



# Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

(formerly the Retired Officers Association of Papua New Guinea Inc)

Patrons: Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)  
Mrs Roma Bates; Mr Fred Kaad OBE

## The Christmas Luncheon

will be held at  
Killara Golf Club (Sydney)  
Sunday 6 December 2009

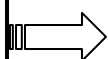
Full details on page 3,  
inside this issue!

Please get your replies in quickly.  
Invite or meet up with old friends  
from your past and reminisce about  
days gone by. Extended families and  
friends of members are most welcome  
and we can organize tables to  
accommodate all ages and interests,  
or organise your own table of 10.

Please RSVP by **23 Nov 2009**

\* \* \*

The PNGAA would particularly like to  
acknowledge its appreciation to Ross  
Johnson for the outstanding role he  
has undertaken as Treasurer and  
Membership Officer of our  
association over the past 11 years –  
Thank you Ross!



**Thursday 15 October,  
2009 Visit to the Blue  
Mountains – see details page 2.**

\*\*\*For latest news, information  
and discussion please visit the  
forum on our website at:

**[www.pngaa.net](http://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](mailto:editor@pngaa.net) By submitting your article/story for publication, you agree that we may, after publication in *Una Voce*, republish it on the internet unless you advise us to the contrary.

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**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.

**PNGAA Office Bearers –**

**President**

**Riley Warren AM**

Phone 02 4648 4470

Email [rwarren@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rwarren@ozemail.com.au)

**Secretary**

Marie Clifton-Bassett

Tel/fax 02 99583408

Email: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)

**Treasurer**

Will Muskens

Phone 07 3369 6807

Email: [muskens@gmail.com](mailto:muskens@gmail.com)

**Editor of Newsletter**

Andrea Williams

Phone 02 9449 4129

Fax 02 9449 4196

Email: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net)

**Visit to the Blue Mountains**

Edna and George Oakes are again very kindly welcoming us to their home in the Blue Mountains for a spring time visit on **Thursday 15 October**. Come for a chat and to enjoy the views from the verandah and garden to Kurrajong and beyond. For the energetic there are short walks to adjacent waterfalls and lookouts. Please bring something for the picnic lunch. Edna will supply soup, buns, tea, coffee etc. The Oakes’ will meet those who travel by train at Woodford Station with transport, but it is only 10 minutes to their house for anyone who prefers the picturesque walk. Their address is: 5 Werona Avenue, Woodford – phone (02) 4758 8754.

The train departs from Central Country Concourse at 8.55am and arrives at Woodford at 10.28 am. Returns from Woodford at 3.05pm and arrives Central at 4.43pm. Join us! We had a wonderful day with Edna and George last year. Please contact Pam Foley Ph: 9967 2818 by Monday 21 September.

**Deadline for next issue  
15 October 2009**

Email Addresses - please notify or update them to: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net)

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**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Sunday, 6 December 2009**  
**Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara NSW**  
**11.30am onwards**  
**RSVP 23 November 2009**

The Christmas Lunch is booked for December 6, again at the **Killara Golf Club in Sydney**. Members, together with family and friends, are all welcome.

The cost is \$47.50 per person and needs to be **paid in advance**, by 23 November 2009. This does not include liquor or soft drinks which will be available from a **cash-only bar**. Advance payment enables us to plan the seating and confirm numbers with Killara Golf Club.

Anyone with special dietary requests? Please let us know so we can arrange something suitable.

Seating is for tables of 10. If you wish to be seated with family or friends please advise on the order form OR feel free to make up your own table of 10.

For those coming by train please take the exit on the western side of Killara station, walk along Marion Street, cross the Pacific Highway at the lights and turn left for 550m.

Alternatively, please also let us know if you would like the free shuttle transport from Lindfield station which is expected to have its upgrade completed by then, including the installation of lifts. Please phone Harry West on 9418 8793 regarding transport. Public transport information can be obtained on # 131500.

For those driving – free on-site parking is available. And to remind you, look for the red and yellow balloons at the entrance immediately after Fiddens Wharf Road on the Pacific Highway as you travel north. Entry to Killara Golf Club is *immediately* after the Noodle Blast (previously Black Stump Restaurant).

We are seeking donations for the usual Christmas raffle so if any member has a suitable contribution and would like to help please contact Juli Allcorn on Tel: (h) 9416 1430 (m) 0405 625 912 or email: [j\\_allcorn@hotmail.com](mailto:j_allcorn@hotmail.com)

For any queries, please also telephone Juli (details above).

Come along, renew those old friendships, and share the familiar experiences once again at this delightful occasion.

Please complete the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow 'Treasurer's Corner' insert and return as soon as possible or by 23 November 2009.

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**CONGRATULATIONS for Queens Birthday Honours to:**

► **Harry West OAM** who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia.

Harry served as Secretary of the PNGAA for ten years and President for sixteen years. In April 2008 he was unanimously voted an honorary life member for outstanding and meritorious service to the Association, only the third such appointment in its 58-year history.

► **Jeffrey Wall, CBE, OBE** who received the Order of the British Empire: Commander (CBE) in the Papua New Guinea Queen's Birthday Honours in June 2009 for service to the Australia-Papua New Guinea relationship.



As a result of the new constitution there has been a reduction of Management Committee members for the PNGAA, all of whom have given extraordinary dedication and commitment to helping our association grow.

The association would like to show its appreciation by sincerely thanking Fred Kaad OBE, Harry West OAM, Marie Day, Ann Graham, Ross Johnson, Nancy Johnston, Margaret Komarek, Jacky Lawes, Robin Mead, Joe Nitsche and Harriet Troy.

**IN 100 WORDS OR LESS –**

**Theme for next issue - Memories of Burns Philp, Port Moresby**

Deadline for entries: 15 October 2009 - Please write/phone/fax/email

**NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY from JIM TONER**

An 'Island Night' at the Kombiu Club, Rabaul was always a lively frolic and Darwin's PNG-Australia Social & Cultural Group held a similar function at the Filipino Community centre in July. There were the usual Hawaiian shirts, music and frangipanis and as a fund-raiser it was succesful.

Ex-kiap Mike PRESS who lost his wife, the jolly Elmah, some time ago would have been heartened to see over 70 of their friends attend a ceremonial unveiling of a memorial stone at Darwin's cemetery in July. A dozen women and girls in colourful *meri* blouses sang hymns delightfully in Kuanua, the Tolai tongue, very reminiscent of choral festivals at Queen Elizabeth Park, Rabaul.

The Arafura Games held biennially since 1991 brought 2000 athletes to Darwin in May. The PNG contingent included the volleyball team from Vabukori, a coastal village with perhaps 1500 inhabitants just outside Moresby. They had won the PNG championship for the past five years and maintained that form to take the gold medal here. As did the women's soccer team. PNG won three other gold medals amongst its total collection of 27.

The considerable golfing fraternity amongst us may be interested that Charlie Earp, revered coach of Peter Thomson and Greg Norman, was here and his comment on a 15 years old PNG ladies golf competitor was "has a beautiful swing which should never be changed". Remember the name Shavina Maras.

There was a time when an icon was a painted religious image but the word's usage has expanded somewhat to include sportsmen, the Hill's Hoist, etc. But who would have anticipated that the Burns Philp store in Moresby would be designated "a colonial icon"? Alas, it is no more having been burned to the ground during July. It had of late transmorphed into locations for such disparate entities as the *Tribal Den* nightclub and the National Narcotics Bureau. But it will stick in the memories of ladies coming into town after months on remote stations. What heaven to ascend those steps to a 'shopping paradise' called Beeps ?

The long march to gender equality has turned into a "Left. Right. Stick them chests out...." as 24 women recruits to the PNG Defence Force commenced training at the Goldie Depot outside Moresby. They are the first female soldiers although in the past three women were inducted for pilot training in the Air Wing.

In the Sixties Don FOX was a leading batsman for the Boroko Colts and has stayed on in Moresby where he is Operations Manager for Ela Motors and now also chairman of the Rugby League.

Another long stayer is Terry SHELLEY once a Co-ops Officer. He spent a bit of time at the Humpty Doo hotel in the NT but has been back in the Highlands for many years. He moves weekly between Kundiawa and Goroka and last May, presumably in an odd spare moment, calculated that during his lifetime he had made 2670 crossings of the Daulo Pass. Old Native Affairs mates will look forward to him letting us know when he has made 3000 'runs'.

Indigenous accountants were not exactly thick on the ground in 1975 but it is reassuring that the Certified Practicing Accountants association of PNG currently has nearly 2000 members. The British Graduates Society, established in 2006, includes indigenes who have studied in the UK, has rather less but on the last Queen's Birthday celebrated with, quite appropriately, a tea party.

Apart from taking the stage as leading lady in many Australian musicals over the past 20 years the singer Marina PRIOR has another claim to fame. She was born in 1963 in Moresby where her father worked for some years at the hospital. She returned there in July to help celebrate the birthday of Sir Brian BELL. His electrical goods store in Boroko, if still there since the Fifties, must surely be another 'colonial icon'.

In the middle of the Ramu valley halfway between Lae and Madang there is now an agricultural project vastly larger than anything we might have contemplated in the good old 'colonial era'. Ramu Agri-Industries concentrates on sugar and oil palm (with each having a mill) also beef. It has 3500 employees and uses 1500 pieces of machinery (for which there are six workshops) from harvesters to motor-bikes. Need for aerial spraying of the sugar cane means that a plane is based for this purpose at Gusap the WW2 airstrip. Currently the sugar mill is crushing 24 hours per day just like those in Queensland during the season.

RAI staff accommodation adjoins a 9 hole golf course and a Club with a pool leaving little to be desired. The development spreads over about 80 kms of the valley floor and is patrolled by security guards 24/7. The company's intention is to go through the complex process of leasing customary land for further plantations and Norm OLIVER, former Land Titles Commissioner, is presently at Ramu setting up a Land Administration section. ■

## PNG ... IN THE NEWS

► **On 23 July 2009 the first medallion in recognition of the heroism of the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels** was awarded to Wesley Akove for his help with Australian soldiers during WWII. Australia's Veterans' Affairs Minister Alan Griffin presented Mr Akove with a commemorative medallion at a special ceremony at Bomana War Cemetery. Approximately 50,000 PNG civilians worked with Australian troops during the war. They were paid with rations, clothes and tobacco, but their role was never officially recognised - until now.

*Info from ABC Online News*

► **The history of aid-funded scholarships for PNG students** in the past shows that whilst something was done, just the provision of a scheme as such was apparently enough. Results, as in all of Australia's multiple and hugely-expensive PNG-based aid projects, have never been announced in any detail. More importantly, there is no evidence whatever to show that planned outcomes in terms of percentages, attainments and onward movement to tertiary study has been used as the standard for annual assessment and adjustment of the PNG scholarship scheme.

Now that Australia and PNG have concluded a new and potentially hugely-valuable scholarship scheme, whereby 2000 PNG students per annum will be brought to study in Australia it is time for the re-energised and re-focussed PNGAA to set its cap at something worthwhile. Lets get hold of the plan, appraise it, and remain in constant touch with AusAid on this important issue. Let us also look at providing emergency phone and email contacts, "*in locus parentum*" services for those PNG students who, faced with life in a strange and competitive environment, find the need for advice or a shoulder to cry on from time to time. This is partnership. This is meaningful.

John Fowke

► **PNG born Will Genia was named in the 30-man Wallaby squad** for the Tri-Nations series, making his debut against the All Blacks on Saturday 18 July 2009 at Eden Park Auckland. Wearing # 21, the Queensland Reds scrumhalf backed-up Luke Burgess.

Genia spent his early years in Port Moresby before being educated at Brisbane Boys College finishing in 2005. He represented GPS, Queensland and Australian Schoolboys rugby in 2005.

*The following message was sent to Will from the Association:*

*"Congratulations Will. We all look forward with real pride to your successful debut against the All Blacks."*

► Keep a watch out for **St Kilda's (AFL) James Gwilt**, another PNG player with a strong following.

► **Operation Open Heart**, with 47 members, again visited Port Moresby in late May/early June this year. Coordinator of the program Russell Lee said that although the cost of the program had increased over the years and almost doubled this year the program was getting better and better each year. *'Mr Lee has been involved in this program since day one and ... says last year, there were close to 70 heart operations done during the 10-day program. However, this year, there would be 45 - 50 patients operated on.'*

*... Mr Lee said this was a big decrease from last year's operations because the Australian medical team would be concentrating more on training than they had done in the previous years.*

*He said training was being given a priority because of the keen interest being shown by the Papua New Guinea medical team.'*

Several members of the Operation Open Heart (OOH) team have been awarded various medals of the Order of Logohu awards for 'voluntary services to Papua New Guinea's public and community health'.

Deni Hines also visited PNG to help promote Operation Open Heart and her two fund-raising concerts raised K100,000. She expects to return in September or October for a concert tour of the country accompanied by her own band.

Deni says:

*'During the trip I visited the local Port Moresby Hospital where the operations take place and I was never more humbled in my life. You've got communities from outer regions who are scarred and cautious at the same time wanting and appreciating as much help as possible.'*

(See: <http://www.denihines.com>)

Another famous Australian singer with Torres Strait Islander heritage, Christine Anu, has recently been appointed the Patron of charity Buk Bilong Pikinini (BBP). With hard work and Ms Anu's support, BBP hopes to open many more libraries throughout PNG.

*'We met some of the most humble, informative, warm and entertaining people during our stay...*

*I also hope this opportunity acknowledges the strong relations between Australia and Papua New Guinea. I hope my attendance at Haus Ruth, the function for Port Moresby Rotaract Club and the two Buk Bilong Pikinini Charity events, raised awareness and much needed funds to make the daily lives of children and women more positive in difficult situations.'*

(See: <http://www.christineanu.com.au/>)

Information from Post Courier Online and other sources

### ► **Modilon Hospital, Madang**

Management and staff of Cabrini Hospital in Melbourne, Australia in association with the PNG Department of Health and Divine Word University are helping to build a new operating theatre at the Modilon General Hospital in Madang. Cabrini will supply most of the equipment for the operating theatre, as well as other medical supplies and will offer training to the staff at the hospital.

*Info from PNG Gossip Newsletter 6 June 2009*

### ► **Ramu Pipeline**

Worries have been raised about a 134 kilometre pipe line being built from the Ramu nickel mine to a tailings dam and wharf in Basamuk Bay, Madang province. One of PNG's leading engineers Professor Simon Saulei said the pipeline did not have proper foundations, was constructed just metres above waterways, cut through villages and was too close to the highway. Locals fear an environmental disaster is waiting to happen as during production Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC) plans to pump 100 million tonnes of what they call 'neutralised' slurry waste into a deep sea canyon in the pristine bay.

*Info from PNG Gossip Newsletter 6 June 2009*

► **The former Burns Philp Building, a colonial icon in downtown Port Moresby, was gutted by fire** on Sunday night, 12 July 2009. It is thought that it was built at almost the same time as the Papuan Club which was burnt down in the late 1960s.

‘Eyewitnesses told The National the fire started around 7pm, and by 9pm, the building was burnt to the ground.

‘The fire service arrived at the scene but could do little. But they managed to prevent the fire from spreading to the Westpac Bank. The cause of the fire was not known.

‘An employee of a firm that operated the internet café said he believed the fire started in one of the offices at the top floor.

‘The firemen responded quickly but could not contain the fire as the building was too wide and the fire had spread from the middle of the building.

‘The winds, blowing briskly towards Fairfax Harbour, ensured the fire spread quickly.’

In 2007 Nasfund purchased 51% of Burns Philp and purchased the remaining 49% in 2008. Nasfund wanted to redevelop the site for historical purposes, ensuring that the Bell Tower section, perhaps the most historical building in PNG dating to the early 1900s, remained preserved.

Information from the PNG National 13 July 2009

## **BURNS PHILP MEMORIES...**

### **End of an Era**

The destruction by fire of Burns Philp’s store in Port Moresby on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2009 was particularly poignant for my family as it was built by our paternal grandfather, an employee of Rooney’s, a Townsville building firm.

Cement mixed with sea water provided its solid walls. Completed in 1912, its four storey high tower dominated the town and no doubt thrilled Hubert Murray as tangible evidence of Port Moresby’s, and Papua’s, long-sought potential. In 1928 the town’s first petrol pump was installed in front of it and the plain and functional warehouse was gradually prettied up with punkahs, a new ceiling, air-conditioning, and a supermarket. The building survived Japanese air raids and the depredations of Australian troops during World War 2 to become as much a recognised symbol of Port Moresby as the policeboy on traffic duty. What now for the site?

With thanks to Ian Stuart’s excellent *Port Moresby – yesterday and today*.  
Sydney, Pacific Publications, 1970.

Dr Peter Cahill

\* \* \*

**I had many links with that store** being an ex BP’s employee for the thirty years I was in PNG. I had to go up into the manager’s office on the first floor to sign my contract of employment on Friday 8th April, 1960, as did all other employees who first started with BP’s in those early days. It was also in BP’s main office that the contract between Burns Philp and Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan was signed on the 14th February, 1963 giving BP’s the distributorship of Toyota throughout PNG and The Solomon Islands.



The thing that struck me when I first went into their store in 1960 were the punkahs slowly waving back and forth from the tall ceilings and all 'powered' by a local boy pulling on some ropes. Later on they were powered by an electric motor.

I also remembered the 'fashions' for ladies coming in direct from the UK and the same with the men's wear. Jewellery etc also came in direct from the UK because of BP's strong links with the UK. All the vehicles and tractors that were being sold by BP's when I first arrived in 1960 were of UK origin such as Rover sedans, Land Rover's, Bedford trucks, Vauxhall sedans, English Ford sedans and trucks, Scammell's, Massey Ferguson tractors and implements - and so the list went on.

Charles Betteridge

\* \* \*

### **Memories of Burns Philp, Port Moresby, 1961 and 1963 Remember When? By Laurie le Fevre**

The Burns Philp store in Port Moresby did not feature strongly in my time in PNG as I spent only a few months in Port Moresby in total. The earliest experience was the day I arrived from south on 10 January 1961. I was just old enough to vote and, as it happened, to open an account at BP's.

'First thing', had been Peter Bosomworth's suggestion to newcomers whilst driving from Jackson's to Port Moresby, 'open an account with BP's. They will always look after you on an outstation. And get a look at the punkah'.

Eight weeks later I left for Samarai on the BP ship *Bulolo*. A memory of the overnight journey was the evening movie – the Gregory Peck film 'Only the Valiant'. Yes, I know that I observe and absorb the trivial.

It would be nearly two years that I would spend on Samarai. February 1963, and back to Port Moresby for a few months, and BP's still 'looked after' me. The punkah was still there; the only punkah I have ever seen.

Fewer surprises this time, and the most interesting experience was meeting Ken Werner behind the counter at BP's. Ken, whom I had last seen on the stage in Sydney, was a colourful character whose business was creating characters. Dancing, acting and singing were Ken's love; more so if he could do all three at once. He seemed to be out of place at BP's, but he enjoyed it all the same. Maybe he was researching a forthcoming part.

Later in 1963 Pat and I, united again in Port Moresby, decided to marry in Port Moresby a few months hence. The satin for Pat's wedding dress was bought from BP's, and the dress was hand made by the French nuns at Hanuabada. It was, and indeed still is, a work of art.

Thirty-nine years later and back in Port Moresby the BP store was now entitled the 'former store' and was in use for government purposes. On a visit to Port Moresby from the Western Province, a message came through from Yule Island that we might like to exhibit the wedding dress in a church museum.

We declined...many memories of that era are ours only, and are often triggered by the tangibles. Their ongoing possession often triggers the question 'remember when?' ■

# MONTEVIDEO MARU PLAQUE, SUBIC BAY PHILIPPINES

By Andrea Williams

The PNGAA was well represented amongst the relatives and friends present at the unveiling of a plaque in Subic Bay, the Philippines, on July 1 to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*, and honour the men who were lost with her. I was fortunate to be able to attend.



The *Montevideo Maru* plaque, with the story of the *Montevideo Maru* engraved into its polished black Italian granite, is prominent within the impressive Hellships Memorial at the bay, which was once a huge US naval base and is 100 km north of Manila.

