation at major meets.

In the past twelve months he has travelled to PNG four times to get his young charges ready for last year's Oceania Games, the Arafura Games this year and the Pacific Games in Samoa this July. He brought a contingent of thirteen swimmers to Darwin—seven from Lae and six from Port Moresby—to form their national team.

But he says there remain plenty of challenges for those



Crowds at opening ceremony
(Photo Arafura Games website)

wanting to participate in swimming in PNG.

The development of swimming is going well, but it's tough because kids have to travel from long distances to get to the pool. They often don't have the transport or facilities we take for granted here in Australia. For instance in Lae there is a strong community of swimmers, but they must swim in a very old 25-metre school pool which is very dilapidated, but the swimmers get by. Fortunately, in Port Moresby there is a brand-new pool that was built four years ago for the Pacific Games.

Van der Zant said there are some great coaches in PNG, nurturing young ones and encouraging them to stay in the sport.

Once they stay, they realise the opportunities swimming presents and really enjoy what they're doing. Kids don't really get taught swimming at school, just the lucky ones. Van der Zant said Arafura is a great experience for the PNG youngsters that made it to the Games, the youngest being fifteen. For four or five of the PNG team, this was the first time they had ever travelled out of PNG. And they travelled in experienced company, swimming and training alongside the matriarch of the squad, 27-year-old London 2012 Olympic Games 50 m and former Arafura Games swimmer, Judith Meaurio.

The PNG swim team received twenty-one medals overall, including individual and relay medals. Rick van der Zant described their performance as 'massive'.

We have had lots of fabulous support by the local PNG citizens that live here in Darwin. We have met so many people, made lots of good friends and have been welcomed with open arms in Darwin for the Arafura Games. This has been an awesome opportunity for our athletes to perform abroad and we thank PNGSI

for their support of this important competition for the development of swimming in PNG.

Dika Toua weightlifter

Dika is a trailblazer of Olympic weightlifting and one of the most enduring and celebrated athletes in Papua New Guinea sporting history. She is an eleven-time, as well as the current, Oceania champion and a former Commonwealth champion. She is also the current Pacific Games champion and the 49 kg Arafura Games 2019 gold medallist.

Her Olympic journey over the past two decades throws her into absolute legend status. At just sixteen years of age, she was the first woman ever to lift weight on the Olympic platform, competing in the 48 kg category at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. She then went on to compete at the Athens, Beijing and London editions before doing something truly remarkable—standing aside from Rio 2016 selection so her sister could maybe taste Olympism for herself.

It wasn't to be, however, and now Dika is well and truly back at the big events, doing what she does best—lifting medals. Just last year she added Commonwealth Games silver to her already-bulging-at-the-seams trophy cabinet. Which brings us back to Arafura, the second of six tournaments she needed to compete in to qualify for a mind blowing, albeit delayed, fifth Olympic Games at Tokyo 2020. Dika said:

It's good to compete here against the Australians, the Islanders and the Asian lifters. Already it's been a really good Games because it's brought us all together. It's also quite unique because it's so close to home. ♦

Based on a number of websites



Bougainville Referendum

On 23 November this year, Bougainvilleans will vote in a referendum to decide whether they wish to stay part of Papua New Guinea or become an independent nation. It is perhaps the high point of a twenty-year peace process that in turn followed a gruelling, ten-year battle for independence waged between the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and PNG Defence Force.

THE REFERENDUM IS NOT THE FINAL STEP—the vote must be ratified by the PNG Parliament and is subject to a final agreement between PNG and the Autonomous Government Bougainville, set up under the peace process. However, Bougainvilleans have long held a sense of separate identity from the rest of PNG, and it appears this island group of 300,000 people is heading for nationhood, with a clear majority expected to vote in favour of independence.

Australia has a vested interest in seeing this long-running issue resolved peacefully. Bougainville was part of Australian-administered PNG from 1915 until PNG's independence in 1975. Australia's relations with the territory have a long and complicated history ranging across the colonial era, two world wars, the 1988–98 Bougainville conflict, and subsequent peacekeeping missions. Since the Bougainville war, Canberra invested heavily in various peacekeeping operations, at considerable cost to the Australian taxpayer. The Bougainville peace process has been rightly lauded as a successful model, and Australia can be proud of its record, whatever the criticisms of its role in the war.

The November referendum is in keeping with a process laid out in the Bougainville Peace Agreement, signed by virtually all parties in 2001, as a roadmap for Bougainville's future status. Canberra has since signalled that it will be guided

by the terms of the peace agreement and any 'negotiated outcome' under that arrangement.

Bougainville has significant natural resources. It has copper, gold, and silver reserves valued at more than \$58 billion, rich fishing grounds, and a history of agricultural production, including large cocoa plantations. These resources—and good management of them—will be crucial if Bougainville is to become a viable independent nation. Its challenge now is to educate and mobilise a 'lost generation' of younger people disenfranchised by the war, while forging a unified people and bringing integrity to its political system.

It faces many challenges ahead, not least of ▶



PNG Prime Minister James Marape and John Momis, Bougainville President



which is finding consensus on mining issues. Australia's challenge is to allow the peace process to unfold, signal its neutrality, and engage more with all parties to the process. Australia's interest is in seeing this long-running issue resolved peacefully.

John Momis, Bougainville President, said in his address to the PNG Parliament in September:

While the Bougainville Peace Agreement is held in high regard by students and practitioners of peace processes around the world, the process will not be complete until the negotiations about the referendum outcome have been completed and implemented. Both governments

must be ready to continue their cooperation, and work to avoid any renewal of conflict.

The two governments need to work together. They have the privilege of together attempting to develop something new that will contribute to continued peace. Just as the peace agreement was a remarkably successful set of arrangements, we now have the opportunity to again develop something new, something extraordinary.

Based on article written by Ben Bohane from Lowy Institute The Interpreter website—<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/bougainville-nation-waiting>; photo and quote by John Momis from Keith Jackson and Friends website—<https://www.pngattitude.com/2019/09/the-making-of-bougainvilles-referendum-part-3-the-future.html>

The Bougainville Referendum: Law, Administration and Politics

With the Bougainville referendum on independence due to take place on 23 November 2019, the Australian National University Department of Pacific Affairs has published a new book by Anthony J Regan entitled *The Bougainville Referendum: Law, Administration and Politics*, analysing the legal, administrative and political issues arising from these arrangements.



IN REVEALING THE COMPLEXITY of the referendum's origins and arrangements, the book makes clear how these factors have contributed to misunderstandings about the referendum, not least the idea widely held by many Bougainvilleans that, if the referendum delivers a result in favour of independence, then independence will automatically ensue. In fact, the outcome is not binding on either the PNG National Government or the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

The book has a number of purposes, the first being to promote a better understanding of the arrangements for the referendum, while a second purpose is to consider what may be needed to ensure that the referendum is considered free and fair. The final purpose is to examine how the deferred referendum, as part of the long-term peace process, impacts on peacebuilding.

The book should prove highly relevant to the numerous policy makers in PNG, Bougainville, Australia, the UN and elsewhere who will be

involved in the referendum and what follows. Set against a wide-ranging international background on referendums, the book will be useful for political scientists interested in voting phenomena. <http://dpa.bellschool.anu.edu.au/news-events/stories/7213/new-book-bougainville-referendum-law-administration-and-politics>

It is impossible to think of a single issue to do with the forthcoming Bougainville Referendum that is not dealt with exhaustively in this comprehensive guide and handbook. This is scholarship at the highest level, deeply informed not only by the extensive written record which has been comprehensively mined here, but also by the author's decades-long familiarity with Bougainville, the Bougainville War, the peace process, the peace agreement and the contemporary political situation there and in PNG more broadly.

**Stewart Firth, Research Fellow
Department of Pacific Affairs
ANU College of Asia and the Pacific**

(From the ANU website, see also Arts + Books, page 46)



Keeping the Home Fires Burning Through Outreach and the Celebration of Culture

CHRISTINE LEONARD (née Wall)

Having grown up on Bougainville I keep in touch with Bougainvillean expat friends living in Brisbane, and one of the stand-outs in promoting Bougainville’s profile and culture is Veronica Kirin Henderson, president of the Brisbane Bougainville Community Group (BBCG). Recently we chatted about ‘home’, events in the Autonomous Region and the lead up to the referendum and the activities of the BBCG.

BEFORE THE BBCG formally registered as an incorporated group in 2013, a few stalwarts such as Monica Larcombe, Lucy Beagrie Junker and Veronica ‘Vero’ with the support of their families held regular get-togethers in their homes where fellow Bougainvilleans and their families came together in friendship to share traditional food and news from home, and do some fundraising to support people back home.

A key focus of the BBCG has been to support health services especially since the re-establishment of Arawa Hospital. With the assistance of Rotary International, Australians with a heart for Bougainville, the Royal Brisbane Hospital, PNG Ports Corporation in Lae and others, the group has successfully sent twelve shipping containers of hospital equipment, beds, even a dental chair and other needed goods to benefit areas throughout Bougainville.

The health centres in Buin and Haku (on Buka Island) have each received a container, five have been sent to Arawa and five to Buka. Bougainville’s Rotary Club with branches in Arawa and Buka have facilitated the distribution of the donated goods ensuring they end up where intended.

The group receives all manner of requests, such as travelling mass kits to enable priests to offer Holy

Communion in Bougainville’s remote bush settings. The BBCG has provided two mass kits each costing A\$650. Recently, the group answered a call from Bougainville’s Haus Stori for a filing system which cost A\$990. All up, apart from donated goods and equipment, Vero estimates the group has raised ▶



Bougainville dancers (*above*) and the Bamboo Band preparing for a performance (*main*)



and spent at least A\$60,000 to procure and ship much needed items for communities in Bougainville.

Fundraising is hard work but for Vero and her ever supportive husband, Les and the Bougainville community in Brisbane, there is no better way than through dance and sharing traditional foods at public events. The real pay-off for the community elders has been that by involving the young ones in promoting their culture they have witnessed how it has captured and inspired their imagination.

Audiences will see dancers from eight years upwards backed by enthusiastic and talented young men in the bamboo band. The men will dance too on occasion.

The performers include women, girls, boys and men, school age, university students and young professionals, some who haven't been able to return to the land of their birth for years. But, by coming together to plan, rehearse and perform, their culture lives on. Under the tutelage of Augusta Lokea dances represent the traditions of Bougainville's north and south. Musical instruments include bamboo pipes, *Kaur* flute pipes, the conch shell and *garamut*.

The BBCG dancers and musicians have found their profile raised in recent years through their performances at Brisbane's Queensland Cultural Precinct and in the Queensland Art Gallery (QAG) at events associated with the 8th and 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT) in 2015 and 2019.

The BBCG's role wasn't limited to performing but they provided important support to artists from Bougainville and PNG as part of their continued close engagement with the wider PNG community in Brisbane.

From April to July this year the group found themselves in the forefront again during the QAG's hosting of the Women's Wealth project.

'Women's Wealth is a collaboration between the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) and three Buka women: co-curator Sana Balai and artists Taloi and Marilyn Havini. The project reconnects Bougainville women with artists from the nearby Solomon Islands.' ♦

TOP: The Brisbane Bougainville Community Group dancers

CENTRE: The Bamboo band from the group

BOTTOM: Les and Vero Henderson





Kimbe to Kimbe

PNG REVISITED

—an epilogue to the 11-part
Didiman's Diary Series

DAVID
MONTGOMERY

Ten years had passed since Gillian, myself and the two boys, Scott and Mark, had left Papua New Guinea. A new life and a new career had begun in 1967 on a property at Grabben Gullen, near Crookwell in the Southern Tablelands of NSW.

WE CALLED IT KIMBE, named after our view over Stettin and Kimbe Bays at Talasea. Our daughter Jenni was born in November 1968 at Crookwell.

In 1976 we planned a return trip to West New Britain, Wau and Lae. The boys had no memory of their early days at their home at Talasea nor of their birthplace at the Namanula Hospital, Rabaul. As a family we were keen to revisit, meet with friends, former staff members and to see a few of the places we knew ten years previously.

We arrived in Port Moresby, August, 1976, a year after Independence and it was little changed. We were hosted by Peter and Coral Croke, a former didiman and Assistant Manager—Operations, PNG Development Bank, responsible for the bank's branches.

Harry Humphreys, MP, the Member for West New Britain and the owner of Volupai Plantation near Talasea had arranged for a visit to Parliament House, sitting in the Speakers Gallery. He and his wife Thelma had also opened a supermarket at Kimbe. We still have amongst our memorabilia some of the supermarket plastic bags. A couple of enjoyable days, with visits to the university, the orchid gardens, the PNG Museum, the Anglican and Catholic churches and also the 100-year-old Anglican church.

We then flew to Wau to stay with my old mate Ian Fraser (Goroka 1956), his wife Janet and children Brian, Sarah and Angus. Ian had established a successful coffee and cattle operation. An interesting time to see the extent of development. Ian's children took ours to meet some of the locals in the nearby villages, a wonderful experience for them. A highlight remembered was a visit to Lloyd Hurrell and his wife, Margaret's orchid collection.

Lloyd was highly respected and honoured for his involvement in the PNG coffee industry.

From Wau, Ian drove us via Aiyura, an early posting for another friend John Gosbell. John and I graduated from Hawkesbury Agricultural College in 1955 and met up again in Goroka in 1956. We travelled to John's property 'Singaua', which he owned and managed. The Land Rover journey—and anyone who had been driven by Ian would understand—put any overland car trial in Australia in the shade. 'Singaua' plantation is north east of Lae. We met with John, his daughters, Julie and Sandie and sons, Peter and Philip. John's wife Noelene had died at Singaua where she is buried. Julie became his cook and homemaker.

A relaxed and happy few days. The boys were rapt in the docility of John's Zebu cattle, thinking they would be able to re-enact Hogan's scene in Crocodile Dundee.

Negotiating four creek crossings we arrived in Lae with plans to go onto Cape Hoskins. I still have an Air Niugini ticket dated 2 September 1976, departing 9.15 am. We boarded the aircraft to discover no seat belts had been fitted. This was declared minor and we would soon be on our way. We bought magazines and comics and sat down to wait, which we did. ▶





Coastal war wrecks (*top—left to right*) Scott, Mark, Salaen and David, and leaving Kimbe for Sulu, 1976 (*below*)

About 10.30 the Panga Airlines manager arrived to say the delay would be somewhat longer and drove us up to the town. There were locals all along one street with baskets, shells, bags, belts, beads and carvings. The children were quite delighted with this unexpected turn of events. At midday ‘our’ Panga man collected us again and took us to the new Palm Lodge Motel for lunch—all airconditioned, plush chairs and carpet. People were waiting all the time to pull out chairs, open doors and generally fuss over the guests. The children were practically speechless having been hardly anywhere more exotic than Nick’s Niagara café in Crookwell in their whole lives.

We had a beautiful lunch as guests of Panga, which made it especially nice. Our man returned with all our luggage, apologised again and took us to the Air Niugini Lodge. We then spent an enjoyable afternoon visiting the Lae War Cemetery and the Botanic Gardens!

Up at 6 am next morning with the pilot and bundled ourselves into the Piper Aztec without any apprehension. I had asked the pilot if we could do a low run over ‘Singaua’ plantation, which he did. We commenced climbing and headed north-east. At about 3,000 feet our son Mark, who was seated next to the pilot, turned to me and said: ‘Dad, what is that green stuff flowing over the wing?’ Aviation fuel no less.

The pilot attempted to make an emergency call to Lae. The wireless was unserviceable! At that point,

and having sufficient altitude, the pilot decided Finschhafen would be the best option, immediately ahead, rather than returning to Lae. On landing we speedily tumbled out of that airplane.

Stranger than strange to have an unplanned visit. I had spent two years working at Finschhafen, 1958–59, a delightful part of the Huon Peninsula. I decided to ring one of my senior staff members of that time, Salaen Sakaen, who answered the phone and said he would drive to the airstrip. When he arrived, he came up to me, looked, blinked, held his head and shook it and decided he wasn’t seeing things after all. He flung his arms around me and was just so excited. He had never met Gillian or the children and had a good look at the five of us, still holding and shaking his head and just couldn’t believe it was true after eighteen years.

Salaen was a pleasure to work with and his capabilities were reflected in his appointment to the PNG Coffee Marketing Board in 1963. He was awarded an OBE in 1967 and later represented PNG at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. His descriptions of all these things caused us to laugh—he was so unassuming. He only spoke *Tok Pisin* and it was a great pity that the children couldn’t understand the language. He wanted to take us wherever we wanted to go and hoped we would stay at his house that night at the very least!

We climbed into his car and it made the children’s day. Half-padded spring seats, very little floor and no muffler. He handed me the key and said first we needed petrol and I obliged. A tour of old sites—beautiful Dregerhaven Harbour, the delightful swimming hole at Butaweng and coastal WWII relics. Our replacement aircraft arrived, and we had a very emotional farewell with Salaen.

Unfortunately, we had to overfly Volupai airport (Talasea) now abandoned and planted to oil palm. We stepped out of the aircraft at Cape Hoskins to an unarranged meeting with former staff member, Tokabene. Another emotional greeting. He told us to wait and departed on his motorbike in the direction of the Dagi River, returning not much later in a Land Rover and took us to the Palm Lodge Motel at Kimbe. The motel was a two-storey brick building. Our room had a little fridge, electric jug and writing desk just like any motel in Australia. Our room and the children’s rooms had their own bathrooms and ours had a little balcony looking across the palm trees to the beach.

