



# Una Voce

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - INSIGHTS, EXPERIENCES, REMINISCENCES

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THIS ISSUE is divided into two sections: the *journal* itself with pages numbered 2, 3, 4, etc totalling 40 pages and the *Membership Address List* with pages numbered \*2\*, \*3\*, etc totalling 24 pp. (in case you wish to retain the address list separately).

**CPI:** The All Groups C.P.I. rose 0.9% in the March quarter 2002, compared with an increase of 0.9% in the December quarter 2001. It rose 2.9% between March quarters 2001 and 2002.

Superannuation pensions are now adjusted twice yearly. There was an increase of 1.1% on 10 January 2002 and there will be a further increase of 1.8% on 12 July 2002.

## OUR SECRETARY RESIGNS -

**Ann GRAHAM** has moved to Tasmania so has reluctantly resigned her position as Secretary. We are grateful for the sterling job she did in her year of office. **Pamela FOLEY** has agreed to become Secretary (as well as continuing in the role of Deputy President) and **Graeme BAKER** has taken on the job of Assistant Secretary.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON -

This year's Christmas Luncheon will be on Sunday 1st December.

## VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS -

The date this year is **Thurs 10 October** - full details in the September issue.

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***Guess whose face is red***

Do you recall the delightful anecdote  
about Dennis Buchanan entitled 'Board,  
Please' in the March 2002 issue? The  
accompanying photograph showed Sam  
Wanai, Dennis Buchanan and a third  
person, name unknown, and a request for  
help in identifying this person. Well, it  
turns out that the person was Leo Butler,  
the person who sent me the photograph in  
the first place. Oh dear.

Leo was not at all put out - he said  
about six people contacted him as a result,  
people he had not heard of for many years.  
Leo was Sales Manager for Vacuum Oil,  
later Mobil Oil. Editor

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## HAVE YOU HEARD???

**Margaret CLARKE** of Southport Qld recently attended the Ex-Radar Reunion at Nelsons Bay NSW along with about 200 others. There she met up with the 'girls' she joined up with in June 1942 - they have always kept together. Reunion events included an Air Force parade, a jet flypast, and a visit to Williamstown to hear the latest on developments in radar. After the reunion she went to Sydney where she met up with David and Alison Marsh over lunch at the Diggers Club.

**Neville and Margaret THRELFALL** of Killarney Vale NSW took advantage of a special offer from **Niugini Holidays** and visited Rabaul in February this year. Both Neville and Margaret had lived and worked on the Gazelle Peninsula during their missionary service. Neville wrote,

'Margaret and I were accompanied by **Alison GOUGH**; in the 60s both she and Margaret had worked as nursing sisters at Gaulim, nearly 30 km out of Rabaul. We carried a load of medical supplies for the United Church Health Centre there and of children's wear to give out wherever appropriate (Niugini Holidays secured for us a special weight allowance of 30 kg person, by listing us as scubadivers!) Our six days on the Gazelle Peninsula went quickly in a mixture of sightseeing, revisiting people and places, and a little work. We were met at Rabaul's new airport at Tokua ... by **Rev. Sir Saimon GAIUS**, a former Bishop of the United Church in the region, who invited me to preach at his village of Rata vul/Tinganalom the following day (Sunday); so our first full day included worship with the Tolai villagers and hearing their wonderful singing, followed by a meal including taro, bananas and fowl cooked with coconut cream, which had always been our favourite village food in our former time there. The village children, who had never known me before, gaped in wonder to hear their language coming from the mouth of a white stranger.'

Neville described a visit to the Uniting Church's Teachers College and Health Centre at Gaulim. 'We found women who had worked as nurse aides with [Margaret and Alison], village people who remembered them, and even a woman whom Margaret had cared for as a baby because her mother had died. Margaret had brought a photograph of the baby she had cared for. The lady herself, and her friends, squealed with surprise and emotion to see what she had looked like nearly forty years ago.

We found the travel package excellent value, and would recommend it to anyone else who is thinking of visiting PNG.'

Neville reported that he and his wife spent nearly seven weeks in New Zealand in 2001 and visited **Pat and David Boys, Allan and Margaret Davidson, Keith and Erice Carley, Doug and Leonie McKenzie, Harold and Betty Cropp, Marion Robinson, Max and Mary Edwards, Ken and Brenda Skinner, Alan and Muriel Leadley, David and Betty Buchan, Cec and Mary Perry, Marilyn Harkness, and Stan and Helen Scarlet.**

**Norm WEBSTER** of Wavell Heights Qld advised that **Jim GILLMAN** (formerly Treasury Dept, PSC and Emergency Services) had a plantar wart removed from the sole of his left foot some time ago and because of his diabetes it turned bad, became infected, then gangrenous, resulting in the removal of the big toe. Norm said that Jim was coming good at last, but for some time it was thought he would lose the foot. Norm is keeping well and enjoying life. He is looking forward to the Samarai Reunion in early August, which will incorporate whale watching and a trip to Fraser Island.

**David MONTGOMERY** of Grabben Gullen NSW wrote, 'The photo of John Downie (p.20 March edition *Una Voce*) and mention of Dick Hagon (p.4) of the same edition inspired me to do a diary search, as follows -

'Saturday 10 November (1956). Left at 8.30am with Frank RYAN, Bill FIELDING and John DOWNIE (pilot) in the Cessna for Mt Hagen. Impossible to describe. Landed at Minj, saw natives dressed and ready to meet the Duke - fantastic. Flew on to Hagen, 'shot up' Korn Farm. After arriving at Hagen went to Keith SIMPSON's to change for the wedding. Left by 'plane - 3 minutes flight to church. Jim KINGSTON and Mary CAMPS married. Returned to Mt Hagen for the reception. A really enjoyable afternoon. Met Dick HAGON at Allan WATTS - asked me back to 'Kuta' for dinner - Danny LEAHY's place - a beautiful house - 2000ft above Mt Hagen. Went back to Hagen for social evening - stayed the night at 'Kuta' - got to bed 4am. Arose at 10am, had a look around the farm, had dinner and Dick and John COLLINS drove me down to the 'plane. Left for Goroka 2.30. Flew over Nondugl and landed Goroka 3.30.'

As a didiman in Goroka and the Kundiawa I flew with John on a number of occasions - one of the many safe and pioneering PNG pilots of that era.

### NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY: Jim Toner writes -

'WE'LL BE LIKE PORT MORESBY; top lawyer's warning to Darwin.' Another little attention-getter from the front page of the *NT News* last March. Better informed persons pointed out that the number of Aborigines lured from their communities by the bright lights of the city in no way corresponds with the great influx of PNG bush folk to the outskirts of Moresby (now estimated to be on the way to a population of 500,000).

Recently an NT Government Minister, himself indigenous, said that Aborigines needed to shake off the Cargo Cult mentality. This provoked some scratching of heads and reaching for dictionaries amongst junior journalists not to mention most of the general public. We *lapuns* forget that Yali and Paliau (of Madang and Manus respectively) are not names much on anyone's lips these days. And so far as I know there have been no similarly bizarre Cult occurrences in PNG of late. However, on Tanna island, Vanuatu there is, according to the *Australian Financial Review*, still a parade every February by the John Frum movement.

Mention of cargo cult reminds me that I once recruited a Hanuabadan as a clerk and over time groomed him to handle supplies, transport, accounts and then to be my managerial offsider. He was trained from Day One in my work ethic and for his trouble was provided with a good house and above-average salary. Then an academic decided that he should visit Canberra to see how things were done there. I saw negligible cost/benefit for my Moresby operation in this and feared that the sight of people at ANU not doing very much - a popular first impression - yet all patently affluent would be unsettling to my man. But he was flown South and the lady who drove him around Canberra confessed that when passing the Mint he had enquired what the building was for. 'Oh', she replied gaily, 'That's Where We Make the Money'. Whoops! Sadly she was unaware that - as Ian DOWNS points out in his massive study of the Trusteeship - cult leaders taken on 'enlightenment' tours of Australia were carefully steered past the Mint, its function being 'beyond explanation'.

My assistant was never the same after that. In fact he, as Winston Churchill once put it, 'tickled the till' and had to be dismissed. But since private enterprise in Moresby was crying out for competent Papuans my loss in time and energy training the man turned out to be Brian Bell's gain.

Many things have changed in PNG since 1975 but one is pleased to see that the Public Service work ethic has not entirely been discarded. The recent and sad disturbance in the Mendi valley resulting in, it is reported, 100 deaths was brought to a halt by a



Peace Commission. Which issued instructions that all tribal fighting must cease on Friday afternoon by 4.06 pm.

Patients of **Dr. Jim JACOBI** whose surgery was in Tabari Place, Boroko, will be interested to learn that the good doctor who stayed on in PNG, taking out citizenship and being awarded a knighthood, resettled in the Brisbane area last year.

There was once an ADO at Kokopo vocal in his dislike of having to work on Saturday mornings. **Bill KELLY** may now be pleased to learn that not only does the East New Britain Provincial Administration close down on Saturdays but also every second Wednesday afternoon. This is because all public servants are required to assemble at Malaguna Tech for a sports and healthy exercise half-day. So there must be a Kuanua (Tolai language) version of 'Mens sana in corpore sano'?

Readers may recall the splendid photo of the RPNGC contingent sent to the 1953 Coronation which was published in issue 4 of 1994. **Senior Inspector Sandy SINCLAIR** had led the march through London and behind him were some grizzled NCOs each with a chestful of war medals. One wonders what the ex-Guardsman, still alive and kicking at 97, would say if told that not far away from him in that grand parade was Regimental Sergeant-Major Chari from what remained of the Royal West Africa Frontier Force wearing an Iron Cross. Well... he almost certainly wasn't - but he did have a Military Medal.

**Peter GRIMSHAW**, ROA member and Visiting Fellow in the Department of Pacific History at the ANU, whose history of the RPNGC is awaiting publication tells me that he came across no mention of any native 'police' who served the German administration pre-1914 and later enrolled in the Australian force. However, it seems that Chari as a very young man with the German Togoland armed police in WWI had been awarded the Iron Cross (2nd class) fighting the British. Then in WWII he fought for them against the Japanese in Burma where he earned his MM. None of the European colonisers would have achieved much without enlisting such native stalwarts in support.

Few ex-Rabaul readers will have met **George KASSI**, **Henry LEWERISSA** or **Isaac WATTEMINA** when they had not yet become portly, respectable and occasional invitees to the Residency. But back in those lazy, hazy pre-war Thirties they were leading lights of the Malaytown danceband. Kassi, who was working at the District Office in 1927 and was still there when he died in 1969, left some boxes which many years later were gone through by his daughter Janet. She found songs he had written in his youth and a couple, 'Dust over Rabaul' and 'Brown Eyes' have been set to music by a contemporary Rabaul band and taped. [I close my eyes - and think of Paradise. On Mango Avenue - where I first kissed you.] OK, George Kassi was no George Gershwin but the result is assuredly more melodious than the unintelligible caterwauling and simplistic cacophony passing as popular music today.

Bands in PNG now sing along in a casual English and Pidgin mix. This might upset any lingua franca purists raised on J.J. Murphy's dictionary but it seems to be an inevitable trend. Anyone who watched an ABC TV documentary on the Hides Gas Project last March would have been amused to see a notice pinned to the wall outside the Oil Search company's Staff Mess saying LUSIM BOOT BIPO ENTRY. *Oloman!*

**NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** John Kleinig writes -

**Harry WEST's** recent visit to SA included a dinner at Stirling in the Adelaide Hills with a number of old and not so old friends - **Jack PAGE**, **John O'DEA**, **Tony and Robyn RADFORD**, **Ron and Josette STORER**, **Graham and Shirley TAYLOR**, and **John and Jan KLEINIG**.

**Jack PAGE** painted a stark picture of post war Rabaul in 1946. The challenge of vast numbers of Japanese prisoners of war and a town still recovering from the volcanic eruption of 1937 seemed enough. In addition a very young family and a posting to Talasea was certainly a test which many today would find difficult to comprehend.

As a young kiap, **Harry WEST** recalled his responsibility for supervising the building of the road through Kassam Pass. As both **Tony and Robin RADFORD** had spent some years in the Kainantu area they could at least sympathise with the problems that existed at the time.

**Graham TAYLOR** explained how as a callow youth he swam a flooded, cascading river to emerge eventually on the other side, where dripping wet and standing in his underpants he was sworn in as a local magistrate. After the brief ceremony the District Officer resplendent in his starched whites was driven away while the new magistrate plunged back into the river and struggled to reach the other side.

As everyone tucked into the food and wine the stories became more absorbing. The only sad moment of the evening was that as everyone departed so did the stories.

**Chris and Diana PERRY**, who spent time at LAES Kerevat in the late 60s to early 70s, these days operate a highly respected Fruit and Nut Nursery at McLaren Flat, thirty minutes south of Adelaide at MacLaren Vale. They have adapted numerous species so that they can handle the fairly harsh SA conditions.

Some members may not realise that **Maria SZENT-IVANY's** late husband Joe was an internationally recognised entomologist. They moved to Australia and then PNG after the Hungarian uprising in the early 1950s. Maria was at the last Adelaide reunion in 2001.

Pastor **Ian KLEINIG** who now lives in so-called 'retirement' at Pasadena will be teaching theology for one term to students from numerous areas of the Highlands from July. He has been invited by the Lutheran Seminary at Birip in Enga Province to help in the training of students who will become pastors in their local churches. Ian first went to the Highlands in 1949 and was there with his wife, Enid, until 1965. Ian remembers umpiring Australian Rules games at Mt Hagan. As a former Sturt wingman, he can still be seen at local SANFL games.

**Geoff TULLEY** retired partner at Coopers Lybrand spent a number of years in the 60s in Moresby as a young chartered accountant. He is currently deputy Chairman of Annesley College.

**Jenny YOUNG** formerly at George Brown High School at Kerevat in the early 60s is an advocate and organiser with the Association of Non Government Education Employees representing staff in non government schools in SA. She still maintains an active interest in PNG through the Uniting Church and its international aid programmes.

**Susan BENHAM PAGE** has been appointed to the position of State Manager of the Australian Business Arts Foundation. She has more than 20 years' experience in arts management and is responsible for increasing private sector support for the arts through organising strategic business arts partnerships.

**Brian FIRTH**, formerly ELCOM, is now with SA Workcover and still yearns for the balmy warm humid airs of the tropics. Carole is with Ooh La La and has just survived a surprise fiftieth birthday. Brian organised the birthday with military precision. As they approached the venue he realised they were ahead of schedule and if they continued there would be no surprise. In a moment of unparalleled chauvinism he proclaimed that there was something wrong with the car because Carole had obviously been driving it! Anyway, he was able to use up time looking for the non-existent fault under the bonnet and the surprise was preserved.

**Dr Tony RADFORD**, has visited PNG regularly for the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, World Vision and AusAID.

**Jack PAGE** has lost none of his panache and flair and manages golf twice a week at Kooyonga and assumes responsibility for the local Probus Club newsletter. Jack has embraced Information Technology with a passion.

**John BURT** recalled his days as a young science graduate with an oil exploration company in Papua in the late 60s. At a Port Power President's Lunch at Football Park, John described how he organised drilling teams out of Daru. He thinks he probably lasted longer than most and was even offered a job with the company back in Australia but turned it down. He now has his own IT programming company in North Adelaide.

A reminder to former PNG residents living in SA that the Annual **ROAPNG Reunion Lunch** will be held on Sunday 27 October 2002 at the Royal Coachman, Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town in Adelaide. Invitations will be sent out in September.

**PNG NEWS** - **Laurie LEFEVRE**, writing in late March, said, 'I had a chance meeting today with our Financial Services Manager at Ok Tedi, **Kepas RAKOP**. Kepas is from Mount Hagen and reported that **Sir Wamp WAN** is now very frail and spends most of the time at home being taken care of by his children. He said that **Pena OU** is fit and well, still very mobile, and that his son Stanley from his second marriage is doing his fourth year (final year) business studies at the University of Technology, Lae. Pena had two sons by his first wife. Both are pastors, one is pastor of the Nazarene Church in Lae and the other of the local church at Keltiga. It was good to have news of such old friends. Many members will be interested.'

**Logging update:** When he came to power in 1999, Prime Minister Mekere Morauta condemned logging practices and pledged major reform. A moratorium on new licences was brought in, and there was to be a comprehensive review of existing licences. Now, with elections due in June, and the economy more cash-strapped than ever, the moratorium has been lifted and licences to mainly Malaysian and other Asian companies are set to be issued over 5 million hectares of previously unlogged rainforest. The licences review was never undertaken. Objections to the logging are coming from landowners whose quality of life has all but gone (and who have received little or no compensation), from the Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights in Port Moresby, and the World Bank which found in a report last October that logging had been a 'disaster from day one'.

