



Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

Patrons: Major General Michael Jeffery AC, AO (Mil), CVO, MC (Rtd)
Mr Fred Kaad OBE

ARE YOU FINANCIAL?

If your renewal is due now you will have a stamp on this *Una Voce* and also on the Treasurer's Corner insert – we would appreciate if you could attend to this urgently. Many thanks.

* * *

Note: Annual Membership List is included with this *Una Voce*.

* * *

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON –

This year's Christmas Luncheon will be on **Sunday 04 December at the Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara (Sydney, NSW)**. As usual there will be tables of 10 people, so please think about organising a table of friends to come along. Booking form in the September *Una Voce*.

* * *

VISIT TO THE MOUNTAINS

The annual spring visit to the Blue Mountains: **Thursday 6 October**. George and Edna Oakes at Woodford are kindly welcoming us back again this year. Full details in September issue.

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***for latest news, information and discussion, please visit the **forum**

at: www.pngaa.net

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'UNA VOCE' IS THE JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC
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are welcome and should be marked 'For Attention: The Editor' or emailed to: editor@pngaa.net By submitting your article/story for publication, you agree that we may, after publication in *Una Voce*, republish it on the internet unless you advise us to the contrary.

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Website: www.pngaa.net

Membership is available to any person having an interest in PNG. Annual subscription - \$25. The membership year corresponds to the calendar year and an application form is available from the Secretary at the above address or you can download one from our website.

PNGAA Office Bearers –

President

Dennis Doyle

Phone 02 9973 3079

Email president@pngaa.net

Secretary

Marie Clifton-Bassett

Tel/fax 02 99583408

Email: admin@pngaa.net

Treasurer

Nick Booth

Phone 02 9868 2197

Email: treasurer@pngaa.net

Editor

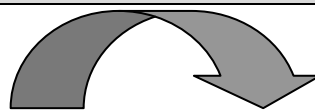
Andrea Williams

Phone 02 9449 4129

Fax 02 9449 4196

Email: editor@pngaa.net

If you would like to trial an electronic copy of *Una Voce* please email: editor@pngaa.net with your current email address and membership number.



Email Addresses:

We encourage members to please pay membership fees by direct deposit to the PNGAA account as follows:

BSB: 062 009 Account No: 0090 7724

Please include your initials and surname, and membership number if known (abbreviated to MN....) Also add 'SUBS' if space permits.

If you could also notify us by email

(admin@pngaa.net) that would be helpful.

When you update your email address please also send a test message to: admin@pngaa.net!

Please also include your membership number.

Also, if you have a 'limit' on your mail box, it would help if you would please clear it at regular intervals.

Thank you to all those who do remember to send on their change of email address. This ensures you get timely notice of any breaking 'news'.

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Congratulations to Fred Kaad OBE and Ross Johnson who were voted Life Members of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia at the 2011 Annual General Meeting

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA EXHIBITION, CANBERRA
FRANK HURLEY PHOTOGRAPHS**

Renowned photographer Frank Hurley took several thousand glass plate negatives during two journeys to Papua in the early 1920s. In 1927 he sold around 700 images as well as many artefacts to the Australian Museum. The photographs are striking and evocative of Papuan culture at the time, and will interest members of the PNGAA.

The exhibition opened in late March and will run until Sunday 29 May 2011.

Further information at: <http://www.naa.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/frank-hurley-journeys-into-papua/index.aspx>

For a preview of what the exhibition and the images look like, visit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/national-archives-of-australia/sets/72157626213047658/>

The AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM 6 College Street, Sydney (612) 9320 6000 is featuring the following exhibition until 7 August 2011:

Rituals of Seduction: Birds of Paradise

‘Enter this exhibition and experience the brilliant lives of the birds of paradise and discover the people who have shared their lush forest habitats for thousands of years.

See nature at its most exotic and extravagant!

With more glamour than a cabaret show, the male birds of paradise put on a spectacular show – fabulous feathers, hip hop dance moves and beatbox birdsong. Their single-minded purpose? To seduce the female of the species.

Here, in the isolated vine-tangled rainforests of New Guinea and Northern Australia, sexual selection has worked its magic to create some of the strangest, most exotic birdlife on Earth.

With ritual dancing, spectacular head dresses and painted faces, these ancient cultures celebrate a deep spiritual relationship with the birds of paradise.’

