



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
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No. 4/1986 — December.

*Season's
Greetings*

to ALL MEMBERS from

THE PRESIDENT and COMMITTEE





Christmas Wishes

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR -

Dear Members and Friends,

The Committee joins with me in wishing you a very joyful Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy 1987.

Many of us have enjoyed a good year in 1986 but others have not been so fortunate. Some are getting on in years and their health has not been the best and some have lost loved ones. To all who have suffered a period of ill health or other adversity a very special wish for a healthier and happier year ahead.

It troubles me greatly to know that there are some of our old friends who have problems or worries which we do not know about. If we did, we could perhaps help in some way.

Please let us know if anybody who is distressed or in ill health, because sometimes even a sympathetic ear is worth very much more than all the medicine.

Sincerely,



Doug Fawcett

President.

P.S.

I regret to report that our Vice-President and Newsletter Editor, Freddie Kaad, has been in Royal North Shore Hospital for a month and will probably be there for another week or two undergoing some skin grafts. Our very best wishes for a most successful outcome, Fred, and we look forward to seeing you out and about for the festive season.



REDUCTION/DISCOUNTING OF SUPERANNUATION PENSION

We warned in the STOP PRESS paragraph on the last page in our September issue that the government intended reducing the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase which is added to our salaries each July, from the official 9.2% to 7.2%. This was formalised by the Superannuation and Other Benefits Legislation Amendment Act 1986.

Salary and wage earners had not received the full CPI increase in the June National Wage Case, instead it had been discounted by 2 per cent. The Government then used the argument that because the CPI increase for salary and wage earners had been reduced then superannuation pensions should also be reduced by 2 per cent.

Some Members or widows on higher pensions may have thought initially that given the economic difficulties of the day, this action was probably fair but I am sure that the unfortunate ones on lower pensions would not have agreed.

An informed judgement on the discounting should be made in the light of the following facts:

1. The discounting is unfair and highly discriminatory. It falls upon only three groups of superannuant pensioners - the retired employees from the Defence Forces, the Commonwealth Public Service and the Papua New Guinea Administration. It does not affect persons retired from the Commonwealth parliament, statutory authorities such as Qantas, Telecom and Australia Post, the States and local government or the private sector.
2. The 2% discounting in the indexation of our pension is not a one-off reduction for 1986/87 only. It also means a compounding reduction in our pension in perpetuity (until we have all died!) For example, the basic pension to which the CPI increase would be added next July will be roughly 2 per cent less than it would have been if the discount had not been effected. This will continue to compound each year.
3. The discount was based on the false and illogical assumption that superannuant pensioners are salary and wage earners. False because we have already been "pensioned off" from salary and wages and because the Commissioner for Superannuation himself classifies us as pensioners. Illogical because while the Government regards us as salary and wage earners when it comes to discounting our pensions, it considers superannuants as pensioners and therefore not eligible when it comes to a possible flow-on of the proposed 3 per cent productivity increase.
4. Only once before has any Commonwealth Government interfered in such a way with superannuation pensions. The Lyons government in 1933 reduced both wages and superannuation, but the next year it restored the superannuation.

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5. The discounting was completely ^{4.}arbitrary; the Government did not consult with Associations representing the three groups affected. Consultation may have made the discounting more palatable and may have led to suggestions which would have been acceptable to both Government and retired officers.

In view of the above, one must wonder how sincere is the Government's claim that it wanted to spread the burden of change as fairly as possible across all sections of the community. Why weren't other groups of superannuants, including parliamentarians, equally affected? Hopefully the Government, which followed the Lyons government example in reducing our indexation, will also follow the Lyons example by reinstating our full superannuation next year. But how far can it be trusted to do so? Where was the attempt at consensus which the Government alleges is a keystone of its policies?

Your Committee is very concerned about what has already happened, about the present state of uncertainty and about possible further discounting in Members' pensions. We are keeping in touch with the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association which has written the Prime Minister, the Treasurer and the Minister for Finance seeking a meeting to discuss this subject. Formal letters from your Association are also being sent.

However, if we are to be successful we need every member and every widow — and some help from Associates would be appreciated — to write to his or her local Commonwealth parliamentarian, both House of Representatives and Senate, including Democrats. The letter should include —

- a protest about the 2% discounting of the indexation of our superannuation pensions;
- a strong criticism of the unilateral, unfair and discriminatory way in which that discounting was effected;
- a request for a written assurance from the parliamentarian that he or she would use every endeavour to have our superannuation pensions reinstated so that on 1st July 1987 they would be at the same level they would have been if there had been no discounting;
- a request for a similar assurance that no future change is made to the original legislation under which our superannuation pensions were increased annually in line with the Consumer Price Index.