No sooner had we arrived on the previous day when Towaila, another ex-Talasea staff member, turned up almost in tears over our return. He was one of the original Dagi River block holders, and had developed his palm oil holding and purchased and developed several others. He arranged to pick us up in his truck and have a tour of his enterprises. Kessie, his wife, and children joined us. Kessie was an ex-preschool trained teacher from Rabaul and used to sometimes babysit our sons, Scott and Mark.

They took a great interest in the boys who they had not seen for ten years. It was a lovely reunion, they asked us to stay and gave us all sorts of presents—mostly food. I still have a list of some of the staff members who settled at the Dagi River.

Harry Humphreys had done a great deal to facilitate our visit. With his son, Peter, we spent a day driving up the coast from Talasea reliving our time in the area. Numundo Plantation, owned by Coconut Products Ltd, to be eventually planted to oil palm then on to Walindi a plantation formerly owned by Lou and Margaret Searle. It was subsequently developed as a plantation and dive resort.

Talasea had been abandoned as an administrative centre and was rapidly going into decline. The prewar airstrip had been cleaned up and the crashed and abandoned WWII aircraft very visible and free of tropical undergrowth. It is well described on Google and is a tourist attraction. We continued driving to the active volcanic Willaumez Peninsula via Volupai Plantation. A fascinating and awe-inspiring experience for the children to view bubbling lava not far below ground level.

Harry had arranged the *Kerowagi*, a government workboat to be put at our disposal at Kimbe. We travelled west up the coast to Tarobi, the coastal port for Silanga, Bangalu Bay and Walo, the shipping port for Uasilau and the developing settlements along the Ala River. It did not take long for word to spread that visitors had arrived at Hoskins, and were making their way up the coast. Ten years or so not a long gap. Meeting again with so many with whom we were involved was special. We anchored off Sulu village and were made welcome and stayed at the government rest house.

We received word that Luluai Soa Ubia, of Uasilau, could not meet us at Walo, but would be walking to Sulu to meet with us. Soa was a high profile, pro-government leader in Central Nakanai and facilitated many of the early developments amongst his people. A special moment and much *tok tok* through to the



Molten lava vent, Willaumez Peninsula (top) and Jenni on board the workboat, *Kerowagi* (below)

early hours—of times past, times present and the future of the West Nakanai.

Back in the late 1960s, marketing groups, rural progress societies, co-operative-like organisations had been formed to facilitate the orderly purchase, processing and marketing of cocoa, coffee and copra. Soa wanted to know how his people could share in the commercial activities by way of shareholders or part ownership. Perhaps this has happened?

We returned by workboat to Cape Hoskins, thence to Rabaul for our flight back to Sydney. Just one more aircraft story for those who have been following them in *Didiman's Diaries #1 to #11*. Just after we left Rabaul in a DC3, the First Officer came and asked Mark if he would like to 'come up front'. Mark then occupied the right-hand seat in the cockpit. Not long after that the aircraft went through several manoeuvres. Sitting in front of us an American tourist exclaimed, 'Man, I think your son is flying this goddammed aircraft!!'

A memorable visit, perhaps never to be repeated.

Special and heartfelt thanks to Andrea, Belinda and Vicki and all those associated with *Una Voce*, for the opportunity to relive those memorable days in Papua New Guinea. ♦

• Aerial photograph (*overleaf*) of Kimbe in 2016, courtesy of Peter Humphreys

The Human Face of Kokoda

SUELLEN HOLLAND

Opportunities present themselves all the time and it's our choice whether we act upon these opportunities or not. Two years ago, I was presented with an opportunity to 'walk' the Kokoda Trail. I admit I am not a person who enjoys camping or 'living rough', I am far too used to modern-day conveniences, however, after much thought, I decided to take up the challenge. I conveniently put aside my misgivings of the 'experience' people told me I would remember for the rest of my life; bile rises in my throat at the thought of a 'long drop' toilet, cold water showers leave me well, cold and I know that a leech will smell me a mile off, I wonder if leeches like Dior's Dune, I hope not ... aside from all that, I felt myself drawn to the idea.

ALMOST FROM DAY ONE, I decided that I just didn't want to scramble up a couple of hills that had a 'mean' reputation and I certainly had nothing to prove, nor did I really care that people thought I was 'brave or tough' because I had committed to a gruelling twelve-months' training schedule.

What I really wanted was to find the 'human face of Kokoda', if she had one. Was she just a dirt track in the Papua New Guinea jungle that happened to have 'war history', a dirt track that one nation revered and another sought to forget, or was she more than that?

These days the Kokoda Trail is known as the Kokoda Track. Kokoda Trail is the correct name for the track. It seems Trail sounded American, so Track was (unofficially) adopted instead.

The Kokoda Trail story has been told and re-told well. In 1942, the savage campaign fought between Australia and Japan is one of the most epic and documented episodes of (our) war history—a few short months when two mortal enemies pushed each other back and forth along a muddy, precipitous bush track over a mountainous spine in southern Papua New Guinea.

The courage and sacrifice of our soldiers (mostly unblooded militiamen) supported by the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) is legendary and they suffered greatly. The mountainous terrain was foreign to the Australians, they had little or no support from their superiors and, to add to the confusion, our troops didn't even have a 'proper' uniform. They had 'sand-coloured' castoffs from our desert campaign, the light colour clashed with the dark

The Battle of Kokoda
July–November
1942
77 Years
Ago

green of the jungle and made the men an easy target for the enemy; it is documented that the 96-kilometre track claimed the lives of over 600 Australian and PIB soldiers, with well in excess of 1,600 wounded.

The little-known local jungle path between Owers' Corner and Kokoda became a blood-stained path for supremacy—a path where many earned the respect of an awe-inspired (grateful) nation and for many more, the absolute right to wear a medal on their chest. A human face—I'd say so, wouldn't you?

But what of the shadowy enemy lurking in the dense wet undergrowth? The highly trained, elite 144th Regiment of the Japanese Imperial Army, an army better known for their alleged atrocities other than their participation in battle.

The Japanese felt the shame of surrender after WWII so acutely that, even today, there is little recorded, much less spoken about. However, I chanced upon a book that gave me an insight as to what it was really like for the Japanese soldiers forced to take Kokoda; the mission was doomed to fail, the 'good road' between Buna and Kokoda was non-existent, the promised supplies never arrived, at times the soldiers were so hungry their 'stomachs stuck to the inside wall of their backs' and conditions of the track, lied about.

I learned of the desperation to hold their (Kokoda) position at all cost, the breakdown of human decency when faced with defeat, the lack of medical supplies and the accepted demise of the wounded left behind—'a path of infinite sorrow'—human faces, traumatised for life.

And, of course, there is the story of the 'Bone Man of Kokoda', another young Japanese soldier who fought along every foot of the blood-soaked path. He was the only one from his platoon to survive. After he was evacuated, he made a promise that one day he would return to Kokoda, find the remains of his fallen comrades and bring them home to Japan for a proper burial.

Thirty-seven years later he returned to Kokoda, this time he carried a shovel and garden hoe instead of a grenade launcher and rifle. Over the next seventeen years he 'worked' the track and unearthed hundreds and hundreds of Japanese remains. Many a time he faced opposition, but he kept his promise and now many of his friends rest in eternal peace in Japan—a human face that rattled authorities.

What of the 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels', the Papuans who lived along the Kokoda Trail? The villagers lived a wholly traditional existence before the war, however, in 1942 everything changed. The young men were recruited to

ferry supplies to the front line and carry the wounded back to base; their old and infirm, as well as their woman and children, were left to fend for themselves.

There were five of us in my Kokoda party. We started our trek at Owers' Corner 'the bottom end' near Port Moresby and for the next eight days 'walked'—and I use the term loosely—up to Kokoda. We waded through rivers, splashed our way over streams and scrambled over huge fallen trees.

On day three the thunder rolled around the Maguli Range, the heavens opened and the track became a mud bath. We skidded and slithered our way through Menari and Naoro—and then there was Brigade Hill. Little did I know I was about to face my biggest challenge.

The gruelling climb left me dehydrated and vomiting with exhaustion. That night, I crawled into my tent and dreamt of evacuation. Personal hygiene became a distant memory and the kilos dropped off. Blisters bled and for one of our party, ▶





a tummy bug threatened a medical evacuation. Tempers flared, harsh words were spoken and a long-standing friendship fractured beyond repair.

Onward and upward we climbed and trekked and climbed and trekked again. We passed through Myola, Templeton's Crossing, and at Isurava rested a while in quiet reflection. Kokoda was firmly in our sights. Finally, on the afternoon of day eight we walked through the hallowed arches that marked the entrance to Kokoda—our mission complete.

In many aspects the Kokoda Trail of today is as it was back then, a well-used highway. The Owen Stanley Range still echoes with the sounds of battle; cries of anguish pierce the air, heavy-footed, rubber-soled boots shake the ground and the rattle of water bottles announce the arrival of another group of bloodied and weary troops.

The path is full of trekkers, all decked out (as I was) in their state-of-the-art gear; fancy expensive hiking boots, pure wool socks, walking sticks and brightly-coloured day packs. They sweat, groan and stumble and as darkness falls, crawl into their warm sleeping bags and sleep like the dead.

But what if the clothes they wore were a bull's eye for the enemy, the water they guzzled was muddy and full of mosquito larvae and their childhood mate lay in a hastily dug shallow grave further up the track—oh God! how am I gonna tell his mum he took the bullet for me—what if?

And what about the locals, the Papuans who call Kokoda home; they run along the track in bare feet, often with a child on their hip. Leap from log to slippery log and step off the path to let you (and a hundred others) pass. They shelter under a leaf when it rains, drink from a stream that gushes from the hillside. Fill their string *bilums* with yams and coconuts, and offer you a banana and a hand when you stumble—much the same really as in 1942.

I am happy to say I found my 'Human Face of Kokoda'. The Australian troops and the PIB who stopped an almost invincible enemy—the Japanese Imperial Army who sacrificed themselves for their living deity—and the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels who so many owe their lives to.

Let us cross the boundaries and remember, whatever their colour or their creed, they all had a human face. But, in my mind, the true 'Human Face of Kokoda' are the Papuans both past and present, who carry our packs, clean our boots of mud and nourish our tummies with food. They tend to our wounds, fill our water bottles and offer words of encouragement when the going gets tough—all without a murmur of malice.

They graciously share their Kokoda with us—just as they did in 1942.

My admiration and respect are heartfelt for the local guides and porters from Kokoda Spirit (*pictured at left*), who not only attended my every need and shared their Kokoda with me, but showed me that the Kokoda Trail has many, many human faces, both past and present, not just one. ♦

LEST WE FORGET



Bert and 'the Boss' —The Unsung Victors of Kokoda

RALPH SAWYER

In all wars the side with superior supplies and intelligence usually wins. This turned out so in the New Guinea campaign. The American resources eventually triumphed over the Japanese forces. US Intelligence broke the Japanese naval codes, which gave them the decisive critical advantage at Midway and later battles.

Brigadier Potts with his adjutant 21st Brigade at Menari Kokoda Trail—his officers were not generally as spic and span as in this photograph (above)

HOWEVER, IN THE early months of 1942 the Japanese seemed to have overwhelming advantage over the paltry Australian forces available. As the months rolled by the Australians gradually gained the advantage; this was largely due to superior intelligence and resources. To start with, the isolated coast watchers reported the enemy fleet leaving Rabaul for Moresby and hence set up the strategic victory at the Coral Sea.

Once the superior Japanese army landed at Buna and headed over the Owen Stanley Ranges, their ignorance of Papuan conditions began to tell. They had limited supply of carriers, no knowledge of native foods and uncertain local support. The Australian opposition was keen and awfully green, but they had behind them a reservoir of local human resources and skills that made all the difference.

In March 1942 the Australian New Guinea Administration Unit (ANGAU) was a mix of civilians ranging from planters to traders, from bank tellers to public works foremen. At its core, ANGAU consisted of patrol officers and resident magistrates who had the experience and the skills to suit the Papuan situation. These men had oversight of one hundred loyal Royal Papuan Constables (RPC) and ▶

the foundation members of the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB). The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) were added to this new composite auxiliary force.

Out of this talented mix emerged a man with all the local skills and knowledge. His name was Herbert (Bert) Kienzle, owner and manager of a rubber plantation at Yodda, one day's walk on from Kokoda. As Captain Kienzle, he was given the task of surveying a vehicle road to Kokoda and completing the road by September 1942! We're still waiting!

Kienzle didn't bother arguing but set off to see what he could do. He recruited one thousand carriers from Sogeri and Lakekamu plantations to carry up emergency rations for the first company of the 39th battalion that was being rushed up to occupy Kokoda before the Japanese arrived. As Kienzle marked the walking track, the soldiers followed the freshly slashed trees one day behind him.

At every overnight stop Captain Kienzle left rations with two Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) soldiers and twenty carriers to build rough bush huts for future shelter. Remember that these carriers were working at altitudes up to 6,000 feet. At Kokoda, Kienzle walked on to his plantation, recruited three hundred fresh carriers and collected *kaukau* and bananas for the return trip to Moresby. Back at Moresby on 17 July he presented the impossible equation to General Morris:

1. A carrier eats his load in twelve days.
2. It takes eight days to walk to Kokoda
3. That leaves four days' rations for each walking soldier.
4. Factor in ammunition, medicine and other supplies
5. Conclusion—Maintenance of supplies is unsustainable.

Kienzle headed up the track again with another thousand carriers. By 28 July the Japanese had taken Kokoda and the long fighting retreat to Moresby had started for the Australians. Kienzle cut a detour track to take Myola 1 and 2, which were grassland semi-alpine lakes, suitable for air drops of supplies instead of human carriers.

While he was doing this, he improved all his depots and minimised carrier desertions by discipline, supply of rations, medical treatment and cold weather clothes. It is estimated that largely through Kienzle's inspirational leadership, 7,000 labourers were recruited for the Kokoda Trail and

the Bulldog Track up the Lakekamu to Wau. The heavy price for this sudden conscription of labourers was major social dislocation in Papuan villages, and unknown numbers of deaths from disease, overwork and harsh conditions.

The remarkable achievement of Herbert Kienzle was that he was able to organise the supply line in one month from June to August 1942, mark the Kokoda Trail, organise the carriers and find the Myola lakes for efficient air drops. Neither the Australian army nor the Japanese forces were capable of maintaining their extended supply line. Kienzle made the difference.

He kept up the pace until he collapsed in August 1942 and was repatriated to Australia. By that time, other ANGAU officers had embedded themselves into the regular army in various tasks ranging from supervising airstrip building to guiding infantry in pursuit of retreating Japanese. After the war Herbert Kienzle went back to rebuild his plantation at Yodda. He was never recognised for his extraordinary efforts and is rarely mentioned in formal histories of the Kokoda Campaign.

The other key man who defeated the Japanese on the track was Brigadier Arnold Potts or 'the boss'. Potts was a child immigrant to Western Australia from the Isle of Man. He enlisted as a private and survived the Gallipoli campaign as a captain with a Military Cross. Twice wounded on the western front, he ended as a major with DSO (Distinguished Service Order). In the Second World War, Potts fought all the King's enemies—Vichy French, Italians, Germans and Japanese. As a relatively junior officer in the Western Desert, Potts learned the importance of securing the lines of communication and supply.

In February 1942 he was promoted to Brigadier Potts, DSO, and transferred as commanding officer 'Maroubra Force Papua'. This force was composed of the 39th Battalion militia and several companies of the 14th and 16th Battalions, which were hurriedly being sent back from North Africa. By July 1942 about 400 of these men had reached Kokoda and were preparing to meet the 2,000 Japanese who had landed at Buna and were working their way up towards Kokoda.

General Macarthur in Brisbane ordered 'The Gap' in the Owen Stanley Mountains to be bombed to destroy the advancing enemy and block up access to the Kokoda Trail. Unfortunately, Macarthur's knowledge was limited to western movies where the Indians were ambushed in dry gulches. Only the

birds were frightened in the Papuan mountains. Potts began with a fighting retreat all the way down the track. He realised that if he attempted a showdown with his inferior forces, the Japanese would outflank, envelop and destroy his force. Pott's tactics had its advantages because the Australians were able to set up ambushes on narrow ridges and then retreat to the next high ground. The narrow ridges meant that the Japanese could never employ their superior numbers. He followed the right tactics considering that he commanded less than a thousand fit men at any one time.

With the advantage of air drops the Australian supply line was becoming more assured. As the Japanese advanced, their supply lines stretched further and further. A combination of casualties, disease and shortages in food, ammunition and medicine sapped their energy. In August, another 4,000 enemy reinforcements reached Kokoda from the Papuan north coast but the Japanese effectiveness was discounted by the relative volume of supply and the narrow limit of the front for the front-line troops to operate.

The Japanese advance stalled at Imita Ridge. They could see the lights of Port Moresby but could go no further. Their reinforcements had helped but three new factors decided the end of their advance. The Australians now had a vehicle track to their front line at Owers' Corner, about twenty miles from Moresby. Japanese air intelligence overestimated that Moresby now had 6,000 defenders. In the big picture the Japanese had suffered recent heavy losses at Guadalcanal so that Moresby was no longer feasible or so much a priority. Potts' fighting withdrawal had paid off.

Macarthur did not see it that way. The Australians would not stand and make a fight of it. General Blamey was sent up by a nervous Australian government to shake things up. His position was threatened so he set about sacking his two top commanders—General Syd Rowell and Brigadier Potts. Arnold Potts did not go quietly, which did not further his career. He spent most of the rest of the war as Garrison Commander, Darwin. Most of his officers sent in a letter of support for him, but their impertinence was ignored.