From articles by Greg Roberts, *SMH* 13-14 April 2002

### *Interesting snippets -*

On seeing the reprint of a 1992 photo of **PAUL KEATING** resplendent in the headdress of an Oro Province paramount chief (*SMH* 6-5-02), **Donald RAMSAY** wrote, 'To my knowledge there have never been paramount chiefs in Oro Province. It was a brilliant idea by my good friend **Benjamin IJUMI**, the then local MP (standing on Keating's right in the photograph), for he got some funding from the Australian Government to build a Kokoda hospital. Some funding, for most of the work was carried out by volunteer Australian Rotarians who gave of their skills and time for free'. **David MARSH** agreed with Donald, saying, 'Paramount chiefs are only in the Trobriands where they are hereditary. Elsewhere in PNG, leaders are elected because of skills in a particular walk of life, ie. hunting, fighting, fishing etc. and are replaced, by consensus, from time to time. There is a strong tendency for skills to be passed from father to son and so it often appears to be an hereditary position'.

**CHAMPION, IVAN AND CHARLES H. KARIUS** (From an Acquisitions List of Berkelouw Bookdealers, sent to us by Jeff BALDWIN of Willoughby) - 'Original (duplicate) typewritten manuscript account of "the most important and most difficult feat of exploration that has ever been performed in New Guinea (Sir Hubert Murray)". Known as the failed North-West Patrol of 1926-1927, being the unsuccessful first attempt to cross New Guinea from south to north, to discover the source of the Fly and the Sepik Rivers... The manuscript comprises Karius' diary from 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1926 to 10<sup>th</sup> June 1927 on 43 single-sided foolscap leaves; plus Champion's diary account from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> July on 64 single-sided foolscap leaves ...' The manuscript came from a young man who went to New Guinea immediately after WWI and dreamt of being the first white man to make the journey. By 1927 he had sufficient money to undertake the journey but found to his dismay that Karius and Champion had beaten him to it. He wrote to Champion, and Champion sent him the duplicate of his draft manuscript. The price - \$15,000!!!

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### AT THE RECENT AGM



Stuart Inder, editor of *Tales of Papua New Guinea* and  
Doug Parrish, former editor of *Una Voce*



L to R: Jan Regan, Ross Johnson (Treasurer, ROAPNG) and Derry Simonds

Sisters Jan and Derry (nee Rossi) were visiting the National Library in Canberra and saw our book. Browsing through it, they found themselves in Wau's class of '38 or '39 (p. 127, front row, Jan 5<sup>th</sup> from right, Derry 2<sup>nd</sup> from right), bought the book and promptly joined ROAPNG. By another coincidence they happened to be sitting at the same table as Ross Johnson who was also in the school photograph (front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left). The photo was sent to us by Norm Janke of Kuranda Qld who is 1<sup>st</sup> on left, front row, next to Ross. Photos: Andrea Williams (Coote)

## PRANKS IN MADANG

by Chips Mackellar

During the Kiaps Reunion on 11 November last year at Buderim in Queensland, I met up with Will Muskens again. We had not seen each other for 40 years. And as we reminisced about the old days in Madang, some hilarious memories came flooding back.

In the early 1960s Will and I shared a single donga in Madang, and when we were not on separate patrols through the Madang hinterland or along its coastal strip, we also shared an office with three other kiaps, in the rambling old District Office building which anyone who was there at the time will always remember. The sign on our door said simply 'ADO MADANG' but it was from this one room that we administered the scattered populations of the Gogol Valley, the Adelbert Mountains and the fertile coastal plains from the Rai Coast to the Ramu River estuary.

Apart from its usual administrative functions, our office also doubled as a venue for conducting Courts of Native Affairs, and if we were all in town at the same time, it was a hectic place. Often there could be two or three different court cases being heard at the same time, with the informant and defendant in each case standing side by side in front of different presiding kiaps, each sitting at adjoining desks. Spectators from one case would be intermingled with spectators from the other cases, all squatting on the office floor or peering through the windows. Meanwhile, police would be going in and out of the office, marshalling the witnesses and keeping order amongst the gathering crowds outside.

On busy days in our office we were constantly being pestered by phone calls, which often interrupted the court cases we were conducting there. Most of these calls were unnecessary, since the caller could have easily walked over to see us, and finding us busy at that time, could have waited till we were finished, or called back later. Some callers were hard to fob off. For example, a request to phone back later on the grounds that we were in the middle of a court case was often answered by 'Oh, sorry, I won't keep you long....' but he *would* keep us long. It was all totally disruptive, and unfair to the defendants, who must have thought that they were about to receive some rough justice from a magistrate whose mind was being deflected by a phone call on a different matter.

But not to worry, Will's quick wit soon came to the rescue. In those halcyon days, Will was an accomplished prankster, and he often kept us all amused with his mischievous tricks. One busy day in the office, Will was in the midst of presiding over a torrid dispute when his phone rang, as it always did on such occasions. Will picked it up, and in a gruff voice said 'Special Branch' and the caller hung up immediately. Will then finished off his case without further telephone interruptions.

We laughed about it afterwards, and we wondered if the ruse would work again. But, undeterred by our misgivings, Will did it again... and again... and again... although after a while, different callers were becoming suspicious. Some began to argue by saying 'I'm sure I dialled the Sub District Office number', or 'Is that you, Will?' or 'Is Chips there? Can I talk to him please?' and so on. For each such occasion, Will's response was a stony silence. He would allow the background office noises of typewriters clicking, and voices mumbling to haunt the phone line until the caller hung up.

We told Will the joke would soon wear thin, or worse still, we could be in trouble if one of the callers complained to the District Commissioner, who of course would know that there was no Special Branch in Madang.

Not to worry, Will's inventive mischief came to the rescue again. Since he always recognised the voices of the callers who were becoming argumentative or suspicious, without of course revealing his own identity to them, he decided to perpetuate the myth for their benefit. So, as he came upon them one by one on social occasions, for example

while having a beer at the Madang Club or at the Madang Hotel, or at the Madang Golf Club, he would carefully broach the subject by mentioning in an offhand manner something about the Special Branch. This usually brought an immediate response from the suspicious caller, who would say, 'That's funny. I phoned your office yesterday, and somehow I was put through to the Special Branch' or, 'Who is this Special Branch anyway? What's so special about them? And how come we get them when we ring your office?'... and so on.

To which, Will would reply confidentially, that he was unable to comment. It was all on a 'need to know' basis if you see what I mean. But somehow, mysteriously, the word got around Madang that the Special Branch, whoever they were, had tapped into the phone lines, and that all calls to the Sub-District Office were being monitored

..... And would you believe it? All the annoying phone calls ceased.

But Will's best prank occurred during a visit by a delegation from the United Nations. Every four years the UN sent representatives to monitor the administration of its trust territories, including the trust territory of New Guinea. These visits served a useful civic purpose because projects which couldn't be done for years because of lack of funds, were suddenly funded overnight, as soon as a UN visit was imminent. Thus roads were repaired, public buildings were painted, parks were mowed, rubbish was collected and the town was generally spruced up. Also, any major criticisms from previous visits were usually addressed before the next visit.

A previous UN delegation had criticised the housing of our indigenous employees at Madang. Our local office staff and Government labourers had until the last visit been accommodated in what was then called the 'native labour compound'. This was a gaggle of rusty old tin sheds with dirt floors, erected higgledy-piggledy in a general area off Modilon Road wherever there was space available. The compound had grown like topsy since the end of the war, using whatever left-over materials were available, or whatever could be scrounged from other building projects since then. There were no streets or roads, but vehicles could squeeze between the buildings if there was sufficient space.

Responding to the criticism, the Government had during the intervening years, built for its indigenous staff and labourers, a new compound consisting of small, but adequate, one and two room dwellings with corrugated iron roofs, fibro walls and concrete floors. It was a vast improvement on the old compound and was later to be known as the 'low covenant area'. But in our day, it was the 'new compound'. It was well set out, and its neat, compact houses were arranged like boxes along both sides of two new unnamed streets.

Will decided that in honour of the UN visit, these two streets should be named, and what better names to give them than our very own. In those days, there were two very popular movies in circulation around PNG. One was called 'Sunset Boulevard' and the other was 'Elephant Walk' with Peter Finch and Elizabeth Taylor.

Will decided that we should mix and match these two movie titles together with our names but for some reason, which I can't now remember, my street name was to include my rank. At that time I was a Patrol Officer Grade 2 (PO2) and so it came to pass that Will named the two streets in the new compound 'Muskens Boulevard' after 'Sunset Boulevard', and 'PO2 Mackellar Walk' after 'Elephant Walk'.

On the day before the United Nations delegation was due to arrive, Madang was officially at panic stations, with any one who was any one rushing around making last minute alterations and preparations for the visit. So amidst all this official turmoil, it was easy for Will and me to stroll into the PWD workshops and make the street signs. The following morning when the paint had dried, we went out to the new compound and erected the signs by nailing them on to two convenient trees.



The United Nations delegation duly arrived later that morning and was ensconced in official meetings for the rest of the day. The following day they had a busy schedule: breakfast at the Madang Hotel, a scenic tour around Madang followed by morning tea at Siar Plantation, then lunch at the Madang Club overlooking the harbour. After lunch, there was to be an inspection of various installations around Madang, including the new labour compound.

The inspection of the new compound was a great success. Will and I were on hand earlier to ensure that all the premises were clean and that wives and children were wearing their Sunday best, and were primed on what to say if any of the UN delegates spoke to them. The District Commissioner was as pleased as punch, that everything had gone so well, and as the delegates assembled near the entrance to one of the streets to get back into their vehicles again, the Indian delegate remarked to the District Commissioner, 'This new housing estate is most impressive, Commissioner'. Then gazing around he added, 'I see you have even named the streets'. The District Commissioner who of course had no prior knowledge of the street names, looked up in horror to see my name on one street sign, and Will's on the other. 'Quite so', he said, distinctly unimpressed.

Will and I thought we would be carpeted for this prank, but no one ever said anything to us about it. The street signs stayed there for months, and then one day they mysteriously disappeared. But before they disappeared I had taken the precaution of arranging for a photo to be taken showing my street sign, with me standing below it, so my grandchildren would know with pride, that not only did their grandfather serve in Papua New Guinea but there had also been a street in Madang named after him.

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**HELP WANTED:** Michele Westmorland, a professional photographer and frequent visitor to PNG, is seeking information on **Caroline MYTINGER** and her partner **Margaret WARNER** who made an expedition to PNG in the late 1930s painting portraits of the various tribes and documenting their way of life. Michele is working on a book about these two women and is looking for any reference to them. She is hoping to contact someone who met them and perhaps wrote about it. Michele is at Westmorland Photography, 14128 11<sup>th</sup> Drive S.E., Mill Creek, WA 98012 USA, Ph 0011 1 425 402-1949, Fax 0015 1 425 337-5705 Email [michele@westmorlandphoto.com](mailto:michele@westmorlandphoto.com)



A youthful Chips Mackellar beside one of the signs he and Will Muskens put up

## PATROL REPORTS: LOCATION AND PRESERVATION

by Nancy Lufton

### Where original and microfilm copies of Patrol Reports may be found

Michael Cockburn's trouble in finding where Papua New Guinea's Patrol Reports are located in Australia, as described in the last issue of *Una Voce* (March 2002), caught my attention. Since I was the last expatriate Chief Archivist of PNG (1989-1992) perhaps I can clarify the situation for the interest of all members.

The records of the Administration of PNG are not Australian records, and should not be in the National Archives of Australia (NAA). This is a basic archival principle - records follow the administration. However, if a document needed policy or any other action, which involved the Australian Department of Territories, or any other Australian Department, a copy might be sent to that department. In that case, the document would in due course become part of that department's archives and so arrive at the National Archives of Australia. This is why there are so few patrol reports in the NAA. They are mostly to be found at CRS A7034. In this collection there are 199 patrol reports. The NAA also holds microfilms of quite a number of other patrol reports, which I will describe below.

The National Archives of Papua New Guinea (NAPNG) holds the original copies of Patrol Reports (and all pre-independence administration records). There are well over 22,000 patrol reports safely preserved in a purpose-built archival building at Waigani, that is, those copies originally held in the Department of District Services at Konedobu. Not only are they housed in optimum conditions, and serviced by competent and qualified staff, while I was there, a full scale microfilming project to film all reports, was in progress. Microfilming is expensive, but finance was provided by the Melanesian Studies Resource Center (MSRC) at the University of California, San Diego, USA. The MSRC also indexed the reports on computer, and this can be found at <http://sshl.ucsd.edu/melanesia/patrols.htm>. The MSRC has also obtained microfilms of those at NAA CRS A7034 and another lot known as the G Series, and has indexed them as well.

The so-called G Series, are those records, which were saved in Port Moresby and sent to Australia in 1942. These consist of the records of British New Guinea 1884 to 1906 and of Papua 1906 to 1942. While they were in Australia, the NAA microfilmed the lot. When this was done, the originals were returned to the NAPNG, together with a copy of the microfilm. German New Guinea records were also saved since they had been transferred to Australia during the 1930s. They became part of the G Series and like the Papuan records were microfilmed and returned after the war. As we all know, Mandated Territory of New Guinea records 1921-1941 were not so lucky and were destroyed during the Japanese invasion of Rabaul.

The original patrol reports in Port Moresby were filmed on microfiche, and the microfiche had to be purchased by other interested institutions. I was aware that the NAA, the National Library of Australia (NLA) and the Australian National University (ANU) Library were all purchasing them in provincial lots as they were filmed. However, I left before the project was completed, so I have recently checked with all three institutions as to whether they continued to purchase them all. I found that only ANU Library has done so, which is adequate for Canberra. NAA has fiche for Madang, Manus, Milne Bay, Morobe, New Ireland, Northern and West New Britain. NLA has fiche for Central, Eastern Highlands, Gulf, North Solomons, West New Britain, East New Britain, and Simbu. It is possible other major libraries in the

States, such as the Mitchell Library have purchased sets, but I have not been able to check this out.

### **Where to deposit personal copies of Patrol Reports**

I understand that four copies of each report were made, one for the Administration, one for the District Office, one for the station and the patrol officer kept the fourth. In theory then, copies might still be found at Provincial Headquarters or former patrol posts, and while the latter is very unlikely, occasionally copies do turn up in Provinces. Indeed, the present PNG National Archivist has been targeting provincial offices to bring in any records held there. That not all patrol officers kept their own copies is clear. From time to time someone contacts me and asks where he might obtain copies of his own reports. When you move to a different post every few years, excess paper is the first casualty in packing. However, many did keep their own reports, and many have happily deposited these in institutions, which accept such documents.

Foremost among these is, as Michael Cockburn points out, the National Library of Australia. Some of those who have deposited papers there, including patrol reports, are RR Cole, Ian Downs, DM Fenbury, A Nurton, and Craig Symons, to name just a few. However, if your papers include documents relating to a state and you are identified with a state, then any of the State Libraries would welcome a deposit. There are some University Libraries, which also collect personal papers, such as the University of Queensland's Fryer Library. ANU Library does not collect personal papers, but has an excellent collection of PNG publications and microfilms. The Noel Butlin Archives at ANU does have some PNG papers, including those of Dr John Gunther and of Burns Philp. If you need advice on where to deposit papers, Peter Cahill is very happy to give this. He has been collecting papers from members of ROAPNG for some time.

If owners of patrol reports prefer to keep the reports for their own families, then they can always be microfilmed. The body set up to do just that is the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau (PMB), whose Executive Officer is Ewan Maidment, who is a member of ROAPNG. While still in PNG, I was contacted by the family of Ian Mack who wondered what they should do with his patrol reports. I gave them several of the above suggestions, and they chose microfilming and keeping the originals. PMB microfilms are available for the papers of HE Woodman, IFG Downs, CD Bates, JK McCarthy and others. They are to be found in most major libraries, or can be purchased.

The hunt is still on for the papers of pre-war patrol officers in the Mandated Territory. Since the originals did not survive, the personal copies are the only copies. By now, the writers will mostly have passed on, but some families may still retain the papers. In 1974, PMB researched a list of more than 160 DOs, ADOs, and POs, but only found reports of 26 officers, which had been deposited in institutions or microfilmed. A copy of this list can be supplied if anyone thinks he or she knows someone who just might have retained pre-war Territory of New Guinea patrol reports. [This list is to be updated and included in an expanded article - see below.]

