



# Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC  
(formerly the Retired Officers Association of Papua New Guinea Inc)

Patrons: His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia  
Mrs Roma Bates; Mr Fred Kaad OBE

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON –

This year's Christmas Luncheon will be on Sunday 3 December at the Mandarin Club Sydney.

\* \* \*

## VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS

The annual spring visit to the Blue Mountains will again be on a Thursday in October (details in September *Una Voce*). Last year we were warmly welcomed at the spacious home of George and Edna Oakes at Woodford for another friendly gathering. Edna and George have kindly offered to be our hosts again this year. Full details in September issue.

\* \* \*

PNGAA received a letter from the Chairman of the Hospital Board of Management at the ANGAU Memorial General Hospital in Lae thanking us for the donation of \$2000 for the Children's ward. This was achieved through two screenings of the film, *Walk Into Paradise*, last year. We were grateful for, and would like to acknowledge, the assistance we received from our member, Mrs Jeanette Leahy, who facilitated this transfer for us. The ANGAU Hospital was most appreciative of this gift.

\*\*\*don't forget to have a look at our

website: [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

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Please send all correspondence to: **The Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 452, Roseville NSW 2069.** Items for *Una Voce* are welcome and should be marked 'For Attention: The Editor' or emailed to: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net) By submitting your article/story for publication, you agree that we may, after publication in *Una Voce*, republish it on the internet unless you advise us to the contrary.

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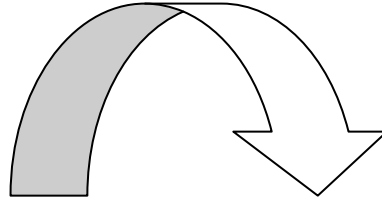
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\* \* \*

There will be an **exhibition of tribal portraits from PNG** by award-winning photographer Louisa Seton at the Blender Gallery, 16 Elizabeth Street, Paddington, (Sydney) Mondays to Saturdays from May 18 until June 6, 2006. (PH: 9380 7080).

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## IN 100 WORDS OR LESS – FISHING

**Thoughts from Madang - I didn't actually go fishing**, but did have a splendid kingfish come my way....

About 1952 I was on my way to visit Lloyd and Marg Hurrell, stationed at Bogia, and travelling on the 40' Admin. 'work boat', skippered by the then well-known one-armed 'BUKA'. Suddenly this adventurous kingfish leapt high from the water in front of us and came through the quite small open window beside Buka, landing thrashing at my feet; I was enjoying the comfort of a deck chair. All so clearly recalled, as much of those interesting days are. Linda Evans

**Small boys often used to bring crayfish (*kindam*) to sell to us at Sialum.** Some were '*tu siling*' and some (only a little bigger) were '*po siling*'. I remember asking why the doubling in price for just a little increase in size? The explanation was rather humbling.

*'Em dispela kindam mipela painim long insait long rip. Narapela bikpela liklik kindam mipela kisim long hapsait long rip.'*

[We found this lobster inside the reef. The slightly larger lobster we found on the other side of the reef].

*'Orait'*, I said, *'tasol bilong wanem emi po siling a? Watpo ino tri siling?'*

[OK...but why is it four shillings? Why not three shillings?]

*'Olsem mipela save paitim sampela sak long hapsait long rip!'*

[We had to fight some sharks on the other side of the reef!]

*'Here's your money kid. You've earned it.'*

Paul Oates

THEME FOR NEXT ISSUE – **Gurias (Earthquakes)**

Deadline for entries: **01 August 2006**

Write/Phone/Fax/Email

Please put pen to paper as we would all like to share your stories

On behalf of all our members, our President, Harry West, sent a message to members of the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee & Commonwealth Games Association congratulating

**Ryan Pini** on winning a **GOLD MEDAL** in the recent 2006 Commonwealth Games swimming events and, also, to **Dika Toua** on winning a **SILVER MEDAL** in weightlifting.

## PNG.....IN THE NEWS

► PNG flags flew proudly at the **Commonwealth Games** when **Ryan Pini** took out **gold** in the men's 100m butterfly – igniting 'a new era for Papua New Guinea'.

**Dika Toua** also took out a **silver** medallion in weightlifting.

PNG Governor-General Sir Paulias Matane congratulated Pini and weightlifter Toua, saying 'You have made me and the people of Papua New Guinea so proud.' To citizens, he said: 'Their actions have again proven what I always express and that is, we can be among the best sportsmen and women in the world.'

Info from PNG Post Courier 22 March 2006

► **THE Post-Courier has won a prestigious PANPA (Pacific Area Publishers' Association) award** for media excellence with its special **30<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary magazine** in the category of best advertising feature or supplement for newspapers with a circulation of 15,000-50,000.

A pleased Post-Courier managing director Kevin Smith enthused "It shows that we are up there with the best, and is something that we can all take a great deal of pride in."

Supplements Editor Dave Lornie, who edited the magazine, said 'the win was a real plus for both the company and the country. It proved *Post-Courier* was clearly able to compete with the best newspapers in both Australia and New Zealand'.

► The PNG Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, the Rt. Hon. Sir Rabbie Namaliu has announced the introduction of a new category of entry permit for permanent residents.

Under the new arrangements, non-citizen residents who have resided in PNG for five years or more will be eligible to apply for permanent residence and this remains valid for the life of the holder. This is in recognition of the significant contribution that many long-term residents have made to the economic and social development of PNG.

Holders of a ***Permanent Residence Entry Permit*** will no longer be required to hold work permits issued by the Department of Labour and Employment. However, as with any other entry permit, the *Permanent Residence Entry Permit* can be cancelled under the Migration Act, particularly where the holder commits a criminal offence or departs PNG for a period of 12 months or more without a valid reason.

The *Permanent Resident Entry Permit* application fee is K3000.00. The fee covers the primary applicant and any dependants and is non-refundable. Missionaries are exempt from paying the application fee.

Info from PNGBD 26 October 2005

► The April issue of the Smithsonian magazine features a ten page article on 'Headhunt Revisited', the story of portrait artist Caroline Mytinger who lived in PNG during the 1920s. The title of the article is 'A Gibson Girl in New Guinea' written by Tessa de Carlo. You can read the story online at [www.smithsonianmagazine.com](http://www.smithsonianmagazine.com).

It includes the two month expedition in 2005 by Michele Westmorland and Karen Hunt. They visited many of the places that Mytinger and Margaret Warner had explored in the 1920s, documenting how the lives and customs of the local people had changed. (See also *Una Voce* No. 3, 2005, page 26).

## TEAM PNG AT THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN MELBOURNE

By Maxwell R. HAYES

Although I had received a personal invitation from Charles W. Lepani, the Papua New Guinea High Commissioner to Australia, to attend the reception for the Papua New Guinea team taking part in the 18th Commonwealth Games in Melbourne I also represented, at the request of Harry West, our Association. The Games, in which 71 nations of the Commonwealth took part, were held in Melbourne between 15th - 26th March 2006

The reception for Team PNG was held at the Port Phillip Specialist School of Arts Performance Centre at Port Melbourne on Saturday 11th, and organised by members of the PNGAA (Vic) through strong links with the City of Port Phillip. Unfortunately, half the PNG team was delayed and arrived the following day.

However this did not dampen the spirit of the evening; ample succulent PNG *kai kai* supplemented by a lavish supper, with a never ending flow of 'hard' refreshments, ensured that the evening was a great success, and a wonderful welcome to those members of the team who had arrived. The Mayor of the City, Ms Janet Bolitho, welcomed the team; Charles Lepani was exceptionally well received by the two hundred or so guests, families and friends present. There was ample opportunity to converse with the athletes, all attired in appropriate games uniform with numerous entry passes dangling from their necks. The evening was in true PNG fashion, starting late and concluding in a similar manner.

During the course of the evening I had some time with the High Commissioner who stated that he wished to work closely with our association and gain some recognition for those members who had given long and valued service to PNG in earlier days.

The make up of Team PNG was as follows: athletics 15; boxing 9; disability events 4; lawn bowls 8; squash 4; swimming 6 and weightlifting 7, a total of 53, of which there were 14 women represented in four of the events. A further four officials, a press attaché, and the *chef de mission*, Ms Tamzin Wardley, completed the official team. PNG Sports Federation secretary general, Sir John Dawanincura also made the trip to Melbourne. Volunteer drivers met the demands of the team which was accommodated in special athletes villages, a big budget project of the Victorian Government.

The PNG flag was raised at the Games Village on Monday 13th, two days before the Games commenced. The evening opening of the Games at the Melbourne Cricket Ground was hailed as a truly spectacular event, though many visiting Games teams must have been somewhat puzzled or overawed by the sight of a flying green Melbourne tram ( cardboard) with huge wings and which landed spilling out green uniformed former tramways employees; motorcyclists zooming between ballet dancers; a boy sending a 'help me" message from a suspended replica of the mast which surmounts the Melbourne State Theatre and a duck waddling around and which seemed to be lost. Team PNG made a spectacular entry as the 65th country to the arena being led by sprinter Mae Koime in a *bilum* dress after the Queen officially declared the Games open. The Games in earnest commenced the following day.

In the overall medal tally, PNG finished 18th with a Gold medal and a Silver medal. The Gold medal went to Ryan Pini (winner of PNG's sportsman of the year 2003 and 2004) for the 100m butterfly swimming event and the Silver medal to Dika Toua for the 53 kg division women's weightlifting. Pini was born in PNG and spent his first 18 years there, though since then he has lived and trained in Brisbane.

PNG's first-ever Gold medal was in the 1990 Games in Auckland when Geua Tau won the women's singles bowls. A Silver medal was won at Edmonton in 1978 and a Bronze medal at Kuala Lumpur in 1998.

On Saturday 25th March, the PNGAA (Vic) in conjunction with the Middle Park Bowling Club and the City of Port Phillip hosted a BBQ/ Island night to farewell the returning athletes.

Team PNG returned to Port Moresby on Monday 27th March to a huge official welcome at the Sir John Guise stadium hosted by the Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare, and where an estimated 10,000 cheered their athletes. The Governor-General, Sir Paulias Matane, offered his congratulations. ■

\* \* \* \* \*

**Dr David Wetherell** is offering two books for sale to help the family of a Papuan tertiary lecturer accidentally killed when a huge tree fell across the main road between Popondetta and Oro Bay in January. A month before, two Newton Theological College vehicles were destroyed by another tree falling; a consequence of logging activities in the area. Please contact David Wetherell at: School of History, Heritage and Society, Deakin University, GEELONG VIC 3217 PH: 03 52 271 398 (work) and 03 52 78 2208 (home)

#### FOR SALE

► TF Bevan, Toil, Travel and Discovery in British New Guinea Kegan Paul, Trench 1890, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed, 8vo.viii+317pp, 3 folding maps. In excellent condition. This copy \$220, (half the median price of \$439 quoted by 10 UK and US booksellers on BookFinder).

► Kenneth Mackay, Across Papua Witherby London 1909. Hard cover copy valued by the same booksellers at \$300. Author's signed presentation copy to Ronald Munro Ferguson, Governor General. In good condition, \$200.

Emmanuel Narokobi, President of the **Port Moresby Rugby Football Union**, sent us the following letter:

'I read with great emotion and interest the article by Dennis Bradney MBE on the beginnings of rugby in PNG. [This article is on our website: [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)] I am the President of University Rugby Club (which means we came from the ADUNI Club of 1965) and I am also the President of Port Moresby Rugby Union. I just wanted to say that I felt so much emotion just reading the article with the feeling that we have some history and that our rugby today came from somewhere.

I now do not want to let all the hard work from the early years nor the people that were involved to be forgotten. Please let me know how I can get in touch with Dennis Bradney or other rugby founders as I would like to know more about rugby's history in PNG.

I am an ex-student of Marist College, Ashgrove, Brisbane and that is where I learnt my rugby (John Eales came from my school). We have progressed immensely with rugby here and the game is growing each year.' ■

**Dr Wilson Pakalu** has returned home to PNG after winning an AusAID scholarship six years ago to study medicine at Melbourne University. A condition of the scholarship was that, once his degree was completed, he would return home to help plug the doctor shortage in PNG. He wonders... [if] 'I don't have the basic things like scrubs or basic hand gloves or plaster, how am I going to provide my service to the people?'  
Melbourne Age 08 May 2006

## NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY from Jim Toner

Unlike the 1962-63 and 1963-64 cadet education officer intakes at ASOPA, the 1961-62 mob has never organised a reunion. **Dave Keating** is now doing something about that with an eye on 2007 but has ahead of him the interesting task of locating the present whereabouts of his fellow students. It will take a hot phone and perseverance. For example, when the class of 1962-63 were organising their initial reunion **Bill Wilson** was being sought. Someone with that name listed in the Perth directory was contacted but although it wasn't the right Wilson it turned out that his father had once been a *kuskus* in the Education Department at Moresby. The latter put the enquirers on to an ex-District Inspector living in Wagga Wagga who put them on to **Jan Vaughan** (Nicholson) a former chalkie cadet living on the Gold Coast. And she had information about **Michael Hatch**, another student. It was a case of pick up the phone and follow each step. Good luck, Dave.

As a one-time prominent athlete in Rabaul, Dave will have kept an eye on PNG's progress at the recent Commonwealth Games. There was little success on the track but **Ryan Pini**, son of a Moresby stationer, collected a gold medal in the pool to the delight of his country. And had **Rita Kari**, a 16 years old Hanuabadan, who weightlifted a total of 178 kgs been able to manage just one kg more, she would have secured a silver medal. Lawn bowls is taken very seriously in England and Australia yet **Peter Juni** from the Goroka club was able to defeat the reigning singles champions of both countries in Melbourne.

Discovery of the deepest hole (1178m) in the southern hemisphere, now called the Muruk Cave, was mentioned in our issue for September 2002. This year an international expedition supported by the 'National Geographic' has been to Pomio and made a long walk into the Nakanai mountains to examine another. Not as deep, it is at more than 17 kms in length the longest underground cave in the world. While the kiaps at Pomio in 'the colonial period' were unaware of what lay beneath them they certainly knew that the south coast of New Britain has some of the highest rainfall figures ever recorded. In consequence huge underground rivers fill the cave system making exploration very dangerous or, as the dedicated speleologists like to put it, 'technically difficult'.

PNG has man-made holes and the social and environmental costs of the Ok Tedi copper and gold mine operating in the Star Mountains is periodically reviewed in the media. Prodigious quantities of tailings flow into the eponymous river and thence into the Fly and Papuan Gulf causing various types of damage. However, the mine gives employment to 2000 people directly plus 2000 contractors and says it gave 330 million Kina in benefits to the Western Province government last year. For the environmentalists the good news is that the mine will close in 2012. For the PNG Treasurer the bad news is that 20% of his annual tax receipts will then vanish.

Fellow competitors for female companionship in the Moresby of the Sixties will probably recall **Clive Wall**, a young lawyer-about-town. He has transmorphed into His Honour Judge Wall RFD QC of the District Court, Townsville. How time passes.

On that score none of us could have imagined that Moresby would ever be able to offer 500 hotel rooms for an international conference. That is how many have been booked to support the joint visits of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group from the United Nations and the European Union Council of Ministers who are meeting from 28 May to 2 June. The lucky ones will be at the 4-star Crowne Plaza described

as 'the best hotel in the South Pacific'. But for how long? Many readers will recall the ramshackle Comworks Mess which looked down on Tabari Place, Boroko having either quickstepped at its Saturday night dances or, if a very junior officer, been accommodated there by the Administration. It is to be the site of a proposed 6-star resort!

\* \* \*

### **GREETINGS FROM THE AIRVOS APARTMENTS By Rick Nehmy**

Well, this may be it. At the time of writing we still don't know what's happening to us long term, and, as we have less than three months to go, this could be my last missive, as I may well be returning to a well-earned retirement in Canberra. It has been a great couple of years, tempered by a lot of frustration across the board. Sometimes I think my home agency and AusAID need some ECP deployees too!

Recently, a Wewak based lawyer claimed that, as a result of the misreporting of criminal charges against him, 'his image and reputation had been deeply tarnished'. The lawyer said that he had been arrested and charged with 'abduction of my daughter and incest and not carnal knowledge and rape as reported'.

A senior Minister, Dr Puka Temu, has urged all churches to support and encourage the use of condoms to help stem the AIDS epidemic in PNG. The sad but not unexpected avalanche of Letters to the Editor from across the religious spectrum railed against Dr Temu, either on straight religious grounds or on the uninformed 'condoms cause aids' type arguments.

At Tabubil a man who gave his wife (a police prosecutor) a black eye was ordered to do five days community service and then take his wife out to dinner at the Cloudland Hotel on Mothers Day, or perform a further five days community service. She was not the prosecutor in this case.

The currently suspended Secretary for Finance is taking legal action in an attempt to prevent the Public Accounts Committee of the National Parliament from inquiring into the Department of Finance, because any PAC findings are likely to defame him. Interesting argument.

Our until very recently acting Secretary died last week aged 51. He was Lari Hare, an Orokelo man who, after a short stint as a *kiap* at Kupiano, spent the rest of his working life in what is now my Department, the Department of Personnel Management. On the Wednesday I went to the special Departmental viewing at the 6 mile Funeral Home run by Raymond Agonia. I thought that it would be just a quick visit to pay my respects, but I ended up walking into a full blown service, complete with Departmental choir.

The funeral was on Friday, and right on starting time the family presented the Department with a very legalistic log of demands, including cash compensation and a state funeral, even though the Department was already footing the whole bill. A hastily obtained PNG flag draped over the coffin satisfied the latter demand, and negotiations resulted in the proceedings commencing only an hour late. I didn't realise that I had sat in the middle of the Departmental choir, and had to stand up and sing it for each of several songs! I hung in for another two hours, but didn't make it to the end, nor the following wake, nor the *haus krai* the next day. My Departmental colleagues were appalled by the content and timing of the demands, but subtly let me know that the family spokesman was not from the Gulf, but a high altitude area to its north.



## NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA - John Kleinig

It takes a lot to keep **Stan PIKE** down. After a health scare which saw him hospitalised for more time than he would like, he has bounced back with his usual passionate determination. His immediate target is Adelaide in early July where he will join family members for the Adelaide to Darwin journey on The Ghan. Not content with anything but the best, Stan has booked the very, very upmarket Chairman's Carriage. Described as the pride of Great Southern Railways it boasts the ultimate in luxury including a private dining room.

