



Una Voce News Letter

RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
P.O. BOX 452, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

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No. 2, 1990 - June

Dear Member,

Our Association's Christmas Luncheon this year will be held on Sunday 2nd December 1990 at the Mandarin Club. We are giving you plenty of notice so that members from out of town will have sufficient time to make arrangements to be in Sydney at that time, particularly if it can be joined with some other trip you intend making. I suggest that all members, who anticipate that they may be able to attend, mark the day on their calendar and in their diary now.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The 1990 subscription of \$8.00 became due on 1 January last and those of you who have not as yet paid will receive a letter from the President enclosed with this issue.

Members who, at the beginning of the year, were still unfinancial for 1988 and 1989 were deleted from our mailing list. In future, members who are more than six months overdue in the payment of their subscriptions, I regret to say, will meet the same fate.

CPI ADJUSTMENT TO SUPERANNUATION

The increase in the Consumer Price Index for the twelve months from 1 April 1989 to 31 March 1990 was 8.6%. This means that superannuation pensions should increase by that percentage from the first payday in July, i.e. 12 July 1990.

The Office of the Commissioner for Superannuation will endeavour to forward Group Certificates with their notification concerning the pension increase. But, as they are dependent upon another government department to enable them to do this, it is not always possible. Group Certificates will be posted to those concerned as soon as the Office receives them, so please do not pester the Office staff if you do not receive your Group Certificate with your notice re pension increase. Be patient, it has not been overlooked and will arrive in due course, which could very well be some two or three weeks later.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Details of the make-up are as follows:

	Change between	
	Dec. qtr 1989 and Mar. qtr 1990 %	Mar. qtr 1989 and Mar. qtr 1990 %
Weighted average of eight capital cities		
Food	+0.2	+6.2
Clothing	+0.1	+5.2
Housing	+2.0	+17.0
Household equipment and operation	+1.5	+5.7
Transportation	+2.6	+9.9
Tobacco & alcohol	+2.2	+8.9
Health & personal care	+3.8	+6.2
Recreation & education	+2.3	+7.0
All groups	+1.7	+8.6

The following are some other statistics which may interest members:

PENSIONS - Age and service payments

(For comparison with our superannuation)

Age and service payments		Income test for pensions
	Weekly	Level of income before pension reduced
Single pensioner	\$133.60	Single : \$40pw Married : \$70pw
Couple (combined)	\$222.70	
Supplement for children:		Pension is then reduced by 50 cents for every extra dollar of income earned.
Under 13	\$24.15	
Age 13 to 15	\$35.25	
Rental assistance	\$20.00	
		Income at which pension ceases
Payments adjusted six monthly in line with the CPI.		Single: \$298.40pw Married: \$500.80pw

PERSONAL INCOME TAX RATES

Taxable income \$	Tax on income \$	Tax on excess income (marginal rate)%
5100	Nil	21
17650	2635.50	29
20601	3491.00	39
35001	9107.00	47

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

To work out the inflation factor for capital gains tax purposes I list the Consumer Price Index (average of all groups) from the introduction of CGT in September 1985.

CPI at:	March	June	Sept	Dec
1985	-----	-----	144.2	147.1
1986	150.5	153.0	157.0	161.5
1987	164.7	167.2	170.0	172.9
1988	176.0	179.0	182.4	186.2
1989	188.0	192.6	197.0	200.7

(For calculating Capital Gains Tax when selling property, shares etc.)

VISIT TO BLUE MOUNTAINS

We again enjoyed a most pleasant day at Wentworth Falls with 29 members attending lunch at the Grand Hotel and coffee and port afterwards at the Tomasetti residence.

Another day is planned for October and the date will be advised next issue.

AGM MINUTES

Due to shortage of space the AGM Minutes have not been included in this issue but will be in the September issue.

MILNE FORCE BOOK

The undersigned are finalising a book on the Battle of Milne Bay in 1942 and hope to make contact with any retired officers who had a connection with the action.

The following people were in Milne Bay ANGAU and they seek more information about them: James Ross; R. Mader; W. Money; A. Wills; 'Doc' Whitehouse; J. Brown; Geoff Baskett; B. Lea; and J. Lattimer.

There were several church workers who stayed on: Father Bodger; Miss. Carmichael; Reverend Jennings; Father Baldwin; Miss. Inman; Miss. Mills; Reverend Nixon.

Other names they have: Alfred Coleman and quite a few Spotters, who worked around the district and may have stayed on in the post war administration. They would appreciate help with leads to the friends and relatives of the above, or from anybody who can contribute information.

They intend to launch the book on 26 August on the shores of Milne Bay and a "Return" trip is being organised.

Clive BAKER and Greg KNIGHT,
13 Veronica Place, LOFTUS. N.S.W. 2232. Phone (02)521.6515.

HELP NEEDED

Would anyone having a copy of the book titled "On Colonies" by Walter Crocker please contact the Editor or:

Mr. H. H. Jackman,
P.O. Box 320,
ANGASTON. S.A. 5353.

ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN OCEANIA

(Fancy Lawrence recently attended a meeting of ASAO and has kindly provided the following brief report of a session which I am sure will be of interest to many of our members. Ed.)

I thought it might be of interest to some of the ex-kiaps, especially those who were stationed at some time on the north east coast, up and down from Madang, to hear about one of the sessions at the recent ASAO (Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania) meeting held at Kauai. The session was called "The Children of Kilibob", a theme originally suggested by Peter Lawrence, who quoted the local Madang version of the creator myth of the two brothers, Kilibob and Manup, in his book Road Belong Cargo. He encouraged other anthropologists working on the north-east coast to collect their local versions of the myth and the result was 17 papers, ranging all the way from the border with West Irian to New Britain (even extending to East Timor) but mainly centred on the Vitiaz Straits.

The myths varied from the fairly short and simple version of the Madang area to versions with many accretions and elaborate embellishments and details. With these variations also often came completely different names for the two protagonists - in only one instance the people saying: "We have changed the names of Kilibob and Manup to such-and-such." (Sorry, I forget what these names were). Yet, however the names and stories varied, and the roles of the goodie and baddie were often reversed, the basis always remained the antagonism between two brothers due to adultery and one or other, or both, creating the now-existing material culture and environment and peoples.

This was a preliminary 'working' session only, to see whether a coherent format could be created; the revised papers are due to be presented at a full 'Symposium' at next year's meeting. It is hoped that these papers will then be published as a Festschrift dedicated to Peter Lawrence, who stimulated some of these researches and who was the friend and mentor of many of the contributors. These were, among others, Ali Pomponio, Tom Harding, Romola McSwain, Peter McLaren, Anton Ploeg, Jane Goodale, Ann Chowning, David Lipset, Jennifer Blythe, Dorothy Counts, Bill Thurston, Rufus Pech, Marty Zelenietz (I'm not sure just where some of them worked).

Most of the anthropologists I know remember 'their' kiaps with gratitude and often real friendship; so perhaps kiaps may still remember 'their' anthropologists (with pleasure or pain?) and would like to hear - however indirectly - about them and their continuing work concerning PNG.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO:

Max and Yvonne DENEHY.
Alex MURISON.

Anyone knowing their whereabouts please contact the Editor or Secretary.

PNG TIT BITS

Latest claim by the Koiari people behind Port Moresby is on all the water in the Sirinumu Dam. God gave them the water and the people of Port Moresby are stealing it -- compensation or the dam will be blown up!

Papua New Guinea — Australia Schools Competition 1990

Win a Free Trip to Papua New Guinea

Junior Division up to 11 years of age - 1st prize \$100 and book

Middle Division 12 to 15 years of age - 1st prize \$200 and book

Senior Division 16 years of age and over - 1st prize \$300 and book

PLUS

Free Package tour to Papua New Guinea for the best overall entry
winner and an adult companion.

All entries to be sent to the

Papua New Guinea Consulate-General
GPO Box 4201, Sydney NSW 2001

Questions:

Junior Division (up to 11 years of age)

Design 4 postage stamps, each showing a different way of travel in Papua New Guinea. Write something about each of them. (Each design is to be no smaller than 15cm by 10cm). The winning designs will be considered for use as one of the stamp issues in Papua New Guinea in 1991.

Middle Division (12 to 15 years of age)

Design a special interest trip to Papua New Guinea. Select from ONE of the following:

Cultural Diversity

Scenic Wonders

Diving

Historic Sites

Aviation

Flora and Fauna

Bushwalking

Bird Watching

in 500 to 1000 words prepare an outline of the tour which will visit 3 or 4 destinations.

Include details of the special interest features in those places as well as transport and accommodation.

Senior Division 16 years of age and over)

This is Papua New Guinea's 15th year of independence. In less than 1500 words, evaluate the importance of Papua New Guinea's role in the South Pacific. You may wish to consider:

Relations with Australia, Foreign Policy, Economic Aspects, Defence, Trade.

Conditions

1. Open to all school children in Australia.
2. Divisional ages are those calculated as of 31st August, 1990.
3. The judges' decision is final.
4. Factors to be considered in judging entries include - creativity, legibility, factual accuracy and up to date material.
5. The competition closes 31 August, 1990.

Entry forms may be obtained from the Secretary of our Association or the PNG Consulate-General at the address above.

HAVE YOU HEARD ????

