

PNG **Kundu**

MARCH 2023

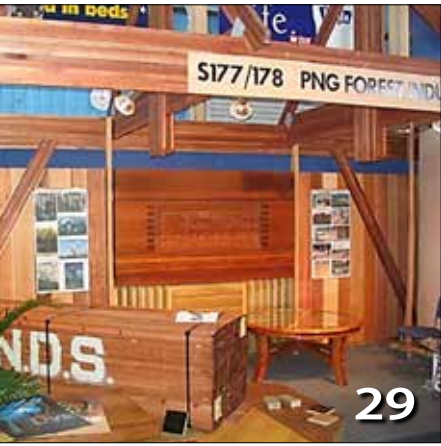


**Papua New Guinea Association
of Australia Inc.**

www.pngaa.org



59



29



43



32



37

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc.

(Formally constituted in 1951—incorporated in 1996)

2021–2022 PNGAA Office Bearers

PRESIDENT: Chris Pearsall—(Mob) 0410 530 502; (Email) president@pngaa.net

TREASURER: Murrough Benson—(Mob) 0448 216 049; (Email) treasurer@pngaa.net

SECRETARY: Vacant—a volunteer needed

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: Roy Ranney—(Mob) 0412 556 593; (Email) membership@pngaa.net

PNGAA ARCHIVIST & COLLECTIONS:

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

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR: Vacant—a volunteer needed

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Phil Ainsworth, Chris Warrillow, John Egerton, Andrea Williams, Kalo Fainu & Max Uechtritz

RABAUL & MONTEVIDEO MARU GROUP: www.montevideo-maru.org

Andrea Williams—(Mob) 0409 031 889; (Email) admin@montevideo-maru.org

PNGAA Mail: PNGAA, PO Box 250, Kilcoy QLD 4515 • **PNGAA Website:** www.pngaa.org

PNGAA Membership: www.membership@pngaa.net—This is available to anyone with an interest in PNG. Members, who receive four issues of our journal per year, have access to all parts of the website, and are encouraged to explore and become actively involved with all aspects of the PNGAA. Please refer to the *Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form*, at the back of this journal, for more details. Application forms also are available from the Membership Officer or our website. For members receiving a printed journal, the address label shows the current status of your membership. Digital members can check their status by logging on to the website and clicking on *Membership* then *My Subscription*. Username is your email address. A list of the names and addresses of PNGAA members is now available on our website

Please go to: <https://pngaa.org/membership-directories/>

PNGAA Store: www.pngaa.org/store—If you are interested in the history, adventure and stories of Papua New Guinea, and those who helped build the nation, then make sure you check out the selection of books and DVDs available in our store. Details are on our website or on the *Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form*, which can also be used to renew your membership, introduce a friend or family member who wishes to join, book for a PNGAA function or make a donation.

PNGAA Social Media: FACEBOOK—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PNGAA>

INSTAGRAM—https://www.instagram.com/png_association_of_australia/

TWITTER—https://twitter.com/PNG_ASSOC_AUS

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

PNG KUNDU is the official journal of the PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc.

ISSN 2652-5216, PPA 224987/00025 • MARCH 2023 • Vol. 4, No. 13

Kundu is the *Tok Pisin* word for the hourglass-shaped drum that forms part of Papua New Guinea's Coat of Arms, and after which this journal is named (formerly called *Una Voce*). The Kundu has told fascinating stories for centuries, and through our PNGAA journal we will continue documenting history and the evolving special relationship between the two countries this association holds in its heart. Whilst *Tok Pisin* is one of the three official languages of PNG, please note that some authors still use the term *Pidgin* for *Tok Pisin*, and *PNG KUNDU* supports both terms.

◀ Deadline for the June 2023 issue: 8 May 2023 ▶

(Estimated delivery 16 June 2023—please allow for unforeseen delays, etc.)

JOURNAL EDITOR: John Egerton—(Mob) 0400 311 320

Please send all contributions to: editor@pngaa.net

Designed & produced by Jeannette Gilligan—dragonwick1@outlook.com

Reviewed by Murrough Benson & Andrea Williams

Printed & bound in Australia by Lismore City Printery—www.cityprint.com.au

Contributions may be edited for length and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or the PNGAA. Guidelines for contributors are available on the website.

© Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc. & Individual Contributors

PNG KUNDU is published four times a year for the information of members of the PNGAA. All rights are reserved, and no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior permission of the publishers. It is written with care, in good faith and from sources believed to be accurate, and every effort is made to publish free of factual and typographical errors. However, readers should not act, or refrain from acting solely on the basis of information in the journal about financial, taxation or any other matter. Having regard for their own particular circumstances, readers should consult the relevant authorities or other advisers with expertise in the particular field. Neither the PNGAA nor the editor accepts any responsibility for actions taken by readers. Please note that some of the photographs have been digitally coloured whilst maintaining historical accuracy, and all enquiries should be made to the publishers. Acknowledgement and thanks are given to all contributors, creators of images and information used in the public domain and under non-profit and fair-use guidelines, and to the various sources referenced in this publication.



34



21



40



45

Features

Was that the Queen? <i>Tony Friend</i>	21
Further Recollections of a Plantation Manager <i>Ian Smith</i>	24
A Nurse's Memories of Her Time in TPNG—Part 1 <i>Ruth Pitt (née Lewis)</i>	26
The Kwato Incident <i>Jane Brumley</i>	28
The Woods of Papua New Guinea <i>RB McCarthy</i>	29
Dr Pearson, I Presume? <i>Chris Borough</i>	32
Life at Daru in the Fifties <i>Ken McKinnon AO</i>	34
A Rough Landing <i>Ken Woodward</i>	37
An Unforgettable Guy Fawkes Night <i>Ross Clifton</i>	38
Soldiers of PNG Fought Many Battles—Part 1 <i>Gregory J Ivey</i>	40
Former Kiaps and the Mining, Oil and Gas Exploration Industry <i>Peter Wohlers</i>	43
The Evacuation of the Sepik: JA Thurston's April to September 1942 Expedition—Part 1 <i>Elizabeth Thurston</i>	45
Literature, Music and the Environment in Traditional and Contemporary PNG <i>Apisai Enos & Steven Gagau</i>	49
Vale Dr Peter Cahill <i>Marian Cahill</i>	IBC
Airstrip at Lake Kutubu <i>Quentin Anthony</i>	BC

Contents

FRONT COVER—MARCH 2023

A Wabai Spirit Dancer, Ambua, Southern Highlands

© Malie Rich-Griffith

PNGAA REPORT 2

Archivist's Corner

Committee Volunteers Needed

EVENTS DIARY 5

PNGAA Sydney 2022 Christmas Lunch

LETTERS & MEMORIES 10

BOOKS & ART REVIEWS 13

PNG IN THE NEWS 16

VALES & TRIBUTES 53

MEMORIAL NEWS 59

Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group

TREASURER'S CORNER 63

Membership & Order Form



The Management Committee network on your behalf, organising and attending a wide range of events and activities, encouraging new members and possible partnerships to keep our association vital and viable. Featured here are reports from the committee, along with other news of interest and a welcome to new members.

From the President

With 2023 now well and truly underway, I thought that this quarter I would make some general observations about the economic challenges that face Papua New Guinea (PNG), some 47 years after Independence.

In 2022, PNG held its 10th national elections, described by some as the worst since elections were first held in 1977, due to inadequate preparation, violence and poor organisation. These elections made history by returning 64 percent of incumbent MPs to parliament when normally only about 50 percent are returned.

The Government projects that PNG's economy will grow by 4.0 percent in 2023 after doing poorly in 2021 due primarily to COVID 19. The 2023 budget, announced in November, increased government expenditure by more than 10 percent leading to a deficit of 5.4 percent of GDP. PNG has benefitted from the war in Ukraine with higher petroleum prices resulting in a windfall in petroleum and mining tax revenues.

According to its own legislation, the Government should save a significant part of this windfall in its Sovereign Wealth Fund, however in the 2023 budget the government decided to fully allocate the extra resource revenues to increased

investments and further household relief.

The 2022 elections were the fourth in a row in which the incumbent Prime Minister was returned. This success only adds to the pressure on them since a vote of no confidence has become the only way to change prime ministers in PNG.

Marape will have his work cut out for him manoeuvring politics in late 2023, when the 18-month grace period in which a no-confidence vote cannot be held nears its end. PNG's fluidity of political alliances will then come to the fore and the inevitable jostling for a vote of no-confidence will begin.

So, PNG continues to make some progress and hopefully the run up to the next elections in 2027 will see more progress in PNG's growth and development.

PNGAA Scholarship Fund

The PNGAA continues to look for more ways to interact with the people of PNG. We intend to increase our Scholarship Fund to enable us to provide assistance to more secondary school students. We are looking at how we can increase our membership by offering corporate membership to interested companies and, as always, we welcome suggestions from PNGAA members.

Welcome to New Members

Listed below are our new members, the most we have recorded in one quarter for some time. I extend a warm welcome

to all and ask all members, new and old, to help PNGAA achieve its objectives.

Scott Ashby, Margaret Challis, Rebecca Conway, Stephen Foley, Donald Grant, Erica Hartig, Glenn Henke, Stephen Hull, Laura Keating, Ian MacLeod, Richard Nye, Noel Pascoe, Au Oba-Seseta, Kevin Shorthouse, Peter Smith, Frederick Thomas, Christopher Thorpe, Louise Trott, John Vandenberg, Peta Warhurst, Michael Wheeler, Bruce Willis, Ian Willis, Cathy Witt and John Woods.

CHRIS PEARSALL
President PNGAA



Donations

I am pleased to let readers know that, after the request in PNG KUNDU of December 2022 for the donation of a patrol box to our collection, we have had two offers—one from Max Hayes and another from Myra Macey. Max's box is now in our collection.

Max served first in the Royal Australian Air Force in Korea and was appointed to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary in June 1959. He began his career as a policeman as a Sub-Inspector, a commissioned rank. The then Commissioner, Christopher Normoyle, told him 'to watch what the other officers do and study the Territory laws'.

He served at Rabaul, Sohano, Kainantu, Goroka, Mt Hagen, Lae (OIC Police Station) and finally at Police Headquarters, Konedobu when in 1974, with other officers, he was retrenched as PNG moved toward Independence in 1975. He finished his service at the rank of Acting Superintendent.

While in Rabaul (1959–66) and with several armed native police he had to attend and investigate a series of plantation riots (largely over the scale of rations and the issue of brown rice) and camped *in situ* until the nearest patrol officer heard the charges and dealt with them. While at Kainantu he investigated several sorcery murders in distant villages, and camped with his native police, rations, kerosene lamps and his patrol box.

Max's patrol box was made by Rabaul Metal Industries, Malaguna Road, Rabaul and impressed RMI.

As a special bonus Max also donated CAW Monckton's book, *Taming New Guinea—Some Experiences of a New Guinea Resident Magistrate*, Dodd Mead

and Company, New York, 1922.

On behalf of PNGAA, I thank Max for his generosity.

Help Wanted

The patrol box offered by Myra Macey (author of *Gemo, My Island in the Sun*) is in Tasmania and was given to Myra by Dr Douglas Russell who used it in his vaccine work all over PNG.

This box would also be a valuable addition to our collection if we could get it to Sydney. If you can help in getting it there, please contact me.

Request

There is another book the association would like to have in the collection. It is: *End of the Line—A History of Railways in Papua New Guinea*, written by Bob McKillop & Michael Pearson, UPNG Press 1997.

If anyone has a copy of this book they no longer need, its donation to the PNGAA Collection would be most welcome.

CHERYL MARVELL
0438 636 132 (Mob)
collection@pngaa.net



Illustration from *The Iconic Patrol Box*, by Robert Foster

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

Volunteers for the PNGAA Management Committee Needed!!

The nomination deadline has passed for the AGM and committee positions still remain available. PNGAA needs more volunteers to commit to help the PNGAA before (or during) the AGM on 29 April 2023. This needs your consideration, now.

The election of office bearers takes place at the Annual General Meeting every second year.

An email went out from Chris Pearsall, President of PNGAA, on 9 January 2023 requesting volunteers for the PNGAA Management Committee. This was supported by information on the website and on social media.

PNGAA urgently needs volunteers for:

PNGAA Treasurer: Our current Treasurer, Murrough Benson, has been on the committee for seven years now and needs to step back from this role. Murrough is happy to speak with anyone interested. His email is treasurer@pngaa.net. It is a role which interacts with membership. We hope that some wonderful volunteer will realise the value of this role and commit to volunteering their skills.

PNGAA Secretary: This is another important administrative role that keeps this volunteer team travelling in the right direction. Computer skills help enormously! The PNGAA Secretary assists with committee meetings, links members and fields other enquiries.

PNGAA Events Co-ordinator: PNGAA urgently needs an enthusiastic organiser who is happy to manage events and liaise with event co-ordinators in other states.

Again, it helps to have computer skills to advertise events on our social media—you CAN easily be trained with social media input!

Website and marketing assistance:

PNGAA needs people with some IT knowledge to help with the website and social media to ensure these areas are dynamic and evolving, with current information. Assistance in writing up news and

events or communicating the wide activities of the committee and association regularly, would help the association to grow.

Hop in and get to know how the association works so you can help to grow the association and maintain our special history!

PNGAA is run by a voluntary management committee—it works together with the members

If you are passionate about your connection with PNG and Australia, please ensure others continue to understand and share the wonderful relationship so many have experienced. It helps having additional support through teams of working groups too, so if you can help share a skill with anything, please volunteer!

Committee members need to be paid up current members of the association and to be able to work both independently and as part of a team. Communication within the team is important as is understanding the PNGAA 'rules' (focus and guidelines) which are located at <https://pngaa.org/rules-of-the-pngaa/>

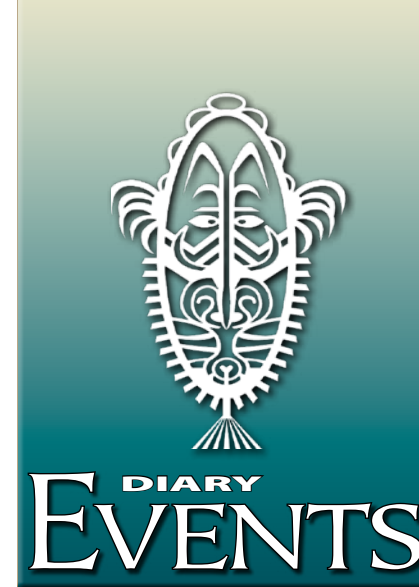
Whilst some roles have broad job descriptions, pitching in and helping where possible is always appreciated.

The PNGAA is an important link in the Australia/PNG relationship.

Can you help? Do you know someone, or even a couple of people, who could share their expertise?

Please contact Chris Pearsall, President, on email cpearsall51@live.com or mobile 0410 530 502. Remember that the PNGAA can only function and survive through the efforts of its members.

See: <https://pngaa.org/pngaa-agm-nominations-due-5pm-31-january-2023-several-positions-need-volunteers/>



Reviews of events and reunions held throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea, and a listing of upcoming functions, events of interest and social gatherings for PNGAA members.

If you and your friends have an activity to advertise or promote, or have been 'out & about' recently, please send your details, reviews and photographs to editor@pngaa.net

by 8 May 2023, the Copy Deadline for the next issue. Events are also listed on our website, under *Resources>Events*.

Melbourne Christmas 2022

The PNGAA lunch in Melbourne on 19 November 2022 had a great turnout of 60 attendees including kiaps, relatives, PNG locals, Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group (R&MMG) members or relatives, 2/14th Battalion members, and 2/22nd Battalion members and relatives.

We had attendees who made a great effort to travel, some from far and wide in country Victoria, and even an attendee from NSW who happened to be in Melbourne at the time.

Proceedings started with a 'Welcome' speech by Yana Di Pietro, who also thanked all the previous organisers of these events.

This was followed by an introduction of the main speaker by Peter Ryan, a new member. Peter's background with PNG started with his father who fought with 2/14th in PNG. Peter now runs trekking tours in the Kokoda Corridor and wanted to get more involved and found PNGAA. He became a sponsor of the Kokoda Track Foundation and funds two full-time staff at Kokoda Hospital—Thomas (Tropical Diseases) and Maggie (Midwifery).

He also mentioned Chris Warrillow, and John Quinn as kiaps, and read the article from *The Commando* magazine regarding the official kiap recognition. Peter then introduced some of the attendees such as Marg Curtis—2/22nd Lark

Force, Gillian Nikakis who assisted with the R&MMG commemorative seat and story-board event on 23 January 2023 in Mornington and George Gemmill who organised the Montevideo Maru Mural at Stanhope RSL.

David Howell, the guest speaker, spoke about the battle of Bitia Paka in 1914 in which the Australian Naval and Military Expedition Force engaged the Germans defending the radio station at Rabaul. He indicated its importance to subsequent battles, its relevance to World War II, and to today. His talk was very informative and well received.

A raffle, held during proceedings, raised \$400 for the PNGAA scholarship fund.

CLAIRE VAN BAKEL



Yana Di Pietro—Welcoming speech (top), and Peter Ryan (below)

Kenthurst Rotary International Sepik Dental Project

Two years ago, at the PNGAA Christmas Lunch in Sydney, we were fortunate to be seated on the same table as Karo Haltmeier. Karo is a Rotarian with Kenthurst Rotary International and mentioned that her club was fundraising to build a dental clinic in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

In 2020 Michael O'Connell (Kenthurst Rotary Club President) approached Karo for advice



Suellen Holland, Karo Haltmeier, Sara Turner & Kathleen Bray (top); Kylie Adams-Collier (middle); Roger Carroll (bottom)

on a project for PNG to be funded by Rotary International. After careful discussion, Mike and Karo decided on a dental clinic in Karo's home village, Korogu. The village is located on the Sepik River in the East Sepik Province.

I (SH) immediately offered to host a 'fund-raising' lunch and, not one to miss an adventure, 'invited' myself along on the Sepik Project trip. I also coerced my cherished childhood friend (former PNGAA Events Co-ordinator), Sara Turner, to help with 'everything'. Sara is also volunteering her services and will accompany me on the Sepik trip.

On 8 October 2022, Sara and I hosted a lunch at the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Toronto. It was a cracking event attended by committee members from Kenthurst Rotary Club, Committee Members, and members from the PNGAA, family and friends.

Our PNGAA songbird Kylie Adams-Collier also entertained us with song and guitar.

After a short welcome, introduction and speech, Sara's husband Roger took charge of our many raffles, guessing competitions, lucky door prizes and the silent auction.

The generosity of all who attended was unsurpassed. We are proud to say we raised, (including online donations), approx. \$2,400.00. A special mention is due to Steven Gagau and the Sydney Wantoks who raised a whopping \$500.00!!

The funds will help cover the costs of a dental chair, dental equipment, generator, water tank, roofing for the clinic and accommodation, building tools, timber and transport fuel.

The estimated budget for the project is AUD \$50,000.00.

The clinic will be staffed by volunteers and will provide dental services to approximately 200,000 rural people.

It is an honour and pleasure to be involved with such a wonderful project and we look forward to our Sepik Dental Project trip and we thank everybody who contributed to this great cause.

SUELLEN HOLLAND & SARA TURNER

2022 Canberra Christmas Lunch

Well, what can one say? 2022 ended with a superlative Christmas Lunch for the Canberra and Southern NSW members at the Pavilion Hotel on 10 December. It was encouraging to see the great mix of characters get together. Some were obviously old friends, and others became new friends.

Many thanks go to our two speakers for the day, Dr Henry Ivarature and Rod Miller. A special thanks goes to Rod, who stepped in at the last minute to discuss his book, *Lost Women of Rabaul*, leaving



everyone looking forward to his next book; hopefully, we won't have to wait 20 years for this one. (See review *PNG KUNDU*, June 2022, page 61.)

Dr Henry Ivarature provided an insight into the issues faced by being the only person from

PNG appointed to a senior executive role at the Australian Pacific Security College at ANU. He was a delightful and articulate speaker who regaled the gathering with the story of his journey to where he is today.

JOHN REEVE

Perth Christmas Luncheon

Our Perth PNGAA Christmas luncheon was held at the RAAF Club in Perth on Friday, 25 November 2022. We had a lovely day with most of the regulars.

Peter & Jill Worsley donated a hand-made throw with a Bird of Paradise in the centre and Phillip Bradley's book, *D-DAY New Guinea*. New member and old territorian, Bill Fielding, drew first prize and won the quilt, and Greg Leech won the book. \$90 was donated to the PNGAA from the raffle.

Bill is 98 and fought in WWII and joined the Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries (DASF) after the war and left when many permanent officers left in 1972.



1. Ray Morris, Pat Dwyer, Trevor Muller & Michael Lowe; 2. Jen Fielding, Rose Lowe, Leone Case, Audrey Bredmeyer, Margaret Dwyer; 3. Greg Leech, Robyne Petricevic (née Stewart), Jill Worsley, Peter Worsley

If anyone knows any former or interested PNG folk in the Perth WA area, all are welcome to come along to the 2023 gatherings!

LINDA CAVANAGH MANNING



PNGAA Sydney

A very successful Christmas lunch was held at North Ryde Golf Club in Sydney on Sunday, 4 December 2022 with guest speaker, Dulciana Somare-Brash, from Port Moresby.

Dulciana was a delight to meet, as were her two impressive daughters—Reia and Tia. Our PNGAA members are always interested in current issues between Papua New Guinea and Australia, and enjoyed the knowledgeable and candid talk very much. It was refreshing to hear how life and the economy is in PNG at the grass roots level. Dulciana, Reia and Tia enjoyed meeting other guests, and those attending thoroughly enjoyed meeting them! Thank you to Max Uechtritz for enabling this.

It highlighted, again, that Australia needs to step up its own education to inform Australians about the significant joint history of our countries, with an outcome of broadening continuing links.

Our thanks to Cheryl Marvell for organising the event so magnificently. Balloons decorated the tables and guests were treated to two magnificent cakes, beautifully decorated with the PNG Coat-of-Arms and the PNGAA Logo, as they entered the spacious room. The cakes didn't just look good, they were absolutely delicious! It was a special treat which was really appreciated Cheryl, thank you. Look at the photos and drool!

Kylie Adams-Collier kindly ensured we had some wonderful photos of the day—thank you Kylie—and thank you to Claire van Bakel and Roy Ranney who help behind the scenes with uploading these to the website.

PNGAA events are always great gatherings of people and it's appreciated when members travel distance and from interstate to join in. This year we wished Libby Cadden a 'Happy 107th Birthday' for a few days later. An elegant, beautiful lady, Libby is always organised with

2022 Christmas Lunch

gathering a table to attend! Bronwyn Vickers attended from near Port Macquarie bringing a delicate, hand-painted cream silk tablecloth, which she is hoping to find the name of the artist for, together with some *Post Courier* articles including stories of prime events in the lead up to PNG Independence. Items like this are always welcome and provide great conversations. Joan Stobo attended with family—again a great supporter of PNGAA events and so good to see Joan looking fabulous. Jane Clifton-Bassett came from Canberra way, encouraging some of her friends along too. And there were more ...

This year our fundraising was focussed on raising funds for the PNGAA Scholarship, which will support secondary school students in PNG in the pursuit of their secondary education.

Initial funding will support two students attending secondary school in Wewak. In time, PNGAA aims to extend this to more students. Students with good citizenship qualities, sufficient academic ability, and a lack of family income—a lack of employment opportunities for their parents—will be selected from Grade 9 to Grade 12 for the program. See information elsewhere in *PNG Kundu* and on the PNGAA website at <https://pngaa.org/pngaa-scholarship-fund/>. PNGAA appreciates donations for this program and for your ongoing interest and support.