The Hellships Memorial is dedicated to all POWs on all 'hellships'. It is in a peaceful location adjacent to the sparkling waters of the bay and honours the thousands of WWII Allied prisoners-of-war transported on Japanese hellships around Asia 'to work as slave labourers in factories, shipyards and mines to support the Japanese



Photo: Kevin Hamdorf  
[www.kevinhamdorfphotography.com](http://www.kevinhamdorfphotography.com)

war effort', as the memorial records. Many thousands of men perished on the

ships, or were killed by Allied fire on the unmarked ships. The *Montevideo Maru* was sunk by a US submarine, less than 150 km from Subic Bay.

This beautiful setting is an appropriate place to recognise the final resting place of the 1053 civilian and military prisoners who were transported from Rabaul and died off the coast of Luzon. Clearly, much careful thought went into making the unveiling ceremony elegant and dignified.

Australia's Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Rod Smith, made a poignant speech. Relatives and friends of those lost on the *Montevideo Maru* were particularly moved by the sincerity with which Mr Smith delivered his concluding words: "*This tragedy is not forgotten. The families are not forgotten. These men are not forgotten. We honour them all.*"

In the wreath-laying ceremony that followed, stunning floral tributes were presented from the Australian Embassy in Manila, the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia together with the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, the Rabaul Historical Society, the RSL Subic Bay, the RSL Angeles City and others from relatives and friends present, including a wreath from my cousin, Althea Martell and me in memory of our Grandfather, Philip Coote, a great-uncle, Hugh Scott, and all the civilians who died.

There was significant TV news coverage of the unveiling ceremony in Australia that night – on SBS, ABC and Channel 10 – due to considerable efforts of Keith Jackson, Chairman of the Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee. John Schindler's documentary team attended the commemoration and their 104-minute documentary, *The Tragedy of the Montevideo Maru*, is expected to air on Foxtel's History Channel this November.

Special thanks to the PNGAA, the NGVR/PNGVR Ex-Members Association, 2/22nd Battalion Lark Force Association and Greenbank RSL for supporting and funding the provision of this magnificent plaque.

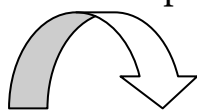
Sincere appreciation to Clive Troy, too, for his vision in appreciating the significance of its site, and for his efforts in making the unveiling a successful and very memorable occasion. ■

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### Have you joined the FORUM on our Website yet?

There are 10 categories and a maze of information!

Join in a topic of conversation, contribute to the latest news or find out what's on the PNGAA social calendar...an added advantage is that by including your email address when registering you are able to be in touch with other members and friends quickly and easily.



Topics are:

**General Notice Board** - A place for general discussion

**Today's PNG News** – Today's News!

**Today's PNG Issues** - Information and comment on issues and challenges facing PNG as well as an occasional review of the Australia-PNG relationship

**PNGAA Notebook** - News and information about PNGAA events and developments

**Past Times** - Reminiscences, stories and anecdotes - the stuff that brings the past back to life in the present

**Aviation** - It's been said that the aeroplane made PNG. But it also provided never to be forgotten exhilarating (and sometimes frightening) experiences

**Business and Commerce** - PNG is a land blessed by nature with bountiful natural resources. Politics may wax and wane, but business seems to always run strong.

**Travel and Tourism** - As all those who have lived and visited there know, PNG is one of the most spectacular nations on the planet.

**Missing People** - The place to find old friends

**Reunions** - Planned gatherings of ex-PNG people

The Forum is the second tab in the left side menu on the home page: [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

We encourage everyone to keep in mind our association objectives when using the forum. ■

# **THE COASTWATCHERS MEMORIAL LIGHTHOUSE, FIFTY YEARS ON**

**By Marie Clifton-Bassett**

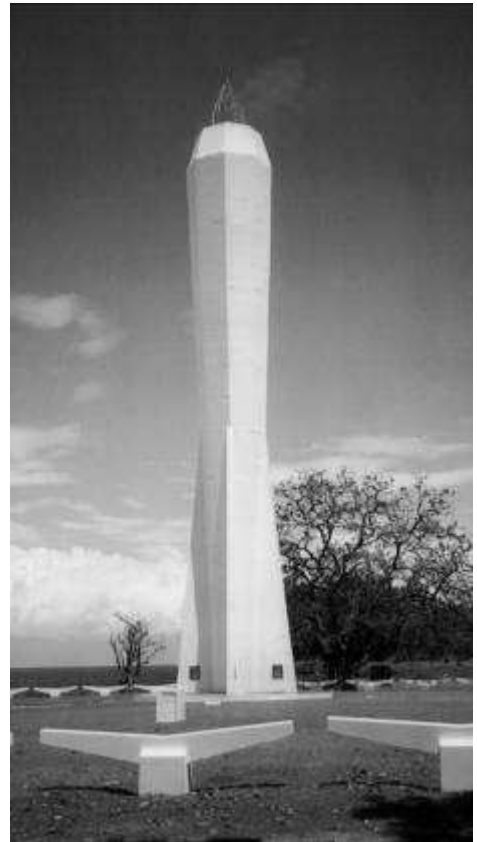
Fifty years ago this year, the beautiful Coastwatchers Memorial Lighthouse at the entrance to Madang Harbour was unveiled. The Lighthouse commemorates the dedicated work of the Coastwatchers in helping to defeat the Japanese in the Pacific – a contribution which was out of all proportion to their numbers. Theirs was a lonely job, hidden in the jungle behind enemy lines, transmitting intelligence vital to the conduct of Allied operations. Their reports led to the sinking of numerous enemy warships, and gave timely warning of impending enemy air attacks.

The unveiling ceremony and the celebrations that took place over that weekend in 1959 were colourfully described by our Patron, Roma Bates, whose husband was himself a Coastwatcher (and holder of a Military Cross) and later District Commissioner of the Madang District. In letters to family and friends Roma described ‘a weekend of pomp and solemn ceremony, of homage and remembrance to those no longer with us, of joyous reunion and festivity. The atmosphere was overwhelming, and one was caught up in it and swept along with the tide’.

Roma said that no effort had been spared to bring surviving Coastwatchers (both Native and European), widows and relatives, from every part of Australia and New Guinea; all the ‘big brass’ from the Allied Intelligence Bureau were there, along with representatives from the US Navy, the Australian Government, and the Armed Forces. Eric Feldt (OBE) unveiled the Honour Plaque listing the names of the 36 men who died during operations. [For the full article see Una Voce, September 1999, p.12]

Roger Middleton, long-time resident of Kar Kar Island, wrote, ‘I was present at the very beautiful and moving ceremony on the 15th August, 50 years ago, and even today I can clearly recall the hushed moment full of feeling during the count down to the switching on of the light’.

The Coastwatchers Memorial Lighthouse is becoming a focal point of the town. Peter Barter, former Member of Parliament and owner of the Madang Hotel, reports that all the Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services have been transferred to the Coastwatchers Lighthouse and now attract literally thousands to all services, as opposed to the former site on Bates Oval. He said that this year, on 23 July, the Remembrance Service was attended by the largest crowd ever. He added that last year the Australian Government repainted the Lighthouse, and that the War Graves Commission are relocating the Memorial at Bates Oval to the Lighthouse. In Peter Barter’s words, ‘The unveiling was a memorable occasion and one that was welcomed by the people of PNG and Madang - the Lighthouse is a significant icon that is immediately recognisable by everyone of Madang’.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Bob Fullenwider**, living in the USA, writes:

‘Just received part of the June 2009 issue of *Una Voce*, from my good friend Gordon H Steege. What a treasure - after 66yrs to get the info on Kitava. Next to the last paragraph on pg 56 is of real interest to myself as I was the CO of the Radar unit sited on Kitava. I spent some months there in ‘43.

**Stan Carswell** writes:

I wish to correct Mr Dick Doyle’s statement (*Una Voce* No 2 – June 2009) regarding the forming of the Ralum Club of Kokopo. Dick stated that the club was founded in 1960-61. I was transferred to Mount Hagen in the later part of 1960 and the Ralum Club was well and truly operating successfully then. As a foundation member along with a number of mixed race residents of the Kokopo area and a small number of interested Europeans, we saw the need for a social venue for all races in Kokopo.

The foundation members all contributed Twenty Pounds cash in mid 1959 to build up a bank account. I believe the number of foundation members totalled less than forty. The original list of foundation members names was printed on Dymo Tape Labels attached to a polished timber plaque near the small set of stairs as you enter the club from the carpark. Unfortunately the plaque was stolen in later years and its location remains unknown.

Mr John Aquiningo was the first President. At the time John worked at Government Stores at Kokopo. The Secretary/Treasurer was Mr Joe Schultz from Vunapope Mission; they were ably supported by an enthusiastic committee. Some of the foundation members family names come to mind include: Lundin, Zander, Spanner, Lausen, Wong, Hartig, Gangloff, James, Hagger, Schinder, Wolff, Bond, Hoerler, Schmidt, Koch, Beechey, Tse and Williams. There are too many to list them all and many are harder to recall after so many years, so I apologise for any omissions. I believe there is now a new foundation members name board inside the Ralum Club building.

The first purchases made by the newly formed social club included a power plant and kerosene refrigerators. It must be remembered that Kokopo did not have 24 hour power at this time, backup power was necessary if members wished to be able to ‘party on’ after the town supply was switched off!

From its humble beginning the Ralum Club has gone from strength to strength and now I believe the local Golf Club has combined with the Ralum to ensure its continued growth.

**Brian Hartley** writes:

I found *Una Voce* [No 2 June 2009] to be full of interest and variety. I was surprised to read on p.54 that the annual census system ceased with Independence in 1975. Although I have to admit that I had previously wondered about the frequency, who instigated it and why. At Independence I was working at District HQ in Rabaul and I left PNG at Easter '76. At that time I wasn’t involved in census patrols, and therefore heard no reference to them ceasing.

I was particularly interested in the Parades and Stations Management article by Paul Oates and he was correct to think that other kiaps might have different recollections.

During the early to mid-1970's I was a kiap at two Sub Districts Headquarters in what was then the Eastern Highlands District (EHD); one in the Enga District, and

Rabaul HQ of the East New Britain District. At none of my postings were there any daily parades. This was because there were uniformed Police Officers at both the EHD Sub Districts plus a District Prison with its own Warder Officers. At the Enga Sub District we did not have either police officers or warder officers and I was for some time an acting police inspector in charge of both the police detachment and our prison warders. At Rabaul the police and the prison were, of course, separate entities from the administration; HQ having their own officers. Although all of my postings were worthwhile and satisfying, my most enjoyable years were those spent in the Enga and ENB Districts because of the variety they provided. In the Enga there was the police, the prison, the Courts, Missions, and the Mission Hospital and the patrols for census, area study, ward development, political education, tax collection, Council Elections, land investigations, roads and bridges, prosecuting and interpreting and a few clan fights. I was also able to organise soccer competitions, and to be the Assistant Area Commissioner for Scouts. In Rabaul I was Assistant Rural Development Officer, the DC's representative on Licensing, Housing, Entertainment and Retail Food Sales. I also did regular visits by sea to Patrol Posts at Wide Bay and the Duke of York Islands. I chaperoned VIP's and for a few months I was acting chief clerk. On the social side, I was able to train soccer referees in both East and West New Britain.

All in all, my time as a kiap was very interesting, at times challenging, quite fascinating and sometimes exciting. My only regret is that I didn't become a kiap earlier and I envy those who were able to. At least these days, thanks to *Una Voce*, I can read about those times.

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### **A VISIT WITH KING CAM OF KITAVA by David P. Eyre**

I was a Medical Assistant and part of an Anti-TB team that visited the Trobriands to find people with active tuberculosis and to protect susceptible people with BCG vaccine. If my memory serves me correctly, the year was 1965.



The team had travelled from Samarai in the government trawler *Hekaha* and we conducted surveys in the Woodlarks and on Kiriwina.

It was on Kiriwina that we sought and obtained the approval of the local chief to conduct the survey of his 'subjects'. This chief was a very dignified gentleman and I have a coloured photograph of him which shows his yam houses and the

houses of his many wives. The villages were scrupulously clean and extremely well maintained and a credit to the local people. This paramount chief was known colloquially as the 'King of the Trobriands'. This was interesting because Cameron of Kitava was known as 'King Cam of Kitava'.

Our team leader and radiographer was Peter Bailey and he was most interested to visit Kitava so the local doctor on Kiriwina, a Dr.Seko, contacted King Cam via the radio skeds and arranged to visit.

We all jumped on board the Hekaha and set out for Kitava. King Cam met us at the wharf in his dilapidated and multi-coloured Landrover. The most noticeable thing about Cameron was his gauntness and his legs which had some sort of strapping on them extending up to his knees. He was



very reserved but cordial enough. He tried to make a point that the people on his island were healthy and did not need our team to investigate them. He also told us how the Americans had introduced gonorrhoea during the war and how an anti yaws campaign had the side benefit of clearing this up

Cam took us on a brief tour of Kitava which didn't long as it is a very small island. We couldn't help but be impressed by the neatness of the village houses and indeed the whole plantation. Kitava was a very attractive island and the



people were friendly and good natured in stark contrast to some of the surly 'labour' we had met at some other plantations. After our Cooks Tour, Cam invited us to return in the evening for supper. The only thing I can remember about that supper was that his house servants were all young girls dressed only in the very colourful but very short grass skirts uniquely typical to the

Trobriands. When supper was finished all the young girls came in and stood in a line obviously waiting for some ritual to occur. Cam took out a large tin containing lollies and threw handfuls of these in the air with the young girls having to scramble around on the floor to get their fair share.

The next time I met Cam was in the Port Moresby hospital in 1966. My wife at the time was working as a nurse at the hospital and told me that Cam had been admitted. I paid him a visit a couple of times but he seemed to be very distracted. He did mention that he had not wanted to come to Moresby and felt that he would die and wanted to be back on Kitava. I cannot remember him having a heart problem but I do recall he was admitted with a TU (tropical ulcer) on his leg which was not healing. I remember the TU because of his consistent use of leggings and I wondered if somehow they had contributed to the severity of the ulcer. It was my impression that Cam had died in the Moresby Hospital but it could be that he was repatriated to Kitava. ■

## **THE HOON MOBILE - TOYOTA SPORTS 800 by Bob Lawrence**

Charles Betteridge is obviously a man of great style and class, being the owner of one of the select few Toyota Sports 800 imported into Papua New Guinea (*Una Voce March 2009 page 11*).

I purchased an orange coloured one that was passed down among media staff at the ABC/NBC studios at the Wonga Estate at Boroko.

The light weight body of the two-seater put little strain on the 800 cc engine and its accelerated beautifully. The car easily converted to open top. The back of the roof slotted into a grove above the back window and you just unscrewed the two threaded bolts that held the front corners to the windscreen's top. The top fitted neatly into the boot. I did not undertake any rallies or races, other than an occasion when Shirley Askew of the Office of Information challenged me to a race against her Mini Moke from Kondobu through Waigani to the airport Gateway Hotel, with the loser buying dinner. Shirley certainly enjoyed that meal!

NBC paymaster, Neil Schulz, *went finish* in mid-1975. His Toyota Sports 800 was on its last legs and running out of registration, so he sold it to me for \$110. I spent \$300 returning it to the road.

My journalistic colleague, Lady Ikini Holloway, assured me she first travelled in the car when it was owned and driven by Mike Bailey., who later became a well known Sydney journalist, broadcaster, ABC weatherman and ALP candidate,

That car took over my life. My media colleague and fellow NBC Hostel inmate Sean Dorney christened it "The Hoon Mobile". He and our News Editor, Albert Asbury then christened me Harold Hoon, which was quickly refined to "J. Harold Hoon" out of respect for the class of the Toyota Sports 800. In his last email before his recent death, Albert began, as always, "Dear Hoon"

Toyota Sports 800 was a fun car. People either laughed with you, at you or about you if you owned one.

To the other inmates of the NBC's Wonga Hostel it was referred to as "The Lawn Mover" and "The Sewing Machine". It was the butt of such jokes as journalist Elizabeth Sakias asking "How can Bob double the value of the car? Fill it up with petrol." One morning I came out to find that some wags had lifted it up and placed it long ways between two palms trees. So I just got three friends and we lifted it out again.

Sean and I were in a Four-Mile trade store where they were selling plastic pith helmets. We bought one each and they became our crash helmets

When I went to register the vehicle, I met fellow journalist Gus Smales He was there returning a pair of number plates that did not match! He politely suggested that as the car was so small I ask for a 50% discount. I politely suggested an anatomical impossibility involving those number pates. Gus was pleased to see I had a small car as a few months earlier he had led the retrieval party after I put a previous car into a storm drain ditch. I left a buck's party for *Post Courier* journalist, Bega Libasi, sometime after midnight and thought the car knew its way home.

Sean Dorney, who is to safe driving what Ned Kelly is to bank security, often borrowed the car from me, despite his constant ridicule. Sean would never have got



to Rugby League training without the Hoonmobile. But for the Hoonmobile he would never have captained the PNG team!

Furthermore, Sean tells me, in reflecting on the Betteridge article, that the "Hoon mobile" helped secure his love life.

He had been trying to get beautiful Manus island broadcast trainee, Pauline, to take notice of him (without much success) until one day he saw her walking along the road back to the NBC.

Ever the gentleman, Sean offered her a lift if she could wait a few minutes. She went into a trade store to buy a drink while he raced down to the where the NBC Finance Department was to collect some bureaucratic document then raced back to drive her home to Wonga Hostel, beside the NBC studio. It was the breakthrough he was after and Sean has relayed stories of the Hoonmobile to his own two children and soon will be to his two grandchildren..

Prior to returning to Adelaide, I sold the Hoonmobile to Sean and it became the Dorney's first family car.

However, after the car had been variously pillaged (several stolen petrol caps and then the passenger seat) Pauline's over-riding memory is that "the person in the passenger seat of our Toyota 800 had to sit on the floor and chance a burnt bum."

Sean eventually sent it to the tip.

I was amazed about five years ago when I "googled" the words "Toyota Sports 800" to find that it now has classic status. I rang Sean and accused him of desecration as we both fell about laughing and the thought of our "Hoonmobile" being in the Automobile Pantheon with the Rolls Royce classics.

In the early 1980s I was in a petrol station in Ultimo, Sydney when one drove in. So, a later model must have passed Australian standards. I have searched the Australian used war web sites, but none ever come up for sale. ■

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### **"Whither *bekim*" ? From Jim Toner**

On a road near Mt. Hagen a Big Man of the Moge was killed by a vehicle driven by the son of a Big Man of the Jika. Fears that Hagen city, now said to have a population of 70,000 would be turned into a war zone were allayed when the Jika clan promptly paid compensation of K61,000, 77 pigs, two cows, one horse and a python.

The practice above-mentioned is a prime component of PNG culture but now that it is in transition to the capitalist system there could be more than one Big Man who is moaning about having to part with some of his wealth. David Raim, described as a businessman, was a *bekim* contributor following an earlier death. A woman was stabbed at Lae by a Hagen man and his clan coughed up K40,000 and 94 pigs to the dead woman's family. Raim complained "I paid compensation for committing nothing and where is the law?" Will ancient tribal responsibilities be resisted by his like in the future?

In July at a National Research Institute seminar Sergeant Patricia Dikin, in charge of family/sexual violence cases at the Boroko Police Station complained that when relatives of an assaulted female came in to report a rape they were quite uninterested in bringing the perpetrator before a court. Their sole concern was to engineer a compensation payment.

The PNG culture of *bekim* may change. But it won't be next week. ■

## **REVISITING THE *TAIM BIPO* – the National Library of Australia’s ‘Australians in PNG, 1942-1975’ oral history project**

**By Dr Jonathan Ritchie**

Over the past eighteen months, the National Library of Australia’s Oral History and Folklore Collection has undertaken a project recording the recollections of a diverse group of Australians who lived and worked in Papua New Guinea between the Second World War and the arrival of independence in 1975.

Forty interviews have been conducted so far, primarily by Dr Jonathan Ritchie of Deakin University. Jonathan is a PNGAA member who was born in Port Moresby in 1961, the son of Jim and Joy Ritchie, and in more recent years he has completed a PhD on the participation of Papua New Guinean people in the development of the country’s constitution between 1972 and 1975.

