

PNG Kundu

MARCH 2020



**Papua New Guinea Association
of Australia Inc.**

www.pngaa.org/site

PNG Kundu: our drumbeat, our stories, our voices

'Kundu' (drum in *Tok Pisin*) is derived from the *Kuanua* word for the New Guinea rosewood (*Pterocarpus indicus*) from which most drums are carved and shaped. *Kuanua* is the language of the Tolai people of the Gazelle Peninsula, East New Britain, and provides some fifteen per cent of *Tok Pisin* words, which is probably the most spoken language in Papua New Guinea, second only to English.

THE KUNDU is called 'GABA' in *Hiri Motu* (previously *Police Motu*), a lingua franca from the south coast of the mainland. *Hiri Motu* is a pidgin form of pure *Motu* spoken by the original inhabitants of the Port Moresby area. These people used to trade their clay pots for sago during epic canoe voyages along the south coast, mainly to the west of Moresby.

The hourglass-shaped drum is the most widely used musical instrument throughout Papua New Guinea. It is usually carved from a single piece of rosewood and many are constructed with a handle—they are often incised with ornate depictions of animals such as crocodiles and pigs, or with ancestral totems. Rosewood is found in (mainly lowland) tropical areas from India to Solomon Islands. Thus Highlanders need to obtain their kundu, or material, by trade or otherwise use substitute local timber.

The drum skin may come from a variety of sources, such as lizard and snake skins and even the tree kangaroo, held tightly in place by tree resin. Wild native beeswax or, in many cases today, gum pellets are positioned on the surface of the skin tympanum to achieve the desired pitch.

The kundu might be used by individuals or small groups for entertainment, but it is more widely seen at big dances (sing-sings) in the Highlands where hundreds might line up and move in rhythm to their massed drum-beats. Preparations for festive occasions include the smearing of the skin with pig grease in the Highlands and coconut oil in coastal areas, and thus drums acquire a high polish over time.

Similar to the kundu, and sought after because of intricate carved designs, is the Trobriand Island drum—the kesosau. However, this type lacks the hourglass waist of the kundu. The favoured timber for Trobriand drums is kwila (*Intsia bijuga*). Another type of drum, the garamut in *Tok Pisin*, is mostly found in coastal areas and lowlands of the north coast. This is not a musical instrument but rather was used as a means of sending messages over distances.

Various drumbeats have passed news from village to village of births and deaths, danger, war and weddings. As accompaniment to songs, dances and festivals to this day they help retain, interpret and translate for modern Papua New Guineans the lore and customs of their ancestors.





**PNG KUNDU, formerly *Una Voce*,
is the official journal of the Papua New Guinea
Association of Australia Inc.**

(Formerly constituted in 1951—incorporated in 1996)

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KUNDU is the *Tok Pisin* word for the hourglass-shaped drum after which this journal is now named, and forms part of Papua New Guinea's Coat of Arms. It is called GABA in *Hiri Motu* which remains, along with English, and *Tok Pisin*, one of PNG's three official languages. The KUNDU has told fascinating stories for centuries, and through our PNGAA journal we will continue documenting history and the evolving special relationship between the two countries this association holds in its heart.

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PNGAA Membership:

This is available to anyone with an interest in PNG. Members, who receive four quarterly issues of our journal per year, have access to all parts of the website, and are encouraged to explore and become actively involved with all aspects of the PNGAA. Please refer to the *Treasurer's Corner*, at the end of this issue, for more details. Application forms also are available from the Membership Officer at membership@pngaa.net or our website. Membership operates on a calendar year basis, and for those receiving a printed copy of the journal, the address label shows the current status of your membership.

PNGAA Mail: PNGAA, PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069

PNGAA Website: www.pngaa.org/site

PNGAA Social Media:

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TWITTER—https://twitter.com/PNG_ASSOC_AUS

PNGAA Collection:

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

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**Copy Deadline for the June 2020 issue
Friday, 17 April 2020**

**Please send all contributions to:
editor@pngaa.net**

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



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MARCH 2020

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Young boy with a kundu drum from Hobe Village, Madang, Madang Province, PNG	
© <i>Chris Willson</i>	



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.

From the President ...

For me, one of the most heart-warming stories associated with our Australian bushfires' crisis came—appropriately—from PNG.

It told of teenagers from Lae pushing wheelbarrows around the city collecting bushfire relief funds for Australians (*pictured below*). An Australian resident of Lae, Helen Taylor, told the ABC the unique sight brought tears to her eyes. People with so little were handing over precious notes and coins in a show of solidarity for their Australian 'cousins'. For context, she explained this is a country where the minimum wage is 3.5 kina (one Australian dollar) per hour.

A young woman from the Youth of Lae group explained how people realised they themselves benefited from Australian-built health centres and hospitals, so this was their turn to reciprocate 'from the heart'.

Many of our members were caught up in the bushfires and we send our deepest thoughts to those who have lost homes, other properties or farmland and wish them well with their recovery efforts.

Of course, the Lae teenagers' response wasn't the only one from PNG.

In a show of solidarity, reciprocity and the continuing close relationship between our two countries, PNG offered some of its Defence Force engineers for relief work in fire devastated areas.

Australia accepted the offer and flew 100 members of the PNGDF to Australia in an RAAF Hercules on 13 January 2020.

Seventy of the contingent were from the Engineer Battalion based in Igam Barracks, Lae and thirty from 1st Battalion PIR headquarters, Taurama Barracks comprising command and support elements. They are working with their Australian counterparts from Townsville and most are based in Omeo, east Gippsland, Victoria. A smaller group is based in the Bairnsdale operations co-ordination centre.

The PNGDF liaison officer based in Canberra, Colonel Mark Goina, informed the PNGAA that work being undertaken included clearing roads of trees, constructing camps for firefighters, assisting police with traffic control and filling water tankers.

In that spirit, it is perhaps good timing for the unveiling of the new livery and title for our magazine. *PNG KUNDU* was chosen by your management committee after many welcome submissions from members.

'Kundu' is the *Tok Pisin* word for the hour-glass shaped drum which forms part of PNG's National Emblem (coat of arms). It is the most widely used musical instrument throughout PNG, and is instantly recognisable to anyone who has visited or lived in PNG.

The committee was taken with the symbolism of connectivity and ►



(Photo courtesy Helen Taylor)



Notice of Annual General Meeting—3 May 2020

THE 69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Incorporated will be held in Sydney on Sunday, 3 May 2020 at the Hornsby RSL, 4 High Street, Hornsby, NSW, commencing at 11.30 am.

AGENDA

1. Members present and apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the 68th AGM (circulated in June 2019 *Una Voce*, pages 3–10)
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and receipt and adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019
6. General discussion

The Objects for which the Association is primarily established are:

- a) to strengthen the civil relationship between the peoples of Australia and Papua New Guinea;
- b) to foster and encourage contact and friendship with Papua New Guineans and promote friendly Association among members;
- c) to foster and maintain an interest in contemporary and historical events in Papua New Guinea;
- d) to provide appropriate financial, material or intellectual assistance to projects of benefit to Papua New Guinea as an Association individually or in conjunction with other agencies;
- e) to publish journals, magazines, newsletters, websites, books and other media to inform and educate people about Papua New Guinea and to provide a means of communication among members of the Association and others;
- f) to encourage the preservation of documents, historical and cultural material related to Papua New Guinea; including the production and recording of oral and written histories; and
- g) to safeguard and foster the retirement conditions of superannuated members of the former services in Papua New Guinea.

In pursuance of these Objects, the Association:

- a) will not be involved in, nor engage in partisan politics; however, this does not prohibit the Association from engaging with members of parliament or public servants in pursuit of its objects; and
- b) may raise funds for its approved projects.

AGM LUNCHEON DETAILS

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

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

- completing the booking form and payment details on the 'Treasurer's Corner' form included at the end of the March 2020 *PNG Kundu* and returning it by Thursday, 16 April 2020—or
- by direct credit to the PNGAA bank account, BSB: 062 009 Account Number: 0090 7724, including your surname, member number (if known) and the code 'AGM' in the transaction description—and followed up with a confirming email to treasurer@pngaa.net as the full transaction details do not always show up on our bank statement.

The cost of \$40.00 per person does not include liquor or soft drinks but these will be available from a cash-only bar.

Payment needs to be made by 16 April, please.

Cancellations advised by Friday, 17 April 2020 will secure a full refund. This is the date we need to inform the club of final numbers; after this date there is no refund payable.

There is free on-site parking available to those driving—entrance via Ashley Street at the rear of the club.

The train station is nearby; public transport information available by phoning 13 15 00.

Please come along!



information sharing evoked by the Kundi, which has told fascinating stories for centuries—and through our PNGAA journal we will continue documenting history and the evolving special relationship between the two countries this association holds in its heart. Please turn to this issue's Inside Front Cover to learn more about the kundi.

On your behalf the committee would like to acknowledge the tireless and skilful work of Vicki Long as editor of *Una Voce* last year. There rightly has been

widespread appreciation of the vibrancy of the layout and stories. Unfortunately, Vicki is unable to continue in the role, so we are urgently seeking a new editor for *PNG KUNDU*. Please contact me.

There have been warm reports from our PNGAA Christmas lunches in Melbourne, Canberra, Perth and Sydney (*pictured below left*) and the gathering in Newcastle. Don't forget our AGM coming up on 3 May as it is always a good opportunity to share thoughts and ideas on the direction of the Association.

MAX UECHTRITZ
PNGAA President

Congratulations to Julian Pickrell!

The PNGAA Management Committee is delighted that the new title for our quarterly journal is *PNG Kundi*. PNGAA congratulates Julian Pickrell who suggested this name. Close runners up were Cheryl Pearce and Trevor Muller.

On 18 November 2019 PNGAA members were either emailed or, for those without email, a letter posted, inviting new names for the PNGAA journal. This followed discussion at the 2018 AGM and subsequent discussions at Management Committee meetings.

The subject has been topical since a name change for the journal was first suggested in 2007. This followed the 2002 name change of the association from the Retired Officers Association of Papua New Guinea (ROAPNG) to the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc (PNGAA). In 2009 the association's objectives and constitution had a major overview to ensure it met current objectives.

PNGAA now has several communication tools with members which need brand consistency and linkages—the hardcopy print journal, website and various social media: Facebook, *Tok Save*, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

It is time to embrace the association's current objectives, activities and broader audience which, primarily, engage with a long and close relationship between Australia and PNG.

The title *Una Voce*—Latin for 'with one voice'—was chosen in 1951 to protect the superannuation interest of former officers of the separate pre 1942–45 war Papua and New Guinea administrations. Since then, *Una Voce* has been a respected publication and historical record.

The PNGAA journal, to be known as *PNG Kundi*, will continue this long tradition.

After the re-energised 2018 discussion, the Management Committee agreed that a name change was needed and established a competition to close on



14 January 2020, in time for a new title for the 2020 issues. Forty-two suggestions for a new title were made for our quarterly journal, including a few duplicates. There were four members who wished to keep the name *Una Voce*.

Please share the new name of the journal with your family and friends!

PNGAA New Members Update

The PNGAA Committee welcomes the following new members: Ruth Archer, Christine Blaikie, Robert Brown, Warren Campbell, Andrew de Kuyer, Kurt Diercke, Dr Alan Easton, Rita Hayes, Neville Howcroft, Shaun Keane, Ian Lovell, Chris Mansfield, Anna McGibbon, Julianne McKay, Bob McKeowen, Jennifer Meehan, Margaret Peterson, John Picoto, Dr Bill Sykes, Nita Tobin, Gary Todd and Sandra Weber.



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 the journal.

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.

Una Voce and the ABC

In late November 2019, following receipt of the December 2019 *Una Voce*, Margaret Henderson wrote to Ita Buttrose, chairman of the ABC, and included a copy of the article 'The History of the ABC in PNG' (p.33). Margaret wrote about friend, Graham Taylor, who had worked for the ABC in PNG as well as in Singapore, Sydney and Adelaide.

'The article emphasises the contribution the ABC made in the development of PNG. Graham's book, *A Kiap's Story*, tells of his outstanding career as a Kiap in PNG and as an employee of the ABC. In my opinion, the ABC should acknowledge the extraordinary contribution Graham made to the ABC in PNG and Australia.'

Immediately following receipt, the phone rang in the Henderson house, 'Ita here ... yes, Ita Buttrose ...'

Margaret and Scott Henderson were astonished as well as delighted to receive a call from Ita personally and they enjoyed a pleasant chat. The letter had arrived just in time for an in-house celebration of ABC's eighty years and Graham's article about the ABC in PNG was quoted from *Una Voce* and used as a focal point in the celebratory speech.

Thank you for sharing this story Margaret and Scott.

It can often surprise who reads our quarterly journal, formerly *Una Voce* and now named *PNG KUNDU*.

Sadly, Graham Taylor passed away on 22 September 2019, before his article in December *Una Voce*, and the letter from him (also about

the ABC), featured on page 11 of this issue, could be published.

Australia Day Recognition

PNGAA members and friends warmly congratulate John Mills (*see photo below*), a chemist in Rabaul for many years, for receiving a medal in the Order of Australia in the General Division this Australia Day for service to the community of Nambucca Heads. He has been involved with The Lions Club and Lions Club Valla in Nambucca, Nambucca Valley Parkinson's Support Group and the Salvation Army (Nambucca River). He has also been patron of the Red Cross Branch (Nambucca Valley), a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, a member of the Newee Creek Bushfire Brigade and a member of the Macksville Hospital Board.

John received the Melvin Jones Award from the Lions Club of Nambucca in 2018 and was Senior Citizen of the Year, Nambucca Shire in 2009.

Welcome to 2020 and What a Beginning!

My thoughts are with all who have been affected by the bushfires, especially those who have lost family or friends and property. How terribly sad it has been. We ►



John 'Pills' Mills (*centre*) at the PNGAA Christmas lunch in Sydney in December 2019



are grateful to our firefighters for the work they have done.

I enjoyed all the events with which I was involved over the past year, and also the positive feedback from the attendees about all the other events.

The Women's Panel, with Marie Clifton-Bassett and Liz Thurston, was an entertaining day—and we had the joy of hearing from Julianne Ross-Allcorn about her three months studying in France.

All events in other states have occurred with great success and enjoyment, with years of experience by the committees and individuals who plan these marvellous days, allowing special shared time with fellow PNG people. A very big thank you for your consistent and appreciated efforts to Linda Manning (Perth); Jan Kleinig, Robin Radford and Peter Thomas (Adelaide); Yana



The PNGWANSW Group (with their kundus) welcoming the CWA attendees at Dubbo, February 2019

Pelikan, Chris Warrillow (Victoria); Kieran Nelson (Brisbane) and John Reeves (Canberra).

2019 began with the CWA Conference in Dubbo, where several of our members and those from the PNG Women's Association of NSW Inc. spoke. This co-promotion between our associations was maintained and experiences, knowledge and expertise shared with various CWA meetings throughout NSW during the year.

Individual presentations were always well received. It was wonderful that several men took up the challenge and represented our association as well. Andrea Williams attended and spoke on behalf of the PNGAA at the CWA of NSW State Conference on 7 May 2019 held in Albury. Some of us are considering attending the PNG Conference in Port Moresby in June 2020. It is marvellous the continued connection and involvement that the CWA has maintained throughout the years in PNG.

The booklet about aspects of the PNGAA and PNG that was part of the PNGAA's contribution to the CWA was absolutely fantastic. There were several contributors to this effort making the product interesting from contemporary, historical and multicultural viewpoints. It revealed to the committee that such a production was of great use and benefit to PNGAA, too.

A surprise invitation from the Australian Consul-General to PNG, Paul Murphy, was extended to Central Coast members in September. A lively discussion was enjoyed by all who attended.

My husband, Roger, filled in for me at the Tribal Fair in Sydney. He was grateful to the able helpers on the PNGAA stall—Bev Melrose,

Mari Anderson, Cheryl Marvell, Suellen Holland and Rebecca Hopper. Books, DVDs and tote bags from PNGAA were for sale. The day provided an opportunity to purchase PNG and other Pacific nations artefacts, paintings, jewellery, etc., and was enjoyed by a large number of attendees.

Ninety-two people (*some of whom are pictured on page 4*), attended the annual PNGAA Christmas Lunch in Sydney on 1 December 2019 and we thank the Killara Golf Club for their assistance. It was wonderful to have so much support from the Committee and others, which all helps to make it the success it is.

Many of us comment that hearing stories about PNG are our focus. President Max Uechtritz had us all intrigued as he told a fascinating story that spanned generations.

Our capable archivist, Cheryl Marvell, introduced us to items that have recently been donated to the PNGAA Collection (*see page 8*), and our hopes for a Pacific Community Centre that will, one day, be open to the public for enjoyment, research and for events. We will need a new storage area soon and appreciate all donations towards this, both items for the collection and financial assistance.

Thank you everyone for making it a pleasurable and great way to begin the festive season together.

2019 was a successful year in that we have two new Event Area Co-ordinators.

The Newcastle, Mid North Coast, Central Coast, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas have had two get-togethers under the organisation of Suellen Holland and myself. Thank you Suellen—it's been so wonderful to spend time with you. More gatherings ►

Proposed Rabaul Commemorative Tour, 5–15 September 2020

Expressions of interest are needed for a tour which is being organised by PNGAA member, John Reeves, together with Rabaul Historical Society and Rabaul Hotel.

The tour will commemorate two iconic dates in Rabaul's history:

The 75th Anniversary of the surrender of Japanese forces in the South-west Pacific held on HMS *Glory* in Rabaul 6 September 1945, and the anniversary of the twin eruptions of Tavurvur and Vulcan volcanoes on 19 September 1994 and the Frangipani Festival

The proposed tour to include:

- Dusk service at the Rabaul 1942–45 and Montevideo Maru Memorial on Rabaul foreshore
- Bita Paka War Cemetery
- Base of Tavurvur and hot springs
- Japanese wartime infrastructures
- Village cultural tour
- Volcano Observatory
- Frangipani Festival
- View local artists & clothing and jewellery designers
- Evening poolside music (depending on availability)
- Sundowners at Namanula Lookout
- Cocktail party in New Guinea Club
- Lunch at Kulau Lodge, north coast of New Britain overlooking Watom Island
- Optional extras (these will depend on interest, numbers and final cost): Diving, skin or scuba, WWII wrecks / Duke of York Islands and/or Watom Island tour(s) / Tol / Gamefishing / harbour cruise

Cost will be dependent on numbers, as this tour is in a formative stage—please email John Reeves on neradaq@gmail.com for further information



PNGAA Membership

Annual membership is \$45.00 (overseas extra) and available to any person with an interest in Papua New Guinea

Members receive four issues of our journal per year, full access to all content on the website, receive email updates via *Tok Save*, network through events and social media 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 or follow the link:

<https://pngaa.org/site/members/become-a-member/>



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Instagram: png_association_of_australia or

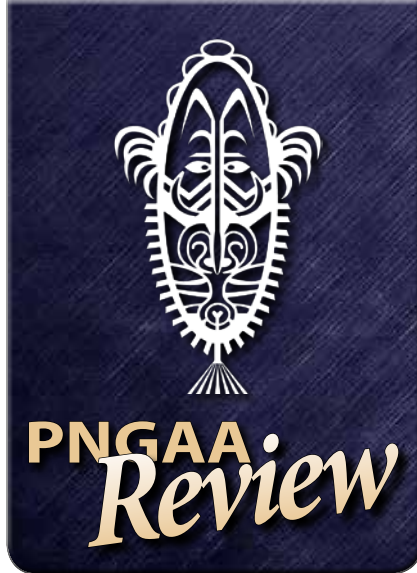
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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/papua-new-guinea-association-of-australia/>



Twitter: PNG_ASSOC_AUS or https://twitter.com/PNG_ASSOC_AUS



are planned together with a visit to the Singleton Army Base Museum, where there is historical material from pre-Federation to current operations.

Added to this John Reeves has offered to co-ordinate events in the ACT and south-west region of NSW.

The Canberra people supported the Bob Gotts Butterfly collection—thanks to Stella Conroy for hosting this event—and the NFSA viewing of PNG material just prior to the lunch. I had a great time meeting so many of our members there.

If anyone in another area would like to host a local PNGAA group, I would love to hear from you and happy to offer any assistance needed. I have developed a few guidelines (after making mistakes, of course) that I can

share. It always helps to bounce ideas and share the workload if possible. Please call.

This year I have the following events in motion, so keep an eye out for the details. If you have any thoughts on any of these please call for a chat.

- Women's Panel (confirmed)
- A film night hosted by Max Uechtritz
- A trip to Singleton Army base to see the exhibitions, including the Pacific contributions
- An art/craft practical day
- A talent show

Looking forward to seeing some of you at various events throughout the coming year.

SARA TURNER

E: events@pngaa.net

Mobile: 0401 138 246

PNGAA Archivist Report

The back half of 2019 was busy with the Association receiving some wonderful donations. I am constantly amazed at the number of books written about PNG.

Work continues on the 'whole of life' donation from Geoff Burfoot and will take more time to see it all catalogued and entered into the collection system.

The significant books and files that have been donated since the last edition of our journal are as follows:

Joan Stobo: Joan's involvement in Girl Guides and Brownies show in her donation and is a look at the past and the achievements of her dedication to the movement. Her life also involved BPs and her keepsakes show a life that many enjoyed in PNG.

Peter Worsley: The large donation was transferred from Peter's home state of Western Australia and, as this was my first donation received in my role as archivist, I was so grateful to receive both the books

and Peter's meticulous list. Thank you, Peter, it was a pleasure dealing with you and loved handling and archiving your lovely books.

Frank Leibfried: A great addition of books and files from Frank's time involved with PNG and, in particular, mining. As with so many of our members the love for the country shines through in his interests and choices. Donation was sent from Frank's home state of Tasmania.

Dr Peter Cahill (and his lovely wife Marian): A wonderful large collection of PNG books (transferred from their home in Brisbane), which have been collected with great interest and care over many years. Was a privilege to receive and also beautifully catalogued. It should also be noted that Dr Cahill had a hand in the creation of the collection so wonderful that now he can personally contribute items. All hail you, Peter.

Richard Lornie, OAM:

A significant collection of Sepik artefacts has been transferred from Knox Grammar School to the Association. This is all professionally boxed and represents a significant addition to our artefact collection. Richard graciously saw that we may be able to find a more purposeful use for his life collection. Thank you, Richard we will try hard to honour your persistence for a visible future for your artefacts. Thanks so much to you all.

We are in negotiations for a number of other donations and hopefully I'll be able to elaborate more in the coming editions. Anyone interested in donating please contact me at my email address or phone number below. Always up for a chat.

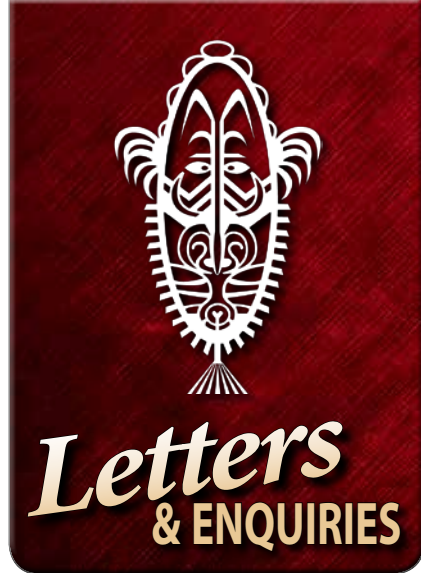
CHERYL MARVELL

E: collection@pngaa.net

Mobile: 0438 635 132



Cheryl Marvell collects the Richard Lornie Collection from Knox Grammar School



Journal Name Change

May I, firstly, commend and congratulate you on the wonderful content in the last issue of our journal which just seems to get better and better.