In Sydney for a family wedding over Easter, **David AYLING** decided to visit the ASOPA site at Mosman. It had been nearly 49 years and whilst not everything was familiar he was relieved that the Buena Vista is still living up to the standards of the past. David also contacted **Bob CLARK** from the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust which has responsibility for the conservation of Middle Head including ASOPA. As a result of their discussion a series of articles will now appear in Una Voce.

**Dr Barry CRAIG** reports that funding provided for renovations of the Pacific Gallery at the South Australian Museum, commenced in March 2006. The 1960s ceiling is to be removed, to open up the roof space with its rows of windows along the north and south sides of the roof. Direct sunlight will be blocked by fixed louvres and UV-filtering film applied to the glass. The air conditioning and all the lighting are to be replaced, the gallery and wall cases will be repainted, and the floor completely recarpeted.

Blank spaces along the south wall will be provided with wall cases in the style of the original cases and cases are to be provided for various exhibits that have been on open display and subjected to dust accumulations. The green plinths displaying the various canoes have been removed and alternative means of display are to be provided, consistent with the look and feel of the original 1895 Gallery.

Most of the exhibits that were removed during the 1999-2000 earthquake mitigation construction will be returned to display and a new exhibit, *Three Women and an Island*, curated by Alexandra Szalay, will be installed in purpose-made free-standing cases. This exhibit features three women who have made significant contributions to anthropological research in New Guinea.

Many cases have lacked labels since 2000 and this problem will be addressed progressively throughout the Gallery. Objects that have been displayed inappropriately due to incorrect information will be moved to join other objects from the same area and some new material, especially from the south-east of [West] Papua, from the Fly River area of PNG, and from central New Guinea, will be added.

Three audio-visual display screens are to be located along the south wall to provide another dimension to the static display of artefacts. The new look Gallery should be reopened in August this year.

Dr Barry Craig is the Curator of Foreign Ethnology, a former resident of TPNG and now a frequent visitor to PNG.

Now in its seventh year, the **2006 Annual PNGAA SA Reunion Lunch** will be held at Pulteney Grammar School in Allan Wheaton House on Sunday 29 October 2006. Further details will be included in the invitation to be sent out in September. Enquiries can be directed to 8339 8314. ■

## **Have you Heard?**

**Sir David Hay**, the only surviving former Administrator of Papua New Guinea, is now in his 90<sup>th</sup> year and participated in the recent Anzac Day March in Melbourne. His main interest in retirement has been the complete restoration of the homestead and farm buildings of his great grandfather, which had passed out of the family in 1918.

**An Anzac Day service was broadcast LIVE from Isurava**, PNG, by Channel 7's Sunrise program on 25 April. This was the culmination of a trek which included the unlikely trio of Liberal 'heavy' Joe Hockey, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, Kevin Rudd and Sunrise host, David Koch.

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH ASOPA? By Bob Clark**

Things are beginning to happen down at Middle Head that will lead to a new lease of life for former home of the ASOPA and its later manifestations.

The site is within an area of former Defence lands at Georges Heights /Middle Head handed over to the then newly established Interim Sydney Harbour Federation Trust in 1999. In 2001 the Interim Trust became the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust under its own act of Federal Parliament charging it with opening its various (now 8 sites) to the public, conserving, protecting and interpreting their environmental and cultural heritage and .... you can find more information about the Trust and its sites at [www.harbourtrust.gov.au](http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au).

What will interest readers of this journal is that the Trust has just commissioned a Conservation Management Plan covering the former ASOPA and its neighbour the 10 Terminal Regiment site. This is the beginning of a process that gathers relevant background information for the production of a Plan of Management for this precinct. The Plan of Management will outline the Trust's proposed future for the site and a draft will be exhibited for public comment and will be displayed on our website.

The Conservation Management Plan will look at an historical overview of the area, the various uses of the sites and buildings, survey the current condition of the buildings, assess their heritage significance and recommend appropriate uses for buildings and policies for their conservation and interpretation. These plans are prepared in accordance with a set process recognised by all heritage bodies in Australia. It will provide essential information on heritage issues that will be used to guide the Trust's future plans for the site along with other issues such as flora and fauna studies, bushfire controls, access and parking issues, site contamination, infrastructure and services, etc.

What would be of interest to the Trust and the historian undertaking the overview history would be photographs showing the buildings both internally and externally and their inhabitants and information on teaching staff. ASOPA was highly regarded as a special educational institution. Are you aware of any other institutions in other countries that mirrored ASOPA's role and success?

An Open Day on site is held in conjunction with the exhibition of the Plan of Management. However given the importance of the ASOPA, it is planned to hold a separate Open Day purely for ex students, teachers and staff of the School, AusAid, etc to gather names, learn more about the institution and to discuss an oral history program. Our web site and future updates in this journal will keep interested people informed.

*If you have any photographs or information for him please send to:* Bob Clark, Senior Heritage Planner, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, PO Box 607, Mosman NSW 2088, *ph:* 8969 2101 *or email:* [bob.clark@deh.gov.au](mailto:bob.clark@deh.gov.au).

## INTERVIEW WITH KEITH WATERHOUSE, October 2002

By Michael Waterhouse

I left school at the end of 1933, joining Burns Philp as a messenger boy on 7/6 a week. My first trip to New Guinea for Burns Philp was in the second half of 1935 and, apart from a spell in Rabaul in 1937-38 and several inter-island trips, I worked on ships doing the round trip from Sydney fairly consistently until June-July 1939.

Two Burns Philp ships operated on the New Guinea service at this time: the *Montoro*, a steamship and coal burner, and the *Macdhui*, which was one of the first ships equipped with diesel machinery. The round trip Sydney to Sydney took 3 to 4 weeks. The two ships took slightly different courses. The *Montoro* would go Sydney-Brisbane-Townsville-Port Moresby-Samarai-Woodlark Island-Rabaul, then across to Salamaua, Lae, Madang, Alexishafen, Wewak, Boram (two miles from Wewak where Burns Philp had a plantation), Finschhafen, Kavieng, then down from New Ireland to Rabaul.

There was one other port we called in to after Madang, on the island of New Britain, comparatively close to Rabaul. It was a charming little place, a desiccated coconut plantation called Pondo, owned by W.R.Carpenter and Co., and we were able to get alongside the jetty there.

The ship would then back load cargo for Sydney. After leaving Rabaul, the ship went to Samarai, Port Moresby, Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney.

The *Macdhui* had a similar trip except that she diverted from Madang, Alexishafen and Finschhafen and went up to Lorengau, the capital of the Manus island group. It then proceeded to Kavieng and Rabaul.

In Rabaul we would load on board 60 or 70 natives who would do the round trip; they would sleep on deck. They were supervised by two boss-boys. Cargo was unloaded at wharves in nearly all places except Salamaua, Lae and Woodlark Island, where it was done by barge. They were towed in to shore by the ship's motor boats on big surfboats lashed together with timber lashed across them to form a platform.

I was as known, in nautical terms, as a 'Dip' or deputy (or Assistant) Purser. I was fairly young at this time [19 in 1935]. Although I did a lot of passenger work, I was really a 'supercargo'. My work involved a lot of checking of the quantities of cargo discharged out of the ships' holds and landed so that claims could not be made for non-delivery. Special cargo (liquor and valuable items) was heavily locked in special lockers on board. Every case of whisky had a special cargo number on it which had to be checked. The freezer and cool-room stores also had to be checked out. General cargo wasn't checked out because satisfactory checking was done during delivery to consignees at the port concerned.

This responsibility meant I was in and out of the hold the whole time the ship was in port. In Port Moresby, this meant I sometimes worked 26-28 hours without a stop. In Samarai, I might go 20 hours without sleep; in Rabaul 20-24 hours. It was pretty onerous work.

The Chief Officer and Second Officer were the ones who supervised the actual unloading. I would sometimes help, but was usually too busy with the physical handling of the cargo. When we were loading cargo at night, the lights over the side of the ship used to attract swarms of sea snakes.

Most of the material for the dredges at Bulolo, including spare parts, came by Matson liner from San Francisco. It was discharged in Sydney Harbour - the Matson liners

used Circular Quay. They'd put a barge alongside and offload all the cargo for New Guinea. The barges then took the cargo to Walsh Bay where it was loaded directly onto ships going to New Guinea, so it would never hit the shore at all.

Material for the dredges made by Poole and Steel in Balmain was loaded onto the *Montoro* and *Macdhui*. As a Mandated Territory of the League of Nations, New Guinea had to take various goods from different countries that were members of the League. Consequently, there was the most extraordinary mixture of foodstuffs - corn beef from Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and so on. Canned fruit of all types from the United States. French goods - but never German goods. Foodstuffs for the natives came from different parts of the world.

Both ships had freezers on board, not cool-rooms with ice [as happened earlier on the *Marsina*]. By the time I was in New Guinea, everyone there had an icy-ball unit or a kerosene refrigerator to keep things cold.

I did 10-12 round trips Sydney to Sydney, mainly on the *Montoro* and *Macdhui*, and later on the *Bulolo*, including on its maiden voyage. I only once went to the Solomon Islands, on the *Malaita*, to collect copra and provide goods for plantations.

I did, however, make several inter-island trips on the *Maiwara*. She was a ship of about 600 tons, based in Rabaul, a coal burner, and would do what we called the outer islands, go to all the plantations and various spots like that, picking up copra and delivering stores. The anchorage was too shallow to permit bigger ships to get in to these smaller places. We would also collect copra produced by natives. This was weighed on the beach and the natives were paid; they then spent their money in the ship's trade store.

I also had a couple of trips from Sydney to the East on the *Neptuna* and the *Montoro*. The main purpose was to go to Saigon to pick up rice for Burns Philp branches in New Guinea; they sailed via Manila and Hong Kong. When they got back the rice was offloaded in Madang, Rabaul and Port Moresby on the return trip to Sydney.

Another ship which did the rice run was the *Merkur*. *Neptuna* and *Merkur* are German for Neptune and Mercury. The two ships had previously been German 'white yachts' sailing from Hamburg to South America, where a lot of Germans were living. They were bought quite cheaply by Burns Philp and were really quite beautiful ships.

Before my time, Burns Philp also had the *Malabar* which, on its way from Melbourne to Sydney in 1931, was shipwrecked just south of Sydney, giving its name to the Sydney suburb.

By the late 1930s, I was Purser on various Burns Philp ships. This still involved helping with cargo when in port, but I had more to do with the passengers. (As Assistant Purser I had plenty of contact with passengers between ports, but not so much in port.)

All the gold came down from New Guinea by registered mail. I used to go ashore and sign for it and then take it on board by barge and put it in the ship's safe. There were no special steps taken against theft other than putting it into a sealed mail bag. When we got it to Sydney, the postal authorities came down with the people from the Mint, and they signed for it and we handed it over to them.

When the ships came in to port, such as Salamaua and Lae, people came on board to socialise with the passengers and drink at the bar. There was no band or anything like that, but we did sometimes have films on board. We used to play Ella Fitzgerald

records for the natives working on the ships when they had a quiet night; they couldn't believe she was black.

Burns Philp was, of course, known as BPs, and was often called "Bloody Pirates", while W.R.Carpenter was similarly referred to as "Would rob Christ".

The charts for the anchorage in Lae were 400-500 yards out; if you followed them through to the position where you were to drop anchor, you'd be in the middle of the airstrip. I went ashore in Lae, as I wanted to see the airstrip and that sort of thing. Everything went ashore there by lighter. Being an open roadstead, much more than Salamaua, sometimes when the weather got up, we'd have to go to sea for the night and come back the next day.

I understand that, before the arrival of the Junkers [the large 3 engine G31s], aircraft used to land and take off without any trouble. But the runway was not long enough for the Junkers. The end of the airstrip was the ocean and there was a drop from the airstrip to the water. As they took off they would drop slightly, but still be above the water.

Wherever you went in New Guinea, all fuel came in drums. Voco point at Lae was just a storage dump for Vacuum Oil - hence the name.

The ships had to be registered in Sydney because they carried Australian mail, and thus had to be sailed by British nationals (including Australians) and not coloured crews. The mail contract was very important to Burns Philp; it specified which ports ships had to visit under a strict agreement with the Australian Government.

Ships such as the *Neptuna*, and later the *Montoro*, were registered in Singapore, and had Chinese cooks and stewards, Malay seamen and Indian firemen. However, they did not then carry Australian mail under contract. ■

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**Protests over land in Papua**, an Indonesian province, led to an explosion of tensions in March when Indonesian riot police officers and hundreds of Papuan protesters clashed in Jayapura. The American mining company, Freeport McMoRan, which is in partnership in the Papuan mines with Rio Tinto of Australia, mines some of the world's largest copper and gold reserves. With soaring gold prices of \$US550 (\$763) an ounce, the company has been one of Indonesia's biggest taxpayers for many years. The Papuan landowners say they have never received a fair portion of the benefits the company says it has provided; the landowners point out their lack of progress compared with the rest of Indonesia and complain that they have lost 'their land, their river system which is used as a waste chute, and their sago plants which have disappeared under ... mine waste'. 'Resentment is compounded by the presence of the Indonesian military, an almost entirely non-Papuan force often most intent on extricating its own cut of the province's resources.' (AFR 6/4/06) The Indonesian military has a strong presence in the area due to the company's difficult relations with the local landowners, fuelling calls by Papuan separatists for Independence.

'The protests in Papua provide an example of what can happen when a natural resource company, backed by an unpopular central government and a heavy-handed military, fails to pay careful attention to the local people, whose lives have been disturbed and who feel the riches in the ground are theirs, not the foreigners.'

Aust Fin Review 6 April 2006

### **Names Needed for old European Cemetery near Badihagwa High**

The old European Cemetery which is situated near the site of the former Badihagwa High or Technical School towards Hanuabada village dates back to the 1890's has been desecrated and the plaques removed by persons unknown. It has fallen into disrepair but through the efforts and a substantial financial commitment of Dr Roy Scragg, the former Director of Health, Rotary Club in Port Moresby intends to have it cleaned up. The stone headstones are still evident, but there are few of these I understand.

My interest in it was recently encouraged as I had contact with the sister of Alan Cleeve a former Cadet Patrol Officer – one of my staff at Balimo - who was killed (1964) in a motor boat accident in the Aramia River, a tributary of the Bamu River. Alan's sister was seeking details of the whereabouts of her brother's grave. The cemetery is of historical significance with so many past officers and private people having been buried there but their record has been lost. To date Dr Scragg has had difficulty in finding a record of the cemetery's details as the Registry was burnt down in the 1970s. One of the remaining headstones is for Patrol Officer John Short, who was buried there on the 5th October, 1955. We are interested in trying to build up some record of anyone known to be buried in this particular cemetery both pre and post war, in order to form some basis to identify the graves and also of course to re-establish some form of register.

Should anyone having any knowledge of persons buried in this cemetery whether private or government personnel, would you kindly inform me or Dr Scragg details of the deceased, the date of interment and any other pertinent information. Please contact us at either of the following addresses –

**Dr Roy Scragg** Email: [rfscragg@health.on.net](mailto:rfscragg@health.on.net) Tel: 0885522135

**John Norton**, 29/30 Mollison St. West End, Qld 4101

Email: [outramjn@powerup.com.au](mailto:outramjn@powerup.com.au) Tel. (07)38443569

### **Samarai Cemetary:**

A group led by the Logea councillor and assisted by others with links to Samarai is trying to refurbish and restore the Samarai Cemetary (on Logea Island) in time for the first of the direct international flights to Gurney (Alotau). The cemetery dates back to 1909, and is the final resting place of over 1800 expatriates. It is currently overgrown and in poor condition, but Councillor Perry Dotauna is very keen to see it restored - it is in a beautiful location, near white sand beaches and overlooking the Coral Sea.

If you can help in any way, i.e. if you have information about anyone buried there, or if you can do some internet research on some of the names, or if you can make a donation towards the cost of hand tools and labour, please contact Judith Bona at: [jbona@asf.sagric.com](mailto:jbona@asf.sagric.com) Rick Nehmy

### **The Rabaul Historical Society and European Cemetery**

The New Guinea Club in Rabaul is now the home of The Rabaul Historical Society. The Society has begun a Rabaul Museum which occupies the main hall of the Club and displays photos and memorabilia of Rabaul's past. Any contributions such as photos, frames, letters, WWII uniforms, books, and paintings etc, directly linked to Rabaul's history would be much appreciated. They are also looking for assistance with display cabinets and furniture. Any monetary donations to help with this project will also be greatly appreciated and publicly acknowledged. The treasurer, Paul Blaney, will ensure complete transparency. *Cont.*

The Rabaul Historical Society is also hoping to improve the site of the European Cemetery in Rabaul. Although the grass is cut and the stones all visible, not one single brass plate remains on the graves. To reduce the problem of thieving of the brass plates it is suggested that the current cement stones are replaced with moulded concrete ones so that these resting places can be properly marked and identified.

The Rabaul Historical Society is formed from a limited group of current Rabaul residents who are willing to carry out this project, but will require financial assistance from friends and relatives who would like to see their old friends' resting places properly marked.

The Rabaul Historical Society would like to offer their services to families of those buried at the European cemetery. For K700 (approximately \$300) the RHS will dig up the grave, re-concrete it and place a headstone with whatever the family wants on it, on the grave. For an extra fee, a marble one can be transported over from Lae. Any funds left over from this project will go to the graves that have no family.

If you can help in any way, please contact: **Susie Alexander** at the **RABAUL HOTEL (formerly the Hamamas Hotel)** PO BOX 3214, Rabaul, East New Britain Province, PNG Email: [rabaulhotel@global.net.pg](mailto:rabaulhotel@global.net.pg) or RHS President **Steve Saunders** on email: [steve@global.net.pg](mailto:steve@global.net.pg) Note: It is also possible for people to become 'country' members of the New Guinea Club and put on the email list. ■

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### **KAVIENG HAUS WIND 1974 By Shane Jenkinson**

He was in the bar most evenings – a middle aged Australian forestry officer, as bald as Yul Brynner; he wore a toupee of uncertain vintage, marmalade coloured, which late in the evening resembled a rakish beret slipped over one ear. I'd never built a *haus wind*, a local structure of, basically, a roof and posts, so I approached Mike and asked if he could advise me on how to go about it. He let me buy him a double whisky and ice, while he pondered the question, finally signalling for a refill.

He said 'Well you need timber, thatch, vines and nails.' 'Got em' I said. He absorbed the statement thoughtfully then indicated his empty glass to the steward. 'Let's see' he said and we repaired outside, where the required items were stacked. He ran an eye or two over the gear, whistling for a refill. He said 'You need labour.' 'Got 'em' I said, shouting for my garden boys. He asked where I required the structure: I told him I needed two, one either side of the barbeque, to keep out the rain and sun. This startling news required two doubles. 'OK' he said finally, 'Mark where you want them'. I ground my heel into the ground on both sides of the barbeque, eight feet by eight feet square. He told my boys '*Masta i tok, yu wokim wanpela long hia, na wanpela hapsite*'. He turned to me and said 'Don't go near them, you'll stuff it up. Heh! My glass is empty!'