*If you would like advice on records, Nancy Lutton would be happy to help. She is at: ph 02 6299 8547 or email: [NJLutton@bigpond.com](mailto:NJLutton@bigpond.com). Ewan Maidment can be contacted for microfilming advice at Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, R.S.P.A.S., ANU, Canberra ACT Ph 02 6125 2521 or email [pambu@coombs.anu.edu.au](mailto:pambu@coombs.anu.edu.au). Nancy is writing an expanded article on the subject for the next issue of Pambu, out in June. If you would like a copy you could contact Ewan Maidment, or Nancy will email one.*

## A DARING ESCAPE - THE STORY OF GLADYS BAKER OF LANGU PLANTATION

*This is the story of Gladys Baker's escape from the Japanese as she described it on Radio 2FC at 7.45pm on Sunday night, 27 August 1942. Glad was a widow with no immediate family. Her husband, Bill, an ex-serviceman from WWI, died from blood-poisoning in Rabaul about 1934.*

After Japan attacked and when women and children were being evacuated from New Britain I asked permission of the Administration to remain. I thought maybe there might be use for my medical knowledge and I thought that my 'mud-ticket', which I gained because of my knowledge of New Britain waters, might be required.

That last Christmas of 1941 at Langu was the closest I could make it the same as all others. I arranged the usual *sing sing* for the natives but I doubted if we would ever have another Christmas on Langu for a long time. Almost a week before Christmas the first of many Jap reconnaissance planes came over. Nearly all of them would come down low and circle the house at Langu. In case of bombing I made the natives take shelter in the reinforced concrete culverts I had helped them build. Some Zeros came too with the Rising Sun glinting on their wings and I hated the scream as they dived to look at Langu and at the plantation anchorages.

Just after Christmas I was granted permission to remain in the Territories. The last ship carrying women and children had gone. As far as I knew I was the only woman left.

On January 19<sup>th</sup> the natives told me that Praed Point at Rabaul had been bombed and gave me details of the bombing which I later found to be accurate. The news came by drums and smoke signals down the mainland of New Britain and my boys picked it up. It was a clear day and they had seen the smoke signals on the mainland 64 miles away. The following day all radio news from Rabaul ceased and later I learnt from the natives Rabaul had fallen.

There was a small steamer anchored at Witu - the *Lakatoi* - and I tried to persuade the crew to leave for Australia but they thought the run would be too risky. On January 24<sup>th</sup> I loaded my pinnace - *Langu the Second* - and set out for the mainland to make food dumps which I was sure we would require later. I was sure if any Australians escaped from Rabaul they would make down the coast. *Langu the Second* had only 9 knots and was 27 feet long. I had with me a boat's crew and we established our dumps along the Aria River. I left a cutter on the mainland with eight boat's crew - boys from my own plantation - with instructions to return to Witu immediately and tell me if they had any news of Australian soldiers.

On my return trip on February 14<sup>th</sup> a Jap seaplane circled my small pinnace and looked about to land. I told the boys what to say in case the Japanese did land and come across to investigate us. I hid in the bilge under the after-decking. There was a slap as the seaplane landed and the motors roared as it taxied close. Next I heard footsteps on the deck accompanied by a flood of fluent Pidgin. The Japs had boarded us and were questioning the natives. The native boys told one of the two in answer to his questions that their master had gone to Sydney a long time ago and that they were going back to the plantation on Witu to pick up a load of workers to take them back to their villages on the mainland. I remember that strangely enough I was not frightened of the Japanese. Perhaps that was because a rat in the bilge water was running about and brushing against my bare leg - I was wearing only shorts and shirt. I bit my lip till blood ran to prevent myself screaming and giving myself away to the Japanese. The Japs seemed satisfied with my boys' explanations, gave them a cigarette and a biscuit each, went back into their plane and took off. And it wasn't a rat after all. It was only some cotton waste. When I came

up my face was covered in a black scum of oil, and pitch from the decking had blackened my back. I saw then that three of the boys had spread a sail over the decking and pretended to mend it all the time the Japanese were on board.



Route taken by Gladys Baker from Iboki, New Britain, to Cairns, early 1942

I got back to Langu and two days later the cutter returned. The boys told me of 18 Australian soldiers who were at Linga-Linga Plantation at Talasea. The Australians, the head boy told me with tears in his eyes, were 'Sick fella masters too much'. I immediately loaded the pinnacle with food and medical supplies. I overloaded dangerously because I had 15 tons by measurement on a 5½ ton boat and at midnight on the Sunday, with three natives and a half-caste girl, Emma Leahmann, we crossed to Iboki. I found the 18 Australians there and met the Assistant District Officer, Keith McCarthy. Keith put me in charge of the Iboki camp and the next morning five of the Australians who were well enough left for Cape Gloucester. They were to wait there until the other 13 were well enough to travel and join them. They meant to try to get to Finschhafen. I cooked for and nursed the 13 boys who were sick, and meanwhile Keith McCarthy with Rod Marsland went back to Tol Plantation which was the scene of the Japanese Massacre. [Not quite right, Frank Holland went to South Coast - Peter Coote.] I nursed the boys for about a week, then an order came back from McCarthy telling me to send them to Gloucester. I prepared the boys for the trek, and they went by canoe and launch.

Finschhafen had fallen before they left Cape Gloucester, and the 18 boys got to Madang from where they went overland to Moresby and did not get to Australia until 2½ months after I did.

I remember a funny incident at Iboki. I had taken my denture to clean it when one of the soldiers suddenly took a bad turn. I went to him and left the denture in a half bottle

in which I was cleaning it. When I returned, it was gone and I accused the soldiers of playing a practical joke. I was rapidly becoming annoyed until I suddenly noticed a native boy who was quite naked except for a pair of rosary beads he was wearing around his neck. I looked closer and discovered that he was also wearing, attached to the beads, my missing denture.

With the Australians gone from Iboki, I got the pinnace out and sailed up the coast towards Rabaul to see if I could find more troops. A little way up I saw a boat stranded on a reef and thought it might have been an enemy boat. I left the pinnace to go on up the coast in charge of the boys, while I returned to Iboki in a canoe. However that night the boat on the reef got off and came into Iboki. To my relief it was a Mission boat and they were surprised to find a woman to welcome them. They had on board 35 boys of the 2/22nd Battalion in charge of Captain E.S. Apel who is now Lieutenant-Colonel. Some of them were very sick and others were wounded. A few days later the pinnace came back with 15 Diggers, a Guinea Airways boat brought more. Escapees continued to trickle in until we numbered 191 in all. Some of the boys had lost all their clothes and were wearing lava-lavas, and all of them were bearded.

I remember being struck by the number of ginger beards. I worked night and day caring for them and feeding them. In sixteen days I could only snatch 13 hours sleep. Two of the boys were badly wounded and one of them whose name I think is Bill Collins of Cronulla had been shot up by the Japs in the Tol Plantation Massacre.

After he was captured he broke away with his hands still tied together. The Japs fired at him and hit him in the shoulder, another shot went through his wrists and miraculously severed the cord which bound him. They had already taken his boots and he wandered in the bush for four days. Brambles and thorns cut his legs badly. He went back to the massacre scene and helped two soldiers who had been bayoneted and left for dead, up a steep incline to a native house. The Japanese came, set fire to the house and Collins alone was able to escape.

Many of the sick had severe tropical ulcers, and malaria and dysentery had struck many others. The fever cases were more severe than usual because of the poor diet the men had been subjected to. Their systems were craving for salt and sugar. However, whilst in camp, we were able to kill a bullock or some goats every day and this with a small helping of rice, tea and jam, helped pick the boys up. Water was a difficulty and the natives brought us water by canoe from a distance of 12 miles sealed in long lengths of bamboo. On March 15<sup>th</sup> we had a round-table conference attended by all Army officers and by the Captains of the boats of the small mosquito fleet which by now was assembled at Iboki. It was finally decided to go with the fleet back to my plantation to see if the steamer which had been there when I left was still sheltering. Early next morning we arrived at Witu and fortunately the steamer, the *Lakatoi*, was still there. We put the sick soldiers into an improvised hospital while the others, with natives, set to work cutting leaves and small trees to camouflage our tiny fleet. We camouflaged the steamer - a ship, by the way, of 170 tons - by mixing camouflage colours from a combination of red, white, black, grey, blue and yellow paint which we found on the island. With other soldiers I went to my plantation and we killed as much livestock as the ship's refrigerator would hold. I had no time to collect many personal belongings or papers.

On the night of March 19<sup>th</sup> we were all on board the *Lakatoi*. I played poker with some of the men while we were waiting to sail and lost £11. I was holding fours all the time. Next afternoon we sailed and we prayed for luck. I piloted from Witu through the Dampier Straits and dropped anchor at Umboi Island in the Straits on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Some of the boys went ashore for a wash at the creek, and on the after deck we built a place to cook for the troops. Next day we sailed again, passed Finschhafen in broad daylight and



followed the main Japanese water route past Gasmata. This is rather a feat considering we had no charts of any description with us and the Dampier Straits through which we passed is thickly studded with outcrops of reef, and is known for its tricky tides.

With the help of a Papuan native boat crew we managed to get to the Trobriand Islands, and once there the Papuan bois could pilot us on to the D'Entrecasteaux Group where we were to meet the *Laurabada* - the Papuan Government Yacht - having previously contacted by tele-radio Army and Navy authorities at Port Moresby.

After giving us some more medical supplies they piloted us through the China Straits, and we trusted in luck and providence that we'd meet up with Australia sometime, somehow - still having no charts.

We arrived in Cairns on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March. [*China Straits to Cairns - approx. 850 km.*] The civilians and officers were billeted in hotels and the troops were taken to a camp for the night where doctors and nurses took charge of them. The next morning (Sunday) a special train was made up and although I was offered help for the train trip I preferred to carry on alone. On the journey I made it a practice of devoting each hour to a particular carriage to continue the medical treatment which I had been giving the troops from the start of the evacuation.

The Red Cross and the Queensland people were marvellous - bringing supplies of food and clothing to the train for the boys. On the following Wednesday I handed over to an Army Medical Officer at Exhibition Camp, Brisbane.

When we started our evacuation I weighed 11 st. 5lbs.; when we handed the troops over at Brisbane - although I didn't know it then - I weighed 7st. 1 lb.

.....  
In recognition of her work in helping the troops in their escape, Gladys Baker was later awarded an OBE. She was among the first civilians to return to Rabaul after the war and after only a short time back on Langu Plantation she was stricken by malaria (?) and died. She was buried in front of her beloved plantation home.

(Our thanks to Peter Coote for sending us this story.)

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**HELP WANTED:** The archivist of St. Aloysius' College, Milson's Point NSW, is seeking information on **Cornelius Lyons PAGE**, known as **Con**, a coastwatcher who was captured and executed by the Japanese in mid-1942. (Con's WWII experiences have been described by Eric Feldt and Alex Perrin.) Con was an Old Boy of St Aloysius' College - later this year the College will be publishing a small volume of biographical notes on former students who lost their lives during the various wars. Con arrived in PNG as a 19 year-old with his parents, Cornelius and Catherine. Pre-war he grew coconuts on Mussau Island, tried mining on Tabar and eventually managed a plantation on Simberi. If any readers have **recollections of Con or know the whereabouts of his family**, please contact Ms Gerri Nicholas, archivist, St Aloysius' College, 47 Upper Pitt St, Milson's Point 2061, phone 02 9954 4454, Tues & Wed., or email: Gerri.Nicholas@staloyisius.nsw.edu.au

**HELP WANTED:** Since 1995 Garrick Hitchcock, an anthropology PhD student at Qld University, has been researching the **history and culture of the peoples of the Bensbach River, in the Morehead District, Western Province**. He wrote, 'I am interested in making contact with former patrol officers and any others who have worked in or visited the Bensbach/Morehead area over the years, in order to learn more about the pre-1975 period. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.' Garrick can be contacted at PO Box 81, Thursday Island, Qld. 4875, or on Freecall 1800 654 960 during business hours.

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## ARO OF LUPAMANDA

by Graham Hardy

I always enjoy Paul Quinlivan's contributions to *Una Voce*, and was particularly interested in his article about outstanding defences by field officers in the Supreme Court. My name did not appear for reasons which will become obvious.

In early 1957, one Aro, who lived adjacent to Wabag Station in what is now the Enga Province, murdered his two wives in a fit of rage. Although regarded as a 'rubbish man' by his fellow tribesmen, he must have had access to sufficient wealth to acquire two wives. Aro harboured a suspicion that one of his wives was playing up with another man, a suspicion which could not be supported by later investigation. On the particular morning he was preparing to go to work in his garden and told the suspect wife to cook some kaukau for him. She told him to cook it himself. He flew into a rage, grabbed his axe and hit her a number of times, killing her instantly. His other wife was sitting in a corner suckling an infant. Aro then turned on her and axed her to death as well. She had not caused any offence, but as he admitted later, he thought he would rid himself of both wives while he was at it. He then brought his two children up to the Native Hospital and gave them to a native medical orderly before presenting himself at the Sub-District Office together with the murder weapon.

He was committed for trial on two counts of wilful murder, and in due course appeared before Judge Bignold at Wabag. John Greville-Smith was the prosecutor, and because I had not been involved in the investigation, I appeared as defending officer. Aro did not appear to have any mental abnormalities, but was a typical Enga tribesman who had responded to an insult from a wife in a manner common to the custom of his people. There were no excuses whatsoever for the attack on his second wife, so as defending officer I had very little to offer in Aro's defence.

The usual procedure when a verdict of guilty was pronounced in the Supreme Court was for the judge to record a death sentence which was followed by the imposition of a custodial sentence, after the presiding judge had submitted a report to the Administrator in which he would recommend an appropriate period of imprisonment. In Aro's case, Judge Bignold pronounced the death sentence on both counts, and it was a chilling moment when he read out the pronouncement. The absence of the traditional black cloth covering the judge's wig in no way diminished the solemnity of the occasion. Aro appeared to fully understand the situation in which he now found himself and that night became disturbed and required sedation from the Station Medical Officer Dr Keith Wilson. Aro was a Lutheran and was ministered to by Rev. Willard Burce of the local Lutheran Mission.

For years, we field officers had been warning locals that if the rate of murders, especially wife murders, was not checked, the Administration would have no option but to start hanging offenders. A common response from tribal leaders was 'when are you going to do it, and stop talking about it?'. It seemed that the time had at last arrived. I think there was a general feeling among field staff that if a hanging was to have a deterrent effect, it would have to be done publicly at Wabag. As soon as word got out that Aro had been sentenced to hang, no more murders occurred as the population waited to see if the sentence would indeed be carried out.

Shortly afterwards I was transferred to District HQ at Mt. Hagen. No further word was received on the progress of the matter until advice that the sentence had been confirmed, and a Warrant of Execution, signed by the Governor-General Sir William Slim, was delivered. On instructions from Konedobu, Aro was transferred from Wabag to Mt. Hagen pending further instructions. A few weeks later we were told that he was to be sent to Lae where the execution would be carried out on a certain date. HQ stressed that Aro was not to be told of the reason for his removal, or the date of the execution. The last time I saw Aro was when he climbed into the DC3 at Mt. Hagen to be taken to his fate.

A few days before the execution date, the District Officer Mt. Hagen, W.D. (Bill) Allen, received out of the blue a telegram from HQ instructing him that, because of his 'special duties' in relation to Aro's execution he was to be in Lae the day before the event. Bill, in a state of unease and thinking that perhaps he had been appointed hangman without his knowledge, fired off a telegram and received a reply that he had been appointed the Sheriff to assist in the execution.

A number of headmen from the Western Highlands and I believe from the Chimbu Sub-District were taken to Lae to see Aro hanged. Supt. Ron Hicks, who had executed Japanese war criminals, was the hangman. Bill Allen told me later that Aro collapsed at the foot of the steps to the scaffold, and he and Ron Hicks had to carry him up. His final words were to the effect that he was prepared to die but he wished he had been allowed to see his children before he died. Aro's body was buried in Lae.

News of the execution was not released by the Administration until some days afterwards, and the response from the locals was predictable: 'Where is the body? If we see the body, we will believe what the Administration says'. The headmen toured the district to give an account of what they saw and were generally disbelieved. The cycle of killings recommenced, and when I was ADC Wabag Sub-District in the early 1960s there was an average of about one murder a month. From time to time a Wabag man would come back from a visit to Lae and spread the word that he had seen Aro 'walking about'. Aro was the last person hanged in PNG before independence, and as far as I know, since.

A few years ago my son Michael, a journalist, accessed the papers on Aro's case under the thirty year rule. These revealed that Judge Bignold had recommended that the death sentence be commuted to a custodial one. This was supported by the Administrator Donald Cleland and he reported accordingly to the Minister for Territories. However, the Cabinet in its wisdom upheld the original sentence. Apart from a brief minute confirming the decision there seems to be no Cabinet Minute giving the reasons for the decision and whether there was any dissent from it.

There can be no argument that, given the circumstances of the case, Judge Bignold had no option but to reach the verdict that he handed down. Likewise the Cabinet exercised its prerogative in reaching its decision, although its reasons are unclear. As an exercise in deterrence, I believe the Administration made a complete botch of the execution. The idea of a public execution after the style of those recorded in the autobiography of C.A.W. Monckton, R.M. in the early days of Papuan administration

would not have got off the ground. However, the timidity shown in releasing news of the hanging, and the failure to return Aro's body to Wabag for viewing and burial by his people was a gross error.