However, I think that it is long overdue for a name change that means something to our members. The current name derives from the prewar superannuation funds of the Australian Territory of Papua and of the League of Nations Australian Mandated Territory of New Guinea (from about 5.5.1921), which before WWII, were quite separate, as was the governance of both territories.

As I understand it, post WWII, there was a move from the prewar officers who survived and joined the postwar

Featuring commentaries about previously published articles and news items, along with opinions of interest to PNGAA members. Also included are enquiries from those who require assistance with their research or finding someone from the past. Please send your contributions to editor@pngaa.net

provisional administration, for their superannuation funds to be joined together under the Commonwealth of Australia as a single superannuation fund, as indeed the governance of both territories then was, although, for some years, the former Territory of New Guinea (TNG) became a United Nations Trust Territory. (The United Nations periodically used to inspect New Guinea but not Papua).

Postwar, from 1945 until c.1952, the police force was known as the Royal Papuan Constabulary and the New Guinea Police Force.

Time marches on and there is now the great need to change the name of our wonderful journal as the former title (lit. 'with one voice') now means absolutely nothing to most members.

I have observed from recent issues of our journal, a thrust to move toward the future of Papua New Guinea our nearest neighbour rather than the past, while combining both eras. I raised this subject two to three years ago, suggesting that it be discussed at the next AGM but nothing resulted.

I would like to 'throw my hat' into the ring. I suggest that in future the journal be known as: *Papua New Guinea Nau and Taim Bipor* (*Taim* may/may not be included).

MAXWELL HAYES

ED. Maybe not your preferred heading but, as you can see, we have followed advice and changed the name of the journal to PNG KUNDU as from this issue.

Membership Renewal Time

As we know, PNGAA subscriptions end on 31 December each year and therefore it is membership renewal time! Thought it would be nice to share some of the lovely emails received by the committee, which make the hours of voluntary work worthwhile:

- *Thanks for the reminder, I have this morning updated my membership and paid by credit card. Your magazine is so appreciated.*
- *Maintaining membership records can be a time-consuming task and I thank you for your effort and contribution to keeping the association operating.*
- *I look forward to receiving further issues of Una Voce. They are always very interesting and I appreciate the effort required by many to produce this magazine.*

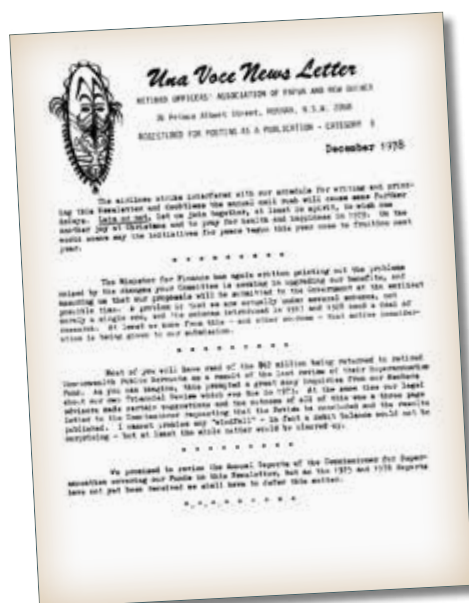
OOPS!

I tried to renew my membership via the website link online. It failed over six times so I gave up and did a direct deposit. My payment was for the \$45 print-copy magazine.

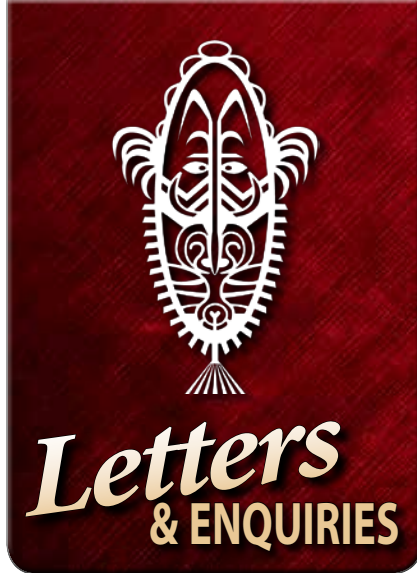
Email reply from Membership Officer, Roy Ranney:

Sorry you had difficulties. If you want to go to the renewal page on the website, click on the link: <https://pngaa.org/site/membership-renewal-for-members-wanting-hard-copy-of-the-una-voce/>

Alternatively, you can make an electronic payment to our bank account which is as follows:
Name: PNGAA BSB: 062 009
Account: 0090 7724 ►



Una Voce, Volume. 1, No.1



The Subscription Rate for 2020 is \$45.00, or you can make a payment for two years for \$90.00. If you make an electronic payment please email treasurer@pngaa.net so we can look out for it.

Star Mountain Patrol, 1954

The March 2019 edition of this journal mentioned the Star Mountains Patrol conducted by my father, ADO Jim Kent, from 22 September to 22 December 1954. This was followed by an article in the June 2019 edition penned by Chips Mackellar, 'The Best Beer I Ever Tasted', that describes the resupply of the patrol by airdrop from a Catalina flying boat.

My father's diary entry for 13 October 1954 reads:

Large number of locals visit camp. Airdrop took place 1200 hrs. Much excitement amongst carriers and locals. Catalina dropping from a few hundred feet. Afternoon spent in recovering and resorting stores. Recovery 90%.

A most successful outcome.



The Catalina making the drop at the old APC drop site on the OK TEDI

The significance of the air drop to the patrol and of the ten per cent loss is expanded on in his introduction to the report itself. The patrol comprised my father, Patrol Officer David Jacobs and sixty-three Papua New Guineans, police and carriers. He explains that the patrol could only carry provisions for three weeks. Strategies to extend time in the field included airdrops, relaying of stores, purchase of native foodstuffs, or a combination of these strategies.

Unfortunately, the ten per cent lost was made up of rice:

... some of the bags floated and sailed right beyond the dropping area and hitting the tall timber burst showering rice like confetti ...

Further, the supply of native foodstuffs was less than anticipated and a second airdrop was not approved. On 14 November, with four weeks to go and patrolling in uninhabited country, only 400 lbs of rice remained. Capability to continue the patrol was now severely limited. My father resolved to continue until the first bag of rice was broached, at which time the patrol would commence its return journey.

LACHIE KENT

'Track' or 'Trail'

I would like to congratulate the journal editorial team on the presentation and content of recent editions. Seeing Bob Gotts and his butterfly collection mentioned in the September and December editions triggered a tsunami of memories of the time Wilma and I were in PNG from 1962 to 1967.

My first job was with the Department of Information and Extension Services (DIES) film unit and, subsequently, we formed our own company, Films New Guinea. One of the films



Men from the 2/25th Battalion cross the Brown River during a patrol in October 1942

Photo courtesy Australian War Memorial

we produced was a documentary, *The Miniatures Magnificent*, for the Department of Posts and Telegraphs to promote their first decimal currency stamp issue which featured butterflies.

It won a silver medal in the 1966 International Film & TV Festival of New York. During production I met Bob Gotts, Barry Lord and others who were involved with lepidoptera and philately.

The more I thought of those days, the more memories of those we met during those years began to surface. If time permits, I will try to write something of those days leading up to independence and list those friends and colleagues who made our short stay in PNG most rewarding.

During my time in Moresby I was fortunate to meet a respected journalist who lived there prewar and later attended media conferences where MacArthur demanded all war correspondents use the name 'Trail' instead of 'Track' to describe the route—the term previously used by the Aussie Diggers. Since then I have researched the matter and taken issue with the Australian War Memorial for its exclusive use of the term 'Trail' in its display. I am pleased to note that most Aussies have realised the correct name for the route and are rejecting the substituted American term 'Trail'.

It was interesting to note that

two adjoining articles about the Kokoda Track in the December edition where both authors supported the use of the foreign terminology—‘Trail’. If they or other PNGAA members would like a detailed account of the facts supporting my stance, I would be happy to email them a copy of my evidence. Then they can make an informed decision on their preference.

DARYL BINNING

darylbinning@outlook.com

How a Pork Chop Changed My Life

Giving the talk on the ABC in PNG to the Adelaide PNGAA lunch made me think about the almost bizarre circumstances which predicated my joining the ABC, and I thought the story may be of interest.

In the kiap’s residence at Kokoda, having received my weekly incoming hessian-bagged air-freighted order of freezer goods, I unwrapped one large soggy newspaper-wrapped consignment of pork chops and threw the wrappings on to the floor.

When I picked them up I noticed a very small advertisement highlighting the fact that the ABC was looking for someone wishing to be appointed as the Program Director of the ABC’s newly-established indigenous broadcasting service at 9PA Port Moresby. This sparked a conversation with my wife, Shirley, about the possibility that this might well represent a very attractive alternative career prospect.

I submitted a casually written letter, expressing interest, with a promise to follow up with a detailed application were one to be called for.

Weeks passed when out of the blue we received a radio message

of just four words: *Library arriving plane Tuesday*. We were nonplussed—how could a library come to Kokoda?—We hadn’t ordered one!

On Tuesday the Patair plane landed; out stepped a very distinguished elderly gentleman who came over to me on the tarmac and said in a very lofty tone, ‘Ah, then, you must be Taylor!’ I responded somewhat laconically, ‘Well yeah—I am the kiap around these parts.’

The stranger replied, ‘I am Harold Sibray—the ABC’s General Manager in PNG and I have come to interview you.’ Clearly the ‘library’ bit was a mistranslation in on-air voice radio transmission—but I still hadn’t submitted a formal application.

We took him up to our residence. Shirley gave him a tasty morning tea and had a very casual informal chat about a range of issues.

The Patair plane landed on its way back from Popondetta and our guest flew back to Port Moresby. I had no idea whether I would ever hear from him, or the ABC, again.

Weeks passed; then I received a letter from the ABC in Sydney that I had been selected for interview and was to fly to Sydney for an interview with senior ABC officers.

I made an overnight flight to Sydney, was interviewed by an alarmingly large body of senior program executives in the sacred precincts of the ABC, and flew back to Kokoda not knowing how well I had fared or whether I was really wasting the ABC’s time and mine as well.

More weeks passed when I received the electrifying news that I had been appointed to the position.



Journalists in a bar in Port Moresby in the 1960s (ABC website)

I made the choice to abandon my promising career as a kiap and seek refuge in the ABC; undoubtedly the wisest decision I ever made in my life, because it led to a second career— one which lasted for thirty years; in the course of which I travelled the world and enjoyed a rewarding and eminently satisfying career in broadcasting and in senior corporate management.

Is it any wonder that these days I glance at a humble frozen pork chop with an overwhelming sense of gratitude!

GRAHAM TAYLOR



**Farewell
& Thanks,
Vicki ...**

It has been an absolute pleasure working with Vicki Long to produce the journal during the last year. I’m so sorry she’s unable to continue as editor, and I’ll miss the early morning emails!

However, I’m sure she’ll be keeping an eye on things—but not breathing down my neck, as before (with the metaphorical ‘big stick’)—and, hopefully, she’ll still be contributing items of interest for members to the journal.

All the best for the future! **JG**



• SYDNEY

Panel Presentation

Presenters to include:

ROBIN HODGSON—‘Collecting Artefacts and Trading in PNG’ and JAN ANTHONY—Topic TBA
All welcome

Date: Sunday, 29 March 2020

Venue: The Roseville Club,
64 Pacific Highway, Roseville
(Sydney) NSW 2069

Time: Registration 11.00 am for
11.30 am start; approximate end
time 2.30 pm

Cost: \$15:00

Lunch and drinks at your own
expense, pre-order on the day—
reasonable and tasty meals

RSVP: Thursday, 24 March 2020 to
Sara Turner on events@pngaa.net
or (Mob.) 0401 138 246

Public Transport: Train at Rose-
ville Railway; about 250 m walk.

Parking: On street and in carpark
behind the club

A listing of upcoming functions and events of interest to PNGAA members—if you have an activity to advertise or promote, please send the details to editor@pngaa.net

Payment: To PNGAA/Bank: CBA/
BSB 062009/Account No: 00907724.
Please email treasurer@pngaa.net
when payment is made and include
code used in your transfer.

Code: WP and first 3 letters of your
surname, e.g. WPTUR (code when
surname is Turner)

• MELBOURNE

May PNGAA Luncheon

When: Saturday 30 May, 2020

Where: Caulfield RSL,
St Georges Road, Elsternwick

Time: 11:30 am–3:30 pm

To book: Contact Yana on
coordinator@pngaa.net or
(mob.) 0425 771 359

Christmas PNGAA Luncheon

When: Saturday, 21 November, 2020

Where: Caulfield RSL,
St Georges Road, Elsternwick

Time: 11:30 am–3:30 pm

And ... we are on the lookout for
guest speakers at our events. If you
have an interesting topic or story,
we would love to hear from you!!

See you at our lunches! All
welcome—bring along family and
friends—and any donations would
be much appreciated for our raffles!

Further details for both these
functions to be advised closer to
the day. We keep in regular contact
through *Tok Save* (our PNGAA
newsletter), which arrives in your
inbox so please ensure your email
is up-to-date. Also, keep a watch
on our PNGAA Website and
Facebook.

When replying, please mention
if you are connected with the
Rabaul and Montevideo Maru
Group so that you can be seated
together.

• ADELAIDE

19th Annual PNGAA Adelaide Reunion Lunch 2020

Date: Sunday, 19 April 2020
(second last Sunday in April)

Time: 11.45 am for 12.30 pm with
12.45 pm ‘seated for lunch’

Location: Public Schools Club,
Sandford House, 207 East Terrace,
Adelaide

Special Guest: TBA

Once again there will be a ‘Books
available to purchase table’. You are
welcome, as the author of a book on
Papua New Guinea, to display your
book on the day. Authors are asked
to please advise details of their
book to Jan Kleinig for inclusion
on the invitation which will be
mailed to members in the week
commencing Monday, 9 March.

If you are an interstate member
of PNGAA and will be in Adelaide
on this date, please ring Jan
Kleinig.

The PNGAA SA Reunion
Committee—Robin Radford, Peter
Thomas, Jan Kleinig—look forward
to welcoming members and their
friends.



Some of guests at the 2019 Christmas Luncheon in Melbourne

For any further information please contact: Peter Thomas on pjthomas@ihug.com.au / (mob.) 0438 642 294 or Jan Kleinig on janis.kleinig@bigpond.com / (mob.) 0438 032 640

• CANBERRA

78th Anniversary Commemorating the Sinking of *Montevideo Maru*

This will be held during the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, on 30 June 2020. A lunch will also be held that day to remember the tragedy of WWII in the New Guinea islands. Please email Andrea Williams (admin@memorial.org.au) if you will be attending and for further information.

• SUNSHINE COAST



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 Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 October 2020 (not 21 and 22 as previously advised) at Club Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

The reunion is being co-ordinated by Dave Williams,

2019 Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra (top), and the Bell Sioux helicopter used by the 183 Recce Flight (left)

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

E: sunray62holdfast@gmail.com

• 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. Contact Deryck Thompson (Mob.) 0428 207 558 or (Email) dandy51@bigpond.net.au



PNGAA AGM & Luncheon Sunday, 3 May 2020

WHERE: Hornsby RSL, Boronia Room, 4 High Street, Hornsby, Sydney

COST: \$40 pp includes light lunch; please advise of any dietary requirements when you are booking prior to the event.

Drinks are available from a cash-only bar.

REGISTRATION: 11:30 am

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Across the road from Hornsby Railway Station, which has a lift

PARKING: Plenty of parking behind the main building and across the road at the William Street multi-storey carpark

DISABILITY ACCESS: Available

RSVP & PAYMENT: Thursday, 16 April 2020

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

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

For more information, see *Notice of Annual General Meeting* on page 3



Bougainville Post the Referendum

At the referendum held on 23 November 2019 to determine the views of Bougainvilleans as to their future relationships with PNG, an overwhelming number (97.7%) chose independence.

The polling period ran from 23 November to 7 December, with over 800 polling locations in Bougainville and across Papua New Guinea, Australia and Solomon

Featuring articles and news reports about contemporary Papua New Guinea—also included are the nation’s sporting achievements and events, and stories 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.

Islands. Australia was among five nations that witnessed the signature of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu also played roles.

An eleven-strong Australian Observation Mission was led by the Hon. Jane Prentice, and the Australian observer team’s interim assessment is that the referendum process was free, fair and credible.

Australian Foreign Minister, Marise Payne, said in a media release: *Australia was pleased to support the preparations and conduct of the referendum,*

alongside the United Nations and other international partners and donors. The successful conduct of the referendum concludes one of the three pillars of the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement. Australia looks forward to continued productive engagement as the Bougainville Peace process enters its next stage.

A forty-day petition period for the referendum closed on 20 January and no objections were received in that time. Mr Bertie Ahern, the chair of the Bougainville Referendum Commission, said: *I am delighted that the referendum vote was a success, that it was free of objections, and that both international and local observers found it to be free and fair. However, the completion of our work means the larger task of coming to a final decision must now commence. It’s critical that the momentum and goodwill achieved during this historic and peaceful vote is harnessed and maintained. We wish the two governments all the best, and again thank the people of Bougainville for their outstanding engagement and co-operation in our small part of the ongoing and longer-term peace process.*

It has been made clear all throughout the referendum process that the results would be non-binding on the PNG Government. The Bougainville Peace Agreement, which stipulates the rules governing the referendum, now requires a period of consultation between the two governments on implementation of the result. The process has no timeframe



TOP: The first people to vote in the Bougainville independence referendum in the capital Arawa were the former commanders of the BRA (Bougainville Revolutionary Army) Ishmael Torama and Chris Uma, centre, standing with their children
(Photo: Ben Bohane/SMH)

RIGHT: The Panguna Mine



and could take months, or even years. If an agreement is reached, the result can be referred to the national parliament for ratification. In the event of disagreement, Bougainville's existing autonomy arrangements under the powers of the Bougainville Peace Agreement will continue.

The PNG Prime Minister, James Marape, has always maintained his willingness to enter into discussions after the election in good faith. In response to the referendum result, James Marape said that he acknowledged the wish of Bougainvilleans to separate from PNG and that his government has heard their voices.

Indicative of his preference that Bougainville remain a part of the PNG nation, he asked Bougainvilleans to consider a 'middle' or 'third' way focused on 'economic independence' that responds to their desire for self-rule, yet falls short of full independence. Concern amongst watchers of the process is that there may be a return to violence, but many believe that the long history of violence in the country has created a strong will to resolve the status of Bougainville in relation to PNG through peaceful and constructive negotiation.

VICKI LONG

Based on the following sources: the Lowy Institute (article by Kylie McKenna); the Bougainville Referendum Committee website; and a media release from the Australian Foreign Minister.

Introducing Melanie Kawa

Melbourne Rebel W's new PNG co-captain, Melanie Kawa (pictured), spoke to Tahlea Aualiitia of 'Pacific Mornings' on 28 January 2020.

Born in Mendi with her home town, Ialibu, Melanie has recently moved to Melbourne specifically for rugby after playing the game for



fifteen years. Melanie was the first PNG female to play professional rugby in Europe's elite competition when she joined the top women's club in France. She has coached the Nauru team as well as being co-captain of the PNG team.

Melanie said: *'There are few things you haven't seen before on a rugby field when you've had years of playing, so it allows you to keep a cooler, calmer head—and I also talk ... a lot.'*

She continued: *'My role is that calm head on field ... a lot of talking, I love to hype the girls up and get the best out of them ... garnering the players—you know with handshakes, bum taps ... talking ... being a positive energy.'*

Melanie was originally invited by a PNG friend to move to Australia and join the University of Queensland rugby team. Melanie had been a netball player and, having a smaller physique as well as being quick on her feet, meant she could dodge out easily. At the same time, she wasn't afraid of contact.

She found she enjoyed the strategy of rugby and wanted to be further challenged. The opportunity to play internationally in France, where there was a professional expectation of players, was a totally new experience. Training was constant and having thousands of people watch the games made a difference. This

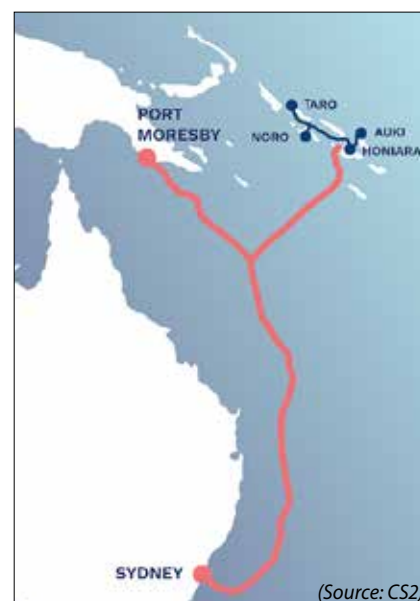
international opportunity, where the grounds were softer and scrumming and maul-outs more regular, diversified and improved Melanie's game. Then, there was playing with the PNG Sevens and this provided the excellent opportunity of playing in a World Cup.

Melanie has found one of the hardest things is changing the minds of women in PNG—teaching them that the possibilities are unlimited if they take their sport seriously. She recommends joining local clubs, volunteering, watching games and backing yourself.

Asked for the best piece of advice she's received, Melanie answered that getting in to the game early was important. The other good piece of general advice came from her father who said it was important to build perseverance ... if you're down, to get up again quickly!

Coral Sea Cable System Completed

The 4,700 km submarine fibre optic cable system linking Sydney with Port Moresby and Honiara, and the 730 km submarine cable connecting Honiara with Auki (Malaita Island), Noro (New





Georgia Island) and Taro Island, have been completed. After final testing, Vocus handed them over to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in December 2019. They were then placed in the hands of their new owners—the Coral Sea Cable Company, for the international network, and Solomon Islands Submarine Cable Company for the Solomon Islands domestic network. Both PNG and Solomon Islands majority-own the international cable and receive all revenue generated, and Solomon Islands owns its domestic cable and all revenue it generates.

The cable system brings next generation connectivity to the people of PNG and the Solomon Islands with faster, affordable and more reliable communications infrastructure and significant

economic and development opportunities.

Innovation PNG 2019 Awards

Two of the most innovative projects in PNG were recognised in November 2019 at the inaugural Innovation PNG 2019 Conference and Awards—an initiative of the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Business Advantage International, and encourages innovation in PNG business, government and organisations.

SP Brewery's Cassava Project won the Large Organisation Category (over ten employees). The project includes the production of cassava for its new alcoholic beverage, Pawa Punch, which is manufactured at its cassava factory at Erap in the Markham Valley.

Sustainable Alluvial Mining Services won the Small Organisation Category (less than ten employees). This is a non-profit organisation established to assist artisanal small-scale miners in conducting their activities responsibly. It helps government organisations with technical advice and develops policies applicable to the industry, ensuring the sector can be a driver for sustainable rural development.



