



# Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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

<p><b>The Christmas Luncheon</b> will be held at <b>Killara Golf Club (Sydney)</b> <b>Sunday 28 November 2010</b> Full details on page 3, inside this issue!</p> <p>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 <b>13 Nov 2010</b> * * *</p> <p><b>PNG 35<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary</b> <b>16 September 2010</b></p>	<p><b>In This Issue</b></p> <p><b>CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON</b> 3 NGVR/PNGVR Museum /Fryer Library 4 <b>PNG ... IN THE NEWS</b> 4 <b>LETTERS TO THE EDITOR</b> 6 <b>NOTES FROM THE NT</b> 10 <b>AUST PARLIAMENT RECOGNITION</b> 11 <b>RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO SOCIETY</b> 14 <b>THE OLD KHAKI HANKIE</b> 15 <b>'YES, WE BROUGHT THEM SHELL, THE BEST SHELL THEY EVER HAD</b> 16 <b>TIGASO OIL</b> 21 <b>P N G: OUR SHARED HISTORY</b> 22 <b>CSIRO in PNG</b> 23 <b>FIRST BANK IN KAVIENG</b> 26 <b>A CAREER WITH A CHALLENGE</b> 28 <b>THE KIAPS IN A TIME OF CHANGE</b> 29 <b>The NGVR AND PNGVR</b> 33 <b>NGVR/PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM,</b> 36 <b>HELP WANTED</b> 37 <b>REUNIONS</b> 38 <b>BOOK REVIEWS</b> 39 PNGAA Collection, Fryer Library 42 Photo Collage - WEWAK - 13 Sep 1945 43 <b>PNG'S RESOURCE RENT TAX</b> 43 <b>Photos of Hula Cricket Teams</b> 45 <b>BARRICK GOLD 8000 FEET</b> 45 <b>THE LATE KEN BROWN, KIAP</b> 48 <b>BORDER CONFRONTATION</b> 49 <b>THE WAR ON KITAVA</b> 53 <b>MORE ABOUT THE KEREMA MOB</b> 57 <b>CINEMASCOPE Came to KEREMA</b> 58 <b>BEATING the ODDS AT ASEKI</b> 60 <b>VALE</b> 65 <b>WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS</b> 72</p>
<p>Electronic copies of <i>Una Voce</i> available from the Editor Please contribute to the future of your association by completing the enclosed survey and sending it in now...</p>	
<p>➡ <b>Thursday 14 October,</b> <b>2010 Visit to the Blue</b> <b>Mountains – see details page 2.</b> ***For latest news, information and discussion please visit the forum on our website at:  <b><u><a href="http://www.pngaa.net">www.pngaa.net</a></u></b></p>	

**‘UNA VOCE’ IS THE JOURNAL OF  
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**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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**PNGAA Office Bearers –**

**A/President**

**Dennis Doyle**

Phone 02 9973 3079

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

**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 14 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 Weroona 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 Friday 1 October.



**Deadline for next issue  
14 October 2010**

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

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## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Sunday, 28 November 2010**

**Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara NSW**

**11.30am onwards**

**RSVP 13 November 2010**

The Christmas Lunch is booked for November 28, again at the **Killara Golf Club in Sydney**. Members, together with family and friends, are all welcome.

The cost is \$52.50 per person and needs to be **paid in advance, by 13 November 2010**. *Please note this is the first increase in three years.* 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 let us know if you would like transport from Lindfield station which has lifts and a ramp - 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 13 November 2010.**

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**Minutes of the 59<sup>th</sup> AGM 2 May 2010** – refer p54 *Una Voce* No 2, June 2010.

Apologies to Deveni Temu whose name was inadvertently left off the list of those present.

### **Correction: Please refer Una Voce No 2 June 2010 p 12**

Chris Warrillow, then stationed at Kairuku, recalls when Patair’s first DC-3, VH-PAT, burnt out at Bereina. The date was 8 April 1961, not October 1958. Chris writes: ‘The aircraft was on its way to Minj on a PHD charter. Leaking medicines or acid mixed and caused a fire which was detected when smoke started to appear whilst the aircraft was abeam Kerema. As Kerema ‘strip would have been serviced by Catalinas, the Captain elected to risk going back as far as the DC 3 ‘strip at Bereina’.

## VISITS to NGVR/PNGVR Museum and Fryer Library

PNGAA A/President Dennis Doyle accompanied by PNGAA committee members Andrea Williams and Phil Ainsworth (also President of the NGVR/PNGVR Association) had an inspiring visit to the NGVR/PNGVR Museum at Wacol in Brisbane recently. Impressed with this outstanding collection focussing on the PNG campaigns of WWII and PNGVR 1959-1974, and its fascinating displays of artefacts, records and memorabilia, we are bringing a sample to you in this *Una Voce*. See page 33 -36. The Museum is highly recommended for a visit – please phone Curator John Holland (and PNGAA member!) on Ph: 07-3375 5484/0449 504 058 who will welcome both visitors and anyone wishing to provide assistance!

Dennis and Andrea, together with Dr Peter Cahill, also visited the Fryer Library at the University of Queensland – since the early 90s Dr Cahill has made an extraordinary contribution to preserving our PNG historical documents with the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia collection at the Fryer Library. A meeting with Fryer Library Manager Mark Cryle and Laurie McNiece was extremely informative. We will be looking at ways to create an online exhibition of the amazing documents collected.

Our best wishes go to Patron Roma Bates who, at 100 years of age, has undergone a hip operation after a fall. What an inspiration! Our thoughts are with Roma through her recovery.

### PNG ... IN THE NEWS

► **The Papua New Guinea-Australia Bilateral Meeting** was held in Alotau, Milne Bay Province from 7 - 8 July 2010. A joint statement was released by Hon. Samuel T. Abal, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration and Hon. Stephen Smith, MP Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. See:

<http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/releases/2010/fa-s100709a.html>

► **The Australian and Papua New Guinea governments say the focus of their relationship needs to turn from aid to trade.** There has recently been much criticism of Australia's \$450 million aid program, and Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith says a new approach is needed.

"We should focus much more on a small number of areas we think we can make a real impact," he said.

The development treaty between the two countries expires at the end of the year.

Both governments are now working on a new treaty that goes beyond aid to incorporate trade and economic development.

An agreement was signed allowing PNG fruit pickers to work in Australia, and another allowing Australian health workers easier access into the PNG side of the Torres Strait.

Info from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/07/08/2948724.htm>

► **Air Niugini pilot Rhoda Ilave recently won the 2010 Sir Donald Anderson Award sponsored by the Australian Civil Aviation Authority in association with the Australian Women Pilots' Association.** Australia's Director of Aviation, John McCormick, flew from Canberra to Cairns to present Rhoda with her award including a trophy, certificate and \$2000 prize.



Mr McCormick said the award recognised outstanding academic achievement in professional aviation studies by female trainee pilots and was based on examination results.

“Awards are given to the top three candidates and these are selected from hundreds of candidates.”

Rhoda had received a prestigious cadetship with the airline and spent 18 months training at Coffs Harbour where she had been both academic dux of her class and topped her practical flying class as well. Excerpts from Cairns Sun 9 June 2010

► **Wallaby scrumhalf Will Genia has won this year’s prestigious Pilecki Medal as Queensland’s best player. He has also been voted the fans’ favourite player.**

PNG-born Genia, 22, took over as captain of the Queensland Reds and led the team to its best season for many years, polling votes in every one of the 13 games he played. Queensland coach Ewen McKenzie said Genia had taken on the additional responsibility and led by example for the whole season.

“He didn’t miss a beat. The consistency of his performances is what we need to achieve as a team, and the group we have assembled for 2011 is capable of that,” McKenzie said.

The inaugural People’s Choice Award was decided on the votes of fans with Genia again a clear winner.

► **Doug Robbins recently returned from PNG after completing an Ecotourism study in the Tufi/Collingwood Bay area with Australian Business Volunteers.** He is assisting the Oro Community Environmental Action Network (OCEAN) to set up an ecotourism venture including an 8 day trek from Wanigela-Guruguru- Tufi. The aim is to promote it as a soft alternative to Kokoda. Further information about Doug’s visit can be found at:

<http://malumnalu.blogspot.com/2010/06/tufis-eco-tourism-potential.html>

If anyone would like further information please contact Doug by phone at

Ph: 07 5533 5656 or email: [kuralboo@bigpond.com](mailto:kuralboo@bigpond.com)

► **In July 2010, and supported through Amnesty International Australia, two courageous PNG women** took their stories about their government’s systematic failure to protect women and girls from harrowing rates of sexual and gender-based violence to the United Nations in New York. Their powerful testimony caught the attention of top level officials who are now committed to proper funding for women’s shelters, emergency services and new laws against domestic violence. See their story at:

[http://www.amnesty.org.au/svaw/comments/23416/?utm\\_source=pngthank29&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=link1](http://www.amnesty.org.au/svaw/comments/23416/?utm_source=pngthank29&utm_medium=email&utm_content=link1)

► The family of two-year-old Kevin Rudd Junior was surprised to hear the news that his political namesake was no longer Australia's number one.

However, in Kainantu Hospital in Papua New Guinea’s Eastern Highlands, parents Sinkau and Doreen Fuguto, named their new baby Julia Gillard only minutes after her namesake was sworn in as Australia’s Prime Minister. Julia's dad said he was grateful for how Australia had helped him in his education and career as an agricultural officer.

The Australian 9 July 2010

► **There is a new PNG Consul in Sydney** Name: Pidiwin Raho Tau-Vali at 222 Clarence Street, Sydney, Ph: 8283 9020.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**His Excellency Grand Chief SIR PAULIAS MATANE GCL, GCMG, KStJ**

For being re-elected as the 9th Governor General of Papua New Guinea on 25 June 2010.

## **JACK WHITE OAM**

In this years Queen's Birthday honours Morris John (Jack) White was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for Community Service in the Australian Capital Territory.

Jack with his wife Norma worked in Papua New Guinea from 1951 to 1964 as an Agricultural Extension Officer with the Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries. Jack was the District Agricultural Officer in Wewak from 1955 to 1960.

Jack resigned in 1964 as Marketing Officer and continued his studies at the Queensland of University attaining his degree in Economics. Consulting in agriculture with a Naracoorte Farm Club followed from 1964 to 1969. A move to Adelaide to join ICI occurred in 1969 doing marketing for herbicides. He was appointed a Trade Commissioner with the Australian Department of Trade in 1971. Following a number of interesting overseas postings including Chile, Saudi Arabia, Fiji, and Spain, he and Norma returned to Canberra and retired in 1991.

Jack was recognized for his voluntary work for the Australian Capital Territory Deafness Resource Centre helping hearing impaired people to better hear and understand speech even when they are wearing hearing aids. Hearing impaired people are helped to hear and understand better using a great variety of FM systems and hearing loops. The quality of life is vastly improved using the telephone, the television, in church or public meetings, and listening in groups of family and friends.

Other community interests extended to Neighbourhood Watch as the Weston Creek Area Coordinator and editing a newsletter which covered seven Canberra suburbs.

Jack and Norma's Duffy home was completely destroyed in the horrific Canberra fires in January 2003, losing all, other than their car and the family cat.

Jack and Norma's organizational skills and resilience saw them, as one of the first, to rebuild their home.

Congratulations Jack, a well deserved recognition of great community spirit.

David Montgomery

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

### **Would anyone know the artist?**

On page 43 of the last *Una Voce* (No 2 – June 2010) is a picture of a copper beating and narrative by Owen Genty-Nott, seeking information on its origin. It is almost a striking duplicate of a work I purchased from MATHIAS KAUAGE in Port Moresby in 1971. I noted on the back at the time that the symbols 'represented the flora/fauna of the air, land and water' as explained to me. I have advised Owen.

Mathias Kauage, OBE, became PNG's best known artist. A painting he presented to the Queen on her visit to PNG now hangs in Buckingham Palace. He was born in Miugu Village, Simbu Province, migrated to Port Moresby in 1968 and admitted to the National Arts School in 1972. He died in 2003, aged 66 years. He exhibited works in Europe, Africa and Australia. His best known works include figures he designed for the mosaic façade of the new PNG

Parliament House in Pt Moresby and images of the Highland Leader, Sir Iambakey Okuk which now hang in the National Gallery of Australia.

To celebrate PNG's 30 years of Independence, there was a special exhibition, 'Imaging Papua New Guinea' at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra from 8 October 2005 to 12 March 2006. Almost half of the 35 works exhibited were made by Mathias Kauage.

**Harry West**

In your June *Una Voce*, and amongst 64 pages of quite fascinating reading about PNG of *taim bifor*, I was interested in the story on p43 about the copper-beaten plaque that Owen Gentry-Nott owns and is seeking details of its background. I cannot assist him.

I also have such a copper-beaten plaque. This was a project by the Madang Lions Club for it to be sent to the Lions World Convention in Germany in 1974 as I understood its background. It was not completed in time and eventually was auctioned at the Lion's changeover dinner in June 1974 held at the Madang Hotel. I bid against a Sri Lankan Doctor. At K100, I successfully won the prize. Joan and I left Madang in June 1974 (the end of my Burns Philp career of 20 years in Fiji, Vanuatu and all too briefly in PNG). Eventually I had the plaque polished and framed.

Now, the most valuable aspect of this story is that the plaque was hand beaten (I guess very time-consuming and tediously) by lepers of the Lutheran Yagaum Hospital. One of our Lions members was in charge of the malarial eradication project team based at the hospital and arranged the project of the plaque.

I seem to remember that there was a description of the Plaque depicting a Gogol God and it's preparation in the Madang Lions Club News Magazine later in 1974 and I seem to have lost my copy somehow.

If any of your readers who might have been a former Madang Lion has that copy of the Madang Lions Magazine, I would be delighted to be able to receive a photocopy and pay for costs including postage – address: 4 Gwydir Street, Riverhills Qld 4074.

**Jim Burton**

With reference to the articles in *Una Voce*, September 2009 pg 31, and *Una Voce*, December 2009 P44, on the Szarka and Harris Memorial at Telefomin.

In the Weekend Australian Magazine of January 23-24 2010 an article was also written concerning the murders of the two Australian Patrol Officers (Kiaps) at Telefomin on 6 November 1953.

It turned out that Charles' wife Penny is employed by a nephew of Geoffrey Harris, Stephen Rayner. Knowing that Charles and Penny had a PNG connection, Stephen showed them the article. Charles had been stationed in Wewak from 1974 to 1979; their company house located on Wewak Point directly opposite the Wewak Point Cemetery. Charles then went through his photos and found the photo he was looking for – the headstone of Geoffrey Brodribb Harris in Wewak Point Cemetery. This cemetery was started in the late 1930s and closed down in the mid 1970s because of lack of space, and therefore very few people know of its existence. There are two other cemeteries in the area: the Catholic Mission Cemetery in Wirui in Wewak and another cemetery at Cape Wom. Charles and Penny were able to contact Geoffrey Harris' sister and brother who were delighted with the news. An amazing coincidence after 35 years!

Information from **Charles Betteridge**

The 31st May was the 24th anniversary of Ron's death and as Peter's daughter Courtney was born on the same date and time of Ron's accident only three years later, she decided not to have a 21st birthday party but to go to Mendi with some of the family to be with her grandfather whose ashes are buried at Kiburu Lodge near the Mendi river and beside a lovely lake. Peter's two adopted Milne Bay children Tara and Tyson were there and when Tyson who is now ten saw the plaque with Ron's face on it he said "Gee Dad that looks just like Grandad" We are all very proud of Peter receiving an MBE for community service as he has amongst other things been the Chaiman of the Hospital Board in Alotau for seventeen years. It is now the best hospital in PNG with a training school for nurses etc. It was recently visited by the Australian High Commissioner and Stephen Smith Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs who were very impressed. The Fransiscan Nuns will be celebrating 50 years in the Southern Highlands in October after wonderful work in health, education and many other achievements. The local Nuns they have trained and educated will be in charge of the Mission when the Nuns leave for America. They will be sorely missed as they were family to us.

**Colleen Neville**

**Marjorie Head** wrote asking about the **Ela Protestant Church, Port Moresby**, where she was married in 1954. Apparently it had been moved from the centre of town.

Just as *Una Voce* was about to go to press **Janetta Douglas**, widow of Denis, wrote the following:

'If anyone has been perturbed by the Church's disappearance from Douglas Street early this year, tell them not to worry. The Church is now safely on top of the Mission hill out at Metoreia Hanuabada looking very regal and incredibly beautiful..... much the same as it must have looked before Moresby was overrun with high rise buildings No news of its re dedication yet but my bet is around Christmas.

The Uniting Church is building an office block on the old site which will be more in keeping with its current neighbours. There are currently eight cranes building eight new high rises on the Moresby isthmus alone but last week they started taking away the hill where the old hospital/House of Assembly used to be so that will make nine. (The Constantinos are said to be building a new hotel on this site).'

Another note from Janetta is on p59.

## **ARTEFACTS, ART and EARLY PHOTOS**

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## **AGM and LUNCHEON by Harry West**

The 59<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Association was held at the Killara Golf Club, Sydney on 2 May 2010 and proceedings reported in the June *Una Voce*.

Attendance was somewhat lower than usual and reasons postulated included cost and the fact that, for the first time there was not a committee election, following the introduction of biennial postal voting, and the focal point of interest had disappeared.

The association's headquarters have been in Sydney for the 60 years of its existence and many trials over that period led to the conclusion that the optimum time for social and associated occasions was twice yearly. Pre Christmas (early December), was an obvious time for one, and the Sunday following Anzac Day was selected for the second as, in earlier times, a number of our members were ex AIF from country NSW who came to Sydney for Anzac Day celebrations.

Our December (Christmas) function has always been a resounding success and the AGM and lunch is appropriately timed towards the middle of the year. It remains imperative because there are certain issues relevant, indeed vital, to the association that can only be determined at an AGM and perhaps we need to invigorate the occasion with added more meaningful and positive purpose and theme.

As far as cost goes, the \$30 per head lunch is a thing of the past and most of us budget for the odd special occasion. Sunday lunch venues for large groups are almost impossible to find in Sydney because of penalty rates and staff unavailability.

The spacious ambiance of the Killara Golf Club reception rooms and the sweeping bushland outlook are ideal for our requirements, parking is plentiful and most people find access more convenient than central city.

For my part, free from 26 years of committee involvement, I found the 2010 AGM luncheon most relaxing and enjoyable, with plenty of room and time to move around and socialise. Decades of PNG history were represented at my table. From 60-70 years ago Diana Cleveland, sister of Graham Carson, spent her childhood in the FEAD Islands, more than a day's sail out into the Pacific from Bougainville; Jeannie Gibbes, widow of Wing Cmdr 'Bobby' Gibbes, DSO DFC and bar OAM, spent more than 40 years in the Sepik and Highland Districts; Jeanette Leahy, widow of pioneer explorer Michael Leahy lived for more than 60 years in the Morobe District; Joan Stobo, widow of Monty - a BPs manager for decades, brought masses of hibiscus flowers and Peter Coote, born in Samarai over 80 years ago and father of our Editor, Andrea Williams, and son of Philip Coote who was lost on the *Montevideo Maru*, was with us.

Congratulations and many thanks to Events Co-ordinator Juli Allcorn and all those involved in the luncheon arrangements. ■

## NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### From Jim Toner

Scanning the Minutes of a meeting of my local Council - admittedly a pursuit largely confined to Grumpy Old Men with time on their hands - I learned that street names for a new suburb had been under consideration. Names of RAN warships derived from WW2 battle sites such as Tobruk, Balikpapan and Wewak had been put forward and these were approved with the exception of the latter. The 'suitability' of Wewak was to be investigated ...?

Experience told me that an approach to Council would be a wasted exercise so I wrote to the local paper pointing out that it was Wewak where Ted Kenna, who until last year was Australia's oldest living holder of the VC, had earned his decoration. Also that it was where the 13000 remnants of a huge Japanese Army had formally surrendered in 1945. Two signal events so where lay a problem?

The day after publication a 79 years old lady phoned me to enquire further. She said that her father had been one of the 3000 Diggers on parade at Cape Wom and that he had treasured the well-known photo of the Japanese general handing over his sword at the ceremony. "Dad said they made the Jap walk all the way up the airstrip" she chuckled "but as he was a bit of a 'hoppy' they gave him a ride back after he surrendered".

Next day she rang again to say that she had been giving the Mayor an ear-bashing and he had theorised that if the street sign was painted as HMAS Wewak no one should complain. "I am woman. Watch me show you how to run this country".

The late Ron NEVILLE, MBE, kiap, parliamentarian and entrepreneur, would have been proud that Peter, one of his five sons, was also made MBE in this year's Birthday Honours. Peter has spent most of his life in PNG and has businesses in Milne Bay. When I last heard from Ron's widow, Colleen, she was to attend a gathering of some 25 members of the Neville clan at Alotau. To those of us who have read Colleen's book *"The Power of Love"* which gives an account of her married life, 23 years of which were spent in Mendi, and details the lengthy series of traumatic events afflicting herself and family this could have presented a problem. It certainly gave me pause. How could 25 Nevilles possibly congregate for a weekend together without suffering some broken legs, cars driven off cliffs, or at the very least setting fire to the premises. However Colleen assures me that everyone departed unscathed. Phew!

Like Ron, Graham POPLE, once a kiap, then parliamentarian, now publican, "stayed on". He has produced a book of anecdotes from his half-century in PNG. It does mention Ron amongst well remembered kiaps who have since passed away but still lively members of the kiap fraternity such as John Pasquarelli and Patrick Dwyer may look forward with some interest to reading what Graham calls his Popleography. Whenever it is published any complaints should be sent to the Weigh Inn Hotel at Konedobu where Graham, now aged 75, is the affable Mine Host.

Jann KING who was married in Madang by the DC, the late Des Clifton-Bassett, returned there recently. It had been a 39 years absence and an objective was to show her adult daughter where she was born. One result was disappointment

at the upkeep of the town today (uncollected garbage and potholed roads) but Jann was amused to find a roadside stall which sold betel nut exactly where it had previously stood. However it now sported a sign "Recharge your phone here". PNG is moving forward?

The NT has a new Shire system which incorporates Aboriginal communities and these require well qualified CEOs. Lajamanu, once known as Hooker Creek, is on the edge of the Tanami desert 900 kms from Darwin and with a population of 750 is not particularly attractive to local government high-flyers. Fortunately when such officials depart, sometimes suddenly, the NT government can call on a hardened kiap in Mike PRESS. He has just resumed his retirement in Darwin after a few months administering Lajamanu. ▪

**A large auction of oceanic art was held in Paris in June. Included in the 12 items from PNG were four very rare artefacts from the Sepik River.**

These included one of the oldest artefacts in existence – a 107cm figure of the Ewa people of the Karawari River which has been dated to between 1440 and 1650 'by the C14 method'. It fetched US\$700,000. Also up for auction was a male figure from the lower Sepik, standing 71.5cm tall. It was first publicly displayed at a 1930 exhibition in Paris by French art dealer Pierre Loeb.

"Its long curved nose, typical of the Kandimbong figures which portray the tribe's mythical founder," the Sotheby's catalogue said. It fetched US\$713,000.

The other Sepik artifacts which were expected to sell were a 40.5cm very rare Biwat mask (50,000 euros or K177,000) and an equally rare 25cm crouching female figure from Lower Sepik worth the same amount. The Biwat mask failed to sell. At an auction on May 14 one Sepik artefact, the Biwat male ancestor, sold for a record K5.87 million to an anonymous European buyer,

The PNG artifacts from the Marcia and John Friede Jolika Collection "illustrate the archaic beauty and power of New Guinea art".

Five of these objects were formerly part of the collection on view at de Young Museum in San Francisco, but were acquired by Sotheby's in February following a court order to sell and recoup money it is owed by the Friedes.

*Information from Pacific News 14 June 2010 and Radio Australia 21 June 2010*

**Website Walkabout:**

<http://www.kokodatrackauthority.org/>

**The Kokoda Track Authority (KTA)** provides an objective and factual website for the thousands of Australian trekkers who attempt the spectacular and challenging Kokoda Track every year. The KTA is commissioned to promote and manage the Kokoda Track for tourists, whilst improving the livelihood of communities living along the track, through funding and development programmes. The KTA website offers reliable, clear and up to date information for trekkers, potential trekkers and their families. The website includes information about the trek, who the licensed tour operators are, how to prepare for the Kokoda Track and what questions to ask when speaking to a tour operator.

**[www.notapoormansfield.com](http://www.notapoormansfield.com)**

Additional photos, documents and statistical tables not included in the book, Not a Poor Man's Field by Michael Waterhouse, but which were used in writing it. For example, the growth and development of Wau in the 1930s can be traced in a lengthy document summarising reports extracted from many different sources. [See Additional information/European Experience/Documents/1930.1 Wau in the 1930s] Also see enclosed flyer.

## AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT MEMORIALIZES EVENTS OF 1942

AUSTRALIA'S MINISTER for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel, Alan Griffin, delivered an historic statement in Parliament on Monday 21 June 2010 honouring the military personnel and civilians who died as a result of the New Guinea Islands conflict in World War II and on the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*, Australia's worst maritime disaster.

About 350 veterans and relatives travelled from all Australian states to gather in Canberra to witness this historic event.

In a reception hosted afterwards by Hon Alan Griffin in Parliament's Queens Terrace Gallery, those present were delighted to hear that the Federal government would provide \$100,000 towards the construction of a memorial at the Australian War Memorial. This is the first significant step in providing enduring national recognition of the *Montevideo Maru* tragedy. In the evening session, an historic private members' motion was debated and the same resolution passed through the Senate.

"On behalf of the Australian Government I would like to express our sincere sorrow for the tragedy of the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*, where 1,053 Australians lost their lives," Mr Griffin said.

"I especially acknowledge the suffering of their families and friends. They endured many long and painful years waiting for news of their loved ones and they deserve our sympathy."

Mr Griffin said the Australian Government will continue to work with the Rabaul and *Montevideo Maru* Society to ensure the *Montevideo Maru* remains a part of the nation's living history.

Mrs Louise Markus, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, responded to Hon Alan Griffin's statement in Parliament. She said it was an "important day, tinged with sadness for survivors and families of the lost.

"Equally, it is a day for Australia to remember and commemorate those who gave their lives and who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Sixty-eight years is a long time to wait for such a moment," she said.

Society president Keith Jackson paid tribute to "all those other people who refused to let the flame be extinguished".

The speeches in Parliament by both sides of the House were very moving, most appropriate and obviously heartfelt. Those present thought it a great occasion and one to always remember. One relative said:

"I thought the day was a very significant step, not just for the official acknowledgement of the event and the empathy shown by the relevant Members, and the money pledged!, but also because it gave all those family representatives attending an opportunity to meet and share stories and share the events of the day together."

A meaningful connection with Papua New Guinea has resurfaced amongst many of the relatives who have never travelled there.

A documentary of the day's event is being produced by Phil Donnison and the Rabaul and *Montevideo Maru* Society.

On 12 August 2010, in a joint press release by the Hon Tony Abbott and Mrs Louise Markus MHR, the following was announced:



*'The Coalition will provide \$100,000 towards the building of the Montevideo Maru memorial. This funding will be provided in the 2011-12 Budget for this memorial for those who lost their lives on the Montevideo Maru and in the Fall of Rabaul in 1942.'*

The Australian War Memorial has granted in principle approval for a Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial to be established in its grounds, and the Society aims that this be completed in 2012, to mark the seventieth anniversary of the invasion and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*. The expected budget is \$500,000.

**The Society is seeking donations to assist the construction of this memorial. All assistance is appreciated.**

This is a huge challenge for a small, voluntary organisation. The Society spends nothing on administration. In 2009 the chief executive of Jackson Wells Pty Ltd, John Wells, offered to adopt the Society as a *pro bono* client, and Jackson Wells provides substantial support as a result of this commitment.

Mr Jackson said that so far the Society has relied on donations from Friends and pro bono assistance to ensure it meets its running costs, "which have so far and will continue to be minimal."

"The vast bulk of money we receive will go towards the memorial. The Society's operations are based on free labour, philanthropy and altruism.

"We have now reached a point where we need to charge for membership, seek corporate sponsors and stage fundraising events to ensure the memorial can be built within a reasonable time," he said.

"The government has provided a generous initial contribution, but it is not nearly enough to get a memorial in place."

It has long been the Federal Government's position that those groups seeking memorials should make a contribution to them. This is also the position of the Australian War Memorial. Therefore, if a memorial is to be established, we know that we are going to have to work towards it.

In addition to the massive project of constructing a memorial at the Australian War Memorial, and raising the money for this, there are three other main tasks :

(1) Identifying the whereabouts of the missing nominal roll, or a validated direct translation of it, so the names of those on board the *Montevideo Maru* might be finally verified.

(2) Working with the government to ensure the site of the sinking is designated as an official war grave and conducting a memorial service in the waters of the South China Sea above where the ship rests.

(3) Ensuring that the story of WW2 in the New Guinea Islands and the Montevideo Maru remain an enduring part of Australian history – in the schools and in our cultural institutions.

**If you can help**, please contact the Society by email: [benelong@bigpond.net.au](mailto:benelong@bigpond.net.au) or write to PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089.

Donations can be remitted by direct deposit to the Society's bank account: 'Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee' BSB 082-401 Account No 16-083-2367 but please notify the Society by email to [benelong@bigpond.net.au](mailto:benelong@bigpond.net.au)

## RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU SOCIETY

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society was established to ensure national recognition and commemoration of the tragedies that ensued from the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea Islands in early 1942, including Australia's greatest maritime disaster, the sinking of the Montevideo Maru with the loss of more than 1,050 lives.

### How to join the Society (& order your DVD)

**Electronically.** Transfer the appropriate funds to the Society's bank account: Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee BSB 082-401 Account No 16-083-2367. Please notify us of the deposit in an email to [benelong@bigpond.net.au](mailto:benelong@bigpond.net.au)

**By mail.** Post a cheque made out to the Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee to the Society at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089.

Membership (one postal or email address) - \$50

Gold membership - \$100

Life membership - \$500

DVD (financial members) - \$20

DVD (retail price) - \$40

Corporate and event-based fundraising are now priority areas of activity and, if you wish to assist with these, either personally or by directing us to potential sponsors, you should contact Phil Ainsworth at [p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au](mailto:p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au).

If you wish to assist in your local area by obtaining media coverage for the Society's activities or for the story of the Montevideo Maru, you should contact Bob Lawrence at [blawrence@jacksonwells.com.au](mailto:blawrence@jacksonwells.com.au) for some tips on how to proceed.

And you can continue to assist the growth and success of the Society by becoming a paid-up member and by encouraging other people to join. These people should be directed to get in touch with Keith Jackson at [benelong@bigpond.net.au](mailto:benelong@bigpond.net.au).

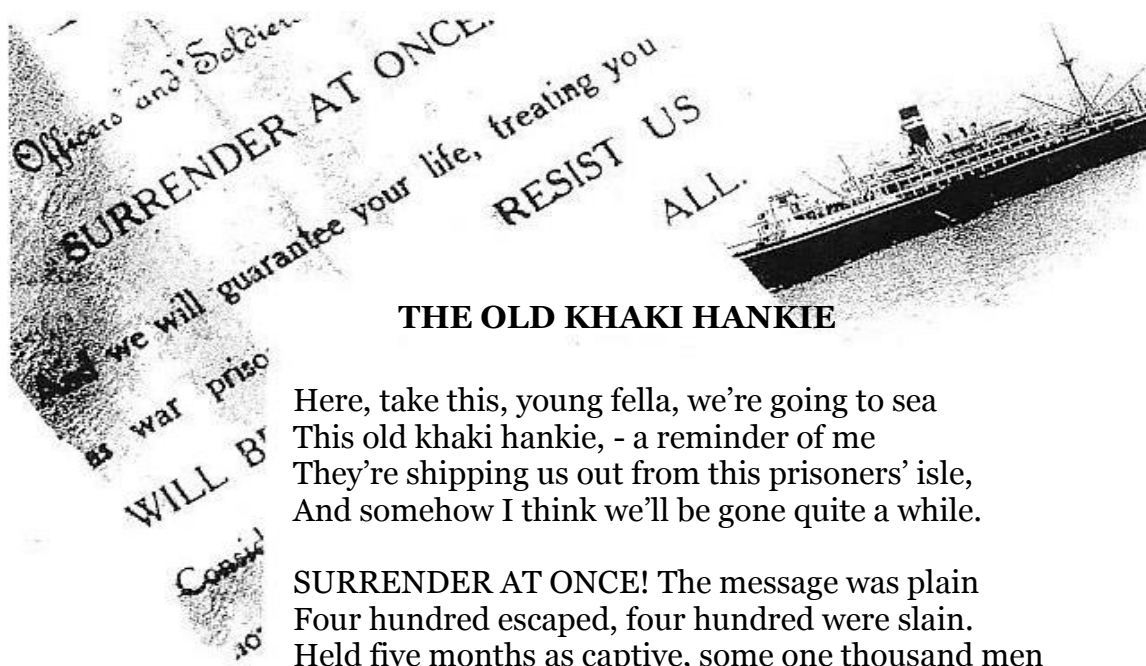
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### Westpac celebrates 100 years of commercial banking in PNG in 2010

Bank of New South Wales,  
Rabaul pre WWII



Photo courtesy the  
MacGowan Collection  
With thanks to Ken  
MacGowan



### THE OLD KHAKI HANKIE

Here, take this, young fella, we're going to sea  
This old khaki hankie, - a reminder of me  
They're shipping us out from this prisoners' isle,  
And somehow I think we'll be gone quite a while.

SURRENDER AT ONCE! The message was plain  
Four hundred escaped, four hundred were slain.  
Held five months as captive, some one thousand men  
Were shipped out to Nippon won't see home again.

Of twenty-four Salvos who joined them that year,  
Just one would survive, the rest doomed, I fear.  
These "musoes" turned soldier, to help win the war.  
Then came the invasion, ...their music's no more.

They marched to the wharf, three men to a row  
They boarded the ship, were locked down below.  
When climbing the gangway, one man turned around  
And said to a youngster, these words so profound.

"Here, take this, young fella, we're going to sea  
This old khaki hankie, - a reminder of me.  
They're shipping us out from this prisoners' isle,  
And somehow I think we'll be gone quite a while."

Nine days in that hell-hole, they're nearing Japan  
Were tracked by a warship, destruction its plan.  
The prisoners were sealed in a ship without mark.  
The warship attacked in that night's deathly dark.

One thousand men died on that night in July.  
One thousand dreams ended. They'd never know why.  
One thousand wives long for some word from their mate.  
Steel tomb for that thousand, concealing their fate.

A service is held every first of July  
Rememb'ring those lost ones, entrapped there to die.  
We picture their terror, imagine their pain  
That one khaki hankie ...alone ...would remain.

From Abbott to Zanker, from Adams to Young,  
Their journey has ended, their song ...sung.  
The ship is still missing, but one thing's for real ....  
This hankie that's signed - "Corporal Barry O'Neil"

Jim Kennedy

*"One cannot spend over 27 years in Papua New Guinea and fail to experience sadness and regret when forced to leave it, particularly when the circumstances are beyond one's control," writes J. P. Sinclair, one of Papua New Guinea's best known District Commissioners, on the eve of his departure from the country that has been his life and his vocation. Jim Sinclair, in this special article for PIM's Papua New Guinea Independence Issue, recalls some of his experiences and defends the work of the field officers in bringing the word of law to great tracts of once uncontrolled Papua New Guinea".*

**'YES, WE BROUGHT THEM SHELL THE BEST SHELL  
THEY EVER HAD!' By Jim Sinclair**

In Papua New Guinea today, many Australians who have spent the best years of their lives in that fascinating land are leaving, and facing up to the necessity of coming to grips with life in Australia, which to me, at any rate, does not look much like the Lucky Country. With independence it is right, just and inevitable that Australians should step aside to make room for the eager young nationals who now fill virtually all of the senior positions in the PNG Public Service and who are rapidly assuming positions of importance in the private sector.

It is usual today for Australia to be blamed for all sorts of errors of commission and omission by some PNG nationalists, and this is natural enough: when things don't always go the way one would like them to go, a scapegoat is always needed, and in colonial situations of this sort, the metropolitan country is invariably elected to the position. Australia made many mistakes in her administration of PNG, but I believe they were in most cases honest mistakes, and I think that the people of PNG were fortunate that it was Australia that assumed the responsibility for their future. Looking back, it seems clear that our greatest error was complacency: we all thought that we had plenty of time in which to prepare the people of PNG for independence, and we did not wake up quickly enough to the fact that time was fast running out.

When I came to PNG as a cadet patrol officer in 1948, intensely proud to be following in the footsteps of the great Australian field officers of the past, it was reckoned that Australia would remain in PNG for at least another hundred years! Any person prophesying full independence within 30 years would have been instantly deported as a dangerous, irresponsible lunatic! And so PNG becomes a sovereign state, in many areas woefully unprepared. But we did our best in the time we had, and all in all we achieved much: we do not have to apologise to anyone.

Many of us came to PNG filled with a spirit of idealism, which some few even managed to retain, at least for their first years. It is the refusal, or inability, of so many of the young educated PNG nationals to recognise this fact that is discouraging. Certainly we did not come to make money, as those who recall the miserly pay scales of the immediate post-war years will agree. And it was not high living that lured us. Compared with the Australia of those years, PNG possessed very few physical attractions. Housing standards were abysmally poor—how many field officers built their own crude houses of bush timber, grass and bamboo, and then paid rent (admittedly small) to the Administration for the privilege of occupying them? Food came mainly in tins, at inflated prices, mails were few and far between, and Australian beer was a rare luxury doled out by the big stores to their steady, bill-paying customers only, two dozen bottles at a time, two or three times a year (there was a lot of Continental and British beer around, varying from

mediocre to plain horrible. Remember Tennants Pale Ale, Alsop's Lager and – shudder - Revolver Brand?).

Communications were for all practical purposes confined to small ships and to aeroplanes. Such aeroplanes! Most were relics of the war, and even pre-war: De Havilland Dragons and Fox Moths, Ansons, Hudsons, Catalinas, Austers. It was the Dragons and the Fox Moths that kept the outstations supplied. They didn't have self-starters, and it was common for the outstation patrol officer to have to swing the propeller to get the engines going. And what men those pilots were! They cheerfully acted as buying agents for the people in the field: their spare time back at Madang, Lae, Wewak, Moresby, was spent in patiently searching the inadequate stocks of BP's, Carpenters and Steamships stores for odd bits and pieces for the stations along their routes: toys for the kids, freezer meat when it was available, clothes for the wives, medicines, radio batteries - you name it. Friendships were forged between the pilots and the outstation people that endured for years. Just about all of those pilots have gone, too.

But when one was young and fit, and looking for adventure, none of the drawbacks to life in PNG seemed to matter. For there was adventure aplenty to be had. There was a huge area of country still classed as "uncontrolled" in 1948: about 37,000 square miles out of a total land area of 179,000 square miles. Approximately 24,000 square miles of the uncontrolled country was either unexplored, or merely "penetrated by patrols" as the official description went. Most of this country was in the far interior; the Highlands, and the extremities of the Western, Gulf, Madang, Morobe and Sepik districts. No matter what the future holds for me, I will always be grateful that it was my good fortune to be given the chance to lead a great many patrols into some of this uncontrolled country, and my clearest memories of life in PNG are of those days. Nothing can take them away, and many of my contemporaries feel the same.

No experience I can imagine can equal that of leading a patrol into new country: of contacting primitive bush people seeing their first white man, their first government patrol. To stand on a mountain-top and see below populated valleys not marked on any map! Where else in the world could this have happened? Even the nerve-tingling business of attack and ambush was, in retrospect, an experience to be cherished now. The tribesmen of PNG used, and use today, flightless arrows. I have seen clouds of arrows, fired high into the air from dense cover, falling into the patrol camp. Curiously, one could easily follow the upward flight to the top of the trajectory and even the beginning of the downward plunge, but then the arrow would vanish in a flash to appear again quivering in the ground. The police showed me how to dodge them, and they were in fact easily avoided.

The relationship between the patrol officer and his police in those days was usually close and affectionate. Patrols of two or three months duration were not uncommon, and officers, police and carriers shared the same risks and discomforts. It was sometimes necessary, for various reasons, for young officers to lead patrols into dangerous country without prior experience of such work, and there are many old hands today (living in retirement in Australia!) who will admit their debt to some wise old veteran corporal or sergeant of the police who gently, but firmly, put their young officer on the right path, and kept him there.

The courage and devotion of the police was remarkable. They were men, they had their faults - indeed, some missionaries and anthropologists will admit no virtues in them - but the exploration and pacification of the wild interior country of PNG

would have been impossible without them. They usually stuck to the job, whatever the odds, as they proved when Patrol Officers Szarka and Harris and two police constables, Buritori and Purari, were killed near Telefomin by the Eliptamin people in November, 1953.

To establish a government station in new country was another experience denied to all but the PNG field officer. I spent the years from early 1955 to January 1959 in the Southern Highlands of Papua as an acting Assistant District Officer in charge of the exploration of the Duna country, between the Tagari River and the Strickland Gorge. A handful of patrol officers and cadets, and European medical assistants - those hardy, dedicated men who did so much invaluable work in primitive country - shared with me those years. We built a station - Koroba - of bush materials and used it as a base for scores of long-ranging patrols through hundreds of square miles of almost unknown country. We seldom failed to locate pockets of previously uncontrolled population.

Yet today, just 20 years since we started the work, the Duna people have accepted the rule of law: there is a great deal less tribal fighting there than in the Enga, Western Highlands and Chimbu districts, with histories of government contact going back to the 'thirties. They have long since accepted local government, and they have their own member of the House of Assembly. They are eagerly pressing for better roads, and for economic development.

In many parts of PNG today bitter accusations are constantly being hurled, mainly by shrill-voiced students, that land was "stolen" from its owners by ruthless government officers in the old days, paid for with worthless axes, tobacco, cloth and mirrors. To hear some of these angry young men, one would think that PNG had been raped by the white man.

In point of fact, barely 3 per cent of the land area of PNG has been alienated, and since Australia assumed control, not one square foot of freehold land has been acquired. There is not one inch of freehold land anywhere in the Highlands, where almost half of the population of PNG lives. It is leasehold: ultimate ownership is vested in the government and hence the people of PNG.

When we established the station at Koroba we paid for the land that we occupied, at the eager invitation of the owners, with the accepted currency of the time and place: mother-of-pearl shell, and the newly introduced steel axe. In 1955, when the land was acquired, the Duna people had never heard of money. Any attempt to pay the land owners in money would have been furiously rejected. What good is money to people who do not understand its function, and if there are no stores of any kind in which to exchange money for goods? In the Duna in 1955, the MOP shell was the most precious possession a man could aspire to, even more desirable than the pig. It is all very well to say today that the Duna people should not have coveted pearl-shell: the fact is, they did. As did just about all of the Highlands population. But good specimens of MOP were seldom seen in the Duna country, for it was at the very end of the ancient trade-routes from the coast. By the time the tribes along the routes had had their pick of the shell, only rubbish managed to find its way into the Duna. There was no safe way by which the Duna people could acquire superior shell. In common with all of these far interior tribes, they knew nothing of the sea, and in any case to move out of tribal territory was to invite certain attack and probable death.

We came along, and we brought good shell. The people were able to obtain it from us without risk, the best shell they ever had. Every single shell that we used as

trade, every pound of giri-giri and tambu, every tomahawk, was first flown in to Tari, the nearest airstrip, from Madang, at great cost, for it was a long and difficult flight. It was then carried, on men's backs, for two days, through mutually hostile clan groups, to Koroba, where it was eagerly received. How can a money value be placed on that shell and steel at remote Koroba in 1955? And how nonsensical it is to try today to say that land purchased under those circumstances - as was so much of the alienated land in PNG - was not fairly paid for.

But one must not fall into the error of peevishness. As I have said I feel that Australia has done a good job, on balance, of administering PNG and I believe that her historians of the future, comparing what we have done here with what was done in many other parts of the world, will recognise this. One leaves this land knowing that one leaves many real friends among the PNG people, and with a wealth of memories that will be a long time in fading. If I had my time over again, would I still go to PNG as a Patrol Officer? I certainly would.

*(With thanks to Jim Sinclair as this article was originally printed in the Pacific Islands Monthly of October 1975)*

### **MAPRIK'S ROYAL VISIT by Paul Dennett**

We were treated in 1970 while in Maprik to a visit from the then Prince Richard, now Duke, of Gloucester. Was the Prince making the trip out of personal interest or to show the flag for his cousin, the Queen? No-one in Maprik could say. The children from the Maprik 'A' school whom he dropped in upon were expecting someone very imposing, not necessarily wearing armour or cape and coronet, but at least a figure approaching the heroic – perhaps with a plumed hat on his head. What they got was a slim, diffident young man in a plain long-sleeved shirt and duck trousers. Helen and I were invited along with other local 'worthies' as representatives of the Education Department to a reception for him up at the Maprik residency organised by the Assistant District Commissioner, Mike Neal. Dawn, Mike's wife, and her domestic staff had gone to a lot of trouble producing cakes, sandwiches and scones for the occasion. These had been set out on a table and were safeguarded by a couple of staff who moved briskly about, flapping their hands to keep the many flies at bay. We assembled in the house's breezeway to chat with the others and look out over the fine view of Maprik airstrip and the Prince Alexanders while waiting for the arrival of HRH; the District Commissioner, Ted Hicks and party. The Member for Dreikikir, Kokomo Ulia, was there eyeing the *kaikai* with a small retinue of ladies, each of them rigged out for the occasion in brand new *meri* blouses and laplaps. Kokomo had been given clear instructions beforehand by the ADC to bring only one of his five wives along to meet the Prince. Either he had ignored these instructions or else they had been overruled by his spouses, for three of the five turned up to be presented to the royal personage. On HRH's arrival at the residency the members of the group were individually presented to him by the ADC. Among the first was Kokomo. Mike Neal said, 'Your Royal Highness, I would like to present Mr Kokomo Ulia, Member of the House of Assembly for Dreikikir, and Mrs Ulia...and Mrs Ulia...and Mrs Ulia.' HRH's mask of genteel condescension had quite slipped away and displayed more than polite interest when he came to take the hand of wife number three. It was a scene worthy of Evelyn Waugh or Ronald Firbank. We then all sat making ourselves comfortable and vivaciously discussed the weather and suitably non-

controversial topics while HRH diverted himself studying a line of assertive *kurukum* ants that he discovered marching along the breezeway railing from a frangipani tree, examining them closely and blocking their progress with his fountain pen and smiling to himself in amusement at their jerky belligerence. ▪

### **FIFTIES IN RABAUl by JAN BARNES**

I arrived in Rabaul in May 1955 having been married two weeks previously to Neville who had been in Rabaul as Brown and Dureau's agent for the previous 12 months. We left Brisbane at midnight on a DC6 and landed at Port Moresby at 6 am and transferred to a DC3 for the trip to Rabaul landing at Lae for refuelling. Our arrival at Rabaul airport at 3p.m. was so welcoming - our Parish priest Father Jimmy Dwyer was there and lots of local people who were all very friendly and happy to say hello to a newcomer and I think some of them met every plane.

We proceeded to our home at Pila Pila over Tunnel Hill and I must admit it was a bit of a shock - right on the beach looking over to Watom Island - smiling household staff but no electricity, running water or lining on interior walls - but at least we had a dissolvenator toilet. Our shower was a bucket hauled up by a rope filled with water that had been heated in the copper. However we had lovely neighbours in Mervyn and Lorna James with whom we spent many happy hours and remained good friends. Sadly Merv and Lorna are no longer with us.

Vuvu Catholic Mission was close by and we became friends with Father Reischel who regaled us often with his tales of the Japanese occupation and by his beautiful piano playing. He came from a talented Austrian musical family and our two boys Bruce and Dominic were christened in his mission church to the accompaniment of his native choir singing the baptismal promises. Both boys were born at the hospital on Namanula Hill which was then a post-war building constructed mainly of tarpaper but the staff looked after us well and I don't think there was any such thing as regular visiting hours.

Another favourite priest was Father Franki - from Germany and an expert in Pidgin and we would go to his Sunday Mass which was said in Pidgin and his fluent delivery of his sermon whilst striding up and down the aisle and admonishing any of the locals who had forgotten their rosary beads was something to behold and hear. He was much loved by the local people and indeed all of us.

We made some dear friends there such as Barbara and Ross Jennings, Don Brewer, Joyce and Warren Marchant, Elaine Bruce, Norm (Diwai) Woods and so many others. I remember with great affection ladies such as Bess Fishwick and Jean Mallelly who looked after us new arrivals and gave us good advice and care and helped us settle in. We were all a fair way away from home and family.

The social life was lovely and a highlight of the year was the Frangipani Ball at the New Guinea Club - such a romantic tropical evening with the men in their formal whites and the ladies in pretty ball dresses. A weekend drive to Kokopo to watch the cricket was great fun in spite of the perilous condition of the road. It wasn't too bad if the grader had been along recently but that didn't happen very often. It was after a bumpy ride to and from the Kokopo Show that triggered off the arrival of our first - Bruce, as everyone said it would.

