



Una Voce News Letter

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

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No. 1, 1992 - March

Dear Member,

A big thank you on behalf of the Committee to all those members who sent Christmas and New Year Greetings, including all ex-PNGs in Brisbane. Your greetings and words of encouragement were very much appreciated.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

OUR ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AND LUNCHEON
WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 26 APRIL 1992
AT THE MANDARIN CLUB

Full details about the meeting and luncheon are to be found in the centre pages.

Any senior or incapacitated member, who would like to attend but would have difficulty because of transport problems, please contact our Secretary, Jo Nitsche, or our Assistant Secretary, Pamela Foley, whose telephone numbers are shown above and they will endeavour to arrange transport.

ANZAC DAY

Your Committee has timed this year's AGM and luncheon to enable interstate and country members, who would like to attend Anzac Day celebrations in Sydney on Saturday, 25 April, to make it worthwhile to travel to Sydney to attend both functions on the same weekend.

NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES - ANGAU ASSOCIATION - ANZAC DAY MARCH

The above Association marches every Anzac Day in Sydney and after the March they have a reunion, Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the RSL War Memorial Club, Kensington, NSW. Some members cannot march so they join the marchers at Kensington. Wives and other family members are invited to the luncheon and this enables wives to meet at least once each year.

There are many members of the above units living in Queensland, NSW and the other States, who have never made contact with the Association and

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they are invited to do so. There are no annual subscriptions, but they have to charge for the meal and drinks at the luncheon and this is kept to a bare minimum so that it just covers the cost.

Some members may wish to locate old mates and perhaps the Association has a record of them. They post out one circular each year, about the end of March, with details of the Anzac Day function. If you wish to be included in their mailing list, or like a copy of the current circular, please write or phone:

Alan Moore, 3/7A Hamilton St., Carlton NSW 2218 Tel. (02)587.2982

Adrian Leyden, 7 Belair Close, Hornsby NSW 2077 " (02)477.3795

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that the 1992 annual subscription (\$8) became due and payable on 1 January 1992, unless, of course, you paid in advance.

To ascertain your financial standing, please check the address wrapper from your current issue of *Una Voce*. At the bottom right hand corner of the address label is the year to which you have paid subscription/s, i.e., 1991, 1995, 2000, 2010 etc. If, on the label, the year shown is 1991, you are only financial until 31 December 1991 and we would appreciate you forwarding your 1992 subscription without delay.

Members who are unfinancial at the time of posting will receive a reminder notice in this issue. Any member, who continues to be unfinancial as at 31 May 1992, will not receive the June 1992 issue of the Newsletter containing the Membership List nor any further issues of the Newsletter until subscriptions are paid.

MONTEVIDEO MARU

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the Japanese prison ship, the "*Montevideo Maru*".

After capturing Rabaul on 23 January 1942, the Japanese gathered European civilians of Allied nationality from surrounding islands, together with Australian soldiers taken in the area, in a prison camp in the town. On Sunday 22 June, 1942, all except the Army officers and eight civilians were told "Get ready to move out." Over a thousand prisoners were taken down to the harbour, where the ship "*Montevideo Maru*" awaited them.

They sailed that day from Rabaul, en route to Hainan Island. On 1st July an Allied submarine torpedoed the "*Montevideo Maru*" off the Philippines, and she sank within ten minutes. All prisoners, and almost all the naval guards and ship's crew, were drowned, only three Japanese survivors finally reached Manila. US Navy records, and the prisoners who remained in Rabaul, confirm the Japanese records of the sinking and of those who were aboard.

These included 845 servicemen, men of the 2/22nd Battalion and support units, overwhelmed after a short but desperate struggle around Rabaul, and of the small 1st Independent Company, captured on New Ireland. There were 208 civilians, including eighty employees of the Territory of New Guinea's Administration, 12 Methodist missionaries, 3 Roman Catholic missionaries, 2 Seventh Day Adventists, 23 Salvation Army bandsmen who had enlisted en masse to form the 2/22nd Battalion Regimental Band, business and professional men, managers and employees from almost every business in Rabaul, planters and farmers. All perished.

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MONTEVIDEO MARU (continued)

A commemorative service and reunion will be held by the Uniting Church in the Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta, on Saturday July 4th 1992. Guests at the service will be Bishop William and Mrs. Evah Kilala from the United Church in Rabaul. Further information may be obtained from Rev. Allen Taylor (02-747-4356) or Mrs Joan Maclead (02-624-2750)

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN PNG

The following is an extract from a letter we recently received from Marjorie Head:

"In March last year you published, in the Una Voce Newsletter, a letter of mine suggesting that we make a recording of the contribution that women made in the development of Papua New Guinea, and I volunteered to edit/compile such reminiscences. Alas, I only had two replies to my offer, and one of those was from someone who had already written some notes and deposited them in the New Guinea section of the Queensland University Library. This was a little disappointing, but could be due to someone already preparing something similar. However, should any further contributions come to hand or people wishing to make them, I am still willing to do something with them."

Marjorie's address is:

Mrs. Marjorie J. Head
3 Sunrise Circle
The Dawn
GYMPIE QLD 4570

(Ed. I know of at least three woman, including Dame Rachel Cleland, who are writing books about the role of women in PNG but, even when and if these works are completed, I believe there will still remain a great deal to be written about the part that women have played in the development of the country. So what about helping Marjorie fill in the big gaps I am sure that will still remain.

By the way, Canon Ian Stuart's address is : 97 Bangalow Road, BYRON BAY, NSW 2481.)

HELP WANTED

Anyone knowing what happened to Vic Pratt of Tobera Plantation, Kokopo, New Britain, after the Japanese occupation in Rabaul in 1942 and Joe Rocca ex New Ireland and Rabaul, please contact:

D. O. (Mick) Smith
16 Palmerston Place
SEAFORTH NSW 2092

SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES

PAPUA NEW GUINEA SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

During the year, 13 new pensions were commenced and 26 ceased, leaving 571 pensions in force at 30 June 1991. Except for two children's pensions all cessations were due to the deaths of pensioners. Detailed information is provided in the following Table:

Pension commencements and cessations, 1990-91

| | Pensions at 1.7.90 | Commencements | Cessations | Pensions at 30.6.91 |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------|
| Males | | | | |
| Early retirement | 79 | 0 | 2 | 77 |
| Maximum age | 165 | 0 | 7 | 158 |
| Invalidity | 70 | 0 | 6 | 64 |
| Females | | | | |
| Early retirement | 13 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Maximum age | 24 | 0 | 2 | 22 |
| Invalidity | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Widows | 218 | 11 | 7 | 222 |
| Children and full-time students | 11 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| Total | 584 | 13 | 26 | 571 |

There were four invalidity pensions of a total value of \$98,760 per annum at 1 July 1990 which remained suspended throughout the year under the provisions of sections 51 and 51AA of the *Superannuation (Papua New Guinea) Ordinance 1951*.

Total expenditure on pensions during the year amounted to \$15,615,195. The estimated liability for the year ending 30 June 1992 in respect of the 571 pensions in force at 30 June 1991 is \$16,380,340. This figure includes the pension increases that became payable on the first pension payday in July 1991. The following Table allocates these amounts according to pension type:

Pension expenditure, 1990-91, and estimated liability, 1991-92

| | Expenditure 1990-91 \$ | Estimated liability 1991-92 \$ |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Males | | |
| Early retirement | 2,648,376 | 2,778,146 |
| Maximum age | 4,582,388 | 4,806,925 |
| Invalidity | 2,642,108 | 2,771,571 |
| Females | | |
| Early retirement | 256,482 | 269,050 |
| Maximum age | 554,278 | 581,438 |
| Invalidity | 97,631 | 102,415 |
| Widows | 4,749,179 | 4,981,889 |
| Children and full-time students | 84,753 | 88,906 |
| Total | 15,615,195 | 16,380,340 |

PAPUA SUPERANNUATION SCHEME AND NEW GUINEA SUPERANNUATION SCHEME

The number of persons in receipt of pensions under the Papua Scheme during the year was reduced by one. As at 30 June 1991 three male officers remained in receipt of pensions. The Scheme did not provide benefits for widows or children. The following Table shows expenditure for the year ended 30 June 1991 and the estimated liability for the year ending 30 June 1992, including the pension increases payable in July 1991:

Papua Scheme: expenditure, 1990-91, and estimated liability, 1991-92

| | Expenditure 1990-91 | No. of pensions at 30.6.91 | Estimated liability 1991-92 |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | \$ | No. | \$ |
| Males | 60,766 | 3 | 47,212 |
| Females | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 60,766 | 3 | 47,212 |

Under the New Guinea Scheme one widows' pension was ceased upon death during the year. As at 30 June 1991 there remained five ex-contributors and 31 widows in receipt of pensions. The following Table shows expenditure for the year ended 30 June 1991 and the estimated liability for the year ending 30 June 1992, including the pension increased payable in July 1991.

New Guinea Scheme: expenditure, 1990-91, and estimated liability, 1991-92

| | Expenditure 1990-91 | No. of pensions at 30.6.91 | Estimated liability 1991-92 |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | \$ | No. | \$ |
| Males | 54,309 | 5 | 56,970 |
| Females | 404,624 | 31 | 418,043 |
| Total | 458,933 | 36 | 475,013 |

SUPERANNUATION

Members may know that the Commonwealth Acts covering various Commonwealth government superannuation pension scheme payments have been amended so that when a member dies the payment to the spouse is not immediately reduced but she/he receives the full married rate for seven following paydays (fourteen weeks) before the pension is reduced to the lower single rate.

This applies to Defence Force Retirement beneficiaries, Veterans service pensioners and to Commonwealth superannuants who were employed under the 1976 Commonwealth Act. However it does NOT apply to superannuants under the Commonwealth 1922 Act, nor to Papua New Guinea retirees.

Surely this is gross discrimination, but it is defended on the grounds that, in the former cases, changes in the legislation have resulted in savings which have been used to provide the extra payments; for example, funeral benefits were cut out for Veterans service pensioners and the disability provisions of the 1976 Act were amended in 1990 so that substantial savings have been made.

In the latter cases, i.e. the 1922 and Papua New Guinea schemes, no such savings have been possible, and in these stringent financial times government policy seems to be that any new benefits in a Fund must be made from savings in that Fund.

The Opposition agreed that this was discriminatory, but it was left to the Democrats in the Senate to move an amendment to change the 1922 legislation (which would have been a precedent for us). Both the Government and the Opposition voted against it and it was defeated.

This matter continues to be pursued by both the Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association (SCOA) and your Association.

HAVE YOU HEARD???

Florence COHEN, now of Ashfield NSW, has finally left PNG and a tribute to her was recently published in the Newsletter of the Orchid Society of Papua New Guinea, of which Florence is a Life Member, on the occasion of her departure after about 40 years residence.

She was involved in the relocation of Mr Kip McKillop's orchids from Bougainville during the early 70s. This was done to make way for the township of Arawa to be established. Mr McKillop's orchids were recognised as one of the finest orchid species collection in PNG, hence the importance of the relocation. From then on she was hooked.

Florence contributed much to the Society, with many members having some of her orchids in their gardens. Her distribution of *Dendrobium tangerinum* alone has been considerable, and offspring of her Wolfgang's flaked orchids will be appearing in many parts of the world.

Florence arrived in Rabaul in 1948 and after marriage to Bill Cohen lived for a number of years at Tovakundum Plantation. Bill died in the early 1970s but his name is remembered by the Memorial "Bill Cohen Stand" - the central venue for Queen Elizabeth Park. Their son Peter is the Manager of Steamships Hardware, Rabaul, and has kept the tradition by presenting Florence with a grandson christened Bill! Florence, who became known as the "Missus bilong Rabaul Stevedores", later transferred to Lae and in 1986 to Port Moresby, and retires from the Rabaul Stevedores/Steamships group as one of their most senior staff.