TOP: Immaculate Javia from Sustainable Alluvial Mining Services (centre) accepting the inaugural Innovation PNG 2019 Award, Small Organisations

BELOW: Keynote speaker, Pete Williams, of Deloitte Centre for the Edge Australia, and Nancy Gah from SP Brewery, who accepted the award for Large Organisations
(Source: BAI)

2019 Tropicana Billfish Tournament

The record breaking 2019 Tropicana Billfish Tournament in East New Britain tagged and released 245 Blue Marlin and three sailfish over eight days in November, a record in PNG Game Fishing Club history.

This surpasses the previous record held by Lae Game Fishing Club of 188 marlins tagged and released and the New Britain Fishing Club's previous high for a single tournament of seventy marlins tagged and released—and sets the bar high for the future!

The Tropicana Billfish Tournament commenced in 1998 and quickly extended to include anglers from Kimbe, Lae, Port Moresby and overseas. Ninety-two



Laying the Coral Sea Cable System connecting Port Moresby, Honiara and Sydney. (Photo: Sydney Morning Herald)

anglers competed with seventy-two visiting anglers. In the women's category Pinia O'Hanlon onboard *Manu Tai* landed first prize with eight marlins tagged and released. Phil Franklin and Steve Fanning onboard *Backload* took out first place in the team section with twenty blue marlins tagged and released. In the juniors, Aaron and Devin Finall tagged and released three marlins each.

Local legend John Lau's famous lures (pictured at right) accounted for the high tag and release numbers.

The winning boats were: *Backload* with eighteen catches (in two days!), *Stephanie* with seventeen and *Manu Tai* with eleven.

Generous comments were flying on social media: *An amazing event, phenomenal hospitality, fantastic competition, unforgettable fishing and 'we will be back'!*

John and Dame Sandra Lau, and other sponsors, were congratulated and thanked for hosting such an exciting tournament.

ANDREA WILLIAMS

(Marlin photos courtesy Steve Philp)

Books to PNG's Milne Bay Schools

The last article I sent to the PNGAA journal (see June 2019, p.28) consisted of tragic conditions at all the schools and hospital in Alotau at Milne Bay. Since then PNG has a new Prime Minister, James Marape, and pray he will have the strength and blessings to start weeding out the corruption. He has huge problems to conquer, however, with the support of all PNG people, he will eventually have Papua New Guinea where it needs to be.

In May my family and I were able to deliver 200 boxes of story books, teachers' reference books, school supplies and soft toys for the new babies and children in the



hospitals. It is a drop in the ocean, as there is nothing in the classrooms except blackboards, not even chalk. As the teachers and children have no books it is the only method for the children to be educated.

An initial ask for elementary and primary school books pro- ▶



duced sixty-three boxes of high school books from two Brisbane schools. We took them to the two high schools in Alotau. The first one was Cameron High School, with 916 students. We went to the school library and found many students in their lunch hour trying to get information from fifty-

year-old broken and aged books. The librarian asked us to open a box. It was so rewarding to see the seventeen-year-old students quietly get up and, of their own volition, form a queue in front of the box. Each one took a book and, holding it up to their face, read it while returning to their seat. I asked one young girl as she walked past me what she had and she seemed excited that it was a French Dictionary.

The second high school was Hagita High School. It is a boarding school with 890 students. It had just reopened after being closed for a week with a gastric bug due to insufficient toilets, as is the case in every school. Even with all the problems the schools have,

the children are happy and polite. Our society could learn a lot from them.

Naura Primary School is a happy school as the teacher has the children singing and dancing with displays. When we arrived at Ladava School, with 231 students, the parents were there with their spades to dig pit toilets. The Divinai School, with 375 students, has a Grade 3 class being taught outside as three classrooms have been closed because of termites. Golina School has 900 students and three female and six male toilets, i.e. one toilet for 100 children!

The Wesley High School on Salamo was built for 550 students and now has 904 students. The Callen Centre is taking care of 100 disabled children at scattered centres in the district. Their ages range from seven to twenty-six years. We send donated used clothing to the centre to be sold at the market to have cash for food and other needs.

My son, Mike, and I have just visited thirty primary schools in Brisbane sharing photos and reports of the PNG schools. They are so thrilled their donations will go to the PNG schools. This year technology will be introduced into our Queensland primary schools and thousands of books, etc. will be thrown away. If only our Australian Defence Force could pick up a million books and fly them to PNG, then I will know my prayers have been answered.

We all know the children of PNG are the future of the country and without education there is no future. Many PNG people are donating funds to Australia for the tragic fires that have been decimating homes, people, stock, wildlife, etc. I thought it would be a reciprocal idea to send books to the schools.

COLLEEN NEVILLE



Sixteen boxes of books were delivered to Lelehudi School (top) and twenty-eight boxes of books were delivered to Rabe School (below)

My Last Years as a Kiap

BOB CLELAND

From 23 April 1953 to 27 August 1976 I was a field administrator or kiap in Papua New Guinea. The administrative areas now called Provinces were called Districts. I served in Eastern Highlands, Western Morobe, New Britain, Chuave then back in the Eastern Highlands, at the District headquarters in Goroka.



Bob Cleland

IN 1974, SELF GOVERNMENT and independence were fast approaching and political education of the whole population was being rushed ahead. The whole district by then was covered by eight Local Government Councils, members of which were directly elected by village people.

To encourage a wider political outlook, and a degree of decentralisation, the Australian administration decided to form district bodies. They were named Area Authorities (AA). Central government devolved to the Area Authorities some basic functional responsibilities and limited amounts of money for district development to be used within the district as the AA thought fit. Each council elected a delegate to attend a monthly AA meeting to discuss matters of district-wide interest. District Commissioners and elected members of the National Parliament were encouraged to attend.

When I arrived in Goroka (for the second time) I was placed as Executive Officer of the Eastern Highlands Area Authority. My postings to that date had covered a wide variety of responsibilities giving me much the same experience as other kiaps of my vintage. This was a bit different though. After some discussion with my senior officers and other kiaps I found that nobody knew much about AAs. Some were opposed to the concept of adding another level of governance. I just had to take things as I found them and literally learn on the job.

One AA member had a basic knowledge of English, the other seven spoke only Melanesian Pidgin or *tok pisin* as it was known. All were moderately literate in *psin* so all meetings of the Authority were, perforce, held in *psin*. Agendas and minutes were kept in *psin* enabling normal meeting procedure to be used.

The first thing I did was to break away from the technique many council advisory officers, including me, used in council meetings. That was, when discussing a topic, for the advisory officer to elaborate as necessary for the councillors' full understanding and then to subtly lead them toward his preferred result. Instead, I left all discussion to the members, responding to questions only when asked.

When it seemed that discussion was running off track or a proposal was about to be moved, I would ask any questions which seemed to me appropriate for their consideration, such as, 'Have you thought of (this or that) possibility?', 'What might happen if (you did so-and so?)' or 'Do you have the resources to do this?' And always encouraging them to think of such questions without any prompting from me.

The result was remarkable. All members became more alert and participated in discussions more readily and more intelligently. Evidence grew that they were thinking through ideas before crystallising them into a motion for discussion. I should add that after every meeting we would adjourn to the nearby hotel for a beer (or lemonade for the teetotallers). It is remarkable how an informal discussion in relaxed circumstances can bring out matters previously avoided in the formality of meetings.

After some months somebody expressed an opinion that members should take a 'political education' trip to an overseas country. This was greeted with enthusiasm. I was requested to enquire where ►

necessary about the feasibility of such a trip and the measures necessary for its realisation. At the next meeting it was decided that Malaysia would be the best place to visit. I discussed the idea with the District Commissioner who discussed it with departmental headquarters in Port Moresby. The idea was so original and of such obvious benefit to the participants that it ended up in Canberra. I was given an Australian diplomatic passport (green), and all eight AA members, the normal (blue) Australian passports. (PNG was by now self-governing but Australia still controlled the country's foreign affairs.)

I was determined that all eight members get the maximum benefit from the trip. Only one had travelled outside PNG and that was only a brief visit to Australia. There was only one more AA meeting scheduled before we were to leave so I told them some basic facts about Malaysia and the things they would encounter there and en route.

I wrote, in *tok pisin*, a twelve-page A5 brochure giving them all the information I could imagine they might want about Malaysia: our program, travel details, a note on Singapore, a mud map of the Malaysian peninsula, and a conversion table from Malaysian currency to Australian currency, then used in PNG.

My wife, long a PNG resident and wise in the ways of Papua New Guineans, suggested we invite all eight to our home where she could show them simple manners and skills like using a knife and fork in the

succession of hotels and boarding houses in which we would be accommodated.

On 1 August 1974, we flew to Port Moresby for a day then on 3 August, flew to Singapore. We were met by personnel from the Australian High Commission with a Combi van and shown some interesting sites in and around that city—a lot smaller and quieter than today. Again, with education in mind, the commission had arranged visits to factories, agricultural schemes and rural businesses.

Singapore to Kuala Lumpur was by the regular train which impressed and intrigued the travellers. Some declared PNG should have trains in some areas to which others, more practical, declared their country was not flat enough.

We had a day in the Cameron Highlands which we all relished in the similar climate and stage of development to our home highlands around Goroka. We visited more places of interest, both rural and urban, then it was time to go home. With regret by the eight, with relief by me. I could not fault the behaviour of my charges. They co-operated well with me and with each other.

My relief was because of the incessant paperwork—customs declarations, entry and departure forms, hotel registrations, security declarations in some places. Not just for myself, but for our whole group. Everywhere we went, I had nine bits of paper to fill in, each one unique and I had to get it right.

It was a very worthwhile trip. Though I teetered on the edge of exhaustion at the end of most days, I enjoyed it all. I got to know eight individual PNG Highlanders better than I could have in any other way. I dare say they found the same. When we returned from Malaysia, our first priority was to tell our families all about the trip and to show off our purchases. I left them to their own devices but stipulated that they be back in Goroka in one week's time to a special meeting of the Area Authority.

This enabled me to rest briefly with my family and write a detailed report to the District Commissioner. This was of some urgency. We had travelled on official passports and had enjoyed such willing and beneficial assistance from the Australian High Commissioners in both Singapore and Kuala Lumpur that it had to be noted, commented on and passed on to increasing levels of bureaucracy all the way to Canberra.

The eight travellers, already 'big men', enjoyed hero status in their home areas. They had purchased



Bob Cleland being presented an Eastern Highlands flag by outgoing provincial administrator, Munare Uyassi, on a visit to PNG in 2012

many small gifts to hand out. Some went to their families and some went to others to whom they were indebted. A few were gifted as a strategy to create debtors in their social networks. All looked forward to enhanced kudos. The tour attracted some press and other media interest so their stories became known to other similar groups.

Other Area Authorities submitted passport applications. The PNG Administration and the Australian High Commission were astute enough to recognise the beginning of a stampede. They had little choice but to approve another group.

This second group were poorly prepared and poorly supervised. There was some misbehaviour in Singapore which worsened on the train to Kuala Lumpur. A day after arrival in KL the Malaysian government, intolerant of their coarse behaviour, revoked their visas and insisted they return to PNG immediately. Fortunately, they had all been required to purchase return air fares before they left PNG. The Australian High Commission was embarrassed so they handled their expulsion in a low-key manner, again providing transport to KL airport. I understand the Qantas cabin crew too were warned so they were able to limit their alcohol consumption. There were no more such trips.

By this time, the date of my final departure from PNG was fast approaching. There were, inevitably, lots of loose ends to finalise. I had been training a Papua New Guinean to take over as Executive Officer and that involved a lot of extra time. At the same time a lot of effort from me and all the AA members was taken in the conversion of the Area Authority to a Provincial Government.

A draft constitution had been drawn up in Port Moresby and we had to go through this clause by clause. I ensured that every member understood the clause, its reason for being there and any possible implications. They impressed me with their grasp and their thoughtful questions. They deleted some clauses, added others and amended some so that the document ended up being tailored to the needs of the whole district. The draft was then sent to Port Moresby for formal approval.

Then followed an emotional few days for me. Parallel with this were meetings and functions of a number of Goroka institutions and individuals to say farewell to me and my family. That meant, inevitably, a series of late nights but little opportunity for a sleep-in. We needed to sort all the contents of our

government home. We made three groups or piles: one for stuff belonging to the house, one for our own things we wanted to keep and the remainder to chuck out. We eventually got ourselves into some sort of order and boarded the plane to Port Moresby for the final time, emotional and physical wrecks. The next day we flew to Brisbane thus ending my twenty-two years and some months in PNG as a kiap.

It was 26 August 1976.

On 19 December 1977, by now in my new job in Brisbane, the telephone rang. A voice, instantly recognisable to me as a Papua New Guinean, introduced himself and told me the ceremony planned for the official inauguration of the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government would be on 19 January 1978. My wife, Julie, and I were invited to attend, all expenses paid. I was overwhelmed with gratitude and a strong sense of affection for these warm and friendly people among whom I'd worked for so long. I stammered my thanks and accepted then and there.

We arrived in Goroka one week later to an enthusiastic welcome by many old friends. An official dinner that night, hosted by Premier James Yanepa, and with many other VIP guests including Prime Minister Michael Somare, was a wonderful and nostalgic evening. The official opening the following day with lavish afternoon tea, several singing groups in traditional costume and an evening barbecue was a most heart-warming and emotional day. The sort of day only Papua New Guineans can provide. ♦



Bob Cleland points out the panorama of the Asaro Valley from Daulo Pass, in the Eastern Highlands, in 2012

A Wartime Aviation Tragedy: Mount Carstensz

PETER ROGERS



If you fly in the Papua New Guinea Highlands on a cloudless day you may see a sight seldom encountered elsewhere in the world: the wrecks of aircraft still lying where they abruptly collided with the terrain. Sometimes you see two or three simultaneously, glinting in the sunlight. From a distance some may appear undamaged, lying in plane form against the slope of the mountain they ran into, usually just below the summit.

ALTHOUGH SOME HAVE been there for decades, they share some commonality. Their pilots were flying in cloud at what they thought was a safe altitude, sufficient to clear the mountains below. Invariably, they have seen the terrain at the last moment, and desperately hauled back on the controls to climb or turn. The visibility in the cloud has been such that in the remaining second of flight the aircraft merely changes its attitude, sometimes hitting the ground with such force that it explodes into a thousand pieces, or impacting so nose high that all force is transmitted through the floor of the aircraft. Whichever, there are invariably no survivors. Mercifully, it is very quick. Unless the passengers are looking out forward

at the cloud, their end is instantaneous and totally unexpected. Rescuers can only retrieve the bodies and leave the rest.

There is nothing salvageable.

Sometimes, as a result of fire or disintegration the remains of the aircraft may be difficult to find, and they remain undiscovered for years or even decades.

An identical scenario occurred tragically in what is now the Indonesian province of Papua, in the worst peacetime air crash in Australia's military history.

A RAAF Dakota (or DC-3 as they became commonly known) was discovered in 1967 close to the PT Freeport mine at an altitude of about 14,000 feet, in a ravine just below the highest summit of the vertical face of what is now Puncak Jaya, in the Carstairs (Carstensz) Range. The MAF pilot who found the wreckage originally thought it was a Dutch aircraft. He could do little but record the sighting. The following year, he was able to fly back to the area in a Bell JetRanger helicopter. In an exceedingly dangerous operation—the helicopter would have been at the very limit of its performance at that altitude—they were able to land and identify the Dakota as VH-CUT (clearly marked on the remains of the tail).

VH-CUT was a RAAF callsign (not a commercial registration) allocated to the Directorate of Air Transport, an organisation under the US Army Air Force which controlled all transport aircraft within the South-West Pacific area. This 38 Squadron aircraft was tasked on 18 September 1945 (a month ▶



Continued on page 28

Family Farm to PNG Development Bank—Story of a Didiman

MURROUGH BENSON—Part Three

Part Two of my story described my move to Gumine and the living conditions and lifestyle there. This part describes my work assisting locals in the growing of their crops.

MY MAIN FOCUS AT GUMINE was to increase the production of pyrethrum, following the process used on my initial patrol out of Kundiawa. We would go from garden to garden, spending perhaps half to three-quarters of an hour with each grower showing them what to do and seeing that they did it correctly. This would go on for four or five days in different areas then we would return to the original group to see how they were going. The women and old men were generally the most reliable when it came to sticking at the task, the younger men having a tendency to get diverted more readily. The pyrethrum growing areas were in pretty rugged country; it was not unusual to spend two or three hours walking between villages and go up or down a couple of thousand feet in the process. Needless to say, anyone working in this area got pretty fit very quickly.

The purpose of introducing pyrethrum was to provide a cash crop in areas where coffee could not be grown successfully. We used to buy the dried flowers on the roadside once a week and then bale it up (200 lb bales) for transport to the extraction plant in Mt Hagen. From time to time neither of the two short wheelbase Land Rovers or Massey Ferguson

135 tractor and trailer on the station was available so I would have to jump on the station motorbike (a Honda 90) and travel the twelve miles west of the station to where most of the pyrethrum was grown to let the growers know that we would not be able to buy *plaua* (flower) today. This trip was fine in dry weather but could be quite challenging—in fact nigh on impossible—after heavy rain, but we always tried to get the message out as early as possible, as many of the growers had to walk quite long distances to the buying points. If we were early enough, we could save them quite a walk as someone was always available to *bikmaus* (shout) the message. Growers who lived beyond the nearest valley had to rely on the message being relayed from ridge top to ridge top. The road east of the station went for about twenty miles before we had to resort to walking, but the altitude here was generally lower than to the west so not much pyrethrum was grown, although there was plenty of other work to do in this direction.

The financial rewards for pyrethrum growers were not great: the price at the time was fifteen cents for one pound of dried flowers and it took about 3,000 flower heads to produce this amount, hardly a great reward for effort. In most cases, though, the growers ▶



Occupational hazard on the 'pyrethrum push' at Kamago (between Mt Hagen and Tambul), June 1967



did not have much in the way of alternative sources of cash income. The local people were, however, well aware of what coffee growers could get for their produce and there was always someone ready to point out the relative returns for a given volume of both crops. At twenty cents a pound, coffee was obviously somewhat more attractive but it was volume, not weight, that these people used as their criterion for comparison and there was a huge difference in what they would get for a bag of very light dried pyrethrum flowers and the much heavier same bag of coffee parchment beans. Trying to explain the discrepancy was always an interesting challenge—and not one in which we always succeeded.

Coffee had been introduced some years earlier and had proved to be quite successful. In the Gumine sub-district alone, for example, seventy-five tons of parchment coffee had been bought by the local cooperative, the Kundiawa Coffee Society, in 1965–66. By the mid-1960s, however, coffee was in over-supply on international markets and export quotas had been imposed on producing nations under the World Coffee Agreement. As a result, Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries (DASF) field staff were instructed not to encourage further plantings, although they were still expanding. Having encouraged growth of the industry just a few years earlier, though, we could hardly turn around now and not support what was already there. So we did

help coffee growers with basic crop husbandry such as instruction in pruning and shade management. It was interesting trying to communicate the benefits of pruning; how could less foliage possibly produce more coffee? We also helped out with how to process the freshly picked coffee berries more effectively—pulp the berries, including helping with the purchase and setting up of hand pulpers, fermenting and drying.

As was the case throughout the Chimbu District, the most heavily populated region of the country, land was at a premium in the Gumine area but cattle projects were still popular. A group would generally pool its resources and once they had sorted out amongst themselves the issue of usage of the land we would help them buy the necessary fencing materials, assist with putting up the fences and yards, planting some improved pasture species (Elephant Grass and *Setaria*) and stocking the project with a few head of cattle. Providing basic veterinary services was also part of the support we provided.

Chickens were also very popular so we sold these to the villagers whenever we could. The supply was never enough to meet demand though so after a while we started to breed some of our own on our newly acquired *banis didiman* (the ten-acre DASF block alongside Omkalai airstrip). Another bit of protein in the traditional low-protein diet of the locals, although rather than it being a regular dietary supplement consumption tended to be limited largely to sing-

sings (ceremonial gatherings) when cattle also fell victim to the ‘butcher’.

We also stocked the station ponds with golden carp and as these bred up were able to distribute some fish to the local villagers. They were in great demand, largely for ornamental purposes but our hope was that they could in time provide a further boost to the protein intake of the locals, notwithstanding the fact that carp taste like mud.

Inevitably, a certain amount of office work had to be undertaken but it was not an onerous chore. A daily *Field Officer's Journal* (FOJ) had to be submitted at the end of each month, half a day a month usually saw the general monthly report completed and a monthly financial return usually took less than an hour. In addition, records of all pyrethrum purchased had to be maintained as well as attending to the usual correspondence. Quarterly work plans and budgets also had to be prepared.

While at Gumine in mid-1967 I was seconded for about seven weeks onto a major pyrethrum ‘push’ in the Western and Southern Highlands. Additional DASF staff were brought into the area to give production a big kick along. Unlike the rugged Chimbu District that I was used to, the area that I was given between Mt Hagen and Tambul had some fairly extensive areas of relatively flat land and I was given responsibility for trialling mechanised preparation of the ground for planting. I believe this was the first, and perhaps only, time this approach had been used. Whereas I had previously worked on plots as small as one-tenth of an acre, often on the sides of hillsides, now I was dealing with five or six acres at a time with a tractor and plough. Progress was certainly faster and a lot of acres were planted up to pyrethrum in my time there but there was also a lot of downtime with the tractor often getting bogged in the heavy, damp black soil. A crawler tractor may have been a better option in the circumstances.

By the end of November 1967, I had completed my first term of twenty-one months and it was time to head off on three months leave. A posting back to Kundiawa awaited me on my return so I packed up my worldly possessions, now vastly expanded to include a dinner set (Royal Doulton no less, which I seem to recall was all that was available at the Buntings store in Goroka at the time), basic cutlery, pots and pans and a record player with a selection of records. Surely, I was becoming quite a ‘catch’—but that’s another story! ♦



Kalabus (prisoners) cleaning Gumine fish pond (top); Pyrethrum ready for harvesting in Gumine area (second) and a load of pyrethrum—big but not very heavy—3,000 dried flower heads per pound (bottom); Gumine fish pond refilled (opposite page).

Laurie Bragge's Generous Donation to James Cook University

BRONWYN McBURNIE



Oksapmin man and child in Strickland Gorge, West Sepik Province in the early 1960s
Source: Laurie Bragge, the Bragge Collection, James Cook University

The Bragge Collection, gifted to James Cook University by Laurie Bragge, features two intimately connected components—more than 600 material culture artefacts collected by Mr Bragge during the time he lived and worked in Papua New Guinea, and the extensive personal library he amassed containing various resources, which he used intensively when writing his multi-volume history of the Sepik.

LAURIE BRAGGE SPENT more than forty-five years living and working in Papua New Guinea after taking a job with the Australian administration as a patrol officer (or kiap) in 1961, and during this time he developed a deep appreciation and respect for PNG and the peoples of the Sepik. He spent most of his time in the Sepik area but also in other parts of the country such as the Highlands, Milne Bay and the Gulf Province.

Approximately 135 guests enjoyed the official launch of the Bragge Collection held at the Cairns Campus Library on 22 May 2019. Special guest speakers included JCU Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Sandra Harding, AO; Dr Andrew Moutu, Director, PNG National Museum and Arts Gallery; Professor Nola Alloway, Dean, College of Arts, Society and Education and Mr Laurie Bragge, Collection Donor. Professor Henry also read out a special message sent by Sir David Attenborough, who is a personal associate of Laurie Bragge and spent time with him in Papua New Guinea.