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR BOTH MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS IF FIVE DOLLARS. The \$5.00 is due on the first of January 1987 and you will assist the Honorary Treasurer greatly if you forward your subscription as soon as possible.

HONORARY TREASURER is Mr. Bill Johnston, 25 Hillview Street, SAN SOUCI NSW 2219.

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Wapenamanda Plane Crash 1951 Memorial⁵ to those who died.

Page 5 of our September Newsletter outlined a plan to restore the Memorial to Ken Earle, Sid Peebles and Keith Kear as a tangible reminder to visitors and younger local people of the sacrifices made by officers of the Australian administration. The Fund is gradually growing and contributions, no matter how small, would be very much appreciated. Send donations to the Treasurer of our Association, but clearly marked Aircrash Memorial.

P.N.G. University Chapel

Whilst you have your cheque book handy it is suggested that readers consider helping to replace the old temporary bush material Chapel on the Waigani Campus. The new building is specially designed for use by all denominations and another \$120,000 is needed to complete and furnish it. \$2,200 has been raised by one Sydney group in three months - which shows what can be done by one person getting his friends together in a good cause! One of your Committee, Bob Pulsford, was greatly impressed when he recently met Father Robert Lak, a Chimbu who is one of the University's chaplains. Please send cheques to University Chapel Fund,

The University Foundation
University of Papua New Guinea
Waigani
Papua New Guinea.

C.P.I. for Quarter ending 30th September.

This has risen by 2.6%.. This makes the cumulative total for our financial year from March of 4.3%

Rebate on electricity charges.

The Sydney County Council gives rebates on electricity accounts, e.g. for eligible pensioners and for dialysis machine users. A new rebate has been introduced for dwellings where an oxygen concentrator or respirator is used and other rebates are under consideration. Readers in the Sydney County Council area who think they may be eligible should enquire on 288 8866. Those in other County Councils or interstate should inquire at their local electricity supplier what rebates may be available.

PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE

The fascinating inside story of twenty five years in PNG by Dame Rachel Cleland, wife of the Administrator. An ideal gift which will evoke lasting memories.

Distributors — NSW: Child Henry Publishing
QLD: Child Henry & Plumb.
VIC: Tricent Books
S.A: Aaron Books
W.A: Charles Thomas

ANYONE FOR THE MOVIES ?

Geoff Masters is a keen film buff and as a member of the Cinema Pioneers Society he has been collecting films and documentaries for years. These include many nostalgic and vintage videos on PNG and on aviation. With advancing age (!!) Geoff feels he should share some of these really interesting videos with others. Write to him at 11 Brookes Crescent, Woorim, Bribie Island 4507, or ring (075) 48 2242 for a list of titles and very moderate costs.

Geoff would also like to hear from anyone knowing what's happened to Brian Brumley, who was an early DCA officer and later manager for Elcom at Hagen when he had a lot to do with the building of the Bensbach Lodge.

A CONCURRENCE OF COPPERS AND KIAPS

Jim Dutton, Barry Griffin and Bill McGrath are arranging what looks like being a very special weekend. Aim: to bring together former field and regular Officers of the RPNG Constabulary and their wives.

When: 4 p.m. Friday 20 February to 3 p.m. Sunday 22 February 1987.

Where: Queensland Recreation Centre B, Curramundi Road, Caloundra Sunshine Coast, Qld.

Cost: \$95 per person (includes accommodation, 6 meals, beer/wine/soft drinks, courtesy bus, band etc)

Problem Only 132 persons can be accommodated and as many have already booked its urgent that you send your cheques, made out to "RP & NGC Re-Union Acct." to J. Dutton, P.O. Box 101 Stafford, Qld. 4053.
For further information — (07) 352 5500 business, (07) 268 4509 home.

THE EL DORADO CROP - FIRST JOJOBA THEN ALOE VERA AND NOW COFFEE.

Anyone with get rich quick ideas about coffee growing should first read p.113 of Australian Business, October 8, and remember that "there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip". Several ex PNG people have made money growing avocados, others have lost. If you're thinking of growing coffee, then a consultation with Ian Downs (near Murwillumbah) is essential before you start.

FOR READING YOURSELF AND FOR GIFT GIVING.

"The Last Mountain - A Life in Papua New Guinea" by Ian Downs, University of Queensland Press. 298 pages, hard cover, \$26.00.