Tom WESTON of Vancouver Canada recently wrote as follows: "Inez and I live in a pleasant little neck of the woods on Vancouver Island, where we settled after finishing in PNG.

We have a small motorhome, of which we make pretty good use. We have circumnavigated (by road) North America one and a half times as well as taking trips fairly regularly down to the States and across to the east. We've driven to Alaska a couple of times and also up the Dempster Highway across the Arctic Circle to Inuvik on the Western Arctic Coast, and we've flown to other settlements on the Arctic Coast. We've visited Boffin Island in the eastern Arctic where our son Don was stationed for a while; he's now a Canadian citizen and living in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

With this in mind, we may be able to be of help with advice for any of your members who may be contemplating a visit to Canada or the States and who may not be very familiar with what they would like to do or see -- if so, they would be welcome to contact us." (Ed. See address list.)

The Rev. Dr. John GARRETT, Pacific Church Historian of the Pacific Theological College, SUVA, FIJI, recently visited the Sacred Heart Fathers at their headquarters on Yule Island and among other things was very much impressed by the mosaic art work of Father Theo Aerts. Later two other Fathers took John for a trip across the bay to Delena Village to see the grave of John's friend and colleague, the late the Rev. Dr. Sir Percy Chatterton. To John's astonishment and delight, there on Percy's grave was a mosaic of his likeness! Back on Yule Island he asked Father Theo about this who replied: "I do this for our people, I liked Percy so I did it for him!"

Congratulations to David MONTGOMERY of Grabben Gullen NSW on his re-appointment for three years to the Board of Horticultural Research and Development Corporation. Mr. John Sharp, Member for Gilmore and Shadow

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

Minister for Shipping and Waterfront Reform, offering his congratulations to David said that David had made a substantial contribution to horticultural research already, including his previous service as a Board Member of the Corporation. "The district can be proud that people such as David Montgomery are continuing its tradition of agricultural development," Mr. Sharp said.

Reg STEVENS of Chatman NSW comments: "It is unsettling to note that very few of the old pre-war Officers of the Papua Administration are still in the land of the living. However, I am sure that they, like myself, thoroughly enjoyed their stint with Sir Hubert Murray's Administration of Papua." Reg, there are still a hale and hearty few, like yourself, around and I hope there will be for quite some time to come. Ed.

Alice (Madonna) NEILSEN of Sunnybank Qld penned us a few lines at Christmas saying that she sends her copy of the Newsletter to Alan Robertson in Canada. She now lives in a flat attached to her daughter Diane Needing and her husband Terry. She was hoping to visit the Cockburns in their new home at Stroud NSW and reported that she now had 2 great grandchildren and expected another last month. Alice, I do remember you and join with Freddie and June Kaad in wishing you all the very best for 1992.

Emily CHAMPION of Southport Qld wrote to us at Christmas saying that she went to Papua in 1936, a year after her late husband joined the Papuan Government and left there when Alan retired in 1960. They were married in England in 1933 and she reports that they had 55 wonderful years together. Emily became 82 years young last year and it was great hearing from you. All the very best for 1992.

Helen COX of Woody Point Qld also dropped us a few lines at Christmas and I do remember you. Our hearty congratulations on turning 83 years young this month, all the very best for 1992 and may there be many more birthdays to come!

Whilst I am on birthdays, Bonnie DUN of Strathfield NSW became 80 years young late last year but had a spell of ill health. Congratulations on becoming an octogenarian and our very best wishes for a happy and healthy 1992, we sincerely hope you are fighting fit again.

Marjorie VIAL of East Kew Vic. was another member who had a birthday since the last issue, becoming 82 years young. Our very best wishes to you for a happy and healthy 1992.

Alice MIDDLETON of Mosman NSW and Bert WESTON of Milsons Point NSW, two of our nonagenarians, both had birthdays last month becoming 91 years young. Hearty congratulations to you both and our very best wishes for many more birthdays to come. Both Alice and Bert always attend our luncheons and we will be looking forward to seeing you both at the next one.

Dawn FISK of Mordialloc Vic sent us a copy of a photograph of the 1958 Konedobu Football Club Team and passing it around amongst members of our Committee they recognised quite a few of the team. A neighbour had shown her the photograph which she had copied because her brother, Bill Holmes, had been in the team. Thanks, Dawn and our very best regards.

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HAVE YOU HEARD??? (continued)

June KAAD of Mosman NSW has been a patient in Royal North Shore Hospital since early January. She has now been moved to Mt. Wilga Rehabilitation Hospital where she expects to stay for several weeks. Fred and daughters thank the many friends who sent messages of love and support.

Candy, Doug and Craig PARRISH of Lindfield NSW thank the many many friends who sent messages of love and sympathy after the loss of their much loved son and brother Wayne.

Vin and Rita SMITH of Port Moresby PNG report that life goes on much the same and the country still has its growing law and order problems. "We lived through a long curfew in Moresby from April through September last year (it was quiet and peaceful and lights out by 9 p.m.), and the post curfew period brings a bit more back to Moresby and all over PNG, Lae, Rabaul, Hagen etc. But we can take care and are very aware.

The Ninth South Pacific Games were a great success for PNG and were thoroughly enjoyed by a lot of people in Moresby and Lae where the venues were most spectacular, new stadiums, new ovals, new games village etc. Both Vin and I were volunteers for the S.P. Athletics Squad and were the Presentation Coordinators (Public Announcements, Results and Victory Ceremonies) at the Sir John Guise Stadium for the athletics - seven days of concentration and minding our "Ps and Qs" whilst on the P.A. System!

We both keep busy, playing bridge (of sorts) and still members of the Port Moresby Bridge Club, the Aviat Club, The PNG Orchid Society, the Port Moresby Turf Club, the PNG Victoria League etc. We walk on Ela Beach - yes you can still do it! we go to the races (Vin is the Judge, still) in season at Bomana between May and November a few trips with the Orchid mob etc.

1992 is the big 50th Anniversary of the Kokoda Trail Campaign (can you believe its 50 years!!). The Womens Auxilliary of the R.S.L. has been rekindled to help the R.S.L. with the special Anzac Day Dawn Service and the other activities. Thousands of veterans and tourists are coming from Aussie and the States for the Celebrations throughout the year."

Ted COLLIS of Bribie Island Qld recently wrote: "...we are busy packing and sorting as we are going into a R.S.L. Retirement Village unit. This wasn't planned for a few years down the track but these are new and we had to make a move quickly or miss out for some years." Our very best wishes Ted to you and Norma for a very happy future in your new abode.

Les CLOUT of Toowong Qld in a recent letter commented: "Time certainly flies, it will be three years next month when we moved into our present home.. It is very pleasant in Brisbane particularly being near the grandchildren. The climate has a lot going for it, but I miss certain aspects of Sydney life particularly the Thursday luncheons. I would like you to convey my kindest regards to them and threaten that, all being well, I may turn up unexpectedly on one Thursday this year." Les, you will be most welcome and we all sincerely hope that you are able to make it. Regards to Doreen and we would hope that she comes with you.

To Jim and Betty GILLMAN of Clontarf Qld a big welcome to our ranks. Their son Peter now flies helicopters for the W.A. Police after a two year stint in the North Sea. Jim writes: "Was very interesting reading through your membership list. Now Betty and I will be able to contact a few of our old friends. Many will know Betty, my wife, as Sister Brosnan (Bros) from the old Moresby Hospital.

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HAVE YOU HEARD (continued)

Sister MARYANGELA is back in residence at the Holy Spirit Convent in Goroka having completed twelve months in Australia recharging herself for her many responsibilities in PNG. Whilst here Sister was able to catch up with many of her friends and we were delighted to see her again whilst remembering the very happy time we spent in Madang and the part Sister played in our lives as a teacher of our children and as a friend. I was also pleased to find that she was another "computer buff".

Alex ZWECK of Henty NSW is becoming a regular correspondent and he always has some interesting items of news. Just before Christmas he wrote: ".... Interesting to hear news of Lyn Foster - with Orm Mathieson shared single quarters with him at Wewak when we first arrived in the Territory - incidentally quarters known as "Haus Pig".

Also news of Sir Dennis - I remember Dennis as "Junior" when he first came to the Territory to work for Bobby Gibbes of Gibbes Sepik Airways in Wewak - congrats Dennis.

Was recently in Darwin on a coach tour which took in Darwin, Alice Springs, Ayers Rock, Cooper Pedy and a few other places in between. Whilst in Darwin caught up with Otto Alder, Dave Read, Jack Battersby and their wives - much discussion of old times in the Territory. Later in Perth saw Pat Benson and was in touch with Nan Primrose."

Max ORKEN of Sunnybank Hills Qld is another of our members who became an octogenarian last year and advised: "I've had a bit of a setback health-wise being diagnosed as a diabetic so I am on a strict diet and no grog. As a result I am a bit off balance and far from my usual exuberant self but with Sheila's help and support I'm sure I'll get back to normal in a few months time." Commiserations Max from all your friends here in Sydney and congratulations on reaching your majority! Candy joins with me in wishing you and Sheila all the very best for 1992 and we sincerely hope you are by now again your exuberant self.

Rick GIDDINGS until very recently at Kundiawa PNG and now resident at Pontville Tasmania advises: "I started off in Bougainville in 1956 and came to Goroka in '64 where I ended up as DO (Lands) for the Eastern Highlands Province. I created a bit of a name for myself - with Max Orken as my mentor - in the field of land dispute settlement, so was invited to join the Magisterial Service to become the inaugural Regional Land Magistrate for the Highlands Region in 1978. Did that fulltime until the then senior magistrate in Goroka, another former kiap, Brian O'Neill, died in '82. I was then given his job until transferring to Kundiawa as Senior Magistrate in '86."

Rick and wife Lynn have taken over a National Trust classified building built by convict labour in 1984 called "THE BARRACKS" providing "Bed & Breakfast Colonial Accommodation" situated in historic Pontville, half an hours drive from Hobart. It "incorporates the charm of the old world with the conveniences of the new". Rick writes: "... any ex-PNG folk touring Tasmania and staying at 'The Barracks' will be sure of a right-royal welcome!" The telephone No. is (002) 681 665 and Rick and Lynn we wish you both every success in your new venture in life.

Fred KLECKHAM of Seaforth Qld advises that they spent more than half of '91 in Vanuatu but "Was in the Barossa Valley in October and spent an evening with Archy Dickson and wife Joanna at Kapunda - all doing well. Arch has had a hip replacement but was in good order, retired in December."

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HAVE YOU HEARD (continued)

Bob BUNTING of Paradise Point Qld, in a letter late last year made some interesting observations: "Una Voce appears to be taking on the excellent format of a collecting house of PNG memorabilia, and becomes more interesting each issue. I've no doubt your archives will one day be of great interest to historians. It may in fact be now pertinent to establish a repository library for literary works on PNG and to call on members to donate books and unpublished articles and stories to be kept for posterity. Duplications could be sold to defray expenses. There may not be much time left to put something like this into effect. Many of the post-war Territorians are becoming aged and I'm sure surviving relatives would be only too pleased to pass on these articles.