Laurie Bragge has generously gifted this collection to James Cook University to facilitate further research into this diverse and fascinating tropical region and the societies that call it home.

The material artefacts from this collection are curated by the Discipline of Anthropology, Material Culture Collection (College of Arts, Society and Education), and housed in The JCU Cairns Institute. To enquire about these items, please contact Professor Rosita Henry.

Laurie Bragge's personal library is managed by JCU Library Special Collections (Library & Information Services), and housed in the JCU Cairns Library. Access will be available in the Special Collections Reading Room on arrangement.

The Bragge Collection Archive

This is listed in *NQHeritage@JCU*, the online Special Collections repository of James Cook University.

The archival record available at

<https://nqheritage.jcu.edu.au/694/> includes:

- Video (Patrolling the Past: a conversation with Laurie Bragge about his work and life in Papua New Guinea).
- Listing of the material culture component of the Bragge Collection
- Listing of the library component of the Bragge Collection

The library component of the Bragge Collection

is the personal research library of the donor, Laurie Bragge. It consists of a wide variety of materials, which can be considered in two groups—published and unpublished materials.

Published Materials

There are over 550 publications covering a range of subjects pertaining to Papua New Guinea and the donor's research interests. The subjects used in the library listing have largely been assigned by the donor and include PNG Pacific & World History, Primitive Art, Religion and Sepik Anthropology. The published materials from the library component of the Bragge Collection are available for consultation in the Cairns Campus Library Special Collections.

Unpublished Materials

The unpublished materials in the collection, which includes the history of the Sepik written by Laurie Bragge, are currently not available for viewing.

These materials range in type and include:

- Patrol Officer Reports produced by Laurie Bragge whilst he was an Australian government employee
- Personal diaries kept over many decades of Laurie Bragge's life
- 3500+ photographs taken by Laurie Bragge
- Transcribed oral histories collected from Sepik elders by Laurie Bragge, and the associated index he has created to accompany them
- Laurie Bragge's own history of the Sepik presented in five parts over seven volumes.

These materials are known to contain a range of sensitive content, therefore they have entered a process of 'discovery and description', prior to the library seeking expert advice on appropriate access conditions.

JCU Library is continuing a significant journey with these materials which involves listing and describing the material—so that those listings and descriptions can be used to consult others. The others may be stakeholders in the material, including individuals, groups, government agencies or institutions. JCU Library will be working closely with Professor Rosita Henry (JCU Discipline of Anthropology, College of Arts, Society & Education) throughout this process. ♦

**Any enquiries in regards
to the Bragge Collection can be directed to
specialcollections@jcu.edu.au**



Donor, Laurie Bragge speaking at the launch of the Bragge Collection (top); Attendees at the Bragge Collection Launch held at the JCU Cairns Campus in May 2019—(l-r) Trish Barnard, Professor Rosita Henry, Laurie Bragge, Helen Hooper, JCU Vice Chancellor Sandra Harding & Jane Shepherd (middle); Dr Andrew Moutu, Director, PNG National Museum and Arts Gallery, prepares to speak at the Bragge Collection launch (bottom)
(Photos courtesy, Laurie Bragge, Trish Barnard and James Cook University)

A Wartime Aviation Tragedy: Mount Carstensz

Continued from page 22

after hostilities ended) to fly a number of wounded Australian Army personnel from Morotai to the north of then New Guinea via Biak, Horn Island and thence to hospital in Townsville. Twenty-nine people were on board, including one army officer not manifested, who jumped on at Biak.

The wounded were accompanied by medical staff, and RAAF crew and personnel. The aircraft was briefed and planned to fly southwest to cross the low and narrow isthmus on the northwest of the main island of New Guinea to the Arafura Sea. This would avoid the mountains and associated weather. Very importantly, it would allow a much lower level of flight to reduce the real possibility of complications to the wounded patients from changing atmospheric pressure and lack of oxygen at high altitudes. The main mountain range on the island of New Guinea has many peaks above 16,000 feet. The Dakota would then continue to Horn Island coastal or over water. This was the sensible route.

No one will ever know what flight path the Dakota followed. Why would a pilot venture

needlessly across very high mountains? Conditions on departure from Biak were fine, with scattered cloud. No radio transmissions were ever received, despite the briefed procedure to call after departure and upon reaching cruise altitude. The aircraft simply disappeared, and it and its occupants were listed as missing—except the non-manifested passenger.

The Dakota actually impacted the southern face of Mount Carstensz just below the summit heading north, and dropped into the ravine 100 feet below where the scattered wreckage burned. Differing accounts give the altitude as 13,000 feet or 14,000 feet. The wreckage was located about 120 miles east of the planned Gelvink-Volgelkop Neck route.

There were no survivors. Mercifully, the occupants would not have suffered.

From a pilot's perspective, and not knowing the weather encountered west and south of the island of New Guinea, one can only guess that the RAAF pilot chose to deliberately cross the mountains to shorten the flight. He may have encountered cloud on the mountain tops and become disoriented. If he did safely cross into the Arafura Sea at low level, he must have been disoriented and confused to then turn north and climb to 14,000 feet.

The RAAF conducted three very difficult helicopter operations into the high-altitude area, in 1970, 1999 and 2005 to recover the occupants' remains and, where possible, personal effects for their families. They erected a plaque on site in memory of the those who died. In moving ceremonies at Bomana War Cemetery in 1971 and 2005 the remains were interred with full military honours. Sixteen were buried in collective graves, while the others were interred individually. The officer who had boarded at Biak was fortunately identified; he had previously been listed as MIA in Lae Cemetery.

The discovery of VH-CUT gave dependents and relatives closure after decades of living with their loved ones being listed as Missing.

This story is yet another chapter in the sad history of flight in New Guinea, on both sides of the border. The accident rate has always been high, with aircraft operating at the very limit of their capability, with poor infrastructure and a lack of resources to monitor, assist and regulate air traffic. Add unpredictable weather and mountainous terrain plus operational, commercial and personal pressures to get the mission completed, and the potential for disaster is always there. ♦



Mt Carstensz (*top*) and the wreck of the RAAF Dakota at the crash site (*below*)

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

ROY KIRKBY
(Part Three)

Part One of my story told
of my years at Kompam
(UV, June 2019, p.15)
and Part Two
(UV, December 2019, p.37)
featured the years at Jimi
River School, and Keltiga
Primary T School, which
became a pilot school for a
New Mathematics project.

However, I was not
there to see it to fruition
because I was moved
again to Mount Hagen
Primary T School as
deputy headmaster.
There were two reasons
for this and the first was
because I had got
married.

Mount Hagen Primary T School 1965–67

The second reason for the move was the desire of District Education Officer, Tas Hammersley, to set up a New Maths Project in a larger centre for the training of teachers. Both Nonie and I were to be involved in this, through teaching together at the school and developing resources. We did this over a couple of years and conducted workshops in other centres including the Southern Highlands, East Sepik and Madang.

The headmaster at Hagen PTS was Dick Ellison, a practical down-to-earth no-nonsense Western Australian teacher. He was naturally dubious of the New Maths and enthusiastic young teachers like me. But he was willing to give it all a go. Dick told us that we could do anything we liked in maths, but at the end of the term he would give the class a test in the regular arithmetic they were expected to know in our classes, according to the present curriculum.

He followed it up and the children passed with flying colours. It was a reality check, but one I have always remembered in the many projects I have been involved in over the rest of my career. The children's present learning needs came first and had to be addressed in whatever you did.

Thanks Dick.

At the school, we were given a new double classroom for our maths activities, and as a place to conduct demonstrations and run workshops for teachers. Nonie and I worked hard to get our respective classes up to a demonstration standard, before inviting teachers in to observe and interact with the children.

Success was limited since many teachers, both indigenous and expatriate, found some of the concepts and expectations too challenging. Some of the bright students would often trick observing teachers by claiming a wrong answer to be the correct one. We tried to assist teachers by producing teachers' support books such as *A Hundred Number Games for Primary Classes*. However, momentum was developing and the Education Department, along with commercial educational interests, wanted a new national curriculum.

Coming out of this was TEMLAB, a mathematics package destined to be distributed to all schools. Both Nonie and I were involved in this, resulting in a posting for me to the new UNESCO-supported Goroka Teachers' College as a lecturer in mathematics education, and Nonie to the North Goroka Demonstration School as a teacher. ►



The quadrangle at the Goroka Teachers' College



FROM TOP: Children worked independently in small groups on maths activities; Nonie with her prep class; Student dancers at a college cultural festival; A student on practice teaching.

Prior to that we had a couple of great years teaching at Mt Hagen PTS, not just the new maths but also developing new resources in teaching English and helping indigenous teachers.

Goroka Teachers' College 1967–70

The brand new GTC was to be the first college to train both primary and secondary teachers and to assist in that were appointed UNESCO lecturers as advisers for each department. They arrived with experience in many countries around the world and we PNG-experienced lecturers looked with awe at the prospect of working under them, keen to learn what we could from these world-class experts.

While they were nice people, they tended to have knowledge that was way out of date. Their attention seemed to be on other things, like continuing their research into the parasites of certain beetles, or spending their allocated UNESCO funds on the likes of building a telescope centre on the roof of the college for the study of the stars, when we only had a handful of clear night skies each year. The result was that we Territorian lecturers largely developed our own courses to fit the needs of our students when they went out to teach.

However, we tried to encourage the open mindedness of a tertiary institution, which included encouraging political awareness. This resulted in one of the first political parties being formed at the college. Students generally were keen to encourage the government to start considering a quicker timetable towards independence. Initially, they became very active in symbolic activities such as getting a name for the country and the design for a national flag.

We did not forget the need to connect college life with traditional culture, and the college became a rich centre of art, drama and traditional music and dance.

But there was more to successful student development than just the teaching staff. The partners of most staff were also engaged in teaching themselves, or they were engaged in creating families, and in involving students in a range of family and personal development activities.

Some engaged in other activities as volunteers making an important contribution to community life.

Nonie set up a Brownie troop that broadened the skills of girls in a changing society. My main activity was the sport of korfball. (This is a separate story described in Part One.) This sport also had an educational purpose in that it was a mixed gender sport and enabled boys and girls to play together in a spirit of equality. It worked very well at GTC and students took it on their own initiative to all areas of the country when they graduated.

Madang 1972–75

1971 saw us moving to Brisbane for a year to study at Queensland University. Our return was to Madang where I was to take up a post at Madang Teachers' College, becoming Senior Lecturer in Social Sciences while Nonie took a position at Jomba Dual Curriculum School.

At the college, my past began to catch up with me in a very pleasant way, as four of my ex-students from Keltiga and Mount Hagen schools were now at the college as student teachers. Others, who had been student teachers at Goroka, were at local Madang schools as teachers. All this enhanced our family life, to be living in such a pleasant place, where the college rented an island at Nagada, which we visited with friends at weekends and at other times with student groups.

It was an exciting time to be in the country as the move towards self-government and independence accelerated. Indigenous lecturers started taking up positions in our colleges, and there was an expectation to help develop any aspect of life that could contribute towards meeting the demands of independence. I was involved, for example, in setting up political education programs that could be used in the local community and administered by teachers.

Sometimes, with the push for quick changes, there was insufficient time to do a good job. One example that stood out for me was being asked to go to education headquarters in Konedobu, where I sat in an office with a typewriter to write a whole new social science curriculum for primary schools in just two days! Luckily, it was not accepted in its entirety because it was criticised and modified by some indigenous officers on their way up to top jobs in the Education Department.

As lecturers, we engaged in a range of initiatives to help prepare the way for indigenous teachers and lecturers when we departed. Two such programs aimed to support the teaching of social studies and to facilitate the recording of traditional cultural art and crafts.

Self-government came and in as many ways as possible we looked to make it a reality. In the sport of korfball, now expanding throughout the country, we attempted to make it as self-governing as possible and all administrative positions were in indigenous hands. Furthermore, we attempted from the beginning to have a community awareness expectation. We expected players to contribute to the community in raising funds for community causes, or doing community work such as building a shade house.

Looming independence led Nonie and me to consider our family's future. As much as we loved Papua New Guinea, it wasn't our home for life and it didn't present a future for our family. The idealistic missionary fervour that I had for Western education when I arrived had been well tempered and modified over these years. The many expatriate colleagues and students I knew would continue to evolve an education appropriate for an independent nation with such rich cultures as their foundation.

The opportunities to do further study in England, career prospects in Australia and family connections led to us leaving the country just prior to independence.

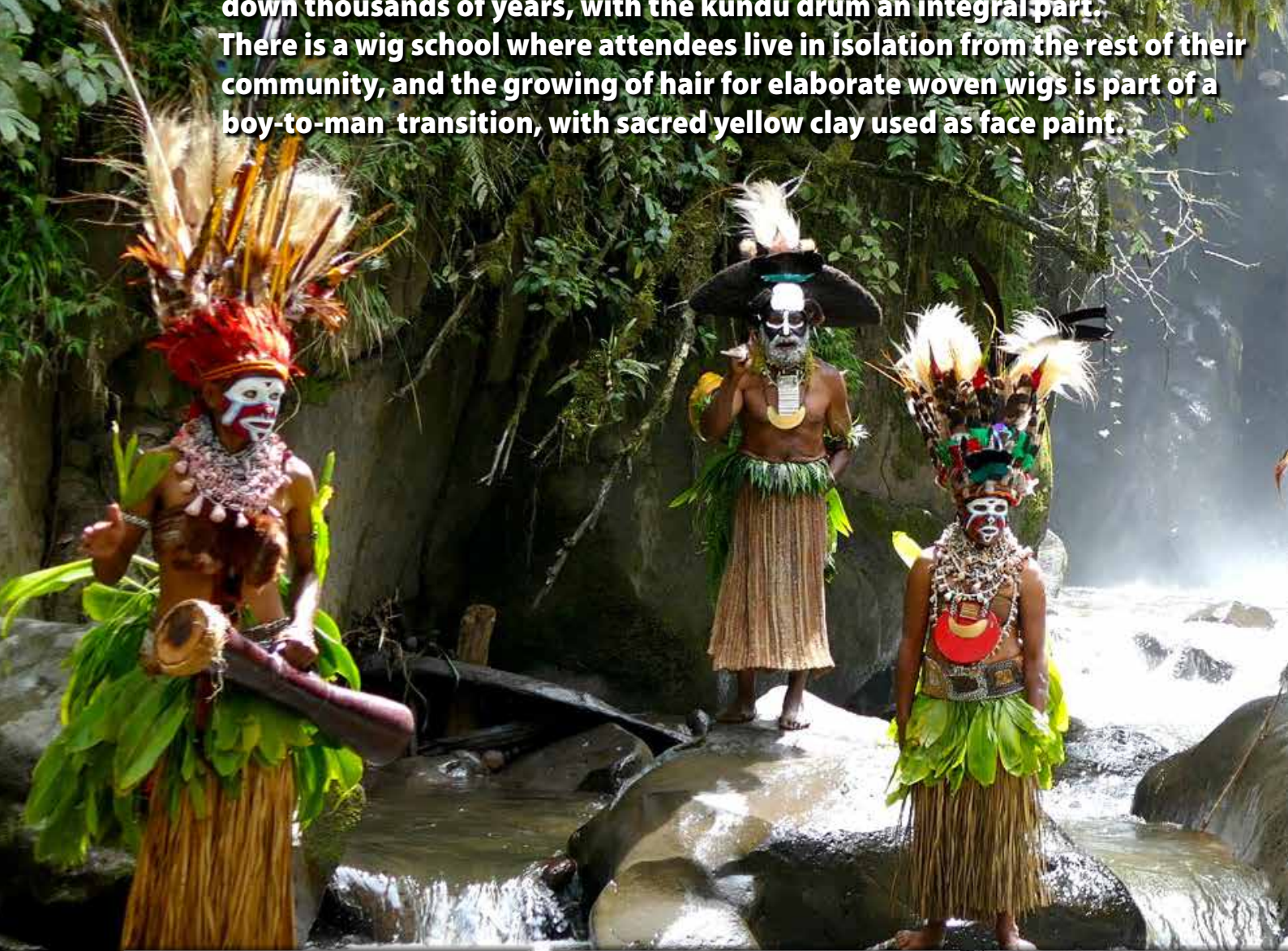
At different times, we both returned for short visits to make small contributions, and to remind us of this richly developmental part of our lives. ♦



FROM TOP: Mothers, their children and keen student baby-sitters; Nonie Kirkby as Brown Owl and her Goroka Troop; The college island at Nagada, a haven for staff and student recreation; A manual produced by Madang Teachers' College.

The Huli Wigmen of Tari

One of the largest ethnic groups in PNG, their rituals have been passed down thousands of years, with the kundu drum an integral part. There is a wig school where attendees live in isolation from the rest of their community, and the growing of hair for elaborate woven wigs is part of a boy-to-man transition, with sacred yellow clay used as face paint.



The photographs, courtesy of Max Uechtritz, were taken at a waterfall, about one hour out



t of Mt Hagen



From Little Things, Bigger Things Grow

Pre-loved Children's Books for PNG Village Schools

BRIAN VIAL

In December 2018 we hosted Gita Korimbo from EHP, and Vivian Kiyo from Porgera—two university students from the PNG Highlands—here in Benalla in North East Victoria.

THE GIRLS HAD both been awarded the Leigh Grant Vial Memorial Scholarships in 2014 for their final school years at Goroka Grammar (see *Una Voce*, December 2019, pages 15 & 40). During their visit to Benalla they mentioned their respective village schools were short of supplies, especially story books and readers in English.

With the help of friends, we collected some forty-five suitable pre-loved books, and in April sent them to Sogopegu, Gita's village near Bena which, coincidentally, was near the place that Leigh Vial died in a plane crash, in April 1943, while guiding a US Air Force plane dropping supplies to an Australian Commando Patrol.

Last June I was in Goroka for the Scholarship awards and was invited to visit Sogopegu. The village welcome (*above & top right*) and thanks were overwhelming. The welcome was from warriors, young and old in traditional costume, and a long avenue of 250 young school children all very smart in their school uniforms. At the far end of the avenue was a dais of local dignitaries, including the Inspector of Elementary Schools, and the Inspector of Primary Schools for the Eastern Highlands Province. Lots of speeches and gifts, all watched by scores of villagers, sitting on the grass under their colourful sun-umbrellas—all in gratitude for a gift of forty-five second-hand children's books.

On my return home, with pictures from the village, I suggested to the Friends of Benalla Library that we ask the

Benalla community for suitable children's books for elementary and primary village schools.

The response from Benalla and surrounds has been wonderful. The three collection points (Benalla Library, Benalla U3A and the office of Steph Ryan MP) overflowed in no time, with children's books from the library, grandparents' cupboards, the four local primary schools, and the four opportunity shops. Between August and mid-November we received several thousand books, and we had to pause collecting any extra.

One Year Seven student from Cathedral College, Wangaratta, collected over 400 books and has some great ideas re further support in the form of computers/notepads and setting up email 'pen pals'.

Our objective is to help introduce English early in village students' school years, so that when they reach high school, where teaching is all in English, they are not at a disadvantage.

In the towns, English is commonly used, but in the villages most conversations are in *Pidgin* or the local dialect. All teacher training includes English, but they have few resources to read from, or teach in English.

Of the thirty-five boxes dispatched so far, most have been in cartons of some ninety to one hundred books to be given directly to a village school.

Collecting books turns out to be easy, and having multiple contacts in several Highland areas helps with distribution to suitable villages. The hardest part is finding an affordable transport solution. This January, we were able to send twenty cartons in a charity container from Brisbane, which was a wonderful help. Special thanks must go to Renee (Project Yumi), Georgie (Linfox) and Carmel (StarTrack) for rescuing us when most of the transport industry was still on holiday. But we have plenty more books waiting to be sent, so any suggestions from readers would be welcome. Contact me via Yana, PNGAA Victorian Regional Coordinator: coordinator@pngaa.net

From my two tourist and six scholarship visits to PNG since 2010, I can only agree with the ABC correspondent describing it as a land of smiles. I have found a people very favourably disposed to Australians, and hoping for opportunities to work together.

I have also been heartened by the interest and support this program has received from the Benalla community. It is regrettable that Australia seems to have forgotten the long and close relationship our two countries shared in war and peace, not so long ago. ♦



The avenue of school children at the welcome ceremony (top), some of the cartons of books (second), the official reception (third) and Brian Vial and Gita Korimbo (bottom)

Travel in the Land of the Unexpected

DERYCK THOMPSON



IN OCTOBER 2014 I was working at Bobcat drill rig as camp manager. Bobcat was located in the jungle in the middle of Gulf Province in Papua New Guinea and the only way in or out was by helicopter.

On this particular day, I was going out on my field break and the first leg was by helicopter from Bobcat to Wabo airstrip on the Purari River. My helicopter landed at Wabo at about 1130 hours and a few moments later a single-engine fixed-wing Cessna Caravan arrived from Port Moresby. On board was my back to back, Duncan Smith. We exchanged a few pleasantries and I gave Duncan my handover takeover notes. We shook hands, I wished him good luck, and he got into the helicopter and it departed for Bobcat.

Meanwhile, although the Caravan was due to take off immediately for Port Moresby, our pilot had received a message to wait for another helicopter bringing passengers from another drill rig. At about midday I was out the back of the tin shed that passed for the airstrip terminal, and I heard a loud hissing noise which ominously sounded like a tyre going down. Someone called out in *Tok Pisin* '*tia bilong balus i plat*'—the aircraft has a flat tyre.

I walked to the front of the tin shed and saw that indeed one tyre of the Caravan was flat (*pictured*). The pilot cursed, as did the rest of us. A flat tyre on an aircraft at any time is a problem as the whole wheel has to be replaced—you can't simply take the tyre off and put in a new tube and pump it up and take off. And when you are out in the boonies like Wabo, the nearest wheel with a fully-inflated tyre is at Jacksons Airstrip at Port Moresby, about one hour flying time away.

The pilot got on the two-way radio in the tin shed and spoke with his Port Moresby office and he was advised that fortuitously another Caravan was heading our way. However, it was already twenty minutes out of Port Moresby, and so they had to send it back to Port Moresby to pick up a spare wheel.

Our pilot was very unhappy with the delay and apologised profusely and someone said 'well, better the tyre blew here and not on landing at Port Moresby' and

we all agreed with that. I had a connecting flight to Cairns that afternoon departing Port Moresby at 1710 hours and was optimistic that there was still enough time for a replacement tyre to arrive and that I would get to Port Moresby in time.

We had no option but to wait, in the heat of the day. The generator was not running and the overhead fans were not working and, although it was stiflingly hot in the tin shed, it was either that or lie on the ground in the shade outside.

I was exhausted after my twenty-one-day rotation so I lay on one of the bench seats in the tin shed and slept soundly. I was awoken by an aircraft arriving, but it was from Mt Hagen and only picked up passengers for Mount Hagen.

It was about 1330 hours now and I was calculating the times, and I could see that the chances of me making that connection to Cairns were decreasing rapidly.