The women and men interviewed so far were selected to reflect the diversity of the Australian experience in PNG during the three decades before independence. Quirks of timing and availability have meant that the resulting group may not be necessarily a truly statistically significant sample. Nevertheless, there is sufficient variety among the interviewees to give researchers something of both the differences and the similarities among the Australians who were there.

Among those interviewed are missionaries, teachers, settlers, patrol officers, magistrates, scientists, journalists, doctors, administrators, academics and artists.

The interviews cover not only the time the interviewees spent in PNG, but their lives before arriving, including the important question of why they chose to go there. At the other end, most of the interviewees talk about what happened following their return to Australia, including some of the trauma involved in readjusting to life in the modern post-industrial society after many years in the Territory. All interviewees discuss their thoughts on the coming of independence and the impact of their time in PNG on their own lives.

The interviews are stored digitally at the National Library, under the reference TRC 5920, ‘Australians in Papua New Guinea (PNG) 1942-1975’. Access conditions vary, and summaries are becoming available. ▪

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## **RAPHAEL OIMBARI and GEORGE WHITTINGTON PHOTO**

**Eric Johns** writes about ‘that’ photograph: *I thought I knew something about that iconic photograph of Raphael Oimbari and George Whittington, until I met fellow PNGAA member John Phillips on 28 April at the reception in Canberra for Sir Michael Somare. John, I soon discovered, knew Raphael well - had stayed with him at his village, Hanau – and had also visited the photographer, George Silk, at his home in Westport, Connecticut. In 2006 John wrote what he knew about the photograph in an article for Reveille, the newspaper of the NSW RSL, and has agreed to its reprinting in Una Voce. Below John’s article I have added some more information about the three men involved in the photograph.*

### **The Story Behind the Picture**

**By John Phillips**

One of the most famous and emotive pictures of WWII was taken, unbeknown to the two subjects, on Christmas Day 1942, by New Zealand photographer George Silk. George Silk, as an official photographer with the Australian Department of Information, was covering the Pacific War against Japan in Papua, now part of Papua New Guinea. He had returned from the Middle East with the 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Division, after covering fighting in that theatre of war.

The picture shows Private George (Dick) Whittington of the 2/10 Infantry Battalion, accompanied by a Papuan native, Raphael Oimbari. Whittington, who had been injured in the head during the battle for Buna, was being led, stick in hand, by Oimbari, who came from Hanau Village, some 10.5km SSE of the Buna “Old Strip” and 5km SE of Cape Sudest, as the crow flies.

A simple first aid dressing which covered his eyes had been applied to Whittington’s wound. He was being taken back along the track from Buna through Seremi Village to the main dressing station at Dobudura for further treatment, by one of the famous Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, officially known as ANGAU (Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit) Carriers.

Raphael Oimbari was one of 14 Hanau Village men who were ANGAU carriers, taking supplies of food and ammunition forward, returning with wounded soldiers. George Whittington was being evacuated from the area with another Digger, who was a stretcher case. They were being taken along the track passing through tall kunai grass and leading away from the Japanese Air Force “Old Strip” near Giropa Point.

This Fuzzy Wuzzy team was comprised of five members, who shared the responsibility of taking two patients, one stretcher and one walking wounded,



back to Dobudura. Their names were Raphael Oimbari, Fabian Javoambo, Stonewight Haita, Noah Javoko and Adam Ware. Raphael Oimbari, in his late twenties, was the oldest member of the party and was the third one to escort Pte Whittington on that day, following Haita and Javoko. Ware had cut the stick for Whittington, to assist him with his walking.

Aircraft were flying low overhead and carriers, concerned for the patients' and their own safety, at times moved off the track into the Kunai grass. These stops resulted in the changes in those caring for George Whittington.

Finally the four younger Hanau carriers, who could walk faster with the stretcher case, left Whittington in the care of Raphael Oimbari, and so the two patients were taken back independently of each other.



George Silk (pictured left), who was suffering from malaria, was late rising that day and was walking along the track mid afternoon, towards the battle raging at the northern end of "Old Strip", which was still in Japanese hands. He saw two figures walking towards him and, recognising a picture opportunity, stepped into the kunai grass at the side of the track and waited for the couple to pass. He set his Roliflex camera for a picture, which he took as the two went by. He was tempted to speak, but did not, so no one except George Silk knew the moment had been captured and recorded for posterity.

George Silk continued on to the battle area and took a number of remarkable and graphic photographs as the Buna battle raged around him. These included a shot of a Vickers machine gun crew, who had just had one of their number shot, prompting a retort, "Get down you bloody fool, can't you see my mate's been shot?"

While in the battle area Silk collapsed, overcome by his malaria attack. Initially, when found, it was thought he was dead, but he was later discovered to be alive. He was subsequently evacuated to hospital in Port Moresby, where he recovered and, on discharge, returned to Sydney.

At the time Silk had never seen the results of his photographic efforts, as his exposed film was sent back to Australia for processing through the military lines of communication. He was anxious to see some of his work, so to achieve this end he wined and dined a female employee of the Department of Information. The young lady kindly, but unofficially, let George view some of his photographs.

He managed to get a copy of some of the photographs, which had not been released, including the captivating snap of Whittington and the unknown ANGAU carrier. He subsequently showed the photographs to US military authorities. They were sent to Brisbane, where the Americans authorised them to be sent to the States, unbeknown to the Australian authorities.

In the States *Time/Life* magazine published the picture. The Australian authorities were furious and tried to discipline Silk, but finally agreed to release him. He then worked for *Life* magazine. He married an American nursing sister and settled in the United States, where he lived in Westport, Connecticut, until his death in October 2004.

After the war, Raphael Oimbari continued to live in Hanau Village. He was married before the war and had children, but they died during the war. He subsequently had more children, but only one boy, Martin. In the early 70's he was identified as the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel and was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, within the PNG honours system.

Raphael Oimbari met George Whittington's widow after he was identified as the Papuan in the picture, leading her wounded husband. It was agreed between them that they should name their grandchildren in honour of the grandfathers. This resulted in Martin Oimbari having a son named George "Washington" Oimbari.

Raphael Oimbari continued to live in Hanau Village until his death in July 1996; by then he was in his mid eighties. He was buried beside his modest two room bush material house. The Australian High Commissioner, HE David Irvine and other dignitaries attended the funeral. Today his grave is surrounded by a concrete edging and a bronze plaque on a plinth, depicting the famous picture.

Sadly George Whittington was not as fortunate as his carer of Christmas Day 1942. After recovering from his head wound, he returned to his unit, 2/10 Infantry Battalion and was recorded present in his platoon commander's notebook during the Battle of Sanananda, which ended late January 1943. Around this time he contracted scrub typhus, for which there was no specific treatment, just good nursing care. Private George Whittington was evacuated to a military hospital in Pt Moresby, and in February, like so many of his comrades, died and was buried in Bomana War Cemetery.

The last of the Hanau Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel team of five, Fabian Javoambo, died in December 1998, but before his death, like Raphael Oimbari, told of the events of that Christmas Day in 1942.

### **Sources:**

Raphael Oimbari OBE, Hanau Village, Oro Province, PNG

Fabian Javoambi, Hanau Village, Oro Province, PNG

George Silk, Westport, Connecticut, USA

Fred Allen, Veteran 2/5<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, Wamberal, NSW

Frank Taylor, ARES Officer, Perth, WA

John Phillips OAM, LtCol (RL), Gosford, NSW

### **The Three Men**

#### **George Silk**

The first publication of his photograph, in *Life* on 8 March 1943, gained Silk an overnight international reputation and landed him a job with the magazine that lasted from 1943 until 1972. Silk became one of *Life's* best photographers and was twice named magazine photographer of the year by the National Press Photographers Union. In 1947 he became an American citizen. *Cont. over →*

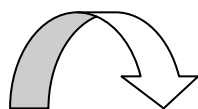
## Raphael Oimbari

Oimbari became an international identity and, as the best known “Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel”, made several trips to Australia representing his country’s stretcher-bearers, porters and labourers of WWII. There is a statue of Oimbari and Whittington at the Canberra Services Club, Manuka, where Oimbari was a guest in November 1992. There is another statue alongside Healey Parade (leading from Koki to Ela Beach) in Port Moresby. This statue was originally at Jack Pidik Park, five-mile, but was moved because it was being defaced with graffiti. In September 2008 board members of the Kokoda Track Foundation visited Dobudura where they met Martin Oimbari and presented him with four caps featuring his father’s image, one for himself and three for his sons.

## George Whittington

George Whittington died on 12 February 1943 so he never saw the famous photograph. The caption in *Life* magazine read: *Blind Soldier. Papuan native leads an Australian away from the Buna front.* After Oimbari was identified as the man in the photograph, Whittington’s widow, Constance Steiger, met and thanked him in Port Moresby in 1973. His plaque at Bomana War Cemetery reads:

*WHITTINGTON, Private, GEORGE CHARLES QX, 23902. A.LF. 2 10 Bn. Australian Infantry. 12th February 1943. Age 23. Son of Francis Cecil and Mary Waise Whittington; husband of Constance Matilda Whittington, of Nundah, Queensland. Al. B. 2* ■



### **The DVD – WALK INTO PARADISE**

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This special PNGAA Collector’s edition of **Walk Into Paradise** combines Director Lee Robinson’s archived original film, digitally remastered under sponsorship from Kodak/Atlab and National Film and Sound Archive, with Rhonda Grogan’s ‘Behind the Scenes Location Footage’, and adds fabulous black and white photos showing the cast and crew on location, narrated by Rhonda, capped by a filmed interview by Elizabeth Thurston with our own Fred Kaad who played an important acting and advisory role in the film.

Bob Connolly said at the launch: ‘With its cast of freebooting prospectors, taciturn patrol officers, fiercely loyal native police, the awesome spectacle of 5000 warriors massing in full *bilas*, the film is a priceless window back to a frontier era.

...The PNG Highlands were barely pacified by the mid 1950s, the highlanders were – still are – a tough and warlike people. The Australians also needed to be tough, but what we also glimpse in the film is their enterprise, their fair-mindedness, their courage, their basic respect and concern for the well being of the local people.’

Order your copy on the enclosed yellow ‘Treasurer’s Corner’ flyer. Please ensure you print clearly!

## **NOSTALGIA by Noel Wright**

Its Sunday afternoon, the yar trees are full of noisy birds, and '*nostalgia bilong mi i no lik lik*'; having just read the latest addition of *Una Voce*, I contemplate the wooded hills of the Tagari Valley, which I patrolled extensively as a Patrol Officer in 1965 / 66, and think of my approaching 67<sup>th</sup> birthday. I can only think that it's almost time to leave a country in which I have lived and worked for much of my working life, since I arrived in Port Moresby as a Cadet Patrol Officer in February 1962 off the overnight DC6B.

I am currently based at Nogoli Camp in the Hides Gas Field, south of Tari in the Southern Highlands. The camp is situated above the Tagari River at about 4,000' (apologies to those of you who have become fully metricated.) and accommodates around 120 staff from Oil Search, Exxon Mobil, Porgera Joint Venture and assorted contractors. Apart from its spectacular location its lawns and gardens are a credit to the gardeners who maintain them.

I am currently the Business Development Advisor for the Upstream section of the new LNG Project which stretches over 300 kms from Juha, to the north of Nogoli, to the Kikori Delta. The area holds many memories for me having been OIC, Komo, OIC, Poroma, which at that stage administered Lake Kutubu, ADC, Kikori and ADC Tari at various stages of my 20 kiap years.

Things are quiet at the moment as the Project is still in the Front End Engineering (FEED) stage, Project sanction is not expected until 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of this year. This is very much the calm before the storm as the Project is expected to employ up to 12,000 people during construction. It will include over 700 kms of pipeline, both on and offshore, and two large plants one near the Hides Gas Field the other out past Porebada.

When one considers the 4km airstrip that may also be built near Komo Station to service the Project its impossible not to think back to the magnificent native material Haus Kiap with its fire place large enough to put a seat inside, beside the small grass strip, which now sits unused.

Recently I was down at Kikori. The grand old weatherboard OIC's house on the point overlooking the river is, of course, long gone as is the old office and several after it, all burnt down for various reasons. The house was built pre war and was, I think, the residence of the District Commissioner of the Delta Division and later a hospital before being used again as the Assistant District Commissioner's residence. The main bedroom was so large Maxine and I put our dining table in it so that we could eat overlooking the Kikori River.

I am also reminded of a number of flights I did with Bob Bell in his Cessna 152. In 1972 I was posted to Malalaua, which had a large grass airstrip. The office was situated near one end so that you could never hear the 172 land. All of a sudden Bob would appear at the office door saying lets go for a trip to one of the many small airstrips in the area. Fortunately I was never caught having post luncheon nap at my desk and I did enjoy flying!

Every where I turn there are memories, including people some of whom I have not seen for 40 years and people who ask after Maxine who is one of the few, maybe the only one, to patrol the whole of the Lake Kutubu area in 1969.

Ah memories but must go its time for dinner, wonder what's for dinner in the mess tonight!!

Nogoli Camp Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2009▪

## **CAPTAIN LES HOWLETT (MID) By Bob Piper**

Leslie Frederick Howlett is best remembered and much mentioned in Peter Ryan's immortal book, *Fear Drive My Feet*. However, photos of the man and his deeds have in more recent years been all but forgotten. Thanks to relatives in Tasmania the former have been located and will be placed with the Australian War Memorial collection in Canberra.



Howlett had been a pre-war patrol in New Guinea who had enlisted at Wewak in 1940 with the service number NGX45. He first served in the Middle East. Later, on his return to Australia, as an experienced hand in New Guinea, Les was quickly recruited to the Far East Liaison Organisation (FELO) working behind the lines and in an intelligence role.

Les Howlett (born on 13 December 1913 at Sydney) had later come from Scottsdale in Tasmania and his nephew, Bob Howlett who still lives there, remembers him as *..a fun person who loved to play backyard cricket with us. He loved sport, played football and cricket with Launceston High School and was a good runner with the Newstead Harriers in Launceston.*

Peter Ryan and Les Howlett are also remembered for their long patrol around and behind Lae in 1943 that included climbing over the 13,000 foot Mount Sarawaket Range and returning from the northern side through a lower pass further west. During all this time they and their faithful native police evaded hostile natives, determined Japanese patrols and endured the rigours of the mountains and their cold climate. All the time they kept in touch with and provided information with the radio they continued to carry. The area through the mountains which Les and Peter patrolled was later to be used as an escape route by Japanese service personnel, both army and navy, when Lae fell. They reported that the enemy was already making preparations in the high country for just such a departure.

Some extracts from Peter Ryan's book tell the story in his own special words:

Page 214 – "One thing I'm bloody sure of," Les said as he folded the maps and pushed them back into his haversack. "Even if we spend the rest of the war with a bit of bark around our middles, eating sweet potatoes in Gombawato, we aren't going over the top again at thirteen thousand feet."

Page 217 – Our boots had worn to paper thinness, and the nails, sticking through, were gouging holes in our feet. In spite of my assurance that one soon became used to bare feet Les stuck to his boots until they dropped apart.

Page 218 - About half past four Les had a sudden violent spasm of vomiting, which left him so weak it seemed he would have to be carried. However, with a great effort he managed to continue, from time to time holding on to me or one of the police. By nightfall he had recovered completely.

Peter Ryan and Les Howlett were led into a trap by Chivasing village (inland from Lae) natives on 21 June 1943 and Les fell from a burst of machine gun fire from one of the houses as the pair raced from the village. In a miracle series of events Peter Ryan escaped by burying himself in pig mud at the back of the village, despite being pursued and searched for by both the local people and Japanese soldiers.

Les was married to Rita Amelia and in 1944 she, then a widow, wrote to the army and said: *Both my husband's parents and family as well as myself feel proud that he carried out his duties in a gallant manner and must console ourselves knowing that he gave his life for his fellow man that they may, we trust, enjoy a lasting peace.*

Today Captain Les Howlett lies at the Lae War Cemetery remembered as a special man in both the civil service and wartime history of New Guinea. ■



## **‘CONTINUE LOADING COPRA’ by Neville Threlfall**

Recent interest in the *Montevideo Maru* and in the fate of the Australian POWs and civilian internees captured at Rabaul often leads to mention of the failure to evacuate the civilians on the Norwegian freighter *Herstein*, because of an order from Australia that she was to ‘Continue loading copra’. It is usually stated that ‘the Curtin Government’ made this heartless response to the request of Harold Page, the Deputy Administrator at Rabaul, that Australian civilians, except for some essential personnel, be evacuated on the *Herstein*.

But who was actually responsible for that order? Prime Minister John Curtin had his hands full with the 8th Division fighting a losing battle in Malaya and other Australian troops fighting in North Africa, where Tobruk had just been relieved. It is extremely doubtful that he even knew about Page's request. The request was sent to the Department of External Territories, but that department passed it on to the Treasury because of the commercial importance of the copra waiting to be loaded at Rabaul. Again, it is doubtful whether Federal Treasurer J.B. ‘Ben’ Chifley saw it. Some Commonwealth departments were still located in Melbourne, and some were in Canberra. Cabinet ministers were kept busy shuttling between the two cities. (This cost the lives of three ministers when their plane crashed near Canberra in 1940.) More likely a public servant in the Treasury made the decision, for that is where the reply originated.

My authority for this is an interview with the late Jim Burke in 1981. Jim was employed in the Public Service of the Mandated Territory in 1941, and when Australian women and children were evacuated from Rabaul on the *Neptuna* and the *Macdhui* on 22 December 1941, he was posted to the *Neptuna* as welfare officer for the evacuees. When he reported to External Territories in Australia he was told not to return to Rabaul, and was seconded to the Department of the Treasury for the rest of the war. While working there Jim saw the original of the telegram, ‘Continue loading copra’.

Page’s first telegram was sent on 16 January 1942; he repeated his request on the 19<sup>th</sup>, while copra loading still went on. But the only answer came from Japanese dive-bombers, which on 20<sup>th</sup> January set the *Herstein*’s inflammable cargo ablaze and reduced her to a total wreck.

Harold Page was a very correct public servant and obeyed orders from above. Weeks later he confided to his fellow-prisoner Gordon Thomas that he now wished that he had acted on his own initiative and carried out the evacuation without official permission; but it had not entered his head to do so at the time. Page himself would have remained in Rabaul in any case, with a few others to maintain order; but in the end he joined the other Rabaul civilians who paid with their lives for the demand to ‘Continue loading copra’.

## **A DIDIMAN'S PERSPECTIVE by Bob Curtis**

All of our family are fiercely proud of our association with Papua New Guinea, and without exception we belong to the *taim bilong masta*. My father-in-law flew with Guinea Airways and Tommy O'Dea, and an uncle was a pre war mechanic for Guinea Airways based in Lae. Another uncle was a Dredge Master with Bulolo Gold Dredging, married in Salamaua and resident in Bulolo. The Family had two members in the NGVR, and my father took part in the laying of a Submarine Cable from Cape York, and installing the shore end at Delena near Yule Island. This cable gave secure communications to the Army on the Kokoda Trail ultimately from Melbourne to Lae. My father-in-law flew with Tommy O'Dea on their ill-fated attempt to fly Kokoda Trail wounded out from Myola.

Fearing the outcome of full Self Government without a solid infrastructure to support it, I took my young family to Australia in 1966 only after our Administration repeatedly failed to respond to requests for assurances regarding a guaranteed career future. I was one of many to take this course. Much of the blame for this failure lies with the Academic administration of the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries. They lacked the Field experience and the management skills of the 'Outside Men', and with the exception of Larry Dwyer, showed none of the management expertise of the senior Kiaps who I believe were true leaders of men.

Our Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries was constructed of the Technical Divisions of Plant Industry, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, all represented in the field by the Extension Division responsible for managing districts under a District Agricultural Officer (DAO), supported in the field by more junior Officers, all qualified by either a Degree or more often a Diploma of Agriculture in addition to suitable Agricultural experience.

We Extension Officers were not usually favored with Pacific Administration training at ASOPA as were our brothers, the Kiaps, but because we worked in their shadow we quickly learned both bush craft and the people skills necessary to perform tasks ranging from survey work, cash crop introduction and management, and to navigate through the minefield of native land tenure and village custom. I had previous experience as a coffee planter and trader in the Eastern Highlands, and was recruited in 1954 by the late Ian Downs.

