



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

Annual General Meeting And Luncheon

To be held on **Sunday 27 April 2008** at Killara Golf Club in Sydney. Full details are on page 3 of this issue, booking slip and payment form are on a separate yellow insert. The meeting should not take long, and then the event becomes a social function like the Christmas luncheon. Would senior or incapacitated members who would like to attend but do not have transport please contact our secretary.

The President and Committee would like to thank all those who sent Seasons Greetings.

If you do not wish to have your name and address included in the **MEMBERSHIP LIST** which is published in the **June** issue of *Una Voce*, please advise the Secretary.

ARE YOU UNFINANCIAL???

If you notice a **red dot on the address label** of your copy of *Una Voce*, you are **unfinancial**. Please complete the Membership Renewal Form on the yellow insert – please also include your membership number.

Please note: Membership Fees \$20 pa.

***don't forget to have a look at our website: www.pngaa.net

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**'UNA VOCE' IS THE JOURNAL OF
THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

Please send all correspondence to: **The Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 1386, Mona Vale NSW 1660.** Items for *Una Voce* are welcome and should be marked 'For Attention: The Editor' or emailed to: 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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Website: www.pngaa.net

Membership is available to any person having an interest in PNG. Annual subscription - \$20. The membership year corresponds to the calendar year and an application form is available from the Secretary at the above address or you can download one from our website.

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The Objects of the Association:

- to foster and maintain an interest in contemporary and historical events in Papua New Guinea;
- to foster and encourage contact and friendship with Papua New Guineans;
- to encourage the preservation of documents and historical material related to Papua New Guinea;
- to encourage members to contribute to the production and recording of the oral and written history of Papua New Guinea;
- to promote friendly association among all members;
- to continue to safeguard and foster the retirement conditions of superannuated members of the former services.

In so far as the original association was formed to safeguard and foster the retirement conditions of superannuated members of the former services, including conditions applicable to their widows and dependants, the association shall continue to represent such members, their widows and dependants in all superannuation matters appropriate to their prior service in the former services.

DISCLAIMER: *Una Voce* is produced for the information of members of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc. It is written with care, in good faith, and from sources believed to be accurate. However, readers should not act, nor refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information in *Una Voce* about financial, taxation or any other matter. Having regard for their own particular circumstances, readers should consult the relevant authorities or other advisers with expertise in the particular field. Neither the PNGAA nor the editor accepts any responsibility for actions taken by readers. Also, the views expressed by any of the authors of articles or book reviews included in *Una Voce* are not necessarily those of the editor or the PNGAA.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 57th AGM of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, Incorporated, will be held on **Sunday 27 April 2008 at the Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara, NSW**, commencing at 11:30 am. The AGM will be followed by a Luncheon at approximately 1:00 pm.

AGENDA

1. Members present and apologies.
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 56th AGM (circulated in June 2007 *Una Voce*)
3. Business arising from the Minutes.
4. President's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report and Receipt of Audited Financial Statements.
6. Certificate required by Section 27 (1)(b) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984.
7. Correspondence.
8. Determination of the Notice of Motion received from Mr Maxwell Hayes including receipt of proxies (refer explanatory notes and Proxy Form accompanying this issue of *Una Voce*).
9. Election of Honorary Auditor (Refer Rule 37 of the Constitution)
Mr Len Bailey, CPA, a Life Member of the Association, offers himself for re-election.
10. Election of Management Committee (Refer Rule 16 of the Constitution)
President, Deputy President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and 5 Committee persons.
11. General discussion.

Note that alcoholic beverages will not be available until after the AGM. Members together with their families and friends are all welcome – but please let us know if you are staying for, or coming to, the luncheon by completing the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow insert and returning it as soon as possible. Directions to Killara Golf Club are on pg 3 December 2007 *Una Voce*. Free return shuttle transport from Gordon Station if you would like. Please phone Harry West #9418 8793 regarding transport or further information.

Public transport information # 131500.

The cost is \$42.50 per person – this does not include liquor or soft drinks - would those attending please pay in advance and not at the door. Advance payment enables us to plan the seating and confirm numbers with the House Manager, Killara golf Club.

Cancellations advised to Ann Graham (02 9999 4490) by Wednesday 24 April will secure a full refund. This is the date we inform the Club of final numbers – after this date the Association must pay for those unable to attend. ▪

PROPOSED UNA VOCE NAME CHANGE

EXPLANATORY NOTES

(Refer Agenda Item 8, Notice of Annual General Meeting)

MOTION SUBMITTED by Mr Maxwell Hayes and published in June 2007
“Una Voce”, page 3, reads as follows –

“I herewith move a motion, to be considered at the next AGM, that the name of our excellent journal be changed to reflect something more suitable to our PNG origins, aspirations and interests and more easily identifiable with the aims and interests of our wide spread membership.

...“Una Voce in no way reflects the PNG component of our association. As a Latin text it had no relevance either to our association or the present modern era. It may well have been relevant when the association was first mooted as aspiring to the aims of the superannuants of the twin superannuation schemes at that time to be united in their claim for better pensions from the Commonwealth, but since then has grown from a handful of members to a much larger worldwide membership.

“It is time to move on. Perhaps a competition could be run for a more appropriate name... A simple suggestion from me would be ‘Kumul’, ‘Kundu’ etc.”

Following Max’s suggestion, Members were invited to comment and/or advise suggested alternative names. A number of members did so and their suggestions for an alternate name were published in both the September 2007 (p 6) and December 2007 (p 4) Una Voce’s. Several further suggestions have since been received. The time spent and the reasoning behind your suggestions is sincerely appreciated.

A number of members were opposed to any change of name and it would appear appropriate at this stage to reprint Fred Kaad’s article on “How Our Newsletter Got its Name”, published in the March 1999 issue at page 2:

“Some members may be puzzled by the motto of our Association shown on the front page of our newsletter "Una Voce". It doesn't sound like Pidgin, nor Motu, nor English - in fact it is a Latin phrase. So why do we use it in 1999? It is based on the origin and history of the Association. Some will remember - may even have been involved in - the very strong suspicions which existed between officers in the pre-war and separate services of Papua and New Guinea. This feeling was still very much alive after the war and was continued to an extent even after we became joined as the Territory of Papua New Guinea.

In 1952 representatives of each service got together to discuss the Commonwealth's intentions about superannuation for the new combined public service and also the old superannuation systems which had applied to each service and whose provisions were different. They soon realised that arguing with the Commonwealth separately would not achieve much and so joined together to speak as one - and thus was born "Una Voce", meaning 'One Voice'. This was also the beginning of our Association. Incidentally our first newsletter was a one-pager, so when you compare it with our present Una Voce you can appreciate what has gone into its production

over the years, during which time as far as I know we have had only five secretary/editors or editors.”

Your Committee, when considering how best to present the suggested names for consideration at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, adopted four basic premises:

- Firstly, there should be a clear indication from the body of members that the name should be changed, hence the need for Resolution 1.
- Secondly, any name that corresponded with an existing Title for any known Australian Newsletter or Journal should be discounted as this would inevitably lead to confusion.
- Thirdly, any name having a Melanesian English or Police Motu origin should also be discounted on the grounds that it would (or could) reinvigorate the rivalry that is still extant between “Papua” and “New Guinea”; something that the original name “Una Voce” was primarily designed to circumvent.
- Fourthly, the sub-title “JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC” (or similar wording) would remain.

This narrowed the field considerably and the names listed at Resolution 2 of the Proxy Form represent the choices available should you consider that the current name of our Journal should be changed. It also gives the opportunity for those members who vote “Against” or who wish to “Abstain” to Resolution 1 the opportunity to record their preference should the first Resolution be resolved in the affirmative. These names have been listed in alphabetical order on the voting proxy form.

This is an important chapter in the life of our Association and it behoves every member to give it thoughtful consideration. It is crucial to vote. If a large number of members abstain and only a minority participate, the result, by default, might not reflect the opinion of the majority of members.

Your Committee, whilst not unanimous, recommends that the name should not be changed.

If you wish to vote on the proposal and are not attending the AGM, please complete the Proxy Form enclosed with this issue of *Una Voce*. If you prefer an electronic copy of the Proxy form please email: admin@pngaa.net. Please also ensure your proxy form is signed and dated and post it to reach our Secretary by 24 April 2008.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The PNGAA Postal Address is
PO Box 1386
MONA VALE NSW 1660

► Our previous address (Roseville Post Office) has now been discontinued.

► Our book, *Tales of Papua New Guinea*, is no longer available.
We have appreciated your support for this excellent publication.

THE 2007 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

From Sterling in South Australia John Kleinig has written 'The PNGAA Christmas lunch at Killara was one of the best and the new setting was perfect for the meeting of a wonderful group of friends. There was plenty of room to move about, the dining room and the service was first class, the food sumptuous and the speeches were just right - (few and brief). All in all it was a sight to behold. Our congratulations and thanks go to the committee for selecting the new venue. Your decision was visionary and you made that Sunday a stunning occasion for all.'

Judging from the mood of the record crowd of 240 who attended, and their free flowing complimentary remarks, John's assessment seems to be valid.

There was some apprehension about moving away from the city centre, where all social functions have been held since our organisation was formed more than 50 years ago but the spacious elegance and beautiful parkland setting of the Killara Golf Club won widespread approval and access and parking presented no problems.

Lots of people came early and the bar, set up on the huge balcony overlooking the magnificent gardens with sweeping views across the leafy fairways was a popular spot to catch up with old friends.

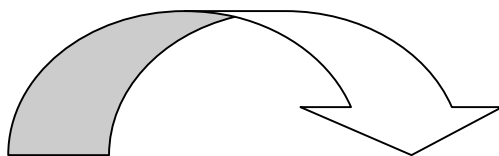
There was a good representation from country NSW and interstate and some overseas visitors. Matriarch Jeanette Leahy was down from Zenag, Morobe Province, PNG, to sit with our legendary Patron Freddy Kaad and old friend Gordon Steege and the whole of the adjoining table was occupied by members of the Leahy clan. Family and extended family groups were a characteristic of the modulated age spectrum, stretching from teenagers to some in their nineties, including Patron Roma Bates, Linda Evans and Libby Cadden.

His Excellency, Charles Lepani, PNG's High Commissioner, with charming wife Kathrine, came from Canberra again especially for our occasion and mixed freely with lots of the guests and left no doubt that they enjoyed themselves. Daniel and Carrie Luke represented the Sydney PNG Wantok Club and Dennis and Susan Chow were there on behalf of the PNG Chinese Association. A popular visitor from Canberra was Misako Piper who was loudly applauded for her beautiful rendition of Silent Night sung in English and Japanese.

The gathering responded remarkably well to raffle ticket sales and more than \$850 was raised. Once again Alan Johnston donated the major prizes.

The President, in a brief welcome and review took the opportunity to advise the large gathering that as he approaches his 86th birthday, and after more than 25 years as Secretary and then President, he would not accept nomination for a position on the committee's executive at the next Annual General Meeting on Sunday 27th April 2008. He also noted that there would be several other committee vacancies and asked that members give serious consideration to seeking office.

At days end the President farewelled as many guests as possible to a chorus of 'the most enjoyable gathering we have had in Sydney - stick to the Killara Golf Club.'



WANTED!!!

Storage space for the Association's records and other items, including back copies of *Una Voce*, is becoming an increasing matter of concern. The members of your Committee carry out their responsibilities from their own homes using what storage space is available for archival records, financial records, stock items and other items/objects that are considered to be worthy of safe keeping. Due to the fragmentation of these 'holdings' it is difficult to maintain full control let alone conduct a proper 'audit' of such holdings.

What is required is a secure storage shed or an un-used garage, preferably on the North Shore/northern suburbs of Sydney (currently where the majority of your Executive reside). If you live on the north side of Sydney Harbour, have a vacant shed or garage and are willing to 'loan' it to the Association for storage of records/items, we would love to hear from you. The Association would, of course, be responsible for maintenance and security. The alternate is of course commercial lock-up storage, however this can be very expensive! Please contact the Secretary or email: admin@pngaa.net.

* * *

For some time now the PNGAA Committee have been considering the possibility of more actively involving small groups of 'active' members at State or Regional level in the management of PNGAA's affairs. Eventually, perhaps these 'Groups' could develop into self-contained branches of PNGAA.

If you are interested in this concept and would be prepared to be involved in your area, could you please contact the Secretary or alternatively email to admin@pngaa.net.

* * *

Preliminary work will start shortly on selecting items for digitizing from the PNGAA Collection at the Fryer Library, University of Queensland.

If any donor does not want their donation digitized, could he/she contact either Dr Peter Cahill (Email: p.cahill@uqconnect.net) or the Editor, *Una Voce*. Many Thanks.

Corrections to Una Voce No 4 Dec 2007:

P3: The District Commissioner was the late Allan Timperley.

P12: Five years ago BHP Billiton vested their shareholding in Ok Tedi in the PNG government; therefore it was more of a demerger than a merger.

P22: Mention is made of a flight in a Sandringham. One of our aircraft enthusiasts tells us that Qantas operated a number of Sandringhams in the 1950s. However the aircraft were Short Sandringhams. The Sandringhams were converted from Short Sunderland Mk 5s between 1945 and 1948 by Shorts at their Belfast plant. The Sunderland was called a Saunders-Roe Sunderland, but it was a Short Sunderland. Saunders-Roe was a completely different company which built flying boats mainly pre World War II.

Not Cricket!

Stumps went flying and so did comments after the recent troubled cricket test series against India.

Our Patron, Governor General Michael Jeffery, gave some sage advice. He was 'concerned about the reduction in grace and courtesies that are being shown on the cricketing fields.' He went on to say "Good manners... on-the-ground and off-the-ground have such a good impact on our other cricketing friends around the world".

In today's technological world of the internet and email, we are witnessing an increasing number of requests for information about PNG. Our amazing association has a wide global network which is constantly being tapped. A seemingly simple email request sent to a member can result in many hours of research to provide an appropriate answer. Replies can be quite detailed and often, further follow up can be required. Sometimes there is photocopying or other forms of reproduction, sometimes a small expense.

In our ever increasing busy lives it seems that, sadly, manners sometimes take a back seat. Our network is important, so please don't take it for granted. Please take the time to genuinely acknowledge any assistance given. Not only will you show the person helping you that you are grateful, but you will be leaving the door open for the next person too. Thank you.

IN 100 WORDS OR LESS

Theme for next issue –

Things that outstation wives had to cope with when their husband was away

Deadline for entries 9 May 2008

Please write/phone/fax/email

THE OLD ASOPA/ITI SITE -

AND A REQUEST FOR LISTS OF ATTENDEES

The Georges Heights area is being developed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust as a place where the general public can go to enjoy the magnificent harbour views and the semi-bushland environs. The Trust has plans to use a small part of the proposed Visitors' Centre to draw attention to the history of the area (Aboriginal occupation, the Army, the Golf Club/Course, ASOPA/ITI etc). As part of this history, the Trust would welcome lists of names of ASOPA/ITI attendees. If you have a list or lists (complete or incomplete) please send to the Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 1386, Mona Vale NSW 1660, or email to: editor@pngaa.net At present the Trust is concentrating on the upper Georges Heights part. It is adopting a 'user-pays' principle, and has attracted a café and restaurants, and establishments for artists. The area is already proving very popular. Marie Clifton-Bassett

Congratulations to Trish Littler for receiving the Maroochy Australia Day Award for CITIZEN OF THE YEAR.

‘Trish Littler was instrumental in the establishment of the Skin Bank in Queensland. In 1994, the Palmwoods Rural Fire Brigade was caught in a firestorm resulting in serious injury and burns to at least four of its members. Under Trish’s leadership as President of the Zonta Club, Skin Bank was adopted as their area service product. This established the Queensland Skin Bank, acknowledged by the Burns Unit at Royal Brisbane Hospital. Trish served on the Board for 6 years. Trish’s vision and persistent lobbying won the support of Zonta Clubs throughout South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

She has been Treasurer, President and Secretary of Palmwoods CWA and has served in various other executive roles. She works annually for the Red Cross Calling appeal, was a member of the Rotary based Inner Wheels Club of the Sunshine Coast and worked on the Mary Murray Welfare Committee.’