This year, the PNGAA Christmas Lunch had a silent auction with the beautiful quilt donated by Jill Worsley, and written up in previous *PNG KUNDU* this year, along with a special framed tea towel of a *lakatoi*. A table of PNGAA books was for sale together with the very useful PNGAA tote bags.

Phil Ainsworth, Roger Carroll and Rod Miller were 'stars extraordinaire' helping with sales and fundraising. We collected \$2,285.53 which covered PNGAA book and tote sales as well as the silent auction items. Jill Worsley's quilt raised an extraordinary \$500 for the PNGAA Scholarship Fund—it was wonderful to see the generosity of members who bid, thank you.

Together with the \$400 raised at the Melbourne Lunch and \$90 raised at the Perth Lunch—we have given the PNGAA Scholarship fund a great start!

We look forward to seeing you at events in 2023!

ANDREA WILLIAMS



Featuring commentaries about previously published articles and news items, along with opinions of interest and memories.

Also included are enquiries from those who require assistance with their research or finding someone from the past.

Please send your contributions by 8 May 2023, the Copy Deadline for the next issue, to editor@pngaa.net

El Partridge Photo

I am a former Macair Charters pilot based at Lae in 1969–70. Later I also flew for Chee Air Charters from Lae. Turning 80 next May, I now have a little more time to consider some of my previous flying days.

To that end I've already submitted an article called 'Beating the Odds at Aseki', which you published in September 2015.

Currently, I am looking for a hi-res scan (500 Kb–1 Mb) of the top photo at right, showing TAA pilot El Partridge at an unidentified strip, with DHC3 Otter SBR. If you can help, please contact me at the email address below.

I knew El personally later when he was living on the Gold Coast. El had lent me some slides for copying decades back, but I never got this one. It is an evocative photo, telling it like it was. The second picture shows a sister ship DHC3 Otter SBT at Menyama.

Images of the MACAIR buildings at Lae are of great interest to me and I would like to know whether anyone has any good shots taken recently—long after some genius closed Lae Airport down. So much of it has now fallen to rack and ruin, whilst the rest seems to be a storage yard for shipping containers. No rush but all ideas would be appreciated.

Meanwhile, I had another thought—that PNGAA might consider coming on to the Airhistory website posting suitable PNG aircraft pictures from their collection. I am aware of the required standards (crisp, clear, up to 1 Mb) for publication. We could do it one of two ways:

1. The Association could be



put in touch with the Australian moderator, who would then provide advice on how to post the high-resolution images with correct location and date and in which the aircraft registration is clearly visible.

2. Alternatively, you could send me a few images for me to check and then forward on to Airhistory. Of course, all images accepted would be posted on the Airhistory website in a new section 'PNGAA via BD'.

With all good wishes to all at PNGAA.

BEN DANNECKER

PO Box 1478, Nowra NSW 2541

Email: jetdrone@outlook.com

Trans Niugini Tours Welcomes Travellers from Overseas

A new year has just begun, and it certainly cannot be as bad business-wise as the last couple of years.

PNG was not affected too

much domestically by COVID-19 and Trans Niugini Tours never closed during that period. We kept operating on a reduced scale with our domestic market.

We are now well into restructuring and building back up again as the demand requires, and we have also revived some harder adventure programs, like the climb to Mount Giluwe (one of the seven volcanic summits) and the traverse of Mount Wilhelm from Ambullua to Keglsugl. Village stays can also be arranged in both the Highlands and the Sepik areas.

We have also added some additional festivals that we will operate to cater for the demand and these are listed on our website. All seven of our lodges are open and operating and our staff numbers are back up to over 100. Our standard tours are also available.

PNG Visas must still be obtained online, however, it is now a quick and easy process and we are also hopeful of visas again being issued on arrival in the near future. Flights are operating from Port Moresby to/from Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila and Australia.

We are looking forward to welcoming your readers back to PNG.

BOB BATES

Trans Niugini Tours

+675 542 1438 / +675 7162 3314

Email: bob@pngtours.com

A Thousand Miles to Freedom

Page 30 of the December 2022 issue of *PNG KUNDU* refers to an edited November 1945 newspaper article—the title being 'A Thousand Miles to Freedom'. Readers may be interested to know that the full story of this gripping escape is contained in

a book written by May Murray, the wife of one of the escapees, Harry Murray. Containing two stories pertinent to the event, they are titled 'Escape—A Thousand Miles to Freedom' and 'Hunted'.

First published in 1965 by Rigby, it was republished in 1995 by Seal Books, a division of Lansdowne Publishing Pty Ltd. Copies are available through the internet!

PAT JOHNSON

Paspas bilong Buka

After returning from the Great War my father, Charles Lawie, found it difficult to settle back into civilian life. His wanderings took him to the Territory of New Guinea and he became a trader on Buka Island during the 1920s, based I believe on Hood Plantation. He eventually returned to Australia some-time in the 1930s, married and became a farmer in New South Wales. He brought back a swag of souvenirs from his New Guinea sojourn, but alas, most of them have been dispersed over the years.

The family still has a photo album of palm-fringed beaches but his black palm bows, arrows, grass skirts and strange nuts have all disappeared. I do have a small collection of woven arm bands which, Dad said, the native men wore on their biceps and called



paspas. They are still in perfect condition despite their age. There are six in all, varying in size from 19 cm to 28 cm diameter by 3.5 cm to 5 cm width. The smaller ones would hardly go over a man's hand let alone his biceps. Patterns vary from a plain, close weave to zigzags and something resembling a stylised Omega shape.

Colours range from dark brown through red to a still fairly bright yellow. The yellow is derived (I am reliably told) from the stems of various *Dendrobium* orchids, carefully stripped, cut to uniform size and somehow softened for weaving. I have tried to make *Dendrobium* thread myself, but find it very difficult to make the very narrow threads and to soften them. Whatever the other materials are is a mystery, but it is highly unlikely that any sort of machinery would have been available in the time and place of origin of these artefacts.

A few years ago, my daughter obtained three modern *paspas* of non-specific South Pacific origin from the Queensland Art Gallery. Their composition of brown and yellow material and basic arrowhead weave appear to be identical to the 90-year-old Buka *paspas* but they are smaller and narrower.

My siblings and I grew up on Dad's reminiscences of New Guinea and his dream of one day returning there. I carried out his dream and lived in Papua from 1964 to 1970, best days of my life!

DONALD LAWIE

Orchid Cover Photo

Neville Howcroft has written to question the identity of the orchid on the front cover of *PNG KUNDU* December 2022. The photograph on the front cover was of an orchid identified by the photographer as *Dendrobium nindii*.

Neville, a forest botanist, has sent detailed botanical information to support his opinion that the orchid is not *Dendrobium nindii* but could not, on the basis of a picture of the flower only, give a name to our cover picture.

Many species of orchids, some of which occur in Northern Australia also are found throughout Papua New Guinea.

EDITOR

My Catalina Story

While re-browsing through *PNG KUNDU* September 2001 I came across a photo of a Catalina and I wish to share my memory of my adventure with a Cat. I am now 87 and this happened about two weeks before I turned 16.

My mother and I were *en route* from Brisbane, overnight in Port Moresby, to Samarai where my father, Bert Clausen, was working with a construction company—he was in company quarters and our accommodation was next door in a *saksak* house (sago palm).

Before arriving there our adventures started at the Catalina base in Port Moresby. White people sat in seats in the belly of the Cat; men all in white, Mum and I in our best clothes. Local people filled the side seats along the tail. Take-off started and, as we went a little faster, water came rushing in as someone had not shut the rear door. The locals were in a panic. I said to Mum quite



Qantas Catalina VH-EBD in PNG during 1950s

calmly ‘take your shoes off, Mum’. They were our best.

A man’s white trouser leg hung down from above. I don’t think he was the pilot but someone pulled his legs to show him the water inside. The plane stopped and, eventually, we returned to the shore and were taken to the bottom pub.

Mum and I were congratulated on being so calm. What did we know? We had never seen or been on one of those things before.

At the pub I distinctly remember a very big man in white who made a beeline for a cane lounge and prostrated himself in it until it was time to go again some hours later. Never mind the ladies—we were the only ones. I believe ‘big man’ was bound for Woodlark Island.

After morning tea at the pub we were eventually escorted back onto a dry Catalina and off we set for Samarai. We had to stop half-way—I can’t remember the name—where we tied up to a buoy and a native canoe came out.

Unfortunately, its prow cracked the window where I was sitting and on take-off I had to hold something—was it a towel?—that would help keep the water out and again on landing—I should say arrival. No man offered to change seats with me but, eventually, we did arrive in Samarai and had a lovely three months there in a house

shared with a couple and their small child.

Everything about the lifestyle was so new and unknown to us. We accepted that the shower was a bucket on a rope with a screw-in head; we accepted that the houseboy would cook up a lavish breakfast whether we would like it or not. We soon adapted and, eventually, Mum and I returned to Brisbane. I don’t remember the Cat flight back to Port Moresby.

The company for which my father worked completed the construction of the wharf and copra sheds at Samarai and Dad got employment with the Administration as head of the Public Works Department in the Milne Bay District—Samarai was district headquarters then. He eventually built his own house and Mum reluctantly went back. I, too, returned to PNG living in Samarai and Port Moresby in the years between 1958 and 1975.

I hope you enjoyed this story.

AUDREY STRUTT

Information Wanted

I am seeking any information/leads that could help in research on Arvid and Milija Blumentals who were in Port Moresby from 1951 to 1966. Arvid worked with the Commonwealth Department of Works & Housing as designer of sewerage treatment and draining works. From 1965 to 1966 he was Acting Sewerage Engineer in PNG and Milija worked as an accounting machinist.

Please contact Yana:
yanadi Pietro@gmail.com

Thank you.

YANA DI PIETRO



Featuring book reviews about Papua New Guinea, art and craft exhibitions, interviews and information of interest to members and authors, artists and craftspeople.

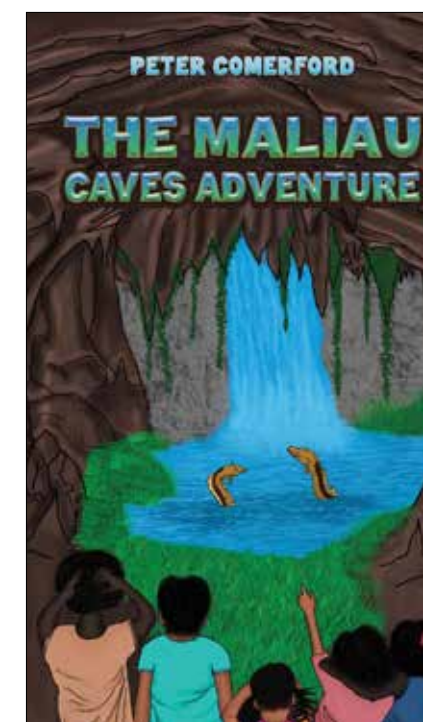
Please send your articles and photos for the next issue by the
Copy Deadline,
8 May 2023, to
editor@pngaa.net

PETER COMERFORD, *The Maliau Caves Adventure*

This is a book for 11–14-year-olds, set in Papua New Guinea and is an exciting adventure set in some caves in New Ireland. The caves are an underground land lost in time known only through the retelling of stories and legends of local villagers.

The eel or *maliau* live in the rivers and caves in New Ireland. The heroes of the story are Sebastian and Ashton, their young sister Khloe and two students from the local high school, Silitia and Sipondia.

Published by Austin Macauley Publishers, London, 2023
ISBN: 978-1-3984913-0-4
86 pages; paperback and eBook
Available from Amazon Books Australia; paperback \$17.12, eBook \$6.37



HARRISON CHRISTIAN *Should We Fall to Ruin*

This is an interesting read, especially for those who need more knowledge about the Fall of Rabaul. The author sets the scene well, though, with all the information available, he needed to be more specific in some areas. Unfortunately, he did not access *Rabaul 1942* by Aplin, a work that details the escape from Rabaul in considerable detail.

Other than this omission, the book is well-researched and up to date with current information. It remains what could be described as popular war history, easy to read and would make an ideal gift for someone who knows nothing about the campaign in New Britain in World War II.

Unfortunately, in presenting the background to the event, the author describes events looking through an anti-colonial viewer rather than attempting to present the reader with an

understanding that different cultural mores govern the participants' actions. Attitudes not acceptable in the 21st century were normal in 1942. This is understandable, the author is a journalist, not a historian.

JOHN REEVE

Published by Ultimo Press, 2022
ISBN: 978-1-7611500-6-7
336 pages, Paperback or eBook
Cost: RRP \$34.99 or, eBook \$12.99.

**HARRY HOBBS &
GEORGE WILLIAMS**
*How to Rule Your Own
Country; the weird and
wonderful world of
micronations*

The authors of this book have described the 130 micronations that exist in the world today. More than a third of those are in Australia.

Micronations come into existence when one or more citizens of a local area, having failed to convince either local or national governments that their way was the only way, decide to secede and create their own 'state'.

A familiar Australian example in Australia was the Principality of Hutt River established in West Australia in 1970 by a disaffected wheat grower, Leonard Casley. The principality existed until 2021 when the farm, which constituted the breakaway 'state' had to be sold to pay Australian taxes.

A much less familiar micronation, the Principality of Snake Hill, was centred on a



house in Mudgee, NSW. After declaring independence in 2003 its head of state, Princess Paula, sent a letter to the government. The official response was 'thank you very much for your letter'.

Papua New Guinea has its own micronation located at the southern end of Bougainville. This consists of the combined Kingdoms of Papaala and Me'ekamui. The head of state is King David Peii II (the Pentecostal Christian Noah Musingku) who is the principal of U-Vistract. The latter is a dubious investment scheme masquerading as an international bank.

Me'ekamui, previously a republic, was originally the domain of Francis Ono, the leader of a rebel group during the conflict that led eventually to a referendum and a vote for the independence of Bougainville.

The continuing existence of this micronation is a challenge

for the leader of the autonomous region of Bougainville, Ishmael Toroama, as that part of PNG moves towards independence.

The book is an entertaining read and based on extensive research of this continuing desire of people to flout authority and to do their own thing.

JOHN EGERTON

[mhttps://thediomat.com/2021/01/musingku-bougainville-royal-pyramid-scheme-problem/](https://thediomat.com/2021/01/musingku-bougainville-royal-pyramid-scheme-problem/)

Published by UNSW Press, 2022
ISBN: 978-1-7422377-3-2

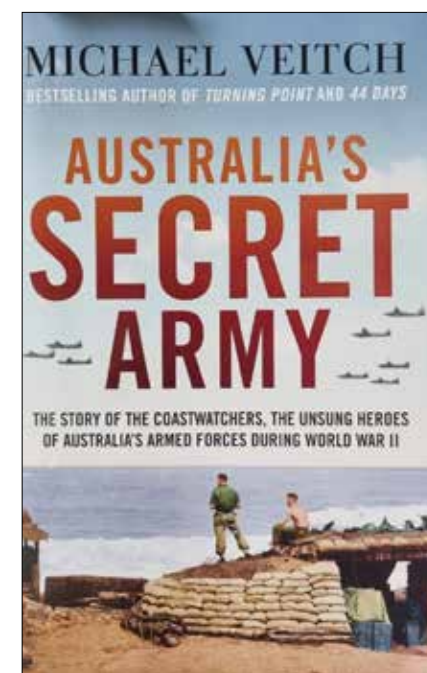
320 pages; softback and eBook
Available from UNSW Press and booksellers

Cost: \$34.99 RRP; eBook \$12.99

MICHAEL VEITCH
Australia's Secret Army

The story of the Coastwatchers, the unsung heroes of Australia's Armed Forces during World War II, this book written by Michael Veitch, was mentioned in *PNG Kundu* of December 2022. After reading the book I would like to add the following comments.

Written in the style readers



of Veitch's works are used to, this an easy read; the author managed to capture the heroism of the Coastwatchers he has picked as the core characters in the book. The book is popular war history and enlightens the reader about the actions of these brave men.

Veitch manages this credibly due to the emphasis on the glamorous locations, and characters and networks explicitly around Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands and the rescue of John F Kennedy. Little is mentioned about the actions of Figgis and others in New Britain and the progression from intelligence gathering to guerrilla warfare.

The book is the second written about the Coastwatchers in general, the first being *The Coast Watchers* by Patrick Lyndsay, published in 2010. After ten years, one would have expected new research would have come to light. However, Veitch has only been able to present the same information in a different form and emphasis.

Despite these shortcomings, the book was not written as an academic history of the Coastwatchers and is an excellent work of popular war history, enlightening the reader about the actions of a unique unit of the Australian Military Forces during World War II.

JOHN REEVE

Published by Hachette Aust, 2022
ISBN: 978-0-7336484-7-2
352 pages, paperback



Lina Hojéva Ajagi), *Dahoru'e* (Ömie mountains), 2004, natural pigments on bark cloth, Macleay Collections, ET2018.47

Ömie Art Exhibition in Sydney

An exhibition now at the Ian Potter Gallery, Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney, celebrates the unique and dynamic bark cloth art movement of the Ömie people of Papua New Guinea.

The Ömie people live in villages to the south of Dahöre Huvaimo (Mount Lamington), in Northern (Oro) Province. The villages are remote and their homes may be a three-day trek from the nearest road, which links the regional town of Kokoda to the provincial capital, Popondetta.

The forest in their territory provides bush foods, medicine, and other raw materials. Traditional forms of wealth include garden produce, pigs and *mahudane* (pigs' tusks). However, in common with many other Papua New Guineans,

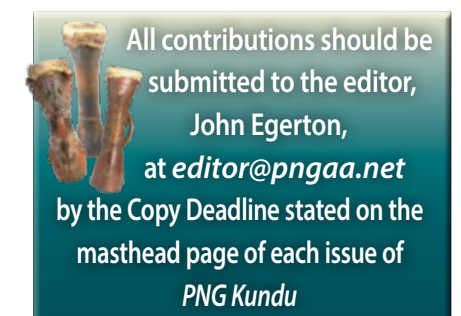
they have been seeking a *maja 'i'e* (new day), and access to the wider cash economy.

The marketing of Ömie *nioge* (bark cloth) has met some of these aspirations. Through the generosity of Todd Barlin and the Macleay Collections, Chau Chak Wing Museum, now has one of the largest public collections of these bark cloths. Over 100 cloths in the collection represent a diversity of Ömie artists, and come mostly from the private collection of Pacific Arts collector/dealer David Baker, who died in 2009.

Baker contacted Ömie villagers in 2002, sparking a mutual interest in selling their distinctive bark cloth. The earliest cloth in the collection dates to this trip. During another visit in 2004, Baker was joined by author, Drusilla Modjeska and the cooperative, Ömie Nemiss Inc. (now Ömie Artists Inc.), was established.

The collection in the museum represents this early transitional period and the development of cloths as contemporary art for walls, not only for local ceremonial and domestic use.

Entry to the exhibition is free and will remain open until November 2023.





Featuring news and articles about contemporary Papua New Guinea—also included are the nation's sporting achievements and events, and stories about people doing interesting things. We encourage young people to become involved in the PNGAA to ensure the strong ties formed between Papua New Guinea and Australia continue into the future.

Prime Minister Marape Opens New Airport at Kavieng

Prime Minister Hon. James Marape said the Government was investing in other key infrastructure developments like the K125.7 million Kavieng Airport Development.

He said this in front of a massive crowd on 3 November 2022, when opening the project which he launched in June 2020, and which was built through the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded Civil Aviation Development Investment Programme (CADIP) and Government counterpart funding.

The project covered pavement strengthening and a 500 m runway extension to achieve a total length of 2,200 m, construction of the new terminal building, construction of the new airport market facility, construction of the powerhouse and installation of standby power supply, installation of an airfield lighting system, installation of water supply and a new carpark.

PM Marape thanked ADB for its support of CADIP since 2009 and its continuation through CADIP II.



Air Niugini 737



New Kavieng Airport Terminal

He also announced:

- K10 million would be provided for expansion of Kavieng Town and urged local landowners to free up land for this purpose and
- A new port would be built in Kavieng through the Australia-PNG partnership program.

The Prime Minister and a large delegation from Port Moresby arrived in an Air Niugini Boeing 737 aircraft to demonstrate that Kavieng Airport can now handle international flights.

He was accompanied by Civil Aviation Minister and Namatanai MP, Hon. Walter Schnaubelt, Treasurer and Kavieng MP, Hon. Ian Ling-Stuckey, Finance Minister, Hon. Rainbo Paita, ADB Country Director David Hill, management of the major airlines Air Niugini and PNG Air, department heads, provincial administration representatives, local leaders and New Ireland people.

Meantime, across the Bismarck Sea in Manus, Deputy Prime Minister Hon. John Rosso opened the East-West Coast Highway Redevelopment.

Australian Ministers at COP27 in Egypt

Writing in *The Age* on 7 November 2022 Nick O'Malley reported that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese would not be at the scheduled Climate Change Summit in Egypt (COP27), choosing instead to attend ASEAN, Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation and G20 meetings in Cambodia, Thailand and Bali, respectively. Instead, Pat Conroy, Minister for the Pacific will represent Australia during the first days of the talks in Egypt, along with the newly appointed climate change ambassador, Kristin Tilley.

Negotiations over new climate measures would be held during the second week of the meeting and would be attended by Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen.

Conroy said he would use the first days of the talks to meet with Pacific Island leaders to discuss plans to co-host a COP summit with them in 2026.

'It is important to be asking them what role they think they would like to play rather than having Australia dictating to them as we have done in the past,' he said.

'Climate didn't define Australia's entire relationship with the Pacific ... but it was seen as a sign of disrespect that the last government rejected taking action on climate change, which is the number one existential threat to the Pacific,' Conroy said.

<https://www.theage.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-seeks-to-sell-its-new-climate-credentials-on-global-stage-20221106-p5bvvh.html>

Press Conference Port Moresby, 1 Nov 2022

My visit here demonstrates the new Australian Government's commitment to our relationship with Papua New Guinea, our closest neighbour and one of our dearest friends. This is the third visit by an Australian minister in the last eight weeks.

This is the second day of my visit, and I've had some very productive meetings so far, including yesterday with Foreign Minister Tkatchenko. I updated him on our budget announcements that are particularly relevant to Papua New Guinea. They include a very significant increase in investment in Overseas Development Assistance—foreign aid. The



Pat Conroy, MP
Minister for International Development and the Pacific

budget last week increased our ODA or foreign aid by \$1.4 billion over the next four years, which is the largest increase in a decade.

It included allocating \$1.9 billion this financial year to aid for Pacific nations, including Papua New Guinea. This is the largest contribution Australia has ever made to Pacific development, including \$600 million to Papua New Guinea.

I also updated Minister Tkatchenko on our reforms to the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme, a scheme that is critical to filling skills shortages in Australia, increasing skills development in countries like Papua New Guinea and providing very strong income streams home. To give you an example of the power of that scheme—the average Pacific worker under the scheme sends back \$15,000 a year.

I had very productive conversations about how we're turbocharging that scheme, making it more attractive for Australian employers, increasing protections for Pacific workers, starting trials of Pacific workers being able to bring their families over for longer-term visas and starting a trial of 500 aged care workers in that scheme.

We also talked about our \$32 million Indo-Pacific Broadcasting Strategy to increase the engagement of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation into the Pacific and partner with Pacific media to help develop and mentor journalists.