<http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/event/Rituals-of-seduction-Birds-of-Paradise>
* * *

The Fryer Library at the University of Queensland collects archival material on PNG (photographs, documents, maps and patrol reports). Dr Peter Cahill coordinates this – please contact him on phone 07-3371 4794 or email: p.cahill@uqconnect.net

The PNGAA Collection in the Fryer Library can be accessed at:

<http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/ms/uqfl387.pdf>

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc. will be holding the annual **Montevideo Maru Memorial Service** at the Hall of Memories Cenotaph, ANZAC Square, Brisbane **Wednesday 1 July 2011 at 10.00am. Contact Phil Ainsworth email: p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au or phone 0418 730 348.**

Superannuation Update:

Correction to the Superannuation Update contained in the March 2011 *Una Voce* (Page 7):

In view of a query received from a Member regarding Fred Kaad's Superannuation Update in the March 2011 *Una Voce* (page 7), the point Fred was endeavouring to highlight was the difference between the indexing of superannuation pensions ('ComSuper' pensions) by the annual percentage changes in the CPI (Consumer Price Index) method as against the indexing of age pensions (which are paid by Centrelink) by the annual percentage changes in the MTAWE (Male Total Average Weekly Earnings). The important part of Fred's comparison was that a superannuation pension of \$25,000 pa would have only increased to \$37,724 pa in 11 years using the CPI percentage changes, whereas had the MTAWE changes been used, that \$25,000 pension would have increased to \$50,106 pa.

Those of our members who are superannuated members from the former services in PNG should study the Centrelink literature and, if needed, discuss the situation with one of its officers.

CD compilations needed for the Christmas Luncheon! Great memorable photos... personal photos, photos reflecting community celebrations and others reflecting the development/building of PNG through the past. These will be played on the screen throughout the day and will bring great delight and zest to our gathering.

Please send to Julianne Ross Allcorn: 100 Shirley Rd, Roseville, 2069 or call: 02 9416 1430/ 0405 625 912

Website Walkabout:

www.hagenhandicrafts.com

Buy a bilum and help women in Mt Hagen.

Eric Molynux a volunteer with VSO (Volunteer Services Overseas) has developed the website for HAGEN HANDICRAFTS in Hagen for the group to export their products overseas. The idea was conceived in 2007 as a way to assist HIV positive women and disadvantaged women from the settlements of Mt Hagen who have faced ongoing challenges to establish a sustainable market to sell their bilum products. Aus AID, the Baptist Union and VSO grouped together to develop the project. It is achieving remarkable results through the empowerment of these women.

www.simbuchildrenfoundation.org

The aims of the Simbu Children's Foundation are:

'To provide hope for the sick and disadvantaged children of Simbu.

To fund the medically ill children who require complex operations or medication not available locally.

We believe every child deserves to feel loved, to be safe, to have opportunities for a better future and to know that there will always be someone to care for them. Every child deserves a bright beginning and the chance to determine the course of his or her own destiny.'

www.wauadventures.com.pg – be inspired with the photos!

AURORA EXPEDITIONS PNG - 70th commemoration voyage WWII, Rabaul ANZAC Day 2012 - Details are currently being finalized but there will be a special commemorative voyage to the New Guinea islands in April 2012, arriving Rabaul late on 24 April 2012 for a special 70th ANZAC Day service. There may be an option for a Lark Force Trek post the voyage. The proposed itinerary is:

2-14 April 2012 Alotau, Dobu/Ferguson Is, Trobriand/Kitava, Lababi, Tami, Madang, Sepik/Murik Lakes, Mandam Village, Karkar, Tuam, Wedau/Dogura, Tufi, Alotau

14-26 April 2012 Alotau, Milne Bay/Samarai, Dobu & Fergusson Is, Egum Atoll and Gawa Is, Trobriands/Kitava, Palimal, Jacquinot Bay, Karalai, Tol (pre-dawn landing and ceremony), Lambon & Lamassa, Duke of York Is, Rabaul.

Further information from Aurora Expeditions +61 2 9252 1033 or Andrea Williams

* * *

PNG 2011 Special Dates: Goroka Show - 16th - 18th September

National Mask Festival, 6th - 9th July; Malagan Show, New Ireland, 22nd - 24th July; Crocodile Festival, Ambunti - 9th & 10th August

* * *

MAY HISTORICAL EVENTS:

1 1963 Dutch New Guinea transferred to Indonesia as West Irian.