We were charged with carrying out general Agricultural activities in our region together with the introduction of cash crops such as coconuts, coffee and cacao, and subsistence improvements such as rice, vegetables and tropical fruits. We promoted cattle, pig and poultry improvement programs, and supervised disease control programs and inspection on both indigenous and non-indigenous establishments. In addition we established quarantine barriers between TPNG and Australia to prevent the transfer of exotic diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease, Rabies and New Castle Disease; hence the need to remove shoes at customs/quarantine check points from time to time.

With the exception of several 'loose cannons' on both sides we enjoyed exceptionally good relations with the kiaps and often assisted them in field work in the less frequently visited and remote areas. We had, of course a common aim in the development of a wonderful country, and many a firm and enduring friendship was developed in both Papua and New Guinea.

My wife and family shared the privations of remote outstations like Beipa in the Papuan Mekeo, and Konga in Southern Bougainville, often alone whilst I patrolled the region. There was no medical support and a mean minded Department refused to supply a basic radio to allow for emergency contact with the relatively secure out stations like Kairuku and Buin. Our accommodation was native material structures without the luxury of electrical power, and at times we lived off the gun.

I am certain the wives of some of the kiaps suffered the same fate, and the women folk at this time deserve the highest accolades. They supported their husbands and children often with a fierce determination to survive the most abysmal conditions. Who in their right minds would continue to work under such Administration without at least a guarantee of continued and permanent employment? We lacked the basic conditions enjoyed by those resident on Research Stations and out-stations and we were seldom if ever visited by senior staff who lived in relative luxury in major centers. Formal in-service training was limited to senior staff, and staff welfare was non-existent.

Many of my fears were realized in the years from 1975 and, in my considered opinion, the premature intervention of Prime Minister Whitlam and the ineffective United Nations destroyed much of the hard fought structure achieved by Field Staff of the Departments of Native Affairs, Agriculture, Health, and to some extent Education, and Public Works. During several return visits to the country I observed the progressive collapse of the establishment which disappointed me.

Politicians have not dealt kindly with those associated with Papua New Guinea. Grants of \$400 million without properly tied expenditure conditions are an expensive bribe which have corrupted the indigenous infrastructure and resulted in the social and health chaos which exists today. Problems like increasing crime rates, drugs, AIDS and political corruption won't be solved by politicians, idealistic academics, or well meaning expatriates, and certainly the answers must come from within the nation.

My major concern is that our recorded history is incomplete. There have been proven distortions of our history by no less than the ABC and certain Academic Revisionist 'historians' of the Post Modernist school. The core of a true history is verifiable truth, and some parts of our data bank urgently need a transfusion of accurate information. Nancy Johnston in her admirable contributions to the web site goes a long way towards setting up some of the data we need to ultimately present to a competent historian who could present the nation with an honest work. I would suggest a Geoffrey Blainey or Keith Windschuttle type who would access the Fryer Library and all of our other resources.

Finally, my congratulations to the PNGAA for producing a consistently excellent journal which will certainly be one of the foundations of our historical data base, and many thanks to the team of volunteers who help pack and post the journal on a regular basis.

*If you would like to discuss these thoughts with me, please email me at [didiman1@iinet.net.au](mailto:didiman1@iinet.net.au)*

## Amelia Earhart departs Lae July 2 1937

Bob Curtis forwarded these photos of Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan who departed Lae at 1030 hrs on July 2, 1937. They were bound for Howland Island en-route to the USA. They were never seen alive again.



Lae Guinea Airways personel with Amelia, Tommy O'dea and Fred Noonan

Photos from the EJGREC Collection,  
courtesy Bob Curtis



**Amelia Earhart at Lae**

## MAY RIVER CANNIBALS by George D. Oakes

*The following story has been put together from my patrol reports and memory. It happened in August, 1956. The follow-up patrol was carried out by Tony Redwood who attended the same Cadet Patrol Officer's course as me in January, 1954. I have included an extract from an email Tony has sent me. Professor Anthony Redwood now lives in retirement in Florida, U.S.A.*

On 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1956, I left Lumi in the Sepik District on a patrol to the Yellow River are which lasted 44 days. The Yellow River is in the Sepik River swamps and enters the Sepik River about 800 kms from its mouth. At this point in the dry season the river was still nearly 250m wide. I carried out a census of all the Yellow River people – nearly 5,000 of them. They live in hamlets through the swamp living mainly on sago. Their first census had been in 1940, while others had their first census in the early 50s. In quite a few of the villages I had carried out the initial census, appointing a *luluai* and *tultul* and issuing a village book. The patrol was conducted in the dry season – most of the area in the wet season would have been under several metres of water.

Whilst in one of the villages near the Yellow River I heard that there was a group of people living deep in the swamp to the north of the Sepik River many hours walk away. They had never been visited by a patrol although men from this area had been to work on plantations in the Rabaul area. I decided to go and visit them. It took over ten hours walking to reach the area which was called Magaleri. On arrival I sat in my patrol chair while the policemen and carriers set up camp. I noted the women and children had never seen a white man before. The women viewed me while hiding behind houses but the children

came up to me and rubbed their hands over my bare knees. After a while I took off my gaiters and boots covered in mud and suddenly, the children all left and it took quite a while before they returned. My white legs must have scared them. The area is now called Magleri and has an airstrip and mission station. . The people lived on raised land which probably would not flood in the wet season.

Many of the people lived along the Yellow River and its tributaries and, of course, all had canoes. In one hamlet, I found a man lying down waving a small bush over his leg to keep the flies away. He had a tropical ulcer which had eaten away his leg from about mid thigh to nearly his ankle. You could see his bones and dried sinews. He was given an injection of penicillin and it was suggested he be carried back to Lumi – five days walk away. I doubt that this took place and he probably died within a couple of months.

Some of the people I visited, who had not been part of a previous census, were very keen to come under government influence and have a *luluai* and *tultul* appointed and get a village book. This influence probably came from the fact that many of the men had been recruited to work outside the area. In order that village life was not greatly disturbed, the administration allowed up to one third of the adult males to be at work on plantations at the one time. I believe the people's keenness to come under government control led to the cannibal feast that followed.

About the beginning of August 1956 some bodies were found floating in the Sepik River with parts of their bodies cut out. They were identified by their tattoos as coming from a long way up the Sepik River. About the same time, Kit Kitson, a recruiter for plantation labour living at Lumi, returned to Lumi with the story that some Yellow River people had been killed and eaten by May River people. This story got out and became headlines in PNG and Australian papers. Things then moved quickly. At the time I was on another patrol to the west of Lumi when I was recalled to accompany the Lumi Assistant District Officer (ADO), Frank Jones, to the Sepik River. We reached the Sepik River on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1956, made camp, and waited for the Ambunti workboat *Mala* to arrive three days later with the ADO from Ambunti, Mert Brightwell on board. Mert, Frank and I then spent the next few days investigating what happened and also travelled back to Ambunti, about 480 kms away, on the *Mala*. The May River joins the Sepik River from the south, about 50 kms south-east of where the Yellow River joins the Sepik River from the north.

This is the story we were able to reconstruct of what happened. The May River people sent out an invitation to the Yellow River people to come and tell them all about what the government was doing for them, as they were thinking of inviting the government to come to their hamlets. The May River people used this as an excuse to get the Yellow River people to visit them. A feast was organised on a sandbank in the Sepik River. Prior to the meeting the May River people hid knives and axes amongst the traditional clothing they were wearing. When they were all together, following a pre-arranged sign, the May River people suddenly killed as many Yellow River people as possible although some managed to escape into the bushes. Women were present at this meeting. At least 30 Yellow River people were killed and then parts of their bodies were

cooked and eaten. Later, the Sepik River rose, covered the sandbank and bodies were washed down the river.

On our trip down the Sepik River in the *Mala* we stopped a number of times and found bodies in bush houses near the river. These were probably Yellow River victims who had been slashed but got away. I noted that many of the crocodiles on sand banks as we went down the river were huge – this was before crocodile shooting was allowed in this part of the river. Frank and I only stayed at Ambunti for a couple of days before returning on the *Mala* to our Yellow River camp. While we were at Ambunti walking around the station, Mert introduced us to the ‘bowser’ woman. She had extremely long breasts, and when she saw us, with a smile on her face, she threw her breasts over her shoulders and they stayed there!

After returning to the Yellow River camp Frank and I packed up and walked back to Lumi. The administration headquarters in Port Moresby were then under pressure to do something. The following is Tony Redwood’s story of what happened -

‘I was called to headquarters at Konedobu and told I had been selected to lead the May River patrol. I was sent to Police headquarters with instructions to select 12 native police from anywhere in the Territory, the best I could identify. Several days later I was on the plane to Wewak, where I spent a week organising supplies and assembling my police group as they arrived from all over. We flew into Ambunti where Mert Brightwell was the ADO, and left there several days later in the workboat for the three day trip up the Sepik to the May River. As you can see there was some urgency to get going, precipitated I think, by political pressure from Australia where the media was asking how this massacre could have occurred.

As best I can reconstruct this all occurred around June-July, 1956. [*It was actually September.*] It took me about a month to capture all of them (about 42 I recall), and the workboat made several trips from Ambunti to pick them up. It was hard sloggng. Early morning raids to trap them in the men’s house, pursuits for hours through the swamp, and the like. Millions of mosquitos, and croc ridden. From recollection my nearest colleague was Max Allwood at Green River. Anyhow I came out of there with serious hepatitis, and spent three weeks in Wewak hospital in recovery.

Initially, May River was listed as a base camp; later designated as a Patrol Post. What a desolate place. Our base camp was on the highest ground in the area, on the riverbank. The rest was swamp, all movement was by canoe, and all villages had elevated houses.’

Tony’s patrol of the May River area lasted for 93 days. When Tony and I did our patrols in the May and Yellow River areas we were only 22 years old! ■

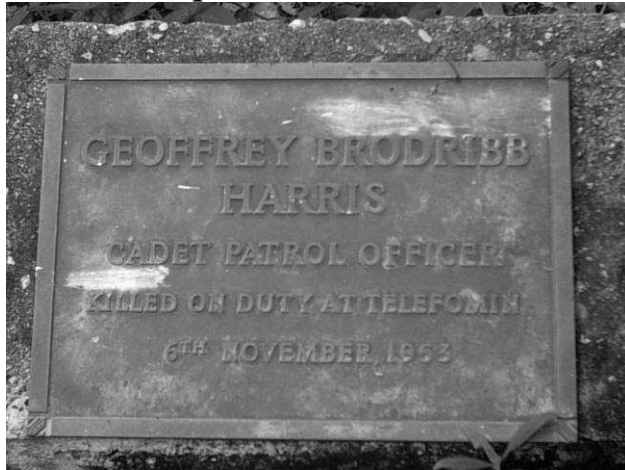
## **SZARKA and HARRIS MEMORIAL at TELEFOMIN**

**by Martin Kerr**

PNG Independence Day is an occasion to commemorate all field officers who served in PNG; were severely traumatised, wounded or gave their lives. Gatherings at grave sites and memorials would seem to be appropriate.

I'm enquiring if the Telefomin memorial to kiap Gerald Leo Szarka and Geoffrey Brodrigg Harris and police constables Buritori and Purari (killed 6 November 1953) is extant?

Harris's grave at Wewak Hill is looked after by Margaret Ningel whose murdered son is buried nearby. She has a book to record visitors to the cemetery and will accept donations for the cemetery's upkeep. Margaret lives about 60 metres to the south of the cemetery. Contact with the cemetery's unofficial custodians can be made to Margaret Ningel c/- Johnson Saongo PO Box 1169, Wewak, East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea.



**GEOFFREY BRODRIGB  
HARRIS  
CADET PATROL OFFICER  
KILLED ON DUTY AT TELEFOMIN  
6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 1953**

Cemetery, Wewak Hill, February 2006

TERRITORY OF PAPUA AND NEW  
GUINEA  
IN MEMORY OF  
PATROL OFFICER  
GERALD LEO SZARKA  
-AND-  
CADET PATROL OFFICER  
GEOFFREY BRODRIGB HARRIS  
FIELD OFFICERS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
DISTRICT SERVICES AND NATIVE  
AFFAIRS  
6092 PA CONSTABLE BURITORI  
-AND-  
3349 CONSTABLE PURARI  
ROYAL PAPUAN AND NEW GUINEA  
CONSTABULARY  
WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON  
TERRITORY  
SERVICE IN THE TELEFOMIN AREA  
  
ON 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1953



Memorial, Telefomin Airstrip, January 1965

## HELP WANTED

**When transferring funds by electronic payment to PNGAA** please also email: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) to advise your name, your membership number, the amount and what it's for...Thank you. \* \* \*

**John and Maureen Frize** wish to contact **Paul Ume**, a Mekeo man, who was a student at Iarowarri High School, Sogeri from 1968 to 1972. John taught Paul at Iarowarri in 1972. Their last contact with Paul was in Port Moresby, 06 October, 1976. At that time Paul was living at Stage 2, Gerehu, Section 247, Allotment 24, Port Moresby. His contact address then was c/- Mr Mose Vamuani, Port Moresby City Council, P O Box 7270, Waigani. Paul's wife was named Oini and their first child named Alu.

Any information to Maureen and John Frize, 7 William Street, STOCKTON, NSW, 2295 or on email to: [maureenfrize@yahoo.com.au](mailto:maureenfrize@yahoo.com.au)

\* \* \*

If anyone has information and/or photographs about the **Muruk Shipping Company** and **Bay Loo Building Company**, both Chinese-owned and prominent in Rabaul pre-war, could you please contact **Dr Peter Cahill** at: 7 Wynyard Street, Indooroopilly. 4068. E-mail [p.cahill@uqconnect.net](mailto:p.cahill@uqconnect.net)

\* \* \*

**Norm Bailey** who worked with Burns Philp from 1960 to 1966 in Rabaul, Madang and Lae would like to be put in touch with **Jock Gilbert** and his daughter **Christine** who lived and worked in Rabaul at the same time. Jock worked with Dept Publics Works in Rabaul in the 1960's. Please contact Norm Bailey at: 14/1 Regatta Drive, Valla Beach NSW 2448 Phone: 02-65695769 or Email: [nbbails@bigpond.com](mailto:nbbails@bigpond.com)

\* \* \*

**Ken Wright** is collecting material for a magazine article about a group of Bougainvillians who, during the Japanese occupation during World War II, looted, murdered and raped natives who helped the Australian Coastwatchers. They were called the '**Black Dogs**' and were directed, according to brief references in some books by a Japanese [soldier or civilian] called Tashira -no last name. If you are able to help Ken, please contact him at: 1 Helwig Avenue, Montmorency, 3094, Melbourne, Victoria. Phone: 0394391294 or email: [wright9w@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wright9w@optusnet.com.au)

\* \* \*

**Marjorie Deasey** would like to contact **John or Val Kelly** who lived in Balimo in the mid 1960's. John was the Government Officer there at the same time as David Speakman. If you can help please contact Marjorie at Unit 9, Aminya RV, Goolgung Avenue, Baulkham Hill, NSW 2153 or Phone: 02-96394007

\* \* \*

## Replies to Help Wanted

*In Una Voce No 2 June 2009 on page 32 Pat Sommerfeld asked if anyone remembered the crash of Junker VH-BUW in Wau and its subsequent transport by road to Goroka. **Murray Anderson** was able to help with the following:*

I was a first year Cadet Patrol Officer at Kaiapit Patrol Post in the Markham Valley when the Jack Thick convoy passed through on its homeward journey to Goroka in September 1957. My Officer in Charge was 'young Rupe' Haviland who, just two years before, had completed the construction of the 'road' linking the Highlands road network with the Markham Valley and Lae.

The convoy consisted of 2 GMC 6x6 trucks, each with a jinker trailer, and a Weapons Carrier 4x4 with a jeep trailer. While the 6x6's carried the fuselage and



the mainplanes, the 4x4 and trailer were laden with aero engines, undercarriage and bits and pieces and the tailplane.

After a brief stop they moved off to ford the Umi River and this quite challenging obstacle was crossed uneventfully. Your photograph shows that the river level was relatively low and the 6x6's had three axles providing plenty of power and traction. The local men can be seen following the 4x4, probably in the hope that it would bog down and afford them the opportunity to haul it out and earn some money or tobacco. They kept a long length of cable for this purpose.

The convoy would have camped at Warabung at the foot of the mountains before tackling Kassam which rises several thousand feet in eight miles. The road then was hardly more than a jeep track with steep grades, narrow bench cuts along steep side slopes, very rough surfaces and several hairpin bends, which I know from personal experience in a 109 Land Rover, could not be negotiated without taking two bites at them. How Jack and his party would manage to take their long vehicles over this terrain was beyond us. We later learned that Jack had earlier arranged for a small crawler tractor to help where necessary. On the hairpins the 'dozer would push the trailer sideways around the corner as there was no way a 6x6 and trailer combination could manoeuvre back and forward by itself.

The Kassam Pass section took several days to negotiate. The modern road down Kassam, part of the Okuk Highway, does not follow the original alignment and at a picturesque lookout point about halfway down, there is a memorial to Rupe Haviland who died tragically while on leave just a few years later.

I have no knowledge of what happened to the Junkers when it was finally delivered to Bobby Gibbes in Goroka. Perhaps it flew again but it is more likely that the wreck was cannibalized to keep his other Junkers aircraft operational.

\* \* \*

***Charles Betteridge*** was also able to solve his query-

'You may recall my article on p.33 of the June 2009 Una Voce where I had submitted some photos of a military funeral I took in 1962 at the Bomana War Cemetery near Port Moresby. I did not know any details of that funeral or of those seven personnel who were being buried at the time (1962).

The first response to that article came from Mr. Rick Giddings in Tasmania who was a kiap in Buin, Bougainville Island. He gave me some possible clues to the type of aircraft involved and its location when it crashed in the final stages of WW2 in PNG. Rick suggested I also contact Bruce Hoy in Aspley in Queensland as Bruce was curator of the War History annex at the National Museum in Port Moresby.

Bruce came back to me with all the details of the crew and aircraft involved and it solves the mystery of that funeral of the seven personnel buried on that day in early 1962. Here is Bruce Hoy's reply:

'The aircraft in question was A9-660 which disappeared on a ferry flight from Port Moresby to Tadjil on 28th January, 1945.

The crew were:

No. 7 Sqn. RAAF Crew:

WGCDR Nigel William Baker 260411 (pilot)

FLGOFF Alan Dalgish 439416 (observer)

FLGOFF Alfred Vincent Eric Bate 431161 (WAG)

FLGOFF Colin Laidler Chisholm 431737 (WAG)

Passengers:

FLTSGT William Henry Pratt 434897 (WAG)

FLTSGT Trevor Neil Hay 56177 (76 Sqn)

SGT Reginal Thomas Barter 60200 (Service Police, Pt. Moresby)

*Cont. over →*

Lt Col Austin George Fenton NX484 (HQ Military History Section)

'However, with the above, there were in fact eight men manifested on that aircraft, not seven as you have shown, so I am at a loss to explain the anomaly. (The additional person may have been Sgt. Reginald Barter who was listed as "Service Police", which may have been another term for the civilian police, and may have been buried in the old cemetery at Hanuabada rather than at Bomana which is reserved for members of the armed forces.)

*Una Voce*, through its readers, has solved a great mystery of that funeral I photographed in early 1962. I give thanks indeed to both Rick and Bruce for solving this mystery.'

## BOOK NEWS

**TUUM EST - The History of Keravat National High School and its students 1947-1986** by **Barbara Short** ISBN 9780646514031 Published 2009 Allbook Bindery West Ryde, firmly bound with softback hand-stitched cover/clear plastic front; 380 pp; A4 size; 227 b&w photographs; Cost: \$30 plus \$10 p&p within Australia Please send cheques to: Barbara Short, 27 Chesterfield Rd., Epping 2121 NSW Phone: 02 9876 1018 Email - [cbshort@bigpond.com](mailto:cbshort@bigpond.com)

The book contains the memories of many past teachers and many ex-students of the school. The book will be launched at Keravat High School in PNG on 10 September by the Governor General, Sir Paulias Matane, an ex-student of the school. The newly formed Keravat Alumni Association will be selling the book in PNG and all profits from the sale of the book will go to the school which is in a poor state of disrepair.