We talked about the Pacific

engagement visa, where for the first time in the history of Australia, we will allocate 3,000 permanent migration spots annually to the Pacific for permanent migration. And I also informed Minister Tkatchenko that we would be increasing our funding for Pacific aerial maritime security surveillance by 250 per cent to crack down on illegal fishing that robs Pacific Islanders, and Papua New Guineans in particular, of one of your greatest natural resources,

This morning I visited Kwikila Village and District Hospital, where I saw community health workers and village volunteers vaccinating babies, weighing babies and toddlers, making sure that Papua New Guineans are given the best start in life. This is a partnership between the Australian Government, the Papua New Guinean Government, the central health district government and health authority and the local village that is saving lives right now.

I'm looking forward to further ministerial meetings over today and tomorrow. I'll be launching an AFL partnership with Papua New Guinea. I'll be launching a development film festival, and then on Thursday, I'll be travelling up to Kokoda to take part in the commemorations for the 80th anniversary of the Kokoda campaign, a campaign that really symbolises the deep and abiding commitment between the people of Australia with the people of Papua New Guinea.

The Minister concluded his press conference by answering questions about enhancing the Pacific Labour scheme for participants from PNG, the Bougainville-PNG peace process, the development needs of PNG and border surveillance.

In concluding the Minister said there were several reasons why Australia was spending most of its overseas aid in PNG. Firstly, PNG is both the largest and closest of Australia's Pacific neighbours and secondly, we owe both an obligation and debt to the people of PNG. We have that continuing obligation from colonial times to assist development and the bond and debt that arose from the contributions Papua New Guineans made to the defence of Australia during World War II.

The full transcript of the press conference is available at this site: <https://ministers.dfat.gov.au/minister/pat-conroy/transcript/press-conference>

Goroka Coffee at Melbourne International Coffee Expo

Papua New Guinea-based coffee bean exporter, Elijah Harro of Alpha Coffee Collective, joined forces this year with industry stalwart and long-time international coffee advocate Gina Di Brita at the 2022 Melbourne International Coffee Expo (MICE), where they worked to highlight the unique and world-class flavours of



Papua New Guinean coffee.

As the region's largest dedicated coffee event, MICE is an annual event that brings together the best of what the industry has to offer. As part of Pacific Trade Invest (PTI) Australia's inaugural 'Pacific Showcase' stand, Alpha Coffee used the exhibition to showcase their single origin organic arabica, which comprises a mix of the Arusha, Typica, and PNG Blue Mountain varieties, all of which score between 85 and 89 points on the Q-coffee system, developed to grade speciality coffee.

With over 11,000 visitors, the exhibition was a great opportunity for Pacific businesses like Alpha Coffee to increase the recognition for Pacific coffee and their own brand awareness, while also forging direct buyer connections in the Australian market.

Launched in 2012 with a purpose to connect coffee buyers and sellers, MICE seeks to bring industry members together in a dedicated space. As an annual event, it also provides an anchor point for international guests to connect with new and existing

Australian customers.

The 2019 event saw Gina Di Brita of Numero Uno Coffee Roasters win the 'Eleonora Genovese Australian Coffee Woman of the Year' award. An industry icon and co-founder of the International Women's Coffee Alliance of Australia (IWCAA), Di Brita says she is passionate about championing and building relationships with Australia's closest coffee producers, smallholder farmers in Papua New Guinea.

General Manager of Alpha Coffee, Elijah Harro, says the wide-reaching impact of coffee sales on the community is immense.

Australia Gives Newbuild Patrol Boat to Papua New Guinea

Shipbuilding group Austal has delivered the ninth Guardian-class Patrol Boat (GCPB) to the Australian Department of Defence. The vessel, the future HMPNGS *Rochus Lokinap*, was then given by the Australian Government to the Papua New Guinea Defence Force at a ceremony held at Austal Australia's Henderson shipyard in Western Australia.

The vessel is the second of four Guardian-class Patrol Boats to be delivered to Papua New Guinea under the Pacific Patrol Boat Replacement Project, part of the Australian Government's Pacific Maritime Security Program, and follows the delivery of the HMPNGS

Ted Diro in December 2018.

Austal CEO Paddy Gregg said the delivery of the latest Guardian-class Patrol Boat to Papua New Guinea had further enhanced the company's relationship with both the Australian Department of Defence and the Papua New Guinea Defence Force.

'Austal not only design and build the Guardian-class, but also deliver a comprehensive training program to each crew accepting the vessels. Through this successful handover process, we are continuing to develop a very strong, productive relationship with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and their crews,' Gregg said.

Faster, with improved seakeeping, better amenities and an enhanced mission capability—including an integrated RHIB stern launch and recovery system—the Guardian-class patrol boats provide the Papua New Guinea Defence Force with a much-improved naval asset to carry out border patrols, regional policing, search and rescue, and many other operations domestically and internationally.

The Pacific Patrol Boat



Replacement (PPB-R) Project was awarded to Austal in May 2016, with an additional contract option awarded in April 2018, taking the program to 21 vessels, valued at more than A\$335 million. Twelve Pacific Island nations including Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Timor Leste will receive the vessels through to 2023.

Austal Australia's expanded service centre in Cairns, now incorporating a 1,200-tonne (80-metre LOA) slipway and an 1,120-tonne mobile boat hoist, continues to provide in-service support to the growing Guardian-class Patrol Boat fleet.

The 39.5-metre steel monohull patrol boat—designed, constructed and sustained by Austal Australia—is based on a proven design platform that has included the 38-metre Bay-class, 56-metre Armidale-class and 58-metre Cape-class patrol boats that are in service with the Australian Border Force and Royal Australian Navy.

The vessel is named after Brigadier General Rochus Lokinap, a former Commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force from 1987 to 1992.

'Marine Link', June 2022
Harim Tok Tok, Vol 137, Dec. 2022

Trade Between Papua New Guinea and China Compared

In a story reported in 'Business News', 6 December 2022, Prime Minister Hon. James Marape said Chinese President Xi Jinping had given him an undertaking to buy more of all that Papua New Guinea (PNG) produces.

The undertaking was made during a bilateral meeting between President Xi and PM Marape on the sidelines of APEC 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand on 18 November 2022, where PM Marape said that it was no longer aid or grant that was in the forefront of his agenda but trade, commerce and more business between both countries.

PM Marape said after the meeting that the onus was now on PNG to start increasing production in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining, oil and gas, and other areas like tourism to supply the very big Chinese market. 'The meeting with President Xi Jinping went very well,' PM Marape said.

In an editorial commenting on this news item the *Post-Courier* of 7 December 2022 compared trade between Australia and PNG and the projected increase of trade with China.

Stating that bilateral trade with China was already greater than that with Australia the editorial went on to criticise

what it described as 'boomerang' aid projects funded by Australia and the lack of investment by Australian companies in businesses in PNG.

An Ominous Warning for Papua New Guinea

Andrew Anton Mako writing in a PNG-Devpolicy blog from the Development Policy Centre, ANU begins with this quote by Jerry Garry, Managing Director of PNG's Mineral Resources Authority (MRA):

'When we don't have any of these copper and gold mines anymore, where are we headed?'

According to Mr Garry, mineral resources from large mines (both current and pipeline) will be exhausted in 40 years. Oil and gas will also eventually run out.

The country has made little progress over the years in diversifying and expanding the economic base to enable broad-based, inclusive and sustained economic growth and development.

The government and its policymakers understand that the mining industry is capital-intensive and has few linkages with the rest of the economy besides the jobs it creates and the contracts it provides to local landowners. The main contribution the industry makes should be the transfer of resource rents to the government through royalties, taxes and profits (where the government has an equity stake).

But this is where the problems start.

First, the contribution of the resource sector to government revenue has been underwhelming—less than 10% in recent years.

Second, it is incumbent upon the government to deliberately and sustainably invest the resource rents in the rest of the economy, including through infrastructure development, strengthening of governance and institutions, as well as building human capital by investing in sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation.

This has not happened consistently across the country, with billions of kina lost to corruption and mismanagement.

Third, and underlying these two problems, PNG seems to be subject to the 'resource curse', which is when a country is unable to successfully translate proceeds of its abundant natural resources into gainful economic growth and development outcomes for its people.

No one can dispute that PNG's resource rents have not produced commensurate development outcomes for the country and the people.

PM James Marape has embarked on a process to increase the proceeds of natural resources to national stakeholders, though how successful he is remains to be seen.



Was that the Queen?

TONY FRIEND

Queen Elizabeth II was well-known throughout PNG from the official portrait in every government office: a much-loved regal figure in beautiful robes, wearing a diamond-encrusted crown. Now Missis Kwin was coming to Goroka!

In late 1973 I was advised by senior public servants that the Queen and her family would visit the district headquarters on 24 February 1974, and at Goroka Showgrounds traditional dance groups from throughout the district were to perform at the event. At that time, I was the officer in charge of the small patrol post at Obura, several hours' drive from Goroka.

The forthcoming visit meant that much preparation was required, not only by government staff at Goroka but also by officers such as myself at all out-stations, sub-districts and patrol posts. We were each given the task of selecting a group of local men and women to perform traditional dances (*sing-sing*) for the royal party at Goroka. District Commissioner Bernard Borok had to move from his official residence three months before the royal visit, so that it could be completely

up-graded to accommodate the Queen and her staff for their one-night stay.

My duty was to bring to Goroka a group of fifty-six Obura men and women to perform at the showgrounds. On the day before the Queen's arrival, we set out in four Toyotas that a day earlier had been delivered to the station (*pictured above*). The journey went well until we reached a particularly bad section on the dirt road to Kainantu, near the Summer Institute of Linguistics, headquarters at Ukarumpa, where all the vehicles became stuck in the mud. With fifty plus willing passengers to push, first one and then the other vehicles out of the deep wheel ruts, we were delayed no longer than an hour.

Without further mishap we drove to Kainantu, after which we were on the tar road of the Highlands Highway all the way to Goroka and



Men and boys from the Asaro area dressed in their finery to welcome the Queen (top); and Komboro villagers dressed as cassowaries (below)

the showgrounds. Bush material long houses had been constructed to accommodate overnight all the visiting groups from district out-stations. Huge piles of firewood and sweet potato had also been collected in preparation for the several thousands of village performers and spectators invited to this event.

The Queen and her family arrived by plane in the afternoon. In the evening, in the largest hotel in Goroka, a grand reception was staged. All presidents and vice-presidents of the local government councils in the district were to meet the Queen that evening. The dress code was strictly Western formal evening wear. The men had been measured weeks earlier so that suits could be ordered in addition to the required white shirts and ties. For many it was the first time in their life to wear such attire. Their wives wore specially ordered evening gowns and closed shoes. No traditional dress such as grass skirts or cowrie shell decorations were allowed at this reception. Last minute panic ensued when one woman forgot to bring this new, unaccustomed footwear and turned up in thongs!

Next morning at the Goroka Showgrounds, Mr Barry Holloway, Speaker of the House of Assembly and Member for the Eastern Highlands, made speeches to the thousands of people who came to witness this historic event. Then the groups of tribesmen from all over the Eastern Highlands started an enthusiastic *sing-sing*. The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Anne, Capt. Mark Phillips (then husband of the Princess)

and Earl Louis Mountbatten, accompanied by Barry Holloway, toured around the inside of the showgrounds arena, watching the stunning performance from an open-backed LandCruiser. With their gold-coloured Instamatic cameras they were taking pictures of the traditionally dressed, bewildering crowds of tribesmen who vigorously danced around the arena, facing the touring vehicle.

The Queen wore a pink dress and a flowered hat of a similar colour, while Princess Anne wore a sky-blue dress with white accessories. The male family members were all in tropical white or khaki uniforms.

Each local group of Highlanders wore a different type of dazzling costume. The Obura traditional dress was quite spectacular with men wearing grass skirts, cowrie shell and cockatoo feather head decorations, pig tusk necklaces, as well as a few with bamboo nose plugs denoting initiation. There were also elaborate headbands fashioned from braids with inserted fluorescent green beetles and topped with multi-coloured parrot feathers.

Some men from Komboro village wore the shiny black cassowary feather costume covering the body from head to waist. Women wore long straw-coloured grass skirts and bark capes. Older men paraded in headgear of metre-long feathers and spectacular Bird of Paradise plumage. Dozens of Asaro 'mud-men' wore masks daubed in white pigment completely covering their heads. Others obscured their entire bodies in leaves and feathers, flowing down from head to toe. The Highlanders had done their best to impress the Queen!

In amongst all this tropical finery, the Queen in her understated pink dress, matching shady hat and white gloves appeared under-dressed.

One villager from Obura expressed the bewilderment felt by many used to seeing the Queen only in her official portraits when he asked me:

'Who was the white lady with the big flowered hat? Was that the Queen?

'Why was the Queen not wearing her crown?'

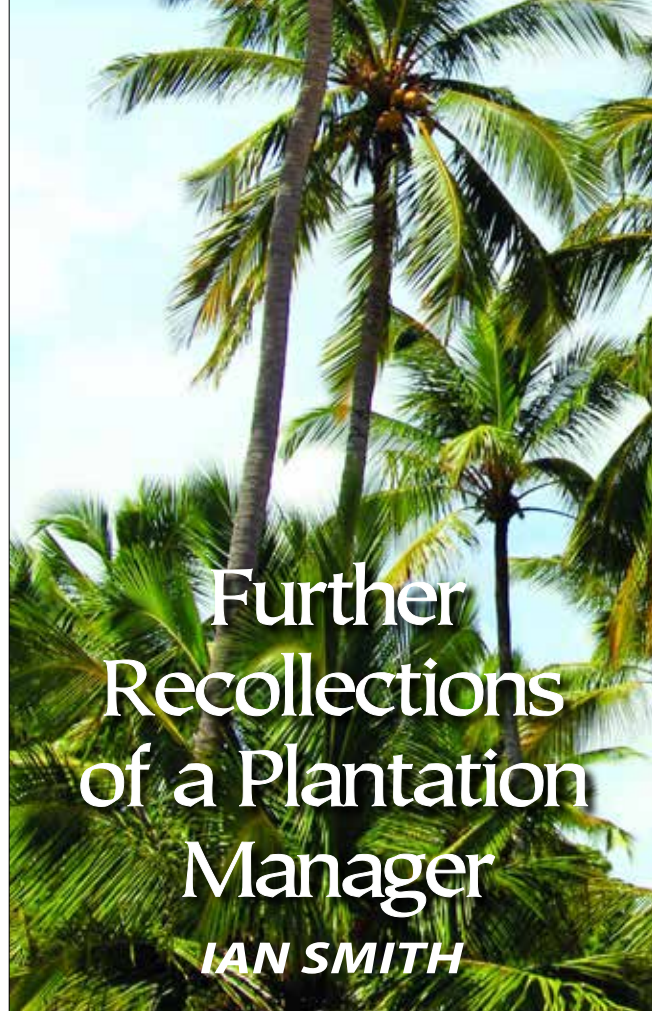


Queen Elizabeth II, the Duke of Edinburgh and Bernie Borok, Associate District Commissioner, at the Goroka Showground (top); Okapa people wearing wooden masks and moss costumes (centre); and (below) the official portrait of the Queen (with her crown!)



Tony Friend (1937–2017) of Romford, UK, spent more than thirty years working in Papua New Guinea. In 1972 he started work as a patrol officer, in the following years becoming district officer. As a kiap, he was based in Eastern Highlands (Watabung, Henganofi, Obura) and West Sepik Province (Imonda, Nuku, Oksapmin and Telefomin). During the years 1983–91 he was the Co-ordinator of the Telefomin District Development Agreement, supervising a range of community projects in remote parts of the West Sepik Province.

To commemorate Tony's life, in 2018 his family and friends set up the Tony Friend Scholarship that provides financial assistance to high school students from the Telefomin District of West Sepik Province. During five years of operations 95,000 Kina (approx. A\$40,000) was paid as a contribution towards the school fees of 72 students MARIA FRIEND



Further Recollections of a Plantation Manager IAN SMITH

Being sent by WR Carpenter, the company I worked for, as a relieving manager to any one of their 30 copra and cocoa plantations one could be thrust into all sorts of circumstances, so I was always apprehensive about what to expect. I had to be diplomatic and not ruffle feathers when being temporarily in charge as many plantation managers were set in their routine. Plantation management was best kept to keeping things ticking along until the manager returned from his month or two of leave.

One incident I remember from all those years ago was when the Rabaul headquarters of the company sent me to Madang because they had sacked the manager of Bau Plantation.

Bau Plantation was situated on the then very isolated Rai Coast out of Madang, and the only copra boat that made regular voyages there was the MV *Tangalooma*, known locally as 'The Tangled Bloomers'. It was an early departure from

Madang Harbour, the native crew seemed well-organised and it was a calm sea.

I did not realise until the afternoon that the ship's owner/skipper was on board. Eric Brook (I have changed his last name for this story) staggered up on deck from the cabin; he was drunk and did not acknowledge me even though I was the only passenger on board. 'More sail, more sail!' he yelled at the boat's crew then turned around, stumbled down the cabin steps, and I never saw him again. Late in the afternoon we anchored off a sandy inlet that was Bau Plantation's loading and unloading harbour. Some of the crew rowed me ashore, and it seemed strange that there was no one to meet me.

Gathering my suitcase and important papers, I walked the 300–400 metres to the plantation's house. It was a low-set fibro building with a verandah all around and the manager met me at the door.

My first impression of this European fellow was, to put it bluntly, alarming. He was a tall, thin man, unshaven and, with one shoulder lower than the other, I presumed he had had a past accident. He introduced me to his wife and all I can remember is that she had a terrible pock-marked face; she had little to say to me.

As it was nearly dark, we had dinner together and lit the pressure and wick lamps—there was no electricity. I went to bed early, having set my mosquito net up under the verandah roof and to be as far away as possible from the manager and his wife.

Next morning, at daybreak, *belo* was sounded and the plantation manager and I went to the line-up of the indentured native workers. As Bau Plantation was not a large place and very neglected, I would estimate there would have been about 100 workers employed.

Someone beat a kettle drum or similar and a flag was raised up a pole with the manager's name on it. '*Raus, raus!*' he shouted, and they all turned and ran. I just could not believe this behaviour and it was quite obvious to me the native employees were very frightened of this man.

The day passed with bookwork changeover, the checking of food supplies, contracts of labour, cash money and so forth; at least that all seemed in order. By mid-afternoon, the manager was on the bottle again, so I decided to look around the plantation on my own and get away from them. I returned late and in time for dinner and again early to bed.

It was not long before a wind-up gramophone was playing a record of 'Ol' Man River' by singer Paul Robeson. I think it was first recorded in the 1920s. The manager played this song over and over again. As you can imagine, I had a terrible sleep. However, it was still his home and I had to get on with this fellow, as painful as it was.

Next morning his wife (or I thought she was his wife) confronted me on my own to quickly tell me she was terrified of her husband and that she was glad I had arrived. The conversation ended when he appeared, but not before she told me she had been a sex worker in Port Moresby and had met this fellow and wanted to start a new life on 'his' plantation.

I felt absolutely trapped in a situation I could well and truly do without. Fortunately, the day passed as I walked on my own around the plantation boundaries. I only had to get through the final night—but this was not to be. The manager had been on the booze, so I took to bed early and it was not long before 'Ol' Man River' blared out over and over. I again tried to hide the sound with my pillow but, in the tropical night, there was no escaping this continuous noise.

I had to do something, so I got dressed and approached him as he slumped in a chair beside the gramophone with a bottle of whiskey or brandy, I do not know. I stood over him with my clenched fist near his face; at the age of 28 or 29, I was very fit and was no 'powder puff' in using my fists so I told him I would float him down 'Ol' Man River' with the record player tied around his neck.

I remember to this day the look on this madman's face. He was uncertain what to do, the alcohol gave him a florid appearance in the hurri-

cane lamp light, but he never moved when I threw the 78 record across the lounge room floor.

Returning to my bed, I could not help thinking about tomorrow, what his reaction would be. Never have I ever been in such a predicament and looking back now I wonder if I had any sleep at all that night.

Next morning, I was out of bed early and met both of them in the kitchen. I expected him to attack me with a knife or chair, however, he apologised over and over, extending his hand to shake, which I did. He was so sorry for his behaviour as tears ran down his face—but this fellow was mad.

Within a couple of hours, after loading their personal possessions on the MV *Tangalooma*, they departed for Madang.

Returning to the plantation house I realised he had disabled the two-way radio, so there was now no outside communication, and later in the day I found the plantation's small rowboat with a plank shoved in. It seemed that he just wanted to be nasty to me.

A month later I was back in Rabaul, temporarily living in a company house. There were always rumours on who was to be promoted to such and such plantation; however, it was not a rumour when we heard the ex-manager of Bau Plantation had been arrested in Port Moresby for the murder of a native worker on Bau Plantation.

Apparently, this happened before I arrived there, and it was after I left the plantation that a police patrol was conducting a yearly inspection along that Rai Coast. A few of the plantation employees were from the same highland villages as the police, so they felt free to now talk about the murder. (No doubt police archives have a record of this event.)

How could someone like this fellow ever be put in charge of native workers? They had signed a two-year contract and expected to be cared for and treated with respect. For most it was their first paid employment and for them to ease into the modern world; instead, they met the idiot that I write of in this article. •

A Nurse's Memories of Her Time in TPNG

RUTH PITT (née Lewis)—PART 1

I grew up in Port Pirie, South Australia. After General Nursing training in Adelaide, as a Registered Nurse (Sister in those days) with two friends I sailed to England for Midwifery Training at Southmead, Bristol, then South London (which included cycling to home births). We hitch-hiked to see most of the UK in days off, then for four months explored Europe the same way.

On one of our Qantas London to Adelaide ticket stopovers I enjoyed helping a Frontier Nursing Service nurse in the Kentucky Mountains for two weeks, although I found bumping over creek-bed roads at night with a loaded pistol in the glove-box scary. The Nurse-Midwives in Kentucky rode horses for home visits in winter. I then decided that I preferred community nursing to hospital work although the next six months of night duty at Pirie Hospital financed my six months unpaid Infant Welfare Training at Tresillian, Vaucluse, Sydney.

I had received a book about TPNG from a mother in Pirie Hospital and, seeing an advertisement for nurses in that territory, I applied. I flew up in September 1967 and, with six other new recruits, stayed in Moresby's Taurama Hospital Sisters' Quarters and attended orientation for two weeks. We also had to do shifts in the hospital.

On my first day, in the Obstetrics Ward, the local sister on duty with me was ill and rested in the delivery room. With students' help I was kept busy delivering babies on the ward beds, with other mothers and their carers in the room plus people outside also watching. Certainly, a different experi-



Taurama Hospital wards, 1967

ence! Patients had to have a relative looking after them, and these carers slept under the bed at night. It was also strange to experience the new mothers yelling from their beds to their family camped outside.

Being a TC (Triple Certificate), I then went with the Maternal & Child Health (MCH) nurses who ran village clinics. Another recruit and I hired a car to explore the Moresby area.

We seven were then flown out to different places. I went to Rabaul, on the Gazelle Peninsula, New Britain. I lived with three others in a waterfront house on Sulphur Creek Road. It was a lovely spot and a convenient walk to work, the shops, and United Church. Unfortunately, we had constant prowler problems so later I shifted to a new complex near Nonga Hospital.

The senior MCH nurse supervised the 5½ day town clinic in a former trade-store building. We were selling brick-shaped tea-candles to raise funds for a new clinic next to the market. Unfortunately, these scorched purchasers' furniture and they were not the success for which we had hoped.