In later years, after the establishment of the Public Defender's Office, a number of psychotic killers, far worse than Aro, escaped the death sentence on mental grounds. In my opinion, Aro's death was a senseless occurrence. It was a waste of the life of a man who, after a suitable period of imprisonment, would have resumed his tribal life just as so many other convicted murderers have before and after him. It was a failure as a deterrent, and it left two small children orphaned. As a result of my involvement in Aro's case, I have been, and still am opposed to capital punishment, even though in our Australian society quite horrific murders tempt me initially to think the snuffing out of the lives of these offenders is the best option. I believe that State sanctioned killing not only brutalises those involved in its execution, but also brutalises the society in which it is practised.

**Footnote:** My reputation as a defending officer was restored somewhat a couple of years after the events described when I won an acquittal for another Wabag man against whom the circumstantial evidence in the committal hearing was overwhelming but the witnesses completely botched their evidence in the Supreme Court - but that's another story!

### **JIM SINCLAIR'S BOOK ON MADANG/MADANG PROVINCE NOW IN PROGRESS**

A consortium of prominent people/organisations is supporting this publication, but donations would be most welcome. (Donors will be acknowledged in the book.)

Initially the funds will be used to pay Jim an agreed amount per annum to undertake the research and writing (up to two years). The organisers hope that printing costs will be covered by sales of the book. The book will provide the people of Madang and PNG with an accurate history of Madang and the Madang Province. Donations should be sent to the following Australian Dollar account in the name of:

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### **Also, can you help with RECORDS, DOCUMENTS, MEMOIRS, PHOTOS, ETC. FOR THE BOOK ON MADANG**

If you have any material which Jim Sinclair might be able to use in his research, please contact him at: 5 Yoomba Crescent, Alexandra Headland Qld 4572, Ph/Fax 07 5443 6597

**HELP WANTED:** Bob Piper of Higgins ACT wrote, 'In early 1942 a RAAF Catalina evacuated 56 Australians and mixed-race people (mainly families) from Samarai to Port Moresby in one trip. Surely a record. Left behind in the flying boat was a pint pewter tankard, with glass bottom. An engraving on the side spells 'SEBULOGOMWA'. Can anybody explain this? Language and meaning? Bob is at: 7 Brazel Street, Higgins ACT ph 02 6254 8376

# R.O.A.P.N.G. FINANCIAL MEMBERS AS AT JUNE 2002

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DUGGAN Mrs J	14 Natan Road , MUDGEERABA QLD 4213
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EDWARDS Mr H J	Pine Needles 236/61 Karalta Rd, ERINA NSW 2250
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SOMERS Mr P.S.	37 Bougainvillia Street, NIGHTCLIFF NT 0810	
SOMMERFELD Mrs P.	44 Gordon Parade , MANLY QLD 4179	
SOUNESS Mr T	UNIT 27 4 BRONBERG CIRCUIT, SOUTHPORT QLD 4215	
SPARK Mr R.A.	47 Denmark Street , KEW Vic 3101	
SPARREBOOM Mr L	4 Warrego Place , TERRANORA NSW 2486	
SPEAKMAN Mr D	9B Dunrobin Court 389 Finchley Road, LONDON UK NW3 6HE	
SPEER Mr A	C/- Mr. M. Biscocho 21/163 Willoughby Rd., CROWS NEST NSW 2065	
SPELDEWINDE Mr W G	P.O. Box 944 , WODEN ACT 2606	
SPENCER Dr. T.	P.O.Box 276, TENTERFIELD NSW 2372	
SPENCER Mrs D	18 Macbeth Place , SUNNYBANK HILLS QLD 4109	
SPENCER Mr W H	18 Macbeth Place , SUNNYBANK HILLS QLD 4109	
SPENCER Dr. M.	P.O.Box 276, TENTERFIELD NSW 2372	
STANDEN Mrs E	P.O.Box 407 , HARRIS PARK NSW 2150	
STANMORE Mr P	19 Satterley Avenue , TURRAMURRA NSW 2074	
STANMORE Mrs I	19 Satterley Avenue , TURRAMURRA NSW 2074	
STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES	Macquarie Street , SYDNEY NSW 2000	
STEEGE Mr G H	120 Pacific Road , PALM BEACH NSW 2108	
STEPHENS Mr. F.V.	C/- Stephens Trading Col Ltd. P O Box 403, LAE 411 PAPUA NEW GUINEA	
STEPHENSON Br John	131 Birrell Street , WAVERLEY NSW 2024	
STERLAND Mr. R.	9 Griffith Street , CHARLESTOWN NSW 2290	
STEVENS Mrs N.E.	3 Phillip Street , CHATHAM NSW 2430	
STEWART Mr R G	155 Horizon Drive , WESTLAKE QLD 4074	
STEWART Mr D J	1-3 Robert Place , BATEAU BAY NSW 2262	
STOBO Mrs J	5 Kardella Avenue , KILLARA NSW 2071	
STOLZ Mr J	4 Cyclamen Court , CURRIMUNDI QLD 4551	
STONE Mr P	Oceans Enterprises 303 Commercial Road, YARRAM VIC 3971	
STORER Mr R D	P O BOX 440 , STEPNEY SA 5069	
STOTT Mr. R.R.	Unit 96 Heath Glen Village 3 Glendale Court, WERRIBEE VIC 3030	
STOUT Ms L J	36/3494 Main Beach Parade , MAIN BEACH QLD 4217	
STRAUGHEN Mr G D	9 Deodar Court , MAPLETON QLD 4560	
STRECKFUSS Mrs L.H.	"Happy Apple", ST. ALBANS NSW 2775	
STREET Mr P.	39 Holdsworth Street , WOOLLAHRA NSW 2025	
STROEHLE Mr R.	95 Mallee Drive , TANAH MERAH QLD 4128	
STRONG Mrs M.	1 Shalstone Court , TENTERFIELD NSW 2372	
STRUTT Mrs A.I.	7 Lobe Street , BALD HILLS QLD 4036	
SUTHERLAND Mrs A	156 Canning Road , KALAMUNDA WA 6076	
SUTTON Mr R	59 Third Avenue , BERALA NSW 2141	
SWADLING Dr P.	3 Magrath Place , SPENCE ACT 2615	
SWANSTON Mrs J P	7 Bilyara Crt , WURTULLA QLD 4575	
SYDNEY-PNG WANTOK CLUB The President	P O Box 50 , KINGSFORD NSW 2032	
SYMONS Mr C A	86 Seabeach Gardens 1 Seabeach Avenue, MONA VALE NSW 2103	
TAAFFE Mr R.J.F.	31/101 Westworth Rd. , STRATHFIELD NSW 2135	
TAIT Mr R	15 Harvie Drive . BOAMBEE EAST NSW 2452	



TARRANT Mr D	60 Moseley Street , GLENELG SA 5045
TAYLOR Mr A N	2 Kellaway Street , EAST RYDE NSW 2113
TAYLOR Rev. A.	2/31-35 CROYDON AVENUE, CROYDON NSW 2132
TAYLOR Mr R.H.	152 Toogood Road, BAYVIEW HEIGHTS QLD 4868
TAYLOR Mr G P	15 St Albans Avenue , TOORAK GARDENS SA 5065
TEBB Mrs L W	350 Scenic Highway , TERRIGAL NSW 2260
TEBBLE Mr R J	8 Vine Street , REDLAND BAY QLD 4165
TENNANT Mr. W	7 Hope Road , PALMYRA WA 6157
TERRELL Mr. T.	17 Woodgate Street , FARRER ACT 2607
TERRELL Mrs. J.A.	17 Woodgate Street , FARRER ACT 2607
THOMAS Mr P J	P O Box 311 , ANGASTON SA 5353
THOMAS Mrs A B	102 Sunshine Drive , CLEVELAND QLD 4163
THOMAS Mr, J.R.	19 Suffolk Road , DANDENONG NORTH VIC 3175
THOMPSON Mr I.A.	"Warrendean" Post Office, BOLIVIA NSW 2372
THOMPSON Mr Deryck	P O Box 14 , MACHANS BEACH QLD 4878
THOMSON Mr R	Unit P23 74 Wardoo St., ASHMORE QLD QLD 4215
THOMSON Mr N J	36 Musgrave Street , YARRALUMLA ACT 2600
THRELFALL Rev. N A	18 Mawson Drive , KILLARNEY VALE NSW 2261
THURSTON Mrs E.	131/66 Darling Point Rd , DARLING POINT NSW 2027
TIERNEY Mr J.	63 Fingal Drive , FRANKSTON VIC 3199
TIMPERLEY Mrs K	68 Fairview 2573 Moggill Rd., PINJARRA HILLS QLD 4069
TOMLINSON Mr L M	P O Box 202 , CREMORNE JUNCTION NSW 2090
TOMS Mrs C	P.O. Box 744 , BUNDABERG QLD 4670
TONER Mr J B	P O Box 1965 , PALMERSTON NT 0831
TOPHAM Mrs M	2 Curlew Glebe Dunnington, YORK UK YO 1 5
TOSH Mr. J.	32 Avocado Street, BLI BLI QLD 4560
TOWNER Mrs V A	P O Box 32 , HIGGINS ACT 2615
TRACY Ms. H.M.	20 Berry Avenue, GREEN POINT NSW 2251
TRACY Ms. S.	15 Pains Road , BORONIA PARK NSW 2111
TRESTRAIL Mr H A	P O Box 348 , PIALBA QLD 4655
TRINICK Dr M	PO Box 18 , ERINDALE CENTRE ACT 2903
TRONSON Mr A.D.	84 Arnold Palmer Drive , PARKWOOD QLD 4214
TROY Mr C.	4 Welham Street , BEECROFT NSW 2119
TUCKEY Ms D	93/344 Bulwara Road , ULTIMO NSW 2007
TULLOCH Mr J.R.	289 Kennedys Lane , EWINGSDALE NSW 2481
TUMMINELLO Mrs C.P.	4 MARNIE GROVE , KINGSLANGLEY NSW 2147
TURNER Mrs R.	28 Botany Street , RANDWICK NSW 2031
TURNER Mr T	11 Redbud Court , MOUNTAIN CREEK QLD 4557
TURNER Mr M.A.	8 Hogan Road TARZALI, via MALANDA QLD 4885
TURRILL Mr R	16 Carlingford Place , ROBINA QLD 4226
TUXWORTH Ms M	9 Tremont Avenue , ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289
TWOHILL Sister Berenice	Our Lady Of Sacred Heart Convent 2 Kensington Rd, KENSINGTON NSW 2023
TYLER Mr S F	33 Dress Circle Drive , LENNOX HEAD NSW 2478
UECHTRITZ MR. A.M.P.	"Kuradui" P.O. Box 107, INNISFAIL QLD 4860
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO SER ACQ LIB	9500 Gilman Dr 0175A, LA JOLLA C.A. 92093-075 USA
VAGG Mr A	5 Bluff Avenue , ELWOOD VIC 3184
VAN GRIETHUYSEN Mr J	704 Main Western Road , MOUNT TAMBOURINE QLD 4272
VAN HECKE MRS. E.	100 School Rd , RED BANK PLAINS QLD 4301
VAN HOECKEL Mrs G L	Unit 37 Rotary Garden Village Windsor Road, NAMBOUR QLD 4560
VAN HORCK Mr K H	P O Box 874 Kihei, HAWAII USA 96753
VAN KOLCK Mr F G	105 Fullers Road , CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

VANDEREYK Mr P  
 VANDERKAMP Mr J A  
 VESPER Mr B.G.  
 VINCEIN Mr D  
 VON LEIXNER Mrs J  
 VON SCHILL Mrs G E  
 WADSWORTH Mr, A.F.  
 WRIGHT Mr P  
 WALDMANN Ms K.  
 WALKER Mr J G  
 WALKER Ms M L  
 WALL Mrs M.  
 WALSH Mrs.P.M.  
 WALSHE Ms. V.  
 WALTERS Ms. P.  
 WARHURST Mr D.  
 WARRILOW Mr C  
 WASHINGTON Mrs B  
 WATERER Ms J W  
 WATERHOUSE Mr. M.  
 WATERHOUSE Mr K. H.  
 WATERS Mrs F A  
 WATKINS Mrs N  
 WATSON Mrs H  
  
 WATSON Mr  
 WATSON Mr R.  
 WATSON Mr. E.  
 WATT Mr. N.  
 WATTS Mrs E  
 WATTS Mr. J.H.  
 WATTS Miss R.  
 WAYLAND Mrs. B.  
 WEARE Mr K.  
 WEARNE Mr J M  
 WEARN-TONNER Mrs J.A.  
 WEAVER Mrs. P.  
 WEBB Mr R A  
 WEBSTER Mr N T  
 WEIER Pastor R A  
 WELCH Mrs H.  
 WELSH Mr A R  
 WENKE Mr P.B.  
 WENNERBOM Mrs R  
 WEST Mr H W  
 WESTBROOK Miss A M  
 WESTMORE Mrs J  
 WESTON Mrs Inez  
 WETHERELL Dr D F  
 WHITE Mr K J  
 WHITE Mr M.B.  
 WHITE Mr M J  
 WHITE Mrs M

P.O. Box 42452 , CASUARINA NT 0811  
 36 Kamerunga Villas Caravonica, CAIRNS QLD 4878  
 46 Christella Court, FERNVALE QLD 4306  
 1/116 Little Usher Ave. , LABRADOR QLD 4215  
 509/100 Bowen Terrace "Petrie Point", FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006  
 3 Goroka Place , BEACON HILL NSW 2100  
 10 Metricup Court , MERMAID WATERS QLD 4218  
 41 Mayo Street , WEETANGERA ACT 2614  
 21 Wilson Crescent , MOIL NT 0810  
 3 Harbour Street , YAMBA NSW 2464  
 31 Josephine Avenue , MT WAVERLEY VIC 3149  
 P O Box 3035 , NEWMARKET QLD 4051  
 5/48 Caledonian Street , BEXLEY NSW 2207  
 35 Palmer St. , CAMMERAY NSW 2062  
 94 Greenmeadow Road , MT. GRAVATT QLD 4122  
 Old School House , LEADVILLE NSW 2844  
 2/4 Magnolia Street1 , WANTIRNA VIC 3152  
 31/15 Spit Road , MOSMAN NSW 2088  
 15 Woods Parade , FAIRLIGHT NSW 2094  
 82 Bellevue Road , BELLEVUE HILL NSW 2023  
 207/148 Bronte Road, WAVERLEY NSW 2024  
 Unit 309 Orana Units Giralong Avenue, POINT CLARE NSW 2250  
 83 Adelaide Street , WOOLLAHRA NSW 2025  
 Palm Grove Nursing Home 71A Macintosh Road, NARRAWEENA NSW  
 2099  
 16 Cadby Street , MIDDLE BRIGHTON VIC 3186  
 "Pitarel" 19 Eveline Street, MARGATE QLD 4019  
 19 Wylmar Avenue , CRONULLA NSW 2230  
 P.O.Box 269 , MOSSMAN QLD 4873  
 P O Box 379 , MOOLOOLABA QLD 4557  
 6 Bisdee Place , NOWRA NSW 2541  
 93 Surrey Street , DARLINGHURST NSW 2010  
 648 Nicklin Way , WURTULLA QLD 4575  
 86 Swallow Street, INALA QLD 4077  
 25 Brunswick Circuit , KALEEN ACT 2617  
 P O Box 201 , YARRAWONGA VIC 3730  
 Unit 14 25 Park Road, WOY WOY NSW 2256  
 49/37 St Kevins Avenue , BENOWA QLD 4217  
 46 Taabinga Street , WAVEILL HEIGHTS QLD 4012  
 12 Bailey Street , NAMBOUR QLD 4560  
 14 Galway Avenue , COLLINSWOOD SA 5081  
 14 Butel Avenue , ARROWTOWN N.Z. 9196  
 P O BOX 333 , WILLIAMSTOWN VIC 3016  
 C/- Mr. G. Diercke 9 Acacia Abenue, LEURA NSW 2780  
 Unit 52, 5 Hart Street , LANE COVE NSW 2066  
 20/105-109 Burns Bay Road , LANE COVE NSW 2066  
 C/- P.O. Box 29 , MOUNT BEAUTY VIC 3699  
 625 Pine Ridge Drive , COBBLE HILL B.C. CANADA VOR ILI  
 Faculty Of Arts Deakin University, GEELONG VIC 3217  
 Jomtien Conndhotel, 311 Thappraya Rd, PATTAYA THAILAND 20260  
 P.O. Box 86 , BRADDON ACT 2612  
 14 Tullaroop Street , DUFFY ACT 2611  
 73/8 Albert Street , CLAREMONT WA 6010

