

PNG **Kiindu**

SEPTEMBER 2023



**Papua New Guinea Association
of Australia Inc.**
www.pngaa.org



39



31



25



34



41

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc.

(Formally constituted in 1951—incorporated in 1996)

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



2023–2024 PNGAA Office Bearers

PRESIDENT: Chris Pearsall—(Mob) 0410 530 502;
(Email) president@pngaa.net / cpearsall51@live.com

SECRETARY: (Mob) 0475 922 166

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

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

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR: Sigrid Yaru—(Email) events@pngaa.net

PNGAA ARCHIVIST & COLLECTIONS:

Cheryl Marvell—(Mob) 0438 635 132; (Email) collection@pngaa.net

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Phil Ainsworth, John Egerton, Steven Gagau, Jaap Van Der Kamp, Chris Warrillow, Andrea Williams
& Max Uechtritz (Immediate Past President)

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

Andrea Williams—(Mob) 0409 031 889; (Email) admin@montevideo-maru.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 • SEPTEMBER 2023 • Vol. 4, No. 15

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 December 2023 issue: 6 OCTOBER 2023 ▶

(Estimated delivery 15 November 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, and if not received by the Copy Deadline may not be guaranteed inclusion in the coming issue. Guidelines for contributors are available on the website, www.pngaa.org

© 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.



36



53



42



46

Features

Building on Robust Foundations <i>Hon. Duncan Kerr SC</i>	27
CSIRO in the Southern Highlands, 1961 Part 2: People in the Landscape <i>Ken Granger—Part 2</i>	31
A Nurse's Memories of Her Time in TPNG <i>Ruth Pitt—Part 3</i>	34
The de Havilland DHC-3 Otter —a Short History and Four Events <i>Chris Warrillow</i>	36
Bringing Back Bougainville 1976–77 <i>Bevynne Truss</i>	39
Admiral John Moresby RN <i>Greenbank NAA</i>	41
A Manitoba Family in Gili Gili: 1925–29 <i>Katherine Pettipas—Part 1</i>	42
2 What Happened to the People of Papua New Guinea in World War II <i>John B Quinn</i>	46
9 Sailing Canoes of Siassi Islands <i>Peter Worsley</i>	48
15 A Night Out Beside the Bunga <i>Ian Willis</i>	49
18 Forest Products Research Centre, Hohola PNG <i>RB McCarthy</i>	51
55 My Education Journey from Jiwaka to UPNG <i>Robert Mek</i>	53
63 Last Post Ceremony, 1 July 2023 Papua New Guinea—48 Years of Independence	IBC BC

Contents

FRONT COVER—SEPTEMBER 2023

A palm oil plantation in New Britain

© Jay Pruett, 2017

PNGAA REPORT

PNGAA Scholarship Scheme

Membership Subscription Rate Increases

EVENTS DIARY & NEWS

Reports, News & Reviews

LETTERS & MEMORIES

BOOKS & ART REVIEWS

PNG IN THE NEWS

VALES & TRIBUTES

MEMORIAL NEWS

Rabaul & Montevideo Mary Group

TREASURER'S CORNER

Membership & Order Form



Members of 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 Management Committee

Hopefully you have all enjoyed the crisp sunny days of winter this year and are now revelling in spring!

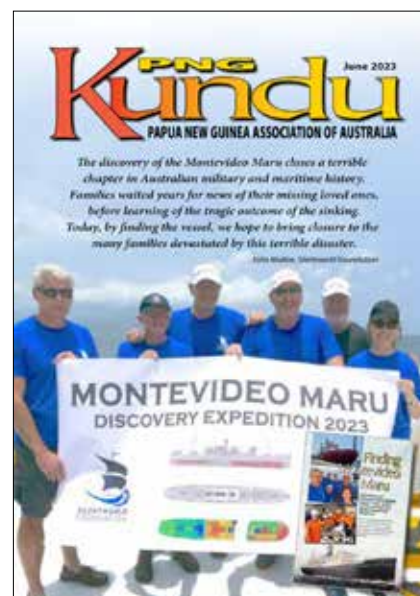
Our thoughts were with PNGAA President, Chris Pearsall, as he recouped in hospital following an accident, and we look forward to hearing he is up and about soon. In the meantime, your committee and extended helpers have been ensuring that the various social events and work of the association continue.

Secretary Needed!

Having said that—PNGAA desperately needs a secretary!!! Please, please—can someone with sufficient administration and computer skills volunteer! (Yes, the management committee are all volunteers!) This person will be the go-to person on the committee. The situation is dire and we need a volunteer urgently—see the ad opposite!

PNG KUNDU June Issue

Wasn't the June issue of PNG KUNDU a first-class publication?! 'Finding the Montevideo Maru' on 18 April 2023 was a significant historic event and PNGAA was fortunate to have two of its Management Committee members, Max Uechtritz and Andrea Williams, on board as part of a search team of six. News of the find travelled like wildfire through the Australian and international media and our PNGAA journal, PNG KUNDU, captured the whole



story magnificently, and as a permanent record.

A huge, and special, thank you to the Editor, John Egerton, and for design and assembly (and extras!) to our Production Manager, Jeannette Gilligan.

Thanks to Our Event Co-Ordinators

The committee and members are also grateful to our event co-ordinators around the states who arrange wonderful gatherings so that members and friends can meet and share a meal, whilst recounting stories that only those who share our interest can do. It doesn't matter where you lived in PNG, or even if you didn't, there is always a connection and something to chat about.

The 1 July 2023 annual lunch in Canberra, organised by John and Carolyn Reeves, and the AWM's Last Post Ceremony, were well attended with around 55 people being present (see page 11 & Inside Back Cover). Held on the 81st anniversary of the sinking of the Montevideo Maru and, being

the first event held following 'the find', guests flew in or drove from Melbourne, country Victoria and New South Wales.

The Last Post commemorated three brothers who died on Montevideo Maru—Acting L/Cpl Sidney Turner, Pte Darryl Turner and Pte Dudley Turner (see more in Memorial News and this issue's Inside Back Cover).

Andrea Williams spoke at three recent events in Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane about her experience on board Fugro Equator as part of the 'Finding the Montevideo Maru Expedition'. Max Uechtritz also attended the event in Canberra, continuing with filming for the documentary.

Peter Ryan (who also runs Wildtrek Tours) organised the lunch in Melbourne at East Malvern RSL. Impressively, Peter had arranged the donation of nine prizes for the nearly 90 guests, with funds going towards the PNGAA Scholarship Fund. A delicious lunch was made possible through the hard-working volunteer members of the East Malvern RSL Club—with special thanks. To top it off, after juggling available dates, 22 July turned out to be Peter's birthday! It was lovely to catch up with PNGAA helper, Claire van Bakel—who helps with emails to members and with our website, and former committee member, Yana di Pietro. Chris Warrillow had skipped out to warmer shores in Cairns just prior to the lunch! He missed a great day!

Kieran Nelson organised yet another friendly event at the Ship Inn, Brisbane, on the last Sunday in July. About 25 attended and enjoyed a magic Queensland sunny day, full of delightful chat.

Linda Cavanaugh Manning, with assistance from Robyn Petricevic, kindly organises the Perth gatherings, usually in April and November, and everyone is always welcome.

For some time, we have been asking for someone to be our Events Co-Ordinator for events in Sydney—and Sigrid Yaru kindly responded. We welcome Sigrid to our association as a new member and you will be hearing details about what is planned in the next few weeks. Do keep a check in on our website and social media and see more about Sigrid on page 9.

We are especially grateful to these organisers for the wonderful occasions they ensure for us all. Please do go along. Even if you don't think you will know anyone, you will always find someone who lived where you lived or who shared an interest with you ... and it helps our PNG-Australian connections to thrive.



Andrea Williams speaking at the Canberra Lunch



PNGAA needs administrative support (ASAP)—the role involves:

- Keeping the management committee in tune and up to date;
- Act as a liaison between members and committee, ensuring a smooth flow of communication and gatekeeping;
- It helps if you can be flexible, proactive, have proficiency in email and MS Word, and enjoy speaking with people.

Specific jobs include:

- Arrange meetings;
- Prepare agenda;
- Record minutes;
- Maintain contact list (helpers and suppliers);
- Maintain other records—NOT including financial and membership records;
- Respond to or refer enquiries;
- Handle some correspondence and maintain correspondence register.

This role can be done from anywhere in Australia! The PNGAA needs someone to join the management team and volunteer for this role so the association can run effectively. There are about 3–5 committee meetings a year.

If this is not you but you know someone who could help the PNGAA, please ask him/her to contact Andrea

coordinator@pngaa.net

Mob: 0409 031 889

or Murrough

treasurer@pngaa.net

Mob: 0448 216 049

as soon as possible.



PNGAA Scholarship Scheme

Earlier this year the PNGAA Management Committee decided to commence a scholarship scheme for needy students in remote parts of PNG.

To help ensure the integrity of the scheme and to ensure that funds provided to help students are used for that purpose, the committee enlisted the aid of Glenda Giles. Glenda went to PNG in 1967 and is still there, now a retired secondary school teacher and inspector of schools, living in Wewak. She still visits high schools and secondary schools from time to time and recommended that, in the first instance, we might support students at Anguganak Junior High. This school is one operated by the Evangelical Alliance Agency and open to students of all church groups. Evangelical Alliance is a group of mainstream Protestant churches who work with the PNG government in both health and education.

The school is in the government system so students have the chance to go from grades 9 and 10 at Anguganak to grade 11 and 12 at either Lumi, Nuku, Green River or Aitape and from there to tertiary education. Steven Aruani is the headmaster at Anguganak High. Scholarship money is transferred directly into the school's bank account.

Originally the management committee agreed to



Glenda Giles

provide funding for two students but after a change in government policy that reduced fees for high school students, we decided to increase the number of supported students to six. Those students were selected by the headmaster and Glenda from among students finishing year 8 in 2022. The headmaster has told Glenda that all students are progressing well so far. At year's end we expect to receive a formal report from the school about their marks and progression towards year 10.

More recently, following a welcome and generous donation from the Gold Coast PNG Club, we have agreed to buy the basic textbooks needed by our scholarship holders. That donation, together with others by members and friends of the



Students from Anguganak Junior High

Association suggest that the scholarship scheme might be expanded to include other young people in remote parts of PNG.

Anguganak is in West Sepik Province and was formerly the headquarters of the Lumi sub-district. Anguganak High School does not have access to the internet and the journey there from Wewak by road is arduous and dangerous. There are many other places like that in PNG with children who need help to get an education.

We are privileged to be able to help some more

students in need, but the extent of that will depend on the generosity of groups such as the Gold Coast PNG Club (*see pages 12-15*) and others with a continuing regard for the future of PNG. We invite individual members of PNGAA to visit the Treasurer's Corner at the end of this issue to find a way to donate to the Scholarship Fund.

The students chosen to benefit from scholarships in 2023, their villages, ages and sex and short statement about their aspirations, are listed below.

JOHN EGERTON, PNG Kundu Editor



SAMSON MEIYAPIN

Aged 16 of Anguganak village dreams to be a human resource but he knows that his eventual career depends on getting into upper secondary school and on marks achieved there.



NEMANTU HAIMOWI

Aged 18 of Leiko village, dreams that, with God's help, he will be a lawyer and prosper.



SHEPELLE KAPIKA

Aged 16 of Anguganak village wants to become a doctor or a nurse because that is the need of her health centre. She wants to serve her own agency and her own people.



EUTHANNESHIA MEIBO

Aged 16 of Anguganak village wants to be an engineer because she loves science and mathematics. She wants to help educate her people and help her district like her father did.



RAILY ALIAWANI

Aged 20, from Edwaki village, dreams that, with God's help, he will be a doctor and prosper.



MACQUARDAH ANPAN

Aged 15 and from Anguganak village, is good at science and she wants to be a nurse because there is a shortage of child welfare nurses in the local health centre.

Welcome Back Steven

Steven Gagau has returned to the PNGAA Committee after a break. We also congratulate him on taking the helm as President of the Sydney Wantok Association, too. Sigrid Yaru, our incoming Events Co-Ordinator, is also an active member of the Sydney Wantoks so we also look forward to much cross-collaboration.

50th Anniversary of Independence

Andrea Williams and Phil Ainsworth were invited to a meeting with members of the PNG/Pacific team at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on 3 July 2023 to discuss the upcoming 50th anniversary of Independence in 2025 and the PNG-Australia relationship. Our hosts were supportive of PNGAA's mission to increase knowledge and understanding in the Australian community about Papua New Guinea, and the important historical and contemporary relationship we have. They are keen to continue to discuss ideas about how these can be addressed in the context of the 50th Anniversary of PNG's Independence.

Our discussion focussed on the PNGAA's proposed Pacific Community Centre. We believe this needs to be an educational, resource and cultural centre located in Australia to educate

Australians about our past role in PNG and support the PNG and Pacific communities. Another suggestion was along the lines of the symposium PNGAA organised in 2014 at NSW Parliament House.

If you have any thoughts or can assist in a working group in any way, to make the 50th anniversary really special, please contact Andrea Williams. Discussion followed about having someone from DFAT speak at a PNGAA event, and this is a work in progress.

Gold Coast PNG Club

PNGAA congratulates the Gold Coast PNG Club which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a PNG Club Charity Race Day and *Bikpela Pati* held at the Gold Coast Turf Club on 24 June 2023. It was a tremendous success. The Club kindly supported the PNGAA, as one of its four charities, with a generous donation for the PNGAA Scholarship Fund.

As it happened, we had just been asked to cover the cost of textbooks for the six students being supported at Anguganak High School, West Sepik, so a portion of the funds from the Gold Coast PNG Club has already gone to support these.

PNGAA is especially grateful for this support from the Gold Coast PNG Club, and from its President—Greg Pike CSM (also a PNGAA member), and committee. More about this on pages 12–15.

It is wonderful to know that



The old ASOPA building at Middle Head, Mosman

our PNG-Australian groups collaborate like this and help each other.

PNGAA Harbour Trust Submission

At a recent PNGAA Committee Meeting there was a vote of thanks to Paul Munro AM, who contributed an extraordinary amount of time in constructing PNGAA's submission to the Harbour Trust in response to the 9 May 2023 deadline on the Draft Master Plan for Middle Head. We offer our thanks also to Robin Mead and Ross Johnson for their assistance.

The Harbour Trust's 185-page Draft Master Plan was on display on their website from 14 March to 9 May 2023. Needless to say, it is challenging to gain access to useful information about the outcome's summary.

A number of clicks on the website and you will keep clicking. There has been much marketing about the information they provided, the public forums they arranged for interested persons to voice their opinion (but there was no response given at these forums), meetings with unspecified stakeholders and an announcement that a further

draft plan will be on display soon!

Digging deeply, we have found that there were 209 submissions. 43 responded to the survey, 97 provided feedback on the online 'Have Your Say' portal, and 69 written submissions, of which 63% were from local residents. Submissions noted as public were available for viewing, by appointment, at the Harbour Trust office in Mosman. There were also responses on social media and via a petition.

If you are interested in the consultation report, please google the Middle Head Draft Master Plan. To say it's frustrating is an understatement. Make sure you have a stiff drink with you!

Membership Fee Increase

Our treasurer, Murrough Benson, circulated a draft budget for the next 18 months to the committee and, following no increase for three years, it has been agreed to increase membership fees by about 10% from 1 January 2024. Please see more information on page 8.

Acknowledging that the DVDs currently have less and less use, we will be researching how to stream these *via* the website. Any assistance from members who have experience in these matters is welcome.

With membership expiry dates now spread through the year, it was agreed that all lapsed members will be followed up regularly, *via* email on a monthly basis. To save this additional work by our thinly spread volunteers, please ensure you keep track

of the expiry date of your membership which appears on the address label of your journal, or in the 'My Subscription' section of the PNGAA website at www.pngaa.org/my-subscription/.

Please encourage family and friends to join the PNGAA. Our membership fee is not onerous and supports the continuity of the association.

Welcome to New Members

The PNGAA Committee welcomes the following new members: Malcolm Gibb, Mike Harton, Tanya Jackson, Terry Joyce, Susan Mercer, Raymond Morris, Katherine Pettipas, Timothy Shaw, Michael White, Sigrid Yaru and Antoni Zallala.

If you have a friend or family member who wishes to join the PNGAA, please use the *Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form* at the back of this journal.

Restoring Friendly Gatherings

And who remembers those pre-Covid friendly BYO gatherings at Chatswood Bowling Club where members could call in, sit and chat whilst arranging the packing of the journal? Great news! Whilst the journal is now handled externally, those friendly gatherings will occur at the Bowling Club on the third Monday of the month every quarter (20 November, 19 February, 20 May, 19 August)—9.30 to 11.30 am. Email Roy and come along!

Over and out from your PNGAA Management Committee!



After the Covid miasma we have had a busy time in the collection. Here are some details of recent acquisitions.

Maria Friend has donated significant artefacts from her, and her late husband, Tony's, time in PNG. Tony was a *kiap* and Maria is a research anthropologist. Their artefacts included three flags—of Australia, PNG and West Sepik Province. These flags, provided by the Australian government, were used for the 1975 Independence celebrations at the government station at Imonda, West Sepik Province where Tony was in charge. Soon after Independence, they were replaced by a set of flags provided by the PNG government and were not used any longer.

Maria also provided some photos of Tony and herself with the flags—one in Tony's office and another of Maria with the flag (*below*) that was used in a recent exhibition, 'Woven Stories.



Ceremonial *Bilums* from PNG, held in Cairns in 2022.

Maria has been a valuable resource and has given of her time to help the PNGAA start its Student Scholarship fund which is modelled on the Tony Friend Scholarship for Telefomin & Oksapmin Students.

Jane Morrison has donated her late husband Rod's Patrol Reports and some original maps from his time in PNG. Rod was a *kiap* who started his career in 1966 as a Cadet Patrol Officer being appointed a Patrol Officer in 1968. After three children, all born in Lae, and a distinguished career, Jane and Rod worked on after Independence and finally returned to South Australia in 1978.



Ron Austin from Victoria, who flew for TAA in PNG, has donated some artefacts and shells collected during his time there. Thanks to our editor, John, who collected and brought these items from Melbourne to Sydney.

Our largest donation received recently is from the Sisters of

Mercy, Brisbane. It consisted of 18 cartons of differing size delivered early in August. Massive thanks go to Kerry Wilson, Archives Project Officer for the Sisters for her dedication to finding a home for the gifts given to their Order over their years of service in PNG. More information will follow when the cartons have been unpacked. Look out for a story about the Sisters' time in PNG in a future issue of *PNG KUNDU*.

This list is not exhaustive and I offer many thanks to those of you who contact me and send things of interest for the collection.

CHERYL MARVELL

0438 636 132 (Mob)

collection@pngaa.net



Membership Subscription Rate Increases

Effective 1 January 2024

Despite rising costs, we have been able to hold membership subscription rates steady for the past three years. The point has now been reached, however, where membership subscriptions no longer cover our operating costs. We regret, therefore, that all rates will have to be increased effective from 1 January 2024. The new annual rates from that date are:

- Printed journal posted within Australia: \$55.00
- Printed journal posted to Asia/Pacific (including New Zealand): \$77.00
- Printed journal posted to Rest of the World: \$88.00
- Digital Membership (no journal postage charge): \$36.00

Of the current base \$50.00 annual membership fee (overseas postage is extra), \$33.00 goes towards production and distribution of the journal and \$18.00 is required to cover general operating costs (mainly insurance cover, storage and website).

Very small operating surpluses in recent years have only been achieved from interest earned on investments, raffles and auctions at functions and profit on the sale of books, DVDs and other merchandise. We believe the interest rate increases of the past year have now peaked and will likely ease back in the coming year or two while income from functions and merchandise sales is expected to remain relatively small.

If you have an email address registered with us, you can find the status of your membership by logging onto the PNGAA website and clicking on 'Membership' then 'My Subscription'. Alternatively, if you receive a printed copy of the journal the expiry date of your membership is included on the mailing sheet that comes with your journal. Payment options are outlined in the Treasurer's Corner Membership & Order Form in the back of the journal.



Listings of upcoming meetings, social gatherings and events of interest for PNGAA members, and reports of functions, reunions and ceremonies held throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea.

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

A Huge and Very Warm Welcome to Sigrid Yaru!

Recently an ask was put on PNGAA's social media for someone, or a group of friends, to organise the annual Christmas lunch in Sydney this year, usually held on the first Saturday in December.

We were absolutely delighted to hear from Sigrid Yaru ... and details will be on the PNGAA website and in the next journal as soon as the Christmas lunch event details are sorted. Please pencil the date in your diary—**SATURDAY, 2 DECEMBER**

—and ensure you come along and say hello!! Anyone who has enjoyed a Sydney Wantok event will know of her, and here is a little about Sigrid's background:

'My name is Sigrid Yaru, I'm from Morobe and Enga provinces in Papua New Guinea. I reside in Sydney and have done so for the past 18 years when my immediate family and I migrated from Papua New Guinea in 2005.

I currently work full time at the Commonwealth Bank but, aside from that, I am also a Community Engagement Lead for Sydney Wantok Association



Sigrid Yaru (events@pngaa.net)

and on the Board of Pacific Professionals Network—all with the aim of fostering relationships between Papua New Guineans and the rest of the community in the diaspora.'