A week after the sacking, Blamey held a parade at Koitaki Plantation for a pep talk. The 39th Battalion was there, the whole eighty-nine survivors with their colonel, Ralph Honner. They expected some praise for their efforts but got a negative lecture instead.

The general's punchline was 'remember men, the rabbit that sits tight survives, the rabbit that runs gets shot.' There were a few rumbles from the ranks but Colonel Honner told them that their leadership was not worthy. The last hurrah for the 39th was the desperate attack at Gona three months later. All their junior officers led from the front and were nearly all casualties. The battalion was pulled out of the line and flown back to Port Moresby. As they straggled into Soputa an outsider shouted out 'What mob are you?'

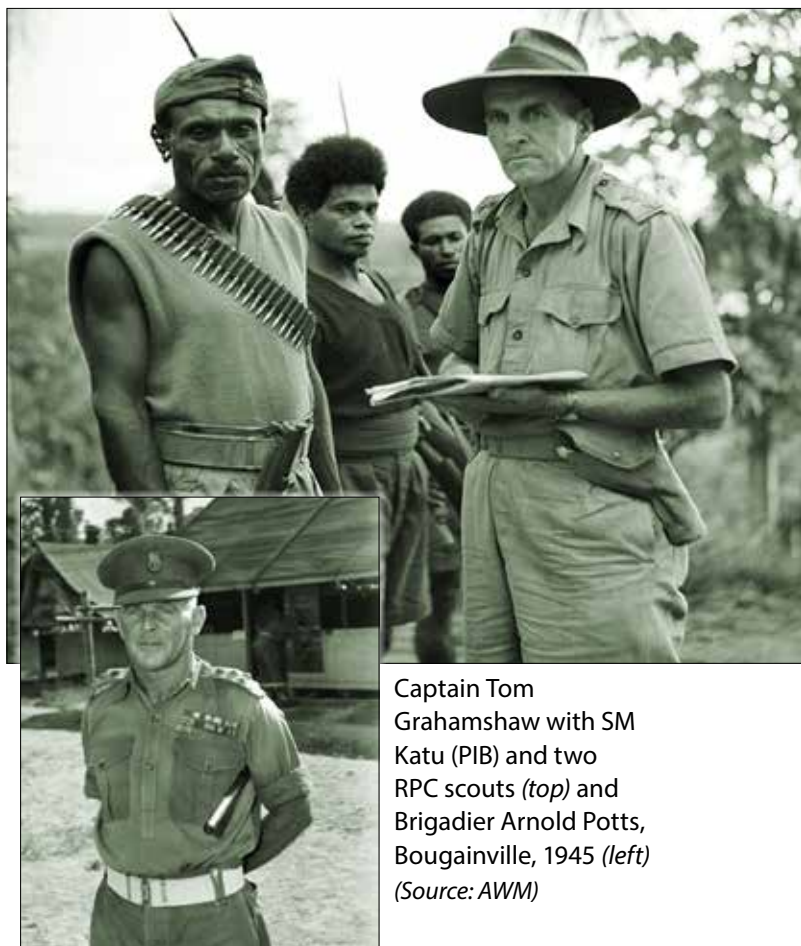
'This is no mob, this is the 39th,' answered the colonel.

The battalion never reformed again. The survivors were sprinkled into other units and the 39th never got to march in Anzac Day marches. ♦

FOOTNOTES

1. Most people refer to the 'track' rather than 'trail'. Herbert Kienzle's daughter stated that her father referred to it as 'the trail'. This was probably influenced by the Macarthur communiqués and other publications.
2. The author has recently found a poem written by Sapper HE Bert Beros NX6925 in 1943 entitled 'The Crosses on the Kokoda Track'. One of the lines reads 'We pass the crude wood crosses on the wild Kokoda trail.'

It looks like you can take your pick!



Captain Tom Grahamshaw with SM Katu (PIB) and two RPC scouts (top) and Brigadier Arnold Potts, Bougainville, 1945 (left)
(Source: AWM)

Madang Field Trips, 2014

MARY MENNIS, MBE

#2: BILBIL VILLAGE AND ISLAND

**The first Madang field trip,
to Malmal Village, was
featured in the September
issue of *Una Voce*.**

**The second was to Bilbil
Village and Island.
I first went to there in 1974.**

**I was thirty-six years old
and the mother of four
young children.**

**My husband, Brian, worked
for the government and we
lived in the town for over
eight years.**

**In Bilbil Village, I met Maia
Awak, leader of the Gapan
Clan. He was seventy years
old and explained how
his people had once lived
on Bilbil Island which
was visible about two
kilometres
offshore.**

IN 1974, MAIA AND I took a canoe over to the island and pulled it up on the small beach. That day, we found pottery sherds in the low cliff wall on the shore alongside the beach. It showed evidence of a long-standing occupation of the island which has been uninhabited since about 1912.

As I am not an archaeologist, I tried to interest various archaeologists in the possibility of a dig on the island and was elated when Professor Summerhayes of Otago University showed initial interest and followed this up by applying for a grant to carry out the research. He had also interested one of his students, Dylan Gaffney, in the project. That was how we came to be there in June 2014.

On Tuesday, 10 June 2014, we were taken to Bilbil Village by Isaac where Glenn spoke to the people about our project and what we hoped to achieve. This was just a preliminary visit as we were still waiting for Kubei Balifun to return from the Rai Coast to chair a further meeting with the villagers about the excavation.

This was quite an interesting time for me as I had not been to the island since 1994. I noticed there were more trees and vines than before. We made our way through the jungle growth towards the spot where I had seen pottery sherds in the low cliff wall. Nearer the site, we climbed down and waded around in the water which was right up to the sea-wall. Clambering over tree trunks and boulders, we found the same site as I had seen forty years earlier. Of course, it had been further eroded but pieces of pottery were still visible. Glenn and Dylan then looked at two possible sites in the area above and inland of this sea wall. These were two mounds which may have been rubbish mounds in previous days.

On 17 June, Professor Summerhayes again talked to the headmen including Kubei who had returned from the Rai Coast. With permission finally granted, we then went over to the island with some of the village people as paid helpers. Glenn and Judith mapped out the metre square on top of a mound above the cliff wall near the water's edge where I had first seen pottery sherds. The mound they chose may have been a rubbish dump for pottery in the past as there were a lot of pottery sherds scattered around on the surface of that area.

The Bilbil men helped dig down some little way into the mound and filled buckets with the soil containing pottery sherds, etc. ▶

Continued on page 36



The team on a banana boat with Isaac, the boat owner



PNG students visit ABC studio in Canberra, 1968 (top) and a child listening to Radio Australia in Tok Pisin in the 1980s (Photos from ABC & Keith Jackson websites)

The ABC's 9PA programs were first presented by Australian announcers located in bush timber, grass-roofed studios in Wonga Valley on the outskirts of Boroko. They were supplemented by recorded tapes of Australian ABC programs air-freighted to Port Moresby for replay, or picked up on air relays from ABC domestic radio in Australia and Radio Australia. The expatriate Australian staff—administration and programming—flew in and out of Port Moresby on two-year postings.

These English-language programs were listened to with great loyalty by those with powerful shortwave receivers and/or on battery-driven sets. However, there was no adequate reception for many in isolated locations. Furthermore, the English-language programs critically disadvantaged the non-English-speaking indigenous peoples.

In 1958 the ABC resolved to establish its own Papua New Guinea indigenous broadcasting directorate. And this is where former patrol officer, Graham Taylor, entered the fray. His first task was to recruit and train a new team of indigenous broadcasters speaking to their own people in their own languages. Graham's Papuan team was led by Raka Saini, an immensely talented young man from Suau, east of Port Moresby. Raka had been schooled by the LMS in his village and was selected for secondary studies in Queensland and on his return sought a career in broadcasting. He became a critically important leader of his new team of Papuan broadcasters.

Another talented recruit was Christian Rangatin, a young man from Lemakot village in New Ireland, who had also been sent to secondary school in Queensland. On Christian's return he was seen as a budding cadet journalist and later became PNG's first accredited professional journalist.

Graham worked on air with this team preparing and presenting a daily weekday program, PNG Gabana. It was badged as 'Papua New Guinea Gabana', being the police *Motu* word for the traditional *garamut*, which always served to call villagers to attention. The languages/dialects spoken were simple English, police *Motu*, *Suau*, *Orokaiva*, *Roro* and *Kuanua*. This new indigenous language program—comprising news, current affairs, talks—aimed at helping indigenous peoples work towards improving their lifestyles with music often recorded in isolated centres.

In 1962 the ABC decided to establish its first multi-lingual regional radio station—9RB Rabaul. Graham was appointed Regional Manager and immediately set about converting an old copra shed on Malaguna Road as the studio headquarters. He had a team of six expatriates on rotation from ABC Australia, which he augmented by recruiting and training another team of local broadcasters led by three young New Guineans: Robin To Papat, Jack Ainui and Joaph Erasmus.

9RB became a viable multi-lingual radio broadcasting service that covered the Gazelle Peninsula, the Duke of York Islands, and the southern half of New Ireland where *Pidgin* and the Tolai dialect *Kuanua* were commonly spoken. The multi-lingual radio programming from 9RB quickly became an important part of daily lives. There were days when programs reached as far afield as Manus.

With the rapid expansion of the expatriate population in the administration, in private enterprise, in the missions and elsewhere—plus the gradual advancement in the education of indigenous people—accelerating the more widespread understanding of English, the multi-lingual ABC began to play an increasingly important part in the lives of local people.

Beyond the few main centres there was no immediate access to daily newspapers, and there are many who would say that in the three decades of its existence ABC radio played a key role enabling listeners—expatriate and increasingly indigenous listeners—to keep abreast of news from the outside world, from Australia and within the Territory itself.

And be it political, social, economic or other important issues, the expatriates in a range of places—provincial centres, on remote outstations, plantations, mission stations, schools, mining camps and hospitals—within range of the ABC in Papua New Guinea and Radio Australia, relied heavily on the ABC for information from their homeland. We can all recall ABC's coverage of political news, major stories, major sporting events—at home and abroad—the Olympic Games, test cricket, football grand finals, tennis championships, and the Melbourne Cup and its gambling sweeps.

Within the Territory a daily news coverage was compiled by ABC journalists, Geoffrey Luck, others including Angus Smales and more recently, Sean Dorney. Their bulletins were augmented by reports gathered from ABC correspondents living in provincial centres and remote locations in the Territory. They were known as 'stringers' and one of whom, Robin Radford who was at the lunch, had reported regularly from Kainantu in the Eastern Highlands.

Aside from news, listeners relied heavily on the local ABC for local weather reports, shipping news, regular market prices of copra, rubber, coffee and other primary industry products, gold and in due course oil, timber and other emerging products and industries.

Graham finished with two important points about the ABC's presence in Papua New Guinea. First, the ABC's PNG radio network became the template for the establishment, come Independence, of the now flourishing PNG National Radio and Television Broadcasting Commission and so the ABC's spirit lives on.

Secondly, the wheel has turned and we expatriates now living at home in Australia, with fond memories of our time in Papua New Guinea, find ourselves relying on the ABC in Australia to inform us about important events in self-governing Papua New Guinea. And so our links with the ABC forged in the challenging times in the Land of Dohori, before self-government and independence, remain with many of us to this day.

Graham concluded his talk with an especially memorable incident.

In the 1980s Graham was the General Manager of the ABC's Collinswood complex in South Australia. It was the early evening of a working day. He was alone in his office when the commissionaire in the entrance lobby said an elderly gentleman wanted to see Graham who identified himself as 'Sir John ...' but the commissionaire had not caught his surname.

The gentleman was escorted up to Graham's office; there was a knock on the door and an elderly gentleman entered, carrying a large brown-paper bag. Graham immediately recognised him as Sir John Guise, first Governor-General of Papua New Guinea. They had met casually in years gone by but were not close personal friends. Sir John settled himself into an easy chair and for the next half hour or so they chatted amiably in a light-hearted discussion exchanging stories in English, *Pidgin* and police *Motu*.

Eventually, Sir John stood up declaring that it was time for us to drink a toast to the ABC's historical involvement in the development of his country Papua New Guinea. From the brown-paper bag he withdrew a bottle, Graham produced a couple of glasses, and they drank a hearty toast, then Graham escorted Sir John to the Commonwealth car for his ride back to the city.

Graham recalled that as a generous, unsolicited, remarkable tribute to the ABC's presence in Papua New Guinea from the man who, as the first Governor-General was the leader of his people, and a vivid reminder of Sir John's statesman-like response when in 1975, accepting the reins of self-government and independence from Australia, declared to the world:

**... today we are lowering the Australian flag
... we are not tearing it down.**

(UV: Sadly, Graham passed away on 22 September 2019, aged ninety, before this issue was published, please see a very short vale notification on page 57)

Madang Field Trips, 2014 #2

Continued from page 32

We used a sieve to sort through this material and picked out pottery sherds, beads and obsidian. The men fashioned a long seat out of bush material for our use. It was good to stand back and look at all the activity: men digging and pulling out roots, the women picking out sherds in the sieve and others helping to make the seat.

Over the next ten days the dig on Bilbil Island continued. During this field trip we were very lucky with the weather as there were no rainy days. Furthermore, June was a good time to travel as the sea was not too rough for the banana boat that took us past Kranket Island and out to the open sea to reach Bilbil Village and Island. By August the sea gets choppy. We also learnt that Madang had experienced major flooding in the previous month causing a power grid to collapse into the river and Madang was without power for days.

During the weeks we were there in June, all was well. When we were leaving Madang, the boxes containing the material from the digs weighed in at 200 kilograms. After being cleared by the National Museum in Port Moresby, the boxes were shipped to Otago University where the material will be analysed and dated. Later it will be shipped back to Papua New Guinea. The overall project on Bilbil Island was described as an outstanding success by Glenn Summerhayes in spite of the delay in beginning the dig.

In Port Moresby we were looked after by



Group of the archaeologists with local helpers in Bilbil Village, 2014

Herman Mandui, who had been with us for the first two weeks in Madang. Being Deputy Director of the National Museum, he played an important role in the negotiations with the village people of Malmal and Bilbil and in clearing the material to go to Otago. We were so lucky to have had his expertise and to enjoy his sense of humour and zest for life. Sadly, he became ill in the ensuing months and died in October 2014. He was forty-five years old and is sadly missed by his family and his colleagues in Papua New Guinea and around the world.

After the dig was finished, Dylan Gaffney and Prof Summerhayes produced a booklet, *An Archaeology of Madang Papua New Guinea*, with a summary of results. They had found that the initial occupation by the Bel-speaking groups was 500–600 years ago, which is in line with the oral history I had collected in the 1970s and linguistic evidence. They concluded that the technique for making the pottery has hardly changed over the centuries:

Five hundred years ago the ancestors of modern Bel potters were using paddles and anvils and bright red slip in a similar way to today. The Bel traded these pots for shell armbands, stone axes, obsidian and pigs which were uncovered in the investigation. Examples of many of these objects can be seen in the Madang Cultural Centre or other museums around the Pacific and in Europe.

Gaffney D and Summerhayes G, 2016

REFERENCES:

- Egloff, B. 1975. Archaeological investigations in the coastal Madang area and on Eloaue Island of the St Matthias Group. Records of the Papua New Guinea Public Museum and Art Gallery 5.
- Mennis, M. 2006. A Potted History of Madang: Traditional Culture and Change on the North Coast of Papua New Guinea. Lalong Enterprises, Aspley, Qld.
- Mennis, M. 2011. Mariners of Madang and Austronesian Canoes of Astrolabe Bay. Research Report Series, Volume, Queensland University.
- Mennis, M. 2014. Sailing for Survival. A comparative Report of the Trading Systems and Trading Canoes of the Bel people in the Madang area and of the Motu people in the Port Moresby area of Papua New Guinea. University of Otago, Working Papers in Anthropology, Number 2.
- Ross, M. 2009. Reconstructing the History of the Bel Languages. The Australian National University.
- Summerhayes, G.R., 2000a. Lapita Interaction. Terra Australis No. 15, Centre Archaeological Research, Australian National University.

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

**ROY KIRKBY
(Part Two)**

The previous issue featured my training in Rabaul, and then teaching at Kompiam School from 1962 to 1963. One of my most privileged memories was of my departure from Kompiam on being posted to Jimi River. The Otter aircraft was there to take me and my gear to Tabibuga. Everyone was there to say goodbye and Sgt Wengi, who always quietly stood in the background, came forward. He shook my hand and thanked me for my time there and wished me well for the Jimi, in Pidgin, of course. I had never seen him make such a gesture.

Jimi River 1963–64

In a way, Jimi River Primary T School was the next school down the road except there were no roads and few people. It was about twenty minutes flying time in the old Otter down the Sau River to the Yuat, and then up the Jimi River Valley with the Hagen-Sepik divide on one side. Like Kompiam, the airstrip was central to government activity. Dug out of the mountainside 100 metres or so above the airstrip was first the school, and then another 100 metres or so up to the station.

I had been sent there to sort out some staffing problems, get the school back on an even keel, and renew the support of the local community. As with Kompiam, I was left in charge of the station most of the time when the kiap was on patrol. This made it quite easy to get the support of Corporal Poti, the indigenous policeman in real charge, to summon up the resources I needed to improve the facilities in the school, and even have a new classroom built. Of course, it helped when you had the children of these influential people in the school and Corporal Poti had four.