7 1919 League of Nations grants Australia a mandate over the former German territories in the South West Pacific.

1942 Coral Sea Battle begins, Australian aircrews involved.

9 1921 Australian military administration of mandated territory of New Guinea replaced by Civilian Administration.

11 1945 5th Division, AMF, captures Wewak, New Guinea.

15 1945 Private Edward Kenna, 2/4th Battalion, 6th Division, AIF, VC at Wewak, New Guinea.

17 1885 Germany annexes north New Guinea & Bismarck Archipelago.

19 1915 Medical Orderly, John Simpson Kirkpatrick, of 'Simpson and His Donkey' fame, killed on Gallipoli.

23 1942 'Kanga Force' moves to Wau, New Guinea.

With thanks: MID, newsletter of Victoria Barracks' Historical Society, Brisbane, Inc

PNG NEWS

Notes on the news from PNG

Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare was suspended from office for two weeks from April 4 as punishment for official misconduct. A leadership tribunal found Sir Michael guilty of 13 counts of filing late or incomplete financial returns to the Ombudsman Commission. His deputy, Sam Abal, took over as Acting Prime Minister. As he left the courtroom Somare, 75, commented that he would take a holiday. His 'holiday' turned out to involve him undergoing surgery in Singapore, details of which were not released. But his daughter, Betha Somare, said Somare was 'recovering well, that he remains a fighter and will be around for many years to come.' Later, Sir Michael said he had gone to Singapore to get medical treatment that PNG hospitals could not offer, and thus using his suspension period to ensure he had a clean bill of health before returning to work. Some press reports said that Somare had a long-standing heart condition.

Simon Ekanda, one of the principals of a new political party in PNG, the Customary Land Rights-holders Party, says the government has no right to assume control of something that has been in customary ownership for thousands of years -

that is State ownership of all resources at six or more feet underground. The new party aims to change legislation that gives State ownership of this land. *'I want to know how that happened and who sold it to them'*, Ekanda said. *'When did it happen? My father didn't sell anything to them because they came into this country about 40 years ago to my tribal lands, and it was there 2000 years ago. They (the government) don't need to own what belongs to me and my custom and my culture.'* Ekanda is interim vice-president of the party, which was formed by lawyer Peter Donigi, who is president, and who says the party aims to win not fewer than 60 parliamentary seats at the 2012 elections. Among other opposition to the proposal, PNG's Attorney-General, Sir Arnold Amet, said the call for changes in the law about underground resources was mischievous. Foreign investors needed assurance that the State had ownership of minerals rather than tribal groups. The country couldn't have developed without legislation that allowed governments to spread the benefits of development throughout the whole country. He added: *'How on earth are we ever going to provide the incentive and security for international developers to come to partner the government, with the security provided by government, to develop these resources. It's not tenable.'* Nevertheless it is believed that the proposal is likely to gain some popular support.

A Chinese 'shoe king' has decided to invest 70 million kina in a shoe factory in Port Moresby. This was announced in a joint media conference by PNG Commerce and Industry Minister Gabriel Kapris and AUSPECT PNG Ltd chairman, Wilson Xue. The AUSPECT 'shoe king' has his head office in Sydney and runs a chain of shoe stores in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, but the company has its factories based in mainland China. Xue said that *'more than 1,000 people work for me and we export millions of shoes around the world. PNG is one country which has the potential to become rich with its vast natural resources.'* He said the PNG factory would start building in three months and was expected to be completed by next year. It would provide 300 jobs to locals, and supply both domestic and overseas

PNG's Huli Duna wigmen stole the show at an international musical festival in Adelaide in March, despite at first being prevented by Customs restrictions from bringing their traditional *singsing* gear into Australia. The strict restrictions denied the group being able to perform for the first few days, but following intervention by the festival organisers the government allowed in the traditional gear and more than 300,000 applauded the dancers' first overseas performance.

About 700 to 800 people are dying of malaria each year in PNG from over more than a million cases reported annually, a Port Moresby workshop organised by Population Services International (PSI) has been told. The PSI is an international organisation fighting against malaria. The workshop heard that 1.6 million malaria cases were reported each year at PNG health centres and hospitals, and that as one of the top five killers in PNG it needed more attention.