It only cost a bottle and I learned plenty. ■

## **Captain Wilhelm BUCH - Master Mariner extraordinaire and the little known 'LBJ' Cargo cult By Maxwell R. HAYES**

I was pleased to read [in *Una Voce* No. 4, 2005] of Neil Lucas's experience at the hands of Captain Wilhelm Buch (*note from MRH. the name is BUCH; he lives in Camp Hill, Brisbane,*) which brought to mind our expedition to New Hanover in 1965.

Others more qualified than myself may have more intimate knowledge of the event and I simply give a short account of events which followed as I know them.

In 1964, a United States Air Force Master Sergeant was stationed on New Hanover as part of a USAF world wide geodetic survey. Being there for some months, and being a Negro, he identified very closely with the New Hanover local natives. In due course, council elections were to take place and, they sought advice from this Master Sergeant, as to whom they should vote for. He was known to say, 'There's only one person I would vote for man, and that is 'L.B.J.' Accepting this advice, the locals sought to vote on the polling day for 'L.B.J.' and were not prepared to accept a direction from the polling official (whom I understand to be Patrol Officer Ian Thomas Spencer) that Lyndon Baines Johnson, President of the United States of America, was not a candidate in their local council elections. As I understand it, there were then several confrontations between officials and the local natives over the next week or so, culminating in the New Ireland District Commissioner Herbert Percy Seale consulting with the Administrator and the Police Commissioner Robert Cole.

The Administration simply could not countenance such infraction from a group of dissidents buoyed by their temporary success in expelling the Administration on some obscure island. Perhaps it might encourage other revolts. Shock horror. So the flag had to be shown to teach these dissidents that the Administration would not accept the majesty of the Administration being humbled by being run out of the area. A plan was hatched which involved a sea operation to land a large police detachment by sea at the seat of the insurrection, namely the coastal village of Meterankan in Lavongai Harbour.

Two police riot squads of some fifty members equipped with long batons, shields, helmets and tear-gas guns with Sub Inspectors Ormond Power and Stewart Hulbert, under command of Inspector Robert Robertson were flown to Kavieng and there undertook further training, before assembling at Taskul. The plan involved using the Administration trawler *Theresa May* under Captain W Buch, together with two work boats, landing this force by sea. Superintendent Brian Holloway was effectively in control of the operation and assisted by Assistant District Officer, Merton Walter Brightwell. It was considered necessary that there be a record of this expedition and I flew to Kavieng and on to Taskul on 4.5.1965.

And there we were on Thursday 6.05.1965 on the bridge of the *Theresa May*, followed by the two work boats, steaming towards Meterankan. My role was that of the police photographer, equipped also with a tape recorder making continual observations and recording the progress on film, lest some politicians in Canberra sought to make political advantage. Such sight of what must have been the local version of the Normandy landing on 6.6.1944 must have caused considerable concern to the local natives as they saw three vessels heading in their direction, and they fled inland, but not before removing beacons on the beach, which would have guided the *Theresa May* safely through a channel in the reef. Unbeknown to Captain Buch and



his bosun, Otto, that the beacons had been removed, we set out to conquer the beach navigating through what was thought to be the channel in the coral reef so that we could land as close as possible to the beach. Flags were flying and we seemed to be invincible on this lovely sunny day. The Administration was, after all, in total control.

Without warning, there was a shuddering crunch as the *Theresa May* became embedded on a shallow part of the reef and we were thrown around. Captain Buch was heard to utter some expletives in German and tried to reverse, without success. The lead vessel of the expedition was well and truly fastened on the coral reef. So it became humbling to transfer to the beach in a couple of speed boats, to arrive on a deserted beach no doubt watched from local villagers well away. Perhaps they viewed this with some degree of mirth which seems likely. The riot squads disembarked from the work boats and landed without incident.

As the tide later ebbed, Captain Buch became alarmed that the *Theresa May* was resting on the edge of a deep channel in the coral reef, which would have allowed the trawler to proceed without difficulty, but for the removal of the beacons. We had missed this navigable channel by some six feet. And so hours later, as the tide



continued to ebb, alarm turned to dire concern. The *Theresa May* would topple sideways into the reef channel and perhaps become a total loss, not to mention considerable embarrassment to the Administration. Dozens of police and boat's crew

were despatched to cut mangrove staves to prop up the vessel, as shown in the photo. After hours of this very difficult procedure, the *Theresa May* was saved lurching on the precipice. She spent some 17 hours in this precarious position before higher tides enabled her to float free.

On the beach, police established a perimeter and camp. Tents were erected for all ranks, and we settled in to quell this rebellion. Over the next few days police patrolled inland and effected many arrests with the culprits being sent to Kavieng. In all, the police and everyone concerned with this operation, had a jolly good time there, lots of fresh fish and *kimdams* (lobsters), and some even labelled it the 'New Hangover Expedition'. I took many official photographs and even made my own 8mm colour movie. And so it came to pass that the operation was deemed to be a success and the police returned to Kavieng on Friday 14.05.1965. I had an uneventful return trip to Rabaul on the *Theresa May* a couple of days later.

The New Hanover expedition was a financial disaster for me as my wife Betty had booked to leave on the *Oriental Queen* for Japan on 5.05.1965 and I was to mind our two daughters. She then had to take them with her, thus causing a trip by myself to the bank for an overdraft.

I often wonder if 'L.B.J.' had ever heard of Papua New Guinea, let alone New Hanover, where he would have been made very welcome and, I wonder what became of the Master Sergeant who, unintentionally, had caused the problem. ■

## PIGEONS IN PAPUA by Robert Piper

‘How many pigeons did you get?’ the old Papuan lady, Mokuku, asked me in her own language as the canoe slid up the black sandy beach.

‘*Sau doi doi labui*,’ (12) I replied. She burst out laughing and beamed in delight at the feast she and her small village would have that night. My fellow Papuan hunters had already briefed me and I knew the question she would ask when we returned. The canoe ride back to the village had been a quick language course on how I would reply.

The Torres Strait pigeon, also known as the nutmeg pigeon, derives its former and most popular name from the area it mostly frequents. It is a white bird with black on the tips of its wings and some yellow flecking around the neck. It can be found across most of northern Australia, from the Kimberley in Western Australia to northern Queensland. However, its most popular habitat is the Torres Strait, between the tip of Cape York Peninsula and Papua New Guinea. We now know that it also flies as far as the eastern tip of Papua. Breeding mostly off the coast, it feeds on the mainland each day, returning to an island refuge at night. The bird’s main diet is an abundance of fruits and berries and as a result, they are quite a solid pigeon and much sought after by island people.

The Torres Strait pigeon was always an elusive bird for the Suau people of eastern Papua. It was only in recent years that opportunities to hunt them improved, with the advent of affordable, single-shot, 12-gauge shotguns. Before the introduction of firearms, a lucky arrow brought home the evening meal. The bow did have one advantage over the shotgun – it was silent and didn’t put the other birds to flight. Finding missing arrows was another story though.

Suau people live along the coastal fringe and islands of south-east Papua not far from the more famous Milne bay and its battles of World War II. With a low population density, the quiet and gentle people are scattered in small family communities over a stretch of about 80 kilometres. Superb seaman from the time they can walk, they don’t often venture too far inland on the steep islands, but still managed to occasionally score a wandering pig with their ancient single shotguns.

While only 53 people populated the village when I was there, it took a full 12 hours to walk around the perimeter of the island of Bona Bona, where I was staying. Its remoteness meant that only a few families, mostly related, lived in small villages around the scattered beaches.

While fish, vegetables and fruit were plentiful in the area, fresh meat was a rarity among the coastal people. The occasional wild pig or flying fox sometimes supplemented their diet but it was the plump and elusive Torres Strait pigeon they dearly sought.

For myself, down from Moresby in the early 1970s, it was a young man’s dream and a true tropical paradise. At the time I had an unusual .22 Colteer rifle (made by Colt), fitted with a low power but quality Bushnell telescopic sight. It was the ideal choice for the Torres Strait pigeons, which hid among the treetops in the small islands offshore. The scope allowed me to search the foliage in the low light and the report of a .22 did not disturb the other birds. In most cases the thick jungle also muffled the sound.

The islands were only a few acres in size, with steep sides that make for a dark interior when down among the base of the trees. In fact, these islands were probably the tips

of ancient mountains protruding up out of the sea in the area. For the pigeons, they had been an ideal source of refuge from local hunters and sea eagles.

The loud blast from the Papua hunter's single-shot guns made hunting difficult when searching for the pigeons. It usually set the pigeons to flight. If hit, the birds often spiralled down from the overhanging trees and into the water below, to sink immediately. The islanders created a system to counteract this. The majority of the hunting party would stay on the island to shoot the birds and one or two hunters, in canoes, would circle below to snatch the birds if they headed for the sea.

This particular late afternoon was probably the most successful pigeon hunt the locals had ever had. Working as a team and with the sharp-eyed Papuan boys pointing out the bird silhouettes, we slowly worked our way across and around the edge of the island. The score was a magnificent 12.

Resting as the sun set and darkness began to overtake us, we sat down on the edge of a cliff looking south and gathered a little of the cool sea breeze. It dawned on me suddenly that there was nothing but 700 kilometres of ocean between where I was sitting and Australia. It was a long way from home for a former Sydney suburbs boy. I felt like Robinson Crusoe – isolated.

The trip back to the village was in the usual precarious canoe – I hated the thing. Unsteady, low freeboard and the risk of going overboard. Always being conscious that my rifle could be committed to a watery grave in the event of an upset.

As we paddled back, somewhere in the depths below us lay the broken remains of an American B-52 Mitchell bomber, one of three lost on a flight from Australia to New Guinea in 1942. The captain had attempted a water landing, misjudged and crashed. A nose wheel, which had later floated ashore, was kept in the local village as proof of the tragedy.

Only a week earlier I had stepped on a sea urchin and my heel was painfully pierced and full of spikes. It was a serious situation. I was a long way from civilization and infection would set in very quickly in the moist and wet climate. When the local people approached me with a flat-topped stone and claimed they could fix my heel, I thought I was becoming delusional. But fix it they did. The spikes were, in fact, of a shell-like quality and pounding my heel with the stone didn't actually drive them deeper. It shattered them into thousands of tiny pieces, which dissipated into the skin and dissolved, causing no further problems.

I was a babe in the woods and jungle in Papua and still on a steep learning curve, despite many earlier years bush walking and hunting in Australia.

My heart has never left the Suau people and the fishing and hunting experiences we shared together. They are a courteous people who taught me so much, when I knew so little about their environment.

Readers will be pleased to know that the author maintains contact with the Suau people by letter. Mokuku's granddaughter, aged eight at the time I met her, still corresponds after 30 years and keeps me up-to-date with life on the island – via photos from disposable cameras. ■

## NUMBAIRA ATTACK By Bob Cleland

I had been on a routine census, health survey and general administration patrol in the Tiaora Division South of Kainantu in 1956. Though reputed to be surly and uncooperative, I had found the people tractable enough and the patrol proceeded smoothly. Close to the Southern extremity of the area I heard reports of tribal fighting further to the South at a village called Numbaira. Two policemen I'd sent to have a careful look were warned off with fearsome threats and derisive insults, so I decided I'd better take the whole patrol in to investigate.

The Numbaira people lived on the headwaters of the mighty Purari River in the same valley system as the fearsome Kukukuku peoples. They had a reputation as warriors who loved a fight and resented intruders onto their land. They had attacked a Government patrol some years earlier. We were on the track well before dawn. We climbed to the rim of the ridge surrounding the collection of hamlets in a small valley in this steep, rugged limestone country. With binoculars, I could see apparently normal, early morning village life with women and children bustling about their houses. Suddenly, cries of alarm drifted up to us in the still morning air and the villagers began rushing about and disappearing into the long grass and craggy limestone outcrops. One of my policemen said to me 'Look, they have lookouts who've seen us.' There, some distance away, across a gorge, was a distinct smoke column rising as a warning signal. Within five minutes, there was no sign of life in the hamlets or anywhere else in the valley.

We needed to get to the Government Rest House on a spur some few kilometres away, which was well positioned for a strategic defence, but to get there we had to follow the track down through the Numbaira hamlets and up the ridge to the Rest House. We came in to the open, and descended into the village. Apart from the noise of our own progress, there was dead silence around us. We checked all the houses but found no one. They had taken all their possessions with them which was not a good sign. Rough terrain and the narrow path through tall grass and limestone pinnacles forced us into a long single file as we continued to the Rest House. With me were European Medical Assistant John Birkin and his three Medical Orderlies, two Police Lance Corporals and eight Constables, and about 25 carriers, interpreters and other personnel. All police carried .303 rifles but no ammunition. John carried a .22 calibre rifle and I, a .303, both with ammunition.

Suddenly and silently, a volley of dozens of arrows showered amongst us, falling almost vertically from the sky. The patrol faltered but stayed together; we continued - with interpreters, on my instructions, calling out something like, 'Don't fight us. We have rifles. You cannot win.' Five minutes later, came another volley accompanied by distant yells and yodelling. As we started the climb up the spur in more open country, a small group of tribesmen followed at a distance, yelling insults and firing arrows towards us, all of which fell short. Fifteen minutes later we made the Rest House with the tribesmen still just out of arrow-shot and continuing their belligerent behaviour. One carrier and one policeman had minor arrow wounds and were treated in the Rest House by John. I, with several police and the interpreter, stayed near the lower perimeter of the 100 metre area cleared around the Rest House, just watching.

I quote from my Patrol Report: *At this stage, a single round of .303 ammunition was fired into the air well above their heads. They hesitated, but after a minute or so, continued firing arrows. A second round was fired into the ground about ten minutes*

*later about 50 yards in front of the hostile group. Seeing the puff of dust, they retired to sit on a kunai hillock about ¾ mile away.*

Simple, unemotional and understated language for the purposes of my official report. The reality was, in fact, highly emotional. This was a first-time event in my mere two year's experience as a field officer. I knew I had to stay calm and act within the very tight limits of policy and the law while containing the hostile situation; the police Lance Corporal, Kapo, who I knew well, was experienced but excitable and upset that one of his Constables had been (slightly) wounded by an arrow; John, the Medical Assistant, seemed to be seeing this as a bit of a 'Boys Own' adventure; and the hostile group below us, led by the Numbaira *Luluai* or head man, was in a high state of anger and belligerence.

Before I fired the first shot, the belligerents had been inching closer so that they were now almost able to lob an arrow on the Rest House. Other groups at several points behind them, though quieter, were also inching closer and firing an occasional arrow. So I fired the warning shot. About fifteen seconds later, the light crack- crack-crack of John's .22 sounded as he emptied his magazine into the air. 'Bloody fool,' I thought. The anti-climax effect of the small calibre .22, coming after the crashing shot of the .303 and its echoes bouncing around the enclosed valley, was comical. The tribesmen must have thought so too, as they stopped retreating, let off a chorus of excited yells and whoops and consolidated their positions. All groups continued with their verbal abuse and firing arrows.

As they began advancing again, it seemed as if they were testing us before getting more serious. The Lance Corporal beside me said, 'You had better shoot the *Luluai*, *Kiap*.' I said 'No Kapo, we'll wait and see what they do.' Their attitude and threat didn't change. Kapo said '*Kiap*, shoot the *Luluai*. Without him, the rest will not attack.' I knew that to be so, but still I waited. The *Luluai*'s group, as well as the other groups, continued to close in, probably emboldened by our lack of further reaction. I concluded that enough was enough. I carefully aimed at the *Luluai* and fired.

As the heavy rifle jolted into my shoulder I was instantly appalled that I'd deliberately attempted to take a human life. I visualised serious reprisals. I imagined the inevitable enquiry into my actions and the devastation of my career. Then the bullet hit the ground about 50 metres in front of the *Luluai* with a huge burst of dust and pulverised limestone.

I remained motionless in the same expansion of time and finally 'came to' with Kapo saying 'Ah, good *Kiap*, they're all running away now.'

My report continues: *After a rest of two hours, during which the group did not move, the writer with a Lance Corporal and the Interpreter approached to within 300 yards of the hostile group and engaged them in shouted conversation. With much persuasion and cajoling, the Luluai came forward of his own accord. He was taken into the Rest House and taken into custody.*

The *Luluai* is a Government appointed head man of a village. This man would have been recognised by an earlier patrol as a leader, appointed and counselled, among other things, to keep the peace in his village and assist Government patrols when they visited. He was certainly a leader and a 'big man' but his other duties were clearly being ignored.

In the back and forth shouting preceding his 'surrender', I emphasised that he was a *Luluai* and suggested that he would be shamed in the view of many people if he didn't

do his job properly. If he gave himself up, I promised that we would take him with us to Kainantu for a short time and return him to his village in due course.

That night the hamlets were quiet and women and children returned to their houses. The next day four more tribesmen visited the Rest House saying they would go with their leader to Kainantu. It turned out they'd been a part of the small belligerent group. In the Court for Native Affairs, convened later that day, I sentenced them all to three months gaol in Kainantu for riotous behaviour. The real object behind the sentence was to take these men to Kainantu, and indeed, to incarcerate them, but also to allow them to learn Melanesian Pidgin, let them experience parts of the wider world outside their village, and to teach them a little about law, agriculture and economics. In discussions with Assistant District Officer Mick Foley, it was agreed that I would personally return them to their village as promised and use them to establish good relations with that village and others in the area.

That didn't happen! Headquarters in Port Moresby decided that I should go to Sydney to attend a year-long course at the Australian School of Pacific Administration. About the same time, Mick Foley went on leave. So, when the five Numbaira men completed their sentence, they were merely released in Kainantu and expected to find their own way back home. Some time later, the Numbaira people attacked another Government patrol. What could have been a significant forward step in pacification and development for these people, turned out to be only a slight hiccup in their traditional aggressive way of life. And I have been forever thankful that I had underestimated the distance between us when I fired that second shot. ■

### **PANDANUS BOOKS IS FIVE YEARS OLD**

Established in 2001 by Ian Templeman within the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University, Pandanus has established an innovative and dynamic list. As well as substantial contributions to scholarship, it has offered memoirs, fiction and poetry, focusing on the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2005, it published over 30 books. A strong group of titles within Pandanus Books reflects the long-standing relationship between Papua New Guineans and Australians. Pandanus authors include the post-Independence indigenous generation, patrol officers, artists, anthropologists, army wives, coffee planters, public servants and pilots.