Info from <http://www.maroochy.qld.gov.au/sitePage.cfm?code=media&id=4397>

Doug Robbins Northern (Oro) District kiap 1969 to 1973 (two of those years in the Tufi Sub District) is hoping to encourage interest in a tourism venture (patrol/trek) to be operated by the villagers of Collingwood Bay from Wanigela to the Musa and Gobe on Dyke Acland Bay, at the same time assisting them recover from cyclone Guba which caused widespread flood damage there last November (in 1972 after cyclone Hannah devastated the adjoining Tufi/Cape Nelson balance area of the same Sub District, Doug spent three weeks on temporary transfer from Kokoda back to Tufi doing relief work with ADC Tony Pryke immediately after the first response emergency teams had departed).

With both tourism as well as disaster relief in mind, Doug has communicated with and volunteered his services to Australian Business Volunteers (AusAID funded), Tufi Dive Resort, Red Cross Australia, Anglican Board of Mission and Wisconsin US Veterans (32nd Division’s first experience of New Guinea’s swamps). He would like to hear from anyone who has influence or contacts within these bodies or others who could help guide his proposal to the next stage. The villagers have not yet been consulted for their opinions and input and Doug feels his research is now at a stage at which that contact needs to be made. Being retired, he is available at short notice to oversee the project further.

Also, any relevant comments and information including anecdotes and memoirs of the area and people are welcome. Please contact Doug at _kuralboo@bigpond.com or 07 5533 5656. ■

Congratulations to the organisers of the PNGAA Christmas lunch who expended considerable time and effort in finding a suitable venue for such a large group.

The purpose of the Christmas lunch is fellowship, remembering earlier times, and thinking of Papua New Guinea today - 32 years on since independence. As His Excellency the High Commissioner, Mr Charles Lepani, said to the group, "we must maintain our passion". From our point of view the lunch was a great success, and we look forward to attending again in December 2008.

Pat and Laurie Le Fevre

VISION FOR A 'NEW ASOPA' NEEDS PUBLIC SUPPORT

A proposal made to Duncan Kerr, the Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, to establish a regional think tank at the old ASOPA site on Middle Head, has stirred the imagination of people who have a strong association with PNG and the Pacific.

The 'new ASOPA' – which has the working title of 'The School of the Pacific' – will maintain the traditions of ASOPA in a 21st century context. When the idea was floated in early February it resulted in more than 500 hits on the ASOPA PEOPLE website in just 24 hours. The School of the Pacific will both preserve the old ASOPA site and be a place to bring together people from the Asia-Pacific area, including Australians, to address regional problems and to develop solutions to these challenges. Further, the School will strengthen Australia's relationships with the region.

In concentrated four-week programs, participants will address some of the most pressing regional problems - for example, global warming, migration, terrorism, health, and education. They will receive high-level briefings from Australian and overseas experts and consider the subject in depth over a period of two weeks, through research, dialogue, analysis, modelling, solution development and decision-making. It is then intended there will be a public conference based on the findings, where participants will present papers. Finally, a report will be produced, including actions that participants will commit to.

The School of the Pacific is expected to bring together people from different nationalities to acquire and share knowledge on critical matters affecting the region and their own countries. They will form new relationships, including with Australian professionals, and develop new networks in their areas of professional activity or expertise.

I'm asking *Una Voce* readers to add their voice to this concept for an exciting new use for the ASOPA site by writing to Mr Kerr at this address:

The Hon Duncan Kerr SC, MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs,
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT
2600

Keith Jackson

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Julianne Ross Allcorn is holding an art exhibition based on dance and art featuring her memories of singsings and *duk duks* dancing. She was born and spent her early life in Rabaul. 'The Colours of Movement' is an exciting art exhibition, which demonstrates the power of dance, colour and the philosophies behind these art forms. It specifically features ballet, including paintings of dance members of the Australia Ballet Company, and comes full circle with 'The Gathering' based on the ballet 'The Gathering' which brings both indigenous and non-indigenous cultures together to perform in harmony (performed by the Australian Ballet Company and The Bangarra Dance Theatre).

The exhibition commenced 14 February and **will extend to 5 March 2008** at Art at Home Gallery, 467 Darling Street, Balmain [Sydney], Thur-Sun 11am-5pm.

If you would like any further information please contact Julianne directly on phone # 0405 625912 or Elizabeth Alvanos at the Art at Home Gallery on # 0418 660 097 or Ph: 9555073 E-mail: Elizabeth@artathome.com.au or visit the web site www.artathome.com.au

* * *

Memories of the South Pacific Islands are being Recalled - Jim Burton's next meeting is on March 4, 2008, at Brisbane Square Library. Please phone him on Ph: 3376 3356 if you can attend.

* * *

PAYBACK by John Bell



ISBN 978 0 9802884 7 6, published by Info Publishing Pty Ltd, 430 pages, some photographs. Set mainly in Kavieng 1909-1945. ***Payback*** weaves the lives of two fictional families, whose blood feud invokes the ancient tribal code of payback. Its characters are forced to come to terms with their environment, themselves and the outside world as their piece of paradise is torn apart when WWII comes to Kavieng. And becomes personal. The novel illustrates the ephemeral satisfaction of revenge and the lasting sadness of loss.

Cost: \$29.95

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or 0427 524045

Email: jcbell@bigpond.com or go to
www.johnbell books.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Cont.)

When I first heard of the reproduction by PNGAA of 'Walk into Paradise' I told many friends how much I was looking forward to receiving and watching my copy when it arrived. I told people it was a movie I saw one afternoon in Melbourne after Tom Ellis interviewed me in early 1959 for the August intake of Cadet Patrol Officers. I had noted that there was a support film (about New Guinea) for some feature movie in down-town Melbourne and it coincided with the day of my interview, thus presenting me with the opportunity of taking it in on what would normally have been a workday for me. However, watching the DVD recently I realised that I had never seen the film before!

I now recall that it was the documentary made by Maslyn Williams (I think) featuring Jim Sinclair and Neil Grant (and others of course) on a patrol out of Koroba, Southern Highlands District, which I saw in 1959! Is a copy of this available on DVD - if so where and how do I acquire? If not, is there enough interest amongst members to encourage the PNGAA to make another effort of making an historical record available to a wider audience?

Chris Warrillow

Further to Peter Worsley's item in Una Voce No. 4 Dec 2007 page 15

In early 1969 I was posted to Wasu north of the old Kalalo Patrol Post to establish a new station. The airstrip which supplied Kalalo was at Wasu on the coast and Geoff Connor had recently been in charge of building a wharf to handle coastal ships.

I became aware of the Jap sub story when Bruce Adams got in contact and explained he was putting together a pictorial book entitled 'Battleground South Pacific'. He was interested in photos and a report on the condition of the Jap sub.

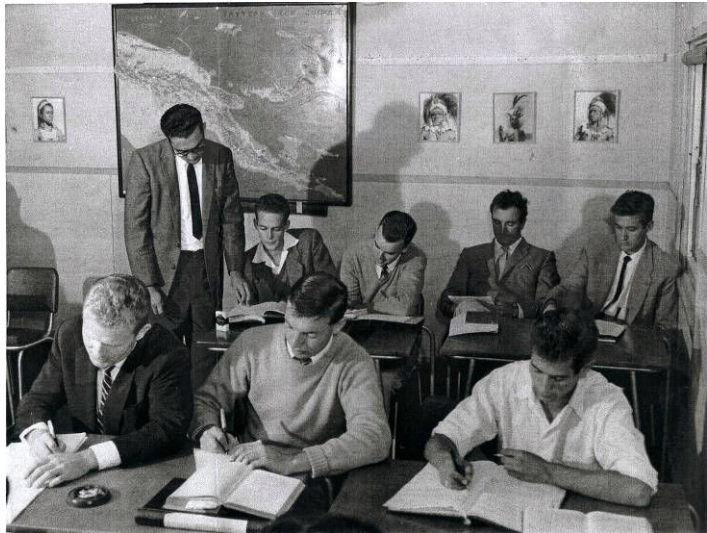
After travelling to Nambarira (east of Sio) I was taken out with Constable Etem, in a canoe to see the Sub. Constable Etem brought his .303 along as we had been told by the locals sharks were occasionally seen around the sub. Photos were taken and I swam over to the sub with two locals, as the hull was out of the water at low tide. Whilst it was possible to walk on the deck, the sub was on an angle, the conning tower gone and just a hole left where it had been. To peer into the sub through the deck hole, it merely showed a rusty hull full of sand. We returned to Sio and the *luluai* [head man] told us the sub had run aground whilst visiting a barge base the Japs had set up at Nambarira. Unable to move the sub and salvage it, the sub was stripped of all equipment and left. Photos and a report were forwarded to Bruce Admas but not used in his publication.

In the discussion with the Sio *luluai* (there were two Sio villages - Sio1 and Sio 2) about the war years he stated that two Australians had been shot by Japanese during the Japanese retreat from Finschhafen. This is confirmed in Eric Feldt's 'The Coast Watchers' on page 332. Captain Pursehouse and an ANGAU sergeant were crossing from Sio village to the old Lutheran Mission site, when they were shot by a single Jap. Pursehouse was killed and the sergeant wounded.

Rod Morrison

In November one of my daughters rang and said that there was an old man on 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' showing New Guinea photos. I tuned in but couldn't recognize the 'old man'. Then I heard the voice, Mike O'Connor, CPO on my course, 1957.

The enclosed photo shows Ian Moles, Lecturer, myself, Mike, two gentlemen whose names I have forgotten (they were the only two married men on our ASOPA 1960 course and from memory the only two gentlemen on the course.)



Front row: Jack Mater, Frank Haviland and the late Fergus (Gus) Anderson who was drowned while on patrol in the Gulf District in 1961 or 1962.

This photo was 'liberated' from the official display during the decommissioning of ASOPA and sent to me by one of the ASOPA (or International Training Centre) staff, the late Mike Greg, CPO in the Simbu about 1963.

PS The old bloke didn't win a million, only a measly 30 odd grand!

Pat Dwyer



I was interested to read the article by Max Hayes on Mattie Radcliffe-Taylor and the stone carvings, *Una Voce* December 2007. My interest in these carvings commenced when a Tolai friend gave me a bag full of limestone and chalk carvings back in '71 I think it was, when they were unearthed from a construction site somewhere in Rabaul. (See photo)

My research has revealed that they are 'Iniet' or Pokopoko Ingiat,' carved in limestone or coronus by a 'secret society', the 'Iniet Cult', possibly late 19th century, representing humans, birds and animals and each belonging to a specific member of the cult.

The Iniet cult was severely repressed during the German rule and by Christian missionaries. It then went underground, possibly accounting for the odd specimen being found today in caves or ceremonial burial sites.

The Gunantuna (Tolai) originally from New Ireland, were a funerary cult known as the 'Kulap'. The Kulap Cult probably still exists and is represented by carved chalk humanoid figures. (Reference JP Meyer, Paris.)

There are a few examples in the Otago Museum in Dunedin, NZ. Several in the Meyer Collection in Paris and a few in the Linden-Museum, Stuttgart.

Owen Genty-Nott

NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY from Jim Toner

Duncan DEAN, former kiap and now president of the NT branch of the Australian Democrats, has in the past campaigned for seats on the Palmerston City Council, in the NT Legislative Assembly, and for the Federal House of Representatives without any luck. But he is a 'If you knock me down I stand up again' character and in November's national election he stood for the Senate. With the same result. 'I guess you can call me an unsuccessful politician' he commented.

Darwin now has a Kutubu connection in triplicate. It has been a considerable time since young Peter SANDERY left Fannie Bay to become a CPO - and in fact he has since become a PNG citizen - but he works alongside Mike PRESS, former Southern Highlands and Sepik kiap, who takes leave at home in Darwin every 28 days. They have been joined at the oil company's base by Rick GRAY, raised in Moresby and now retired from the NT Public Service, who is the son of Bob Gray, onetime stalwart of the Government Printery and Kone Club.

Peter LAMING, a Patrol Officer at Buin and and Kieta during the 60s, is now a registered psychologist in Darwin. He took time off in November to visit Kawana Waters for the Kiap Reunion and additionally whilst in Queensland visited both his cousin Bruce LAMING, who had become an Assistant Patrol Officer in 1971 and Terry KELLIHER who had spent several years in Darwin working for the Attorney-General following Native Affairs service in PNG. Another ex-kiap attendee from the Top End was Greg SMITH who had been living at Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsula. A yachtie, he and his wife sailed their craft down the Queensland coast and then north again to Townsville where they await birth of a grandson.

In England 'On yer bike!' is a vulgarity used instead of the more Shakespearean 'Get thee gone'. But it is now the slogan of Sir Julius Chan, Governor of New Ireland. His provincial government is to encourage citizens to make greater use of bicycles by meeting half of their purchase cost. But 'revenue neutral' is the political buzzword of the day so concurrently registration charges for vehicle owners are to be increased...

Arthur WILLIAMS, now 69 years old has returned from his Welsh birthplace to Lavongai (or New Hanover for aged readers) where he was a Patrol Officer 35 years ago and his reports to the ex-kiap website on current island affairs are fascinating. He says that the PNG High Commissioner in London, seemingly baffled, asked him 'But why would you want to go back to Taskul, Arthur??' He comments that time has not changed everything on the island. Querying a school teacher about documents supposed to have been sent across the water from the Education Office in Kavieng weeks previously their non-availability was explained '*kanu imas kapsais*'. Loosely, 'the mail-boat must have sunk'. The old excuses are always the best...

During 2004 I mentioned that a Stock Exchange had been created at Port Moresby and would be using the catchy abbreviation POMSOX. But it is written: Wherever there shall be a stock exchange there will surely be insider

trading. And so it came to pass at POMSOX. An increase in value of certain shares by 250% in a short period has aroused the interest of the Securities Commission.

It has been quite a while since we had penny and halfpenny coins weighing down our trouser pockets. The PNG Treasury is now to follow Australia in eliminating the 1 and 2 toea coins. However it is going its own way by printing a 2 kina note rather than creating a coin. Obsolete coinage still interests the numismatic fraternity and Paul OATES, when a kiap, collected TPNG 'holey' coins. Lacking a George V halfpenny and penny dated 1929 he recently sought to negotiate a purchase. He discovered that they could be had in America for 24,000 and 48,000 US dollars respectively. And that was from a 1965 catalogue! Start rummaging in that old patrol box now....

Wherever two or three kiaps are gathered together there may be heard stories, truthful, not wholly truthful, and some nothing like the truth. Recently there was discussion of roof-painting exploits in the Highlands. One case concerned Wilhelm Bergmann, a Lutheran missionary in PNG 1928-1968. The bulk of his time was spent in the Chimbu and he has left ten volumes of diaries which are being studied by an ANU researcher. However the rumour was that he painted a swastika on the roof of his mission during WW2. Whether to protect himself from passing Dorniers, somewhat off course, or the Betty bombers of Germany's oriental allies is unclear.

The other case concerned Finintegu airstrip, not far from Henganofi EHD. One theory is that Peter MAXTONE-GRAHAM painted Goroka on the roof of a shed at Finintegu thus persuading a RAAF DC3 to land on a strip fit only for Cessnas with subsequent major departure problems. An alternative allegation is that the afore-named and well-known Highland resident who unfortunately later drowned in the Wahgi deceived the RAAF pilot by painting Finintegu on the roof of the hangar at the Goroka airstrip. Possibly with the assistance of kiap Brian HEAGNEY carrying the paint pot. *"What do you make of all this, Watson?" "It's a mystery to me, Holmes. Have another drink".* ■

DONATIONS TO THE PNGAA COLLECTION, FRYER LIBRARY, THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Warren Best: 4 colour photographs of Jap plane, barge and 3 ships in Madang 1950s; **Evelyn Ashworth:** 10 photographs of wrecked Jap landing craft in Kavieng harbour 1956; **Joe Shaw:** photo of public flogging, Rabaul, November 1914 of German convicted of assaulting an English missionary resident, New Ireland; **John McAlpine:** complete series 1:25,000 topographic maps of Papua New Guinea with Index; **Dr Margaret Spencer OAM:** 15 colour photographs of native lakatois racing off Ela Beach, Port Moresby, as part of the celebration of Papua New Guinea Independence Day, September 1975, held mainly in the Sir Hubert Murray memorial stadium, Konedobu (Dr Spencer commented " ... the Australian flag (was) flown for the last time. We were then surrounded by weeping Papuans".); **F.N. Rolfe supplementary material:** *Annual Report of the Papua New Guinea Public Service Board* year ended 30th June 1971, 1972, 1974; various reports/circulars/briefing notes concerning the progression of PNG to independence.
Dr Peter Cahill

PNG...IN THE NEWS

► **The Papua New Guinea Government declared Oro Province a disaster area** after a week of incessant rain brought on by Cyclone Guba last November. The flooding swept away major bridges and roads and killed up to 200 people. Sources of food, water and power were destroyed. People feared outbreaks of water-borne diseases due to lack of clean drinking water and proper sanitation.