Dr. J. J. JANOUSEK recently celebrated his 91st birthday and he and his wife like it very much at "Trebartha" where they are now living. This is a home attached to St. Luke's Hospital, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney, where they have a beautiful apartment with their own furniture. They still do their own shopping, cooking, etc. and enjoy the social life available at the home.

Bob and Pat GREANEY have built a new home on Bribie Island which they are now occupying.

Roma BATES, when writing to me about Ann Best (see Vale) reminisced about the mid-twenties and thirties: "There were not many young people in Rabaul in those days and we had to make our own entertainment. We enjoyed a happy life of swimming, dancing, cricket, baseball, tennis and many parties in our homes. Ann's mother gave many lawn tennis parties at their Namanula home for we young people, which we thoroughly enjoyed in such lovely surroundings, not to mention the delicious afternoon tea Mabs always provided. Another great outlet was the Amateur Dramatic Society founded by Major Ayris and Ann's father Pat Savage. We were fortunate to have two such accomplished directors and producers who organised from the ground up such great entertainment as concerts, many Noel Coward's plays and also some Gilbert and Sullivan.. "Trial by Jury" in which both Ann and I took part, also a concert of "Yeomen of the Guard". There was a lot of good talent in Rabaul in those days, ably supported by Mary Backhouse, gifted pianist and harpsichordist, who also wrote down the music of various scores/songs by listening to gramophone records, then wrote the parts for the small orchestra we had, no mean feat!

The reason for this marathon effort was the difficulty of ordering from Australia, which was not only costly but very time consuming and frustrating with at least six weeks turn-around mail by sea, and often one didn't get what one ordered, you were then back to square one." (I wonder if the youngsters of to-day realise how well off they are by comparison! More of Roma in the next issue. Ed.)

Marie DAY from Meadowbank NSW has been on tour in WA seeing new places and catching up on old friends. She also did some more recruiting for our Association on the side and we only wish that more of our members would perform a similar function when the opportunity arises. Good work, Marie!

Doug FYFE has departed Port Moresby and settled in Kingston, Tasmania. We sincerely hope, Doug, that the somewhat drastic change in climate is not too traumatic and you enjoy your new abode.

Reg and Lyn THOMSON have moved from Mt. Tamborine to a retirement place at Southport Qld, which is not that far away. This should put them much nearer to a lot of old friends and we hope that they enjoy the change.

Betty MACGOWAN of Darwin N.T. at Easter went over to Timor on a DC3, once used in PNG. She reports that they liked Timor, where there were no tourist types. They have not caught up yet, but it will not be long before they do, with the new hotels going up. A bit like PNG in the early days, markets, Chin-ese trade stores etc. "We loved it!"

Lady Dot GUNTHER has moved back to sunny Queensland to be nearer some of her family and friends and is almost settled again.

In March 90 Bob PULSFORD received a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of Sydney on presentation of a thesis: "The Changing Attitudes to Illness and Misfortune of the Motu/Koita". Bob is a member of our Committee and on behalf of the Committee and Members of the Association I congratulate you, Bob, for such an outstanding achievement in retirement.

Some mothers do have em! Recently Bill KELLY was imitating Boris Becker on the Enders tennis court and, when returning from his car, he slipped and broke his left tibia. With leg encased in plaster and weilding his crutch like a saber, he has been a danger to all his friends, who are praying for a rapid recovery for their own and Margaret's safety. Our very best wishes, Bill, for a quick return to normal.

Rev. Jack SHARP and wife Winsome are now living in Windsor NSW and are planning to be present at the end of year get together and luncheon. Jack from 1950 spent a total of 32 years in PNG, first as a Methodist Minister in Namatanai, New Ireland, and Raluana and Rabaul in New Britain. After the formation of the United Church in PNG and the Solomon Islands he was elected it's first Moderator and this involved them moving to Moresby in 1969. They remained there until 1976 when they moved to Arawa, Bougainville, where Jack was Superintendent of the Arawa Circuit. They returned to Sydney in 1982 and Jack was the Minister of the Uniting Church at Windsor until he retired recently because of ill health. A very warm welcome to the Sharps as members of our Association.

Our old friend Bert WESTON from Milsons Point NSW reports that he enjoyed being at the AGM Luncheon, saying that it was great to talk to a few of his contemporaries from the B4 era and various of the more plentiful post-war members. Commenting on a recent newspaper article titled "PNG Airline lays off 80 staff" he writes: "I cannot help comparing the facts it gives about Talair with conditions at Lae in 1928 when Guinea Airways, with two single engined Junkers aircraft were getting a world record in air freighting. As against Talair's staff of around 800, Guinea Airways team totalled two pilots (one being also the manager), two ground engineers, two cargo handlers and a bookkeeper.

The only airstrips existing in the Mandated Territory were Lae and Wau together with an emergency strip at Zenag. Talair now service 130 airstrips. The entire population of Lae at that time was eighteen Europeans, all males and all connected with aircraft."

(The current State Governor, Rear-Admiral Sir David Martin, is Bert's cousin. More of Bert in the September issue. Ed.)

Eric and Shirley FLOWER have moved to the Runaway Village on the Gold Coast where they find they can spend more time on the water and really enjoy their new abode. Eric still plays golf every Monday and Friday with Royce Webb, which they have done since 1973 and they see most of the old timers on the coast occasionally. Geoff Reeve (Harold's son) married their daughter Jan and they are now in Tahiti where Geoff is Qantas Manager. Daughter Diane, who married Bob McKeowen from Forests, now has three children and they live in Dubbo, NSW, where Bob has the Dubbo Real Estate.

John and Jean COX were down from Dungog NSW for the Christmas Luncheon, which they report they thoroughly enjoyed and are looking forward to the next one.

A brief note from another old friend, Grace HARTLEY from Ormiston Qld. You are a great supporter of the Association, Grace, our very grateful thanks and we all reciprocate with our very best wishes.

Helen MORLEY of Palm Beach Qld advises that children Scott and Toni are both near to hand. Scott lives with her but expects to move into his own home soon and to marry in September. Toni and her two children live in Brisbane and keep in touch.

Bruce DUNN of Mooloolah Qld, ex DDA Southern Highlands, Northern District and Moresby, writes that "Time has a habit of getting away rather rapidly and I am now due for Long Service Leave after ten years with the Caloundra Fire Brigade. I'm a Station Officer with the Brigade but I live on a small farm (55 acres) at Mooloolah some 20 km inland from Caloundra.

It's a non income producing property - a few cattle and horses and a donkey (four legged variety) - but a very relaxed and peaceful lifestyle.

Have just spent a week at Frazer Island with my two sons, Rick and Greg, also John Hayes (ex DDA and Labour) and his son Rob. Caught a few fish and downed a few convivial ales during the week.

John and Jean Hayes' daughter Linda getting married in Brisbane on 21.4.90 so should meet up with a few PNG types there.

Recent visitors here were Tony Dewe-Matthews (ex PSC) now living on the North Coast of NSW and Bill Benham (ex DDA) now in Adelaide.

Jack Baker back in Moresby temporarily to help out his old friend Brian Bell with a local executive development program. Jack spreads his time between Bribie Island (where wife Lois is heavily involved as State Rep. in the Meals-On-Wheels Committee) and Lucinda in north Qld where his son Wahgi operates a prawn trawler.

Would be happy to see anyone passing through this area on holidays etc. Just tell them to call in at the Caloundra Fire Station and they'll point them in the right direction." (Good work, Bruce, keep the news coming. Ed.)

Dorothy SAVAGE of Slacks Creek Qld writes that Rod continues to improve in health but still finds it difficult to write a letter and gets very frustrated when fingers will not do what he wants. Our very best wishes Rod for a much speedier and complete recovery.

Roy CLARINGBOLD of St. Lucia Qld recently spent five weeks in Thailand. Roy what about a few lines about your trip? Ed.

Florence COHEN from Moresby was down in Sydney recently on two weeks holiday. Pam Foley, I and others would have liked to say Hello, so how about letting us know next time, in the meantime, our very best wishes. Ed.

Alice NEILSEN, previously of Rochedale Qld, now of Kuraby Qld, in February celebrated her 80th birthday and to help her celebrate was daughter Margaret Cockburn and husband Michael, who report that they had a very good night. Our belated but nevertheless very hearty congratulations, Alice, for your 80th.

Bernard SNEP of Toowoomba Qld was off to Europe and USA in April on holidays and hopes to return in July.

Hilary FARRELL of Dover Heights NSW wrote saying that she thoroughly enjoys Una Voce especially the article in the last issue on "House O'Malley". She was there herself for over 12 months in 1962 until she was allocated married accommodation and her children were able to join her from Australia.

J. WOODCOCK advises that they have moved from Cairns to Atherton and are living with friends whilst awaiting completion of their new home. Hope you are in it, by now, and enjoying your new abode.

Another appreciative reader of Una Voce is Gwen BRUYERES from Broadbeach Waters Qld. Great hearing from you Gwen and thanks for your comments. Candy and I have very pleasant memories of numerous visits to Goroka from Madang in the late 50's and early 60's when the Bruyeres were there. Our kindest regards. Ed.

Jack GOAD of Griffin Qld, previously Customs PNG, was shown in the March Membership List as a new member. I have written to Jack apologising for the mistake, but I guess the computer must have put the asterisk in the wrong place as Jack has been a member for many years! We have also received from Jack some very interesting reminiscences of Kieta in the mid 20's when he was there with his father. I will include these in the next issue. Ed.