Old Territory golfers may like to know that a number of old PNG Golfers held a brief ceremony to send the ashes of Keith (Nobby) Noblet (longtime member of Bulolo and onetime B Grade champion of Lae Golf Club) to the bottom of the water hazard at the 12th hole of the Southport Golf Club on 14.11.91, in the hope that he would persuade the devils that attract golf balls to water to concentrate on ordinary mortals and leave us old Territorians to play out our last rounds in peace. We sent Keith off in a blazing black Viking longboat across the water hazard and sunk him at the end of the eulogy in a blaze of golf balls. I attach a copy of the eulogy which may bring back memories of like ceremonies on the Territory courses."

Ed. I regret that space does not permit me including the eulogy in this issue but I will keep it aside for inclusion in a future issue. I would, however, recommend the first paragraph above for earnest consideration by all our members and I would appreciate members views on the subject because time is sure running out for many of us.

Peter GRAHAM of Bencubbin WA recently joined our ranks and a big welcome to you. Peter served in the PNG Public Health Department from 1948 to 1959, when after long service leave spent in England he resigned and left PNG to farm in WA, which he did for several years ending up with a general Country Store in the town where he now lives. He owns and still runs the store. Peter, we do hope you enjoy your membership.

Ted LYLE of Cooktown Qld also recently joined the Association and when joining wrote: ".....My wife and I were residents of Lae from the late 1940's to the mid 1960's. Both our daughters were born during that period. For about two years I was Burns Philp's shipping manager. During the remainder of the time spent in the Territory was the proprietor of Lyle Agencies, Customs & Shipping Agents, Austioneers, etc." A big welcome Ted, I am sure that you will enjoy your membership.

The COX's from Dungog NSW sent me a brief note but as it was typed and signed J & J Cox (for John) I presume it was from John who advised: "I am just recovering from my second bout of surgery in 6 months and am a bit disorganised. Expect to be on top of things in a week or two." Sorry to hear that John and we sincerely hope you are now fighting fit again. If it was Jean who had the operation our sentiments are the same and our very best wishes to you both.

Jane BELFIELD of Narrawong Vic recently advised: "I am back working in PNG on a 16 month contract for CQIP and thoroughly enjoying the work. Project Director is Syd Saville; Team Leader is Colin Benton - both formerly with DASf. I'm currently on 2 months leave after which I return to Rabaul for another 4 month stint." Please tell Syd he owes me a letter. Ed.

NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS

NORTHERN TERRITORY (Jim Toner)

Otto ALDER, former kiap, has just retired from the NT Public Service after holding several top posts. Three of his grown-up children reside in Darwin so he and his wife (daughter of the well known Goroka identity, Nan Primrose) are not "going South".

In April 1970, a TAA Twin Otter crashed near Kainantu. Eight people including the pilot died and the surviving three passengers were all seriously injured. As Jim Sinclair pointed out in *Balus*, his prodigious history of the aeroplane in PNG, this accident shocked the general public for although there had been many previous crashes it was the first time that fatalities had occurred on a scheduled major airline service.

One of the fortunate survivors was Kevin Diflo, then Education Department, and now Mayor of Palmerston. Nearly twenty-two years later Hizzoner was startled when someone offered to show him film of the wrecked aircraft. This was, of course, the aforesaid Otto who was ADO Kainantu sub-district at the time.

Chris WARRILOW, having clocked up 32 years in PNG, went finish at Christmas, taking his wife and three children to Queensland. He arrived in the Southern Highlands as a CPO in 1959, subsequently serving in Bougainville, Western Highlands and the Gulf, before assuming in 1979, the important role of Co-ordinator for the Department of Minerals & Energy at Ok Tedi. For the past five years he has been Registrar for Petroleum and much involved with the enormous Kutubu project. It is not surprising to those who know the Staffordshire terrier to note that Sean Dorney in his remarkable book *Papua New Guinea, 1990*, describes Minerals & Energy as having a solid reputation for straight dealing (as compared with other government departments e.g. Forests....).

Johnny STEPHENS is still in PNG and also knows a bit about Kutubu having been the liklik dokta and OIC there for part of 1957. With his experience of the unreliability of the Moro airstrip alongside the Lake, he finds it hard to believe that an average of four Hercules aircraft now touch down there daily. Oil is, of course, the reason for its upgrading. The companies have ceased choppering supplies in from Mendi, instead bringing heavily-laden Hercules in direct from Nadzab. Johnny, after wending his way from Health through Treasury to the Housing Commission, now operates a store at Voco Point, Lae, but has his eye on retirement to the Atherton Tableland.

On conclusion of a little R & R in Manila, Johnny bumped into Graeme HOGG (ex Nataff and still working in Moresby) at the airport and was quickly assured that he had not been indulging similarly but was merely in transit from Bangkok. As if that gets you off the hook, Graeme!

WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Margaret Clancy, Tel. 09.384.4866)

I regret to report that Dame Rachel CLELAND, when crossing the road recently in Perth, had an argument with a car. She ended up in hospital with a smashed elbow and broken clavicle plus multiple bruising. She is back home again but will be convalescent for some considerable time.

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NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS (continued)

(Dame Rachel, the President and Committee and all your friends here in Sydney wish you a speedy and complete recovery from your accident.)

(Ed. Margaret would very much appreciate news from WA members and any ex-PNGites concerning your activities, visits from other ex-PNG members or friends etc. Come on folks, how about helping her out!)

Doug Franklin (Brisbane)

We are back at home again after our 5 1/2 months absence overseas. Four months of our trip was passed in the UK where we contacted more than fifty friends, many not seen for thirty years. It was all a wonderful holiday.

On the way to England we stopped at Honolulu which we loved, then across the United States, mainly by rail to see the country. We travelled on AMTRAK which was excellent. At Charleston, West Virginia, we got off the train for two days to stay with Father Ray Schuster, ex Kagua and Mendi. He now has a fine church and a 150 pupil primary school. It keeps him busy.

During our time in UK we covered the country from Orkney to Lands End in Cornwall and did a quick trip through six countries in Europe. Austria just before the winter season was magnificent and likewise the Rhine and Moselle in Germany, wonderful country and great people.

To describe UK in one word I would say 'overcrowded'. The roads and motorways are very good indeed with clear road signs even in the country areas. We were told that there are 23 million cars on the roads in Britain. Consequently the density of traffic was the worst we have seen except perhaps Bangkok. Being held up in bumper to bumper jams were an every day event. They called them "tail backs". We put a 'Visitor from Australia' sticker on the car. As it was prior to the recent furore we got plenty of friendly toots or consideration when changing lanes. Mentioning car stickers, the best one we saw was on a car outside a lovely pub in the Cotswolds. It simply said "Spending our children's inheritance"!

We thought prices in UK were high and with the exception of Vegemite could hardly find any Australian food items in the supermarkets. Everything was imported from the Continent. Beer and wines were a different story with Fosters and XXXX all over the country and doing well. Bottle shops had plenty of good Aussie wines at fair prices. Every supermarket and corner store sold wine and beer etc. Petrol was also expensive - around double the price in Australia. By contrast in USA petrol was around \$1.15 a gallon.

We met a lot of characters too. One was an ex Royal Navy Captain who had visited Sydney during the war. He jokingly said to me that Australia was the only country where you could call a dark horse a fair cow and be understood. He said he loved Australia and now sadly nearly blind in old age was so pleased to meet us.

On the way home we visited Bangkok and Hong Kong. The day tour from Bangkok to the famous bridge over the River Kwai in Thailand was a moving experience. We saw what the POWs went through as depicted in reconstructed huts and living conditions that they suffered. There were plenty of photographs and some paintings done by the POWs to prove it.

* We had a week in Hong Kong which I always enjoy having been there as a boy. Though there is much uncertainty about its future after 1997 I am

(continued next page)

NEWS FROM CORRESPONDENTS (continued)

sure it will continue to grow from strength to strength. They have just started a second airport on Lantau Island, which will be the biggest civil engineering project ever undertaken anywhere in the world.

Jack and Bette PINI are retired and keeping very well at Dulong in the Queensland Sunshine Coast hinterland where they have a magnificent view of the coast. They were in PNG for the recent South Pacific Games. Jack was one of those who did so much for athletics and sport in PNG during his 22 years in Port Moresby with Com. Works. He was invited to present SP Games medals for some of the events, including swimming.

Bob RAMACHANDRAN, formerly PWD Port moresby, lives with his family at Maroochydore. Everyone who had dined at the "Top Pub" in Moresby will remember Bob as the talented pianist/organist who played the piano with one hand and an electric organ set at right angles to the piano simultaneously with his other hand. He sang too while he played favourites by request, such as 'Tie a yellow ribbon round the old oak tree'. Wonderful evenings in The Papua. Good to catch up on Bob after many years.

HELP WANTED

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of ex-Didiman Peter Jones, who was at Aiome in the Madang District in 1963 and last heard of in Thailand working for AIDAB, please contact:

A. E. (Tony) Cooke
Lot 382 Albatross Street
Kewarra Beach
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Fraser Esdale or G. P. Jensen-Muir, please contact:

Chris Ballard
27 Froggatt Street
TURNER ACT 2610
Tel. 06.248.9003

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Val Knowles who worked in PNG in late fifties as a Civil Engineer, please contact:

Dr. D. P. Drover
3/18 Zenobia Street
PALMYRA WA 6157
Tel. Home 09.339.8663
Work 09.325.5544

M.V. NEPTUNA REUNION

Mrs. Rosemary Brown recently organised a reunion for evacuees on M.V. Neptuna from Samarai, PNG, on Christmas Eve 1941. Rosemary was among the evacuees and held the reunion at her home in Budgewoi NSW on 7 January, 1992.

The M.V. Neptuna was given special assignment to evacuate women and children from Rabaul and Samarai as the Japanese advanced south in World War II. The Neptuna brought 135 women and children from Rabaul and 38 from Samarai.

With respect to the evacuation Rosemary reports: "I was a young child at the time and my parents were working as missionaries for the Methodist church. I can remember the Neptuna stayed out in the China Straight so we were all taken out in small boats and lifted into the Neptuna in slings. It was a bit frightening because all the crew were Chinese and we thought we were on the wrong ship."

The Neptuna was a Burns Philp ship of 5952 tons with a crew of 23 Europeans and 104 Chinese. Later, after the evacuation of Rabaul and Samarai people (voyage 35) she sailed for Darwin with troops and supplies. Part of the cargo was 200 tons of explosives. The ship blew up near Darwin wharf on 19.2.1942 after receiving a number of direct hits during the first Japanese air attack. 11 European and 34 Chinese crew members were killed. Six officers and the Chinese quartermaster were decorated for bravery. Only 4 of the European officers are still alive, an engineer and three former cadets (all now retired captains). One, Captain Kent, sent a tape of his experiences concerning the fate of the Neptuna to the reunion.

Of the 38 picked up at Samarai, 34 were women and girls with 4 boys - one of these was the late Bill Driver. From the 38 evacuees from Samarai, at least 15 have since died and 12 were too far away to make the trip to the reunion.

The reunion was a great success and the following is a list of the people who attended:

Joan van Brandyk and Marie Newton, Sisters of Captain John Rothery who was a Cadet on the Neptuna; Beryl Page, widow of nephew of Harold Page, A/Administrator who died on Montevideo Maru; Ian Poole Entrepreneur now living on Samarai; Joy Brooks*, widow of MOM missionary from Goodenough Is.; Rosalie Thacker (nee Skelly), parents managed Hotel on Samarai Is. for Burns Philp; Ted Thacker, former BP purser; Zelma Maxwell (nee Skelly), with Rosalie Thacker, evacuated on Flying Boat, (there were 5 Skelly girls); Barbara Coad* (nee Cooper); Betty Cooper*, worked for Burns Philp pre WWII and 1950-1955; Jack Cooper, brother of Barbara and Betty; Rosemary Brown* (nee Grant); Valerie Allan* (nee Grant), worked for Steamships 1954; Ralph Allan, with Queensland Insurance Co. at Samarai and Rabaul, husband of Valerie; Kath Walke*, pre WWII and post-war Samarai, husband worked for Buntings; Michael Walke, son of Kath; Jervis Sparks, evacuated on "Katoomba", parents on plantation Milne Bay pre WWII, has twin brother Vernon; Bridget Sparks, Canadian wife of Jervis.