At 1515 hours, the Caravan arrived with the spare wheel, and an expatriate engineer. The engineer did not bring a wheel jack with him and we had to hunt around for one. Fortunately, Wabo airstrip had a tractor which was used to tow a slasher to cut the grass on the airstrip and someone searched the tractor shed and found a small hydraulic barrel jack, which I doubt would have been enough to lift the tractor, but the engineer had no option and the wheel changing commenced.

Usually, when a wheel is changed on a Caravan, a special long shank jack is used and it is placed under a jacking point at the top of the wheel strut. This is necessary because the wheel strut is under the pressure of the weight of the aircraft and as the aircraft is raised clear of the ground, the wheel strut de-pressurises and cribs towards the aircraft.

However, in our case the engineer only had a small impromptu jack which he had to place at the bottom of the wheel strut. This caused complications and the end result was that there was not enough clearance for the replacement wheel which of course had a fully-inflated

tyre. At this stage the engineer then decided that his best option was dig into the parking bay until there was enough clearance to put on the replacement wheel. Someone produced a crow bar and a piece of scrap metal to use as a scraper and the engineer proceeded to dig the hole in the parking bay to get clearance (pictured).

This, of course, all took time and there was nothing I could do to speed things up, so I just had to sit and watch and wait and let others decide my travel plans.

As the wheel changing came to a conclusion, it was decided that our original pilot would fly an initial load of passengers in the 'rescue' Caravan to Port Moresby and we took off at 1545 hours. As the flight from Wabo to Port Moresby was about one hour I resigned myself that I would miss my Air Niugini connection to Cairns as it was due to take off at 1710 hours.

We landed at 1645 and, as we taxied into the parking bay, I could see my Air Niugini flight sitting on the tarmac several hundred metres away at the International Terminal. The minutes ticked by as we disembarked and waited for our bags to come off. I decided that it was not worth the effort to run or get a car to the International Terminal because the manifest would have been closed, and anyway there would have been no time to negotiate Security and Migration as the Cairns aircraft was due for immediate take off.

So, I grabbed my small overnight bag and considered a plan to go to the Oilmin accommodation in downtown Port Moresby but, at the last moment, I decided to go down to Air Niugini departures desk in the International Terminal and get my ticket re-booked for the following morning. In the back of my mind, there was a thought that there was a small chance that the departure of the Air Niugini aircraft might have been delayed.

I arrived at Air Niugini check-in counter at exactly 1710 hours and explained my late arrival and asked about re-booking for the following morning. The check in lady told me that the departure of PX 98 to Cairns had been delayed but, unfortunately, the manifest had been closed. However, she went off to see the load master who gave permission to re-open the manifest for me and so she checked me in. My small bag only weighed a few kilograms so I took it with me as cabin baggage and I rushed through Security and Migration, and finally arrived, very hot and sweaty, in the departure lounge where I was told that the flight was delayed until at least 1800 hours.

We finally started boarding at 1900 hours and, after all passengers were seated, there was an announcement

by the co-pilot who apologised for the continuing delay and advised that we had to wait for the captain who had arrived late into Port Moresby after piloting a domestic flight, and that they were waiting for the migration officer to process the captain. We finally took off at 1930 hours. I was seated down the back of the aircraft and the steward came by dispensing free alcohol and I got chatting with him. He said that some passengers were unhappy because the aircraft was very late to take off but I told him that I was very happy because I had arrived late for check in due to an aircraft issue way out in Gulf Province.

And so we landed at Cairns airstrip and, on my way to Customs and Migration, I stopped off at duty free and deliberated what to buy. Soon, the flight crew arrived, and I asked them what had really happened. The captain, an older Australian, spoke up and said that the episode would be a chapter in his book when he wrote it. He said that he had been flying the Air Niugini milk run Port Moresby to Vainimo to Port Moresby that day and, even though Air Niugini management knew that he would be late arriving back into Port Moresby, they failed to notify the migration officer who had processed the rest of the flight crew and then gone home.

So Air Niugini then had to send a vehicle to the migration officer's house and bring him back to the airstrip to process the captain and this was the main reason that the aircraft departed more than two hours behind schedule.

I thanked the captain and told him that I had no complaints because the late departure had enabled me to get back to Cairns that day.

And so, once again, the planets had aligned for me ... but what else would you expect in the Land of the Unexpected? ♦



Memories of a Kiap —Morobe District 1961–65

PETER WORSLEY

Momsalom (*below*) is a large village in the lower part of what was the Naba census division north of Lae. The Naba extended northwards well up into the Saruwaged Range, with the more northern villages at very high altitudes. The regular plantings are coffee trees.



TOP RIGHT: This man is voting at the village of Dinagat in the Uruwa in the first House of Assembly elections held in 1964. At that time the people in this remote region still wore bark clothing and few spoke Pidgin. A translator was required. They voted using a 'whispered ballot' system, whispering to me their preferred candidate. I would then mark their ballot paper and they put it in the box.

MIDDLE RIGHT: This is a tamboran, or spirit figure, from Dinagat in the Uruwa, c.1964. The policeman was Senior Constable Zowa, a first-class policeman and a credit to the RPNGC.

BOTTOM LEFT: Senior Constable Zowa in his police uniform and in traditional dress for a ceremony. Zowa came from Sio village on the north coast of the Morobe District, and was due his second 10-year star soon after these photos were taken in 1963 at the Kalalo Patrol Post.



HMAS Aitape

The Royal Australian Navy: the Silent Service in PNG

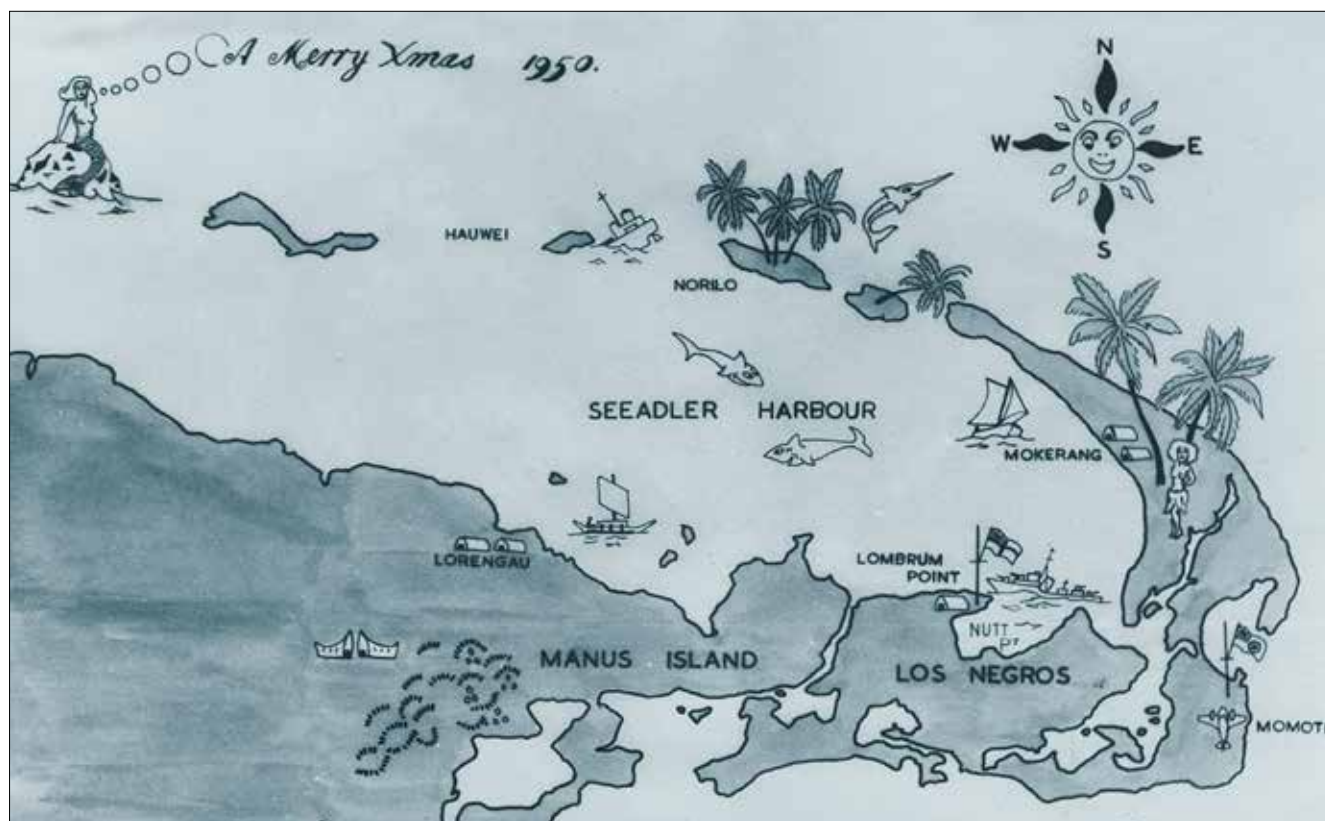
SAM BATEMAN
(Part One)

BACK IN 2015 I sent a letter to *Una Voce* lamenting the fact that the otherwise excellent two-volume set of *Papua New Guinea's Pictorial History*, compiled by Dianne McInnes (Pictorial Press Australia, 2015) had one notable omission. This was the lack of any mention or photo of naval activities in Papua New Guinea other than what happened in German New Guinea in 1914. The Defence Force section in Volume 1–Pre-1975 is mostly Army with some Air Force, and the Defence section in Volume 2–Post-1975 is mostly Air Force with some Army. The Royal Australia Navy was indeed the 'silent service' in these two volumes.

There are many naval-related activities that might have qualified for inclusion in these two volumes, for example, the Manus war crimes trials and other developments on Manus Island towards the end of and post-World War II. Although most media reports and other commentaries (including myself in this article) invariably talk about naval activities occurring on Manus Island, this is not strictly correct. Most naval activities are located at Lombrum on Los Negros Island separated from the larger Manus Island by the narrow, and barely navigable even by canoes, Loniui Passage. The main airfield of Momote is also on Los Negros. Lorengau, the capital of the Manus Province, is situated on Manus Island.

A photo of the huge US naval base at Lombrum and the shipping in Seeadler Harbour might have been included in the pictorial history—there's plenty available on the web and elsewhere. I was also surprised that the coverage of World War II in Volume 1 has no mention of the coastwatchers. Eric Feldt's book, *The Coastwatchers*, is not included among the sources for this volume.

It was not the same case, however, in James Sinclair's comprehensive two-volume history of the military in PNG, *To Find a Path* (Boolarong ▶



Publications, 1991). Volume I of this publication, sub-titled 'The Life and Times of the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment', is as the sub-title suggests, wholly focused on land operations, the PIR and the Army in PNG except for some references to the coastwatchers.

Chapter 7 of Volume II of *To Find a Path* does, however, have an excellent chapter on the RAN in PNG and the establishment of the Maritime Element of the PNG Defence Force ('the PNG Navy'). It accurately traces the history of the navy in PNG from the RAN's takeover of the American naval base on Lombrum, one of the most powerful naval bases in the world at the end of World War II, through to the establishment of HMAS *Tarangau* as the Australian naval base at Lombrum; its utility as an oil fuel installation supporting Australian naval deployments to East Asia in the 1950s and 1960s; the formation of the PNG Division of the RAN in 1951; to the deployment of five Attack-class patrol boats to the RAN in PNG in the late 1960s as the nucleus of what became the Maritime Element of the PNG Defence Force when it was established in 1971. Initially mainly crewed by Australian officers and men, the process of localisation of the patrol boat crews proceeded apace. In 1974 Lieutenant Karrie Frank of the PNGDF took command of HMAS *Ladava*, the first fully PNG-crewed patrol boat.

The patrol boats of the PNG Patrol Boat Squadron

had a busy existence. They patrolled extensively through PNG's waters occasionally arresting foreign fishing boats, mainly Taiwanese, fishing illegally in PNG's declared fishing zone, as well as making occasional goodwill visits to the Solomon Islands and Federated States of Micronesia. In 1969, HMA Ships *Aitape* and *Ladava* made a voyage of 231 miles up the Sepik River to Ambunti and, in 1970, these same two patrol boats ascended the Fly River to Kiunga. An account of their passage up the Sepik is available in the film, *Navigating the Sepik*, at: <http://navy.gov.au/history/videos/navigating-sepic>

In addition to the patrol boats, the RAN transferred two landing craft heavy (LCH) of the Balikpapan-class to the PNGDF Maritime Element. These were HMA Ships *Buna* and *Salamaua*. These two ships, along with sister ships from the RAN, have made a significant contribution to nation-building in PNG, regularly moving equipment and stores around the country, including PNGDF engineering plant up and down the Fly River. Their several voyages up the Fly in the early 1970s played a part in opening up the Fly to river transport associated with the Ok Tedi copper mine. Their work was acknowledged in a seminal article 'The Fly River: A Continuing Hydrographic Challenge', by P Done in the *International Hydrographic Review*, Monaco, Vol. LXII (2), July 1985.

On 14 November 1974, the RAN's direct involvement in PNG came to an end with the decommissioning of HMAS *Tarangau* and the five patrol boats of the PNGDF Patrol Boat Squadron and the two LCHs of the PNGDF Landing Craft Squadron. The ships were then recommissioned as HMPNG Ships. The Maritime Element's bases at Lombrum and Port Moresby became known simply as 'PNGDF bases' in line with general PNGDF practice. A few years ago, they were recommissioned as HMPNG Ships *Tarangau* and *Basilisk* respectively (the RAN's previous facility in Port Moresby had been HMAS *Basilisk*). Giving a ship's name to a shore base follows the practice of other Commonwealth navies that trace their origins back to the British Royal Navy.

As James Sinclair describes in *To Find a Path*, the RAN continued to operate in PNG waters after the formation of the Maritime Element but only by agreement between the PNG and Australian Governments. These operations included work by RAN minesweepers to clear minefields laid during World War II and extensive hydrographic surveys of PNG waters by RAN survey ships.

Any lack of attention to naval activities in PNG is somewhat surprising. PNG is clearly a major maritime state with a very large maritime domain under its jurisdiction. Over time, activities at sea have played an important role in the history of the country both in peace and war. During World War II, major amphibious landings took place in PNG, including at Aitape, near Lae, at Momote on Los Negros, at Jacquinot Bay on New Britain and at Cape Torokina on Bougainville. Significant battles took place at sea in or near PNG waters, including the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay and of course, the battle of the Coral Sea.

For those interested, the Naval Studies Group at the University of NSW in Canberra has produced a series of podcasts discussing notable events in the history of the RAN. The third series of these podcasts include three discussing the RAN's involvement in PNG through to and after PNG's Independence. They are available at:

<https://www.unsw.adfa.edu.au/podcasts/podcast/ran-papua-new-guinea>

I have a personal stake in correcting the record with regard to the RAN in PNG. I had two long postings with the Navy in Papua New Guinea—at HMAS *Tarangau* from mid-1967 to early 1970,

including being in command of HMAS *Aitape*, the first PNG patrol boat (later HMPGS *Aitape*), followed by three years at Murray Barracks in Port Moresby late 1971 until late 1974—so the absence of any coverage of naval activities in works on Papua New Guinea's history is very disappointing. During these postings I travelled extensively in the country, including the voyage up the Sepik mentioned above. Over my two years in *Aitape*, we visited most coastal missions, most coastal government stations and many plantations both around the coast and in the islands.

This is the first part of what I plan to be a two-part article. The second part will trace the more recent history of the 'PNG Navy'. ♦



TOP: HMAS *Tarangau*

(<https://www.navy.gov.au/media-room/publications/semaphore-hmas-tarangau-manus-island>)

BELOW: HMAS *Aitape* alongside the wharf at HMAS *Tarangau*, c.1970

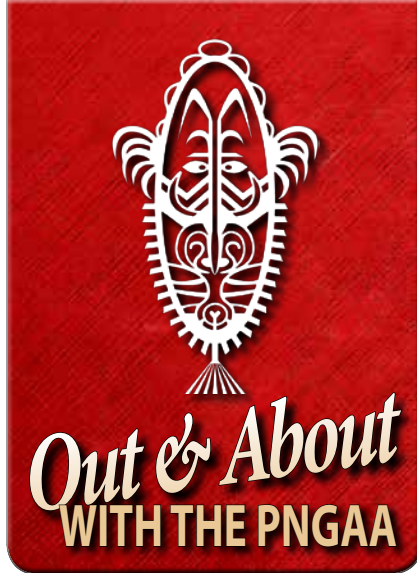
(<https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-aitape>)

OPPOSITE: An overview of Manus and Los Negros Islands captured on a 1950's Christmas card

(<http://https://www.navy.gov.au/history/base-histories/hmas-tarangau>)

OVERLEAF: HMAS *Aitape*

(<https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-aitape>)



Featuring reviews of events, festivals and reunions held throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea, and attended by PNGAA members—if you and your friends or other members have been ‘out & about’ recently, please send your reviews and photographs to editor@pngaa.net

PNGAA Melbourne Christmas Luncheon 2019

We had a fabulous turnout for our Christmas Lunch on 23 November at Caulfield RSL, Elsternwick with over forty attendees. Our guests included PNGAA members, members from the PNG Wantok Group & Committee as well as family and friends.

Some of our attendees travel long distances to attend our luncheons! Bibra, who is on the committee for PNG Wantok was very surprised when she discovered that sitting next to her at the table was none other than her old teacher from Sogeri High School, Lance Taylor, who just happened to be visiting Melbourne from Morocco. That was not planned I assure you!

To add to the surprise Eric Schell, a first-time guest at our luncheons, brought along his splendid and colourful photographic collection from PNG—delighting Lance and Bibra

with photos of Sogeri from the 1970s. We all have our stories and memories from our time in PNG and the best part is sharing them at our get-togethers.

Special mention must go to the Cleary family who have attended our lunches from the beginning and bring such fun and joy, not to mention good company. Many thanks to Michael Cleary who assisted me with the Raffle Draw and I must say I think he enjoyed entertaining the crowd!!

Many thanks to our Guest Speaker, Lindy Gilham (*pictured at the rostrum below left*) who gave a presentation on her father, Leigh Grant Vial. Lindy also brought along memorabilia owned by her father including his US medal—the Distinguished Service Cross and Bar. This is the highest award a non-US citizen can be awarded.

Lindy was also accompanied by her daughter, Tanya Olek, who we welcomed on the day as a new PNGAA member.

We also thank Brian Vial for giving us an update on the Leigh Grant Vial Memorial Scholarship, which has now been in operation for over six years. Brian has worked tirelessly on this project and is currently also collecting school books for children in the Highlands. Please see his article on page 34 of this issue.

Finally, I wish to thank the ‘PNGAA Vic Team’ for their supreme efforts in organising our events and ensuring that all runs smoothly on the day. Big call out of thanks to Geraldine Tyler, Chris Warrillow, Peter Milburn, Louise



and Vince Garetto, Scott Adams and Vicki Long.

We hope to see you, your family and friends at our luncheons in 2020. All welcome!! And don't forget, if you know of anyone who has a story to tell or an interesting current or historical PNG–Australia topic, then drop me a line.

YANA PELIKAN

E: coordinator@pngaa.net

Film Viewing at National Film & Sound Archive of Australia, Canberra

On Friday, 22 November 2019 a small but enthusiastic group of people with connections to PNG met at the National Film & Sound Archives (NFSA) in Canberra to view a small selection of home movies, videos and documentaries relating to PNG from the quite extensive collection held in the NFSA.

Sara Turner, PNGAA's Event Co-ordinator, negotiated with NFSA staff and chose an overwhelming choice in the number of items which we could view on several TV monitors across several rooms. We were a diverse group, consisting of former church, plantation and government/business workers along with family, and between us all we chose material depicting the gold rush, the Highlands' Show, some cultural activities and newsreel items. Because of time restrictions we chose material with a duration of less than thirty minutes. Some material had sound but the majority of what we viewed was silent.

It is an extensive collection with intriguing titles begging to be explored.

I thank Sara and NFSA staff for giving us a glimpse into a valuable and fascinating resource

documenting many aspects of life and place in PNG from the early days of exploration to more recent times.

Some of us met over lunch/coffee and if we were local to the capital region, all promised to try and meet again in 2020.

ALISON CRAWLEY (Fardon)

2019 Kiap Reunion

Held at the Kawana Waters Hotel on the Queensland Sunshine Coast on 10 November 2019.

It was a joyous gathering at the Kawana Waters Hotel that day, but the years have taken their toll, for the fact is that many of us who attended our last reunion, did not make it for this one. And we have to face it, some of us won't get there for the next one either. But the memories of those who have left us, linger on in friendship, dignity and camaraderie (*please see overleaf*).

One notable absence was that of Bill McGrath. For years he attended our reunions, together with his Pacific Bookhouse display of rare Pacific books and manuscripts, and he will always be remembered for the way he helped

other kiaps and other expats to publish their memoirs and other stories about their experiences in PNG.

A total of 192 kiaps and others registered as attending this reunion but, of course, there were some who arrived late or otherwise did not register, so we can comfortably claim that attendance was at least 200. Not our greatest attendance, which was 307 in 2013 not counting stragglers but, of course, our ranks have thinned since then as the attached casualty list does indicate.

Not to worry though, because we welcomed into our ranks a contingent of 'the second generation'—sons and daughters of kiaps who served with us.

Among these were Jack Battersby's daughters Liane and Jennifer, Keith Dyer's daughter Lyn Chambers, Lee Clayton's son Ben, John Colman's son Robert and daughter Jo, Noel Fowler's daughter Jane Gleeson, and granddaughter Sian, Graham Hardy's son Michael, Ross Johnson's son Warwick, Bruce Laming's son Andrew, Tim Terrell's daughter Holly, Jack Scott's ▶



Photo taken in late afternoon by Harry Redmond, these kiaps were still sitting there after 8 pm when everyone else had gone home. (L to R) Bob Hoad, Chips Mackellar, Ian Thompson, Peter Salmon, Dave Young, Dave Agg, John Blythe, and Graham Watts. If you had to give this photo a name you might call it 'The Remnants of the Reunion'.



son Shannon, Frank Haviland's daughter Shann Withnell, Ian Skinner's son Peter, Jim Jansen's son Mosely, Don Kennedy's son Clyde, Jim Kent's son Lockie and daughter Lita Leaver, and Jim Sinclair's sons David and Mike.

We were honoured by the presence of all those second-generation kiaps, and also by the attendance of their accompanying spouses upon whom we will bestow the title of 'second generation kiap-in-laws'. They were all very welcome also.

Also, honouring us with their attendance were departed kiaps' wives Joan Colman, Estelle Laming, Lois Logan, Jan Sinclair and Teresa Wade. We always welcome them. Also attending the reunion were

three chalkies, two co-op wallahs, one kuskus (clerk/administrative officer), one medast (medical assistant), and would you believe, a few missionaries. All very welcome.

And we also welcomed those who came from far away to be with us that day. Elsewhere in Queensland is far enough, but it is a long haul from Canberra, NSW, Victoria and elsewhere interstate, but we are grateful to those who made the journey to attend this reunion.

Of course, the main feature of these Sunshine Coast kiap reunions is their informality. No speeches, no finishing time, no set menus, and no specific guest of honour, and the reason for this is because we honour everyone who attends. It is a magic formula, which draws together old friends some of whom might not have seen each other for fifty years or more.