We moved to Port Moresby - not as exotic as Rabaul but still beautiful. The poincianas in bloom at Xmas time was a spectacular sight. Those years in Rabaul and Port Moresby were wonderful - great memories and lovely people. ▪



## **TIGASO OIL by David Marsh**

Firstly, congratulations to Doug Robbins on his association with Tubo Environmental Tourism Lodge (*Una Voce* No 1 March 2010). I worked with him years ago and he was always enthusiastic.

I'd like to comment about tigasos which he mentions. This was a traditional means of trade with the people of Kutubu. A hole would be cut in the base of a tigasos tree and the sap or oil would collect there before being taken off and stored in long bamboos, about 15' long, which had had the nodes knocked out. What was left of the nodes acted as baffle boards to stop the oil being sloshed about too much. They would trade this over long distances – through Tari and up through Mendi. Tigasos oil, same as pig fat and coconut oil, has been used to oil the body to stop the skin drying out. More importantly it stops the spread of, and drowns any scabies, a very common ailment in the tropics. Putting oil on the body of any sort tends to keep the scabies at bay.

In the mid 1960s the people at Mendi complained that the tigasos oil they had been getting was contaminated. I had a look at this and certainly it smelled of kerosene. I organised with the Patrol Officer at Kutubu to get oil samples taken from various places to the west of Lake Kutubu. It turned out that they had mixed this oil with tigasos oil to bolster it up, and instead of soothing their skins it ended up burning their skins and leaving them quite uncomfortable.

Tigasos oil is a very fine oil and far superior to pig fat or coconut oil used in other parts of Papua New Guinea. I always felt there might be some future in cosmetics for it. Perhaps by increasing the bulk or adding some perfume it could become a much more valuable form of trade. Perhaps the bamboos could be replaced by small plastic containers. A further point is that by growing tigasos trees in the villages, people would be able to harvest it as they age, providing some form of income. I tried to encourage the people in the Abau area to plant teak trees in their waste land so that as they aged they would have something to sell. Teak can be quite easily harvested and transported to the sawmills of Pt Moresby.

My other thought on tigasos was that, through liaison with the Department of Forests, seeds from existing trees could be harvested and a nursery established. The seedlings could then be distributed to those prepared to plant small areas as security for the future. I feel confident that if tigasos is commercially used it could have an economic future for Papua New Guineans and an alternative to pensions for village people.

A couple of the samples of mineral oil we sent to Pt Moresby were quite thick and dark but most of them were very clear indeed. I remember we put some in a small engine at Mendi to test it out and it ran this engine as it was. When we dismantled it there was no carbon build up in the pistons.

In response to the samples sent to Port Moresby I received a letter back which was quite funny at the time – and I am quoting it in full really:

‘Nowhere in the world is oil of this quality found, not even in Texas. It has obviously been taken from an army dump.’

It was signed by one of the departments and I still have the letter. As is the nature of these things, a leak occurred and, the next thing, there were seismic parties and helicopters in the area and they drilled and found oil. I'm talking now about roughly 1965 or maybe 1966, so it's likely that some people will remember that it was the tigasos pollution that prompted the mineral oil search in that area.

I first went to Kutubu with Ivan Champion in 1945 in a Catalina and while Ivan Champion had been posted there before the war the people hadn't seen anyone since. When we landed they abandoned their villages ...women and children were pouring out of the villages and taking to the scrub so we didn't stay because there was no point. We just went to see if things were much the same which they appeared to be.

I think that apart from the present oil and gas (and I don't doubt the gas will last a long time but the petroleum is, generally speaking, a short term exhaustible resource) some better form of cash economy is required and so I applaud Doug Robbins' contribution. ■

## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA: OUR SHARED HISTORY**

This year, Papua New Guinea celebrates the 35th anniversary of independence from Australia. To mark the occasion, the National Archives of Australia invites you to view, and comment on, our shared history at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/national-archives-of-australia/sets/72157624532415615/>

(This website will go live on 1 September 2010)

**Do you recognise any of the people or places in these photographs?**  
[opposite page]

Up to the granting of self-government in 1973, many thousands of young Australian men said, 'Yes!' to a career as a patrol officer, or 'Kiap', in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea both pre and post the Second World War.

Their lives and those of the communities they worked with were captured for posterity by Australian government photographers and filmmakers. This material is now in the holdings of the National Archives of Australia.

A career as a patrol officer in what was then Australian territory promised adventure, autonomy and the opportunity to make a difference. In the field, Kiaps juggled the multiple roles of ambassador, policeman, judge, administrator, explorer, farmer, engineer and anthropologist. Away for weeks at a time, Kiaps patrolled vast areas on foot with the help of an indigenous police force. Surviving patrol reports detail attempts to introduce Australian law and governance, observations of customs and languages, mapping and census reports.

In many cases, our photographs (including captions) of these patrols lack information about the people, places and events pictured. Help the National Archives update its records by going online.

The National Archives of Australia will celebrate this history in November at our Canberra office. Keep your eye on our website for details: [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)



Cadet Patrol Officers destined for work in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea study at the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA), Sydney 1960. NAA: A1200, L34623



Papua and New Guinea villagers pose with an Australian Patrol Officer or 'Kiap', 1948. Photograph: James (Jim) Fitzpatrick. NAA: A1200, L9715



Australian Patrol Officers pay wages to members of an indigenous police force, 1948. Photograph: James (Jim) Fitzpatrick. NAA: A1200, L9739



A villager and Patrol Officer examine a carved canoe, 1948. NAA: A1200, L9832

## **CSIRO in PNG by John McAlpine, Gael Keig and David Freyne**

A previous contribution to *Una Voce* briefly charted the course of the 25 year history of the Resource Survey of TPNG carried out by CSIRO. As stated, by Independence maps, books and other technical reports had been published covering the nation's geomorphology/landforms, soils, climate/hydrology, vegetation, forestry and current and potential land uses. Other agencies such as the Bureau of Mineral Resources were also conducting survey programmes. It could be said that the natural resources of TPNG were then better known and mapped than those of Australia. Yet, apart from the wider scientific and academic community, the receiving end of this flurry of publications was mostly limited to expatriate technical and scientific staff in the TPNG Agriculture and Forestry Departments. While the latter staff grew considerably in numbers as Independence approached, the detailed survey side of their work was mostly concerned with specific development projects (Gogol timber, New Britain oil palm). There were few Papua New Guineans trained to deal with this mass of resource information. All that was to change post 1975.

There was an hiatus in activity by CSIRO until the early 1980's. During this time Papua New Guinean scientists and technicians were now graduating from the tertiary education sector. The problem was how to make the mountain/goldmine of resource information readily accessible to these people without their having to reference and work their way through the voluminous publications produced up to 1975. How to do this? By 1980, a number of events had occurred which suggested a possible direction. Firstly, during the 1960's and 70's, the CSIRO research group of which the PNG team had been part had been developing a computer based method of combining large amounts of resource data so they could be made readily accessible for analysis and planning. However, at that time the computer analyses could only be carried out on large and very expensive mainframe computers and hence the method was not suitable for transfer to PNG. Interestingly, the test bed used for part of this research work was based on the earlier CSIRO resource mapping of Simbu Province. The other significant events were the capture of the 'Skai Piksa' aerial photography for the whole country, the publication of the 1:100,000 topographic map series by the PNG National Bureau and the 1:250,000 geological map series produced by the Geological Survey of PNG in association with the Australian Bureau of Mineral Resources.

The stage had been reached at which it was now possible to make an overall and comprehensive inventory and assessment of the country's natural resources and their use. At the prompting of Paul Aland and David Freyne of the PNG Department of Agriculture and Livestock (DAL), and subsequently funded by the World Bank and CSIRO, in 1980 a project was commenced to integrate and make available the information in all of the publications mentioned above in such a way that it could be readily accessed and used by the Papua New Guinean scientific and technical graduates. A number of the scientists who were involved in the previous PNG resource surveys contributed to this project also. John McAlpine was the project leader, and David Freyne was John's PNG DAL counterpart.

Very briefly, the method adopted involved mapping the entire country at a scale of 1:500,000 into a series of "resource mapping units" or RMUs, each of which represented a unique description of the natural resources of an area. The RMUs were delineated by reference to all previous resource data from survey publications and maps, including the available air photography. Standardized data describing each RMU, including its landform, soils, climate, land use intensity and extent, and vegetation were recorded manually. To these natural resource data were added information from the PNG National Censuses on the rural population resident in each RMU and the smallholder economic activities in which they were engaged. As the work proceeded, it quickly became apparent that the number of RMUs (which eventually exceeded 4,000 for the whole country) and the amount of data recorded for each RMU were far too large to be readily accessible in printed form only. A computer-based method for recording and analysing the integrated data was clearly needed.

Very fortuitously, technology came to the rescue in the form of the microcomputer. In the early 1980's these machines were 8-bit wonders that could only be found on the desks of dedicated computer "geeks". However, their potential for use in the context of disseminating information in a country like PNG was recognised immediately they came on the scene in CSIRO.

With the RMU mapping proceeding apace, the recorded data were entered into one of the very first microcomputer databases. Fortunately again, as the amount of data grew, so did the capacity and sophistication of the available microcomputer technology. The RMU mapping and data recording were undertaken on a province by province basis, and took over three years to complete. At the end of that time, there were hard copy RMU maps for all twenty provinces, plus a microcomputer database containing some 52 items of resource and associated information for each and every RMU.

The next step was transfer of the information to PNG, installation of microcomputers and training of PNG staff in how to make the best use of the system, which by then had been named the Papua New Guinea Resource Information System or PNGRIS. Initially, the system was installed within the the DAL Land Utilisation Section, and in-country training of the staff involved in its use was carried out. Subsequently, as other PNG Departments such as Forestry, Environment, Transport, Works and Defence became aware of the system and its potential, PNGRIS was also installed in a number of these government Departments.

In 1987, funding was received from AusAID to conduct a comprehensive training course in the use of PNGRIS for nominated PNG Government staff in Australia. This took place in Brisbane, and the Papua New Guinean attendees learned how PNGRIS could be used to assist their work in resource and environmental analysis and development planning. Subsequently again, during the period 1992 to 1995, AusAID funded a further expansion of PNGRIS to include the newly-available microcomputer mapping technology. At the end of the almost 50 years during which CSIRO had been involved in describing and mapping the natural resources of PNG, the country was in possession of what was one of the first "geographic Information systems" which covered an entire country. That system, in an updated form, is still being used for national development planning in PNG today. ▪

## **FIRST BANK IN KAVIENG**

**By © Jim Ridges in Kavieng**

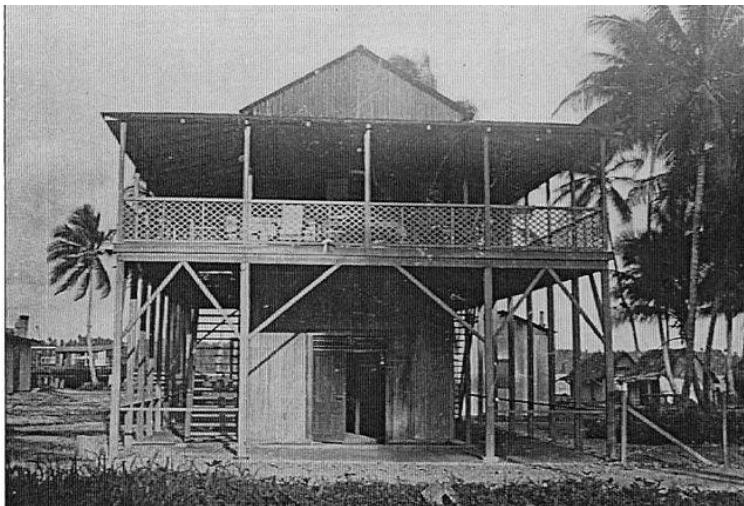
The Westpac Bank of PNG, renamed from the original Bank of New South Wales, is rightly celebrating 100 years of trading in Papua New Guinea, having opened their first branch at Port Moresby in 1910, and is, as they are frequently telling us, 'The first bank in PNG'.

But not the first bank in Kavieng, as many people in New Ireland believe when told that the first time a branch of the Bank of New South Wales opened in Kavieng was in 1927. The bank in Kavieng operated then from a lovely, wide verandas all round and therefore cool and shady, two-storey establishment located where the Kavieng Club was built after the war and is now.

The bank building was used as HQ's by the occupying Japanese forces, and there are still bunkers there to prove it, until bombed and totally wrecked in 1944. For whatever reason the bank did not return to Kavieng immediately after the war.

There were no banks as such operating in German New Guinea prior to the Australian military occupation in the First World War, at Rabaul in September 1914, and the 17<sup>th</sup> October for Kavieng. The larger German trading houses had fulfilled the role of banks at that time, offering credit and letters of credit as requested, but with the influx of about fifteen hundred Australian soldiers into German New Guinea, and the likelihood of them remaining until after the end of the war, whenever that would be, the Australian government could not operate using enemy owned and controlled businesses.

In 1915 the Commonwealth Bank of Australia opened its first branch in Rabaul, and in 1916 at Kavieng, mainly to serve the needs of the military administration



Commonwealth Bank, Kavieng, 1916

and the Australian soldiers and, as the German businesses and plantations were forbidden to trade with the enemy Germany, no doubt to facilitate their obligatory business dealings in Australia.

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Kavieng, operated from a two storey building roughly where a road led down to the present Kavieng

main wharf area, near where Shell is today.

It must be remembered that it was only on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1916 that the 'British Military Administrator' entered into an agreement with Frederick Arthur Smith, the planter and sawmiller on Tsoi Launung island<sup>1</sup>, 'for the building of a wharf on a certain piece of land at Bagail being Block Number 26/5'. He also leased

<sup>1</sup> Frederick Arthur Smith died 18<sup>th</sup> January 1924, and buried at Pakail Pioneers cemetery, Kavieng.

and later operated the wharf when complete in 1917, collecting charges gazetted on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1917.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1918 (gazetted 24.9.1918) he was relieved of his duties and lease 'in the events that happened the Administrator did re-possess and re-enter upon the said land and wharf'. Thereafter it was 'managed and carried on... as a government wharf'.

In 1920, after the war had ended in 1918, and the Versailles peace agreement in 1919 had allowed Australia to take German property to compensate it for war expenses, the Australian parliament legislated to expropriate German property, both business and personal, and the Custodian of Expropriated Properties was established. From 1920 when all the properties were taken over, until 1927 when the tenders offered in 1925/6 were approved, the COEP dominated business and life in the Territory of New Guinea.

However, in accordance with the mandate given by the League of Nations to Australia, the military administration was replaced by a civil administration on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1921, even though most of the military personnel just changed hats and continued in their civilian clothes. This meant that the Australian Government, the owners of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, no longer had a direct interest in payment and services to its soldiers, so the decision was made, and the Kavieng branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia ceased operations on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1923, much to the annoyance of the Expropriation Board, as it meant that they had to maintain a much larger cash advance in their Kavieng office, managed by Frank Saunders at the time, in order to meet the need for cash of just about all the plantations and business in the province, that the Board now managed.

No doubt this pressure from Kavieng helped the Bank of New South



Kavieng Branch, 1929

Wales to make the decision to open its branch in Kavieng in 1927, after over three years with no bank services, and especially aimed at obtaining the business of the many new owners of plantations and business following their successful tenders of the German properties in 1925/6 that were finally approved in 1927.

First bank in PNG 'Yes', but in Kavieng 'No'. Thank you, Westpac Bank PNG Ltd.

## A CAREER WITH A CHALLENGE: AUSTRALIAN PATROL OFFICERS IN PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

By Tracey Clarke, a curator at the National Archives

*Before Papua New Guinea achieved independence from Australia in 1975, a number of young Australian men served as patrol officers there. Records in the National Archives help tell the story of the kiaps and the role they played.*



A group of cadet patrol officers are shown the Royal Papuan Constabulary police barracks at Sogeri, in the hills behind Port Moresby, 1950. NAA: A6510, 1477

More than 2000 Australians served as patrol and district officers in the former Territory of Papua and New Guinea between 1949 and 1974. They were commonly known as 'kiaps', a pidgin version of the German *kapitän* (captain).

Following World War II, the Australian

Government encouraged young men aged between 18 and 24 with 'initiative, imagination and courage' to apply to become cadet patrol

officers in Papua and New Guinea. Young women were also invited to apply for positions, such as cadet education officers, but they were ineligible for patrol work.

The government received hundreds of applications each year from young men eager for a new challenge. Many had already read books about the experiences of the patrol officer; Leslie Rees' novel, *Danger Patrol: A Young Patrol Officer's Adventures in New Guinea*, was compulsory reading for school children in several Australian states. A number of applicants were ex-servicemen and had acquired knowledge of the area during the war. Some men had joined for altruistic reasons.

Each applicant had to submit satisfactory evidence of good character, health and physical fitness for employment in a tropical climate. Successful applicants were required to complete a short training course at the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) before they were sent to Papua New Guinea for field experience under the supervision of veteran kiaps. After a term of 21 months a cadet became a patrol officer.

The responsibilities of patrol officers were broad and varied: they maintained law and order as commissioned officers in the Field Division of the Royal Papua



& New Guinea Constabulary and as magistrates of local courts. They introduced basic services such as postal and radio communication, roads and airstrips; and they patrolled villages and maintained contact with village leaders. Their role was to bring the benefits of 'modern civilisation' and a form of governance to villages scattered throughout numerous administrative districts.

Kiaps wrote detailed reports about their patrols, which give their impressions of European contact with remote villages, health care, the administration of justice, languages and tribal warfare. Kiaps also made general observations on demographic trends, land disputes, initiation ceremonies and instances of cannibalism, as well as such matters as housing, cooking methods and vegetable gardens.

The National Archives holds numerous records about kiaps, including personnel and correspondence files, photographs, maps and patrol reports. Many are on microfiche. These records are an important source of information on the pre-independence history of Papua New Guinea. They also reveal the varied experiences of Australian kiaps – and the challenges they faced in this unfamiliar and sometimes difficult environment.

Many Australian men who responded to the government's call would agree with the sentiments expressed by former kiap James Patrick (Jim) Sinclair: 'the years so spent are in many ways the finest and most rewarding of the patrol officer's life, filled with the satisfaction of country covered, new people seen and new mountains climbed.'

*This article was first published in Memento, issue 39, and is reprinted with permission from the National Archives of Australia: [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au).*

## **THE KIAPS IN A TIME OF CHANGE**

*Historian Donald Denoon outlines the unique relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea, and the changing role of the kiaps.*

When civilian administration resumed in Papua and New Guinea after World War II, and officers in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit of the Army (ANGAU) were demobilised, the Australian Government had an almost clean sheet on which to form a government. Papua had been an Australian Territory since 1904, and New Guinea a Mandated Territory since the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, but few ANGAU officers survived the war, and fewer returned to the region. Very little infrastructure remained and many people had been displaced by the fighting.

The Papua and New Guinea Act of 1949 brought the two Territories under a joint administration centred in Port Moresby that was in regular telegraph contact with the Minister and Department of External Territories in Canberra. The Australian Government could fund and oversee an expanded regime with a wider range of services. The kiaps played a vital role: out on patrol, each kiap was the de facto government. The 1950s was the golden age of the kiaps, the pioneering 'outside men'.

*Cont. over*

Australia's relationship with Papua and New Guinea was unique. Until the 1960s, the Territory's destiny was unclear: it might evolve into the seventh Australian state, or an independent nation, or achieve some intermediate condition. What was clear to policy-makers was that Australia would govern, unchallenged, for many decades.

From 1951 to 1963 Minister for External Territories Paul Hasluck visited often and exercised tight control. He was especially cool towards British and other colonial precedents, and to advice from the United Nations. The Administration was therefore shaped by the Territory's perceived problems – and by Australia's capacity to address them.

### *The challenges of administration*

Australian administrators in Papua New Guinea faced distinct issues. Wet, mountainous New Guinea was nothing like Australia. The populations had even less in common: Australians enjoyed high incomes and social services delivered by stable governments, especially in the cities, whereas Melanesians subsisted without government services, in rural communities with limited horizons. Local circumstances were also changed: plantations were slow to revive in the fertile New Guinea Islands, and aeroplanes brought the densely populated Highlands under some control.

Education was important, but a shortage of teachers in Australia meant that the Administration could do little more than subsidise the missions to continue their mix of elementary schooling and evangelisation. The Administration provided little schooling of any kind, and hardly any industrial education until this became urgent in the 1960s. Kiaps facilitated the expansion of primary education to villages beyond the main towns.

Health care provided another challenge. With the recruitment of refugee doctors who were denied the right to practise in Australia, the Administration expanded the services provided by stretcher-bearers and other para-professional ex-servicemen as medical assistants (*liklik dokta*). Drawn into the Territory's Public Health Department, the European doctors and the local medical assistants built rural hospitals, used penicillin and sulfa drugs for the benefit of many, and mounted quasi-military campaigns against tropical diseases, often escorted by kiaps. The campaigns proved over-ambitious, but the Public Health Department provided an unprecedented quantity and quality of care.

Melanesians generally were astonished by the resources that had been mobilised for the war, and the wealth that outsiders took for granted. Many leaders resolved to emulate these achievements and rallied their communities for economic development.

A few invoked spiritual forces to help. Missions and kiaps often saw these 'cargo cults' as misguided and potentially subversive. To meet this crisis, agricultural extension officers (*didimen*) were appointed to advise those involved and to channel their energies into orderly Rural Progress Associations. Cooperatives officers were recruited as well, to foster producers' cooperatives for the same mix of economic and political motives.

### *A changing role for the kiaps*

As more services were introduced to the people of Papua New Guinea through the 1960s, delivered by specialist agencies and professional officers, the kiaps' responsibilities shrank. Hasluck was increasingly successful in prising Commonwealth resources for Territory purposes. By 1967 it was evident that the Territory would not become an Australian state, yet Commonwealth funds enabled its Administration to adopt more and more 'Australian' features. One of these was a Public Service Commission which derailed the Administrator's freedom to appoint and promote public servants. More usefully, the court system was boosted with professional prosecutors and public solicitors who travelled on circuit with judges to hear cases in rural centres. At the same time the gradual removal of previous police powers from the kiaps emphasised the independence of the judicial system.

With direct elections, most members of the Legislative Council were rural Big Men. Their roles were limited by esoteric Westminster parliamentary procedures, but most were content with an administration which offered increasing services funded almost entirely by the Australian Government. The innovations that affected kiaps most directly were the local government councils and village courts. Most other developments affected only the tiny towns (Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul), bypassing the vast rural majority. By contrast, village councils and courts foreshadowed an era of local self-government – in which there was no role for the kiaps. The introduction of tertiary education also implied that the period of the kiaps was fading. Paradoxically, the Administration began to recruit indigenous kiaps precisely when the career itself was becoming obsolete.

Self-government came abruptly in 1973, and independence two years later: but the kiaps' roles and their authority had already been dispersed. Explaining the people to the Administration and vice versa had been one of their roles. The kiaps' tasks now fell to politicians. For all their virtues and abilities, kiaps had no role in a democratic Papua New Guinea.

*Emeritus Professor Donald Denoon has published widely on Australia's relations with Pacific countries. He delivered the 2009 RG Neale Lecture presented by the National Archives of Australia and the Department of Foreign Affairs.*

*This article was first published in Memento, issue 39, and is reprinted with permission from the National Archives of Australia: [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au).*

► **YUMI PIKSA** is a new workshop at the University of Goroka, Papua New Guinea, through which students learn how to make films with local Highland communities in order to record local stories and local knowledge. In November 2009 Yumi Piksa produced its first DVD of three films: Mama Bilong Down Under, Nokondi's Morning Call, Levekuka Clay. This costs \$25 and is available by Email: [yumipiksa@gmail.com](mailto:yumipiksa@gmail.com)

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### **Revisiting Vudal Agricultural College Philippa and Graeme Hockey - Darwin**

In June this year, as part of a trip back to Lae and Rabaul after almost 40 years absence, we revisited what was then Vudal Agricultural College at Kerevat East New Britain. It is now called the Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment.

Philippa at the time was Sid Saville's secretary. Sid was the Principal of Vudal. Philippa is the second daughter of Patricia and Dion Coote of Vunapau Plantation at Kerevat. I was the lecturer in Livestock from 1968 to 1970 at a time when the college was in its infancy. Vudal was a three year course with students graduating with a "Diploma of Tropical Agriculture". DTA (Vudal).

We had managed to contact the college prior to our visit. The Registrar, Henry Gioven together with Lythia Suitawa from Public Relations and Veronica Manuk the college journalist met and escorted us around the college before meeting the Vice Chancellor and CEO Professor Philip Siaguru MBE and recently a CBE who took time out to provide a full presentation of where the University has come from, where it is now and where he hopes to take it. The staff room, minus a few chairs, offices and lecture rooms were as remembered with exception of air conditioning being added. New additions included a tiered lecture theatre, library, awaiting computers and such and well appointed executive offices and conference room.