Bruce DAFF of Clayton Vic., previously of PNG Treasury, wrote after receiving the last issue of Una Voce: "The names of many old friends and acquaintances rekindle many memories both comedy and tragedy, spent in company of some of the greatest friends I ever knew.As my eyesight dims I find it rather difficult to correspond but will send an occasional note to old friends." The Committee reciprocates your very good wishes. Ed.

Bill and Ann CARTER of Chittaway Point NSW have not long returned from extended holidays on Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands, then New Zealand. Then Bill was off to the Gulf Country on a prawn trawler with one of his sons. The Carter family sure get around!

Ken and Rosemary BROWN of Budgewoi NSW report that their son Ken Jnr. was recently in Bogia in the Madang District PNG with a Rotary F.A.I.M. team helping put up a classroom or two at Holy Spirit High School. On the way home he was escorted on a tour of Moresby (his birthplace) by Sister Elizabeth Taylor (believe it not) of Marianville High School. Ken, how about a note from Jnr. about his trip? Ed.

Ken CONNOLLY of Concord NSW was over in WA recently whilst on business for the ABC. He caught up with Terry and Jean Daw who are both well. Also had lunch with Eve McIntosh (nee West) Judith Ralph's granddaughter.

June MYNARD of Southport Qld writes that she looks forward to receiving Una Voce but does not see very many ex PNG folk these days, however, she observes that this is probably her own fault. Makes occasional trips to Sydney to visit her 89 year old uncle but so far has not been able to arrange a trip to coincide with one of our functions. June, you now have plenty of notice, what about getting organised to be at our Christmas Luncheon 2 Dec.

Reg COLLINS of Dalby Qld reports that Ken Williamson went to PNG originally with PHD and was a Medasst at Maprik during the time of Ken Bridges 46/47. In 47 Reg took over from Ken and it was then that Ken went to DDS&NA.

Eileen BARNARD of Nottinghamshire UK writes "I enjoy the Newsletter very much.The best part of my husband's and my life was spent in Wewak and it is lovely to read the news of everyone. My best wishes to you all." Eileen we appreciated hearing from you and all your friends Down Under reciprocate your good wishes.

Derek BELL from the ACT has moved to Prahran Vic for the next three years and says of Una Voce "I look forward to an evening of nostalgia when I see it in the post box."

Alan NEILSEN from Mt. Colah NSW set off in May by caravan for a trip around the perimeter of Australia and offered to carry a number of small items if anyone wanted anything of this nature delivered to friends. Thanks Alan, I don't know if anyone took up your offer, but have a tremendous trip.

Jack READ from Wendouree Vic, pre and post war Kiap well known for his Coastwatcher exploits, writes that Una Voce is "reminiscent reading for an old-timer". Pleased to hear from you Jack, very best wishes from all your friends in Sydney.

Anne ANDERSON of Balgowlah NSW turned 91 in April and hearty congratulations on the achievement from the Committee and members of the Association. Anne had a mild heart attack early in the year but writes that she is very lucky to be so well. "No doubt at all" she says "that it is due to the way my daughter looks after me." We also congratulate your daughter and Anne, tell her to keep up the good work because we want to see you around for a long time yet!

Trefor ELLIS ex Rose Bay NSW has moved to New Zealand. Thanks for your note and we sincerely hope you enjoy your new abode.

Wondered why we had not seen Pierre or Thelma DONALDSON around for some time now and Pierre has just written explaining that he has had two heart operations over past two years. We are very pleased, Pierre, to hear that you feel good at the moment. Our best wishes to you both and we hope we may see you both at the Christmas Luncheon, if not before.

John LEWIS has bought a new home and they are now settled in Hervey Bay Qld. John writes that anyone going that way will always be made welcome and sends his best regards to "all down South".

Jeff MASON of Pt. Vernon Qld writes that he and his wife Ailsa look forward to each issue of Una Voce with "much enjoyment" and reports "John Hogan lives around the corner from me. He had the dental surgery in Cuthbertson Street in Moresby for many years..... Have also bumped into Harry Hoffman ex DCA Lae". (Jeff, how about recruiting these two as members? Ed.)

Received a very rewarding letter from Peter BURT of Glenroy Vic advising me of the death of his mother, Rachel Burt (refer Vale March 90 issue). Quoting from Peter's letter: ".....Mum had always been a strong supporter of the Retired Officers Association and thought they did a great job looking after the interests of officers and their widows...."

....Some of your readers may have known my father, Edward Burt, who worked as a Department of Health Pathological and X-ray Technician at Rabaul, Kaviend and Lae between 1951 and 1964. Unfortunately, Mum and Dad only had a short, shared retirement as he died in January 1966.

Thank you once again for the support and fellowship you gave to Mum through the Newsletter, may you be able to continue your good work for many years."

Peter, thank you for your letter, it was very much appreciated. Ed.

Kevin DOHERTY of Cairns Qld, after 40 years living/working in PNG, is calling it a day and has returned to take up residence again in Aussie (second attempt). He writes: "Trust that Una Voce Newsletter will continue on in it's excellent present form and that the "Vale" section will remain a major feature and take up as much space as necessary to give as much write up on the deceased members that can be made available to the Editor."

When Dame Rachel CLELAND recently visited Sydney Joan Stobo, in her home at Killara, gave a most enjoyable luncheon for Dame Rachel and her ex PNG friends. It is truly amazing how Dame Rachel, now well into her eighties, never seems to get any older. She has just spent some weeks in PNG, Queensland and New South Wales and I am sure she still has a number of visits to make before she returns back home to WA. I wish we knew her secret!

Flora NITSCHKE recently received a most interesting letter from Betty Bell of Glen Forrest W.A. and the following are a few extracts from Betty's letter: "....Sometimes I sit down amongst my gum trees and think back to N.G. days. No, I have no desire to go back there, but it is lovely to think about those days, especially to think about my 5 kids when they were small and the Xmas parties etc. we used to have. Now my five have all grown. Wendy has 6 of her own, the eldest is 18. John has 2 boys and 2 girls, he was working in Canberra for 6 yrs, but has returned to W.A. and is an economist with the State Electricity Co. Julia has just finished her Honours Degree in Philosophy. Jennie is married with 3 children. Peter, a mathematician and economist, was teaching maths and science at Sydney University but has now taken a job in Sydney..... When I read about all the trips and the wonderful things all the N.G. people do over there, I get envious of you. They never seem to have a N.G. get together over here. The last one they held here was when Margarete Fowler and her husband had a hotel, her husband died and Marg went to live in Queensland..... You must all have a lot of fun and laughs when you all get together." (Betty, we will see what we can do about a PNG get together over in the west, there sure is enough people to make it well worthwhile. Ed.)

Our member in the "Far North", John Huon de NAVRANCOURT, reports that Constable Ben Theodore, seriously injured in an ambush in Bougainville where three other policemen died, has been in hospital in Cairns. He has been treated for injuries to his legs and arms but unfortunately was also blinded. Cairns ophthalmologist, Dr. Peters, offered to treat him free of charge and hopes to re-establish part of the sight in Ben's left eye. Ben's wife Joyce, a policewoman from Bougainville, is with him, in the cottage of the Red Cross. The International Police Association Branch in Cairns, of which John Huon is a member, looked after the young PNG constable, as well as the local Police and local residents.

Del and Tony NORMOYLE of Hammersley WA are currently in the UK as Sandra, their youngest, and husband Siam have just presented them with their latest grandson. Sandra and family are living in Hereford and hope to settle in WA later on. Regards to you both and have a great holiday.

Helen COX of Woody Point Qld has been having a bad year. She lost her brother, then had a heart attack and was fitted with a pacemaker. Another spare part, she says, as she has already had a hip replacement. Things were improving for her and she had her 81st birthday at the beginning of March, but, would you believe it, she received another present, a dose of shingles! She comments "Everything comes to those that wait!" Also "I was very much impressed by Sir William Prentice's Eulogy to Sir Ignatius. Am particularly interested as returning from Rabaul I was Secretary to Claud Prentice, Sir William's brother, and knew Sir William quite well. We saw Sir Ignatius at Expo and also another man calling himself Sir William's son and Claud his uncle - Bernard Narakobi is well known to me.

I have also sent a copy of the Eulogy to Norris Pratt who was Crown Solicitor in Rabaul." Helen, we sure hope you are now rid of the shingles and our very best wishes for a much healthier year ahead. Ed.

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIAN AND PNG CORRESPONDENTS

Northern Territory (Jim Toner)

The Papua New Guinea Australian Society - said to have been operating in Australia for more than ten years - is forming a branch in the NT. Its intention is to encourage friendly relations and exchanges between the Territory and PNG, particularly in the area of trade, and to celebrate the PNG national day. A spokesperson, David Robinson, formerly of Burns Philp, Moresby, who came South in 1984 and is now with the NT Department of Industry and Development, estimates that there are at least 1000 ex-PNG residents in the NT who are eligible to join. That is an even money bet but it will be interesting to learn the results of the membership drive.