An audience in Trinity College, Dublin, in April heard at first hand how the people of Carteret Islands, more than 80 km from Bougainville's main island. were among the refugees from climate change. Ursula Rakova, executive director of the aid charity Tulele Peisa, told the meeting that the Carterets had been experiencing unprecedented high tides that were rapidly covering the fragile atoll, but evacuating the 1500 islanders to mainland Bougainville has involved delicate negotiations, especially over land. She said it wasn't just the Carterets but this was going to happen to others throughout the Pacific and in other parts of the world. Climate change was here to stay, and was in fact caused by mankind. (It has been estimated that the Carterets will be fully submerged and uninhabitable by 2015.)

The PNG tourism industry saw 17% growth in 2010.

The PNG Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA), said an estimated K1.4 billion (AU\$520m) was injected into the economy of Papua New Guinea by the tourism industry in 2010 compared to an estimated K1.2 billion (AU\$447m) spent by international visitors in 2009.

146,350 international visitors entered the country in 2010, an increase of 18 per cent compared to the 124,000 arrivals in 2009," said TPA Media Coordinator, Colin Taimbari.

2010 saw the motivation of short and long term business travellers to Papua New Guinea due to the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Project, creating an impact on airlines and accommodation sectors within the country.

<http://www.postcourier.com.pg/20110228/business01.htm>

Palm Oil Profits up 54%. Higher palm oil volumes following the acquisition of three more plantations in PNG in April, coupled with higher world prices, drove profits in New Britain Palm Oil up 54%. New Britain Palm Oil is to invest £9m in a new food ingredients processing facility at its UK palm oil refinery. This follows on from £18m spent on a Liverpool refinery in 2009. The new facility will offer a complete range of high quality, affordable, margarines and bakery fats for use in pastries and cakes, puff and short crust pastry, as well as shortenings and bread fats. Andy Worrall, Director of New Britain Palm Oil, said the company has 'always believed that if we could offer traceable and sustainable palm oil products to the market at competitive prices then enough companies will do the responsible thing and start buying it.'

Financial Times 1 March 2011

and http://www.sharecast.com/cgi-bin/sharecast/story.cgi?story_id=4103849

The Port Moresby residential market has experienced considerable stress over the last few years, exacerbated by the commencement of the LNG project.

Rental prices remain tight at the upper end. Up market accommodation now ranges from K5,000 to K8,000 a week, with some as much as K10,000 a week. This trend should continue for the next few years until increased supply comes closer to meeting demand. The situation is compounded by the limited supply of new quality stock.

Average 3-bedroom house prices in various locations are: Town K2.5-3.5 million; Boroko K1.2 million; Gerehu K450,000, 8-Mile K400,000 and 9-Mile K375,000.

With construction now stepping up a notch, Nasfund is forecasting a property glut by 2014 and rental rates are expected to decline from a peak over the next 18 months as new stock steadily comes on line.

Nasfund March/April 2011 e-newsletters and www.asopa.typepad.com

A 30% stake in Nautilus Minerals' Solwara 1 project in the Bismarck Sea has been taken up by the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG). The Government's 30% share of the joint venture will be held in Petromin PNG Holdings Ltd, the Government owned company established to hold the State's mining and petroleum assets.

<http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Nautilus-Minerals-Inc-PNG-Government-Confirms-Investment-in-Solwara-1-TSX-NUS-1419007.htm>

14 Mile Orchid Gardens

A National Orchid garden, designed by the president of the PNG Orchid Society, Justin Tkatchenko, has been opened at 14-Mile outside Port Moresby. The orchid garden consists of 50,000 varieties of orchids, together with a wildlife sanctuary and a breeding centre for the Bird of Paradise for conservation purposes.

PNG Gossip Newsletter 6 March 2011

The Indonesian Government has approved the granting of six cannons belonging to the Army to neighbouring Papua New Guinea. The six cannons with a total value of approximately AU\$45,000 will be used as salute guns.

The Jakarta Post 29 March 2011

Kavieng's venerable hotel is getting a major make-over at the cost of K2.6 million to the owners. The rooms at the front of the Kavieng Hotel were pulled down and a new block of 13 rooms are being built.