Photo courtesy Chris Johnston/John Seeto

Mr Downer announced on 22 November 2007 that Australia would provide up to \$1 million in humanitarian assistance to those affected.

The Chairman of the Kokoda Track Foundation, Patrick Lindsay, announced that the Kokoda Track Foundation immediately committed \$20,000 worth of medical supplies to the Kokoda Memorial Hospital to assist in the prevention of likely water-borne diseases in the area.

► **MILNE Bay's reputation as a developing tourism province in Papua New Guinea will be further enhanced with the proposed K10 million redevelopment of its waterfront.** The idyllic township of Alotau situated in the heart of the 20 kilometre long Sanderson Bay will be the main focus.

The provincial wildlife and conservation officer from the Oro province is concerned over the habitat of the largest butterfly in the world-the Queen Alexandra butterfly. *Info from PNGTPA Kundu newsletter No 7 Nov 2007*

► **THE busy Lae wharf will undergo a massive development program that will cost more than K500 million and take up to four years to complete.** Under the program, which is expected to start early next year, new port facilities will be constructed rather than improving the existing port which has insufficient terminal area for efficient port operations. The existing berths have been built on a steep foreshore with increased risks from geotechnical instability, which consequently increases the financial risks for any port improvement project whereas the new project allows additional berths to be built at a relatively low marginal costs. *Info from The Post Courier - 28th November 2007.*

► **The renowned lime stone cave at Segayo village of Buwang in Bulolo district was opened for tourists late last year after being closed for the last five years.** The famous cave has a glistening waterfall inside with stalagmites and runs for more than 5 km. It was opened in October after the road was upgraded through funds made available through the Bulolo district rural road maintenance programme initiated by the local MP Sam Basil. More than 20 tourists arrived at the village and were welcomed in a traditional ceremony. Mr Basil welcomed the tourists and Lae explorers club who organised the excursion, and said the cave will open its doors to the country and the world to attract tourism in the village. Lae explorers club guide David Wiliken said he

was happy to come to the cave after some years. Fruits and vegetable with traditional Buwang artefacts were also on sale at the site for the tourist.

Info from The National - 29th November 2007

► Peter McNeil MD of Frontier Resources says the proposed mine is "Nowhere near the original battle sites or the original Kokoda Track"...

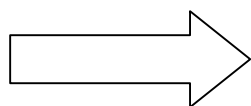
Mining royalties will only help a small section of land owners along the track. The majority of landowners, guest house owners and porters will miss out.

The environmental damage to the area surrounding the track, surrounding jungle and rivers is very distressing. Tracks of jungle have been stripped for roads and camps. What was once pristine rivers have turned into murky dirty water, unsuitable for drinking or washing. *Our Spirit Newsletter Nov 2007*

In the past 2 years alone, I have witnessed a massive change in the quality of water in the Offi Creek. It has gone from crystal clear drinking water to brown murky water that is not safe for consumption. *Our Spirit Newsletter 5/12/07*

► A group of Tweed Rotarians recently spent time in the remote village of Kungim to finish work on a church which had started five years ago. The main goal of the trip was to bring in new skills while at the same time teach some of those skills to the locals eg showing them how to sharpen axes and machetes with an angle grinder. The Rotarians valued their time in this peaceful, subsistence community.

Info from Tweed Sun 29 Nov 2007



Thank you to all those who have kindly knitted baby jumpers for AIDs babies in PNG. Recently, there were 3000 jumpers sent to Goroka and Mt Hagen and, at this stage, it appears that this is adequate.

We have appreciated the wonderful response to this request but do not need any more jumpers for now. If you have some you would like to pass on, could you ring World Vision on # 1300 888 666. A very special thank you to all our members who contributed to this worthwhile programme.

Update on Malaria Research

The best way to avoid malaria is don't get bitten! Another method helpful against malaria is insecticide-impregnated bed nets. Pedro Alonso, however, is the director of the Barcelona Centre for International Health Research and his is the public face of a project in Mozambique that has made the prospect of eliminating malaria within our grasp. Trial results from the Manhica Health Research Centre show that new infections were reduced by 65% over a three month period, and 35% over six months. Manhica is one of the most malaria infested parts of Mozambique. Alonso's vaccine is manufactured from proteins from the parasite's surface. 'The antigen which is the basis of the vaccine has been known for more than 20 years...but always [tested] unsuccessfully...Perseverance, international co-operation and technological developments have converted an antigen that didn't work into one that protects.' This project has the crucial support of Bill Gates. His charitable foundation has already committed \$US258.3 million to malaria research and development. It is hoped to have a malaria vaccine suitable for mass distribution within the next four or five years. *Aust Fin Review 14 Jan08*

AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY

Stuart Inder

Biographies of many Papua New Guinea “Before” of distinction, together with many other Australians who were associated with the development of PNG in significant ways, are among the 670 entries in the latest volume, Vol 17, of the Australian Dictionary of Biography.

Its 645 pages highlight the lives of notable Australian men and women with surnames from A to K, who died during the years 1981-1990. Volume 18, already in preparation under the notable direction of the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, will cover the lives of those with names from L to Z who died in those years.

Biographies of special PNG interest in the current volume are of former long-time PNG residents Ivan Champion (born 1904, died 1989), described as “patrol officer, naval officer and public servant”; Sir Percy Chatterton (1898-1984), missionary and politician; Sir John Gunther (1910-1984), medical practitioner, public servant and vice-chancellor; Basil Fairfax-Ross (1910-1984), coastwatcher and businessman; and Chin Hoi Meen (1917?-1982), known as Chin H. Meen, photographer and businessman.

But there are biographies of others who spent intermittent, sometimes very long periods in the islands, such as anthropologist Ian Hogbin (1904-1989), who did many field studies, served in wartime New Guinea as a lieutenant-colonel, later lectured at what was to become ASOPA, and advised the Australian Government on policy in the emerging Territory. And there is linguist, anthropologist and Anglican clergyman Arthur Capell (1902-1986), who made exhausting pioneering linguistic surveys of PNG yet found time to become honorary canon of the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul at Dogura. William Buick (1923-1990), librarian and naturalist, was University of Papua New Guinea librarian from 1966 to 1971, and had built up the library to more than 100,000 volumes before his departure. He produced a booklet on PNG's indigenous flowers in 1969.

Others who had a close association with PNG are Sir Norman Cowper (1896-1987), solicitor and army officer, who took an active interest as chairman of the Council of New Guinea Affairs, and chaired various conferences on PNG matters; and Sir George Currie (1896-1984), agricultural scientist and university vice-chancellor, who in 1963-64 chaired the Currie commission on higher education in PNG that led to the establishment of the university. Another man of influence who has a detailed biography is Sir John Crawford (1910-1984), economist, public servant and academic administrator, who was chancellor of the university in 1972-75 and chairman of the Development Bank of PNG. There is also Peter Hastings (1920-1990), journalist and editor, who reported in depth on New Guinea and Indonesian affairs; was executive officer of the Council of New Guinea Affairs, and a founder and editor of its influential quarterly journal, *New Guinea*.

Yet a reading of many of these biographies - especially those involved with wartime New Guinea – leads to more names and even greater insights into the country's development. We learn from Chin H. Meen's biography, by Dr Peter Cahill, that when in 1941 the Rabaul-born Chin and other Chinese residents of Rabaul saw war coming they formed the Auxiliary Red Cross Ambulance Detachment to assist in the town's defence. With the Japanese occupation, Chin secretly collected information and drew maps of Japanese military installations for Allied Intelligence Bureau officers, PNG "Before" Major Charles Bates and Major Basil Fairfax-Ross. Chin also hid crashed American airmen. (In 1958 Chin was one of the first Chinese to be given Australian citizenship.) Fairfax-Ross's own biography gives a detailed account of "Fax's" extensive coastwatching experience, such as when he commanded a force of 15 coastwatchers and 200 local men in guerrilla operations against the Japanese in southern New Britain.

The biography of Port Moresby-born Ivan Champion (by Chris Ballard) gives us more details of the war, with mentions of Fairfax-Ross and another notable "Before", J.K. McCarthy, and of Champion's evacuation by sea of the Rabaul garrison survivors. The biography of Sir John Gunther, by Hank Nelson, tells us that this man of many parts and high achievement in post-war PNG, was in wartime charge of the Tropical Research Field Unit in New Guinea and earlier had helped combat malaria among the troops in Moresby and Milne Bay by ensuring the use of anti-malarials and protective clothing, and a war on mosquitos.

An unexpected entry about wartime activity is that of Alan Powell's biography of Sydney-born Ruby Boye-Jones (1891-1990), coastwatcher, a genuine Solomons' "Before" who lived there from 1928 until after the war. Refusing to leave Vanikoro in 1942, she taught herself Morse, took over the responsibility of the teleradio and ignoring radioed Japanese threats, "became a member of Eric Feldt's coastwatching service, sending daily weather reports and acting as a relay station for coastwatchers farther north". Feldt and US Admiral William Halsey commended her courage. Ruby left Vanikoro only in 1947, when her husband became seriously ill and soon died. Ruby lived on in Sydney, dying at the age of 99.

The Australian Dictionary of Biography is published by Melbourne University Press. The dictionary's General Editor, Diane Langmore, contributed the biography of Percy Chatterton. ■

Jeff Baldwin forwarded some information advising that the current travelling exhibition from the National Gallery is '**Imagining Papua New Guinea**'. The thirty prints showcased celebrate PNG's rich history of printmaking. Creative arts were offered in PNG mainly through technical colleges and vocational courses in the late 1960s and were greatly assisted in 1972 when Ulli Beier established the Creative Arts Centre which later became the National Arts School in 1976. The travelling exhibition program is developed by the National Gallery of Australia to ensure that people across Australia have access to their national collection. Having recently exhibited at Noosa and the Tweed River, this exhibition will be at the Grafton Regional Gallery 12 March - 20 April, the Tamworth Regional Gallery 17 May-29 June and Flinders University City Gallery, Adelaide, 5 December - 25 January 2009.

APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR THE PACIFIC

An article by Fergus Hansen (Pat Hopper's grandson) last October 19, in the Canberra Times, discusses the need for 'a Minister for Pacific Cooperation.' An excerpt from this article follows:

'The minister would have the opportunity to cultivate genuine personal relationships with all the key players that should improve our capacity to extract concessions in critical areas such as reform and accountability. He or she would have the time to master the politics of each country and understand the culture, and could then frame our policies in a way that maximised the receptivity of our Pacific neighbours to them.

'Intimately familiar with the region and its politics and unencumbered by the demands of broader foreign policy, the minister would also have the potential to develop long-term strategic approaches to individual countries and the whole region. ...

'Australia has little choice but to act. We are, when it comes down to it, the only sizeable state that cares what happens across the Pacific. That makes us the critical player in its future.

'Having a capable individual as Minister for Pacific Cooperation would be a significant step towards giving the Pacific the attention needed to develop long-term policies that could put it on a path to lasting stability.'

The Hon Duncan Kerr SC MP has since been appointed Parliamentary Secretary for the Pacific by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

'Mr Kerr has a long history with the Pacific region. His late mother led a medical reconstruction team in Japan following WWII. Mr Kerr was Dean of Law at the University of Papua New Guinea before his election to parliament in 1987. He lectured in constitutional and administrative law at UPNG. He also had a right of private practice. In that capacity he advised private and government clients and appeared as counsel in the National and Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea in electoral, constitutional, tort and contract cases. A number are reported in the PNGLR series.

'He was co-author of The Annotated Constitution of Papua New Guinea (1985) and a co-editor and contributing author of Essays on the Constitution of Papua New Guinea (1985).

After his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary for the Pacific Mr Kerr stated:

'Australia has a vital role to play in improving the Pacific region and Labor has made commitments about climate change initiatives, health, education and humanitarian aid that I look forward to helping implement.'

Information about the Hon Duncan Kerr was obtained from these websites:

http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/parlsec/parlsec_bio.html

http://www.duncankerr.com/media_releases/291107Portfolio.pdf ■

NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA – John Kleinig

Last November we had another of the great Adelaide PNGAA lunches. The assembled reunionists heard DR ROY SCRAGG talk about his time as Director of Heath in PNG from 1954 until 1974. It was a revealing speech and even though his power point presentation didn't work, what he had to say was a valuable piece of history. Plans to work in Arnhem Land were replaced by a stint of 21 months in PNG which lasted 27 years. The task he confronted was overwhelming but during his time as Director, a viable and effective public health service was implemented. Roy paid tribute to Dr Gunther, the previous Director, and related an intriguing story of how he was passed the baton. Research carried out in PNG resulted in two Nobel prizes and at least another two should have been awarded.

GRAHAM TAYLOR (former ABC Manager in SA) thanked Roy for the speech and then told the story of an Australian friend of his who worked as a PNG medical assistant and always included the letters –MA, LL.D, PH.D after his name. It's a delightful story, even if you have heard it before, and Graham spiced it up to make it even more enticing. Other contributors on the day included RON STORER who delivered a non-medical piece of diplomatic advice to us all and DR CLIVE AURICHT who introduced the guest speaker.

With so much upper atmospheric disturbance this summer it's easy to forget the torrential rains of Cyclone Guba that struck Oro Province last November. The result was widespread devastation with villages swept away, the loss of over 400 lives, road and bridges destroyed and tens of thousands of men, women and children displaced. The Australian aid, when it came, assisted in momentarily relieving a people in serious need.

A small group of PNGAA members and friends moved by the plight of the Oro people have decided to volunteer their services and expertise. It is planned to highlight the village school at Hohorita, not far from Popondetta on the Kokoda Road, as the centre for community development. The school will become the focus for services relating to education, health and agriculture.

Former PNG expatriates who have volunteered their expertise and advice include, EMERITUS PROFESSOR DR ANTHONY RADFORD previously at the Flinders University Medical School in Adelaide. Anthony is very actively involved in many aspects of health care in Asia including the preparation of health volunteers. PETER THOMAS from Nurioopta in the Barossa Valley, is an acknowledged expert for Rotary International in the fight against malaria in the Solomon Islands. DR MIKE BOURKE is a world authority on tropical farming systems and crop agronomy and is located at ANU in Canberra. All three, travel regularly in the region. A group of NSW School Principals will assist with education services. It's an exciting project and further information can be obtained by emailing me at jkleinig@bigpond.com. ■

<p>Jack Goad will be celebrating his 90th Birthday on Wed 26th March 2008 at the Masonic Homes in Sandgate, Brisbane. His son, John Goad (jnr) will be happy to take any messages up to him. Please contact John at ph: 02 9357 3030 or P.O.Box 1266,POTTS POINT.NSW 1335.</p>

**‘LARK’ FORCE COMMEMORATION AT THE
MELBOURNE SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE, SUNDAY 20.1.2008
Maxwell R. Hayes.**

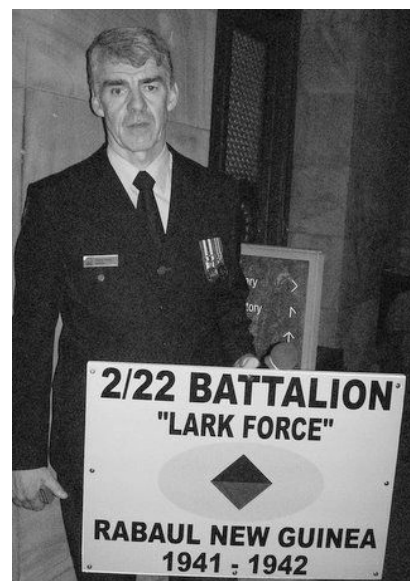
On a threateningly overcast day, the few remaining members of the ‘Lark’ force association gathered with friends and others to commemorate the loss of life which occurred in Rabaul on the fall to the Japanese on 23.1.1942. Of the original force of 1400 young soldiers sent in March 1941 to assist with the defence of Rabaul, only 28 remain alive today. Most of the ‘Lark’ force were captured and their fate remains shrouded to this day, though it is known that many were on the ill-fated ‘Montevideo Maru’ carrying p.o.w. to Hainan and sunk on 1.7.1942; some 160 were butchered by their captors at Tol plantation in February 1942; others perished in the jungle, and a handful managed to escape by criss-crossing the Gazelle peninsula until rescued. Of the 28 alive, 10 are in Victoria but only two were well enough to be present at today’s commemoration.