In 2005, a sponsored Gift of Books was presented to 200 community and public libraries throughout Australia and the Pacific, as a feature of Papua New Guinea's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Independence. His Excellency Charles Lepani, PNG High Commissioner to Australia worked closely with Ian Templeman and the team 'to realise this generous initiative'. 'Pandanus Books has consistently published books of immediate and lasting relevance to the Pacific region, and specifically books about Papua New Guinea that offer important reflections and insights on the historical and contemporary life of the country and its unique relationship with Australia,' says Mr Lepani. He goes on to commend Pandanus for ensuring 'these important books reach appreciative readers'.

Comments Donald Denoon (*A Trial Separation*, 2005): "Pandanus strives to break down the barriers between creative writing and academic analysis, introducing each gently to the other, helping scholars to reach 'general readers'." Says Robert Hefner, Acting Editor of *Eureka Street*: "Pandanus Books is a shining example of what a small team dedicated to the printed word can achieve in a relatively short period of time. Pandanus is a small press that has in five years made a large impact on Australian publishing." ■

## **PNG Skilled Workers and Australia's Skill Shortage By Laurie Le Fevre**

The resources-driven demand for skills in Australia is presenting an opportunity for Papua New Guineans. Papua New Guineans with internationally recognised skills are winning appointments in a wide field. Aircraft pilots, engineers, surveyors and accountants are among the professions being placed in Australia. There are reports that major Australian resource companies are actively recruiting in PNG.

One of the professionals who has won an appointment in Australia is Alan Bong. Alan and his wife Olive and their three daughters, from Telefomin, are now located in Burnie, Tasmania, where Alan is working for Australian Bulk Minerals in its Savage River iron ore mine operations. We caught up with Alan and Olivia in March. Alan is Senior Long Term Mine Planning Engineer. His work involves strategic mine planning and design and life-of-mine studies - a significant area of responsibility. A doctor from Enga is also working in Burnie but I have not yet had an opportunity to meet him.

There are substantial opportunities in Australia at the skilled level, with the shortage so alarming that expos designed to attract skilled migrants to Australia have been conducted recently in Melbourne, Perth, London, Berlin, Amsterdam and Madras. But not Port Moresby I notice. There are opportunities at other levels too. New rules now apply to the under 30s who wish to work while on holiday in Australia, and to short term study visits. Full details are on the Immigration website, but in summary the rules allow for visitors under 30 to work part time (up to 20 hours a week).

As always, the last edition of *Una Voce* (March) was a great read. Several pieces emphasize that time travels in one direction only, and that we need to think about our collections and memorabilia. Peter Cahill's advice on artefacts came at a time when we are considering our options in this area; the need to pause and reflect when reading the report on PNG superannuation and the finality of the word 'cessations'; and finally the discussion on the Rhys Healey report on the Telefomin murders triggering memories of my recent time in the Star Mountains.

What changes have occurred in Telefomin! Lucas Banok, a graduate in Forest Management recently acted as the District Administrator for the Telefomin district before moving back to forest management. Patrick Nokensengim, who has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering is a civil engineer with the Roads Section of Ok Tedi Mining Limited, and Yupi Nokesengim with a Bachelor's degree in Surveying and Land Studies is a specialist in mine surveying and is currently working in the resources sector in North QLD. The granddaughter of one of the men convicted in those earlier days is also a graduate and works for Ok Tedi. A leading practitioner in her profession in PNG, she is an inspiring woman who gives a lot as a friend and seeks little in return. She has a strong commitment to her employer and to the woman of Telefomin for whom she conducts classes in basic accounting as preparation for their National Apprentice Trade Testing Board examinations for office administration apprenticeships. Very ambitious, her plans include a master's degree in Australia.

I mention these people to illustrate how the Telefomin district has developed, and to help us pause and reflect on the valuable pioneering work done by the kiaps, the teachers and the missionaries in the earlier times.

The Reverend David Aldridge, engineer and former Baptist missionary in Telefomin in the 1950s and now living in Tasmania, is about to start volume two of his memoirs and family history. This will include his time at Telefomin, Baiyer and Enga. His photos of the period are stunning in terms of subject and composition, and I am grateful for the generous access to context pictures he has provided me for my forthcoming book that currently has the working title of "A Cloudland Memoir". ■

## **PREFACE By Karl Baumann**

*For a better understanding of the following story, one has to remember the historical and political events at the beginning of WWI in German New Guinea (GNG). On 11 September 1914 action between Australia and the Germans at Rabaul began. On 17 September 1914 the contract of surrender was signed at Herbertschöhe (Kokopo) between Col. Holmes and the German Governor, Haber.*

*After that, all German employees of the government staff had to leave German New Guinea (GNG) within a short time, to be repatriated to Germany. Only three German officers were officially taken as POWs and brought to Berrima Camp NSW, while all the other planters and businessmen could stay and do their usual work as before. Persons who refused to swear the oath of neutrality or made other troubles against the Australians were interned in the POW camp at Liverpool, NSW. Between 1914 and 1917 about 95 German civilians had been interned.*

*The following report tells us what happened on the island of Mioko where Mr Peter Uechtritz was at that time a businessman with the DHPG (German Firm). Later he became the owner of the plantation Sum Sum, south east coast of New Britain.*

## **SITUATION ON THE ISLAND OF MIOKO IN SUMMER 1915**

**By Peter Uechtritz**

At the time when the Australian occupation of the German colony of New Guinea took place the white inhabitants could stay on their places and business went on as usual. The Administrator, Col. Pethebridge, was on leave in Australia and his second in command had taken over the Administration. His name was Toll<sup>1</sup> and his hatred of the Germans only increased with the first successful operation on the front in Europe. Seeing Germans continue living a good life really annoyed him. Suddenly one day he declared Martial Law for the Colony.

All available motor schooners roared to the different places and islands where Germans lived and brought them to a hurriedly erected Concentration Camp at Rabaul. A cinema, which wasn't yet completed, because the outbreak of war had stopped work, now seemed to be useful as accommodation for prisoners. Persons who didn't fit in this cinema were put into tents erected in front of or outside this house, surrounded with barbed wire.

A colleague of mind, Albert J Keidel, and I lived on a small island, Mioko, which belongs to the group called the Duke of York Islands, not far away from Rabaul. We had never heard anything about Mr Toll's crazy idea, when suddenly one night, it was already midnight, our nervous boys woke us up with the words 'The Englishmen are coming'. 'Odd' we thought, what could be the reason? We put on the lights in our two rooms. After hearing voices and footsteps approaching a Second Lieutenant, a Corporal and 12 Privates appeared. The Second Lieutenant gave orders for us to join him in one room. He sat on the chair and we had to sit down on the bed. He pulled out much paperwork from his pocket and told us that Martial Law had been declared. He read aloud an endless succession of paragraphs and, at the end, emphasized the threat of penalty if we offended against any paragraph. In one of these paragraphs it was forbidden to own weapons and if found, they would be confiscated and one would have to pay a fine and face internment in Australia behind barbed wire.

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<sup>1</sup> The word 'toll' is a German adjective and has two quite different meanings. In one case it means *excellent* or *wonderful*, but on the other hand it means *crazy*



Oh my God, I thought at this moment, there is still a Browning revolver in my possession and, indeed, we were asked if there were any weapons in our possession, but I denied this because I had already declared in a former survey that I didn't own one!

After that my colleague and I were told that the next morning a special examination of the whole station would begin. We could go to bed again, but I couldn't sleep. A guard was posted outside each bedroom, while the other soldiers slept on our veranda. I hoped they would be eaten by the mosquitoes and have a miserable night. The whole night I was brooding about where I could get rid of my Browning before the morning examination started. I thought of many possible hiding-places but rejected them all, because the examination would be a very intensive one. The simplest way would be to throw the pistol into the sea but this wasn't possible for me because it was forbidden for us to leave our house except with a guard.

Early next morning my colleague and I had to change to our residential building, while our sleeping house was occupied as a garrison house. We collected some of our belongings and I saw no other possibility but to hide my pistol in one pocket of my white linen trousers. With the Browning in my trouser pocket, however, it stuck out obviously so I had to put my jacket on to cover it. This was rather unusual and therefore my colleague wondered why I was dressing so formally!

We settled down in our residential house, which consisted of two rooms, the office and a dining room. On the way I had hoped to find a chance to throw my pistol in to the sea but a guard followed behind us and there was not a single moment that he did not watch us. I sat down with my white linen jacket, sweating profusely, whilst the guard took up his position outside on the veranda. In the meantime



Residential house and office of DHPG at Mioko, where Peter Uechtritz together with three Missionaries had been interned in 1915. Photo taken in former times, about 1900

our sleeping house was searched from the top to the bottom, but nothing forbidden was found. The Lieutenant appeared after that and told us to expect more white people as this house had to be used as a camp.

After that, the Lieutenant left in a motor boat to pick up all the other Germans<sup>2</sup> in this district. He returned in the afternoon, just at the same time as a little Government steamer from Rabaul arrived in our harbour. Finally this ship took all the Germans, including my colleague. I alone remained on the isle Mioko, because I could understand English very well and the Lieutenant needed a person for the station speaking German and English. I had to hand over to him all the keys of the business

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<sup>2</sup> On the isle Ulu the Australian Methodist mission had a main-quarter with many Germans there, and on isle Kabakon lived the sun worshipper Engelhardt, who was also taken as POW and interned in Louries cinema. For other mission stations please see on the map.

rooms. If I needed some food, I first had to beg him for permission and to give me the key and then I could fetch some tins, but always accompanied by a guard, even though our store was very close. It was an extremely unpleasant feeling to sit alone all the time, day and night, nothing to do, guarded and watched all the time. This lonely time did not last long, because in the afternoon three Brothers were brought from the mission. They had been overlooked during the early morning inspection and now there was no way of getting them to Rabaul. I was happy, because at least I had persons for a chat. The lieutenant didn't trust the missionaries, and the guards were told to pay double attention, and I heard him saying 'I don't trust them!' I couldn't understand why, because all three had been harmless, calm and good people. We were allowed to go for a walk on the path in front of our house, but only for the length of the veranda, so that the guard could watch us.



Map of Neu-Lauenburg or Duke of York Islands with Mioko, Ulu and Kabakon. Kabakon was owned by the sun worshipper August Engelhardt

Next morning the real examination started. When I got into our office room I thought about the possibility of hiding my Browning behind – or in the files there – but decided not to – and that was my good luck, because the whole office was rummaged, all files taken out of the shelves in case something was hidden behind! Outside the soldiers plunged long jemmies into our garden thinking that perhaps treasures or weapons could be buried there. I could only laugh about that, but when a guard saw that he said

to me 'This time we will do a thorough job!'

One day a motor schooner arrived on our isle, coming from Rabaul and on board was a captain and he had the order to check whether the Lieutenant had carried out the Martial Law regulations totally and correctly. The captain discovered in our store a half dozen very old corroded and useless guns, used on recruiting ships in former times when the natives had been wild cannibals. 'What's that?' he asked me.

'I think that they are guns' I answered. He could see for himself they were very old and of no use any more. He reprimanded the lieutenant because he hadn't confiscated these weapons, and ordered a guard to pick them up. Later he saw, on the veranda, a field glass on the bench. 'What's that?' he asked me again and I answered 'I think it is a field glass'. He gave me a strange look before looking through it and saw the wonderful panorama of Mioko. The lieutenant again got a reprimand because this field glass should have been confiscated too.

On our island it was usual that a toilet house was built some meters out from the beach, directly in the sea. A jetty (wooden gangway) connected this small house with the land. If one felt an urgent need to visit this toilet house one had to ask for permission, a guard then shouldered his musket marching three steps behind one. During such a meeting he marched up and down the jetty. One time I had furtive

pleasure, letting him wait extra long in the oppressive heat of the sun; I had taken a little book with me to read. During such a time there was the possibility of sinking my pistol through the toilet into the sea, but I was afraid that the guard would hear the loud bang and also it might be visible in the clear water on the white sand because the water was not deep enough.

If one guard felt an urgent need to use the toilet he had to inform another guard to take over his position. One time it happened that a guard felt this need urgently and because there was no other guard present, he said to me 'Just look after that for a while, will you?' and pressing his gun into my hand he disappeared into the bush. Quick as lightning the thought came to me that this could be the right moment to throw my damned Browning into the sea. I waited till the guard had disappeared and started to run towards the landing stage to throw my pistol from there into the deep sea. I nearly had arrived at my destination when a thunderous 'Hei! Hei!' stopped me. The lieutenant hidden behind the office had watched me. I told him that I was only looking to inform another guard, but he didn't believe me. The first guard got a strong reprimand and was never seen again.

Observation by the guards became stricter than ever and one could not move anywhere privately. This forbidden thing in my pocket weighed on me physically and mentally and my jacket became unbearably hot. I had an idea. I begged for permission to take a bath in the sea, because that had been a daily habit and I felt that I would be allowed to do this. It would not be forbidden in the hot tropics. Indeed it was allowed, but not for the missionaries. I put on my pyjama trousers rolled up the trousers leg to my knees, hid the pistol inside, hung a towel over my shoulder and walked with a guard to the landing stage. I jumped in the water diving for a moment to let my pistol drop and disappear. I surfaced and swam around for a while in front of the guard, feeling very happy now. The vision of myself sitting behind barbed wire in Australia was far away and my terrible warm jacket I could at last throw in the corner.

Martial Law was finally cancelled after one month, when the Administrator (Pethebridge) returned from Australia.

*Note: Martial Law was officially revoked on 10 September 1915 by Col. Pethebridge, as proclaimed in Government Gazette, 15 September 1915.*

#### **Sources:**

Uechtritz, Peter – 'Martial Law' (in Mioko) 1931

Schlettwein, Adolf (Judge at Rabaul) – War Report 1914/1915

Haber, Eduard (Governor at Rabaul) – War Report 1914/1915

Boettcher, Ernst (Missionary of the Methodist Mission) – diary

Hoffmann, Friedrich (Planter) – diary

Kuhn, Charlotte (Mrs – wife of Manager Kurt Kuhn, NGC) – diary

Mackenzie, SS – 'The Australians at Rabaul'

**Photos:** from the collection of K Baumann/Germany, email: [KBU1129328@aol.com](mailto:KBU1129328@aol.com)▪

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**The European Union** is set to boost direct aid spending in the Pacific Islands from \$80 million to more than \$130 million a year, and is backing moves to encourage private investment and foster closer economic co-operation between island nations.

Aust Fin Review 3/4/06

## HELP WANTED

### PLAQUE – WEWAK GENERAL HOSPITAL -

**Dr Peter Cahill** asks if anyone knows of, or better still has a photograph of, the plaque commemorating the opening of the Wewak General Hospital on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1962. It was ordered from Peter Jackett & Co., Sydney, earlier that year, but has now vanished. An author has a reference to it, but cannot locate it and has asked Peter for help. Please reply to him at: 7 Wynyard Street, Indooroopilly QLD 4068, or Phone: 07-3371 4794 or email: [p.cahill@uqconnect.net](mailto:p.cahill@uqconnect.net). Any response concerning it will be gratefully acknowledged.

\* \* \*

**Bernard Oberleuter** is seeking information on his father, **Joe Oberleuter**, who was a builder with PWD and worked in Lae and many of the Morobe district outstations, particularly in the early 1970s. If you can assist Bernard, please contact him at PO Box 2002, Ascot Q 4007 Ph: 07-326 86985 Fax: 07-326 86238

\* \* \*

**Dr Phil Diamond** asks if anyone knows of a J. Graham, who was an artist in PNG probably in the 1970s? If you can help, please contact him at email: [pmd@maths.uq.edu.au](mailto:pmd@maths.uq.edu.au) or Department of Mathematics, University of Queensland, Brisbane, 4072 Tel 07 3365 3253 (Work), 07 3269 0302 (Home) Fax 07 3365 1477.

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**Noela and Murray Bauer** are looking for any information, stories or copies of photos relating to **Ted (Edward) Ubank** who was a gold miner in PNG from approx 1928 till his death in 1963. Ted Ubank was Noela's grandfather and she would like to know more about him and his life (either good or bad!) Noella and Murray are happy to pay to have photos copied. Please contact them by phone #02 4321 1336, email: [acchange@bigpond.net.au](mailto:acchange@bigpond.net.au) or write to: Unit 12, 77 Henry Parry Drive, Gosford NSW 2250.

\* \* \*

**Hazel and James Crawford** are wondering if any readers have copies of the **Bird of Paradise** calendars printed in approximately the late 1970s. Hazel is interested in purchasing these. She thinks the artist came from Rabaul. Hazel is also inquiring, for her friend Ailsa Ryall, if it is possible to purchase the **Bird of Paradise** stick pins. Please contact Hazel at PO Box 863, Ingham QLD 4850.

\* \* \*

**Westpac in Mt Hagen** are holding many **unclaimed safe custody packets**. If you think one of them could be yours, please contact Stephen Gibbes in Mt Hagen on Ph: (675) 5422418.

\* \* \*

Does anyone have a **photograph** of Kiap **Ken Earle** who was killed in an aircraft accident in Wapennunnda around 1951? His daughter seeks this as she was only one year old when he died, and does not have a photo of her dad. Please contact: Clive Troy, 4 Welham St Beecroft 2119 NSW. Email: [ctroy@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ctroy@bigpond.net.au)

\* \* \*

## REUNIONS

### ► Samarai Reunion to be held in Cairns, 28 to 30 July 2006

*Where:* The Cairns Colonial Club Resort, 18-26 Cannon Street, Cairns. QLD 4870 Ph: 07-40538812. Confirmations need to be finalised ASAP. For more information please contact Sue Timmins Ph: 0422 444 592

or email: [samaraiisland@bigpond.com](mailto:samaraiisland@bigpond.com). Details and booking forms are also available on the following website: [www.samaraiisland.com](http://www.samaraiisland.com) > Reunion – July 2006

## REUNIONS (Cont)

► **Lae-Markham Pre-Independence Reunion** Brian Zavattaro and Wendy Clarke (nee Phillips) have finalized details. Among surprises planned for the night, Jim Sinclair, author of *Golden Gateway: Lae and the Province of Morobe*, will be a guest speaker.

*When:* **Saturday 30th September 2006**

*Where:* Colmslie Hotel Function Room, Junction Road (Cnr Wynnum Road, Morningside, Brisbane, QLD (opposite Morningside Central shopping centre)

*Who:* Anyone who lived/worked/grew up in Lae/Markham Valley from *taim bipo* to Independence 1975, plus, of course, their significant other.