Darwin does have a PNG Social and Cultural Group, consisting largely of repatriates who brought local wives with them from the highlands and islands. Children of such marriages slot into the Darwin scene without the slightest difficulty but the ladies from Kerema or Kavieng obviously benefited from having a common resource point. The group organised lively and well attended turns on 15 September until recent years but is now rather low profile. One suspects that, since their arrival in the mid-70s, assimilation has had its effect and people are now, like the bulk of PNG expats, going their separate ways.

The most eminent of the thousand wantoks would be William Kearney who was already a knight and a judge when he came to Darwin in 1982. After working as the Aboriginal Land Commissioner he has taken his seat on the Supreme Court of the NT. He will be recalled as the last SecLaw before Independence and had clocked up nineteen years in PNG by the time he retired as Deputy Chief Justice.

Brisbane, Qld. (Doug Franklin)

Syd and Heather Saville have moved into their fine new home at Burpengary, north of Brisbane. As may be guessed, in every spare minute they have their heads down and tails up planting another beautiful garden. Syd marched in the Brisbane Anzac Day parade with an ex-R.A.N. group.

John Kelly (ex-DDA) has been in Darwin with the A.D.C. for for many years. Lothar Sadlo, another former Patrol Officer, is in Canberra with the same Department. Trich and family are fine.

Dave Rose (ex DASF SHD) made a pilgrimage back to Koroba all the way from Oxfordshire in UK where he and Pam plus family still run the family dairy farm. John Wallis visited them when over there a year or so back with plenty of chewing the Southern Highlands rag.

George Barrett, ex Popondetta planter, is keeping busy at Montville, Qld. He is currently on a project building an environmental memorial garden at St. Mary's Anglican Church in memory of Phyl. Tony and Gwen Hunt ex Tufi and Popondetta live nearby and act as advisers, although Tony says he is keeping a low profile especially on local station politics.

Jane Belfield stayed with June Fielding in Brisbane in February and then called on Ken Francis at Maleny. June incidentally is over a health setback she had last year.

Dave Willis and Mick Belfield are both involved in the coffee rehabilitation program in the PNG Highlands, making regular trips up to the Mt. Hagen and Wahgi Valley areas.

FROM CORRESPONDENTS (cont'd)

Western Australia (Margaret Clancy)

(Margaret and husband Des recently did a trip to the Eastern States and visited many old friends. Ed.)

It was great to see so many old friends and for me, even after all the time I spent in PNG, to meet a few whose names I'd heard so often but had never actually met. Thanks to Harry West for inviting us to the lovely party at 'Eryldene'. We had a wonderful time.

Our trip took us from Perth to Adelaide on the Indian Pacific (with car) then by car to Sydney, where we spent several days. From Sydney we drove to 'Dunblane' outside Warwick where we stayed with old friends Jock and Louise Lee, formerly of 'Madehas' plantation on Bougainville. Spent a few days in Brisbane in their luxury unit at Kangaroo Point, a few days with Brian and Jill Duffy in their holiday home at Tallebudgera (Brian has a very successful Mitre 10 hardware business in Brisbane) then to Jan and Jim Sinclair in their lovely riverside home on the Sunshine Coast. Had a great night there and a reunion with Des Ashton.

On the way back to Sydney we spent a night with our dear friend Bob Cole at Nerang, one with John and Heather Wallis at Nelson Bay, and a few days with Les and Dulcie Johnston in Canberra. Thence to Melbourne for a week where we had a great night with Peter and Juliet Barber and on to Adelaide, Whyalla and across the Nullabor via the Eyre Highway. This latter was a great experience. We had not driven across before and were expecting a long, hot, boring drive. To our surprise, the roads were excellent, the traffic very light and there were lots of roadhouses, motels etc. along the way. Would certainly do it again.

Back in Perth we hear that Dame Rachel and Eve Ackerman have gone off to PNG for several weeks so Eve can renew old acquaintances, mainly in Goroka.

Just before she left, Dame Rachel launched the new book about PNG by the son of Jacques Cousteau - Jean-Michel Cousteau, and Mose Richards, a fellow member of the team. Also present were Colin and Eileen Liddle, Dr. Don Drover, formerly of UPNG and now here in Perth at the Chemistry Centre, WA Department of Mines, where he is the Principal Soil Chemist, Eve Ackerman and Alan Hull, the manager of the ABC in Perth and formerly head of the ABC in PNG. They breakfasted aboard the ALCYONE, sailed round Fremantle harbour, had lunch and then home after a wonderful morning. Des had just returned from the Kimberley the night before and didn't go. He is still kicking himself.

Heard from Betty Bell who lives here in very pleasant suburb, and also has a property quite a bit further north at Northampton. Betty is the proud mother of five academics, all of whom have done very well in their chosen careers. Betty and husband John were at Sogeri, Popondetta, Lae and Kainantu and left PNG in the sixties.

A letter from Terry Daw, who has returned not long ago from a truly epic trip round Australia in a campervan. Terry and Jean saw lots of old friends, almost too numerous for me to mention here, but some of them were: Julie Kraus in Brisbane, Ken and Billie Graham at Capalaba, Jim and Eileen Hanley at Laurieton, NSW, Brian and Ursula McBride at Ettalong Beach, Max Corliss and his wife at Peregrin Beach in Queensland and Ken Baldwin and wife at Caloundra. Terry and Jean are setting off again in a couple of

Margaret Clancy (cont'd)

months and this time hope to start with Jim and Mary Toner in Darwin.

A letter from Peg and Roly Beech tells me that they are about to embark on a trip to the UK and Europe in a couple of weeks' time, staying away about three months. Roly has had a cataract operation that unfortunately gave him a lot of problems. However he is well on the way to full recovery now, so good luck Roly and Peg.

A few weeks ago I had a phone call from Roger Tynan, ex-Southern Highlands kiap who was visiting Perth from Adelaide. Roger is now with the Rangelands Assessment Unit in the Department of Lands in South Australia.

BRIBIE ISLAND (Geoff Masters)

→ VISIT TO PNG

Recently Geoff visited PNG and the following are extracts from a very long letter he sent me detailing his experiences. I would like to have given you the unedited version but unfortunately space does not permit.

"It never ceases to amaze me of peoples confidence in Port Moresby. Every time I visit the town there are new high rise buildings either completed or under construction. This time a completed apartment and office block on the corner of Hunter St. and Bampton St. across from the Travelodge.

Down town construction has started on the site of the bottom hotel to be known as Pacific House. Across the road in front of B.P.'s fronting Champion Parade and Stanley Esplanade is another high rise under way and a walk to Cuthbertson St. sees another on the site of the old newsagency and George Page's old premises, this building is wedge shaped back to the road up Paga Hill. Across the road on the corner of Douglas St. (Kriewalt's corner and James Arcade) another 12 storey is going up - it beats me - another is almost complete at the bottom of Hunter St. next door to the Fire Station. By contrast, Boroko seems to be at a standstill.

Not many oldtimers left anywhere, a night at the Yacht Club and one can not recognise anyone.

Departed Moresby for Milne Bay on the "M.V. Melanesian Discoverer" with a group of American veterans and Jan Barter (one of the owners) asked if I would tour guide them around and this I did. The Americans were under the impression that Americans had won the battle of Milne Bay so I quickly dispelled that myth, they weren't quite sure at first but I must have convinced them for that night they thanked me for giving them the story. The Milne Bay Provincial Government has sold off all the Government fleet of trawlers and is now chartering for trips to outstations.

We sailed for Oro Bay and I had my first chance to check out the ship, its pure luxury, cabins are well appointed with either a double or two single beds, dining room on lower deck is also well appointed and the lounge bar on the top deck is tastefully decorated and most relaxing. The ship is airconditioned through out and fitted with the latest of everything including a T.V. in each cabin, not that you need it on a trip like this, but nice to look at documentaries on PNG. Meals are excellent, the chef (a Trobriand) has a great imagination.

At Oro Bay we tried to visit Buna Gona but road closed due to heavy rains. Examined two P40 wrecks nearby and a P38 Lightning some distance into the bush. The latter was reasonably preserved after all these years but a tree has grown between the two tail planes. Americans always named their planes and had their own name on the side of the cockpit with number of kills marked by a Jap flag -- this one had Lt. R. E. Smith with 6 flags under. A villager told us that the original pilot had come out some years ago to see the plane.

Popondetta is still the same old dusty town it always has been -- very few expats, in fact I only saw one.

We put the Yanks off at Girua and a group of Germans joined the cruise. We then set sail for Ferguson and Goodenough Islands.

At Budoya saw Father Jim Moore whom I had known at Alotau and he and Father Russell Anderson of Ayr later came on board for dinner and a long talk.

Then to Yanaba, Gawa and Kitava Islands. Paradise islands are not without their problems -- Yanaba has a number of big heads and stirrers and there have been a few breakins and robberies there.

Kitava Island is the one that Cyril (King) Cameron ran all those years ago. I can recall flying out to Losuia in the Catalina and free dropping freezer cargo to Cameron. Visited Cameron's grave to discover that his name was Cyril Barnvelt, born in Tasmania. People told me that they have had no radio contact for three months, radio broke down, was sent to Alotau and not returned. They are building an airstrip on the island and have cleared the land.

Interesting story from Fr. Anderson who was unaware of the 1000 Japs who were stranded on Goodenough in 1942 when the RAAF shot up their barges. Father was on patrol through the area and decided to climb across the range instead of going around as was his custom. Almost at the top he was confronted by a very hairy person, apparently unshaven for years, who grunted and pointed to his mouth. Father only had some stick tobacco and handed it to him. He took a bite, spat it out and disappeared into the jungle. One wonders if it could have been a Jap straggler, missed by the 2/12 when they were sent to clear the island -- this happened in 1976.