Two of us each went by driven Land Rovers with a local trained nurse and two students from Nonga or Vunapope Roman Catholic Hospitals to villages all over the peninsula to hold monthly MCH clinics. Unfortunately, later, the Vunapope nurses stopped coming after we began giving information about family planning clinics to mothers who had four or more children.

We held our clinics in village shelters or under trees on the beach (sandflies love me). As well as

immunising babies with BCG (to prevent tuberculosis) soon after birth, Triple Antigen and Sabin at one, two, and three months plus later boosters, we checked and treated infants and children for malaria, chest, skin, eye, ear, and gastric infections, keeping records and recording the immunisations on the babies' cards kept by the mothers. Sulfadimidine (for gastro) came in four-gallon cans.

We also had to mix peanut butter (up to the elbow) in four-gallon cans from which we would make small balls covered in powdered milk for protein deficient toddlers. We treated tropical ulcers with Gentian Violet. Duck-diving in the sea was recommended for children with chronic nasal discharge. Thick, crash-helmet style cradle-cap was prised off with a haircut. We checked pregnant women and gave them tetanus shots.

A health talk had to be given at each clinic—in *Pidgin* which most mothers understood. I went to evening classes and soon picked it up. The nurses spoke English. Three times a year we visited Watom Island to immunise, check and treat the children there. We held clinics on the beach and slept on the deck of the cockroach-infested boat. On one visit I, with help, climbed the hill to check the students at the Methodist school on top. (Single certificated nurses did school health checks on the peninsula.)

Students started school at 7:00 am. If their birth dates were unknown, they could start when they could touch the opposite ear over their heads. I ran a monthly clinic for the expatriates at the town clinic. I also visited squatter settlements on the town's fringe to give health information, check the young and refer concerns to the town clinic or hospital. The villages tended to be either Catholic or Methodist and we had to site clinics between them to not apparently favour either. We held two clinics at the same time on Matupit Island for this reason. Some Methodist babies were called John or Wesley, and some Catholic babies called Pius after the Pope at that time.

In Rabaul there was a great market for fresh food and souvenirs. One Saturday morning a nurse left eggs wrapped in banana leaves in the clinic kitchen.



A student giving the health talk (top); Vunabuk beach clinic, 1967 (below)

On Monday there were chickens running around it. Social life was hectic—there were welcome and farewell dinners, other parties, and celebrations. Officers on ships in port also invited us for drinks and nibbles.

Most of the stores were owned by Chinese nationals, and there was a Kuomintang Club which held functions with great food. During drives to visit friends on surrounding plantations or to the beaches we saw evidence of the Japanese occupation during World War II. On Anzac Day, a friend and I went to the Dawn Service at Bitia Paka War Cemetery, watched the march in town then two-up at the RSL club. I went with friends on plane-chartered weekends to Buka Island, the Trobriands and the Goroka Show.

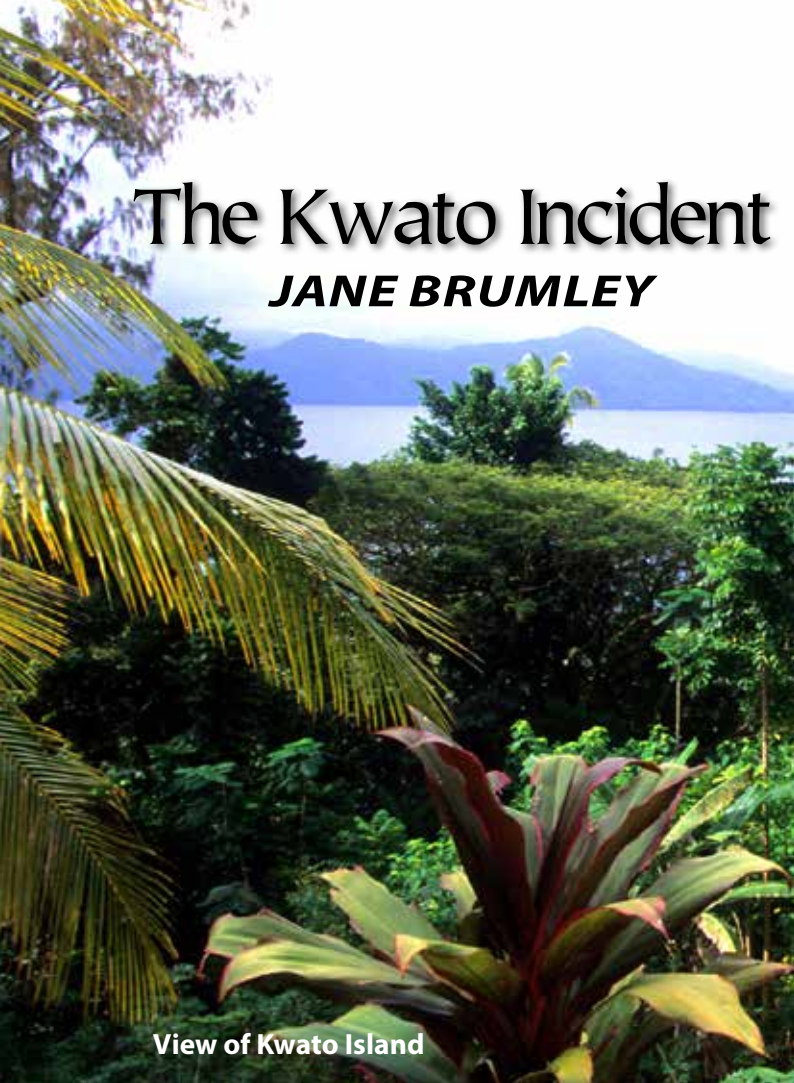
In July 1968, my brother Mervyn came up to visit me. We climbed the biggest extinct volcano 'Mother' and looked over the rim of 'Tavurvur.' He enjoyed his stay and returned for four years to manage CPL plantations, then a privately owned one, which produced cocoa and copra.

In September 1968 I transferred to the Chimbu District in the Highlands. •

Parts Two & Three will be published in future issues of PNG KUNDU.

The Kwato Incident

JANE BRUMLEY



View of Kwato Island

Our family has had a very adventurous life. From my parents, especially Mum, down to us. Our parents were quite happy for us, their kids, to run amok and ultimately learn from our mistakes. This story is about one of those incidents. I often think back to it and think ‘My God, the things we did as kids!’

It occurred when we lived on the small island, Samarai, in the middle of Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea.

On one glorious sunny morning, the Edwards kids, who lived a couple of doors up from us, my sister Jillian and I decided we were going to commandeer a dinghy from amongst several that were landed on a small sandy beach near the local library, close to Samarai wharf. I think I was ten or eleven years old at the time.

We decided to row this boat from the beach across a stretch of water to a small mission island called Kwato. Our goal was oysters, yes oysters, located on rocks at one end of Kwato Island.

I hated oysters, but it sounded like a great idea, and we were itching for a big adventure.

Never mind that the currents through this stretch of water were treacherous—or that the waters around Kwato were inhabited by a huge shark, that had eaten a couple of swimmers. The tale of this shark had got taller with each telling until it made legendary status. Everyone was really scared of it.

The other undersea current that flowed around the other side of the island, between Samarai Island and the mainland, in a channel called the China Straights, was even worse.

However, on this day, the air was still, the water was like glass, not a ripple in sight. Only the sound of little waves running up on the beach and water bubbling through sand under our feet. It was a beautiful day! The thought of looming trouble never entered our heads. So, we borrowed (stole) someone’s tinny and set off to Kwato, taking turns rowing and singing sea shanties all the way. ‘Row, row, row your boat ...’ that sort of thing. The going was easy.

As luck would have it, we chose the larger of the dinghies. We Brumley kids had our own small dinghy at home. It was made for us by a shipwright friend of the family, and we named the little boat the ‘Uncle Jack’ after Jack. The ‘Uncle Jack’ was tiny. But on this day, it was someone else’s boat we were rowing and, being much bigger, it saved our lives. We arrived at our destination around mid-morning.

I cannot remember eating any oysters. We mucked around on the rocks for an hour or so, then noticed that the wind had picked up, so decided to head back to Samarai.

We hit trouble as soon as we left the sheltered bay near the rocks and moved into the channel. The wind had really picked up by this time and the water was choppy. From what we could see we were being carried off course by the strong currents. We pulled those oars even harder trying to get back on course but by now it was blowing a gale and the sea was rough. We were definitely heading off course in a direction that would have

seen us carried out past the islands of Milne Bay into the Coral Sea.

From afar we saw the Samarai ferry taking off from Kwato wharf and as it levelled with us, in the distance, we tried to flag it down, waving wildly trying to attract the skipper’s attention. Our hopes were dashed, as it motored past on its course to Samarai wharf.

By this time we were up the proverbial creek, trying to hide the look of panic on our faces. We tried to reassure each other by keeping our chins up and keeping rowing, knowing it was hopeless making any headway against the current.

As it happened, Mum had come home for lunch and found her kids missing. The housekeeper told her we had gone to the ocean pool for a swim, so she headed down there to see where we were. No sign of us. At the deep-sea end of the pool a couple of locals were fishing so she went over and asked if they had seen us. The older man pointed to a little dot on the horizon—a dinghy with four kids

in it being carried away by the strong current and disappearing fast over the horizon.

Mum raced home and rang Dad who rang Uncle Jack to organise a rescue effort. Uncle Jack sprang into action, cranked up his outboard and roared off. While still in earshot he heard Dad yell out ‘And while you’re at it, kick their a...s!!!’

Meanwhile, by this time we were growing tired and really frightened. It was then that we spotted a large tinny heading out from Samarai in our direction. As it came closer we recognised the familiar silhouette of our Uncle Jack steering the outboard.

You can imagine the sheer relief when his tinny sidled up to our boat. All I can remember is he had a huge grin on his face—like, you kids are in deep s..t. He threw a line to us to lash to the bow of our boat and then towed us back to Samarai. The trip back was rough, but we all made it in one piece.

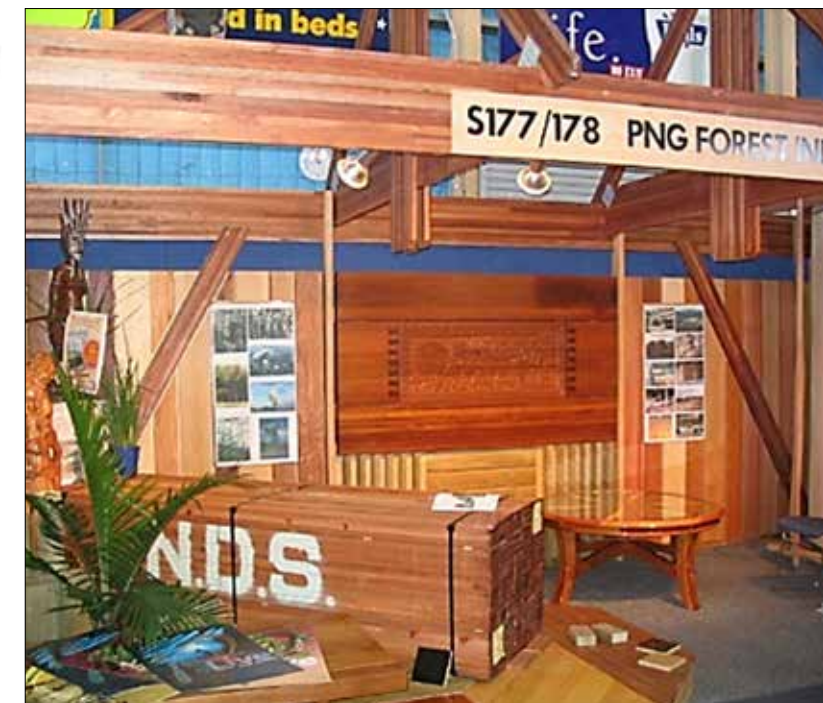
We did not get kicked; our parents figured we had got the fright of our lives and that was enough. •

The Woods of Papua New Guinea

RB McCARTHY

The woods of Papua New Guinea (PNG) are still virtually unknown to most people throughout the world. Those with some knowledge of this vast untamed land would describe it as one of the last remaining frontiers. It is indeed a unique country. It has a landmass of 45 million hectares —40 million hectares of which are still covered with forest harbouring a wealth of timber species.

Featured: PNGFA PNG woods display, Albury, 2004 (Dick McCarthy)



These timber species produce wood with hues ranging from white, through yellow to golden brown and black and are used for furniture manufacture, flooring, boat building, chopsticks, turnery and for other structural engineering tasks.



1. Construction of lakatoi at Papa Lea Lea, north of Port Moresby—a double-hulled sailing vessel used in *Hiri Motu* Trade, 2009

2. Bird of Paradise wooden emblem, National Forest Service Headquarters, Port Moresby
(Greg Rudani Peddle Thorp Architects PNG)
PNG wood carvings, serving utensils and bowls
(Dick McCarthy)



The timbers' subtle colours, textures and feel are qualities that make one species attractive to some consumers, while the uniqueness of some may make another species virtually as valuable as gold.

The forest flora is somewhat similar in composition to that of the tropical rainforests of North Queensland in Australia.

This similarity, however, does not extend westward into Malaysia where the species composition differs remarkably in that the flora there is dominated by the family *Dipterocarpaceae*. Therefore, the forests of PNG should not be thought of as an extension of the forest types of South East Asia. PNG lies to the southeast of the Wallace Line, which roughly separates the *Dipterocarpaceae* forest type of South East Asia from the mixed tropical hardwood forests of the Pacific, including PNG.

Within the PNG complex associations of forest type many valuable timbers exist with premium characteristics that are unique to PNG. These include Wau beech (like magnolia), labula (like ramin), pencil cedar, pink birch, rosewood, etc.

There is a multitude of timber species, many of which are not well known on world markets. There is a wide variety of hardwood species. The main hardwood species range in colour from cream coloured ameroi to reddish brown. Amongst the commercial hardwood species (over 60), species as ash, maple, red cedar, exist.

Forests in the Central Province of PNG even contain camphor wood, a pink to light brown wood that emits an aromatic odour.

PNG boasts several native conifers. Amongst these is the famed klinki pine found in the Bulolo-Wau region, which is processed into both plywood and sawn timber. Kauri and hoop pine and other podocarps are also present, especially in the Highlands.

Different wood species have a huge range of natural characteristics that make them especially suitable for a wide range of specific uses.

This range includes the use of wood as fuel and for making traditional tools and decorative items, for use in construction of buildings and bridges and in the making of fine furniture and other household items.

Worldwide, wood is one of the most widely used and understood materials—everyone can name at least a few types. The various species of wood around the world and their physical properties are dictated by diverse climatic conditions. Those in PNG are no different.

Wood has an ability to bring out the designer in everyone. It is accessible, easy to manipulate, can be shaped, carved, scratched, sanded, and nailed. It can be worked with basic tools.

Wood is strong and dense, has dimensional stability, straight grain, even texture, extraordinary lengths. It can be stacked flat, has pre-cut flexibility, toughness, excellent sealing, thermal and acoustic insulation properties.

Wood changes its colouring on exposure to light.

Some woods have a natural weatherability; teak has natural oils that clog the wood pores, eliminate the need for preservatives and making it maintenance free when used for boat building and garden furniture making, for example.

Veneers of wood of high quality can be used to enable use of lower quality material in cabinet making and house interiors, this conveying status and a suggestion of luxury.

Wood can be a low maintenance and hygienic material when used in household items like chopping boards and toothpicks because it has been shown that woods have both physical and chemical anti-bacterial properties.

Wood can be converted to the cooked wood state of charcoal.

Wood responds well to finishes to seal its surface against moisture, to make cleaning easier and to provide surface colour and texture. •

Editor's Note: This story has been abstracted from *PNGAF Magazine* of 24 October 2022 and republished with permission from the editor, RB McCarthy.



1. Bulolo Hotel Wine Bar and Lounge, 1963. A feature of the hotel was the extensive use of decorative plywood and timber flooring of several local tree species. The wall behind the bar was New Guinea Walnut (*Dracontomelun mangiferum*).
(John Davidson)

2. Coffee tables
(Cloudy Bay 9-mile Wood Processing Centre Port Moresby)

3. Grandfather Clock made from PNG rosewood

Dr Pearson I presume?

**CHRIS
BOROUGH**

With heavy heart, I left the Territory of Papua and New Guinea (PNG) in late 1971. I had so many experiences in the seven years I lived in PNG and wrote a few short stories of my adventures for Richard McCarthy's series of magazines on Australian Foresters in Papua New Guinea. At age 79 I figured it would be quite an experience for my wife Robyn to re-visit PNG—this time as pidgin-speaking tourists. I booked on the French cruise ship, *Le Soléil*, as I worked out that the ship would at least visit one place where we had lived in 1966 (Rabaul and nearby Kerevat on New Britain). What I had not understood when I booked this cruise was that it was going to be much more than I could ever imagine.

Ponant's cruise ship, *Le Soléil*
(Borough Family)

Robyn and I thought it might be good to invite our daughter, Janet (who spent six years in PNG) and our son Tim (who was born in Port Moresby) to join us. In an instant both accepted the invitation.

Step one was to contact Richard (alias Dick) McCarthy about our trip, and he suggested I contact Michael Pearson from Buka on Bougainville.

The only thing I knew about Michael was his friendship with Dick and his interest in railways—in fact, he had no connection with forestry and co-authored *End of the Line: a History of Railways in Papua New Guinea*. Michael Pearson was formerly Chair of the PNG Teaching Services Commission and is currently a board member of the University of Technology (UNITECH) Lae.

Michael's professional and personal background, specific knowledge, and extensive experience in Bougainville, in the Teaching Service, Teaching Service Commission, Department of Education and Department of Personnel, as well as consultancy work with the National Executive Council, Commission of Higher Education and private companies is recognised nationally. His knowledge and expertise, particularly relating to the problems associated with the power, ownership, and operation of PNG Government Departments, etc. as a longtime resident of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea has also contributed greatly to the PNG Australian Foresters till 1975 social history project.

We had to monitor the progress of COVID as cruise ships were not permitted until 2022. Finally, COVID restrictions were eased, and we were ready to undertake our adventure in PNG. Armed with Vaccination Certificates and a wealth of paperwork, we flew to Honiara to join the ship. We saw a very decrepit town with evidence of burnt-out buildings—the result of past riots. The dominant feature, however, was the huge stadium being built by the Chinese in preparation for the South Pacific Games.

We soon found out that travelling with Ponant Cruises is very 'French' and, with around 150 crew and 98 passengers, we were going to be well looked after. What we had not appreciated was the huge amount of effort that had gone into planning an itinerary that



Michael Pearson and Chris Borough on Taiof Island
(Borough family)

would showcase so many cultures and give us the opportunity to meet with such beautiful people. I started to teach my son and daughter some key words of *pidgin* and the pitfalls of using words such as Pok Pok (the first village we visited), *puk puk* (crocodile) and *pek pek* (use your imagination).

Pok Pok, the first village we visited on Bougainville, welcomed us in the traditional way—a humbling experience. Imagine all the tourists wearing masks (wearing face masks was a key part of Ponant's desire to keep the villagers free of COVID) and a huge number of welcoming villagers in traditional dress. We began to see that tourism was such an important part in providing income to these remote villages that still lived their traditional way of life.

After numerous email exchanges, I kept wondering how Michael would meet us at our next location—Taiof Island only accessible after a speedboat ride of 20-minutes from Buka town. Yet again we were warmly welcomed at Taiof—in fact, this was the first cruise ship to have ever visited the island. As I could not see Michael in the crowd (not that I had ever seen a picture of him), I asked one of the villagers wearing a hazvest suit (he was one of a number of locals who were to act as guides) to take Janet and me for a tour of the village. It was only when Janet asked our guide about Michael that his eyes lit up: 'He is on the island, and I shall take you to him!'

Finally, we saw a white man talking to the last of the passengers boarding the Zodiac to return to the ship; the mysterious Michael Pearson was in

sight. Meeting him, dressed in long pants, long-sleeved shirt, hat and black leather shoes was reminiscent of the event when African journalist/explorer Stanley met Dr Livingstone with 'Dr Livingstone I presume'. Michael proceeded to walk through the ankle-deep water (in his black leather shoes) together with the chap who had taken him to Taiof.

Michael reported that trying to meet the ship was a challenge but as they included Taiof as a stopover, it changed from nigh impossible to an hour-plus car trip and just under an hour dinghy (banana boat) ride from Buka to Taiof. Michael was accompanied by Anthony (Tony) Tsora, who also had a distinguished education career as a teacher, school inspector, Bougainville Education Secretary during the restoration period, National Education Board Chairman, TSC Regional Advisor, and now Chairman of Bougainville Technical College and Advisor on Bougainville Education

Michael and I hit it off immediately and he soon introduced me to some key people in Bougainville society. I found that he had been the Inspector of Schools for Bougainville and was very highly respected; in fact, the Taiof schoolteacher was concerned that Michael had come to inspect his school unannounced! Michael informed the teachers that they must apply for leave without pay or record it down as cultural activities. They opted to put it down as cultural activities.

My meeting with Michael has inspired authorities in Bougainville to try to arrange for their students in their College of Tourism and Hospitality to visit the next cruise ship and, in the future, get work on such ships.

Michael told me that he was a PNG citizen and had sons living in Australia. Finally, it was time to go and suddenly Michael presented me with a magnificent necklace made from local shells. Janet joined me and we got into the last Zodiac and bade farewell knowing that we were unlikely to ever meet again. With pride, I wore the necklace to dinner throughout the rest of this remarkable voyage. •



Life at Daru in the Fifties

KEN McKINNON AO

When we returned from leave to Port Moresby in May 1956, the information was that I was to go immediately to a new posting in charge of education in the Western District, of which Daru was the official HQ, about 400 kilometres due west of Port Moresby. My brief was to develop schools within the district and supervise the widely separated mission schools.

To reach Daru, we were scheduled to take the coastal boat across the Gulf of Papua, an area known for rough weather and storms. The intended transport was a boat typical of the coastal craft in use at that time, being full of rust, cockroach-infested, and taking water. It pitched and screwed uncomfortably even in small seas. The crossing was quite rough, but we eventually arrived safely. It did nothing for our confidence in PNG transport that the same boat sank from unexplained causes on its next crossing three weeks later!

The regular aircraft contact linking Daru with Port Moresby and other parts of Papua New Guinea was the Catalina, which, if the weather was favourable, would fly a multi out-station circuit, including Daru, once a fortnight. For travel within the district, I had to use government or hired boats, aircraft, canoes or walk.

The Kiwai, people who usually had some contact with Torres Strait islanders and sometimes the pearl industry in northern Australia, had wonderful canoes, the best I saw in PNG.

ABOVE: Fred Kleckham, Agricultural Officer, in the initial days of a school co-located with an agricultural station at the Oriomo River station in the Western District 1958 (*Aus. News & Information Bureau*)

The population of the Western District included many ethnic groups ranging from the muscular coastal Kiwais, long in contact, the Gogadala people who at the time had a culture where the whole village lived in one long-house a hundred or more metres long, to the shy, recently contacted inland people around Kiunga and further north, who lived in tree houses, the women wearing grass skirts and the men large curling penis gourds. There were in fact more than fifty different language groups, many of which had few speakers. The total population was not large, partly because of the large tracts of crocodile infested swamps in the middle section of the Fly.