<http://www.postcourier.com.pg/20110316/business07.htm>

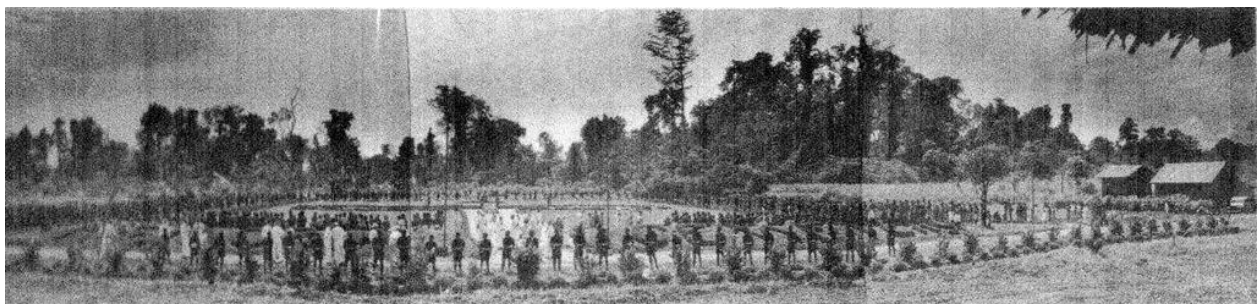


**ANZAC DAY
SYDNEY 2011**
Clockwise L-R:
Robert Cruickshank;
Ross Johnson;
Pat Johnson,
Fred Kaad

Winner of the Great Charity Raffle, Marg Curtis, travelled to Rabaul for Anzac Day 2011 - We arrived home today safely after a wonderful trip to Rabaul. It is such a very special place with special people and it's an amazing feeling just being there. I think it was one of the best Anzac Day Ceremonies I have ever attended and I know it was particularly special for Mum.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to go there once again with each visit being so different each time. The first time with Mum in 1992 pre volcano devastation, again in 2009 doing the Lark Force Trek after the eruption and now to attend such a moving Dawn Service and also the Service at Bita Paka on Anzac Day. Each time seeing such a different Rabaul.

Susie [McGrade] and her staff went out of their way to ensure our stay was enjoyable and I very much appreciated her generous donation of the accommodation at the Rabaul Hotel for the raffle. The flights with Air Niugini also went extremely well and once again, their donation of the prize for the flights was also very much appreciated.



MEMORIAL SERVICE AT POPENDETTA FOR THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE MOUNT
LAMINGTON DISASTER ON JAN. 21ST. 1951

Mt Lamington 60 years 1951-2011

NOV. 24 TH. 1951

Current facilities at High Commission ‘inadequate’

The Minister for Immigration has recognised that current facilities at the Australian High Commission Port Moresby for dealing with visa applications are inadequate.

Responding to representations by PNGAA, the Department’s Regional Director for the Asian Region, Jane Honner, on behalf of the Minister wrote:

in relation to the amenities at the Australian High Commission for Immigration clients. Due to significant recent increases in the client case load, we have recognised that the current facilities are inadequate.

... The department expects to be in a position to implement some changes that address the issues you have raised in the coming months.

Difficulties faced by Papua New Guineans applying for visas at the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby have been vexing members and commentators for some time and have become acute over the last year.

- Long queues are forced to wait outside the building without shade or normal amenities. Our photo shows the rather basic canopied amenity outside the High Commission. That is where people wait for service at the kiosk. The photo doesn’t tell the full story. That story includes queues reaching down the block, frustrations around correct paperwork, and the vicissitudes of waiting long hours on hot days!



- The standard of customer service often falls below normal Australian standards. Papua New Guineans employed as staff by the Australian High Commission visa section seem to need more adequate customer service training.
- An arbitrary process often seems to govern visa application requirements. Those applying for a visa are repeatedly required to attend at the High Commission. Some have difficulty coping with language requirements. Others have travelled to Port Moresby from a remote village

and find it extremely difficult to return at a later date, if they are confronted by requirements of which they had no prior knowledge.

- Income and assets tests are applied to village people with genuine Australian family links.

PNGAA President Dennis Doyle wrote to the respective Australian Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Immigration about these problems on 7 April this year. He pointed out that considerable numbers of our members wish to have a PNG relative travel to Australia for a family visit. He argued it might reasonably be expected that the parent of a PNG national who is an Australian resident or citizen, and whose partner is an Australian citizen, should be able to secure a visa for a sponsored visit to Australia without undue complications and delay. Not always so easy, in fact!