**Toromuimui Myths of Milne Bay, Papua New Guinea** Edited by **Elin Johnston**, ISBN: 9780977587131 Published 2009 Paperback 207pp Cost: \$34 RRP plus \$2 postage within Australia. Available from the Editor, Mrs Elin Johnston, at PO Box 114, POINT LONSDALE Vic 3225

This book is a sequel to Annie Ker's *Papuan Fairy Tales* published by Macmillan, London, in 1910. It's a collection of 32 stories told to the Editor by village elders of mountain and coast along the eastern mainland 'tail' of Papua New Guinea.

Anyone who has enjoyed close contact with the people of Milne Bay, or on the dry narrow coast plains of the neighbouring Goodenough and Collingwood Bays, will probably know, from listening to tales told at village firesides the legends of this book. *Toromuimui – The Dwarf Who Lost His Land* and *The Talking Bananas* are two of these. The book is illustrated by some beautiful line drawings contributed by Anthony Maibani of Wamira village near Dogura. To these the Editor has added many excellent photographs of her story tellers. As with Elin Johnston's previous book of Papuan legends, *Dodoima – Tales of Oro*, this volume is a collector's piece. It is also a pleasure to read. Only 250 copies have been printed.

**Wau to Bulldog: Across the Roof of Papua New Guinea** by **Colin Freeman** ISBN 978-1-4251-7419-4 Published 2009 by Trafford Publishing, quality trade paperback, includes maps, list of illustrations, many photos (both colour and B&w), select bibliography, 110 pages  
Order this book online at [www.trafford.com/08-0374](http://www.trafford.com/08-0374)

An illustrated account of an Australian Army Patrol over an old military road built by Australian Army Engineers across New Guinea during WWII. Check the December issue of *Una Voce* for a review of this book.

## BOOK REVIEW

**PNG history through stories: Book I** by **Eric Johns** ISBN 0-7339-7868-1. Pearson Education Australia, Melbourne, 2004. 132 p. illus. Maps.. \$19.95 (plus postage)

**PNG history through stories: Book Two** by **Eric Johns** ISBN 0-123600411-7. Pearson Education Australia, Melbourne, 2006 169pp Illus. Maps. \$19.95 (plus postage) Available from the publishers. Contact [denise.agnew@pearson.com.au](mailto:denise.agnew@pearson.com.au)

PNG history through stories books 1 and 2 were written by Eric Johns for use in PNG schools. Although the stories are simply told they are full of historic information told in an entertaining style and suitable for all ages and particularly for anyone with an interest in PNG.

About seventy short chapters on a wide range of topics are set out as lessons concluding with exercises based on the texts. Each chapter is very short, generally two or three pages of text. There are illustrations for each chapter and the dozens of photographs are an outstanding feature of the books. The many maps make locating the incidents of the story easy. An impressive bibliography indicates the extent of the research that went into these books.

The books cover PNG history from the earliest times of prehistory, through the years of first European contacts, settlements and colonization up to post independence times. World War II was a turning point in PNG history and many individual stories of this period are told often from the point of individuals. Michael Somare's boyhood memories of the Japanese soldiers in his village are recounted. Some of the most interesting stories of World War II involve lesser known Papua New Guineans and it is good to see that their lives have been recorded for future generations. Hangings at Higaturu is a particularly poignant chapter as it records the public hangings of 22 Orokaiva people for murdering or handing over to the Japanese several missionaries and Australian soldiers.

The contact between European and Papua New Guineans is told in many stories. Six-Day War recounts how 60 New Britain people died in 1878 in a punitive expedition to assert authority and to avenge the killing of missionaries. Gold rush troubles gives an account of the clash of interests between the gold miner at Edie Creek and the Bulolo villages during the 1920's. First contacts in the Wahgi Valley is full of interest as the words and photographs of those first contacted are recorded.

Children, and adults too, like mysteries and the books feature quite a few. Were 326 shipwrecked Chinese eaten by Rossel Island cannibals as was reported in Sydney in 1860? How and why and by whom were the 9000 year old drainage systems at Kuk near Mount Hagen made? What caused the Time of Darkness stories to be told? What happened when 'the sun did not appear for three days and people had to light torches to see?' Another mystery appears in Yali's Question. The question was 'Why is it the white people developed so much cargo and brought it to New Guinea, but we black people have so little cargo of our own?' Biologist Jarad Diamond offered one answer to this question in a TV series and a book entitled 'Guns, Germs and Steel'.

There are over 70 stories of the history of Papua New Guinea in these two well written and well produced books. They can be read in sequence or taken up for short reads as the titles entice. ■

## FRYER LIBRARY DONATIONS – SEPTEMBER 2009

**Nancy Johnston:** electronic copies of *Missionary Compendium*, *Through the eyes of a Kiap* and *Living in New Guinea – my Memoirs*. All placed in Fryer Library's e-space files. **Dorothy Braxton:** copies of Superintendent Mike Thomas's Pidgin English 45 r.p.m. one copy of *Liklik Redpela Hat* and two copies of *Tripela Liklik Pik*. **Charles Betteridge:** USB Flash Drive holding 1,153 dated and identified slides of Port Moresby 1960/1968; 1966 & 1970 (Bomana and Lae War Cemeteries), Lae 1966, 1969/1970, 1971 (Morobe Show); 1970/1971; Madang 1968/1970, Mt Hagen 1966, 1967 (Mt Hagen Show); 1982. Rabaul 1967, 1970; New Ireland November 1970 (Group 1), New Ireland November 1970 (Group 2); Manus Island December 1970; Wewak 1 October 1976, 1975-78 (Wartime wreckage), December 1976, Angoram & Sepik River 1975/1978; Port Moresby 1964/1967 (Judo 1); Executive Transport (Rabbit Motor Scooter) 1960s various; Toyota Sports 800 PNG & Australia 1966-1968. **Peter Cahill:** PNG Public Service cadet badge, microfilm of *An Immigrant Minority* by David Y.H. Wu. Copy of *The ride of my life* by Sr M. Quentin MFIC (observations and experiences of a missionary in the Torricelli mountain area of the Sepik District). Single "Unite" sticker encouraging PNG unity pre-independence 1975; Pacific Manuscripts Bureau reel (CD) 1324/1 Peter Cahill – *The Chinese in Rabaul 1914-1960*. MA thesis UPNG 1972 (Restricted access until December 2011). Photos Rabaul: loading bagged copra onto whaleboats; Rapindik race course; *haus wind* Botanic Gardens, bandstand NDL bungalow, Rapindik; Talasea & Namatanai singsing dancers; Wahlenburg (home of Heinrich Rudolf Wahlen) at Maron in the Hermit islands; flogging a native (banned in mid-1920s) whose arms and legs are held by policeboys; view of Sulphur Creek from NDL bungalow verandah; fathoms of *Tambu* shells (native currency); farewell to NGVR enlisted volunteers, Rabaul Theatre, 1939; negative Official Emblem of Papua New Guinea; various photos of Rabaul Chinese – Chinatown, basic trade store, Catholic Chinese ("Yang Ching") School 1930s, Methodist Overseas Mission school for Chinese and mixed race children, 1930s; Chinese high school girls and boys 1950s in front of native material and scrap shanties in new Chinatown (Matupi Farm) 1950s; Girl Guides Troop 1960s; Chinese school children at beach picnic 1930s with Methodist Minister Mo Pui Sam; shell of the New Guinea Club late 1940s used as Australian Comforts Fund Canteen; 6 Japanese officer prisoners of war, 1950s; MacGregor Dowsett (subsequently Ah Chee Avenue) Street, Matupi Farm Chinatown with ex-Army trucks; aerial view of Malaguna Road late 1945; Commonwealth Bank and staff quarters 1947 with adjacent Jap gun emplacement; Bank of New South Wales pre-war vault at foot of Namanula Road; Chinese returning to pre-war Chinatown after 1937 eruption of Vulcan; Australian War Memorial (AWM) photos: Gibb's Square, Botanic Gardens; Casuarina Avenue 1939; home in Matupi Farm Chinatown; Lt.Col. Woo Yien CO of (captured) Chinese Army troops; Australian officers' mess (? Nodup) ca.1946. More in January 2010 *Una Voce*. **Martin Kerr:** complimentary CD-ROM of *New Guinea Patrol* (includes *Fragments of New Guinea – Reports/Images 1964...*) a photo-graphic and written record of a picaresque life as a kiap/trader in the Highlands and Sepik Districts. **Max Hayes:** collection of copies of maps including Shell company

Rabaul January 1963; NeuBritannien:Rabaul 1975 (ex Karl Baumann 2002) showing locations of commercial buildings in German and English; CPS Palanga Surveys Limited of Rabaul pre-1994 Tavurvur eruption; Rabaul town ex 1966 *Handbook Papua New Guinea*; map Hafen von Matupi 1912 (showing bridge from Kurapun to Lakunai area); Makadau-Hafen (Duke of Yorks) plus photo of residents (black, white & yellow) ca.1890; Mioko-Hafen (Duke of Yorks) 1906 showing Kleinschmidt and DHPG establishments; Neu-Lauenberg (Duke of Yorks) n.d; Rabaul/ Herbertshohe (Kokopo) area showing Rabaul town and coconut plantations, n.d; New Britain/New Ireland ex 1939 *Pacific Islands Year Book*; Gazelle Peninsula ex 1942 *Pacific Islands Year Book* showing villages and plantations; Kaiser Wilhelmsland (mainland New Guinea) and the Bismarck Archipelago with inserts of major areas, n.d.; town of Kokopo, n.d.; northern half of Gazelle Peninsula 2002 Jacquinot Bay to Watom Island, map ex *Handbook Papua New Guinea* 1964 showing Gazelle Peninsula roads/ overgrown German roads/aerodromes, Gazelle Halbinsel showing trading stations/plantations ca.1900; Das Kuslengebiet um Herbertshohe showing plantations around Kokopo. Photos (2) of remains of Matupi Farm Chinatown ca.1960s, remains of gallows behind police barracks (Kombiu Avenue/Ah Chee Avenue area) 1961 where some Jap war criminals were hanged. **Pat Boys:** copy of *Return to Rabaul: my 1981 diary of returning to my birthplace* printed 2008, includes photos of pre- and post-WW2 Rabaul. **Michael Arthur:** 71 colour photos of the travails and vicissitudes (!) of Hagen Haulage road travel/transport in the Eastern/Western Highlands 1969-1978. Shows very basic roads/alarming wooden bridges from which many trucks slid off greasy surfaces into nearby barits/gullies/river beds to be hauled out by tractors/ bulldozers/rice-power; the marvellous scenery of the Highlands backs most photographs. Includes destruction by fire of Robert Cheung's store 1972, and Mt Hagen Show 1973. **Valerie & Kevin Thornton:** CD of photos Bomana War Cemetery 1947-1948. **Adrian Geyle:** meticulously identified and dated research-valuable colour slides: 55 of Lake Murray/Kiunga 1952/53; Administration trawler Elevala leaving Port Moresby, scenes and activities of Suki villagers at Lake Murray, Unevangelized Fields Mission Lake Murray, local head men, kiap conducting census, Ok Tedi house with "outside" influence, an "instant" canoe, village councillors and constables, Fly river running high. 113 colour slides of Green River/Iuri 1953/54/55: including Iuri tribesmen at home, visiting government patrol post, Border mountains, senior Iuris smoking pipe of peace, being addressed by DC Elliott-Smith, selling sugar cane, Mission Aviation Fellowship aircraft and individuals, villagers in their Sunday best and *au naturel*, trading food for salt, bemused by radio noise, wary of camera, mountain home of luluai and family. The list goes on. **Gladys Forsyth** (courtesy Beatrice Knight): quantity of material dealing (in part) with sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*; list of civilian evacuees from Rabaul and Port Moresby December 1941; photographs. To be sorted and listed for the December 2009 *Una Voce*.

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**Donate to the PNGAA Collection in the Fryer Library via Dr Peter Cahill, 7 Wynyard Street, Indooroopilly. 4068. E-mail [p.cahill@uqconnect.net](mailto:p.cahill@uqconnect.net).** Particularly interested in New Guinea mainland material (identified and dated where possible). As Dr Cahill is away from mid September to late October please hold donations during this period or contact the Editor, *Una Voce*. ■

## REUNIONS

► **PNG get-together - BALLINA** RSL, Spinnakers Function Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 240 River Street, Ballina. **Sunday 6 September**, from 11.30am Cost: \$25.00 pp incl buffet lunch. (Please note change) Drinks to be purchased individually. Lift access available. **RSVP:** 26 August to **Andrea Williams** Ph: 02-9449 4129/0409 031 889 24 Melaleuca Drive, St Ives NSW 2075 E: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net)

► **KIAP REUNION - Sunday, 8 November, 2009** for Kiaps, their families and friends. **Location:** Kawana Waters Hotel, Nicklin Way, Buddina, Sunshine Coast, Queensland (same venue as previous reunion), near Kawana Waters Shopping Centre, on the main road between Mooloolaba and Caloundra.

**RSVP:** 16 October 2009

The restaurant will be open from 11.30am. Informality will continue to be the order of the day. 'No speeches, everyone is too busy catching up with friends.' This format has proven the most popular so we will stick with it' say the organisers. Last time 262 were catered for. Information about accommodation in close proximity can be obtained by contacting the organisers, or viewing further information on the PNGAA Forum at: <http://pngaa.net/bb/viewtopic.php?t=217>.

We ask that you spread the word and pass on this invitation to those you feel would enjoy the day. There will be a small entrance fee to cover costs of mail etc.

Please ring, mail or email Denys/Helen or Bob/Heather confirming your intention to attend the reunion. Apologies will also be noted and recorded.

**Denys/Helen Faithful**, Ph: 07-54444484 E: [denysfaithful@hotmail.com](mailto:denysfaithful@hotmail.com), 46 Tawarri Cres., Mooloolaba, QLD 4557

**Bob/Heather Fayle**, Ph. 07- 54447446 E: [bobfayle@hotmail.com](mailto:bobfayle@hotmail.com) or 31 Moondarra Cres., Mooloolaba, QLD 4557

► **Lae-Markham Reunion 2009** - *Wanpela bikpela pati i kamap.*

**Where:** Broncos Leagues Club, Fulcher Road, Red Hill, Brisbane Qld, Ph: (07) 3858 9000, in the Auditorium. The venue is wheelchair-friendly, and there is plenty of parking on Sundays.

**When: Sunday 4th October 2009** from 11 am - 6 pm. RSVP date 15 July 2009.

Contact **Wendy Clarke** (nee Phillips) for your invitation.

Phone: (07) 3299 1290 (prefix 617 for overseas guests) Mobile: 0412 950 808

Email: [wendyemc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:wendyemc@optusnet.com.au)

Admission Cost: \$35 per person includes substantial finger food. Drinks to be purchased individually.

► **Sydney - PNG Wantok Club** is having the Independence celebration day - Picnic and sports day at Centennial Park in Sydney on 12th September - entry is via Randwick gates and then go to the first picnic area on the left as you drive along. Pack a picnic and join in - everyone is welcome!

► **2009 Annual PNGAA Adelaide Reunion Lunch** will be held on **Sunday 25 October** at the Public Schools Club, Sandford House, 207 East Terrace, Adelaide. Special Guest will be Peter Routley, Foundation Headmaster of Kimbe and Principal of Keravat High Schools. Peter will be talking on - 'AN ISLAND OF GOLD FLOATING IN A SEA OF OIL'.

Invitations will be posted in mid September. For further information please contact Graham Taylor [tay29@tpg.com.au](mailto:tay29@tpg.com.au) \ 08 8332 0242 or Jan Kleinig [janis.kleinig@bigpond.com](mailto:janis.kleinig@bigpond.com) \ 0407 791 086.

## REMINISCENCES OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS IN THE 1960S

by John Burke

While working in Cloncurry Qld I heard about the PNG Postal Department, and applied for a position. I was sent to Lae in February 1965 to relieve Alan King for his six months leave. The Telegraph Office there was still as it was during WWII when it was used as a communications shack by the Defence Department. A new office was completed at the end of 1965.

The Telegraph Office employed 14 Papua New Guineans (five telegraphists, six teletype operators, two telegram messengers and a cleaner), and European women dealt with outstations, phonograms and counter duties (where fluent English was needed). Not long after my arrival in Lae I experienced an incident which concerned me. Foe Liri, a telegraphist



from Kerema in Papua, and I went to the Lae Hotel to chat over a beer. When we tried to enter the hotel I was advised by a staff member that I would be banned if I tried to bring in a non-white. He suggested we try the native bar at the rear. We did that, but Foe was told the same thing – about trying to bring in a white person. This was my first taste of ‘segregation’... and we never did have that beer. [Note: Selling liquor to Papua New Guineans was illegal prior to 1962.]

In February 1966 I was transferred to Mt Hagen as the Telecommunications Supervisor replacing Frank Mollinger. A much smaller office than Lae, the Telegraph Office and Telephone Section were in the same building. We had seven PNG officers - one Morse code operator, four telephonists, one messenger and a cleaner; four officers were European - the counter officer, outstations, phonograms and telephone operators.

Tom Ellis was the DC for the Western Highlands and he ruled with an iron fist – it was ‘his way or the highway’! Tom would call a meeting once a month of all Department Heads to find out what was happening in his area – there was never anyone like him.

Life was never dull! Bobby Gibbes, owner of the Mt Hagen Motel, would buzz the motel when he flew into Hagen, so his staff knew to pick him up at the airport. One day my daughter was with me when we heard screaming and yelling. We raced outside the Office (situated on the edge of the old airport) and saw a helicopter spinning out of control – it crashed very close to us. The pilot and passengers got out with minor injuries, but the plane just melted in the flames. A few weeks before this incident the pilot had taken me for a trip to a mountain top to drop off materials that were to be used for construction of a communications

tower. He could not turn off the motor because he could not restart it due to the rarefied air. A few days later he tried to deliver more materials but there was a gathering of local people on the spot who asked him 'What the bloody hell was he doing on their mountain.' How they got there he could not work out. He returned to Mt Hagen and reported to his boss who then contacted a government department. It was sorted out with payment of pigs and money.

One day I witnessed a 'payback' assault in the form of an axe attack outside the Court House. Mt Hagen was surrounded by four clans, called the 'bush people'. They were a proud race; naked except for a type of loin cloth at the front and a branch twig big enough to cover their rear. Men and women used these items, secured by a twine belt.

The annual Mt Hagen Show was a spectacular event. People from other regions attended to join in the big *sing sing* – all colourfully adorned and dancing to different music. It still remains a major event in the region attracting many visitors.

Bill Carter, the Director, came on an inspection visit. He noticed we had a rock holding back the front door to keep it open. He put his hand in his pocket and said he would pay for a latch to restrain it. The money was not accepted but a new latch was installed very quickly. Bob Bell and Mick Foley were, at different times, Deputy DCs. Bob was an excellent person and well liked. Mick was a man of stature, physically and mentally – he took over the reins when Tom left. I remember on Anzac Day Services Mick would speak fluently in pidgin about WWII so that the locals could all understand.

Goroka Rotary sponsored a new club at Mt Hagen and I was one of the Charter members. To raise money the Club organised a two-man canoe race down the Wahgi River. I went with Alan Kentish, a fellow Rotarian, who was the Manager of Steamships Trading Company. He had organised a company truck to take his staff and equipment to the event. At the end of the day I put the takings in a tin box and tried to find Alan. I found him in the front seat of the truck suffering from heat exhaustion. This was the last vehicle to leave so I had to jump in the back which was packed full. Along the way I heard muttering and grumbling and quickly realised that the tin box was the centre of attention. Joseph Wama, a staff member of the Telegraph Office, stood up and, showing tremendous courage, told his countrymen in the local dialect to back off or they would have to get past him. We continued the ride back to town in peace and I felt very grateful to Joseph.

One Sunday the Telephonist on duty rang and told me he had just been assaulted by two Europeans. I went down to the Exchange to find the operator in a stressful condition. He had heard a knock on the outside door and, thinking it was a friend, opened it. Two Europeans raced in and assaulted him. They said he had been cheeky to them on the telephone. I knew who the men were from his description and also knew they spent most of their time at the Mt Hagen Country Club. I told the operator to ring the police and ask them to meet me there. Luckily for me the Police arrived at the same time, as the men were drunk. They were taken into custody and the Police told me I would be informed when they were to appear in Court.