Ken Brown Snr., Factotum; Ken Brown Jnr., Barman; Brigitte Burcher and Julie Brown, Cooks.

* Neptuna evacuees.

Old photos and memorabilia of "Neptuna" and Samarai were brought along and displayed on tables. Marie Page brought an album of Rabaul prior to WWII. Ian Poole brought many photos of Samarai, Alotau and other parts of Milne Bay he had taken just before coming down. He gave copies of these to each family.

SOLDIERS FROM NEW GUINEA

W W II*

The population of Rabaul turned out en masse, in the third week of February 1940 to watch the New Guinea quota of the Australian Imperial Force march through the town for embarkation for Brisbane, where they were to be in camp.

New Guinea was given permission to recruit 60 men for the A.I.F. and 60 men were duly brought into camp at Malaguna, just outside of Rabaul. Five men were subsequently rejected, on medical grounds, and 55 actually sailed.

The men, while in camp, were subjected to training, and the usual camp routine; but the thing which nearly killed most of them was the lavish hospitality of the people of Rabaul, who loaded them with luxuries, entertainments and gifts. The United Women's League formed a special Comforts Committee and in a short time, collected a hundred and forty pounds, with which various articles were purchased and from which gifts were forwarded from time to time.

The men marched twice through the town - once, by way of ceremony, in which they gave a formal salute to the Administrator and Lieut.Colonel Walstab, and in which they were cordially supported by the Volunteer Force and the returned soldiers; and, again, a few days later, when they marched to embarkation. On both occasions they were enthusiastically acclaimed.

On the second occasion, led by the police band, the quota left their camp at Malaguna and marched through the town to the wharf between cheering crowds. At the wharf they found, drawn up, the Rabaul detachment of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, and another detachment comprising returned soldiers.

There were animated and lively scenes, later on, as the ship drew away from the wharf and the New Guinea men set out on their world-wide journey in defence of freedom, the end of which no man could see.

The following are the names of the men who comprised the quota:

C.S.M.: L.W. Heinicke; Staff-Sergeant: B. Fairfax-Ross; Sergeant: A.G. Pearce
Corporals: A. Maclean, L.T. Hurrell, C. Hendrick, F.L. Burke.

Lance Corporals: F.N. Boisen, R.B. Scholes, V.M.I. Gordon, R.H.C. Cardew, A.H. Ross, R.C. Taylor.

Privates: G. Renton, R.J. Clancy, G.L.W. Gray, A.L.B. King, S.S. Grimson, J.E. Grimson, J.L. Gilmore, N.K. Sawyer, W.R. Scott, L.M. Mazlin, E.E. Proctor, A.L. Hurrell, M.W.S. Rylands, W. Kalbfell, L. Young, S.J.A. Shields, L.G. Reece, F.C. Moore, J. Murdoch, S.L.A. Ashton, J.C. Doonar, P.F. Barrie, E.S.L. Burke, R.S. Connor, N.A. Bowman, J.C. Dennis, F.R. Weston, J.P. Morrissey, J.A. Grant, L.F. Howlett, R.R. Cole, W.B. Giles, J.T. Barracuff, K.S. Sheekey, W. Pearson, W.H. Lannen, N. Bertwhistle, A. F. Williams, G. B. Black, J. F. Morell, E. M. Granter, V. F. Pearson.

The following men volunteered but were not accepted: J.D. Scurrah, F.A. Jacobsen, F.H. Beighton, W.A. Washington, W.H. Theobald, N.S. Duncan, R.H. Stevens, P.E.R. Coe, F.N. Schou, W.R. Reynolds, E.L. Eglington, E.C. Davies.

The arrival of the New Guinea quota in Brisbane, to join the section of A.I.F. in camp there, created quite a stir, and the newspapers devoted much space to photographs of the New Guinea men, and to articles warmly praising their fine physique and soldierly appearance.

* From Pacific Islands Monthly - 15 March 1940.

NOTICE

Wanted to purchase pre-war PNG stamps, artifacts, Jap swords and military memorabilia. Bill Johnston, telephone 02.529.4974.

DAN LEAHY: The end of an era in PNG history.

by James Sinclair

The death of Dan Leahy removes from the scene the last survivor of the Australian explorers of the 1920s and 1930s, who penetrated into the then unknown interior of Papua New Guinea and discovered dense populations of virile tribesmen in country that had hitherto been considered arid and empty.

It is an inspiring chapter in PNG history. Many young Papua New Guineans today dismiss the colonial past as something to be forgotten, ashamed of, shoved away out of sight as being somehow demeaning of PNG's status as an independent country.

But the past is as vital to the culture and development of a nation as the present. One cannot be separated from the other. You can't ignore history.

And it should always be remembered that the explorations of these Australians were only made possible by the work of the national policemen, carriers and medical orderlies who accompanied them.

In every sense, the work was jointly done. Papua New Guineans should be proud of the part their fathers and grandfathers played in the opening of the interior.

And now the last of the Australians of that wonderful era has gone. Mick, Paddy, Jim and Dan Leahy, Jim Taylor and John Black, Jack Hides and Jim O'Malley, Charles Karius, Ivan and Claude Champion, Bill Adamson, Michael Dwyer, the Fox twins - they have all departed.

The first great journey of this modern era of PNG discovery was the North West Patrol of 1926-1928, which crossed New Guinea from the Fly to the Sepik. The leader was Assistant Resident Magistrate Charles Karius of Papua's Magisterial Service. His companion was a young patrol officer, Ivan Champion, whose name will always be associated with Papuan exploration.

Mick Leahy made his appearance in 1930. With Michael Dwyer, he crossed New Guinea from the Upper Ramu to the Papua coast, looking for gold. In the process, the little party unlocked the front door of the Highlands.

Mick made several prospecting journeys into the Upper Watut country of Morobe Province in 1931-32, accompanied by his brother Paddy. In 1933 there was the great journey with which the name of Mick and Dan Leahy will always be associated - the 1933 Wahgi expedition.

This was the journey that Mick and Dan captured for posterity on film, footage which forms the fascinating core of an otherwise seriously flawed film, *First Contact* (which utterly fails to acknowledge that the expedition was jointly led by Mick Leahy and James L. Taylor, Assistant District Officer of the Mandated Territory Administration. Taylor is not even mentioned in the film, nor is the other white member of the party, the surveyor, Ken Spinks.

The Wahgi expedition proved the existence of the teeming populations of the Central Highlands. There was still a huge area of unexplored country left in Papua, between the headwaters of the Strickland and the Purari Rivers.

In 1935, Sir Hubert Murray, Lieutenant-Governor of Papua, sent a patrol to explore this territory. This was the famous Strickland Purari Patrol, led by Jack Hides, ARM and Jim O'Malley, PO. Hides reported heavy populations of warlike people and was forced to fire on attacking tribesmen in defence of his party. Ivan Champion, now an Assistant Resident Magistrate, was sent in to check Hides' claims and to extend his explorations.

His companion was Bill Adamson, PO. This Bamu-Purari Patrol greatly increased the stock of knowledge of the interior. The explorers pushed on to the Papua-Mandated Territory border, to a point a few kilometres from Mount Hagen, where Mick and Dan Leahy were mining for gold.

(continued next page)

DAN LEAHY etc. (continued)

In 1937, Ivan's brother, Claude, led another patrol to the newly-discovered Lake Kutubu, and far beyond. Claude Champion was accompanied by a patrol officer, George Andersen. A base camp was established on the shores of Lake Kutubu.

Ivan Champion and Bill Adamson then returned to Lake Kutubu and established a Police Post, from which base most of the Southern Highlands Province of today was explored in detail.

In 1938 Jim Taylor led what was the longest and biggest exploratory patrol ever mounted in PNG through the country to the west of Mount Hagen - the great Hagen-Sepik Patrol. His companion was Patrol Officer John Black.

Although Mick and Dan Leahy played no part in this expedition, they did make numerous journeys into the unknown country surrounding their base.

The Fox twins, tough prospectors, made an extraordinary journey to the west from Mount Hagen, Nobody knows for certain how far they went, but it was a very long way - at least to the Strickland.

I count myself privileged to have known the four Leahy brothers (although Paddy was not the easiest bloke to get along with!)

The Leahys - in particular Mick - have been accused of being too ready to resort to the use of firearms in tight spots. It is a judgement easily made today. It should be remembered that the Leahys and their dependant Papua New Guinean carriers were but a tiny handful in a sea of tough and vigorous warrior tribesmen.

Events of recent years have indicated that the Highlanders are ever-ready to use deadly force to settle their differences. They were as ready 50 years ago.

Vale, Danny. Last survivor of a brave era. There are many of us - Australians and Nationals - who will not forget you and your brothers.

DOUBLE DIPPING TO STOP

Senator Richardson, Federal Minister for Social Security, told a recent superannuation conference that Australia was becoming less able to afford aged pensions as the number of senior citizens increased.

Currently, nearly 2 million people in Australia - 11% of the population - are aged 65 or over. By the year 2031 (i.e. 40 years away), 5.2 million Australians - 20% of the population - will be of retirement age.

The Minister said that there are now six Australian workers for each person 65 and over but by the year 2000 (only eight years away) there would be only three workers for each person of that age.

He used figures such as these to illustrate that Australia must have a future approach to retirement incomes which it can afford, not one that it would like to afford. And a part of that affordable future, he said, must be the end of "double dipping". The Senator said that the practice of using lump-sum superannuation pay-outs for a holiday or to pay off a house then "double dipping" into the public purse for an aged pension had to stop.

The Minister is determined to see superannuation contributions increased "phenomenally" in order to provide for the retirement incomes of future generations.

Clearly, he does not like the option of taking superannuation as a lump sum. However, all of the new superannuation schemes recently established by the Government for Commonwealth public servants and employees of Commonwealth Government business enterprises are in fact lump sum schemes!

BOOK REVIEW & BOOK NEWS

TAKE NECESSARY ACTION

Authors: Chris and Louise HARKNESS

Publisher: Robert Brown & Associates (Qld) Pty Ltd, 7 Atherton Street, BURANDA Qld 4102. Telephone 07.391.3704, Fax 07.891.1638.
ISBN 1 86273 061 X. 352 pages, hardcover, \$24.95. (Postage: \$5.00 Aust. surface mail; \$9.20 Oceania & Asia sea mail; \$9.50 other countries sea mail.)

Review by: Robert L. Pulsford.

This exciting novel, set in the fictitious Northern Highlands District of PNG, stems from the imagination of Chris & Louise who lived in Wahgi Valley in the 60s and reflects "Territory" life and values of that time, though they have projected the story into the 70s. The English text is interspersed with words, phrases and at times longer passages in the "Tok masta dialect" of Pidgin English, this may become irritating to those not conversant with this language even though there are end notes with full translations. The main difficulty with this dialect is that many of the words used are heavily racist, during the 60s many of us had not yet noticed this, but by the 70s thoughtful people were trying to rid our usage of these terms in much the same way as current English speakers, worldwide, are struggling to rid the language of sexist words.