Had a barbeque at Kibola Beach on the main island of Kiriwina and on the beach there were literally hundreds of villagers trying to sell hundreds of carving to too few people..... some nice ebony carvings around but others are rubbish timber, boot polished to look like ebony.

Then to Kaileuna Is., Siassi Is. and Madang.

Stayed at the Madang Resort Hotel which is a short walk from the wharf. It is a delightful tropical place and we were allocated a waterfront unit with the works, A/C and ceiling fan, T.V. and phone at a number of points including the toilet.

Walked down town and talked with Ron McKenna. Also Tony Clift, who once worked with Wal Connelly and Lofty Wolstenholme in Moresby years ago, came to the Resort late in the afternoon for a few beers.

Called into the old Tropical Theatre, now a trade store, and introduced myself to the owners Mark and Jaen Ho Hit, who retained the theatre shell and added to the side, front and old projection room, which is now their living quarters.

Other expats I spoke with had fears for the future and, with few exceptions, would be happy to leave, a pity because Madang is such a pretty spot. Then by road to Goroka and I was surprised that the bitumen went so far out of Madang and that the Ramu Highway was in such good condition. The old Bailey bridges were still in reasonable repair, with a few being replaced by new concrete bridges built higher above the rivers. An eye opener was the large tracts of maize under cultivation on the floor of the Ramu Valley and the huge numbers of cattle grazing. At the beginning of the Ramu Sugar Town the bitumen starts again and all the road Lae/Goroka/Hagen is sealed. Once again, I had no idea of the amount of sugar under cultivation in this area with more land being cleared for more planting. At the junction of the Ramu Highway with the Lae-Goroka road there is, in the middle of nowhere, huge numbers of coconut palms hundreds of miles from the coast and a thriving road stall operation in coconut milk at T30 each, about the same cost as a soft drink but probably more nutritional.

Arrived at Goroka after about 7 hours of driving and I was tired and dusty. Passing through Kainantu I noticed that the old airstrip now has a bank

constructed about 3/4 way up the strip and that the whole place was littered with rubbish, certainly not a clean town. However, Goroka is still the clean town it was in Ian Down's day but numerous new buildings have been constructed. The B.P. hotel, where we stayed, has been modernised but you can still hear the person in the next room turn over.

Sign of the times when entering Goroka - Land for Sale K7,500 - Land and House Package K27,000. Plenty of people milling around Goroka but not much business seems to be taking place.

Bus fares Madang/Goroka K15, Goroka/Lae K8 and Lae/Finschhafen K4. I feel real cheap considering cost for similar mileage in Australia.

The trip down the highway from Goroka to Lae was probably more spectacular than the one up and I was once again amazed at the number of cattle on the Markham Valley floor.

At Lae we stayed at Huon Gulf Motel at end of old runway. This hotel seems to exist on Government warrants as we were the only ones without one.

Not much change in the town - a new high rise under construction at back of Theatre Lae - walked to War Cemetery which is still nicely kept - walked back to town and thence along road to motel - all without any problems - later walked to Huon Theatre, now shut due to T.V., EM T.V. now on air at Lae - called at Pelgens store opposite theatre, tells me he has been robbed of K24,000 recently - walked back to motel.

How to lose \$40 in one second, change \$100 to Kina.

Big problem since movement of airport to Nadzab is getting there, no bus operates and taxi costs K50, not cheap. Thence home via Moresby."

PNG REMINISCENCES ETC.

Many members, over quite a period, have suggested that we should devote a section of Una Voce to the recording of members' memories, experiences, stories, exploits, memoirs, etc., call it what you will, concerning their days in PNG.

Some of us are getting well advanced in years and if we do not now place on record our stories concerning time spent in PNG they will probably be lost forever. The stories that one hears, whenever ex- residents of PNG meet, are legend and would be of interest to a great many people, not just our members. So let's get them down on paper, but if members would prefer to make an audio tape of material, let us have it and we will do something about putting it to paper.

Ken Brown, ex kiap, recently wrote that he agrees with Geoff Master's idea of devoting a few pages of Una Voce to "memories". He said "If the response proved a special edition necessary, I am sure we would all put in to ensure that the Association was not out of pocket, particularly with the cost of posting and printing these days."

On the opposite page is some material submitted by Ron Galloway, ex kiap in PNG, which I am certain will be of great interest to members and others. It is a start, so, how about it folks? We already have some additional material but what about yours!

CULTURE CONTACT - CULTURE SHOCK - GOILALA
by Ron Galloway

The war had been over but four short years. It was 1949. In common with my friends and colleagues in the various branches of government, I was one of the team engaged in the work of rehabilitating a war torn country and restoring, consolidating and extending the functions of government. Many of us had been in uniform and the elements of hardship and isolation that were inescapable in this often harsh country that was Papua and New Guinea did not faze us. After all, it was not so long ago that much tougher and more dangerous conditions had been experienced during those years of war.

In those days, though it was recognised as the ultimate goal, little thought was given to those political considerations of self-determination and independence. That was for the politicians and bureaucrats, whether in Port Moresby, Canberra or United Nations headquarters in New York. We were officers in the field and there was more than enough to do in terms of the immediate present.

Quite apart from the requirement of routine administration, which also importantly involved the police and judicial function, there yet remained that vast hinterland of the highlands, much of it as yet untouched and unexplored. Earlier initial patrols and government activity in the years just before the war had indicated vast populations in their hundreds of thousands, most of whom had had no real contact with the outside world.

The extension of government control, the provision of medical services, educational facilities and all those other aspects of infrastructure that make up the total activity and purpose of government, added to what was already a daunting task. The Administration (as government was then officially styled in Papua and New Guinea) was fortunate indeed to have a cadre of officials and staff, both men and women, who were possessed of the kind of motivation and dedication calculated to produce the best results possible for the people of this large territory.

Ancillary to these more formalised ranks of government, one would be churlish indeed not to make mention of the importance attaching to the many wives who accompanied husbands into remote locations and shared with them so many of the difficulties associated with bush living. I do not here make reference to the obvious comfort and companionship afforded their husbands. In a male dominated world, marked so often with the overtones of authority and seeming harshness relevant to most any New Guinea of western social grouping, large or small, the presence of womenfolk was both significant and beneficial. They served, simply by their presence, so often to give a touch of colour and softness to the otherwise bleak vista of a primitive society where the male exercised undoubted dominance and the women had to occupy a servile role as a consequence.

During the early days of contact, both government and mission invariably made their appearance in parties solely made up of men. To the traditional occupiers of the land who had the responsibility to protect territorial and community integrity, this in itself was an ominous sign. They had only their experience as the basis of a judgment to fall back on. Any party made up only of men and armed - as a government patrol was with its police and rifles and even a mission party intent on the ethos of "love one another", but nevertheless also armed with the occasional shotgun for shooting wild game - excited fear and suspicion. The arrival of such a party could have only one objective - aggression, plunder, evil intent!

That was the way it had to be, for that is the way it always was within the context of their own tribal setting. After all, if the arrival of strangers on land that did not belong to them was entirely peaceful, as with the passage of men on their way to a dance, then they would have in company with them their women and children. It was not the habit of the Tau'ade or any other group, to subject them to needless risk. The fact that neither of the parties so meeting could understand the language of the other only served to compound the confusion and the likelihood of a mistaken judgment leading to violence. It often happened that way. In fact, the villagers could not even be sure that these strangers had women. In all the initial years of contact, sporadic as it was, with outside movement from the upper Waria to the Kunimaipa, the Chirima from Kokoda, from the Mekeo plain to the Karuama and Kunimaipa or along another route to the Tau'ade and Fuyuge - in all this time, and remember it embraced a period from the closing years of the 19th century into the first and second decades of the 20th century - all they had ever seen were adult males. Never any women, never any children.

However, with the passage of time, this unusual situation underwent change. It became possible for white women to accompany the "intruders" - as the early missionaries and government were initially regarded. Importantly they included womenfolk belonging to the Catholic Mission on Yule Island. They were religious who undertook their tasks of education, medical care, cooking, etc. in quietness and dedication.

On first arrival, they had added a further dimension of perplexity. Used as the villagers were to the near naked visage of their women when those physiological characteristics of breasts and pubic region that so clearly defined their sex so open to view, these white women were another matter. Their garb, long flowing gowns reaching to the ground and buttoned tightly to the neck, arms covered and with strange headgear, only permitted hands and face to be scrutinized. And sometimes there could be seen tendrils of long hair escaping from under the head covering - an entrancing view to these people with short tightly curled hair sometimes enhanced by the men with woven plaits reaching to the shoulders. The aura of mystery was heightened by the fact that sometimes the women were carried in a form of sedan chair. Why? Could they not walk properly? Yet when they alighted from the chair they seemed to be healthy.

Eventually the white women became welcome additions to this new element of settlement in tribal country which had never usually permitted "strangers" to remain permanently. It was true maybe that there were degrees of aloofness - the gap as between white woman and Papuan mountain women could not easily be bridged. There existed difficulties of language communication and the perceptions of culture, conduct and hygiene, so different in nature, were not to be easily gelled together. Be that as it may, it is true that as the strangeness wore off, because of their common femininity, they began to enjoy an instinctive affinity.