Time passed without any contact from the Police. When walking past the Court House one day I saw the two men standing outside. Going inside I asked the Magistrate what they were there for, and was told they were appearing on the assault charge. Telling him that we had not been informed he said he would delay proceedings for an hour to allow me to get the Telephonist to court. (If the Complainant did not appear, the case would have been dismissed.) The Telephonist made it to Court just in time; the men were found guilty and given a 'slap on the wrist'.

My six year contract was coming to an end and I wanted to renew it but weakened as my wife was not happy about sending our daughter to boarding school. We left Mt Hagen in December 1970. Back in Australia, I could not settle down to working in the Australian Post Office so I resigned. Eventually I was contacted by the PNG Posts and Telegraphs and told there was a new position being created at Madang - they were looking for someone to take charge of all sections of Posts and Telegraphs. I was asked to apply and was very excited but my wife refused to go back. We are still together after 48 years but all these years later I still regret the decision not to go back ... I enjoyed working with many Papua New Guineans for whom I had great respect. ■

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## HERCULES POIROT PLEASE ASSIST

By **Maxwell R. Hayes**

Looking at Jim Ridges letter p20 in UV March 2009, wherein he mentioned the death of a long forgotten German named Bruno Menke on Mussau, stirred some memory for me and I went into my photographic collection. I can assist here with some information only to muddy the waters a little with some details.

Hundreds must pass daily within a very short distance of an obviously reconstructed German cemetery virtually in the heart of Kokopo, just a little behind the main street passing through the centre of the town, without realising its historical significance. As far as I can establish, what we see in these photos is probably the original German cemetery (Friedhof) which according to an early German map I have was located on the outskirts of what was then Herbertshohe.

There is also some speculation that this current German cemetery may have been on or became part of Kenabot Plantation acquired by Burns Philp Ltd in the Expropriation era and that in the early 1960's it was relocated so that more coconut palms could be planted. This is borne out by the orderly layout with graves and bronze plaques in neat rows on pebbled plinths such as would not have existed in German times. It is surrounded by a low wall on three sides and backs onto a slight rise planted with banana palms, The German Embassy in Canberra provided funds from 1965 till 1990 for Father Langkamp of Vunapope to maintain this newly refurbished mat-mat which may be on the original site but suffered the ravages of time, neglect and WW2. When I saw it in 2003, it had been recently mowed and was obviously well cared for.

Most of the memorials exist as plaques on the ground but there are a few reclaimed headstones, most damaged, to testify to an era long gone. Of the plaques, which appear to be original, 22 are named and 10 are 'an unknown German' (*ein unbekannter Deutscher*). All of this brings me to the point of Jim Ridges' notes on Menke.

There is a plaque for Bruno Menke (sic) which states that he died on 2.4.1903 at St. Mathias. It is interesting to note that his date of birth is given as 6.6.1817 which

would have made him almost 86 if then the leader of the 1st German South Sea Expedition. To further compound an obvious anomaly created by a suspect age, there is a substantial marble headstone to, guess who, Bruno Mencke which stands on a cement plinth bearing the date 1917 and inscription "Erected by his fellow countrymen". This marble headstone "Erected to the memory of the leader of the 1st German South Sea Expedition" spells his name as Mencke (sic) and gives his date of birth as 6.6.1877 with his date of death, though partly obliterated, as 2.4.1903.

Many scientific publications refer to him as being born in 1876 and the correct year of death as 1901 (mentioned by Jim Ridges). How did the local German citizens, noted for their meticulous record keeping, and other authors get so many facts so wrong.

So what do we know about Mencke. He was born to Gottfried Eberhard Christain Mencke and Charlotte Wittekop in Hannover. Upon the death of his very wealthy industrialist father, Mencke inherited a fortune. In the days of rising German interest in the South West Pacific and the rise in the museums stocking native artefacts, Mencke was one of a group of young collectors promoting their own academic and high society reputations in the social life of Berlin by embarking on expeditions and returning with prized ethnological collections for donation to various museums. In 1900, he purchased a British built three masted topsail schooner of 555 tons with a 300hp auxiliary engine. The schooner had been built in 1891 for Prince Albert of Monaco and later deemed unsuitable for the Prince's further scientific expeditions. He registered it in Hamburg and renamed it 'Eberhard' after his late father.

He then set sail for German New Guinea as the leader and financier with a team of ethnologists in an expedition intended to last three years. For Mencke, the dream came to an abrupt ending with his fatal wounding on Mussau in March 1901 with his secretary Cuno who were taken to the nearby Hemsheim trading station on Kaleu (part of the St. Matthias group of islands) where they died and were buried. Others of the expedition were wounded and returned to Germany.

By 1903, The German governor noted that the graves had been disinterred and the remains scattered. It is not known when the plaque giving the date of birth (1817) was manufactured, but why was it 16 years (three years after the occupation of former German New Guinea) before the marble headstone was so belatedly erected? I'll leave that for Hercules and Jim to dwell on.

Thanks to Karl Baumann and Dr Peter Cahill. ■

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## KAGUL KOROKA by George Greenwood

In Jim Toner's 'Notes', page 7 June 2009 *Una Voca* [Issue No 2] Kagul Koroka with 12 wives and 34 plus children is mentioned.

In the 60's when Pyrethrum was front and centre for any community above 700 ft in the Highlands, Stafford Allen, a UK based Co opened up a subsidiary at Kargumuga, to process the chrysanthemum flower to extract Pyrethrum oil.

To this effect in 1977 the Company set up a research base at Tente, 4km from Mendi as part of the company's commitment. Kagul was 2 ic, newly married and very much a committed SDA.



Kagul's family was from Tomba, just south of Hagen. In the four years of Tente's operation he was a capable and loyal employee.

At the completion of the project Kagul took ownership of much of our mechanical gear, tractors etc and turned that into a terrific conglomeration of landownership, through wives, potato chip processing and coffee production to become the Governor of the Western Highlands through sheer personality.

We operated four centres in those years; Tente at 7000ft; Klareg, Komia and Kargoba at 10000ft on the old Mendi/Hagen Road. Looking back it was a tough ask, that track, and Jack Emmanuel of Mataungan fame used our top Kargoba camp at times.

Kagul was unable to work on a Saturday as he was a SDA, and he would go into Mendi and preach as he saw fit.

Years later I returned to Mendi on a sales mission and in Hagen I was able to enjoy his company at the Hagen Hotel. Having become aware of his six wives at that stage I asked him how that sat with his faith as a committed SDA. As he smoked a Rothmans, sank an SP and demolished a T Bone steak, he said that he had found something of value in both his traditional and white mans culture.

Some five years ago my wife and I returned on one of those nostalgic 'What is it like now' trips. By now Kagul had 12 wives. His first born, Nancy and husband were making a go at a hardware business, two of his eldest sons who had been to school in Sydney and played Union for PNG, rode shotgun for us from Hagen to Mendi on the new road.

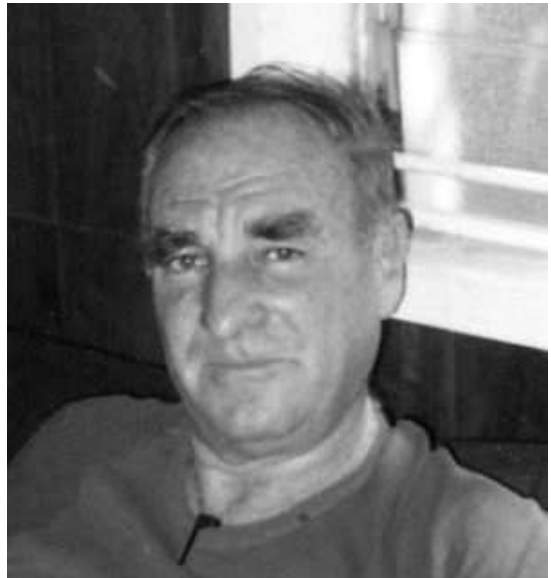
How does anyone manage 12 wives? He told us that his Number 1 wife was the key. They all went to her with their problems

There is a lot to be admired about Kagul. After his stint as the Governor of Western Highlands and Director of the PNG Development Bank he found time to be a compassionate and devoted father to all his children. There is no doubt he has created a dynasty that will be of value to his family for generations to come. ■

## ONE MAN'S KINGDOM - 'KING' CARSON OF NUGURIA

by **Brian Darcey**

He came back to his island home with his mother and sister at the end of World War Two. They were returning from wartime exile in Australia to Nuguria Atoll and the devastated wreck of a coconut plantation. His father, Lewis Carson was one of the Australian prisoners-of-war lost at sea when the Japanese ship Montevideo Maru was torpedoed by an American submarine while transporting them from Rabaul to Hainan for use as forced labourers.



Nuguria is one of the Polynesian outliers which ring Papua New Guinea. Its people are handsome, golden-skinned islanders; their original Polynesian hereditary characteristics have been modified by Micronesian and Melanesian genes contributed by arrivals from visiting canoes from Kapingamirangi Atoll to the north, from New Ireland to the west, and perhaps by visits from the ships of passing seafarers ranging from Admiral Zheng He's fleet on its voyage of exploration in 1421, to later ships carrying European explorers as they charted the legendary Pacific Ocean

The short-lived 19<sup>th</sup> century German presence in the South Pacific made Nuguria plantation an attractive prize after Germany's defeat in the First World War. The victorious Australians seized it with alacrity, unceremoniously ejected the former owners with little or no compensation, and sold it, along with hundreds of other similar assets, to their own returned veterans. One of these was Lewis Carson, father of Graeme.

Nuguria was Graeme Carson's fiefdom. He ran the atoll as a benign but absolute ruler, and totally dominated its inhabitants, as did his similarly placed counterpart, John Clunies-Ross on Cocos in the Indian Ocean. Force of character and an absolute belief in their right to rule was a characteristic of both men, and this was accepted by the islanders until influences from outside sewed the seeds of discontent. The Winds of Change have now made anything remotely resembling this state of affairs unthinkable and much ink has been spilt reviling the discriminatory attitude and the paternal mindset of those early times, but whether the absence of aid, assistance or basic governance for Nuguria which now prevails is in an improvement is a legitimate question. Like many of his contemporaries, Graeme Carson accepted responsibility for the health and welfare of every individual on his property, in his case, all 58 islands on the twin atolls which made up Nuguria. He was administrator, doctor, nurse, mechanical engineer, book-keeper, unofficial arbitrator in disputes over land, unofficial matchmaker between partners from different families, and occasional pugilist when disputes demanded strong action.. His small ship was used to transport patients to Rabaul for hospital treatment free

of charge and he arranged and paid for places in the prestigious King's School in Sydney for several young Nugurians. In short; his word was law, and government regulations and decrees from distant Rabaul ran a bad second to on-the-spot decisions by the freehold owner of Nuguria.

Carson's family lived on Tekani Island about 3 miles from the airstrip in a house built by his father, and the Nugurians occupied the adjoining island of Busureia. As well as providing money in return for labour or locally harvested copra and trocas shell, Carson was the only source of medical treatment on the atoll and the only authority to turn to in disputes. The nearest government official was many days' sail away.



*Boat Harbour, Tekani Island*

Communication was by tenuous HF radio link to Rabaul on New Britain using the radio in the plantation office surrounded more often than not by a group of attentive bystanders. The artificial boat harbour lay immediately in front of his house, its retaining walls formed by stacked mushroom coral heads overlaid by clean white sand. This tiny harbor sheltered schools of small bait fish in addition to the dugout canoes used for transport in the lagoon. In the early 1960's, he used his own labour and materials to carve an airstrip out of the narrow island at the southeast end of the atoll: 2,500 feet long, with a thin grass cover over coral rubble, it allowed fast and easy access to outside medical aid together with much faster mail delivery. It also produced a stream of official visitors from government departments in Rabaul whose insistence on correctly completed paperwork was not always welcomed by the busy owner of the atoll!

Graeme Carson married his first wife, an Australian girl, who gave him a son, Timothy. His mother, who lived on Nuguria as an undisputed matriarch, clashed repeatedly with her, and the marriage ended in divorce. Carson remarried, this time to Tetau, daughter of an hereditary Nugurian clan leader. She bore him another six children. The redoubtable Eileen Carson co-existed in wary but resigned amity with Tetau, until the matriarch's death by drowning after a fall from the seawall during a violent northwest gale.

Political Independence for Papua New Guinea in 1975 marked the start of a revolt by young islanders against what they now regarded as the exploitation of their homeland. The easy relationship between Carson and the islanders began to deteriorate into open hostility, often fuelled



*Canoe. Nuguria Lagoon*

by outsiders who now began to arrive on Nuguria as the invitees of islanders returning from school in New Britain and Bougainville.

He was granted citizenship of the newly independent nation of Papua New Guinea, renouncing his Australian citizenship in the process. While it was never officially spelled out, Australian passport holders who tried to continue in business in Papua New Guinea soon discovered that it was difficult to do so in the face of official harassment by newly promoted government officials determined to exert their newfound authority. One of the unforeseen consequences of this change in nationality left his family divided into those born before he became a Papua New Guinean citizen and those born later. The former were able to get Australian passports and move freely between New Guinea and Australia: the latter, as citizens of PNG, were only able to visit Australia for brief periods on tourist visas.

After 1975, the plantation industry throughout New Guinea went into a rapid decline. Labour became hard to get, and even harder to control. No plantation was immune and production of copra and trocas shell rapidly fell nationwide. A rise in nationalist sentiment as the new and inadequately prepared nation tried to continue the sophisticated administrative practices of its former colonial masters adversely affected Nuguria plantation and many other agricultural and commercial enterprises.

Life on isolated Nuguria Atoll was slow to change and the coconut groves which covered most of the 58 islands in the group still produced copra, while the reef continued to yield commercial quantities of trocas shell. Carson still owned and controlled the atoll, but his sway no longer held to the extent that he could decide who could and could not live there. Outsiders including missionaries from some fundamentalist Christian sects arrived. They succeeded in proselytising some of the more impressionable islanders, persuading them to discard traditional ancestor worship and replace it with their own aggressive brand of Christianity. Schisms developed, sometimes dividing families. One breakaway group moved to the southern end of the atoll and built a village restricted to the newly converted.

A few short years after Independence, most of the expatriate population of New Guinea was either selling up and moving out, or adapting to the new regime. Carson, now a citizen of Papua New Guinea, stayed on and adapted as best he could, but labour was unreliable; production of copra and trocas shell continued a downward spiral and his bank started to deliver threats of foreclosure.

Nuguria is no longer a working plantation. 'King' Carson is dead and the islanders are now left largely to their own devices with only sporadic official visits from the Papua New Guinea government. The airstrip, hacked out of the jungle by teams of villagers



*Family group, Nuguria*

and plantation labourers is overgrown and no longer useable. A cargo ship which brought regular supplies and medical assistance to the atolls is broken down and unseaworthy and Nuguria can now only be reached by a hazardous dash across the miles of open water which separate it from New Ireland in small workboats or outboard-powered sampans which occasionally risk the crossing, or by PNG Defence Force patrol boats. The atoll is notionally administered as part of the Bougainville Province, but Bougainville, wracked by internal divisions carried over from the civil war which led to the destruction of the huge open-pit mine at Panguna cannot govern itself, let alone concern itself with distant Nuguria, which it has effectively abandoned.

In early 2002 Carson was voyaging from Nuguria to Nissan Island en route to Buka at the Northern end of Bougainville in the plantation workboat, when he collapsed with what was later diagnosed as a severe cranial occlusion. His crew continued on to Buka where the former hospital, now reduced to an aid post with limited medical equipment still existed. After a long delay, he was evacuated by air as an emergency patient to the Catholic Mission Hospital at Vunapope on New Britain, where he was treated for the stroke which had left him partially blind and unable to speak distinctly. Months went by and his condition did not improve. He and his wife Tetau flew to Australia, the nearest source of skilled remedial therapy for a stroke victim; but the delay in obtaining specialist treatment had, by now, resulted in permanent damage. Although still active, he spoke with difficulty, he could not write or type, and his vision was poor. As a Papua New Guinean citizen, he was granted a three month visa by an unsympathetic Australian High Commission in Port Moresby, which endorsed the passport visa of this former Australian citizen and member of The Royal Australian Naval Reserve "*Not to be renewed or extended.*" Medical treatment in Australia was cut short when his visa expired, and he returned to New Guinea and to Nuguria where he died in May 2004.

He is buried alongside his mother on Tekani Island near the deserted and abandoned house where he lived and worked for most of his adult life. The trade wind still stirs the palm fronds above the graves and frigate birds circle high overhead, as they did when he and his sister lived there as children on this lonely Pacific atoll on the edge of the world. ■

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In *Una Voce* No 2 – June 2009 p31 there was an article on the PNG Pipe Band Association written by Ilaita Gigimat. Ilaita was asking for assistance with the history of the PNG Pipe Band Association. Col Donald Ramsay was able to help with this.

Ilaita is striving to get the civilian pipe band association up and running in PNG but needs support. For the first time, two official PNG tartans have recently been registered and woven in Scotland –the PNG Pipes and Drums and the Port Moresby City Pipes and Drums. They are now ready for shipment but funds are not yet available to allow this to happen.

If you can assist Ilaita with this in any way could you please contact him at: Email: [igigimat@iccc.gov.pg](mailto:igigimat@iccc.gov.pg), PO Box 6394, Boroko, NCD, PNG or Ph: (675) 684 1373 ■

## **EDWARD (TED) KENNA, VC. By Charles Betteridge**

Edward (Ted) Kenna was born in Hamilton, Victoria, on 6 July, 1919. He died there on 8 July, 2009, aged 90 years and two days. He was the last surviving Australian Victoria Cross winner from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War until his death.

He completed his education in his home town becoming a plumber. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in August 1940 and served in the 23/21<sup>st</sup> Battalion in Victoria and later in the Darwin



area. In June 1943 his unit returned to Victoria before being sent to Queensland. At this point the unit was disbanded and its members allotted as reinforcements to other units. Kenna was assigned to the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion and embarked to New Guinea in October 1944.

On 15 May 1945, Kenna was involved in action on Mission Ridge (now Mission Hill), Wewak, New Guinea. Private Kenna's Company had the task of capturing certain enemy positions. The only position from which observation for supporting fire could be obtained was continuously swept by enemy heavy machine – gun fire and it was not possible to bring Artillery or Mortars into action. Private Edward Kenna's Platoon was ordered forward to deal with the enemy machine-gun post., so that the Company's operation could proceed. When the attacking sections came into view of the enemy they were immediately engaged at very close range by heavy automatic fire from a position not previously disclosed. Casualties were suffered and Kenna's platoon could not move further forward. Private Kenna endeavoured to put his Bren gun into a position where he could engage the Japanese bunker but was unable to do so because of the nature of the ground. On his own initiative and without orders private Kenna stood up in full view of the enemy less than 50 yards away and engaged the bunker, firing his Bren gun from the hip. He remained completely exposed and continued to fire at the enemy until his magazine was exhausted. Still making a target for himself, Private Kenna discarded his Bren gun and called for a rifle. Despite the intense machine gun fire, he seized the rifle and with amazing coolness killed the gunner with his first round. A second automatic opened fire on Private Kenna from a different position and another of the enemy immediately tried to move into position behind the first machine gun, but Private Kenna remained standing and killed him with his next round.

The result of Kenna's magnificent bravery in the face of concentrated fire was that the bunker was captured without further loss. The company attack proceeded to a successful conclusion. There is no doubt that the success of the company attack would have been seriously endangered and many casualties sustained, but for Private Kenna's magnificent courage and complete disregard



for his own safety. His action was an outstanding example of the highest degree of bravery.

Three weeks after this incidence while Kenna was on patrol near Ambunti he was shot through the mouth by a Japanese sniper. The bullet passed through both cheeks of his mouth shattering some jaw bone in the process. He was rushed first to Townsville hospital then for repatriation to the Heidelberg Military Hospital in Victoria. He spent more than a year in hospital before being discharged from the AIF in 1946.