Nevertheless, if you would enjoy a nostalgic and most exciting trip back to the "Territory", I thoroughly recommend this book, as being very well written and full of colour, danger and with a mixture of hardship, excitement and suspense, reproducing that unique lifestyle, which lasted for a very short period between the end of the WW2 and PNG Independence.

PACIFIC BOOK HOUSE

Bill and Patricia McGrath, the proprietors, advise that their CATALOGUE 15, a Catalogue of Pacific Region Books (including books from The Dr. Sinclair Library) is available to members on request. Their address is:

Pacific Book House
17 Park Avenue
BROADBEACH WATERS
Gold Coast Qld 4218
Telephone 075.39.0446
Fax 075.38.4114

corner of Goulburn and Pitt Streets, Sydney

1. *Members present, and apologies;*
2. *Confirmation of Minutes of the 40th AGM;*
(as circulated in June 1991 'Una Voce')
3. *Business arising from the Minutes;*
4. *President's Report;*
5. *Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement;*
6. *Correspondence;*
7. *Sub-Committee reports;*
8. *Election of Executive Committee:*
President, Vice-President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer,
Asst. Secretary, Editor 'Una Voce', 5 Committee persons. Hon. Auditor.

Accompanying this notice is a Nomination Form for the election of Office Bearers and it would be appreciated if nominations (signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder) could be forwarded to: R.O.A.P.N.G. PO Box 452 Roseville 2069, or handed to Pamela Foley or Elma Holmes prior to the commencement of the Meeting. NO nominations will be accepted during the Meeting.

9. Constitution.
10. Any other business.

Members, Associate Members, their families and friends are all welcome - but **PLEASE** let us know you are coming by completing the booking form provided and returning it, with cheque, to R.O.A.P.N.G. PO BOX 452 ROSEVILLE NSW 2069 as soon as possible so that we may arrange seating and keep the Club advised of numbers. Cancellations advised to Elma Holmes (on (02) 958 4996) or Pamela Foley (on (02) 428 2078) by Friday 24th April will secure full refund, otherwise there will be no refund because the Association will have given the Club final numbers and will have to pay for those who have not advised of their inability to attend.

The cost for the luncheon following the Meeting will be \$20.00 per person, but this will NOT include liquor or soft drinks.

Parking is available at the Goulburn St. parking station (cnr Goulburn and Elizabeth Sts.) for \$4.00 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The parking station is only 100 metres from the Club.

Any of our elder members who would come if they had transport supplied please contact our Secretary, Jo Nitsche (on (02) 451 2475), who will endeavour to arrange for them to be picked up and returned home after the luncheon.

FORM OF PROXY

I,(please PRINT name) being a financial Member of the Retired Officers' Association of Papua New Guinea, hereby appoint:

*.....to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Sunday 26th April, 1992, or at any subsequent adjournment thereof.

(Signed).....(Witness).....

*NOTE: You can nominate the Chairman, President or any financial Member that you know will be attending the Meeting.

NOMINATION FOR OFFICE BEARERS, 1992 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(See Notice of Meeting, Agenda Item 8 for details etc.)

I,(being a Financial Member) hereby nominate:

.....for the office of.....

I,(a Financial Member) second this nomination.

I,(a Financial Member) accept this nomination.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING LUNCHEON BOOKING

I,(block letters PLEASE) will be staying for the luncheon after the Annual General Meeting and will be accompanied by:

.....
(Name badges will be provided - please include Christian name [printed])

* 1. I have no preference with respect to seating; or

* 2. If possible I would like to be seated with

* Please indicate option 1 OR 2.

NUMBER ATTENDING x \$20.00 = \$

* Cheque herewith \$......payable to RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF PNG

* (Please post to: R O A P N G P O BOX 452 ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

Please assist by forwarding your cheques ahead of the day, as this will enable us to have receipts ready for you, thus avoiding much delay for members at arrival time. It is time-consuming collecting monies and writing receipts at the commencement of the function.

See note following the Agenda of the AGM Special Notice for information regarding cancellations.

PORT MORESBY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

On the weekend of 16th and 17th November, 1991, about 80 people gathered at the Bundilla Scout Camp at Winston Hills in Sydney for a Port Moresby High School reunion. We were delighted that not only students, but also several members of staff, were able to attend. Of those present a small number were at P.M.H.S. the day it opened in 1960.

People began arriving at lunchtime on Saturday and the screams of recognition could be heard far and wide. The Cub Pack sharing the site for the weekend must have wondered just what was going on. The bad weather did little to dampen the enthusiasm of those recalling days long gone by, but served to make the whole place seem a bit more humid and tropical. We were amazed and delighted at the distance some had travelled to be with us for the weekend. Brad Hanger came from Canada (he was quite clearly the most travelled), we had many from Cairns, Townsville, Central South Australia, and Perth, plus closer folk from Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

A sit down dinner was served on Saturday night, during which there was a delightful fashion parade - very successful despite the fact that the fogging machine (to re-kindle memories of mosquito eradication campaigns) failed to operate. Dianne and Joanne Kelsey (maiden names make life much easier) had made old grey school uniforms especially for the occasion, Bette Kendall wore my old green tunic (just), Janet Tilley looked stunning in a sports tunic complete with green and purple side ribbons, John Butler wore grey shorts and shirt, and Allan Jamieson wore the boys' sports uniform. The parade was compered by Lyn Hughes, who had trouble being heard over the shrieks of laughter, and was followed by an exhibition of jiving by Bette Kendall and the Kelsey girls. Both Mr Amesbury and Mr Sergeant spoke at the dinner and brought back many memories - some better forgotten!

Those who booked to stay at the camp found their rooms bore such names as the Paga Suite, Murray Barracks, the Hohola Suite etc. A juke box of 60s music played long into the night and several hardy souls did not go to bed at all - but talked and danced the night away - not to mention the 7 dozen cups of coffee they drank (the noise meter bore an inverse relationship to the sleep meter).

A large school badge greeted at the door as they arrived, the hall was decorated with posters kindly lent to us by a certain airline, plus balloons, tapa cloth and various artefacts, and lots of old photos. Odette Mollinger transformed a few palm branches and ferns plus a couple of bricks into the most delightful decorations. We sold out of souvenir T-shirts and sloppy joes - we need not have worried that we would be stuck with them. Judy Churches did a wonderful job with the name tags, we also had special menus and a profile booklet. It was interesting to see how recognisable the "girls" were, while the "boys" were not so easy to pick.

Gay, Bette and I thoroughly enjoyed putting it together, the success was beyond our greatest expectations. We will maintain our address list, if you would like to be included please send your details to Gay Atkinson, 98 Westmore Drive, West Pennant Hills, NSW 2125.

Trish Krogh (Dishon)

for Gay Atkinson (Warneminda) and Bette Lakin (Kendall)

HELP WANTED

Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of Ernie Lindfield please contact Bob Pulsford, 25 Weetalibah Road, NORTHBRIDGE. NSW 2063. Tel. 02.958.1846.

PNG REVISITED

To gather more material for her book about women in PNG Dame Rachel Cleland, in July last year, headed back there and the following are extracts from a letter written to her friends after her return.

".....it was a wonderful time to be there. The ninth South Pacific Games were taking place early in September and half the town was involved in preparations of every sort. A few days after arriving, I was bidden to the Games Headquarters where Bart Philemon, the Foundation President and chief organiser, informed me that I was a guest of the State with quite wonderful privileges and meant sending home for glad rags etc. I'm always so touched the way they include me even after all these years.

In August, the new Archbishop of Canterbury came for the Anglican Mission Centenary so I was lucky to meet him first at the Government House reception and next day, Sunday, at a huge choral communion service on the dusty hillside site for the new cathedral at Waigani. Eight bishops, (four of them PNGs) two archbishops, all in gorgeous robes, and many clergy took part with all the diplomats, service people, politicians and about 3000 devout parishoners in the congregation. It had a wonderful atmosphere and was a beautiful service. Afterwards the cathedral foundation stone up the hill was unveiled and blessed and when they returned, the Mothers Union (60,000 members in PNG!) had replaced the altar on a large dais, with a buffet lunch for about fifty guests.

I was lucky not only to be included but invited to sit next to him for a while. He's warm, easy and we had a fascinating talk. In five days he visited each diocese ending at Dogura for the celebrations and to my happy surprise, the PM offered me a seat on his plane, the other guests being the British H.C. and his wife who are dears. This again was a magic day with retired mission workers returned, VIPs of all sorts, Archbishops from Australia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Japan all there under the palm trees by the beach for the dramatic re-enactment, a lovely service and once again they fed us all. The day ended with speechmaking and gifts to the PNG church. They both greeted me like old friends, were full of all they had seen and done and were deeply impressed by the christian quality of the people. Actually, all the churches are huge and packed to overflowing, with loudspeakers outside, even in the settlements. It would seem that, with the general lack of trust in the various government bodies, they rely very much on their churches for a feeling of security.

In July, Moresby had looked so shabby with potholey roads, rubbish everywhere, plastic bags by the thousand blown against fences. So incongruous against the magnificent new stadium with its attractive Administration building and huge indoor sports complex at Waigani, built and financed by China on a low interest loan and with their own workmen! A games village for two thousand athletes from 21 countries was nearly finished. But soon road teams appeared and all roads between the airport, the village at Waigani and all the sports grounds were resurfaced and often widened as well. People began painting their premises, cutting their hedges, and groups of young people from villages and settlements with older women supervising were engaged in a cleanup. All the rubbish and plastics disappeared. Every sport was doing up its property and readying themselves for competition. As in Brisbane Expo, they called for volunteers to help as guides, ushers, and 101 other jobs. 6000 applied, 3000 were chosen, trained and received attractive shirts or tops indicating their jobs, were given daily lunch and afterwards presented with certificates by the PM. Their helpfulness and warm friendliness made an outstanding contribution.

(continued next page)

PNG REVISITED (continued)

Prince Andrew really is a personality and a most amusing speaker with an excellent sense of timing. The opening was magnificent. Ceremonial arrivals at four, inspecting guards, marching on of athletes etc. and Prince Andrew's opening. Then a spellbinding dance performance with beautiful music, script and narrator. 4500 young people took part in a spectacle of the PNG story. First, 1500 trees wearing brown robes, clever jungle green paper foliage fluttering in the breeze on heads and upheld arms turned the stadium to jungle. Moving in a hypnotic slow dance, they left circles about the grounds in which a group from each province enacted activities until a story unfolded. The Arrival of Missionaries, from South Seas and Europe, miners, beachcombers, then the Flag raising in 1884 and the first Governor and his staff. It held us entranced for over an hour during which Kevin Gosper (Olympic Committee) sitting near me, kept exclaiming 'It's better than Tokyo!' It ended at eight with fireworks, 30,000 people were in the grounds and thousands more outside on every tree, roof and vantage point.

The whole town then had Games fever. All sports were well patronised and the happiness and good feeling were really something and all the visiting countries voted them the best games ever. PNG has mostly come fourth or fifth because in the French Territories athletes are sent to France for training. So the PNGs put their minds to it working really hard and the result surprised everyone, including themselves, when their tally in medals was a long way ahead. There's no doubt they rise to an occasion magnificently for which they have an organising flair. Its in their tradition really. Pig feasts and huge singsings in the Highlands, the Kula of the Trobriands and the Hiri voyages of the Motu are only examples of common tribal customs. Its the steady workaday things the men find difficult. Women have always worked steadily in their gardens to feed the family and create the wealth for the men to give the pig feasts! Its still the same.