It took some time to establish a good working routine with both students and the two teachers, after a difficult period of instability. In the classrooms, teaching was improved with the introduction of the new Minenda Series for teaching English, and girls came more to the fore as prejudice against them was squashed. I managed to get a few more girls into the school with the help of Corporal Poti, who suddenly seemed to realise that his two adolescent daughters in my class were quite bright and, with an education, could have a broader range of options for the future.

Being on my own as the only expatriate for weeks on end began to take its toll on my personal life. It was a problem early in my time with visits from the local young women to see what the new teacher was doing in the school. Like other local people they would look in through the open classroom window frames, all bare from the waist up. That was not all. I also got stones thrown at my metal donga at night and calls of '*masta mi stop*'. Buckets of water and sticks thrown out didn't seem to stop this. Of course, I was working seven days a week and not drinking any alcohol, and trying to stick to the advice I'd been given during training. Eventually, I complained to the local *luluai* that I wanted this to stop, telling him I was married. He said that my wife's absence was all the more reason for the women to stay. I needed to be consoled for being away from my wife! However, they did stop. ▶



FROM TOP: Jimi girls visiting the school; Jimi School cultural day; Jimi Primary T School with happy students; Kolda teaching New Maths at Keltiga; It was a whole school project to prepare the seedbeds, ensuring they were correctly dug and build fences to protect the site from pigs.

My little donga was the only permanent building on the station at this time, so any expatriate visitors stayed with me. These included the three missionaries in the valley area representing the Lutheran, Catholic and Anglican missions. Each had their own territory and, on their visits, they were keen to know what the others were doing since there was little or no contact among them. I did have one group of visitors I wish I had not had—two so-called scientists from a German museum. They secretly went out and shot birds of paradise then flew out with them, leaving me to meet the rage of the local people. (You can read more about this in ‘Tabibuga—My Experience: Roy Kirkby’ in *Una Voce*, June 2011, page 21.)

Again, I tried to encourage local culture in the children with craft, dance and storytelling as regulars in the curriculum. An end of term cultural extravaganza, as at Kompiam, went off well except when a re-enactment of a compensation event by two local clan groups was about to get out of hand. I, and possibly others, were saved by my local servant who recognised from the language that they were going to have a real fight.

Meanwhile, progress continued to be made in all areas of school life, with the involvement of the local clans and the station police and families. Unfortunately, though, that unwanted Kompiam reputation as being a hard man if anyone upset me had somehow got through on the grapevine to the Jimi so here I was never sure if reason or reputation was the winner in some circumstances.

Running the station was useful because you were forced out of your education cocoon and into recognising the worth of education in the wider community.

It was not always a picnic.

It made me question the value of Western education and our directions. An example was the Hagen axe incident. These ceremonial axes were made in the middle Jimi Valley and were becoming a prized tourist purchase. To maintain supply of good quality axes, the government had arranged with the clans of the makers to purchase all the axes and take the following action. Axes were brought to the station every month or so. The kiap was to inspect these, reject by breaking up any of inferior quality and purchase the good ones. These were then flown to Mount Hagen and sold at cost to local tourism operators. With the kiap away, I had to be the kiap and do the purchase and reluctantly break up on the spot poor quality axes.

I felt sorry for the makers of the ones I broke up who had walked for one, sometimes two, days to the station. But that was what the people wanted. It was also pointed out to me that it was what was expected to maintain my reputation.

But, yet again, after a visit from the district inspector to say we were doing a good job in reconciling the Education Department in the community, I was required to up sticks and move to another politically-sensitive school situation, and take up the reins at Keltiga in the Wahgi Valley.

Keltiga Primary T School 1964

Keltiga was just a few kilometres from Mount Hagen on the road to the Southern Highlands. It had thirty years of expatriate contact and the school bordered on the property of my neighbour, Danny Leahy, the first expatriate explorer and expatriate resident in the valley.

Local clans were very influential in demanding support, and this had

resulted in getting new permanent school buildings, and asking for a new expatriate teacher in charge. One of my first actions was to befriend the most influential clan leader, Pena, who had several children in the school. Between us, we managed to get additional funding and support from other local clans by establishing some competition between them, each believing that they got the same or a better deal than the other clans. An example of this was taking on a new class of children with a strict ratio of boys to girls from each clan.

The real breakthrough for Keltiga came when we became a pilot school for a New Mathematics project. This was an international project to change the format and content focus of teaching mathematics, sold to the Education Department as a quicker means of developing mathematical literacy in primary school and beyond. Working enthusiastically with me was Kolda, the first local graduate teacher. Kolda took on the new class of forty-eight children, with an expectation that we would lose half.

Kolda demanded perfect behaviour from the children always and they listened and learnt and did whatever was asked, in a relaxed not fearful way. We soon had a situation where visitors from around the country and from overseas would come and marvel at what these children were doing, all forty-eight of them since we didn't lose any!

While the project brought some kudos to the school, it wasn't really helping the local community in a way that they could easily see. We needed something of economic benefit, which Highlanders were quick to recognise and embrace. That project was the establishment of the first Highlands tea nursery.

While a tea nursery had been established at Garaina near Bulolo, nothing had been done elsewhere and I could get very little information from the Department of Agriculture. So, I got the information myself from overseas, established what needed to be done and then got seed from Garaina. It became a whole school project and ended up with Keltiga students educating agricultural officers on how to establish nurseries!

The tea project continued and the school and its community became a source of young tea bushes for local and international companies developing tea plantations in the Highlands.

However, I was not there to see it to fruition because I was moved again, and this time to Mount Hagen Primary T School as deputy headmaster. There were two reasons for this and the first was because I had got married. I was extremely lucky to win a South Australian teacher posted to Mount Hagen— and Nonie Hay became Nonie Kirkby.

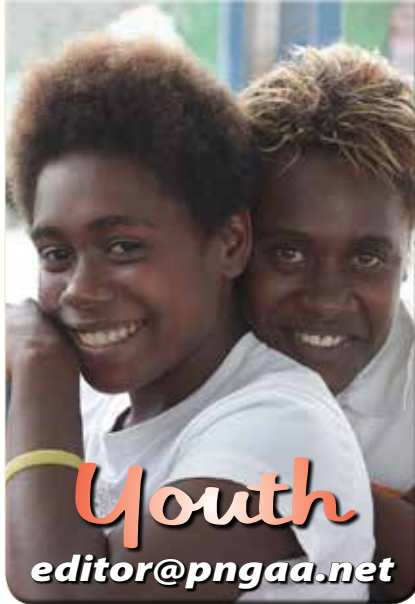
What is more, we were married by God himself—District Commissioner Tom Ellis! Those who served under him felt he deserved the nickname.

Our honeymoon was to fly in to Tabibuga in the Jimi and walk out, taking two days over the Hagen Sepik Divide to Banz. We did it, but on reflection it was a bit of a hair brain idea. It was pleasant walking through the bush to suddenly come upon about 100 metres of a beautiful road with neatly arranged colourful bushes on either side, then again take up a track through the bush—the result of one clan building its section of the proposed Banz to Jimi Road. Less pleasantly memorable was overnight in a hut at 8,000 feet in freezing weather, sharing one sleeping bag. ♦

Part Three, featuring Roy's time at Mt Hagen School, and Goroka and Madang Teachers' Colleges, will be published in the next issue of *Una Voce*



FROM TOP: Kolda's class at Keltiga Pilot School; Seeds were planted to a strict depth and spacing; Agricultural officers came along to learn how to develop seed nurseries; On our wedding day; The happy couple.



Featuring articles, news and photos about young people doing interesting things—we encourage young people to become involved in PNGAA to ensure the strong ties formed between PNG and Australia continue into the future

Goroka Grammar being a private school was more expensive than the government schools, and boarding fees even more expensive. Having won the scholarship took a huge burden off my father's shoulders, and helped me better excel in my studies.

As well as saving time, boarding enabled me to consult my teachers even after school hours and on weekends, as they also lived on campus.

I not only won a scholarship, but I also won an Australian family. I got the unimaginable chance to travel to Australia for the first time at the expense of my sponsors, Brian Vial and Andrea Stevenson. They have from then on become like another set of grandparents to me, and I thank God for this great blessing that the scholarship has brought me.

I am currently doing my final year Engineering at the University of Technology in Lae, Morobe Province, PNG. I owe my successful admission into tertiary studies to the LGV Scholarship. It has been a tremendous help in getting me to where I am today.

But the story does not end with me. Over the six years since its inauguration, the LGV Scholarship has given opportunities to eighteen more girls and fourteen boys who passed through Goroka Grammar for their secondary education. This means there are thirty-two more stories like mine about how this scholarship

program has eased the burden of school fees, given students easier access to their teachers, and more study time. The scholarship also prioritises giving females a better chance at life, for PNG society is known to look upon women as the inferior gender.

Today we may not adequately understand the sacrifice people had to make during the world wars simply because of our lack of experience. We may not feel the pain the loss of loved ones caused for their families who stayed at home praying for their return. They say a single seed holds a mighty tree and only when that seed gives itself away can new life emerge from it.

Mr Leigh Grant Vial never returned home to his family but his last breath has given life to a mighty tree that is growing. His name lives on, embedded in the stories of the many young Papua New Guineans who will spread his fame throughout the province, the country and the world.

GITA KORIMBO

(UV: Please see article on the Leigh Grant Vial scholarships on page 15)

The Dixon Girls from Kavieng

The three Dixon sisters are a wonderful example of young Papua New Guineans moving to Australia but retaining strong links with their home country.

Marlugu, Harkana, Zara and their brother Adrian, were born in Kavieng, New Ireland Province and attended the local

A Young Student Achieves Her Dreams Thanks to Leigh Grant Vial (LGV) Scholarship

In early 2014 a new scholarship program notice was advertised in my school. A quick glance at the content and eligibility criteria prompted me to submit an application. Six years later, I am grateful that I won the Inaugural Leigh Grant Vial Scholarship, for three main reasons:

My tuition fees were paid, and my status as a day student was changed to boarding. Being a day student and living with relatives can be challenging. You spent time travelling back and forth to school. You had chores at home, and other distractions, like your favourite cousins.



Gita Korimbo as final year engineering student in June 2019

international primary school. Their mother, Emilia, hails from Taonsip Village on Tanga Island in New Ireland Province, and their father, Roger, is from Tasmania, but spent thirty years in Papua New Guinea living in Rabaul, Port Moresby and then Kavieng.

Since locating to Hobart in January 1999, the three sisters have maintained links with PNG particularly in latter years. They all spent time back in their mother's village in 2013–14.

Marlugu, Harkana and Zara completed their secondary schooling in Hobart. Marlugu was Head Girl at the Friends School and Harkana was a prefect at St Mary's College. They both captained their school soccer teams. Zara was Deputy Head Prefect at St Mary's College and also captain of her school soccer team.

Marlugu and Harkana are now residing in Brisbane and are employed at the Pullman Hotel in hospitality. Both can be seen on billboards and flyers advertising Digicel in PNG and also Vanuatu.

Zara is still living with her parents in Hobart having recently returned from a year's working holiday in New Zealand. She has completed a Business Certificate 3 and is currently employed in hospitality at a Salamanca restaurant. She is planning to commence a Degree in Social Work at the University of Tasmania in 2020.

Of the four siblings, three of them have represented PNG overseas in Rugby, and two of them have separately walked the Kokoda Trail.

Marlugu has played Rugby Sevens widely for PNG along with attending training camps



in Port Moresby. She has represented PNG internationally in the following:

2014: Hong Kong Sevens

2016/18: Oceania Sevens and Fifteens in Fiji

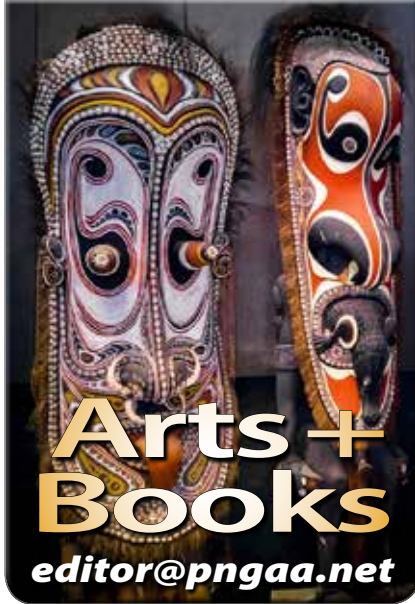
2018: Rugby World Cup in San Francisco

2019: Hong Kong Sevens and more recently the Pacific Games in Samoa, where the PNG team won a bronze medal.

Harkana, usually a soccer player, represented PNG in Rugby Sevens in the Oceania Cup in Fiji in 2016. Zara walked the Kokoda Trail in 2015 and plays soccer in Hobart. Adrian has also walked the Kokoda Trail and represented PNG internationally in rugby union on a number of occasions.

VICKI LONG

At home in Kavieng in the family's two-acre garden, 1998 (top); Harkana in action (left); Harkana, Marlugu and Zara (right); Marlugu with her bronze (bottom)

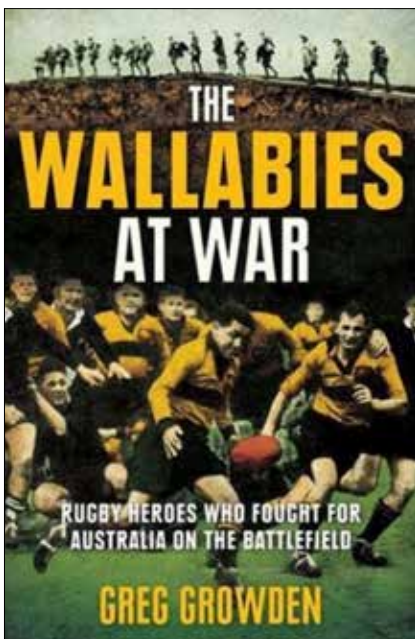


GREG GROWDEN

The Wallabies at War

Aussie heroes have proved themselves on the battlefield as well as on the sporting field. Members of the Wallabies, the national rugby union team, have fought in virtually every major conflict Australia has been involved in, including the Sudan, Boer War, Boxer Rebellion, both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and East Timor. Among them are some of Australia's most illustrious footballers. In this book, a veteran sports journalist tells their extraordinary stories of bravery, hardship, courage and human endeavour.

The strengths that made these



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

young men sporting heroes are as important on the battlefield as on the sports field: teamwork, athleticism, tenacity, humour and courage.

The Wallabies at War includes untold stories from Aussie military and sporting history—not just on the battlefield but from POW camps and even the Burma Railway—and a wealth of experiences from humour to tragedy, and from the depths of torture, injury and deprivation to achieving stunning post-war sporting comebacks.

For anyone who loves their sport and their military history. **(HarperCollins website)**

ISBN: 978-07-333387-9-3
ABC Books–AU, 29018; 320 pages.
Available online and from good bookstores. RRP \$32.99

(UV: Please see page 47 for an article about the book by Patrick Bourke)

GAVIN MILLER

The Last of Adachi's Army: 20 Years After the War a Rumour Surfaced, Like a Myth

This e-book is set in the Madang Province of Papua New Guinea in the 1960s. It is a work of fiction that skilfully presents what life was like for the Australian and Papua New Guinean people living there at the time.

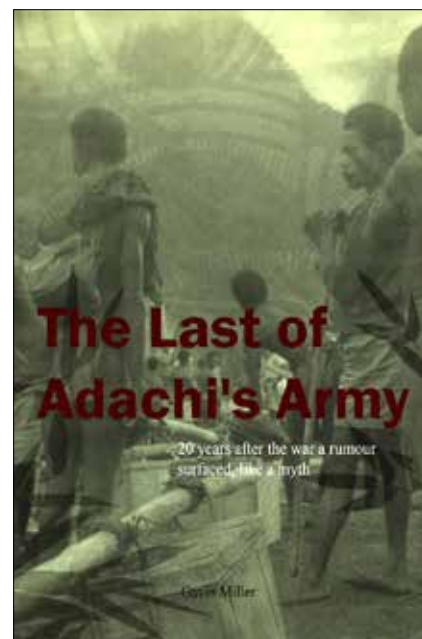
The author's description of the book accurately captures both its contents, and its tone:

1965, the war has been over for 20 years. The Australian colonial period was coming to an end as Papua New Guinea moved towards independence. Incredible New Guinea with its villages and old plantations, heat,

craziness and hard drinking. And in Madang, along the coast, a trail of old scarred trees, bomb holes, fox holes now filling in, burnt and twisted vehicles, helmets, crashed and blasted planes; the bewildering wreckage of the Pacific war.

'Harry Blain was becoming increasingly immersed in the great conflict, in the books and on the ground. Then a rumour surfaced, like a myth. It drew Harry into a strange, perilous odyssey tangled in history, poetry, beauty and dismay. It took him to the Rai Coast, to Ellie in distress. It led to the patrol into the Yupna Gorge, to the mists and the events that would tear at his heart—what was hidden in the deepest shadows of the war?'

I found it wonderfully evocative of the time and place—and, indeed, of when I lived and worked in the then Madang District in the early 1970s. Miller paints word pictures of the challenging tropical mountain country, the local inhabitants, and the expatriate people moving through it. Twenty years



after WWII ended, and Major-General Adachi surrendered the remaining Japanese forces, war-time debris serves as a reminder of the terrible battles between the allies and the Japanese in the Sidor area and the Finisterre Range.

The tensions rise, as one reads the book, as relationships between the people in that world, between them and the physical environment, and between the past and the present, merge towards the book's climax, set high in the Yupna Gorge area near the Madang/Morobe border—an area familiar to the book's author from having patrolled there.

Although a work of fiction, Miller has gone to considerable lengths to portray authoritatively the settings, the cultures and the area's history. This is evidenced, in part, by the comprehensive set of notes that end the book.