WHITEHOUSE Mr R. P.O. Box 801, TAREE NSW 2430  
 WHITTAKER Mrs J. Taradale Road, TUMBARUMBA NSW 2651  
 WHITTEN Ms E C P O Box 201, PORT MORESBY N.C.P. PNG 121  
 WHITTRED Mr A C 1 Wentworth Court, MOUNT OMMANEY QLD 4074  
 WIGGINS Mr K J P O Box 150, BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS NSW 2216  
 WILKINSON Mrs. F. 24 Collaroy St., COLLAROY NSW 2097  
 WILKINSON Mr A E 24 Collaroy Street, COLLAROY NSW 2097  
 WILKINSON Mr L.R. P O Box 408, TABUBIL P N G WP 332  
 WILKS Mr. G.C, 9 Illabunda Crescent, KOONAWARRA NSW 2530  
 WILLIAMS Mr N.P. 83/183 ALLAMBIE ROAD, ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS NSW 2100  
 WILLIAMS Mrs A 24 Melaleuca Drive, ST IVES NSW 2075  
 WILLIAMS Mr J C 5/76 Pacific Drive, PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444  
 WILLIAMS Mrs M 127 Willandra Village, 81 Willandra Road, CROMER NSW 2099  
 WILLIAMS Mr A L 4 Woodcock Street, SCARBOROUGH QLD 4020  
 WILLIAMS Mrs C E 4 Woodcock Street, SCARBOROUGH QLD 4020  
 WILLIAMSON Mr P.G. C/- C.E.L.T. University of the South Pacific, SUVA FIJI  
 WILLIS Mr D C Lot 27 Schmidts Road, WATERFORD WEST QLD 4133  
 WILSON Mr N L 28 Nelson Place, CURTIN ACT 2605  
 WILSON Mr M C P O Box 91, LANDSBOROUGH QLD 4550  
 WILSON Mrs K. 34 Wilde Street, WYNNUM QLD 4178  
 WILSON Mr L A 17 Bentley Avenue, FORRESTVILLE NSW 2087  
 WILSON Mr. W.T. 15 Pickering Street, MONASH ACT 2904  
 WILSON Mr F R 148 Orana Road, OCEAN SHORES NSW 2483  
 WILSON Mrs A 3 HYDE PLACE, HUGHES ACT 2605  
 WINKLE Mrs P 3 Sunset Boulevarde, WEST TWEED HEADS NSW 2485  
 WOLTMANN Mr L. P O Box 2200, SYDNEY NSW 2001  
 WOOD Mrs P G 24 Lawley Crescent, PYMBLE NSW 2073  
 WOOD Mrs B L 6/6 Burrabee Street, BURLEIGH HEADS QLD 4220  
 WOODCOCK Mr A W 128 Walford Road, LOWER KALGAN WA 6330  
 WOOLCOCK Mr D.G. 13 Kerford Court, WODONGA VIC 3690  
 WORCESTER Mr J W 119 Scenic Drive, BILAMBIL NSW 2486  
 WORSLEY Mr P 12 Cleopatra Drive Coodanup, MANDURAH WA 6210  
 WRIGHT Mrs P 13 Waverton Avenue, WAVERTON NSW 2060  
 WRIGHT Mrs. D. Unit 1 295 Hume Street, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350  
 WRIGHT Mr. R.B. 176 Kurrajong Road, JIMBOOMBA QLD 4280  
 WRIGHT Mrs I. 167 Esplanade South, DECEPTION BAY QLD 4508  
 WRIGHT Mr N 28 Latrobe Avenue, HELENSVALE QLD 4210  
 YELLAND Mr L C Cypress Gardens 24 River Crescent, BROADBEACH WATERS QLD 4218  
 YEOMANS Mr W. 28 London Creek Road, PEACHESTER QLD 4519  
 YOUNG Ms A PO Box 710, SUNBURY VIC 3429  
 YOUNG Dr M.W. 135 Shackleton Cct, MAWSON ACT 2607  
 YOUNG Mr E B 18 Burwah Street, CALOUNDRA QLD 4551  
 YOUNG Mr. E.E. 13 Tania Drive, HIGHTON VIC 3216  
 YOUNG-WHITFORDE Mrs A 23 Ebor Road, PALM BEACH NSW 2108  
 ZEHLER Mr. J. P O Box 755 Spit Junction, MOSMAN NSW 2088  
 ZIGAS Mrs J Hoefbladlaan 127 2555 ED, THE HAGUE HOLLAND  
 ZIGAS Mr M. 19 Alchera Street, MOSSMAN QLD 4873

**MINUTES OF ROAPNG 51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT THE MANDARIN CLUB SYDNEY, 28 APRIL 2002**

**PRESENT:** Beth Nielson, Syd Nielson, Mavis Nicholas, Marion Leake, John Leake, Andrea Williams, Alison Marsh, David Marsh, Philip James, Stuart Inder, Una Niall, Frank Johnson, Lois Johnson, Iain Mitchell, Mary Pulsford, Jeanette Leahy, Jaqueline Ottley, Anne Collins, Margaret Carrick, Joan Stobo, Derry (Rossi) Simonds, Jan (Rossi) Regan, Pamela Foley, Marie Day, Ian Reardon, Helen Reardon, Doug Parrish, Ross Johnson, Graeme Baker, Harry West, John O'Dea, George Oakes, Edna Oakes, Marie Clifton-Bassett, John Bowers, Pat Hopper, Joe Nitsche, Florence Cohen, Roma Bates, Clarrie James, Maureen MacFarlan, Albert Speer, Margaret Clarence, Don McIntosh, Barbara McIntosh, Leonore Neilsen, Don Drover, Alan Neilsen, Barbara Burns, Gabriel Keleny, Nance Johnston, Margaret Wallace, Alan Johnston.

**APOLOGIES:** Pam Barrie, Bob Blaikie, Ron Carne, Linda Evans, Graham Hamilton, Robert Hamilton, Judith Hamilton, Ken Jones, Freddie Kaad, John Lewis, Marcia Lightfoot, Flora Nitsche, Bob Pulsford, Greta Ryan, Frank Smith, Peter Williamson, Audrey Young-Whitforde.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS A.G.M.**

*Motion:* That the Minutes of the previous meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> April 2001 be confirmed.

*Moved Doug Parrish, seconded Don Drover.*

*Carried.*

**REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT, HARRY WEST:**

"Welcome to the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General meeting of the Retired Officers' Association. Again, because the committee keeps you well informed of its activities through the quarterly issues of *Una Voce*, it is only necessary for me to be brief. Unfortunately, for the first time in many years I am unable to welcome the Papua New Guinea Consul General, Kila Karo and his wife Judy as guests. During the year the Papua New Guinea government closed about one third of its overseas representations, for economy reasons, and regrettably Sydney was one of them.

The tireless energy and capacity of our committee and the support of members has meant that we have had what I think has been a very successful year. We have produced *Tales of Papua New Guinea*, *Una Voce* has been developed and expanded, membership is at a record high, and plans are under way to bring the organisation more into line with the realities of the new century. Ross Johnson, our Treasurer, who will give you more details later, has updated our computer system, introduced credit card facilities, and devised comprehensive membership application and renewal forms.

At the end of 2001 we had the most successful annual Christmas party yet, in conjunction with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion of PNG evacuees, with an attendance of 240 - thanks to Patricia Johnson and her organising team for the reunion arrangements.

*Tales of Papua New Guinea* has been well publicised in *Una Voce* and nearly 1000 copies have been sold since the launch in December 2001. It has had excellent reviews in major publications, including The Sydney Morning Herald, The Canberra Times, and Quadrant. We still have good stocks, so submit an order if you have not seen a copy. It makes an excellent gift. The book's production and distribution is easily the biggest individual task undertaken by the Association to date, and we are much indebted to those who have given generously of their time and talent - especially Stuart Inder.

With the passage of time the composition of the Association has changed, and now about 90% of our membership is 'Associate' and there is generational change. This gave rise to my item 'About Our Name' in the March 2002 *Una Voce* proposing certain changes to be considered at a Special General Meeting to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> December this year, immediately before the annual Christmas lunch. So far all feedback from members favours the proposal. **It is emphasised that the safeguarding of the retirement conditions of superannuants will remain a prime objective of the association.** On the issue of superannuants' interests the situation has changed and improved since earlier times, and all benefits are paid from the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue fund, and are indexed. A contentious and concerning issue remains in that there is progressive loss comparative to the average annual wage, and this is kept very much alive in negotiations with the Federal Government through our membership of the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations.

It has been a demanding year for our committee of 16 - Graeme Baker, Roma Bates, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Marie Day, Don Drover, Pam Foley, Pat Hopper, Ross Johnson, Freddie Kaad, Joe Nitsche, Doug Parrish, Ian Reardon, Ann Graham, Frank Smith, Andrea Williams and myself, and I would like to thank all of them on your behalf for their continuing unstinting efforts. Our *Una Voce* editor, Marie Clifton-Bassett, assisted by an expanded editorial sub-committee has had a particularly heavy workload with the production of *Tales of Papua New Guinea* and the development of our quarterly magazine, and Ross Johnson and Pam Foley have been extremely busy with packing, distribution and accounting processes for the books. Both our patrons - Roma Bates and Fred Kaad - are also very active committee members. Unfortunately Fred is in hospital and can't be with us today. Special thanks to our honorary auditor of many years, Len Bailey. A glance at the financial report provided by the treasurer gives an indication of the magnitude of Len's auditing task. Dr Peter Cahill continues to preserve documents and historical material related to PNG received from members in the research archives in the University of Queensland. In Canberra Peter Clay represents our association on the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations. Jim Toner (Northern Territory) continues to lead the regional representatives who provide interesting news about members in their area and also fascinating recollections of Papua New Guinea experiences. In Adelaide, Jan Kleinig has again organised a very successful and well attended Christmas luncheon to mirror the Sydney function.

Unfortunately our secretary Ann Graham, who succeeded Joe Nitsche last year, has moved to Tasmania. We wish her well and thank her for her positive contribution.

Our committee members are growing older and many have served for up to 20 years. We definitely need some younger people and would welcome volunteers.

Finally, I would like to pay a special tribute to long-time member Dame Rachel Cleland, loved and admired by us all, who died peacefully in Goondiwindi, Queensland, aged 96, on 18<sup>th</sup> April last.

Thank you all and a happy day to you all."

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer, Ross Johnson, tabled a Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2001. *Motion:* That the Financial Statement be verified as having been submitted (as required by the Australian Tax Act).

*Moved Ian Reardon, seconded Clarrie James. Carried*

*Motion:* That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

*Moved Joe Nitsche, seconded Florence Cohen.*

Carried

#### **CORRESPONDENCE REPORT:**

The Acting Secretary, Pamela Foley, reported that in excess of 1000 items of inward correspondence had been received, necessitating 297 responses.

*Motion:* That the Correspondence Report be accepted.

*Moved Andrea Williams, seconded Marie Day.*

Carried

#### **ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE:**

The President, Harry West, indicated that only one nomination had been received for each position and that those nominated were declared unopposed as follows: **The Executive:** President: Harry West, Treasurer: Ross Johnson, Secretary: Pamela Foley, Editor Newsletter: Marie Clifton-Bassett, Assistant Secretary: Graeme Baker, Deputy President: Pamela Foley. **The Committee:** Graeme Baker, Roma Bates, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Marie Day, Don Drover, Pamela Foley, Patricia Hopper, Ross Johnson, Freddie Kaad, Joe Nitsche, Doug Parrish, Ian Reardon, Frank Smith, Harry West, Andrea Williams.

#### **GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

George Oakes informed the meeting that a memorial plaque honouring those killed by the Japanese at Kavieng during World War II would be unveiled at Kavieng on July 4, 2002. The plaque bears over 100 names (sadly including that of George's father). Details of a tour to coincide with the unveiling of the plaque are available from New Guinea Holidays, Somare House, Sydney.

*Motion:* If there be no further business that the Meeting close

*Moved Doug Parrish, seconded Pam Foley. Carried.*

# ABRIDGED AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For year ended 31 December 2001

## 1. Statement of Income and Expenditure

2000 (\$)		2001 (\$)
	<b>INCOME</b>	
141	Donations	303
6,270	Functions (gross receipts - AGM & Xmas)	6,996
1,614	Interest	1,760
11,796	Membership Subscriptions	13,362
683	Raffles	466
	Tales of Papua New Guinea (net)	3,796
<b>20,504</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>26,683</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
2,206	Administration Expenses	3,164
21	Caring Committee	150
200	Computer Allowance	200
1,113	Depreciation (Fixed Assets)	714
6,432	Functions (expenditure - AGM & Xmas)	7,139
361	Income Tax	1,430
149	Software Purchase	
200	Subscriptions	100
11,012	Una Voce - printing & distribution	11,368
<b>21,694</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>24,265</b>
<b>(1,190)</b>	<b>Surplus / (Deficit) transferred to Members Funds</b>	<b>2,418</b>

## 2. Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2001

2000 (\$)		2001 (\$)
20,070	<b>Current Assets</b>	27,046
19,396	Cash at Bank	5,092
674	Stock on hand	21,610
	Accounts Receivable	344
20,026	<b>Investments - Term Deposits (Police Credit Union)</b>	20,029
1,802	<b>Fixed Assets (written-down value)</b>	1,088
<b>41,898</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>48,163</b>
11,431	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	12,015
	Accounts Payable	408
361	Provision for Income Tax	1,225
1,822	Provision for "Best of Una Voce"	
9,248	Subscriptions in Advance (Year 2002)	10,382
8,784	<b>Long Term Liabilities - Subscriptions in Advance</b>	9,900
<b>20,215</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>22,005</b>
<b>21,683</b>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>26,158</b>
	<b>Represented by -</b>	
5,312	General Reserve	7,369
17,561	Balance forward from previous year	16,371
(1,190)	Net Surplus (Deficit) for Year	2,418
<b>21,683</b>	<b>TOTAL MEMBER FUNDS</b>	<b>26,158</b>

(The full financial statement together with the Auditor's Report, as presented to the Annual General Meeting, can be obtained on application to the Secretary)

*Information just to hand on a symposium entitled Papua New Guinea: Then and Now. Critical Reflections of Cultural Decolonisation and Nationalism, 11 & 12 July 2002, Women's College, University of Sydney*

Registration \$220/\$130 concession (GST, lunch, refreshments included)

Enquiries: Natalya Lusty, Research Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (RIHSS), Woolley Building A20, University of Sydney NSW 2006, [nlusty@genderstudies.usyd.edu.au](mailto:nlusty@genderstudies.usyd.edu.au) (02) 9351 5709, or see <http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/rihss/png.html>

SEE BELOW SEE BELOW





## REMINISCENCES OF A COLONIAL BROADCASTER

by Graham Taylor

*Graham Taylor went to Papua New Guinea as a cadet patrol officer in 1948. From 1958 to 1964 he worked there with the ABC before going on to South East Asia and finally to become General Manager of the ABC in South Australia. He was guest speaker at the annual ROAPNG Christmas Luncheon arranged in Adelaide by Jan Kleinig on 4 November 2001. An abridged version of his speech follows:*

Broadcasting first began in Port Moresby in the late 1930s when AWA of Australia established a low-powered transmitter - call sign 9PA - a commercial radio service for the small number of expatriates living in the town. This operation was suspended when the Japanese invaded New Guinea and Papua. The station was reopened by US General Douglas MacArthur in 1944. It broadcast to armed forces in the area and was staffed by ABC officers serving in the Australian Military Forces. In 1945 the station was taken over by the Australian Army Services/Amenities Corps and operated as 9AA. In July 1946 the station was taken over once again by the ABC and as 9PA remained an ABC entity until 1975 when, on independence, the ABC's operations were handed over to Michael Somare's government and the new PNG Broadcasting Commission.

In the early 1950s short wave stations using the VLT call sign were added to 9PA to improve radio reception for the rapidly expanding expatriate populations in the New Guinea Islands and the Highlands.

While the ABC always had some futuristic plans for the wider regionalisation of its services in PNG, circumstances were such that it was only able to establish one new regional centre, 9RB at Rabaul. I was appointed ABC Regional Manager in Rabaul charged with the responsibility of establishing this new station. We acquired a very large unused copra shed in Malaguna Road and installed a radio studio, a transmitter hall, a record library, and appropriate technical and administrative facilities. Local indigenous and expatriate staff were appointed and the station was opened in 1962.