The Hiri Festival, splendidly organised by the Motu and Gulf district people on the middle weekend of the Games, was the official cultural event. Three villages built lagatois and I was taken to Tupuserei village to their launching, a gala day with archways, flowers and dancing. The Festival on Ela Beach was a triumph on a glorious morning with every Motu village taking part enacting the return of the lagatois from the trading voyage to the Gulf and this time the Gulf people joined in too. Hundreds of vanagi canoes raced to meet the lagatois when they appeared from behind Local Island and the re-enactment was dramatic and colourful. It was a happy day, with thousands moving about without crowding and no incidents. Just like old times.

During this time there was no crime to speak of and I think the rascals all joined in the fun. It brought the whole country together and gave a great lift in self respect. But the euphoria didn't last and sadly crime and violence gradually came back.

With the Games over, I could contact people at last and in the end got over 50 interviews, not only highly educated career women but those outstanding in other fields such as various groups in the churches. Those I'd interviewed earlier were pretty outstanding but I'd no idea just how many there were in private enterprise, the professions, and various institutions. A number had risen quite high in the Public Service and two were heads of Departments with the Secretary of Education holding a Ph.D in Mathematics (four had Ph.Ds). The Law Reform Commissioner was a woman, another headed up the finance section of the Department of Health who, with the new Superintendent of the Moresby Hospital and other women in key positions were already working wonders in turning around a somewhat moribund situation there. Employers spoke of women as being capable and reliable and held them in great esteem. I found them delightful. Attractive and well dressed, poised and

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PNG REVISITED (continued)

full of life, they not only had careers but husbands and families as well, most husbands being top people too. Some had broken marriages but most were really strong with a sense of partnership each one supporting the other and it was interesting how many said they leant on their Christian faith. For most the extended family enabled them to cope. My problem will be how to do justice to them all.

One weekend Nancy Lutton and I were guests of the OK Tedi mine management (the biggest sponsor of the Games) and Warren Dutton who has businesses at Kiunga. I've long wanted to see this 'Pot of Gold' on top of an almost inaccessible mountain near the western border. A 3 hr flight took us to Tububil on a plateau in the limestone mountains where the young Canadian manager treated us royally giving us a dinner party to meet the top people and we saw everything. A pleasant town of 3,000 with good amenities, then a hair-raising 45k drive up 6000ft to the mine enveloped in misty cloud. The scale is colossal, the workforce - only 11% expat - is highly trained and works three shifts a day. Geologically, the mine is over the earth plates which move 10cms PA causing landslides. Recently 160 million tons of earth broke away 6 feet from the workshop, leaving a 300ft precipice. A near disaster which looked awesome. About an acre of mill crushes the ore, reduces it to slurry which goes by pipeline 150 km to Kiunga, the scene of Warren's considerable business interests. Here another plant dries the slurry into bricks, which go by barge 500 kms to a mother ship at the mouth of the Fly ready to be shipped to its destination.

Next day a helicopter circled the mine, spectacular in the clear morning and gave an idea of its size. Half an hour later we landed at Kiunga, now a considerable town and a port on the Fly river, where Warren hosted us in his very pleasant motel showing us all that was going on. The one priest Canadian mission I saw in 1938 is now huge with priests, sisters and lay missionaries heavily involved with top quality education and training. The people looked so different from the listless undernourished folk of 1958 and are now shiny skinned, much bigger and brighter. It's amazing, and many young people go on to work on the mine. We flew back on Monday afternoon after a wonderful experience, most grateful to Warren and feeling very spoilt.

By this time I realised that I should be getting back but with avenues opening up on all sides, it was hard to leave. Moreover I felt so much part of it all that I could happily have stayed on and on. But with many sad partings, regrets for missing out on others and a packed last week, I eventually made it on the last day of November.

MT. LAMINGTON

After much heartburning, the Editorial committee decided to put the Mt. Lamington Story on the backburner. There was a generous response from many members and we thank all those who contributed.

However, amongst the material there was some conflicting information and we did not have the research resources to resolve important points in spite of hours spent in The Mitchell, The Sydney Law, and the National Libraries.

We will hold all the material we have collected should an appropriate researcher wish to make use of it.

PNG NEWS

THE ECONOMY**

Papua New Guinea experienced a remarkable improvement in economic growth in 1991 and the forecast is that it will improve further this year.

In a statement to Parliament on 27 February 1992, Prime Minister Namaliu said the economy grew in 1991 by a record 9% - " a remarkable achievement." Mr Namaliu said this growth had been achieved mainly due to the structural adjustment program instituted by the Government.

Mr Namaliu told Parliament that the economic growth had been driven by a growth in the mining sector (65%), construction industry (24%), transport industry (5%) and both communication and commerce (4%)>

Prime Minister Namaliu said off-shore commercial borrowings were reduced again in 1991 and that the Government had not undertaken any overseas commercial borrowings for three years. "The level of foreign exchange reserves remain comfortable allowing for non-mining import cover for about four months."

Mr Namaliu added that inflation was declining and overall economic prospects for 1992 were very good, predicting a growth of 6%.

NATIONAL OIL AND GAS COMPANY**

The National Government is adamant that its decision of 23 January 1992 to establish the Oil and Gas Company is vital to the interest of the country and should proceed as planned.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sir Michael Somare, has openly supported the establishment and says it will provide a lot of benefits to Papua New Guineans, not only in terms of creating job opportunities but also in terms of royalties.

The Government has also reassured foreign investors that it is not an attempt to nationalise and take over the activities of petroleum companies, as claimed by those opposing the decision but as a means of fully opening up citizen control of the economy in a selective and timed manner.

The Government supports foreign investment which does play a leading role in the petroleum exploration and development in Papua New Guinea.

MORE GOLD DISCOVERED**

More gold has been discovered in the Hidden Valley Gold Project owned by CRA Minerals (PNG) Limited in the Morobe Province.

In a newsletter produced by the CRA Office in Port Moresby in December last year (1991), the discovery was made from a 7-hole drilling program carried out by CRA last year.

According to CRA, studies have shown that there is potential for more discoveries soon. "CRA should find more reserves and plan for a possibly larger scale mine to improve the project economics," the newsletter said.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII**

1992 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Second World War in the Pacific and the Government is planning to commemorate this event with a number of activities.

As part of this commemorative year, the Government is inviting a number of prominent leaders in both Australia and New Zealand and, most of all, those who served in Papua New Guinea during this period (WWII).

(continued next page)

PNG NEWS (continued)

Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu has invited the Prime Ministers of both Australia and New Zealand, the Governor-General of Australia, the Federal Opposition Leader and Defence Chiefs of both countries.

Mr Namaliu said ANZAC Day this year would hold special importance as it marks the 50th Anniversary of the major conflicts in Papua New Guinea during WWII. He said to mark this historic day, the Returned Services League (RSL) of Australia has been invited to play a major role in the events along with the PNG servicemen.

"The Government of Papua New Guinea extends an invitation to those ex-servicemen who are alive today and their families to re-visit PNG in this historic year," Mr Namaliu said.

Both PNG and Australia also agreed at the recent 4th Ministerial Forum in Madang to jointly mark the 50th Anniversary of the Second World War in PNG by erecting a commemorative memorial, possibly at Kokoda Trail.

FIRST FREEWAY**

Cabinet has approved the construction of a Freeway linking downtown Port Moresby, Spring Garden Road and Jacksons Airport at a cost of K65 million.

In a press release announcing the approval by the Prime Minister, Mr Rabbie Namaliu, the Freeway is the first of its kind in Papua New Guinea.

The project, to commence in mid-1992, is expected to provide over 3,000 jobs to Papua New Guineans. Prime Minister Namaliu said the funding for the project will be made by the Japanese Export Bank and will be organised by the Kinhill Kramer Consortium who was awarded the contract.

Mr Namaliu said the project will provide jobs to Papua New Guineans, boost economic development and is in line with the Parliament's adoption of the Investment Promotion bill of 26 February 1992.

(** These items are from the February 1992 Newsletter Published by Papua New Guinea High Commission.)

Female PNG Patrol Officers

Two women made history in PNG last week when they graduated with certificates to become the first women patrol officers.

Lilian Naptalai and Yuyu Menna, who have been working as local government clerks in New Ireland province, were among 24 assistant patrol officers who completed a ten week course at the Madang Administrative College.

Provincial Affairs Deputy Secretary Colin Travertz, who was the guest speaker at the ceremony, said that it was the largest single group to graduate as assistant patrol officers.

The new patrol officers were sworn in by a magistrate at a ceremony in the morning prior to the graduation ceremony.

(Ed. Often predicted, but no-one would have thought this would come true!! Tony Pitt never lived to see it - but he did start some training courses aimed at "non-sexism" entering into the provincial field services.!!)

PNG - LIHIR ISLAND GOLD PROJECT

British mining giant RTZ Corporation Plc has given the green light for development of Papua New Guinea's \$1 billion Lihir Island Gold Project - one of the world's largest undeveloped gold projects.

The move was seen as a major boost for investment confidence in Papua
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PNG NEWS (continued)

New Guinea by the market yesterday. It pushed the share price of RTZ's junior partner Niugini Mining Ltd 10c higher to a close of \$3.35 a share.

RTZ is the major shareholder with 80 per cent. But for Niugini Mining, which holds the remaining 20 per cent, Lihir has additional importance being the cornerstone for the PNG-registered company's future growth.

RTZ's chief executive, Mr Robert Wilson, said in London the development plan would be submitted by the March 31 deadline set by the PNG Government.

If the plan was accepted and further feasibility work proved the project would be viable, development could commence as early as next year.

The development proposal is based on an initial 2.8 million tonnes of ore production, yielding 620,000 ounces of gold a year during the first 12 years of operation. The production rate was scaled down last year from an annual rate of 810,000 ounces to reduce the initial capital expenditure by about one-third.

Lihir is the world's largest proven gold deposit outside South Africa, with an estimated resource of 26 million ounces of gold. At this stage the project would have at least a 32-year mine life.

The PNG Government has the right to acquire up to 30 per cent of the project, should the joint venturers proceed with development.

Analysts said yesterday that Lihir remained a technically difficult project due to its metallurgy and location. However, they said, RTZ subsidiary Kennecott, which manages Lihir, has the experience to develop such a project.

(The above is an extract from an article in the Sydney Morning Herald on 14 March 1992).

OUTSTANDING PNG EFFORT PUSHES UP PLACER PROFIT

Placer Pacific Ltd, the nation's biggest gold producer, lifted pre-tax operating profit 19 per cent to \$130.25 million in the December year, mainly due to the outstanding Porgera project in Papua New Guinea. Placer also owned an 80 per cent share of the Misima mine.

PNG accounted for the lion's share of sales by earning \$366.9 million of group revenue, compared with \$217.6 million from operations in Western Australia and Queensland. PNG contributed \$95.57 million to operating profit with about \$34 million coming from Australia.

Porgera, which is 30 per cent owned by Placer, handed 364,830 ounces of gold to Placer during the year from total output of 1.216 million ounces.

Production costs at Porgera rose in the final quarter to a cash operating cost an ounce of \$127 compared with an average for the year of \$98. At Misima, the cash cost an ounce was \$195 in the last quarter against the year's average of \$231.

(Extracts from an article in The Australian 15-16/2/92)

EXPO NEWS

Papua New Guinea is indeed the El Dorado of the South Pacific as described by the Spanish navigator, Alvaro de Saavedra 460 years ago, says the Foreign Minister, Sir Michael Somare.

He was speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony at the PNG Expo site in Seville, Spain in late July.

"True to the description of the Spanish Explorer Saavedra, PNG has enormous mineral resources which consists of gold, copper, silver, cobalt and

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PNG NEWS (continued)

other precious metals. Gold reserves alone has the potential of placing PNG amongst the top five gold producing nations," Sir Michael said.