In my time there was virtually no economic activity in the district. No rubber, no vegetables, virtually no copra. In short, there was no cash economy. The district had been neglected. One Assistant District Officer was so frustrated by the neglect that, when the Australian Minister for External Territories came to visit, speaking out of turn, advocated that the district should be ceded to the Indonesians. He said the district would get more aid and be able to do more that way.

Daru was not an impressive place. When the postwar Labor Minister Eddie Ward came as part of

a parliamentary delegation, he had to wade the last few yards from the Catalina tender through clingy mud up to his knees. On arrival, pudgy, puffing and red-faced from the effort he nevertheless won instant support by declaring: 'I don't know what youse guys are getting for workin' here, but I don't think it's enough.'

The tidal effects near the mouths of rivers that were draining silt from hundreds of kilometres away meant that there was a great deal of slogging through muddy banks and avoiding shifting river sands. It was not a district attractive enough to exert a pull by its beauty as some districts in the Highlands did. While there was not that pull, I was enthusiastic enough to want to see 'around the next bend or over the next wave'. I was keen.

We could communicate only intermittently with outposts because the radios of the time were not powerful enough. Even between Port Moresby and Daru, the District Headquarters, radio contact was by Morse code. It was not reliable due to static and interference. Most travel was by boat or canoe. If a boat broke down a few hundred miles up the Fly or around the coast there was very likely no knowledge of its plight for a long time, nor repair services nor rescue craft. Self-reliance was essential.

As Area Education Officer, I was primarily responsible for the Village Higher School which took in both the children of Daru residents including the children of government workers, and students who came in from the Kiwai villages situated along the adjacent coast as there were no other government schools anywhere in the district. My initial orders were to raise the quality of the Daru School and to try to get schools established in other parts of the district.

Fulfilment of the second part of the instruction, of course, depended on the willingness of Headquarters to supply teachers from the meagre numbers graduating from teacher colleges. Neglect to that point was understandable; constant educational considerations were how sophisticated the people of an area were, how big the population was, how far away it was, how good communications were, and how poor the area was.

At the end of my first year Headquarters did begin to remedy the previous neglect by allocating about a dozen new teachers to the district, enabling the opening of six new schools in Kiunga, Balimo (Gogadala area) and Kiwai villages on the mainland. It meant I had to behave more like a district education officer (which I was formally made about eighteen months later) getting out and about the district, pretty much on a full-time basis.

Having responsibility for several schools was also my first opportunity to experiment with the educational curriculum. The nearest to an educational philosophy in PNG was an essay entitled *A Blending of the Cultures* by the government anthropologist FE Williams. This urged that education should seek to blend the best of western culture with the best of the Indigenous culture. In hindsight, educators who presume themselves able to make such choices were fairly arrogant, with a high risk of unexpected outcomes. I confess to being taken by the general idea, although not presumptuous enough to know how best to carry it into practice. We had to experiment.

One effort grew out of the complete absence of economic effort. People in villages had little idea of suitable cash crops. Fred Kleckham, the Agricultural Officer, joined forces with me in





Government officers, Western District PNG, 1958 (L to R) Ken McKinnon, Unknown, ADO, Phil Robb, Chief Clerk, doctor, mechanic, Ag. Officer Fred Kleckham, Chairman, DC, John J Murphy (top); and (below) Margaret McDougall (later Margaret Clancy), teaching girls to cook with an affordable mixture of local and western skills at Daru in 1958 (Aus. News & Information Bureau)

starting a school at the Agricultural Experimental Station he was establishing on the bank of the Oriomo River three hours by boat from Daru. At this school two young Papua New Guinean teachers from Rabaul, Alkan Tololo and Nelson Ngangane, were enthusiastic pioneers. Alkan was sufficiently capable to succeed me as Director of Education sixteen years later.

There were no funds to give a good start to the establishment of the Agriculture Station School, which was being hacked out of the jungle, bit by bit, slowly. The school was built of bush materials by volunteer labour from villages, as far as two days walk away, on the promise of enrolment for their students. Initially, it taught the standard PNG primary curriculum with some success in the learning of English, capacity to read and write and numeracy. There was little blending of the cultures in learning agriculture because the station itself had not been successful in growing cash crops.

Another effort on Daru itself was more successful. This was an attempt to adjust the schooling of girls to the realities of their future life.

A recently arrived keen young Australian, Margaret McDougall, had been posted to the district. At the time it was possible to go anywhere without fear of physical harm, so after about three months of orientation just living in villages from which the girls at Daru had come and becoming known to the inhabitants, Margaret started classes for girls in a purpose-built bush timber school room.

While they learned the core subjects for a good part of every day, their curriculum was expanded to include skills relevant to the transition such as the use of previously unavailable cooking utensils, flavour additives to food and new methods of cooking. Similarly, as a greater range of fabrics was becoming within reach and girls were becoming interested in new clothing styles, dressmaking was made part of the offering. Health and hygiene specifically for girls and baby care was another part of the curriculum. That was a much better 'blending of the cultures' initiative, being both successful and appreciated.

Building and staffing schools was my everyday task. There were other challenges—engine failures on boats and aircraft, canoes that overturned, food that perished and being stymied by the bureaucracy in Canberra.

It is not too strong to say, though, that my four years as Area and later District Education Officer in Daru in the Western District was the period when I came intensively alive, professionally and personally, almost a re-birth. Every day was a wonder, full of new and exciting experiences and hopes. The challenges engendered self-reliance, lack of fear and stamina. No hours were too long; no walk too arduous; no physical impediment too hard; no problem too difficult to solve. Best of all, there was

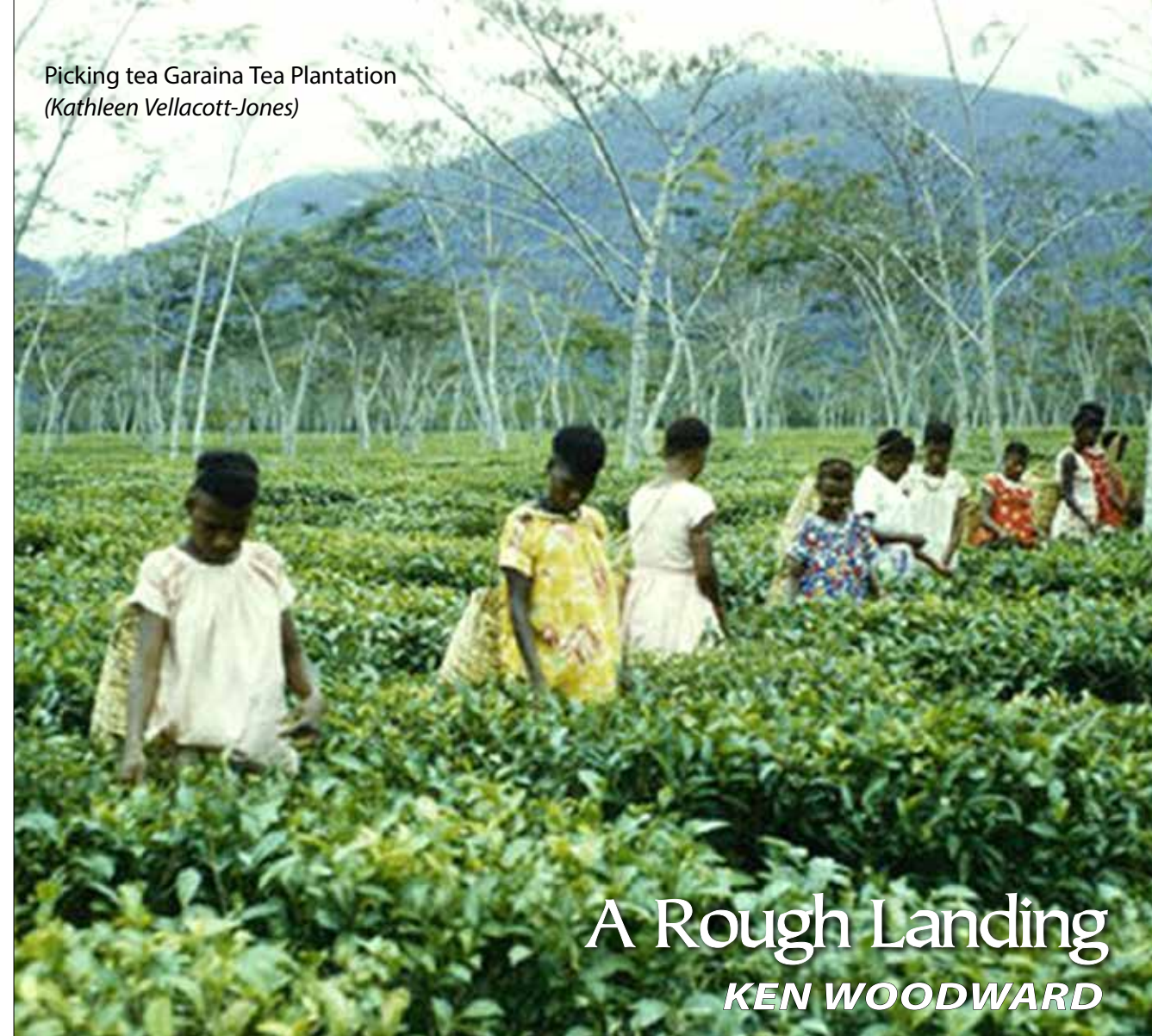


nobody at hand to say 'no, don't even try'. Such a learning situation is hard to replicate.●

Editors Note: This story has been abstracted from the author's memoir a copy of which Ken McKinnon has generously donated to PNGAA.

The author aged 25

Picking tea Garaina Tea Plantation (Kathleen Vellacott-Jones)



After three years in Fiji, I got a job as Senior Agricultural Economist with the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries (DASF). So, at the start of 1971, with my wife Sue and two ankle biters aged four and two, we headed to Port Moresby. We landed at the normal arrival time in the middle of the day. It was hot but we had been acclimatised in Suva. There were big crowds everywhere and all buildings had often ugly security screens which correctly suggested more of a crime problem than in Suva. We were met by one of my new colleagues, George Yeats.

George broke the bad news that there was no motel or hotel accommodation available and that we had to move straight into our new house. This was in Tokarara on a relatively new street on the side of a hill. I had negotiated for a three-bedroom house, but this was an AR20 with only two. So that was another bit of bad news. Not only that, but there was no access from the street to the house, only a vertical bank about a metre high which was a challenge for all and pretty well impossible for the kids. But there was

more! Don't send any money! The furniture was all inside but still in flat packs *a la* Ikea. And the power was not connected.

Without the help of George I may have gone mad or committed murder. We decided a car was absolutely necessary and I had a contact at Boroko Motors, courtesy of an old university mate, Bob Kearney, who was working for the Fisheries Department in Moresby. So, we left Sue and the kids in the house assembling furniture while George and I went to Boroko Motors to buy a car. I got a white Datsun 1200, brand new, and was mobile.

Then George took me to Elcom where we were able to get the power turned on after which I returned to the house to help with the furniture. We had been given the standard ‘emergency kit’, supposedly containing enough household goods to keep one going until one’s own chattels arrived. Ours contained eleven towels but no sheets. Pots and pans, etc. were more adequately supplied but sleeping on and covered by towels is not luxury.

That was not the end of it though. The AR20 was a small house with only one external door and the lock was such that one needed a key to gain admission from the outside. We were all, except Kylie, working on something outside when a gust of wind slammed the door shut. And the key was inside. Kylie was our only hope of getting in and she had just turned two. She remained calm but could not reach the inside door handle. We talked her into getting one of the newly assembled chairs and putting it against the door so that she could stand on it and open it which, to her great credit, she did. This had all taken a fair bit of time and nervous energy.

By this time it was getting dark so we decided to look for somewhere to get a feed. We drove off in the new car, but I discovered I did not know how to switch the lights on in this newfangled machine. Of course, I hadn’t considered looking at the manual. We picked up a hitch-hiking couple and the bloke showed me the light switch and we were able to get a Chinese meal in Boroko. But it had been a hard day and we were pleased to settle down for the night in our towels.

I did a bit of jumping up and down next day and things soon looked up. We were allocated a bigger AR23 house at Waigani, which was more accessible and my hitherto unknown workmates turned out to be great colleagues. It had been a rough start but, fortunately, the rest of our seven years in PNG went much more smoothly. •



An Unforgettable Guy Fawkes Night

ROSS CLIFTON

In the early 1950s Dad organised a 2-storey home to be built on a multi-terraced hillside block of land in Port Moresby. The large front balcony offered extensive views overlooking Ela Beach—the ideal place to let off crackers on Guy Fawkes Night. Dad had sourced a considerable range of crackers and sky rockets from the various local Chinese trading stores, so we were all looking forward to having one bang of a time.

To start proceedings my younger brother, Ian, selected a rocket big enough to orbit Mars, stuck the stick into a long-necked empty beer bottle and gingerly lit the wick with a match. In his haste to get out of the way he knocked the bottle over and the rocket took off at the speed of light through the house—at about knee height down the hallway and out the open back door just as our young Meko *haus boi* was entering the house to do the customary washing up duties following our evening meal. I’ll swear he did a standing six-foot-high jump and, upon landing, ran, yelling some unknown obscenities up to his separate living quarters—located on another

terrace above our house. Apparently, this was his first encounter with ‘crackers’ and, after a considerable amount of persuasive reassurance that it was indeed an unfortunate accident, and that we would let the remainder off in a more controlled manner outside on the balcony, he finally agreed to resume his chores in the relative safety of our nearby kitchen.

Well, we certainly had set the evening off to a fiery start. Thereafter, my parents sat back as their three sons set about having some more fun—safely tossing the crackers off the balcony onto the terraced lawn below. It was a bit of a lucky dip as the assortment of crackers had been unpackaged and loosely piled into a solid old, galvanised iron bucket. I elected to go first and reached in, fumbled around and much to my delight pulled out a huge ‘bunger’ about the size of Dad’s index finger. Kim, my older brother, kindly offered to light the wick so I half stood in readiness to toss it over the balcony. We momentarily watched the wick erratically fizz and fizzle and then we groaned as it went out.

Dad looked over and warned, ‘You had better be careful, that could just about blow your hand off!’ My brother cautiously lit the short wick again and, with Dad’s words echoing in my head, I earnestly tried to fling it over the balcony. Unfortunately, it just wasn’t meant to be. It hit the top rail and, with our eyes transfixed, we all watched it slowly topple end over end ... directly into the bucket of crackers!!

At this point we all unceremoniously flung

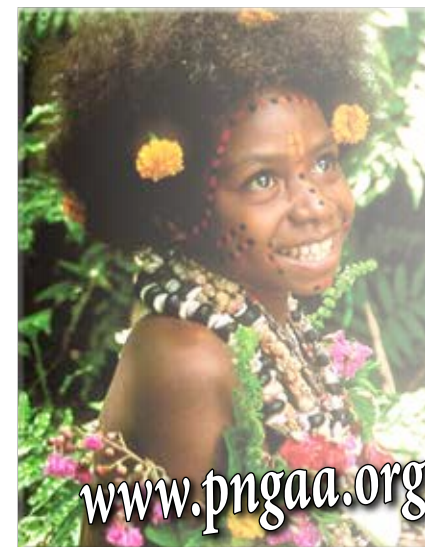
ourselves flat on the deck in a nanosecond—screaming out all manner of things that can’t be printed. What happened next was a scaled down version of an ammunition depot scoring a direct hit on the Western Front. The noise was horrendous as a continual barrage of crackers erupted with clouds of thick smoke bellowing about. We lay there, half choking and coughing on the heavy fumes, listening closely for any last second sounds of fizzling wicks.

Following a momentary silence Dad cautiously yelled out, ‘Quick, out the back!’ As we hastily fumbled our way through the eye-watering haze (following the route taken by the earlier wayward skyrocket) we noticed that our *haus boi* had understandably abandoned his duties in the kitchen—no doubt headed for the safety of the hills as we didn’t see him again until the following morning.

Talk about a bang of a time, that’s one Guy Fawkes Night we’ve never forgotten!

Note, the home is the middle house in the centre of the photo (located near the junction of Davara and Le Hunte Roads)—magic views, from Local Island across to Paga Hill, etc. The pic’s a ‘digitalised’ 35 mm slide (using an improvised light diffuser contraption), originally taken in ’77. •

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Here%E2%80%99s%20an%20open%20invite%20for%20Expats%20to%20share%20an%20amusing%20or%20memorable%20incident%20that%20occurred%20whilst%20living%20in%20PNG.%20I%E2%80%99ve%20titled%20this%20yarn%2C%20%E2%80%9CA%20unforgettable%20Guy%20Fawkes>



The Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA) website is a source of association news, interesting articles, membership details, special documents, photograph collections, digital material, eBooks, and items available in our PNGAA Store—www.pngaa.org/store/ but it is also a means of contacting other members. A list of the names and addresses of PNGAA members is now available on our website. Please go to: <https://pngaa.org/membership-directories/> If you do not wish to scroll through the many pages of names, you can type a name in the ‘Search’ box to find someone you are looking for.

When you want to use our website, your user name is your email address or nominated *User Name*—you can use either one. If you have forgotten your password, select the option ‘Forgot password’ and a new password will be sent to your email address. It will be a complex computer-generated password, but you can overwrite it to something with more meaning for you. If you do not receive the password email, check your Spam or Junk Folder. If you are still having trouble, let me know and I will reset your password.

Roy Ranney, Membership Officer—membership@pngaa.net

Soldiers of PNG Fought Many Battles

GREGORY J IVEY—PART 1

Fortune has left alive a few veterans who fought in PNG against a well-armed and ruthlessly-determined invader during the Second World War: they symbolise the historic and cultural integration between Papua New Guinea and Australia. Servicemen and women from both countries combined then against an existential threat and they endured that catastrophe to leave us a legacy and an obligation.

Here is part of that story.

SOLDIERS OF PNG

The Papuan Infantry Battalion (1940–46) and the New Guinea Infantry Battalions (1944–47) comprised mainly soldiers of PNG and some Australian servicemen and were, militarily, a part of the Australian Army commanded by General Thomas Blamey within the South-West Pacific Area controlled by General Douglas MacArthur. Over 3,550 servicemen were posted to the PIB or NGIB, upgraded in 1944 to become the dominant arms of the new Pacific Islands Regiment. The PIB or the NGIB participated in every major battle in PNG except Milne Bay because at that time all their forces were concentrated in the Kokoda Campaign where they initiated the first offensive.

Approximately 156 servicemen (134 Papua New Guineans and 22 Australians) from PIB/NGIB/PIR died during these conflicts. The number of confirmed enemy deaths while operating against those same servicemen was 2,201. Between 1942 and 1945, 45 members of the PIB and NGIB received 43 bravery awards and decorations including a DSO, 6 MCs, 3 DCMs, 20 MMs, and a United States Legion of Merit. After the war, the Australian authorities awarded these battalions 11 Theatre and Battle Honours, which are proudly displayed today by the Royal Pacific Islands Regiments.

WAR-TIME ROLES

Two years after its formation, the PIB was required to enact an offensive role against the

invading Japanese Army. Their initial army roles were (a) as a reconnaissance unit (b) as a fighting unit and (c) as a guerrilla unit. In these roles, the PIB provided outstanding service, particularly in operations behind enemy lines. There, PIB soldiers excelled at infiltrating enemy camps to gather intelligence; in rescuing downed airmen and soldiers cut-off behind enemy lines; and at harassing the enemy. They also proved very effective in disrupting the Japanese lines of communication.

Later, as the number of PNG battalions increased, other military roles were added such as small attachments to AIF or USA infantry battalions. Then, their roles became more diverse as they were subject to local commanders rather than their distant headquarters.

QUALITY SOLDIERS, 1943

After the Kokoda and Northern Beach Heads Campaigns, the PIB participated in many large and small Allied campaigns. The effectiveness of the PIB can be illustrated by a 1943 report written by the Commanding Officer of the United States 162nd Infantry Regiment, Colonel AR McKecknie:

During recent campaigns in the Nassau Bay/Tambu Bay/Salamaua area, it was the good fortune of this Regiment to have attached to us Company A, PIB. The work of the members of this Company during operations was outstanding and without the valuable assistance of this, our troops would have had extreme difficulty in accomplishing their mission.

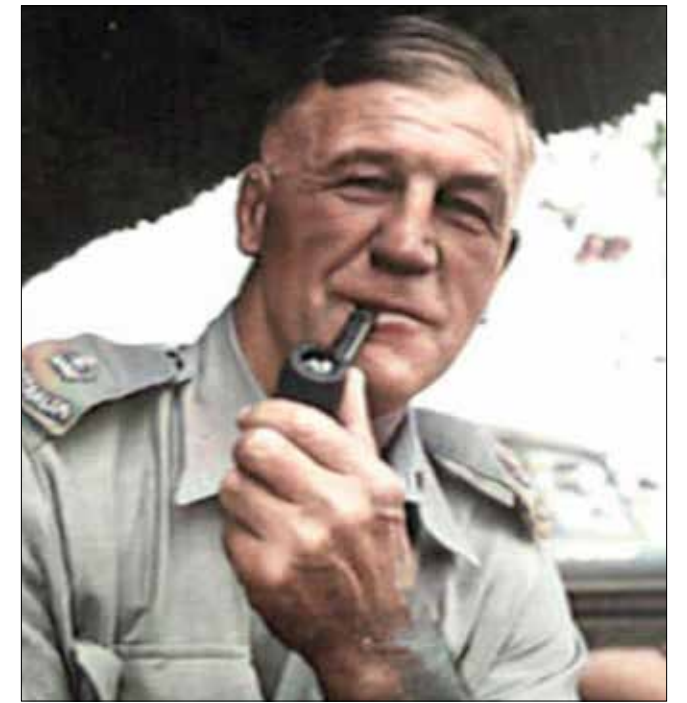
The troops of our Regiment in daily contact with the members of this Company have developed an unusual respect and admiration for their prowess and soldierly qualities. I feel that, in any operation by European troops in jungle country, the assistance of the PIB would be an invaluable asset. Operating in twos and threes with our patrols, and leading our small units along the tracks, I feel that the PIB saved us many casualties; and enabled us to move and obtain information in places which would otherwise have been inaccessible to European troops. They saved us many lives and it is our sincere hope that, in any future operations in jungle country, we may have the privilege of operating again with this excellent Company ...

An Australian Commander wrote another report in 1943 praising the PIB. On 9 November General Vasey, had issued orders for the PIB to relieve 2/6th Independent Company units in the Kesawai area of the Ramu Valley. Brigadier Ivan Dougherty, commanding the 21st Australian Infantry Brigade, wrote on the operations of B Company PIB during this part of the campaign:

During the time B Coy has been under command of 21 Aust Inf Bde, they have rendered valuable service in patrolling. They have been very suitable for gathering information. One very pleasing feature of their work is that at all times they appear to have been under excellent control no matter how difficult the situation. Communications have never failed, and I have, at all times, been able to follow movements of patrols no matter how distant.

AUSTRALIAN COMMANDERS AND PNG LEADERS

Major WT Watson DSO, MC and Bar, DCM (1887–1961) commanded the PIB from September 1942 to April 1944 and was an outstanding leader who earned respect during his long career. Born in New Zealand to Australian parents, he played Rugby Union for Australia in 24 matches and captained the team three times. During the First World War, Watson served in the ANMEF at Bitia Paka,



Major William Watson
(Image courtesy of Military History & Heritage Victoria Inc.)

then at Gallipoli and later the Western Front where he was awarded his MC and Bar, and a DCM. Postwar, Watson lived in PNG twice over twelve years.