I very much enjoyed reading it and recommend it wholeheartedly, both for its insights into the lives and times portrayed, and as a fine piece of New Guinea-based fictional writing by someone who was there.

(Disclosure: I have known the author since the 1970s when we both lived and worked in the area in which the story is based.)

David McDonald, 2019

Amazon Kindle edition, 2019; 170 pages; ASIN: B07NH85F9B; RRP \$7.04

BARRY J CONN & KIPIRO Q DAMAS ***Trees of Papua New Guinea Volumes 1–3***

A new three-volume publication of the *Trees of Papua New Guinea* by Barry Conn (former Principal Research Scientist, Royal Botanic

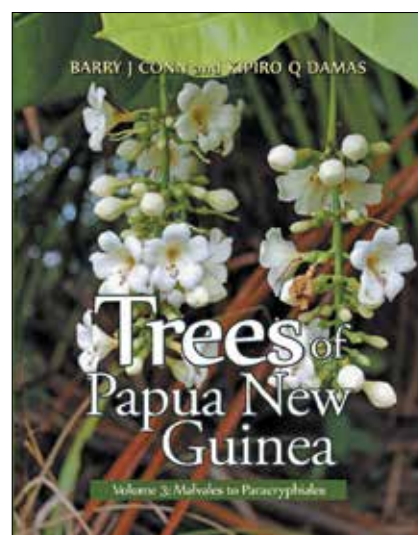
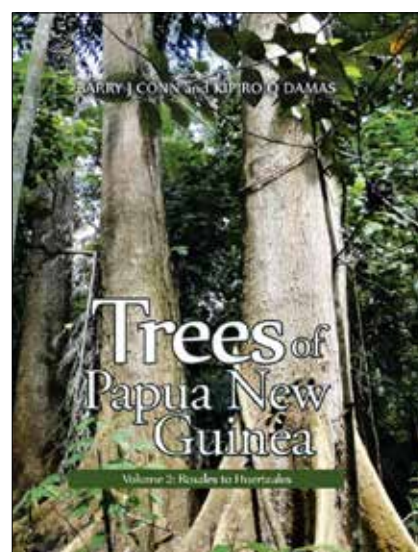
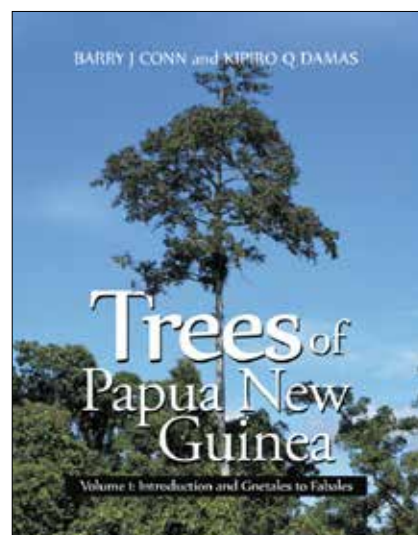
Gardens, Sydney) and Kipiro Damas (Senior Botanist, Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute, Lae) provides a comprehensive account of 668 tree species.

These books, the first of their kind for Papua New Guinea, are a valuable resource for botanists, foresters, resource managers, environmentalists, non-government agencies and the extractive industries. They will assist with the identification of the major trees of these extensive and biologically diverse forests, and give an appreciation of the richness of the majestic PNG forests that range from the coastal and lowland plains to the highest mountains.

For further information see www.pngtrees.com.

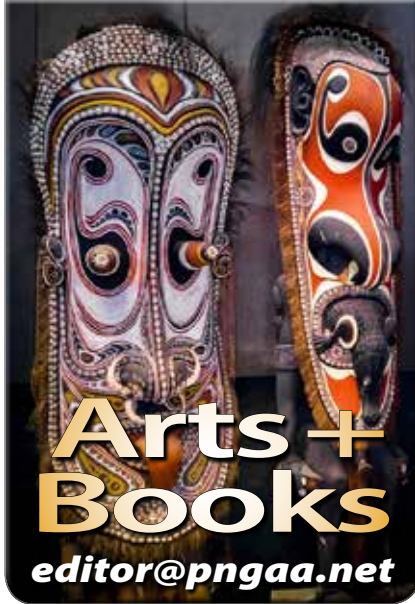
The island of New Guinea has a high diversity of species and a high level of endemism, containing more than five per cent of earth's biodiversity in just over one half of a percent of the land on the earth. New Guinea supports the largest area of mature tropical moist forest in the Asia/Pacific region. Papua New Guinea—consisting of the eastern part of the island of New Guinea, plus the islands of the Bismarck Archipelago, Admiralty Islands, Buka and Bougainville—has between fifteen thousand and twenty thousand species of vascular plants, with at least two thousand species of trees.

The most important challenge is the protection of biological diversity against the pressures resulting from global climate change, inappropriate destructive conversion of natural communities, unsustainable exploitation of forests, national



economic development and societal demands, including a fair sharing of the nation's wealth, and law and order issues.

The project which resulted in the development of these volumes was a major initiative of the Papua New Guinea National ▶



Herbarium, together with the Forestry Research Institute, Lae, and the National Herbarium of New South Wales, Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, NSW, Australia. See the following link for more information on the project: http://www.pngplants.org/PNGtrees/proj_details.html



Barry Conn and Kipiro Damas (top) and photo taken by Barry Conn near TepTep looking towards the higher Montane forests of the Finisterre Ranges

Trees of Papua New Guinea provides a comprehensive treatment of species of trees (Volume 1: 257 species; Vol. 2: 246 species; Vol. 3: 165 species). The books are published by Xlibris, 2019, and are available in casebound hardcover and softcover, with an eBook version also available from Xlibris, Amazon, Barnes & Noble and www.pngtrees.com.

THE AUTHORS

Barry J Conn: Prior to 2016, Barry was a Principal Research Scientist at the National Herbarium of New South Wales, and Associate Professor at the University of Sydney. He specialised in the floras of Malesia, Australasia and Pacific Islands, with special focus on the systematics of the trees of New Guinea and several other plant families. He was employed as a botanist at the PNG National Herbarium (LAE) and as a lecturer at the Bulolo Forestry College (1974–1979). Since 1982, he has regularly visited PNG to continue his botanical research and to document and describe trees for the PNGtrees project.

Kipiro Q Damas: Kipiro graduated with a Diploma in Forestry from the PNG Forestry College, Bulolo in 1978. He was

employed as an Assistant Botanist at the PNG National Herbarium (LAE) while completing a Bachelor of Forestry Science, PNG University of Technology, in 1992. He continued as a botanist at the Lae Herbarium. In 2009 he graduated with a Bachelor of Honours from the University of PNG and continued to work as the Senior Botanist at Lae. Kipiro is currently completing a Master of Science degree at the University of PNG.

UV: Based on information provided by Barry Conn and from the relevant websites

Paradise Palette

For the past three weeks the walls of the Royal Queensland Art Society's Petrie Terrace Gallery, Brisbane have been hung with a kaleidoscopic collection of artworks and tapa cloth produced by artists from Papua New Guinea.

The exhibition was the third such exhibition to be curated by Royal Queensland Art Society (RQAS) member, Don Wotton, who worked for Elcom (PNG Power) during the construction phase of the Yonki Dam project from 1990–1996.

In his role as environmental planner, Don engaged local PNG artists to produce brochures to educate villagers as to the impact and dangers of deep water resulting from the flooding of the Arona Valley; murals to combat graffiti on Elcom's property and posters to illustrate the safe and beneficial uses of electricity.

The success of these projects resulted in a life-long association with the artists, including the late Matthias Kauage, the late John Siune, Gigs Wena, Albert Ipu and Michael Mape among others.

The exhibitions have especially benefitted the street artists in Port Moresby, who are mostly self-taught and do not have access to formal gallery space for marketing their artworks in PNG. The initial exhibition 'Nine Mile Smiles' held in 2017 attracted participation by sixteen artists, all of whom entrusted Don to display their artwork in Brisbane. Word as to the success of the exhibition quickly spread with thirty-two artists taking part in the 'Niugini Brushstrokes' exhibition in 2018.

This year a total of forty-five artists participated! The Paradise Palette exhibition attracted over 200 people to the gallery on opening night, due in no small part to the role played by PNGAA member, Belinda Macartney, in actively promoting the event. The exhibition left visitors enthralled as to the diversity and excellence of contemporary art being produced in PNG. A record number of sales for an exhibition by the RQAS were achieved during the course of the exhibition.

Artists Albert Ipu, Laben Saale John, Rose Kaipu and Gima Segore were on hand throughout the exhibition to guide visitors to the gallery through the artworks on display. The visiting artists received a very warm reception from all members of the RQAS and joined with them in life-drawing, watercolour and plein-air classes during their stay. Susan Werake and Naomi Kerenga, both originally from Chimbu Province, held *bilum* making classes on the weekends, which also proved very popular among visitors and tourists stopping by the gallery.

Brisbane City Council proudly supported the event with a cultural grant that met the costs of hiring the gallery space, while Don and fellow RQAS member, Peter Hubbard, hosted the visiting PNG artists.

The Paradise Palette exhibition, along with the earlier events curated by Don, have proven to be highly successful in promoting the talents of PNG artists and building strong relationships between the artists of Port Moresby and their peers in Brisbane, and indeed Australia.

Following from the Paradise Palette exhibition Don presented a paper on the outcomes of the events he has curated, at the recent Art Nau symposium held at the Australian National University in Canberra.

The symposium, which was attended by leading curators in the field of PNG arts from various institutions and galleries from around the world, discussed ways to raise the profile of contemporary artists from PNG, and their work, and the issues they face in marketing their artworks within PNG and overseas.

It is anticipated that a further exhibition of art by Port Moresby's resident artists will be held at the RQAS Petrie Terrace Gallery in October 2020.

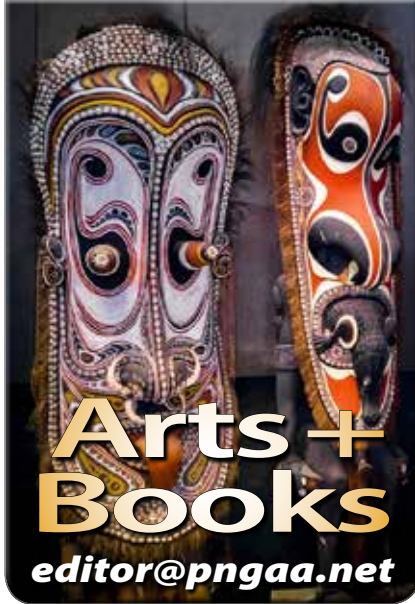
DON WOTTON

Tribal Art Fair, Sydney

The 'Tribal Art Fair' presented by the Oceanic Art Society (OAS) was held on Saturday, 17 August 2019 at the National Art School (NAS) in Darlinghurst, Sydney. The OAS aims to promote, foster and encourage the development and preservation of Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian ▶



FROM TOP: PNGAA member Kieran Nelson with artist Albert Ipu at the Paradise Palette exhibition; PNGAA member Ally Martel with artist Rose Kaipu; Artist Rose Kaipu demonstrating *bilum* making; RQAS member, Jennie Pyke with visiting PNG artist, Laben Sakale John in the weekly watercolour class at the RQAS Petrie Terrace gallery.



art and culture. For its second year running at NAS the 'Tribal Art Fair' showcased a range of traditional and contemporary art and cultural objects from the Oceania region: Papua New Guinea, the Pacific, Australia and South East Asia, including masks,



PNGAA members at the Tribal Art Fair (from left, back row) Roger Carroll, Max Uechtritz; (middle) Suellen Holland, Bev Melrose, Cheryl Marvell; (seated) Rebecca Hopper & Mari Anderson; The crowd at the fair (second left); A PNG artist, Lesley Wegembo, and his work (right); A range of fascinating artefacts (bottom right)

carvings, weapons, artefacts, jewellery, textiles, books and prints.

PNGAA was represented with a stall organised by Roger Carroll, Sara Turner's husband, in the absence of Sara who was ill. Various PNGAA members assisted on the stall, which was shared with Mari Anderson, ex PNG, who had a wonderful collection of artefacts, and Suellen Holland selling her book. PNGAA sold a few books, DVDs and a couple of paintings and had a number of enquiries on membership. Murrough Benson organised the finance, paperwork and articles for sale from 'the shed'. Roger said 'The day saw over 300 people come through the door to view, experience and purchase a diverse range of artefacts. We on the stall had a great day with lots of chatter and saw Bev's superior sales skills.'

Mari cleared much of her PNG collection dating back to the 1980s and much of her range of basketware made to order in Mendi in the Southern Highlands. Bev said that she and Mari both allowed the PNG village salesman



to store his goods in Mari's shop or Bev's office in Lae, when he arrived down on the back of a PMV with the products of many months of work from the industrious clever women folk in his village. 'We never knew his name just "leg no good" as he had one very deformed leg. I believe he is still about!'

VICKI LONG, ROGER CARROLL & BEV MELROSE



ANTHONY J REGAN
The Bougainville Referendum: Law, Administration and Politics

The Australian National University Department of Pacific Affairs has published a new book by Anthony J Regan entitled *The Bougainville Referendum: Law, Administration and Politics*, analysing the legal, administrative and political issues arising from these arrangements.

For a review of the book by Stewart Firth, Research Fellow with the Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, please go to page 20 of this issue of *Una Voce*.

The Wallabies at War and the Hellships

PATRICK BOURKE

In the book, *The Wallabies at War*, written by Greg Growden, it is stated that ten Wallabies were killed during World War I and nine died in World War II.



Kenelm 'Mac' Ramsay with his niece, prior to embarkation in 1941

MANY STATE RUGBY UNION representatives died too. Captain Brian Pockley, who played on the wing for the NSW Second XV in August 1913 when they defeated Queensland at Sydney University Oval, was killed on 11 September 1914 during the battle for the German wireless station at Bitapaka in German New Guinea.

During WWII many thousands of POWs and civilian internees were transported by the Japanese armed forces in ships around the Pacific. Prisoners were squeezed into these ships with little water or food and no proper sanitation, whilst at the same time under the constant threat of being sunk by Allied submarines and planes. They were called hellships. Around 1,800 Australians died on these hellships during WWII, including over 1,000 Australians, POWs and civilian internees on the *Montevideo Maru*.

Two Wallabies died on these hellships during WWII. They were Kenelm 'Mac' Ramsay and Winston 'Blow' Ide. Both Mac Ramsay and Winston Ide had played a number of rugby union tests for Australia prior to their enlistment in the Australian Army. They were also selected for the 1939–40 Wallabies Tour of Britain and Ireland, which was cancelled a day after the team arrived in England because Britain declared war on Germany.

Mac Ramsay, who was a country boy from Quirindi, the son of a farmer, joined the 1st Independent Company, the first commando unit raised in Australia during WWII. Mac Ramsay was with his fellow commandoes on the New Guinea island of New Ireland in January 1942 when the Japanese invaded.

After the invasion he was captured and interned with other Australian POWs and civilian internees at Rabaul, New Britain. On 22 June 1942, with over 1,000 Australian prisoners, Mac Ramsay was put on the *Montevideo Maru*. They were to travel to the Japanese-occupied island, Hainan Island, off the coast of China, where they were to work in the mines.

Off the coast of the Philippines in the early hours of 1 July 1942 the *Montevideo Maru* was sunk by the American submarine, the USS *Sturgeon*. None of the prisoners on board the *Montevideo Maru* survived.

This is Australia's worst maritime tragedy. ▶



MS *Montevideo Maru*



Winston Ide in his Queensland rugby jersey (top) and Cecil Ramalli in later years (below)

Winston ‘Blow’ Ide, who was named after Winston Churchill, was born in Sydney, the son of a Japanese silk trader. His father was Japanese and, although a naturalised Australian, he was put in internment camps in Australia after Japan entered the war.

At the same time, Winston was with the Queensland 2/10th Field Regiment of the 8th Division at Singapore in February 1942 when it fell to the Japanese. Winston was taken prisoner and sent to work on the Burma-Thailand Railway. Winston was eventually transferred to Changi.

After two months at Changi he was jammed with other prisoners of war into the hold of the Japanese hellship, the *Rakuyo Maru*. The prisoners were to be taken to Japan for slave labour. Like the *Montevideo Maru*, the *Rakuyo Maru* had no markings to indicate that it was carrying prisoners.

On 12 September 1944, near the Bonin Islands the *Rakuyo Maru* was sunk by the American submarine, USS *Sealion II*. There were some survivors who were picked up by American submarines some time later, but Winston was not one of them. The dead included 549 Australians.

Another Wallaby with Winston Ide working on the Burma–Thailand Railway was Cecil Ramalli. Cecil, who was a son of an Indian Muslim trader and an Aboriginal mother, was with the 8th Division at Malaya when Singapore fell and became a POW. Like Winston Ide, after working on the Burma–Thailand Railway, Cecil was shipped to Japan to work as slave labour.

He was to be on the *Rakuyo Maru* with Winston, but at the last moment was told to wait on shore as the Japanese could not fit any more prisoners on board the ship. Cecil was put on the next hellship, which made it to Japan. He was sent to work in the Nagasaki coal mines. Cecil survived the war but he was in a very poor physical condition and never was able to play rugby union or rugby league at a high level again. ♦

Source: *The Wallabies at War, rugby heroes who fought for Australia on the battlefield*, written by Greg Growden. Published in 2018 in Australia by HarperCollins Publishers, Australia.