The interaction between these two groups of women, disparate in so many ways and bonded only by their very femaleness, proved to be of mutual benefit to all parties involved in this so new process of culture contact. The work of government and mission was enhanced, supported and strengthened by the presence and encouragement in so many ways of the women who were now an important element in the development process. They too joined with the men as partners in this most fascinating enterprise of bringing a primitive culture into meaningful contact with those many confusing values so dearly held in the western world. Religion and its variability, the "Protestant

ethic" of hard and unrelenting work to produce reward, a common code of conduct designed to embrace the entire population so contrary to the rigid and restrictive rules of tribal law and norms.

This was all so new, it was difficult to comprehend and come to grips with. It was a classic example of culture shock. That the impact was lessened and softened is a tribute to those women who also had their part to play in the contact situation. They deserve a more prominent place in the history of contact and development in this newly independent country.

Their function continues and it is encouraging to observe that the indigenous women of Papua New Guinea are beginning, however slowly, to assume a more positive role. They are beginning to assert themselves and demand a better voice in the conduct of village and national life. Male chauvinist attitudes, as in other places, are under attack and they are doing much to erode and hopefully eliminate male values that for so long have done but little to enhance the essential dignity of humankind.

Brisbane
March, 1990.

PNG TITBITS

Law and Order

The law and order situation does not improve. Mr Justice Brunton, resident judge for the Eastern Highlands told a seminar in May that 80% of suspected criminals escape from the grasp of justice even after being arrested and committed for trial. He put the blame on lack of teamwork between the law enforcement agencies.

Air Niugini Improvements

Air Niugini is spending K280,000 to upgrade passenger facilities at Lae and Nadzab as part of an overall improvement to passenger on-ground comfort.

Port Moresby Turf Club

The racing fraternity in Port Moresby is still going strong and held a big meeting on Mother's Day recently, sponsored by Brian Bell & Co. All mothers had free entry.

Day - Night Cricket

A new competition has been started in the national capital - day-night cricket. Four teams have been entered and will play 40 over games commencing at midday and ending at 9 or 10pm at Sir Hubert Murray Stadium.

Accommodation Expensive

Rental housing is still at a premium in Port Moresby. A recent Post Courier ad said "3 Bedroom House. Good Security. Furnished. Seaviews. K2200 per month".

TV direct from PNG

ABC and P & T officials in Port Moresby are putting finishing touches to technical and administrative agreements to transmit PNG news and other telecasts direct to Australia. ABC have recently installed new equipment worth K250,000 at its Port Moresby offices and trial transmissions have been a big success. PNG will set up its own satellite sometime next year.

BOOK REVIEWS

"TO FIND A PATH - The Life and Times of the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment
Volume I, Yesterday's Heroes".

Author: James Sinclair

rrp. \$49.00 plus postage \$10.00 - total \$59.00.

Review by Dr. Ian Downs.

The central message of this painstakingly researched and remarkable story is to recall the heroic service of Papuan and New Guinean soldiers, police and villagers in keeping the peace and fighting for their country.

Part One deals with the origins of the armed forces and draws on the historical role of the Royal Papuan Constabulary and the Territory of New Guinea Police Force in maintaining the peace and providing administrative services during the colonial period before and between the two world wars. The narrative in Part One is necessarily based on official records by Australian officers and magistrates and the official records of the Government in Australia, in Papua and in New Guinea.

Part Two begins with an introduction to the situation that led to the war in the Pacific and the Japanese invasion of New Guinea and Papua. It leads us to the heroic defence of their homeland by Papuan and New Guinean soldiers during that invasion and their part in the consequent defeat of the Japanese. This is the first detailed record of these actions to be published based on events as seen by the PIR participants themselves and is remarkable because it successfully links the war diaries and citations of Australian and American Units with a form of traditional Melanesian oral history.

When the Japanese invaded Papua the members of the Papuan Infantry Battalion (PIB) who confronted them belonged to a recently formed and trained unit comprising soldiers (some former policemen) from both New Guinea and Papua hurriedly despatched to observe, report and hinder the enemy advance. The circumstances might well have demoralized more experienced men: Civil administration was breaking down, the PIB was ill-equipped and under-supplied and many villages were already giving support to the Japanese.

In the final stages of the war, soldiers of Papuan Infantry Battalions and New Guinea Infantry Battalions emerged from being detached as scouts and guides and operated as was originally intended in regular battalions. They were organised into the Pacific Islands Regiment in 1944.

We learn with shame that these trained professional soldiers with battle experience and citations for bravery were paid not much more than five cents a day while serving alongside allied troops enjoying superior rations and conditions and that to this day their service has remained largely unrewarded by either the Australian or Papua New Guinea Governments.

It is to be hoped that the Papua New Guinea Government will ensure that this account of the gallant service of these men will be preserved in archives and made available to schools and other appropriate institutions.

This book is as important to Papuans and New Guineans as it is to Australians. It will be particularly important to the men of the modern Pacific Islands Regiment on whose loyalty and efficiency the Government of Papua and New Guinea chiefly depends and who now commemorate 50 years of service. It is appropriate that the battle honours of the PIB and NGIB are emblazoned on the Regimental Colours of the PIR now honoured as the colours of the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment.

(This book is obtainable from RPIR Trustees, P O Box 5849, Gold Coast, Qld. 4217, and members of the Association are entitled to a discount of 20%)

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#### "SECRET ACTION OF 305"

Authors: Frank Coghlan, Norm Smith  
rrp \$14.95 (including postage)  
Review by Geoff Masters.

Some time ago I heard of a book dealing with a wartime Radar Unit. I tracked its source to RAAF Museum Point Cook.

Called SECRET ACTION OF 305, 305 being the radar unit. It was one of a number of radar units quickly assembled in Townsville in October, 1942, and sent to the Milne Bay District where they were landed on Goodenough Island in January 1943, and quickly got the Unit operational to track Japanese planes from Rabaul to Milne Bay. In late 1943 they were moved to the Trobriand Islands to allow greater coverage.

The book was written by two of its members, Frank Coghlan, a Radar Operator, and Norm Smith who was one of its mechanics.

It's a fascinating, easy to read book, which I recommend to all ex-service personnel.

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"OF STORMS AND RAINBOWS"

Authors: A Cooperative production.
rrp. \$34.95 (including postage).
Review by Geoff Masters.

Another book that came my way was OF STORMS AND RAINBOWS - Vol 1 - Story of men of 2/12 Battalion. It tells the story of the Battalion from its formation, and its time in England, Egypt and Tobruk. The 2/12 was made up of Tasmanians and North Queenslanders.

The book makes a substantive contribution to the bookshelf of any member of the Battalion, as well as to the general reader, student or military historian who wishes to understand WHAT IT WAS REALLY LIKE.

Available from:

Paul Hope, Hon. Sec.
12 Battalion Association
2 Swanston Street
NEW TOWN TAS 7008.

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COMMENTS RE "VALE" SECTION

The response to my comments in the December, 1989 Una Voce, were quite surprising. 51 letters and many phone calls were received with comments concerning Vale and numerous members spoke to me about it at the Christmas Luncheon.

All, except one person, were in favour of the current format. The following are extracts from some of the letters:

"Don't worry about the people who say the length of obituaries is too uneven. Why stop us getting all you know of someone because you don't know so much about someone else."

"I like the longer version telling us a little of the life of the deceased. It has occurred to me for some time, just what a lot of research must go into those simple paragraphs."

The 'Vale' section is always sad reading, the deaths of people I either worked with or knew well, many of my age group or younger, remind me that life does end. Please continue with this, no matter how lengthy it is, but, let us hope that fewer pass on, so that we are not deprived of such lifelong friends. Thank you for bringing back good memories - the bond between ex PNG folk will always remain, even though contact may be limited in later years."

"I share your views about the 'Vale' section and thus disagree with the two members who feel the section should only include brief details. This particularly applies to long serving Territorians where you are given appropriate information. Of course you reserve editorial rights if they were too full-some."

"Regarding your note on p.14, I join with those who welcome the new format of providing information regarding our old friends who have passed away, especially as in most cases one hears little of those who have lived a distance away since leaving the Territory."

"In my humble view a two-liner obituary would not do justice to the majority of fellow officers and friends who have departed this world to the next. My understanding, Doug, is that the editor is paying a small tribute on behalf of all living members of the Association. At the same time he is, where possible, reminding us of deceased fellow members and friends we knew."

"Re the editor's comments about our 'Vale' section, please tell Doug he has my wholehearted support and to submit as much information on those claimed by the Grim Reaper as he can obtain."

"Some time back it was suggested that we provide thumbnail sketches of ourselves in case there is no knowledgeable person handy when an obit is suddenly required.

We have to expect that these occasions become more frequent and I think that a journalistic "morgue" - a double meaning here! - of information concerning bygone days would be useful to the Editor of the day when these things happen." (The member concerned enclosed examples regarding his wife and himself and another member did likewise. Ed.)

"Commenting on a remark in the recent Newsletter that the Vale notices might be too extensive, I think these notes are an important part of the Newsletter, keeping us advised of what has happened to our former colleagues and probably also giving many the only public recognition of the work they have done in PNG."