In the early days of the Kokoda Campaign, Watson was twice the Temporary Commander of Maroubra Force earning him his DSO. Later, when reporting to the newly-arrived Brigadier Potts, Watson offered his PIB soldiers to fulfil any role required in the battle. Potts asked Watson to deploy his PIB soldiers in the vital role of military protection for, and supervising the evacuation of, wounded servicemen back to Port Moresby. PIB soldiers proceeded to organise and escort the carriers and their wounded heading south along the Kokoda Track. In 1944, aged 57, Watson was over the Army age limit and had to retire. After the war, Watson returned to his American wife and children, serving Australia as Vice Consul in New York.

Lance Sergeant Benjamin Moide CBE, DMS, Tuari Tauna (1924–2013) was a soldier in the PIB during the War, having volunteered as an under-age 16-year-old to join the new PIB in 1940 as Recruit Number 67. Born in his

mother's village at Hanuabada, Ben received his education at Badili Catholic School. Being educated, tall for his age, and healthy, Ben was accepted for PIB training in Port Moresby, claiming to be 19. Ben was a member of the PIB patrol which conducted the first, organised offensive against Japanese servicemen in Papua on 23 July 1942. Led by Lt John Chalk of Queensland, this patrol was instructed by a message from Major Watson to 'engage the enemy' so they arranged an ambush of the advancing enemy east of Awala Village. Ben and his fellow soldiers soon found themselves out-gunned by the heavier Japanese weaponry, so they retired from the ambush to fight another day. This historic baptism of fire for PNG soldiers has been recognised by the PNG Government on Remembrance Day which is observed each year across PNG on 23 July.

After being initiated in his father's village at Daru, Ben became a successful leader of other PIB soldiers. His leadership skills were recognised so he earned promotions in the PIB, became a weapons instructor and rose to the rank of Lance Sergeant. In common with other PNG soldiers, Ben was discharged abruptly



Ben Moide speaking at the annual Kokoda Day Service at Broadbeach, Qld
(Image courtesy of George Friend OAM)

from the Australian Army after the war, and he faced a difficult transition to civilian life.

Ben had to overcome cultural barriers to marry a Motuan girl, Maba Daroa, but eventually the marriage was approved. Ben and Maba raised seven children at Waigani on the outskirts of Port Moresby. Ben supported his family and relatives through his initiative and employment in the capital city. He joined the RSL and became a life-long leader among his former PIB and NGIB colleagues. Ben's leadership among PNG veterans and among the local Rugby League community earned him an MBE, later a CBE, and the DMS from the PNGDF. Ben also maintained his friendship (mateship) with his Australian comrades who welcomed him on his visits for Anzac Day, reunions, or medical procedures.

In his final years, Ben dictated his biography to his relative, Lahui Ako, and a modest but pioneering account was published (and sold out) in 2012. The book represents only a limited portion of his war experiences because Ben wanted to exclude some occurrences out of 'respect for the dead'. Ben was awarded a State Funeral in Port Moresby on 17 January 2014, the first (and possibly the last) State Funeral for a Second World War veteran from PNG. The Australian Minister for Defence sent a statement praising Ben as 'a fine man, a brave soldier, and an outstanding servant of Papua New Guinea'. He was buried at Taurama Barracks Military Cemetery, outside Port Moresby, with full military honours in front of a large crowd. •

References

James Sinclair, *To Find a Path: The Life and Times of the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment*, Volume 1 (Brisbane, Boolarong, 1990)

Lahui Ako, *Nameless Warriors: The Ben Moide Story* (Port Moresby, UPNG Press, 2012)

GJ Ivey, *Soldiers in Papua & New Guinea 1940 to 1975*, self-published, 2017

www.soldierspng.com and www.wikipedia.org

Editor's Note: Ben Moide's post-nominal, *Tuari Tauna*, is a phrase of *Hiri Motu* meaning warrior persons.



Ridge top seismic camp, Gulf Province

From the late 1980s, when exploration ramped up, until 2018, when much of the exploration came to a halt, former kiaps performed a role in camp construction, camp management, field management, labour mobilisation, permitting and scouting.

Permitting basically ensured that the land-owners were correctly identified, and permission was obtained to conduct a survey, and scouting entailed locating the seismic line from a map and marking it on the ground.

Some companies employed former kiaps directly in specific roles such as community affairs or logistics, however, most were employed through labour hire companies located in PNG specifically for the mining and exploration industry. Much of the employment was sourced through word of mouth.

One of the first labour hire companies was Exploration PNG, started by Neil Ryan, followed

Former Kiaps and the Mining, Oil and Gas Exploration Industry

PETER WOHLERS

Much has been written about the work of kiaps in Papua New Guinea prior to Independence in 1975, but little has been written about the work of former kiaps in the mining, oil and gas exploration industry.

by Oilmin Field Services, started by Ian Thompson and Clive Nichols.

Ian and Clive started Oilmin, in partnership with a Papua New Guinean entrepreneur, George Leahy, in 1992. After Clive died, George became the sole owner of Oilmin in 2001, however, Ian Thompson continued as the driving force of Oilmin for many years.

Carson Pratt Services Ltd (Wild Cat Development) was also one of the early companies, followed by GMC, reformed as Gama Projex, in 2004, and later by Firewall Logistics.

Later local labour hire companies did not employ former kiaps, as most had already departed PNG.

Almost all of the former kiaps were employed on a casual fly-in-fly-out basis and were paid on a day rate. Initially, pay was in Australian dollars, paid into an Australian bank account, but from early 2016 the PNG Government decreed that

payment was to be paid in kina and into a PNG bank account. Presumably, this was due to lack of foreign exchange in PNG, and it became somewhat of a disincentive to be employed/remain in employment, for some expatriates.

Almost all former kiaps had previously worked as officers in the Highlands, and *Tok Pisin* was a pre-requisite.

To quote from the Foreword by Ian Thompson to Barry Taverner's excellent book entitled, *Scenery and Seismic in Papua New Guinea*.

My initial choice was retired Patrol Officers who were the front men for the Australian Administration of a pre-independent Papua New Guinea. They all spoke one or both of the common trade languages of PNG with absolute fluency, they understood the customs and nature of the people, could navigate through and map new country, and were able to make the best of their circumstances, no matter where they were sent or how little support may have been available to them. But above all, they were men of integrity, self-sustaining and resourceful.

A major task was acting as an intermediary for the expatriate specialist staff who had little or no

previous exposure to working with Papua New Guineans.

Most of the exploration was carried out in the Enga, Hela, Southern Highlands, Gulf and Western Provinces, with limited exploration at the top of the Sepik around Frieda River, and whilst the labour was generally sourced locally, the foremen and supervisors were more often highly skilled from the Hela, Southern Highlands, Western Highlands and the Enga Provinces.

Two of the prerequisites for employment in Papua New Guinea were obtaining a PNG Work Permit, and an Entry Permit. The Work Permit was issued by the Department of Labour and Industrial Relations and only allowed employment with the employer sponsoring the individual. The Work Permit could be issued for one, two or three years. A copy of an Employment Contract and an updated *curriculum vitae* were essential, as was evidence of training and development of PNG citizen workers. This included ensuring all staff were trained to perform the role for which they were hired and in all aspects of Work Health and Safety. Environmental issues were also a major topic with government set standards being enforced by the employing multinational company, and the individual labour hire companies.

The Entry Permit was issued by the PNG Immigration and Citizen Service Authority.

As former kiaps aged, they slowly departed and, to my knowledge, the last departed the industry in PNG in 2018.

They individually departed without fanfare, and returned to Australia to either retire or to resume their previous lives.

A list of names of 40 former kiaps who returned to work in PNG in the mining and exploration industry during the period in question can be found on the Association's website: <https://pngaa.org/kiaps-in-the-mining-industry-of-png>. The list is probably not complete, so I invite readers to let me know of people who should be added to the list. (Mob) 0428 882 708; (E) wohlerspd@gmail.com

I acknowledge the assistance of a number of former kiaps. •



Wewak, 1938

The Evacuation of the Sepik: JA Thurston's April to September 1942 Expedition

ELIZABETH THURSTON

My father-in-law, Jack Thurston, arrived in New Guinea in 1924 to take up a job with the Administration in Kavieng. He had served in the First World War and spent time afterwards in Europe where he picked up enough German to become conversant. This would certainly have inspired him to travel to the former German Territory of New Guinea where plantations were being expropriated.

Jack left the Administration after two years to work as mate on the *Meklong*, which belonged to WR Carpenter. He eventually skippered it before acquiring his own boats to carry copra and cargo around the islands, and transport miners to Salamaua during the gold rush.

In 1926, Jack, through his good friend, Phebe Parkinson (sister of Queen Emma), purchased land at Jacquinot Bay situated on the Drina River. Here he established Drina Plantation, which was later used as a base for soldiers of the 2/22nd Battalion after their escape from Rabaul in 1942.

When war broke out, Jack was gold prospecting on his lease in the Sepik. Although he was over forty, he planned to fly to Rabaul and head south to Australia to report to the Navy Office for service. His wife, Betty, and son, Jackie, had already been evacuated by Kevin Parer in December 1941, when all the women and children were ordered to leave the Territory.

With the bombing of Rabaul, government officers and civilians in the Sepik were left to fend for themselves. The DO [District Officer] JH Jones, placed the government schooner, *Thetis*, at the disposal of any Europeans and non-essential



Typical bridging for a seismic line

government officers wanting to leave Wewak for Australia by sea. However, after the Japanese captured Lae and Salamaua, any escape by sea would be too dangerous. Any evacuation party would have to cross the backbone of New Guinea over the Thurnwald Range, Donner Mountains, and the Limestone Plateau to the headwaters of the Fly River.

This expedition was classified as a government evacuation party and Jack was appointed by DO [District Officer] Jones to lead it on a journey that would take 148 days and successfully bring the civilians and carriers to safety in Daru. Thirteen years previously, Ivan Champion and Charles Karius had made a patrol in the reverse direction—up the Fly and down the Sepik.

Jack was later commissioned into the Royal Australian Air Force but, for much of the rest of his Pacific War, was on intelligence duties with the American Forces. After the war, Jack and Betty, with their expanding family, returned to New Britain. (A second son, Michael was born in Australia in 1942 while Jack was crossing the Limestone Plateau.) Daughters, Carla and Paula were born later. He extended his interests in plantations acquiring Volupai at Talasea, and Manguna on the south coast. His interests extended to shipping and sawmilling and he remained devoted to Papua New Guinea until his death in 1985.

The following is a summary of the diary he kept on the expedition. The story of the expedition will appear in *PNG KUNDU* in two parts. Part



MV *Thetis* at Kanganaman village, 1956

I, which follows, describes the preparation for the expedition and includes an account of an insurrection at Angoram which complicated those preparations.

Evacuation of Civilians from Wewak to Daru—March to September 1942: Part I JACK THURSTON

Early in January 1942 the District Officer, DO JH Jones, drew up a scheme for the evacuation of civilians and Government Officers from the Sepik District in case an evacuation became necessary. This scheme was drawn up in case of an enemy attack on Wewak by bombing and an enemy landing. It was therefore necessary to put some of the plans into action at once.

A site was chosen in the hills at the back of Wewak where stores were taken, and an emergency wireless station set up. Another base was made at the head of the Kariari River to Yimas, a village on the Arafundi River, a tributary of the Sepik River, where stores from Maprik, Angoram and Aitape were to be sent. This site was convenient to either move inland or to go down the river and then proceed by sea. It was thought more than likely that the route by sea for evacuation would be closed.

When Rabaul, Salamaua, Lae and Madang were bombed, the District Officer gave the order for those wishing to join an evacuation party to proceed to Yimas. With some of his staff he moved to his base behind Wewak, and a watching post was kept at Aitape.

It was made very clear to all civilians that the evacuation was voluntary. Stores were removed to Yimas and most of the civilians in the district went to Yimas.

After bombing Madang, the Japs did not continue further north with their activities as was expected, so a halt was called in the evacuation plan and the District Officer was in touch with Headquarters at Wau and Port Moresby to see if an evacuation could be arranged by air or sea. During this period the civilians at Yimas became very restless as can be understood with a large number of men cooped up on a very small

island that you could walk around in five minutes.

Gradually, they drifted down to Angoram [government station] where ADO [Assistant District Officer] George Ellis was in charge. Ellis, from the beginning, had told many people that he would not leave his station.

Then came the order that all men over 45 were to be evacuated; civilians and Administration Officers and all others were called for service. This put an end to any plans for evacuation.

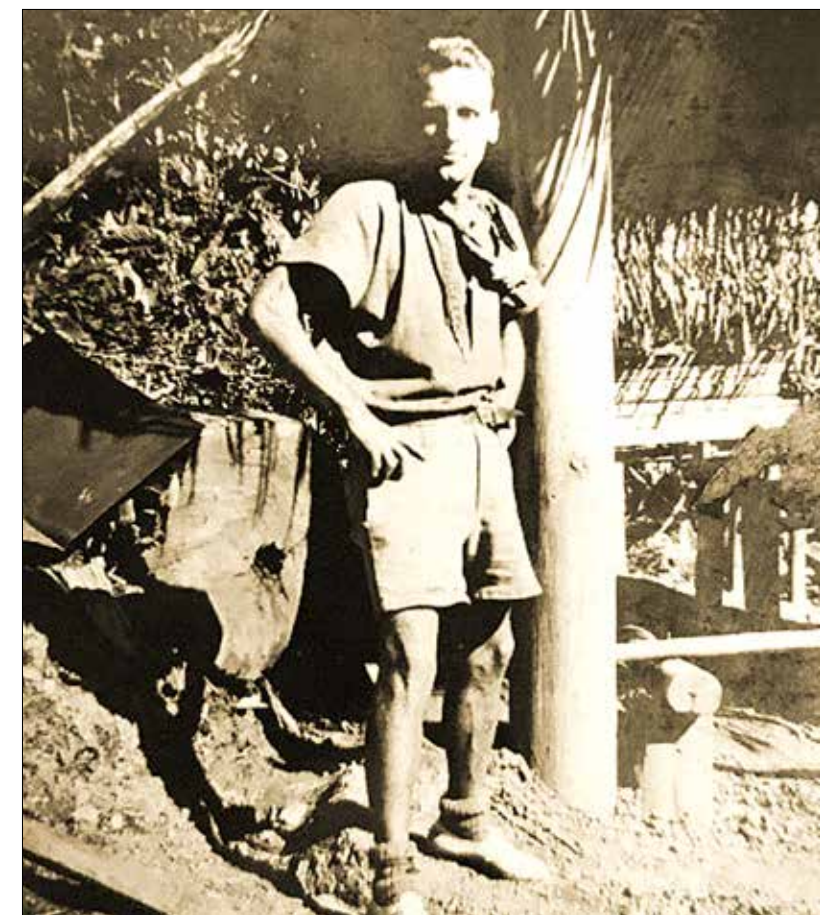
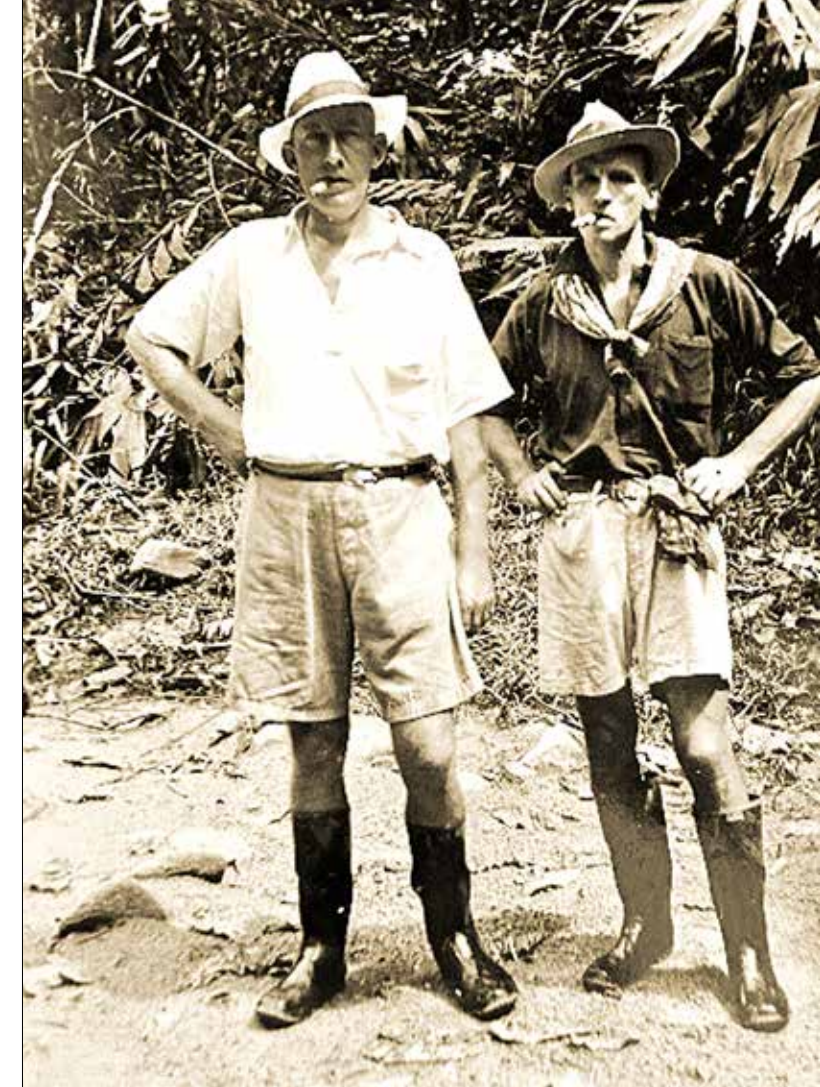
Ellis was ordered to take all over-age men to the Ramu by the Small Ramu, thence up the Ramu Valley and join the District Officer, DO Oakley. Later this was altered to a route down the coast to Bogadjim [just south of Madang], thence inland. Ellis refused to go both times.

ADO [Assistant District Officer] Taylor was sent from Wewak to take over the station from ADO Ellis who refused to hand over. Ellis told a number of people that he would never leave the station and he had all the police going about armed with 100 rounds of ammunition on them. He himself was always escorted by a police boy.

Word came that DO Jones was coming to Angoram, and two days before he was due Ellis decided to hand over to Taylor and things looked quite alright. On the morning of 20 March, Ellis appeared at the District Office with a revolver in his hand, backed by a line of police boys and gave Taylor and others half an hour to get off the station, otherwise he would put them off.

A fight ensued which lasted about three hours. Ellis had all the police, about fifty, all entrenched around his house, and it soon became clear that they would not be dislodged without loss of lives on our side, so it was decided best to retire to Marienberg and meet Jones who was on his way upstream. Unfortunately, Taylor was wounded in the groin whilst getting away on the *Thetis*. He was operated on at Marienberg and recovered.

On DO Jones' arrival, it was decided to return to Angoram so a small party went upstream in the *Thetis*. On landing and cautiously advancing towards Ellis's house, they found the station deserted and Ellis was dead, having shot himself.



Eric Petterson (also on expedition) and Jack Thurston (top); Jack Thurston at his mining claim (below)



Aerial view of Angoram on the Sepik River, 1942

Before the police cleared off, Ellis had told them to go upstream and kill any whites they saw.

Patrol Officer Strudwick, who had been wired to come to Timbunki, was murdered on his arrival there by some of the police.

Many of the police came back to Timbunki and Angoram to give themselves up as they stated they had been forced into joining Ellis and did not wish to be in any trouble. Some of the leaders of the police entrenched themselves on an island in the Chambri Lakes [a series of swamps and shallow-water canals in East Sepik]. From there they made a trip up the Krosmeri river and attacked a party of miners there, killing G Eichorn, J Wilton,

J Mitchell, R Beckett and a Chinese, Ah Sang. It was not known if young Eichorn got away or was murdered.

Mr Jones instructed me to bring all stores down from Yimas to Angoram and to pick up Messrs Milligan and Searson, Patrol Officers at Timbunki, and proceed to the head of the May River where a base was to be established by Messrs Milligan and Searson, and I was to proceed on and take a party of civilians across New Guinea to Daru.

After he received the news of the murder of Strudwick and the further desertion of police from a base at Yarangu, Jones ordered me to proceed on the evacuation trip without Messrs Milligan and Searson, taking PO [Patrol Officer] Hodgekiss with me and to return on the *Thetis* after bringing our party as far as we could go up the May River. Already fifteen whites had left just after the Angoram fight on the *Nereus* and they eventually reached Australia. •

Editor's Note: Thurston's account of his evacuation expedition will appear in the next edition of *PNG KUNDU*.

Dear Elizabeth

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of Jack's account of the evacuation of Wewak, it fills in a lot of gaps for me and, in particular, with his descriptions of what has been dubbed 'The Battle of Angoram'.

I can clearly see Jack leaving the Patrol Officer's house (where I lived during my Angoram days) and moving around the ridge to George Ellis's house, I have walked it many times, and I followed Jack's account on an aerial photograph I have of Angoram station—copy herewith for you. It was taken during the war and shows the PO's house clearly and Ellis's house destroyed as is the office and store.

It is a valuable report of the outstanding effort made by these men, led by Jack, and of particular interest to me because I knew many of the men, and also the area. It brings back many happy memories.

Thank you also for your comments about the before—there were some outstanding characters amongst them and thank goodness they were there when needed.

My best wishes to Michael and yourself and thanks ever so much for your visit. It was a highlight for me.

Sincerely, Bob Cole
Nerang QLD, 2004



Literature, Music and the Environment in Traditional and Contemporary Papua New Guinea

APISAI ENOS & STEVEN GAGAU

This article was prompted by Phil Fitzpatrick's series on 'Literature in Papua New Guinea' in *PNG KUNDU*, and our involvement recently in preparing a paper on aspects of traditional and contemporary literature and music, and how culture and the environment play an integral part in it. This paper was our contribution to a recent exhibition at the Chau Chak Wing Museum of the University of Sydney entitled 'Pacific Views'. This exhibition of historical photographs of the Pacific was combined with songs and poetry created by artists of the Pacific. Two of these artists, Apisai Enos and John Kasaipwalova, were from Papua New Guinea.

The traditional cultures of Papua New Guinea, including that of the Tolai, were, and still are, oral. Our stories, our poems, our drama, and our music are not written. They exist in people's heads to be told and sung to children and youths and to be passed on from generation to generation. The problem is if they are not written or recorded for future generations' use, they naturally die out with the people and are lost in the tombs of history.

Traditional literature and music were and still are popular functions and integral parts of the

whole way of life of people of Papua New Guinea with active roles in the process of upbringing, initiations, and socialisation of children and youths to live in their villages and tribes peacefully and harmoniously.

Storytelling and singing are the two most popular things people do in their daily life. In the evenings after meals and in the moonlight the parents and elders of the village tell their children and youths stories from their *tubuna* (ancestors) folklore and mythology. Stories about how their



tribe originated, how the coconut tree came about, why thunders roar and lightning explodes in the sky, where do their relatives go when they die. They also love to sing and dance to their *kundu* drums and *garamut* and to dress and decorate themselves with feathers and plumes of Birds of Paradise, kina shells and necklaces, possum teeth and beads and to paint their faces and bodies with traditional paint of bright colours like red, yellow, blue, and black. Feasting and *singsing* is a popular part of their traditional life.

Besides music for feasts and ceremonies, they have music for children, music for initiations and celebrations, music for courtship and love, music for marriage, farewell and welcome music, death and mourning music, magic music, music for warfare and peacemaking, music for completion of a new house or garden, music for building a new canoe, and music for building a new *kundu* drum or *garamut*.