SYDNEY
Bush, Brush and Bubbles

An evening with Archibald 2021 and Wynne 2020/2021 Finalist, Julianne Ross Allcorn

Date: Friday, 3 November 2023

Time: 6.30 pm–9.30 pm.

Venue: Roseville—venue to be advised to confirmed participants.

Cost: \$150 includes art materials, 3 hours of art instruction, great company, and high tea canapés. BYO bubbles and drinks (glasses supplied). Limited numbers (12).

RSVP: 18 October 2023.

Payment to PNGAA BSB: 062-009 Acc. No. 0090 7724 Ref: ART + your surname.

Email: coordinator@pngaa.net to confirm your spot.

Having returned from a delightful sojourn at an artist workshop and residence in the wonderful La Porte Peinte, Noyers, sur Serein, Bergundy, Julianne completed numerous artworks and enjoyed creating with fellow artists. This was followed by an art escape to the Australian Centre and then the Grampians in Victoria, so memories and inspiration are overflowing!

Julianne is an artist who draws inspiration from nature ... Her artworks perfectly illustrate what an immense influence the natural

beauty around us can have on the imagination of an artist—Purple Noon Gallery.

Julianne is a highly accomplished practising artist with works in many collections and has displayed in many group and solo exhibitions.

Awarded the 'Trustees Watercolour Prize' in the WYNNE 2020 AGNSW, Julianne's artworks are held in various private collections around the world—London, Cornwall, Switzerland, USA, France, Australia

Born in Rabaul, PNG, and now residing in Roseville, Sydney, Julianne was the Events Co-ordinator of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia from 2009–15 and curated the PNGAA Art Exhibition 2015.

Julianne says: *My two loves in life besides my family are dancing and creating artworks. Without these I am not whole. Drawing is meditation. Teaching is the reward.*

PNGAA Annual Christmas Lunch

Date: Saturday, 2 December 2023
Further details will be available soon on the PNGAA website and in the next journal.

BRISBANE Anniversary Luncheon to Acknowledge the Disbandment of the PNGVR

Date: Saturday, 21 October 2023
Time: The NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association luncheon will be held after the AGM.

Venue: Everyman's Hut, 907 Boundary Road, Wacol.
The Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR) was formed in 1951 and disbanded in 1973.

SUNSHINE COAST Kiap Reunion 2023

Date: Sunday, 12 November 2023
Time: 10.00 am.

Venue: Kawana Waters Hotel, 136 Nicklin Way, Kawana Waters.
Cost: meals and drinks at own expense.

RSVP: 15 October 2023. The venue needs to know approximate numbers by this date.

Contact: Peter Salmon—(mob.) 0438 092 052 or (email) kiap@optusnet.com.au

Transport/ Parking: Hotel parking available.

Special Notes: This invitation is extended to all kiaps, their families, their friends and other acquaintances from a previous lifetime such as chalkies, didimen, etc.

The Kawana Waters Hotel is the same venue as for past years. Drinks will be available at bar prices from the Lounge Bar and Public Bars and these bars will be open from 11.00 am to 10.00 pm. Some of the diehards have been known to congregate on Saturday afternoon for pre-Sunday drinks.

The venue outlook is over water to an extensive marina and has a covered outdoor deck area linked to an indoor bar/lounge with adequate dining and seating facilities available for our use. The bistro adjoins our area and, as with previous reunions, you

will be able to order your own meals and sit with whom you choose.

The restaurant will be open from 11.30 am to 8.30 pm. Informality will continue to be the order of the day. There will be no speeches, everyone is far too busy catching up with friends. This format has proven popular so we will stick with it.

The Kawana Waters Hotel (<https://www.kawanawatershotel.com.au/>) has sixteen renovated motel-style rooms. If you require a booking, please phone the hotel on 07 5444 6699 and mention that you are part of the 'Kiap Reunion' group to secure a unit. It is the case of first in, etc. but we know the rooms were found to be very much in demand. The Function Co-ordinator has allowed us a 10% discount on accommodation. Other accommodation is available nearby.

Our email address list is up to date as much as it can but not all kiaps are listed, and some email addresses may not be current. Please mention the reunion to all of the kiaps you know just in case they are not on the list.

GOLD COAST Gold Coast PNG Club Christmas Luncheon

Date: Sunday, 26 November 2023
Time: 12:00 noon–2.30 pm

Venue: Southport Golf Club

Cost: To be advised.

RSVP: Monday 20 Nov. 2023

Contact: Iava Parapa-Falvey, 0416 820 680, iparapafalvey@yahoo.com

Transport/Parking: Onsite Parking available.

Reports, News & Reviews

FUNCTIONS, REUNIONS AND CEREMONIES HELD THROUGHOUT AUSTRALIA & PNG



CANBERRA: Montevideo Maru Memorial Luncheon

This was held in Canberra at the Pavilion Hotel, followed by the Australian War Memorial (AWM) Last Post Ceremony when the story of the three Turner brothers who died on the MS *Montevideo Maru* was told (*see the Inside Back Cover*).

Over 50 attended the luncheon (*above*) including many descendants of those lost and several of the team which assisted in finding the wreck of the *Montevideo Maru* in mid-April 2023. The luncheon was organised by PNGAA's John and Carolyn Reeves. Kylie Adams-Collier sang her 'Montevideo Maru 1942' song at the start of the luncheon.

The keynote speaker was Andrea Williams who was on the search ship, *Fugro Equator*, when the wreck was located. Andrea's talk was accompanied by many photographs and a good description of the technicalities involved finding a vessel over 4,000 m under the ocean using an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV).

Another speaker was Mark Dale, a nephew of the Turner brothers, who gave a moving address at the luncheon. Other Association members present were Michael White and Neil Gow.

PHIL AINSWORTH



MELBOURNE: PNGAA Lunch

There was a fantastic turn-out of around 80 people at the Melbourne PNGAA lunch on Saturday, 22 July 2023 at East Malvern RSL (*below*), including three evacuees from Rabaul at the time of the Japanese invasion, who all had relatives on board the MS *Montevideo Maru*.

Our guest speaker for the day was Andrea Williams who was part of the delegation on board the *Fugro Equator* ship searching for the *Montevideo Maru* wreck, sponsored by the Silentworld Foundation with assistance from



Department of Defence. Michael Gooding, from Silentworld, also attended.

The humanitarian expedition aimed to find the final resting place of 1,053 military personnel and civilians from 14 nations, most of whom were Australian soldiers. The sinking of the ship 81 years ago resulted in one of the most tragic losses of life in Australian maritime history.

Andrea's detailed presentation gave a great insight into the search and ultimate discovery of the remains of the shipwreck. Also, how sensitively the search was handled and the consideration given to the lives lost.

Thanks and appreciation must go to Peter Ryan (*below*) for organising this event and the raffle prizes, and to all those who helped out on the day.

Please check the PNGAA website (www.pngaa.org/melbourne-function-in-july/) for photos of the event.

CLAIRE VAN BAKEL





BRISBANE: Montevideo Maru Memorial Service

At the Brisbane Cenotaph on Saturday, 1 July 2023 the NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association held its 81st Anniversary Service commemorating the sinking of *Montevideo Maru*, and the loss of at least 36 NGVR soldiers.

Twenty-four members and friends as well as descendants of those lost on the ship and their friends attended this special service in Brisbane, the first conducted since the finding of the wreck of the *Montevideo Maru* off the coast of the Philippines in April this year.

Paul Brown opened proceedings and introduced Vice President, Bob Collins, then Assn Patron Maj. Gen. Professor John Pearn AO, RFD delivered a very insightful address followed by prayers, wreath laying, the Last Post and Reveille and the singing of the National Anthem.

Reprinted from *Harim Tok Tok*,
August 2023

CAIRNS: July 2023 Lunch

Our regular lunches here in Cairns have fallen by the wayside, but I do try and arrange a lunch



(L to R) Dympna Leonard, Elza Browne, Warren Bartlett (1965), Hugh Miller, John and Elizabeth Fenske, Geoff Hartnett, Martin Kerr (1964), Phil Browne (1972), Chris Warrillow (1959), Arch MacArthur (1971)

whenever we have visitors to Cairns and this often results in people catching up after long periods of time.

Recently Chris Warrillow (1959) and Phil Browne (1972) (and wife Elza) were up from Melbourne. Chris and Phil last met in Kagua in 1974 when Chris was ADC Kagua and Phil was posted there as a Patrol Officer. Also, Geoff Hartnett (ex-Talair) caught up with Arch MacArthur (1971)—they had last crossed paths in Alotau in the mid-1970s.

Present at the lunch: Arch MacArthur (1971), Bob Welsh (1968), Chris Warrillow (1959), Eric Willsmore (no information), Geoff 'Skippy' Hartnett (ex-Talair/AirNiugini), Hugh Miller (ex-Coastwatchers Madang), John and Elizabeth Fenske (ex-Talair/AirNiugini), Martin Kerr (1964), Phil (1972) and Elza Browne, Tony Pryke (1962), Warren Bartlett (1965) and Deryck Thompson (1972) and Dympna Leonard.

Apologies: Chris Makin, Laurie and Mai Bragge, Lyall Forde, John Wilkinson and Paul and Marie Van Staveren.

Note: Years in brackets indicate year of appointment as kiap.

DERYCK THOMPSON



GOLD COAST: PNG Club 50th Anniversary

Congratulations to the Gold Coast PNG Club on reaching its 50th Anniversary—a significant milestone which we, as members, should celebrate. And celebrate, we did, in style with a *bikpela pati*, a spectacular cultural event held on 24 June 2023 at the Corporate Suites of the Gold Coast Turf Club, attended by over 160 members and guests.

Commemorating this landmark, the Club hosted a Charity Raceday as part of the *bikpela pati* with all the fanfare and jubilation. The event was a resounding success, raising more than \$21,000 for our charity beneficiaries—the Kokoda Track Foundation, Paradise4Kids through Haus Pikinini, Lite Haus International, PNGAA Scholarship Fund (see page 4) and YWAM Medical Ships (PNG)—to help their sterling efforts in supporting and improving education and health care services in PNG, especially in remote communities.

The Corporate Suites overlooking the racecourse provided an ideal setting for the *bikpela pati* as it was 50 years since the first formal gathering was held at the old Trotting Club in Southport.

The suites were ablaze in the national colours of PNG; tables draped in black tablecloths topped with gold and red table runners, the chairs were encased in yellow and red sashes while the

colourful flowers as centrepieces completed the ensemble.

As the members and guests entered the venue, they were in awe of the atmosphere, abuzz with glitz and glamour from high-end couture and fashion accessories as well as the colourful PNG traditional costumes! Their attention was immediately drawn to the lavish auction items on display and the many raffle prizes—return airline tickets, jewellery, fashion accessories, hamper baskets, wines, champagnes, signed football jerseys, restaurant vouchers and basketware and painting from PNG.

President Greg Pike welcomed everyone and thanked the Club Committee members, led by the incomparable Julie Webb, for their efforts in organising the extravaganza. He then introduced Kieran Nelson, our Guest Speaker and made special mention of Yoshimi Ewing another original club member.

Kieran, accompanied by his lovely wife, Margot Lambert-Nelson, spoke of the early days when he joined the Club with his parents in the 1970s and remembered the first gathering at the Trotting Club. 'As a member of the PNGAA, New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and PNG Volunteer Rifle Ex-Members Association I would like to pass on the best wishes of these associations and congratulate the Club on your achievements over the years,' he said.

Congratulatory messages were received from the PNG



Julie Webb (right) with the glamorous 2023–24 Club Committee
(Absent Raina Seeto)

High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency, Mr John Ma'o Kali, CMG, OBE and the Acting Consul-General, Mr Jimmy Ovia.

We are extremely grateful to all the sponsors who heard our plea for help and contributed generously to our worthy causes. These were Aesthetically Yours, Air Niugini, Des & Sue Kurtz, Digicel, Don Wotton (Paradise Palette), Indie Vibes, Framed Just For You, *Gold Coast Magazine*, Gold Coast Suns, Gold Coast Turf Club, Hogans Jewellers (Toowoomba), JAR Millinery, Karen Gosling, Lainie Moore Jewellery & Fashion, Liz Clift International, Margaret Sponberg, Mariana Jewellery, Michael Dooley Photography, Mozza Mozza Restaurant, Performance Studios, PNG Bilums & Baskets, Queen Emma Chocolates, Recession Chic, Schuck Restaurant, Sirromet Wines, Slim Magazine, SP PNG Hunters, Starfire Diamonds Sonia

Stradiotto Couture, Southport Golf Club, Tea by Birdy, Terry White Chemists, Ultraderm and Unique Trends.

Bruce T, in his elaborate *bilas*, resembled a fierce highlands warrior and the Roro Dancers in their colourful yellow and red grass skirts and tattooed faces were a big hit with the revellers as they proudly showcased PNG culture. It was certainly the highlight of the festivities.

A massive thank you to those who contributed in some way to making the Club's 50th Anniversary celebrations a huge success and to all who attended.

We couldn't have perfected the successful extravaganza that was the *bikpela pati* Charity Raceday without the expert help of Jasmin Feenan, Gold Coast Turf Club's Event Coordinator, who executed and delivered our requirements and logistics in a timely and professional manner.



Wayne Nuku and Peter Tuitama of the Poly Boys (top) and the Roro dancers showcasing their traditional performance (below)
(All photos courtesy Bob McGahan)

The elaborately decorated Photo Wall, which featured intricately handmade velvet roses sewn together was created by Luxe Designs and the flowers and table settings were produced by Nikki Bartlett.

The Roro Dancers from the Queensland Kairuku Association (QKA), who have been performing for the last six years, have gained a lot of popularity in the Brisbane and Gold Coast communities. They are passionate about the preservation of their culture, language and traditions which they proudly promote at every opportunity.

Maureen Mopio-Jane, the Public Relations Officer of the QKA had this to say, 'Many thanks for your kind hospitality and selecting our Roro Dancers to represent PNG. Congratulations once again for reaching 50 years. All the best for the future. We proudly enjoyed performing for your organisation and are glad

to hear the crowd were pleased.'

Bruce T, who was very popular with everyone, said that he and his dad, John, were honoured to have been asked to participate at the 50th anniversary celebrations. He spoke of the importance of cultural ties to PNG and was proud to have demonstrated his heritage to signify who he is. From Tondmong village in the Western Highlands Province, Bruce is of the Nenga Engmb tribe. His father John lent his expert skills in preparing Bruce for his magnificent warrior look for the event. Following the end of the festivities, Bruce said, 'It was a joy sharing my identify with all of you and I sincerely hope to be part of the Club's events in the future.'

The judges had their work cut out for them as they tried to concur in choosing the winners of the best-dressed male and female categories among the many stunningly dressed women and dashing men in their raceday wear. Finally, four lucky winners were selected.

Wayne Nuku and Peter Tuitama of the Poly Boys kept us entertained with the sounds of the Pacific Islands and upbeat modern songs until the late afternoon.

Bob McGahan, the photographer, deserves an award for having the patience of a saint! He was in high demand for photo sessions especially with Bruce T. I am reliably informed that Bob produced over 700 photographs! Interested persons should visit the Club's Facebook page to

upload their selections or contact a Club Committee member.

'Auctioneer' Charmaine Partridge was brilliant in working her charms on the potential bidders for the lavish auction items. Congratulations to the lucky winners of the bumper raffle prizes and the successful bidders on the magnificent auction items!

Judging by favourable feedback received, a good time was had by all who attended and enjoyed the festivities particularly the cultural aspects of the *bikpela pati*, thanks to Bruce T and the Roro Dancers.

The Club is proud to be celebrating this momentous occasion and pays homage to its founding fathers; Doug Elphinstone, Bob Wilson and Terry Powell. Thank you to the current and past committee members who are to be commended for their commitment and dedication to the Club's continued success and to the members for their unwavering support.

JAVA PARAPA-FALVEY



Best dressed or 'undressed' of the *bikpela pati*, featuring Bruce T (right)



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 6 October 2023, the Copy Deadline for the next issue, to editor@pngaa.net

Gold Coast PNG Club Donation

On behalf of the President, Committee and Members of the Gold Coast PNG Club, I want to advise that as one of the recipients of our recent event you will receive \$4,000 towards the PNG Association of Australia.

Your charity was an important part of the fundraising activities held during the PNG Club Charity Race Day and Bikpela Pati held at the Gold Coast Turf Club on Saturday 24 June 2023. The event was a great success with over 160 members and guests in attendance. Our fundraising activities included an auction and raffles which were well supported by those in attendance.

These proceeds from the day will benefit the remote communities of PNG in improving quality of life, education and health care. Your treasurer, Murrough Benson, has this afternoon provided the Association's bank details in which the funds will be deposited.

Again, thank you for your support.

GREG PIKE

Health Hazards in PNG?

Two things have always both interested and concerned me about anyone living in PNG 'back in the day'.

Most of the office buildings and houses were, presumably, constructed of asbestos cement sheeting.

Every week the fog-machine

traversed the towns, blowing clouds of DDT through all the buildings.

I am curious to know if PNG expats have a higher incidence of asbestos or DDT related health issues/deaths, than the Australian population in general.

Has anyone collected any data on these issues? Or am I just morbidly and strangely curious?

ANNE YOUNG

(E:) 5735amy@gmail.com

Information, Please

I am doing research on the history of broadcasting and amateur radio. I also collect postage stamps. Recently I got a postage stamp from PNG for my collection.

This postage stamp has an interesting scene. It was released in 1996 for the centenary of radio. The stamp was designed by Graham Wade who has unfortunately died. The postage stamp is called: '1st radio transmission in Papua New Guinea'.

I could not find any additional information on this postage stamp. Is this a real scene from PNG history or is the stamp something the designer invented? If the scene is real and related to PNG history, then who



are these people on the postage stamp? Maybe the designer drew it based on some photo or text?

I will be very grateful if one of your readers could provide me with this aspect of the history of radio and the history of PNG. Or maybe someone knows who I could contact about this issue?

Please send information to editor@pngaa.net

MICHAEL GENIN

Brenda Margaret Cruickshank

I am currently writing about Miss Cruickshank (1930–2021). She was a career nurse who, when she retired, was the Director of Nursing at Sydney Hospital, NSW. She also spent her early nursing years at the 'Native' Hospital, Goroka, as a Registered General Nurse and had a Midwifery/Obstetric Registration. I believe it was for one, or up to two years during 1956–57.

I am also told that she either initiated, or was very involved with, setting up a maternity service or ward for the women of the area.

I know that this was a very long time ago, but I am hoping that someone, staff maybe? or perhaps one of the women Brenda would have assisted in childbirth or their child may remember Brenda and/or giving birth at the Goroka hospital at that time.

I am also hoping that there are old records or newspaper reports about the new maternity service of 1956.

I would also really appreciate photos of the old Goroka hospital and of Brenda and colleagues at the time as I am also interested in the social life for the staff at the hospital at that time.

I appreciate that this could be a difficult or lengthy task but

if anyone could suggest a person or persons who may be able to assist me or a helpful online site, I will be eternally grateful.

TERRY JOYCE

(E:) doctor.terry60@yahoo.com.au

To the Editor

Grace and peace to you.

Our Membership Officer, Roy Ranney, is correct to say that 'the Editor and his team' have put together another magnificent issue of PNG *Kundu* (June 2023).

In the first instance, limiting comments to just three articles:

Ken McKinnon's account of his time in and around Daru reminded me of my short time there in 1962 as Associate to Mr Justice Rupert Ollerenshaw.

Suellen Holland's account of Rotary's support reminded me that I had one of her twin sisters in my class at Court St Primary A School in Rabaul in 1967.

Diana Plowman's article about Sighere Primary T School had a photo of Peter Moses, who had gone through ASOPA at the same time as me (1963–64).

My real reason for contacting you is to ask if you have any way that you can put me in touch with Peter and Diana? I've looked in the Membership Directory but couldn't find either of them. I presume you would have to have their permission to give me any contact details.

In the meantime, I'd be happy for you to give them mine.

2024 will be the 60th year since finishing at ASOPA and, as I and others did in 2014, we would love to contact as many of our old colleagues as possible and see if we can't *bung wantaim moa*. (In 2014 we found seven of them.)

Now I'd better return to PNG *Kundu* to see what else will have a special interest. (Just a quick look—there are at least two more). Thanks, in advance.

NEIL HARVEY

A later note from Neil read:

As an update, two more stories I noticed in the June issue were:

The tribute to Rev Neville Threlfall, who was busy in and around Rabaul before, during and after our time at Rabuana, Rabaul and Keravat, and with whom I have had occasional contact.

The Vale to Sir Rabbie Namaliu, not that we knew him personally, but we did know his wife, Margaret Nakikus, when we were living at Keravat



RF 'Bill' Brechin at Kainantu airstrip, c.1936 (© D Halliday)

(1968–69) and she was a student at Keravat High School.

As an added extra, through the co-operation of Roy and yourself, we were able to make contact with Diana Plowman and be brought up to speed in relation to Peter Moses, only to find that he died back in 2017. **NH**

Bill Brechin & Aiyura Highlands Agricultural Experimental Station

I am writing a book about the founding and working of the Highlands Agricultural Experiment Station in Aiyura in New Guinea from the 1930s to the 1960s. In particular, I am tracing the work of Ronald (Bill) Frank Brechin who got the work started.

Bill was tragically killed in 1942 as he was working to help people escape the Japanese advances into the Highlands of New Guinea.