Some have never met before, but at these reunions catch up with those whose footsteps they might have followed from one posting to another.

Names that only ever appeared on staff posting lists before, come alive at these reunions. More kiaps

In solemn memory of those kiaps, who went on their Last Patrol between the 2017 and the 2019 Reunions

May their beers be cold, and may their camaraderie continue up there in that big Patrol Post in the Sky.

John Adams, Stewart Armstrong, George Ball, John Bartlett, Bill Bloxham, Gus Bottrill, Bill Brand, Geoff Burfoot, Mick Carroll, Brian Dodds, Dan Duggan, Des Fanning, Dave Henton, Rick Hill, Garry Keenan, John Land, Geoff Littler, Des Martin, John Maurice, Bill McGrath, Alan McLay, Graham Pople, Dick Reid, Don Reid, Doug Robbins, John Russell-Pell, Frank Sabben, Rod Saker, Keith Sandell and Graham Taylor

come together at these reunions than they ever did in PNG. This is because in those days we were all scattered across the country and its far-flung islands. And it is only at these reunions forty-five years after Independence, that we are all together at the same place on the same day, rekindling the same memories, with the same reminiscences.

That is the magic of these reunions, which we don't sully with set seating or boring speeches.

Our thanks go to the organisers, Peter Salmon, Bob and Heather Fayle, and Denys and Helen Faithful. Denys is now ninety years old, bless him, and bless all the other ninety-year olds who also attended the reunion like Jack Battersby, and others whose age we dare not disclose.

We also thank the management and staff of the Kawana Waters Hotel for hosting our reunion and for the welcome renovations made since our previous reunion.

These reunions only occur once

Three Go to Ballandean



Staunch PNGAA members Andy Grainge, Chris Warrillow and Fred Pratt put aside their drinks to face the camera on 24 October 2019 at Ballandean, QLD

every two years, but by the marvels of modern technology, kiaps keep in touch between reunions through three superb media platforms. One is the online blog, *PNG Attitude*, created by former PNG chalkie Keith Jackson ably assisted by kiap, Phil Fitzpatrick, and another is the ex-kiap website created by Peter Salmon.

Then there is the journal of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia. This journal was for many years known as *Una Voce*, but now has the name *PNG Kundu*. Ever since PNG Independence and long before the advent of modern digital technology this journal published the stories of those who had stories to tell of their experiences in PNG, and to this day it still does.

Like the other two platforms, this journal continues to keep us up to date with events in PNG both current and historical. All three platforms give us the opportunity to publish our memories and reminiscences. Thank you to all who produce these media marvels for us, and with special thanks to Peter Salmon for helping with this report.

We also thank Norm Richardson and Mike Slough who took photos of this reunion and published them on Peter Salmon's ex-kiap website, for all of us to see. You can find these photos in the section named 'Reunions, Social Functions & Individual Catch-Ups'. In the subforum 'Past Re-Unions Photographs', under the headings '2019 Kawana Reunion 10 Nov 2019'. There is one set of photos by Norm and three by Mike.

And finally, the organisers wish to thank everyone who attended this reunion and for making it such a great day.

May there be many more reunions like this one.

CHIPS MACKELLAR



PNGAA Canberra Christmas Lunch

Forty people (*many pictured at right*) attended the PNGAA Canberra Christmas luncheon on 14 December 2019 at the Pavilion on Northbourne, and what a happy day it was with everyone moving around and chatting—thanks to John Reeves for organising.

Graham Watts was visiting from Darwin and Norma Dewick (née Hill), who was evacuated from Wau before WWII, but had spent much time in Rabaul before that, was delighted to hear familiar names from her youth. Youngest attendee was Marian and Deveni Temu's delightful grandson, Mosese with mum Salote. Any members with the PNGAA DVD, *Kiap: Stories Behind the Medal*, have been privileged to hear Salote's superb singing.

With special thanks too, to Deveni Temu and the PNG Proveta Singers of Canberra, who not only enjoyed sharing the Christmas lunch, but provided some beautiful singing which inspired others to join in. We had songs in *Motu*, starting with the popular Raisi Raisi, songs in *Tok Pisin* and also *Hiri*. It was tremendous fun. Deveni later commented that 'To hear Tim Terrell speak Motu to us was so moving. It was a joyous occasion'. It truly was.

ANDREA WILLIAMS





PAUL OATES

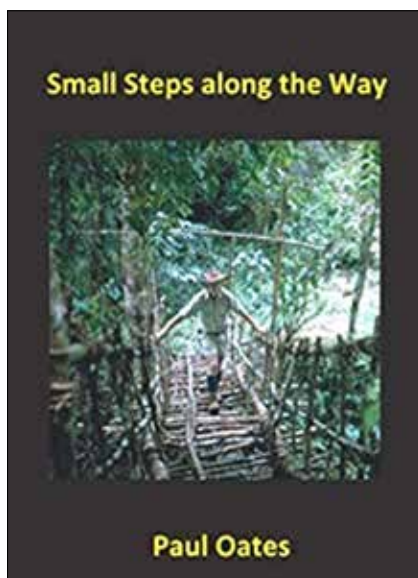
Small Steps Along the Way

Phil Fitzpatrick recently had the pleasure of editing a new book by Paul Oates about his experiences as a kiap in the formative and crucial years just before independence:

What struck me about Paul's account are the similarities with my own experiences as a kiap. I don't doubt that other old kiaps will make the same observation.

This commonality of experience is important to record, both in its mundanity and in its exceptionalism.

The simple day-to-day activities of a kiap in Morobe can speak volumes, not only about how and why things were done but also about the overriding motives of the Australian administration and the ordinary Papua New Guineans



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—please send your articles and photos to editor@pngaa.net

who were affected. The detailed descriptions Paul offers are unique to that period and will never be repeated. They range from building his own house and garden to the construction of bridges, roads and airfields.

In every account there is a palpable sense of innovation and making do under an austere and ignorant hierarchy in Canberra.

There is also a profound sense of two disparate groups, expatriates and locals, working together hand-in-hand for a common cause.

Paul's easy-going relationships with the people he's working among shines through his writing in a way that every old kiap and PNG *lapun* will recognise. There is also drama and tragedy in the book. The loss of a good friend in an aeroplane crash is particularly heart rending.

So too are the last days of his wife and family in Port Moresby when their house was broken into and all their possessions stolen, followed by the stoning of their car by a bunch of drunken raskols.

Then there is the inevitable problem of fitting back into Australian society. Not many old kiaps managed that transition well, myself included.

Despite all this, Paul's account, in all its manifestations, is related with a sense of humour and a firm appreciation of the ridiculous.

PHIL FITZPATRICK

ISBN 978-1707077939

Amazon.com AU\$22.03; 241 pages

eBook AU\$2.91; Self-published.

ED: A search on the PNGAA website for 'Paul Oates' will highlight a number of his contributions to our quarterly journal over many years. They make wonderful reading.

BOB LAWRENCE

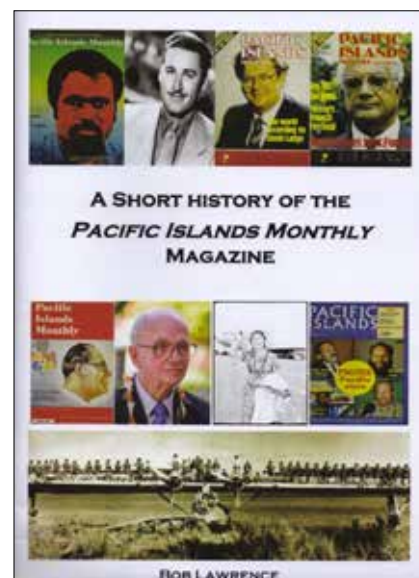
A Short History of the Pacific Islands Monthly Magazine

The *Pacific Islands Monthly Magazine (PIM)* was a brave publication started in The Great Depression that over the following seventy years became the 'Pacific Bible'.

Now Bob Lawrence, an ABC news journalist who was among a group of ABC staff seconded to the National Broadcasting Commission of PNG in the 1970s, has written a history of the magazine which closed in June 2000.

PIM informed colonies and nations that span a third of the globe from Torres Strait and PNG through Micronesia to Hawaii, the Samoas and Norfolk and Cook Islands, Nauru, Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia.

PIM told all the great stories of the Pacific, from the desperate people who fled the Depression to find gold in New Guinea, to the



horrors of WWII, the searches for the missing Americans Amelia Earhart and Michael Rockefeller, to the Pacific's con-men and carpet baggers, the people searching for lost 16th-century Spanish galleons, and the growth of the major Pacific trading houses and shipping and airlines that connected the remote countries as they grew to independent nations, plus the supportive stories of new nations as they achieved independence.

It also told of average people: planters, public servants and others, plus governments and their edict, plus such international notables as Errol Flynn, James A Michener, Margaret Mead and Raymond Burr.

The New Zealand founder/editor, RW (Robbie) Robson, in 1914 saw the lack of cross information between Pacific settlements. In his own words Robson said that in 1930 he '*decided that a career in metropolitan daily newspaper journalism held no future for people after middle age. I was forty-five. It was a gamble.*'

Robson and his later long-term editors, Judy Tudor, Stuart Inder and Gus Smales and dedicated staff and contributors championed, through *PIM*, the Pacific and its emerging nations and the creation of bodies such as the South Pacific Forum.

In the mid-1950s, Robson bought the *The Fiji Times* (Suva) newspaper. This and *PIM* were attractive to the Herald and Weekly Times Group. When the Murdoch empire swallowed HWT there was no place for *PIM*. *PIM* operations were sent to Suva and under a trail of short term, under-resourced editors it wilted and was suddenly closed in June 2000, one month before its seventieth anniversary!

What remained was the *PIM* Lunch started in the 1960s because



expatriate Australians employed in the Pacific were always keen to share food and drink with the Sydney-based *PIM* reporters they had met when those reporters travelled the Pacific, often on Burns Philp or WR Carpenter ships. To maintain productivity, a weekly lunch time and place was set and published in *PIM*. Pacific parliamentarians, planters and the general Pacific public regularly broke bread with the *PIM* crew.

That lunch survives.* In 2017, the book's Sydney-based author, Bob Lawrence, delivered a eulogy to his friend, the recently buried former *PIM* editor, Gus Smales. Afterwards, a luncheon said she never realised the 'Pacific Islands Monthly Lunch' she enjoyed so much was linked to a magazine called the *Pacific Islands Monthly*. Bob figured someone should inform the world of this brave magazine and its devoted staff!

Bob first met *PIM* in November 1974 soon after arriving in Port Moresby. Sean Dorney, his colleague, gave him a copy of the latest *PIM*. Bob was hooked. In July 1975, Bob became journalist-in-charge at Rabaul. He found hundreds of back copies stacked in the news room which became his night time reading. On leaving

to work in Parliament House, Canberra, Bob became a long-time subscriber.

A Short History of the Pacific Islands Monthly Magazine is for sale for \$25.00, a further \$5.50 post and handling charge is added for mailed copies.

There are only 100 copies. Available from Bob Lawrence at boblaw@bigpond.net.au.

**PIM* lunches are held at the Law Society Dining Room, 170 Phillip St, Sydney NSW on the first Friday of each month, February to December. All welcome. Contact Tony Gentile 0412 303 757.

JAMES SINCLAIR

Up the Creek

Edie Creek and the Morobe Goldfields

Reading books is no longer a regular habit of mine. However, there was no hesitation when asked to review James Sinclair's recent work, *Up the Creek—Edie Creek and the Morobe Goldfields*. My thoroughly enjoyable years in Papua New Guinea (1986-1998) were greatly enriched by reading a collection of James Sinclair earlier books. James Sinclair was a respected kiap who became better known as an author describing the unbridled adventurism and romance of colonial European incursions and efforts to unearth and exploit the riches hidden in the heartland of Melanesia. The 1978 classic, *Wings of Gold*, was my favourite, and along with the three volumes (1986-1991), *Balus: The Aeroplane in Papua New Guinea*, adorned my coffee table from the time when I was employed as a geologist based in Wau, Morobe Province, for New Guinea Goldfields.

Since the 1927 construction of a sloping grass airstrip, Wau town has been the service centre for gold mining operations at Edie Creek. Whether it was the ►



1930s, the 50s or the 1980s, the trials and tribulations described in *Up the Creek* of travelling the Wau to Edie Creek road up Mt Kaindi were remarkably similar. I too have travelled from Wau to Edie Creek, most memorably with world renowned geologists, Hal Bonham and Dr Richard 'Dick' Sillitoe. This road has inadvertently bonded us all through the decades. Travelling to Edie Creek from Wau was always an exciting experience, especially as one neared this mystical place of fabulous riches and history. *Up the Creek* certainly captures that excitement in the narratives of the numerous operators that have toiled in The Creek.

Sinclair, as per his previous books, has conducted meticulous research with sources mainly from colonial records, both official and private. He acknowledges that the pioneering phase of the Edie Creek story is told in the words and reflections of whites. Sinclair was dismissive of native recollections in order to chronicle the past. Whilst stating that native recollections were not ignored, they certainly weren't incorporated as he viewed illiterate people's recollections as prone to distortions, exaggerations and wishful thinking. Which is a pity for the book. The Biangai people of the upper Bulolo valley near Wau certainly can recall the 1927 'Kaisenik Affair' as that of

a massacre with the additional punitive destruction of villages and food gardens by miners from Edie Creek sparking generational mistrust in the often-well-intentioned colonialists.

In the year when Arthur Darling first discovered gold in the Bulolo River near Koranga Creek, the district was still German New Guinea. Well before swarms of gold prospectors were on the scene, documented German expeditions into the Wau valley which the Biangai people also recall include, famed geographic explorer and adventure writer Otto von Ehlers in 1895 and the 1913 Pilhofer and Flierl expedition which laid the foundation of Lutheran mission influence in the district. These widely known, prewar German achievements exploring the Wau valley were not mentioned in the book.

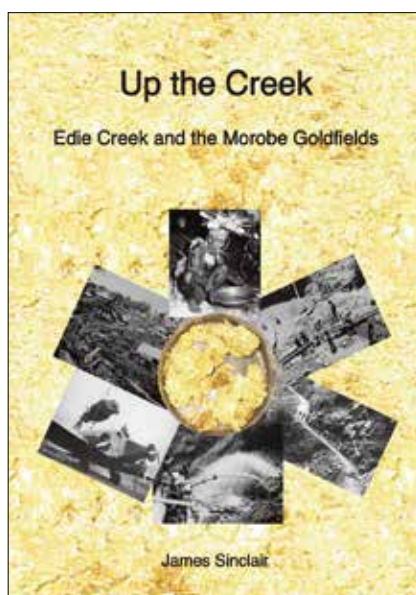
Despite being illiterate at the time, the local Biangai people had recorded their encounters with these German explorers through the handing down of stories. The Biangai people vividly recall the first outsiders into the upper Bulolo valley as being from the fateful Otto Ehlers expedition of 1895 walking in from Salamaua. The influential 1913 Pilhofer Lutheran

Missionary expedition came in via the Bulolo river headwaters from the Garaina direction.

Famed Hollywood actor Errol Flynn made it up to Edie Creek during the early 1930s. Like many others he failed to find his fortune. But perhaps his presence on The Creek was worthy of more than a passing comment about his teeth.

Personally, I enjoyed reference in the book to characters that I had encountered during my time in PNG, including Ian Fraser, Tony and Keryn Flynn, Trevor Neale, Lubo Todarov, Jack Da Costa, Dick Cooper, John McLeod, Kaias Paro, John Reid, Peter Hollingsworth and Stuart Mayfield. Other readers of *Up the Creek*, particularly those who've done time in Morobe Province, will no doubt enjoy similar flashbacks to the many characters mentioned throughout the book.

Up the Creek is a valuable source of information describing the life and times of colonialists and entrepreneurs who were drawn to the Morobe Goldfields, in particular Edie Creek, throughout the 20th Century. The book is slightly Anglocentric in overlooking the renowned German expeditions into the Wau district prior to the arrival of prospectors in the 1920s. Likewise, the extent of the intelligence Cecil Levien gleaned from German official records to position himself to ultimately create Bulolo Gold Dredging was similarly ignored. Bulolo Gold Dredging remained listed on the ASX until 1966, thirty-four years after Levien's death. Whilst the recollection of many of the 1920s' prospectors makes riveting reading, to dismiss the indigenous stories of contact with the early miners handed down to the present day Watut and Biangai people of the area is akin



to telling only half the pioneering story. The Biangai people were in particular impacted in the early days of Edie Creek as the miners and their carriers brought all supplies from Salamaua through the Biangai territories which escalated into Edie Creek miners massacring civilians at Kaisenik in 1927.

MICHAEL THIRNBECK

Published by Pictorial Press Australia, 2019, in association with Arthur Jones, OBE

ISBN: 978-1-876561-15-4

Hardback, 324pp, limited numbered edition of 650 copies; RRP: A\$45.00 + \$15.00 p&h within Australia.

Includes maps, B/W and colour photos; index, bibliography, etc. Available from Pictorial Press Aust—E: robert@pictorialpress.com.au (07) 3716 0104

ED: The author, James Sinclair, accepted a commission to write a history of Edie Creek from the beginnings to the present, with the emphasis on the individual miners involved, not the large companies. Readers who are interested in comprehensive coverage of early German and Indigenous roles, related to the goldfields, are referred in particular to the author's seminal work, *Golden Gateway* (1998) and *Not a Poor Man's Field* (2010) by Michael Waterhouse.

BETTY LEE

Right Man•Right Place•Worst Time

Commander Eric Feldt:

His Life and His Coastwatchers

The title of the book sums up the extraordinary contribution that Commander Eric Feldt made to the early war effort in New Guinea and Australia. He was the man on the ground responsible for organising the coastwatching network of experienced island people in mostly remote locations who waited, watched and reported enemy movements.

Australia owes a significant

debt of gratitude to Eric Feldt and his coastwatchers for their exploits, as recorded in Eric Feldt's famous book, *The Coastwatchers*, published in 1946.

How did the story unfold? A great-niece who had never met her uncle and who virtually knew nothing of his New Guinea experiences, courageously set out to write his biography.

The book introduces the ancestors who emigrated from Sweden in the 1870s and traces their lives until 1913. A family diary recorded the pioneering life inland from Ingham (North Queensland). Eric, the last of eight children, was born in 1899 and not only learnt English but also Melanesian *Pidgin* English from islander cane farm workers.

In 1913, after winning a scholarship, Eric entered the newly-established Australian Naval College. It was at this college that two other cadets, namely Rupert Long and Hugh Mackenzie, would later become pivotal to his life in New Guinea. In fact, the list of that pioneer naval class reads of a *Who's Who* in Australian naval history.

After serving in WWI and

completing an intelligence course, Feldt was posted to HMAS *Melbourne* with subsequent cruises of the Pacific introducing him to New Guinea. In 1923, his New Guinea life began.

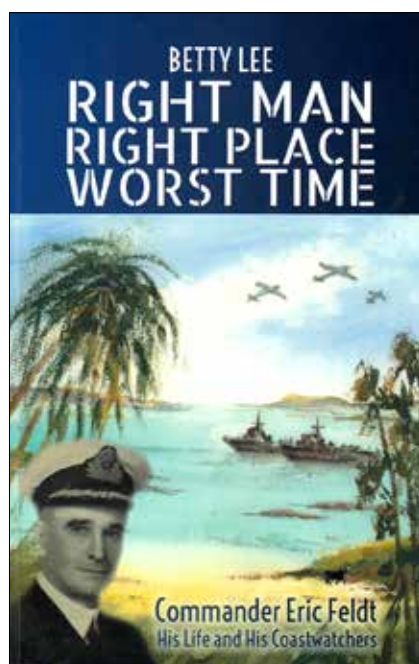
The early chapters describe life as a patrol officer (kiap) and his experiences in the Sepik, New Ireland, Bougainville, Madang and Morobe Districts—culminating in his appointment as the Mining Warden for the Morobe Goldfields in 1935 residing in Wau.

It is in the Sepik, that he further develops his fluency in Melanesian *Pidgin* and the reader is introduced to the general situation at the time of supply and communication issues, tribal fighting, patrol organisation, tropical diseases and treatments. The indicators of beginning health problems that dogged him throughout his later life are also described.

The ten-year period of his life, from 1928 to 1939 is a veritable encyclopaedia of early settlers, pilots, patrol officers, missionaries and miners. Key players in WWII events, such as JK (Keith) McCarthy, Hugh Mackenzie and Jack Reid are introduced.

The early restructure of Naval Intelligence is described, with Rupert Long (pioneer naval college graduate) being a key person in this process. Late September 1939, Eric Feldt was again in Naval Intelligence as a staff officer. He then began the process of recruiting coastwatchers.

However, the story that evolves is concerned with coastwatching during 1942–43, including escapes after the fall of Rabaul (of which many accounts have been written) and the mini-Dunkirk organised by JK (Keith) McCarthy and sanctioned by Feldt. Also included, is the escape of Hugh Mackenzie, the then Intelligence Officer in ▶





Rabaul (pioneer naval college graduate), who then played a prominent role coastwatching in Guadalcanal (as well as in the re-occupation of Rabaul in September 1945).

The following chapters are mainly centred on Bougainville and Guadalcanal with descriptions of how problems of supply and the demise of several key coastwatching personnel added to the strain on the organisation during 1941–43.

The strategic importance of the Guadalcanal campaign with details of the effective reporting by coastwatchers of Japanese enemy movements, ultimately led to their defeat, in the main, by American forces.

The key roles of the main players, Jack Read, Paul Mason, Hugh Mackenzie and Martin

Clemens are highlighted. The significant contribution made by Sgt Yauwika and his bravery in these events is acknowledged. A mention is also made of the role played by commandos of the No. 1 Independent Company, referred to as 'AIF'.

Whilst on a visit to Guadalcanal in March 1943, Eric Feldt suffered a heart attack and was relieved of his duties. Eventually, he was invalided out of the service. The final chapter describes Eric's retirement life and his participation at the dedication of the Coastwatchers' Memorial Lighthouse in Madang. The idea for a lighthouse memorial for coastwatchers was conceived by Rupert Long and the story of its conception to fruition is contained in this chapter with a detailed account of its dedication, significantly on 15 August 1959.

The author is commended for adding to family history, a biography of her great-uncle, Eric Feldt. Sourcing of information requires detective work, especially when it involves intelligence organisations and especially with research being undertaken many, many years after the events described. To this end, the author relies heavily on the original 1946 edition of *The Coastwatchers*.

The major strengths of the book are in the early family history of pioneering life in North Queensland. Add to this, Eric's early naval history, patrolling in the Sepik and the early WWII structure of the coastwatching organisation. The author's descriptions of tropical diseases, for example, scrub typhus, and treatments prior to modern drug usage are detailed.

The book, however, is somewhat marred by inconsistent recording and incorrect spelling

of people's names (some significant), place names and some geographical features.

There is a 'looseness' in the recording of dates and additionally there are some errors in the citing of references, and the index is also incomplete. The bibliography, whilst adequate, has several omissions that would have given a more comprehensive insight into the character of Eric Feldt as well as clarifying some events.

Unfortunately, the recordings of *Pidgin English* in the book are disappointingly amateurish. These cast doubt on Eric's reputed *Pidgin* fluency as recorded in the biography. It would have been far better to have used the proper *Pidgin* syntax followed by an English translation.