*Time:* 7:00pm in the main bar-situated on the ground floor, then guests will proceed to the function room upstairs at approx 7:30pm. Like Cinderella, guests have to be out by midnight, but the nightclub downstairs will be in full swing until 3 a.m. for anyone who wants to party on.

*Cost:* \$25-00 per person to be paid in advance. This will cover the hire and decoration of the room, audio-visual equipment for the night's entertainment, lots of yummy nibblies, and miscellaneous expenses. Each person will be responsible for the purchase of their own drinks.

Hope to see lots of you there: it's shaping up to be a great night! Anyone who is interested in attending, please contact Wendy at: [wendyemc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendyemc@optusnet.com.au) with the heading 'Lae-Markham Reunion' so her spam filter won't gobble your email. Alternatively, you can phone her on 07-3299 1290 or write to: Wendy Clarke 69 Smith Road Woodridge Qld 4114.

► **The 'EX-KIAP BUNG' (Southern Chapter) 2006** will be held at the Sandown Greyhounds Tabaret on Sunday 5th November, 2006, between 12.00 noon and 4.30pm. The Function Menu has been ordered tentatively for between 80 and 100 head at \$28.00 per head for a 4 course meal (Multiple choices for each course). Accommodation available in Sandown/Dandenong area. Please email intended attendances/any queries to either: [exkiap@aapt.net.au](mailto:exkiap@aapt.net.au) or [paulmaroney@optushome.com.au](mailto:paulmaroney@optushome.com.au). *All Ex-kiaps, former PNG Government Officers and private sector employees welcome.* Phone queries to: Peter & Maudeline Edwards Ph: 03 9775 8814

► **Sogeri Reunion - South West Rocks from Friday September 29 to Sunday October 1 2006** - To be held at the Costa Rica Resort Motel, 134 Gregory Street, South West Rocks. Ph: 02 6566 6400. Please make accommodation bookings direct to the hotel and identify yourself as part of the **Sogeri Reunion Group** to secure the discount rate. When it is booked up the management will refer further bookings to a nearby motel within walking distance.

Please also contact **Marjorie Walker** as early as possible. She has further information - particularly in regards to meal packages which need to be prepaid to her. These start at \$30 for the Saturday dinner only, to \$75 for Friday evening dinner, Saturday evening dinner, Sunday brunch, morning and afternoon tea, supper and use of Conference facilities. (Prices do not include drinks from the bar.) Marjorie will be busy with overseas visitors from mid July until early September so would appreciate a prompt reply for both acceptances and regrets. Please contact Marjorie by June 30 at: 31 Josephine Avenue, Mount Waverley, VIC 3149 Phone: 03-9803 9071.

## BOOK NEWS AND REVIEWS

**Madang** by **James Sinclair**, ISBN 9980-9976-8-0 450 pp published by DWU Press 2006 with foreword by Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister of PNG. Cost AU\$120 or PNGK250 plus postage (to major towns within PNG K25.50; from PNG to Australia AU\$21 or K48) 450pp, illustrations, index. Please contact Wenona Leyson on email [mtsmanager@mtspng.com](mailto:mtsmanager@mtspng.com) or Sir Peter Barter [pbarter@mtspng.com](mailto:pbarter@mtspng.com) or write or phone him at PO Box 707, Madang, PNG, Tel: (675) 852 2766 Fax: (675) 852 3543

This book is a treasure trove, and for some it will also be a trip down memory lane. First impressions are of a beautiful publication. On both the dust jacket and the hard cover is an artwork by Larry Santana, one of PNG's best-known artists. Born in 1962 in the Ramu River valley, he now lives and works in Madang. The book is 'coffee-table' size (30cm x 22cm), with glossy paper and many excellent photographs, both colour and black & white. It was produced and published by Divine Word University (DWU) Press, Madang.

The book covers the period from the arrival of Baron Nikolai Mikloucho-Maclay on the shores of Astrolabe Bay in 1871, to early 2004. The author has chosen his material with great care and skill - the bibliography is enormous. The book is divided into six parts. The earlier parts give a very readable account of German settlement, of the WWI take-over by the Australian military and the two decades of Australian administration between World Wars I and II when missionaries, planters/traders, and the Government all pursued their various aims. It describes the reactions of the local people as their land was being lost to coconut plantations and the problems facing the newcomers always living with the threat of malaria.

In his note at the beginning of the fourth part, 'The Pacific War', the author said his aim was to give an account of the war as it affected the Madang District. He drew on the personal recollections of some of those who were on the scene - the result is a fascinating account of how ordinary people found themselves in extraordinary situations and how they coped.

Part Five, which covers the years from the departure of the Japanese until Independence, contains the following chapters: 'The ANGAU Administration'; '1946-1950, Reconstruction Begins'; 'Bates Years'; 'The Golden Era'; 'Decline, and Recovery'; 'The Rush to Independence'. The 'decline' covered the town's loss of business to Lae after years spent trying to obtain a direct road link to the Highlands; the subsequent 'recovery' described the establishment of several valuable businesses and an increase in tourism. There are the names and details of countless individuals, organisations and associations which all contributed to the sense of community that existed in Madang. The final part gives an overview of the last thirty years - this is especially interesting as many of us lost touch with day-to-day affairs at around the time of Independence.

There is a wealth of information in these pages - on health and education, missionaries, sports, the challenges of uncontrolled areas, air transport, agriculture, local government, the plantations, Ramu Sugar, the work of people like Sir Peter Barter, the Middletons of KarKar and Dr Braun of Yagaum, the Chinese community, cargo cult, eruptions, earthquakes, and much, much more. Closer attention to proof reading as well as the inclusion of a more detailed map of the area, would have enhanced this worthy publication. You can dip into this book, or read it from cover to cover - whichever way, you will be richly rewarded.

**Marie Clifton-Bassett**

**Making Black Harvest** by Bob Connolly 2005 ISBN 0 7333 1574 7 Paperback 307pp Published by ABC Books and available from ABC Shops RRP \$32.95

This book was written over a decade after the film 'Black Harvest' was made and released. The author relies heavily on the notes prepared during the making of the film by Robin Anderson, his wife and fellow film maker. These notes were rediscovered when the author was cleaning out his home after his wife died at an early age. The book explains a lot about how much effort it took to make the film and how much support and resources are required to make a documentary of this nature. This is current world history in the making.

This book gives finality to the trilogy of films that Bob and Robin produced (First Contact 1983, Joe Leahy's Neighbours 1989 and Black Harvest 1992) and explains in detail what happened to the central characters.

To any person who has knowledge of the Melanesian way of life, the book is a fascinating retreat back into where PNG has now returned to. Tribal life.

As the author says in the final chapter, he has only to close his eyes and see all his old friends again. How many of us close our eyes and smell the rainforest, hear the rushing rivers and the gentle, little lapping waves at the edge of turquoise blue lagoons and see our old friends again? I commend this book to those of you who do and to those of you who would like to.

**Paul Oates**

**Making Black Harvest** Bob Connolly and Robin Anderson **3CD set** 4 hours RRP\$34.95 Released 2005 Available from ABC Shops.

Through a series of radio interviews, introduced by Tim Bowden, Connolly recounts the devastating effects that blind ambition, warfare, destruction and grief have on human beings and how they managed to record 60 hours of footage as well as deal with the moral dilemma of documenting an unfolding disaster that overwhelmed the Ganiga tribespeople they were living amongst.

**Highlands Trilogy – Complete Collection 3 DVD set** 350 minutes \$60.95 Released 2005 Available from ABC Shops.

From two of Australia's most distinguished filmmakers, Bob Connolly and Robin Anderson this DVD Box Set features three critically acclaimed documentaries. Set in the PNG Highlands and shot over ten years, First Contact (1983), followed by Joe Leahy's Neighbours (1989) and Black Harvest (1992) have won 30 national and international awards, including an Academy Award nomination for First Contact. All three won the Grand Prix at France's prestigious Festival Cinema du Reel, and AFI awards for Best Documentary.

**Police Forces of the World** by **William Hall Watson** 2006 ISBN 1-9210-0563-7, 441 pp, Zeuss Publications, soft cover, incl illustrations RRP \$39.95 Available from selected bookshops and Zeus Publications: PO Box 2554, Burleigh MDC, QLD, 4220 (street address: Waterway Wonderland Shopping Centre, 64 Karbunya Street, Mermaid Waters, QLD 4218), PH: 07 55 755141 or purchase online: [www.zeus-publications.com](http://www.zeus-publications.com)

Police Forces of the World is a comprehensive history of police evolution, from ancient times through to the development of modern day forces. Details of 226 services in 67 modern countries have been included, recording their histories, ranks, badges, insignia, operational structure and geographical demographics. A four page section on the Royal PNG Constabulary includes two RPNGC badge illustrations. The Foreword, Preface and Introduction can be read on the website.

**One Step Further, Volume 3, Book C-E** *Those whose gallantry was rewarded with the George Cross* By **Marion Hebblethwaite** 2006 ISBN 0954691741 Published by Chameleon HH Publishing Ltd, 160 pages, laminated soft cover, full colour throughout, 226 photos/illustrations/figures on artgloss paper, Cumulative index from Vol 1, Cost: £14.00 plus postage to Australia £6.50 airmail, postage to UK £2.50; available at: [www.gc-database.co.uk](http://www.gc-database.co.uk) or write to: The Quarry House, East End, Witney, OX29 6QA, UK, PH: 44 1993 880223 Can be paid for by international electronic transfer (Bank details on request) or UK cheque (payable to: Chameleon HH Publishing) – NO Credit card facilities.

This book contains comprehensive entries for all 40 George Cross's whose names begin with the letters C-E. Of particular note is the section on **Jack Emanuel** on whom there are eight pages with pictures and contributions from his son and daughter as well as Robert Blaikie and Maxwell Hayes.

Background and lists of Sources are given for each person under their entry and it is the most comprehensive overall coverage of George Cross's to date. Books A and B still available. All books are limited editions of 500 copies each. Signed copies are only available through the website or by direct contact.

(Volume 4 of the Series, One Step Further, is also out now. It contains entries for all George Cross's whose names begin with F-G plus all 5 GCs awarded to PoWs in Hong Kong. ISBN 095469175x)

**Angels of Kokoda** By David Mulligan with a foreword by the Governor-General, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Ret'd) ISBN 0 7344 0849 Published by Thomas C. Lothian Pty Ltd 2006, 208 pp, softcover, b & w illus, \$17.95 from your local bookstore.

The author of this book was dismayed to learn that younger Australians know very little if anything about the great WWII battles along the Kokoda Track and in PNG generally, and decided he must do something about it. The result is *Angels of Kokoda*, a young-adult 'factional' novel, but one of interest to a wider audience. The book was launched at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, by General Peter Cosgrove (Ret'd). We hope to have a review ready for the next issue, perhaps written by someone from the younger age group as this should complement the Governor-General's overview.

**Attenborough in Paradise and Other Personal Voyages** \$30.95 A 2 DVD set available from the ABC/BBC.

David Attenborough joins a 'first contact' patrol into the Sepik hinterland. The relevant episode is titled 'A Blank on the Map' and is the usual BBC documentary of just under an hour. The kiap who led the patrol is Laurie Bragge.

### What's New on our Web Site

#### News Items

- Independence Day Reminiscences – from Sept. 2005 Una Voce.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of PNG's Independence Supplement – as mailed with 2006 March Una Voce.

#### Photo Gallery

- New Guinea National Football League (1960-61) – Hugh Maher
- The Frances Lasker Collection 1947-49 – Anne Webster (photos in and around Port Moresby).
- Chimbu Pig Festival 1961 – David Craig
- Rabaul – Aitape – Maprik : 1963-72 – Paul Dennett (Education)



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**ANTON'S EXPLOITS By Robin Hodgson**

The rubber tree grew well in our garden near the front fence, leafing its way upward and outward in all directions at a great rate luxuriating in Lae's humid warmth and abundant rainfall. We pruned it heavily once in a while but generally enjoyed the privacy its huge leaves provided. The strong core produced good branches for the children to climb and it housed at least one makeshift platform for after-school escapes.

Anton, who had come to live with his aunt, our housekeeper, from the age of seven or so, helped to feed the dogs, played happily with them and our children and was a willing hand in running the pirate ships or UFOs or whatever the rubber tree happened to become from day to day. That was until our son departed for boarding school at the age of ten. Without older brother to egg her on our daughter lost interest in the tree and took to more indoor pursuits, but not so Anton.

Much at a loose end now, Anton adopted the platforms in the rubber tree as his after school 'home away from home' and was even known to sleep there occasionally. He collected pets and housed them there. We couldn't see them but knew them by the noises they made...small chickens, sometimes a kitten, sometimes nothing at all. From time to time in the early evening we would see thin tendrils of smoke rising from the upper reaches of the tree as Anton lit his little kerosene stove up there and cooked the rice his aunt provided. We were amused by his ingenuity and left him to his own devices.

One morning as dawn approached I was woken by a strange crackling noise interrupting the hum of our air-conditioner. Through the thin curtains and the closed frosted glass louvre windows great shadows of uncertain nature swayed and shook in front of a bright and glowing light. The rubber tree was on fire – all of it, from bottom to top and burning fiercely.

Terrified that Anton might have been cooked in the inferno, I raced downstairs shrieking for help, the hose and water, and Anton. I was hugely relieved to see the little fellow (about 8 or 9 then) emerge sleepily from his room under the house. We played the hoses and had the fire mostly out by the time the fire-brigade arrived.

The rubber tree was a mess; a huge blackened horror that was the brunt of jokes for many weeks. But true to form, the leaves grew again and before six months had passed the spectre of the fire had vanished. Not so the emotional scars. Anton never climbed that tree again. ■

## **ABC BIAS ON PNG UPHOLD By Geoffrey Luck**

In a landmark judgement, the ABC's supposedly Independent Complaints Review Panel has found that last year's Rear Vision radio programme entitled: *Papua New Guinea: Nation State or Failed State?* was not biased. The findings set a precedent that will make it difficult if not impossible for a future complaint about any such programme to succeed.

The programme was first broadcast in May 2005, and repeated in June. It caused considerable resentment amongst people who had worked in Papua New Guinea and knew the real story of Australia's contribution to its development to nationhood. The President of the Association, Harry West, expressed his disappointment on behalf of members. He especially took exception to the dismissive treatment of the *kiap* and the allegations of 'appalling behaviour and horrendous murdering' by patrol officers, which were contrasted with a claimed 'benign' reputation of the Dutch next door.

Last September, in the pages of this Journal, I outlined some of the errors of fact, and the use of critical and pejorative opinions to the exclusion of any positive comment in the programme. Taken as a whole, it demeaned Australia's Trusteeship and insulted the thousands of Australians who had worked there, blaming them for PNG's current crises. I pointed to the lack of recognition of dedication or achievement as evidence of an unbalanced destructive attack. I suggested that in their distortions of history, the motivation of the programme makers had been to initiate a revisionist post-modernist view of Australia's Papua New Guinea experience – in the same way many academic historians had distorted the history of aboriginal/white contact.

When my initial complaints to the ABC were either ignored or brushed aside, I demanded and won a referral to the ICRP. This body is headed by a former Appeal Judge of the NSW Supreme Court, Mr Michael Foster QC; its other members are a quasi-legal regulation specialist, and Jane Singleton, a former ABC broadcaster. The Panel was given 60 days to reach its conclusions. 160 days after accepting my complaint, I received its report. The Panel's findings came as a shock: it could find no breach of the ABC's Editorial Policies or Code of Practice. Despite the 15 examples of selective opinions, unbalanced interpretations of events as well as deliberate untruths and errors of fact cited, the Panel found the programme was not biased.

The report ran to 17 pages, four of them devoted to a forensic legalistic analysis of the ABC's practice codes. As a result, it concluded:

- ABC programmes, other than News and Current Affairs, are exempt from requirements of 'balance' and 'impartiality.'
- In non-news programmes, there is no obligation to present contrary points of view, to 'balance' opinions or introduce other arguments.
- Failure to do so 'does not...reveal any fundamental bias in the programme.'

The strangest conclusion was that facts were not important in such a programme. Prime Minister Somare, who ought to have known better, and probably did, (but it suited his book as the report revealed he was interviewed while still angry with Australia over the shoes incident), had lashed out with: 'Australia at independence only produced six university graduates, they were trained in Australia, and Australia did not leave anything either about tertiary education or higher education for us at the time.' I pointed out that the University of PNG had been established in 1965, ten years before independence, and graduated its first students in 1970, five years before the Australian flag came down. The University of Technology had begun teaching in 1967. High schools had been established from the 1950s on.

Even more ludicrous statements by economist Dr Helen Hughes had been allowed to go to air: 'Australia failed to provide primary education for PNG or to establish central Department of Education.' I named three Directors of Education I had known who presided over educational development from the 1950s on. Hughes also gave a skewed simplistic interpretation of the Bougainville crisis, including the statement that the giant copper mine had employed no locals. His recent death has reminded everyone that the leader of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, Francis Ona, a trained surveyor, was originally employed at the mine, like many of his Panguna people.

The ICRP approved the use of these factual errors by deciding that '...the passages complained of should be categorised as expressions of the participants' viewpoints, rather than containing factual content requiring effort to ensure its accuracy.'

In its enquiries, the Panel found that each of the five speakers used in the PNG programme had been interviewed for 20-25 minutes. But it did not audition the complete tapes. It was therefore in no position to determine whether the excerpts used had been taken out of context, or deliberately selected to underline the negative line. Nor was it concerned at inconsistencies in the ABC's different statements on what the programme was about. Its first response had been that it was not intended to provide a definitive history of the relationship between Papua New Guinea and Australia. But it then changed tack: '...the programme makers had several objectives: to coherently tell the story of Australia's participation in PNG; to look critically at Australia's role in the process of decolonisation; and to examine the post colonial era.' No reasonable person could believe that the programme was either coherent or told 'the story' of Australia's participation in PNG.

The reason for this was revealed in another part of the ABC's response to the Panel. It candidly admitted that the only people who had been considered as contributors to the programme were academics. The programme makers researched material from local newspapers, journal articles and media reports 'to get a sense of who was writing and commenting on the topic.' They also identified 'relevant academic material, including the leading historians, economists and so on.' No thought to any of the thousands of people with practical experience in Papua New Guinea!