(UV: Please see a review of the book on page 42)



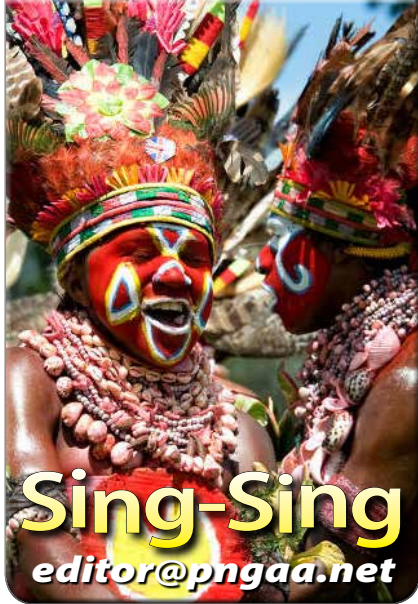
Using the New Website

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. A printed version can be purchased for \$10.00 (more details in the Membership & Order Form at the end of this issue). **Roy Ranney, Membership Officer—membership@pngaa.net**



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

Brisbane PNG Independence Day Celebrations, 2019

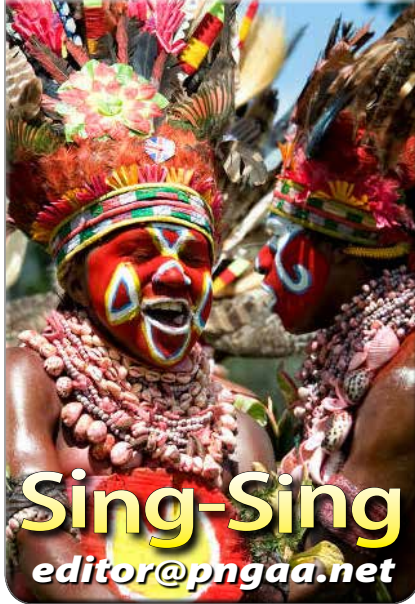
Papua New Guinea Federation Queensland Inc. once more hosted the PNG Independence Day Celebrations in Brisbane on the 44th Anniversary of this historic moment in our history. VIP guests attending this year included Queensland Director of DFAT Derek Brown, PNG Consul General Jimmy Ovia and special guest ABC and Walkley Award journalist, Sean Dorney.

There is a large PNG population living in South-east Queensland and the event continues to grow each year with seventy-two stallholders selling food and crafts and seventeen cultural dance groups in traditional dress from their own regions keeping their cultures alive, and the large crowd of spectators entertained throughout the day. One group from the Sepik travelled from PNG at their own expense to take part in our celebrations.

KIERAN NELSON

Host shelter for VIP guests (top);
 Gulf Dance Group (below);
 Sepik Dance Group (left); Speech by
 Sean Dorney (right); South Pacific
 Island Dance group (second right).
 (All photos by Nick Currey
 & Kell Nielsen)





44th PNG Independence Day— PNG Wantok Group (Victoria)

The PNG Wantoks Group (Victoria) hosted the 44th Independence Day Anniversary in Melbourne on Saturday, 14 September. We thank The PNG Wantoks of Victoria Committee for inviting members of the PNGAA of Melbourne to the event held at Fitzroy, Melbourne.

We enjoyed a delightful day, celebrating PNG Independence with our PNG Wantoks in Melbourne!! The venue was decked out in PNG flags and there was a display of PNG artefacts. Those that attended wore the

colours of the PNG flag to commemorate 16 September 1975.

We thank Bibra, Gorothy and Lucy, members of the PNG Wantok Group of Victoria Committee for organising the event and giving us such a warm welcome. It was such a pleasure sharing the day with our Melbourne Wantoks and PNGAA Melbourne members. Members that attended the day were Peter Milburn, Geraldine Tyler, Dwayne Richards, Marj Walker and Yana Pelikan.

Thank you also to Suzette Dela Cruz Regalo and Kristine Seko, two inspiring speakers who spoke on the day. Suzette is the Principal Planning Officer with the Department of Human Services and also the Convenor of Health Management Association of Australia. Suzette will be volunteering on the YWAM Medical Ship bound for Alotau. Suzette spoke of the work of YWAM and the PNG-Australian partnership in that space. We wish Suzette all the best on her travels in PNG and commend her on the work she is doing for the PNG people.

Kristine Seko is an Australian

Awards Scholarship recipient and currently studying her Masters in International Development at Monash University. Kristine spoke of where PNG is now, where it is going and her role back home in PNG when she returns after her studies in Australia. Kristine has done work with the Kokoda Initiative, contributing to education and health through training and maintenance of facilities.

We love these photos! So much colour!

YANA PELIKAN



Kristine Seko (left) and Marj Walker



Kokopo, New Britain Celebrating Independence Day 16 September 2019

(Photos: Max Uechtritz)



The group at the celebration (top); Gorothy Whitfield, Kenya Kala, Darshini Jacob (left); Geraldine Tyler, Dwayne Richards, Gorothy Whitfield, Marj Walker, Yana Pelikan, Bibra Japara, Peter Milburn (right); Geraldine Tyler and Prof. Easton (second left); the display table (second right).

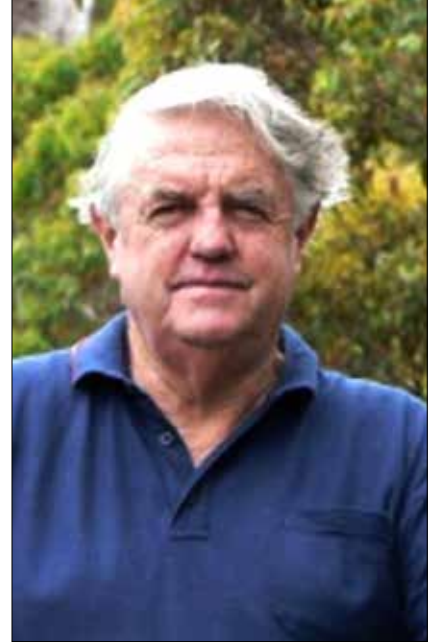
The Passing of Pacific Man

CHIPS MACKELLAR

**A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ADRIAN
'BILL' McGRATH 1932–2019**

Bill's journey to PNG in 1953 was only the beginning of a remarkable odyssey which truly made him the epitome of the legendary Pacific Man.

For not only did Bill serve in PNG, he also served in Saipan in the Marianas, the Hawaiian Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, then back to PNG again.



BILL'S LOVE OF THE Pacific and his expertise in all matters Pacific is immortalised in his creation of the Pacific Bookhouse. It is a mail-order bookshop, sourced from Australia, Hawaii, the US mainland, the UK, the Pacific Islands and elsewhere. It contains a treasure-trove of Pacific wonders featuring an extensive collection of rare books, wartime histories, Pacific travelogues, adventure diaries, reminiscences, anthropology and cultural monographs, manuscripts, official documents of various kinds and sundry other paraphernalia which he accumulated during the course of his Pacific travels.

Bill's Pacific Bookhouse display was a familiar feature at kiap reunions and other gatherings in Australia in recent years and he was still collecting and selling rare Pacific books and other documents up until the day of his final journey.

Bill would have loved it—a gathering of family and friends and a smattering of aged kiaps, all assembled to say goodbye to him on Thursday, 8 August 2019 at Parkview Chapel, Nerang, on a beautiful balmy Southern Queensland winter's day. Some had come from far away. Bill's sons, Rod from Darwin and Don, all the way from Western Australia, Arthur and Ida Smedley from Tasmania, Chips Mackellar came down from Warwick, Graham Tuck from Buderim.

Other old kiaps came from various Brisbane suburban outliers: including Jack Battersby accompanied by his daughter Jennifer, Dan Duggan with Judy, Jim Fenton, Fred Haynes, Bob Hoad, John Nilan, Peter Salmon, Paul Simpson, Vin Smith and Ian Thompson.

Of Bill's 1953 CPO intake only two made it, Chips Mackellar and ninety-year-old Jack Battersby, bless him. Dave Hook, Bob Cleland and John

Cochrane are still around in Brisbane but were unable to make the journey. John Harris and John Wearne in Canberra and Geoff Grey were too far away.

Nevertheless, we were all there in spirit just as we were way back then when we joined the patrol service together in 1953. And a few wives of kiaps from that 1953 intake also made it: Joan Colman, Fua Holloway and Jocelyn Mackellar.

Bill's farewell was well attended. Eighty-four well-wishers signed the attendance register, while some did not get to sign. The Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles was well represented because Bill was a lieutenant in this famous regiment, and the thirteen kiaps who attended, were led by the vociferous Vin Smith, now eighty-nine years old, and still telling stories and cracking jokes just like he used to do in PNG. Like Jack Battersby, Vin has never aged. Both look exactly the same as they did when they first arrived in PNG, eons and eons ago.

Also among the well-wishers were many of Bill and Pat's friends. They included Robert Brown, Brian Davis and Arthur Jones—together with authors, publishers and book people connected in various ways to Bill's creation—the Pacific Bookhouse.

Bill is remembered for his interstellar career in land tenure matters. Soon after first arriving in PNG Bill transferred briefly into the Uniformed Branch of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, then six years after his first arrival he transferred to the Department of Lands where he first worked under the tutelage of that famous old Territorian, Ivan Champion, to become an expert in Pacific Island traditional land tenure systems.

Land in the traditions of the Pacific is not privately owned. It is all communally owned, with

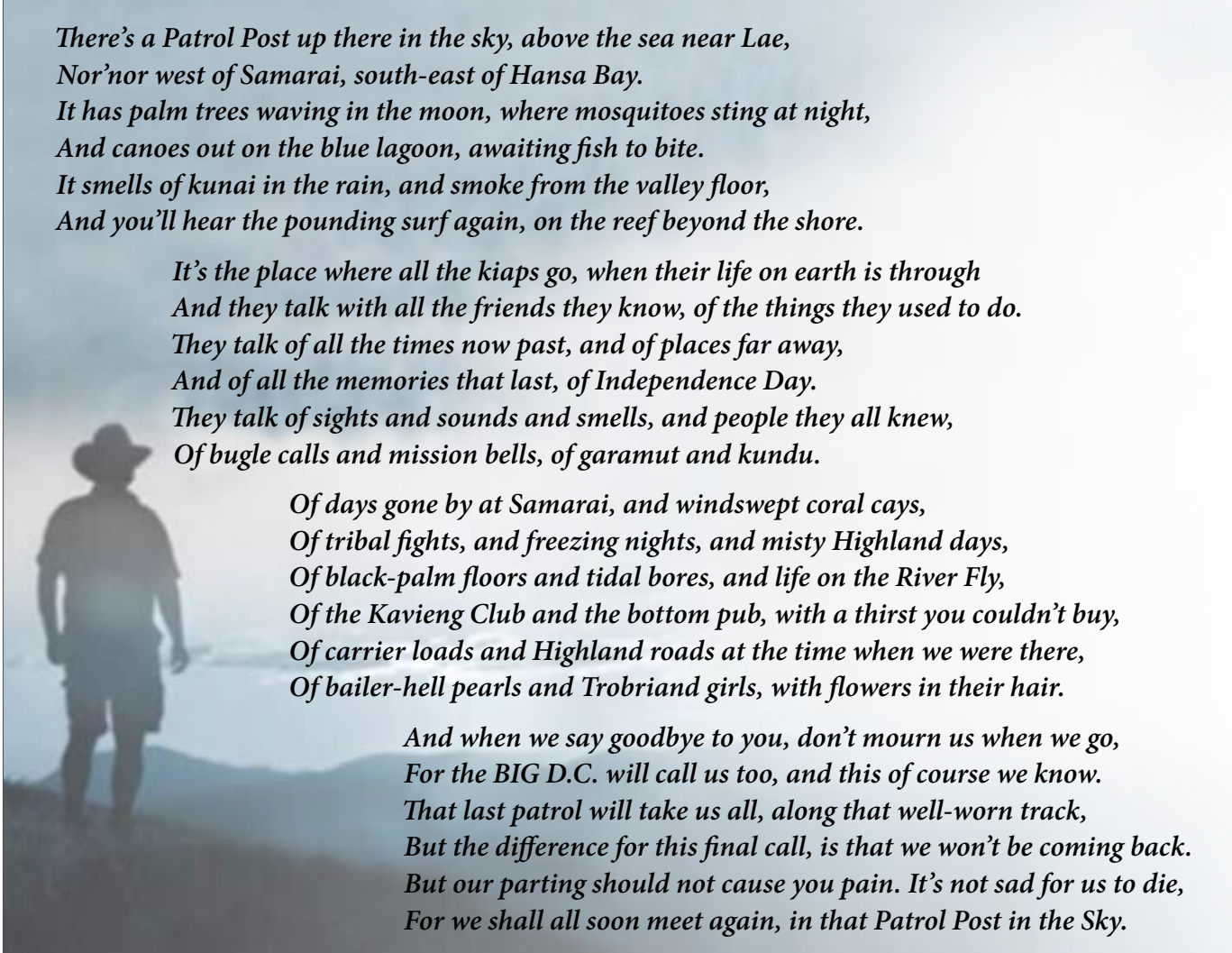
different people claiming different rights to the same parcel of land in a plethora of conflicting customs derived from different inheritance claims. Some claims are based on patrilineal, matrilineal, or multilinear descent, and sometimes all three descent systems for the same area of land. But Bill navigated his way through this tangled maze successfully to become internationally famous as a land tenure expert, and it was this fame which started him on his odyssey across the Pacific Islands and then brought him back to PNG again.

As Bill's collection of Pacific literature expanded with his travels, so he began to assemble his Pacific Bookhouse library. Some of the Bookhouse collection featured memoirs of past residents of PNG and the Pacific, so Bill began to mentor other PNG expatriates to record their memoirs, which he then published for them. So, many old kiaps and other former residents of PNG who wrote their

memoirs owe much of their literary success to Bill's help.

Because of his extensive Pacific travels and research, Bill compiled and published a series of bibliographies on land tenure in PNG and elsewhere in the South-west Pacific. He also wrote and published bibliographies on other topics of historical importance for the Pacific area.

But in recent years Bill's health began to fail, and so it was that on 8 August 2019 we said goodbye to him. According to a famous barrack room ballad, our old diggers used to sing 'old soldiers never die, they simply fade away.' And just like those old soldiers who never die, so it is with kiaps. Old kiaps never die, they just go on their last patrol, to the Patrol Post in the Sky. We know, because at Bill's farewell Arthur Smedley told us this when he recited the sacred kiap ode 'The Patrol Post in the Sky.' ♦



*There's a Patrol Post up there in the sky, above the sea near Lae,
Nor'nor west of Samarai, south-east of Hansa Bay.
It has palm trees waving in the moon, where mosquitoes sting at night,
And canoes out on the blue lagoon, awaiting fish to bite.
It smells of kunai in the rain, and smoke from the valley floor,
And you'll hear the pounding surf again, on the reef beyond the shore.*

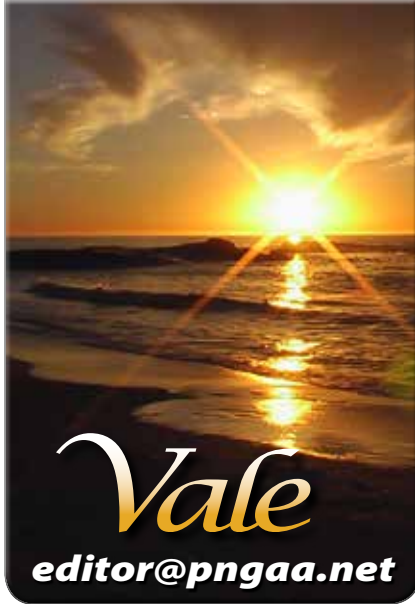
*It's the place where all the kiaps go, when their life on earth is through
And they talk with all the friends they know, of the things they used to do.
They talk of all the times now past, and of places far away,
And of all the memories that last, of Independence Day.
They talk of sights and sounds and smells, and people they all knew,
Of bugle calls and mission bells, of garamut and kundu.*

*Of days gone by at Samarai, and windswept coral cays,
Of tribal fights, and freezing nights, and misty Highland days,
Of black-palm floors and tidal bores, and life on the River Fly,
Of the Kavieng Club and the bottom pub, with a thirst you couldn't buy,
Of carrier loads and Highland roads at the time when we were there,
Of bailer-hell pearls and Trobriand girls, with flowers in their hair.*

*And when we say goodbye to you, don't mourn us when we go,
For the BIG D.C. will call us too, and this of course we know.
That last patrol will take us all, along that well-worn track,
But the difference for this final call, is that we won't be coming back.
But our parting should not cause you pain. It's not sad for us to die,
For we shall all soon meet again, in that Patrol Post in the Sky.*

***So farewell Pacific Man, till we meet again, in that Patrol Post in the Sky.
With special thanks to Pat McGrath, Arthur Smedley and Keith Jackson.***

(UV: Please see Vale for Bill McGrath by Arthur Smedley on page 55)



**FRODIN, David Gamman
d. 12 August 2019, aged 79**

David Frodin (aka Frodo) passed away on 12 August after a short illness.

David held the following qualifications: BSc (Chicago), MS (Tennessee), MSc (Liverpool), PhD (Cambridge, UK). He was widely known as a botanist, collector and lecturer, in particular for his guide to the standard floras of the world.

After his earlier degrees, David spent a year from 1965 to 1966 employed in the PNG National Herbarium in Lae, New Guinea, as a temporary scientific officer, subsequently undertaking



David Frodin—Source: RBG, Kew

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.

a number of herbarium study visits and short field trips in Australia and the Far East.