This Sunday, being the nearest to the date Rabaul fell, about 90 persons gathered at the forecourt of the Shrine and at 2.30 led by a Shrine custodian carrying the association banner at the head the Melbourne Staff Band of the Salvation Army, marched to the steps of the Shrine and there played two numbers composed by, and in memory of, the ill-fated band’s composer, Arthur Gulledge.

This band’s attendance was to honour the memory of the Salvation Army band who were attested members of ‘Lark’ force. Their primary role was that of stretcher bearers of an ambulance detachment. Of their number of 40 only one as not taken prisoner and the remainder perished.

The group then marched to the interior of the Shrine where Norman Furness, secretary of the ‘Lark’ Force Association delivered an address detailing events of 1941 and 1942, wreaths were laid, the Last Post was sounded and both anthems played following which afternoon tea was served in the Shrine crypt.

It is important to note that the massacre at Tol plantation will not be forgotten to future generations. To ensure that this tragedy becomes widely known to Australians, Kori Chan of Rabaul, has for some months been undertaking feasibility studies to promote a trek from Rabaul to Tol plantation, in the manner of trekking the Kokoda Track. Plans are well under way to commence this venture within 3-4 months. Kori flew from Rabaul to be present at today’s commemoration. The event was covered by an ABC TV team and should be screened on ABC TV Compass program in April.



Shrine custodian with Lark Force banner
Photo: MR Hayes

GEORGE THE SULPHUR CRESTED COCKATOO by Bob Curtis

George came to us out of thin air during the dry season on Bougainville. He was a mature bird, either male or female and was typical of the species. He danced whistled, talked, stole, and was destructive to the point that it was his ultimate undoing.

George wasn't all that bad. He hated dogs, except for mine, and had very little time for missionaries. He swore and repeated the words he heard on the Kubu Golf Course, plus a few right out of a bullock driver's vocabulary. George had a word for every occasion. He picked up a few more when he chewed up Alan Neilson's new Golf Bag and was interrupted vandalizing the Golf Club's Cigarette Stock. If a bird can be a bastard George was it!

He terrorized children black or white, hounded the poultry and landed on golf clubs in the middle of a swing. George attacked out of the sun like a Zero and we got to hate him worse than the Japs. Although I studiously ignored him George followed me like a dog until he followed me to Sohano for a Staff Conference in the brand new District Office, and in a low level swoop, flew between the open louvre window blades and landed on District Commissioner Kevin Atkinson's blotter. George did an attractive little jig on one leg, whistled a tune and spotted Kevin's gold Parker pen. In one action he swooped on the pen and took off and left the way he came.

The whole meeting leapt to their feet in time to see George circle over Buka Passage at one hundred metres, and when he was sure he had our undivided attention screamed GAAAARK and dropped the pen into twelve fathoms. Everybody except Kevin thought it was bloody funny, and from that day forward George was a marked man.

Kevin had a limited sense of humour particularly when it came to authority, and Agricultural Officers were only one rank ahead of a Cockatoo when it came to pecking order. District Commissioners were of course on top, next to and equal to God.

Some sixth sense must have warned George that he had indeed fouled his nest and he kept at wings length for some time except for strafing the golfers and tearing the green plastic coating from the new lounge chairs in the Golf Club House. We had several informal meetings with George as the prime topic of conversation. It was decided that nobody owned him and he was incorrigible. His crimes were listed and included Grand Larceny, Petty theft, Terrorism, Assault, Assault with intent on Poultry (this being a lesser charge than Attempted Rape, and Vandalism.) I was nominated to read the charges to George who pretended not to understand, although he did clearly say 'Let me know if bloody Kevin comes over to the Station mate'.

For a time George moved further afield to the Hahalis Catholic Mission where Father Albert Lebel presided. Father Lebel was the Mission Theologian and was a man not to be trifled with. He lived in isolation and George instinctively knew this was barren ground. Here was equal status to Kevin's office so George moved to the softer atmosphere of the adjacent Convent and the happy group

of friendly Nuns therein. For a time George responded to their kindness, but as was his habit he ended by biting the hand that fed him until he spotted the Convent Clock. As quick as you could say 'Satan' George stole the big brass key and did several circuits of the dining room with the Nuns in hot pursuit.

A Buka lad came running down to my house and said '*Pigin bilong Masta imekim dripela truble long Mission*'. (Your bird has messed up in a big way at the Mission.) He gasped out the horrible news and I realised that George had finally committed sacrilege. I saw him leave the Convent building and head for Buka Passage followed by a stream of screaming schoolchildren. He was going to drop the key in forty feet of seawater and had finally offended God.

This transcended even the parker pen incident and perhaps it was George's way of saying goodbye. Sadly I loaded a Lee Enfield .303 and from the cliff top near my house I gave George one amidships. He remained religious to the end and I distinctly heard him say 'Jeeezus Christ' as he vaporized. Strangely we didn't miss him at all. ■

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WG Lawes Celebrations

In August 2007 the Lawes family came together to celebrate the life of WG Lawes 100 years after his death (August 6, 1907). WG Lawes was as missionary from the London Missionary Society and he and his wife Fanny Wickham served in PNG in and around Port Moresby area from 1876 to 1906. Three generations of his descendants gathered at their grave which we had only recently rediscovered in Waverly Cemetery. The grave is simple and distinguished at the same time and has wonderful outlook over the ocean. A wonderful sunny winter's day provided a wonderful opportunity for family get-together and for the younger generations to learn some of their history.



STEPHANSORT – MADANG’S NEGLECTED HISTORY

By Terry Hewett

In his article (1) in *Una Voce* No. 3 September 2005, Jim Ridges mentioned Stephansort, the headquarters of the administration of the German New Guinea colony from its establishment in 1884 to the turn of the century, when the HQ moved to what became the town of Madang.

Stephansort – *Bogadjim* to the locals – is a sadly neglected site of considerable interest to historians and tourists. I visited the area in the 1970s and spent many fascinating days among the relics of the old German settlement.

Items of interest (to me) were:

- The grave of the *landeshauptmann* [administrator], Kurt von Hagen, murdered by the fugitive convict, Buka Ranga.
- A magnificent granite monument shipped from Germany by von Hagen’s family. The monument was originally crowned by a bronze eagle, which was removed by the Australians during World War II and mounted after the war on a concrete pillar in Mt Hagen, where it remains despite several failed attempts by Madang-ites to retrieve it. The purloined eagle has recently been replaced with a small gold-plated eagle by a Germany/PNG friendship society. A bronze profile of von Hagen, also removed, has never been returned or replaced.
- The graves of German officials who died at Stephansort.
- The grave of one AIF soldier who died there in 1921. This grave was not being maintained by the War Graves Commission, and a visiting War Graves official in Port Moresby ten years later was unaware of it.
- Remnants of railway tracks laid by the Germans.
- Evidence of industry: abandoned mines and two huge cast-iron presses in an overgrown rubber plantation.
- The Germans’ garbage pit which yielded clay pipes (used for trade), hand-made wine and beer bottles, crockery, jewellery and other everyday items, parts of a rusty old carbine and a one-*pfennig* coin dated 1893.

Now accessible by road (in the Dry), this significant site deserves to be preserved and developed for its historical value and interest to European – especially German – visitors.

Reference:

(1) Ridges, Jim: New Irelanders Crossed Mainland PNG First, in 1895. *Una Voce* No. 3 Sept. 2005, pp32-34 ■

Members of Pittwater and Dee Why Warringah Rotary Clubs flew boxes of books to PNG in late 2007. The project was supported by the Northern Beaches Inner Wheel. Manly’s St Paul’s College, Pittwater High School, Belrose and Beacon Hill public schools all collected books for the project. Pascal Press also provided five pallets of textbooks and Dee Why RSL, Barrack Gold Mining and Porgera Joint Venture all supported the project.

PAYROLL PLANE MAY NOT BE MISSING by Bob Piper

An RAAF Douglas C-47 aircraft that disappeared minutes after takeoff from Milne Bay, in New Guinea, may have been re-located. Papuan divers have recently reported a twin engine plane in 20 metres of water and on a reef in the same location where oil, lifejackets and pillows surfaced after the accident in 1945.

Rod Pearce, a well known New Guinea diver who operates his charter boat *Barbarian II* throughout the islands, has confirmed that Milne Bay people have recently told him of sightings of an aircraft in the same position that the oil slick was seen in 1945. Pearce, who has assisted the RAAF in other successful recovery operations of remains from submerged aircraft, plans to dive and examine the mystery aircraft when next in the area.

It is perhaps fortunate and coincidental that a detailed report and map on the subject by Lieutenant Eddie Stanton, also of ANGAU, has been re-discovered by the writer. This paperwork confirms the same position recently provided by the Milne Bay people and which Pearce had marked on his chart for future investigation. That position is 200 metres offshore on the eastern side of the bay and adjacent to Gurney airfield.

Air force transport A65-56 (civil registration VH-CIJ), from 33 Squadron, departed Gurney Strip shortly after 10 a.m. on 11 September 1945. On board were its crew of three and sixteen passengers on a routine courier flight to Dobadura, on the northern coast. Minutes after takeoff it was enveloped in a tropical downpour and the pilot radioed he was 'returning' and asked 'to be homed'. Nothing more was seen or heard of the aircraft and those on board for the next sixty two years.

As well as thirteen RAAF passengers on board there were also one navy and two army personnel. One of the army men, Lt. Noel Williams, was from ANGAU (Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit) and carrying a payroll of more than two thousand pounds, a considerable amount of money in 1945 and approximately half a million dollars in today's values. Williams was a former Commonwealth Bank employee of Cairns in Queensland. The pilot of the missing transport aircraft was Flight Lieutenant Eric Beer, of Boort in Victoria, who had earlier seen action with 31 Squadron in Beaufighters. On one of the operations with that unit he had crash landed in the sea and he and his observer had spent a day and a night in a dinghy before being rescued.

Aerial and ground searches at the time for the missing aircraft initially found nothing. Then village constable Wahae searching in a canoe sighted life jackets, cushions and oil floating on the surface, shortly after midday on the 12th. No hard helmet divers were readily available, just after the end of the war, in water that was estimated at about 30 metres deep. Launches subsequently patrolled the area as well as American forces dragging the bottom for the aircraft. Dynamite was also detonated underwater in order to try to break up the wreckage and release the bodies, all to no avail.

Milne Bay, at the eastern tip of Papua New Guinea, is surrounded by 1500 metre high mountains and is often subject to torrential rain and poor visibility. A pilot suddenly caught in these conditions can find himself in a very precarious position, especially shortly after takeoff. Aircrew can either attempt to slowly climb away on instruments to the west, knowing that there is a very small gap or cone of safety of only 5 degrees that they must remain inside to

avoid striking any high ground. Alternatively, head to the east down the bay and also try to climb out on instruments. Lastly, pilots can circle down low and try and stay in sight of the ground or water and attempt to retrace their steps back to the aerodrome. The latter is apparently what Beer attempted as his engines were heard in the area by a number of witnesses before it is believed he struck the sea and quickly submerged. The other two crewmen lost when the plane disappeared were the second pilot Flight Lieutenant John Mulcahy of Sydney and Sgt Frank Sullivan, the radio operator, of Melbourne.

Gurney airfield and the surrounding tropical waters of Milne Bay was the scene of many air, land and sea actions by RAAF fighter and bomber squadrons during 1942-43. Coincidentally Gurney Field, where A65-56 departed from, was named after Squadron Leader Charles Gurney DFC, an early commanding officer of 33 Squadron who lost his life in May 1942 when the American B-26 Marauder he was flying in crashed at Owi Island, north of the Milne Bay area.

The RAAF operated a number of Douglas C-47 squadrons throughout the Pacific during and after the war. The loss of A65-56 remains one of their last unsolved mysteries.

The writer and researcher, Bob Piper, once lived in Milne Bay and learnt to fly in New Guinea before returning to Australia. The project on the loss of A65-56 is one that he has been collating small pieces of information of the jigsaw over twenty years. Aviation mysteries and their resolution have always fascinated him. ■

Milne Bay Wall by Barry Smith



A memorial wall at Nundah in Brisbane to commemorate the Battle of Milne Bay was a project by the Nundah Northgate RSL Sub Branch Inc.

I was one of over 500 people, including veterans, families of veterans, RSL members, schools, community groups, and the public

who attended the dedication of the Milne Bay Wall in the Nundah Memorial Park on 16 September 2007.

The wall was dedicated by Colonel CE Hamilton, Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Governor General and Deputy Commander of the 7th Brigade ADF. The dedication service commemorated the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay, which was the first the Japanese lost on land.

In front of the wall is a replica of the memorial Coconut Palm Stump which was originally at the Turnbull Airstrip, Milne Bay.



HELP WANTED

I am trying to trace anyone who knew **Arthur Lionel Ethell**, known as **Paddy**, or members of the Ethell family. I have in my possession letters and papers written by him, which I would happily pass on to any family, if we can find them. These papers say that in 1937 he became a Patrol Officer in Papua. According to a resume, written by him 'At the age of 21 Paddy Ethell was the youngest Patrol Officer in the pre-war Papua Civil Service. Two years later he was recognised as one of the most fluent Motu speakers in the Territory and credited with being one of the few ex-patriarch (sic) Australians to 'think black'. Whilst patrolling in the area of the junction of the Wai Creek and Purari River, he takes credit for finding a new route into the Jamberigi Valley. Paddy ETHELL's army service record shows that in WWII he rose to the rank of Lieutenant and was a member of ANGAU (Australian & New Guinea Administrative Unit) at the time of his discharge, on 16 June 1944. According to his own autobiography he served in the Intelligence Section of the American 32nd Division in PNG, as an interpreter, before being invalided back to Australia. Paddy claimed to have been ADO Milne Bay after the war.

If anyone has any knowledge of Paddy Ethell, or any members of the family please contact me at: 1/3 Nash Street, Gympie, QLD 4570 Phone: 07-5482 2767 or Email: midgery@spiderweb.com.au. Marjorie J.Head

* * *

Bruce Swanton would appreciate assistance in obtaining photographs or information concerning photographic images of three people who played their parts on the German New Guinea stage. They are:

Thomas Farrell, de facto of Queen Emma

Gustav von Oertzen, imperial commissioner in New Britain/Neu Pommern, 1884-1887

Georg Schmiele, imperial judge at New Pommern, and later landeshauptmann [head of government] at Kaiser Wilhelmsland.

Gash & Whittaker in their excellent book *A Pictorial History Of New Guinea* indicate Schmiele in a group photo at page 247, but that identification is questionable. All who have an interest in German New Guinea, including German historians, would welcome any assistance in locating images of the three men. Please contact Bruce at: 35 Barnet Close, Phillip, ACT, 2606, Ph: 02 2867648, Email: bruceswanton@optusnet.com.au

* * *

Would anyone know **Imelda Monica Assumpta Kehoe** (or Keogh) who married a tea planter in Uganda in late 1968 before moving to New Guinea where her husband managed a tea plantation? They had two sons. Jan Law (nee Butler) worked with her in the Mission Hospital in Kampala and would like to get in touch with her again. If you have information which could help Jan, please contact her on email: thomjan@ihug.co.nz or 99A West Belt, Rangiora, North Canterbury 8254 New Zealand South Island. Tel:+ 64 03 313 1029

* * *

George Mills, PO Box 3042, Jandakot, WA, 6164 would like to hear from anyone who knew his uncle, **Pat Roberts**, who lived in Rabaul for many years before Independence and was married to Vicky Mah. Pat had timber mill, island transport and scrap metal interests. George would particularly like to know about a book called 'The Millionaire in the White Hat', said to have been written about Pat.

* * *

Rotarians Against Malaria – Papua New Guinea by Ian Sayers

As a very new member of the Association may I, through *Una Voce*, tell our members of work being done by Rotarians to alleviate the problems of malaria in Papua New Guinea.