There was a final surreal twist to the ICRP's hearing of the complaint which I had lodged in defence of all those who had contributed to Australia's efforts under its Trusteeship. Its findings were sent, not to me as the complainant, but to the ABC! I received them a month later, under cover of a letter from the Managing Director, Russell Balding. In the interim, he had had time to prepare a press release, trumpeting his victory. To add to the insult, he enclosed a copy. So much for the independence of the ABC's complaints review body.

It is not unusual for reports of this type to throw a few bones to the yapping dog. These were thrown to me, and at all who served in Papua New Guinea:

'The Panel understands the complainant's assertions and the sincerity with which they are held. There was, in all likelihood, a body of respectable opinion contrary to at least some of the views expressed in the programme. Its absence from the programme resulted, objectively, in a degree of imbalance which caused concern and irritation to the complainant, and, probably, to others who held his views.'

The ICRP report can be read in full at the ABC's corporate website address:

<http://www.abc.net.au/corp/pubs/reportsindex.htm>

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## **‘THE DEMONS’ UNEARTH A TREASURE By Henry Bodman**

Readers who have an interest in AFL (and particularly the PNG version) will remember Dave ‘Spider’ Tarrant’s *Una Voce* article and photo of the first Papuan representative side. Dave had all names bar one.

That one was the gem who surfaced as a result of Dave’s article and who was *Numero Uno* of the VIP Moresby ‘Demons’ at their recent reunion on the Barwon River, Geelong. He was, and is, a spritely George Bottriell who has proven a treasure chest of information on the early history of the Moresby AFL Club. How we could have done with George when the Honour Board was set up in conjunction with the Colts Cricket Club.

As a result of finding George the club re-established contact with its early driving force, Wally Cleeve whose sons, Paul and Greg attended the reunion on the Barwon. A tape of Wally on radio 9PA (in recent years) speaking of the early days of AFL football in Papua New Guinea was played and revealed much of the code’s early establishment. The Cleeve brothers also recounted their memories of clearing the scrub on what is now known as the home ground of AFL in Port Moresby.....they hadn’t started school at that time.

George also supplied a photo of the first players to pull on a jumper in the name of Port Moresby. The ‘strip’ was blue, the team song was a modification of the Carlton team song and the first games were played on the Port Moresby Race Track in 1955. The official competition was established in 1956.

The purpose of this recent gathering was to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1966 Moresby Premiership and three quarters of that team were able to attend. Sports journalist, John Craven, worked with Jock and Rose Collins to ensure the weekend was a memorable one for the more than 120 attendees.

Players and supporters came from New Zealand, Fiji, PNG and every state of Australia. Among the supporters were Colts cricketers Jimmy Lamb and Graeme ‘Polly’ Paulsen. Kone AFL club were represented by Peter Agars, Cleland Medal winner of 1962. Tom Duncan, secretary of POMAFL for decades was also able to make it as was Brian Fry, a big influence on the umpiring panel for many years. Long lost Secretary Ron Monkhouse (1961) surfaced and clearly enjoyed being in touch again.

The ‘60s proved a good decade for Port Moresby AFL club winning the Premierships of 1960, 1961 (winter and summer comps), 1962, 1964, 1966 and the double in 1968. Those readers with reasonable maths will realise that the next 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary is in 2008 and will be held in Queensland around August when another large gathering can be expected. It is hoped that legends such as ‘Spider’ Tarrant, Laurie Hegarty and Arvi Pitkanen will, with two years prior advice, join us in Queensland at that time.

Interested people in PNGAFL history and/or those who wish to be kept informed on the next gathering should contact:

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## SEASONAL LABOUR FROM THE PACIFIC REGION

*'I first went to Papua New Guinea in 1979 on a mission with the Australian Army. Since 1991 I have been leading groups across the Kokoda Trail and have established a Foundation to have the track proclaimed as a National Memorial Park. We are working with the World Wide Fund for Nature in Papua New Guinea, the University of Technology Sydney, the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority and the Kokoda Track Authority to develop a model of sustainable tourism for Papua New Guinea.'*

Senator Charlie Lynn

Senator Charlie Lynn has now made a submission to the Senate inquiry into Seasonal Contract Labour from the Pacific Region. It is available for reading on the following website: [www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/index.htm)) >Current Inquiries >Pacific Region Seasonal Contract Labour >Submissions Received > 18. The Hon Charlie Lynn MLC.

He would appreciate any feedback or comment our members would like to make as he intends looking at the issue more thoroughly for a paper he is researching for his Commonwealth Parliamentary Association report. If you would like any further details or to make any comment, please contact him at PO Box 303, Camden, NSW 2570 Ph: 02 4655 1389, Mob: 0415 257 462, Fax: 02 4655 9433.

For those of our members not on the internet, the following are a few selected quotes from Senator Lynn's submission:

'What we can do ... is to begin to workshop ideas that allow us to better understand each other; to develop pilot programs based on educational-economic partnerships; to develop political partnerships to administer our aid budgets and to develop long term leadership programs for leaders yet to be born.'

'In my view there is a growing empathetic gap between Australian and PNG. Up till independence in 1975 Australia had an active patrol officer/kiap program involving young men working throughout Papua New Guinea under our colonial administration. ... They developed a good understanding of the complexities of Melanesian culture and are much more understanding of their ways and their needs. At the same time students from Papua New Guinea came to Australia to complete their tertiary education and came to better understanding the complexities of our western culture.

The Australian 'kiaps' are now approaching retirement and Papua New Guinea now has its own university. We do not have any exchange programs where young leaders from either country can develop a proper understanding of each other. Our corporate knowledge is therefore diminishing and our empathetic gap is widening.'

'One of the major concerns in Australia is the fear of seasonal workers overstaying their visas. This would be ameliorated by the development of a disciplined program in partnership with Papua New Guinea to ensure participants are carefully selected, medically screened and that they undergo some in-country pre-employment training. They should also be assisted in establishing a system to ensure there is a saving element with their remittances and that an appropriate amount is directed to their family.

A long-term strategy to develop partnerships between village areas in Papua New Guinea and farming communities in Australia would also have mutual benefits. If Papua New Guinea seasonal workers know they will be able to return the following year for work it will remove any incentive for them to overstay.

Training would also be an integral component in any such scheme. This would involve pre-embarkation training in Papua New Guinea and vocational/on-job training in Australia.'

'A first step in this process would be to establish a joint working group with Papua New Guinea in order to develop a pilot project for seasonal work in Australia.'

## **Bill Schleusener And The Mt Lamington Eruption By Bob Blaikie**

I was saddened to hear of the recent death of Bill Schleusener as reported in *Una Voce* of March 2006. I only met him once and I will never forget the circumstances.

The week before we met had been a difficult time for those few of us at Popondetta in the immediate aftermath of the eruption of Mt Lamington on Sunday 21 January 1951. Together with fellow Patrol Officer Des Martin, District Commissioner Horrie Niall, Dr Sverklys and Nursing Sister Rusty McLean I had travelled overnight from Lae on the Morobe District trawler *Huon* arriving at Cape Killerton at dawn on Monday 22 January the day after the eruption. D.C. Horrie Niall returned to Lae shortly after as did Sister Rusty McLean. Des and I bedded down in what I believe to have been the home of the Kleckham family at Popondetta. We were joined later that day by Tony Taylor the vulcanologist who had flown in from Rabaul.

Popondetta is only about 20 km north of Mt Lamington and we were looking right down the throat of the volcano. It was here that the Administration set up its forward rescue and relief centre under the home of Jack Scurrah the representative of Buntings Trading Co.

Throughout the night of 27 January the volcano rumbled loudly and numerous earth tremors were felt at Popondetta. I vividly recall, during that night, Tony Taylor lying on his back on the road outside the house in the form of a cross with a glass of water by his side feeling for the increasingly violent tremors and watching for the shimmering of the water in the glass. Just before midnight there was a large explosion with lightning and rumbling which continued on for the next hour or two. Ash was thrown well over 6,000 metres into the night sky. There was little sleep to be had that night and indeed there had been little sleep for us since we had been at Popondetta.

The next day Sunday 28 January those of us at Popondetta assembled late morning for a quick sandwich under Jack Scurrah's house. It was during the morning that a ragged, dirty and quite exhausted Bill Schleusener staggered into our forward base. He had walked alone for a week searching for and burying the dead and assisting the living. It was for this that he was to be awarded the George Medal.

Dr Sverklys quickly had Bill on to the operating table as it was feared that his lungs were clogged with pumice dust and ash. As he was being examined by the doctor John Arthur the Regional Director of Civil Aviation flew his aircraft extremely low over the house revving his engine up and down warning us of a further eruption. Tony Taylor, who was with John in the aircraft, was to be awarded a George Cross for his conspicuous courage during the Mt Lamington relief effort. At just after midday Mt Lamington again erupted with multiple explosive outbursts lasting up to 15 minutes and sending ash up to over 6,000 metres into the sky.

Then suddenly, like Lazarus arising from the dead, Bill leapt up from the operating table shouting something to the effect that 'It nearly got me the first time but it won't get me again'. He quickly raced out from under the house heading to where we had a few Land Rovers parked and jumped in one. Allan Roberts, the senior officer at the time, quickly instructed me to bring him back. I raced after Bill and managed to convince him to return. After that memorable day I never saw Bill Schleusener again.

At about this time it was known that the advance post at Popondetta was threatened with destruction by succeeding eruptions and, when we lost radio contact with Port Moresby, Australian newspapers reported that all at Popondetta were feared to have been lost.

Des and I were to remain at Popondetta another two weeks before being ordered by the Administrator to return to Lae. Having been among the very first to participate in the Mt Lamington relief effort, it had been recognised that both of us were physically and emotionally exhausted after a harrowing few weeks. ■

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES OF PRE-INDEPENDENT PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

*Some correspondence between John J. Murphy, District Commissioner, Gulf District, Kerema, and the Rev. Mrs Susan J. Rankin, of the United Church in the Gulf District.*

From John J. Murphy  
to Director, Department of District Administration, Port Moresby  
10 January 1969

Re Visit to Baimuru by District Commissioner.

1. At the invitation of the principals of Baimuru Holdings Pty Ltd, I travelled by boat to Baimuru and opened the new Gulf Hotel on the night of 14 December last.
2. During the ceremony it was revealed that the bar was named the John J. Murphy Bar and a bronze plaque was affixed to the wall saying so.
3. I returned to Kerema the following day, and a short time thereafter received a letter from the Reverend Mrs Rankin, a copy of which is attached and my reply thereto.

John J. Murphy

-----

From S. J. Rankin  
The United Church, Baimuru  
to District Commissioner, Kerema  
18 December 1968

Dear Mr Murphy,

I must send you a word of protest about 'The John Murphy Bar' at the new Gulf Hotel. It seems terrible that a bar should bear the name of an honoured senior Administration officer like yourself. You must know how important and meaningful a name is among our people. I have received some queries this week on the matter. 'Is it Mr Murphy's bar?' 'Did Mr Murphy *want* the bar?'

I have a feeling that it was not your wish, and if so I tender you much sympathy together with my protest.

I attended the hotel's official opening last Saturday evening as a sign of goodwill to my two old friends - the Colonel and Col Ryman. But what a spectacle it became! Free drinks, which brought out the greed and excessive drinking of the Europeans, to be seen by all the Papuans present. What an example they gave, and that example was soon followed by all the Papuans and led to fighting, even to one between an Administration officer and a policeman – men whose job it is to keep law and order.

Is the sort of behaviour you saw on Saturday night the kind of behaviour you want for Papuans? I'm sure the Administrator would not have approved either the name given to the bar or the behaviour of his officers, white and brown.

I'm sorry I did not get to the Licensing Commission. You see the Commission as having seen the matter from the point of view of law and business (I had no opposition to the hotel - just to the bar). But we see it from the point of view of *people*, and surely

law and business are meant to serve the interests, the well-being and the security and happiness, of people. To give a bar a licence in a District like this, which is only just beginning to move forward, is really tragic. And then to start it off with such an example by Europeans!

Will you look up the Gospel of St Matthew, Chapter 18, verse 6? Many will fall away because of that bar and the example given.

Perhaps, Mr Murphy, it is sympathy I should give you. I'd like to believe you had nothing to do, at least, with giving your name to the Gulf Hotel bar.

Yours regretfully,

S. J. Rankin.

-----

From John J. Murphy

to S.J. Rankin

10 January 1969

Dear Mrs Rankin,

Receipt of your letter of December 18 is acknowledged.

I regret you feel so distressed. However, it seems that there are some around you who are trying to ingratiate themselves with you, and it seems by pandering to your attitudes.

You hurt Mr Ryman very much when you said in a letter to the Licensing Commission that beer was being sold in his store, which is part of the hotel, without a licence. This was quite untrue.

There was no fight between an Administration officer and a policeman, but an Administration officer escorted a policeman and put him on his way home. My own information from reports and that of the Licensing Inspector, do not support your claim of an orgy.

Chapter 18, verse 6, of the Gospel of St Matthew was read with interest, and I must say you are out of context, and in return I refer you to Ch 16:22-29 and again to John 2:2-10, to I Timothy 5:23, to Genesis 27:25,28. In addition there is an interesting account in Genesis 9:20-27 of the attitude of people to those who indulge in wine.

In the meantime, to balance, you will be gratified to know I have opened the United Church building at Mei Village, the new Catholic Church at Kerema, and have had named after me the 'John J. Murphy Maternity Ward' new building at Kerema, and this latter I feel is more open to misrepresentation than the 'John J Murphy Bar'.

Yours sincerely

John J. Murphy

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**Michael O'Connor**, ex ADO in the Kiunga District of PNG, and later former executive director of the Australian Defence Association and defence columnist of the Australian is quoted: '...one of the great limitations on reform and improvement in many Melanesian nations is that the urban elite, grown rich off its countrymen, has no idea how village-based countrymen really live, what moves them, how their villages function. At the same time a partly educated, substantially unemployed urban underclass of shocking violence and nihilistic rage has arisen.'

Aust Fin Review 15/4/06



**DONATED TO THE PNGAA COLLECTION**  
**THE FRYER LIBRARY, THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND**

*To be placed in the Library after all items have been identified.*

**Dr Pam Quartermaine:** Copy of her Ph.D thesis *Teacher Education in Papua New Guinea: Policy and Practice 1946-1996*. Degree awarded by the University of Tasmania, Launceston, June 2001. Reprinted 2004.

**Mrs Frances Jean Lasker (nee Hibberd) Collection:**

(Courtesy of Dr Stuart Svensen): 95 photographic images dated and identified (there is a God!) of Papuan scenery, expatriate Australians and locals. Mrs Lasker worked in DASf, Port Moresby, in 1947, married Graham Svensen that year, and subsequently Bob Lasker in 1961.

**Dr Blanche Biggs Collection:**

Donated by Dr Biggs through Mr John Biggs. Dr Biggs went to Papua under the auspices of the Australian Board of Missions, and served from 1948 to 1974. Her material consists of diaries (the first is for 1934-1940); Mission publications including Diocese of Papua New Guinea *Staff Notes*; letters to/from Mission hierarchy (e.g. the late Archbishop David Hand) and others, medical personnel and PNG Administration officials (principally Dept. of Health); and a considerable number of photographs. There is a slide collection 'Papua – Stations of Anglican Church' and a copy of her book *From Papua with Love* (published ?1987).

**Mr William Race, OAM, Collection:\***

Photographs of general scenes and construction of native hospital Gasmata 1961/1962; folder of personal details; large photo of Buka males 1953/54 in the mountains of central Bougainville wearing "HOOVA" hats; copy of eight months medical patrol of southern end of New Britain from Kandrian to Cape Gloucester in the 1960s.

**Mr P.E.R. & Mrs L.T. Coe collection (donated by Mrs M.Goode):\***

Approximately 150 photos identified tentatively as prewar Port Moresby, Samarai, Wewak, Alexishafen, Boram, Finschhafen Madang, Lorengau, Rabaul, Salamaua, Pondo, Lombrom, Bulolo, Junkers planes (Salamaua, Lae, Wau) and two "studio" type photographs of the M.V. Macdhuil at Finschhafen and Madang. Plus many still unidentified photos of prewar New Guinea centres and native people.

**Neil Gow:\*** Photograph of Ian Mitchell's (PO Wau 19??) wedding; studio portrait of his wife as a young child.

**\*Acquired for the Collection by Mr Albert Speer, MBE.** ■

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**MINUTES OF THE 55th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PNGAA**  
**HELD AT THE MANDARIN CLUB, SYDNEY ON 30TH APRIL, 2006**

*Meeting opened at 11:45am*

**Present** (as per signatures in Attendance Book):

Edna Oakes, George Oakes, Andrea Williams, Linda Evans, Lynne James, Pat Johnson, Ross Johnson, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Helen Reardon, Ian Reardon, Joe Nitsche, Harry West, Pamela Foley, Elizabeth Thurston, Stuart Inder, John O'Dea, Michael Douglas, Betty Smith, Frank Smith, Florence Cohen, Ken McGregor, Albert Speer, Kevin Kerley, Dennis Doyle, Fred Kaad, Robin Mead, John Stevenson, Allan Neilsen, Marie Day, Allen Taylor, Nancy Johnston, Alan Johnston, Roma Bates, Margaret Wallace, Janet Dykgraaff, Jennifer Wearn, Rosslyn Barrand, Joan Burns, Stephen Burns, Lesley Robinson, John Mayor, Rae Mayor, Gabriel Keleny, Barbara Burns, Noel Wicks, Alison Marsh, Vere O'Malley, Amanda Leahy, Patricia Hopper, Kyran Lynch.

**Apologies:** Arch Charley, Chris & John Downie, Jane Doyle, Chris Johnston, Charlie Lynn.

*Cont.*

## Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (Cont.)

*Motion that the Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> AGM be confirmed*

*Moved Florence Cohen, seconded by Nancy Johnston.*

*Carried*

**Business Arising:** None.

**President's Report:** Received with acclamation – reprinted at end of these Minutes.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer

Ross Johnson provided a comprehensive financial report for the year ended 31 December 2005. This included Statements covering Income & Expenditure, Assets & Liabilities and the Auditor's report. An abridged version of these financial statements is shown on page 45. A summary of both Membership and Web Site movements was also tabled.

*Motion to accept the Financial Report –*

*Moved by George Oakes, seconded by John Stevenson.*

*Carried*

**Correspondence:** Secretary

Pamela Foley reported that over 600 items had been received and 200 despatched - all of a routine nature excepting one to be dealt with under General Business.

*Motion to accept the correspondence Report –*

*Moved by Janet Dykgraaff, seconded by Elizabeth Thurston.*

*Carried*

**Election of Executive and Committee:**

The President advised that all positions had been declared vacant. Only one nomination had been received for each position (except Secretary) and thus those nominees were duly elected unopposed.