Overall, this is not a book for the serious researcher, but for those interested in family history in general and as an introduction to New Guinea following WW I.

PAT JOHNSON

Note: PNGAA reviewer, Pat Johnson, is the daughter of a prewar kiap and WWII coastwatcher. She has a life-long interest in coastwatching history.

Boolarong Press, 2019
ISBN: 9781925877267 (paperback), 330 pages. Available from Boolarong Press (\$32.99 plus postage), Amazon Books (\$36.80 free shipping).

KEN FAIRWEATHER *Farewell White Man*

A great read with lessons galore for those who care about Australia's nearest neighbour ...

There is one unfortunate early flaw in Ken Fairweather's rollicking tale about his exceptionally full and interesting life in Papua New Guinea. He is far too modest in describing himself as a 'B-grade larrikin'. When I started out as a cadet journalist with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in the early 1970s—about the same

An item from the Bragge Collection, presented to James Cook University

A clay figure
collected from
Dimiri village along
Yuat River,
East Sepik
Province.

Please turn to
page 26 for more
about this
collection

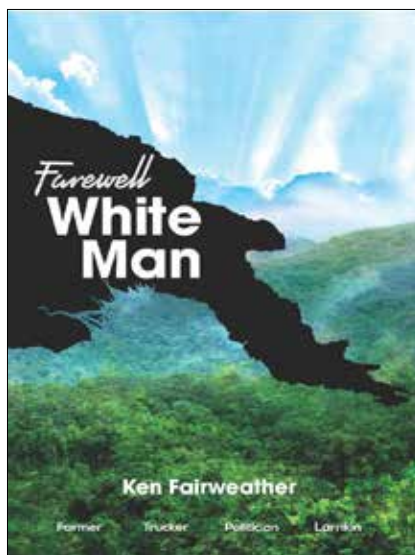


time that Ken arrived in PNG—journalists were graded. After finishing a cadetship, you became a D-grade. Then could work your way up through C, B, A and, if you were any good, right at the top were the ‘Super A’s’. Without doubt, Fairweather is a ‘Super A-grade larrikin!’ And I say that fondly.

Ken’s book, *Farewell White Man*, is dedicated to ‘all those expatriates who supported and participated in the growth of Papua New Guinea as a nation, especially those whose adult life began in the ten years leading up to independence’. I arrived in Papua New Guinea as a young man in 1974, the year before independence, to work on secondment for the then newly created National Broadcasting Commission of Papua New Guinea. I ended up spending twenty years in PNG and got to know Ken and many of the characters he writes about.

My life has been pretty interesting. But if you want to read about a life lived to the maximum, pushing the boundaries at every turn, making fortunes in boom times and going bust in bad, getting elected to the PNG parliament as a white man—not once but twice—and definitely making a difference in an adopted country that has flummoxed so many, then this book is for you.

What I particularly like is Ken’s honesty and his sense of humour. He writes that, and I agree with him,



Australia’s retreat from Papua New Guinea at the time of independence was *done very badly* with almost *no planning whatsoever*. At the time, he was working with the government’s Transport Department and he makes the wry comment that *Dunkirk was better organised!* A lot of good people who Papua New Guinea could not afford to lose were offered golden handshakes to return to Australia.

There was a lot of uncertainty and Ken writes that: *Port Moresby during this time reminded me of an Australian cattle sale-yard: dusty, windy and with everybody waiting to be sent home to a new place or the slaughterhouse. It was heavy air for a lot of people.* Fairweather is one of those who stayed, went into the trucking business and took up PNG citizenship.

He is withering in his condemnation of recent

Australian policy towards Papua New Guinea. *Australia has its post-independence relations with Papua New Guinea all mixed up. Billions of dollars have been wasted. Firstly, Australia was a poor colonial power, a reluctant one; a lazy one, too. It didn’t even build a brick building ... Secondly, they refuse to listen to Australians who live in Papua New Guinea; it’s like they are ashamed of us. Thirdly, they continue to send young women or inexperienced men to represent Australia in a paternalistic society. It is not sensible to do this.*

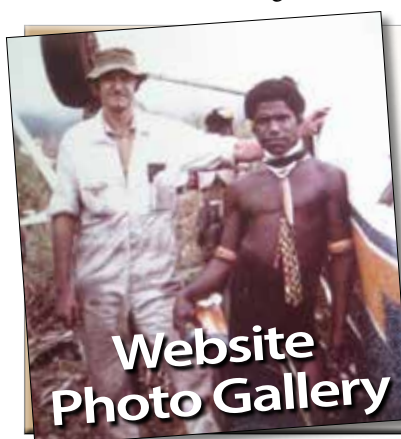
Fairweather is more than happy to share his forthright views: *The public servants today are soft, molly-coddled, aircon seeking, government-car-driving sooks—and overpaid, too. Bank lending policy?—This is bullshit!* The asylum seekers on Manus? *Economic refugees!*

But the best lines in the whole book, I think, are these: *You walk around with a hand grenade up your arse and just when things are going well, you pull out the pin. Papua New Guinea and I have this in common.*

**SEAN DORNEY,
AM, MBE, CSM, FAIA**

ABC’s Foreign Correspondent (Pacific and PNG) and a Non-Resident Fellow with the Lowy Institute for International Policy

Published by author, Cairns, 2019; Paperback, 323 pages, colour illustrations; Price: \$39.99; Postage in Australia: free



PNGAA member, former aircraft engineer and now author, Robert (Bob) Shaw spent sixteen years in Papua New Guinea. Back in Australia, he flew thousands of kilometres on jetliners crewing as a ‘flying spanner’ and rescuing numerous stranded airliners from outlying Pacific islands.

This, plus his travel through sixty-eight countries, has inspired his writing. Many of his experiences are fictionalised in his books including *Island in the Sky*, *Fire Cult* and *Cross of Goa*.

His website now has a photo gallery with many rare photos of PNG plane crash retrievals and the Smoked Corpses of Aseki. Browse it at: www.tropicanapress.com.au



BENHAM, Bill

d. 22 November 2019, aged 86

Elga William 'Bill' Benham was born on 29 July 1934 in Poole, Dorset, England to Arthur Daniel Benham and Phyllis Elizabeth Wheeler, the youngest of four children.

Sport was his main interest during his school years, and in 1952 he entered the British Naval School as an artificer apprentice. However, he decided that the navy was not for him and, with some difficulty, managed to obtain a discharge, going on to join the British Army, where he saw service in Malaya. While the army offered various options, Bill took his discharge in 1955, and decided to try his hand as a rubber planter in Malaya, where he worked for Cicely Estates. Ever-adventurous, his career then led him to the wilds of Papua New Guinea, where at the age of twenty-three he was appointed as a cadet patrol officer.

His first posting was to Mt Hagen in the Western Highlands District. He carried out accompanied patrols and later solo patrols, and was made OIC of the police and the prison due to his army background.

He was later posted as a cadet to OIC Tambul Patrol Post, some forty kilometres from Mt Hagen and in the centre of Papua New Guinea, some 2,022 metres high.

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—please send any information for this section to editor@pngaa.net

There was no road access and the station was supplied with goods by plane from time to time. Bill's main job was building roads with a 'quota' of local men to help using axes, picks and shovels, reporting the weather three times daily for air traffic control, building the first school and the annual census.

It was at Mt Hagen that Bill met Patricia Hoff—an attractive blonde school teacher and a graduate of the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music. On departing from the Western Highlands Bill transferred to Lae as a uniformed Sub-Inspector of Police where Patricia was teaching. They married in Lae on 28 May 1960, and they had three children—Guy, Kim-Maree and Mark.

In 1962 after the completion of a correspondence course in law, anthology, geography and government, Bill attended the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) for a one-year course. He then undertook a degree and later enrolled for a B.Economics at Queensland University. After eight years of on and off study, Bill was awarded a B.Econ in 1970, and in 1971 he again attended the ASOPA and was awarded a certificate in Local Government.

In 1963 Bill, as a junior officer, was posted to Port Moresby where he patrolled the Kokoda Trail and was given the onerous responsibility as the Returning Officer for the Central District & Port Moresby for the 1964 first House of Assembly Elections.

In June 1964 with the outbreak

of the President Johnson Cult on New Hanover, a small island in the New Ireland District, Bill was posted as the Officer in Charge at the Taskul Patrol Post. He was accompanied by a thirty police riot squad with shotguns and tear gas. Bill's direct orders were to re-establish the Local Government Council. Bill successfully completed this, received an early promotion to Assistant District Officer and was granted a year full-time study at the University of Queensland.

Later Bill served as an Assistant District Commissioner, Kavieng, New Ireland and Bereina, Central District—both good postings and where he held a number of positions including District Court Magistrate, Coroner, Deputy Land Titles. His last field posting was Acting Deputy District Commissioner to 'clean up' Kimbe, West New Britain and deal with an alleged Cargo Cult on offshore islands. In March 1979, Bill was invited to join the National Planning Office, later the Office of Programming & Co-ordination in Port Moresby.

With Independence on the horizon, and the breakdown of law and order, Bill took a senior position with University of Adelaide as secretary of the Planning Committee. His efforts to effect change were recognised by promotions to Assistant Registrar of Planning & Coordination, Acting Registrar, Secretary Executive Committee, Acting Registrar and Deputy Registrar. Bill declined to apply

for the position of Registrar on the ‘grounds he knew where all the bodies were buried and the university needed someone new’.

In August 1982, Bill resigned to become the first CEO of the Royal District Nursing Society (RDNS), and over a period of ten years Bill successfully changed the administrative and IT structure of the organisation. On his resignation Bill was appointed a Life Member of the Foundation.

During this time Bill also remarried. He married Arlene on 28 January 1989. Together they had a happy marriage and travelled overseas to Singapore, Malaysia, Bali, USA, Europe and the UK. Sadly, Arlene eventually suffered from dementia and, as Bill was unable to care for her any longer at home, she went into care, and passed away on 13 February 2013. After RDNS Bill then set up Corporate Consulting and his first clients were RDNS and Community Support Inc. & Community Support Scheme—the latter contracted Bill to conduct a thorough review of the organisation, after which he was promoted to Executive Officer and Company Secretary, and he considered this the most rewarding job in his various careers.

Bill is survived by his son Guy and three grandchildren, Jessica, Sam and Stephanie; his daughter Kim-Maree and two grandchildren, Lachlan and Erin—all of whom he was very proud of.

BLADWELL, Murray **d. 13 November 2019, aged 78**

Murray was a man of little complaint and of big deeds. After a short career as a health inspector in Queanbeyan, NSW, he had gone to Papua New Guinea in 1963 to train as a school teacher on the Rabaul-based E-Course. I met him in Goroka when we were both

starting our teaching careers. We shared the same accommodation in Kundiawa when we taught there. We began a little newsletter together, which kicked off a blend of education and communication in both of our early careers and forged a friendship as strong as friendship can be.

Murray went on to a distinguished career as an educator. He gained his master’s degree in Canada after leaving PNG and rose to a senior position in the Queensland Education Department. After early retirement he worked for some years as the Queensland branch manager of my PR firm, Jackson Wells Morris.

Murray was an organiser, a fixer and a builder—and he was benevolent with all of that. It seemed there was little he could not achieve if someone was in need. He was a great friend of PNG and, along with the late Terry Shelley, a great mate of the Chimbu people.

He performed miracles for Rotary, for which organisation he was a stalwart, and wherever he went things would grow around him. Truly a man who left the world a better place than when he found it.

I am deeply sad for his immediate family, Joan and his children Anton and Krissa, his brother Peter and the grandchildren he loved so much.



Murray Bladwell

And I am deeply sad for all of us—the many of us—who were pleased to be called his friends that this good man has left us. Left us just as quietly as he lived amongst us. Not worrying us about the process. Just getting on with it.

KEITH JACKSON, AM

In 2016, following a visit to Australia, Francis Nii wrote the following about Murray Bladwell:

After Murray graduated [from Rabaul’s Malaguna Road E-Course] in October 1963, he was posted to Goroka where—with the school year nearly over—he did temporary work at the District Education Office.

In 1964 Murray was first assigned to Siokie Primary T School, out of Goroka along the Bena road. He had no sooner arrived than he found himself in the middle of PNG’s first national election for the House of Assembly. Murray told me he felt privileged to act as an assistant returning officer under the watchful eye of esteemed kiap, Colin Campbell who, with his team of polling officials, trekked through villages in the Henganofi open electorate on a five-week patrol.

Later in 1964, Murray was posted to Gon Primary T School, now known as Gon Kambua Primary School, in Kundiawa in the Simbu Province. There he served under Ray Andersen, a dynamic educator and prominent contributor to PNG’s education development.

Through 1964 both Murray and Keith Jackson taught in Kundiawa and collaborated in publishing the *Kundiawa News*, a small newspaper with a circulation of about 200.

During leave in Australia at the beginning of 1966, Murray married Joan, also a teacher. On return from leave in early 1966, Murray ►



and Joan were posted to Chuave Primary T School, as it was known back then: Murray as headmaster and Joan as kindergarten teacher. Murray told me that he and Joan had a wonderful three years working with a highly supportive local community in developing the school facilities, including the famous library. [Murray was also the driving force of the Chuave rugby league team.]

In 1970 they were posted to Port Moresby where Murray worked in the Publications Branch of the Education Department and Joan was posted to Hohola Demonstration School—was later seconded to the Department of Health to develop a health curriculum, and jointly author health teaching guides for PNG schools.

In 1971 Murray joined Wal Capper and Fay Goodman on the much-loved radio program, *Teachers' Teatime*, a joint initiative between the ABC (now NBC) and Education Department. This program was

With Sincere Apologies

Unfortunately, the photograph on page 56 in the December 2019 issue of *Una Voce* was incorrectly captioned as Denis Charles Samin. The correct caption is William 'Bill' McGrath, whose vale was in the adjacent column.

aimed at teachers throughout PNG and was broadcast at morning teatime so that all teachers could gather in their staff rooms to listen to it and discuss the issues raised. *Teachers' Teatime* enabled Murray to travel widely throughout PNG interviewing teachers and educationists.

At about the same time Joan was appointed a lecturer at Port Moresby Teachers College, later lecturing in early childhood learning at Port Moresby Medical College. In 1972–74, Murray was seconded to Education Headquarters in Konedobu where, prior to Independence, he was executive officer of the National Education Board.

Upon his return to Australia in late 1974, Murray joined the Queensland Department of Education. He later earned a master's degree in education from the University of Alberta in Canada and had an impressive career in Queensland education, retiring as Assistant Director of Planning and Policy in 1999.

Murray and Joan told me they have very fond memories of their years in PNG and in particular the warm-hearted village people, parents and inquisitive children who made teaching such an enjoyable and inspiring experience. Murray and Joan still felt a strong attachment to PNG.

There are many Australians like Murray and Joan who are true friends of PNG and who spent much of their life serving PNG and its people, sometimes in the most difficult conditions. Although most left PNG around forty years ago, they still have special attachment to our country. As the late David Wall said, *'You can take the man out of PNG but you can't take PNG out of the man.'*

FRANCIS NII

CROYDEN, Barbara

d. 17 October 2019, aged 97

Following is an edited extract from the eulogy given by her son, Ron, at her funeral in Sydney:

My mother, Barbara Croyden, was born on 31 December 1923 in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, as Szeto Yuk Yoong—the eldest daughter of Thomas Szeto ah Ying and Anne Maria Nui Sin Szeto.

The Japanese occupation in Rabaul took place in 1942 when the war broke out. Like many others my mother and her family became prisoners of war. They were housed in a compound and she was put to task sewing for the Japanese army.

For three years, as the war continued, the family lived under Japanese jurisdiction near Namatanai. They survived the war living on meagre diet of sweet potatoes, peanuts and snake beans.

After the war the family resettled in their old residence where extended families of the Szeto clan also lived. The family worked hard to rebuild their lives and financial circumstances. Mum opened a barber shop in the family trade store. She was self-taught and learnt through her experience of cutting her siblings' hair with hand clippers. During this time, she made a lucrative income for the family and contributed over 200 pounds so that her family could buy land and roofing iron.

Mum was also a dressmaker. She was self-taught from making clothing for her siblings. She also sold jelly at the trade store.

During this time my father was a warrant officer in the Military Police and he met Mum through the barber shop. According to his driver, Dad had a haircut every day until Mum succumbed to his perseverance.

Whilst there was a strong connection between Mum and

Dad, inter-racial marriages were not common and they encountered many obstacles from both the white and Chinese community. It was a challenging time for Mum as her parents were initially opposed to the relationship. But she was unafraid and together Mum and Dad wore them down and won their support.

Mum and Dad shared many similarities. They were both born the eldest in their family supporting younger siblings. Both were resourceful with good work ethic and together they had a happy marriage and were successful in their endeavours.

My mother gave birth to Shirley in 1947 and myself a year later. Sadly, my sister became ill and passed away at the age of three and a half years. This was a deeply trying time for Mum and Dad and I can only imagine that it must have been difficult for them to move forward. But, happily, Silvia was born a year and a half later.

Silvia and I shared many memories throughout our young lives. A memory that is embedded for both of us was the weekly drive down the dusty bumpy road to Kokopo and beyond as our plantation was being developed from jungle.

On these long drives, you never knew what was going to happen! There were mosquitos, the car was regularly bogged and Mum, Silvia and I would do our best to push the car out of muddy roads. Occasionally, Mum would also drive an old army truck with rations and supplies for the labourers.

Whilst Mum was a beautiful small and unassuming woman, she was tough and would happily take on any challenge.

She was always nurturing and caring, and selflessly always

put Dad, Silvia and I first, and we always felt secure and loved. She made our clothes, cut our hair and was always proud to present us well.

It was important for Mum to stay connected with her family and Chinese heritage. Mum took us everywhere—visiting relatives or going to the local market. She was an excellent cook and it meant a lot to her that we grew up speaking Chinese and eating Chinese food. Frequently, this meant that she cooked two meals so Dad could have his steak as well!

In addition to being a wonderful mother and astute business woman, Mum also had many other interests. She was a great musician playing the piano accordion and harmonica, and I remember her practising songs on our verandah. She also took an interest in yoga and became a teacher of a weekly class in Rabaul.

It was hard for Mum and Dad when Silvia and I left for boarding school in Australia, but Mum wrote us letters every week to remind us that she was thinking of us.

In 1994 Rabaul was flattened by a volcanic eruption so retirement



Barbara Croyden and her son, Ron

in Sydney followed. This was a blessing in disguise as the family was finally together in Sydney and this is when the Sunday family dinner tradition began. Sunday nights were shared over a roast, chow mein and baked spaghetti—all served in one sitting!

In 1999 Dad passed away and Mum lived alone in her Mosman unit for many years. She was highly independent and could work her way around the Sydney public transport system. She enjoyed her daily walks, regularly attended church and always made time to see her family and friends.

In her later years Mum's health slowly deteriorated and she moved in with Silvia. She enjoyed the time at Silvia's and she continued going on seniors' outings and social gatherings weekly. In the last few years she lived at St Joseph's at Kensington where she was well cared for by the nursing staff and nuns including her sister, Sister Betty.

Over the last few weeks as I reflect on Mum's life, I realise how much of an impact she has had, not just on our own family, but also on many others that have been fortunate enough to embrace her friendship and love.

Mum, we thank you for being our inspiration and loving mother.

RON CROYDEN

DUGGAN, Daniel Joseph **d. 16 October 2019, aged 83**

Danny grew up in Victoria, in Bendigo and Ballarat, where he attended St Patrick's College. In 1957 at age twenty-one he left a bank job to join the PNG public service. He began as a cadet patrol officer in Bougainville, and some eighteen years later also ended his PNG career in Bougainville.

In between, he served in Pindiu, Aseki, Kabwum, Lae, Mt Hagen, ►



Goroka and Kikori. In Bougainville, as District Local Government Officer just prior to Independence, he successfully set up the Administration's first ever Special Purpose Local Authority. Sadly, this was soon to disappear when the Bougainville 'troubles' began. On leaving PNG he bought a farm in Northern NSW where for some years he ran Murray Grey cattle, grew avocados and ran an apiary. He later worked as an Aboriginal Community Adviser at Glen Innis and Bidyadanga, WA.

Later still he joined the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), travelling Australia widely and serving in Lismore and Bourke. He retired to the Gold Coast area in 1999. Dan's first wife, nursing sister Ann Kelly, died in Lae in 1966. He married welfare officer, Judy Peters, in Kieta in 1975. He leaves two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren.

JUDY DUGGAN

MONTGOMERY, David, AM **d. 17 November, 2019 aged 82**

David Montgomery, AM, was an unsung hero to many who worked alongside him in agriculture. Hailed as an entrepreneur, he dedicated much of his life to innovation, significantly in the potato industry.

Formerly of Kimbe, Grabben Gullen, David passed away at his home, Bingie Banis, at Bingie on

the south coast on 17 November 2019, aged eighty-two.

At a Grabben Gullen Hall memorial service on 26 November, his son Scott said he would 'never be forgotten and that his legacy is well recognised by peers and friends and by the horticultural industry in which he played a significant role to drive change.'

He said his father had been an inspiration and a family man, and shared stories of early business ventures from his years at The Scots College, Sydney (1947–52) to his education at the Hawkesbury Agriculture College (1953–55).

It was during this time he met his future wife, Gillian Marks. They celebrated their fifty-eighth wedding anniversary in September. Mr Montgomery wrote to her from Papua New Guinea during his employment by the Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries (Department of Agriculture). His experiences were recorded in the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia journals, *Una Voce*, titled 'A Didiman's Diary'. The Montgomerys moved to Grabben Gullen in 1966 with sons Scott and Mark; daughter Jenni was born in 1967.

David began Southern Tablelands Potatoes, producing



David Montgomery, AM

summer vegetables (broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, leeks) and certified seed potatoes for supermarkets and fast food outlets. They also grew crops, traded in fat lambs, and bred cattle.

It was about this time that methods to speed up potato seed propagation developed and Technico, with Peter Waterhouse, began. Technico's chief executive, Sachid Madan, said Mr Montgomery had seen something in Technituber technology that others had not. The company is now a leading seed potato company with global operations, providing food safety and better farm incomes, he said.

The technology had been adopted by the International Centre for Potato and given rise to new technologies. 'The seed David planted in Crookwell nearly twenty-five years ago has spread across the world, benefiting millions of consumers, and rural communities,' he said.

As a founding member of the Horticultural Research and Development Cooperation, Mr Montgomery served for six years on its board. In 2000, he was recognised for his contributions to the development of PNG.

He was the Crookwell Potato Association executive director 1988–2009, and its public officer until his passing. In the 1990s, he received a Vocational Service and Enterprise award from the Rotary Club of Crookwell. In 2006, he was the first Australian honoured by the World Potato Congress in Boise, Idaho, USA. In 2013, Governor-General Quentin Bryce, AC, awarded his AM for significant service to the potato industry and agriculture.

In 2004, he began work on the Australian Rural Innovative Centre, and in 2014 this concept became

the Australian Agricultural Centre, which is planned for Crookwell.