As all of us remember only too well, in Papua New Guinea malaria is a fact of life for the average person, and sees more than 1.2 million struck down annually. One of the programs initiated by Rotarians Against Malaria (RAM), one of the arms of Rotary Australia World Community Service, is entitled *Adopt A Village*. When a village is *adopted*, every individual in that village is supplied with a Long Lasting Insecticidal Mosquito Net (LLIN). The nets are treated with the insecticide (Deltamethrin) which is harmless to humans and domestic animals. The net not only stops the mosquito biting but also kills it after contact. The LLIN does not stop at mosquitoes but also kills bed bugs, head lice and the other creepy crawlies that make it hard to sleep at night. As we are also learning, they also help reduce that other dreadful disease filariasis. The distribution of the nets is accompanied by educational programs advising the villagers on their use and also on other preventative measures they can take.

The program is working. By way of example, in Kikori District, Gulf Province, where, by virtue of major donations, nets have been supplied to every individual, results have been dramatic. In addition to the huge drop in malaria, the local hospital is reporting many other positives. These are -

- A big drop in the number of Premature Child Births
- An increase in the average birth weight of new born babies
- A huge reduction of anaemia in pregnant women
- A huge reduction of anaemia in the new born child
- A reduction in the number of miscarriages.

If anyone is interested in learning more about this program, visit our website at –

<http://www.ram.com.pg>

Better still, if any members, or member's businesses, would like to make tax deductible donations to the program, this can be done through the website, or by contacting me. (Ian Sayers, isa34235@bigpond.net.au or 02 6254 0130).

One of the Association's long standing members, former *kiap*, Peter Thomas, is heavily involved in the program. For the past three years Peter was Chairman of the National Rotarians Against Malaria Committee. He recently stepped down but remains as the Rotarians Against Malaria Liaison Officer for the Solomons Islands, and in that capacity is largely responsible for extending the *Adopt A Village* concept into the Solomons. For those interested the Solomon Islands Rotarians Against Malaria website is –

<http://www.ramguadalcanal.com.sb>

HELP WANTED (Cont.)

Do you have any very old stone artefacts from PNG, stone mortars and pestles (i.e. stone bowls and pounders) and stone figures?

If you do, and would care to assist in expanding the data base of knowledge on these items, it would be greatly appreciated if you would contact **Dr. Pamela Swadling** at her home address: 3 Magrath Place, Spence, ACT 2615, Australia. Although a Visiting Fellow in Archaeology and Natural History (at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia), Pamela works from home. Her other contacts are Telephone: +61 2 62595644, Email: pamelas@coombs.anu.edu.au.

Pamela worked for nearly 30 years at the PNG National Museum and Art gallery. She mentions that all her current title of 'Visiting Fellow' means in her case is that she has access to the university library and an email address. She funds the work on this database herself as she recognises that the people who have collected these artefacts are slowly leaving us and taking the information they know about them to their graves. Too often descendants of these people have no knowledge of the exact whereabouts the artefacts were discovered other than that they came from PNG. She recognises too that people have different attitudes about making public the information they have about these stone possessions, and she advises that, if required, the objects will only be referred to on the database as being held in a private collection in Australia.

Recent research techniques indicate that most of the stone mortars, pestles and figures were made between 8,000 and 3,000 years ago. There are a number of published papers that describe how the artefacts have been dated and where some of the finds originated in parts of the Highlands, Huon Gulf and New Britain. These papers can be sent to interested individuals preferably as pdf files.

Interesting patterns are emerging from the distribution of different styles of these artefacts. For example they indicate the existence of four major trade spheres extending from the coast into the main highlands valleys:

1. From the shores of the former Sepik-Ramu inland sea to the valleys of the upper Yuat River and Wahgi, as well as the Tari basin.
2. From the shores of the Huon Gulf into the Eastern Highlands.
3. From the Huon Gulf into the upper Watut region.
4. From the Oro coast into the Papuan highlands.

These patterns demonstrate the importance of making a record of where these artefacts have been found.

If you can help, please simply send a couple of photos of each piece and give information as to its dimensions and where and how the item was found.

Robin Hodgson

Information is sought from anyone who may have good references or photos from the period between 1914 to 1933 which refer to the 'Rabaul Museum' or the 'Rabaul Collections' and on A.P. Chinnery - in relation to collecting or collections, and on Brigadier Thomas Griffiths and Brigadier-General Wisdom. Please contact Anna Edmundson, Senior Curator, National Museum of Australia, GPO Box 1901, Canberra ACT 2601.

Email: anna.edmundson@nma.gov.au

The Rabaul Collection is an outstanding ethnographic collection of about three hundred artifacts from German New Guinea acquired after WW1. No one is sure if this is an old German government collection, a missionary collection or a private collection obtained from a departing German settler. Your input would be most welcome.

The collection was transferred to the Australian Institute of Anatomy, Canberra in 1933. The transfer occurred under the authority of Brigadier-General Thomas Griffiths, Acting Administrator of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. Correspondence from Griffiths to the Institute's director, Colin MacKenzie seems to indicate that Griffiths would have preferred to retain the material for a local museum. However, it appears that the transfer of the Rabaul material was advocated by Brigadier-General Wisdom, (Griffiths' predecessor) and facilitated by government anthropologist Earnest Chinnery, who met with MacKenzie in Canberra in August 1932.

In 1985 the collection was transferred from the Institute to the National Museum of Australia. There is almost no provenance for the collection and the Curators are currently seeking to find out whether the material was collected under the auspices of the Australian administration, by Chinnery or various patrol officers, or whether it constituted confiscated material from the former German era.

Robin Hodgson



Papua Hotel Pt Moresby
14 October 1937
*Please see Help Wanted
p 28*
Photo: Arthur Lionell
Ethell Collection
Courtesy Marjorie Head

MEDIA GIANT FITZIE IS FAREWELLED By Richard Jones

John Fitzgerald, a former Papua New Guinea *Post-Courier* managing editor, was farewelled in Melbourne in October. Universally known as Fitzie, John was perhaps best known for his roles as chief-of-staff and editor of the Melbourne *Herald* and later as managing director of International Public Relations. But in PNG he played an important part in the lead-up to Independence in 1975.

He was managing editor from 1971 to 1974, and had taken over as the top man at the *Post-Courier* offices in Moresby's Lawes Road when all sorts of political pressures, from outside and internally, were building in the nation.

Fitzie was a stickler for the correct use of English and had a passion for ensuring journalists spelt people's names the way those people used them. I remember him, in company with the then *Post-Courier* editor Jack Pinkstone (later my editor at the *Bendigo Advertiser*), imparting a bit of Fitzie magic: "People might not know a lot of things, Richard. They might not know much at all. But they sure as hell know their own names and how to spell them. So for God's sake make sure you spell their name right!"

Sage advice, and something I've never forgotten. Even when you've been interviewing someone named Jack Smith, you'd intone: "Now, is that S-M-I-T-H, Mr Smith?"

I remember the smooth way Fitzie used to conduct himself at public functions. At one international boxing tournament at the Papuan Rugby League ground in Boroko when I acted as the MC, Fitzie was to present the prize to the winner of the main bout. Before the action got under way there was a glitch with the tape recorded anthems the Papua New Guinea one and the Filipino one. The music that trickled from the speakers around the ground sounded like something from a Star Wars outer galaxy. While all at ringside were trying to stifle their sniggers, Fitzie retained his composure.

At his funeral, Fitzie's old mate Kevan Gosper, of the International Olympic Committee (and one-time Rabaul resident), presented one of the eulogies. Gosper had flown from Beijing to be present. Everyone who ever worked with Fitzie knows that Gosper's Christian name is Kevan, not Kevin.

I could almost hear Fitzie in the background, shouting, "And for God's sake you lot, *spell it right!*"

▪

BOOK NEWS AND REVIEWS

Congratulations to Nancy Lutton, whose book *My Dearest Brown Eyes: letters between Sir Donald and Dame Rachel Cleland during World War II*, Pandanus Press, was short listed for the 2007 ACT Book of the Year awards.

* * *

Found and delivered. A copy of the war heroes book for which help in locating was sought in last September's issue. Through the good offices of former teacher Eric Johns and the ASOPA website Elizabeth, daughter of Sergeant-Major Christian Arek, arch-typical Papuan policeman, now has this evidence of her father's deeds in WW2. She and her own daughter, Renee, are now Brisbane residents.

Jim Toner

* * *

Inspired by articles in the December issue of *Una Voce* Don Barnes wrote in reminding us about Dr Berkeley Vaughan's biography *Doctor in Papua*. 'Dr Vaughan and his family came from England to Kwato Mission in 1935. His wife and family were evacuated in December 1941 and he was sent to Australia when the men were called up.' Several pages highlight the outstanding devotion to duty and indefatigable pioneer work by the first Papuan nurses who attended his medical training school at Kwato which Dr Vaughan established in 1935. His book was printed in Adelaide by Rigby in 1974.

* * *

Payback by **John Bell** ISBN 978 0 9802884 7 6 published by Info Publishing Pty Ltd 2008, 430pp plus embedded photographs. \$29.95 plus P&P. Contact John Bell at PO Box 40, Airlie Beach 4802, Qld
Ph: 07 49466558 or 0427 524045
email jcbell@bigpond.com or go to website www.johnbellbooks.com

From the foreword of the book, written by Mrs Margaret Henderson: 'Payback is a remarkable book...much more than a fictional saga...a thinly disguised story of the author's own family...who had multiple interests...and suffered terribly during the Japanese invasion and occupation during WWII.

Although the events described so graphically...[and] read like the product of an over-active imagination, they are in large part based on fact. The Author's Notes elaborate the relationship between the reality and the fiction. John Bell has enhanced his story with meticulous research in to the PNG way of life in the inter-war years. The book is an authentic, detailed description of a life style that has gone forever.

Payback is a compelling tour-de-force made all the more remarkable because of its factual basis. I commend it to you without reservation.'

Mount Kare Gold Rush, Papua New Guinea 1988-1994 by **Dave Henton and Andi Flower** ISBN: 787-0-646-48281-1 Publisher: Mt Kare Gold Rush 2007, 352pp, soft & hard cover, 60 colour and b & w photos plus maps, Cost: Soft Cover: \$48.00 plus \$14.95 p&p *Una Voce special \$55.00 inc p&p (SAVE \$ 7.95)* Cost: Hard Cover \$69.95 plus \$14.95 p&p *Una Voce special \$75.00 inc p&p (SAVE \$ 9.90)* ...Please quote Una Voce Special when ordering. Orders to: www.mountkaregoldrush.com.au Email: andi@mountkaregoldrush.com.au PH: 07 5443 6344 Fax: 61 7 5443 9879 or: PO Box 678 Cotton Tree QLD 4558

The Kavieng Massacre, A War Crime Revealed by Raden Dunbar
ISBN 978 1 86351 368 5 B/W Published by Sally Milner Publishing 2007
ARRP \$34.95 320pp Available from your local bookstore

Many PNGAA members will remember the World War 2 massacre by Japanese sailors of Australian and German civilian internees at Kavieng, New Ireland, in 1944. The month of March 2008 marks the sixty-fourth anniversary of that event, and coincidentally, the sixtieth anniversary of the execution of Rear Admiral Ryukichi Tamura, the Japanese naval officer who originally ordered the executions. In March 1944 Admiral Tamura and his senior officers in Kavieng believed that New Ireland was about to be invaded by vastly superior American forces. On Friday 17 March 1944 he issued a secret, verbal order that "in the event of an allied landing the internees were to be secretly executed".

The following Monday 20 March, the United States Navy delivered a massive four-hour bombardment on Kavieng, firing over 13,000 shells into the town. Admiral Tamura's men took this to be the unmistakable sign that an American invasion was imminent, and immediately executed the 23 Australian and 7 German civilian internees who had been held in Kavieng since 1942.

On the day of the Kavieng massacre the Japanese could not know that the US bombardment they were experiencing was merely a "diversionary raid" designed to cover an actual US landing on another nearby island. In fact, only eight days before the massacre the US Joint Chiefs of Staff had cancelled the entire invasion of New Ireland when it had become apparent that the island was better suited to be "by-passed".. Admiral Tamura and his men would only learn of this much later, at war's end, when it became apparent they had committed a ghastly mistake. In August 1945 they embarked on a complicated process to thoroughly conceal the massacre, and were so successful in promoting their cover-up story it was for a long time accepted by the Australian government as the truth. Eventually, in June 1947 in Tokyo, a particularly persistent Australian war crimes investigator, Albert Klestadt, was able to finally uncover the real facts.

A new book, *The Kavieng Massacre: A War Crime Revealed*, was released during 2007. The author, Raden Dunbar, is related to one of the Kavieng victims - J.K.V.Griffin, a Burns Philp auditor and planter, was his maternal uncle. According to the author, he researched and wrote the story of the Kavieng massacre to discover the true fate of his uncle. To do this properly involved an investigation of the historical background of Kavieng and New Ireland; the Japanese invasion in early 1942 and the occupation years; Allied strategies and actions to re-take New Ireland from the Japanese; the Japanese concealment of the crime and its subsequent discovery by an Australian investigator; and the eventual non-revelation of all this by the Australian government to the affected families.

My interest in the book is that my father, although not one of the victims of the Kavieng Massacre but lost on the 'Montevideo Maru', knew many of those massacred at Kavieng. I found the book very interesting and engrossing and

once you start to read it you do not want to put it down. The book is very well written and covers the subject thoroughly. It also contains many excellent black and white photos and maps. One very minor mistake I found was that the island of New Guinea is called Papua. The word Papua was first used for the south east part of the island in 1906 and is the Malaysian word for fuzzy wuzzy. The Indonesian part of New Guinea is now called West Papua.

I believe this book could bring closure to the many relatives of the men lost in the Kavieng massacre who want to find out what happened to these men.

I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in stories from the Second World War or who would like to read a very good factual book of how civilians were treated during the war by the Japanese.

George D.Oakes

NGVR Museum, Wacol, Brisbane by Anne McCosker

This photograph shows the William Bustard painting given by Anne McCosker to John Holland for the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Museum, Wacol, Brisbane. The following lines, which appear beside the painting, give the reason why Anne gave it to the NGVR Museum. The only other war museum to have a painting by this WWII artist, is the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.



In Memory of Marjorie and Stan McCosker, NGVR 2006, and their friends of the New Guinea Voluntary Rifles.

After WWII, having lost their men folk - often members of, or with links to the NGVR - many of the women of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea were in emotional and financial difficulties. During the next decade New Guinea clubs providing companionship

and practical help were active in several States. Marjorie McCosker was very involved in the Brisbane club.

In the early 1950's the Brisbane N.G. club made a great effort to raise money by organizing a raffle. The first prize was a painting donated by William Bustard whose work was much sought after. However the winner of this raffle refused to take the painting! Finally money was given to the winner and Marjorie McCosker took the painting. It hung in the McCosker home for many years.

The NGVR Museum is a fitting place to now hang this William Bustard painting. ■

REUNIONS

<p>PNG Reunion, Gold Coast Convention Centre - Broadbeach Date: Saturday 21 June 2008 For further information please contact: gregpik@bigpond.net.au. Information also at: www.pngreunion.com</p>
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THE KIAPS REUNION AT KAWANA WATERS

Queensland Sunshine Coast, 11 November 2007.

Chips Mackellar

It was a magnificent reunion, hosted by Bob and Heather Fayle and Denys and Helen Faithful, and they did it perfectly. They moved around the gathering greeting everyone individually, and they could not have picked a better venue. The Kawana Waters Hotel had inside and outside dining facilities, and beside the sun deck, the yachts in the adjoining marina bobbed up and down in the tide, evoking memories of the Royal Papua Yacht Club.