There is an author, Peter N Munster, who published on your site in 2015 a paper on

the central highlands of New Guinea and Goroka:

<https://pngaa.org/article/dr-peter-munster-oam-a-history-of-contact-and-change-in-the-goroka-valley-central-highlands-of-new-guinea-1934-1949/>

In that paper he references material and photos of Bill Brechin from his wife, Dulcie. I would love to have access to the material he collected, but I understand Peter passed away. I have tried to contact Peter's family or work partners, but with no success.

I am writing to see if your readers can help find such information. I live now in the USA but spent 15 years living in Aiyura. During that time my work with the Summer Institute of Linguistics kept me more than occupied. Now, nearing retirement I have time to write.

Thank you for considering this request.

CHARLES MICHEALS

(E:) chuck_micheals@wycliffe.org

Finding the *Montevideo Maru*

The loss of the *Montevideo Maru* is the worst maritime disaster in Australian history and, until April 2023, the exact location of its final resting place remained a mystery. Its discovery in April off the coast of the Philippines made headlines around the world.

During the event on 1 August at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, Search Director and Submarine Specialist, Captain Roger Turner CEng, FIMarEST, RN, shared his behind-the-scenes insights into the remarkable discovery. He played a pivotal role alongside the team at Silentworld Foundation and Fugro, with support from the Department of Defence.

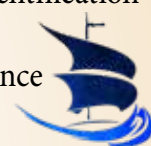
Attendees had the opportunity to gain unique insights into the intricacies of maritime archae-

ology, modern technological advancements in underwater exploration, and the meticulous research that led to the successful identification of the *Montevideo Maru*.

The talk was followed by an audience Q&A and light refreshments.



Some of the search team on board *Fugro Equator* (Capt. Turner, centre)



Featuring book reviews about Papua New Guinea, listings of art and craft exhibitions, interviews, and items of interest to PNGAA members.

Please send your articles, information and photos for the next issue by the Copy Deadline, 6 October 2023, to editor@pngaa.net

PHILIP FITZPATRICK

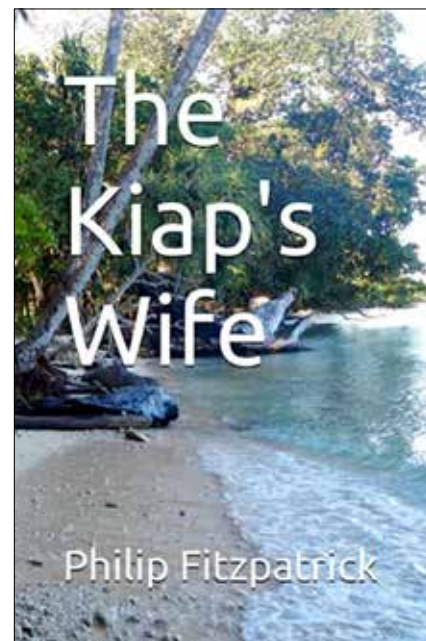
The Kiap's Wife

When patrol officer Jack Forrest is transferred from the highlands to the backwaters of a sub-district somewhere on the coast of New Britain in 1965, he wonders what is in store for him.

So too do the adopted daughters of the local missionary. Rescued from the clutches of a malevolent sorcerer in their home village as toddlers they have been brought up as Europeans but still cling to their cultural roots.

This is a story about the kiaps and the people with whom they worked in Papua New Guinea prior to Independence in 1975. It is an offbeat story of romance entwined with history.

During the 1960s great social change was sweeping through countries like Australia and was reflected in the attitudes of many kiaps, particularly those with a liberal bent. Old ideas about colonialism and interracial relations were being questioned and found wanting. At the same



time a steady but growing band of locally recruited Papua New Guinean kiaps were entering the service.

The serious possibility of self-government and independence was also beginning to be discussed, not only in Canberra but also among the nascent elite of the country, creating both uncertainty and a certain kind of tension among many kiaps.

These developments were not generally reflected among those not working at the coal face of field administration or engaged in private enterprise, where old ideas about racial inferiority and the ability of Papua New Guineans to govern themselves persisted. All these things make the 1960s a significant inflection point in the history of the Australian and Papua New Guinean relationship and informs the fictional events depicted in the story.

This book is an attempt to weave a sense of those times through an otherwise fictional work.

ISBN: 979-8850819989
Independently Published (2023)
Fiction, 370 pages
Available from Amazon Australia
Cost: Paperback \$19.36, Kindle \$1.00

MARISA JONES

A Dangerous Land

A Dangerous Land is an historical romance set in New Guinea during World War II. It attempts to showcase Australia's colonial past in its former colony.

In her debut novel, drawing on her time spent living in

PNG, Marisa Jones writes about a history not well known to most Australians. It is a love story about childhood friends Amelia and Daniel and follows their fight to be together against all odds. The Pacific War is looming and Amelia is soon to be evacuated back to Australia, whilst Daniel, a mixed-race New Guinean, is determined to find a way to protect his home when the Australian Army won't let him enlist.

They both become trapped when their town of Salamaua is attacked by the Japanese and embark on separate treks across New Guinea's rugged terrain in order to escape. Jones explains how it explores the themes of racism and colonisation, while following real life events that took place during the war.

'When I set out to write this book, my intention was to create a story that celebrates Papua New Guinea,' author Marisa Jones



said about *A Dangerous Land*. 'It is a uniquely beautiful and richly diverse country that I have come to call home, and a place to which many Australians have a connection.'

ISBN: 978-0-6458005-2-4
Published by Jonesing for Books (2023)— Cost: \$24.99 or K50
302 pages. Available from Amazon and online at <https://marisajonesbooks.com/home/a-dangerous-land-out-25-june-2023/> and various retail outlets in PNG.

IAN HOWIE-WILLIS

Operation Postern: The battle to recapture Lae from the Japanese, 1943

Some would say, what, another book on the taking of Lae? However, the author has produced one of the best modern campaign histories to date.

The book is well laid out and appendices provide additional information for those interested in the minutiae of detail or need to become aware of the structure of the units involved with a detailed listing of the teams involved in the amphibious landings, those involved in the Markham Valley and an explanation of the Australian Army Unit numbering system.

Like all good military history books, there is an excellent glossary to assist the reader in understanding the abbreviations and acronyms that are the norm in this type of writing.

The work is well-researched,



Chimbu Roi 2013 Image (top)
Malangan Powa 2014 Image (below) ©Wylda Bayrón

Bilas: Body Adornment from Papua New Guinea *Australian Museum, cnr College & William Streets, Sydney* **Free Special Exhibition to 2 October 2023**

This exhibition features photographs by Wylda Bayrón and a selection of objects from the Australian Museum's Pacific cultural collection. It explores *bilas* (body decoration) in all its forms and it illustrates the transformation of the human body into art.

Examples of *bilas* from all 21 provinces of Papua New Guinea are on display and these are supplemented by a number of recently acquired objects. Altogether, the exhibition is a dramatic exposition of the art and culture of the people of PNG. Originally a ticketed exhibition, it is now free following sponsorship by the Bank of South Pacific.

We thank the Australian Museum for permission to reproduce some of the photographs, by Wylda Bayrón from the exhibition.

For more information see: <https://australian.museum/exhibition/bilas/>

If interested in joining a PNGAA tour at 10.30 am on 27 September, please email coordinator@pngaa.net by 22 September 2023.

with a comprehensive bibliography, including official records, standard reference works, other books and references to journal articles and relevant book chapters.

Additional references are for newspaper articles and materials in keeping with the age we live in, from the internet. The endnotes at the end of the book are very comprehensive.

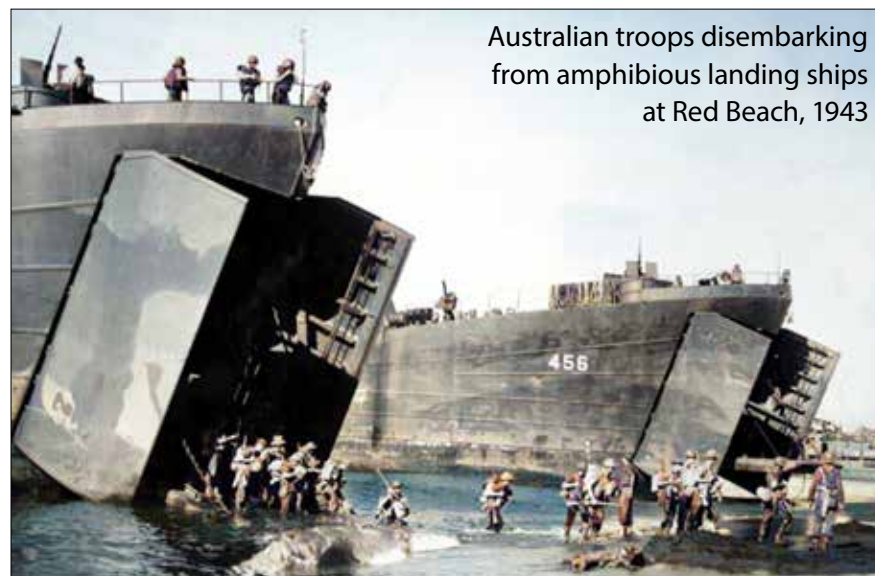
But what makes this book stand out from other campaign histories? Campaign histories can be very dry and dull and useful at night if you need help getting to sleep. *Operation Postern* is not.

From the outset, a wide-ranging introduction will set the time and the historical record; brilliantly written and a big help to those who are knowledge deprived of the war in New Guinea.

Planning? Well, how boring is that? This author takes the reader through the planning stages in detail but logically from the highest decision-making body and their determination to retake Lae to the divisional planning of the two divisions involved. The chapter emphasises two facts: detailed planning is the reason for success and illustrates the planning process in military operations.

A chapter is devoted to each divisional operation and the Wau-Salamaua campaign linked to Operation Postern.

The issues raised by the escape of the garrison of Lae rate their own chapter, which includes some what-if scenarios that look at the



Australian troops disembarking from amphibious landing ships at Red Beach, 1943

potential problems if the garrison had been captured.

The author does not sugarcoat the command arguments between the 9 Division Commander and his brigade commanders or the attitude that prevailed of 'take no prisoners'.

Unlike works written on the war in South West Pacific Area, both in the past closer to the events and more recently, the author devotes not only a chapter to the effect of the war on the indigenous population but refers to the hardship and cost to them in his other chapters.

Utilising case studies, the reader

is given a brief understanding of what the war did to the people living in the Markham Valley and surrounding areas of Morobe Province during the war. He illustrates some of the motivating ideas behind the attitudes of ANGAU operatives and their postwar agenda and, at the same time, demonstrates the changes that came to the villages around Lae and how the war changed villagers' thinking towards the Australian Government.

Overall, a valuable and inciteful view of the operation to recapture Lae from the Japanese in 1943. The author should be commended for his approach and his introduction to this type of military history—the 'Third Party', the native people of Papua and New Guinea.

JOHN REEVES

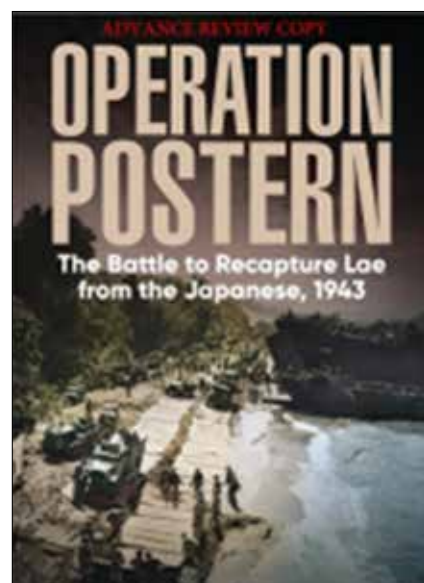
ISBN: 978-1-922896-14-8

Published by Big Sky Publishing Pty Ltd (2023)

(to be released 01/11/2023)

Military history, 486 pages

Available from: the publisher, via email: info@bigskypublishing.com.au; and web: www.bigskypublishing.com.au; also available from major retailers—Cost: \$32.99



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.

VIP visitors in PNG

Tim Swanston and Stephen Dziedzic of the ABC reported on Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi's arrival in Port Moresby on 21 May to co-host the third Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). The Forum brings together leaders and top officials from New Delhi and 14 Pacific Island nations.

The preceding week in PNG had been one of hectic preparation for an expected visit of US president, Joe Biden. As preparations entered their final stages for the president's arrival, PNG's Foreign Minister Justin Tkatchenko—the man charged with co-ordinating the logistics for the president's entourage—was forced to step aside after labelling critics of his daughter's social media videos 'primitive animals'.

The visit of India's Prime Minister to PNG suggests that another emerging major economy has an interest in the countries of the Pacific. As India's strength grows, it too wants to build new trade, development and political links with Pacific Island countries, particularly larger nations in the region like PNG.

The US president was only



PM Modi and PM Marape

planning to spend a few hours in Port Moresby but would have been able to use that time to hold a bilateral meeting and sign a Defence Cooperation Agreement with PNG, while also meeting Pacific leaders already in town. In the event US Secretary of State Antony Blinken filled in for the absent president.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-22/indias-modi-lands-in-png-to-host-fipic-with-pacific-leaders/102374762>

PNG and US Sign Co-operation Agreements

On 22 May 2023, the United States and Papua New Guinea concluded a Defence Co-operation Agreement (DCA) and an Agreement Concerning Counter Illicit Transnational Maritime Activity Operations.

A press release from US State Department said that the DCA will form the framework around which our two countries will enhance security cooperation, further strengthen our bilateral relationship, improve the capacity of the PNG Defence Force and increase stability and security in the region.

This DCA will facilitate bilateral and multilateral exercises and engagements in support of regional capacity building priorities. It also enables the United States to be more responsive in emergency situations, such as those involving humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The new Agreement Concerning Counter Illicit Transnational Maritime Activity



US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, and Papua New Guinea defence minister, Win Bakri Daki, shake hands after signing the security agreement, as the prime minister, James Marape, looks on

Operations addresses a range of maritime threats including illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, migrant smuggling and illicit transport of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

This new Agreement will also enable PNG to participate in the US Coast Guard's Shiprider program, enhancing PNG's organic enforcement capabilities, improving overall maritime domain awareness, and helping PNG protect its sovereignty.

<https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-and-papua-new-guinea-sign-new-defense-cooperation-agreement-and-an-agreement-concerning-counter-illicit-transnati>

Some comment on PNG-US Defence Cooperation Agreement.

Daniel Hurst, writing in *The Guardian*, said that Prime Minister James Marape was at pains to say that he did not want to be forced to make a choice between the US and China. He was responding to criticism of the DCA by the leader of the opposition who claimed that it

put into question PNG's status as 'friend to all and enemy of none'. After leakage of a copy of the agreement before it was signed, there was public discussion about whether US military personnel, accused of crimes committed in PNG, would be tried in PNG courts or by US military tribunals.

PNG's Prime Minister James Marape tried to hose down the controversy, repeating that there would be 'no immunity for criminal conduct of visiting US forces' and declaring that 'all assets developed under this agreement would be owned by the PNG Defence Force'.

The DCA has been described by Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF) chief Mark Goia as the 'key to doing more with the US'.

Paul Barker, the director of PNG independent think-tank Institute of National Affairs, told the ABC that the United States—like other major countries—had 'upped their game and attention' in the region, presenting Pacific

Island nations with both opportunities and pitfalls.

'South Pacific countries ... don't want to be caught as the meat in the sandwich as it were, but they also do like the extra attention in terms of extra opportunities, trading opportunities, development assistance' he said.

'But they're also nervous about it, and they want to be able to spend their time to determine their own positions and not to have those positions determined from outside or to be unduly pressured.'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/23/papua-new-guineas-security-deal-with-the-us-is-a-win-for-washington-for-now>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-05-22/indias-modi-lands-in-png-to-host-fipic-with-pacific-leaders/102374762>

Lieutenant Jasmine Numbuk, PNGDF

Jasmine Numbuk has recently made history by being the first officer to receive the King's commission in the Defence Force of PNG.

Educated in primary and secondary schools in East Sepik province, Jasmine completed higher training at the Don Bosco Technical Institute in Port Moresby.

At 23 years of age Jasmine joined the PNG Defence Force, who selected her immediately for training at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra and, subsequently, at Royal Military College Duntroon. She is the first female officer from



Lieutenant Jasmine Numbuk

PNGDF to graduate from these academies. On 27 June 2023 she received her commission as a lieutenant in the PNGDF.
<https://www.postcourier.com.pg/setting-the-bar-high/>

Wallaby Test Debut for Mt Hagen Man, Zane Nonggorr

His mum calls him Baby Bear but the rugby prop with PNG heritage, Zane Nonggorr, will be a giant grizzly in his Wallaby Test debut against South Africa on 9 July.

Zane is the latest in a strong line of players with joint PNG-Australian connections to be selected for Australian rugby union teams.

His father, constitutional lawyer, Professor John Nonggorr, is from Bitinum Village, Mt Hagen.

He follows other players of PNG heritage in Rabaul-born Ivania Wong, the speedster for the Wallaroos, former Wallaby centre Graeme Bond from the Duke of York Islands and, of

course, Port Moresby product and international superstar, Will Genia.

The first New Guinea-born Wallaby was legendary second rower Rob Heming, born in Namatanai, New Ireland. As a boy, Heming just escaped the Japanese invasion in 1942 but his father remained on New Ireland and was executed. Heming has been named in best-ever Wallaby teams.

Former Wallaby prop, Tony D'Arcy, was born in Port Moresby and later lived in Lae. He attended the famous Rugby Union nursery, Nudgee College.

Zane Nonggorr attended another great rugby nursery, The Southport School (TSS) and won GPS premierships in 2017 and 2019. In 2019 he captained TSS through an undefeated season. Zane was born in Australia but takes great pride in his PNG heritage. His mum is noted lawyer Tiffany Twivey-Nonggorr.

Zane has rocketed into the Wallabies squad after an incredible season with the Queensland Reds. He is regarded very highly by Wallaby coach,



Zane Nonggorr

Eddie Jones, and seems set for a long career in the gold jersey.

Apologies if I have missed any other PNG-Australia rugby union reps over the years (as opposed to rugby league) but, if so, please feel free to add.

MAX UECHTRITZ

Editor's Note: Unfortunately, the Wallabies went down to South Africa in the test, 12–43 and lost to Argentina 31–34—less said about the Bledisloe Cup the better!

Another Cattle Industry for PNG?

Writing in *The National*, Malum Nalu said that the livestock industry in Papua New Guinea is at such a low level that people refer to it sarcastically as the 'deadstock industry'. Before independence there was a thriving livestock industry around the country and the Prime Minister, James Marape, has announced his intention to revive this aspect of PNG's economy and has appointed South Fly MP, Sekie Agisa, to head a new Ministry of Livestock.

Mr Marape said that the Livestock Development Corporation (LDC), following a direction from his government, is moving to take back all state land occupied by settlers and use it to rebuild the cattle industry. Minister Agisa will ensure that this process continues and ensure that areas like his own province, Western, which has so much grassland, are used to raise cattle.

Nalu used a visit to Launakalana, in the Rigo district, to



The driveway into Launakalana

illustrate what had been achieved in the past and to suggest what might be achieved in the future. He said that there had been a thriving cattle ranch there in the 1960s but that it was now covered by bush and surviving cattle had become feral.

LDC has commenced the task of redeveloping Launakalana as a source of cattle. It had been set up by John Lewis who had worked previously for DASf on its Moitaka livestock breeding station and as manager of the pig breeding unit at Goroka.

John Lewis worked with livestock in PNG for over 36 years, finally leaving PNG in 1990. While at Launakalana, he not only established and ran a successful cattle operation, but he also introduced a water supply for the cattle, the station and the surrounding community.

<https://www.thenational.com.pg/govt-resurrects-once-thriving-cattle-ranches/>

Sea Women of Melanesia

This is a not-for-profit association incorporated in Papua New Guinea (PNG). All its directors are indigenous females. It is supported by the Coral Sea Foundation of Australia and its

international partners.

One of the objectives of the Association is the empowerment of women in PNG and the Solomon Islands. They supply them with the training, skills, equipment and resources they need to help communities create and manage marine protected areas on their own coral reefs.

Women are actively engaged in marine conservation activities at six locations across PNG and the Solomon Islands. Combining an ethos of science, gender equity, and sustainability, the Sea Women of Melanesia work with traditional landowners to develop marine reserves that enhance fisheries and biodiversity, while improving the basic quality of life of people in partner villages through delivery of humanitarian aid.

The Tewa Tewa Island Project

The small island of Tewa Tewa is in the heart of the Engineering Group of Islands within the larger Louisiade Archipelago of Papua New Guinea's Milne Bay province.

The community of Tewa Tewa, like the surrounding

islands of Kwalaiawa, Skelton and Tubetube, is heavily reliant on marine resources to sustain their livelihoods. Beche-de-mer (sea cucumbers) and trochus shells are two of the commercially important sea products. However, the growing population of the surrounding islands has placed a huge demand on their exploitation. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change have already made life difficult within these vulnerable island communities.

The Sea Women of Melanesia have a team of women currently working with the people of Tewa Tewa to establish the Tewa Tewa Locally Managed Marine Area. Through their training program more than ten women in the Engineering group of islands including Tewa Tewa Island have been taught the skills to monitor their coral reefs (*below*).