In 2006, the Government of China at a cost of K23m using their own design, material and labour built 8 new two story student accommodation blocks and 20 high covenant staff houses. The student blocks are all named after past Principals starting with Syd Saville and then Bruce Bonniwell and are in their first year of occupancy. This development occupies where the annual and perennial cropping areas were. Included in the gift from China is a farmer training arm of the college called KVRTC (Kairak Vudal Resources Training Centre). The oval is planned to have an auditorium at a later date. With the change in focus the old livestock sections have also gone, however, the college has a couple of hundred acres at the Warangoi where the beef cattle have been sent.

Professor Siaguru said in his presentation that Vudal Ag College changed its name in 1992 to Vudal University College before becoming the University of Vudal in 1993 and now in 2010 the University of Natural Resources and Environment. It is one of 6 Universities across PNG with a further one planned. The UNRE currently has about 350 students with 4 campuses located at Vudal in East new Britain, Popondetta in the Northern District, Maprik in the Sepik and Kavieng in New Ireland with Kokopo to be added. The long term plan is to have up to 1000 students at each campus. The visit brought back many memories. ■

## **The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR) and the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR)**

**The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)** had the distinction of being the only Australian army militia unit raised, mobilised, fought and disbanded overseas in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea between 1939 and 1943. Raised on 4 September 1939, the NGVR's headquarters were originally in Rabaul with sub-units located at Wau, Salamaua, Lae and Madang. Fit men between the ages of 18 and 50 were accepted.

In August 1941, after the arrival of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (Lark Force) in Rabaul, the NGVR moved its headquarters to Bulolo on the mainland, keeping a unit in Rabaul. After Japan attacked, the Battalion was placed on full-time duty and mobilized on 21 January 1942. When Rabaul was invaded on 22 January 1942, the NGVR was under the command of the CO of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and fought until resistance was of no avail.

Over 80 NGVR personnel died when the Japanese prison ship Montevideo Maru was sunk in the South China Sea on 1 July 1942 by an American submarine, the worst single Australian maritime tragedy in WWII. A number of NGVR soldiers were massacred with about 150 others at Tol Plantation on Wide Bay in early February 1942.

When Lae and Salamaua were invaded on 8 March 1942 the NGVR was the only administrative representative of law and order and assumed responsibility for several thousand indentured labourers recruited from many outlying districts. These labourers would otherwise have been without support and unable to return to their homes. Establishing depots, the NGVR fed them and they became the first of the army of carriers and labourers who proved so vital in supporting the Allies in the fighting that followed, contributing to that success.

The 2/5<sup>th</sup> Independent Company AIF, with supporting attachments, flew into Wau from Port Moresby on 23 May to reinforce the NGVR. These units formed Kanga Force whose role was to start a limited offensive to harass and destroy enemy personnel and equipment in the area. Raids on Salamaua and Heath's Plantation, west of Lae, were successful but the deprivations of continuous operations in hostile terrain without adequate supply and medication took their toll with many falling sick with fever and tropical diseases. The number of fit men dwindled. Food was not getting through so the soldiers were increasingly dependent on the local food supply. Japanese air raids, their intimidation tactics over the local people and the sheer physical difficulty of getting rations forward to feed carriers had a cumulative effect and threatened to stop Kanga Force activity.

When the focus shifted to Milne Bay and the Kokoda Track battles, the NGVR continued to man its posts overlooking the Japanese. By early 1943 there were too few left to be effective. Because of their knowledge of the country and its problems, the remaining NGVR soldiers were filtered into ANGAU, the Coastwatchers, "Z" Special Unit, the Papuan Infantry Battalion, branches of the regular AIF and US forces. Of interest a 'United States Distinguished Unit Citation (later known as 'Presidential Unit Citation (Army)') was awarded by the United States Army to the NGVR Battalion for the participation of NGVR members in the US led Brewer Force engaged in a "reconnaissance in force" of

the Japanese held Los Negros Island, 29 Feb – 4 Mar 1944. The NGVR is the only Militia Battalion in the Australian Armed Forces ever to have received such an award.’ Downs, Ian *“The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles NGVR, A History”*.

**The Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (PNGVR)** was activated on 17 March 1951 mostly with Australians who had served in WWII. The role of the PNGVR was to maintain sub-units capable of providing information and advice on topography, local customs and personalities, guides and interpreters, and assistance in the organisation and training of indigenous and irregular forces, if required. By the end of 1951 there were detachments at Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul. Eventually other detachments were raised in Wau, Samarai, Madang, Wewak, Goroka, Mt Hagen, Banz, Kainantu and Kavieng. A platoon was raised in April 1970 at the University of Papua New Guinea. Sec. Lt. Pascal Idok of the UPNG platoon became the first Papua New Guinean to be commissioned in PNGVR in July 1971.



By January 1963 PNGVR was a 550 strong all Australian force but by 1964 the PNGVR became a multi-racial unit with the enlistment of Papua New Guineans and others. When PNGVR was disbanded on 1 December 1973, 80% of its members were Papua New Guineans. Two week annual training camps were held, initially at Goldie River, then after integration in 1964, at Mt Ambra near Mt Hagen and, in later years, near Lae. In 1962, PNGVR was presented with NGVR's WWII battle honours, Rabaul, Wau and South West Pacific. On 17 May 1969 the Administrator DO Hay presented the Queen's and Regimental Colours



**PNGVR Mess Dress**

to PNGVR at Igam Barracks, Lae. 350 soldiers from Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Goroka, Banz, Mt Hagen, Madang and Wewak attended the last annual camp held in August 1973 at Finschafen. The PNGVR was disbanded on 1 December 1973 with its colours being laid up at the Australian War Memorial on Anzac Day 1974.

After PNG's Independence in 1975 most ex-NGVR and PNGVR veterans returned to Australia. In the late 1980s the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles & Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-member Association was formed in Brisbane. Besides participating in the Anzac Day Parade in Brisbane the Association has held annual Memorial Services at the Brisbane Cenotaph on Anzac Day and, for the Montevideo Maru, on 1 July each year. It has held annual regimental dinners, bi-annual mixed bush dinners and ensured contact with and assistance to



sick and bereaved members. Six issues of the Association newsletter, *Harim Tok Tok*, are published and distributed each year to all members. Phil Ainsworth, President of the NGVR/PNGVR Ex-members Association, and also a member of the PNGAA committee, can be contacted for further information on Email: [p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au](mailto:p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au) or Phone: 0418 730 348.

### **The NGVR & PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM at Wacol, Brisbane**

When the Wacol Army Barracks was sold, the Department of Defence set aside 1.5 hectares of land and five historic buildings for the National Servicemen's Association of Australia (QLD branch) or NSAAQ. In late 2005 the Association was advised of its successful bid for one of the buildings to be used as a museum.

The official opening by the Australian Minister of Veteran's Affairs, Bruce Billson MP, and PNG Consul General for Brisbane, Paul Nerau LLB, was on Sunday 12 February 2006. Since August 2007 the NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum has been an ATO endorsed 'deductible gift recipient'. Items can also be donated or loaned to the Museum with the knowledge that they will be properly and securely looked after. The NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum focuses its collection on the Papua New Guinea campaigns of WWII and PNGVR 1959-1974. Its strength is in maintaining interesting and relevant displays of artefacts, records and memorabilia.

This Military Museum provides a wonderful tribute to Australia's shared history with PNG. It contains an outstanding collection focussing on the Papua New Guinea campaigns of WWII, the PNGVR, 1959-1974, and the PIR. The collection attracts many regular visitors, including school groups, community groups, researchers and the general public.



l-r: Dennis Doyle, Phil Ainsworth, Andrea Williams, Bob Collins, John Holland



## NGVR/PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM, Brisbane

**Can you help?** Work continues with collecting, cataloguing and exhibiting the many artefacts, records and memorabilia. Additional assistance to help with filing and sorting photographs and newspapers; numbering maps from the war years; cataloguing books for the library; changing and cleaning displays; and, on an occasional basis, assistance with general upkeep on the building such as washing and painting. Those with computer skills could help update the database, scan photos and assist with research – this would be greatly appreciated.

**The Museum plans a new display covering the NGVR's activities in the Lae-Salamaua-Wau campaign of WWII.** If anyone has photographs and/or memorabilia from this campaign could they please contact Phil Ainsworth Ph: 0418 730 348/ Email [p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au](mailto:p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au) or the Curator, John Holland, on Phone: 07-3375 5484/ 0449 504 058 or Email: [rabaul42@gmail.com](mailto:rabaul42@gmail.com).

Volunteers are warmly welcomed and find it a stimulating and rewarding experience.



*Lower right: NGVR Field uniform, map case, rain cape, cloth shoulder badge, dog tags etc as originally issued to NGVR soldier Bruce Fraser. Donated by Yvonne Farrant*



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**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.

\* \* \*

**The NGVR & PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM at Wacol, Brisbane,**

See article page 35/36

\* \* \*

**Leo Butler** has asked if anyone has information regarding two ex-employees of Vacuum Oil (Mobil) –

1. **Ray Lacey** who worked for Vacuum Oil in Rabaul about 1949-1952 before going to manage a plantation in the Fead Islands
2. **Frank Martin** – also worked for Vacuum Oil as Manager, Wewak, for many years after approximately 1949. Married to Laura (?), Frank was later elected as a Member of Parliament, PNG, in the 1960s/70s. He left Vacuum (Mobil) in the 1970s and set up his own company in the Wewak/Sepik area.

If you can help Leo please contact him at: 8 Dickson Street, Echuca, VIC 3564 of Ph: 02-5480 7551

\* \* \*

**Peter Ohlmus** would like to contact anyone who knew his parents, **Henry and Ruth Ohlmus**, both now deceased. Henry worked for Talair in Madang in the 60s, and Ruth was an admin assistant. Henry and Ruth were married in Madang, and later lived in Goroka and Port Moresby. Peter would be grateful for any stories/contacts/photos about either or both of his parents. He can be contacted at [petethedreamer@internode.on.net](mailto:petethedreamer@internode.on.net) or at 2/197 Welsby Parade, Bongaree, Bribie Island, QLD 4507 Ph: 0438 544626

\* \* \*

A colleague at the University of Maine, Paul ('Jimmy') Roscoe, is gathering materials for a book on warfare in New Guinea. **He is keen to hear from anyone who has observations, patrol reports, or photographs relating to warfare, including fortifications, anywhere in New Guinea and the Bismarck Islands.** All contributions will be acknowledged in the finished work. Please contact Jimmy direct at: [Paul.Roscoe@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Paul.Roscoe@umit.maine.edu) or by mail:

Professor Paul Roscoe, Anthropology, South Stevens Hall,  
University of Maine, Orono, MAINE 04469-5773 USA

Thank you – Barry Craig South Australian Museum

\* \* \*

**Mary Wardrop**, formerly of Poligolo Plantation (Rigo), has a photograph of **the opening of the Bannon Bridge over the Kemp Welch River.** The then administrator Sir Donald Cleland and ADO Ernie Sharp are shown walking across the bridge. Mary is keen to put a date to the photo. Please contact her on Ph: 07 5599 5511 or by mail to: Unit 10, 5 Quayside Court, Tweed Heads NSW 2485 or Email: [mwardrop@norex.com.au](mailto:mwardrop@norex.com.au)

\* \* \*

Philip Selth is interested in finding out what happened to Alistair Howell Maclean and David George McEvoy after the war. If anyone can help please contact him at Ph: 02-9229 1735 (w), E: [pselth@nswbar.asn.au](mailto:pselth@nswbar.asn.au) or NSW Bar Association, 174 Philip St, Sydney NSW 2000.

### **Help Wanted (Cont.)**

If anyone knows members of the **Beckett or Conroy families** – previously living on plantations outside of Rabaul – could you please contact the Editor? They were of great help to Sue Pascoe's father, Frank, whilst he was in Rabaul pre WWII with Lark Force and she would like to be put in touch if possible.

### **REUNIONS**

► **PNG Hamamas 101010 Dinner Dance - Saturday 9 October 2010. All welcome** - from 7pm – 1am at the North Sydney Leagues Club, Cammeray (Sydney). A delicious three course dinner is included with great music and dancing. So join in and have some fun! Tickets can be purchased as a table of 10, individually or in small groups. Cost is \$80 per person – numbers are limited so please get in quickly. Please send payment with your order to:

**Josie Chung:** 10 Dindima Pl, Belrose NSW 2085 Ph: 02-9975-3524 or Mob: 0402 407 916 Email: [chaschung1@bigpond.com](mailto:chaschung1@bigpond.com)

**Ron Croyden** Ph: 02-9417 2859 or 0410 685 575  
or E: [roncroyden@bigpond.com](mailto:roncroyden@bigpond.com)

Or: **Kathy Ng** Ph: 02-9419 5873 Mob: 0403 016 992 E: [kathyng62@hotmail.com](mailto:kathyng62@hotmail.com)

Or: **Ellen Lee** Ph: 02-9412 1947 or Mobile: 0412 455 288

**A 2010 PNG**

► **Independence celebration will be held in Melbourne on 18 September** at the Chelsea RSL Club, 4 Thames Promenade, Chelsea, Victoria. Please contact Peter Milburn for further details: Ph: 03-9801 6180 or Email: [milburnp@yahoo.com.au](mailto:milburnp@yahoo.com.au)

► **1966/1967 Court Street Rabaul reunion 31 July 2010 Brisbane**

Back L-R: George Brutnall, Brad Briggs, Gaye Magoffin (Briggs), Lesley Ross, Jeremy Worcester, Eva Arni, Cecile Holland, Ian Merriman, Brian Merriman  
Front L-R: Carol Ross, Jannice Myers, Deidre Reardon, Andrea Williams (Coote), Steven Norton, Lesley Gosper (Haley), Jane Hopper, Debbie Fenwick, Debbie Hockey ▪



## BOOK REVIEWS

**Big Road:** A journey to the heart of the New Guinea Highlands, 1953-56 by **Bob Cleland** ISBN: 978-0-9806720-2-2 Published 2010 by Red Hill Publishing 256pp plus 16pp picture section Soft cover Cost: RRP \$34.95 plus \$5.50 p&p For a limited time there is a Christmas Special to *Una Voce* members from the online store at [www.redhillpublishing.com/store/](http://www.redhillpublishing.com/store/) \$29.95 + \$5.50 p&p Please quote: UNA2010 Available from Red Hill Publishing E: [sales@redhill.me](mailto:sales@redhill.me) Ph: 07-3137 1799 Post: PO Box 22, Paddington QLD 4064 Australia DD: BSB: 304-029 Acc # 0024991 Red Hill Publishing

The 'Big Road' of Bob Cleland's title is the PNG Highlands Highway. It connects those great populous and productive uplands to the rest of New Guinea and to the rest of the world, passing the great airstrip at Nadzab in the Markham Valley, and on to the sea at Lae.

Few civil engineering projects faced more appalling difficulties, from the hot malarious Markham Plain at one end, to two towering limestone escarpments at the other. Pessimists long maintained that the very attempt was a futility; among a score of other obstacles they cited the torrential seasonal rains, and the uncertainties of relations with teeming thousands of tribesmen, many of whom had yet to see their first actual white face.

Without bulldozers or mechanical diggers, it was a "pick-and-shovel" job – with the addition of the digging stick, the axe and the crowbar. Without road-rollers, road-fill was consolidated by the stamping, bare black feet of thousands of Highlands men and women. I have a photo of two Highlanders, wearing fine feather head-dresses but little else, carrying between them what looks like a slightly smaller version of a hospital stretcher, fashioned from two bush poles and a couple of old corn-sacks. It is piled high with earth; that high-tech modern marvel, the wheelbarrow, had yet to penetrate the Highlands.

Yet the thing was done. I well remember my astonished admiration the first time I drove an ordinary Holden car all the way from Lae to Mount Hagen.

As with most major achievements, credit must be distributed between many contributors, but the names of three kiaps stand out; Ian Downs, longtime District Commissioner; 'Rupe' Haviland, a young patrol officer whose work fell largely in the Kassam pass stretch; Bob Cleland, whose labours achieved the higher Daulo Pass, and who later wrote this remarkable book.

The conception, the drive and persistence overall came from Downs. By one of the weird chances of wartime, his path and mine crossed in 1942, as we pursued our separate 'cloak-and-dagger' capers in the Huon Peninsula behind Lae. We pooled our resources and camped together for a short period. If I were an American I would have called him the most "ornery" man I ever met. Renewed acquaintance in Australia some twenty years later did not change my view. But of his intelligence, resourcefulness and courage there was never a doubt; his lieutenants Cleland and Haviland had been selected with superb judgment.

**Big Road** describes clearly all the practical problems; the flooding rains, the rebellious rivers, the dense moss forests, the landslides, the freezing high slopes barely climbable on foot.

But the book also offers deeper PNG insights with subtle penetration. The 'Pax Australiana' was hardly colonialism as ordinarily conceived; 'Missis Kwin'(Queen

Elizabeth II) was the sovereign; no imagineable force could have set all those Highlanders to such labour unless they saw that they themselves were to be the ultimate beneficiaries. I was moved by Cleland's Highlands Anzac Day translation into tokpisin of Laurence Binyon's "For the Fallen": They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old...is rendered as "*Ol i-noken kamap lapun olosem yumi istap yet i-kamap lapun...*" Perfect!

This is a splendid book. As the Bible reminds us '*there were giants in the earth in those days*', and the kiaps were of their number.

**Peter Ryan**

**Not a Poor Man's Field: The New Guinea Goldfields to 1942 – An Australian Colonial History by Michael Waterhouse**

ISBN 978 1920831837 Published 2010 by Halstead Press 272pp Hard cover approx. A4 size; incl 160 photos and eight maps – 7 drawn specially. RRP \$59.95 Special cost for *Una Voce* readers with the enclosed flyer: \$50 + \$11 p&p within Aust.

Also available: **The Special Limited Edition** (of which there are only 100 copies) costs \$300, including postage in Australia. Each copy contains four Bulolo stamps, showing a Junker G31 flying over the goldfields. Included are one £1 Bulolo stamp, two 2/- stamps and one 1/- stamp. They are mounted in a panel on the front of the book, which is bound in maroon reconstituted leather. These stamps were used by Bulolo Gold Dredging to post gold bars back to Australia in the 1930s and early 1940s, and are therefore genuine artefacts from the pre-war New Guinea goldfields. More information, including how to order, is provided on the website: [www.notapoormansfield.com](http://www.notapoormansfield.com).

As the future governance and stability of PNG every day create deeper anxiety, insightful books about the country continue to appear; this is one of the best, in which Michael Waterhouse tells the stupendous story of the Morobe goldfields. That glittering province of auriferous treasure was centred on Bulolo and Wau, and at times rivalled even South Africa in its productivity. How many of today's Australians know of it?

Most of the millions of ounces of gold extracted from the deep gravel-beds of the Bulolo River were dug up by immense mechanical dredges almost the size of battleships, each designed for its own special task. Companies heavily capitalized in Australia and North America shouldered the risks and built the financial foundations. Here emerges the essence of the book's title – *Not a Poor Man's Field*. The seeds of this great industry in Australia's Mandated Territory had been planted largely during the 1920s, by adventurous but impecunious individual prospectors, mostly Australians.

The pioneers were 'characters' – legends of courage and resourcefulness as, with shovel and dish, they pressed their way ever higher up the creeks of New Guinea's freezing mountains. For weeks on end their dishes might yield them nothing whatever; with a change of luck, a single shovelful of gravel might produce an ounce of gold. In 1927, six miners who were mates took out more than *three tons* of gold.

There was conflict in the wilds with the indigenous inhabitants – mostly with the diminutive and semi-nomadic Kukukuku tribes. Their languages were as totally unknown to the Australians as English was to the locals. The only

channels of communication were, respectively, the rifle and the arrow. Two of my kiap friends, in earlier days, had been carried down to the little European hospital on the coast looking like dart-boards, so many arrows were embedded in their bodies. How many Kukukukus perished by rifle bullets we will never know.

Gold supplied more than a quarter of the Territory government's entire revenues. Pleasant modern townships sprang up at Wau, Bulolo and elsewhere. Venturesome white wives one by one set up house on the field. Great water-powered turbines constructed higher in the mountains to drive the dredges supplied also the electricity needs of civilized living. A successful timber industry, based on the superb surrounding pine forests, was there to support the town when gold ran low.

It is amazing that all this was established in wild mountain country far from the sea and without a connecting road. The aeroplane replaced the highway, even the monstrous dredges being broken down into pieces and flown in. The world's heavy air transport industry was not merely developed in Australia's Mandated Territory; it was virtually invented there.

In a superb combination of meticulous research, broad understanding and clear writing, Michael Waterhouse offers us a *tour de force*. A few old-timers (*very* old-timers) may scent in his account of black-white relations a whiff of the newer political correctness, foreign to the era he describes. Well...times change. Splendidly illustrated, and supported by a wealth of helpful tables, references and a first-rate index, this book is a "steal" at the recommended retail price.

**Peter Ryan**

### **BOOK NEWS**

<p><b>Brus by Lady Barbara Jephcott</b> ISBN 978-1-921514-70-8 Printed by TEC Print, Toowoomba; 275 pp including index and black and white photos. Costs \$25 plus postage. Available from the author at 'Gundah', M/S 28, Warwick. QLD 4370</p>
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A Biography of Sir Bruce Jephcott. The majority of the book is set in PNG whilst he was a Member and Minister of the last House of Assembly and First National Parliaments. The formation of Air Niugini and general parliamentary business leading to, and after, independence are described in detail.

**Four novels by Martin Kerr** were launched at a Ravenshoe writers' workshop on the Atherton Tablelands, August 5, 2010.

Amon's Run (CD-ROM) is a three-volume saga set in Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and France during the last half of the 20th century.

Diansinkan & Other Stories (CD-ROM) opens with the spy thriller Diansinkan the Exiled, a Dutchman's confrontation with the Indonesian military and its sympathisers in West Papua and New Guinea.

Mr Kerr's previous books include New Guinea Patrol (also on CD-ROM) and Tamariki and the Whales.

Amon's Run and Diansinkan & Other Stories can be purchased in CD-ROM from Tableland Books, Atherton or through the publisher's website: [www.maskimedia.com.au](http://www.maskimedia.com.au).