From 1971 he was a lecturer in botany in the University of Papua and New Guinea at Boroko, near Port Moresby and undertook many field trips in Papua, New Caledonia, the Bismarck Archipelago and New Britain.

From 1 July 1993 to 31 July 2000 he was employed at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK as a Senior Scientific Officer. After retirement in 2000 he became an Honorary Research Associate.

His contribution to the knowledge of plants in PNG is considerable, with a significant number of PNG plants being named after him. See link below for his eponymy:

<http://www.pngplants.org/collInfo.php?irn=3415>

From information provided by Nicolas Hinde of Kew Botanical Gardens and certain websites.

**HENTON, David Gordon
d. 21 August 2019**

Born in Chester, England, Dave migrated to Australia with his family as a child. The family grew up in Geelong, Victoria where Dave's father was a GP. On 24 June 1968 Dave was among thirty-nine newly-recruited Cadet Patrol Officers who began a four-month (academic) orientation course at ASOPA, Sydney.

The cadets flew to Port Moresby on 24 October 1968 and were moved to a camp on the Kwikila Sub-District Station

100 kilometres south-east of Moresby, where they undertook a further five-weeks induction course learning the more practical aspects of their future work.

After initially serving in the Central District Dave was later posted to the Gulf District where I met him in 1974. He had been posted to Kaintiba in the mountains of the upper-Tauri River behind Kerema after having a 'run-in', whilst OIC Ihu Patrol Post, with a newly-elected Member of the House of Assembly—but that is another story.

There he patrolled the rugged terrain and continued the process of bringing peace to the Kamea (Kukukuku) people. To consolidate this work Dave moved to Kotidanga village, south of the Kanabea Catholic Mission Station and built a base



David Henton

camp from which to continue his patrols.

Among the bush-material houses he built was his double-storey home which included a wine cellar! Dave also had his upright piano flown in to Kanabea and carried down the walking track to Kotidanga.

The handyman skills he developed during this time served him well many years later after he *'went-pinis'*. I was his guest, on occasions, when he lived in a jungle retreat just outside Kuranda, inland from Cairns and later to a fisherman's cottage in Queenscliff in Victoria, thence to a miner's cottage at Lexton outside Ballarat. At each of these abodes he renovated and improved the buildings before his final move to semi-suburban Clifton Springs on the Bellarine Peninsular.

After independence Dave remained in PNG as a kiap until resigning in 1979 and moving to Misima Island to manage Ruth and Albie Munt's stores and plantations. Dave developed a great respect for the Misima people and their culture and he soon became fluent in the Misima language. Dave then spent some years with Placer Pacific, which was exploring for gold on Misima, and then he moved to Kuranda.

However, his brilliant mind, great linguistic skills and excellent communications attributes had become recognised amongst the growing number of foreign resource companies which were experiencing 'difficulties' dealing with traditional landowners. He commenced a life of fly-in/fly-out (FIFO).

First CRA, which held an exploration licence over Mount Kare, contracted him. In a book he co-authored with Andy Flower, titled *Mount Kare Gold Rush*, Dave tells, *inter alia*, of his experiences with difficult land-claimants from the aggressive Huli and Enga highlanders, whilst determining clan boundaries and the various rights of the contesting claimants.

Dave subsequently did similar work for oil exploration companies such as Chevron, Oil Search and Mt Isa Mine's Barracuda Ltd. Later, Chevron's former senior PNG Manager, Isikeli Taureka, who had been put in charge of the company's Indonesian geothermal energy interests, recruited him to advise on difficult landowner and cultural differences being experienced in that country.

Dave was well qualified for that role after his PNG experiences and having gone on to complete a first-class honours degree in Indonesian at the University of Tasmania after finally leaving PNG in 2000. He later went on to teaching English on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

I, like many others who have fond memories of Dave, would like to also remember him for what his youngest sister Sheena described, at the celebration of his life, as '... his remorseless contempt and sarcasm toward anyone he thought was an idiot'. Sheena, who cared for Dave over the last few months of his fight with cancer of the mouth as it took a grip on his jaw, throat and vital organs, recalled the following incidents at the Geelong Hospital:



Memorabilia reflecting his life at David Henton's funeral

- Lovely nurse, wanting to admit Dave: *'Just stay there. This won't take much longer. We'll be popping you upstairs soon.'*

Dave to lovely nurse: *'No, you won't! You will not be popping me upstairs—I am not an old suitcase!'*

- Young and concerned doctor to Dave: *'But if you go home before we do the next scan, there could be serious consequences.'*

Dave to young and concerned doctor: *'Oh, not really? What? I might die? Hasn't anyone told you I've got cancer?'*

And, in a very rare moment of restraint ...

- Elderly volunteer bringing Dave a cup of tea: *'But you can't go home until you've seen the doctor.'*

Dave to elderly volunteer: *'Oh, I'm so sorry. I didn't realise I'd been arrested. Can I call my lawyer?'*

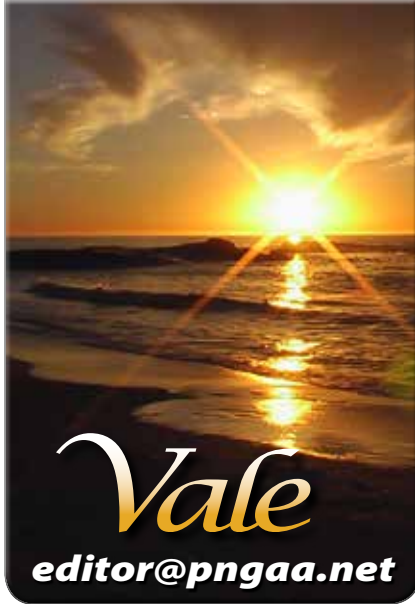
Chris Warrillow

McGRATH, Bill

d. 30 July 2019, aged 86

Bill McGrath, who died on 30 July after a long illness, went to Papua New Guinea on 16 April 1953 as a twenty-year-old cadet patrol officer—sixty-six years ago.

He later transferred to the Royal PNG Constabulary as a police officer before moving to the Lands Department under ▶



the renowned Ivan Champion, where he was involved with the purchase of land for the Rouna hydro-electric scheme. He also worked with Champion at the Land Titles Commission and was a consultant and adviser on land matters throughout the Pacific islands.

After leaving the public service he returned to PNG from time to time to advise mineral and petroleum exploration companies on land matters.

Bill wrote and published some books and technical manuals, including *Notes for the Guidance of Administration Officers Engaged in the Investigation of Rights to Native Land and Purchase of Native Land*, and a bibliography of books written about Papua New Guinea. This led him to establish the Pacific Book House on the Gold Coast, which became the go-to place for people wanting to obtain books with a PNG or Pacific theme.

Bill was born in Fremantle, Western Australia, and is survived by his wife Pat and two sons from his first marriage.

Arthur Smedley

Reprinted from website—Keith Jackson and Friends: PNG Attitude

(UV: See article on page 52 entitled 'Passing of Pacific Man—a Tribute to Bill McGrath)

McILWAIN, Garth, CBE
d. 27 July 2019, aged 75

SAMIN, Denis Charles
d. 4 August 2019, aged 77

Denis held an OBE (1996); Australian Service Medal 1945–75 with clasp PNG; Queen's Silver Jubilee medal 1975; PNG Defence Force LS & GC Medal; PNG Independence Medal 1975 and 1985; RPNGC (Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary) Centenary Medal 1988; PNG Defence Force 50th Anniversary Medal 1990.

He was born in Camperdown, Sydney, and died on 4 August 2019 in Mornington, Victoria at an aged-care facility after a long illness.

Prior to being in the RPNGC, he served in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps (Reserve) as a sergeant between 1957 and 1961. He then served in the Victoria Police Force from November 1965 until December 1968 (contemporaneously in the 126 Signal Squadron, Special Forces [Para] 1966–69



Denis Charles Samin

as a reserve corporal). He was appointed to RPNGC in January 1969, the last of the twelve-year contract officers. He served mostly in the Papuan side at Bomana, Moresby and Boroko police stations, CIB, and mobile squads in Bougainville during the emergency. He was retrenched under the provisions of the Contract Officers Employment Security Scheme in February 1976 at the rank of Inspector 1/c. He served in the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles from 1969–1974.

From early 1977 he was a journalist in Victoria. From 1982 he worked for Comalco at Weipa as a public relations officer until 1984, when he had a senior position with the Independent News Group.

During this time he became editor of the *Tablelander* newspaper in Cairns, Queensland, until 1990, and also in this period served as a captain in 36 Regional Cadet Unit 2/15 Field Regiment.

He rejoined the PNG national government RPNGC in August 1990 as the Community Relations Officer with the rank of Superintendent. In 1993 he was appointed Director of the Reserve Constabulary until 1995 when promoted to Assistant Commissioner at PHQ, Konedobu.

After an attempted home invasion in which Denis had to defend his wife Lisa and himself, he left RPNGC in early 1998, returning to Queensland. After some years there he and Lisa left for a family property at Tyabb, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.

He is survived by Lisa and an adopted son, Joshua Green.

TANNER, Arthur Charles
d. 27 August 2019, aged 88

He joined the Queensland Police Force commencing as a cadet, from 1 December 1947 to 9 January 1955. He was appointed to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) on 15 January 1955. He served at Port Moresby, Rabaul, Lae, as HQ. Officer Kondobu and later as OIC Discipline.

He was retrenched from RPNGC under the provisions of the then Permanent Officers Employment Security Scheme on 18 October 1974 at rank of Senior Superintendent, having

been awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in September 1973. He was a very thoroughly dedicated 'hands on' investigator and left 'no stone unturned' in pursuit of offenders.

On returning to Australia, he became a restaurateur at the Gold Coast for a number of years, later downsizing to a take-away food shop at Caboolture, and later became a private investigator, finally buying, as his health declined, a small block at Ningi, Queensland.

He is survived by widow Margaret (Margo) and three sons.
MR Hayes & P Bruton

TAYLOR, Graham
d. 22 September 2019, aged 90

Please see the summary on page 33 of Graham's talk to the PNGAA Adelaide lunch in March this year about the history of the ABC in PNG—sadly, he passed away before it could be published.

TRONSON, Allan David
d. 26 August 2019, aged 93

Allan David Tronson, our beloved husband and father, passed away on 26 August 2019 at the age of ninety-three on the Gold Coast.

Loving memories forever.
Hiroko and Tomoya ♦



Rabaul and Montevideo Maru History: List of Teaching Resources Links

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society— Education

<https://www.memorial.org.au/Education/index.htm>

Places of Pride—National Register of War Memorials

<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/238341/rabaul-and-montevideo-maru-society>

Anzac Day Resources—Education Queensland

<https://education.qld.gov.au/about/Documents/anzac-day-resources.pdf#searchAnzac%20Day>

History Teachers Association of NSW

<https://www.htansw.asn.au/links>

History Teachers Association of Western Australia

<https://www.htawa.org.au/links>

Education: Office for Veterans Affairs—NSW Veterans Affairs

<https://www.veterans.nsw.gov.au/education>

ACT History Teachers Association—Teaching Resources

<https://www.acthta.com.au/2018/11/11/free-quality-teaching-resources-for-schools>

Virtual War Memorial Australia—Education Joint project of South Australian Government and RSL South Australia

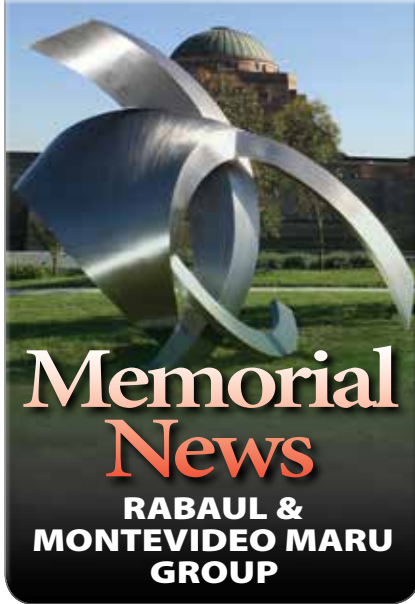
<https://vwma.org.au/education>

Royal Australian Historical Society—Review of teaching resources on the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society's website

<https://www.rahs.org.au/rabul-and-montevideo-maru-memorial-website-resource/>

Families who had servicemen or servicewomen who came from South Australia can include their story on the Veterans South Australia website at:
<https://veteranssa.sa.gov.au/history-and-stories/>

For help they can contact the department at:
veteranssa@sa.gov.au



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*.

world-wide civilian deaths and Australian civilian deaths in World War II followed by a consideration of the apparent attitude of Australia to civilian war deaths. Following that, two specific cases of multiple Australian civilian deaths were considered: the Kavieng Wharf Massacre and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. Illustrating these issues, a short segment from an ABC 7.30 Report explained the Kavieng massacre, complemented with a video of speeches by Margaret and Norm Furness, a survivor of Lark Force, at the unveiling of a memorial sculpture at the Australian War Memorial in 2012.

Congratulations to Carole Worthy

Carole Worthy entered a short story in a competition held by Stringybark Stories recently. The topic was historical fiction based on a true event connected with Australia. Carole used the voice of Cpl Barry O’Neil, of the 2/22 Battalion who was sent to Rabaul, writing an imaginary letter to his sweetheart, Grace (her mother), from the hold of the *Montevideo Maru*, on the eve of 1 July 1942, the night the hellship was torpedoed and sunk.

Congratulations to Carole who was awarded a highly commended. Her story, titled ‘Dear Grace’ will be included in a publication of all winning short stories, titled *Fault Line*. Book or ebook will be available from Stringybark Stories soon. Check their website.

Australian War Memorial’s Places of Pride Website

The Places of Pride website, the *National Register of War Memorials*, is an Australian War Memorial (AWM) project which aims to record the location and gather photos and information about every publicly accessible memorial in Australia. The Australian public is encouraged to add photos and stories to the AWM’s website at: <https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/238341>

History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference

On 2 October 2019 Margaret and Scott Henderson made a presentation at the History Teachers Association of Australia National Conference at Loreto College, Maryatville, Adelaide, SA, on behalf of the PNGAA and Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group.

In the presentation they discussed, in general terms,



Margaret Henderson with then Governor-General Dame Quentin Bryce, at the unveiling of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial, at the Australian War Memorial, 2012

Users can use the interactive map and search facilities to find information about their local war memorials. This project will be the basis for a new display in the proposed new extension area of the AWM.

Patrick Bourke's submission on the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial is included:
<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/238341/rabaul-and-montevideo-maru-society> and
<https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/238341>

ANDREA WILLIAMS

Commemorating NGVR's Eightieth Anniversary

Address given by Bob Collins
Vice-president NGVR & PNGVR
Association on 7 September 2019
at Wacol, Brisbane

We are here today to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the formation of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR), one of the least known and understood units of WWII.

In this address I will cover a number of points relative to the NGVR.

Why was the NGVR formed? Just who were the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)?

What did they achieve?

To understand why they were formed it is necessary to know the political situation in the Pacific in the late 1930s. Prior to the Pacific War Japan wished to form its own 'sphere of influence' in south-east Asia, but the western powers were critical of its aims. When the USA imposed sanctions, which Japan could not economically tolerate, it had either to bow to the western powers or aggressively pursue its

plans. This it did in late 1941 by attacking Pearl Harbor, Manila, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Malaya.

Why was NGVR formed?

When WWII commenced in 1939, and until late 1941, it was a European war. Australia had joined Britain at the commencement of WWII and despatched three divisions to assist. They were deployed to the Middle East. With the looming Japanese threat in the Pacific in 1941, Australia despatched the 8th Division less one brigade to Malaya. The 23rd Brigade formed 'Bird Force' and deployed Gull, Sparrow and Lark Forces to Ambon, Timor and Rabaul.

It is obvious that, with three divisions in the Middle East and one in the Pacific, the Australian government was counting on the British forces in Malaya and the British far eastern fleet to contain any Japanese threat.

What was the NGVR?

It was the first military unit raised outside Australia after WWI and it was raised in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. By agreement with the League of Nations it was prohibited from establishing military bases but was charged with protecting New Guinea from external attack.

Because of the potential threat posed by Japan to New Guinea, the administration, in September 1939 tasked Lt Col John Walstab, who was the superintendent of the New Guinea Police Force, to raise the NGVR, with a strength not to exceed twenty-one officers and 450 other ranks. It was a militia unit, what in our day was a CMF unit, or today a reserve unit. Enlistment was for a two-year period and there was no pay except for an allowance of one



Rabaul Hotel taken by one of the McNickle boys who were with Lark Force (Photo Annette Murphy)

pound per year. Uniforms were khaki shirts and trousers made locally from material sent from Australia. Felt hats, bandoliers, leather belts, boots and puttees were supplied. Arms consisted of .303 rifles, some Vickers and Lewis machine guns. The NGVR had a very low priority and most of the equipment was ex-WWI.

Locations and Personnel

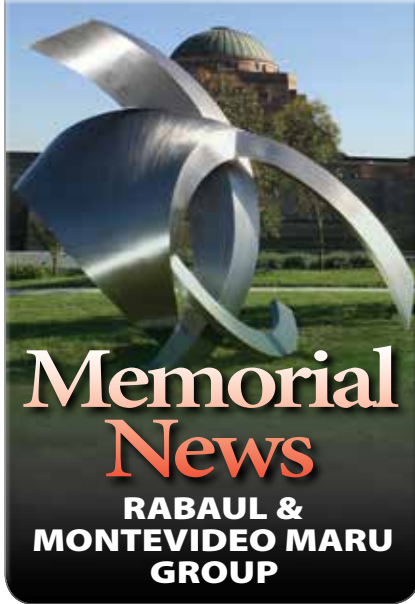
Depots were established in Rabaul, Lae, Salamaua, Wau, Bulolo and Madang. Indigenous New Guineans and Chinese were prohibited from joining the NGVR, but in Rabaul a Chinese Auxiliary Ambulance Detachment was formed. Residents of New Guinea were obviously concerned with the threat posed by Japan, so enlistment into the NGVR was well supported. Although in 1940/41 many men left NGVR to join the AIF (Australian Imperial Force).