The Sea Women of Melanesia have also assisted the traditional landowners and people of Tewa Tewa and the neighbouring islands to revive the practice of *gwala*, a traditional system of marking an area to restrict its exploitation. This practice will aid the establishment of a network of locally managed



Mary Fowler
... the future of
the game!



marine protected areas that will not only conserve marine biodiversity but increase populations of harvested species for the surrounding communities.

<https://www.seawomen.net/>

<https://marine-conservation.org/on-the-tide/tales-from-tewa-tewa/>

Mary, who plays professional football as a forward for Manchester City Women's Football Club in the FA Women's Super League in England, is the youngest member of the Matildas—Australia's women's national football team—and was part of the senior squad for the 2019 Women's World Cup and the 2020/21 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Technically-gifted with great vision and able to play with both feet, during the Matildas' campaign in the recent 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, she has had a wild ride—first as a replacement for Sam Kerr in the starting line-up for the opening match against Ireland. A training ground concussion then ruled Fowler out of the defeat to Nigeria, before she returned and has since started in all three matches—against Canada (in which she scored an important goal), Denmark and France. In the semi-finals against England, she was a constant force and a standout for Australia—consistently creating magic with every touch of the ball and was the shining light of the Matildas' attack. The Matildas' final match was against Sweden for third place. When Mary left the field, injured, at the 78th minute Sweden was well on the way to winning the match 2–0 and pushing Australia to fourth in the world.

Mary Fowler's star has continued to rise for the Matildas but the 20-year-old could easily be wearing different colours! While she is a proud Australian, she could have represented Ireland or Papua New Guinea due to her parentage—her father, Kevin Fowler, was born in Ireland and her mother, Nido, is from Kira Kira, a village within greater Port Moresby—and Papua New Guinea is drawing pride and inspiration from her rise on the world stage.

Kira Kira transformed into a Mary Fowler fan club during the World Cup, complete with live sites showing Matildas' matches to hundreds of people, and a huge banner, which says: 'Kira Kira Village. The home of Koita Maiyago. Mary Boio Fowler'. Boio is Fowler's mother's maiden name and *Koita Maiyago* has been widely reported as meaning 'girl from our tribe'.

Mary has shown her respect and appreciation for the support she has received from PNG in an Instagram post: 'Touches my heart ... so proud to be Papuan,' she wrote. 'Sending love to you all.'

She has expressed interest in running football clinics whenever she can return to Papua New Guinea, and would also like to connect with her mother's roots and spend time with her family over there as well.

PNG STEM Students Admitted to Australian and US Universities

In early August 2023 62 pioneer students from the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program at

the national schools of excellence, were selected for admission into universities in the United States, with seven students accepted by Australian universities.

The six national schools of excellence in Papua New Guinea are Sogeri (Central), Kerevat (East

New Britain), Aiyura (Eastern Highlands), Passam (East Sepik), Port Moresby (NCD) and Wawin (Morobe).

‘The selection of 62 students for scholarships at highly ranked universities in the US and Australia demonstrates that Papua New Guinea can compete globally, especially in this era of robotics and artificial intelligence,’ stated Prime Minister Marape.

The STEM curriculum at the national schools of excellence has been designed to align with STEM-related courses taught at universities in Papua New Guinea, and the first batch of 220 students graduated in 2022.

In November 2022 37 science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) teachers, and women school leaders from Papua New Guinea travelled to Australia as part of the PNGAusPartnership Secondary Schools (PASS) initiative

capacity building program. The participants came from 12 schools and education offices across PNG. They travelled to Australia to build their skills in STEM teaching and leadership to support stronger learning outcomes for PNG students. It is the first time since 2019 that leaders have travelled to Australia for this professional learning visit.

<https://www.ict.gov.pg/pioneer-students-selected-from-national-schools-of-excellence-selected-to-attend-u-s-a-australia-universities/>

Mining in PNG— Blessings, Curse and Lessons from the Porgera Goldmine

After 30 years of operating, the Porgera Goldmine is now temporarily closed, but is soon to be reopened with more benefits for landowners. While expectations are high, so far, at

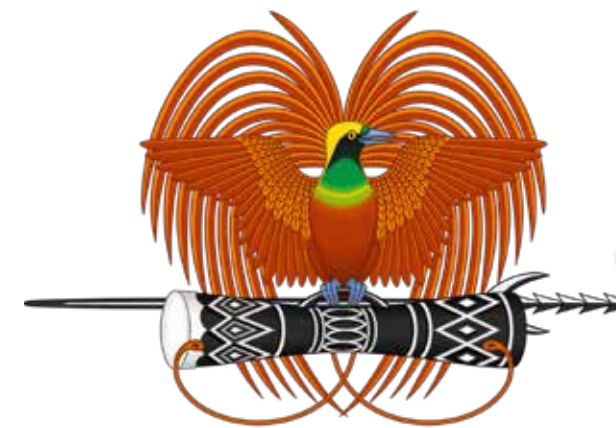
the local level, the mine has been more of a curse than a blessing argues Andrew Anton Mako of PNG Policy Development in a special two-part blog.

The first part sets out the problems the mine has given rise to, ranging from environmental degradation and violence to corruption and poverty.

The second blog explores how, despite massive investments, mine revenues failed to improve education outcomes for the children of traditional landowners. Mako concludes that a new and more generous deal for landowners will result in progress only if governance is improved, and families prioritise education.

For more detail open the following website:

Mining in PNG: blessings, curse and lessons from the Porgera goldmine – Devpolicy Blog from the Development Policy Centre



Building on Robust Foundations: a constitution for the next half century

HON. DUNCAN KERR SC

Planning for Independence for Papua New Guinea initially was too slow and then it came rapidly. The Australian officials who had administered Australia’s colonial territories from the end of World War II had given inadequate attention to the mounting global pressures for decolonisation. Although the more foresightful of them had for some time contemplated the possibility that the then Trust Territory of New Guinea and the Territory of Papua might eventually join and become a self-governing nation they imagined that such a large change would not happen for many decades.

They therefore did little to prepare the peoples they ruled over for their independence. As late as the beginning of the 1970s only a tiny minority of the population of the two territories were educated beyond primary school. Even a primary school education was inaccessible to most.

Their complacency was shattered following the election in Australia of the Whitlam government in 1972.

A Constitutional Planning Committee (CPC) was hastily established to help guide PNG’s progress towards independence.

The members of the CPC were greatly influenced by the political context of that moment. It was a time in which many colonial powers had recently granted, or were in the process of granting, independence to their colonies. The members of the CPC were optimistic that a new form of government influenced by traditional Melanesian ways was possible. Having regard to the history of other post-colonial States, they were determined not to repeat the mistake of leaving too much economic and social power in the hands of foreigners.

To ensure that economic, social and political control would be in the hands of the new nation’s indigenous peoples the CPC Report rejected dual nationality for its citizens. A national of PNG must

have only one loyalty. If any expatriate wanted to take up PNG citizenship they would have to renounce all other allegiances.

Although the text of the Constitution does not reflect all of the details proposed in the CPC Report that basic approach was agreed.

In the case of the peoples of the former Trust Territory of New Guinea no large change was required. But for the peoples of the Territory of Papua that involved removing the existing, if largely notional, former Australian citizenship they held. Their loss of Australian citizenship as at the date of Independence was given reciprocal effect to by Australian law; see *Minister for Home Affairs v Lee* [2021] FCAFC 89 at [16]-[21].

In light of PNG’s limited experience of self-government, the CPC proceeded on the basis that most of the more important of the procedures for PNG’s governance needed to be provided for in detail in the Constitution.

For the new nation’s structure of political authority, the CPC Report proposed that it be a modified form of the Westminster system of responsible government headed symbolically by a Governor-General representing the Crown.

A Parliament elected by universal adult franchise would have power to make the nation’s laws.



**In Port Moresby on 16 September 1975,
Sir John Guise issued the Proclamation of Independence:**

***Papua New Guinea is now independent.
The Constitution of the Independent State of Papua
New Guinea, under which all power rests with the
people, is now in effect.***

***We have at this point in time broken with our
colonial past and we now stand as an independent
nation in our own right.***

***Let us unite,
with the Almighty God’s guidance and help,
in working together for a future as a strong and
free country.***

Inaugurated in 1984 by His Royal Highness, Prince Charles of Wales, the National Parliament Haus is the symbol of the independence of Papua New Guinea, and is dedicated to the people and to democracy. It is an outstanding ode to the unrivalled heritage of Papua New Guinea’s hundreds of tribes, a symbol of its enthralling customs celebrated since generations.

The Parliament would also have the power, using special procedures, to amend the Constitution.

An Executive was to be formed by a Prime Minister who was to be chosen from within, and who was to remain responsible to the Parliament.

The Prime Minister would appoint Ministers from within the membership of the Parliament. Those ministers would form a National Executive Council.

To guard against votes of no-confidence giving rise to instability, the CPC recommended there be limits on the occasions on which such a vote could be moved with the intention of bringing about a change of government.

Influenced by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the CPC anticipated the danger that future governments might still over-reach. It therefore recommended that a comprehensive scheme of judicable human rights be embedded in the text of the Constitution. However, reflecting its concerns about the potential over-powerful economic and social roles of non-citizens the CPC proposed that some constitutionally entrenched protections be given only to PNG citizens.

The CPC wanted to be sure that the rules it was proposing would be capable of enforcement. The Supreme Court would have an inherent power to enforce the Constitution as Papua New Guinea's Supreme Law.

In almost all respects the Constitution, as finally adopted by the pre-Independence House of Assembly, was modelled on those recommendations.

The *Constitution of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea* came into force on 16 September 1975.

It 'constitutionalised' many matters which in other Westminster systems are not prescribed by their Supreme Law as Kapi DCJ correctly noted in *Supreme Court Reference No 3 of 1999; Reference by Ombudsman Commission on Sitting Days of the Parliament [1999]* PNGLR 258 at 304:

... the Constitution of Papua New Guinea is unique in many respects. It has subjected many political or policy issues to the scrutiny of the Courts. It is the duty of this Court to take up these issues without fear and favour within strict confines of the powers given by the Constitution ...

That comprehensive constitutional scheme, ultimately enforceable through judicial review, has repeatedly proven its worth during the difficult times PNG has since faced.

Shortly after Independence PNG experienced serious economic crises, the most cruel being those following the loss of very substantial mining revenues it had relied upon after the uprisings at Panguna and the collapse of the tailings dam at OK Tedi.

Associated with the huge loss of income from mining, PNG had to deal with an armed rebellion in Bougainville. Bougainville's ongoing desire for self-determination still remains to be resolved. The greater autonomy that PNG has provided for Bougainville and the pro-Independence result in a referendum has seen peace restored for the present but an end outcome remains unclear.



Independence Day Celebrations, 2013

PNG's internal stability was also tested by too rapid, informal urbanisation and by tribal fighting in a number of provinces.

Yet despite all of those difficulties PNG has remained a resilient, if robust and often fractious, democracy and has resisted becoming a failed state.

Whenever the nation seems to be edging towards a fatal crisis it has steadied itself.

On any balanced assessment, given the problems it has had to overcome, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea has a democratic history that it is entitled to be proud of.

Much credit for that is due to the foresight of the authors of the CPC Report. In times of crisis the nation's leaders have always been able to fall back on the clarity of PNG's written constitution and to avoid the nation's falling into chaos. Papua New Guinea's integrity and judicial institutions have also played a part. Even under great stress they have been reliable bastions of the rule of law.

However, PNG still faces very significant social and economic challenges. Measured by the standard of the UNDP Sustainable Development Goals it ranks only 148 among 193 states.

For that reason, Prime Minister Marape was clearly correct in his recent observation that after nearly 50 years of Independence it was time for PNG to review whether some of the provisions of its Constitution still adequately reflect the current circumstances of the nation.

The review that the Prime Minister has called for is currently being conducted by the Constitution and Law Reform Commission (CLRC).

One issue the CLRC has been asked to address is the manner of appointment of the Prime Minister. It is obvious that PNG has suffered repeated periods of political instability related to the constitutional processes for the appointment and removal of a Prime Minister. Governments have been broken by motions of confidence. On one occasion a Prime Minister was removed contrary to law.

The mechanisms that the CPC saw included at the time of Independence for managing those



Chief Minister Michael Somare hands out PNG flags to school children in 1974

political tensions have since been added to. However, all measures to date have been, at best, only partially successful.

This troubled history has led to consideration being given to permitting the direct election of the Prime Minister. That would be a large Constitutional change. However it might be named, taking such a step would create a presidential (or a modified presidential system) for PNG's national government.

The intention would be to give the Executive legally entrenched security of tenure until the next election. That would remove a major source of PNG's political instability. But there are many linked parts in any constitution. Any change will have to be carefully thought through to stop the solution for one major problem just creating another.

PNG's present contested, sometimes chaotic, system of modified Westminster government may actually have some rarely acknowledged benefits. PNG's politics has often been critiqued as opportunistic and lacking ideology but in a nation as diverse as PNG it is arguable that the requirement for the Prime Minister to keep a parliamentary majority at the risk of being replaced has acted as a release valve allowing tensions to be peacefully resolved by political means.

Because a Prime Minister always has needed to maintain their support in Parliament any Member can become important. No member, or their elec-

torate, can be entirely ignored or taken for granted by a Prime Minister without political risk. Perhaps that has played some part in keeping the nation together through times of crisis.

And unless other reforms are made, conferring executive power upon a Prime Minister directly chosen by the people in a national election might not end political instability. Instability might just shift to become a contest between potentially rival sources of legitimate political power: a popularly elected Prime Minister and a popularly elected Parliament. That at times has been a feature of presidential systems such as the United States and France.

A five-year term of office for PNG's Prime Minister and Parliament spans a long time. Much can change in half a decade. Leaders don't always live up to the hopes invested in them. In all systems tensions are bound to arise.

Mechanisms for resolving political disputes between the executive and legislative branches of government, including how to resolve conflicts over budget measures, will need to be planned and provided for. Bolting a directly elected executive to a model based on Westminster government where the Prime Minister is responsible to the Parliament might seem easy but it involves many new questions that will need answers. Will ministers still be members of Parliament? Will the Prime Minister have power to veto legislation he or she opposes?



PNG Parliament in the chamber, 2022

Such questions are not reason to reject the proposed change to a direct election for the Prime Minister, but they need to prompt those planning any change to carefully think through how the system they are proposing will work in practice if stressed.

Some safety valve might be considered as a check against the risk of a Prime Minister, otherwise immune from removal, misusing his or her executive powers.

Considerable ingenuity and foresight will be required of the CLRC in the spirit of its predecessor, the CPC, in the lead up to Independence 50 years ago, if it is to ensure that adequate constitutional guardrails are provided for.

The CLRC has a large task to complete. Moreover, the manner of appointment of the Prime Minister and his or her relationship with Parliament is not the only big issue it has to report on. Perhaps equally important will be the appropriate role for, and composition of provincial governments in PNG.

How best to balance central and provincial political authority remains at the heart of how to best govern a diverse nation such as PNG. That question has yet to be satisfactorily resolved despite many attempts. And there is the separate, but related, question of Bougainville's future. Bougainville's independence referendum remains subject to the ratification of the PNG Parliament. Whatever the outcome of that process there is going to be a need to amend PNG's constitution either to accommodate its independence as a new nation state or to reflect such other arrangements for its continued association with PNG short of full independence as may be agreed to.

The past 50 years, with all their disappointments, challenges and progress have seen PNG remain a robust democracy with growing aspirations for economic and social development. That is the nation's continued hope for the next half century.

Those who wish PNG well will look forward to the CLRC, and later the PNG Parliament whose support will be required to enact any proposed constitutional changes, each approaching that task with care, wisdom and courage. •

CSIRO in the Southern Highlands, 1961

Part 2: People in the Landscape

KEN GRANGER

After a break in lalibu we headed south towards Kagua, the next government station on our survey route. Our first camp after lalibu was in the *haus kiap* in the village of Muli, one of the first villages of the Wiru language group.

As well as picking up some knowledge on the physical landscape from the scientists I was also starting to take a keen interest in the people and their culture as we passed through their area.

Both Muli and our next camp at Kuari-Lombo had large *singsing* grounds that had been used some months previously for one of the periodic pig feasts that form part of the local *timbuwara* cult rituals. The *timbuwara* was apparently a fertility cult which held beliefs that it could increase the fertility of their *kaukau* gardens and pigs as well as ensure plenty of children. Each *singsing* ground was bordered by low set long houses that ranged in length from around 100 m to 150 m and could house between 300 and 500 people each.

At Kuari-Lombo a spirit house, or *kalibada* in the Wiru language, was located close to our camp. It was a small round hut with a tall conical roof and was decorated in orange and white. Inside, the central post that held up the roof was covered with the jawbones of hundreds of pigs killed in a recent cult festival. A second small hut was also located in this small compound. Given

that the influence of missionaries was already finding its way into this area it is likely that this *kalibada* was the last one built at Kuari-Lombo, if not the whole district.

I was told that the cult leaders kill the special pigs and *kapul* (possum) and cook them in the *kalibada* to appeal to the spirits of their ancestors to mediate with the spirits of evil and good. The pigs and *kapul* are then eaten by the 'big men' in the *kalibada*. The rest of the head men then kill the pigs of next importance and eat them in the other small house. After this ceremonial beginning, the feasting and dancing commences. Up till about the third day of the feast women are forbidden to approach the area, let alone eat pig. They are restricted to their own house, usually apart from the rest of the buildings where they cook and eat their own food, usually *kaukau*, taro, sugar, bananas etc.



Singsing ground at Muli, July 1961



The *kalabus* line at Kagua, July 1961 (top) and Kuari-Lombo memorial (below)

Another feature of this area were several small boxes mounted on poles in which the skull and long bones of prominent warriors are placed. One 'bone box' near Muli contained six or eight skulls. I was told that this was to ensure that the prowess of the dead was remembered and that their deaths were avenged.

At Kuari-Lombo a similar 'shrine' was enhanced by a figure cut from the turf at its

foot. I was told by the locals that one of their fight leaders and his infant son had been killed by a raiding party from another village. The raider's village was wiped off the map as a result. The victors placed the bones of their avenged warrior and his child in the 'bone box' but as well they marked the spot where they were killed by forming the image of their hero and his son in the grass. I have shown this photo to several anthropologists who had worked in the area over the years and none had seen anything like this memorial.

While steel axes had quickly replaced stone blades with the arrival of Europeans, some of the older men still had their traditional stone axes. They also had quite a few beautifully crafted stone axe or adze heads made from nephrite (a type of greenstone). I was able to make a small collection of these beautiful objects. I have been told that they were probably quarried over towards the Wahgi Valley.

Every woman and girl in the villages had their own *bilum* suspended from their heads while some were also displaying their family's wealth in the gold-lip pearl shell (*kina*) around their necks. *Kina* was, in pre-contact times, traded up into the highlands from the coast from as far away as the Torres Strait and signified that the owner had considerable wealth in pigs and status from the number of



pigs he killed at the periodic festivals held on the singsing ground.

From Kuari-Lombo it was a fairly easy 2½ hour walk into the government station of Kagua. This outpost had been established in 1957 and was still in the process of being developed, with the bulk of buildings still of 'native materials'. The airstrip, which was the only link with the rest of the district, was in the process of being lengthened, surfaced and the drainage improved so it could take DC-3s. This work was being undertaken by a gang of prisoners (*kalabus*) who had been rounded up after a local tribal fight.

The kiap in charge of Kagua, Gerry Jensen-Muir, explained that, as part of the 'pacification' process, it was standard practice to round up those men that had been involved in tribal fighting and put them to work on roads and other public works. While they were in the gaol they were well fed, received medical attention and most learned *tok pisin* as well as gaining an understanding of the Administration and 'the law'.

Some of the European staff based on the station were married and had young families. Life for the wives was very isolated, as the only contact with the outside world was either by air, including the regular 'mail plane' from Mt Hagen, or the HF radio link from the Government office to Mendi, Mt Hagen and beyond. It was often the case that



Kuari-Lombo cult area, July 1961 (top) and the mail plane (below)
(All photos courtesy Ken Granger)

when their husbands were away on patrol the wives ran the station.

The scientists spent their time in Kagua catching up with their field notes and logging field specimens as well as having little conferences about how they should map the various land systems that they had encountered thus far. It was also a good opportunity to catch up on washing clothes in hot water and actually drying them in the sun rather than over a smoky fire.

From Kagua the main party was to move down into the Waga valley before moving north-west to Lake Kutubu. I was tasked to conduct two key resupply treks with carriers on my own and those adventures will be the subject of my final story in a future edition of *PNG KUNDU*. •

A Nurse's Memories of Her Time in TPNG

RUTH PITT (née Lewis)—PART 3

John Pitt (a *didiman*) was also on the six-week cruise I took to Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan. We then drove to explore Western Australia and married in Port Pirie on 20 September 1969. I made my wedding dress in an afternoon. We returned to PNG and the West New Britain oil palm scheme where John had been posted. I had to resign from my Maternal Child Health position as there were no positions available at our new posting.

My first marital home at Sarakolok, West New Britain, had been empty for three months and rats had eaten holes in the mattress and other items. There was a kerosene fridge, porta-gas stove, twin tub washing machine but no power. My parents gave us money for a 240-volt petrol generator which I pull-started (like a lawnmower) if I wanted to use the washing machine or my sewing machine. We used pressure lamps at night. John's former housekeeper had ideas different to mine, so he left and settled on an oil palm block.