## Donations to PNGAA Collection, Fryer Library, September 2010

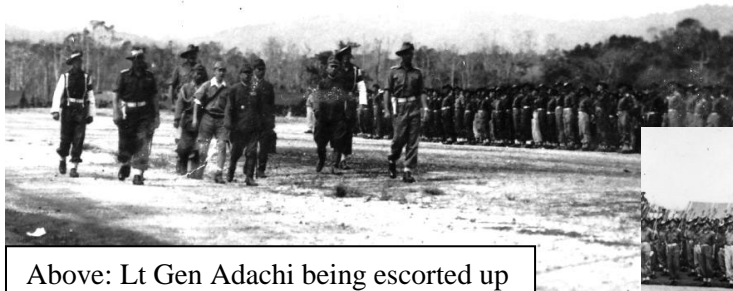
### Dr Peter Cahill

**H.E. (Lynn) Clark pt.2:** Patrol Reports 1/47-48 Salamaua Coastal; 2/47-48 Middle Watut; 3/47-48 Mumeng, Zenag, Watut, Middle Watut. Lower Watut and Leiwomba; Special Report – Attack on Upper Purari patrol – H.E. Clark to District Commissioner, Kikori, 050351; composite maps of 1936 Bamu-Purari patrol by Ivan Champion ARM and C.T.J. Adamson; Field Officers' Journal 27.1164 – 22.1.65. Wide range of photographs including Kokoda Memorial Museum, Memorial Tree, BPs *Matunga* 1917; Port Moresby wharf under construction, Tim Ryan's car Hanuabada village ?1920s; Kila Kila aerodrome 1937; ?1920s views of Port Moresby harbour; groups of European children Port Moresby 101?; Chambri Lakes (Sepik District) pottery; RP&NG Police Band Anzac Parade, Port Moresby, 250450; cricket at Panorama Point; traditionally dressed dancer Aroma; government buildings at Rigo (Papua); Papua Hotel, Port Moresby; series dealing with drying, bagging and shipping copra; 1<sup>st</sup> Lamatana Boy Scout Troop; canoes at Koki market, Port Moresby; 3 boxes Kodachrome slides (largely unidentified) of Aroma, Abau and Tufi (Papua); cassette tapes m.v. Laurabada during war; assorted Ivan Champion memoirs. Photographs from the Volkerkunde Museum, Basel: interior of men's house, Purari Delta; Motu Dubu, Hanuabada village; Skull rack, Goaribari island; three young women, Astrolabe Bay; village near Madang; man from lower Sepik River. **Peter Plumridge:** cd of Manus Island Australian naval station. **Warren Martin:** general photographs of Manam island, Madang district, Manam volcano building steam and erupting, post-eruption destruction, night photographs of eruptions. **GFX Brown (courtesy daughter Helen Tracy):** Burns Philp Line luggage sticker (unused), *Katekismo Katolik* (Catholic Pidgin Catechism), *Primer of Police Motu* 1945, assorted photographs of Ononghe (Catholic Mission, Yule Island), villagers, men in dancing dress with spears, girls' sports day with canoes, menu for RSS&AILA inaugural dinner Port Moresby 260561, Brigadier D.M. Cleland and General Basil Morris at native gathering, Ela Beach ca.1944/1945; 5 photographs comprising panoramic view of Rabaul ca.1913, Australian troops in Port Moresby 1939. **Michael O'Connor:** proof copy of *New Guinea Days: a tale of Love and Adventure* (in publication), patrol reports AIT (Aitape) 1 1958/59, AIT 2 1958/59; AIT 4 1958/59, Maprik 2 59-60, 3 59-60, B alimo 1 1961/62 (2 copies). **Keith Jackson:** CD of PNG Attitude no.134 April 2009 to no.149 July 2010. **Dr Kevin Parer:** copy of *A Time B4: Memoirs of Dr Kevin J. Parer*, compilation of films into video format by Michael Thurston of PNG scenes/place shot by Jack Thurston ca.1939. ■



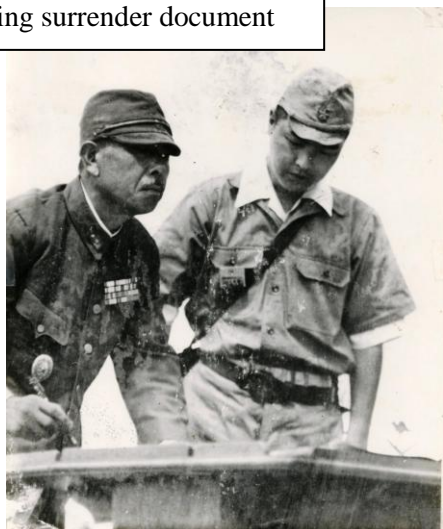
## Cape Wom Wewak - 13 September 1945 – 65 years ago

Charles Betteridge sent these photos which came from original negatives taken by the late Glen Bolton who was an Australian Army Photographer during WWII. Glen was also the manager of the Wewak Hotel on Wewak Point which looked over to Muschu and Kairiru Islands off Wewak. Charles was an avid photographer himself – keep a check on our website gallery for his collection.



Above: Lt Gen Adachi being escorted up Cape Wom Airstrip 13 September 1945

Below: Lt Gen Adachi signing surrender document



Below: Maj Gen HCH Robertson (2) GOC 6 addressing the troops at Cape Wom, Wewak, 13 September 1945



Below: Maj Gen HCH Robertson counter-signing surrender document at Cape Wom 13 September 1945



Below: Lt Gen Adachi being escorted back down Cape Wom airstrip



Lt Gen Hatazo Adachi GOC XVIII Japanese Army handing over his sword at 10.15am 13 September 1945



## **PNG'S RESOURCE RENT TAX**

**Ken Woodward**

While controversy rages about the proposed resource rent or superprofits tax on mines in Australia, readers may not be aware that PNG beat us to the punch by over 30 years. Shortly after the Bougainville copper mine came into full production, in 1976 I think, the newly independent Government introduced a tax on what were regarded as “excess profits”. The timing coincided with very high earnings by Bougainville Copper Ltd. resulting from good commodity prices and the high gold content in the first of the deposits mined.

The earnings “hurdle”, above which the tax would apply, was much higher than the long term bond rate proposed for Australia. But like the Australian proposal it was retrospective. At the time, however, PNG was a one mine economy and BCL was the only victim. The tax was certainly not negotiated and agreed with the BCL. Perhaps coincidentally, the chairman of BCL's parent Rio Tinto, Sir Val Duncan, died suddenly soon after the tax was introduced. One commentator suggested he “died of a broken heart” but I doubt if that was on the death certificate.

The result was a tax payment to PNG which was massive in relation to other revenues. What was of most concern was that it was very uncertain what levels of payments, if any, would be received in future.

The Department of Finance, where I worked at the time, had two main worries about the tax. First, the Australian Government, with the philosophical concurrence of the PNG Government, was seeking to reduce aid as a means of promoting fiscal independence in PNG. The achievement of this aim was tempered by the needs of PNG to maintain levels of service. The amount of aid was negotiated annually. It was feared that the receipt of this unexpected windfall would reduce the assessed need for aid and that it would be reduced accordingly.

Second, it was feared that the existence of this big cache of extra cash would make it impossible to control the growth of government spending. If it was not available in future at the same level, PNG would find itself with a level of recurrent expenditure which could not be supported by the revenue base.

To overcome these problems, the Mineral Resources Stabilisation Fund was established. All of the excess profits tax would be paid into it rather than consolidated revenue. Payments out of the fund into the Government budget would be limited to what was estimated to be the long term sustainable returns from the tax and from earnings of the fund. This level was to be determined by the Governor of the Central Bank and the Secretary of Finance, the individuals at the time being Sir Henry To Robert and Sir Mekere Morauta.

In the event, there was only one payment of excess profits tax from BCL. Sirs Henry and Mekere did a good job in keeping payments realistic and while a useful contribution was made to the budget, serious disruption was avoided.

PNG also attempted to impose an excess profit tax provision in the agreement with Kennecott to develop the Ok Tedi mine. Kennecott would not agree and abandoned the project after many years of investigation. Of course, BHP and its



German partner developed the project later. However, some commentators believed that Kennecott was better equipped to carry out such a project, with more relevant experience whereas BHP at the time was still mainly a steel producer. The technical difficulties experienced and the manner of BHP's departure lend some support to this view.

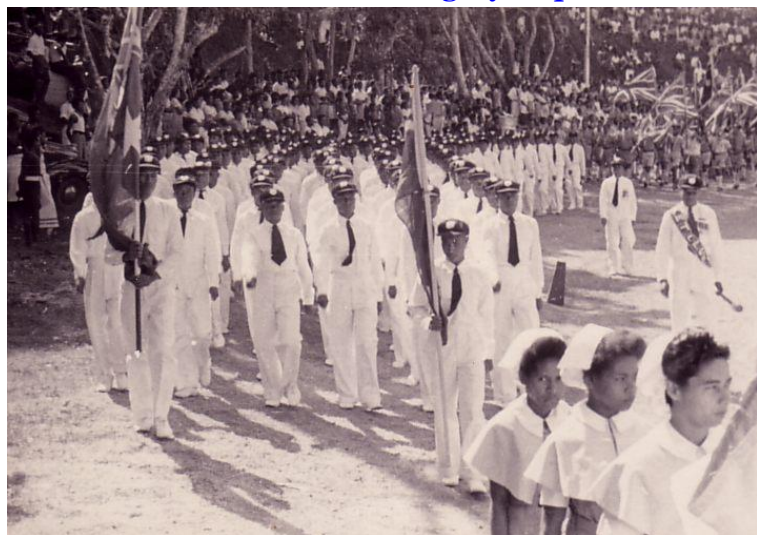
I do not know whether the same principles were included in agreements for subsequent mines, but certainly the free and concessional equity as well as the large range of benefits for landholders which are necessary to get agreement constitute another form of tax. Hence comparison with other tax regimes would be complicated. Obviously, though, given the number of major mining projects in the country now, the tax imposed on BCL did not terminally frighten investors off.

The striking feature of the Australian efforts so far is the attempt to negotiate a tax with which the miners agree. Consultation is fine, but the decision is for the Government. The way tax policy normally works is that the taxpayers wear the financial consequences and the Government the electoral consequences. (Written on the day Julia Gillard became the Australian Prime Minister) ■

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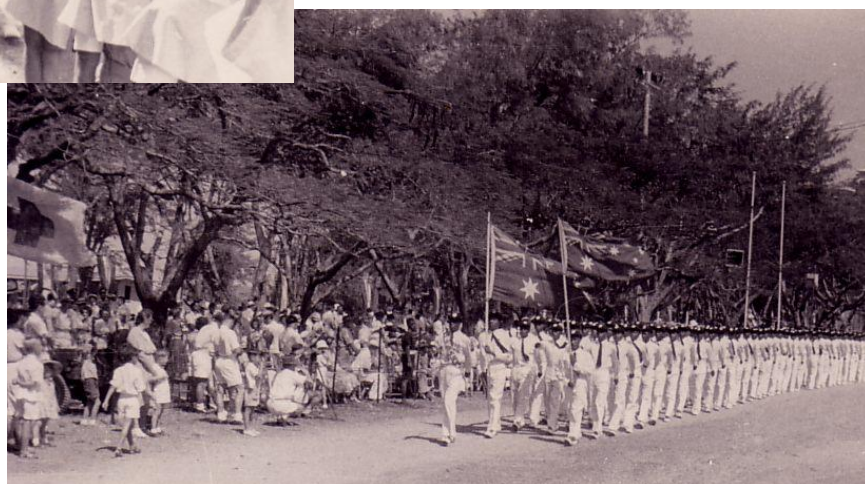
**Refer John Segal's article about Hula cricket** (*Una Voce* No. 2, June 2010, p 13) This parade was possibly part of the Coronation celebrations in Port Moresby in 1953 – can anyone confirm please?

Please contact Marjorie Head at 1/2 Nash St, Gympie, Qld 4570. Ph: 07 54822767 or Email: [midgery@spiderweb.com.au](mailto:midgery@spiderweb.com.au) with a copy to the Editor.



Photos of Hula Cricket Teams,  
taken at Ela Beach, Port  
Moresby.

Photos: Phil Head Collection



## **BARRICK GOLD 8000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL**

**by Gary Faulks**

(During 2007 I visited Porgera on three occasions to assist the Porgera Development Association. Porgera is situated in the highlands PNG. The following item details some of my activities and thoughts regarding the future of the Porgera Valley once the mine closes.)

The Highlands remained largely unaffected by Western influence until relatively recent times and even today age old traditions still persist amid the current intrusion.

Since 1990 the Porgera Valley has witnessed and in fact participated in the operation of a modern large scale mining operation and all its associated activities. The Porgerans quickly learned the art of negotiation as it was a part of the Porgeran way in history.

Porgera Joint Venture mine which is now mainly owned by Barrick Gold of Canada fully understands that a mine must work closely with the locals if it is to have any chance of a long term future. The closure of the Bougainville mine some years ago is adequate testament to this, so considerable effort and cost is directed at the community and community issues.

At Porgera, a Development Association was established by the National Government to administer and implement community aspects of the Mining Agreement including distribution of mining royalties and implementation of community projects.

Porgeran culture still embraces the “big man” concept where a man who achieves importance wealth and status can take certain liberties within the society without too much fear of retribution. These liberties are quite serious and can include sexual abuse, violence and corruption. Multiple wives are still a reality as is the buying of brides. Sadly the status of women remains low on life’s ladder.

Education completion is poor although improving, health services housing and hygiene is basic, road access and other services very limited.

Holdups on local roads are quite common and some form of payment is required to those involved to get past. These holdups or roadblocks are carried out by young males usually armed with weapons. This is the Pogeran way.

The desire within the Porgera society is present to improve their lot but the ability to achieve this is often lacking. My consultancy was to provide some training in capacity building, management accountability and to conduct some strategic planning workshops.

My trips to Porgera from Ballina involve a variety of modes of transport- with car to Robina, then airtrain to Brisbane Airport, jet to Cairns and turbo prop to Mount Hagen. Then it is either helicopter or a Twin Otter (same aircraft and in fact same Company as the recent air tragedy in PNG) to Kairik and finally Toyota to the mine site.

The Porgera Valley is a dry (alcohol free) area and all bags are searched on the way in to check that you are not bringing alcohol in and they are searched on the way out to check that you are not taking any gold home.

Accommodation at the mine site including catering by a local contractor is pretty good. At the elevation of 8000 feet the air is crisp, often fogged in and rain showers common place. However very often the days are sunny and clear but can change quickly. Security at the mine site is high as local unrest is commonplace. Killings can still occur in tribal and family clashes.

The mining operation commenced in 1990 as an underground mine to extract the high grade ore first and over one million ounces per year were produced during those first couple of years. Later the mine became mainly open cut.

Because the gold is securely embedded within sulphides, a fairly new and exacting process was developed to achieve satisfactory extraction. The process involves pressure oxidation via giant onclaves before a chemical extraction process using cyanide.

Resulting waste is said to be neutralised before release in to the environment but because the material has been reduced to a powder during processing, the waste is quite unstable and can not be dried out or stockpiled. As a result the downstream effects are closely monitored.

The pressure oxidation consumes huge amounts of electricity and the mine has developed a power station some 70 KM away using local gas and diesel turbines.

The mine employs over 2000 staff which are principally PNG Nationals but around 200 expatriates are operating on a fly in-fly out basis from Australia. The Porgerans oppose the fly in-fly out arrangement as they would have preferred that a large mining town with associated facilities (like at Ok Tedi) had been built but one of the early problems with this idea was the absence of a suitable site within the mountain areas which are unstable and steep.

Substantial local housing has been developed at the mine locality as well as many community facilities.

Providing the price of gold remains fairly stable and maybe increases, the mine will continue for some years but this is always subject to the gold content within the material being satisfactory. Total production costs for gold is currently around \$600 per ounce. 2010 price is around \$1200US per ounce.

Ultimately the mine closure will bring its own problems as the locals face the prospect of life without the mine and its huge income and employment.

Avenues worthy of consideration include development of tourism as the mine facilities would adapt readily to that type of activity but additional infrastructure would be needed.

Security particularly on rural roads is a problem as is easy access but it could be envisaged that this could be part of the experience for some types of adventure tourism involving outdoor activities and visits to cultural areas.

In the final analysis, the locals may prefer to revert to a less intrusive and traditional way of life and this is a choice that requires much discussion by them. ■

## **THE LATE KEN BROWN, KIAP    by Jim Toner**

Ken died on Anzac Day aged 85. We had met when he was made ADO Rabaul sub-district in 1962 and I worked for him with pleasure when later he became Actg/DO West New Britain. We had both worked for Jack Emanuel GC (assassinated 1971) and when thirty years later I was corresponding with Ken about his experiences in Darwin (now my home town) during WW2 and afterwards we discussed those days in Rabaul with Jack who he described as an amiable enigma. I leave aside our anecdotes except to say that Ken admitted to sometimes wondering whether Jack had ever watched and envied 'The Secret Lives of Walter Mitty'. I thought this a pertinent observation since at the time it was not known that PO Emanuel had in 1950 written directly to the Prime Minister volunteering for counter-espionage duties against Communist activity in PNG.

Ken, after service in the RAAF 1944-46 which included a posting to a Wireless Unit in the bush outside Darwin, desired to return to the NT to find out what he could about his father's eldest brother who had died somewhere in the Tanami desert. It turned out that he was the man mentioned in 'We of the Never Never' as 'Neave's mate'. Contacts made with Native Affairs as the Government branch was then called put him on to an elderly stockman at Katherine who had worked alongside Ken's uncle so he was able to pass some overdue information to his Dad.

To achieve that result Ken, aged 21, had signed on with the Department of the Interior as a clerk. He had flown by DC3 from Adelaide on posting to Alice Springs but on landing there a District Officer had come aboard and told him to remain in his seat as he had been re-posted to Darwin! Where he was set to work in what he described as the soul-destroying Sub-Treasury. He had no complaints about his physical accommodation which had been a RAN Officers Mess but behaviour of its inmates tended to resemble that of the late unlamented Ranaguri Hostel at Konedobu. One patrol officer in occasional residence there was Bill Harney already writing the third of his books about life in the Territory. He took Ken over to Bathurst Island where he met Father McGrath the coastwatcher who had radioed Darwin about the 180 Japanese planes approaching the port, a warning sadly not acted upon.

Ken then decided to join the Territory's field staff but after successful interviews failed the tape-measure test. Patrol Officers were required to stand 5ft 10ins (1.8M) tall a personal feat he described as disappointingly unattainable. But into his gloom a ray of sunshine appeared from the Admiralty Islands. The newly appointed Director of NT Aboriginal Affairs happened to be Frank Moy, recently DO Manus, who advised Ken to apply for a cadetship in PNG where no height stipulation applied. And so Ken was able to join the company of 'Stumpy' Corrigan, 'Shorty' Carey and other diminutive but dynamic kiaps.

Ken's other reminiscences about turbulent post-war Darwin are only of interest to those of us here with perhaps one exception. Passing through Pine Creek he met the police officer in charge, Tas Fitzer, father of Des then at school but later a well-known PNG kiap.

On Ken's 80th birthday a number of the young men who had worked under him made it their business to flock to Budgewoi where he had retired. One of them after his death wrote on the Ex-Kiap website describing Ken as 'one of nature's finest gentlemen'. I need say no more. ■

## **BORDER CONFRONTATION by John Quinn**

Like all good stories , this one starts "long, long ago and far, far away"

The great bird island to the North of Australia dozed in the tropic seas for millennia until, in the mid-1840's, the Dutch, expanding their possessions through what was then the Dutch East Indies and relying on dubious and tenuous claims of sovereignty made by the Sultan of Tidore, drew the first straight line on this unknown land along the 141st meridian of Longitude and claimed everything to the West as their own. Why they picked the 141st and not the 140th or the 138th is lost in the mists of history, though it is a curious fact that the boundary separating Victoria, NSW and part of Queensland from SA, also runs along this meridian. Naturally enough, the Dutch never contemplated asking the inhabitants of the land what they may have thought of this annexation; such a suggestion would have been met with smiles of incredulity.

The 141st meridian remained simply a line on a map, largely ignored until the late 1880's when, at the series of Berlin Conferences of that decade, the great European Powers, with breath-taking arrogance, decided to "tidy-up" the entire world by delineating amongst themselves colonies and spheres of influence. If you have ever wondered why so many modern states-- especially in Africa-- have such neat and ruler straight frontiers, the root cause lies in that era of untrammelled European Imperial Power. Unmindful of physical features like rivers and mountains, careless of ancient tribal and linguistic boundaries, ignorant of what actually lay in the interior of vast territories, the entire Globe was parcelled out by diplomats and pencil wielders. The Dutch were confirmed in their claim, though a "squiggle" had to be inserted in the South to take into account the bends in the recently discovered Fly River. Another neat line was drawn in heading east from the 141st through lands and people yet to be discovered and everything to the North became the property of the German Kaiser and to the South into the possession of the British Queen/Empress. As usual , the new owners would have regarded it as the height of absurdity to ask the inhabitants their opinion of this "done deal"; after all, those were the days, as Rudyard Kipling so succinctly put it, of the "white man's burden" in looking after the childish "lesser breeds" of the Earth.

Though these measures had some slight effect on the coastal peoples , in the interior , life went on in an unending cycle of fighting, raiding, gardening, fishing and ceremony. The fact that the British handed over the Southern part of their claim to the new Australian Commonwealth in the early 1900's, that Australia invaded and captured the German North in 1914, that a solemn League of Nations Mandate was granted, followed by an equally solemn U.N. Agreement for Trusteeship and then further solemn and weighty Agreements for Administrative Union into the Territory of Papua New Guinea went completely unnoticed. After the Second World War, the Border area along the 141st meridian dozed under the amicable and unstructured control of Australia and Holland--Europeans from Hollandia and Vaimo visited and socialized, coastal locals from as far East as Aitape voyaged and traded in their ocean-going canoes along the W.N.G. coast, Australia looked after a large chunk of the

South in the Merauke area whilst Dutch 'Kiaps' administered enclaves in the Australian Northern border areas.

This somnolent situation continued until the early 1960's, when the Australian Government suddenly woke up to the fact that the forth-coming U.N. sponsored, so-called "Act of Free Choice" would more than likely wrest control of W.N.G from a friendly European power to a decidedly unfriendly Indonesian dictatorship. As usual in such situations, something of a panic set in and money and resources were unleashed in a flood as teams of surveyors were mobilized to firmly delineate the 141st Meridian on the ground, the Pacific Islands Regiment base at Vanimo was expanded, the airstrip there strengthened and lengthened and a string of Border Patrol Posts were authorized.

And now, this is where the writer comes into the picture.

Returning from a Sydney course in early 1963, I was posted to the Imonda area, over the coastal mountains inland from Vanimo which, though legally and technically in the Australian Amanab Sub-District, had been administered for many years by the Dutch from one of their Patrol Posts at Kenandega, also known as Waris after the people whose ancestral lands were now split by the Border, leading to the situation where a man on one side was now a Papua New Guinean whilst his brother-- perhaps a 100 metres away-- was now an Indonesian! The Waris people were very sophisticated from long contact with Hollandia (soon to be Sukarnopura and then Jayapura), wore European clothing or the Asian Sarong for formal occasions, spoke Bahasa Malaya as a Lingua Franca, had a system of elementary Village Schools and professed the Catholic faith. In complete contrast, further to the South lived the Waina and Sowanda peoples, whose land was also split by the border. These were a tough, bellicose and virile people--the men wearing only a phallocrypt (the Pidgin English '*Cokis Bokis*' is a wonderful and descriptive phrase for this article of undress) with the women wearing even less. They told, with great gusto, of how they had massacred a Dutch Patrol in by-gone days and then discovered that cane body armour did not repel automatic weapons fire from a resulting punitive expedition, though the Dutch left them severely alone as a result of this clash.

I had the job of taking over and building a brand-new station and airstrip. What qualifications did I have in Town Planning, Road and Bridge construction and so on? Absolutely none. What Degrees or Diplomas in Airstrip Construction did I possess? Nil, again--- but, as usual in those more relaxed 'Can-Do Kiap' times, it was simply assumed by all concerned that the project would be taken on and concluded successfully. One saving grace and most unusual in my career, money was seemingly limitless for paying labour, bringing in supplies and so on. Construction proceeded apace with hundreds of locals being recruited and set to work using tools and methods more than familiar to ancient Romans hacking their long, straight roads through British forests 2000 years ago-- axes, spades, picks and shovels with wooden T-pieces for getting a level. Supplies at first came in by carrier-line walking the two long days from Amanab Airstrip through primaeval forest, though air-drops out of Vanimo and Wewak were soon required. Some of the first drops were a bit of a disaster with, at one time the Catholic Mission (just off the end of the station) being bombarded with tins

of meat and having a bundle of crowbars spear through roof and floor and a metre into the ground. Practise makes perfect, though and if anybody reading this needs to successfully drop a bottle of rum or a dozen eggs from a low-flying plane, simply give me a call.

Whilst building projects were going on, Patrols had also be mounted to Border villages and this led to one amusing situation where I had set a small team to work on my house and associated pit-latrine , going off on Patrol , being delayed and returning days later to find the team 13 metres down and still industriously digging away. Subsequent users of the out-house were prone to comment on the 'long drop'.

Now it can be told! Just about the worst part of the job was deciphering coded messages streaming in from Wewak, Port Moresby and even Canberra wanting to know this and that about the Border and what might be happening over the other side and then having to encipher the information provided by my trusty team of informants. I also found it best to ignore the nonchalant guys who would skulk around for a couple of days before disappearing Westward to my counterpart on the Indonesian side, who was probably experiencing the same coding dramas that I was inflicted with. Clandestine and heavily-armed P.I.R. patrols would also materialize from time to time as they mapped Border trails and items of interest to the Army High Command, with Indonesian Army patrols doing the same job on their side.

Life proceeded on until a highly unusual bit of excitement occurred the week after the celebrations for the 1964 New Year Sing-Sing. Whilst I was having a bite of lunch, the distinctive drone of a D.C.3 was heard approaching and I went out to find an Indonesian Air Force Dakota circling overhead! It then flew along the strip and out tumbled seven bundles, which blossomed parachutes and came swinging down. Despite a large Australian flag being put out on the ground, yet another parachute drop was made. Remember, all this happened at a time( to put it politely) of "strained relations" between Indonesia and Australia. Some of the labour-line scampered off into the nearby jungle, though every one of my R.P.&N.G.C. contingent--off-duty or not-- came running up, hastily fitting their antique long bayonets to their equally ancient .303 rifles. At that moment, I was never more proud of the old-style Constabulary, of their dedication and bravery and of their readiness to face a situation which might be spiralling into something completely out of all our experiences. A quick check of one of the drop-bags under a parachute showed it contained only rice, which was an enormous relief.