He added that in 1993/94 PNG would become the latest oil exporting nation and would look forward to the development of its large resources of natural gas, and other hydrocarbon products.

The Foreign Minister said PNG would welcome increased trade in its traditional export commodities such as timber, coffee, tea, cocoa, rubber, copra, palm oil, sugar, and marine products, and also continue to encourage investments from abroad in the development of its many resources.

"To underline our role as a leading South Pacific nation, and emphasise our cultural heritage, PNG will also participate in the South Pacific village which is a separate location at the Expo site. This two-tiered approach will ensure the maintenance of our regional identity without detracting from the modern, progressive theme of Papua New Guinea's pavilion."

PNG 50TH ANNIVERSARY W.W.II CRUISES

RSL Travel has secured the "Mikhail Sholokhov" for a 17 night cruise to PNG in June/July of this year. The ship carries 250-300 passengers depending on types of cabin make up required. The itinerary is: Brisbane - Rabaul - Madang - Lae - Milne Bay - Port Moresby - Cairns - Brisbane.

For full details contact RSL Travel (NSW) 36 Clarence St. Sydney (02)299 2029, or (02) 299 4315 or RSL Travel in your own State.

Geoff Masters has arranged for a 40 passenger vessel to leave Mackay about mid August to be in Milne Bay for the 50th commemoration services on Thursday, August 27th. Itinerary will be Mackay - Cairns - Port Moresby - Milne Bay - Oro Bay and return via Goodenough - Ferguson - Samarai. It will also do the same trip again in October/November to coincide with the retaking of Kokoda on November 2nd.

Contact Geoff - telephone No. (07) 408 2242.

Another of our members, Dr Douglas Abbott, has been for the past ten years associated with the P & O cruise ship "Fairstar" on its Coral Sea cruises as guest lecturer and Chaplain. He advises that the "Fairstar" will in 1992, for the first time, be visiting Milne Bay in addition to Samarai which has always been on the Coral Sea cruise schedule. Two outstanding military history lecturers have been engaged for these cruises and the ship will be in Milne Bay (Alotau) 7-5 May and 9 August.

These cruises, each of 16 nights, also visit Vanuatu, Guadalcanal and other ports in Papua New Guinea, and bookings can be made through any travel agent.

UNA VOCE CONTENT

by the Editor

Recently, the comments of three or four members were passed on to me in similar vein to the following:

"Who gives a damn about other peoples caravan trips or other mundane items about the achievements minor or major of members' kids."

"I don't bother to read the trivia section any more."

Another member said that he would find a certain story "more interesting than Mrs. Bates' Alaskan adventures." Whereas other members wrote to me in similar vein to the following:

"The time is now to tell you also how much I enjoyed Roma Bates in Alaska. I had been there, many years ago now, but found that I was mentally nodding my head and seeing glaciers and icebergs and a big black bear on the road!! More of such letters would be wonderful."

"I particularly enjoyed Roma Bates' article - a vivid account and so like her as I recall Roma in Madang in 1960."

A number of members have written in since the last issue reporting that the "caravan" story enabled them to get in touch with friends with whom they had lost track.

We now have a large and varied membership, who expect a lot more from us than just a series of 'social jottings'. I cannot hope to please all of our readers all of the time, but I do try hard to produce as wide a range as possible of stories about PNG, news about members and their families, also general items of interest for members out of the main centres, such as personal taxation information, cost of living etc.

Some of the material may not be of interest to you personally but I can assure you that it will be of interest to someone else.

I raised this matter with the Committee at our last meeting and it was an unanimous decision to maintain *Una Voce* in it's current format.

Nevertheless, the comments of members are very welcome and I would hope that you will continue to let me know what you like or don't like about the Newsletter.

The Newsletter takes a lot of time and effort and I am afraid that I will not be able to keep producing it for very much longer. Your feedback should be helpful to my successor when and if we find one!

(The second instalment of Roma Bates' article will be in the next issue, it was to have been in this issue but we ran out of space. In fact there are a number of articles I have had to defer to subsequent issues, not only because of insufficient space, but some because I have not had the time to write them up properly. Some members have supplied me with a lot of interesting material but not in a format that can be easily put into print. Please bear with me as I will get round to them in due course as time permits!)

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 deepest sympathy to their families.

Mr Vincent CHANDLER (31 December 91, aged 72 years)

Vin was born in England and at the age of five his family came out to Australia and settled in Victoria Park in Perth where he and his three brothers grew up.

In due course Vin entered the Commonwealth Public Service, but when World War II broke out he joined the Army and served in the 2/3rd Anti-Tank Regiment in North Africa, and later in Papua New Guinea and finally Borneo.

After the war, Vin continued working in Perth as a Government auditor until 1949 when he applied for a temporary transfer to Papua New Guinea. This temporary transfer lasted for over nine years during which time Vin travelled extensively throughout the Territory. Although based in Port Moresby his work took him to many remote government stations using whatever mode of transport available, from tiny Cessnas, an old Catalina flying-boat, government launches, cargo boats and even a native canoe where necessary.

It was in Port Moresby that Vin met and married his wife Joe and their son Peter was born there. Vin loved the casual tropical life and his favourite weekend pastime was lying on the beach in the shade of a coconut palm tree after an early morning swim, often followed by lunch and icy cold drinks at the old R.S.L. Club on Ela Beach with Joe and young Peter before a short drive home for a siesta.

The family came back to Perth in 1959 and Vin resumed working in his old office until he retired in 1980.

Vin was fortunate that his love of travel and new experiences combined well with his work. Over the next 20 years or so he spent time in Canberra, Darwin, two years in London which included visits to Geneva, another year in Papua in the mid-seventies and a final overseas trip working in Rome, Athens, Geneva and Warsaw.

Vin had a long and successful career and was well liked and respected by his colleagues. He was a quiet and unassuming man, almost shy, until he got to know you. An avid reader he had a wide general knowledge and was particularly interested in history and current world affairs.

Vin was an honest man, a loving and caring husband and father, and will be sadly missed by his family, friends and neighbours. He is survived by his widow Joe, son Peter and three grandchildren.

Miss Hilda DORE (January 91)

Hilda Dore was educated at the Cardiff Girls' High School and at the London School of Domestic Science. After many years teaching in the U.K. she retired, coming to PNG in 1967 to join her friend Miss Mary Remington at Daru High School. She had been told Daru was a 'punishment station' from which the residents applied only for transfers, but said she was the first person in PNG history who insisted she would go nowhere else!

Miss Dore remained several years there; was a leader of the Guide Movement; and a keen member of the Tamate Memorial Congregation, now part of the United Church. Between school terms she shared in her students' lives in villages as far west as Kiunga. When she retired she returned to Wales.

Mr. John Craig MACARTNEY (19 February 1992, aged 64 years)

John, who was a surveyor, first came to PNG (the "Territory" in those days) in 1958 to join the Department of Lands, Surveys and Mines. This was after working in the Department of the Interior in Queensland and in private practice in Townsville.

His first appointment was District Surveyor at Kieta in Bougainville, where he was the first Staff Surveyor since W.W.II.

In 1960 he transferred to Port Moresby and worked most parts of Papua. From 1964 onwards he became involved in Survey work on the West Irian Border, representing Australia at conferences in Djakarta and Canberra, and with his duties culminating with his appointment as the Papua New Guinea Officer in Charge of the Joint Border Survey Team.

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With Mike Kellock he was instrumental in establishing the Survey School which was eventually taken over by the Papua New Guinea University of Technology.

John was subsequently appointed Chief Geodetic Surveyor, and later was Assistant Superintendent of Mapping during the formative stages of the Central Mapping Bureau.

He was also instrumental in training the late Alan Bale who became the first National Registered Surveyor in PNG.

During all this period John was a most active member of the Association of Surveyors of Papua New Guinea holding all positions on the committee, including the Presidency in 1970-71. He was an outspoken campaigner against things that he believed were detrimental to the profession and his most severe critics could never level at him the charge of insincerity.

John Macartney retired on grounds of ill health on 31st January 1973 and returned to Australia to live. He is survived by his wife Betty and daughter Belinda.

Mrs Margaret Irene BLAIKIE (nee Hall) (27 December 91)

Margaret was born in Sydney and went to PNG in 1951 as a traffic officer working for Qantas in Lae. There she met her future husband, Bob Blaikie, and they were married in Brisbane in September, 1952. Bob was a Kiap and during their life together in PNG they lived firstly in Bogia, then two years at ASOPA followed by Minj, Mt. Hagen, Losuia, Tari, Mendi, Sohamo, Hutjena and then six years in Port Moresby where Bob was a District Inspector, then Principal Officer (Lands) and then Assistant Secretary (District Services) at headquarters at Konedobu.

Margaret was always extremely active in local organisations in PNG and also after they left PNG. She was in the C.W.A. for some 22 years becoming Vice-President in Port Moresby about 1971 and then President in 1973. She was also on the Council of the Girl Guides and President of the Boroko P&C.

She quickly became involved in local organisations on the Gold Coast and later on Thursday Island after they came back to Australia. She was Bob's secretary on Thursday Island, gained an interest in lawn bowls and on coming back to the Gold Coast joined the Robina Ladies' Bowling Club where she was its secretary until her death. She took an active interest in politics and also helped newcomers in the intricacies of Mahjong.

Margaret is survived by her husband Bob and her children Ian Robert, Christine Margaret, Jennifer Anne and William Thomas.

Mr. Henry Pope (Harry) MOXHAM (5 December 91, aged 59 years)

Harry spent some time in PNG in Rabaul and Port Moresby and is survived by his son Charles. (Refer Note (1) below)

Mr Anthony David (Tony) PITT (11 November 91, aged 54 years)

For the two years prior to his death Tony was a member of the Committee of our Association and those of us on the Committee, who had not met him previously, came to know and like him. However, I think the best way we can honour Tony is to quote from some of the bereavement notices placed in the PNG *"Post Courier"*:

"TONY"

For all of us who knew him, worked with him and the hundreds who were trained by him - the news of his passing in Sydney on 11th November, 1991 deeply saddens our hearts when we think of the warmth and clear direction he gave us all.

Tony had been in the Department and its predecessors for nearly thirty-three years. He served in five Provinces as a Kiap prior to joining the Headquarters in 1973 to help set up the Department's Localisation Programme.

In Tony's own departing letter to the Department on 11th October 1988, he wrote: "I leave with great sadness; I have had a most satisfying career and could have wished for none other. Papua New Guinea and its people have given me much over the years for which I will always be grateful. I hope that my service has contributed to the development of the country and in a small way given back to Papua New Guinea a little of what she has given to me.

I wish you, the Department and Papua New Guinea the very best for what I believe will be a very bright future. Yours sincerely, A.D.PITT."

May his body lay in rest and our Heavenly Father grant his spirit great peace forever.

Fr. John Momis

Minister for Provincial Affairs

Kepas I. Watangia

Secretary

And the staff of

The Department of Provincial Affairs.

By the Overseas Staffing Assistance Association (OSAA):

"Tony Pitt served this country from 1956-1989. He was a gentle Kiap, a kindly person, an officer and gentleman. He will be sadly missed."

By the ex-kiaps and others who gathered at the Aviat Pool-side Members' Bar in Port Moresby to pay their respects to Tony's memory and have drinks "Celebrating His Life in PNG":

"Tony will be remembered always for his service to PNG since 1956 as a Kiap, administrator and trainer of field officers in Provincial Affairs. He served with distinction in East New Britain, Buka and Bougainville, the Sepik and Central. He has left behind many colleagues who mourn his death and remember his achievements and friendship with pride."