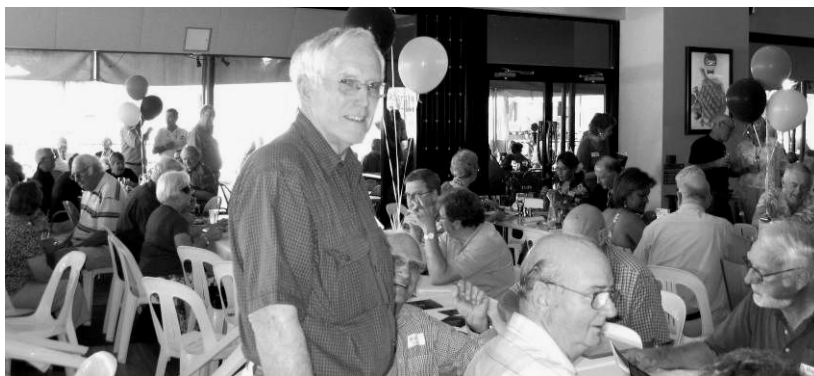
The event had been well publicised beforehand, by Peter Salmon via the exkiap.net address list, by notice in *Una Voce*, and also by John Hucknull via talk back radio call to Macca's 'Australia All Over' Sunday program. Will Muskens had done a similar successful trick with Macca some years ago.

Although the date was fixed, there was no set starting time and no set finishing time, so for those of us who arrived the day before, and stayed in the hotel's accommodation, our reunion began then and there. The following morning more people arrived, and from midday on 11th November, 262 kiaps, wives, and others were in attendance for most of that day. By the time I retired at 9.30pm, there were more than fifty kiaps and families still continuing their reunion.

Next morning, the reunion continued again at breakfast at Bellisimo's on the waterfront at Mooloolaba. So in reality, although not everyone was present all the time, the reunion extended over three consecutive days. It must have been the biggest gathering of kiaps anywhere. And they came from everywhere. Apart from the local Queensland kiaps there was a large contingent from Victoria and also from New South Wales, including our industrious PNGAA Treasurer, Ross Johnson. From Western Australia came Ray Bray, and Mike Collins, and from South Australia, Iain Millar, Chris Overland and Ken Wallace. From the Far North came Ron Hiat from Cairns and Rod Donovan from Port Douglas, and Des Fanning, Peter Laming, Greg Smith and John Hicks from Darwin. Didiman Peter Jones, currently working in Laos, came home especially for the day, and Peter Salmon and Bill McGrath both normally resident in Queensland, came to the reunion after recently having returned from working in PNG. Ah yes, there are still kiaps in PNG, albeit in a different guise these days. From the nation's Capital came Tony Beard, Bill Sanders and Norm Wilson, and from New Zealand, Ian Beckhaus. Two kiaps who are no longer with us, were nevertheless not forgotten and we were honoured by Margaret Clancy from Western Australia, and Margaret Tierney from Victoria, both of whom came so far to meet their husbands' old colleagues. Des and John would have been proud of them. There were also some chalkies present; Henry Bodman, Don and Nora Christie, and Ian and Barbara Robertson, together with Policemaster Jim Dutton and Joan. Space does not permit us to

name everyone in attendance, but Peter Salmon said he would publish the full attendance list on his website exkiap.net.

Some kiaps were there in the second and third generation, for example, Geoff and Trish Littler were delivered to the venue and later retrieved from it by their granddaughter Amy. Paul Greaney, Bob's son, came with his son and mother, Pat, and Robin Calcutt was accompanied by his daughter Belinda. I was also happy to see Peter Skinner again. I had not seen Peter since he was a young boy at Mount Hagen, where his father, Ian Skinner, was DC and I was a young PO there. Peter and I sat for hours at the reunion, reminiscing and remembering his father by swapping Ian Skinner stories, including the mysterious rooster story. This story originated after a rollicking all-night party at the Hagen Country Club, when, by the time everyone had got to sleep, the morning calm was suddenly broken by the persistent crowing of a village rooster. It had strayed into the gaggle of grass-roofed hovels where all the single officers at Mount Hagen then lived, and despite the chorus of muffled abuse reverberating from near-by dwellings, the rooster kept crowing. So, in an act of extraordinary altruism for and on behalf of the other suffering denizens, I seized my revolver and fired one shot out of my window. The rooster stopped crowing and we all went back to sleep. But the cook-boys later told me that the shot had killed the rooster, and that the aggrieved owner had taken the dead rooster to the Residency, and complained to the DC. So, for days afterwards I waited in fear and trepidation for the severe reprimand which I was sure would come, but in fact it never did come and ever since then the reason for the missing reprimand had remained a mystery to me. However, with vivid childhood memories of this incident, Peter told me that his father had personally paid compensation for the death of the rooster and although annoyed at me for causing such trouble, Ian Skinner secretly confided to his family that there would be no repercussions because he was so proud that one of his officers was such a good shot. The year was 1957. So, the mystery of the missing reprimand was solved fifty years later at this kiap reunion. And you can imagine that other stories like this came thick and fast, as other old friends met up together again after so many years, and when so many old memories were rekindled.



This reunion was remarkable for its informality. There were no speeches; and thank goodness there was no seating plan. In how many reunions in the old Mandarin Club in Sydney did we find a long lost friend only to lose him again in the

formality of the set piece dining arrangements. But the Queensland kiaps do it differently. At the Kawana Waters reunion, people sat wherever they wanted to, and moved around as much as they liked, and nobody told them to sit down and be quiet. In the attached photo (courtesy of Paul Oates) you can see a very distinguished Graham Hardy standing, and an equally distinguished Vin Smith

seated, and in the background, other kiaps moving around at will, and that is exactly how it was. There was no set menu but the food was superb, as each chose and paid for his own meal from an excellent open plan kitchen. The hotel staff were welcoming and attentive, the catering was good, and the reunion was well managed by the Hotel's Danni Ray who had a residual interest in us as she had done her primary schooling in PNG. Thirty-five apologies were received from kiaps who wanted to come but could not make it, and there were three casualties. John Hayes was ill, Jack Baker also could not come after a bad fall a week before, and Maurie Brown while on his way to the reunion, was struck down with pneumonia, and spent reunion day in Tenterfield Hospital. Amongst the non-attendees, was Andy Connelly, from the State University of California, at Sacramento. He never was a kiap, but he knows a lot about us, because he has recently completed a Masters Degree on the Australian administration of the Trobriand Islands, based on a study of patrol reports. So if you thought your patrol reports have faded into obscurity, never to be read again, you may be surprised to know they are preserved and well and are still being read, not in PNG, but in California. Andy has sent copies of some of my reports to me. He could not get to the reunion because he was on the other side of the world, studying, amongst other things, Malinowski's original notes on the Trobriand Islands. Paul Oates sent Andy some photos of this year's reunion and Andy intends to come to future reunions to meet us.

It is amazing that although most of us left PNG more than thirty years ago, the bond between us which led us all to attend this reunion, is just as strong now as it ever was, more than thirty years ago. And although most of us have had other jobs since we all left PNG and gone our different ways, and found different friends in different places, no other affiliation is as strong for us today as the bonding which continues to exist between kiaps, and the strength of this bond is evidenced by the number of kiaps and their wives and families and friends who came so far to be together again at this reunion. Of course, this bonding has had some help from the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia and especially from its Treasurer Ross Johnson who keeps our world wide membership together, and our *Una Voce* editor Andrea Williams who publishes our stories. If you had come to this reunion, Andrea, you would have loved it. Our thanks also go to Peter Salmon for the superb exkiap website he designed and continues to maintain. It enables old kiaps to find old friends, to re-establish contact, and to stay in touch, and it is an excellent medium of communication for us. To these people who have given their time selflessly and freely in order that we might keep our long established friendships together, we owe our deepest gratitude.

And finally, to the Faithfuls and the Fayles, thank you. It was the best kiap reunion ever. ■

SUPERANNUATION

The unfortunate news is that the number of people in the PNG superannuation scheme was reduced by 18 over the last year but the good news is that, for a change, the CPI was increased to 1.9% which hopefully will help make up for the increased cost of petrol and food.

Fred Kaad

RPNGC Former Officers' Christmas Lunch – Brisbane

The 15th annual Christmas Lunch for former officers of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary was held at the Mercure Hotel on Saturday 1 December 2007. Forty-seven former members and widows attended, with apologies received from twenty. Five guests visited from interstate with one from the Atherton Tablelands. In addition to the usual suspects, ten were first timers, and included Wendy and Earl Sanders, Val Thompson (aged 83 and a former 30-year mainstay of the Bulolo Police Station), John Campbell, Rachel and Ian Milton, Peter Cantrell, Vic Davis and fiancé Dawn, and Peter Hilder.

Three former officers died during the year and one in 2006. They included Brian Crane, Paddy Erskine, Jim Stratton and Ray Dodd. Joan Holt, the wife of former officer Col Holt of Cairns also died in 2007. Brief eulogies were read, and toasts drunk to their memories. With the death of Jim Stratton (101) the oldest surviving former officer is now Bob Cole, at 94. The guests wished Bob many more years of retirement on the Gold Coast.

Guest speaker Dr Peter Cahill (whose father was an officer in the RPNGC) outlined the purpose of the PNGAA collection in the Fryer Library of the University of Queensland, and sought suitable donations. The response from guests was very positive. This led to discussion on the need for a published history of the RPNGC.

A feature of the lunch was the reading of a moving poem by the poet laureate Dave Fitzgibbon from Tassie, on life in the RPNGC. Attempts to get hold of a copy of the poem have failed. He remains stubbornly resistant to fame and fortune. We will persevere. The lunch was as always a convivial affair, with cameras well to the fore.

Derek Bell

ASOPA REUNION



This original photo was taken in a Sydney hotel in 1962 – the young men were in training to be teachers in PNG. Left to right: Allyn Hicks, Allen West, Peter Stuckey, Ron Antoine, Rod Andrews, Peter Sealy and Leo Carroll



The photo taken 45 years later at an ASOPA Reunion sees all present with the exception of Allyn Hicks. They are seated in the same order and as you can see still enjoy an SP beer.

Photos and text:
David Keating
1961/62 ASOPA Reunion Convenor

AN AIRMAN AT ASOPA by Jim Toner

Keith Jackson AM trained as a teacher at ASOPA 1962-63. On his impressive blog (asopa.com.au) for fellow chalkies and interested others he has been looking into the history of that institution which educated patrol officers and then also cadet education officers from 1946 until 1973 and believes he has filled an apparently empty space on its list of School Principals. There were five of these commencing with Colonel Kerr (later Sir John and Governor-General) and concluding with Dr. Reynolds. A fire at Middle Head in 1969 destroyed records prior to 1951 and it was unclear who was in charge at the School during the period September 1949 when Colonel Alf Conlon officially departed until November 1950 when Professor Charles Rowley arrived. At the PNGAA Christmas luncheon in December Keith met up with Bill Brown, a 25 years kiap, who attended the school in the second half of 1949 and said that this was a Wilfred Arthur. Group Captain Arthur DSO, DFC on discharge from the RAAF in 1946 had become a resident of Darwin and was well known in the NT until his death in 2000.

Arthur's previous connection with PNG was confined to war service 1942-43. He had arrived there from North Africa wearing a DFC for destroying four enemy aircraft in a single engagement near Tobruk. He was then flying a Tomahawk but had honed his skills earlier by downing an Italian fighter while piloting an outmoded Gloster Gladiator biplane. In April 1943 and despite his guns having jammed he led 34 Allied aircraft to intercept 100 Japanese raiders over Milne Bay and described the situation of being in combat without armament as "sort of awkward". Awarded the DSO for his actions he had less luck in the Trobriands next November when colliding with a Spitfire at the Kiriwina airstrip. Its pilot was killed and Arthur was badly burned. After convalescence and still aged only 24 he became the youngest Group Captain in the Air Force. His role in the Morotai Mutiny of April 1945 is another whole story but possibly conditioned him to take over the reins temporarily at ASOPA after the academic staff revolt against Colonel Conlon in 1949. Subsequently Arthur became administrative manager for the Geopeko company instrumental in establishing the Ranger uranium mine near Kakadu and was a VIP in NT society for many years.

When "Woof" (as he was known) Arthur died I notified his old squadron mate Bobby Gibbes, DSO, DFC, OAM and mentioned that he had told his family that before climbing into a plane to commence one of his numerous aerial sorties he almost always 'chucked up'. Wing Commander Gibbes responded that at the age of 84 he only now learned that the man he had flown into danger with many times was actually named Wilfred. He said "I never knew that Woof had a sickness problem, he certainly managed to hide it completely from his comrades". He added "However, one of our pilots always threw up during the combat and the poor devil had to clean his cockpit afterwards but he was always the first to volunteer for the next flight. That to me was the height of bravery". So commented the veteran of 247 sorties, 10 'kills' and three crash landings who confessed that he did sometimes get a 'dry mouth' during combat.

These nervous responses to impending physical danger will not surprise followers of both rugby codes who are aware that some of the toughest members of Australian packs are similarly affected. The outstanding but diminutive Test half-back Alan Langer, imperturbable on the field, was obliged to dry-retch before every game. But these men knew that they would go to the showers after 80 minutes.

After the war both of the distinguished pilots opted to stay in the RAAF but on being asked to take an intelligence test "Woof" Arthur flatly refused and resigned. The RAAF's loss became the NT's gain (and briefly, it seems, ASOPA's).

Both these valiant survivors were from the Bush - Gibbes was a NSW jackaroo near Young before volunteering whilst on the Darling Downs Arthur rode to his primary school on horseback - and both were sent to country boarding schools for secondary education. This category of young Australian still exists and it would not be fair to question their potential. However, the generation which produced Arthur and Gibbes is almost gone and one is inclined to borrow from the Scottish national anthem and ask "When shall we see their like again?" ■

Remembering Kabakaul 1914

I found the enclosed photograph while searching through a box of old black and white pictures. I took it when I was stationed at Raluana just after World War II. Kabakaul was part of my circuit and I found this war memorial near the village on the side of the road near the site of the actual skirmish. It has long since been



transferred to the beautiful Bitapaka War Cemetery. This simple memorial is a reminder of an important event in our PNG and Australian History. With the declaration of war with Germany in 1914 New Guinea was a German colony so Australian warships were dispatched to Rabaul to raise the British flag. On 11 September 1914 a small team of men were landed at Kabakaul to take the wireless station. It was no simple task and some brave stories could be told, but facing sniper fire and intense jungle the little party moved on until the Germans raised the white flag. But it was not without cost as Australia lost an officer and four men were killed with one officer and three men wounded. The Germans also had their losses including quite a few of the New Guinea people, but the wireless station was in Australian hands.

The surviving team got back to their ship and headed for Rabaul where the British Flag was raised on 13 September and so began a new chapter in our history.

Wesley Lutton

KOKODA – BILL GUEST’S FINAL JOURNEY by Annette Ross

My son Anthony (19) and I joined a trek to co-incide with the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Isurava in late August 2008. This had been organised by the 2/14th Battalion in association with the 2/16th and 39th Battalions associations. My father, Bill Guest, was a member of the 39th Battalion then, when this was disbanded, he joined the 2/14th. After the war he went back to Pt Moresby, posted to the Pacific Islands Regiment. After five years he elected to remain in PNG and was posted to the PNGVR based in Lae, eventually moving to Goroka - all up about 32 years. He also went back to Isurava for the 60th Anniversary with the Prime Minister. When he died on the 1st of December 2006 our family decided to take his ashes back to where he was the happiest. We did the 'Kinsman' trek, just from Kokoda to Isurava and back. The pilgrimage also consisted of two other treks. Trek 2 from Ower's Corner to Kokoda and Trek 1 from Kokoda to Ower's Corner, all timed to meet at Isurava for the service. As well, five veterans and their carers would be 'choppered in to Isurava, weather permitting.

August 27th

We arrived at Kokoda around 11am. George, President of his local Rotary Club, had organised medical supplies for the Aid Stations at Gona, Buna, Kokoda and various others along the track. We rounded up the 'Kokoda' medical supplies and headed to the Kokoda Hospital run by Sister Margaret. There was a line up of *meris* and babies, as this was clinic day and the medical supplies were very gladly accepted.

In an audio tape Dad left about his experiences in Kokoda he tells how, when the order was given to retreat and when it became obvious they were vastly outnumbered, Dad was given the task of getting the wounded back to Deniki. It was pitch black; they had one Bren gun between them and only five rounds of ammo. Allan Smith had found some rice, enough for one spoonful for each of them. It has been well documented that the 39th had had no jungle training, but Dad's story highlights just how unprepared they were. Dad was born and grew up in Brunswick, Victoria. His jungle was buildings and houses; he had never even been to the country. Now at only 21, he found himself in the middle of a jungle, in the dark, with Japs all around, in charge of 12 men, most of whom were badly wounded, detailed to try and find their way to safety with the risk of being killed at every turn. They walked for a long time carrying a digger by the name of Skinner in a make shift stretcher of a blanket slung between two sticks, at any time expecting to be shot. Dad admits to thinking that this would be it for them however they didn't meet any Japs and ended up where they started from, they had come a full circle. Dad then handed over the lead to Allan Smith who came from the Melbourne bush, his words "*You had better take over. If anyone is going to get us out of here, it'll be you, I'm Brunswick born and bred and if you leave it up to me we'll spend the rest of the war going round in circles!*" Dad always could find a humorous side to any situation.