It was while he was in hospital that he learnt of the Japanese surrender. In 1947 Kenna married the dark haired nurse (Marjorie Rushberry), who had nursed him at Heidelberg Military Hospital. After his discharge from hospital, Kenna returned to Hamilton. Proud of their Victoria Cross winner, the people of Hamilton district raised sufficient funds to build Kenna and his wife a house which remains the family home. The Kenna's had four children. After the war he worked with the local council and played Australian Rules football for the local team.

While I was living in Wewak between 1974 and 1979 I became quite interested in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War activities and especially the final months of the war. I also found out about Kenna's heroic deed and looked over original maps of the battle plans for the Wewak campaign that were held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pacific Islands Regiment at Moem Barracks some 10km out from Wewak to see where this action took place.

On Friday night 21 October, 1994, a reunion of the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion took place at the Ballina RSL Club. I attended that reunion and I managed to meet personally Edward Kenna and his wife Marjorie. When I told Edward of my five years in Wewak and my quest to find the location of where his heroic action took place (I had with me a military map of Mission Ridge and Wewak in general), he was able to point out on my map virtually the exact spot the action took place.



Edward, his wife Marjorie and I had a good chat together for over five minutes or so and I found him a really kind hearted and warm person to know.

On a return visit to Wewak three years later I used the maps I'd shown Kenna and I was able to stand virtually on the same spot where he did battle against the Japanese machine guns. I

still wonder to this day what made him do that heroic deed especially in the area where the action took place and facing such immense enemy fire. I've seen the type of Japanese machine guns Kenna faced on that day, they were known by the Allies as a 'Woodpecker' because of their slower firing action but, the bullets they fired were at least twice the size in diameter of the bullets used in the weapons used by the Australian Company's at the time. ■

## A NUTTY STORY by Rod Noble

PNG's location on the Pacific Ocean's Ring of Fire was given bad press with the death and destruction at many locations, including pre and post war Rabaul, Mt. Lamington and Manum and Kairiru Island. However a recent note regarding the death of two vulcanologists on Kairiru Is reminded me of a benign volcanic event – a non-event really.

One day in 1954, DC Sid Elliot-Smith called me to his office. "Noble" he said, "You will accompany the Rabaul volcanologist to Blup Blup Island". He explained that a Qantas pilot, en route to Hollandia [now Jayapura], had reported volcanic activity there. If so advised by the expert I was to organize the evacuation of some 400 inhabitants.

With a R.P.N.G.C. sergeant and my *haus boi*, we boarded the government launch [M.V.Thetis?]. By late afternoon the small island appeared off the bow; Mt.Fujiama shaped, a dense green skirt, a grey collar and belching smoke like a steam train.

The expert said he wanted to land and would inspect the volcano the next day. In the interest of protecting government property, I decided that the vessel and I should spend the night behind a nearby island! When anchored there my *haus boi* asked me for a couple of cartridges to shoot some pigeons ashore. I agreed – sounded better than more bully beef for supper. Very soon he had returned without firing a shot. I asked why, as I could hear a large flock of the birds settling down for the night. He told me that the village *luluai* [head man] had requested that the birds be spared. He explained that the birds were in GALIP\* nut trees. The nuts were an important cash crop for the locals. I was told that they were harvested by being picked up from the ground after the birds had digested the husk. Saved a lot of arduous tree climbing!

With this piece of interesting information learnt I landed on Blup Blup next morning and climbed the volcano with the vulcanologist and trepidation.

Although more than half a century ago, I can still see and smell that active volcanic scene – makes one resolve to keep all Ten Commandments. Fire and brimstone was issuing from several fumaroles and the sulphurous smell was horrific. The expert calmly took notes and photos. Evacuation was not recommended and so we all returned to base.

One other recollection of that trip. As elsewhere, some rainwater is collected in old canoes from the nipa roofs. When I asked about streams or wells I was told there were none – not needed. The island is only a few miles from the Sepik delta and such is the volume and rate of flow, up to 4 knots in spate, that they could dip water at the beach. No doubt brackish, but life saving.

\* GALIP (*Canarium indicum*):

20 – 30m tall with canopy 15 – 20 m; lowland tropical tree widely planted around villages in Indonesia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and PNG. This proteinaceous product from tropical rain forests has a delicious kernel especially if salted and lightly fried in tinned butter. In PNG the shell is carved into tumbuan (traditional face mask) and was sold to tourists for three mark (shillings).

The EU is funding support for a new cash crop industry for the canarium nut having an estimated value of US\$300 million. Maybe it will appear in our local Woolies one day soon? ■

MINUTES OF THE 58<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PNGAA

**HELD AT THE KILLARA GOLF CLUB, SYDNEY, ON 28 JUNE 2009**

*Meeting opened at 2.10 pm*

**Members Present:** Jacky Lawes, Julianne Allcorn, Riley Warren, Ross Johnson, Pat Johnson, J.J. Nitsche, M Day, H West, John O'Dea, Sue Ward, Nancy Johnston, Alan Johnston, Colin Huggins, Stuart Inder, Pamela Foley, Terry Chapman, Edna Oakes, K.W. O'Connor, G. Oakes, A. Neilsen, Helen Reardon, I Reardon, K. Lynch, Vicki Walshe, Graham Egan, Pam Warren, M Clifton-Bassett, Joan Stobo, Robert Webb, Mary Webb, Dennis Doyle, Laurie Williams, John Stevenson, Robin Mead, Fred Kaad

**Also Present:** Denis and Susan Chow, Miles McKenna

**Apologies:** Andrea Williams, Margaret Komarek, Bernard Oberleuter, Ann Graham, David Weeden, Will Muskens, Chris Diercke, Geoffrey Gray, Florence Cohen

*Motion that the Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> AGM be confirmed*

*Moved Joe Nitsche, seconded John Stevenson – Carried*

*Motion that the Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 26 April 2009 be confirmed*

*Moved Marie Day, seconded Alan Neilsen – Carried*

*Motion to ratify the appointment of Mr Harry West as an Honorary Life Member as agreed by acclamation at last year's AGM –*

*Moved Terry Chapman, seconded Nancy Johnson - Carried*

**Business Arising:** Regarding Nancy Johnston's item re the PNGAA and matters political, it was noted that the new Rules of the PNGAA Inc dated 26.4.09 resolve this matter. See: 2 Objects (1)

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

**Financial Report:** Outgoing Treasurer, Ross Johnson, provided a comprehensive financial report for the year ended 31 December 2008. This included statements covering Income & Expenditure, Assets & Liabilities and the Auditor's report. (An abridged version of these financial statements is shown on p... ) Membership statistics as at 31 December 2008 were also provided. R Johnson said that after the end of last year an extra \$15,000 was placed on term deposit, making our Investments now \$45,000. Also, as mentioned in Note 16, he noted that we joined with the NGVR/PNGVR Ex-Members Association and contributed \$500 for the placement of a Montevideo Maru Memorial Plaque at Subic Bay, Philippines. This plaque will be dedicated on 1 July.

The Treasurer reflected on his 11 years in office – when he took over as membership officer we had about 1,000 members – we now have over 1,600.

In 1998 total income for the year was \$17,200 with expenditure of \$17,100.

In 2008 total income for the year was \$53,620 with expenditure of \$43,453

In 1998 we had total Net Assets of \$17,831, they are now \$38,816.

Ross Johnson made a few concluding remarks, as follows: 'I can honestly say I have enjoyed these past 11 years and I will long remember the support given to me by the committee in general but more particularly, the sage advice and assistance I received from the late Doug Parrish, our esteemed past President Harry West, our current President Pam Foley – who incidentally has done a

sterling job since she unexpectedly took over the reins in January this year – and of course Andrea Williams, the editor of *Una Voce*, with whom I have worked closely over the past few years. However I think that what I will miss most is the interaction and the camaraderie I have established with our membership over the past 11 years.’

*Motion to accept the Financial Report – Moved Ross Johnson, seconded George Oakes - Carried*

### **Correspondence:**

Marie Bassett said that hundreds of letters and emails had been received, mostly administrative, and that any needing special attention had been dealt with by the committee. She noted that a letter had been received from the NSW Office of Fair Trading acknowledging receipt of our Notice of Alteration of Objects or Rules lodged on 28 April 2009. They advise that the amendments now form part of our records effective as at 1 May 2009.

*Motion to accept the Correspondence Report –*

*Moved by Joe Nitsche, seconded Marie Day – Carried*

### **Certificate required by Section 27(1)(b) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984**

Ross Johnson asked the meeting to authorize himself as Treasurer and Pam Foley (Deputy President) to sign the documents required by the Department of Fair Trading concerning incorporated organisations,

*Moved by Joe Nitsche, seconded by George Oakes – Carried*

### **Election of Honorary Auditor**

Mr Len Bailey, CPA, who has been Honorary Auditor of the PNGAA for many years, offered himself for re-election.

*Moved by George Oakes, seconded Harry West that Len be re-elected. Carried*

### **Results of Postal Ballot for the election of Management Committee**

The Acting President, Pam Foley, asked the President Elect, Riley Warren, to announce the results of the ballot. Riley said the new committee inherited a great legacy from former members and it was now up to the new committee to implement the changes supported overwhelmingly at the Special General Meeting in April.

As already announced, the positions of the four office-bearers were not contested.

Therefore the following are declared elected to the 2009-10 Management Committee -

President – Riley Warren

Secretary – Marie Clifton-Bassett

Treasurer – Will Muskens

Editor – Andrea Williams

Miles McKenna and Denis Chow, the independent scrutineers, then handed over an envelope containing the results of the secret ballot. Riley Warren announced the names as follows:

Pamela Foley, Giminama Crowdy, Chris Diercke, Dennis Doyle, Deveni Temu and Juli Allcorn

Successful candidates were asked to stand up - general acclamation.

### **Presentation to outgoing Treasurer**

On behalf of the outgoing Committee, Harry West presented a gift and card to Ross Johnson, thanking him for his tremendous contribution over many years. Acclamation

**Robin Mead**, outgoing committee member, spoke of the need for the new committee to work as a team, and thanked all those who had given such great service to the PNGAA.

*The meeting closed at 3.00pm*

### **President's Report**

At each AGM over the last few years the President has presented a report on the year's activities. I have been Acting President – or as someone once introduced me 'Accidental President' - only since the office became vacant on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. Since then I have endeavoured to oversee the activities and issues arising within the Association – especially the transition involved in Constitutional development for the future.

This year the 58<sup>th</sup> AGM was postponed for two months from the 26<sup>th</sup> of April till the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2009 because of the need to hold a preceding Special General Meeting to consider proposed changes to the Association's rules and objectives allowing for the introduction of postal voting, updating and providing the perception and aspiration for our future. Postal voting and all the necessary procedures and arrangements have been dealt with in great detail in information provided in – and with – the last four issues of *UNA VOCE*, so, important and all as they are it is not necessary for me to pursue them further today.

Harry West stood down at the last AGM after 10 years as Secretary and 16 years as President, and said he was overwhelmed and humbled by his rewards, paying high tribute to his supporting committee members over the years. Well-wishers arranged two days in Canberra at Floriade time complete with a scenic helicopter flight.

The new President succeeding Harry, Keith Jackson, immediately accepted the need for a review of the Association and its Constitution, which had not been undertaken for more than six years. He moved quickly, energetically and effectively on many fronts, including strengthening membership, setting expanded objectives, revision of rules and with special attention to a number of specific issues. However, he resigned on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 after 8 months in office. His long letter of resignation was communicated to all members by publication in the March 2009 issue of *UNA VOCE*, along with a detailed letter of acceptance and appreciation dated 9<sup>th</sup> February from me as Acting President after consideration by the management committee. No doubt these letters have been read by members, but in summary Keith was particularly thanked for his work on the Constitutional Review Committee and advised that the Management Committee intends to build on the many initiatives and achievements of his Presidency.

The Oro Community Development Project - of which Riley Warren is President and with which a number of our members are closely involved – is directed at grass roots self-help village development in combined education, health and agriculture programs. On Keith Jackson's initiative, airline tickets donated by Air Niugini

were raffled amongst our members and an amount of over \$9,000 was raised for this project during the year.

Our 2008 Christmas function held at the Killara Golf Club was equally as successful as the first function held there a year earlier. A full report appeared in the March edition of *UNA VOCE*.

Once again last year we enjoyed the hospitality of George and Edna Oakes at their Blue Mountains home and this year they are planning to hold 'open house' again on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

I am happy to say that Major General Michael Jeffery, the former Governor General, has agreed to continue his personal patronage of our Association, and he has given us a beautiful copper artwork plaque which I accepted from Mrs Jeffery recently on behalf of the Association. Our other patrons, Mrs. Roma Bates and Mr. Fred Kaad OBE, both had distinguished careers in Papua New Guinea and continue to maintain a lively interest and participation in Association matters.

For many years there were very few Committee changes, perhaps because of the reluctance of members to volunteer for office, but this year there has been a dramatic change and 8 members will not be seeking re-election, for various reasons, and the Committee has been reduced in size from 16 to 10. Fortunately there are 18 candidates for the 10 vacant positions on the new Committee. A special tribute is due for the retiring Committee, many of whom have given long years of outstanding service without seeking particular recognition – Ross Johnson, Andrea Williams, Fred Kaad OBE, Harry West OAM, Robin Mead, Joe Nitsche, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Nancy Johnston, Ian Reardon, Ann Graham, Marie Day, Riley Warren, Jacky Lawes, Juli Allcorn, Margaret Komarek.

Also we are fortunate to have had the services of Mr. Len Bailey as Honorary Auditor and he has indicated his willingness to continue in this role.

Our Journal *UNA VOCE* has continued to provide all members with information and interesting reading, and this reflects the unceasing amount of time and effort Andrea Williams devotes to her role of Editor. Our regional correspondents Jim Toner (N.T.), John Kleinig (Adelaide), Bob Blaikie (Qld) & Max Hayes (Vic) can always be relied upon for topical news and Dr. Peter Cahill, who capably handles the PNGAA collection in the Fryer Library of the University of Queensland, is going ahead with plans for digitising historical material.

Once again we have been indebted to Mr Tim Terrell AM for representing our superannuated members on the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations (ACPSRO) in Canberra.

No report of this nature would be complete without special thanks to our Treasurer and Membership Officer, Ross Johnson, who has contributed enormously with energy and professionalism in his 11 years of office, when membership increased from 800 to 1600. Ross has played a major part in all operational and constitutional changes, and in recent times handled Website installation and, with Elizabeth Thurston, all the ramifications of the "Walk Into Paradise" release. ■

# ABRIDGED AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For year ended 31 December 2008

## 1. Statement of Income and Expenditure

2007 (\$)	INCOME	2008 (\$)
398	Donations	373
12,157	Functions (gross receipts - AGM & Xmas)	15,705
1,250	Interest	1,848
21,437	Membership Subscriptions	27,879
1,225	Raffles	1,492
9,384	Trading activities – Book and DVD sales (net)	6,323
45,851	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	53,620
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
5,769	Administration Expenses	7,523
225	Caring Committee	155
780	Depreciation	846
12,033	Functions (expenditure – AGM & Xmas)	15,253
2,815	Income Tax	1,887
2,496	Membership Listing	2,567
130	Subscriptions	130
10	Donations and Contributions	985
13,540	Una Voce – printing & distribution	14,107
37,798	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	43,453
8,053	Surplus / (Deficit) transferred to Members Funds	10,167

## 2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2007

2007 (\$)		2008 (\$)
39,304		40,182
28,637	Current Assets	29,570
10,627	Cash at Bank	10,582
40	Stock on hand	
20,029	Accounts Receivable	30,029
3,136	Investments - Term Deposits	2,539
	Fixed Assets (written-down value)	
62,469	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	72,750
23,170		23,377
861	Current Liabilities	638
250	Accounts Payable	350
2,815	Provision for Audit Honorarium	1,887
	Provision for Income Tax	8
19,244	Provision for Oro CD Project	20,494
10,685	Subscriptions in Advance (Year 2008)	10,556
10,685	Long Term Liabilities -	10,556
	Subscriptions in Advance (> 2008)	
33,855	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	33,933
28,614	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	38,817
20,561	Represented by –	22,820
8,053	General Reserve ( <i>see Note over page</i> )	5,830
	Historical Preservation Reserve	10,167
	Net Surplus (Deficit) for Year	
28,614	<b>TOTAL MEMBER FUNDS</b>	38,817

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

## **Note to the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2008**

### **Movements in the General Reserve - 2008**

	\$	\$
<b>General Reserve as at 31 December 2007</b>		20,561
<b>Plus -</b>		
Transfer of surplus from 2007 financial year operations	8,053	
Income tax (2007) adjustment (over-provision)	35	
Sub-total	8,088	
<b>Less -</b>		
Transfer of net proceeds (2007) from 'Walk Into Paradise' DVD sales	5,830	
Sub-total		2,258
<b>General Reserve as at 31 December 2008</b>		22,819

### **Patrol posts and other matters**

#### **Maxwell R. Hayes, RPNGC**

Paul Oates report on outstation life and duties (UV June 2009) prompted me to comment on and correct a few aspects about the native police uniform and to mention an experience of patrol post life when in May 1963, I was sent to Pomio patrol post to investigate the presumed murder of a female named Pilbilo at Bovalpun village some miles away.

On 4<sup>th</sup> May, accompanied by Sgt Mjr Apul and Constable Saragum, I flew by TAA to Palmalmal strip at Jacquinot Bay and thence by work boat Garua to Pomio on the east coast of New Britain.

George Oakes was the patrol officer in charge (living there with his wife Edna and children) supported by cadet patrol officer Ron Gibbs and Peter Hill, a teacher. This was a busy, well organized patrol post and, like so many on New Britain, on the coast. Transport around the area was by tractor where roads permitted and a work boat when available.

Prior to the introduction of the new police uniform on 1.10.1964, all post WWII native police wore the old 1939 pre-war Royal Papuan Constabulary (RPC also served as a unit within ANGAU during WW2) uniform of black serge jumper and laplap with red cummerbund, and a broad leather cartridge belt from which was suspended a brass chain (a primitive but effective form of handcuffs) and a .303 rifle bayonet in scabbard. All edging on this simple uniform was with red piping (other similar uniforms for medical staff, boats' crew, and interpreters, etc, had different coloured piping). In 1955 a black beret with brass RP&NGC badge was introduced.

The new blue 'in line' uniform for all ranks basically consisted of shirt, shorts, long socks (with red garter flashes to allude to the piping and cummerbund of the former uniform) black leather work belt with chrome two piece RP&NGC buckle,



beret with a red, blue and chrome RP&NGC badge with black boots, (albeit with uniform variations for commissioned officers). This was widely accepted by the native police particularly those who had served in the pre-war Territory of New Guinea Native Constabulary then attired in shorts, shirt, peaked cap and other accessories as it, at last, gave the native police a uniform on a par with that of the Pacific Islands Regiment.

With the new uniform, native police were issued with two sets of numerals bearing their serial number with one worn on each shirt collar edge. Over the years, through damage and loss, it then reverted to one numeral worn on the right breast but eventually this too fell by the wayside. From the left epaulette a blue lanyard was fixed to a chrome whistle worn in the left shirt pocket. As with the former uniform, medals (if any) were worn on the left breast above which was worn a small brass star surrounded by a red felt disc (to represent ten years of completed service, if applicable), perhaps in multiples, such as the late Sgt ( First Class ) formerly Sergeant Major Bagita who retired in 1965 with 5 stars.

Paul has made mention of the morning parade when station duties were allocated for the efficient running of a patrol post. There was another long standing tradition which existed at patrol posts and police stations in the period prior to the withdrawal of the personal rifle issue to each member of the constabulary in the year the new uniforms were issued in 1964. At the end of each day, a police detachment would march to a position near the flag pole, fix bayonets under the order of the senior native policeman present, and present arms as a bugler sounded whilst the flag was lowered. At the conclusion of which, bayonets would be unfixed and the detachment would march off.

To me, this is one of the most stirring moments of constabulary life and I was able to capture this moment on film at Pomio on 8.3.1963. Personal issue of the .303 Lee Enfield rifle (which members were previously allowed to take with them when proceeding on leave to their village (assumedly without ammunition, however there was no shortage of ammunition from war time supplies), ceased as armouries were built and from which rifles were only issued for important occasions such as parades, guards of honour and civil disorder. The .303 rifle was a very important accessory to native police and most, particularly the older senior ranks, were disappointed when they were withdrawn from personal issue.