But now, the still circling Dakota lowered its landing gear, lined up with the strip (unfinished and completely unsuitable for so large an aircraft) and gave every indication of preparing to land-- once again, what could happen or might occur flickered through my mind; luckily, though, a wiser head in the cockpit must have prevailed and the plane rumbled low overhead, with uniformed Indonesians waving down to our little group before the plane droned off to the West.

The strip was cleared, labourers and other worried locals were reassured and a just-landing Australian Cessna--the strip was just open to very light aircraft--was dispatched to Amanab to pick up the ADO As you might imagine, the air-



waves ran hot with messages flashing back and forth over what might be going to happen. It was eventually agreed, at some higher level of the Administration, that a Missionary Aviation Fellowship Cessna out of the W.N.G. capital would be allowed to come in later that day to retrieve the chutes and drop-bags which the Indonesians would like returned. We were told that the pilot would be the only one on board the plane and would have the required Customs and Immigration documentation. Well and Good!! In the afternoon, down comes the plane and out steps the pilot----then the pilot's son (a boy of 9 or 10), then an Indonesian Air Force Colonel, then his Adjutant, both of the last resplendent in Full-Dress Uniform! Naturally enough, nobody had any form of documentation. The Colonel had wanted to come armed, but had been dissuaded from doing so by the MAF pilot; visions of newspaper and radio headlines of the variety 'PNG/Indonesian Border Drama/Incident/Conflict/Stand-Off' (take your pick) flashed through my mind. After yet more radio conversations, the matter was sorted out amicably and the Indonesians, the pilot's son, the chutes, the drop-bags and the rice (which had been destined for just over the border Waris Patrol Post) were returned to their proper side of the Border over the next few days.

Speaking of aeroplanes, I was once taken to task by some of the men from a far-distant Waina village because after a long and interesting conversation about aircraft and where they originated from--- try explaining the concepts of 'factories' and 'machines' and 'production lines' to a people who have no idea of such things--- they triumphantly accused me of fibbing as one of their number had recently visited Imonda and had seen an obviously pregnant aeroplane ( a Cessna with a large under-belly pod) on the ground. With a long sigh, I had to agree, passed around a few sticks of tobacco and left further explanation to another day and somebody else.

My fiancée (now long term wife, Judith) flew up from Australia to check up on what PNG life entailed and was the first white woman ever seen in the area--- one morning we discovered that word had got around about this long-haired, red-lipped, jeans wearing stranger and that nearly 200 Waina, Punda and Sowanda women from far-distant villages had made the long trek to inspect her. After the initial murmurs of interest and astonishment, the patting and stroking to make sure she was real and the reassurance of some of the howling kids (and the distribution of more sticks of tobacco) , the ladies went off quite content. As we whites had women just like them, we could be elevated to the status of human beings instead of the odd, and perhaps reincarnated spirit entities we may well have been.

My final tasks in this most fascinating of areas was to conduct Electoral Education and the first House of Assembly elections (now that's another story of the difficulty of perception and concept), before a transfer to the 'bright lights' and city sophistication of the District Headquarters at Wewak. ■



## **THE WAR ON KITAVA by Caroline L. Cameron©**

“Japanese Grave”. The words on the map record in stark simplicity a man’s lonely resting-place on an obscure island in the Solomon Sea. The Japanese was a pilot who had run out of fuel, ditched his Zero, and had made a remarkable journey by canoe attempting to reach his countrymen on the north coast of Papua New Guinea.

The map was a sketch of points of interest drawn by American Lieutenant R.E. Fullenwider. The Pacific War had brought him to Kitava, thirty kilometres east of the largest island of the Trobriand group, Kiriwina. Only a fly-speck on a map, just seven kilometres long and five kilometres wide, Kitava was nonetheless vulnerable due to its location. On the morning of 22nd January, 1942, the reality of war hit home when a Japanese plane flew over and dropped three bombs. Two fell in the sea and one on land. On the east coast of Kitava, the cargo steamer *Admiral Wiley* had run aground on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 1940. It was still visible and possibly the Japanese were trying to bomb her, not knowing she was a wreck. Three days later, Kitava was again bombed.

The only white resident on Kitava, Tasmanian-born Cyril Cameron, who had established a coconut plantation in 1912, left. Cameron was not lacking in courage, as his days as a patrol officer in the Kukukuku region prove, but man is no match against bombs. Late on the afternoon of January 26th, he was picked up from a small launch near Kiriwina. With him were Mr. Brewer, a resident magistrate, and Reverend Keith Morgan. Their local knowledge of the numerous reefs was appreciated by the captain, Eric Howitt, of the Government schooner *Leander*, which was sailing to Samarai with evacuees from New Britain fleeing from the rapidly approaching Japanese forces.

The Trobriands were close to the direct line from Rabaul to Milne Bay, and in the months that followed Japanese aircraft flew overhead and Japanese ships sailed close by. Two Australian army spotters set up a watching post on Kitava to monitor the activity. The Spotters were mainly recruited from the army already in Papua. The aim was to provide warning of attacking aircraft: the air warning system. The Spotters had an association with the RAAF, but were not part of it as the Coastwatchers were of the navy. The Spotters were initially within ANGAU – the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit – an army unit. By the end of 1942 the name of the unit was the New Guinea Air Warning Wireless Company and it was under the command of Signals within New Guinean Force.

In May, Japanese ships passed by Kitava on the way to the Battle of the Coral Sea. Wreckage from the battle washed up on the beaches for several months. Patrol Officer Eddie Stanton, based at the government station, Losuia, on Kiriwina, kept a record throughout the war of his experiences. Edited by Hank Nelson, it was published as *The War Diaries of Eddie Allan Stanton* (Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1996). In his diary Stanton reported large quantities of American biscuits, coffee and benzine washed up at Kitava. “Evidently, the Japanese have blasted American shipping in the Solomons.”

On 25<sup>th</sup> August, Kitava Island spotters A.A. Buchanan, P.N. Auguston and Ventry reported several enemy destroyers. The sighting was important, as the weather was too poor for accurate air reconnaissance. A large Japanese convoy was sailing to the Battle of Milne Bay and defeat. From September, the Allies were on the offensive. Amongst the wreckage in the sea floated survivors from downed aircraft and sunken ships.

*Cont. over →*

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1942, Japanese pilot Petty Officer Shigenori Murakami, through lack of fuel, landed his aircraft in shallow water off Gawa Island. From Gawa he made his way westwards, stopping at the tiny islands of Koeawata, Digumera, Iwa and then Kitava; a distance of sixty-five miles by native canoe. He landed at Lalela beach on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup>, about three miles from where Australian army spotters Pt. John P. Nagle and Pt. Robert Ventry were situated. Murakami spent the night in a canoe house, a native boat-shed built to protect their precious ocean-going kula canoes.

Early the next day, the spotters demanded Murakami surrender. Murakami fired all the bullets from his automatic through a hole he had made in the canoe-house wall. The spotters retaliated with their 303s. Murakami's body was taken to Lt. Whitehouse (ANGAU) at Cameron's house. He had died fully clothed: helmet, glasses, gloves, and overalls. There was a map on his body with a fanciful record of how he had landed in the sea and swam for two days. Murakami was buried with his feet towards Japan. It is regrettable his survival and determination had to end the way it did.

In recent years there has been considerable effort by certain individuals to locate, exhume and repatriate the remains of Japanese servicemen. However, it seems Murakami's family does not want to. The family refused to accept the photos recovered from his body. The photographs are of two beautiful women, one with a child, who they do not know.

In June 1943, Kiriwina, within range of Rabaul, became a busy air base for the Allies, with the arrival of many units of the U.S. Fifth Air Force. On 2<sup>nd</sup> August,



Steege about to fly P40 (Kittyhawk) . Note top of palm trees blown off.

1943, Gordon Steege moved from Goodenough air base with 73 Wing (76 Squadron P40s, 79 Squadron Spitfires, 114 Mobile Fighter Control Unit and support units, 77 Squadron remaining at Goodenough) onto the still under development south strip on Kiriwina. 75 Squadron, after a spell in Australia, later moved onto Goodenough (under command of Flight-Lieutenant Atherton) to be along with 77 there under command 73 Wing.

A Japanese photo reconnaissance aircraft- a high speed, high-flying "Dinah" (Mitsubishi) with two engines and a crew of two - was shot down off

Kitava by an RAAF Spitfire. Somehow the flag from that aircraft floated to the surface and was recovered. It is now on display at the Australian War Memorial.

Kitava is the only high island in the Trobriand group and an American radar station was established there to give warning on low- flying enemy aircraft. Lt. Fullenwider with his unit of about forty men of 11<sup>th</sup> Platoon, Company D, 565<sup>th</sup> Signal Air Warning Battalion, landed on Kitava on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1943. The main body landed from a LCT (landing craft tank) embarked from Kiriwina north jetty. To begin with, the Americans were quartered in Cameron's house.

A good well was dug in the vicinity of Cameron's house. Fullenwider recalls: "I had not given much thought to available water and we began to suffer from lack thereof. I called a chap from the mountains of North Carolina and told him what I

had in mind. I told him to get a forked stick and go find water. 'Ah don't know whar I can or not, Sah.' The chaps I sent with him were from New York City. When they came back I did not have to be told. 'Geez, Lieutenant. We saw it but we don't believe it!' An ample supply of good portable water was found, about six feet deep."

Although the roof of Cameron's house was sound, the weather was gradually rotting it away and the walls in and out were gone. Fullenwider found a photo of "a vevella sans grass skirt. I took it as I didn't want to debauch my younger troopers." The Trobriand culture of free love was well known through the published works of the Polish anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski. However, Fullenwider states that he saw no evidence of "Yank dalliance". "The only such that I knew of involved a coastwatcher and arguably the fairest lass I saw. When the result of this became evident, ANGAU packed her off to gaol in Kiriwina. There was a native who used to come into our camp who had a jaw eaten away with yaws. This had a better effect on celibacy than any sex-education lecture I could have given."

The engineer detachment was attached to Fullenwider. "I told them what I wanted done and where, the how was up to them. Four projects were done: a road blasted through the coral wall, construct a jetty and an air strip, and remove some trees at the radar site."

Gordon Saville, a sergeant in ANGAU, gives a graphic description of the road-blasting in his book *King of Kiriwina* (Cooper, London, 1974). "I was invited over to enjoy the fireworks, and lay beside the American Lieutenant as he set off a spectacular sequence of blasts up the hill. The explosions tossed clouds of dust and debris high into the air....The Allies on Kiriwina knew how vulnerable they were to attack and were extremely jumpy. Making bangs on Kitava without warning everybody was, therefore, a hazardous activity, and by an unlucky coincidence three RAAF Spitfires were flying near Kitava just as we began blasting. As they passed overhead, boom, up went the first charge; then, crata-boom cerump, the second, followed by about a dozen others. It made a lovely display. We just lay there with our hands over our ears, enjoying the bangs and not paying any attention to the fighters."

Saville continues: "But the pilots had no idea what was happening below, and radioed back to Kiriwina that they had been fired on from Kitava, presumably by a Japanese invasion force....We were climbing up the hill to see how much earth the blasting had shifted when there was roar of aircraft from the west, and a wing of bombers came over and began letting drop high explosives at random around the island...."

"We threw ourselves flat. Bombs fell all around us. I pressed my face into the ground and the blast of the explosions thumped the soil against my teeth and into my mouth. The American Lieutenant was screaming down his radio: 'For Christ's sake get a message to ground control at Kiriwina and tell those mad Air Force buggers that we are not Japanese.' The radio did not work; the radio never worked on Kiriwina when it was needed. Eventually the Beauforts ran out of bombs and left us. It was the nearest I came to being killed in the war," Saville claims, "But nobody was killed, and the bombs cleared far more of the jungle than the engineers' explosives had done."

Fullenwider's response is a polite speculation that Saville's story "Must have come from a long weekend at Lennons" (a hotel in Brisbane patronized by servicemen). In his email of 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2010, he writes: "Will relate blasting as I remember it."

I consider it a low-level event. Have had, in my younger days, experience in blasting. The Lieutenant in charge used minimum charges, as far as I am concerned. Had he used charges as Saville indicated, we would have had debris on the roof of Cameron's house; the distance wasn't all that far."

Air Commodore G. H. Steege, DSO DFC, retired, was 73 Wing Commanding Officer, being all RAAF units on Kiriwina, from 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1943 to March 1944. His email of 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2010, was not so restrained. "This bastard Gordon Saville is a bloody liar. Kitava was never bombed by "a wing of Beauforts" or even one Beaufort." He was incensed by the bombing lie. In a subsequent email, Steege says, 'I regret my lifelong friend Bob Fullenwider and I have only now been introduced to Saville. If we had seen his account when it was first marketed it would have been a pleasure to expose him."

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1943, Steege flew a Tiger Moth onto the tiny airstrip Fullenwider had cleared on Kitava, to meet him and see his radar unit. "To my embarrassment, after flying P40s [Kittyhawks], I came in too fast, overran the tiny strip into low scrub, burst a tyre and tore fabric under the lower mainplanes. With Bob and his men providing material and help, it took us all day to repair the tyre and sew up, patch and dope the fabric under the wings. In late afternoon, I just cleared the scrub on take-off for Kiriwina."

Kiriwina was briefly a strategically important airbase. Steege explained that "General G.C. Kenny (USA) went into Kiriwina and put 73 Wing there to develop the forward refueling base for P38s necessary to escort his growing force of B24s when he had enough for planned decisive strikes on the Japanese major base at Rabaul. In October 1943, one hundred P38s from mainland New Guinea landed on two strips on Kiriwina. They were refueled, the pilots given a coffee and sandwich beside their aircraft (Vegemite was thrown away!) by 73 Wing units and took off in one hour, to join with one hundred B24s overhead en route to Rabaul. After a couple of repeats of these concentrated strikes, and US South Pacific Naval Forces denying sea access to Rabaul, Japanese offensive capability from that huge base was neutralized and Rabaul isolated." Steege concluded: "Kiriwina was an essential element in these decisive strikes which were then switched to the Japanese base at Wewak on the mainland of New Guinea. MacArthur was then able to bypass Rabaul and go into the Admiralty Islands."

Fullenwider was transferred in November 1943, and his unit left soon after, early in 1944. In April of the same year, the Australian army spotters on Kitava were withdrawn. Stanton's entry for 7/4/44 stated: "The Japanese peril has passed, their job is done. A couple of men on a tiny island with a radio was a tough assignment....They did a good job...& they deserve much praise." In September 1944 the remaining Americans left Kiriwina.

Soon after the war ended, Cameron returned to Kitava. He restored his neglected plantation, rebuilt his house and lived there until his death in 1966. Jungle has reclaimed the airstrips and there is no trace of the jetty. The islanders, and occasionally westerners from cruise ships, walk up the road made by the Americans from the beach landing to Kumwagea village. And not far from the beach landing lie Murakami's remains. Murakami's grave will remain as a piece of history in that remote lovely island for a long time to come.

*Note: September 2010 marks 67 years since Lt-Col. Bob Fullenwider was posted to Kitava. He turned 95 in June. Gordon Steege will be 93 years in October. ■*

## MORE ABOUT THE KEREMA MOB by Neil Harvey

Ralph Sawyer ('The Kerema Mob' *Una Voce* December, 2009) was in Kerema much longer than I was, but his article reminded me of the six or so weeks I spent there in 1962.

I was there because of Arthur Carey – after all, he was the one who had brought in those thirty Kukukukus who had wiped out a whole village. The Supreme Court trial was scheduled to be held in Kerema before Mr Justice Rupert Ollerenshaw and I was the Judge's associate.

Just as Sir Hubert Murray had a near-death experience on the bar, so did the Judge. After the trial ended, we set out to return to Port Moresby in the way we had arrived, on the government vessel *Magila*. It was only the quick action of the judge's *haus boi*, John, in grabbing him, that saved him from being washed overboard.

During the trial, the judge stayed with the redoubtable John J Murphy in the DC's residence, as did I for the first couple of weeks. I then became the recipient of the hospitality of Arthur and Jean Carey in their house on the hill overlooking the school and the sports ground.

My main recollection of the trial was the time taken up (unavoidably) by the interpreters: the questions from the Crown Prosecutor, the Public Defender or the Judge, all in English, translated into Police Motu, then at least one other language and then back again. It was amazing how a short question grew in length as it went down the line and how a long answer could end up being just a 'no' or a 'yes'. Like Ralph, I remember the Kukukukus cutting the grass. I don't remember seeing Arthur on the football field, though I did play a couple of games myself. But I do remember a tall guy (a Cadet Patrol Officer, I think) playing on the wing and the 'oohs' from the crowd every time he was tackled. Could it have been Ralph?

Although the Crown Prosecutor and Public Defender somehow managed to organise their exit from Kerema by helicopter, the judge and I went by the *Magila* (part of the way) and then a much smaller vessel, the MV *Oamalara* to Kukipi and then by Cessna back to the capital. Four years later, after I had done my teacher training at ASOPA (1963-1964), my wife and I ended up in Rabaul, where I spent two years at Court Street Primary A School. One of my students was none other than Vivienne Carey, daughter of Arthur and Jean.

Thirty years later, Barbara and I had moved to Wangaratta, NE Victoria, where I was no longer a teacher, but a minister in the Presbyterian Church. One afternoon I was working in the manse front yard when a lady walking by stopped to chat. Having seen an article in the local newspaper which mentioned we had been in PNG, she asked if we knew Arthur and Jean Carey, to which I gave a positive answer. She then told me that Arthur and Jean's daughter, Vivienne, was living in Wangaratta. This lady was Vivienne's aunt. We made contact, of course. What *thrilled* me as a Presbyterian minister, was to discover that Vivienne had become a Christian. What *deflated* me as a teacher was for Vivienne to tell me that though I remembered her as a student in my class in Rabaul, she didn't remember me as her teacher. Vivienne still lives in Wangaratta, though her mother, Jean, died in September last year, 2009. ■

## **The Night Cinemascope Came to Kerema by Graham Egan**

Kerema, Maprik, Mt Hagen, Port Moresby, Rabaul and Goroka (1967-1981)

Every Monday I would post my freezer order to Steamships and then rejoice in the arrival of that order, by faithful “K” boat, the following Thursday week. Thus I marked the days of my life in Kerema in the late 1960s.

Tuesday was a good day too, as the TAA Otter brought the film, that would be screened at the Kerema Club on Friday night, from George Page in Port Moresby. If it was a good film, the anticipation could be felt all week, through all 70 of the expatriate community. If it was not much chop, never mind, we would be going anyway. If the Otter could not come, because bad weather closed the airstrip, spirits were down. TAA or STOL (small airline of single engined planes) willing, Friday's plane might bring a film to lighten the gloom. If not...oh well, never mind, we would be going anyway.

The club was the centre of expatriate life in Kerema. The only transport was by a 75 min plane trip from Moresby or a 3 day chug along the coast on one of the “K” boats-so named because their names all began with that letter. The wet season, from April to October was very wet and often closed the airstrip for days. This meant no mail, as well as no film. I could not say which was the greater calamity. There was radio, on the short wave service from the ABC, in Moresby. Television was, of course, a dream

I was teaching at Coronation High School, so called because it opened in the coronation year 1953. There were 20 teachers, 18 of whom were expatriates, mainly Australians, all under 40. There were several, like me, unmarried in our early 20s. We lived in each other's pockets and often found ourselves at the club, after work.

The films from George Page dated, I am sure, from the silent era, but every so often there would be a modern gem. The tropical climate often leached the colour from film, so many technicolour blockbusters were screened in a curious sepia tone. Never mind, we went to the Friday night flicks anyway.

So they could be viewed using a 16mm projector, with an ordinary lens, cinemascope films were reworked into a flat print. This meant that the ends were cropped and only the middle part, where most of the action was, ended up on the screen. Occasionally there would be a “pan and scan” where the image moved to where the actors were. You sometimes see this today, when wide screen films are shown on older television sets.

One day the club decided to update and invest in a cinemascope lens, so we could watch the very latest films in their wide screen glory. The great day arrived for the first showing of a cinemascope film. There was a working bee to paint the wall of the club white, as our old screen would clearly be inadequate for a wide screen wonder. We put on our best clothes and dress thongs for the great unveiling of our new lens.

We had ordered a cinemascope film for the big opening, but at George Page, someone must have thought we would be requiring the flat print of the film, as the Kerema Club would not have the required wide screen lens. But we did!

On the night, the unsuspecting projectionist, DDC Alan Jefferies, innocently threaded the film through the projector's intricate series of gates. Confusingly, a

flat print would often leave the opening credits in the wide screen mode, so that we could see all the details of the actors and indeed the name of the key grip and best boy, without any cropping. Using a conventional lens, the credits would appear in tall, squeezed letters. As soon as the credits were over, the film would revert to its flat print and the cropped, but properly proportioned image, would appear.

The film began and our fancy lens showed the credits in proper cinemascope. The newly painted wall was entirely filled with details of the stars and producer and director of the epic that was about to envelope us in a world of horizontal ecstasy.

Horror! As soon as the credits ended, the flat, cropped image appeared, but spread all over the wall, courtesy of our new lens. Everyone on screen was short and fat, twice as wide as they were tall. Squat heroes lumbered down stretched streets. Willowy women waddled widely, as if they had been pressed in a giant sandwich toaster. Buildings had no height, but were as wide as the outback.

There was pandemonium. Alan, Alan, we cried, it's the wrong print, put the old lens back on. But Alan was unmoved. It says cinemascope on the box, he protested. George Page got it wrong, we countered. But it was all in vain. Alan kept the film rolling and we watched as if we were viewing it through a letterbox. The ample beers and other drinks - one teacher was in love with crème de menthe - helped to get us through the evening. George Page was properly chastised and no such errors were made again. It was a disaster, but never mind, we went anyway. ■

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**Letter to the Editor** (Cont from page 8):

**Re the Badihagwa Colonial Cemetery**, in case John Norton doesn't have time to reply before your deadline.

'John's visit went well with audiences with Dame Carol Kidu, Dr. Temu, the Australian High Commissioner to PNG as well as the Governor of NCDC Mr Parkop and his deputy Miria Ikupu who is also Chairman of the Motu Koita Assembly. Dr Scragg, his wife Joy and son, Dr Robert Scragg were with us to help. We have now established that the Motu Koita Assembly has funds available for future maintenance of the cemetery and John is hopeful that the Australian High Commission will find funds to fence the area.

Meanwhile, the cemetery is being reasonably well looked after by Christine and Denis Elly whose great grandfather Ravini Taumaku sold most of the land for the 1947 extension of this cemetery. I gave them a whipper snipper a couple of months ago and that has made a huge difference.

If any more of your readers want photos of the graves of loved ones, they can contact me on email: [dougprop@daltron.com.pg](mailto:dougprop@daltron.com.pg). Please ask the relatives to enclose stories of the deceased. The children love hearing about the people they are looking after.

Best wishes to all from Moresby Rotarians'.

Janetta Douglas



## **BEATING the ODDS AT ASEKI by Ben Dannecker**

Following a telephone approach by a retired senior air safety journalist, the author was prompted to come forward and share this remarkable tale of survival in an aviation incident that occurred in the pre-independence Territory of Papua New Guinea (TPNG) more than forty years ago.

### **Setting the stage**

Operating into and out of short, one-way, steeply sloped mountain airstrips at maximum aircraft weight in tropical Papua New Guinea, is definitely not for the faint-hearted. In fact such activity could only be termed as high risk flying, evidenced by the inordinate amount of PNG air accidents and incidents, many of which were fatal. Papua New Guinea weather is notorious for unexpected changes such as rapid cloud buildup (cumulus granitus in local parlance) and anytime after mid-morning one can expect cloud and rain to develop in many areas. It was often possible to be caught between two layers of cloud with nothing to go on for navigation other than deduced reckoning.

Due to the circumstances described here, I came very close to meeting my maker on a hot February day back in 1970 during flying operations between Wau and Aseki, one of several close calls during my New Guinea days. Sadly, a number of my contemporary pilot colleagues didn't make it from missed approaches or closing weather, being swallowed up by the jungle or the sea, and we regularly flew DCA-sponsored searches for lost aircraft.

### **Definitions**

#### **Missed approach:**

Overshoot manoeuvre initiated whilst still airborne on approach to land.

#### **Go-around:**

Rolling after landing and then subsequently electing to take off again due to unforeseen circumstances.

#### **Touch and go:**

Pre-planned practice manoeuvre of taking off again immediately after landing.

Airstrip data, airstrip diagram & U206D data will appear with this article on the PNGAA website.

### **Background**

I was based at Lae, New Guinea, flying passenger and freight charters with Macair, having already logged about 200 hours on the company's new, less than a year old Beech Bonanza 36, VH-MKF. This was the only commercial Bonanza working in TPNG, and was duly replaced at year's end by the ubiquitous and eminently more suitable Cessna 206.