For those interested in the broad sweep of events in PNG from the mid-thirties to self-government, but presented in a highly personalised, revealing and sometimes amusing manner; or in the interaction between personalities and between people and events; or in what drives individuals and how some are able to make their own opportunities; or in changing administrative styles and the confluence of politics and administration. Take your pick and its there — but read it for yourself, look behind the scenes with the author, and then judge.

BITS AND PIECES FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Lutheran Church of PNG celebrated its centenary in July, The first Lutheran missionary, Reverend Johannes Thomas, landed at Simbang near Finschhafen in 1886

In July the Salvation Army celebrated its first 30 years of service in PNG, Majors Keith Baker and George Carpenter starting near Koki in Moresby in 1956.

Scouting also celebrates its 60th Anniversary - the late Sir Percy Chatterton starting the first troop in 1926 with 18 scouts.

* * *

Those returning to Moresby in 1988 will be surprised to see a 15 storey \$15M multi purpose building on the site of the old Registrar General's Office on Ela Beach. And not before time, I can hear some of you saying !

* * *

Those who have been astounded by the cost of accommodation in Moresby should be happy with the opening this month of the \$1M Airways Motel near Moresby airport. It is a two storey building which is planned to provide accommodation at half other motel prices.

* * *

A new high-rise in Moresby has been named after Walter Cuthbertson, the first official surveyor in Papua.

* * *

The contract has been let for the new Sheraton Ela Beach Hotel, which will have 284 rooms and with 17 storeys will be the highest building in PNG.

* * *

PNG has beaten Australia - and most other countries - by having the first Government department (Civil Aviation, Tourism and Culture) to be headed by both a female Minister and a female Secretary (Administrative head of Department).

HELP GIVEN

Many thanks to Richard Lowe of Broadbeach Waters, who has kindly answered John Bollard's plea for help on p.3 of our last issue.

* * *

Finally - we have had some changes on the Keep-In-Touch Sub/Committee, but remember that (02) 467 2966 will always find Candy Parrish, with a ready shoulder and an attentive ear.

* * *

The Association's Christmas Luncheon held on November 9 was attended by a record 112. Those from afar included Dennis and Della Buchanan from Goroka, Jean McCarthy of Melbourne (still at her bubbling best), George Harrison from Newcastle, Thelma Price from Brisbane (who brought along six other Prices), Dimmen and Pat DeGraaff from Brisbane. Other "foreigners" came from the mountains, from Bowral, the north coast and Goulburn. It was good to see, among many others, Coleen Neville (formerly of Mendi), Alice Middleton (Madang), Aileen Giles and Doreen (Ryan) and husband Bob Hogg, who made it in spite of medical advice.

Especially welcome were younger generation representatives -- Michael and Sally Price brought their four children, Peter and Margaret Young-Whitford came with their mother, Nan. Gregory Smith, son of Syd and Ann, was there too.

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NOTES FROM LONDON....Supplied by D.Penhale.

"We don't go to the Royal Tournament each year - it's expensive and anyhow it's one of those shows which looks the same this year as it did last or the last before that.

But in '86 there was an attraction of particular interest; the RPNGC Police Band was playing for the first time in the long history of the Tournament. Colourful in their uniforms, new since 1981, they presented their items with skill and seemed to be completely at ease. Earls Court is a HUGE barn of a place with tiers of seats (mostly uncomfortable being both hard and cramped) going up forever, and must have been a little daunting. The steps they combined with the music certainly intrigued Prince Edward and some thousands of us.

For the last item, the Hokey Pokey, children from 6 to 60 were invited onto the arena to do just that -- hundreds scaled the fence and enjoyed themselves "putting it in and shaking it all about", and finally some of the bandsmen became the leaders of conga lines of happy kids as they swayed about -- all the while the band played on.

I leave the best till last -- a short, stout cymbal player from the Papuan Coast somewhere came forward and performed a "traditional" dance which was more than a little suggestive and a great hit with Prince Edward etc. Difficult as it may be to believe it is possible to be suggestive carrying two large brass cymbals and banging them together!

Interval came and the band marched off to a very loud and sustained round of applause.

Bandmaster Harrison told me that apart from two Tolais and one Buka the band were all Papuans. They lived in one of the floors above the arena and had already been to Windsor Castle.

For me, and the thousands who were there that night and the nights to come, it was a very pleasant evening livened up by the good humour of the people from Papua New Guinea."

V A L E

With deep regret we record the passing of the following Members and friends. On behalf of the Association the Committee extends our sincere sympathy to their families.