I planned a Saturday afternoon opening ceremony starting with inspections, drinks and speeches leading to on-air start up time of 5.00pm. The glitterati of Rabaul were invited to the ceremony ... notable guests included Nobby Clark, the manager of the local National Bank of Australia who went on to become a towering figure in the Australian banking industry, and the Australian Olympian Kevan Gosper, who has been in the news recently, who was then the District Manager for the Shell Coy in the NG Islands. As the hot afternoon wore on we began to lose our concentration but on the dot of five the announcer switched on the microphone, warmly welcomed our audience to this the latest ABC service and announced that the first record to be played was one of the hits of the day, *Bad Moon Rising*.

Alas ... not a syllable, not a sound, was heard outside the studio. There followed a great wailing and gnashing of technical teeth. In due course the problem was traced to the transmitter. It transpired that Nobby Clark's young toddler, who had accompanied his parents to the ceremony, had become bored with the official opening speeches and had quietly wandered off unnoticed to the transmitter hall where, overcome by all the dials, knobs and winking lights, he had spent a happy half hour or so carefully retuning the transmitter. Not a great start!

A topic of special interest to all of you present here today is, I think, the history of indigenous broadcasting in the Territory.

Early in the 1950s the Administration recognised the potential value of using radio broadcasts as a means of communicating with indigenous peoples. The ABC agreed to set aside one and a half hours of programming time from 4.00-5.30 every weekday afternoon and the Administration set up a small broadcasting cell in the Education

Department at Konedobu led by an expatriate teacher Percy Cochrane and his wife Renata who had had some earlier experience writing scripts for ABC Radio school broadcasts. They collected together a team of indigenous staff and for a number of years came out to the ABC studios at Boroko every weekday afternoon to present a Native People's Session - in a number of languages - built around news, talks on health, hygiene, agriculture and recordings of indigenous music. These local broadcasters developed their personal skills and in some cases were quite marvellous broadcasters.

The ABC however grew progressively disenchanted with this arrangement largely because it began to take the view that the Administration's broadcasts failed to meet the ABC's own rigid standards of independence, objectivity, lack of bias etc. There was a strong perception of bias and administrative propaganda which did not sit well with the ABC's vision of its own corporate policies and practices. The ABC thus terminated the arrangement and the Administration went on to establish in due course its own Extension Services Department under the direction of Lyle Newby, opening up its own stations in Rabaul in 1961 and Wewak in 1963, and elsewhere.

Meanwhile the ABC moved to establish its own indigenous broadcasting unit and in 1958 I resigned from my position as a kiap to pursue a new career which seemed to offer greater long-term possibilities of safe, secure and interesting employment, and took up an appointment as the ABC's indigenous Programme Director. I then set about recruiting and training a group of young Papuans and New Guineans many of whom were destined to become quite talented broadcasters. They included Raka Saini, Japh Eremas, Jack Ainui, and Robin ToPapat. We began to broadcast a wide range of programmes in simple English, Police Motu, Orokaiva, Mekeo, Arawa and Kuanua.

It was always the ABC's intention to so prepare and develop its PNG broadcasting service for the day when it would be passed on to an entity such as the PNG Broadcasting Commission and our recruitment, training and general staff developmental training was directed accordingly. Some indigenous staff members were sent off to Australia for further training and experience. In the event, this handover took place with the advent of Territory independence in 1975.

A measure of the success which I think it fair to say we achieved in this context is reflected in this quote from Professor Kenneth Inglis' voluminous history of the ABC. He says:

Adventurous young broadcasters who applied for jobs in the Territory of Papua New Guinea were in some respects the most professionally satisfied of all workers in ABC Radio. 9PA Port Moresby and 9RB Rabaul had no competition from either commercial radio or television. Everywhere ABC people went, among expatriates and English-speaking locals, they met people who were their listeners. Given a fairly free hand by their superiors to navigate before the winds of change, they opened up new ground, sometimes to the annoyance of senior men in the Territory Administration, for interracial discussion of issues engaging a colony on its way to becoming a nation. They coached bright local understudies who would come into their own when independence arrived and a national broadcasting authority would take over.

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**HELP WANTED:** Nev Hadley is seeking information re his father, **Eric George HADLEY**. Nev was the first white child born at Edie Creek. When Nev was four, his father died, and he and his mother left the area. Nev's mother died last year and Nev realises he has no knowledge whatsoever of his father and is desperate to contact anyone who knew him. No doubt Eric Hadley was a miner, some 11 miles from Wau. Nev Hadley is at 5 Erin Drive, Browns Plains Qld 4118, phone 07 3802 8084

# J. MUTTU GWARE - PNG'S FIRST NATIONAL PRINT JOURNALIST

by Jim Huxley



Jim Huxley with his old friend J. Muttu Gware in Sydney

Forty years ago, Bob Hawkins, J. Muttu Gware and I produced two newspapers - the *New Guinea Times-Courier* and *Nu Gini Toktok*. The papers were compiled in Lae and printed in Port Moresby, at the *South Pacific Post* printery.

Muttu was educated at various schools, before finishing at Lae Technical College. Former Lae medical assistant Bert Speer gave him his first job - as a medical secretary - at the Butibam native hospital. In 1959, Muttu was employed by the *Times-Courier* and *Toktok*. He was the country's first National print journalist. I was managing editor of the organisation with Bob Hawkins deputy editor of the *Times-Courier* and Muttu assistant editor of *Toktok*. Muttu worked on the newspapers until 1989 when he resigned to accept a position as manager of The Pool Shop, a division of Morobe Pharmacy Pty. Ltd. He remained in this employment until he retired last year at the age of 65.

When I resigned and moved to Sydney in 1965 with my wife, Lee, and four sons, Edwin, Nicholas, James and Quentin, Bob Hawkins, a most competent journalist from Shropshire, England, took over as editor of the *Times-Courier*. About this time, controlling interest of South Pacific Post Pty. Ltd. (including *New Guinea Times-Courier* and *Nu Gini Toktok*) was acquired by the Melbourne company, The Herald and Weekly Times, and after some months Bob Hawkins moved on.

Bob, Muttu and I worked well as a team. We were always busy, working about 60 hours a week for 40 hours pay. New Zealander Steve Simpson ran the Rabaul office before handing over to Mike Fallon, and veteran Jack McCarthy sent us outstanding stories from Madang.

There wasn't sufficient time to do the job we would have liked. We planned to run more features but lack of time prevented this. Our main concern was to produce a 32-page tabloid *Times-Courier* on Wednesdays, an 8-page *Toktok* on Thursdays and a 16-page *Times-Courier* on Saturdays. Four times a year we produced a supplement, covering selected subjects. One Lae Show feature embraced 64 pages.

Besides gathering information and writing and producing stories we had to sell local advertising and write most of it. As well, we had to keep in touch with the aircraft on the Australia-PNG run. Most of our editorial and advertising copy was carried from Lae to Moresby in the captain's bag. Occasionally, however, the aircraft flew on to Brisbane with our package still on board. This was delivered, amidst some panic, on the next upwards flight (luckily a daily service was in vogue) - this at times became quite a

worry, but we prevailed and got each issue out on schedule.

We had a good man, the company's advertising manager, George O'Rourke, on the job in Moresby. He kept a watchful eye on proceedings. There was an excellent factory staff, headed by Hal Byrne and Ray Thurecht.

From 1973, Muttu Gware gave his spare time to many other activities. Over the 1989-1994 period he served as manager of the Butibam Progress Association, as Lae's assistant scout commissioner, as a member of the South Pacific Commission, as president of the Morobe branch of the Pangu Pati, as member of the Morobe Education Board and as a director of PNG Contractors. During this time, also, he was a director of the Bank of South Pacific, a member of the Land Transport Board, was part of the PNG Trade Commission to New Zealand, was a councillor of the PNG University of Technology and a member of the Morobe Land Transport Board.

Over the 1989-1994 period he was vice-president of the Morobe Provisional Agricultural Show Society, deputy governor of the Ahi Community Group, president of the Morobe Cultural Council, a board member of the Lae Hospital, deputy commissioner of the Morobe Tourism Board and a director of Ryback Stevedoring Pty. Ltd, co-owned by shipping company P & O and Ahi (Holding) Company.

In 1997, Muttu was awarded the Order of the British Empire Medal (OBE) for services to New Guinea and its people.

Muttu and his wife Gabaram live in retirement in Butibam village near the mouth of the Bumbu River mid-Lae. Resident there also are their son Paul (30) and his family, and their daughter Rebecca (37) and her family.

### **Presentation of cheque for \$1000 from the F.P. (Fred) Archer Trust for the Gware Mantap Memorial Emergency Ward at Lae Hospital**

While on a visit to Sydney, Muttu attended the ROAPNG Christmas lunch with his hosts, Eric and Evarne Coote, former close Lae friends. The occasion was opportune for Muttu to be presented with a cheque for \$1,000 to go towards the Gware Mantap Memorial Emergency Ward at the Lae hospital. This memorial is dedicated to Muttu's father, Gware Mantap, who died in 1959 from kidney failure.

Gware Mantap was the first government *dokta boi* to work independently in the Morobe District. In the mid-1920s he set up a clinic at the then district's headquarters at Morobe. He moved to Salamaua in 1927 where he established a clinic and followed this with another clinic at Lae. As well, he found time to train many native orderlies. During the war years, Gware Mantap visited villages in the Ahi (Lae) area and treated the injured and sick as best he could with sparse medicines and other requisites supplied by the Japanese occupants.

The presentation was made by Mrs Pat Hopper on behalf of the F.P. (Fred) Archer Trust Fund. Mrs Hopper, widow of prominent New Britain planter and businessman, Alex Hopper, said the Archer Trust granted money each year to benefit the PNG people in various ways. She said she was appointed to tend the Trust following the death of original manager Eric Storm. Among other grants to the Memorial Ward appeal was one from the Japanese PNG Goodwill Society. This money was used to buy an X-ray machine for the emergency ward.

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**HELP WANTED:** John Biltris wishes to contact Vince COUGHLIN, the teacher who established the school at Gumine in the 1960s - John thinks he was originally from central Victoria. If you can help, or know of anyone who might be able to help, please contact John at: 36 Ellenvale Avenue, Pascoe Vale South, Victoria 3044, ph. 03 9383 1295

## BOOK NEWS AND REVIEWS

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA YEARBOOK 2002** - \$60 (incl GST) plus P&P \$5, total \$65

The PNG Yearbook is available for the first time since the late 1970s. The publisher is the proprietor of *The National*, one of PNG's two daily newspapers. *The National* has engaged as contributors leading experts on the country. The Yearbook has been edited by Australian journalist Brian Gomez and is an important reference work. It includes up-to-the-minute data and descriptions of most aspects of PNG today; it covers the economy, mining, oil and gas, fisheries, agriculture, banking and finance, industry, transport, health, education and social issues, and includes pages of statistics and tables. From Robin Bromby, Specialist Books, PO Box 481, Edgecliff NSW 2027, Australia, Tel/Fax 02 9363 1488, Email: [bromby@acay.com.au](mailto:bromby@acay.com.au) ISBN 9980-85-391-3

**'KRIPPENDORF'S TRIBE'** - A film reviewed by **Jim Toner**

An undiscovered tribe in New Guinea? Must watch this.

Richard Dreyfus is wasted in the role but does seem to enjoy himself as an anthropologist who spends his \$100,000 grant without doing the research. Comes the day of reckoning and he films his three offspring blacked up and dressed as Highlands children in his back garden. Blending this with genuine footage he shows it at his, need I say, American university as evidence of the lost, now found, tribe. As further proof he appears as its 'chief', dressed like a Hagen, *asgras* and all. Naturally there is a goofy research assistant and the lead lady from 'Dharma and Greg' is well cast for that. A suspicious female professor goes to PNG to check on Krippendorf and is shown at Kundiawa seeking 'porters' to walk to Bosavi. Unsurprisingly, no takers. The film was actually made in Hawaii in 1998 and no self-respecting critic ever reveals an ending.

A Disney film was once pure entertainment for children but the world has changed since old Walt's passing. This production, presumably aimed at a young audience, discusses Neolithic dildos and lapses into standard Hollywood dialogue eg. 'You were wonderful last night'. On second thoughts, maybe it is aimed at the pre-teens of Today? At any rate no retiree I know has any time to spare, let alone for Professor Krippendorf.

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## REUNIONS

**GROUP VISITING KAVIENG** to honour the memory of those civilians of all races from the New Ireland District who lost their lives as a result of the Japanese invasion in 1942 and to pay homage to those lost on the *Montevideo Maru* 60 years ago. Group departs 2 July 2002. Twenty-five people are making the pilgrimage for ceremony on 4 July. Niugini Holidays has organised an excellent package - it is still possible to join the group (contact Ruth Dicker of Niugini Holidays, 02 9290 2055 ASAP).

If readers know the whereabouts of any descendants or relatives of those who were lost, would they please pass the above information on to them.

**1962-63 ASOPA EDUCATION OFFICERS' REUNION, 3-4 August, at Port Macquarie** - The only person on this course who hasn't been located is **Marie BURNS** - any clues, no matter how small, would be welcome. A number of people known to the '62-63 group have indicated their wish to attend; if there are others who would like to participate they should contact Col and Wendy Booth at: 12 Anita Crescent, Port Macquarie NSW 2444, phone 02 6584 1017, Email [cswbooth@hotmail.com](mailto:cswbooth@hotmail.com)

**Keith JACKSON** sends out a 6-page weekly newsletter on the lead-up to the reunion. For those who might like to be in touch with him again he is at: 28 Benelong Rd,

Cremorne NSW 2090, ph 02 9909 8486, Email [benclong@bigpond.net.au](mailto:benclong@bigpond.net.au)

### **SOGERI REUNION, 27-29 Sept. 2002, Quality Inn Garden City, Narrabundah ACT**

The book on Sogeri is expected to be launched at the luncheon. For more information contact Marjorie Walker, 31 Josephine Ave, Mt Waverley 3149, Ph.03 9803 9071, or Robyn Warnock, 29 Barrallier St, Griffith 2603, Ph.02 6295 3191

**MALAGUNA TECHNICAL COLLEGE** - Stan Pike, former principal, is planning a reunion of former staff on **Saturday, 12 October 2002**, at 6pm at the Kaleen Sports Club, **Canberra**. Invitations will be sent out shortly. Stan is trying to locate **Geoff FEWSTER** and **Tennyson LAU**. Anyone with information please contact Stan on 02 6241 5543.

**EX-KIAP REUNION, Victoria, Sunday 3 November 2002 (the Sunday before Cup Day)**. Venue - Sandown Greyhounds Tabaret Restaurant in Springvale, 12 noon. Cost - around \$15 per head for Family Buffet Luncheon and Hot Carvery. Drinks at bar prices. Free on-site off-street parking. For more information, or to book, contact Peter Edwards, 59 Burgess Drive, Langwarrin, Vic. 3910, Ph. 03 9775 8814, email [orr@netspace.net.au](mailto:orr@netspace.net.au)

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**CHANGE OF NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION** - At the last committee meeting the matter of change of name, and any subsequent updating of the Rules of the Association consequent on the change of name, were referred to the Legal and Administrative sub-committee.

**SUB-COMMITTEES OF ROAPNG, 2001** - At the first meeting of the committee after the AGM, it was decided that the sub-committees for 2002 would be as follows (Names underlined are the conveners):

**Social** Joe Nitsche, Pamela Foley, Pat Hopper  
**Caring** Pat Hopper, Andrea Williams, Roma Bates, Frank Smith, Marie Day  
**Finance** Ross Johnson, Graeme Baker, Doug Parrish, Joe Nitsche, Ian Reardon  
**Legal and Administrative**: D. Parrish, F. Kaad, G. Baker, D. Drover, R. Johnson  
**Editorial**: Marie Clifton-Bassett, Doug Parrish, Ross Johnson, Don Drover, Pamela Foley, Graeme Baker, Andrea Williams, Joe Nitsche and Jean Mulholland (co-opted member)  
**Superannuation**: F. Kaad, H. West, D. Parrish, and Peter Clay (co-opted member)

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**HELP WANTED:** Gael Penrose asks, 'Does anyone remember **Dr August Lyle BUCHANAN**? He spent three months in PNG and the Solomons in either 1953 or 1954. He travelled throughout the Territories visiting mission stations and other outposts training and examining medical personnel, from the Dutch border, Mt Hagen, Papua, New Guinea, New Britain and other posts, staying for several days/weeks at each, on behalf of St John's Ambulance. Many of the places were Seventh Day Adventist. I still have extensive 8mm footage of his travels. I would appreciate any contact from Australians or Papua New Guineans who either remember him or did training at this time.' Gael is at: 'Myalla', Bingara NSW 2404, Ph: 02 6724 1045 after 7pm

**HELP WANTED:** Gael Penrose would be grateful for any information, reminiscences (true or alleged!) or a photograph of her uncle, **Colin CARPENTER**, nephew of W.R. Carpenter, husband of Doris, who died at Popondetta on 28 September 1968. Doris lived for many years in Chatswood and died in the 1980s.