A number of Tony's friends here in Sydney plus friends from overseas also gathered together after the funeral to "Remember His Life".

Mr. Peter FLYNN (16 February 92, aged 61 years)

Peter went to PNG in 1951 and originally worked at Itikinumu Plantation. He joined the then Administration in 1958, was O.I.C. Registry in the Department of Native Affairs and later the Department of the Administrator, retiring in 1974. He is survived by his widow, Yvonne Cecil.

Mr Bertram MORTON (12 December 91)

Bert spent 17 years in PNG with the Division of Supply serving in Lae, Samarai, Wewak and Port Moresby. Survived by widow Yvonne, who wrote to us recently from Jersey in the Channel Islands, saying they were very happy years in PNG and they made many good friends and have kept in touch with most of them.

Mr Thomas Joseph Logan BRIGGS (17 December 91)

Tom was born in Warwick Qld and did his early schooling at the Toowong State School in Brisbane and spent his secondary school years as a boarder at the Southport School. Along with his success in his academic studies he achieved highly at sport. He was a member of the First Fifteen Rugby team and represented the school in G.P.O. athletics as a sprinter.

He then attended Queensland University as a Commerce student, during which time he obtained a pilot's licence at 18 and joined the Citizens Air Force. After the outbreak of W.W.II was enrolled in the R.A.A.F. in January 1940 at the same time as our distinguished member, Bobby Gibbes. Saw action firstly in the Pacific and then in the Middle East with No. 3 Squadron flying Tomahawks and Kittyhawks. Was shot down just out of Tobruk in February 1942 (the day Singapore fell) and had to do a record low parachute jump to survive.

Having been hit in the right ankle by a 20 m.m. canon shell, Tom was hospitalised in Tobruk, then Alexandra and later transported by hospital ship to Australia. He finished the war instructing trainee pilots and was demobilised in 1945 as Squadron Leader.

Tom then travelled to PNG to fly commercially for Bobby Gibbes. He met and married Nancy Walker in Wewak, later opening a sawmill in Angoram on the Sepik River. Then moved to Madang and established a timber yard in partnership with Ken MacLean and branched into cabinet making. Was extensively involved with the R.S.L. with 8 years as President of the Madang Branch. In 1968 he was awarded Life Membership of the R.S.L. He was also a member of Rotary and the Masonic Lodge. He played a significant part in the construction of the Coastwatchers Memorial Lighthouse at Madang.

In 1970 Tom and his wife left PNG and purchased a cabinet making business at Mermaid Beach on the Gold Coast. In 1973 he retired and until his death maintained contact with many expatriate New Guineans now living on and near the Gold Coast. He is survived by his wife Nancy, children Jan, Trish and Ian and seven grandchildren.

Ms Ethel Jane ISON (17 December 91, aged 74 years)

Ms Ison was a headmistress in the PNG Department of Education and retired 28 March 1965. (Refer Note (1) below)

Mr Arthur Maurice RYAN (5 February 92, aged 92 years)

Arthur was a Clerk in the Government Secretary's Department and Postmaster in the Department of Treasury retiring 8 May 1941. He is survived by his widow, Beryl Margaret, who is in the Fairmont Nursing Home in Bexley NSW.

Mrs Eileen Patricia ATHERTON (9 January 92, aged 75 years)

Eileen was the widow of Carson Atherton who was a Works Supervisor with the PNG Public Works Department and retired 22 August 1973. (Refer Note (1))

Mr Donald Edward WATKINS (18 March 92, aged 80 years)

Don was Chief Supply Officer with the PNG Department of Social Development and Home Affairs and retired 19 February 1971. He is survived by his widow Dorothy. (Refer Note (1) below.)

Mrs Ivy Eileen WALSH (28 February 92, aged 81 years)

Widow of Callaghan Baird Walsh who was a Public Servant in PNG and passed away 26 September 1957. (Refer Note (1) below.)

Mrs Joyce Fenton de SILVA (21 February 92)

Joyce spent 16 years in PNG with her husband Jack who was an Executive Officer with the Local Government Service in Port Moresby when he retired. Their three children did their schooling in Port Moresby and Jack recently wrote saying that he had many happy memories of their sojourn in PNG. Survived by husband, Bernard Jack, and children Alois, Murray and Denise.

Mr. Daniel Joseph LEAHY OBE (25 November 91)

Refer article by James Sinclair on page . Survived by widow Mencie, sons George, Terry, Bernie, Brian John and Danny, daughters Bernadette and Catherine and 21 grandchildren.

Mrs. Molly Eva SMITH (22 January 92, aged 71 years)

Widow of Reginald Ernest Smith who was a Technical Instructor with the PNG Department of Posts & Telegraphs and retired 15 October 1971. (Refer Note (1) below.)

Mr Ernest SERAFINI (8 January 92)

Many members will remember Ernie who was a very successful businessman in Lae, in particular in soft drink manufacture. Geoff Masters writes: "I recall in 1946 upon arrival at Lae there was Ernie churning out lolly water on the edge of the strip, apparently it was an ex-army plant that he had purchased, wasn't the best of liquids but it was welcomed in those days."

(Ed. I can assure members that the product improved considerably in later years and was quite a good brew!)

Mr Tom DURKIN (7 March 92, aged 78 years)

Tom was based in Port Moresby from around 1958 to 1979 and he and his brother Ted, who lives near Gympie Qld, undertook government contract work installing sewerage plants in Port Moresby, Popondetta and Lae.

Mr Peter LALOR (28 March 92)

Peter will be remembered as an ex-kia and for many years the Public Solicitor in PNG. I received word of his death as I was going to print so his obituary will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Note (1) No further information was available concerning these people.

Note (2) Correction with respect to Mrs Dorothy Pettifer in December 1991 issue Vale Section. Her three sons are Richard, Philip and Bryan, Jack is her grandson who is Richard's son.

To those members I was not able to include in "Have You Heard" or whose material I was not able to publish because of a shortage of time or space or both, my very sincere apologies.

Take care and look after yourselves.

Sincerely,



Doug Parrish
Editor

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| MR. G.A. BAIN | 24 CHURCH ST. | KINGSTON | TAS 7050 |
| MS. A-M BAKWELL | 3/131 YOUNG ST. | CREMORNE | NSW 2090 |
| MR. R.W. BLAIKIE | PO BOX 362, | MT. GRAVATT | QLD 4122 |
| MRS.C.M. BYRNE | 7/6-8 LONGUEVILLE RD. | LANE COVE | NSW 2066 |
| MR. J. CAVILL | 21 CRAIG HILL RD. | ST. GEORGES | S A 5064 |
| MR. E. CONRON | 344 WATSON RD. | ACACIA RIDGE | QLD 4110 |
| MR. A.E. COOKE | LOT 382 ALBATROSS ST., | CAIRNS | QLD 4870 |
| MR. K.P. DIFLO | P.O. BOX 686, | PALMERSTON | N T 0831 |
| MR. H. DOORN | P.O. BOX 2129 | PAPHOS | GREECE |
| MR. W.A. DUNCAN | 5 YAWL PLACE, | SEVEN HILLS | NSW 2147 |
| MRS.J. DUGGAN | RIFLE RANGE RD. | ALSTONVILLE | NSW 2477 |
| MRS Y. FLYNN | 2 VIRGINIA COURT | SCARNESS | QLD 4655 |
| MR. A.E. GAZZARD | UNIT 41, 'FERNBANK'2 KITCHENER | RD. ST IVES | NSW 2075 |
| MR. P.R. GRAHAM | P.O. BOX 60 | BENCUBBIN | WA 6477 |
| MRS.B.R. HAYES | P.O.BOX 187 | MYRTLEFORD | VIC 3737 |
| MR. R.F. JOHNSTON | 9 FIONA AVE. | CASTLE HILL | NSW 2154 |
| MR. K.A. KELLY | 47 ALLAN ST. | CURTIN | ACT 2605 |
| MS. N. LUTTON | NATIONAL ARCHIVES,PO BOX 1089 | BOROKO | P N G |
| SISTER MARYANGELA | HOLY SPIRIT CONVENT | GOROKA | P N G |
| MR. K.W. O'CONNOR | 62 SHIRLEY RD. | ROSEVILLE | NSW 2069 |
| MR. F.R. O'MALLEY | 41 JERVOIS ST. | DIANELLA | WA 6062 |
| MRS.R. PLANT | 117 HIGHFIELD RD. | LINDFIELD | NSW 2070 |
| MR. R. PLUMMER | 49 PACIFIC RD. SURF BEACH | BATEMANS BAY | NSW 2536 |
| MR. P. ROCHFORD | P.O. BOX 142 | BALMAIN | NSW 2041 |
| MR F.W. ROUNSEVELL | 20 BEATTY CRESCENT | TUROSS HEAD | NSW 2537 |
| MRS.H. SHERRY | 17 GOODLET ST. | ASHFIELD | NSW 2131 |
| MRS.B.R. SIDEBOTTOM | RIVERSTONE HOME PARK,NERANG RD | CARRARA | QLD 4217 |
| MR. R.A. SPENCE | P.O. BOX 486 | MIRANDA | NSW 2228 |
| MR. J. STANFIELD | 98 SYDENHAM RD. | NORWOOD | S A 5067 |
| MR. B. SUTHERLAND | STOPPINAS RD. | MARIAN | QLD 4753 |
| MR. D.O. SMITH | 16 PALMERSTON PLACE, | SEAFORTH | NSW 2092 |
| MRS.C. TEEK | RMB 1820, MITTA RD. | TALLANGATTA | VIC 3700 |
| MR. F.R. WILSON | 15 TULLICH AVE. | DEE WHY | NSW 2099 |
| MR. A.W. WOODCOCK | P.O. BOX 1795, | ALBANY | WA 6330 |

CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO:

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| MS. J. BELFIELD | C.Q.I.P, P.O BOX 1837 | RABAU | PNG |
| MRS.Y. EWING | 12 CORAL GABLES KEY | MIAMI KEYS | QLD 4218 |
| DR. W. GAMMAGE | 1 HACKETT GARDENS | TURNER | ACT 2601 |
| MR. R. GIDDINGS | "THE BARRACKS" | PONTVILLE | TAS 7030 |
| MR. M.R.HAYES | P.O.BOX 1259 | COLLINGWOOD | VIC 3066 |
| MR. L.R.HEALY | P.O.BOX 49 | PEREGIAN BCH | QLD 4573 |
| PROF. T.HARDING | 2014 GARDEN ST. SANTA BARBARA | CALIFORNIA | 9301 USA |
| MR. W.C.JAMIESON | FLAT 2, "BROADOAKS" 32 SILVERDALE RD. | | |
| | EASTBOURNE BN207EU | EAST SUSSEX, | ENGLAND |
| MR. P.G.McGOLDRICK | 1/51 WHIPPS AVE. | ALSTONVILLE | NSW 2477 |
| MRS.B. McLAUGHLAN | 216 OCEAN PARADE | BURLEIGH HDS | QLD 4220 |
| CAPT.J. O'DONOGHUE | 4/1 WEDD ST. | CHELTENHAM | VIC 3192 |
| MR. S.G.PIKE | 131 COOPOORA ST. BATTERY HILL | CALOUNDR | QLD 4551 |
| MR. H.W.WEST | UNIT 52, 5 HART ST. | LANE COVE | NSW 2066 |
| MR. M. WORTH | FLAT 1/170 BROOK ST. | COOGEE | NSW 2034 |

CORRECTION:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| MR. B.F.GRIFFIN | 31 YOKU ROAD | ASHGROVE | QLD 4060 |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------|