On this occasion, Wednesday 25th February, I was flying a brand new, three month old Cessna U206D, VH-MKG on a planned series of shuttles between Wau and Aseki in the Morobe District - freezer goods and general cargo including drums of diesel fuel into Aseki and then a backload of coffee bags to Wau, for onward road transport to Lae.

I was en-route again from Wau sometime after lunch on my fourth shuttle that day, about half of the scheduled trips, being the first with no forward load. About two-thirds along the way to Aseki, picking my way below the clouds and rain, the



weather deteriorated to the point where I would be unable to return to Wau. I was now committed to proceed to Aseki.

### **The Approach**

The approach into Aseki for Runway 34 was commenced under cloud from between two cliff walls, which form the opening of a dead end canyon, giving about half a kilometre width, known locally as “the gate” and there was blue-black cloud below the hilltops and driving rain everywhere.

Upon lining up for a straight-in landing on Runway 34, I noticed that the Aseki weather was clearing and that an aircraft (Aztec) was already parked there at the top of the strip at right angles, as is customary for such mountain landing grounds. On short finals I noted that a strong tailwind was present with the strip completely soaked by the rainstorm just passed.

### **The Go-around**

What immediately got my attention on touchdown was the fact that the aircraft was aquaplaning with no apparent means of slowing down, and the Aztec was looming closer. Remaining completely focussed, I instantly elected to go around as I didn't want to write off two aircraft at the same time.

After applying maximum power with pitch and throttle controls fully forward, I reselected the electric flap switch back to the take-off position and then concentrated on flying out of the situation in which I now found myself, retrimming as required.

Aseki Runway 34 has two earth mounds at the field boundaries, each I believe 12-metres high, one on the left side and one at the far end, from the excavation of the landing area. After I managed to just clear the left mound in a climbing turn, I immediately lowered the nose and dived into a gully running broadly parallel to the strip. Picking up speed I managed to stabilise control of the aircraft and flew out of danger to make another approach.

### **Second time lucky**

This time I touched down right at the end, using full flap, high power and very low speed for the precautionary landing. The strip was soggy but there was no aquaplaning, allowing me to come to a normal halt at the top of the strip, parking behind the Aztec VH-SIL.

Oddly enough, there was no one there, as everyone had run over to the gully to rescue me from the presumed wreckage. A missionary came up in the meantime with a welcome cup of tea and a biscuit. In the excitement, I forgot to cancel SAR, but the Aztec pilot did so for me on his departure later that afternoon.

### **Analysis**

This almost impossible uphill go-around on a “hot and high” rough bush airstrip was achieved solely due to three crucial factors:

1. The aircraft was very light at minimum weight, with the sole occupant being the pilot.
2. The brand new Cessna U206D was fitted with a 300 h.p. 6-cylinder fuel-injected Continental IO-520F engine and 2-bladed Hartzell propeller, giving 2,850 r.p.m. for take-off, resulting in an optimum power to weight ratio, even at high density altitude.

3. Whilst still carrying close to flying speed during the aquaplaning event, the pilot applied full power and selected take-off flap, retrimming the attitude as required, reducing drag to a minimum.

Therefore, by a massive stroke of luck and some swift airmanship, all the required factors came together at the precise time, permitting me to live to tell the tale forty years on.

Suffice to say that, had the other aircraft not been parked at the top of the strip, I may well have elected to continue with the landing and may possibly have managed to stop just short of colliding with the embankment. However, after an interval of forty years this could now perhaps only be viewed as conjecture.

Upon my return to Macair's Lae base the next day, a few beers with pilot colleagues at the local Aero Club went down very well!

### **Aftermath**

Aseki village and airstrip is situated in the notorious Kukukuku tribal area, known for its fierce headhunting reputation. After landing successfully, a government patrol officer came up and asked me if I wanted to see the famous Aseki burial caves with mummified bodies, high up a cliff face accessed via a narrow path. On arrival there, we saw about half a dozen such bodies in makeshift chairs or standing against the wall, all supported by wooden staves. Quite a change from what I had just experienced!

The following month on 18<sup>th</sup> March, again in VH-MKG, I flew two loads of live Bird of Paradise specimens in cages from Konge to Lae, to be transhipped onto a Territory Airlines Cessna 402 for the Baiyer River Sanctuary. Konge was a one-way strip located along the side of a high cliff wall in the Indagen Valley, with ever-present unpredictable wind shifts to contend with. However, a missed approach was a simple exercise, just turn slightly left and drop into the valley for another go! Take-off was even simpler, as one had instant altitude as soon as you fell off the end of the strip!

Trip 1 was uneventful, tracking almost straight back to Lae, visually avoiding any high ground. Departing Konge on Trip 2, whilst still in the valley, rapid cloud buildup caught me unaware, requiring a climb up through the murk, breaking clear at around 11,000 ft. Visually noting the higher peaks poking out of the blanket of cloud coupled with our DR position, we then found a hole near the north coast of the Huon Peninsular, allowing us to descend safely and thereby enabling us to track under the cloud back along the coast via Finschafen to Lae.

Sadly the Turbo-Aztec "C" model VH-SIL, was later involved in a fatal accident departing from Nadzab when a wing burned off in flight following a fire in the turbocharger.

[Note: This article will appear with diagrams on our website]

### **Postscript**

If anyone out there has details and images (lo-res at this stage) of aviation occurrences in Papua New Guinea similar to that described here, successful or otherwise, the author would be glad to receive same by email, to be incorporated in a proposed follow-up article. Many thanks.

Ben Dannecker

email: [berlintram@yahoo.com.au](mailto:berlintram@yahoo.com.au)

**HRH Charles – Prince of Wales attends Independence Week  
Celebrations – Daru – Western Province  
19 September, 1975 by Rod Morrison**

No stone was left unturned to insure the above visit, three days after Independence Day, would be a success.

No vehicles were considered up to the task on Daru, so vehicles were sent from Port Moresby. Local police were assigned security tasks, which included checking 'live aboard canoe homes' on the foreshore for limpet mines.

Prince Charles' aircraft duly arrived at the airport, where the official party were ushered into the imported vehicles for the short trip to the Daru township.

With security at a premium, the convoy was brought to an abrupt halt by a tractor pulling a large trailer cutting in front of the vehicles from a side track. Roads were not particularly wide and in some places it was impossible to overtake, due to the huge 'barats' on either side of the road.

So the motorcade proceeded at a subdued speed behind the tractor and trailer (aka Daru's night cart which was returning from unloading its cargo at the sewerage works). The convoy duly arrived at the soccer ground for the ceremony and HRH was escorted to the presentation area.

There were numerous speeches and HRH made his Independence Speech. He duly presented an official with a medal and I'm not sure who upstaged who, when the speech in reply came after HRH had presented the medal.

The Provincial Official who was a noted quadlinguist, commenced his reply with these amazing opening words: 'I can remember from the time before I was born.' This was his classic opener; he then proceeded into *tok ples*, Motu and Pidgin, interspersed with any of the four languages in no order.

HRH was then asked to return to the presentation area where with due pomp and ceremony he had a dog tooth necklace placed around his neck.

HRH when he commenced his speech on arrival gave the background of being to numerous Independence Celebrations throughout the British Commonwealth, representing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and proceeded to relate some interesting anecdotes regarding some of the local presentations made to him, which were of nefarious odours and origin.

Had there been a debate adjudicator, I believe the local official on receiving his 'Order of whatever', and the sensational 'I can remember from the time before I was born' opener would have just pipped HRH's anecdotes.

HRH safely exited Daru by air after no further security problems from the 'night cart'.

## THE 59th ANNUAL REPORT - 2 MAY 2010 by Nancy Johnston

See *Una Voce* No. 2 June 2010 - page 54

I read with interest the President's Annual Report as presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting on 2 May 2010; and I would like to make some comments.

*Extract: "It has become clear to the Management Committee that there is a need to secure administrative assistance particularly in the areas of bookkeeping, sales of items and payment for functions, banking and updating membership records. In the past volunteer members have seen to these matters, but as volunteers age they are less willing or able to undertake these duties and younger members do not have the time. "Therefore we have engaged a secretarial service to assist us. The Management Committee believes this will be a real benefit to the good management of the Association."* I was surprised that the present committee members have found it necessary to out-source various duties previously done by members of the committee. This decision is likely to be an expensive financial commitment that could entail a potential annual running cost of hundreds, possibly thousands, of dollars, thus drastically depleting the limited funds the present committee inherited. It should be kept in mind the commitment already made by the previous Management Committee when, after lengthy enquiries and no alternative found, the members made a necessary, albeit, expensive decision, for storage space at the cost of \$2,167.70 p.a. These commitments will be a continuing drain on the PNGAA's limited funds. Before the committee took the step to out-source the various duties, I wonder if consideration was given to seek verbally or, through *Una Voce*, volunteers from the general membership, to undertake the various tasks on a voluntary basis? Once upon a time, by accepting a place on the Management Committee, it was an obligation and, therefore, the members found, or made, the time to fulfil the duties allotted to them.

- *"and younger members do not have the time."* If this is so, why did they nominate? It will be of interest to know, as time goes by, how these two continuing costs will be funded. If the membership subscription increases again, there will be consequences, because some members are already commenting about the recent increase as well as the price of the lunches at the Killara Golf Club. These expenses could be responsible for a further decrease in membership. The cracks are evident, the claimed membership total as shown on the introductory page of the PNGAA website. *"the Association's membership has expanded into a global network of more than 1600 members,"* is questionable, a check ought to be made and, if necessary, this total should be corrected. A drop in interest was evident at what was possibly the lowest attendance ever, at the AG M on 2 May 2010.

I would also like to comment on the following: *"In the past volunteer members have seen to these matters, but as volunteers age they are less willing or able to undertake these duties and younger members do not have the time."* Less willing? Perhaps an unintended comment. It is a wrong, unfair and misleading comment. Some senior members are still capable and they still contribute, as they have done for decades. Their commitment was recently evidenced when, in excessive wet weather, they turned up for two days to carry out a duty that is, to dispatch *Una Voce*. The 'Concluding Thanks' in the Annual Report extended no acknowledgement to the senior members who, also, have held the Association together for many years and they still continue to do so. To mention some: Helen and Ian Reardon, Marie Day, Frank Smith, Pamela Foley, Joe Nitsche, Harry West, Nancy Johnston and when able to, our Patron, Freddie Kaad, OBE. ■

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

**John Roger McALPINE** (2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010, aged 79)

John was born in Sydney and spent most of his early childhood in Artarmon, Lane Cove, Manly and Brighton-le-Sands. While at Manly Public School he won a scholarship to Knox Grammar Lower School and moved on through Knox Grammar, finishing at age 17. He studied for a period at Sydney University, later worked as a journalist and as a labourer in an iron foundry. However, the lure of 'The Territory of Papua and New Guinea' was too strong to resist.

Following training at the Australian School of Pacific Administration he was posted to Lumi Patrol Post in December 1951 but in March 1952 was evacuated to Sydney suffering from cerebral malaria. He returned to PNG in July 1952 and was posted to Saidor Sub-District, later to Madang District HQ and to Bougainville early in 1954. He was based at Sohano and Wakunai until he resigned late in 1956. A brief search of the PNG Archives yielded 980 pages of records from the many patrols he made as a Kiap.

John won a position with CSIRO Land Resource and Regional Survey Division as a Transport and Logistics Officer for surveys in PNG. He pursued part time studies at ANU, graduating with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours, was promoted to Experimentalist, then Research Scientist and retired while at the level of Principal Research Scientist. John's work as a member of the CSIRO survey team that carried out 15 regional surveys in PNG and later as leader of the PNGRIS development group was described in two recent articles in *Una Voce*. He wrote extensively about the natural resources of PNG, including several books which are standard references for PNG university students. His legacy of work in natural resource management and development planning in PNG will live on for the foreseeable future.

John died peacefully at his home in Toowong, Brisbane. His family, friends and colleagues from all over Australia came together at Centenary Memorial Gardens on 5<sup>th</sup> March for his funeral service. He is survived by his wife Gael, children Paula, Megan and Ian and grandchildren Hayden, Amy, Harry and Charlie.

*David Freyne*

**Mary Anne Biddulph (Harper)** (30 April 2010, aged 83 years) Fran Biddulph

**Lucy Martha REID** (9 February 2010, aged 86 years)

Lucy was born in Victoria obtaining her dietetic qualifications at the Gordon Institute of Technology in Geelong. Her thesis 'The Food Fairies' was published by the Red Cross. In 1948 she visited PNG and started work there in 1950 as the first dietician in PNG. She helped to set up 'women's groups' where information was shared and education on how to overcome or minimize the nutritional deficiencies was provided. In 1957 she worked with Dr Carleton Gajdusek, Dr Vince Zigas and Jack Baker (patrol officer) in the Fore country of PNG trying to identify the cause of Kuru. In 1976 she attended Dr Gajdusek's post Nobel Prize conference in New York. She married Jack Reid in 1957 and settled in Lae, then on a farm in the Markham Valley. She raised two children, Michelle and Jeanette and later enjoyed three grandchildren. She retired to Queensland. In 2007 she was invited to speak at a conference at the Royal Society in London on her work with Kuru. In 2008 she was honoured by the Dietitians Association of Australia for her contribution to the profession.

*Lady Barbara Jephcott*

**Madge Constant (Brownie) ORMSBY** (5 June 2010, aged 86 years)

Madge was born in Gawler, where she attended school and eventually began her general nursing training, graduating in 1947. She completed her Midwifery Certificate and would fly to collect patients in labour, in what was a precursor to the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Numerous postings both in the country, city and England, gaining experience and qualifications, eventually led her to Port Moresby – 12/5/1957, where she stayed for some 15 years.

In addition to travelling throughout the country using general, midwifery and children's nursing skills, she was privileged to be a member of the Girl Guide Movement training Papuan, New Guinean and Chinese girls and finishing up as Deputy Territory Commissioner.

Madge married Ralph Ormsby, who was a Magistrate at Madang. He had been a Mounted Trooper in NSW and served in the Australian Army in PNG during World War II. Held in high regard by both the Papua New Guineans and European Administration alike, they travelled extensively, with the towns of Wau, Madang, Lae and Rabaul being fondly remembered. When Ralph retired they moved to Queensland, but because of his ill health, then returned to her birth state - South Australia, where he died in 1974. Madge travelled the world in the coming years catching up and staying with many of the friends and patients she met along the way. For those fortunate enough to have known her, they would have experienced what a wonderful, generous, humorous and somewhat eccentric lady she was.

Madge was buried with her beloved Ralph at Centennial Park Cemetery,  
Pasadena, South Australia.

Louise Forgie-Wendt

**Heini FAAST** (29 March 2010) – no further details

**Ronald FOCKEN** (14 June 2010, aged 72 years)

Ron was born on 8 July 1937 to Frederick John William Focken and Frances Beatrice Focken. He was raised in Bowral, then a small country town in the 1940s/50s. He joined the Papua New Guinea administration in February 1956 aged 18 as a Cadet Patrol Officer. Following a short induction course at the Australian School of Pacific Administration, Sydney, the 30 plus cadets flew by slow-motion in a DC3 aircraft to Brisbane to board the Queenslanders, thence to Port Moresby, arriving soon after sunrise.

First posting was to Madang HQ for six months, followed by postings to BOGIA and later AIOME as Officer in Charge replacing Patrol Officer Brian McBride. Ron spoke of his fond memories of Assistant District Officer Bill Johnston and wife Nancy at BOGIA and Brian during the AIOME handover.

In 1958 he completed the ASOPA Long Course (with assistance of the nearby Buena Vista oasis.) Next posting was to Milne Bay District, as Officer in Charge KONEMAIAVA Patrol Post (Suau Coast) during 1959-61.

Pleasant and very interesting additions to Konemaiaava's patrolling program, during this period, were WOODLARK ISLAND, LAUGHLIN, ALCESTER, EGUM GROUP and the MARSHALL-BENNETTS. Even more pleasant was a four month temporary (and unexpected) posting to LOSUIA, Trobriand Islands in early 1960 as OIC (requiring the temporary closure of Konemaiaava.)

Next posting was to the Southern Highlands District where duties were undertaken at MENDI HQ, KOROBA and as Officer in Charge KOMO and Officer in Charge NIPA during 1961-65. Assistant District Officer Neil

Dessailley's early advice and knowledge concerning HURI people and culture were much appreciated during subsequent duties at Koroba/Komo.

Later postings were to Wewak and Goroka. Ron's final year was at Port Moresby with the Administrator's Department (1969) before 'going south' in early 1970 to reside in Canberra where he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Australian National University and joined the Commonwealth Public Service.

Ron is survived by five daughters – Susanne, Alison, Julia, Alexandra and Annabel. Two brothers Alan and Gerald reside in Tasmania and Melbourne respectively. Ron reckons that he lost more sweat in Canberra contributing to the upbringing of five daughters than all the 'hills and dales' the PNG bush could throw at him, and that later he wore out many brooms sweeping would-be suitors off the front porch! (EM TASOL MASTA)

**Graham Robert HAMILTON** (1st July 2010, aged 64 years)

Graham was born and educated in the coal mining city of Cessnock NSW. He obtained his Leaving Certificate in 1963 and after 6 months working in the local Commonwealth Bank, he applied for, was interviewed by Bill Seale, and accepted as a Cadet Patrol Officer in May 1964. With 29 other CPOs Graham arrived in Port Moresby in June and was posted to Milne Bay District. He loved the work patrolling nearly every village in the Raba Raba Sub District and reconstructing the Agaun airstrip, all under the guidance of Ross Johnson. Later postings included Rabaul, Lassul Bay, Yangoru (Sepik) and Wewak.

It was in Yangoru in 1969 that Graham met his wife, a mission teacher, and before the end of the year they were married in Sydney. They returned to Wewak where Graham was appointed a/ADO Lands and patrolled along the Sepik River and the outlying Islands.

Returning to Australia they moved to Canberra working in the Public thence Private sectors for a number of years. Both daughters Kelly and Katherine were born in Canberra.

In 1974 the family moved to Newcastle where Graham worked in the insurance industry. He set up his own brokerage in 1978 and worked with his wife until it was sold in 2005 due to ill health. Graham loved his golf and played until he could no longer enjoy it. He worked as a volunteer at the Hunter Region Botanical Gardens every Tuesday for 4 years with his beloved orchids

Graham battled cancer from 1993, but 2008-2010 proved too much. A melanoma spread and infected his liver. In early 2010 Graham & Lisa successfully set up the Hunter Region Melanoma Patients Support Group for men & women suffering from the terrible disease.

Graham deeply desired to walk the track of the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, when they attempted the escape from Rabaul, through some of the area he knew well in the Bainings however illness always deferred the walk. Graham and Lisa returned to Rabaul in 1999 and again in 2010, loving every minute of time there. Graham is survived by wife Lisa and daughters Kelly & Katherine.

Lisa Hamilton

We hope to have further details next issue:

**Robin Sydney McKAY** (7 August 2010, aged 93 years)

**Bob CURTIS** (20 July 2010, aged 77 years)

**Madge BLANDEN** (26 July 2010, aged 103 years)

SMH



**JOHN COAD (CANNON)** (15 May 2010 aged 73 years)

John was born in Tenterfield in 1937 and went to PNG as a Cadet Patrol Officer in January 1960. Before he left he had met his future wife Eileen. In 1962, after a period in the Sepik District, he attended the Long Course at ASOPA. What few of us knew then about this quiet gentle young man was that he had spent most of his childhood in various orphanages.

At fourteen John was invited to travel from the orphanage in Goulburn to spend a holiday with Mr Lew Coad, an organist at St Francis church in central Melbourne. Once they turned sixteen the boys were sent out as farm hands so John was allowed to stay in Melbourne and he was legally adopted taking the name Coad. He had been told he had no living relatives.

In January 1963, John married Eileen who was Margaret O'Connor's cousin. (Margaret was a CEO at ASOPA in 1961-62.) They were posted to the Trobriand Islands and their first child, Paul, was born at Samarai followed by Stephen. Goroka residents at this time may remember an airline charter to the Trobriands where everybody stayed with the Coads. At the end of 1966 while stationed in the Eastern Highlands John and Eileen decided to return to Melbourne and settled in Strathmore. This became home for all of the boys who now included Greg, Shaun and Glenn.

Having had no family life as a child John absolutely loved his wife and children. They were his life and holidays revolved around them particularly camping holidays. Eventually, in 1981, he was able to find and meet his mother. She had married an American serviceman and moved there. John then met up with numerous other relatives and he decided to return to his birth name of Cannon. His adoptive father had died previously. John later discovered he had close relatives of his father living in Melbourne and was able to develop a great relationship with them as well.

In 2001 while John and Eileen were travelling around Australia the first symptoms of Dementia appeared and he was diagnosed at 64. For several years he was able to continue with his hobbies which included reading, genealogy and golf but slowly life became more confusing.

John also adored his 5 grandchildren who were all boys and he will have two more grandchildren due in September this year. He had several close friends who, together with his sons, continued to visit him weekly throughout his illness.

John was in permanent care when he passed away peacefully on Saturday May 15 this year. His greatest legacy must be the love that he gave his family and friends, and which was returned in equal measure. Gaye Speldewinde

**Bruce Anthony FLYNN** (28 June 2010, aged 79 years)

In 1954 Bruce was seconded from Tooths Brewery in Sydney to work for three years as a brewer in the South Pacific Brewery, Badili. He stayed at SP for 36 years, becoming general manager in 1973 and continuing as a director until 1995. He served as a diplomatic honorary consul for Finland from 1977 to 1988 and was a long-time supporter of Mother Teresa's nuns at Badili. After arriving in PNG Bruce was made captain/coach of the Magani Badili Rugby League Club in Port Moresby and the team won several premierships. He also captained the Papua side winning many of their clashes against New Guinea. Bruce was actively involved in many commercial and charitable enterprises and awarded

an OBE by the Queen for his services to industry, sports and community in PNG. He was President of the Employers Federation, president of the Manufacturers Council, president and life member of PNG Sports Federation, president and Paul Harris Fellow of Port Moresby Rotary, president and life member of the Papua Club, president and life member of PNG and POM Rugby League Football Associations, president, captain, coach and life member of Magani RL club, deputy chairman of the Investment Corporation, deputy chairman of the then PNG Banking Corporation (forerunner of the BSP) and PNG Elcom, director of BSP and director of Divine Word Publishing.

*Info from Post Courier 30 June 2010*

**William [Bill] John WHITE** [4 February 2010, aged 69 years]

William [Bill] John White was born in London in January 1941, emigrated to Melbourne in 1961 and, during the first six months of 1962, successfully completed the E Course at Malaguna Teachers' College, Rabaul.

Starting at the young age of 21, Bill was appointed as Headmaster of various Primary T Schools during the years 1962 to 1969. His first posting was to Dangsai, Kar Kar Island, in the Madang District. After a short appointment in remote Brahim, Bill returned to Kar Kar Island, this time to Kavailo.

In 1966, Bill married Teresa in Madang, was posted to Bogia for that year and then to Taleng, Kar Kar Island until 1969. During that time, Bill was appointed by Nick Bricknell, Madang District Education Officer, to co-ordinate the building of the first High School on Kar Kar Island, which was successfully completed in readiness for the start of the 1969 school year.

From 1970 to 1979, Bill was appointed as Senior Lecturer at the Port Moresby and Madang Teachers' Colleges, during which he ran Headmaster training courses; and, finally, as the Executive Officer responsible for Executive Development, PNG Department of Education, Konedobu.

After 17 years of dedicated service in PNG, Bill was employed from 1979 to 2004 by the Catholic Education Office, Archdiocese of Sydney as Co-ordinator of Multicultural and ESL Education, and later as Principal at St Mel's Catholic Primary School, Campsie. Bill was an outstanding educator, who inspired hundreds of students and teachers both in PNG and in Sydney and continues to do so.

Bill is deeply missed by his wife, Teresa, his three children, Sean, Jamie and Rachel, six grandchildren and all his family and friends. Bill was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend, who lifted our spirits with his smile and his special sense of humour. May his strength and courage live on in us all.

*"Dance as if no-one were watching. Sing as if no-one were listening.  
Live every day as if it were your last. Smile when you think of me."*

Teresa White

**Sir Brian BELL** (25 July 2010, aged 82 years)

Sir Brian travelled to Port Moresby in 1954 from his home town of Chinchilla in Queensland, where he had worked as a pharmacist. He opened his first shop on Port Moresby's Ela Beach in 1958 selling guns, hardware and paint after working in government's bulk medical store. Sir Brian remained there over 55 years, becoming one of the best known businessmen in PNG employing over 1300 staff in

35 stores and agencies specialising in white goods. He owned a substantial property portfolio. He said: "There was no tax then, and the phones were free. There was no public transport, just old jeeps." He soon took over the Hoover agency from Burns Philp.