Alfred John Prior 17/8/86	Former Health Extension Officer Moresby, leaves widow Linda in Longford, W.A.
Dr Terrence Abbott 13/9/86	Former Deputy Director, Medical Services in Moresby. Leaves widow Patricia.
Neville Chester 23/9/86	Retired as Admin Officer in Foreign Relations and Trade. Has suffered several spells in hospital. Leaves widow Florence in Palm Beach Q.
Mrs Paula Grainger /10/86	Widow of Richard Prentice, ex Treasury
Mrs Pearl Cridland 13/10/86	Aged 93. Widow of Alfred, pre-war Resident Magistrate at Tufi. Post-war they became planters then operated the Wanigela Rest House for tourists. Leaves daughter Mrs Desiree Kelly.
Frederick E. Cattell /10/86	Aged 92. After accident. Leaves son Frederick Ronald Cattell.
Mrs Mabs Rich 2/10/86	Wife of Mack Rich who retired from Native Affairs H.Q. in the early fifties.

1987 A.G.M.

The Thirty Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Retired Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea will be held on Sunday 29th March 1987. Full details will be in our March issue but make a note in your diary NOW. Country and interstate visitors, friends and relatives welcome.

November - December changes in Health and Pharmaceutical Benefits, Income Tax and Medicare Levy.

Details of these changes were set out on p. 6 of our last issue, and most of the newspapers have covered them over the last week or two - e.g. Sydney Morning Herald 28 November included a special four-page supplement. It is understood that the Commissioner has also written to superannuants about such changes.

What you make on the roundabouts you lose on the swings !!

HAVE YOU HEARD ??

John Baldwin, ex Customs, was seen recently relaxing at the Caloundra RSL Club, his business partnership with "Magani" Jack Amsbury having been recently dissolved.

* * *

Sue White, widow of Dick, ex D.O. Mendi and Wewak, is now living on the Sunshine Coast, where her new married name is Finanti.

* * *

Joan and Maurice Hammersley (mostly Eastern Papua) have just completed their large new home overlooking Lake McDonald, also on the Sunshine Coast.

* * *

Old timer Noel Paulin, who was a surveyor on the Wau-Bulolo goldfields, is living on Bribie Island and is a mine of information about those early days. Unfortunately Noel has now lost his sight.

* * *

Carl Mayoh, the last of the Popondetta soldier settlers, is now living in Cedar Pocket on the Sunshine Coast.

* * *

Seen at a Lions Convention in Gympie was Ron Osborne who had a plantation on Rossell and also built the 'Yellowgilli' which the government purchased and used as a workboat in the Milne Bay District for years. Ron now lives at The Gap, in Brisbane.

* * *

And on the not very well list are -

- Doris Carpenter (widow of Col) who had to cancel coming to our Christmas luncheon, and is now at the Mater Hospital until Christmas.
- Mona Normoyle, who is selling her home before moving into a nursing home.

* * *

Lots of Morse Coders gathered recently at the OTC coastal radio station at NINGI, Qld., to celebrate a new book "Seawatch" covering the old AWA coastal radio stations and the OTC takeover. I hear that PNG gets a good coverage. Visitors included Clen Searle ex Awala Plantation, Dean Wells ex OTC Kavieng, and Kevin Hiscock ex various PNG stations and now retired to Bribie.

* * *

Geoff Masters has returned from his Cairns-Thursday Island trip on the "Noel Buxton" (not the "Tropic Trader" as reported in last issue). He reports that the ship has been rebuilt and now has a Rolls Royce engine and two extra 2 berth cabins. The skipper, Eddie Brent, ex RAN submariner, goes out of his way to help passengers, stopping for 3 or 4 hours each day so passengers can fish, snorkel or whatever. She leaves Mondays and takes three days each way. The food is very good with plenty of fresh fish and prawns, and the fare is \$150 each way all found. Sounds good to the Editor, but unfortunately not in a wheelchair! Ring Geoff on (075) 48 2242 for more details.

11.

HAVE YOU HEARD ??

Ted Lowney has moved to 13/15 The Avenue, Alstonville 2477. From his description its all he's been looking for and so definitely no more moves.

* * *

Congratulations are in order for Harry Jackman, who has recently received news that the University of New England has accepted his 105,000 word thesis on "The History of Markets, Marketing and Price Stabilisation in the Copra Industry of PNG to 1975. The degree of Master of Economics will be conferred at the annual ceremony in April 1987. Good work, Harry - what a splendid example to set for we other middle aged people!

* * *

Geoff Burfoot has purchased a small property, complete with house, river frontage, and sealed road, between Murwillumbah and Mount Warning. Committeeman Geoff has been active for our Association, both in the Keep in Touch and Legal and Administrative Sub-Committees, and he will be missed at ROAPNG HQ.