There are different kinds of traditional music in Papua New Guinea and they reveal two important features.

There is hardly an occasion, whether ceremonial, social, or connected with work or a time of life from babyhood to death at which music does not play a part, and despite differences in the actual musical sound in different parts of the country, most people have the same kinds of music, which is performed on similar occasions or for similar purposes. The differences are like variations on a common theme, which the traditional societies share.

Traditional oral literature is alive and dynamic. It is not just an archive or museum of the past, but a living function created by the people to serve them. It is a part of them and as such they will continue to compose new stories, poems, and drama to express their experiences, their attitudes and perceptions,

their visions, and dreams about the drama of the life they live with each other and with their environments in their villages and tribes.

Traditional literature and music are functional parts of the people's relationship and interaction with their environments. The environment is viewed as consisting of mountains and valleys, forests and bushes, oceans and rivers, and the ground on the one hand and of cosmic spirits, ancestral spirits, and spirits of the dead on the other hand all living together in one world—the world of nature and the supernatural world of spirits. People are viewed as part of the environment because they originated from it, and they depend on it for their survival.

They are also related to their environment because the spirits of their dead relatives live in the environment and because cosmic spirits empower their magic, rituals, and sorcery practices. Not only that but through their relationship to spiritual contact, and associations, songs, stories, *bilas* for *singsing* are revealed to people in dreams by the spirits. As such, the people must treat their environment ecosystem with love, respect, and care. They must look after and care for the trees and plants, the birds and animals, the insects and reptiles, the fish, prawns, and crabs because they use them for *bilas* and *singsing*, for food and traditional medicine. These traditional views, perceptions, and attitudes of the people towards their environments regulate and control their relationship and interactions with their environments.

The composition and content of traditional literature and music is inspired by the relationship and interaction between people and their environment and by the mixing up of the supernatural, natural, and the human experience into one flash back consciousness from which a composer of a song or a story composes not in a sequential and logical way but according to what comes to his or her mind when composing. Without accompanying notes or explanations about the background of the song or story and the symbolism used, a full understanding and

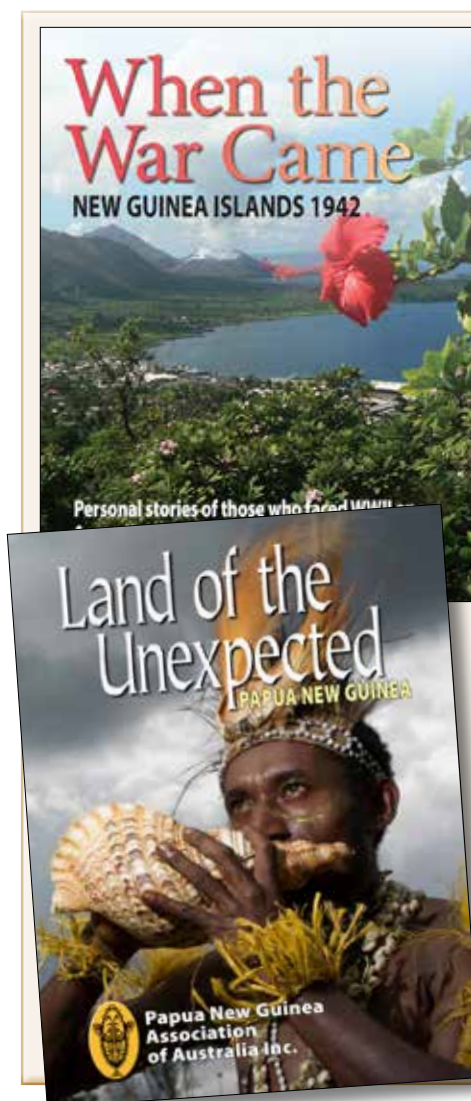
appreciation of what the song or story is all about is not possible.

Contemporary literature is written and usually associated with the new written culture of Papua New Guinea introduced by the coming of Europeans and missionaries to Papua New Guinea in the 19th century. The coming of the Europeans also meant the introduction of writing and the European Culture to Papua New Guinea. It also meant the introduction of Christianity to Papua New Guinea. It was the beginning of cultural change and development in the country and, as a result, we now have our traditional cultures and the European Cultures which are closely associated with their class-oriented and aristocratic societies in which literature and arts have become adjunct for the elites and intellectuals rather than a popular function for the people like our traditional literature was and still is.

Contemporary literature in its written form is a new medium of communication in Papua New Guinea and as such it is still unpopular because the majority of educated Papua New Guineans have not really developed the love for reading books and printed information and because of the impact of modern technology on the people especially the young educated generation who prefer to see and listen to television, radio, films and movies, live shows and events, the internet, digital media for music and drama entertainment rather than read books and develop an interest in writing.

Music on the other hand is different because in music and in music alone, it is possible for the artist or the composer to appeal to his or her audience directly without the intervention of a medium of communication in common use for other purposes. The architect must express himself or herself in buildings which have utilitarian purpose. The poet must use words which are bandied about in the daily give and take of conversation. The painter usually expresses himself or herself by the representation of the visual world, and the novelist by the printed word.

Only the composer of music is perfectly free to



If you're interested in the history, adventure and stories of Papua New Guinea, and those who helped build the nation, then either of these books will be a great addition to your library or a unique gift for any occasion. Purchase details are available on the Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form at the back of this issue or on our website: www.pngaa.org/store/

WHEN THE WAR CAME: New Guinea Islands 1942

Published in 2017 by PNGAA to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Rabaul and the sinking of MS *Montevideo Maru*, Australia's greatest maritime disaster, tells the stories of the civilian and military men, women and children caught in the leadup and aftermath of the Japanese invasion and occupation of the New Guinea Islands in 1942. The book brings into focus the actions and characters of young men who left home to willingly serve their country, and then literally vanished off the face of the earth; of nurses and missionaries who volunteered to stay to help both the war effort and the local people; and of civilians caught at home on WWII's Pacific front line. Alongside are incredulous stories of escape and survival in an environment that threw every obstacle in their path.

LAND OF THE UNEXPECTED: Papua New Guinea

Our nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, is a land of tremendous contrasts—of smiling people, mad keen rugby players and followers, complex cultural dynamics and displays, singing that is out of this world, stunning scenery, incredible artefacts, delicious tropical fruits and opportunities for adventurous activities—all in a terrain carved by steep slopes and jagged mountain ranges, interspersed by fertile valleys and over a dozen active volcanoes. PNGAA's publication covers many of the different facets of this amazing country—a complex overview, flora, fauna and the environment, industries, public services, art, culture, sport, the diverse history and some of the people who helped to shape the nation.

create a work of art of his or her own consciousness and usually with no other aim than to please, though all arts have the same common purpose to please. As such contemporary Papua New Guinea music being created and composed by individual artists and musical bands in Papua New Guinea is popular locally and internationally because music is the soul of man. Music composers of contemporary PNG music are writing their songs in English, *Tok Pisin*, *Hiri Motu*, *Tok Ples* and they are also mixing up a bit of all languages to maintain audiences and because they are including traditional musical sounds, rhythm and styles into their composition, it gives traditional cultural flavour and identity.

In the past, it has been the outsiders writing about Papua New Guinea and Papua New Guineans. Now it is time for the Papua New



Apisai Enos



Steven Gagau

Guineans to present to the world their inside views about who they were yesterday and who they are today and to continue to sing their songs about the life they will live even if there is no more reason to do so.

*A bird sings
not because he has a reason
nor because he knows why
but because he has a song.*

Apisai Enos 1972

About the authors

Apisai Enos is the author of publications in the Papua Pocket Poets series namely *High Water: Poems* (1971), *Warbat: Magic Love Songs of the Tolais* (1971) and *Tabapot: Poems and Designs* (1975) amongst others unpublished.

Now 80 years old Apisai is a retired public servant, educationist, writer and poet. He hails from Vunakaur village, Toma-Vunadidir LLG, Gazelle District of East New Britain Province and is of the Tolai cultural heritage. He has worked at all levels of governments (national, provincial, local) for six decades from 1960s–2000s. At the time of the Pacific Views exhibition in Sydney, he still had the same passion as a seminal contemporary poet and artist.

Steven Gagau, a Tolai of Gunantuna cultural heritage, is a consultant, researcher and community collaborator with the University of Sydney, involved in developing strategies and projects for community-led engagement with archival and curatorial materials for the preservation of language, music, and culture. Based at PARADISEC (Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures), he works on Pacific collections, Pacific exhibitions with Chau Chak Wing Museum and supports ANU based CoEDL (Centre of Excellence in The Dynamics of Language) on PNG's *Tok Pisin* language projects.

Steven is a leader of the PNG, Melanesia and Pasifika diaspora community in Sydney and is affiliated with various professional bodies, voluntary, cultural and community organisations. •



**The recent history of
Papua New Guinea
is intimately bound up
with the people who
made PNG their home
and, in many cases, their
life's work**

**—it is therefore fitting,
but also with deep
regret, that we record
the passing of members
and friends.**

**Please send any tributes
for the next issue by the
Copy Deadline,
8 May 2023, to
editor@pngaa.net**

ASHTON, Jeremy Claude d. 24 November 2022

Jeremy Ashton, born in July 1930, was educated at Winchester School and graduated MA at Trinity College Cambridge in 1956. He was ordained a priest in that year.

For three years from 1957 Jeremy Ashton was a member of the British Territorial Army. He arrived in Papua New Guinea (PNG) as an Anglican missionary in 1960 and was posted to Eroro in the Oro Province the following year. There he presided over a large community of Papuans and expatriates (including his sister Betsy, Australian missionary teachers led by Michael Lean, several English Volunteer Service Overseas people and an Anglican building company called the Oro Builders).

He was in the PNGVR in the period 1970–75 and Registrar of the diocese of New Guinea 1970–76. He was consecrated Bishop of the diocese of Aipo Rongo in 1976 where he served for ten years.



Jeremy Ashton

Bishop Philip Strong presided at the marriage of Jeremy Ashton and Betty Randall, former headmistress of St Chad's School, Eroro. They were married for 58 years. Victoria, Isabel and Ralph were their children, Meghan, Mark and Peter Finch their grandchildren.

On retirement from PNG Bishop Jeremy was priest-in-charge of St Martin's Parish, Deepdene. He was chaplain at St George's Hospital, Kew and on the Council of the Mission to Seafarers as well as member of the third order of the Anglican Franciscans.

Betty and Jeremy Ashton finally retired to Castlemaine Victoria, where he died on 24 November of last year.

David Wetherell

HOOK, Donald James d. 9 December 2022

Don Hook, born on 16 July 1935, was the son of Walter and Jean (Carstairs) and brother to John and Stan. Don's mother died when he was two and he was raised by his grandparents.

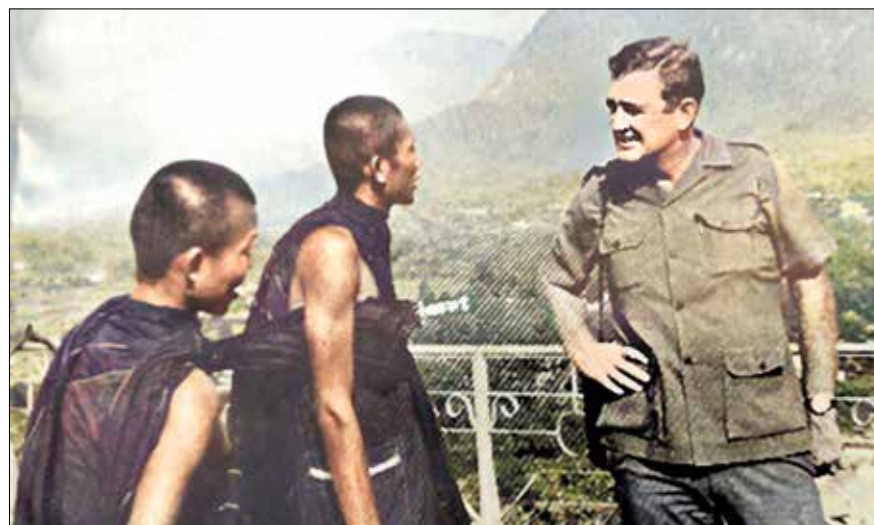
Don's career began in Australian radio and newspapers—*Cairns Post* and *Lismore Northern Star* were two he mentioned, with fondness. In 1962, he was appointed to the ABC News Service in Port Moresby. Don married Jane (Bowhill) whom he met on the ship on which both were returning to Australia from Europe. Jane supported Don in everything he did. Don's work

included many long absences from home on assignments, which meant Jane raising their children.

Don's military experience began in the Army Cadets at Scotch College, Melbourne. Don did his compulsory National Service training in 1954 at the RAAF Base, Fairbairn, Canberra. Whenever he spoke of this period he always mentioned the perishing cold, and his playing in the winning RAAF Rugby team against the highly-rated Army team.

In 1961 he joined the Citizen Military Force (CMF), serving with the Byron Scottish Regiment in northern NSW. His army number was 267750.

When he was appointed to the ABC News Service in Papua New Guinea (PNG), he transferred to D Company of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR) in Port Moresby. Don attended the usual training nights, weekend bivouacs and annual camps.



Don Hook speaking with Buddhist monks in Laos

PNGVR was an Australian CMF infantry battalion with its sub-units spread around the provincial centres of PNG. The Regiment was fully integrated with Papua New Guineans in 1964. Don said his military experience assisted him in his overseas assignments.

When PNG Army Area Command learnt of Don's vocation, he was transferred to PNG Army Area Command Headquarters as its Public Relations Officer. In this role, he accompanied at least one border patrol with the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR) during the confrontation period with Indonesia prior to the formal integration of Western Papua into Indonesia. Don left this role when he was appointed ABC's South-East Asia news-correspondent in 1967.

For the next 13 years he was a foreign correspondent based in Singapore, Delhi and Port Moresby. He returned to PNG in 1973 for five years as a correspondent for ABC. In 1980,

Don joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and served in Singapore and Bangkok and later as its liaison officer for the South Pacific.

Don's 2002 article, titled 'A war correspondent in Indo-China' describing the February 1968 Tet offensive in Vietnam, is well worth reading.

See: <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/stories/australians-wartime/war-correspondent-indo-china>

Don retired to Canberra. His retirement was interrupted with consultancies as media adviser and venue media manager at the 2000 Sydney, 2004 Athens and 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games and Asian Games and the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

Don's wide knowledge reflected this broad background. He was admired, trusted and made long-term friendships wherever he went. His contact book was of encyclopaedic proportions and proved useful on many occasions. Always happy, he was a wonderful storyteller of true-life events.

Don was a long-term member of the NGVR & PNGVR Association and attended as many Brisbane Anzac Day Marches and reunions as he was able.

Don volunteered for charitable and community causes: Legacy and the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group (R&MMG) were two. (Don's

contribution to R&MMG is described on page 61.)

Don's wife Jane died several years ago in Canberra, and he had been living near his son James and daughter Catherine in the Mansfield area, Victoria for the past few years.

He is survived by his children Catherine, James and David and grandchildren Megan, Anna, Phoebe and Jonathan.

Phil Ainsworth

McDONALD, Arnold Ronald (Ron) **d. 1 May 2021**

My father was born into a family of nine children on 18 August 1925. His mother was the governess on Whetstone Station (between Inglewood and Yelarbon, Queensland) where his father was head stockman.

His parents had little money but enjoyed their time on the property. The owners had two boys and after being home schooled they attended The Southport School as boarders—coincidentally the same school my son currently attends as a day student. One of the owners' sons, Burgoyne Thomkins, was killed at Salamaua during the war and is buried at Bomana War Cemetery.

After spending his childhood and early teens at Inglewood my father joined the Air Force as aircrew in World War II. He was sent to Canada to train as a wireless operator/air gunner.



Ron McDonald

After training his squadron was deployed to the Bahamas as coastal command with a Blenheim bomber squadron. Just as they were to be sent to India the war ended (80% of his squadron had lost a sibling or two so sending them to the Bahamas on coastal command was the Australian version of *Saving Private Ryan*). He always said that his was a good war compared to that of one of his brothers. After the war he was repatriated to Sandgate in Brisbane and decommissioned as a flying officer. From there he took up a trade in carpentry and played rugby union for Souths, Brisbane.

After a brief stint back in Australia he returned to Canada for a short period before heading back to Australia and then Rabaul. Working for the Commonwealth Department of Works, as a carpenter he spent time in Rabaul, Lae, Wewak, Madang and the Highlands all of which he enjoyed.

In Rabaul he was fond of Mango Avenue, the New Guinea Club and The Buffalos

(which was, I believe, a group of men who enjoyed the odd drink and feed). My father often spoke about two Chinese brothers who were builders—Johnston and Jackson Seeto, one of whom had lost his leg to a Japanese plane's gun whilst trying to navigate one of many trenches. My father said that he and the Seeto brothers enjoyed many a fine evening drinking Johnny Walker whisky at the New Guinea Club.

Life was not always ideal as he lost a number of friends in the Mount Lamington volcanic explosion in early 1951. He relocated to Moresby in early 1950, firstly living in a donga on Paga Hill. He played rugby league for Paga Hill and represented Papua in the first inter-territory match with New Guinea which was played in Wau. Papua won 6 to 2. New Guinea won the following year, 1951.

My father first went to the territory in 1949, and later met my mother (née Hazel Walsh) who worked at the *Post-Courier*, in 1959. They were married at the Catholic church in Port Moresby in October 1962 and both my brother and I were born in Taurama General Hospital, Port Moresby. Dr Jim Jacobie was my parents' physician and our neighbour. Prior to deployment overseas he did basic air crew training with my father in country NSW where they learnt to fly Tiger Moths. My brother and I attended primary school in East

Boroko (Port Moresby) prior to boarding school in Sydney.

Ron loved fishing and would go trawling for mackerel around Fishermans Island and Idlers Bay. We spent many weekends at the Ela Beach RSL, Brown, Laloki and Goldie Rivers, the islands around Fairfax Harbour, Crystal Rapids, Koitaki and Sapphire Creek (supposedly just below Errol Flynn's copper mine). Life was truly wonderful.

In later years my father was seconded to the Papua New Guinea Department of Urban Development where he spent a lot of time flying throughout the country.

Geoff McDonald

OAKES, George Daniel d. 14 December 2022

George was born at Vunairima Methodist Mission Hospital, Rabaul on 25 January 1934. His parents, Dan and Marion Oakes, were Methodist missionaries on Duke of York Island, then later at Pinikidu, New Ireland.

In 1941, as war was getting closer to the islands, George (7) and his brother Parker (5) were



Edna & George Oakes

evacuated with their mother on MV *Macdui*. He never saw his father again.

George spent his primary years at Wolaroi, Orange, and his high school years at Newington College, Stanmore. His mother married again and George became big brother to Helen, Elizabeth, Philip and Marina.

In 1954 George applied to become a cadet patrol officer. He was posted to Mendi, then to Nuku. His main job there was to rebuild the bush airstrip to open up the area. This the people did with 120 spades and many digging sticks. They moved about 30,000 cubic yards of soil. His previous National Service in the RAAF helped him with this work.

Villages in the area took turns in coming in to help. At night the people feasted and danced on the strip, compacting the dirt. The women in the area also took turns bringing food in for the 500 workers each day. After the airstrip was finished, he walked for five days back to Lumi.

In 2015, during celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of Independence, George was invited by Joseph Sungi, the local member, to visit Nuku. Accompanied by our daughter, Denise, he travelled to Nuku, where he addressed the gathered people and unveiled a plaque, which dedicates the airstrip to George. Joseph said that 'building the airstrip changed the area for the betterment of the people and ceased a lot of

fighting. Today you flew in by helicopter and out again in a fixed wing plane with a PNG pilot at the controls.'

In 1958 George attended ASOPA in Sydney. During the Easter break he went to a Crusader Church Camp at Albion Park, NSW. This is where we met. George never wasted time once he had made a decision. We met at Easter, were engaged in July, married in December and on the MV *Bulolo* heading for PNG in January.

Our first posting was to Pomio, Jacquinot Bay, New Britain. The house was high on the hill, with over 300 steps, no electricity, a ship fortnightly with supplies and a plane across the bay when needed. Pomio had the second wettest recorded rainfall. Sometimes we would have 30 inches in a day. Wesley was born in 1959 and Denise in 1961, both in Rabaul.

While at Pomio George established the Mengan CO-OP Society. The Golpak Memorial School was also built.

The day after we had arrived in 1959, Golpak, the Paramount Lului, died at Sali Village. The funeral took place the next day. In 1961 a memorial to Golpak was unveiled. He had been awarded the MBE and LSM for rescuing pilots who had been shot down in the area during the war, and people escaping from Rabaul to get to Pal Mal Mal in order to reach Lae and Port Moresby. The plaque came

from the Royal Escape Society in London.

After almost five years at Pomio we moved to Rabaul to be closer to medical help as Wesley was not well. We had a year at Kokopo. While there George was able to visit Pinikidu where he had lived as a child. He was warmly welcomed by the older people who remembered him and his parents.

George studied for a Bachelor of Commerce through the University of Queensland. In 1964 we moved to Lae where he joined the Business Advisory Service, helping people set up their own business, keeping books and accounts. Our son Stephen was born in 1964 in Lae.

1967 saw a move to Port Moresby. George was appointed

Senior Finance Officer. He wrote a set of booklets on trade stores: *Starting a Trade Store*, *How to Manage Your Store* and *Trade Store Accounting*. These were printed in both English and Pidgin.

We returned to Australia after Independence and settled in West Pennant Hills. George became the Bursar at Barker College, Hornsby. He travelled with the college to Kathmandu, where he became violently ill with food poisoning, which left him with a balance problem for the rest of his life.

In retirement we moved to Woodford in the Blue Mountains. George spent his time bush walking, bird watching, sorting stamps and travelling around Australia. We joined VISE, Volunteers for Isolated Students

Education, giving mothers a break from teaching their children. During our time in Woodford we enjoyed hosting many PNGAA lunches.

In 2002 we returned to Kavieng for the unveiling of a memorial to the people who were on the *Montevideo Maru* and also those murdered on the Kavieng wharf. George's father's name was on the plaque.

George's health declined quickly. He died peacefully on 14 December 2022.

George is survived by his wife Edna, daughter Denise, grandchildren Luke, Elizabeth, Jonathan, Andrew, Daniel, Benjamin and Hannah. Wesley and Stephen predeceased him.

Bihain mi lukim yu, wantok.
Edna Oakes

Tribute for Paul Quinlivan CBE

Paul Quinlivan's many articles for *Una Voce* were recently consolidated for easier access on the PNGAA website (PNGAA library: Paul Quinlivan's Snapshots). Only then did we realise there was no Vale entry for Paul who died in Brisbane, 9 October 2017, age 91.

He arrived in Port Moresby in January 1952, aged 25, a relatively raw graduate from Perth, with a couple of years legal practice experience. Appointed to Crown Law as Legal Officer and Crown Prosecutor, Paul was thrown into the deep end a few weeks later in Rabaul for the PNG Supreme Court circuit.

Fortunately for Paul, indeed for Papua New Guinea (PNG),

his inaugural prosecutorial work was before Sir Beaumont (Monte) Phillips. Phillips' service and vast experience with the New Guinea Administration dated back to 1926.

Paul Quinlivan's career was imbued with Monte Phillips' values. Integral to it was an empathy with



Paul Joseph Quinlivan CBE

those subjected to, or using the court systems, not least accused individuals and groups, but also the kiaps presiding in lower court levels, acting as defence counsel in Supreme Court trials.