Australia had to prepare the country for independence so was encouraging a cash economy. Settlers were brought from different overcrowded areas of the country, provided with a Development Bank loan and allotted blocks which had been surveyed along roads, with the large trees felled by the local lumber company. The men had to then build a simple wooden house, materials supplied, plant oil palm seedlings amongst the felled timber

and a food garden on their block. Their families were then brought to join them. John and local field officers supervised all this. In the community centre was a school, trade store, market, oval, cemetery and housing for local teachers, other workers and us.

We went to Rabaul to visit my brother, Mervyn, and Jill when my parents came up in April, then brought them back to Sarakolok with us. I had a neater house and garden by then. They enjoyed a successful fishing trip. Heavy rain isolated us when bridges were submerged, but not for long. I voluntarily taught sewing to the senior schoolgirls, but I think my English conversation benefitted them the most—even the headmaster's English was limited. To socialise we had dinner parties with the other expatriates, went to Hoskins for 'Club Nights' on Saturdays or functions at Talasea by workboat. We bought a Honda Ag. motorbike so I could visit friends. I remember finding small bridges I'd crossed had missing planks, and once I drove over a python whose head and tail tip were hidden by roadside growth. Our mailing address was c/o the Kwalakessi Post Office. We would picnic and swim at Dami Beach. Groceries would be ordered monthly from Burns Philp or Steamships in Rabaul and picked up from Hoskins, where there were a couple of trade stores. We kept chooks.

In August 1970 John was transferred to start the 600-block Buvussi settlement further away. The access road was often blocked by fallen trees or very slippery. When I was pregnant, I flew to Rabaul for checks. At the three-month one I received the doctor's letter to reassure the airline that I would

not give birth on the flight a week before I was due. That DC3 flight in early April took four hours instead of one. Everyone was vomiting. We spent an hour on Jacquinot Bay airstrip hoping the weather would clear. We eventually made it and my friend Rosanne met me and took me to stay with them instead of at the Women's Club. John flew to join me on Good Friday, but the plane had to return to Hoskins because of the weather. He arrived the following morning and we stayed with Mervyn and Jill at Vunalama Plantation, across Ataliklikun Bay for the rest of the weekend. Warwick was born at Vunapope Hospital, Kokopo on 16 April 1971. The Nun Sister Bernadette, in the Labour ward, had been there 32 years. John returned to Buvussi the next day. Warwick and I flew home ten days later.

We had six-months' leave touring Australia from August and soon after returning to PNG were transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Stock & Fisheries (DASF) station at Nahavio, closer to my female friends there and at Mosa Plantation. We bought a little car. A bridge across the Dagi River was built giving access to Walindi and Kimbe as well. Unfortunately, the price for palm oil was very low when the Sarakolok oil palms were first being harvested. The settlers were angry as, after loan repayments were deducted, they received less than what they had expected. They would walk past our house making threats and accusing John of lying to them. For our safety John requested a transfer and we moved to Second-Twenty-Second Street in Rabaul. After a couple of months there we next moved to Kavieng. Warwick had constant ear infections, so in December he and I flew to Melbourne for his specialist treatment and surgery. We stayed with the in-laws and visited my folk in Port Pirie as well.

John had been transferred and had moved our gear to Buin, the southernmost town of Bougainville Island, so we returned to there in January 1973. His job was to supervise a village cattle project and we lived on the DASF station just out of town. There was a large Brahman bull on the station. It easily jumped fences and the locals were afraid of it. It would wake us in the mornings by rubbing its flanks on the house support post under



Our Buvussi access road blocked again (top) and infant Warwick and parents, Buvussi, 1971 (below)

our bedroom and it would come into our yard to drink from Warwick's little pool each afternoon. I had 22 children plus their mothers for Warwick's second birthday party in the garden. While I was attending to Warwick upstairs, there were screams and cries of 'Help, Ruth' as the bull strolled in for his usual drink, scattering everyone. I quietly moved him out, but I bet the guests won't forget that party. (My parents had cattle). We would visit the beach 9 km away at Kangu, where our car, furniture, etc. had arrived by landing craft from Kieta—except for a large walnut bookshelf unit which kept travelling until the ship returned to Kieta. We did not swim at Kangu as a large floating crocodile kept watching us.

There were six rivers between Buin and Kieta, the main town of the region. One morning I went with John to Boku village to buy Buka basket presents. On the way back the Toyota bogged in



Mr Hay at opening of Sarakolok school, 15 May 1971



Shortland Islands in the Solomons from Kangu Beach, Buin

a hole in the road through the Mivo River. We walked to a nearby mission for a ride home, while John arranged its removal. Later we lost traction in another river. I was terrified, but we were swept so that the wheels caught the bank and we exited a little downstream. There was a village near our house and we could hear the log drums beating all night if there was a local death. One university vacation, returning students set fire to the post office, another time the high school. I voluntarily taught

mothercraft to girls at the tech. school, but test results suggested that the girls were more interested in watching Warwick than listening to me.

We'd decided to return to Australia in late November 1973. We had our shots and booked to spend a few days in Honiara as TAA flew there from Kieta. The TAA pilots went on strike, so poor Warwick's inflamed arm from the smallpox shot was in vain. Our stuff had already been shipped south. We managed to get a flight to Moresby but spent two days in the tin shed terminal before we gained seats on an Ansett flight. Fortunately, we could stay with friends overnight but with a toddler and being six months pregnant I found it an ordeal.

The six years I spent in Papua New Guinea were a great experience. I am still in touch with friends from my time there and enjoy reminiscing with them.

Stephen was born in Melbourne, then we lived in NSW until 1981 when John transferred from Dubbo to Sydney and the boys and I moved to Adelaide. We divorced and I continued working as a Community Child Health Clinical Nurse until I retired. •

The de Havilland DHC-3 Otter —a Short History and Four Events

CHRIS WARRILLOW

Qantas chose the Otter to replace its aging twin-engined Catalina flying-boats, which had served many of its domestic Territory of Papua and New Guinea (TPNG) routes requiring an amphibious aircraft. The Otter was a larger, more powerful, version of the Beaver which was also built in Canada by de Havilland. The Beaver had a proven record as a 'great bush-aircraft'. Both types could be fitted with floats.

De Havilland handed over the first two Otters to Qantas in Sydney on 27 May 1958. Two more Otters were delivered in July and August 1958. The four aircraft were given the registration letters VH-SBQ to SBT for operations in TPNG. SBQ was fitted with floats which had retractable wheels.

The Otter carried more weight than the Beaver

but less than a Catalina. Its double rear doors afforded easy loading- and unloading-capability. However, like the Beaver, it had only one engine which, although larger, was considered to be comparatively under-powered.

On 1 September 1960 Qantas handed over its TPNG domestic routes to TAA which had purchased Qantas' assets in TPNG.

The Events

I was at Kairuku on Yule Island in 1960 when SBQ was on a weekly milk-run charter to the west. There had been over-night rain but the grass airstrip was deemed safe for operations. As the Otter taxied into the parking bay and stopped, its wheels sank into the soft earth and the aircraft settled onto its floats.

After everything had been off-loaded and taken by tractor-trailer and Land Rover to the wharf at Kairuku, some human lifting and pushing enabled the pilot to taxi onto the 'strip and take off.

Landing on the waters of Hall Sound the Otter was reloaded, from a work-boat, with its couple of passengers and cargo, including blood dripping from now-thawing freezer goods.

Some three hours after its initial arrival the aircraft continued heading west to its Gulf and Western Districts' ports-of-call—Kukipi, Kerema, Ihu, Baimuru, Kikori and Balimo.

SBQ came to a dramatic end, ditching in the sea west of Samarai on 14 August 1961, after engine malfunction. All on board escaped after the pilot nursed the aircraft within reach of the shore, where it subsequently beached and was wrecked.

Then, on 2 December 1961, Otter SBS, flying 44-gallon drums of fuel from Mount Hagen to Mendi, crashed and burnt on a ridge in the Nebilyer Valley. Both pilots were killed. The coroner found that the likely cause of the crash was possible engine-failure, bad weather conditions, pilot error, or a combination of such.

TAA traded-in the remaining two Otters towards replacements by new Twin Otters. In December 1966 SBR was the last to leave PNG. In 1968 it and SBT left Australia for Canada.

I flew into Erave in March 1965 to take over as Officer-in-Charge. After getting off the Cessna 180, which the prisoners unloaded, I saw the detainees pick up their *sarips* and return to their duties—cutting the grass on the airstrip. My outgoing predecessor assured me that a tractor had been allocated and would take over the grass-cutting, rolling of the airstrip and other work once it got to Erave.

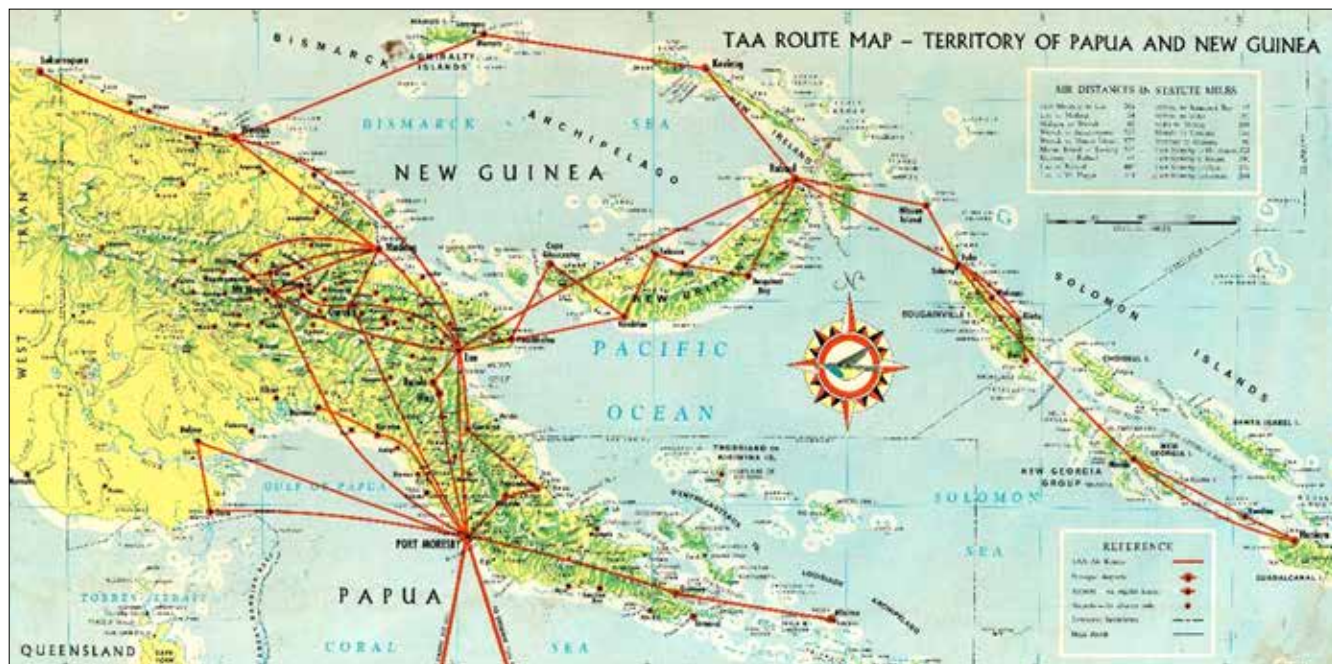
Unfortunately, Erave airstrip was no longer permitted to take DC3 aircraft due to some of the recently imposed DCA's more-stringent Australian standards. A brand-new Massey Ferguson 135 tractor had already been flown from Madang to Hagen. It could only get to Erave by air and the only available aircraft capable of carrying it were the two remaining Otters. These were both in high demand throughout the Territory and Erave had to wait its turn!

Weeks later, during one of our radio schedules with Mt Hagen, I was alerted that an Otter had been booked to do charter work into the Southern Highlands District and that Erave was listed for a tractor delivery! When the aircraft landed a few days later there was a small welcoming crowd and, of course, prisoners to unload the tractor.

The usually jovial and very experienced pilot, Bill Sherwood, yelled out from his cockpit window



TAA's DHC-3 Otter operating the Sunbird Service in Papua New Guinea—© Paul Sheehan Collection
https://www.dhc-3archive.com/DHC-3_247.html.



‘Here’s your tractor, get the bloody thing onto your scales and weigh it.’ As he climbed out of his aircraft Bill snarled, ‘Took me nearly half an hour to get to cruising altitude out of Hagen.’

I ordered the prisoners to carry the engine over to the platform-scales to try to balance it for weighing. The front wheels, other smaller parts of the tractor and a couple of bags of mail had already been off-loaded the aircraft.

Finally, the two large rear-wheels were unstrapped and manoeuvred to the rear-doors to be rolled down a plank onto the ground. The struggling prisoners could hardly keep the wheels steady and upright as they rolled them down from the Otter and towards the scales.

There was no need to continue the near-impossible task of weighing—Bill and I realised the problem.

His aircraft had been grossly over-loaded!

Several weeks before, in Mt Hagen, Public Works staff realised they had a brand new ‘spare’ tractor in their possession—possibly for a long period. Water was pumped into its rear tyres as ballast and it was put to work rolling the local airstrip!

When the Otter became available the tractor was broken down into manageable sections to be loaded, along with any other cargo to make up a full load. The original manifest for the Madang-Hagen flight had been kept and so the full-weight

of the tractor was on-the-record and used when the maximum full payload was calculated and stowed in the Otter.

The unloading difficulties indicated that the tyres still had the water-ballast inside their inner-tubes! In preparing the tractor for its Erave flight those undertaking the dismantling had not drained the tyres!

Depending on fittings, an empty Otter (without floats) could carry a maximum payload of around 1,600 kilos. This was determined after the weight of the empty aircraft plus fuel and pilot for its flight had been verified.

A MF-135 tractor weighed more than 1420 kgs.

Full use of the carrying capacity of expensive government-chartered aircraft was essential. Thus, after considering the tractor’s weight, Government Stores and TAA cargo staff would determine just what spare weight was available for on-loading. A full load would then be made up with whatever else might be awaiting uplift for a particular destination—mailbags and other small cargo items.

Assuming that 95 litres of water had been pumped into each large tyre, replacing air, it was likely that the aircraft was at least 190 kgs above its certified maximum take-off weight.

The flight had been completed safely because of a great aircraft, pilot-skill and DCA’s ‘safety margins’. But any engine malfunction after take-off could have resulted in disastrous consequences. •

Bringing Back Bougainville 1976–77

BEVYNNE TRUSS

Because of my earlier work upgrading road plant in PNG and with the Irrigation Commission in Brisbane, I was seconded to the Department of Works on Bougainville in PNG in 1976.



Toyota PWD field service vehicle (top); Low loader trailer with dozer bogged at Dios (centre); Kokopau workshop with Buka Island in background (below)

After a briefing in Kieta, I decided to make an initial inspection by air, both north and south, to get some idea of the geography and the existing roads and river crossings, and then plan for the delivery of spare parts and maintenance equipment. I ordered a Toyota 4x4 fitted with a coffee body with heavy duty toolboxes to carry blade cutting edges, bolts, filters, tools, oxy-acetylene, welding equipment, wire rope, a vice and 20-litre drums of lubricating oils.

Kieta to Buin was my first road trip and it took four hours of travel via the Panguna mine, fording several rivers, through Boku station, the former Japanese airstrip at Kahili and into Buin. This wartime Japanese base was covered with relics; big guns, road machinery and even a Yanmar Diesel generator the size of a shed. There were also a few officers’ vehicles and motorcycles.

To get access to the workshop, to allow for the training of mechanics, a bulldozer was organised to push existing tip trucks and a road grader, all of which had been cannibalised for spare parts, into a heap. During that year, the construction branch built a road link from Toimonapu on the east coast, across the Lulai River, through to Kahili and then onto Buin.

The country was heavy jungle, rocky and with large, shrapnel peppered, fig trees. Chain saws were prohibited. At a site near Turatai, explosives were placed around the roots of a large fig tree. ‘Wala!’ The explosion shattered all the glassware in a nearby village. The explosion was due to buried wartime Japanese depth charges creating a huge crater, turning into a lake in the wet season. It was named after the civil supervisor responsible! Lots of Japanese munitions, guns, tanks and military vehicles were encountered as the road progressed.

In October 1976, another inspection trip took place north from Kieta, first to Wakunai depot where a number of unserviceable road plant items lay idle. Nearby were the remains of a wartime Japanese Komatsu dozer, stripped of parts by plantation owners.

Further north a new road approach was constructed to the Ita River. After unloading cutting edges and parts for the local mechanics to fit to the dozers and graders, I forded the Ita. Hair raising! I forgot to close the flooring vents and water was awash round my feet.

A bogged tractor and pig trailer blocked the road at Dios. It was loaded with a Komatsu D65E dozer. The outfit had gone off the edge to allow a passenger vehicle to overtake. I took a heavy sledgehammer from the tool kit and smashed the load binding chains allowing the dozer to slide off the trailer into the soft soil edge. A plant operator was then able to manoeuvre the machine backwards onto the coronus roadway. Then, using a steel tow rope, the dozer

pulled the truck-trailer combination out as well. The dozer was reloaded, and the road reopened for traffic.

At Tinputz camp, parts were unloaded for future plant servicing. A short way off a Japanese Betty bomber was sighted in the bush and among coconut trees. The Nakjima engines were still in the wings. Exhaust and inlet valves were removed to later find a home as pride of place in the Tolga (War) Museum near Atherton, along with other PNG war relics.

On another road leading to Soraken, a Japanese six-wheeled water purifying truck with a stainless-steel tank was sighted near a Chevrolet staff sedan (obviously shipped from Singapore) riddled with bullet holes. Finally, I reached the end of my journey at Kokopau workshop overlooking the Buka Passage and township. The workshop had not been completed, no walls, foreman's office or tool store.

A runner brought the word that a PWD grader was stalled on a west coast road nearby, from a seized-up front drive assembly. I found there was no oil in the diff. Blistered paint indicated an overheated unit. The operator said he had removed the drain plug as per the service schedule at the end of the workday. However, during the night, he experienced a sexual encounter and by the morning had 'lusim tingkim', driving off to work until the front differential seized.

The solution of this problem required getting the machine to a suitable repair site. Both front

driving axles were removed using a 4x4 front end loader and the grader was towed back to Kokopau workshop. Because of its 14,300 kg weight and size, a solid slab of concrete, the remains of an uncompleted tourist venture, enabled the front chassis to be lifted high enough without a crane. The grader's blade rams were operated in 'down' mode—the chassis was then lifted upwards so the diff could roll out using hydraulic jacks. The diff was loaded onto a small tip truck for a five-hour journey to Toniva where it would be disassembled and inspected. Spare parts, ordered from Grantham, England took two and a half months by sea. The grader was repaired and returned to service with a replacement operator. Immediately after the Kokopau fiasco I took a Bougain flight back to Kieta (Aropa). I was buggered.

In April 1977 I received word from Panguna Mine office that a grader had fallen 60 metres from the main access road into the tailings stream of the Jaba River. The operator had jumped clear and 'faded away'. I surmised the grader stalled in the wrong gear, he had failed to drop the blade to help braking and thus allowing it to roll backwards into the river. There was considerable damage to the cab, controls and upper engine assembly. The unit could be used for its parts and Panguna was asked for a Cat D9 dozer to cut a pathway to the wreck and tow it to a suitable loading site for transportation to Toniva.

Later in the year the Rabaul regional engineer called to say that he was transferring me to Mount Hagen, WHD due to poor plant availability and lack of regular maintenance. A new chapter was to begin in my role as field inspector which I will leave for another day. I certainly appreciated being able to work on Bougainville and serve its people, training mechanics, assisting operators and gaining considerable experience with the Public Works Department. The tyranny of terrain was always a constant challenge.

I went to PNG in 1967 and several years later worked as a consultant for New Britain Palm Oil Company Limited (NBPOL) training staff in plant maintenance procedures. •



Mechanics fitting blade cutting edges, Lulai River



Admiral John Moresby RN

John Moresby was born on 15 March 1830 at Allerford, Somerset, England, second surviving son of Admiral Fairfax Moresby (1786–1877) and his wife Eliza Louisa, née Williams. Educated locally, he joined the Navy at 12 as a Cadet. In 1845–49 he served as a midshipman on the American and Mediterranean Stations and then took a gunnery course.

Promoted Lieutenant in 1851, he served in South American waters and the Baltic during the Crimean War. On half-pay as a Commander from 1858, he served on the China Station in 1861–64. Promoted post Captain on 1 January 1865, he was on half-pay but worked as a marine surveyor in Ireland for five years.

In January 1871 Moresby was sent to the Australian Station in command of the 'old-fashioned paddler', HMS *Basilisk*. Four months out of Plymouth she put into Melbourne for repairs but was immediately ordered to Sydney and nearly wrecked in Bass Strait. After the boat's refit Moresby was sent to New Zealand and returned to Sydney in 1872. He was then ordered to Torres Strait to suppress kidnapping from the South Sea Islands. On the way north he rescued thirteen surviving natives from the disabled *Peri*.

Before leaving England Moresby had hoped to survey the waters off northern Australia and New Guinea and had acquired some survey instruments. From Cape York he sailed through the imperfectly charted waters of Torres Strait and sighted Saibai Island and Warrior Reefs south of the Papuan coast. He returned to Sydney and in April reported the results of his hydrographic surveys to Commodore Stirling and the Admiralty.