As I stood there, with the laughter of the school kids floating up to me from the valley below and the sound of the school bell calling them back in after lunch, I found it hard to contemplate the horrors that Dad and his mates went through. This was something that I would find a lot in the next coming days.

After lunch we met our trek leader, Jimmy. Jimmy had 99 treks under his belt and was very organised. We lined up with our packs, 'Kinsfolk' in one line and 'Trekking 1', who were going on to Ower's Corner, in the other line. Our porters lined up opposite us and one by one they shook our hands and introduced themselves. A lot of them spoke English as most trekkers would not be able to speak *pidgin*. One of the porter's names was Bourbon. As I shook his hand I said, '*ah Bourbon, olsem strong pela spark!*' [Ah, Bourbon, same name as whisky] The porters were then told to pick their trekkers and Bourbon chose me. He couldn't speak English very well and felt more comfortable speaking *pidgin*. I had brought up a cap for him and I don't think I saw it off his head the whole time; he is most probably still wearing it!

And so our trek began to Hoi Village. We got away about 2pm. It was oppressively hot and the humidity was high. Although we started out in a big group of 32, gradually the heat and humidity took effect and the group started to string out. Anthony powered on ahead while I was content to bring up the rear guard. Bourbon had disappeared by now. Even though I was prepared for the heat, I was still surprised at how much it sapped my strength and stamina. It took us about two hours to reach Hoi. The walk is basically flat with only a few hills, and once I got my rhythm, I started to enjoy it. Bourbon had discovered he had left me behind and as I rounded one corner there he was, asleep on the side of the track - had I taken that long? He tucked in behind me, and then disappeared again, only to reappear cutting me a walking stick. Bourbon popped in and out from behind me, one minute he was there the next he wasn't, then he would appear again, but he was never very far away.

Hoi village is a beautiful, picture perfect village with a creek rushing through the middle. The villages had set out cucumbers and soft drinks, cooled in the creek water, for K5.00 each. After *kai* we sat around for a while before crawling into bed early. That night I woke several times; the first time thinking it was pouring outside only to realise that it was the creek, what a noise!

28th August

I gave up at 4.30am when I heard the porters getting the water boiling for breakfast. We had to be packed and ready to go by 6.30am, so I got up, got my cup and joined them at the fire. The *bois* were really interested in hearing all about Australia, where I lived and how many kids I had; I had forgotten how much they like 'storytelling'. Soon it was 5.30am and time to play alarm clock and get everyone moving. It was easy to tell that there were not many early risers amongst our group. I suppose that this is the time to bring it up.....'The toilet' issue is one that has to be smelt to be believed! There were three 'toilets', something akin to the outback dunny, but each was a squat hole in the wood planks, it was a case of picking the one that the majority of people hadn't 'missed' I took a look inside, took a big breath, then got in and out as fast as I could.

As we started out from Hoi we began to climb and I have never seen anything like it. Fifteen minutes into the walk, with the heat and the humidity, I was

struggling. My backpack was like a dead weight and I was sweating out more than I could ever drink. As was the case the day before, we had all started out in a big group but quickly straggled out, George bringing up the rear with the medical kit and five women, Donetta, age 65, Jan 59, Evelyn 56, Karen 51 and I was the youngest at 49. Most of our group were from Melbourne and although had trained hard for this trek, they trained up mountains that had snow on them. We walked for about 15 minutes and then rested for five. This may sound a lot to someone who has not done the track but those 15 minutes were the hardest I have ever done. Deniki was just beautiful, and it was a little awe inspiring, to look back and see how far we had climbed.

We left Deniki and wound our way around a mountain, through a track full of choko vine, it was a most beautiful sight. We kept to the regime of 15-20 minutes walking and five minutes rest. It was just one hill after another, time seemed to be irrelevant, as we put one foot in front of the other. Our porters were fantastic. They had all been over the track multiple times and would run past us to where the harder bits were so they could be there to help us. It was a sight to see them running up these huge hills, with 20kg packs on their backs! Occasionally they would disappear and we would find them up the track, dozing on the side, or having a smoke break, then they would run to catch up. Dad was getting pretty heavy by now and the straps of my pack were cutting into my shoulders so I could only imagine what Anthony was feeling, with his 20kg pack! By this time, I was seriously wondering if Dad wouldn't mind being spread out along the track a bit, to lighten the load!

At first we asked the *bois* how long it was until Isurava Village. We got the standard answer, '*long way liklik*' and in the end it was best not to ask. My knee was not in a good shape by this time, and every step was hurting but, as strange as it may sound, I felt Dad was with me and just when I felt I could not go on, I seemed to get a second wind. I remembered reading entries in his diary when he had to get the wounded out of Kokoda and find their way to Deniki, then Isurava. I just couldn't comprehend how they managed to cart stretchers and the wounded up these hills, far less with Japs shooting at you! Whatever pain I was in was nothing compared to what they had suffered.

The scenery was just out of this world, it really is God's own country up there and by taking our time we really got to enjoy it. So many people walk this track for the wrong reasons; football teams use it as a pre season/bonding thing, others a challenge. For anyone contemplating walking the track, take your time, take it all in and do it for the right reasons. This is where Australians fought to protect Australia.

That last hill to Isurava Village was a killer but we got there at last, seven hours after we had started. Ivan, the headman of Isurava village was there to meet me. Apparently he had got word through the Kokoda Foundation that I was bringing Dad's ashes up. The Kokoda Foundation is instrumental in raising funds for the Kokoda Hospital, School and the local communities and making sure that the funds get to where they are most needed, not diverted to anyone's back pocket!

Yahoo Serious is one of the directors of the Foundation and also went up for the Official opening and 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Isurava in 2002. Yahoo is currently making a movie about Kokoda and has walked the track three times for his research. He met Dad in 2002 and rang him quite a few times afterwards to gather material for his movie. Dad was very deaf and had never heard of Yahoo Serious so the first time Yahoo rang, Dad didn't have a clue who he was and the conversation went something like this ' *Hi, Bill, my name is Yahoo*' Dad said " *Who? Yah who?*" Yahoo replied, " *Yes, that's right Yahoo.*" Dad said ' *Are you serious?*' Yahoo: " *Yes, that's right, Yahoo Serious.*" Dad: " *Your mother must have really hated you!*"

I corresponded with Yahoo quite a few times when Dad was sick. He used to ring Dad and just talk to him for ages and he still laughs about that. When Dad died Yahoo organised Peter Holloway to do Dad's service and also, through the Foundation, let the villages know of my intentions. Ivan approached me and offered to bury the bulk of Dad's ashes at a proposed camping ground and guest house on his land at a spot about 10 minutes from the memorial where the 39th pushed the Japs back over a ridge. He is going to call it 'The Bill Guest Camp Ground'. Another of our group, Geoff Hardie, son of 'Judge' Hardie 39th Battalion, also bought some of his father's ashes up and Ivan is going to bury them both together. Judge died some years ago. He and Dad were both in 'A' company and were good mates so it is fitting that they should now be together again. Isurava village is about two hours from the memorial itself and we were camping there for the night.

29th August

We were packed up and off at 6.00am. The Service was scheduled at 11.30am and the choppers with the veterans were due to arrive at 10am. We started to climb, again the main group going to the front and us bringing up the rear. Ivan came with us to show us the site of his camping ground and guesthouse and he had also been invited to give a speech at the service. After all the hot sunny days it started to rain and the clouds were thick. All of us were praying it would clear up so the veterans could get in. There is no way they would risk bringing the helicopters in with the cloud cover.

Ivan showed Geoff and I the spot he had picked out. We had to walk a fair way up another mountain through the kunai, to a spot under a large overhanging rock. The ashes were to be buried at the base of this rock, Ivan showed us where he intended to clear the area for his guesthouse and camping ground. There are no roads so everything would have to be carried in, no generator, so all would have to be done by hand. He showed us where the 39th pushed back the attacking Japs over the ridge; it was all starting to get a little hard to take.

I still had Dad's ashes in my backpack as we were going to spread some during the service at the memorial. It was raining a bit by now and as we walked into the memorial the mist and cloud had settled in the valley giving it the most unreal look. I walked down to the memorial itself and that's when it all hit me; this is what I had come for, all the effort and the training. Dad used to tell a particular story about Isurava. He was one of the last ones out when the order

came through to retreat to Deniki. A little way on from where he was standing he saw two soldiers carrying a stretcher between them down the hill. The bloke on the stretcher was very badly wounded and there was no morphine to offer him. Dad yelled out to them that they would have to get going. The Japs were advancing and he could hear the gunfire getting closer but he didn't think they heard him. They put the stretcher on the ground. Each knelt beside it, rifles at the ready, facing in the direction of the Jap gunfire. They knew they would not have had a hope when the Japs came but they wouldn't leave their mate. That was the last view of Isurava Dad had and he never forgot it. He said it was two VC's that were never awarded. As I stood at the memorial it wasn't only Dad I was crying for but for two very brave young soldiers who never got the accolades due to them.



The weather didn't clear and soon it became obvious that we would have to have the service without the Veterans. It was such a shame as most of them had not been back to Isurava since the war. They were waiting at Kokoda for the weather to clear. Trekkers 2, who had walked in from Ower's, were there and with them was Elise Mooney and her cameraman, Stephen, from A Current Affair, Melbourne. Elise had been doing a story on her great uncle, Peter Hutchinson, a veteran from 2/14th Battalion. Peter was 93 and would not be making the trip again. I felt so sorry for her as well as all the old veterans; it must have been such a terrible disappointment for them.

We set up for the service, George and Michael Ralston, (President 2/14th assoc) would have to run it in the absence of the veterans. We were all still hoping for a miracle and that the cloud would lift. George kicked it off with a speech from Ivan who welcomed us in Isurava *ples* [local talk]: "Oro, Oro, Oro". (Welcome, Welcome, Welcome). George had previously asked me if I would like to say something when he called me down to spread Dad's ashes. Initially I didn't feel that I could but as I was walking down I felt quite calm. So I gave a speech, not only in English but also in pidgin. I told the locals about Dad, how he fought with the 39th, how he came back after war with the PNGVR, how he used to take patrols over the track post war, then the PIR and then with Carpenters in Lae and Goroka; that although he went '*finis*' to Australia because we were there, his heart was forever in PNG. Then I gave Dad to the locals to look after. All the porters and locals just stopped, gathered around, nodding their heads. Afterwards the *lapuns* came up and told me not to worry about Dad; that he was with them now and they would look after him. How many tears can one person cry, I have no idea, but I know that day I almost flooded the memorial. The service lasted about 1/2 hour, and was the most moving and the most charged with emotion that I have ever experienced; there

was not a dry eye, male or female. I would not have missed it for the world. Geoff and I spread our respective fathers ashes and then Anthony and Brenton, another of our group read out the names of all the fallen.

That afternoon we walked up the track about 20 minutes to see Butch Bisset's plaque. Butch died in his brother Stan's arms. They were both 2/14th Battalion. AGAIN it was uphill. About 10 minutes after we started out, along came all the porters, even though we were just walking up and back; they wouldn't leave us, just absolute angels! Butch's plaque was attached to a rock on the side of the track; I couldn't believe that people had scratched their initials into it!

It started to rain at about 7pm, so everyone retired to his or her little one man tent. I woke about 11pm, and it was raining INSIDE my tent. The water was literally flowing through it. I moved my pack and camera's into the middle of the tent where it seemed driest; most of my gear was in plastic bags. It was pouring outside; I think we were getting the entire yearly Queensland rainfall in one night. After about 15 minutes I thought 'bugger this' and bailed, with my sleeping bag and mattress and made a dive for the *haus win*, which was no mean feat. When I got there, Karen and Jan had beaten me to it, then Donetta arrived, soaking wet. The next morning everyone and everything was soaked through. The rest of the party had stayed in their tents, I asked Baz how he fared through the night, *'Not bad, he said 'though I had to dog paddle most of the night to keep my head above water!'*

The idea was that on the way back down to Kokoda the packs would be lighter and easier to carry but with everything wet that wasn't the case, if anything they were heavier. It was harder going down than it was coming up and I couldn't believe we had actually climbed up this way. My knee was on fire and I was developing what they call 'laughing legs', where your legs start to shake then go out from under you without any warning. By the time we were almost to Deniki, Donetta's legs had also gone. She had fallen about six times now. The last time she fell down the side of hill, in amongst the choko vines and if it hadn't been for a quick move by Ivan and her porter, she would have rolled a fair way down. Again the porters were worth their weight in gold, running down the track so that they were there to help us over the difficult bits, and again, they would disappear on the easy bits, only to find them asleep on the side of the track waiting for us! I asked Bourbon how old he was. He thought for a good long while and I thought he had forgotten the question. Then he came back with a big smile, 'six'. I figured he was about 19, he had a *meri* and two *piccaninnies*.

Eventually we walked into Kokoda and what an absolutely glorious feeling it was. Eight hours it had taken us and we were exhausted but completely elated. Anthony came down to meet us; he had made it in five hours. He had smelt the beer from Hoi and that was it! Anthony had met the owner of the trekking company and his first and only words were: 'Your bloody tents leak!'

That first SP was the sweetest thing I have tasted. It was really a fitting end to the trek to have all the old veterans waiting there for us! It had been decided that Peter Holloway would hold a service the next morning at 7am. Once again

the cloud cover and mist were low, almost covering the memorial itself and it gave it all an eerie look and feeling. I had bought some of Dad's ashes back with me and Peter had organised an 'order of service' for Dad. Peter had done an excellent job with Anthony acting as 'alter boy'. Dad's ashes that I had bought back were sprinkled in front of the memorial dedicated to the fallen soldiers. Just as the wreaths were being laid, the school bell sounded, so appropriate. I could not have hoped for a more fitting end to the trek. So Bill Guest is once again back in New Guinea, a little bit spread from Kokoda to Isurava. I think he would have been extremely pleased with the outcome and I know he would have been looking down and saying 'Thank you, Bub'. ■

ISURAVA COMMEMORATION by Ken Woodward

I was interested in the Ross Johnson article on the Sydney Isurava commemoration and the article on Popondetta by Annette Ross in the most recent edition of *Una Voce*.

I was at the commemoration at the battle site at Isurava on 29th August, having walked from Ower's Corner in time for the event. The memorial itself is very impressive and well signed with short histories of the battle in English, Pidgin and Motu. The famous Kingsbury Rock is nearby and it is not far back to the Butch Bisset memorial and the makeshift rock operating table. The area is immaculately maintained by a local Papua New Guinean who obviously takes great pride in his work. The layout also makes it ideal for ceremonies, with a flat area near the commemorative stones for the dignitaries and a nice hill covered in Sogerri grass lawn for the audience. It is a credit to the War Graves Commission, especially in such an inaccessible location.

We only had a short walk from Alola village on the morning and got to Isurava in good time. There were already a lot of people who had overnighted there, including some who had walked from Kokoda for the occasion and a larger trekking party including a camera crew from Channel 9 which had also walked from Ower's Corner. The plan was that some veterans would be flown in by helicopter from Kokoda and participate in the ceremony.

Unfortunately, the fog and drizzle set in and it was clear that the veterans would not get there, so the ceremony got under way about 11 a.m., the traditional time for remembrance ceremonies. The landowner, Ivan, started proceedings by welcoming visitors and affirming the commitment of the people of the area to maintain and respect the battle sites. He spoke very well and in English. Then representatives of the 39th Battalion and 2/14th Brigade spoke about the battle itself and how it began a continuing strong association between the units.

The ashes of two battle veterans who had recently died were also to be spread on the day and their children spoke about their roles in the battle and their desire for their remains to be left there. One was your correspondent Annette Ross whose father Bill Guest made his home in PNG after the war and who had herself grown up in PNG. She also spoke in *Pidgin* about how her father regarded PNG as home and that this ceremony was bringing him home. This was very well received, especially by the local people in the audience. Some of

the ashes were scattered at the site, the rest will remain in urns and be kept safe by Ivan.