## VALE

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.

Mr. Anton (Tony) PETERS (19 April 90)

Tony Peters served in the Netherlands Air Force in World War II and went to PNG in the fifties to work as a Traffic Officer for Patair. He later joined the PNG Public Service as a Clerk at the Port Moresby Hospital where he remained until his retirement to Australia.

Mr. John CHRISTENSEN (17 April 90)

John went to PNG in 1961 aged 18. After being employed by local firms he joined DASF and had several postings including Bougainville, Popondetta, Nondugl and Port Moresby. For many years he was the senior DPI Officer in charge of Oil Palm projects at Hoskins, Higaturu and Bialla. He left DPI in March 1989 and returned to Brisbane in September 1989.

John is survived by his wife Sally, who was a nursing sister in Bougainville when they met and three sons, Michael, Paul and Peter, all born in PNG.

A large gathering of ex DASF staff and their wives attended the funeral in Brisbane including Syd Saville, Jack Lamrock, Ron McCormack, Peter Burn, Dave Willis, Barry Beil, David Manton, Bob Densley, who read the valedictory, Carl Mayoh, Harry Dunstan, Mick Read and Doug Franklin. Also in attendance were Tony Siaguru, in Brisbane for a medical checkup, Tim Kapui and Ovia Tarube, two DPI Officers from Konedobu attending Qld University.

Geoff LANCASTER (1989)

Geoff, former Government Statistician and then Popondetta Cocoa Planter, died in Western Australia.

(I would appreciate some additional information about Geoff. Ed.)

Mrs. Ola M. DALL (nee MacPherson) (17 December 89)

Widow of Morven Dall, formerly of Treasury, Konedobu and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Canberra. Ola was in the first group of students entering in 1937 the newly established Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Queensland and was the first female veterinary graduate of that University in 1940. She remained at the University as demonstrator in 1941/42. When the Faculty in Brisbane was closed because of the war, she transferred to the School of Veterinary Science at Sydney University as Tutor and specialised in parasitology.

Ola went to PNG in 1949 as veterinary parasitologist of DASF and was very active in visiting most districts for parasitological surveys and carrying out other vet. work.

She met and married Morven in Port Moresby and after her marriage she worked for a while on human parasitological problems at Taurama Hospital. They left Port Moresby for Canberra in about 1960, when Morven obtained an appointment with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The last years of Ola's life were marked by tragedies. The sudden death of Morven, the death of her son Lachlan in a motor cycle accident, while she had to undergo several serious operations, including the amputation of one leg, causing her to use a wheelchair. She overcame these difficulties with great fortitude and strength of character, maintaining her independence,

her home and even going on overseas trips by sea and air. Her will and determination to overcome difficulties impressed all who knew her and she was a great friend to her friends. She is survived by her daughter Linden, son-in-law Bill Trewartha and two small grandsons.

Mr. Jeffrey William KEAST (March 90)

Jeff went to PNG with Technical Education in 1959. In 1961 he transferred to Secondary Education and was Headmaster Port Moresby High School. Later he went to Wewak as Headmaster Brandi High School.

In 1967 he spent a year at Nudgee College in Brisbane Qld but returned to PNG in 1968 as Inspector Technical Schools.

Jeff was a keen supporter of PNG PSA and was involved with Tom Jackson and others in negotiations with the then Department of Territories concerning separation arrangements for expatriate Public Servants at Independence.

He returned to Australia in 1975 and settled in Caloundra where he was at times involved in various projects with John Baldwin and Jack Amesbury.

Survived by wife Poppy, children Ramon, Bevan, Barry, Meryl and Ashley and brothers Alan and Don.

Mrs. Ann BEST (nee Nancy Savage) (30 Dec 89)

Ann (or Nancy as she was called in the early days in Rabaul - mid 20's and 30's) was the daughter of Pat and Mabs Savage.

She married Frank (Webb) Turner and their son Anthony was born in Namanula Hospital, Rabaul. Unfortunately Frank, who was an avid cricketer, was killed a few years later when struck by a cricket ball.

After W.W.II Ann went to Hong Kong and years later to England with her second husband Col. A. deG. Best. She lived there until her death and is survived by her son Tony, his wife Jeanne and their two sons and daughter.

(Refer "Have You Heard" for additional info. about Ann from Roma Bates. Ed)

Mrs. Joan L. HART (nee Dexter) (4 April 90)

Joan was the wife of Toni Hart (Zatwarnicky) veterinary officer DASF in the 1950's. He was particularly concerned with the quarantine observation of cattle from Pakistan at Kila Kila. Joan was the sister of Len Dexter of Ukua Plantation in Papua and spent some years in Port Moresby at DASF HQ at Konedobu, where she met her future husband. After work in Nigeria Toni established a vet practice at Fairfield, a Sydney suburb, where he still lives. Joan contracted multiple sclerosis while serving in the WAAF during the war. During the last 20 years her condition gradually deteriorated with the advance of her illness. During the last 10 years she has been confined to a wheelchair. Throughout this long period she maintained good cheer, courage and confidence that some remedy would be found to arrest the progress of the disease. Joan is survived by her husband, Toni, who nursed her at home throughout her illness.

Mrs. Amy McNEIL (19 Mar 90)

Amy was the widow of the late Vern McNeil, ex-Superintendent of Police in PNG, and spent some 25 years in PNG at Moresby, Mt. Hagen and Lae and was well-known in golfing circles. She is survived by her son Rod and daughters Helen and Pamela.

Dr. David BOWLER (1 April 90)

Dr. Bowler succeeded Dr. Refshauge in PNG about 1964 as Assistant Director Maternal and Child Health. He was an excellent administrator, teacher and pediatrician and developed an effective rapport with both expatriate and national staff.

On leaving PNG he was appointed Medical Superintendent at Townsville General Hospital and was there at the time of the devastating cyclone when he rendered sterling service.

From Townsville Dr. Bowler went to Broken Hill where he worked tirelessly for the city and surrounding district. His contribution to medicine and service to the community were recognised earlier this year when he received a prestigious Advance Australia Award. The honour this year was bestowed on only 16 people across Australia.

A dedicated pediatrician, Dr. Bowler spent many hours working beyond the call of duty treating young patients, often visiting sick patients out of surgery hours and travelling hundreds of kilometres, often to remote areas, to treat children.

The Chairman of the Broken Hill Base Hospital Board at the funeral paid tribute to the outstanding service Dr. Bowler had given the city. "He was a quiet, unassuming man; a man with a passion to help. He was a compassionate, caring man to whom virtually thousands owe a huge debt", he said.

Dr. Bowler is survived by his second wife Pat and three married children. His son is a chest physician in Brisbane.

Father Bill SAIKO (12 March 90)

Father Saiko was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA in 1916, was ordained a Catholic Priest in 1942 and arrived in PNG 20 September 45. His appointments were: Mailon 45-46, Wewak 46-47, Kambot 47-48, Alexishafen 48-80 (procurator and Bishop's secretary), then the town parish of Yomba 80-90.

Of Father Saiko Father Mihalic writes: "Father Saiko literally 'hit the beach' at Mailon near Sek at night in October 45, off a small US Army work boat, just a few weeks after the Japanese had surrendered at Wom Point near Wewak. Within months he disappeared into the Sepik swamps at Kambot for his first stint at parish work in the mission in the mud.

He surfaced in 48..... when he was appointed business manager, cum secretary, cum chancellor to the Bishop at Alexishafen.

In Sek he threw together a ramshackle office on the war-torn, rummage littered premises, amid the gaunt trunks of decapitated coconut palms. This was to be the drab cocoon from which the butterfly of his many talents slowly emerged.

The task before him was enormous. Simultaneously he had to build quarters for returning mission staff, get the plantations back into production with 90% of the Brothers gone, procure and distribute vital foodstuffs and supplies to the coastal stations he was resurrecting, expand the flying services that were the umbilical cord to the newly opening Highlands, and take personal control of a small flotilla of mission ships."

After a few years "Boats ran, plantations produced, cattle multiplied, planes flew, schools went up and so did churches and convents and presbyteries and hospitals and clinics."

After a long period of illness and pain Father Bill died in the Madang Hospital. "He was a wonderful person, a wonderful character. A deeply religious man, a true labourer in the vineyard - a faithful servant. May his soul rest in peace".

(I have very fond memories of Father Bill and I am sure that anyone who was stationed in Madang from 48 onwards would have known him well. Ed.)

Judge James Thomas GIBNEY (21 May 90, aged 65 years)

Judge Gibney was educated at St. Joseph's College in Brisbane and the University of Queensland, taking his Arts Degree in 48 and his Law Degree in 56. He won the Virgil Power Prize in 56. He was admitted to the Queensland Bar on 20 December 56. He was in the AIF Intelligence Service in 42 and 43. He was in the Crown Law Office at Port Moresby in 48 and in 49 he was appointed Registrar of the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea at the young age of 24 years. He remained in this position until he left PNG in 54. He then held various legal positions in Brisbane and was appointed Crown Prosecutor in February 62. From 69 to 72 he was tutor in criminal law for the Solicitors' Board and it is reported that he was an excellent teacher. He was appointed an Acting District Court Judge on 19 June 72 and appointed permanently 14 December 72. Apart from various legal publications, he published the book "The Gatton Mystery" in 77, as co-author with his brother, Mr Desmond Gibney.