After a cruise to Norfolk Island and the South Seas Moresby was sent to Torres Strait. He was lent a survey officer by the Queensland Government and on his way north captured the 'blackbirding' *Melanie* and *Challenger*, which he sent to Sydney and had their masters successfully prosecuted in the Vice Admiralty Court under the 1872 Kidnapping Act.

By 31 January 1873 he was again in Torres Strait. Hoping to land in New Guinea but uncertain of official support, he used the pretext of searching for Miklouho-Maklay. He found the deep-water channel near Jervis Island, sailed across the Gulf of Papua to Redscar Bay and further down the coast found an opening in the reef. Moresby personally conned the *Basilisk* into Port Moresby and Fairfax Harbour. He named both after his father.

Time forced him to return to Cape York. Two months later he sailed to Yule Island, named Robert Hall Sound, then turned east and explored and charted the coast. He claimed New Guinea for Britain at Possession Island and then charted Milne Bay, where he defined the eastern extremity at East Cape.

Moresby returned to Sydney in July, and although the government and press in Sydney and Brisbane hailed his work, Stirling condemned his actions and referred them to the Admiralty, which approved Moresby's work and found that he had not disobeyed orders.

In January 1874 he was ordered to England and on the way sailed to Port Moresby, around East Cape to the D'Entrecasteaux Islands and up the north coast to Astrolabe Bay. This laborious and meticulous work completed, he sailed for Amboina where he found Maclay.



John Moresby's father, Admiral Sir Fairfax Moresby GCB

Moresby arrived in England on 15 December 1874 and described his Australian service as 'the most notable part of my naval career'. He was applauded for his work but the Admiralty failed to recognise its quality and significance. A large part of the area charted by Moresby later became a German protectorate.

In 1876 Moresby published *Discoveries and Surveys in New Guinea*. From 1878 he had charge of the dockyard and naval establishments in Bermuda. Promoted Rear Admiral in 1881, he became Assessor to the Board of Trade and the Court of Appeal. He retired in 1888 as Vice Admiral.

In 1909 he published *Two Admirals*, an autobiography with a short account of his father's career. Moresby died at Fareham, Hampshire, on 12 July 1922. In 1859 he had married Jane Willis Scott (d. 1876); they had one son and four daughters. A gifted artist, he had presented two pictures to the Australian Navy. •

Editor's Note: This story was recently published in *Greenbank NAA Newsletter* and is republished here with permission of the editor.

A Manitoba Family in Gili Gili: 1925–29

KATHERINE PETTIPAS—Part 1

From 1925 to 1929, Manitoban William McGregor worked on the Gili Gili plantation in the Milne Bay District as the Head Stockman. He was accompanied by his wife, Kate, and his teenaged daughter, Rubina (Ruby). Ruby kept cherished mementos of the family's time on the plantation and, in time, donated artefacts, photographs and letters to the Manitoba Museum. Based on the letters Part 1 of this article is a brief history of the McGregors at Gili Gili; Part 2 will feature Kate's photographs and Part 3 will describe her artefact collection.

The donor of this collection, Rubina (Ruby) Isabella Miles (1909–2003), was born in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan to Kate (née Rowe) and William McGregor. Prior to World War I, the McGregors farmed in Saskatchewan before relocating to Brandon, Manitoba. In 1921, they emigrated to Australia where Ruby attended a girls' school in Sydney. While William had visited New Zealand and Australia as a young man, the

reason for this move is unknown. By 1925, he was working for Lever Brothers as Head Stockman on the Gili Gili Plantation. The family returned to Manitoba in 1929.

By the time the McGregors arrived at Gili Gili, the copra industry was well-established. Imported cattle played a major role in the successful production of copra. The herd was used to graze back vegetation, especially kunai grass

that grew between the palm trees. The cattle also provided fresh meat and milk and excess stock were exported elsewhere. The best animals were retained for the Gili Gili herd. William's indigenous right-hand man was Teddy, whose primary job was to care for new calves. Kate and Ruby often assisted with the labour-intensive task of dipping cattle and with enumerating the herd.

In addition to adapting to a foreign tropical environment and interacting with people of a non-Western culture, the McGregors were required to adjust to the indentured labour system that was the operational foundation of the plantation. As a white worker's family, they occupied a lower rung on the expatriate social ladder. Initially, the family was housed in temporary lodgings until the stockman's house was renovated. This took time since materials had to be imported from Australia. There was no electricity or refrigeration. Bags of water were stowed away in the domicile's verandah.

While Kate was well-experienced in growing her own vegetables in Canada, gardening in the tropics offered new challenges. However, she persisted with plantings of beans, carrots, lettuce and other vegetables. Potatoes and onions were imported from Australia. Fresh bananas, pineap-

ples, oranges, lemons, limes and pawpaws were real treats for the family. Ruby raised hens and ducks, selling the surplus eggs to neighbours. Domestic fowl, beef, and wild game such as pigs were consumed.

Fiercely independent in nature, Kate objected to assistance from 'house boys'. However, company policy forced her to take on help. While reticent to instruct workers in some household tasks, Kate did admit that some of her time was freed up to pursue other activities. Notably, she criticized the ostentatious use of Papuan servants by the 'upper class' white population.

Kate's letters reveal details of the indentured labour system. Calico cloth, tobacco, and tinned meat were offered to villagers who might be receptive to leaving their homes to work at Gili Gili. Firecrackers were popular enticements. Legally labourers had to sign on for employment in the presence of a magistrate, normally for a specified period—12 months, 18 months, or 2–3 years. The 'ordinary' plantation worker received a monthly wage which was not payable until the termination of the contract. Ruby stated that labourers were given two pounds apiece at the start of their contract.



The McGregor home, Gili Gili, late 1920s

Workers were supplied with a daily ration of 1½ pounds of rice, 1 pound of fresh or tinned beef per week, 1½ sticks of Emu tobacco per week and a quarterly allotment of one calico (two yds. of cotton material). Other rations included brown sugar, tea and blank newsprint for cigarette paper. The company provided medical attention and ‘hospitalisation’. The government regulated supplies and care, but Kate McGregor said ‘at Gili Gili especially—the boys get many extras. After all, Gili Gili was the show plantation’.

Lodgings for the workers varied. Some labourers were housed in the plantation’s barrack-like facilities while others travelled between their workplaces and villages. The latter were able to keep in touch with their families. The ‘copra gangs’ who collected and processed the coconuts made up the largest group of labourers.

A dress code required general labourers to wear calico sarongs while on the job. A ‘calico’ was an unfinished length of coloured or print cloth supplied by the employer. In contrast to general labourers, ‘houseboys’ were responsible for laundry, cooking, washing, cleaning homes, and grounds maintenance. Each had a specific responsibility—the ‘laundry boy’ washed clothes; the ‘gun boy’ hunted game such as wild pigs; the ‘yard boy’ maintained the yard by cutting grass and shovelling ash from the stove; and the ‘milk boys’ milked the cows. Those employed in more affluent households were dressed in factory-made

hemmed cloth *ramis* that were cut according to a regulated size.

The McGregors had few personal pleasures. Access to a gramophone and an off-site radio was a luxury. Kate tended to her garden beds of flowers and was proud of her zinnias. She loved photography and developed her own photographs. Correspondence and packages from home kept the family in touch with relatives, and expatriate newspapers provided regional news. Mother and daughter also amused themselves with the antics of pets that included dogs, a parrot, a cockatoo, a very spoiled wallaby and a frog.

Located about 0.8 km from the manager’s home, the McGregors were relatively isolated from other families. In 1925, Mrs Martin, the bookkeeper’s wife, was the only other white woman on the plantation. Both invited and unexpected guests were well-received, and on one occasion, Kate fed five bachelors at Christmas. Female expatriates on the plantation made a monthly effort to socialize in a single day: Kate described it thus: ‘We’ll gather at Mrs Martin’s for morning tea, all have lunch at Mrs Wright’s [manager’s wife] and then down to Mrs McGregor’s for afternoon tea ... Then we’ll settle back with a sigh of duty well done—and entertain no more for a month. By such means do we preserve peace and harmony.’

Movement was restricted by the lack of transport and by poor travel conditions. For their own safety, white personnel were warned

against wandering off the plantation compound. Nonetheless, there were short trips on horseback, family picnics and an occasional trip to Samarai. Ruby even toured a rubber plantation. Visits to Mr Coleman in his Papuan-style home were always welcome. The former British missionary, a trader with plantation experience, now spent time in close touch with the natives and their affairs. ‘Bunny’ Burrows, an Australian labourer with Burns Philp, shared Kate’s interest in photography.

Public sports events were organised. William introduced western games and picnics to the Papuans. The family attended a few indigenous celebrations, preferring to observe ceremonies from a distance. On one occasion, a two-year-old steer was donated from Gili Gili for a feast and William was given a pig’s shoulder. At another ceremony, the skull of a deceased labourer was passed around as mourners wept and sang before his body was returned to his village. Ruby recalled spending evenings with her mother on the verandah listening to singing and drumming as the sky lit up from the fires burning in the nearby villages.

Kate’s sewing skills provided her with opportunities to connect with indigenous women and children who were recipients of her home-made garments. One appreciative woman gave Kate a finely made, dyed fibre skirt at Christmas. In addition, her photograph sessions with locals may have fostered friendly relations.

William encouraged his daughter to explore her surroundings. Ruby loved horseback riding, gardening, experimenting with raising plants and collecting butterfly specimens. Fascinated with Papuan culture, she traded tobacco for locally made objects. Known as ‘*Sinabada*’ or white woman, the teenager was presented with items of traditional clothing. When I asked how she viewed the Papuans, Ruby replied that she saw them as just another type of people who lived differently from her. •

Editor’s Note: The author, Katherine Pettipas is Emeritus Curator at Manitoba Museum and has recently joined PNGAA.



Mr Coleman’s traditional style home, late 1920s



1. The *Papuan Chief* operated between Daru and Samarai, late 1920s
 2. Workers collecting milk, Gili Gili, late 1920s
 3. Boat races, Gili Gili, late 1920s
 4. Kate, William and Rubina McGregor, Gili Gili, late 1920s
- (All the photographs are courtesy of the Miles collection, ©Manitoba Museum)

What Happened to the People of Papua New Guinea in World War II

JOHN B QUINN

In the Covid-19 lock-down days in Victoria, I spent an interesting time going through some of the volumes of the *Official Australian History of World War II*, courtesy of the library of the RSL Club here in Avoca.

What I have written will possibly upset some, but all quotes come from the text of those Official Histories, specifically the ones dealing with the wartime conflict in *Papua New Guinea, Australian War Memorial*, Volumes 4, 5 and 6.

Prior to the war, the Australian Government—responsible for the Australian Territory of Papua and the League of Nations Mandated Territory of New Guinea—became aware of the danger posed by foreign forces immediately to the north in the Japanese Mandate of the Caroline Islands. Port Moresby and Rabaul were quietly reinforced with meagre groups of aircraft and soldiers, European women and children were quietly evacuated but not Chinese or mixed-race people and their dependents. To the credit of Catholic nuns, priests and brothers and the various members of other Christian groups, they elected to stay and look after their parishioners as much as possible.

However, nothing whatsoever seems to have been done to prepare the local people for what was to eventuate and there seems to be nothing set down to describe what local people experienced in the first few months of 1942, especially in Rabaul, the Northern Archipelagos and the New Guinea coast—though it must have been akin to an invasion by murderous alien devils. Hundreds of aircraft emblazoned with red rising suns roaring overhead, the thunder of guns from a huge fleet and thousands of troops of an unknown race pouring ashore to drive away the white ‘mastas’.

The Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) was hastily set up in 1942 to ‘organize the resources of land and labour for the war effort’—this simply meant that any and all resources in Papua New Guinea, human or otherwise, would be used with little or no thought for the consequences to the people and the land. Australia was not alone in this as the Japanese invaders also intended to use all resources in their conquered areas.

Thousands of locals were formed—willing or not—into carrier lines to ferry ammunition and supplies to the battlefields of Kokoda, Finschhafen, Wau and Salamaua and to evacuate wounded and sick Allied soldiers—‘the care which they show to a patient is magnificent. Every need which they can provide is tended’—was written by one individual Australian though, as I will mention later, no thought was given to rewards and honours for their

bravery, often under fire as they neared the battle-front. On the opposing side hundreds of Rabaul natives, impressed into slavery by the Japanese, were found at Wairope, during the advance to Buna on the mainland in 1942–43. Other Rabaul locals, brought over for the Kokoda battles, fled into the Papuan jungle as the defeated Japanese retreated.

There are tales of heroism—‘two airmen crashed in New Britain were rescued by locals; if it had not been for the loyalty of the natives, who aided them at great risk to themselves, they would probably have lost their lives’; again, whilst Australians who appear in these histories are identified with name, rank, serial number, date of birth and so on, there is hardly one Papua New Guinean local named for their heroism and bravery.

Some other excerpts make distressing reading: An Australian officer, concerned about ‘treacherous natives—cleared the area, when necessary, by shooting first and asking questions afterwards’. With the natives ‘being brought sufficiently under control at least to the extent of keeping well clear of the Australians’.

‘A native approached an Australian position waving a paper. This was taken from him and when he tried to run away, he was shot.’

It appears that some locals were dressed by the Japanese in red lap-laps and ‘when two of these men came into an Australian position in the Ramu valley, they were immediately suspected and shot’.

As the war progressed, the dangers and perils to the ordinary villager became even more terrifying—‘pilots strafed villages near Madang’; ‘Kittyhawks, on the return to Nadzab machine-gunned Japanese occupied villages’; ‘Beauforts bombed dozens of enemy held villages and positions in the Wewak sector’ with obviously no thought being given to the unfortunate locals who may also have been living there.

At war’s end, it is in the *Official Histories* that one gets a glimpse of what really happened—‘in Bougainville, those natives brought into our lines are literally skin and bone’ and—‘one quarter of the population of Bougainville may have perished’. The Australian, American and even the Japanese dead

are numbered and itemised, but there appears to be no figures for dead locals.

Honours and awards after the war were almost non-existent with, it seems, no compensation for war injury or death, despite the heroism displayed by carriers and the various individuals who rescued Allied personnel and performed other heroic deeds. Even Raphael Oimbari, the famous Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel, immortalised in that iconic wartime photograph by George Silk (colourised below), was not formally identified until 1972. When a derisory \$3.25 million was distributed in 1980, supposedly to survivors, much of it was misappropriated.

One can only hope that the independent nation of Papua New Guinea will not become involved in any Great Power conflict in the future—the warning of the past is there for all to see. •

Editor’s Note: Alternative accounts of the impact of the war on people in Papua New Guinea may be accessed on the following website: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/people-of-papua-new-guinea>—and in Alan Powell’s *The Third Force, ANGAU’S New Guinea War, 1942–46*, 2003.



Featured opposite: Geoffrey Mainwaring’s 1970 painting of the Japanese landing at Rabaul

Sailing Canoes of Siassi Islands

PETER WORSLEY

In November 1961 I accompanied Dr Andre Becker of the Department of Public Health of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea on a patrol of the Siassi Islands. The object of the patrol was for Dr Becker to carry out a tuberculosis survey (TB) and my job was to act as interpreter.

The Siassi Islands are a group of islands in the Vitiaz Straits, between the Huon Peninsula of the mainland of New Guinea and the western end of the island of New Britain. The group consists of one main island, Umboi or Rooke Island, and dozens of smaller islands. The people, who are Melanesian, were noted for their sailing ability and traded in their canoes over long distances.

The patrol was conducted in the government owned, ex-Army coastal motor vessel *Morobe*, skippered by Geoff Hall. This vessel was 66 feet (20 m) long and had a cargo capacity of 50 tons. On board was a portable X-ray unit and generating plant, and my job was to go ashore at each village and explain to the people all about TB and X-rays.

While motoring towards the island of Tuam at 10 knots the *Morobe* was overtaken and passed by an exceptionally large sailing canoe that our skipper estimated was doing at least 12 knots. The canoe had two masts, each with one crab-claw sail on it. The sails were made from either woven pandanus or palm leaf and steering was by a large oar held vertically over the side towards the stern of the canoe. There were 8 or 9 adults on the canoe, and what appeared to be a dozen or so kids keeping the outrigger down. The outrigger is always on the windward side when sailing, and the fastest sailing is when it is kept just above the surface of the sea.

On arrival at Tuam Island the *Morobe* anchored alongside this canoe, which was one foot longer than the *Morobe*, or 67 feet. Later, the



Model of a large ocean-going canoe from the Siassi Islands

canoe was dragged ashore and I had a chance to examine it in detail. It was carved from a single log, hollowed out and then built up with planks sewn to the hull with sennit. The sennit was made from coir (the fibre from around coconuts), first rolled on the thigh to make string then a number of the strings plaited to make sennit. Sennit is plaited, as distinct from rope and cable which are twisted. I could walk upright under the beams joining the hull to the outrigger and these just brushed my hair. I am 172 cm tall. The hull was resting on rollers made from round tree trunks used to help pull it up onto the beach. These rollers would have been about 150–175 mm in diameter and made from mangrove trees.

The outrigger was a single shaped log about 30 feet (9.1 m) long joined to the canoe hull by (I think) four beams. The outrigger had two pairs of hardwood timbers let into it at each position where a beam came. Each pair of timbers was set at an angle to form an X as they projected upwards towards the beam. Sennit lashings were used to tie the beams to these angled timbers, which I think were made from black palm, the same wood from which bows and some arrow points are made.

I was told the hollowing out of the log for the hull was carried out using alternating adze and fire. The opening left in the top was narrower than the space inside.

The sennit used to join planks and hull was

woven through holes, and there was a caulking of some sort of leaves or coir between the timber edges. The holes in the timber where the sennit passed through were stopped with vegetable gum or resin. The sennit was woven two or three times through two adjacent holes, then taken diagonally across to the next pair of holes and again woven through two or three times. I cannot recall whether the sennit was let into the timber in grooves, or whether it lay on the timber surface. I think that there had been a pad of timber left in the bottom of the canoe at each mast position to act as a mast step. Regarding decoration, there was some painting on the planks but little or no carving.

The main island of the Siassi Islands, Umboi or Rooke, is about 48 km long and 24 km wide and rises to a height of 5,430 feet (1,655 m) at its highest point. At the time it was thickly forested and could have provided the tree for the canoe hull. However, it is more likely that the log came from either the western end of New Britain or the Huon Peninsula area of the mainland, both of which are close. •

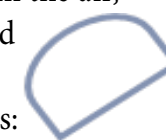
This description of a large sailing canoe was requested by Dr Michael McCarthy during his research prior to writing his book, *Ships' Fastenings: From Sewn Boat to Steamship*. Texas A&M University Press, 2005.

A Night Out Beside the Bunga

IAN WILLIS

On one occasion in 1972 I spent an unforeseen night sleeping out in the tangled Rawlinson Range foothills east of Lae. This was after an unplanned stroll with my University of Technology (Unitech) next-door neighbour, Hector Clark, and his 17-year-old daughter, Klara. We spent the night sheltering in a cave-like hollow beside the Bunga River because we could not complete a spur-of-the-moment bushwalk we had foolishly undertaken.

We had walked into the Bupu River headwaters in search of a mountain lake we had seen from the air on various flights in and out of Lae. Nowadays, with the aid of Google Maps, I can find the lake easily online. At an altitude of 700 m. (2,297 feet), it's about 340 metres long and 235 metres wide and is situated in the hilly, heavily forested divide between the Bupu and the next river to the east, the Bunga. From the air, the lake resembles a back-to-front and tilted letter-D, with the straight side forming the south-eastern shore, thus:



On maps the lake is nameless, but it must have a local name because only 2.5 km to the north-east is Kaisia, a small village of about 20 houses in a clearing. A further kilometre on is Melanpipi, a smaller village. Present-day maps show a track leading up the western bank of the Bunga to these settlements; but in 1972 we did not know that because the maps available then lacked the detail of those published since.

After climbing the precipitous slope above the Bupu headwaters, we decided not to return the way we had come. As we clambered up one almost perpendicular rock wall near the top of our ascent, I dislodged a huge rock. About a metre across, it dropped on to a ledge that I had just climbed from. Klara was now standing on the ledge about three metres below me, with Hector just behind her. The rock bounced beside her, broke into fragments and hurtled into space. Our guardian angels were working overtime that day because, miraculously, both Klara and Hector remained unscathed.

After reaching the ridge top about ten minutes after this near miss, we could not find the lake. We must nevertheless have been within several hundred metres of it. It lies within a basin hemmed in by tall, dense rainforest, so it would have been easy to miss. On reaching the ridge top, we seemed to be at the edge of a broad forested plateau. Rather than retrace our footsteps back



to the Bupu, we made our way east across the plateau until we came to the Bunga headwaters. We planned to follow the Bunga south to the main road. We would then have an easy seven km walk back to where we had left our car near the ford over the Bupu.

That is more or less what we did but, unbeknown to us, the Bunga runs through a deep gorge before reaching its flood plain. We trekked down the eastern side of the Bunga, the opposite side to the track into Kaisia, which I knew nothing about until I recently found it online in Google Maps' satellite images. The ground sloped steeply to the right of us as we worked our way downstream. We only realised we had a gorge on that side after one of us dislodged another large rock. It went bounding downhill smashing through the undergrowth. When it fell silent, we guessed it had finished its descent; but several seconds later we realised it had been in free-fall because we heard its echoing boom as it crashed into the bottom of the gorge.