He is survived by his wife Gillian, children Scott and Jenni (Mark passed in 1983), seven grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

CLARE McCABE,
Crookwell Gazette

RIDGES, Jim

d. 8 January 2020, aged 81

Jim was tireless and prolific in documenting the history of the New Guinea islands particularly, and was revered for this and his generosity in sharing his research. He also wrote a number of historical articles for PNGAA. Jim passed away at Kavieng Hospital.

British-born Jim moved to the then Territory of Papua and New Guinea in 1963 to join the Department of Public Works, later Primary Industries. He worked in most PNG provinces but, eventually, settled in New Ireland in 1977. In 1983 he was Member of the New Ireland Provincial Government (Kavieng town) and from 1986–1992 he was Ombudsman.

His research on events about the two world wars in the islands was meticulous and ongoing and he never lost his drive and excitement in discovery. He was a reliable connection for the 'bifors' of New Ireland and New Hanover and anyone with an interest in history.

Jim will be forever remembered for his part in organising a memorial in Kavieng to those lost during the Japanese occupation. Together with Margaret Henderson (author of *Yours Sincerely Tom*) and Erice Pizer he set about honouring the civilian population in WWII New Ireland, including from the indigenous and Chinese community.



Jim Ridges

In July 2002, about forty people travelled from Australia for the unveiling of the plaque by Australian High Commissioner Nick Warner. The event was filmed by ABC for the *7.30 Report*, and Jim was interviewed for the story (see the following link: <https://vimeo.com/355499752>).

The occasion has special poignancy for our family. It was during this visit that my brother Gordon found the lost jungle grave of our great-grandmother, Phebe Parkinson, near Namatanai.

MAX UECHTRITZ
and the PNGAA Archives

SUTHERLAND, Robert A

d. 22 August 2019, aged 95

Bob was born and raised in Sydney and during that time enjoyed surfing, fishing off the Manly wharf and getting around on his pushbike. He climbed onto the roof of the chook house before he could even walk, and his mischievous nature and sense of adventure earned him the occasional clip around the ear from the local constabulary in his youth. Unsurprisingly, he climbed trees to watch Don Bradman bat and, later in life, it wasn't unusual to see him at the top of a radio mast.

Bob was amongst the first

schoolchildren to walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge when it first opened. It was during his school years that he developed a keen interest in radio and electronics, and he decided to head off to radio college in Sydney. Joining the army soon after, he was off to war in New Guinea—of course, serving in the signals corp. His interest in radio remained with him all his life both in a working capacity and as a hobby in the form of amateur radio.

When the war was over, he stayed in PNG, based in Rabaul, where he made his life for the next twenty years. A very clever and resourceful technician, his work took him all over the country on all sorts of adventures. The bachelor life ended in his early forties when Aida went to PNG to visit friends. She stole Bob's heart and before long they were married in Rabaul, making their home in Port Moresby, where children Hilary and Jamie (deceased) were born.

Bob worked for the Australian Petroleum Company (APC), Commonwealth Department of Works (CDW) and Posts and Telegraphs (P&T) in Port Moresby. As an amateur radio operator, he held the call sign VK9BS/9 and then P29BS. When the family 'went finish' to Western Australia at the end of 1983 he took the call sign VK6ABS.

He enjoyed nothing more than a beer and a chat. Those who were lucky enough to spend a bit of time with him, either on the air or in person, enjoyed some fascinating stories and his witty, dry sense of humour.

Suburbia didn't suit Bob though. His love of the bush and space was too strong, so off he went to find his patch of land in Gibson, near Esperance, where he was able to proudly have a significant ►



antenna farm and live happily for the next twenty-seven years with frequent visits back to Perth to stay with family. It was in 2013 that Bob finally agreed to pack up and move back to Perth to live with his daughter, Hilary, and family for his final years.

When someone asked Bob how he was, he often replied that when he checked the obituary section in the paper that morning, his name wasn't in it and so he was doing just fine. He was grateful for every day, making the best of things no matter what and enjoying the simple pleasures in life. He is sorely missed after passing away peacefully following a short illness.

Bob is survived by wife Aida, daughter Hilary and her husband Richard and their four children.

HILARY AVES

TONER, Jim, BEM

d. 13 November 2019, aged 89

Jim led an adventurous and eventful life. He was born in London and described himself as a Scottish Cockney. During WWII he was evacuated from London during the blitz. After the war he spent part of his national service with the occupying army in Germany.

As a keen Hash House Harrier Jim wanted to watch the performance of the British athletes at the Melbourne Olympics but, as a trainee teacher, he couldn't afford

the airfare. Being a resourceful young man, he visited Australia House and convinced the staff that he was just the type of immigrant that Australia needed. So, in 1956, Jim became a Ten Pound Pom. He had no intention of staying permanently in Australia, but he was still here sixty-three years later.

After working as a tram conductor and a labourer in a sugar factory he still hadn't saved enough to get home, so he applied for a clerical position in PNG which he reasoned was part of the way to England.

Jim worked in Konedobu and also as District Clerk in both Mendi and Rabaul. He was later Executive Officer for the Australian National University's Research Unit in Port Moresby and then, later, in Darwin.

During one leave from PNG Jim and a couple of his mates drove an ex-London taxi from India to England. During a later trip from Darwin to England to undergo experimental laser eye surgery (not then available in Australia) Jim received news of Cyclone Tracy. Flying to Sydney on the first available flight he located his wife, Mary, asleep in the Qantas lounge with all she had managed to



Jim Toner



I'm an inveterate reader of obituaries, and realise I'll never read my own.

But I do hope I'll find a kindly sub-editor! *JBT*

salvage—their dog and a briefcase full of water-logged university notes. Jim was allowed to return to Darwin and was later honoured with a British Empire Medal for his efforts in the clean-up.

In Darwin, late one night, Jim received a call from the police asking him to come in and identify someone they had in custody for trying to break into the library. Evidently, he had presented a five-pound note when asked for proof of identity. Jim went to the police station where he was advised that the old bloke had gone to sleep and been locked in at closing time and was in fact attempting to break out, not break in. Jim identified the 'old bloke' as Dr HC Coombs, Visiting Fellow at the ANU, and advised the police that as ex-Governor of the Reserve Bank that was, in fact, 'Nugget' Coombs' signature on the bank note.

I first met Jim in Mendi in 1957 and we kept in touch over the years and met up numerous times in Port Moresby, Darwin and Perth.

Jim kept in touch with many of the people he had met in PNG and was a member of a very extensive network, especially of ex-kiaps he had worked with. News of his death reached me via someone in Darwin contacting an ex-kiap in Hobart, who told Chris Warrillow in Melbourne who passed it on to me in Perth. Jim is survived by his wife Mary.

Farewell old friend. It's been good to know you.

PATRICK DWYER

ED: Jim was a regular contributor over many years to the PNGAA quarterly journal with his 'Notes from the Northern Territory'. Everyone looked forward to his friendly humour and laconic style. Well known and highly regarded, Jim was part of a unique era that contributed so much to the Australian development of Papua New Guinea. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with Mary Toner.

WESTON, Inez Lesley **d. 26 May 2019, aged 98**

Inez, together with her husband Tom, lived in PNG for nearly forty years after WWII and remained staunch supporters of PNG. Inez lived in Canada and was actively in touch with the PNGAA Management Committee until not long before she passed away. In her ninety-sixth year she responded to then editor, Belinda Macartney, when Belinda had sent out a request for editorial assistance. Inez wrote:

... I finished a couple of degrees ending with an MA at Victoria University in 2006, and over a lifetime have helped many people with their quite different work. Also had a deep interest in birds. To my surprise just recently someone drew my attention to a web site under Inez Weston Ornithology I didn't know existed—so much for privacy in one's life! Yes, I still read things critically and pick up the slightest error. And immediately think I wish I could have checked all that first ... So, I hope you get someone like me but much younger as I am sure there are many about as it is such a pleasure doing it.

Inez's husband, Tom, was a founding member of the Bird Society in Port Moresby and this interest spanned their lives and took them to many countries. Inez

loved keeping up with the bird news on various sites and often provided relevant comments based on her wealth of experience. The following is a tribute written by her son:

Our mother Inez Weston sadly passed away at the wonderful age of ninety-eight years. She left us very peacefully early on Sunday, 26 May in hospital in Duncan, Vancouver Island. Continuing to be strong and never giving up she managed to live independently until the end.

She was an incredible person in so many ways and we will remember the feats she achieved—a Master's Degree in the History of Art completing an incredibly insightful thesis on Isabel D'Este the Patron of Art; many published papers on ornithology, a subject that was close to her heart; territorial life in New Guinea bringing up her family with her husband, Tom; constantly travelling; a classical record collection; hiking; nature and, of course, a wine judge in British Columbia. She was, as anyone who knows her would be aware, a very strong person, a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother and certainly loved life itself.

Having started her degree at seventy-nine and completing her Masters at the age of eighty-three she has left us with a very powerful message that it is never too late to do anything.

Her husband, Tom, passed away in January 2001 and his valedictory appeared in *Una Voce*, June 2001. They had two sons, Don and Neil. ♦

ZEHNDER, John O

d. 1 February 2020, aged 93

John spent many years conducting field work in PNG as a petroleum geologist with BP and APC/Oil

Search. He became famous at the age of twenty-eight in 1954 when he and fellow geologist KM Llewellyn were escorted by ADO Des Clancy and members of the RPNGC on an expedition that took the party from Lake Kutubu to the Strickland Gorge and to Kiunga. En route, beyond present day Tari and Koroba, they mapped the Lavani Valley, the floor of which is over 2,300 metres above sea level. The popular press of the time dubbed it a new 'Shangri-La'.

Many of the geological structures mapped by John have been drilled since the 1980s and some of the discoveries made are now still producing oil and gas for export via pipelines to the coast for loading onto large tankers.

Geologist turned journalist and author, Rick Wilkinson, who has written a book on the history of Oil Search, remembers John from the time of his managing directorship of Santos in the early 1970s and second association with Oil Search in the 1980s. He was of great assistance to Rick's research, particularly in identifying and describing photographs taken in the early fifties, some of which will be in the book planned for publication in early 2021.

Rick describes John as 'being a lovely, gentle, generous, quietly-spoken bloke with a dry satirical wit'.

John's funeral service was held at North Ryde, NSW on 8 February 2020. He is survived by his wife, Janne, his daughter Rosemary and her children, Natalie and Angus, and son Peter.

CHRIS WARRILLOW

ED: Members may like to read about the 1954 patrol in two articles titled 'Recollections of Des Clancy' in the March 2007 issue of *Una Voce*, pages 24–26, located on PNGAA's website at: <https://pngaa.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Una-Voce-2007-March.pdf>



Australian Annual History Teachers' Conference

The annual conference of the Australian History Teachers' Association was held in Adelaide in early October. Margaret and Scott Henderson conducted a workshop on civilian war deaths and the *Montevideo Maru* tragedy. The presentation was warmly received by the participants, some of whom had personal connections to the *Montevideo Maru* and civilian war deaths in general.

There was consensus that the *Montevideo Maru* disaster

The Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society was established in 2009 and integrated into the PNGAA in 2013. The society 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* on 1 July 1942. If you have news for the members, please contact Andrea Williams on admin@memorial.org.au

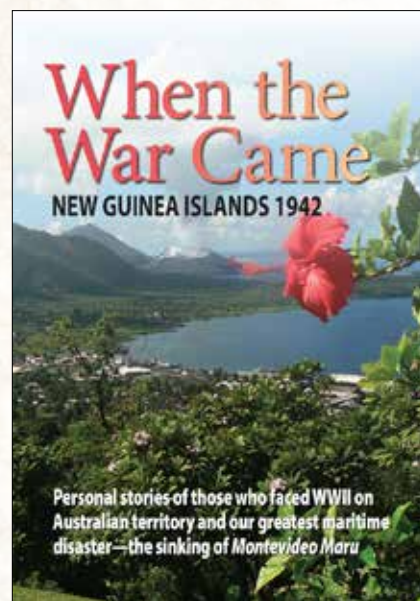
deserved more attention, that civilian war deaths were largely ignored in Australian ANZAC ceremonies, and that the plight of the families of civilian war deaths did not seem to have been a government priority.

There was also interest in including references to these issues in high school curricula.

What's On?

The 78th Anniversary

This will be held during the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, on 30 June 2020. A lunch will also be held that day to remember the tragedy of WWII in the New Guinea islands. Please email Andrea Williams (admin@memorial.org.au) if you will be attending and for further information.



When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942

Published to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Rabaul and the sinking of *Montevideo Maru*, Australia's greatest maritime disaster.

This book is dedicated to all the civilian and military men, women and children caught in the lead up and aftermath of the Japanese invasion and occupation of the New Guinea Islands in 1942, who either died in, or had their lives severely disrupted by WWII.

It 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



**Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Memorial,
Australian War Memorial, Canberra**

Photo: Andrea Williams

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.

Cost: \$60.00 + \$20.00 p&h within Australia. To purchase, please fill in the details in the **Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form** at the back of this issue or order from our website: www.pngaa.org/site

Hidden Story of an Australian Disaster

This interview, with the author of *Abandoned and Sacrificed*, Kathryn Spurling, came to our notice recently: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/programmes/delineapacific/audio/201849225/the-hidden-story-of-an-australian-disaster-montevideo-maru>

Proposed Rabaul Commemorative Tour, 5–15 September 2020

Expressions of interest are needed for a tour which is being organised by PNGAA member, John Reeves, together with Rabaul Historical Society and Rabaul Hotel. The tour will commemorate two iconic dates in Rabaul's history—The 75th Anniversary of the surrender of Japanese forces in the South-west Pacific held on HMS *Glory* in Rabaul 6 September 1945, and the anniversary of the twin eruptions of Tavurvur and Vulcan volcanoes on 19 September 1994. Please see page 7 of this issue for more details.

Does Anyone Recognise the Men in the Photo?

The photo (*above right*), showing the men in front of the New Guinea Club, Rabaul, is from the Woolf



(née Smith) Family Collection courtesy Malcolm and Ros Gibb. If you have any information, please contact Andrea Williams on email admin@memorial.org.au

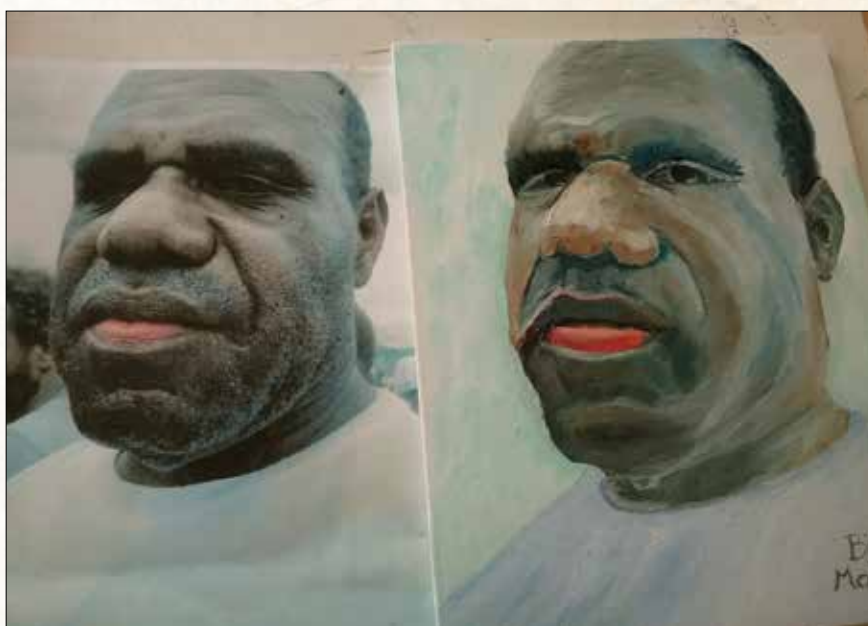
Norma Dewick, who lived in Rabaul and Wau prior to WWII, writes:

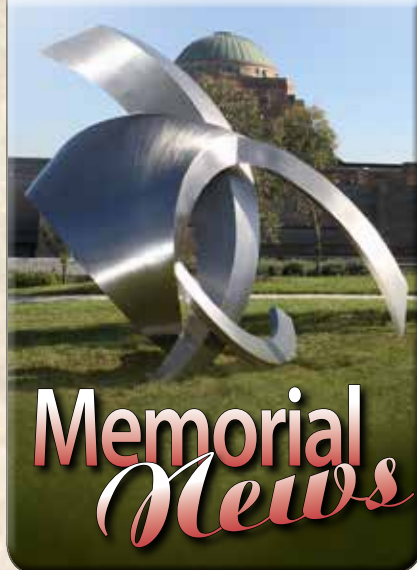
My son, Ian, and I visited Rabaul in September 2019 and had the most wonderful experience I never thought possible. Susie McGrade and Albert made everything happen in the most wonderful possible way, and for this I thank them.

We were made most welcome. Ian was taken on a three-day hunt. I was taken to Duke of York Islands by Albert—we went to various villages and, of course, to the market. We came home exhausted!!!! Albert decided that I should be known by the name 'Big Momma', and have a song dedicated to me—a great honour.

I have painted a picture of Albert (*below*).

On a previous visit to Rabaul it was suggested that I return and be the Queen of the Frangipani Festival, which was another great honour. ▶





The parade was exceptional, and what a shame very few people know about the great event.

My friends know about it now because I have 'rattled on' to them about my visit. I am still on a 'high' after three months.

What a place!

The Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson, AO, and the Coastwatchers

Jim Burrowes tells us that Dr Brendan Nelson, who retired as director of the Australian War Memorial on 31 December 2019, was kind enough to write a foreword about the coastwatchers, and the Pacific War in general, for inclusion in his website, *The Last Coastwatcher*.

This can be viewed by clicking on the link:

<https://thelastcoastwatcher.wordpress.com/foreword/>

Lawrence George Barko, VX22707

Laurence Barko (*below*) was born in Bayswater, Victoria, on 25 August 1916 to James and Ethel Barko. He enlisted at Caulfield, Victoria and was posted to the 2/22nd Battalion in July 1940. He embarked for Rabaul on HMT *Katoomba* on 12 March 1941. He is listed as missing following the invasion and occupation of Rabaul in January 1942 and his cause of death is stated as gangrene.

If anyone has any knowledge of relatives, or other information, please contact Andrea Williams on email admin@memorial.org.au



WWII New Guinea Islands Education Package

This package 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 the massacres at Tol, Waitavelo and Gasmata in early February 1942, and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* on 1 July 1942. It is an outstanding resource that complements the Australian History curriculum for secondary students and can be taught in one or two lessons. All information is available online through our Rabaul and Montevideo Maru website: <https://www.memorial.org.au/Education/index.htm> Do you know of a school near you which might be interested? With Anzac Day approaching, schools are finding this story offers a new perspective for them. Let your local school know your history!! Encourage their library to purchase the book, *When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942*, as a school resource! It is available through the PNGAA: <https://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/06/14/pngaarmvm-book-when-the-war-came-new-guinea-islands-1942-available-from-1-july-2017/>





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(See details on pages 3, 11 and overleaf)

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KIAP

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Sunday, 3 May 2020—11.30 am to 3.30 pm

\$40.00 per person—Venue: Hornsby RSL, 4 High Street, Hornsby

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

.....
.....

If possible, I would like to be seated with:

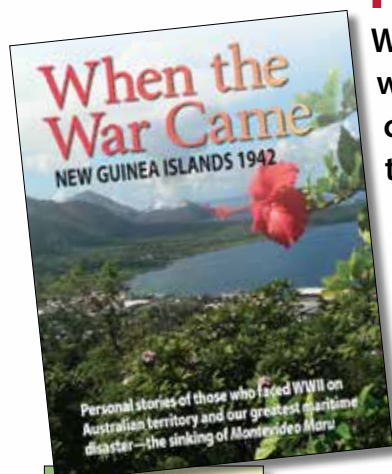
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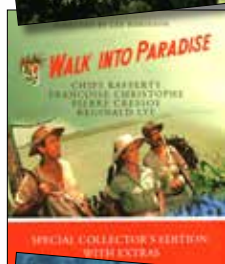


With every purchase you make, PNGAA attracts funds for ongoing work of the Association through the generosity of these writers and creators. To purchase any of these items, please fill in the details in the Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form on the previous pages or order from our website: www.pngaa.org/site

WHEN THE WAR CAME: New Guinea Islands 1942

Published to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Rabaul and the sinking of *Montevideo Maru*, this book is a collection of personal stories, memories and reflections that enhance the history of civilians and soldiers living in Rabaul, Kavieng and the New Guinea islands at the outbreak of the Second World War.

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



WALK INTO PARADISE: Collector's Edition

Starring Chips Rafferty and our own Fred Kaad, this unique film showcases fabulous scenery, and an authentic sing-sing with thousands of fantastically adorned tribesmen and women. Surplus funds generated from the DVD sale will be used to further the objects of PNGAA.

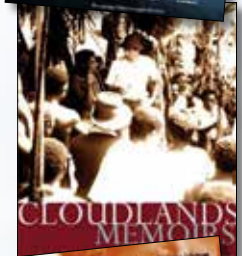
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KIAP: Stories Behind the Medal

Some 2,000 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 in Papua New Guinea.

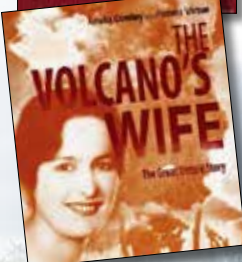
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CLOUDLANDS MEMOIRS—Laurie Le Fevre

The author uses individual life stories to show how remarkably successful Papua New Guineans have been in various fields and by giving readers a thoughtful overview of some of the big issues facing the country today.

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THE VOLCANO'S WIFE—Pamela Virtue & Amalia Cowley

The great untold (true) story of Amalia, who marries in 1933 and is catapulted from Australia to the wild heart of PNG, walking the trail with convicted murderers to her first home, Kokoda, where she erected its first Australian flag and raised their two children in a land of serenity and great beauty.

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Una Voce: 'with one voice'

The Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc (PNGAA), a community-driven organisation, is critical in guiding Australia's position in the region, as it recognises the importance of the countless stories, big and small, known and unknown, that have shaped who we are and who we hope to be in the future: an inclusive, caring, and understanding multicultural society built on trust.

The PNGAA was previously known as the Retired Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea, being formally constituted in 1951.

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

The organisation adopted *UNA VOCE* (Latin for 'with one voice') as its motto, and this is still enshrined in our Constitution.

Una Voce was also the name given to its early one-page foolscap 'Bulletins' to members, growing into a black and white newsletter, published quarterly for members.

It has evolved over time into a full-colour journal of sixty-plus pages—including archival and contemporary photographs, informing and educating people about PNG from an historical and current perspective. Many members have contributed to the journal over the decades telling their stories of life in PNG.

The Una Voce Archives hold a rich history of the PNG Australian connection through stories of WWI and WWII (incorporating the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society's 'Memorial News'), of expatriates living, working and raising families, of friendships, of plantations, exploration through the PNG wilderness, the kiaps, the missionaries, Independence and the life-long love of a country and its people that has remained in the hearts of many members.

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

Recently, after 164 issues of *Una Voce*, acting on popular member sentiment to refresh our brand and reflect the changing times, a competition was held to decide on an appropriate name that would better embrace the Association's current objectives, activities and broader audience, which primarily engage with a long and close relationship between Australia and PNG—and this issue is the first one of your 'new look' journal—*PNG KUNDU*.

www.pngaa.org/site

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