And what a career! Paul's Snapshots are kaleidoscope sketches, bits of his work, characters and settings. The stories are studded with a spectrum of names and roles: kiaps, lawyers, constabulary, *tanim-toks*, missionaries and figures who came into prominence during PNG's advance to independence in later years. No less remarkable, select events drawn from countless prosecutions and defences, enquiries and institution buildings in which he had a role.

Among them: the Telefomin inquiries about and trials for the murders of kiaps and police; his encounters with unsung indigenous heroes upholding the rule of law; training the local court magistracy; formation of the Law Society of PNG, inaugural meetings of the Public Service Association of PNG; historian, instigator and developer of caselaw reportage and materials and a reluctant, critical observance of the drift from consultative adjudication techniques toward Melburnian legalism after 1960.

Well-known across Administration stations throughout Papua New Guinea, Paul held office at times as Chief Crown Prosecutor, Public Solicitor, Assistant Secretary for Law (Executive) before being appointed as Senior Stipendiary Magistrate Rabaul in 1966. By 1969, Paul was on the shortlist to succeed Wally Watkins as Secretary for Law, a position in which he had often acted. Fate and Paul's commitment to running a court trusted by all to uphold the rule of law intervened.

Historian and author David Stephen (*A History of Political Parties in Papua New Guinea*: Ch 6) is among many who discerned reasons why more than a few Tolai on the Gazelle Peninsula identified with the Mataungan movement. Members of that long-established secretive association reacted with hostility to an Administration initiative in 1969. The consolidated, but vexed, Gazelle Peninsula Local Government Council (based on Tolai constituencies from five regional predecessors) was converted into the Gazelle Multi-Racial Local Government Council.

Foremost among other reasons for Tolai antipathy to this move was, to quote Quinlivan: 'they saw it as a step whereby: Europeans and other non-Tolai would become the bosses of the Tolai Cocoa Project which was created with Tolai money, and which had more than \$1 million worth of assets, controlling at least 50% of the industry processing and exporting \$9 million worth of cocoa per year.'

Some Tolai leaders shut down the Council buildings, were arrested and locked away. Fierce public and behind the scenes interplay followed involving Quinlivan, the Secretary for Law, and Canberra bureaucrats. As Magistrate, he was soon presented with the task of dealing with some rather lightweight charges against three accused. His judgment, at length, dismissed the charges drawing upon legal precedent and the surrounding circumstances, including facts attested in cogent supportive evidence as part of the Crown case from then District Commissioner Harry West.

Unequivocally, Quinlivan's decision was founded upon his commitment to maintaining respect for the integrity of the court and upholding the rule of law. Canberra and the incoming Secretary for Law, Lindsay Curtis, did not see it that way. Almost immediately, they acted to have Quinlivan removed from his position in Rabaul. The disruptive relocations that eventuated were traumatic for Paul and his family.

Paul Quinlivan resumed magisterial work in Port Moresby in 1970 and, in due course, was appointed

Judge of the Supreme Court, his term expiring in January 1982. He was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), in the 1982 Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to law. He maintained his mentoring, academic and teaching functions before retiring to Australia in 1983.

As one of his many friends observed of him, Paul was a deep thinker and intellectual, deeply religious and a most caring and loving husband, father and grandfather and a very decent human being. In Brisbane, Paul happily became the home carer and mentor to his family of four sub-teenagers while his wife, distinguished and respected dermatologist, Dr Sophie Quinlivan, continued her professional practice.

Paul Quinlivan's manifest integrity, creativity and contribution is not forgotten. It was again honoured, when Sir John Kaputin KBE, CMG introducing a lengthy tribute noting Paul's death, wrote: 'To our Tolai people in Rabaul, he will remain in memorial in our hearts for giving us the recognition, dignity and respectability and in so doing, he was prepared to stand up to Canberra and uphold the rule of law as the legal guiding principle in his judgement in which he cited the nationalist Scottish people as the rightful owners of the Crown Jewels as a precedent.'

Paul is survived by his wife of 51 years, Dr Sophie Quinlivan, his children Luke, Mary, Francis and Daisy; his grandchildren Christian, Georgina, Matthew, Angela and Daniel.

Paul R Munro



MEMORIAL NEWS

RABAU & MONTEVIDEO MARU GROUP

Established in 2009 to represent the interests of the families of the soldiers and civilians captured in Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands after the Japanese invasion in January 1942, and the sinking of MS Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942, the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group was integrated into the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, after the erection of the commemorative sculpture at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in 2012.

Members receive PNG KUNDU, the quarterly journal of the PNGAA, which includes the 'Memorial News', dedicated to those who lost their lives at the start of the Pacific War in New Guinea.

For more information, please contact Andrea Williams on admin@montevideo-maru.org



Unveiling of a Commemorative Seat and Storyboard at Mornington Memorial Park

A special community event on 23 January 2023 remembered the 1,053 Australian soldiers and civilians who died as prisoners on the hell ship, *Montevideo Maru*.

The Papua New Guinea Association of Australia (PNGAA), Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group (R&MMG) is proud to have sponsored and achieved the unveiling of this Commemorative Chair and Storyboard remembering those who died when *Montevideo Maru* was torpedoed on 1 July 1942. The chair is located at the peaceful Mornington Memorial Park, 22 Empire Street, Mornington, Victoria, and was unveiled on the 81st anniversary of the invasion and occupation of Rabaul and Kavieng—23 January 2023.

The Papua New Guinea Association of Australia/Rabaul & Montevideo Maru group is especially grateful to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and Mornington RSL for their support in making this event particularly successful.

Over 100 guests arrived from 10 am for the service, which commenced at 11 am on a perfect summer Mornington morning.

The Commemorative Chair was magnificently surrounded by a beautiful red ribbon with purple edges, draped diagonally across the chair. It looked truly stunning!

Music from the 2/22nd Battalion Band and its Bandmaster, Arthur Gullidge, was played as guests arrived and were seated, with thanks to Max Clarke.

Well-known local Mornington identity, Brodie Goozee—Producer/Broadcaster/Podcaster at RPPFM—Your Peninsula Radio, graciously accepted an invitation



(L-R:) Andrea Williams, Piper Benjamin Casey, David Howell, Cr Steve Holland (Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council), Gillian Nikakis née Spensley, Brodie Goozee, Phillip Ainsworth



1. The commemorative seat;
2. PNGAA attendees—Claire van Bakel, Andrea Williams and Phil Ainsworth (and former committee member, Yana di Pietro, not in photo);
3. The storyboard;
4. Cr Steve Holland, Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

to be Master of Ceremonies. His sensitive understanding of the day ensured it all flowed smoothly and meaningfully.

David Howell—Secretary, Mornington RSL, provided the Welcome Address which included the history of Mornington Memorial Park. David, an author, tour guide and historian, is co-founder of Kokoda Historical and specialises in the South West Pacific Area of Operations during the Second World War. David and the Mornington RSL assisted the event by sponsoring both the piper and the delicious refreshments, which followed the service. David's support at all times was generous and much appreciated.

Andrea Williams spoke about the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia/Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group. With a personal connection, she acknowledged the challenging journey to achieve recognition of this disaster in Australian history. Following the achievement of a national memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, the association's current focus is on educating Australians and Papua New Guineans, and continuing to reach out to the many Australians who are connected to this story.

The Commemorative Address was given by Cr Steve Holland, Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council who spoke knowledgeably about what happened when Japan invaded and occupied what was, in 1942, an Australian Mandated Territory.

The chair was unveiled by the Mornington Mayor, Cr Steve Holland, together with Andrea Williams and Gillian Nikakis.

Following this, flowers were laid, including from the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia/Rabaul & Montevideo Maru group (Andrea Williams) and the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-Members Association (Phil Ainsworth).

The Ode was read by Phil Ainsworth, President of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-Members Association. Phil provided some background about the Ode and included two stanzas of Laurence Binyon's 1914 poem, 'For the Fallen'.

Piper, Benjamin Casey, of the 5/6 Royal Victoria Regimental Association performed the Last Post and Reveille before guests joined together in singing the National Anthem of Australia.

Gillian Nikakis, who was evacuated from Rabaul before losing her father in this appalling tragedy, and who later wrote the book, *He's Not Coming Home*, provided a poignant reflection.

It was a hugely successful and very memorable day. It was wonderful to see so many former PNG residents and interested guests, especially those living in and around Mornington attend. James (Jim) Burrowes, one of two known living former WWII coastwatchers, looked spritely, as always, as he attended with family, much to the delight of all there. Jim will be 100 years old this year. PNGAA also appreciated several Mornington Councillors attending.

It was tremendous to see generations of families attending and to hear the positive feedback about the speeches and the day which appeared greatly appreciated by all who attended. This special memorial will encourage families to return to the park, and visitors to put Mornington on their travel list.

The commemorative chair sits in a peaceful park, a beautiful spot for reflection on this WWII disaster, and we know it will be enjoyed for many, many years.

Photographs of this event are on the PNGAA website in the photo galleries and on the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru facebook page.

Background: Mornington resident, Gillian Nikakis, together with Mornington Council, in particular Jayne Johnson and Tina McGuffie, greatly assisted the PNGAA/Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group to make this possible, especially with the many finer details on the day such as providing microphone, chairs, programs, umbrellas, water, photography, etc. The PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group were also greatly appreciative of the support from David Howell and the generous offer of Mornington RSL to provide light refreshments following the service in their club-rooms, and to find and support this service with an appropriate Piper. The amazing ribbon was provided by Gail Nunan.

Notes: *Mornington Peninsula News* covered the event on 16 January 2023 ('Place of Rest to Reflect on Lasting War Losses') and 6 February 2023 ('Memorial Remembers Montevideo Maru'). Photography by Lindsay Turner for Mornington Council and PNGAA.

Don Hook's Contribution to R&MMG

Don Hook, whose vale appears on page 53 of this issue, was an early participant in the campaign to establish a memorial to the victims of the *Montevideo Maru* disaster.

His interest in the Montevideo Maru Group was because his father Wally Hook served in the ill-fated 2/1st Independent Company based in Kavieng, New Ireland at the start of the Pacific War. Fortunately, Wally, then aged 40 years, was in Rabaul for medical treatment at the time of the Japanese invasion in January 1942. Wally and another commando, Mick Morrell, aged 21 years, escaped and walked for weeks along the south coast of New Britain before being rescued and taken to Port Moresby on the MV *Laurabada*, arriving there in April 1942. Most of the 2/1st Independent

Company men, about 180, were captured and later lost on the Japanese prison-ship *Montevideo Maru* when it was sunk by friendly fire on 1 July 1942 enroute to Hainan Island, China.

In 2008, Keith Jackson, the Chair of the Montevideo Group and a fellow journalist, knew Don and his interest in the *Montevideo Maru* and invited him onto the committee. When the group changed its name to Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society and incorporated in Canberra, Don became its Public Officer. When Keith Jackson resigned in early 2011, Phil Ainsworth became Chair, Andrea Williams Secretary and Don Hook Public Officer and Canberra representative for the Society. Amongst other things, a two-year timetable was set to raise \$500,000 for the design, installation and dedication of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru National Memorial at the Australian War Memorial (AWM), Canberra.

This was achieved and the memorial was dedicated by Governor General Quentin Bryce on 1 July 2012, the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru* and loss of 1,053 Australian military personnel and civilian internees. Don organised several events following our annual services in Canberra between 2010 and 2012, and secured speakers, masters of ceremonies and much general support for the cause from top levels of government, journalism and the wider public. Don knew people everywhere.

PNGAA Fundraising

Stay in touch! Become a member of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc at <https://pngaa.org/become-a-member/>

Fundraising is ongoing and helps the association to achieve its objectives. If you can help, please donate at <https://pngaa.org/make-a-donation-to-the-pngaa/>

When making a donation, please email treasurer@pngaa.net and, if you wish, advise you are part of the Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group! Thank you.

Lost at Sea Memorial Unveiled at Mona Vale, Sydney

On 14 October 2022 a memorial to 1,800 prisoners of war, citizens, nurses and others who



1. Philip Ainsworth of the NGVR/PNGVR Ex-Members Association lays a wreath at the Shrine Service; 2. Guests at the service; 3. Mon Valley Memorial and seat on Sydney sandstone; 4. Mon Valley headland from the memorial site

were lost at sea in the Pacific theatre in World War II, was unveiled at Mon Valley, Sydney. An initiative of the late Wal Williams OAM, himself a survivor of capture and enslavement by the Japanese, and the Pittwater Branch of the RSL, the memorial was dedicated at a ceremony attended by the local MP, the Hon Rob Stokes, the Minister for Veterans Affairs NSW, the Hon. David Elliot and the mayor of Northern Beaches Council, Michael Regan. Guests were welcomed by Deborah Carter JP, President of the Pittwater Branch of the RSL.

Kylie Adams-Collier and Rod Miller attended the dedication of the 'Lost at Sea' memorial representing the PNGAA/Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group. The memorial and seat are placed to overlook the Pacific Ocean at Robert Dunn Reserve and Mon Valley Headland.

Writing an account of the event in the RSL Newsletter Kylie included this comment:
I returned to the Memorial later in the morning, sat on the seat, looked out to sea and had a good cry. Flowers blew in the wind, dogs sniffed around the new sandstone and the sun beat down on the waves rolling in from the distant horizon.

The photographs included in this story were taken and provided by Kylie Adams-Collier.

Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne—2/22nd Battalion, Lark Force Service

A service, organised by 2/22nd Battalion, Lark Force, was held at midday on 22 January 2023 at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. Laurie Luxmoore was MC and Sue Bussell provided a moving Address. Phil Ainsworth, President of NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association and a management committee member of PNGAA, laid a wreath on behalf of the NGVR/PNGVR Ex-Members Association and PNGAA. Marg Curtis and 'Cupcake' Jenny Cooper Penrose had organised delicious refreshments following the service.

Memorial News welcomes your stories, photos, research, maps and memorabilia

General email: admin@montevideo-maru.org (Andrea Williams)

Send stories to: stories@montevideo-maru.org (Andrea Williams)

For education information email: education@montevideo-maru.org (Patrick Bourke)

Treasurer's Corner

Payments to: PNGAA, PO Box 250, Kilcoy QLD 4515
Enquiries to: treasurer@pngaa.net or phone 0448 216 049

MEMBERSHIP & ORDER FORM

To place an order, please tick the appropriate boxes below, fill in the details on the form overleaf, and mail to PNGAA, PO Box 250, Kilcoy QLD 4515 or email to treasurer@pngaa.net

	Cost p/unit	Purpose Code	Qty	\$
PNGAA MEMBERSHIP Rates shown are for 12 months' membership				
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to renew my membership				
<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to become a new member				
Resident in Australia	\$50.00	MEMB		
Resident in Asia/Pacific Postal Zone	\$70.00			
Resident in Rest of World Postal Zone	\$80.00			
Digital Membership only <i>(i.e. no hard copy or postage costs)</i>	\$33.00			
PNGAA DONATIONS				
<input type="checkbox"/> General Donations		DON		
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Fund		DONSF		
PNGAA STORE				
<input type="checkbox"/> Land of the Unexpected <i>Add \$7 postage within Australia—o'seas extra</i>	\$30.00	LOTU		
<input type="checkbox"/> When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942 <i>Add \$20 postage within Australia—o'seas extra</i>	\$60.00	WWC		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Volcano's Wife <i>Add \$7 postage within Australia—o'seas extra</i>	\$25.00	VOL		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cloudlands Memoirs <i>Add \$3 postage within Australia—o'seas extra</i>	\$15.00	CLD		
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk Into Paradise (DVD) <i>Add \$5 postage within Australia—o'seas extra</i>	\$10.00	WIP		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kiap: Stories Behind the Medal (DVD) <i>Add \$5 postage within Australia—o'seas extra</i>	\$25.00	KIAP		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rabaul and Montevideo Maru 70th Anniversary (DVD) <i>Add \$5 postage within Australia—o'seas extra</i>	\$20.00	RMVM		
<input type="checkbox"/> PNGAA Tote Bag <i>Add \$10 postage (10 bags \$20) within Australia—o'seas extra</i>	\$15.00	TOTE		
<input type="checkbox"/> PNGAA Membership Directory: 2022 Edition <i>Available free of charge to members on the PNGAA website. First log on with your password at: www.pngaa.org then select 'The PNGAA' then 'Official Business (Members Only)' and follow the links. If you need help, please contact our Membership Officer, Roy Ranney, whose contact details are inside the front cover of this journal.</i>				
TOTAL COST \$				

PNGAA Membership

Annual membership within Australia is \$50.00 (overseas extra) and available to any person with an interest in Papua New Guinea. Members receive four issues of our journal, *PNG KUNDU*, per year, full access to all content on the website, including our eBooks, receive email updates via *Tok Save*, network through events and social media and are encouraged to explore and become actively involved with all aspects of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc. and new members are always welcome. For more details, please turn to the previous page or follow the link: <https://pngaa.org/membership/become-a-member/>



PNGAA Store

If you are interested in the history, adventure and stories of Papua New Guinea, and those who helped build the nation, then any of the items in our store will be a great addition to your library or a unique gift for any occasion. Details are available on this form, or on our website: www.pngaa.org/store/

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Please **print** your name and address below and fill out the relevant parts of the Order Form overleaf

Note that your journal address label indicates when your membership expires.

Digital members can find their membership status on the website by clicking on *Membership* then *My Subscription*.

Name: Membership number (if known):

Address:
.....

Postcode:

Telephone: Mobile:

Email address:

☐ I would prefer to access a 'digital' *PNG KUNDU* via the website, using a membership log-on, instead of receiving a hard copy. This 'digital membership' is available at a reduced rate (see Order Form overleaf).

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME: see <https://pngaa.org/membership/become-a-member/>

PAYMENT—Please tick method of remittance

☐ **CHEQUE Payable to:** PNGAA **Post to:** PNGAA, PO Box 250, Kilcoy QLD 4515

☐ **EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer)** **Transfer to:** BSB: 062-009 / Account No. 0090 7724

In the *transaction description* include the Purpose Code (from the Order Form overleaf) and Member Number or surname. (Note: More than 20 characters may not be transmitted by the bank.)

Please send a confirmation email to: treasurer@pngaa.net

☐ **CREDIT/DEBIT CARD**

Either post to: PNGAA, PO Box 250, Kilcoy QLD 4515 OR pay through the PNGAA website

Card Number: / / Amount Payable: \$

Expiry Date: / Security Code (on back of card):

Name on Card (please print):

Signature of Card Holder: Date:

Vale Dr Peter Cahill

Peter was born on 26 April 1935 on the small island of Samarai, Papua, the third child in his family. His father was in the police force. Life there was interrupted by the Japanese invasion, and the family was evacuated to Sydney with very few possessions.

After the war they returned to Port Moresby, and later were transferred to Rabaul, which was still recovering from the Japanese occupation. The gallows where Japanese war criminals had been hanged was almost within sight of their home. Peter completed his education at boarding school in Australia.

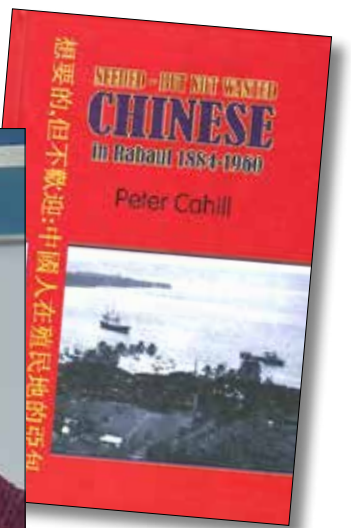
He went back to the Territory and joined the Administration, and worked in various departments—Forests, Labour, and the Department of the Administrator, including six months as acting Official Secretary to Sir Donald Cleland. At this time Peter was studying for his Bachelor of Arts degree through the External Studies Department of the University of Queensland. He also participated in productions by the local amateur theatre group, the Arts Council of Port Moresby.

Papua New Guinea was on the verge of independence, and the politics and changes to the old colonial order were fascinating to observe. During this time Peter completed his Master of Arts degree through the History Department of the UPNG, again while working full-time.

He moved to Brisbane in 1973 with his young family. Peter studied for his graduate diploma in library science and went to work in the library of the University of Queensland. He continued to work there in various sections until his retire-



Photograph of Ok Mart village, Kiunga Sub-district, 1953, part of the PNGAA Collection



ment. In the 1980s he studied for his Doctor of Philosophy degree through the History Department of the University of Queensland and for his thesis he wrote *An Obsession of Coconut Planting: Expropriated Plantations on the Gazelle Peninsula*. Writing was always a passion of his, and he was pedantic about grammar and good English.

With the encouragement of Doug Parrish he set up the PNGAA Collection of documents, photos and other material relating to PNG as a research source in the Fryer Library at the university. He was dedicated to preserving unpublished records of PNG history.

After retirement Peter occupied himself with his many interests. He took piano lessons again and became an announcer for the 4MBS classical music radio station. He served on the board of International House, was a volunteer for the AIDS Council, a Justice of the Peace, and edited theses for university students. He also joined a writers' group and wrote many short stories about a hapless NG patrol officer named Henderson.

He wrote and published two books about the history of the Chinese people of Rabaul: *Needed but not wanted: Chinese in Rabaul 1884-1960* (2012) and *Same Same—but Different: Chinese in Rabaul 1945-1975* (2017).

Peter was well-spoken, quick-witted, and had a mischievous sense of humour.

He died on 1 October 2022 and is survived by his wife, Marian, and children Martin and Celia. •

MARIAN CAHILL



Airstrip at Lake Kutubu

I read with interest Chris Warrillow's letter in the December issue of *PNG Kundu* and his correction regarding the location of Moro airstrip, which is, of course, situated at the north-western end of Lake Kutubu.

In late 1951 Bill Brand and I camped for a week on a piece of flat land in dense rain forest, marshy in some parts, and cut a survey line to determine the size and suitability of the site of what was to become the Moro grass airstrip.

In December of that year Bill and I discovered the Tege Oil Seep in the Hedinia Anticline to the west of the lake. We could never have imagined that, 35 years later, drilling of the area would develop into a multi-billion dollar oil and gas project, and our little Moro strip would become a major airport, servicing huge Russian Antonov transport aircraft and helicopters, bringing in heavy vehicles and mining equipment.

The Moro grass strip was completed by Bill Brand and Tim Terrell after my departure, and Tim and later Judy, and I became lifelong friends. Many years later by chance, we found ourselves living in the same Canberra suburb, a couple of hundred metres apart!

Tim's older brother Alan was a Qantas captain and on many occasions flew a Catalina in to Lake Kutubu with our mail and supplies. In 1966 my family and I were posted to Europe, and who should be the captain of our Qantas flight but Alan Terrell!

In 1960 I was a ADO at Erave and flew to Moro with my wife and small child on a post inspection. Full of pride, we landed in a Cessna on the Moro grass strip, and on taxiing back we became bogged in the middle of the strip! My embarrassment was palpable. Frank Howard was the O I C at the time and will no doubt remember the incident.

Tim Terrell was a great friend and colleague, and he and Judy represented the very best of the field service in the 50s and 60s.

QUENTIN ANTHONY

FEATURED: Clearing rain forest Lake Kutubu, 1952 (1);

Workers' camp Lake Kutubu, 1952 (2);

Moro airstrip from western end Lake Kutubu, 1954 (3);

Norseman aircraft Moro strip, 1954 (4)

www.pngaa.org

ISSN 2652-5216, PPA 224987/00025 • MARCH 2023 • Vol. 4, No. 13