Training

Training was left in the hands of local commanders and live firing with the various weapons was carried out in all areas. However, it must be accepted that training was fairly basic.

NGVR in Action

At the landing of the Japanese in Rabaul on the morning of 23 January 1942, NGVR was with 'A' Coy 2/22nd Bn, between Vulcan and Malaguna—one of the most ▶



exposed positions in Rabaul Harbour.

There were eighty NGVR soldiers reported to be in Rabaul at the time of the invasion.

Of these, twenty-two escaped, forty-six were captured, and twelve perished in the battle or succumbed during their escape. Of the forty-six captured, seven were massacred at Tol, thirty-six were lost on the *Montevideo Maru* and three officers were taken to Japan and survived the war. Thus, fifty-five of eighty perished, a casualty rate of seventy per cent for the NGVR at Rabaul.

We need now to look at the overall position in New Guinea from the Australian government point of view in late February.



NGVR anniversary lunch—speech by Bob Collins—(left to right) Tony Boulter, Paul Brown and Bob Collins

This section does not relate directly to the NGVR but it emphasises their coming role.

The Japanese at this stage had been unbeatable. They had destroyed the majority of the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor; they had taken Hong Kong and Saigon, Singapore had fallen, Ambon and Timor were occupied, and Rabaul had fallen. At the time it was a reasonable assumption that the Japanese would continue south and invade Australia. After the war it became known that the Japanese Navy wanted to do that, but their army thought it was too big a project at the time and was against it. Both the navy and the army agreed that Port Moresby should be taken to give them the opportunity to sever lines of communication between Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific islands and the USA, and isolate Australia.

There are four ways to approach Port Moresby from Rabaul.

1. **By sea**—the Japanese tried this in May 1942 and, while the Coral Sea Battle was probably a small victory to the Japanese, their fleet turned back to Rabaul and it halted their plans of a sea invasion.
2. **Via the Kokoda Track**—the Japanese commenced this attack in July and the battle went on until September. Again, another defeat for the Japanese, although much of the defeat can be attributed to the Japanese need for troops at Guadalcanal.
3. **Via Milne Bay**—whoever controlled Milne Bay had air superiority over the sea lanes from Rabaul to Port Moresby. The Allies established airfields first, however, and these became invaluable when the Japanese attacked. The Japanese attacked in

late August and withdrew in early September.

Do not believe US military history books which claim Guadalcanal to be the first Japanese defeat on land. Milne Bay was the first time the Japanese Army had been defeated on land in WWII.

4. **Via Lae and Salamaua**—through Wau and the Bulldog Track, down the Lakekamu River and thence to Port Moresby. A long way around? Yes! But doable.

This had been proven by NGVR as they had already used this method to evacuate civilians and males unfit for military service. The Japanese actually tried this in January 1943 in their attack on Wau, but again failed.

That is the big picture but we now need to go back to looking at what happened immediately after the fall of Rabaul in January 1942.

NGVR on the mainland

The fall of Rabaul in January 1942 left the men of the NGVR as the only armed military force in the path between the Japanese forces at Rabaul and Port Moresby, until the arrival of Kanga Force in Wau in June 1942. Since the invasion of Rabaul, NGVR Lae had been busy evacuating unfit civilians and creating camps and food dumps along the Markham River.

NGVR Wau and Bulolo were involved in the evacuation of civilians as many had to pass through their areas on the way to the Bulldog Track.

Airport runways at Lae, Salamaua, Madang, Wau and Bulolo had been prepared for demolition, and barriers ready to erect to prevent any Japanese aircraft landing. Detachments at Wau, Bulolo, Salamaua, Lae

and Madang were encouraged to develop as independent units preparing escape routes, observation points and stores dumps in their own regions.

One of the first actions carried out by NGVR on the mainland was to assemble a flotilla of four small ships weighing from sixteen tons to forty-five tons to rescue survivors of the Rabaul debacle. Three other vessels were held on the mainland in reserve and were not needed. This little flotilla has been described variously as ‘the NGVR navy’, ‘the Harris Navy’ and ‘The Little Dunkirk of New Britain’. This operation resulted in 214 soldiers and civilians embarking on the *Lakatoi* from the Witu Islands off the north west coast of New Britain and arriving safely at Cairns.

In Madang the NGVR, with the assistance of the police officer (NGVR was using prisoners as carriers and labourers), built a line of camps and stores dumps at walking day intervals all the way to Kainantu, each under the control of the NGVR, and set up wireless reporting stations at several locations for reporting of Japanese air and shipping movements to Port Moresby.

Invasion of the mainland

Lae and Salamaua were invaded on 8 March 1942 and the NGVR withdrew from Lae up the Markham Valley, and from Salamaua to Mubo and Wau. In June NGVR was reinforced by a platoon of the 2/1st Independent Coy and then by the 2/5th Independent Coy—thus ‘Kanga Force’ was formed—NGVR was an integral part of ‘Kanga Force’.

Offensive operations by Kanga Force

Two major offensive operations



NGVR soldiers with a captured Japanese flag after the raid on Mubo, 1942

were conducted by Kanga Force.

- Before dawn on 29 June 1942, seven separate parties took part in an attack on Salamaua. The parties were a mixture of NGVR and Independent Coy men. However, all the scouting and reconnaissance had been carried out by NGVR scouts. The attack was successful with about 112 Japanese killed for the loss of three walking wounded. This was the first major offensive operation by allied forces in New Guinea.

- On 1 July a mixed NGVR and Independent Coy attack was carried out on Heath’s plantation in the Markham Valley. This was partially successful in that a number of Japanese were killed but dogs had alerted the Japanese and the commander of the attacking force Maj Kneen was killed. In the confusion resulting from his death the attack was called off and the attackers withdrew.

What happened after these attacks?

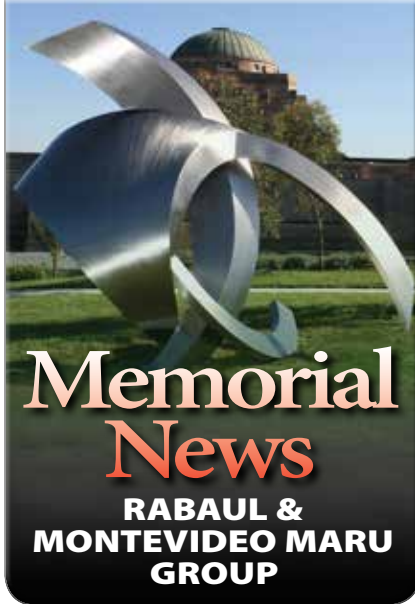
The Japanese attacked Mubo and were repulsed with a loss of a number of men. NGVR had sited

their Vickers machine guns to cover the approaches and had also set out distance markers on the airstrip over which the Japanese had to cross, and they were caught in a hail of cross fire and forced to withdraw.

The Japanese also increased their patrols into the Markham and areas behind Salamaua with patrols of up to 100 men—too big for NGVR to ambush or take on. The NGVR reaction to this was to withdraw to their prepared watching posts, continue reporting what information they could to Port Moresby, and continue small harassing incidents making sure the Japanese knew they were in the area, but hoping to convince them that they were in much greater force than they actually were. The rest of 1942 was spent quietly doing just that.

1942 was NGVR’s year

Towards the end of 1942 NGVR soldiers were exhausted. Overall NGVR remained in good spirits, but the deprivation of continuous operations in hostile terrain without adequate supplies and ▶



medication was taking its toll, with many falling sick with fever and other tropical diseases.

The number of men fit for operations was rapidly dwindling. NGVR was reliant on local food supplies and could not mount offensive operations—they just kept on letting the Japanese know they were in the area and active.

In many cases their lives were lonely ones—Sgt Carlo Cavalieri (NGVR) was carrying out surveillance duties near Onga village in the upper Markham area with only an Australian sergeant signaller and some native police *bois* when he received a message from a local villager that the Japanese knew ‘where he was and would come up and kill him when they were ready’.

As it happened WO2 Harry

Lumb (NGVR) was killed near there some months later. WO2 August Freund (also NGVR) who passed through the camp wrote in his book:

The camping conditions of Cavalieri and his mate were exceedingly rough. The huts were skimpy and poorly enclosed. There were no tables and chairs, and even shelves on which cooking and eating utensils and food could be put when eating were minimal.

Sgt Jim Huxley spent his twenty-first birthday at Barola native hospital, near Kainantu, where he was the only European and had six ‘*dokta bois*’ with him. He had a warm bottle of beer with his dinner—having carefully hoarded the beer for that occasion.

Disbandment of NGVR

By 1943 there were too few fit men to be an effective force so NGVR was officially disbanded although a number of men’s service records show they were officially in NGVR when discharged in 1945/46.

Many NGVR men were discharged unfit for duty after spending months in hospital in Australia, and those still fit were transferred into a variety of other units and duties—most went into ANGAU (Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit) with

a variety of duties suited to their particular skills:

- Either in charge of carrier lines taking forward supplies and ammunition and bringing wounded back (Sgt Tom Keenan) or unloading shipping, etc. (Sgt Henry McCauley)
- A number were attached to American units to provide local knowledge and skills in dealing with the local population (Sgt Neville Swanson attached to the US Marines)
- Accompanying American biscuit bomber aircraft dropping supplies (Sgt Harold Osborne).
- Others with different skills went into signals (Sgt Alan Dunwoodie)
- Medical units (Sgt Jim Huxley)
- Or worked in Australia where their engineering and mechanical skills were used in base units (Sgts Bill Peters and Abe Sheath)
- A few were in demand on unit headquarters when major advances or attacks were being planned so that they could provide local knowledge of the area (Sgt Stan Burton)
- Others were given more aggressive roles carrying out patrols into Japanese territory (Lt Tom Lega, MM and Lt Jim Birrell, MC)

Very few people in Australia had ever heard of NGVR or what its members had achieved in its short but highly effective history, but its members were strong individuals who had gone to New Guinea to work but when faced with the Japanese threat did not shrink from the task ahead of them.

In conclusion, NGVR was a unique Australian unit composed of men who did a remarkable job under extremely difficult and arduous circumstances. ♦

BOB COLLINS



Gathering at the NGVR anniversary lunch



Treasurer's Corner

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

Enquiries to: treasurer@pngaa.net or phone 0448 216 049

MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM

To place an order, please tick the appropriate boxes below, fill in the details on the form overleaf, and mail to PNGAA, PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069	Cost p/unit	Purpose Code	Qty	\$
PNGAA MEMBERSHIP				
All rates are on a calendar year basis				
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to renew my membership for 2020 (due by 31 December 2019)				
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to become a new member (payment after 30 September automatically financial for 2020)				
Resident in Australia	\$45.00	MEMB		
Resident in Asia/Pacific Postal Zone	\$65.00			
Resident in Rest of World Postal Zone	\$75.00			
Digital Membership only (i.e. no hard copy or postage costs)	\$30.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> PNGAA Sydney Christmas Luncheon (See details on page 7 of this issue)	\$70.00	SYDX		
<input type="checkbox"/> When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942 +\$20 postage in Australia—o'seas extra	\$60.00	WWC		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Volcano's Wife +\$7 postage in Australia—o'seas extra	\$25.00	VOL		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cloudlands Memoirs +\$3 postage in Australia—o'seas extra	\$15.00	CLD		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kiap: Stories Behind the Medal (DVD) +\$5 postage in Australia—o'seas extra	\$25.00	KIAP		
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk Into Paradise (DVD) +\$5 postage in Australia—o'seas extra	\$10.00	WIP		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rabaul and Montevideo Maru 70th Anniversary (DVD) +\$5 postage in Australia—o'seas extra	\$20.00	RMVM		
<input type="checkbox"/> PNGAA Tote Bag +\$10 postage (10 bags \$20) in Australia—o'seas extra	\$15.00	TOTE		
<input type="checkbox"/> PNGAA Membership Directory: 2019 Edition +\$3 postage in Australia—o'seas extra	\$7.00	DIR		

TOTAL COST \$

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, 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.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Please **print** your name and address below and fill out the relevant parts of the Order Form overleaf

**Note that your *Una Voce* address label indicates when your membership expires
and also contains your membership number**

Name: Membership number (if known):

Address:

..... Postcode:

Telephone: Mobile:

Email address:

- I would prefer to access a 'digital' *Una Voce* via the website instead of receiving a hard copy.
This 'digital membership' is available at a reduced rate (see Order Form overleaf).
The 'digital' *Una Voce* is accessed through the PNGAA website using a membership log-on.

PAYMENT—Please tick method of remittance

CHEQUE Payable to: PNGAA Post to: PNGAA, PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) Transfer to: BSB: 062-009 / Account No. 0090 7724

In the *transaction description* include the Purpose Code (from the Order Form overleaf) and Member Number or surname. (Note: More than 20 characters may not be transmitted by the bank.)

Please send a confirmation email to: treasurer@pngaa.net

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD Post to: PNGAA, PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069

Card Number: / / / Amount Payable: \$

Expiry Date: / Security Code (on back of card):

Name on Card (please print):

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

Sydney Christmas Luncheon

Sunday, 1 December 2019—11.30 am to 3.30 pm

\$70.00 per person—Venue: Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara

I will attend the PNGAA Sydney Christmas Luncheon and will have as my guests:

.....
.....

If possible, I would like to be seated with:

.....

Special dietary requirements (please specify):

..... **RSVP & Payment by 15 November 2019**



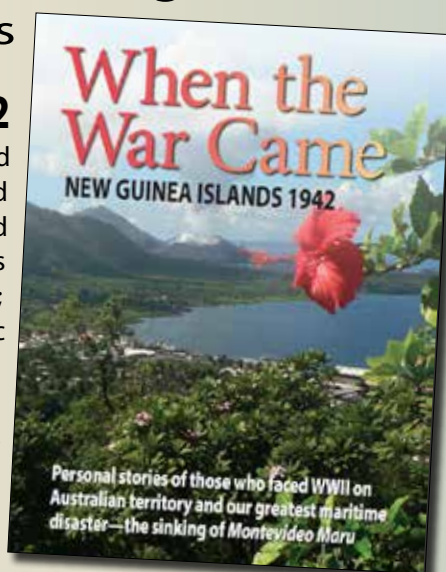
Unique gifts for any occasion!

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

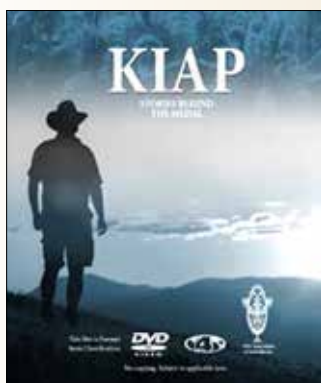
WHEN THE WAR CAME: New Guinea Islands 1942

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

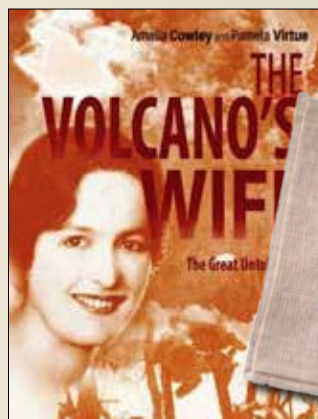
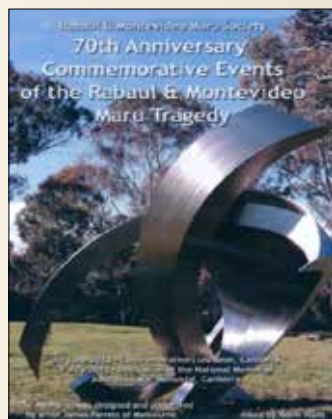
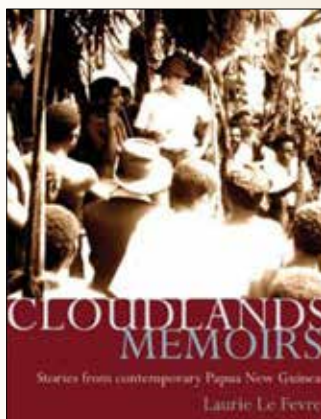
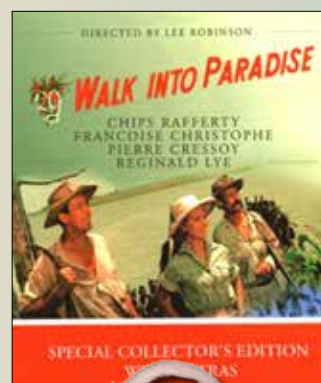
Some 2000 young Australian men served as patrol officers (known as Kiaps) in Papua New Guinea between the end of WWII and PNG Independence in 1975. In this film the men, their wives and children, tell their stories of living, working and growing up during this time. This outstanding DVD, produced by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



**Celebrating the
44th Anniversary of
Papua New Guinea
Independence,
September 2019**

**SYD
WAN
TOK**



Credit to Deborah Griffin,
Liz Corner, Marie Liddle,
Leah Ongugo, Tank Rab from the
Sydney Wantoks and friends

www.pngaa.org/site

ISSN 1442-6161, PPA 224987/00025 • Vol. 41, No. 164