The mystery of the death of Pilbilo, whose only remains consisted of some few bones found in the bush, remained unsolved. There was a suspect named by villagers but no admission of guilt or other proof as to how this poor woman died as she had disappeared perhaps a month or more before a few skeletal remains were in the bush and after the ravages of nature taking its toll.

After three days investigation near the site it was impossible to lay charges and her remains were interred. The incident did, however, give me a week's insight into patrol post life, and a return trip through Lae (as was the TAA route) to Rabaul. ▪

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

**Derek Turnbull BELL** (1 June 2009 aged 70 years)

Derek came originally from Scotland. At 15yrs of age he began a cadetship with the Royal Edinburgh Police and at eighteen joined the British South Africa Police (BSAP). He served for three years in Southern Rhodesia before arriving in Brisbane in 1960. He applied for the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and was appointed in Port Moresby in 1961. Derek spent 16 years in PNG where he served in Port Moresby, Lae, Mt Hagen, Rabaul and Goroka. During his PNG career, he was appointed to Special Branch; he headed the investigation in Rabaul into the murder of District Commissioner Jack Emanuel in 1971. While in PNG, he completed a BA Degree from the University of Queensland. He was confirmed Inspector (First Class), Chief Superintendent, Bomana Police College before returning to Australia in 1976. He then decided to formalise his life-long love of books by enrolling in a Librarianship Diploma with the University of New South Wales. He graduated in 1977 and went to work for the Melbourne State Library. He then joined the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) 1977-1993, serving in Sydney, Melbourne, Port Moresby, Canberra and Belgrade in the former Yugoslavia, working behind the 'iron curtain'. Derek settled in Brisbane in 1993 working with the Department of Justice. Once again returning to study, he enrolled with Griffith University in 2000 to study the justice system more fully. During his eleven years with the Department of Justice, he was awarded the Public Service Medal and achieved a Masters Degree in Criminology. A chance meeting between Derek and an ex-PNG Police colleague in Brisbane in 1994 led to a few beers and the suggestion that "we should do this again some time". With Derek as organiser, this grew into an annual get-together of ex-PNG Police Officers, wives and friends spanning 15 years. A devoted husband and family man, Derek died suddenly and unexpectedly. He leaves behind his wife Sharenne, two daughters and six grandchildren. His only son died in 2006. His two sisters and his elderly mother still live in Edinburgh.

Sharenne Bell

**WALKER Alan Robert** (6 May 2009, aged 70 years)

Alan died suddenly in the Whitsundays, Nth Queensland on 6.5.2009, age 70. Born in Hull, England and after service in the Royal Air Force, he joined the former English colonial Northern Rhodesia Police in 1960 resigning in August 1963. Migrating to Australia, he joined Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary on 2.2.1965. He served as an instructor at Bomana police training college and later as the treasurer and general secretary of the Police Association and editor of the association's publication 'Kumul'. He resigned from RPNGC on 2.2.1968 returning to England. The following year he returned to Australia and married Judy McNaught (daughter of Superintendent First Class Murray McNaught). They then returned to England and Alan joined the prison services of Scotland and later England retiring as Director of Operations, Prison Services after 34 years service. In 2004 they returned to warmer climes in the Whitsundays where he continued working as a consultant in security services. He is survived by Judy, a son, daughter and two grandsons.

M. R. HAYES

**John COLMAN** (21 April 2009 aged 79 years)

John spent his early years in country NSW, finishing school at Barker and attending the University of Sydney. In 1953 he went to PNG as a cadet patrol officer, first to Port Moresby, then to Okapa in the Highlands where he served from 1955-57. Okapa Station had only been opened in 1954; apart from handling local matters, John's 'brief' was to contact people to the South-East mainly the Kukukukus between the Lamari River and Menyamya. John was on leave, having resigned from the Government, when he met his future wife, Joan, in 1957. He returned to PNG and, with Jock McGregor, set up business at Minj. Joan joined him in 1960. The business failed and John and his wife encountered difficult times until he was able to begin business again, this time in Mt Hagen. He began the trading business, Colman Trading, opening small stores scattered over the Highlands. Over the next 20 years this grew into a substantial business, 'Coltra', with stores in many centres. The company employed many expatriates and trained local people in Mt Hagen, Chimbu, Wabag, Goroka, Madang and other areas. John lived in Mt Hagen for nearly all of his 47 years in PNG. He was elected a Councillor in Mt Hagen. At the age of 44 he obtained his pilot's licence which gave him much greater flexibility. He pioneered a successful exporting business shipping coffee to Germany and the USA. Always interested in any new methods of coffee production, he and Joan traveled to many exotic coffee-growing countries. In 2000 he 'retired' to the Gold Coast to continue his travels. He and Joan had three children, and have six grandchildren.

**Reg THOMSON** (2 June 2009, aged 89 years)

Reg left school at 13 to work in a series of jobs in rural Victoria. He joined the Australian Army in 1941 and served in several theatres of war including New Guinea. After the war he gained a Diploma in Social Science, then attended ASOPA and went to PNG as a junior education officer. From the late 50s until 1973 he was chief of the Division of Social Development and Director of Child Welfare in PNG. This was a time of rapid social and political change and his responsibilities were many and varied. Specialised offices in his division included child welfare, urban resettlement, training, youth work and women's activities. His community development officers were based in all districts. Their duties included community development projects and community education including health promotion and political education. They worked with government and non government agencies in many activities including case work and counselling, migration referrals, grants in aid, pensions and sports development and the licensing and inspection of child care centres. Prior to Reg's arrival there were few written guidelines in many of the areas mentioned above. Reg and his staff produced a wide range of publications which provided a 'road map' through unfamiliar territory. Reg helped build up a number of agencies which became part of a modern social welfare system for PNG. He has been honored by the PNG government for his outstanding contribution. At the age of 89, Reg recently published his memoir, *Looking for a Good Book*. Early in his life Reg became an avid book collector. His book is a 'tale of a gentle madness', the story of a book collector thrown hither and thither by tumultuous events beyond his control. Reg is survived by his son Mark, and daughter Julie.

Mark Thomson/Graeme Parry

**Charles David ("Harry") Dowson BATES** ( 26 July 2009, aged 58 years)

Born in Madang 9 September 1950 he died in Sydney after a long illness. David was the son of Charles Bates a pre-war Kiap, WW2 Coastwatcher and post-war District Commissioner, and Roma Bates who is one of the Patrons of PNGAA.

Early schooling was in Madang and from Year 5 he was a Boarder at Trinity Grammar School in Sydney. Returning annually to PNG for Christmas holidays by DC3's instilled a love of travel and a great interest in aircraft. After school David took up a Management Cadetship with TAA for two years and later joined Ansett for five years before opening his own Travel Agency in Coffs Harbour. He purchased a share in the Harvey World Travel Franchise Company and was a Director for thirteen years. Returning to Sydney he operated Travel Agencies in Engadine and Menai. He was an active member of Rotary for fifteen years, being a past President and a recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship.

David always remembered his early years in PNG with great fondness and returned for holidays several times. His last visit was escorting a group of PNGAA members on a cruise to Rabaul, Madang, Lae, Samarai and Milne Bay in 1999. David will always be remembered for his fun loving ways and his sense of humour. He is survived by his wife Lyn, three daughters Rebecca, Alexandra and Elizabeth, mother Roma Bates and older sisters Pat Johnson and Hilary Morrissey.

Lyn Bates and Pat Johnson

**Lt Com Donald R Wilson DSC RANVR (Ret'd)**

(22 July 2009, aged 92 years) – We hope to have further details next issue.

**Geoffrey Wynstan GIBSON, OBE** (2009, aged approx. 79 years)

Geof's early years were spent in Australia and New Zealand. After obtaining an MA in New Zealand he attended Avondale Missionary College, taught for a year, then completed his Dip Ed, and gained his B Ed with honours a little later. He applied for a teaching position with the PNG Administration and was posted to Sogeri High School. The present Governor General, Sir Paulias Matane, and the present Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare, are two of the many notable people educated there at that time, and both these men became his close personal friends. Geof eventually became Head of the Division of Teacher Education. When the position was nationalised, Geof taught at the University of Papua New Guinea. In 1985 he became Head of Education at the newly established Pacific Adventist College (now Pacific Adventist University). Along the way, Geof completed his doctoral studies in London and at Michigan State University. He was awarded the OBE in 1983 for services to education in PNG. He continued teaching for nearly ten years more before returning to Australia following a health scare. Geof maintained close contact with his students over the years, encouraging them in service, praying with and for them, following their careers and sponsoring their further education or that of their children. His entire estate will benefit the work of education in the South Pacific, especially in PNG and the Solomon Islands. Geof is survived by his older brother Col; their younger brother, Warren Neville, died in 2007.

Laurie Meintjes and others

**Margarette (Margo) WILLIAMS** (6 June 2009, aged 90 years)

Margo spent her teenage years in Sydney. Her first job was as violinist on the passenger ship Macdhui which cruised the islands of New Guinea. By her third cruise, the war in the Pacific had begun. It was during this trip, that she met a young Cadet Patrol Officer, Les Williams, in Madang. Fortunately she changed jobs, as the Macdhui was bombed and sank in Port Moresby Harbour on its next voyage. She and Les married in 1944, after a courtship interrupted by Les's return to New Guinea as a Coastwatcher. In 1948 Margo and her first baby joined Les at his posting in Namatanai, on New Ireland. In less than two years they were posted to Goroka, then on to Lae. Their first posting as District Commissioner and Missus was to Madang for eight years from the mid-1950s, then to Popondetta, and finally to Kavieng, from where they retired to Australia in 1971. Margo's maternity experience tracked the extraordinary advances in medical services available in PNG after the War. She had to go South to have her first two children in the late 1940s; by the early 1950s she was able to have the next two in Port Moresby; but by the mid-50s the services were so good in Madang, that she did not even have to get on a balus. Margo and Les were keen golfers; Margo was a committed and effective amateur golf instructor. Les passed away in Sydney in 2001; later Margo moved to Coffs Harbour to be near family. She continued to play her beloved violin right to the end - she died peacefully at Woolgoolga Retirement Village.

Garry Williams

**Edward KENNA VC** (8 July 2009, aged 90 years)

Edward Kenna was awarded Military's highest awards, the Victoria Cross, for his brave actions on Mission Ridge behind Wewak on May 15, 1945. He was the last Australian Victoria Cross winner from WW2. (See article page 48)

Charles Betteridge

**David Osborne HAY, CBE, DSO, MBE** (18 May 2009, aged 92 years)

David Hay was Administrator of Papua New Guinea from 1967 to 1970, taking over from Sir Donald Cleland. He was well qualified to steer the territory towards self-determination but was hamstrung by the then Secretary of the Dept. of External Territories, George Warwick Smith, who insisted that all decisions relating to PNG should be run across his desk. On leave in 1970, Hay spoke with Prime Minister John Gorton and the upshot was that Smith was moved from Territories, and Hay took over as Secretary, Territories. This gave continuity to the moves towards self-government, especially as Hay had a close working relationship with the new administrator, Les Johnson.

David Hay distinguished himself at school and university and entered the public service in 1939. In WWII he served in the Middle East, Greece and New Guinea and was awarded the military MBE in 1943 and the DSO in 1945. During his wartime service in PNG he built an airstrip near Maprik which developed into a sizable airfield and was named Hayfield. After the war he served in various senior diplomatic positions and in 1964-5 was Australia's ambassador to the United Nations. He was awarded the CBE in 1963 and was knighted in 1979. His wife Alison died in 2002. He is survived by their two sons, three grandchildren, and his older brother Peter.

Information from *The Age* and *SMH*

**Sir James JACOBI** (21 June 2009, aged 83 years)

Jim Jacobi worked in Port Moresby as a general practitioner for 40 years. During this time he became the first president of the PNG Rugby League, a position he held for more than 25 years. He oversaw PNG becoming a member of the International Rugby League Federation and was knighted in 1991 for services to PNG rugby league. Jeff Wall CBE said: 'Jim's enormous range of business, political and community contacts were regularly tapped to help develop the greatest game of all in the only country where its place as the national code is unchallenged. He was a person of unbounded generosity, and his passion for rugby league -- and the time he put into it despite seeing up to 60 patients a day in his medical practice -- was inspirational.'

Sir James grew up in Maryborough and served in the Royal Australian Air Force in PNG in the final stages of World War II. Jim moved to Brisbane in the mid 90s where he continued with his practise although he returned frequently to PNG as a medical locum.

*Info from League Unlimited*

**Keith Charles Gill OBE** (25 May 2009 aged 71 years)

Keith spent his childhood on the family cattle property near Gladstone in Queensland and attended Gatton Agricultural College before returning to the farm. He first visited PNG accompanying shipments of cattle in the late 1950s when the family started exporting cattle there. In 1959 he started work as assistant plantation manager on *Mamba Estate* near Kokoda. He had great respect for the Keinzle family from whom he learnt a lot about life in rural PNG. Apart from his field responsibilities he had to organise the slaughterhouse and butchery, marketing of the beef and was put in charge of the aid post providing basic medical services to the workforce of about 400.

In 1963, Keith bought into the property *Mountainview* just west of Port Moresby. This involved a large piggery and dairy enterprises as well as beef cattle and was a major source of fresh food for the people of Port Moresby at the time. Eventually the piggery and dairy were phased out and the farm concentrated on beef production. *Fairfax*, a bigger property closer to the coast was bought and the herd built up to almost 3,000 head. Keith imported quality bos indicus stock, including droughtmasters, from Australia and was recognised by the Australian Droughtmaster Society in 1971 as one of only seven official classifiers. *Mountainview* supplied over 3,000 head of cattle to other projects in PNG during the period of cattle expansion. Keith's advice was always keenly sought by visiting World Bank missions supervising their cattle loans to PNG.

The family sold out in 1977 and after remaining as manager for two years the family left *Mountainview* in 1979. Keith spent some time in Australia but returned to PNG to pursue other business interests until deteriorating health forced him to leave PNG.

He was well known for his sense of humour and involvement in community activities. They included the Port Moresby Show Society (President), Rotary (Paul Harris Fellow) and the Port Moresby Turf Club. *Mountainview* provided most of the stock horses for the races at Bomana during the 1970s and all patrons will remember the legendary 'Humbug' who often had two or three races a day, winning most, but always at prohibitive odds. Keith was awarded the OBE by the PNG Government for services to the community.

He is survived by wife Yvonne, whom he married in Port Moresby in 1964, daughters Paula and Fiona and grandchildren Sophie and Angus. Ken Woodward

**Ronald George CROCOMBE** (19 June, 2009, aged 79 years)

The Emeritus Professor was a New Zealander who in his early twenties was a district officer in the Cook Islands administration. He went to the ANU, earned a Ph.D in History, then joined the university's New Guinea Research Unit when it was created in 1962. Later he became its Director and had a large hand in founding the annual Waigani Seminars and establishing the Unit adjacent to UPNG in buildings now housing the PNG National Research Institute. He was insistent that the results of research by staff be made available for posterity and edited many NGRU Bulletins. Ron left PNG in 1969 to become Professor of Pacific Studies at the University of the South Pacific, Fiji and continued to write extensively on Pacific island problems even after retiring to Rarotonga. His family now mourning him extends from his wife Marjorie down to eight great-grandchildren.

Jim Toner

**Ian HARVEY** (11 February 2008, aged 80 years) at Katherine, N.T. After six years service in the Queensland Police, he joined RPNGC in 1957 before leaving to join Oil Search, later working as a hydrographer for Commonwealth Department of Works. When stationed in Moresby, he joined the Reserve Constabulary.

M.R. HAYES

**Thomas Kingston CRITCHLEY** AO CBE (14 July 2009, aged 93 years)

Born in Melbourne, Tom grew up in Sydney attending North Sydney Boys High. He was in "the vanguard of Australian diplomats who recognised after World War II that Australia's future must lie in South-East Asia and the Pacific...Critchley laid the ground for the establishment of friendly relations with Australia's neighbours."

In 1961 he married Susan Cappell. In March 1974 he became High Commissioner in Papua New Guinea, a position he held until PNG's Independence. Throughout life he enjoyed playing jazz piano, golf, tennis, scuba diving and water and snow-skiing. He is survived by his wife, Susan, and daughters, Laurie, Sam, Liz and Vicky.

*Info from SMH 24 July 2009*

**Trevor Stuart JONES** (11 June 2009, aged 96 years)

Trevor lived in Port Moresby from 1946 to 1970. He was Senior Admin Officer at the Dept of Treasury and later Executive Officer (General Services) also located in Konedobu. Trevor married Kathleen (deceased) and their two children, Patricia and Sharon, were both born in Port Moresby.

SMH 16 June 2009

**Henry Bernard BURGESS** (mid 2009)

Henry went to PNG in 1970 as Fisheries Officer and later Regional Fisheries Officer, Voco Point Fisheries Station. The family remained there until 1980. He is survived by his wife Sheila and their two children Lynne and Anthony.

Sheila Burgess

**Francis Gerrard CLEARY** died (13 April 2009, aged 83 years)

We hope to have further details next issue.

**Ian BRAZENOR** (April 2009)

Ian first went to PNG in 1961 with the Commonwealth Bank, later becoming Assistant Secretary with the PNG Banking Corporation in Port Moresby from its inception in 1974. The family left PNG in 1978. Ian is survived by his wife Lenore and children Jane, Gary and Tony.

Lenore Brazenor

**William John NEVE (22 January 2009, aged 91 years)**

John was born in Goulburn, moving regularly in his early years as his father was a country school teacher. Eventually becoming a teacher himself he was required to spend three months with a Sydney University Casual Battalion over the Christmas holidays when Japan entered the war. John spent some time training with the unit in Queensland before going to Milne Bay in 1943 and shortly after that, Lae, then Finschhafen and finally Bougainville. It was two years of intense activity which had a lasting influence on him. During this time he studied Mathematics externally with the University of Sydney. Returning to Sydney after the war ended he enrolled in Psychology, Geography and Anthropology with the University of Sydney. Towards the end of this study he learnt of work being done by the Director of Education in New Guinea and so, in 1949, he travelled to Maprik where his first task was working on the language of the Abelam people in that area. John spent much time understanding the social structure and religious life of the society while a school was established. John was keen to encourage development that would help the people cope with change and so classes were held for medical workers, pidgin literacy and for agriculture. John had met Mavis whilst on leave during the six years he was in Maprik and they married at the school in Brandi in 1955. After long service leave they moved to Mount Hagen and John became the District Education Officer, establishing the school in Mt Hagen and surrounding areas. After three years in Mt Hagen the family moved to Port Moresby. Granted a scholarship to study a Master of Arts in New York, the family moved there for nine months in 1966, travelling through Europe and England before returning to Pt Moresby. The family returned to Sydney in 1972 after John had spent 22 years working in PNG. After Mavis passed away in 1986 John continued his love of travelling and even at 80 was able to trek through the Karakorum in Nepal. In 1999, on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence, John received recognition from the Governor-General of PNG for his service to the development of the country. John is survived by his daughter Jenny, son Geoff and four grandchildren.

Jenny Owens

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Mrs L M BATES	9 Rival Street , KAREELA, NSW, 2232
Ms C L CAMERON	Wild Horse Hill , WILLIAMS, WA, 6391
Dr M COOKSON	PAH, RSPAS (Coombs), Australian National University, CANBERRA, ACT, 0200
Mr L W FILEWOOD	PO Box 188 , WINGHAM, NSW, 2429
Mr P J M LYNE	42 Thompson Street , DECEPTION BAY, QLD, 4508
Mr P J WILLIAMS	662 Olive Street , ALBURY, NSW, 2640

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS**

	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>
Mr E T BEVEN	Killarney Heights	19 Woolcott Avenue, WAHROONGA NSW, 2076
Mr R A CALCUTT	Kenmore	72/2573 Moggill Rd , PINJARRA HILLS, QLD, 4069
Mr A MACINTOSH	Old Room 101	209/168 Queenscliff Rd, QUEENSCLIFF NSW 2096
Mr D W O'DEAN	Waverley	Room 22, Ronald Coleman Lodge 88 Wallis Street, WOOLLAHRA, NSW, 2025
Mr P A RYAN	USA	3 Albatross Court PEREGIAN BEACH QLD, 4573