* * *

Bill Tebb has returned to his mid-coast home after a spell in hospital for a by-pass operation. Now we know why Bill and Lois weren't at the Christmas luncheon.

* * *

As we go to press Sir Horace Niall is in Mona Vale Hospital, undergoing tests. See you around for Christmas, Horrie !

* * *

Doreen and Bob Hogg have moved from New Zealand to Sydney and have just returned from a long sojourn in Scotland. Unfortunately both have been severely troubled by illness, which made their trip a trial rather than a holiday. Hope you're both feeling better now.

* * *

John Wakeford has sold his unit with a view near Manly and moved to a retirement unit at Kincumber, near Gosford.

* * *

On Page 11 of the September Una Voce said that one of our members was going on the Island Trader to "the islands north of Australia". A few days later Jim Vanderkamp wrote pointing out that the Torres Straits islands were part of Australia, including Sabai Island which is only 5 kms from the Papuan mainland. Thanks Jim, but I argue that we are both right — you in the legal sense and I in the geographical! Jim, who lives on Horn Island near the airstrip which serves Thursday Island, extends an invitation to visit to anyone journeying that way. Many thanks Jim.

* * *

Perc (Snow) Middleton is recuperating from open heart surgery and is now well on the mend. Snow worked for Commonwealth Disposals immediately post-war and then Treasury. Wife Val worked for the Production Control Board.

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12.
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTERS RETURNED: ???? Why.

Mr C.LIDDLE 104 Chipping Road, PERTH W.A. 6000
Mr R.ASHTON 10/18-20 Queens Road, WESTMEAD NSW 2145
Mrs A.L.BRAZIER 36 Embie Street, HOLLAND PARK QLD 3104.

This December issue is being sent to the same addresses. If anything is out of order please contact our Honorary Treasurer Mr.W.Johnston, 25 Hillview Street, SAN SOUCI NSW 2219.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

Mrs M.E.BOWMAN 14 Capri Court, MERMAID WATERS QLD 4218
Mr E.J.FITZGERALD C/- B.Liddicoat, 1/27 Willison Road, CARLTON NSW 2218
Mr P.H.D.ROGERS 1 Lorikett Lane, BURLEIGH WATERS QLD 4220
Mrs V.FOLDI Villa 264 Brentwood Village, Scaysbrook Drive KINCUMBER NSW 2250
Mr K.O'MARA P.O.Box 102, POTTS POINT NSW 2011
Mr J.E.WAKEFORD Villa 171 Brentwood Village, Scaysbrood Drive, KINCUMBER NSW 2250

NEW MEMBERS - An Especial Welcome - Happy to have you in our Group.

Mrs E.BELL 3 Hawter Road, GLEN FORREST W.A 6071
Mrs R.BURT 2/106 Cromer Road, BEAUMARIS VIC 3193
Mrs J.M.CARNE 22 Sunburst Avenue, BALDWIN VIC 3104
Mrs F.CHESTER 29 Parnki Parade, PALM BEACH QLD 4221
Mr G.DICK 1 Rani Place, KAREELA NSW 2232
Mr I.F.G.DOWNS P.O.Box 189, MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484
Mrs K.ewing 12 Coral Gable Key, MIAMI QLD 4217
Mr E.GRIFFITH 68 Boomerang Crescent, SORRENTO QLD 4217
Mr J.GODLEE 166 Grosvenor Street, WAHROONGA NSW 2076
Mr W.A.McGRATH 17 Park Avenue, BROADBEACH WATERS QLD 4214
Mr C.W.MEISSNER P.O.Box 5420, ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4702
Mrs G.PRITCHARD 15 Sydney Road, LINDFIELD NSW 2070
Mr H.REDMOND 182 Wyndora Avenue, HARBORD NSW 2096
Mrs B.HURREY 96 Broadwater Road, MT GRAVATT QLD 4122

NOTE: Overseas Members wishing to have the Newsletter forwarded AIR MAIL should send the Hon.Treasurer \$1 per copy (\$4 per annum) especially those Life Members. Because of increased Postal Rates Overseas Members' Newsletters are virtually being subsidised by the Association.

ARE YOU IN THE RED !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Outstanding Subscriptions to December 1986
Subscription for 1987 due (\$5.00 per Annum)

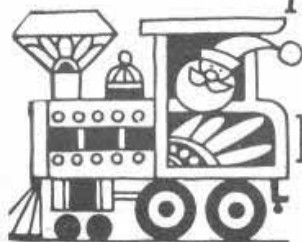
\$.....

TOTAL \$

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Freddie