Gael is at 'Myalla', Bingara NSW 2404, Ph: 02 6724 1045 after 7pm



## SNAPSHOTS FROM THE EARLY '50s - from Paul J Quinlivan

### No. 40 - A Nobel Prize endangered by our strict rule about Highland prisoners

*Kuru* was a hideous disease unique to the Fore people of the Kainantu subdistrict and research on it led to breakthroughs which solved many medical problems. So much so that the chief researcher, Dr D.C. Gajdusek of the National Institutes of Health, Washington, was awarded the Nobel Prize. His research was, however, very nearly frustrated by the strict rule that highland prisoners could only be held in highland gaols. On two occasions when I was Chief Crown Prosecutor (ie. between 1955 and 1960), Judge Bignold telephoned and said he wanted to do a circuit to Kainantu, next week, and could I allocate a Crown Prosecutor. On the first of these when we arrived at Kainantu there were no witnesses because of the shortness of notice so I went to Dr Gajdusek's camp and was deeply impressed with his dedication and his phenomenal memory for the genealogy of every Fore person. He was like a machine-gun: you mentioned a name and, rat-a-tat-tat, out spewed the names of that person's children, father, mother, brothers, sisters, grandfathers, grandmothers etc. etc. But, after giving me a few examples, he said, almost sobbing, that no matter how he looked at it, there were three maddening gaps where people had children who were obviously not theirs and where men who should be there, did not exist. I said, 'Would those gaps have occurred in early August, 1953?' and he went berserk. 'How could you know that? I have never released that fact.' I said, 'The local people believed that the deaths you are researching were caused by a sorcerer so three of them killed one of the alleged sorcerer's clan. Not the sorcerer, of course, but an innocent man who was searching for his escaped pig. I prosecuted them for wilful murder in August 1953 and they were sent to ...' He interrupted saying, 'But we searched all gaols in the Highlands. That is the first thing we did, because of the rule about prisoners from the Highlands. But there is no record of any such men!'. I said that it was not 'the Highlands' because the rule applied long before they were discovered. It was 'any person from an area of high altitude' - and the three men were at Wau gaol (3,500ft). I have never seen anyone more relieved. His gaps were filled and his research was able to proceed!

### No. 41 - The reason for the Highlands Rule

Obviously, the reason for the rule was that such people lack immunity to coastal diseases but there is an additional reason which explains why Monte was so adamant that the rule be obeyed. It is from the report for 1927/1928 on our administration of Former German New Guinea and reads:

'... Mr. F.B. Phillips, at the time Stipendiary Magistrate of the Territory and now a Judge of the Central Court, was appointed, under the Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance 1927, to be a Commissioner to inquire into and report upon alleged irregularities in recruiting... The Commissioner proceeded to... Salamaua and all the villages in the Finschhafen area, where the irregularities were reported to have occurred. In all 538 witnesses, of whom 501 were Natives, were examined. The investigations occupied a period of approximately five months. The Commissioner found that a number of Natives had been illegally recruited and that certain irregularities had occurred... In some instances Natives had been recruited against their will, and, in others, had been signed on as casual labourers contrary to the provisions of Section 51 of the Native Labour ordinance, or had been recruited from areas of high altitude without the prior permission of the Administrator (my emphasis). Food and labour had also been supplied in a number of cases by

Natives without adequate payment in return. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Commissioner immediate action was taken ... to compensate the Natives who had supplied food and labour without payment, to cancel the contracts of Natives who had been illegally recruited, and to make further inquiries with a view to the institution of proceedings wherever possible...

#### No. 42 - The Rule and my reaction at Wewak on 8 April 1954

In Snapshot 22 I explained how, just after I arrived back in TPNG in March 1954, I was sent to Samarai. And how, the very day I returned to Moresby from that trip, I was told I was to go with the Crown Law Officer (Wally Watkins) on an emergency trip next morning, at first light. I was not told what our destination was and, when I was put into Ma Scannell's at Wewak - something I had been guaranteed, the previous year, would never happen again - I was sure that we were only overnighing there on our way to Manus! Because of those movements - and because of preoccupation with unusual problems while on leave - I was totally unaware of what had been happening in regard to the Telefomin Massacres. The last I had heard was (quoting the *South Pacific Post* of 20 January 1954): 'Telefomin killers ... were holed up in mountainous forest country ... and it would be many months yet before they could be captured.'

My first notice of what was to become my greatest worry came when, the day after reaching Wewak, I was sent to Telefomin. My pilot was Bishop Arkfeld of the Catholic Mission, Wewak and he told me that his back load would be local food because the authorities in Wewak were worried about the health of the Telefomin prisoners they were holding. I was surprised to hear that there were Telefomin prisoners in Wewak because it was obvious their area was 'of high altitude' but I assumed that they were few in number and the occasional aircraft-load of local food would solve the problem. Two or three days after I returned to Wewak the wonderful Senior Nurse, in whose honour the blind war hero YAUWIGA and other Sepik leaders built and named a new hospital, also told me that her greatest worry was the health of the Telefomin prisoners. Even this did not get through to me because, by then, I had been working with 'the Telefomins' (not knowing that they were only part of the total there) and they appeared to be not only healthy but they were clearly enjoying the battle of wits which was going on because they knew we did not even know their names, let alone what they had individually done. And I was very much engaged in a dispute with the Crown Law Officer (CLO) about whether he should be commencing, at that stage, the Preliminary Hearings - which, I should explain, are the formal examination and cross-examination of witnesses in Open Court (i.e. so that the general public can listen and the press can report) so that the magistrate can decide whether the evidence which has been collected is sufficient to require him to 'commit' each prisoner for trial before the Supreme Court. Nevertheless, I did tell the CLO about the worries expressed to me because there could be adverse publicity if Highland prisoners died of coastal diseases. Then, after he had supervised the Preliminary Hearings for three days, the CLO returned to Moresby, leaving me in charge of the whole Telefomin operation. Things became clearer and I was informed that it was Canberra which had directed that the Telefomins be held in Wewak. In my first letter to the CLO (28th April) I advised that one defendant in the Harris case was very ill and unable to attend the hearing, and no other cases could be heard as, due to illness, none had a full complement of charged Natives available.

We will return to this question of illness in a later Snapshot but I am happy to relate that, if my memory is correct, only one Telefomin actually died and he was infirm long before he was arrested.

### No. 43 - My task as assistant to John Grainger, OiC Police, Wewak

It may sound odd that I, a lawyer who had prosecuted a record number of cases before the Supreme Court and defended over forty there, should say that I was 'assistant to' a provincial policeman. But I knew Jack Grainger well and I not only liked him, I respected him greatly. Jack was in urgent need of help because, although it was the kiaps who had done everything up until that point, Jack had now been given the job of conducting the Preliminary Hearings. And he not only had to conduct them now, but he had to do so under Wally Watkins' watchful gaze for the first three days! In addition there was the lesser fact that I had been installed in the District Commissioner's residence and the whole town had been told that, as far as the Telefomin operations were concerned, I was there to rescue what I could from the mess.

In saying this I am not, in any way, casting aspersions on the kiaps who had been flown in, with a few police, with orders to scour the mountainous terrain and round up all the culprits. Since search parties must travel light, they did not take typewriters and other equipment for the taking of a formal Record of Interview of each person arrested but sent them off by first available aircraft to some place where that task could be performed properly. They did a magnificent job and, since it became clear, quite early, that practically everyone could have been arrested, because everyone was involved, they deserve special praise for their decision to arrest only the most culpable. If those with power could exercise a similar restraint in various parts of the world today, it would be a far better place!

The law accepts that arrests must sometimes be made instantly, but, even then, there must always be time and facilities for the collection and weighing of evidence. In the Telefomin cases, there had been an interference with procedures and, instead of there being time for the collection of evidence, the public hearings - the Preliminary Hearings - were commenced. It was for this reason - and for this reason alone - that everything was in a mess and I was there to do what I could to prevent mass acquittals. But what could I do? I might be good in Court but I could not really speak *pidgin*!

Jack Grainger solved this by saying that, since they were his men, he had had to do quite a lot of 'counselling' of the police who had survived the massacres. And he therefore knew that, although the kiaps believed that Suni, the Station Interpreter, was reliable, the surviving police suspected him of complicity! This was because, when he was supposed to be on the Government station, he was seen skulking around in the bushes close to the scene of the Szarka massacre! This, Jack said, was something he could not investigate himself because he was 'involved' but, since the police bugler spoke excellent English, having studied at a seminary to become a Catholic priest, I could do it if I used him as interpreter. This I did but, since I sat in on the Preliminary Hearings (and on the separate meetings, each day, searching for potential witnesses), my investigations had to be at night and passers-by dropped in to listen. On the first night, I noticed a young Native boy, in the background, whom I had noticed at the other 'hearings' and, on the second night he took a front position. On the third he came up to me and, in a mixture of languages which made sense to me, he said that if I wanted to talk to the Telefomin witnesses he would be my interpreter! His name was TINDANGIN but he preferred Tom, and he was a Telefomin! You can have no idea how thrilled I was: there were only two interpreters available and one was a possible enemy! I made enquiries and discovered that Tom was an orphan who hitchhiked in to Wewak with a batch of prisoners and, once there, he attached himself to the matriarchs of the Married Police Compound. He was highly intelligent and universally liked and, after I passed my *pidgin* exam, I took him up

on his offer and he interpreted for me well into the midnight hours most nights, week after week, for months. It was not until Counsel for the Defence arrived, towards the end of my stay, and gave me a bundle of papers which the Crown Law Office had given him as 'background material' - but which they never gave me! - that I discovered that Suni, the Interpreter I was investigating, was precisely like Tom when the first Whites arrived in 1936! Those Europeans treated him the same way I had treated Tom, with results we will notice in No. 46.

It was during those interviews with the police that I discovered that there were more than fifty Telefomins in Wewak gaol after being arrested when the attacks on the Mission etc. had been frustrated by the landing aircraft. This event was described in Snapshot No. 32, Sept. 2001, page 43, part of which reads:

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1953 the Masters of the Tambaran House discovered that the whites would be in three widely scattered areas and their foreign Native helpers would be in five such scattered areas. This was the perfect opportunity. Instructions went out and the plan - in which the entire population, irrespective of inter-village hatreds and warfare, was involved - was implemented. The plan was absolutely comprehensive and superbly conceived. Attacks on all fronts were to take place without warning at an hour after daybreak on Friday. By a miracle an unscheduled aircraft landed at Telefomin station at that time and the attacks on that station and on the Mission did not take place at the planned time and, because those at those places became suspicious, they never occurred. Had the attacks succeeded - and only the inconceivable stopped them - the entire body of non-Telefomins in the area would have been annihilated and it would, conservatively estimated, have taken months and many lives of paratroops - the plan called for the demolition of the airstrip and the arming of a home-guard - before we could have got back into the area.

The Telefomins in Wewak gaol had been convicted of 'riotous behaviour' but, since they had not murdered anyone, they were never included in statistics of persons arrested! Equally important was the fact that the police who had arrested those non-murderers were not amongst those I was interviewing. They were scattered and when found - which took some time - the whole situation changed. Before we look at that change, however, I should return to my letter to the Crown Law Officer, written in my second week at Wewak.

#### No. 44 - The early results of our investigations

I mentioned in No. 42 that I wrote a lengthy letter to the Crown Law Officer at the end of my second week on this assignment and these passages become important now:

'9. Over the Easter and Anzac Day holidays we, Mr. Grainger and myself, ... (worked at) the rather enervating and unnerving job of questioning the Telefomins and a fairly settled picture is beginning to emerge (the letter then goes on to detail that picture in 26 sub-paragraphs).

13. We have had ... (several "break-through" experiences). We also have had a witness explain his withholding of evidence by saying "FEMSEP told me to hide it".

14. This latter witness and his explanation led to the opening of interesting new leads... There is now a definite possibility - but no evidence has "come out" yet - that the Harris attack was ... triggered off ... by FEMSEP of Terapdavip...

15. This is, of course, new territory and it may take time to open it up. ... At the moment FEMSEP is free and at his village. It is better that he remain there ... until something concrete either way is known. ...'

In the decades which have passed since that was written, several people stationed at Telefomin have written to me saying that it would appear that we did not discover FEMSEP's involvement. We did not miss it. The trouble was that we could not prove it. Whenever it appeared that we were getting close, the potential witness would collapse in a faint and, on recovery, he would recant, blathering with fear.

#### **No. 45 - Wonderful action of Police Lance Corporal SAUWENI**

It was not until after Jack Grainger and I had become very interested in Femsep that we located the most important of the police who had brought in the Telefomins convicted of riotous behaviour. He was Lance Corporal Sauweni and whoever trained him, and those who allowed him to blossom, did a wonderful job! The most highly paid General in the world could not have handled the tragic situation better! When Szarka and Harris departed on their patrols Sauweni was left in charge of the station so he spoke to the Telefomin wives of his police and asked them to report anything unusual. Several reported that strangers (Telefomins) had asked about who had been left at the station now that the Europeans had gone and Yendabari's wife reported that Edubomsep, the headman of Telefolip, had warned her that there was going to be an attack. Sauweni therefore posted lookouts at various points and advised the local Baptist missionary, Reverend Norman Draper, that there was a possibility of danger. Just after daybreak on the day of the killings in the other valleys, large numbers of armed men were seen in the bushes close to the station and the Mission - and other strategic points - but, when the unscheduled aircraft landed, they disappeared. Sauweni felt that an attack was imminent so he went to the Mission, where he knew Femsep's young son was a student, and he asked him (Femsep's son) to accompany him to the station. The boy went with him and, when they got there, he (Sauweni) dropped all pretence and held him as a hostage because, he said, he believed (as Grainger and I believed) that Femsep was the brains behind it all. The unloading of the aircraft took time and, after it departed (around 10am), the armed men began returning. Unnoticed amongst them was Tigori, Harris's *haus cook* who did not usually wear traditional garb but he had been instructed by the survivors of the Harris party to wear it now and go and get help. He told Sauweni what had happened and Sauweni immediately sent a message to Rev. Draper asking him to radio Wewak and tell them of the attack on Harris and request assistance. He then ordered Suni, the Station Interpreter to put on his penis gourd and go to the far valley as a spy to see if the Szarka party was safe. He also sent Constables Yandabari and Lego, with four rifles and ammunition, to relieve the Harris party. The messenger sent to Rev. Draper returned and reported that, on his way back, he had seen Femsep hiding in the bushes so Sauweni called for Femsep to come. Femsep did and Sauweni arrested him as a hostage. He then arrested the fifty or so armed men referred to in No. 43, telling them that the attack on the Harris and Szarka parties had been a total failure and he was waiting for the kiap to return and gaol them all. Since he should not have known that attacks were contemplated, his bluff succeeded and they surrendered quietly. At 12.30 an aircraft arrived, in response to Rev. Draper's call, bringing ADO George Wearne (who joined the Field Staff 7 January 1947) and Wewak's Senior Medical Officer, European Medical Assistant Rhys Healey, to assess the situation. They told Sauweni that the District Commissioner was personally touring all stations collecting policemen to join a large relief party but Sauweni expressed the view that, although that might be good in one way, it did not allow him to go to the rescue of his friends.

#### **No. 46 - Suni, a fine example of belief in The Rule of Law**

From Sauweni's account it was clear that Suni was not only completely innocent, he had been a true hero, carrying out Sauweni's orders to go against his own people and

spy out the land! The fact that honest policemen thought he was a traitor shows how easy it is for injustice to be done if we do not set out to see all sides. Once we heard Sauweni we were able to discover that Suni had trained his family to respect the Rule of Law. This then led to other discoveries which are so extraordinary they deserve to be given as Snapshots in their own right so we will leave them until next sequence.

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## AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN

**Ian McPHERSON**, a former Territorian with 16 years' experience in the Constabulary, was Public Relations Officer to Police Commissioners Cole, Whitrod and Nicholls. The obituary for **Brigadier Ralph ELDRIDGE** in the March 2002 issue reminded him of an event which occurred at Taurama Barracks in 1971. Ian wrote:

'Based at Port Moresby, I had been granted honorary membership to both the Murray Barracks and Taurama Barracks Officers' Messes\*. I was grateful for these concessions as it allowed me to mingle freely on a social basis with both indigenous and expatriate military officers, and this stood me in good stead when I was appointed to a joint committee comprising Army, Navy, Air Force, Police, Corrective Services and Canberra-based External Territories and Treasury Personnel to look into the disparity of conditions of service within the PNG Services.