**Executive** - President: Harry West; Treasurer and Membership Officer: Ross Johnson; Editor *UNA VOCE* Andrea Williams; Deputy President: Pamela Foley,

**Committee** - Stephen Burns; Marie Day; Marie Clifton-Bassett; Patricia Hopper; Christopher Johnston; Nancy Johnston; Fred Kaad; Robin Mead; Ian Reardon; Frank Smith; Elizabeth Thurston.

**General Business:**

(1) Mr West noted that in view of the probable sale of the Mandarin Club any suggestions of an alternative venue would be considered. He asked for the opinion of the meeting regarding possibility of holding the AGM and Christmas functions on a Saturday instead of a Sunday as at present. The majority of those present could see no problem with this.

(2) A communication was received from Mr Greg Harris of Canberra outlining a ***“Proposal for PNGAA to contribute more actively to the development of Papua New Guinea”***. He canvassed the idea that through this Association, valuable and individual ad hoc efforts might be consolidated into more formal assistance projects for PNG. This would require an acknowledgement that the Association has both a capacity to assist and a resolve to act. He stated, “some things which might be done are -

- Press Australian National and State/Territory art galleries to give greater prominence to their collections on PNG;
- Investigate the possibility of the Association establishing a Trust to sponsor school fees for PNG children whose parents have difficulty paying school fees;
- Develop an alliance with the PNG High Commission to assist in broadening the policy agenda for consideration by the Australian Government;
- Sponsor a PNG policy options conference to discuss policy successes and how they might be used as the basis for innovations which bring development results.”

The Proposal was put to the Meeting and it was agreed that such major complex issues needed analysis and thought, and that views, comments and suggestions should be sought from our scattered membership through *UNA VOCE* and considered by the committee. Input from members, **directed to the Secretary**, would be welcomed.

Nancy Johnston felt that a 'working group' as suggested in the proposal could be formed to take note of members' comments and opinions, to form the basis of further discussion by the committee.

In closing the meeting Harry West thanked members for their attendance and said he looked forward to wider comments from members following the circulation of *UNA VOCE*.

*Meeting closed at 12:40pm.*

### **President's Report – Annual General Meeting – 30th April 2006**

Welcome to the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia. Last year I was able to report our numbers increasing to a record of more than 1400, expansion of our magazine to 56 compact pages, printing and layout upgrading, improvements to our annual membership booklet, the introduction of more articles and information on contemporary Papua New Guinea and the effectiveness of the establishment of our web site.

This year membership has stabilised, our net expanded and our publishing consolidated. Of course, sustained interest and success will continue to depend on the ongoing literary contributions from members.

Papua New Guinea's 30th Anniversary of Independence, following our 30 years of colonial presence since the end of the Pacific War in 1945, has been at the forefront of our activities this year.

Following the successful showing of 'Walk Into Paradise' by Robert Cleland's group in Brisbane some time ago, it was decided to screen the new high quality release print of the original film produced in the Eastern Highlands, Madang and Sepik Districts in 1955, and starring Chips Rafferty (and Freddie Kaad!) as part of our anniversary celebrations. Some 250 members and friends gathered at Film Australia, Lindfield, on Sunday 28th August for the screening and refreshments and \$2,000 was raised for the children's ward at ANGAU Memorial Hospital, Lae.

Our Christmas luncheon on Sunday 4th December was a very special event, attended by 220 people. A feature was hundreds of suspended balloons in PNG's colours, and laminated table place mats depicting the colourful national and provincial flags. Also a specially mounted display of the flags of each PNG province designed by Frank Smith.

Our Chief Patron, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, AC, CVO, MC (Retd) Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia sent an inspiring message and the Guest Speaker was Mr Paul Nerau, LLB, PNG Consul General in Brisbane. Representatives of the Sydney PNG Wantok Club and the PNG Chinese Catholic Association were present, and entertainment was provided by a group of colourfully attired and accomplished Manus dancers. One hundred copies of a special Post Courier commemorative magazine were airfreighted from Port Moresby and sold out at cost (\$5) within minutes at the luncheon. The Post Courier publisher received a prestigious international award for the quality of the publication.

I was Guest Speaker at an elaborate Independence dinner hosted by the Sydney-PNG Wantok Club at St. George Leagues Club on 17th September, attended by more than 300 of the 1200 PNG residents of Sydney, and Moses TAU and his band of 4 were especially flown in from Moresby to provide contemporary PNG music.

Our member, David Marsh OBE, was one of the very few Australian official guests invited to Port Moresby for anniversary celebrations. He had been the principal organiser of the National Independence celebration arrangements in Port Moresby nearly 30 years earlier.

During the year our Association was asked by the PNG Government to nominate one member for a 30th Independence Anniversary Commemorative Award for outstanding service to the development of PNG. Fred Kaad OBE was nominated and his medal was presented by PNG Consul General Paul Nerau LLB at our Christmas luncheon. Details of

Fred's distinguished contribution appeared in the March 2006 *UNA VOCE*. With the same issue we distributed a special souvenir supplement in colour depicting and describing Papua New Guinea's national flag and the 19 provincial flags, and included historical records of the Independence Proclamation, the National Anthem and the National Flag.

Andrea Williams and Elizabeth Thurston represented PNGAA at the Annual ANZAC Memorial Ceremony at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway, Concord, on Monday 24th April. As I have mentioned before, this is a project of national importance and of specific significance to people with a particular interest in PNG. The picturesque and beautifully executed walkway with 22 designated Kokoda Track 'stations', stretching along the foreshore of Yaralla Bay is well worth a visit. (Enquiries [02] 9867 8488).

While the Committee went to great pains with decorations to make the function room at the Mandarin Club look glamorous for our 2005 special Christmas lunch - and it was acclaimed by those who attended as a great success - all was not well below the surface and there was dissatisfaction about the premises. A strong letter of complaint was sent to the General Manager of the Mandarin Club, which we have patronised for 20 years. We said, inter alia, 'while the lunch and the staff were viewed satisfactorily, there was much criticism of the venue. The function room was considered to be in a run-down condition, in need of refurbishment and there were complaints about the cleanliness of toilets. We feel that as a long-standing client, we are being somewhat taken for granted and treated indifferently'. There has been no reply, in spite of a reminder, but sources indicate that the building is to be sold, possibly by the end of the year — and we are in search of alternative premises.

Numbers were down to about a dozen in October for the Sydneysiders annual visit to the Blue Mountains, but those who attended had a very relaxed day and enjoyed the magnificent panorama from the home and garden of Edna and George Oakes at Woodford, who have generously offered to host a similar outing this year.

Our Association is deeply indebted to Dr. Peter Cahill for the outstanding and sustained work he has done over a number of years to interest the Fryer Library, University of Queensland, in accepting and preserving historical material provided by members. Equally we are greatly appreciative of the interest and efforts of the Library staff in making the project possible.

Tim Terrell continues to capably represent our superannuated members on the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations (ACPSRO) in Canberra, particularly on the issue of changing the indexation of public sector pensions from CPI to a more equitable wage based system — as used for age and other pensions. Despite the logic and justice of the proposal, and the buoyant budget, the Commonwealth Government continues to stall.

All praise to our regular regional correspondents who contribute so much by extending our presence and submitting items for *UNA VOCE* — Jim Toner in the Northern Territory, John Kleinig in South Australia, Max Hayes in Victoria, Rick Nehmy in PNG and Bob Blaikie in Queensland. Our gratitude to Life Member and Honorary Auditor, Len Bailey; and our thanks to Alan Johnston who, for years, has donated quality raffle prizes.

A special Good Wish to our oldest Patron, Roma Bates - who is in attendance today, and last but certainly not least my heartfelt thanks to the Committee - one and all for outstanding and sustained hard work throughout the year: Ross Johnson, Frank Smith, Joe Nitsche, Andrea Williams, Pamela Foley, Fred Kaad, Nancy Johnston, Ian Reardon, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Pat Hopper, Marie Day, Stephen Burns, Robin Mead, Chris Johnston and Elizabeth Thurston.

Finally, Pamela Foley, who was made only the second honorary Life Member in the Association's 55 year history at the last AGM, for more than thirty years of outstanding committee service, is standing down as Secretary, but has accepted nomination again for Vice President.

Thank you for your attendance.

# ABRIDGED AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For year ended 31 December 2005

## 1. Statement of Income and Expenditure

2004 (\$)	INCOME	2005 (\$)
413	Donations	322
6,480	Functions (gross receipts - AGM & Xmas)	7,950
1,286	Interest	1,629
18,983	Membership Subscriptions	20,515
768	Raffles	896
1,535	Tales of Papua New Guinea (net)	524
741	Taim Bilong Masta – CD Sales (net)	
	“Walk Into Paradise” film screening	4,830
<b>30,206</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>36,666</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
4,630	Administration Expenses	4,568
139	Caring Committee	133
1,510	Depreciation (inc. loss on disposal)	689
6,439	Functions (expenditure – AGM & Xmas)	9,175
721	Income Tax	303
1,495	Membership Listing	2,283
210	Subscriptions	130
	Donations and Contributions	78
13,300	Una Voce – printing & distribution	15,947
	“Walk Into Paradise” film screening	4,830
<b>28,444</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>38,136</b>
1,762	Surplus / (Deficit) transferred to Members Funds	(1,470)

## 2. Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2005

2004 (\$)		2005 (\$)
29,803	<b>Current Assets</b>	17,753
24,340	Cash at Bank	12,172
5,423	Stock on hand	5,529
40	Accounts Receivable	53
20,029	<b>Investments - Term Deposits</b>	30,029
749	<b>Fixed Assets (written-down value)</b>	550
<b>50,581</b>	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>48,332</b>
15,362	<b>Current Liabilities</b>	15,529
188	Accounts Payable	181
250	Provision for Audit Honorarium	250
721	Provision for Income Tax	303
14,203	Subscriptions in Advance (Year 2006)	14,795
9,253	<b>Long Term Liabilities -</b>	9005
	Subscriptions in Advance (> 2006)	
<b>24,615</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>24,534</b>
<b>25,966</b>	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>23,798</b>
	<b>Represented by –</b>	
5,002	General Reserve	5,002
19,202	Balance forward from previous year	20,266
1,762	Net Surplus (Deficit) for Year	(1,470)
<b>25,966</b>	<b>TOTAL MEMBER FUNDS</b>	<b>23,798</b>

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

## RECOLLECTIONS OF ANGAU By Tom Grahamslaw

*Tom Grahamslaw, who died in 1973, aged 73, spent 45 years with the old Papua and PNG administrations, retiring in 1960 as PNG's Chief Collector of Customs and a member of the Legislative Council. This is the first instalment of his personal account of his wartime experience with the newly formed ANGAU, exploits that won him an OBE (Military). The account has been sent to Una Voce by Tom's nephew, Derek Baldwin. The full account first appeared in Pacific Islands Monthly for March, April and May 1971.*

### WAR COMES TO PNG, CIVIL ADMINISTRATION SUSPENDED, LOOTING RIFE IN PORT MORESBY

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941, I was Collector of Customs, Shipping Master and Postmaster at Samarai. By the end of that month all commercial activity had ceased, and the European women and children were being evacuated to Australia on a directive from the Federal Cabinet in Canberra. In many instances they were accompanied by their menfolk.

Despite the falling off in the volume of Customs and postal work, I had an extremely busy time as representative of the Royal Australian Navy in my capacity as Admiralty Reporting Officer. Each day coastal ships from the neighbouring Mandated Territory of New Guinea, as well as Papuan coastal vessels, arrived at Samarai en route to sanctuary in Australia. As well as reporting their arrival and departure to the Navy in code, I had to give each master instructions on his route, which altered day by day.

On 27 January 1942, I received advice that all able-bodied Europeans in the territory under 45 years of age were to be called up for military service. And I was instructed that, thereafter, all ships were to be routed to Port Moresby so the Army could enrol the men on board.

Civil Administration was suspended on 14 February 1942. Then followed an instruction from Army HQ, Port Moresby, for the remaining civilians at Samarai, who were mainly officials, to proceed to Port Moresby. We set off on the Administration vessel *Eleva*, but, dogged with engine trouble, it took us ten days to reach there. My last duty as a civilian was to hand *Eleva* over to the Navy.

I then offered my services to the Navy. But I was told by Commander R.B.A. Hunt, Naval Officer in Charge, Port Moresby, that all recruitment was controlled by the Army, and thus it came about that I joined the Army – and for the second time. The first time had been when I attended the first recruiting meeting at Port Moresby, at which thirteen of us enlisted. But because I was a senior public servant, the Administration refused to let me go. My lucky star must have been shining at that time. The other twelve chaps were posted to Brisbane, where they were absorbed into the ill-fated 8th Division sent to Singapore.

Now, before joining up for the second time I wandered around the town in my civilian garb. It was very noticeable that morale amongst the troops was at a very low ebb. Because I was in civvies and thus presumably knew something about the Territory, I was frequently asked by soldiers for advice as to the best way to get to Daru, en route to Thursday Island, when the Japs landed. Many of these troops were untrained lads of 19 or so. Their equipment was inadequate and their officers, particularly the junior ones, were inexperienced and lacked control over the men. It was no wonder the men were disorderly and undisciplined.

Port Moresby was deserted at night because of enemy bombings, for the troops slept in the bush, returning the following morning. With this sort of example it was not surprising that there was also a general exodus of native labourers after the first air raid.

The civilian population had been evacuated to Australia, leaving their household possessions behind. Looting was rife, and apparently the military police did nothing to prevent it. This attitude, no doubt, was due to the widespread feeling that the Japs would soon invade the place.

For the first few days after my arrival in Port Moresby I stayed with Arthur Wardrop, in the cottage on Port Road immediately above the powerhouse. This was because Wardrop had been employed by the Administration as an engineer in charge of the powerhouse. On suspension of Civil Administration he had joined the Army, and when I met him he had the rank of private, although he had been promised a commission. By this time the powerhouse was manned by Army personnel comprising an officer, an NCO and about ten privates. But as Wardrop was the only who possessed sufficient knowledge to keep the plant operating at full capacity, he was the one who issued the orders.

At sundown each evening Wardrop and I would sit on the veranda and watch RAAF men trudging into town from the Marine Base, each of them carrying a large empty sack. An hour or so later we would see them staggering back to the Marine Base with laden sacks of goods looted from civilian homes. These goods were subsequently flown to Townsville in RAAF Sunderland flying-boats, which would otherwise have been returning empty. Rivalry between RAAF and Army looters was pretty keen, but I would say that, overall, the Airforce chaps were more successful because they had a more reliable method of transporting the stuff to Australia. The Army looters, on the other hand, had to smuggle their stuff out by ship, trusting to the honesty of others, namely the ship's crew, that it reached its destination. It was not surprising that in many instances the final owners had no connection whatever with those who did the looting.

The majority of Territorians absorbed into the Army in early 1942 remained for some time as privates and a number were employed on tasks such as unloading transports in Port Moresby harbour. However, it was not long before the Army found a better use for their talents. Following the suspension of Civil Administration, law and order amongst the native people was quickly disintegrating. Practically all the natives employed in Port Moresby deserted after the first enemy bombing, and coastal ships were stranded because of the desertion of their crews. Gaols were opened and prisoners released, and all these people returned to their villages. Soon there was a feeling abroad that now the government had gone the people could do as they pleased. Reports of inter-tribal fighting and killings commenced to trickle into Port Moresby.

As maintenance of law and order was now an Army responsibility it was decided to create a special unit that would be responsible for the administration of native affairs, and for the recruitment and control of indigenous people employed by the armed services. Major S. Elliott-Smith, who had been a senior Assistant Resident Magistrate in the Papuan Administration, and was acknowledged as one of its most capable officers, played a major part in the planning and creation of the new unit. The military organisation that resulted was first designated as the Papuan Administrative Unit. It subsequently became the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit, known as ANGAU.

When Brigadier D. M. Cleland became DA and QMG, after a distinguished record in the Middle East, one of his first tasks was to issue an Administrative Instruction which set out the functions and organisation of ANGAU, and which was instrumental in giving us the direction and unity of purpose essential in any unit if it is to give of its best. The functions of ANGAU were defined by him as follows:

- (a) **Operational:** To take its place in the order of battle against the enemy in accordance with any orders of Headquarters, New Guinea Force, or of the particular Commander of the area in which ANGAU personnel may be located, including US Commanders where US forces are operating in any part of the Territories.
- (b) **Administrative:** To carry on the Civil Administration of the Territories, including the control of the Native population, administration of justice and education of the Native people.

One of ANGAU's first tasks was to persuade native labourers and ships' crews to return to their jobs. Lieutenant A. H. Baldwin was placed in charge of this task. Baldwin was a fluent Motu speaker who has spent most of his life in the Territory. Before joining the Army he was employed by the Australasian Petroleum Company as its Superintendent of Native Labour, with 1500 natives from various parts of Papua New Guinea under his control. He was liked and respected by the Papuan natives and in the early days of ANGAU did more than any other man to induce native workers to return to Port Moresby and remain there, despite the frequent bombings.

The immediate need was to man the seven districts in Papua with Army personnel who had experience in native administration. My experience at Daru and other outstations, which included service as an Assistant Resident Magistrate, made me eligible for a responsible posting. Elliott-Smith kindly gave me the opportunity to volunteer for a district. I nominated the Northern District. And as ANGAU was in its formative stage, and because of the chaotic conditions prevailing at the time, I was told to make my own arrangements getting there. Fortunately, however, I was also given a free hand to select my personnel from the men who had already joined the unit and were awaiting postings. Thus it came about that Lieutenants Peter Brewer and Gerry Brown became members of my team.

Then I had to obtain a ship. I applied to Commander Hunt, who gave me a choice, but suggested the *Eleva* as being the most suitable. I gladly accepted. Obtaining a master was the next problem. This was resolved when I met Captain L. Austen, who was awaiting repatriation to Australia because of his age, about 60. He was a master mariner who had served in the Royal Navy in World War I and had been employed by the Papuan Administration as Controller of Native Coffee Plantations, with headquarters at Higturu, in the Northern District. He had no wish to leave the Territory and readily volunteered for the job as master.

The problem of finding an engineer was met when I ran into Warrant Officer Oberdorf who, in civilian times, had been working as engineer in the desiccated coconut factory at Gili Gili. He had a tropical ulcer on his leg and was awaiting movement to Australia for medical treatment. Oberdorf also had no desire to leave the Territory and he willingly agreed to come along as engineer. Finally, the original native crew of the *Eleva*, who were mainly from the Samarai area, and were now billeted in a temporary camp outside the town, gladly rejoined the vessel.