The President also touched upon another running sore. While PNG nationals seek a visa to enter Australia for a wide variety of reasons, a very common reason is to study. The PNGAA had been reliably informed that students on approved courses regularly encounter protracted obstacles when seeking a visa.

The Regional Director's response to these points showed a welcome degree of understanding and an acceptance that applicants for visas are clients with special needs. Among other details she noted were:

- Because many applicants live in remote areas and have limited access to infrastructure and information, the Department attempts through the media, website/internet information and signage to advise clients, as far as possible regarding visa processing requirements, supporting documentation, fees and processing times.
- The supporting documentation requested is to ensure that applicant/s meet legal requirements for the grant of visas. Applicants are urged to apply with complete documentation to assist in processing without delay.
- The Department's global standard for processing tourist and business visas is 30 days, whilst in Port Moresby, clients are advised of a shorter processing time of 5 business days. The global standard for processing student visas is 21 days. A majority of the student applications in Port Moresby are processed within this standard.
- The purchase of airline tickets is not recommended prior to receiving a decision on a visa application. In the check lists for supporting documentation for visa applications provided to clients, the Department does not request evidence of the purchase of airline tickets or accommodation bookings.

There is not yet reason to believe that the vexations associated with getting a visa for travel from PNG to Australia are over. Members interested have some grounds for hoping some improvements are not too far away. In the meantime, Minister Bowen and his Department have shown a commendable willingness to listen. They have also offered the President a channel for raising further concerns of substance. PNGAA will continue to monitor its members' experience around this important aspect of Australia-PNG relationships. ■

Our Events Co-ordinator, Juli Allcorn, is looking for wonderful prizes to raffle or to include in a silent auction at the Christmas Luncheon. If you have something you could donate, it would be appreciated. Please contact Juli on Ph: 02-9416 1430 or Email: Juli Allcorn [j_allcorn@hotmail.com].

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

► **Ken McCagh** writes: When I was browsing the PNGAA pages, I noticed a piece written by Jerry Latin about the then HMAS Tarangau getting telephones on the Base.

I was the Posts and Telegraphs Line Inspector in charge (based in Rabaul) of that project of laying underground pipes and cables and my liaison was the base BLO at the time named Lt Mark Pederson. The work commenced in 1966 or 1967 and had to be completed by a certain time to link up with a crew from Sweden who was to install the automatic telephone exchange. The overseer of the project and who was accommodated in the CPO Mess was Ken Wetherall, who was also the overseer of the complete cable reticulation of the neighbouring town of Lorangau on Manus and later on, the cabling of the island of Buka to link up with the submarine telephone from Sohano with which he was also heavily involved.

From Jerry's comments re the NOIC, we must have encountered the same guy, because he wasn't about to co-operate too much with me and I found it necessary to inform him that if he wasn't about to co-operate then I would pull everything and everyone back to Rabaul on the next Coastal/island ship.

► **John Wilkinson** writes that he is moving shortly to Tasmania.

'My wife is PNG and wants to know if there is any contact or association or other way of getting in touch with PNG citizens who may be married or living in Tasmania. Your help would be appreciated. E: jwilkins@bechtel.com

► **Rod Noble** writes:

Recently there were reports of the celebrations at Rabaul commemorating the centenary of the New Guinea Company's move of its headquarters office from Madang. I would have loved to have been there to see the festivities on beautiful Simpson Harbour, one of the best harbours in the South Pacific.

In 1884 the German Empire seized the north east quarter of the island. A chartered trading company was appointed to administer the area for the government (Neue Guinea Kampagne). It established its headquarters in Frederick-Wilhelmshafen now called Madang, another magnificent harbour. It subsequently moved its headquarters to Rabaul because of the heavy losses of expatriate staff due to malaria.

My first visit to Rabaul in the 1960's was on business with Mr Warner Shand who was the TNG District capital's sole Lawyer. I think that Rabaul in the 1960's was probably at its apogee as a colonial town. The Rabaul Club and others were social hubs for expatriates and the local market was renowned for its quality and variety.

My boss in Port Moresby was Mr Jim Cromie whose legal practice had been in Rabaul pre-war. He had graphically described to me the 1937 eruption that had killed 507 and caused widespread damage. The harbour had been totally covered with a thick layer of scoria (pumice). The Australian Administration, I was told, had decided that a safer location for the capital would be Lae. I do not know if that was ever implemented.