Finally we had the ode, the Australian and PNG National anthems and the ceremony was over.

Channel 9 screened some of the material produced in a segment of "A Current Affair" a few weeks after the event, though this focused more on the trek and the veterans than the ceremony.

We were also on the Track during the annual race mentioned by Jim Toner in his Notes. Competitors have the option of going either direction and we were near Nauro when the first of the South-North racers came through. That was one of the easier bits of the Track, but they were definitely running and were still looking fresh at that stage. To put us and them into perspective, I should point out that they had covered in about six hours what had taken us bits of three days. Our guides/carriers were all from Kokoda, as were most of the competitors, so everyone was a relative of somebody. One exception was a big German who looked pretty fit and finished fourth overall which was a good effort.

That day we had lunch at Brown River, just north of Nauro and quite a few of the South/North competitors came through. They included Lulu, the leading female at that stage and inevitably the sister of one of our guides. There was a checkpoint there and the river is nearly as wide as where it crosses the Hiritano highway, but not as deep. The bottom is fine gravel and sand and the water about thigh deep so the normal crossing procedure is to take your boots off and wade through. Our boys gave their wantoks a hand by piggybacking them over so that they didn't have to take the time to remove and then replace their boots. I asked the checkpoint official if it was legal and he replied "It is here". The checkpoint officials also seem to come from Kokoda!

We continued on to Menari that afternoon and were being passed by racers all the way. We got to Menari about 4.30 p.m. and the first of the North/South runners came through. There was a checkpoint next to the airstrip and we hung around there for entertainment after we had got cleaned up. About dusk an attractive white woman, in her 20s I would guess, came through heading north. Her running partner had pulled out with cramps a couple of hills previously and she was on her own. To my surprise and admiration she continued on alone in the dark over Brigade Hill to Efogi. We later learnt that although there were four Europeans at Efogi who had chosen to stay and wait for daylight, she batted on to the finish. A game girl.

We kept passing stragglers throughout the next day, but by then the race had long been decided. While it lasted it was a great diversion for us. More so for our guides who all dream of competing and winning the prize of \$10,000. ■

GONE FISHING by Denis Compston

In the early 1960s I took over the management of Potsdamhaven (Potsdam) Plantation which is on the north coast of New Guinea, a day or night trip by small boat from Madang.

Potsdam saw a lot of war action during WWII as it was a very large Japanese base hospital. After settling in I checked out the sheds around the house and also the copra drier. In one shed I found four wooden boxes about 2' by 2' amongst a heap of junk. On top of the boxes was an Owen sub-machine gun wrapped in a clean oily rag. It looked like it had never been used; its appearance was very new. In two of the boxes I opened I found thousands of bullets, all in packets of 100 in perfect condition. I opened the other two boxes and found dynamite in packets about 2" x 2" and 2" thick. There was also a coil of fuse and a small box of detonators. Each piece of dynamite had a hole in the middle so the detonators could fit in. To think all of the above had been stored since WWII and so near the house! I could not understand why it had never been discovered before.

The Owen sub-machine gun came in very handy for wild pigs, as there was many in the area. A few of my *bois* had been attacked on the plantation by wild pigs and it was not a nice sight. The dynamite was carefully taken well away - and I wondered what to do with it. One lazy Sunday afternoon some friends from Bogia and I were having a few drinks in the garden, when my *boss boi* came up and asked if he and a few of the *bois* could borrow the two large canoes that were used to take bags of copra out to the boat that came once a month. Asking him why, he replied that there was a very large school of fish in the harbour and they wanted to spear some. I had a brainwave...the dynamite! Having seen some bombing of fish in other parts of New Guinea I thought we could try it. I tested the fuse by lighting it and got the fuse down to 30 seconds.

Two friends, myself and 12 *bois* who could all swim rowed into the school of fish. We set the dynamite, detonator and 30 seconds of fuse. Bang! The *bois* jumped in and caught the stunned fish, throwing them into the canoes. Further out into the harbour there were more schools of fish. Another block of dynamite and bang! The *bois* were back in the water and loving every minute of it, filling both canoes up with good size fish. Another wait - the *boss boi* saw more fish and off we went after them. Another block of dynamite - bang! This time the dynamite was too near the canoes but thankfully the *bois* were not in the water. The shockwave from the dynamite split parts of both canoes. Sharks appeared everywhere, eating the stunned fish. Water was pouring in to the canoes and everyone on board was paddling like crazy to the shore with the sharks circling us.

We just made it to the beach in time with the whole labour line and locals, by this stage, cheering us on. We were heroes! A good meal was had by all that night. After repairing the canoes the *bois* were ready for more bombing but as this could have been an unfortunate event, we did it once only! I took the rest of the dyamite and blew it up. ■

THE SHORTEST EMPLOYMENT IN BURNS PHILP'S HISTORY

by Charles Betteridge

When I first arrived in Port Moresby on Friday morning 8th April 1960 to work for BP's Automotive Division one of the very first thing I had to do was to see the manager (Bernie Ryan) to get my contract counter-signed by him before I even commenced work.

I duly arrived in his office located on the top floor of the main Burns Philp store in downtown Port Moresby at about 8.05am. He talked to me for a few minutes to tell me what my duties were and I had to sign my copy of the contract and then he duly signed my copy and he put down the exact time (and date) he signed it. My copy was signed at 8.11am and 23 seconds on that Friday morning (as was the original copy). He noted the time from a rather expensive looking wrist watch he always wore.

Apparently it was a trait with Mr. Ryan to put the time of day he signed each copy of a staff contract and whenever a staff member resigned he would write the day and the time of day that person resigned – right to the second.

One Friday morning a new male recruit for the men's wear section arrived up from Sydney. As with all other staff before him his contract was duly signed (and timed) by Mr. Ryan. When this new recruit was walking down the stairs from the main office what he saw as he neared the bottom of the stairs was a small tribe of Hanuabadan village men all dressed up in their traditional costumes with painted faces and bodies, all carrying long wicked looking spears and traditional axes etc and heading straight towards this new recruit on the stairs.

The new recruit panicked, let out a short scream, tore back up the stairs to Mr. Ryan's office and resigned on the spot (which was noted and timed) and caught the same plane back to Sydney that he had arrived up in just a couple of hours earlier.

What this new recruit didn't know was that this tribe of natives was coming up to see Mr. Ryan as he had arranged a 'Sing-Sing' for the opening of a new section of the store later that day and he had hired out these natives to perform at the opening ceremony.

This new recruit was 'employed' for exactly three minutes and twenty two seconds – from the time he signed to join up to the time he actually resigned. This very short term of employment still stands to this day. ■

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

William James 'Jim' GROSE (23 January 2008, aged 81 years)

We hope to have further details in the June *Una Voce*.

Jim Gillman (16 November 2007)

Lately of the Garden City Retirement Home, Upper Gravatt, Jim was Treasury Officer Rabaul.

Albert Speer MBE

Jean Isabel PARRY (2 December 2007)

Jean and husband Colwyn were married in 1951 and settled in Col's birthplace, Rabaul. Twins, Roslyn and Rhonda were born in 1952. The couple then moved to Lae where their third daughter, Catherine, was born. Later they moved to Port Moresby, Mt Hagen and Madang. At Independence, Jean and Col returned to Australia and settled in Sydney. Later they moved to Queensland, first to Samford and then Buderim where Jean became an ardent bridge player. Jean was diagnosed with cancer in late 2005. She is survived by her husband Col, their daughters and grandchildren. Colwyn Arthur Parry

Robert Graham MATHESON (24 November 2007, aged 78 years)

Graham had a long involvement with the surveying profession in PNG. He arrived in 1951 and was employed by the Commonwealth Dept. of Works in Moresby and Lae. He then transferred to the Dept. of Lands Surveys and Mines based in Rabaul. He was transferred to Moresby in 1956 and in 1957 he was appointed Chief of Division Surveys. This position was upgraded and renamed Surveyor General shortly afterwards. Graham set about modernizing the administration of the Survey Division and introducing new and correctly drafted legislation to guide the proper functioning of surveying in a rapidly developing country. The recruitment of experienced expatriate surveyors allowed him to establish Regional Survey offices throughout the country. Town Planning legislation was introduced together with a functioning Town Planning Section established within the Survey Division. Survey Division staff did not have the capacity to attend to the rapid increase in demands to survey alienated land and undertake the surveying program for the copra, coffee and oil palm farm lots rapidly being introduced, so Graham established a funding program that introduced private survey practices to the Territory. A National Mapping Bureau was established, and agreements were reached with Indonesia which resulted in substantial marking of the border between West Irian and PNG. Graham took particular pleasure and pride in the establishment of the Degree in Surveying Course at the University of Technology in Lae – this initiative culminated in a National surveying graduate succeeding Graham as Surveyor General at Independence in 1975.

Info taken from The National 21 Jan 2008

Susanne (Susy) BONNELL (23 December 2007, aged 67)

Californian born Susy, a 24 year-old adventurer with an interest in anthropology, was on a 3-year work contract at a Sydney library when, in the early 1960s, she took a trip to PNG. A job offer for an interesting new community welfare position was irresistible. She started work in New Guinea in 1964, serving as a government Welfare Officer in Mt Hagen, New Ireland and Port Moresby and becoming known for some of her innovative work with PNG village women. Her daughter Sali was born while she was in Moresby. She later taught at the Admin College and Vudal Agricultural College. From 1989-1991 she was employed at the Porgera mining project and assisted with the relocation of villagers affected by mine operations. Until the late 90s she worked as an independent social development consultant to various mining companies. During her long career she inspired a large number of PNG women with the confidence to deal with change and to speak out for their rights. Susy retired to Brisbane and later moved to North Tamborine. She is survived by her daughter Sali and two grandsons. Judy (Peters) Duggan

Leslie Thomas William BECKETT (26 November 2007, aged 76 years)

Les was born on 3 February 1931 at Regent's Park, London. After completing two years of active service in the Korean conflict, he went to Libya where he was employed as a mine disposal expert in the desert areas near Tripoli and Benghazi.

Having been sent home to London for minor surgery, he contracted a golden staph infection which, for Les, marked the beginning of a life-long battle against this antibiotic-resistant bug. However, the constant debilitating illness and need for major surgery was never enough to stop Les from somehow following his dreams. So in 1964 he and his wife June moved to Australia but, unable to settle, they soon landed in the Territory of PNG (as it then was) where Les quickly obtained employment as the Rabaul Manager of J.C. Waller Shipping Agency. Four very happy years in East New Britain saw the closure of the agency but Les managed to find other employment for two further years in Lae, reluctantly having to leave PNG for good just prior to the declaration of Independence. Les always referred to this six-year period as one of his happiest experiences but, even though his fight against debilitating illness continued for a further thirty years, he never relinquished his love of travel and adventure. Having married again in the 80s, he and his new wife, Ann, went to live in Hong Kong for four years, eventually returning to Forestville, NSW.

Les was a kind and gentle man. He died peacefully at home and will be sorely missed by many people.

Ann Beckett

John 'Fitzy' FITZGERALD (11 October 2007, aged 76 years)

Fitzy spent four years as Managing Editor of the South Pacific Post, Papua New Guinea's only daily paper. John Fitzgerald is survived by his wife of 50 years, Arline, two daughters and three granddaughters.

Richard Jones

Fred WESSELY (July 2007)

Fred worked for various government departments during his service in PNG but it is as a producer of excellent drama for the Port Moresby Theatre Co that he will be remembered by many. During the South Pacific Games in 1969 he produced *The Good Woman of Sechuan* and it was with Brecht's *Threepenny Opera* that he christened the new Waigani Theatre. Fred is survived by wife Ann, four children and grandchildren.

Ray Watson

Les GILLIES (6 November 2007, aged 89 years)

Les, LP to a chosen few, first arrived in PNG during WWII. In 1947, at the completion of his army service, Les returned to PNG and remained for the remainder of his working life. Les' contributions to PNG were numerous and varied. Those who personally knew Les would know that he dedicated his life to PNG and its people. That was just the type of man he was. Les worked and lived in Lae, among other places throughout the Morobe Province before moving to Goroka and the Highlands. Les became renowned throughout the highlands for his work ethics, sporting prowess and infamous lunches. Merv, Les' brother, was by his side during many of the lunches and rugby matches. On the rugby field, the Gillies were a force to be reckoned. Les is survived by his sister in Temora and Merv and his family at Hervey Bay.

Lisa Adams

Colonel Peter Derek D'ARCY (5 December 2007, aged 84 years)

Colonel Peter D'Arcy was a senior staff officer at PNG Command, Murray Barracks, in the 1960s. He died in Canberra in December.

During WW2 he served with the Indian Army's 11th Sikh Regiment, taking part in the Arakan campaign and the great battle on the plains of Imphal Kohima.

Colonel D'Arcy joined the Royal Australian Regiment in 1948 and served in Korea and later with the ANZUK force in Singapore. His final overseas posting was as defence attache in Cambodia. He is survived by his widow Barbara, three daughters Georgie, Libby and Angela, and seven grandchildren.

Don Hook

Archibald Norman TAYLOR OBE (24 November 2007, aged 86 years)

Arch first arrived in Rabaul in 1941 and served a distinguished war service in and around Rabaul both during the invasion and occupation. After escaping down the coast of New Britain in early 1942 he was evacuated on the Laurabada. He eventually joined the 1st New Guinea Infantry Battalion, operating behind Japanese lines on New Britain. From 1973-1975 he was the relieving plantation manager on Tovarur Plantation, out of Rabaul. Arch loved the country and the true bush native. After 'going finish' several visits were made back to the country, up until the 80s. Arch and Vera had a wonderful married life and came close to reaching their 65th wedding anniversary. Arch is survived by Vera and their children Robert (Brisbane) and Susan (Canberra).

Vera Taylor

Dr Dorothy Shaw MBE (27 August 2008) - further details next *Una Voce*.

Dimen de Graaff - further details next *Una Voce*.

John Brown - We hope to have further details next *Una Voce*

Margaret HARDING (22 January 2008, further details next *Una Voce*)

Joan ABBERTON (7 November 2007, aged 87 years)

Late of Runaway Bay, formerly of Port Macquarie and Papua New Guinea.

Beloved wife of Tom (Deceased), loved mother of Grahame and Tim and their families.

Joe Nitsche and the SMH 12/11/2007

Sir Joseph NOMBRI (14 January 2008)

Sir Joe, together with PNG Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, formed the Pangu Pati and aimed to achieve Independence for Papua New Guinea in the early 70s. Sir Joseph was PNG's longest serving ambassador and a statesman.

Info from Post Courier 18-20 January 2008

Des SULLIVAN

Arriving in Moresby in 1946 as a clerk in District Services, he rose to become chief clerk and a formidable organiser of sport, especially cricket and tennis. On his frequent visits to the "bush" as aide and then official secretary to the administrator, he took a great interest in the varied duties of kiaps and often talked about these to me. After leaving Moresby in 1959 he became town clerk at Albany and then came into his own as secretary of the Rottneest Island Board and manager of the island. Here his knowledge of kiaps can be seen. He was police chief, harbour master, JP, fisheries inspector, and responsible for the water and electricity supply and for roads. He also built the golf course and the main ferry jetty. His "court" powers were limited to ordering a strong kick in the pants or the immediate removal of the offender from the island. His success and the reason he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia can be directly traced to his observation of kiaps at work and his natural get up and go attitude.

Fred Kaad

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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Mrs C TOMS	Unit 47 Village Life	Unit 36 Village Life 5b Vassey Street BUNDABERG, QLD, 4670

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ms Rowena AUSTIN	54 First Avenue, ST PETERS, SA, 5069
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Mr M N BAKER	49 Sovereign Drive, TWO ROCKS, WA, 6037
Ms Norma BARNE	350 Moore Park Road, PADDINGTON, NSW, 2021
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Mr Frank CLEARY	1 Champion Street, DONCASTER EAST, VIC, 3109
Mr John M CRUIKSHANK	Villa 37 Glengara 220 Hansens Road TUMBIUMBI NSW
Mr D R DALY	'Fernleigh' Tops Road, NOWENDOC, NSW, 2354
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Mr Wesley McMASTER	PO Box 481, COLLINS STREET WEST, VIC, 8007
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