Fearful of falling to our deaths, we did not venture down to the brink of the gorge to see how deep it might be. We continued our easterly trek for several kilometres, keeping the river well to our right. Eventually, guessing that the land was levelling out, and that we had bypassed the gorge, we made our way down the steep slope to the river. Night was falling as we reached it. It was hardly more than a rocky creek a couple of metres wide. We were beyond the gorge but on

either side the steep-sided valley rose above us for several hundred metres. Large boulders littered the creek bed; and numerous trees had fallen across the narrow valley. Pushing downstream in the dark without torches would have been foolhardy, so we opted to spend the night where we were. Conveniently, several metres above the creek one fallen tree had left a large cavity behind its upturned roots. This cave-like hole offered protection from the weather. It seemed in no danger of collapse and had room for all three of us to sit inside, so we clambered in to begin our 12-hour vigil until the dawn.

We spent a long and uncomfortable night in our refuge, dozing fitfully, plagued by mosquitoes. Hector tells me his abiding and treasured memory is of the phosphorescent fungi glowing in the dark around us as he propped up and comforted Klara. I do not recall the wondrous display of bioluminescence, but I do remember swatting mosquitoes continuously and worrying about the anxieties our wives and children must be experiencing back on the Unitech campus.

At first light, 6.00 am, we quit our hidey-hole to resume our trek back to the road. We had several fallen trees and boulders to scramble over, and a minor waterfall to clamber down, but few other hazards as we made our way downstream. Within a half-hour we'd reached the bend where the Bunga swings south to enter its gravelly flood plain then make its approach to the sea, which it enters on the western side of Singaua Plantation.

We felt an enormous sense of relief as we stepped from the gloom of the forest into the sunlight and the broad, flat, open expanse of the flood plain.

After another half-hour trudging south over the gravels of the flood plain, we saw four blokes in the distance marching resolutely upstream towards us. We guessed they were a rescue party from Unitech. As we neared them, we could see they were Jack Woodward, Neil Hardie, Gordon Holden and Steve Kormilo.

Drawing level, they continued marching upstream, pretending not to have seen us. They doubled back after about five metres, then began

throwing questions at us. 'What on earth have you been up to?' 'Are you OK—no injuries?' 'Why didn't you tell someone what you were planning?' 'You mean to say you went trekking through those mountains without map, compass, food, water, protective clothing, matches and a first aid kit?' 'Do you realise that everyone back at Unitech is frantically worried about you?' 'You do recognise that you have been appallingly irresponsible?' etc. etc.

We tried to look appropriately chastened as well as relieved to see them. We were also reassured to know they had come looking for us. Mateship in action! I probably asked how they had known to look for us along the Bunga rather than the Bupu. The answer would have been that as soon as they had found our car parked beside the Bupu they would have guessed we had decided not to come back that way and had then got lost after pushing on to the Bunga.

Whether we were lost or not is debatable. Even though we had no compass or map, we always knew roughly where we were and where we had

to go next; what we did not anticipate were the hazards we would encounter. Lost or not, within an hour we were back home, each of us making our apologies to our families, enjoying a cup of tea, and taking a long shower to remove the grime of our unexpected night out in the Rawlinson Range foothills.

I've remained fascinated by the nameless 'D'-shaped 'raunwara' ('round water': *Tok pisin* = lake) in its secluded hollow between the Bupu and Bunga headwaters. Periodically I 'visit' it via the Google Maps satellite view.

If I were still a fit young fellow, I would wish to walk up the track to Kaisia and Melanpipi to ask the people there about it. What is its name? How deep is it? Can you swim in it? Are there fish in it? Most unlikely, but are there crocodiles thereabouts? Do you ever visit it? Have any 'whitefellers' ever been there? Does it ever overflow and send its waters cascading into the Bunga? Do you have any stories about it in your folklore? Can one of you guide me there? And so on, until my curiosity was satisfied. •

Forest Products Research Centre, Hohola PNG

RB McCARTHY



The need for standardisation of PNG woods led to the development of PNG wood science, based on global best practice, following a similar pathway to that of Australia with the establishment of TPNG's Forest Products Research Centre (FPRC) at Hohola, a suburb of Port Moresby in 1966. Its purpose was to study the properties of the commercial timber species.

The genesis of Australia's and PNG's wood science was the Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) at Madison, Wisconsin USA, commenced in 1910. In tracing the work of wood scientists from France, India, Great Britain, Germany, USA, and Canada coupled with the impact of World War II, Australia's CSIRO Forest Products Division provided the foundations for TPNG's FPRC.

The main building provided for the housing of a Forest Products themed library, a wood sample room featuring collections of timbers of all continents as well as New Guinea, a chemical laboratory and work-spaces, office accommodation and reception/typing facilities, a photographic darkroom and rooms for microscopic and wood decay studies.

At FPRC Wood Scientists of TPNG studied the physical, chemical, and biological properties of PNG woods. They described and categorised different wood species by chemical and physical attributes such as durability, treatability, density, moisture movement, workability, availability, typical uses, and production methods.

They investigated ways of processing the raw material into different fields as primary processing e.g., sawmilling, plywood manufacture, various wood fibre board manufacture, pulp and paper production and secondary processing e.g., furniture, joinery, building and other activities such as research, marketing, labour, and training.

The potential of tropical hardwoods as a source of raw material for cellulose fibre had been recognised for many years. The PNG Administration initiated a project designed to evaluate the pulping and papermaking potential of mixed tropical hardwoods in the Vanimo Timber area. The Department of Forests, through FPRC, engaged CSIRO Forest Products Laboratory to undertake the project to determine the potential market quality of the PNG forests for pulping and papermaking potential.

A comprehensive study of wood properties critical to this evaluation was carried out at Hohola with the results sent to CSIRO. This included wood density and its variability throughout the tree by species, and wood fibre measurements (microscopic studies). Wood samples for this work was collected on site at the Gogol timber area near Madang and at Vanimo. Samples of plantation grown wood were collected from the full age range of *Eucalyptus deglupta* (Kamarere) at Kerevat in East New Britain. •

STAFF AT FRPC

Head: SJ (John) Colwell; Wood Preservation: Gerry Vickers with technical support from Colin Levy & Kevin Garbutt; Minor Forest Product Research and Development: Jack Zieck; Pulp and Paper and monitoring the possible development of a woodchip export industry: Des Harries; Wood Seasoning and Development; Kiln Drying Schedules: Warwick Stokes & Colin Stelmack; Wood Identification, Timber Utilisation and Marketing: Peter Eddowes; Wood-working and machining and apprentice training: Barry Hartwell & Joel Nalong; Mechanical workshop: Les Austin; Sawmilling and saw doctoring: Arthur Mobbs & Norm Hillary; Marine Biology: Sue Rayner; Projects linked with CSIRO: Wood Preservation 'Dip-diffusion' process Norm Tamblyn & Harry Greives; Wood Anatomy: Bob Ingle; Pulp & Paper: Bill Balodis, Frank Philips & Alan Logan.



The PNGAA Collection

This consists of archival material on PNG—photographs, documents, maps, patrol reports, books—reflecting the lives and work of those who have lived in PNG. The PNGAA wishes to ensure these are readily available worldwide to our members, researchers or those simply interested in the rich history of Australia's relations with Papua New Guinea.

The collection grew from an idea of Mr Doug Parrish, former president of the association, and evolved over the years through the dedication and expertise of Dr Peter Cahill. From a modest collection of photographs, letters and diaries, the PNGAA Collection is now a fast-growing compilation and continues to attract local, national and international interest.

If you have items you would care to donate, or you would like to contribute towards the digitisation of items already in the collection, please contact Cheryl Marvell at collection@pngaa.net or 0438 636 132.



My Education Journey from Jiwaka to UPNG

ROBERT MEK

I was born in Gulka (Kimil), one of the remotest villages in Jiwaka Province. Gulka is situated between Jiwaka and Western Highlands Province, so as I grew up, I learned the cultures and lifestyles of both provinces. I was the third-born child of Simon and Polti Mek and I have three younger siblings. My dad and mum are subsistence farmers. They sell ripe bananas, greens, peanuts, red pandanus and pigs to raise money. Dad dropped out of school in grade four. Mum has never been to school.

We have no access to proper roads and electricity. The rugged terrain, jungle, valleys and big rivers in the Highlands region make access to basic services a difficult task. Illiteracy and birth rates are very high, and some mothers die trying to give birth. We often have shortages in drugs and medical facilities in our community health centre. Growing up in such an unfavourable environment made it extremely hard to access education. Despite that, I made up my mind to go to school.

In 2007, I was enrolled to do kindergarten (prep) at Gulka Elementary School. I used to wake up at around 4 am to prepare for school. My mum would cook four sweet potatoes: one for breakfast, one for lunch and two for afternoon dinner. The distance from home to school is about five kilometres. Because of the distance and frequent bad weather, no one else was interested in going to school. I used to walk back and forth by myself. I was often late for class. I sometimes missed classes due to heavy rain, floods and landslides.

For grade three, I went to Kimil Primary School, a Catholic mission school. When I first went there, I could not cope with its tough rules and regulations. I had no friends to share all my problems with. I did not understand anything I learnt in class. When a teacher asked me a question, everyone laughed because my answers were always wrong.

At the end of the term, my report card ranked last. My parents could not read the comment on the report; they

thought everything went well. I literally lost tears, but I did not give up easily. Apart from helping my mum in the farm garden, I committed all my remaining time to studies. I read a lot of textbooks. I consulted my teachers for help after hours.

My marks and academic performance slowly improved. I completed grade eight in 2015 with good grades on my certificate. Many people did not believe my academic performance for I was a village kid. They thought I would not get a secondary school offer. But never at any point in time did my parents let me down. They had greater hope for me. They continued to motivate me when I lacked motivation and pushed me forward when I fell back.

Waghi Valley Secondary School was far away from my village. I walked to catch the bus and the trip took around three hours. When I had no bus fare, I took the shortest route through the bush. The bush track was not in good condition. It took me around six hours to reach school when I travelled by foot. During the highest rainfall around June, July and August, I had the most difficulties going to school. But I still managed to overcome them. I successfully completed grade nine.

I thought I would do the same in the next academic year. Unfortunately, an election-related fight broke out. Some of our classrooms were burnt down. In fear, the teachers left school. I was unable to go to school because the school was on my enemy's land. The fight continued for two months, until the police came to solve it. Classes recommenced, but we had lost so much of our precious time to prepare for exams.

Our teachers squeezed up everything. They gave us piles of handouts, old exam papers and reference books. When I went home, I had no time for my friends and family. I sat in my room and studied. I had no proper light at night and used the old torch that my grandmother gave me.

In January 2018, the selection lists for grade eleven in various secondary schools in Jiwaka were posted at our district office. I checked for my name, but I could not find it. My parents shared my pain. A few days later, however, I received a phone call from my uncle in Port Moresby who told me I had

been selected to do grade eleven at Sogeri National High School. It was one of the most exciting moments in my life. Everyone in my clan and tribe was so proud of me.

At Sogeri National High School I met new friends from across the nation. Some people were dark in colour (especially from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville), some were brown, others were white. Their cultures and lifestyles were so different and unique. I faced many challenges academically and socially. Studying in a very demanding and competitive institution was the greatest challenge. Many students came from international and private schools with better grades. I was the smallest fish in a big ocean full of whales.

As the time went by, I started to make friends with everyone. I found that people were so kind, loving and caring. We built an unbreakable bond. As a result, my mind settled. I fully focused on school. Suddenly my marks improved. I scored very high grades which boosted me to study extra hard. Unexpectedly, I secured the top placing across all subjects. At the end of the year, I topped the school. I was awarded the dux of humanities and social sciences. It was something beyond my expectation.

I was accepted to study business management and accounting at the University of Papua New Guinea – it is what my parents dreamed of and wanted for me. I am now grateful to be a final year economics student here at the university.

If it were not for the commitment, sacrifices, courage and priceless advice of my beloved parents, I would not have come this far. I owe the greatest debt of gratitude to my parents. If I am lucky enough to become successful with riches one day, I will establish a school back in my remote village to make sure my younger siblings and those generations that will come may not face the problems I once faced. •

Editor's Note: This story was first published in Devpolicy Blog, *PNG Project News*, 9 June 2023. Jiwaka Province, established in 2012, was previously part of Western Highlands Province. Read more about it and its challenges at this website:

www.jiwaka fact and fascination – The National



**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,
6 October 2023, to
editor@pngaa.net**

BEIL, Barry James d. 14 June 2023

Barry Beil spent 22 years in PNG from 1957 to 1979 and made a significant contribution to its economic development. He had many fond memories of PNG and made many lifelong friends.

Barry was born in Kingaroy on 23 January 1938 and grew up on a farm just outside Kumbia at the foothills of the Bunya Mountains.

In 1954 he commenced a three-year Diploma in Agriculture at Gatton Agricultural College.

After graduating in February 1957, Barry applied for the position of Assistant Agricultural Officer in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea (as it was then known). A medical examination was required as well as an interview in Brisbane. Both were successful, and he subsequently undertook a three-week training course at the Australian School of Pacific Administration in Sydney before departing for PNG on 4 October 1957.



Barry Beil

Barry's first posting was at Taliligap, then Manam Island and in late 1959 he was transferred to Karkar Island (off Madang) where he worked for the following three years. His role was as an agricultural extension officer (*didiman*) with the local people, who were being encouraged to develop a cash economy by expanding cocoa and coconut plantings.

From 1962 to 1968 Barry was posted to the Marketing Section of Headquarters at Konedobu in Port Moresby. During this time, he married Beverly Seeto.

In 1969 Barry was posted to Mount Hagen as District Rural Development Officer in charge of the Western Highlands with responsibilities for coffee, tea, pyrethrum and cattle.

In February 1971, Barry was promoted to the position of Executive Officer of the PNG Coffee Marketing Board. He oversaw the stable governance, operation and significant growth of the PNG coffee industry in becoming one of PNG's largest export earners.

The industry provided work and income for hundreds of thousands of local small farmers as well as larger plantation owners. It raised their standard of living and contributed immensely to the economy of PNG.

He remained in this position until late 1979 when he and his family moved back to Australia to settle in the Redlands area in Queensland where he 'semi-retired' as a small crops farmer.

Stuart Beil

Waiting On Your Call

*I return to my homeland
Whenever the gecko calls
To the islands of the north
Where the once friendly natives
Now hold forth.
A land of mighty rivers
Of pristine waterfalls
Cloud shadowed mountains
Busy betel nut stalls
On the edge of turquoise seas
Laced with frangipani and
hibiscus trees
That forever holds my heart.
My home it shall always be
Wild jungle memories
Of our being free
Beside the shining Marcoola
My best mate and me.
I'm listening for you, gecko,
Waiting to hear your call.
Call for me gecko
Let my spirit soar.*

Michael Kenny

KENNY, Michael James Anthony

d. 19 April 2023

It was 1950 in Misima when Madge Free, a tall, dark-haired British beauty with a calm authority and extensive nursing background met the devilishly handsome and equally cheeky Irishman James (Jim) Kenny. Madge had been sent to Misima to assist European Medical Assistant (EMA) Jim Kenny cope with the 1950 polio epidemic.

They married that year and moved to Abau. It was in Abau on 8 June 1951 that my father was born. As a young child he accompanied his parents on their postings until old enough to be sent to school in Australia.

Dad had a traumatic and tumultuous time at a Sydney



Michael, as a young boy

boarding school, missing his parents and his much-loved island home terribly. He eventually ran away in about Year Nine and began his many adventures on the road, following his gypsy, or perhaps orphaned, heart.

Dad had a passion for planes and flying and worked with Qantas for many years, travelling the world having what always sounded like an absolute skite of a time. He later worked in propeller engineering and various other trades.

He was a man of much knowledge and charm, with the ability to have a good yarn. Dad was the type of guy that would chat to any stranger, hold court wherever he sat with a beer and listening ear. When we were young kids, he was known to bring back carloads of new 'friends' from any pub he frequented (much to my mother's blight).

His life experience, coupled with his wit and topped with his mischievous personality, meant he was electric to be around

and one heck of a storyteller. As age, and a predominately debauchorous life finally caught up with him, the storytelling settled into writing, poems mostly, and eventually his life story.

'You can take the boy out of PNG, but you can't take the PNG out of the boy' rang unequivocally true for Dad. His heart was, and always will be, in Abau. We hope, one day, to go there to scatter his ashes, so he can finally be at peace at his home.

Michael is survived by his children Shaun and Rori, and his grandchildren Scarlett, Remy, Arlo, Lola and Niko.

Rori Bicer

OWEN, Ifor Lunt

d. 24 November 2022

Ifor was born in Penybont-fawr—a small village in Montgomeryshire, Wales. After his primary education there, he went to Llanfyllin for high school, and then on to Aberystwyth College of Wales where he graduated in Zoology.

His interest in the subject led him to a postgraduate degree (PhD) at Aberystwyth on the parasites of fish with Gwendolyn Rees. This led to his appointment as assistant lecturer in Parasitology at the Royal Veterinary College in London, then to a lectureship at the Chelsea College of Science and Technology, University of London.

In the 1960s Ifor applied successfully for a two-year Research Fellowship funded by

the Australian Government to work in Papua New Guinea.

After the completion of the Fellowship, he stayed on for another forty years, first as Parasitologist and later Senior Veterinary Parasitologist at the National Veterinary Laboratory (NVL) in Port Moresby. His life in PNG was an adventurous one, as he would have to travel to remote areas by small plane and/or by canoe into the interior with several interpreters because of the numerous languages spoken (his native Welsh was of limited use in PNG).

During his tenure at the NVL, Ifor performed diagnostic and research work in parasitology, training and instructing staff, and advising senior departmental staff on the effects of parasites on animal health and production.

During this period, he published many papers on parasites affecting domestic animals in PNG. From 1990 to 1993 he was Acting Officer-In-Charge of the NVL. This involved maintaining overall supervision of all sections of the laboratory. Ifor retired from his government post in 1994.

Retirement did not alter Ifor's level of activity and, if anything, provided the opportunity to increase his scientific output given that over half of his 36 scientific papers were published after 1994. Collectively, these papers contributed much to the current knowledge of the parasite fauna of PNG.

The activities in this phase

of his career were completed as an unpaid 'volunteer' often using his own personal funds. In addition, Ifor continued to provide a diagnostic service in PNG through daily visits to the NVL. During this time, he was also a part-time lecturer in Parasitology at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Papua New Guinea.

The work that provides one of the best examples of Ifor's dedication to parasitology was associated with his discovery of a new nematode, *Trichinella papuae*, which affects both pigs and people, a project involving significant hardship in one of the most remote parts of the country along the PNG/West Papua border. This feat would be a challenge for a young enthusiastic person. The fact that Ifor organised, funded and



Ifor Owen

completed these surveys in his 70s is testament to his dedication to parasitology research.

Ifor continued his association with the NVL into his 80s, working to ensure that the veterinary laboratory had resource material that was up to date and country-specific to use as a reference for the training of future generations of parasitologists. He produced a unique manual for the NVL technicians that includes his many hand-drawn images. In 2015, Ifor was elected as an Honorary member of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology.

After 42 years in PNG, Ifor returned to Wales to live in a retirement village at Llandudno.

While Ifor would have resolutely refused to allow his colleagues to submit any nominations for awards in recognition of his work for PNG, we are sure that he would have approved of the posthumous plan to name the renovated parasitology laboratory at the NVL in his honour, as a mark of his contribution to the country.

Simon Reid & Ian Beveridge

Republished with permission of Australian Society for Papraistology

REDWOOD, Anthony Leo

d. 28 April 2023

Anthony, born on 4 January 1935, completed high school at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane and then started his adventures as a patrol officer in Papua New Guinea serving in the Eastern Highlands, Central

and Sepik Districts and in Bougainville.

This was an incredible experience for a young man and he saw his mates on every subsequent visit to Australia; men who shared a kindred spirit.

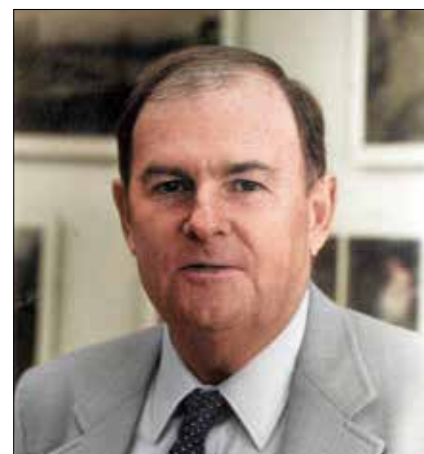
He met Mary Mollie Redwood on a cruise to Hong Kong when she was travelling around the world as a registered nurse. They were married three months later and began their new life together in Papua New Guinea.

He continued his education, receiving a Diploma of Public Administration (1964), a Bachelor of Economics (1965) and a Bachelor of Commerce (1968) from the University of QLD. He then changed to a career in economics in the Papua New Guinea Department of Labour.

After having three girls—Karen, Michelle and Fiona—Mollie and Tony moved to the United States where Tony earned his Masters in Labour and Employment Relations and PhD in Economics from the University of Illinois. His first position was as an Assistant Professor at the University of Kansas (KU).

There was a short break from 1974 to 1976 when he took a position as Assistant Secretary Manpower and Economic Policy in the Australian Government and the family moved to Melbourne. Then he returned to KU until his retirement in 1999 as Professor of Business Economics Emeritus.