Throughout his career Judge Gibney was held in very high regard by all sections of the legal fraternity.

Some 300 persons attended Judge Gibney's funeral including Geoff Masters, Carl Mayoh, Ron Galloway, Judge Eric Pratt and many legal and government dignitaries.

He is survived by his wife Hazel and his children Jeanne, Margaret, Jim and Anne.

Mr. William T. K. HOWARD (26 September 89)

(Reported in the December 89 issue of Una Voce and I have discovered that neither Bill or his wife Barbara came from England. Bill was from Bundaberg Qld and Barbara from the South Coast of NSW - both Dinkum Aussies - my sincere apologies Barbara, I was misinformed. Ed.)

Bill was Master of the training ship "Acturus", before being seconded to the PNG Harbour Board as Port Manager and then Training Officer prior to his retirement. Bill spent over 30 years in PNG and it is on record that "his knowledge of the waters of PNG were second to none".

Mrs. Mary WOMERSLEY (10 January 90)

Mary was the widow of John Womersley who was Botanist with the Department of Forests in Lae and Port Moresby and taught at Lae Primary School for many years. She is survived by her son Ross.

Mrs. Marjorie PURNELL ( ? )

Lived in Lae for many years from 47 with her husband Buster. They ran the egg farm and were well-known to Lae residents.

Mr. Jim O'BRIEN (16 March 90)

Jim was Mining Engineer for many years at New Guinea Goldfields, Wau and after returning to Australia was at the Cracow Mine.

He is survived by his wife Elwyn, son Michael and daughter Maureen.

Mr. Bevin (Bimbo) MURPHY (20 April 90)

Brother of John Murphy, was with Commonwealth Department of Works in Lae and Brisbane for many years. He is survived by his wife Jill, son Tim and daughters Kathryn, Colleen, Sarah and Sue.

Mr. John Gillespie SNEDDON (7 June 90)

John was a Clerk with Department of District Administration in PNG and is survived by his wife Thelma Eileen.

Mr. Charles William LeGRADY (31 May 90)

Charles was a Quantity Surveyor with the Public Works Department in PNG and is survived by his wife Anne Ethel and daughter.

Mr. Graham Arthur RADFORD (11 April 90)

Graham was a Health Extension Officer with the Public Health Department in PNG and is survived by his wife Laura Nancye.

Mr. Ray KAPP (15.6.90 aged 60 yrs)

Ray served in PNG with Treasury and DDA and retired to Sydney in 1974. He is survived by his wife Paula and sons Matthew and Paul. Ray met Paula in PNG when, as I understand it, Paula was with 9PA.

(I only received the information on this page as I was going to print and consequently I was unable to undertake any research concerning them. If friends or relatives could supply me with more details I will write them up more fully in the next issue. Ed.)

#### NEW FEES - PAPUA NEW GUINEA

An increase in the cost of visas became effective from 21 May 1990. The new costs are:

|                                                         |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| -issue or extension of tourist visa                     | \$13.00   |
| -issue or extension of multiple entry business visa     | \$200.00  |
| -temporary residence visa                               |           |
| single entry assessed short term (1-12 months)          |           |
| employment                                              | \$1996.00 |
| issue or extension of multiple entry visa for           |           |
| period exceeding 1 year but not exceeding 3 years       | \$133.00  |
| issue or extension of multiple entry visa exceeding     |           |
| 3 years but not exceeding 5 years                       | \$133.00  |
| -issue of yachtsman's entry permit                      | \$133.00  |
| -provision of telephone, telex or fax facilities        | \$67.00   |
| -late application for visa extension (fee to be paid in |           |
| addition to fee for type of visa sought                 | \$333.00  |
| -issue of PNG passport                                  | \$40.00   |
| -renewal of PNG passport                                | \$27.00   |

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

|                     |                                                |                  |          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| MRS. M.A. AHERN     | 44 Shirley Street                              | SOUTHPORT        | QLD 4215 |
| MR G. BLANCH        | 39 Kapilano Cres.                              | MOOLOOLABA       | QLD 4557 |
| MR J. CASHMAN       | C/- Air Niugini, BOX C352, Clarence St.        | SYD              | NSW 2000 |
| MR V. CHANDLER      | 47 Ogilvie Road                                | MR PLEASANT      | W A 6153 |
| MRS M. CLARK        | 2/25 Drabble Street                            | SCARBOROUGH      | W A 6019 |
| MR L.F. DUNNE       | P O Box 34                                     | BULAHDELAH       | NSW 2423 |
| MR A.L. DAWE        | 14 Jo11 Street                                 | MARGATE          | QLD 4019 |
| MS R. DICKER        | C/- Niugini Tours, Box 7002                    | SYDNEY           | NSW 2001 |
| MR B. DUFFY         | 46 Botticelli Street,                          | FIG TREE POCKET  | QLD 4069 |
| MR D.P. EYRE        | P O Box 99,                                    | URANGAN          | QLD 4655 |
| MR E.P. GLOVER      | Yarwood Cottage, 28 Aitken Rd.                 | BOWRAL           | NSW 2576 |
| MR H.R. GREER       | P O Box 569, LAE,                              | PAPUA NEW GUINEA |          |
| DR W. GAMMAGE       | 1 Hackett Gardens                              | TURNER           | ACT 2601 |
| MR P. HARBECK       | P O Box 230                                    | MT OMMANEY       | QLD 4074 |
| MR A.R. HOILE       | 16 Vines Avenue                                | FORESTVILLE      | NSW 2087 |
| MR R.J. HUXLEY      | 168 Boyce Road                                 | MAROUBRA         | NSW 2035 |
| MR M. HAMILTON      | 54 Dane Close, Seaford, East Sussex, BN 25 1EB | ENGLAND          |          |
| MR G. KNIGHT        | 20 Siandra Drive                               | KAREELA          | NSW 2232 |
| MR B.G. LE MESURIER | 82 Phillip Avenue                              | DOWNER           | ACT 2602 |
| MR A. MARKS         | 46 Sun valley drive                            | GLENALLA         | S A 5052 |
| MR H.N. NELSON      | 2 Loddon Street                                | KALEEN           | ACT 2617 |
| MR C. SCHWASS       | C/- P O Box 495, MOUNT HAGEN                   | PAPUA NEW GUINEA |          |
| MRS I. SCHULTZ      | P O Box 1025                                   | SOUTH GOSFORD    | NSW 2250 |
| REVEREND J. SHARP   | 16 Church Street                               | WOUTH WINDSOR    | NSW 2756 |
| MR C. SANDERSON     | 38 Bannister Head Road                         | MOLLYMOOK        | NSW 2539 |
| MRS A. SUTHERLAND   | 156 Canning Road                               | KALAMUNDA        | W A 6076 |
| MRS B. YUILL        | P O Box 8                                      | ESPERANCE        | W A 6450 |

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

|                     |                                      |                  |          |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| MR D. BELL          | 10/17 Irving Avenue                  | PRAHRAN          | VIC 3181 |
| MR W.T. BROWN       | P O Box 380                          | WOOLLAHRA        | NSW 2025 |
| BISHOP BRIAN BARNES | P O Box 179 AITAPE                   | PAPUA NEW GUINEA |          |
| MRS F. COHEN        | 64 Palace Street                     | ASHFIELD         | NSW 2131 |
| MR K. DOHERTY       | Box 5139, Mail Centre                | CAIRNS           | QLD 4870 |
| MRS K. DONNELLY     | P O Box 84                           | COOTAMUNDRA      | NSW 2590 |
| MT T. ELLIS         | R.D.3 Harvey Road                    | WAIUKU           | N Z      |
| MR E. FLOWER        | Unit 116, Fraser Dve. 98 Bayview St. | RUNAWAY BAY      | QLD 4216 |
| MR D. FYFE          | 53 Village Rd. Redwood Village       | KINGSTON         | TAS 7050 |
| LADY E. GUNTHER     | 5 Olinda Close                       | ROBINA           | QLD 4226 |
| MRS J. HUGHES       | Peaches Court Unit 5 208 Cypress St. | URANGAN          | QLD 4655 |
| MR K.W. HITCHCOCK   | 43 Alice Street                      | TURRAMURRA       | NSW 2074 |
| MR C. LIDDLE        | P O Box 42                           | BULLS BROOK      | W A 6084 |
| MR R. LAWLER        | 50 Pyap Street                       | RENMARK          | S A 5341 |
| MR D. MURTY         | 36/20 Bonner Avenue                  | MANLY            | NSW 2095 |
| MISS L. MOORHOUSE   | 19/91 Wynyard Street                 | CLEVELAND        | QLD 4163 |
| MRS A.M. NEILSEN    | P O Box 29,                          | SUNNYBANK        | QLD 4109 |
| MR S. SAVILLE       | 52 Rosehill Drive                    | BURPENGARY       | QLD 4505 |
| MRS V.L. SLINGER    | 18 Baker Street                      | TEMORA           | NSW 2666 |
| MR R. THOMSON       | Unit P23 The Domain 74 Wardoo St.    | SOUTHPORT        | QLD 4215 |
| MR A.L. WILLIAMS    | 5 Grace Street. Nelly Bay            | MAGNETIC IS.     | QLD 4819 |
| MR A. ZWECK         | 5 First Avenue                       | HENTY            | NSW 2658 |