My last visit to Rabaul was in 1984, this time by yacht. I, with other cruising yachts of various nationalities had anchored in nearby Put Put harbour because of a current volcanic eruption alert for Rabaul. The locals told me that the warning level (3?) meant that the vulcanologists were saying that a 24 hour warning before eruption could be given. I could be 100 nm away in that time in my yacht. Far

enough I thought. So I moved into Simpson Harbour and cleared Customs and Immigration. My wife and I then went ashore and visited the market for fresh food and the Post Office for our mail (poste restante). As we were coming out of the Post Office we met Mr Warner Shand. He had just arranged a monthly annuity for a domestic servant who was retiring after many decades service. Mrs Warner Shand and most of their furniture were in Sydney and his office files were in Kokopo for safety. Such a contrast to my visit to his house 20 years earlier.

It is heartening to know that although Rabaul is no longer the Provincial capital it is still a popular tourist destination. And I am sure that we all wish this beautiful place a long volcanic free time.

P.S. Didn't Queen Emma set up in Kokopo? Now there's a story.

► Marjorie Head writes about Edgar Plath

Early this year I was contacted by the Brisbane Presbyterian church archivist, whom I am in contact with as I am involved in recording and preserving the archives of the Uniting Church in Gympie. They also knew I had PNG connections. They had been approached by a lady who was searching for the burial site of a brother who had died in Port Moresby on Anzac day 1961. Because of the circumstances of his death he was buried in Port Moresby and no headstone had been placed to mark his last resting place. Because he was a Presbyterian they had presumed that he had been buried by a Presbyterian minister.

With the help of the Genealogical Index of Australians and Other Expatriates in PNG I was able to find his burial and notice of death. At that time there was no Presbyterian minister working in Port Moresby as such, and he was buried by the Rev. Paul Parkin, then a minister of the United Church in Port Moresby.

Edgar Plath worked for Burns Philp on a rubber plantation near Milne Bay and died in the Port Moresby Hospital on 25 April 1961.

I found his burial details in the Old Port Moresby Cemetery register, which reads: 'No. 12 PLATH, Edgar, aged 28 male, buried Rev. Paul Parkin, died 25.4.61, buried 27.4.61.'

A Papua New Guinea Government Gazette entry for 29.9.61 says:

'PLATH, Edgar Herbert of Mamai Plantation, Milne Bay District, plantation overseer. Died 25.4.61.'

I forwarded that information to his sister and also put her in touch with John Norton who has worked hard to preserve the old Badihagwa cemetery. He was most helpful and he put her in touch with Janetta Douglas, who spends a lot of time in Moresby.

The outcome of all this was that fifty years after his death, on Anzac weekend this year, Edgar Plath's sister and nieces were able arrange to have a headstone put on his grave and see where he is buried. In her words she was able to '*fulfil my mother's wishes that someday one of Edgar's family would be able to visit his resting place and if necessary place a headstone where he lies.*'

'We had a very rewarding and emotional visit to PM and we were very pleased with the closure of my brother's grave and marking it with a really lovely red granite headstone, thanks to a local expat, Janetta Douglas. The gravesite is under a great big spreading raintree which I am sure you are familiar with. Very peaceful and cared for by Christine and Dennis Elly.'

Is there any one of our members who knew Edgar Plath or remembers anything about the circumstances of his death? His sister would love to hear from you. I will pass on any information that you may have.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who helped the family of Edgar Plath.

Trish (Patricia) Krogh writes -

I thought that it was high time that I let someone know the whereabouts of my mother, Joy Dishon. After a nasty fall in August 2009 Mum had a stint in hospital, rehab etc it was clear that she would be unable to return home and would need full time care. I managed to persuade her to come down to Gosford so that I would be able to see her a lot more, and she would also be able to see her grandchildren, and her seven great grandchildren. She eventually moved to Mathew John Nursing Home at Erina. Mum had a mild stroke in February 2010, but luckily they got onto it straight away so she has been left with very little evidence of the stroke. Even though she needs the physical care she is still quite with it and we manage to go out at least once a week. It is great to be able to spend so much time with her, and to be able to ask her all sorts of Territory things, and for the great grandchildren to get to know her as well.