Among his proudest achievements were his teach-



Anthony Redwood

ing awards, the economic development strategy for the state of Kansas developed with his colleague Charles Krider, service on the KU Athletic Board and being selected Kansan of the year (inaugural award) by Kansas magazine in 1986.

He had a lifetime joy of sports. In high school he played multiple sports, he refereed rugby in Papua New Guinea, he ran with the Mad Dogs and he was a lifetime golfer. He was also proud of completing the KU marathon in under four hours in 1976.

After retiring from KU, Tony and Mollie moved to Eagle Creek

*And when we say goodbye to you
don't mourn when we go.
The big DC will call us too,
and this of course we know.
The last patrol will take us all along
that well-worn track.
But the difference for this final call,
is that we won't be coming back.
So our passing should not cause
you pain, it's not sad for us to die,
For us we will all soon meet again
in that Patrol Post in the sky.*

Chips Mackellar
Una Voce, June 2004

Country Club in Naples FL and he began another career as a Federal Arbitrator. He retired in 2019 and received notification that none of his 150+ cases had been challenged.

Tony was truly Australian in his love for his mates and how he valued friendship. Geography had no bounds on his Friday night get-togethers whether it was in Lawrence with other professors, book club in Naples with his golf buddies or with his new friends in California at a local craft brewery. He was a great storyteller, whether it was seeing Bill Clinton at Saint Andrews, or just picking up the grandkids from school, there was always a story and laughter to share.

In 2020, thanks to COVID, Tony and Mollie were finally enticed to move to California to live with Karen, Fiona and the grandkids. The last three years of his life were all about family and friends celebrating special times like Bryanna's graduation from Macalester College, playing golf with Karen and McKenna, wine tasting with friends and local travel.

In addition to Mollie he leaves his sister, Denise Redwood, his daughters Karen, Michelle Davis and Fiona and grandchildren Bryanna Davis, McKenna Redwood and Mason Redwood. He joins his beloved grandson Nathan Davis in heaven.

This vale was abstracted from an obituary published on:
<https://www2.ljworld.com/life-events/obituaries/2023/may/19/anthony-redwood/>

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

Silver Muse Cruise to travel close to *Montevideo Maru*

Heard recently—a sea voyage by *Silver Muse* and part of a long cruise from Auckland to Tokyo, is broken up into various stages one of which is from Bali to Tokyo via Manila.

Silver Muse sails from Bali on 18 March 2024, calls at Coron (Palawan) on 22 March then Manila on 23 March. It then sails up the west coast of Luzon en route to Kaohsiung and Japanese ports.

It is thought that the ship could be in the close vicinity of the MS *Montevideo Maru* site early morning 24 March 2024.

Last Post Ceremony—Australian War Memorial, 1 July 2023—81st Anniversary

At the Last Post Ceremony in Canberra on 1 July 2023 the story of three brothers, Acting L/Cpl Sidney Turner, Pte Daryl Turner & Pte Dudley Turner was read whilst acknowledging the 81st anniversary of the sinking of the MS *Montevideo Maru*. It is featured on the Inside Back Cover of this issue, and interested people can watch the ceremony or read the transcript (click on the 3 dots under the video) via the AWM's YouTube stream for Last Post Ceremonies.

Last Post Ceremony: Acting L/Cpl Sidney Turner, Pte Daryl Turner & Pte Dudley Turner—1 July—YouTube

The photos of this service can be found in the Australian War Memorial's album on Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/australianwarmemorial/albums/72177720309498662>

Finding of the *Montevideo Maru* Functions

Several enjoyable and fascinating presentations have been made recently about the finding of the MS *Montevideo Maru* on 18 April 2023:

- 1 July 2023—Pavilion on Northbourne, Canberra ACT
- 22 July 2023—East Malvern RSL Club, Melbourne, VIC
- 26 July 2023—Wangaratta RSL Club, VIC
- 30 July 2023—Ship Inn, Brisbane, QLD
- 1 August 2023—Shrine of Remembrance, Melb., VIC
- 10 August 2023—Aust. National Maritime Museum.

'I Was Only Doing My Job'

While serving as Chief Yeoman of Signals as part of the Royal Australian Navy, Stephen Lamont was selected as part of the network of observers stationed across strategic locations in Northern Australia and neighbouring territories known as the Coastwatchers. Initially stationed on Anir Island off the coast of New Britain, Lamont was in Rabaul when it fell to the Japanese.

Lamont's selfless actions and dedication to his comrades stand out as he bravely chose to stay behind and care for two sick sailors, knowing the dangers that awaited him as he was captured by the Japanese and ended up on board the *MS Montevideo Maru* that was sunk by the *USS Sturgeon*, claiming the lives of over 1,000 allied prisoners of war and civilians in what is still considered Australia's worst maritime disaster.

This article appeared on the *Apple Podcast on Australian Military History*—the WWII section, including stories of the Coastwatchers and the sinking of *Montevideo Maru*, starts at 7.25 minutes.

NGVR Montevideo Maru Memorial Rabaul, dedicated 1946

Athanasios Tsakonas of the Australian Military History Facebook group was recently given the photo below by the family of an Australian war graves architect taken on his 1946/1947 visit to Rabaul. On the back was written: 'NGVR Memorial to 70 volunteers who died ... in the first landing, Matupi at back.'

Athanasios was asking, 'Does anyone know if this memorial still exists and its location?'

Referencing the Australian War Memorial, Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Group were able to advise that two memorial services were held to mark the fourth anniversary of the sinking of the Japanese transport, MS



Narromine War Cemetery

Montevideo Maru, in 1946—one at Vulcan Beach, the other at Rabaul. The POWs were members of the No. 1 Independent Company, 2/22 Battalion, and other units of Lark Force. Civilians included officials of the New Guinea Administration, businessmen, planters and missionaries. The 1994 eruptions of Tavurvur (Matupit) and Vulcan destroyed the memorials. The memorial on the Rabaul side was last seen lying on the foreshore, close to the water, just north of the Rabaul Yacht Club.

Narromine RSL Anzac Day Service

The Narromine RSL Sub-Branch organised three Anzac Day services this year. Guest speaker at the service at the Narromine War Cemetery was Arthur Woollams, representing the Combined Churches of Narromine. He relayed a personal story about the discovery of the *MS Montevideo Maru* as his maternal uncle, Arthur James Hogan, was one of the Australian POWs on board the fateful ship. 'My uncle was a commando ... Like a lot of young men back then, they lied about their age so they could head off on what they thought was a great adventure. How sad,' Mr Woollams said.

Arthur Hogan was with the 1st Independent Company which had its base at Kavieng on New Ireland.

Also in the 1st Independent Company from Narromine was Lloyd Sibraa. Patrick Bourke writes that his father's cousin, Lloyd Sibraa, was in B-Platoon No. 5 Section at Kavieng, the same section as Arthur Hogan.

The service involved wreath-laying from Narromine Christian School as well as a fly past of vintage planes from the Narromine Aero Club.

Information from Patrick Bourke and the Western Plains App.

A Trip I Will Never Forget

It had always been a personal wish to visit Rabaul to see for myself where so much of my families' history evolved. We joined the P&O *Pacific Encounter* in Brisbane on Anzac Day this year for a ten-day cruise to New Guinea which included stops in Milne Bay, Kiriwina Island, Rabaul and the Conflict Islands. Being Anzac Day, the staff of the ship provided a special service for the many passengers who chose to attend. This was greatly appreciated by all.

My grandfather, Frank Norman Smith, was a plantation owner who, with my grandmother, my mother, Rae Smith, and her siblings, developed Lakunda Plantation near Kokopo. When it was evident that Rabaul would fall, the women and children were evacuated to Australia whilst the men had to remain.

My grandfather was a member of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) after serving in the First World War in Egypt. When the Japanese landed my grandfather and other plantation owners held out for six months before they were captured by the Japanese. Subsequently, the group was executed and buried in a small cemetery near the volcanoes. It was many years after the event that our family found out what transpired on the fateful day on or about 29 August 1942.

My father, Len Woolf, was in the signals unit which was attached to the 2/22nd battalion that travelled to Rabaul on the *SS Zealandia* in the

latter part of 1941. He was in Rabaul in January 1942 when the Japanese landed. As we know, the Australians were totally outnumbered and had to deal with only having limited resources. Colonel Scanlan ultimately gave the order to withdraw and said, 'Every man for himself'.

My father and a few other troops were ultimately rescued by an RAAF Sunderland that had come to collect some RAAF aircrew. Captain Grey, who ultimately became chief pilot for what became TAA, opted to take as many troops as he could rather than leave them to face the Japanese. The overloaded plane took off on the third attempt, breaking a float. My father was very lucky he took the direction he did as those troops who took another trail were victims of the Tol Plantation massacre.

So, it was with a sense of excitement and sadness that we entered Simpson Harbour on 30 April 2023. It is a beautiful entry with the stunning harbour surrounded by the hills, volcanoes and lush vegetation. The infrastructure at the port was very good and we were greeted by a local choir whose lovely voices could be clearly heard on the ship.

We opted to take an organised tour from the dock with the first stop being the Bitapaka War Cemetery which is near Kokopo some 50 km from Rabaul. It was a very humbling experience walking amongst the graves of so many young Australians who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

It was here that the guide, who had been made



View of Rabaul (© John Dikuang) and Alan's father, Len Woolf & Malcolm Gibb at the RMvM Memorial in Canberra



1. New Guinea Club
2. War relics at the Kokopo War Museum
3. Queen Emma's Steps
4. Admiral Yamamoto's Bunker

aware of our family history by our friends, asked if I could participate in placing a wreath on the memorial cross. This was quite an emotional experience but one I very much appreciated.

From there we went to the War Museum at Kokopo, which displayed many items of equipment used by both sides during the conflict. From there it was off to see Queen Emma's Steps which were part of her home, 'Gunantambu', near Kokopo. Her home was destroyed by Allied bombing in 1943.

On the return to Rabaul we stopped to see the Japanese landing barges in their caves. What took us by surprise was the distance these caves are from the water. The Japanese used motorised winches to drag the barges from the water up into the caves which was a considerable distance.

Finally, we did a trip down to the old Rabaul township area which was decimated by the volcanic eruption. We were able to go inside the original New Guinea Club, which today is a museum. This is opposite to Admiral Yamamoto's bunker which is open for display.

One of our friends was able to stand by the same bar he drank at when he worked in Rabaul some 40 years ago. Quite an emotional moment for him, which brought back a lot of memories. It was then back to the ship to enjoy the wonderful sunset whilst contemplating all that had taken place in this beautiful part of the world so many years ago.

It was 10 pm when the ship sailed from Rabaul heading for the stunning Conflict Islands. It was a trip I will never forget, and to see where my family endured so much was a very humbling experience. •

Editor's Note: Frank Smith was executed by the Japanese in Rabaul late July or August 1942 along with Vic Pratt, Jack Marshall (Customs), AA Smith (North Coast Rabaul), CJ Thompson (WR Carpenter's Accountant) and Tommy Goss.

ALAN WOOLF

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 if paid by 31 December 2023; new rates will be effective from 1 January 2024 (see page 8)				
<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.e. no hard copy or postage costs)	\$33.00			
PNGAA DONATIONS				
<input type="checkbox"/> General Donations		DON		
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Fund		DONSF		
PNGAA EVENTS (Please check details, when available, on the PNGAA website)				
<input type="checkbox"/> 2023 PNGAA Christmas Luncheon—2 December 2023	TBA	SYDX		
PNGAA STORE				
<input type="checkbox"/> Land of the Unexpected Add \$7.00 postage within Australia—o'seas extra	\$30.00	LOTU		
<input type="checkbox"/> When the War Came: New Guinea Islands 1942 Add \$20.00 postage within Australia—o'seas extra	\$60.00	WWC		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mangroves, Coconuts and Frangipani: The Story of Rabaul Add \$20.00 postage within Australia—o'seas extra	\$60.00	MCF		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Volcano's Wife Add \$7.00 postage within Australia—o'seas extra	\$25.00	VOL		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cloudlands Memoirs Add \$3.00 postage within Australia—o'seas extra	\$15.00	CLD		
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk Into Paradise (DVD) Add \$5.00 postage within Australia—o'seas extra	\$10.00	WIP		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kiap: Stories Behind the Medal (DVD) Add \$5.00 postage within Australia—o'seas extra	\$25.00	KIAP		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rabaul and Montevideo Maru 70th Anniversary (DVD) Add \$5.00 postage within Australia—o'seas extra	\$20.00	RMVM		
<input type="checkbox"/> PNGAA Tote Bag Add \$10.00 postage (10 bags \$20) within Australia—o'seas extra	\$15.00	TOTE		
<input type="checkbox"/> PNGAA Membership Directory: 2023 Edition 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.				

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. 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 card details (see below) to: PNGAA, PO Box 250, Kilcoy, Qld 4515; OR
- Email or phone card details to either: Membership Officer at membership@pngaa.net or 0412 556 593 or Treasurer at treasurer@pngaa.net or 0448 216 049; OR
- Pay through the PNGAA website at <https://pngaa.org/renew-your-membership/> This option provides a 'recurring' membership that automatically renews each year (unless you want to cancel the arrangement). 'recurring' membership means you won't have to remember to renew your subscription each year.

Card Number: / / Amount Payable: \$

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

Name on Card (please print):

Signature of Card Holder: Date:



Last Post Ceremony Australian War Memorial Saturday, 1 July 2023

Canberra turned on a beautiful, sunny day for this year's 1 July 2023 Last Post Ceremony. Held on the 81st anniversary, the Last Post Ceremony remembered all those who died on *Montevideo Maru* on 1 July 1942 and acknowledged the finding of the shipwreck on 18 April 2023 in over 4,000 m of water in the West Philippine Sea.

In this year's ceremony, the story of three brothers from one family who all joined up together and were all placed in the 1st Independent Company, was told. The Company was sent to Kavieng, from Australia, in July 1941. They were split into nine Sections which were each deployed to nearby islands for a period of up to two months before rotating, and it was this rotation which determined the fate of each member, depending on where they were located when the Japanese invasion occurred.

Over half of the entire 1st Independent Company was lost, and the Company was never reformed.

Various generations of the Dale family attended the Australian War Memorial to remember their uncles, the three Turner brothers—Acting L/Cpl Sidney Turner, Pte Daryl Turner and Pte Dudley Turner—who died with the sinking of *Montevideo Maru*. They told how the boys' mother, Jesse, wore the small silver Mothers' and Widows' Badge, with three stars depicting her three sons who had died in WWII, every day until she died.

Beautiful notes and wreaths were laid in remembrance, watched over by silent eyes lining the stairs and colonnades surrounding the Pool of Remembrance, which glowed softly as day turned to night.

Knowing the location of the ship has brought much comfort to hundreds of relatives and friends of the men.

ANDREA WILLIAMS



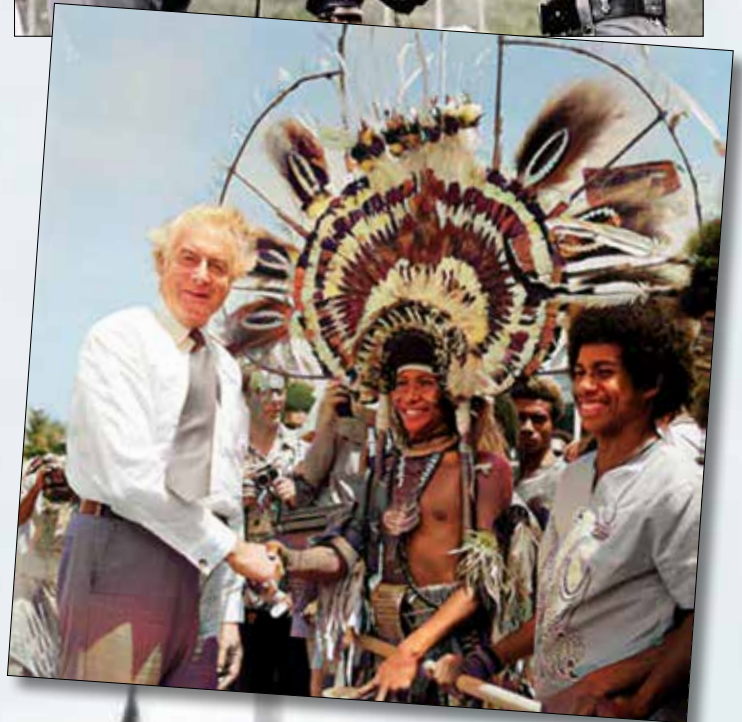


On 16 September 1975, the nation of Papua New Guinea achieved its independence from Australia and we, the members of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, in reflecting on the past forty-eight years, can be justifiably proud of our past and continuing contributions to the Independent Nation of Papua New Guinea.

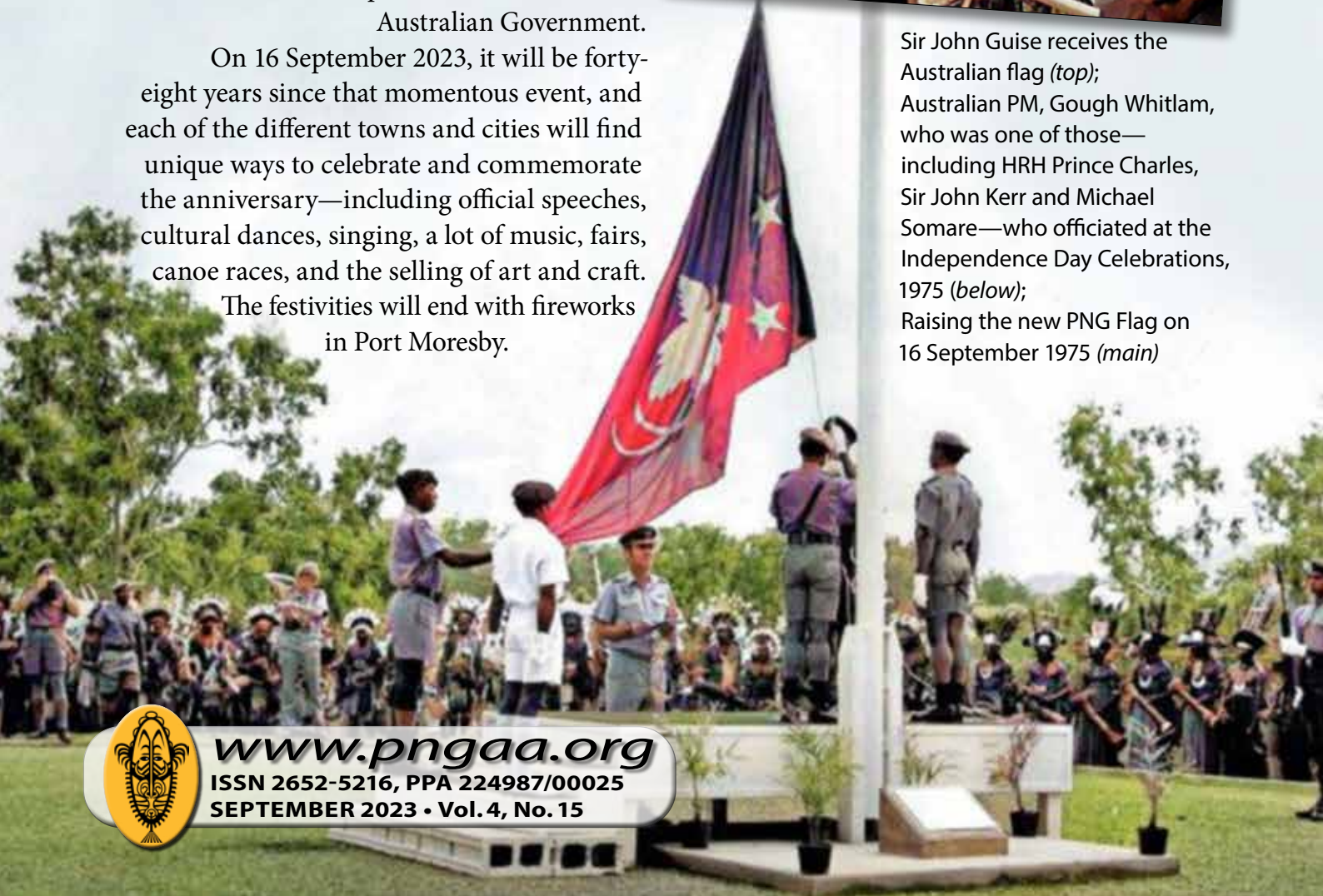
When the Australian flag was lowered in Port Moresby, Sir John Guise, Governor-General Designate of Papua New Guinea, noted that it was being lowered, not torn down. His statement reflected the positive spirit in which the Independent State of Papua New Guinea was established—to the credit of both the leaders of Papua New Guinea and the Australian Government.

On 16 September 2023, it will be forty-eight years since that momentous event, and each of the different towns and cities will find unique ways to celebrate and commemorate the anniversary—including official speeches, cultural dances, singing, a lot of music, fairs, canoe races, and the selling of art and craft.

The festivities will end with fireworks in Port Moresby.



Sir John Guise receives the Australian flag (*top*); Australian PM, Gough Whitlam, who was one of those—including HRH Prince Charles, Sir John Kerr and Michael Somare—who officiated at the Independence Day Celebrations, 1975 (*below*); Raising the new PNG Flag on 16 September 1975 (*main*)



www.pngaa.org

ISSN 2652-5216, PPA 224987/00025

SEPTEMBER 2023 • Vol. 4, No. 15