He offered consumer credit with considerable success, and without charging 'the usurious rates of some PNG money-lenders'. He originally sourced 80 per cent of his goods from Australia but in more recent times more than 90 per cent came from Asia, mainly from China. Sir Brian remained chairman of Port Moresby General Hospital board until he died. He was a committed Anglican. He was well known for his philanthropy and provided many scholarships to young people. His wife, Jeannie, died in 1992.

Excerpts from Rowan Callick's article in the Australian 27 July 2010

**Colin Liddle** (27 May 2010 aged 82 years)

Colin started out as a cadet in Buka Patrol Post. Bob Cole was the ADC at the time. He served his Cadetship there until 1951 from whence he went to ASOPA on a two year Course which he passed without repeating exams.

He married Eileen Nestor and they were stationed in Finschafen until October when Colin was transferred to Rabaul to begin his career in the Local Government Training Centre at Vunadadir about 17 miles from Rabaul over a very rough road. He built the trainees quarters as well as the Training Centre while carrying on the duties of ADC in the Vunadadir/Toma/NangaNanga Sub District. After long service leave Colin was posted to Mt. Hagen where he was the Local Government Officer for the Highlands Region. He inaugurated the Mt. Hagen, Goroka and Mendi Councils as well as several smaller Councils.

He also spent some more time in Bougainville, on Buka Island, where he was sent to control the Hahalis Welfare Society and to establish the Buka Council.

Colin was sent to Rabaul to deal with the Mataungans many of whom were his friends. He was then posted to Port Moresby and became Town Clerk. After Independence in 1975 he resigned and returned to Australia where he became CEO of the Waterways Commission and Swan River Management Authority, retiring in 1990. He is survived by Eileen and four successful sons.

Eileen Liddle

**Jack Lusby BURNS** (20 July 2010, aged 92 years)

Jack survived one of the great tragedies of the Pacific war, as well as the horrors of being a prisoner-of-war in Japan. He volunteered for the AIF in 1939 and was selected for one of the first commando units and promoted rapidly to lieutenant. In July 1941 he embarked with No. 1 Independent Company for Kavieng, New Ireland. After the Japanese attack, Burns's last job was to blow up 84,550 litres of fuel, before escaping with his company on an 80-tonne schooner. They were soon sunk by a Japanese float plane and he was then picked up by a destroyer and became a POW. Separating the officers and nurses from the non-commissioned troops and civilians saved Burns's life: an American submarine sank the *Montevideo Maru* and more than 1000 Australian soldiers and civilians lost their lives. Burns left Rabaul on the *Naruto Maru* that went first to Yokahama, then to Zentsuji on Shikoku Island, where he stayed for the next years. The POWs only had the clothes they had worn in tropical Kavieng. They made wooden clogs to protect their feet. They were starved and many men froze in the winter. Burns had his teeth knocked out by a guard. The day the Japanese surrendered, American aircraft dropped

goodies in 40-gallon drums and Burns scoffed an eight ounce stick of Hershey chocolate making him so sick he couldn't eat for two days. When Burns arrived in Manila on his way home he had shrunk to 43 kilograms. After arriving back home in Melbourne Burns worked in an accounting firm and in 1946 married Leline Staley. He eventually became managing partner in the accounting firm and enjoyed a daily cross-word and bridge. He is survived by his wife Leline, children Andrew, Robert and Deborah and five grandchildren.

*Source: 'Figures fell into place in harsh lottery of war' by Keith Dunstan, The Age, 6 August 2010*

### **Jack O'SHEA 1923-2010**

Jack O'Shea was born in New Zealand in 1923, but lived in Sydney from the aged of 10. He joined the RAAF in 1941 and served for four years. Notably, with 462/466 heavy bomber squadron, he participated as a bomb-aimer in a remarkable 39 raids; in mid 1944, including the D-Day invasion of Europe and Germany's heavily defended Ruhr Valley.

On discharge from the RAAF he studied law and in 1953 became a government legal officer in PNG. He lived in Port Moresby and Lae, but his duties took him to all parts of PNG. He was involved with many community activities, notably rugby league and golf and, for a time, was President of the Lae Golf Club.

He was Chief Commissioner of the Lands Titles Commission when he left PNG in 1973. Back in Australia he maintained his interest in PNG and his colleagues and he became a prominent member of our association. Over many years he continuously and gratuitously provided legal and general advice to the PNGAA which assisted greatly in its progress and development.

Information supplied by Jack's daughter, Gwenneth O'Shea

We hope to have further details next issue:

**Robert (Bob) Douglas DUNLOP** (4 August 2010 aged 67 years)

Husband of Margaret Dunlop nee Seale

**(William) Paul RYAN OBE** (13 August 2010, aged 78 years)

### **Daphne Alice NUNN** (19 April 2010, aged 79 years)

Daphne was born and grew up in Rockhampton where she met her husband Arnold Nunn through her brothers. Arnold returned to New Guinea in 1949 after his RAAF service in WWII to work in the Dept of Works and Housing. Daphne and Arnold were married in August 1951 and went to Rabaul to live. Arnold worked for Bluey Hales in his furniture factory and eventually rented the factory from him for five years. Daphne worked as a pre-school teacher in Malaguna Road, St Georges Avenue and also at the Chinese pre-school. Later, Daphne's parents, Alice and Tom Franklin, visited Rabaul, staying two years! Arnold built a new workshop with Jack Casey and moved the business to Malaguna Road near Tunnel Hill. The furniture factory was called 'Nunn and Casey'. It eventually became the first business to be owned by Papua New Guineans who named it 'Palnamadaka Furniture and Joinery Works'. Daphne and Arnold had two children, David born 1955 and Susan born 1957. They attended Court Street Primary School. Daphne and the children returned to Australia after 18 years in Rabaul. Arnold remained there to control and teach the local people business methods. Arnold had a good rapport with the New Guineans, spending 25 years there in total. Daphne, although she had never experienced signs of heart trouble, passed away suddenly with a massive heart attack. She is survived by Arnold, David and Susan and six grandchildren.

Arnold Nunn

## WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

NAME	SNAME	ADDRESS	SUBURB	STATE	PCODE
Imelda	AWINE-CLARIDGE	89 Railway Terrace	ASCOT PARK	SA	5043
John	Banbury	1/49 Hind Avenue	FORSTER	NSW	2428
John	BARRETT	Address withheld by request			
Wayne	BIENVENU	2/9 Maude Street	SHEPPARTON	VIC	3630
Richard	BROOMHEAD	PO Box 3457	HERMIT PARK	QLD	4812
Rosemary	BROWN	"Salamo", 6 Woodlawn Dve	BUDGEWOI	NSW	2262
Margaret	CLARKE	Address withheld by request			
John	CLEZY	5 Rugby Street	COLLEGE PARK	SA	5069
Harry	COEHN	8/15 Lakes Crescent	MARRARA	NT	0812
Austen	CRAPP ofm	58 Veales Rd	DEERAGAN	QLD	4818
Sebastian	de BRENNAN	2/35 Military Road	NEUTRAL BAY	NSW	2089
Edward	DeCARBO	Apt. 1A, 415 W. 55 Street	NEW YORK NY 10019	USA	
Jane	DOYLE	18 Ruskin Rowe	AVALON	NSW	2107
Dick	DUNBAR-REID	Address withheld			
Sandy	GILLILAND	127 Kenmore Road	KENMORE	QLD	4069
May	GOMEZ	6 Amor Street	ASQUITH	NSW	2077
Des	HOBAN	46 Lytham Street	INDOOROOPIILLY	QLD	4068
Geoffrey	HOGBIN	PO Box 1489	NORTH SYDNEY	NSW	2059
John	HOLLAND	62 Formigoni Street	RICHLANDS	QLD	4077
David	HULL	12 Strehlow Place	FLYNN	ACT	2615
John	JOHNSTON	PO Box 12757,	George Street	QLD	4003
Robyn	KNIGHTS	31 Stanley Street ST THOMAS, ONTARIO, N5R 3E7	CANADA		
Christine	LEONARD	63 Gaunt Street	NEWMARKET	QLD	4051
Gael	McALPINE	PO Box 1074	TOOWONG	QLD	4066
John	MORRISON	Simbai Anglican Vocational Centre c/- PO Box 747	MADANG, MADANG PROVINCE	PNG	
Maurie	MORRISSON	PO Box 388	GORDONVALE	QLD	4865
Jan	MUSCIO	144 Campbellfield Avenue	BRADBURY	NSW	2560
John	NILAN	161 Hinkler Drive	WORONGARY	QLD	4213
Mike	OWNER	1429 Dayboro Road	RUSH CREEK	QLD	4521
Rosemary	PETERSWALD	PO Box 539	TRINITY BEACH	QLD	4879
Graham	WATTS	PO Box 37404	WINNELLIE	NT	0821
Teresa	WHITE	Address withheld by request			
Ian	WHYTE	15-19 Southern Drive	MIDWAY POINT	TAS	7171
Colin	YOUNG	14 Kingsview Drive	FLAXTON	QLD	4560

### *The following members were inadvertently omitted from the June 2010 Membership list*

Mr G Bamford	PO Box 262 SUMMERTOWN SA 5141
Mr R Blaikie	PO Box 362, MT GRAVATT, QLD 4122
Mr A Cadden	12/55 College St DRUMMOYNE NSW 2047
Mrs L Cadden	2/6 Alan Street, CAMMERAY, NSW 2062
Mr M Cockburn	33 Newlop Street NGUNNAWAL ACT 2913
Mr T Cullen	20 Mooloolah Connection Road, MOOLOOLAH, QLD 4553
Mr S Cutlack	2 Coconut Grove KURANDA QLD 4881
Mr P Dennett	139 Brook Street COOGEE NSW 2034
Fr K Kerley	Marist Fathers, Villa Maria 1 Mary Street HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110
Mrs B Muller (Nee Gascoigne)	93 Darwinia Terrace RIVETT ACT 2611
Mr H Sakaguchi	202 Akiyoshi Mansion, 72-1 Kaminakai-Machi, TAKASAKI-CITY GUNMA PREFECTURE 370-0851 JAPAN
Mr V Smith	12 Bribie Court, MERMAID WATERS, QLD 4218
Mr D Tarrant	60 Moseley Street GLENELG SA 5045
Mr D Temu	11 Ingamells Street GARRAN ACT 2605
Mr A Zwar	18 Shortridge Street MODBURY HEIGHTS SA 5092

## THE TREASURER'S CORNER

**Payments to – PNGAA, PO Box 1386, MONA VALE, NSW, 1660**

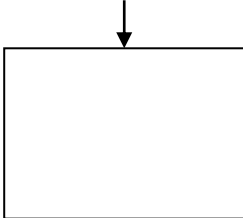
### If you would like to –

1. Renew your **Membership Subscription** of PNGAA;
2. Attend the **2010 Christmas Luncheon – RSVP by 13 November**
3. Purchase a copy (or copies) of the **“Walk Into Paradise” DVD**,

please **PRINT** your full name and address below and complete the relevant Section(s) you are interested in.

**NOTE: Method of Payment details are on the reverse side of this page**

Full Name ..... **Membership No.**  
 Address .....  
 ..... Post Code .....  
 Telephone .....  
 Email Address .....



### 1. Your Membership Renewal

***A timely reminder – please check your address label; this will tell you when your Membership expires. This label also shows your Membership Number which you should copy to the box above.***

<b>I wish to renew</b> my Membership Subscription for <b>2011 @ \$25</b>		
<b>OPTIONAL</b>	{	plus my Membership Subscription for <b>2012 @ \$25</b> also my Membership Subscription for <b>2013 @ \$25</b>
<b><u>Note for Members whose Postal Address is NOT Within Australia:</u></b> International Post (Airmail) charges apply. To assist in defraying this additional postage cost, international or overseas members should increase their membership renewal by — <b>Asia/Pacific</b> - \$12 p.a. (\$3 per issue); <b>Rest of the World</b> - \$16 p.a. (\$4 per issue) <b>Air-mail postage (only if appropriate)</b> ..... years @ \$ .....		
<b>Sub-total (AUD)</b> (transfer to point 1 over page)		\$
<b>2. <u>Walk Into Paradise – DVD</u></b> (price includes postage and packing)		
Walk Into Paradise DVD – Member	No of Units	Rate \$
Walk Into Paradise DVD – Non-Member		30.00
		40.00
<b>Sub-total (AUD)</b> \$ (Transfer to Point 2 over page)		

**3. Christmas Luncheon – Killara Golf Club – 28 November 2010****RSVP by 13 November 2010****I will attend** the Christmas Luncheon and will be accompanied by –

.....

.....

.....

If possible I would like to be seated with .....

.....

\* Please advise number (if any) of vegetarian meals required →

<b>Why not make up a Table of 10? For further details, see page 3</b>		No.	Rate (\$)	Amount (\$)
	My Luncheon payment		52.50	
	My Luncheon Guests ..		52.50	
	Table of 10 .....		525.00	
	<b>Sub-total</b> (to point 3 below) \$			

**PAYMENT DETAILS** (Please circle method of payment)

**You may pay by either** Cheque, Bank Draft, Postal Money Order,  
**Credit Card** (MasterCard or Visa card only) **or by** Electronic (Internet)  
 Transfer to PNGAA; BSB 062:009; A/C No. 0090:7724; (CBA, Wynyard)

*If paying electronically, please advise Membership Number and details of  
 payment by email to [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net).*

<b>Note that all payments must be in Australian Currency (AUD)</b>	<b>1. Membership Renewal</b>	\$	
	<b>2. Walk Into Paradise DVD</b>	\$	
	<b>3. Xmas Luncheon - 2010</b>	\$	
<b>Grand Total (AUD) \$</b>			

<b>MASTERCARD</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>VISA CARD</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Expires</b> ..... / .....
<b>Card Number:</b> ..... / ..... / ..... / .....				
<b>Name on Card (Print):</b> .....				
<b>Signature of Card Holder:</b> ..... <b>Date</b> .... / .... / .....				





# Papua New Guinea Association of Australia

Incorporated in New South Wales - ABN 35 027 362 171

Patrons

**Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd)**

**Mrs Roma Bates; Mr Fred Kaad OBE**

**PO Box 1386 Mona Vale NSW 1660**

**August 2010**

Dear Member

Founded **1951** Incorporated **1996** Name Change **2002**

The years since our association was founded have seen massive changes in the way we live, work and play. The political, environmental, social and technological landscape today is very different from that of our founding fathers and mothers.

The present Management Committee is very conscious and proud of our origins as a service and social organisation of people who laid the foundation for bringing the PNGAA to where it is today. Thus the PNGAA Objects reflect an evolution in the furtherance of the aims that informed and motivated those people who, through their service to PNG and Australia, gave much to foster the development of PNG.

What we now want to do is to develop a strategic framework for the PNGAA. This will give the present and future committees a strong reference point for their decision making as well as help identify issues that require immediate or medium term attention. The strategic framework will be 'organic', i.e. it will be flexible, monitored, reviewed and enhanced on a regular basis.

It is important that you and as many members as possible are involved in the process. The Association has a broad and evolving spectrum of members whose experiences and expectations of the Association are many and varied.

As a first step in the process we respectfully ask that you become involved and share your views by providing **brief** comments on the attached list of **Suggested Topics**.

Note that the examples are not exclusive and comment is not mandatory. They are given as examples of the type of thing that may be included in a topic. This will help us to collate responses. You may want to add an extra page if writing room is inadequate.

We would like to receive your help with the process that you would wish to give by providing your views no later than the end of September 2010. You should send your response in the enclosed reply paid envelope; however, to reduce the cost of the survey, it would be greatly appreciated if you could add a stamp over the barcode on the envelope.

This is **NOT a vote**. There is also no consequence to you in not responding. You may supply your name if you wish and once your views are collated the responses will be destroyed.

As well as using the survey responses to develop strategy we will also identify any short-term actions that will be beneficial to the Association and members.

We really appreciate you giving a little of your time to assist your Association.

Best wishes

Dennis Doyle

For the Management Committee

Mobile: 0419 253 194

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

## SUGGESTED TOPICS

Name (*optional* )

Location

I am a Superannuant ☐

**Membership** (Tick one only) Ordinary ☐ Honorary Life ☐ Honorary ☐ Corporate ☐

Please make your comments on:

- **Purpose of Association**
- **Membership** e.g. recruitment
- **Advantages of Membership** e.g. *Una Voce*, DVDs, website, members' contacts, events, superannuant and caring matters
- **How should PNGAA move forward!** e.g. are you adequately served by the present structure? how can it be improved?
- **Resources** e.g. available/untapped
- **Any Other Important Issues, Priorities or General Suggestions?**

Surveys should be returned no later than the end of September 2010 in the enclosed reply paid envelope (hopefully with a stamp).

**UPCOMING EVENTS...**

Please keep a check on our website –

**[www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)** -

**for some terrific events being planned this October and November for Brisbane and Toowoomba.**

A special day celebrating **Rabaul's centenary is planned for 10-10-10 at the NGVR/PNGVR Museum at Wacol.** We're also hoping to have a couple of Literary Lunches featuring best-selling author **Patrick Lindsay and his new book, *The Coastwatchers*.**

Set against a backdrop of the New Guinea Islands, Bougainville and the Solomon's, this book 'explores the heroic exploits of the tiny band that stayed behind in the Pacific Islands after the Japanese occupation in WWII...

These least-known but most extraordinary heroes of the Pacific War risked their lives when the Japanese had total control of the region and discovery meant certain death'.

Patrick Lindsay is one of Australia's leading non-fiction authors and public speakers. After a long career as a journalist and television presenter Patrick Lindsay is now a best-selling author and sought-after inspirational public speaker. His other books include: *The Spirit of Kokoda*, *The Spirit of The Digger* and *Fromelles*.

**Check the website or contact:** Ally Martell Email: [allymartell@bigpond.com](mailto:allymartell@bigpond.com) Ph: Mob: 0428 731 844  
A/H: 07-4632 0408 or Andrea Williams E: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net) For further details.



## Papua New Guinea Association of Australia Inc

Proudly hosts a Literary Dinner with **Patrick Lindsay** and his latest book **The Coastwatchers**

Meet Patrick Lindsay, one of Australia's leading non-fiction authors and public speakers. After a long career as a journalist and television presenter Patrick Lindsay is now a best-selling author and sought-after inspirational public speaker. His other books include: *The Spirit of Kokoda*, *The Spirit of The Digger* and *Fromelles*.

Date: Tuesday 9 November 2010

Time: 6.30pm – 10.30pm

Venue: Kirribilli Club

11 Harbourview Crescent

Lavender Bay NSW

Cost: \$70 – 2 course dinner and wine

RSVP: by 27 October 2010

Andrea Williams Ph: 9449 4129 (m) 0409 031 889

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

Juli Allcorn Ph: 9416 1430 (m) 0405 625 912

Email: [j\\_allcorn@hotmail.com](mailto:j_allcorn@hotmail.com)

Dinner will also support memorial at the AWM for the Montevideo Maru

Books will be available for sale and Patrick will sign them.

### REMITTANCE ADVICE (Please circle method of payment)

Payment can be made by – EFT, Cheque (to PNGAA) or

Credit Card (MasterCard or Visa only)

Card Number: ..... / ..... / ..... / .....

Cardholders Name (Print): .....

Signature of Card Holder: ..... Date .... / .... / .....

### **Bank Details for EFT transfer:**

Please include the word 'Coastwatcher' with EFT payment and send an email with contact details to: [editor@pngaa.net](mailto:editor@pngaa.net).

Account Name: Papua New Guinea Association of Australia

Bank: CBA BSB: 062:009 Account No: 0090:7724

**PNGAA PO Box 1386 Mona Vale NSW 1660**

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

# NOT A POOR The New Guinea Goldfields to 1942—An Australian Colonial History MAN'S FIELD

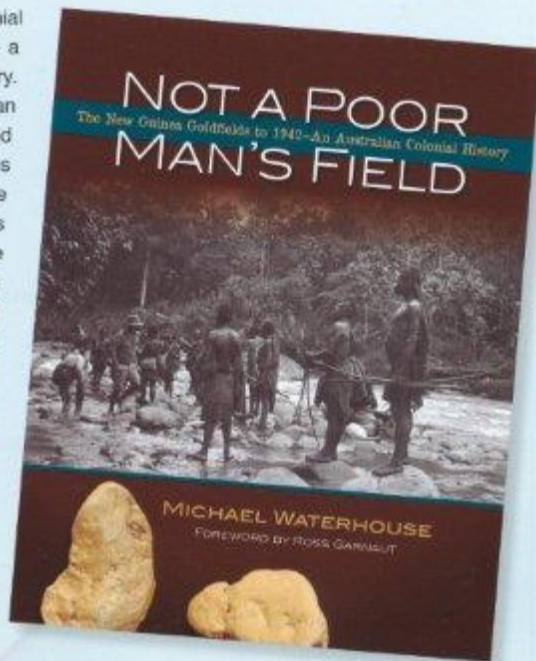
NEW BOOK BY MICHAEL WATERHOUSE

*Not a Poor Man's Field* explores Australia's colonial experience in New Guinea before World War II – a unique but little known period in Australia's history. This is a dramatic account of small miners, an extraordinarily rich gold discovery, visionaries and the construction of giant dredges, power stations and townships in a remote jungle area. It is also the story of how risk-taking pilots, flying aeroplanes ranging from single engine plywood biplanes to large Junkers G31 freighters, opened up an otherwise impenetrable country. New Guinea led the world in commercial aviation throughout the 1930s; world records were often set and as often broken.

The book discusses early encounters between villagers and Europeans from both white and black perspectives, as well as the indentured labour system which drew New Guineans to the goldfields from all over the country. Other themes include the camaraderie of white settlers in an alien environment, race relations in a colonial society, the ineffectiveness of Australia's administration of New Guinea under a League of Nations mandate and the Japanese invasion and its consequences.

*A sustained effort of scholarship. It is a wonderful book, rich in insights into the human condition, drawing from and contributing to insights from economics, anthropology and sociology, and political and administrative history.* (Prof Ross Garnaut)

*With broad and exacting research, clear prose and a perspective that includes battling prospectors, international companies, government officers, black labourers and villagers, Michael Waterhouse has*



*turned extraordinary events into fine history. The illustrations alone are worth the price of the book.* (Prof Hank Nelson)

*This book enthralled me ... Waterhouse combines the family interest with training in anthropology and considerable research skills into a book that is full of information but also very readable.* (Michael O'Connor, ex-Assistant District Commissioner and former Exec. Director, Aust. Defence Association)

MICHAEL WATERHOUSE has an Arts degree from Sydney University with a major in Anthropology, and an Economics degree from the Australian National University with a major in Economic History. He has been a Senior Adviser in the Commonwealth Treasury, Chief Manager, Retail Banking Strategy in Westpac, and has consulted to many businesses.

Michael has close family ties to the pre-war goldfields, his grandfather having been a pivotal player in their development, as a director of the largest gold-mining company, Bulolo Gold Dredging, and the biggest airline, Guinea Airways.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE [WWW.NOTAPOORMANSFIELD.COM](http://WWW.NOTAPOORMANSFIELD.COM)

# NOT A POOR MAN'S FIELD

## ORDER FORM

Name: .....

Address: .....

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Phone no. (within Australia) .....

Please supply me with ..... books @ A\$50 each \$

(plus postage and handling – see separate details) \$

Total \$

Postage	Australia	New Zealand	PNG	USA & Canada	UK
1 copy:	A\$11	A\$28	A\$35	A\$42	A\$53
2 copies:	A\$17	A\$42	A\$46	A\$65	A\$77
3 copies:	A\$23	A\$56	A\$57	A\$88	A\$101

For more than three copies, please contact [napmf@notapoormansfield.com](mailto:napmf@notapoormansfield.com)

### Three payment options

(1) Payment may be made online to

- BSB 732 102
- account name: Michael Waterhouse
- Account no. 54 5339

Please identify with a name and/or six digit number, and provide confirmation of payment reference details together with order, which should be emailed to: [napmf@notapoormansfield.com](mailto:napmf@notapoormansfield.com)  
(Note that online transfers may take several days to clear.)

(2) Secure credit card payments may be made using PayPal on [www.notapoormansfield.com](http://www.notapoormansfield.com).  
No charges apply. Please click on How to purchase copies menu item on the website.

(3) Payment may be made by cheque, payable to Michael Waterhouse and forwarded with a completed order form to 14 Moore Park Road, Paddington NSW 2021, Australia.

*Not a Poor Man's Field* is also available in bookshops or online from the publisher, Halstead Press,  
@ \$59.95 (plus postage, where relevant).