One of the Army officers on the committee, a Lieutenant Colonel, with whom I had become quite friendly, was one of a group of military personnel participating in a senior staff officers' course, due to visit Taurama Barracks as part of that course. A barbecue was arranged by that officer's Mess and I was invited to attend. The aircraft bringing the group from New Zealand was two hours late and the officers did not arrive at the Barracks until close to 9pm. I was delighted to catch up with my Army friend as well as mix with others in the group. That is until I was approached by one of the members who said, without preamble, 'And who are you?'. I replied, 'Ian McPherson, Inspector of Police. I am pleased to meet you'. He then said, 'Well, what are you doing here?', to which I replied, 'I am an honorary member of the Mess and I was invited'.

I will never forget his next words, 'Christ, they will let anybody into this Mess'. He then turned and walked away. To this day I cannot recall it, but apparently Major Horrie Howard, later to become Major General, was standing behind me telling me to 'cool it'. I did, and shortly afterwards took my leave and went home.

To say the least, the officer's 'bedside manner' was not what I had come to expect through my connection with the officers of both Messes. He may have been tired after the long journey but, while I have no doubt he was a dedicated and professional soldier, in my opinion he failed to qualify as an officer and a gentleman that evening.

Next morning at 7am I received a telephone call from Brigadier Ralph Eldridge. He said, 'Ian, I am just on my way out to Daru, but I want you to know that I know what occurred last night and I apologise, as does the officer. He has been paraded before me this morning and I have told him in no uncertain terms that his conduct last night was reprehensible and that he had done nothing to bring credit to himself or the service. I will catch up with you very soon'.

That 'very soon' consisted of a luncheon for my wife and myself at his Murray Barracks residence where he proved to be a generous host, very ably assisted by his charming wife Betty. Brigadier Eldridge did qualify as an officer and a gentleman. Men of such quality are rare and I extend my belated condolences to Betty and her family.

\* Taurama Barracks was the headquarters of 1 Pacific Islands Regiment and the officers' mess included both expatriate and indigenous officers, as did Murray Barracks PNG Defence Force Headquarters officers' mess.



*VALE - With deep regret we record the passing of the following members and friends -*

**Mr Andrew REDEI** (October 2001, aged 81 years)

Born in Nagykanizsa, Hungary, Andrew with his wife Judith entered Australia as refugees in 1950, after spending four years in Brazil. Andrew was a civil engineer, and the Project Officer for the development and construction of the Lae Technical College, 1965-1969. Andrew and his late wife Judith embraced PNG, where Judith also taught at Lae High School. After his time in PNG Andrew was affectionately known to his family as 'namba wan', as whenever anyone asked him how he was, he responded 'namba wan'! Testament to Andrew's links with PNG is his 'adopted' daughter, Mary To-Robert, with whom he maintained a constant contact. Andrew died unexpectedly at his home in October 2001. He is survived by his children, Cath and Gabe, and three grandchildren.

From Lois Logan

**Mrs Aileen MAGUIRE** (January 2002, aged 77 years)

Former Rabaul travel agent, Aileen Maguire was the wife of popular manager of the ABC's 9RB Rabaul and one-time 9PA Port Moresby breakfast show host, Phil Maguire. Aileen ran New Guinea Travel Service in Rabaul with another 'ABC wife', Gwenda Ellis, whose husband David was the ABC's New Guinea Islands correspondent for nearly ten years in the 1960s. After leaving Rabaul in 1973 Aileen and Phil moved to Cairns where he was manager of the local ABC station and Aileen went back into the travel industry. When they retired in 1983 they opened a successful 'cat motel' at Kuranda on the Tablelands outside Cairns, boarding cats - which they both loved - when locals took their holidays. They sold the business several years ago to Peter and Julie Cohen and moved to Atherton where Aileen developed a spectacular garden, while Phil continued to embrace another of his great loves, a model railway.

Although now 77, Phil recently re-started his radio career, doing a two-hour program on Friday mornings called 'AM with PM on FM' on a local radio station, putting to use his encyclopaedic knowledge of the music of the 1940s and '50s and allowing others to share his extraordinary collection of discs, cassettes and CDs covering the music and comedy of the era. Phil would love to hear from any old Territory friends: he can be contacted at 40 Logan Street, Atherton 4883; his phone number is (07) 4091 7665.

From David Ellis

**Ms Jocelyn (Jock) May MUNDEN** (24 February 2002, aged 66 years)

Jock Munden, the sister-in-law of Harry Laurens, was the first female clerk to work in PNG employed by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. She later transferred to the Liquor Licensing section. She was well known in the Golf Club and had won several gold medals in the South Pacific Games at Port Moresby and in Tahiti. She passed away after a long illness - her funeral was at Tweed Heads on the Gold Coast. Jock is survived by her brother John, and her sister Lola and husband Harry Laurens and family.

From Harry Laurens

**Ms Robin ANDERSON** (8 March 2002, aged 51 years)

Perhaps the first post-Independence visitor to PNG to merit inclusion in our Vale pages. She didn't go there until 1980 but then, with her husband Bob Connolly, created a cinematic treasure trove. Three documentary films which are a delight for *wantoks* and invaluable to students of PNG affairs. 'First Contact' covered the 1933 expedition into the Highlands and incorporated some absolutely unique 16mm film taken by Mick Leahy. A great success and rewarded with Australian Film Commission fellowships the pair elected to go back and spend 18 months in the Nebilyer valley (Western Highlands) making 'Joe Leahy's Neighbours'. They returned in 1990 to live with those neighbours - the Ganiga clan - for a year to produce 'Black Harvest' starring the unforgettable Popina Mai. A victim of cancer, the talented film-maker leaves a husband and two daughters.

From Jim Toner

**Mrs Fancy LAWRENCE** (March 2002)

Fancy was the wife of anthropologist Peter Lawrence (dec'd). No further details available.

**Dame Rachel CLELAND** (18 April 2002, aged 96 years)

Dame Rachel died peacefully in her sleep at Goondiwindi, Queensland. At the age of 96, she had just moved there from Perth to be close to her son Evan, with Bob in nearby Brisbane and their families mainly in Southern Queensland.

Born Rachel Evans in Perth in 1906, she spent much of her youth in rural Western Australia with her aunt, Bessie Rischbieth, the noted feminist, who profoundly influenced her, and with whom she travelled widely overseas. She became a kindergarten teacher and in 1928 married Donald MacKinnon Cleland. Donald was with the AIF from 1939 to 1945 and Rachel remained in Perth with their two sons, much involved in volunteer activities, and her lifelong outstanding quality of caring already evident.

In 1946 the family moved to Sydney when Donald was appointed inaugural Federal Director of the newly emerged Liberal Party. Rachel's interest and involvement in the Liberal Party was now well under way, and some 56 years down the track her contribution to its success, and indeed to public and political life in both Australia and Papua New Guinea is widely acknowledged.

In September 1951 the Clelands moved to Port Moresby, when Donald was appointed Assistant Administrator, and within two years Administrator, of Papua New Guinea. One of Rachel's earliest enterprises, and an indication of the concern, enthusiasm and determination to be expected of her, was her successful gaining of public support to clean up Moresby's wartime rubbish and plant trees and gardens. She soon immersed herself in widespread community causes and enthusiastically brought to them many organisational skills. She became personally involved down to the grass roots level in Red Cross, Girl Guides, YWCA, netball, other sports, youth and social clubs - almost everything - and especially the development of pre-schools throughout PNG. She was well aware of the role indigenous women should and could play in nation building, and inspired the involvement of expatriate women as well. Her part in the establishment of the Port Moresby Cultural Centre in 1969 reflected her keen interest in and support for PNG culture and the arts.

To many Dame Rachel will be best remembered for her understanding and appreciation of the 'outside people' - the field officers of the various Administration departments, the missionaries, the planters and private enterprise people in remote areas and of course the national village people amongst whom they lived and worked. They admired this friendly and understanding woman of initiative, enthusiasm, firm ideas and common sense. She moved extensively throughout the country with Sir Donald on his official tours - and contributed greatly to their success.

Dame Rachel was the author of two books - *Pathways to Independence* and *Grass Roots to Independence and Beyond: the contribution by women in Papua New Guinea, 1951-1991*.

She was awarded an MBE in 1959, and a CBE in 1966 by the Australian Government, and a DBE in 1980 by the PNG Government.

When the Clelands left Government House in 1967 they remained in Moresby and Sir Donald died there in 1975. Three years later, although she 'loved the country and adored the people' Rachel decided it was time to rejoin her natal family in Perth, after an absence of 33 years.

So, back in WA at the age of 72 in 1979 there was no suggestion of a quiet retirement, rather a very active and productive life for the next 24 years. She remained closely involved with PNG and its affairs and made eight meaningful return trips, the last two years ago. She kept in touch with hundreds of old friends and people she could involve in the causes she supported. She lobbied for years to save WA's old-growth forests from logging and featured, particularly on this issue in the ABC's *Australian Story* 'Nothing like a Dame' in 1999. She was active in aboriginal issues, notably the Kimberley Land case. She remained a force in the Liberal Party to the end and although she criticised them in recent years for being too conservative, she was finally described by the WA State Liberal Leader, Colin Barnett as 'the conscience of the party'.

She is survived by her sons Robert and Evan and their families.

Farewell dear Dame Rachel, PNG patriot.

From Harry West

**Mr John Anthony GAUCI** (5 April 2002, aged 73 years)

John was born in Malta and spent his early years there; in 1945 the family moved to Manchester, England. In 1948 he enlisted in the British army as a National Service recruit - he was one of only three of the 500 recruits to gain officer rank. After a two-year posting to Gibraltar John came to Australia to be with his family who had already migrated. He went to PNG as a Cadet Patrol Officer in September 1951 and was to spend the next 25 years there. He served in the Sepik, Central, West New Britain and Eastern Highlands Districts. In 1959 he went to Brisbane to commence an economics degree at Queensland University. It was then that he met and married Joan Stephens. In 1964 he completed his Degree and a Diploma in Public Administration in Brisbane. Shortly after his return to PNG he joined the Treasury Dept as Co-ordinator of Works and remained there until leaving in April 1976. He then settled in Brisbane and began buying and selling shopping centres and hotels. During his later years he indulged his passion for poetry and days before he died he completed an anthology of approximately 100 poems which he had hoped to self-publish.

John is survived by his wife Joan, his sister Kay Masters in Redcliffe, his sister Bea Drury in Malta and his brother Manuel in Vancouver.

From Joan Gauci

**Lady (Alison) HAY** (11 April 2002, aged 81 years)

Lady Hay, the wife of a former Administrator of Papua New Guinea, has died in Melbourne following a long illness. In her youth she helped her father run a Victorian pastoral property and was an outstanding tennis player (she was taught by David Cup player Pat O'Hara Wood). As the wife of a diplomat she lived many years overseas and in 1964, when Sir David was Australian High Commissioner in Canada, she launched HMAS *Hobart* at Bay City, Michigan. Later her brother, Captain Harry Adams, commanded the ship.

The Hays were in Port Moresby from 1967 to 1970 and Lady Hay accompanied her husband on many District visits. Back in Canberra she became president of the ACT branch of the National Trust. She is survived by her husband, and sons Andrew and David. From Harry West

**Mr Benson GEGEYO** (8 February 2002)

Benson Gegeyo, from Tufi, Northern Province, was one of the first local District Commissioners. He was an excellent choice even though he did not come through the normal cadet training and ASOPA. His first position with the Dept. of Native Affairs was in 1960 as a council clerk at Tufi. In 1972 he was appointed DC Western Province. His pleasant personality endeared him to the Papua New Guineans and expatriates alike. He was popular with his Indonesian opposite at Merauke and established good relations with the staff there on his regular liaison visits. In 1974 he was appointed DC Madang, then in late 1975 he was appointed DC and caretaker administrator in troubled Bougainville. Further appointments were as DC West Sepik, then as Secretary to the Department of Urban Development. In 1980 he was appointed PNG Ambassador to Indonesia. In 1984 he began a series of senior appointments in which he was required to solve major administrative problems (eg. suspended provincial governments).

Benson is survived by his wife Gladys, three daughters and a son. From Ken Brown

**Mr Brian McBRIDE** (1 April 2002, aged 72 years)

Brian was born in Korumburra Victoria and educated at Melbourne Boys' High School. In 1948 at the age of 19 he went to PNG as a cadet patrol officer. During the early days of his long career as a field officer he did much initial contact work in remote areas. He served in the Milne Bay, Eastern Highlands, Madang, Western, New Britain and Central Districts. He was an outstanding tennis player and at Kundiawa in 1950, between dealing with tribal warfare and establishing elementary law and order, he built one of the first tennis courts in the Central Highlands. In 1962 he married Ursula Lundin at Vunapope, New Britain.

Brian returned to Australia in 1975 to a second career as owner/manager of holiday units at Ettalong Beach, north of Sydney. He is survived by his wife Ursula and his children, Brian, Kimara and John, and John's wife Jodie.

From Harry West

We have been advised that the following, all ex-didimen, died in early May:

**Mr John SWANSTON** of Wurtulla Qld

**Mr Peter RAM** of Perth WA

**Mr Fred KLECKHAM** of Seaforth Qld - Full details in the next issue.

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

DR. H. AQUART	501A PACIFIC HIGHWAY	ARTARMON	NSW2064
MRS M. BASTOW	6 GRANITE BELT DRIVE	THULIMBAH	QLD 4376
MR. M. BENJAMIN	WALINDI, P O BOX4	KIMBE	PNG
MR. P. BEINSSSEN	P O BOX 2010	BUDDINA	QLD 4575
MRS. S. BURSLE	8 CLERMISTON AVE	ROSEVILLE	NSW 2069
MRS. J. DALY	22 GASCOYNE CCT	KALEEN	ACT 2617
MR. B. ESSAI	8 GANNON PLACE	CHARNWOOD	ACT 2615
MRS. S. HERBERT	136 BAYVIEWAVE	EARLWOOD	NSW2206
MR. I. HOLDER	P O BOX 685	TOLGA	QLD 4882
MR. K. JACKSON	28 BENELONG RD.	CREMORNE	NSW 2090
MR. M. JACKSON	18 BECKWITH GROVE	SEAFORD	VIC 3198
MR. B. McBRIDE	UNIT 8 STAFFORDSHIRE TERRACE		
	13/15 STURT AVE	GRIFFITH	ACT 2603
MRS. V. JONES	105 CONCORD RD	STRATHFIELD	NSW2137
MR.A.S. KING	110 VICTORIA ST	MALABAR	NSW2036
MR. J. LEAKE	13 PARINGA AVE.	DAVISTOWN	NSW 2251
MRS. P. LIVERMORE	3/34 DROMANA PDE.	SAFETY BEACH	VIC 3936
MR. P. McKAY	P O BOX 610	MT. ELIZA	VIC 3930
MR. R. PORTEOUS	30 WINTROP ST	WISHART	QLD 4122
DR. J. POWELL	P O BOX 158	BEROWRA HEIGHTS	NSW 2082
MR. R. SAWYER	5 SILVERDALE RD.	SILVERDALE	NSW 2752
MR. R. SCOTT	P O BOX175	YEPPON	QLD 4703
MRS. O. SI66S	2/12 BURWOOD CRT.	LABRADOR	QLD 4215
MR.B. SMITH	21 FORESTLEA ST.	BRACKEN RIDGE	QLD 4017
MR. C.E. TERRELL	17 WOODGATE ST.	FARRER	ACT 2601
MRS. J. TERRELL	17 WOODGATEST.	FARRER	ACT 2601
MRS P. WALTERS	94 GREENMEADOW RD	MT. GAVATT	QLD4122
MR. E.J. WATSON	19 WYLMAR AVE	CRONULLA	NSW2230
MRS. B. WAYLAND	648 NICKLIN WAY	WURTULLA	QLD 4575
MR. W. WILSON	15 PICKERING ST	MONASH	ACT 2904
MRS. A. WILSON	3 HYDE PLACE	HUGHES	ACT2605

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

	FROM	TO	
MRS. M. BUTLER	COTTESLOE	U275/118-120 MONASH AVE	
		NEDLANDS	WA6009
SR. DOMINIQUE. COLES	WEWAK	P O BOX 127 GOROKA	PNG
MR G. EGAN	LILLI PILLI	3/4 BLIGH ST	KIRRAWEE NSW2232
MRS. GILES	WILBERFORCE	55 DOBELL DRIVE, WANGI WANGI	NSW2267
MR. M. KENNY	BOGANGAR	P O BOX 1095	MURWILLUMBAH NSW2484
MR. J. KEMSLEY	ROBERTSONS BEACH	2/303 COMMERCIAL RD, YARRAM	VIC3971
MR.R. STORER	MAGILL	P O BOX 440 STEPNEY	SA 5069
REV. A. TAYLOR	POTTS POINT	2/31-35 CROYDON AVE, CROYDON	NSW2132
MR. P. WILLIAMSON	SUMMER HILL	C/- UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH PACIFIC	SUVA
MR. I. HOSSACK	PICTON	APT 501 OBSERVATORY TOWER	
		KENT ST, SYDNEY	NSW 2000