At this particular time Port Moresby harbour was full of small coastal craft the Navy had taken over from civilian owners. Owing to shortage of personnel, the Navy was unable to adequately man the craft and many were left unattended. As a result, these ships received the attention of looters. Thus it was that when we boarded the *Eleva* we found that everything moveable had been taken. I reported this to Commander Hunt, who expressed regret that the Navy would be unable to provide replacements for some considerable time, but gave me a broad hint that the missing equipment might not be very far away. I took the hint, and an opportunity soon came.



At that time Port Moresby harbour lacked protection from bombing raids, and whenever there was an alert the practice was for the ships' crews to make their way to dugouts ashore and stay there until the siren sounded the all clear. The very next day Port Moresby was visited by nine bombers with a cover of Zeros – the biggest air raid so far – and there was a hasty exodus from ships in the harbour. This gave us the opportunity to board certain small craft, where we had no difficulty in finding the equipment we were looking for.

A similar method was adopted when loading the *Elevale* with rations. When Civil Administration was suspended, the Burns Philp store was filled with many of the good things of life, such as tinned fruits, asparagus, marmalade, fancy biscuits, condiments and a wide variety of canned meats. A decision had been made at the highest level that BP's stock was reserved for the Army "higher-ups" and to ensure that this was implemented a strong armed guard was kept in the store. However, our investigations revealed that whenever an air raid alert was sounded the guard retired to dugouts in the vicinity, leaving the store unattended. With sound organisation – ie, with *Elevale* berthed at the nearest jetty, a borrowed truck, the native crew and our own willing hands – we took advantage of the next air raid and were able to remove a good load of groceries to the holds of *Elevale*.

As there was still a little stowage space left in *Elevale*, we decided to cash in on the next air raid. Unfortunately the raid was of short duration and we were caught red-handed by the guard. The officer-in-charge, a captain, gave me a thorough dressing down, took my name and threatened me with court martial. What really worried me, however, was that I was wearing a lieutenant's pips before I had actually received my commission – because I had decided it was quite impossible to get anything done unless one had officer status. We were made to return the goods from the partly-loaded truck and the captain's last word were that if he saw me in the store again I would be arrested on the spot. Fortunately, he was to remain unaware of our first load!

On the night before *Elevale's* departure for the Northern District a sergeant and eight privates arrived on board with instructions from OC Signals for me to establish them in pairs at selected places along the north-east coast, where they were to operate spotting stations. The average age of these lads was 20, and all each was equipped with was a rifle, a few rounds of ammunition, one change of clothing and rudimentary cooking utensils. The job of equipping them with adequate utensils, medicines, mosquito nets and rations thus became my responsibility. The things I did that night to properly equip the spotters would have got me into trouble in normal times, but in the circumstances I felt it was a necessary part of my war effort.

When I enquired if there was any mail for Administration officials who had remained at their posts on the north-east coast, and for Anglican missionaries who had chosen to remain at their stations there, I was informed that all mail arriving for civilians was being returned to Australia. However, further enquiries revealed that much mail for civilians was left strewn about in the post office. On the day before our departure Brewer, Brown and I went through all the mail in the post office and succeeded in collecting several bags of letters and papers.

So finally, on 28 February 1942 we left Port Moresby loaded to the limit with stores and personnel. As we steamed past HMAS *Laurabada* (formerly the Administrator's yacht), its commander, Ivan Champion, engineer Jim Ritchie and the Papuan crew gave us a rousing cheer. *Laurabada*, with the intrepid Champion still in command, subsequently

evacuated hundreds of Australian civilian and Army personnel from New Guinea under the noses of the Japanese.

We, however, had barely approached the passage through Port Moresby's reef when we sighted a number of enemy aircraft, who soon concentrated on targets in the harbour. We learned later they sank three Catalinas lying at anchor off the Marine Base. They must have used up all their ammunition on this task, as *Eleva* was unmolested as we headed back down the coast for Samarai.

**Next issue: Jap landings, Gona missionaries murdered, establishing supply lines on the Kokoda Trail.** ■

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**News from His Excellency His Grand Chief Sir Paulias Matane,  
GCL, GCMG, Kt St J, Governor General of Papua New Guinea**

A copy of the March 2006 issue of *Una Voce*, with the special 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary colour supplement was sent to Sir Paulias and he responded promptly.

The Governor General, who commenced his working life as a government school teacher in the colonial era, has subsequently distinguished himself as a senior public servant in Port Moresby and as a diplomat in important overseas posts. He wrote:

‘We thank you all for your continuing interest in PNG. Please keep up with those interests because I feel that with your experiences as former public servants and other professionals in PNG, you would understand things better than those who did not work here before.

Many of you, I am sure, hear a lot of negative things about us in PNG like law and order problems, corruption right across the board etc. Many of these things do happen but when one compares these with other countries, [and I can capably say this because I have travelled extensively to all 7 continents on earth...the first PNG citizen to have done so and written many books about them], I know that there are worse problems in many countries in the world than those constantly reported in PNG by foreign media. Another thing is that the Australian Foreign Affairs Department officials have constantly advised Australians to be very careful in visiting PNG. One thing is certain: There are many good, happy and kind people in PNG. But these are not normally reported on because they probably do not make money for the media businesses!!

I read the various interesting contributions by people in the current copy of *Una Voce*. They are good. I am just wondering whether you might like to get in touch with our 2 daily newspapers...the Post Courier and the National...to have these and more from the members PNGAA published once a week. In this way, our readers will be able to know what some of you did, and experienced, during your time here. You worked hard to help develop PNG.’

Sir Paulias has travelled extensively on all seven continents, including Antarctica, and has found time to publish 36 diverse books on PNG and overseas experiences. He wrote ‘proceeds from the sale of these books will NOT benefit me personally or financially as the author, but will go towards charity. I have been donating to charity privately, for over two decades.’

Enquiries about the books should be made to ‘Paulias Matane Foundation Inc’, PO Box 79, Port Moresby NCD PNG. ■

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

**George GOROGO (28 March 2006)**

George Gorogo served the agriculture sector in PNG, particularly the food and horticulture sectors, and worked for over 30 years in various capacities in DAS/DPI (currently DAL) and the Fresh Produce Development Agency. He was the director of the food management branch of DAL in Port Moresby and recently retired as the general manager of FPDA in Goroka for health reasons. George is survived by his wife, Mrs. Angelina Gorogo, his children and grandchildren. Mike Bourke

**Brendan CARROLL (8 December 2005, aged 57 years)**

Brendan was born and raised at Swifts Creek in the high country of Victoria. In 1972 he went to PNG and to the Catholic Mission at Guminie in the Chimbu Province, where he worked for a number of years as a general fix-it man. He learnt a lot about coffee at Guminie and his next job was at Erave in the Southern Highlands where he worked for the late Ron Neville's company, Coecon, managing his coffee plantation. From the laid back lifestyle at Erave he secured a job with Wahgi-Mek coffee plantation and processing plant at Minj where he remained until 1982 when the family returned to Australia. He settled on a property near Charters Towers North QLD where he battled the elements and the bureaucracy to establish a fruit block. With his wife's ill health he returned to Swifts Creek where he operated a small business. Brendan had a dry sense of humour and spent his life helping others. His wife, Katie, pre-deceased him. He is survived by his two children, Damien and Deslie. David Showell

**Harold (Harry) LAWSON (1 November 2005, aged 71 years)**

Harold went to PNG about 1960 and over the next 40 years lived and worked mainly in Port Moresby, Daru and Kikori. He returned to Australia in the late 1990s because of ill health, living in Cairns. Margaret Lawson (sister)

**Hugh Alexander TRESTRAIL (25 February 2005 aged 88 years).** Hugh was Asst Director of Lands, Surveys & Mines at the time of his retirement from PNG. He had lived in Wau and Port Moresby from 1959 to 1974. Danny Trestrail

**John (Johnny) WALKER (30 March 2006,)**

John was born in Newcastle in 1913. He started school there and subsequently went to Canterbury Boys High, Fort St, Lismore High and Hay War Memorial High School moving with his Maths master father. Jobs were hard to get when he finished school, so he did the Leaving Certificate twice and finally qualified as a wireless operator through the Marconi School of Wireless. A union move to have a wireless operator on all ships over a certain size led to his employment first on a trawler, on the Iron Master taking coal to Whyalla and on Burns Philp boats collecting copra from the New Hebrides. He left the sea and was appointed to a base in Kurumba on the Gulf servicing QANTAS flying boats. John then got a job at Rose Bay and in 1941 was able to marry Muriel Ferguson whom he met whilst at Hay. In 1945 their daughter, Susan, was born and Johnny was posted to Port Moresby in 1946 to work for DCA as the military relinquished control. Muriel and Susan joined him in 1947 and lived at Taldora near Jackson's. They loved PNG and were happy to be posted to Lae with DCA in 1956, after spells in Tamworth and Adelaide. After 4 years there they went to Coffs Harbour and then to Townsville after which posting Johnny retired. Wherever they went they ran into old acquaintances from PNG. Daughter Susan went to Moresby with her family in 1970 and were able to see how it had changed. Johnny had been living on his own in Yamba since Muriel died in 2004. He was in hospital when he died and had the current edition of Una Voce at his bedside. Susan Woodward

**The Most Reverend David HAND**, KBE, Grand Chief in the Order of the Logohu (6 April 2006, aged 87 years).

Bishop David Hand, who died in Port Moresby's Pacific International Hospital, spent 60 of his 87 years in PNG, where he took out citizenship on independence in 1975. He was born in 1918 in Queensland, where his father was the rector of Clermont. But within the next four years the family returned to England, his father taking up a country parish, and David grew up and was educated in England. After taking a history degree at Oxford, he prepared for ordination and had a brief spell as a curate in Yorkshire. But, impressed by stories of the wartime Gona Anglican martyrs who had died at the hands of the Japanese, he sailed for Australia at the end of 1946 to take up a posting in the Papua mission – first in the Northern Province, and eventually working in many parts of PNG. So impressive was he in his calling that he was consecrated bishop in 1950 when he was 32, the youngest bishop in the Anglican communion. He did vitally important work of rehabilitation following the Mt Lamington eruption of 1951, when so many mission adherents were among the 4000 people who lost their lives.

After his superior, Bishop Philip Strong was appointed Archbishop of Brisbane in 1963, Hand succeeded him as diocese bishop in PNG, and in 1977 he became the first Archbishop of Papua New Guinea in the newly created independent Anglican province (the diocese had been directed from Queensland). Setting about the reorganisation and expansion of the church which had been operating with staff and funding mostly provided from overseas, he gave early attention to developing local leadership. He was a strong believer in an accord between the major denominations, including the Roman Catholics, in PNG. He went on to become a founder of the Melanesian Council of Churches.

When he retired in 1983 at the prescribed age of 65, handing over to his friend George Ambo (the first indigenous leader of the PNG church), he returned to England for a year or two, but his love for PNG drew him back. He eventually settled in Moresby but he travelled continually, serving the church in many ways. He was bestowed with many honours – a CBE in 1975, a knighthood (KBE) in 1984 and, last year PNG's highest honour, the newly created Grand Chief in the Order of the Logohu. He was also made a chief of the Orokaiva tribe in Oro province. But he lived humbly, eschewed titles and preferred to be known simply as Bishop Hand. He never married. He is buried in Popondetta, among some of the martyrs who drew him to PNG.

**Darrell PENHALE** (13 May 2006, aged 74 years)

Darrell was in PNG from 1953-1962 holding the following positions: CPO Northern District, PO Manus and Coops Officer Central District. Following his departure from PNG he moved to Maidstone in Kent, England, where he lived with long-time partner, Jean. He is also survived by his three sons. *Adelaide Advertiser* 19 May 2006

**Peter Villiers BEST** (02 May 2006, aged 80 years)

Peter was born in the UK and completed a Civil Engineering and Surveying degree there. He went to Papua in 1950 with the Australasian Petroleum Company. Peter worked in various positions with oil and mining companies, Dept of Lands, Surveys and Mines, as well as in merchandising with both Burns Philp and Steamships before a brief retirement to Australia in 1986. He continued visiting many of the provinces in PNG on a consultancy basis for mining companies until the mid 90s.

**Kaye CASS** (23 March 2006, aged 80 years)

Kaye was the wife of the late Les Cass. They went to Popondetta in 1953 to work in Education. Their children Lee and Peter were taught by Kaye in various odd surroundings before the new school was built. Philip, who was born in Wewak in 1959 always studied in proper classrooms. Kaye worked in both Primary A and Primary T schools. Her most notable achievement was setting up a school especially for girls at Brandi, outside Wewak. This was the first school in the Sepik to educate girls only. Kaye loved teaching and she loved Papua New Guinea, especially Milne Bay where her family spent several happy and productive working years. She will be sadly missed by Lee, Peter and Philip and her grandchildren. Lee Billingham (nee Cass)

**Josette STORER** (26 March 2006, aged 79 years.)

Josette was born in Paris and came to Australia in 1937. After service with Alliance Francaise and the WRAAF, Josette travelled to PNG in 1953 with her first husband and son Christopher. Life in Lumi was very different for a Sydney girl and her involvement in the recruitment of native labour was later to intrigue her grandchildren. With her second child due and determined that Michelle should be born in Sydney, Josette became a passenger on a special Junkers flight going south. The plane made a forced landing on Horn Island but the baby was eventually born in Sydney. The family moved to Mandi near Wewak but the marriage did not last. Josette met Ron and they were married by Horrie Niall at the Residency in Lae in 1961. After a short term of duty in Port Moresby they were transferred to Rabaul and son Paul and daughter Nicole arrived to complete the family. Whilst there, Josette opened and ran a children's nursery and was involved in acting and directing in the Little Theatre Group. After seven years, the time arrived for the inevitable transfer to Port Moresby. Josette, unable to remain inactive opened 'Playtime', the first toyshop in PNG. Many will remember the toys selected and individually wrapped for the children of members of clubs from all over PNG. Josette took a keen interest in the welfare of personal staff and kept in touch with them until recently. Having left PNG in 1975, Josette and Ron conducted newsagencies and gift shops in Adelaide, fitting in seasonal trips to Caloundra until retiring in 1990. Josette will be remembered as a vivacious, charming, warm and loving friend. Both she and Ron were inseparable. Josette is survived by Ron, children Christopher, Michelle, Paul and Nicole, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. John Kleinig

**Alwyn SMITH** (18 April 2006, aged 77 years)

Born in Tonga on 25 September 1928, Al's family moved to Melbourne when he was eight years old, where Al finished his schooling. He then took up an apprenticeship as an electrical fitter from 1946 to 1950. After travelling from Melbourne to Darwin by motor bike, he ended up in PNG at Rabaul with Commonwealth Dept. of Works (CDW) in 1952. He became supervisor and later manager of the electrical department which changed names to eventually become the PNG Electricity Commission, or Elcom. His area of control covered all the NE New Guinea islands from Manus to Bougainville. His interests included serving with 'B' Company of the PNGVR in Rabaul where he became a sergeant. After Independence Al returned to Australia and settled in Redcliffe near Brisbane, close to a number of friends. Here he worked in the railway as an electrical fitter, wiring switchboards and control equipment on new diesel electric locomotives until his retirement. He travelled extensively all over the world, visiting many countries. Most people who knew Al became his friends and many of these joined his family at his funeral to pay tribute to a dear friend. Tom Kingston

**Harold Victor QUINTON** (aged 93 years) More details next issue

**Sel WARD** (11 April 2006, aged 80 years)

Sel was born in Parramatta, the third of eight surviving children. He eventually became an electrician and set up his own successful business in partnership. He later went to PNG, met and married Sue, and lived there for the next 22 years.

During those PNG years, Sel made a great contribution in the field of Hydro Generation, at Rouna 1, Rouna 2 and Yonki Power Stations. His pride in the stations was immense – firstly in the welfare of the operators, their families and the labour lines. He worked tirelessly to create congenial surroundings, making concrete paths through the muddy surrounds of the compound, upgrading housing for the staff, planting gardens, and particularly mango trees whose crops today are a source of considerable income to the present staff. He built a little schoolhouse where he raised the technical and professional knowledge of the operators and where Sue taught them maths and English. Rouna 1 became a showplace destination for important overseas visitors to the Electricity commission, and was lovingly called Ward's Park for its grace and beauty. His work at the other stations was equally commendable and he always made a significant contribution to the whole community in which he was working. When he was able to return to PNG for a visit in 1993, the engineer he had trained, and who is now the Chief Executive of the Commission, welcomed him like a VIP, and flew him to Yonki to see the progress since he had left.

Sel loved his sport. He was an avid tennis player and also loved sailing. After Sue's retirement, they were able, through her volunteer work, to satisfy his love for travel and discovering new cultures by going to live in Fiji, and also in Cambodia. The last few months of his life were not as he would have wanted them to be. Even in this adversity he was keen to hope and help others by trialling a new drug for cancer, which sadly did not prolong his life.

Survived by his wife, Sue, Brad and Bobbie.

Bruce Shaw

**Harry Hans JACKMAN**, MBE (8 March 2006, aged 84 years)

Few careers have been so versatile or varied as Harry's. Rescued as a boy from Nazi Germany, he was adopted in Melbourne by the Nathan family. His education ranged from Alf Conlon's School of Pacific Administration in Sydney to Victoria's Dookie Agricultural College. He served in the Second AIF (mainly in ANGAU) from 1942 to 1946 and then joined the civil administration as a Patrol Officer, eventually becoming Registrar of Cooperatives, holding this position until his retirement. His sterling service to the post-World War II PNG administration was directed mostly to the training and development of the rising generation of Papua New Guineans who would soon be running their own government. Harry greatly prized the MBE awarded to him in 1978 at the recommendation of the PNG government.

Harry was a natural scholar and had numerous academic qualifications. After retiring from PNG, he held academic teaching posts in Australia. He was an active member of many learned bodies, and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society (London). His great pleasure was to review books, especially about the Pacific, always judiciously and fairly, informed by his great personal experience and wide reading. His distinguished and immaculately presented library was his great and justifiable pride. Among his own publications there is a highly interesting study – *Malaria in German New Guinea* (1990).

Harry was never reluctant to enter public controversy whenever he could shed light on the affairs of his beloved PNG. His widow, Grace, whose constant care and tenderness comforted Harry in his last painful illness, still resides in Angaston. He is survived also by his daughter Bronwen who has five sons, and by his son Max.

Peter Ryan

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