The 'degrees of separation' never cease to amaze me. My daughter Cymantha has been best friends with Steph Andersen for many years. One night at a family 'do', Steph's dad, John (who has been my mechanic for years) happened to mention something about the Hotel Moresby. Of course Cymantha asked him what it was all about - it turned out that he was in Moresby! We are a similar age and were both at Boroko Coronation together. Being a year below me and being a guy I didn't know him at all. He had a sister, Louise, who I gather, was a tad wild. But he does tell me that his very first love was Valerie Large - so if you are out there, Valerie, be informed!

And as if that wasn't enough - some years ago one of my fellow parishioners at Holy Family Anglican Church wrote a book about her life. As I read about her family, she mentioned that her nephew, Philip, was in Moresby for the holidays with his parents. So I checked out the family tree at the front of the book - the parents were Val & Pam Prescott. We knew them well - Pam was a brilliant artist, she designed some stamps, and did other wonderful work. Val died quite recently, and sadly Philip died a year or so ago. When the stamps were released Pam got quite a bit of 'fan mail' and didn't really know what to do about it. Mum was very happy to take on the task of 'answering the fan mail'. It was wonderful to meet Val and Pam again.

I think the older I get the more I miss our life in the Territory, and the more I appreciate having been there at all. I volunteer at our local theatre and last year we had a show called 'Codgers' there. In the cast were Ron Haddrick, Henry Szeps, three or four others. Ron's voice is one of my favourites. I could listen to him all day. I usually work in the bar, and so get to chat to the actors if they come for a drink after the show. It was in the programme that John, one of the actors of Chinese heritage was born in Madang, and that pidgin was his first language. Ron bought John a beer, I asked him in pidgin if he would like a glass. He was delighted and we chatted away - Ron was fascinated, and there he was saying to me 'say something else', when I had forever been wishing that Ron would 'say something else'. Funny how things turn out. And then for the all-time silly question - I asked John what his parents did in pre-war Madang - they had trade stores!! Comes under the same heading as 'what does your father mine in Newcastle' I fear - but at least John could see the funny side of it all.

So I guess that's it for today, Mum's phone number is (02) 4365 2366 if any *wantoks* are looking for her. Trish's email is: wantokpjsk@hotmail.com

■

NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY – JIM TONER

Barely a handful of PNG people can be found in NT towns outside Darwin but Barry DENSLEY has lived in Katherine for 26 years. Although not (yet) a member of PNGAA he and his wife Valerie have fond memories of their time in the islands. Barry served the first year of a contract with the Education Department in 1973 as Deputy Principal, Moresby High School, and the following year as Deputy at Popondetta HS in support of the first locally appointed Secondary Head, Araga Gure.

Barry had a diploma in civil engineering and after three years Down South the couple fancied another look at Kumul country. So they spent 1978 in Lae where Barry taught his subject at the Technical College. Appointed Principal of Mt. Hagen Tech he enjoyed 1979 there but returned to Moresby in 1980 as Coordinator of Technical Studies/Inspector of Technical Schools.

Now 74 Barry enlivens retirement with duties as a Civil Marriage celebrant but he is a dedicated Aussie Rules man. At his PNG postings he umpired in A grade but took great pleasure in being Manager of the Lae team which met Moresby in an 'inter-Territory' challenge in 1978. Game-keeper turned poacher?

Those of us who encountered Patrick Virgil DWYER during his nearly two decades in PNG will blink upon hearing that the onetime wild colonial boy from our convict island has just enjoyed his 73rd birthday. And that he is the grey-bearded patriarch of a dynasty numbering 20 of whom all but two surrounded him for the celebration in Perth. One small grand-daughter on learning that he originally came from Tasmania enquired 'And did you come to Australia for a better life?'

'Fear Drive My Feet' was a WW2 memoir which left even Weary Dunlop much impressed. It is a long time since its author Peter RYAN MM was an 18 years old soldier in New Guinea but he is still putting pen to paper and recently had an article in *The Spectator* (26 March). Written for readers not as in touch with PNG affairs as our members he covered achievements prior to Independence and developments, or lack of, since. He mentions the ongoing debate as to whether Australia's withdrawal in 1975 was a responsible act and reveals an eyebrow-lifting comment made to him personally by Mr. Gough Whitlam. 'Never forget, Comrade, that it was I who liberated Papua New Guinea'. It can be assumed that the onetime Prime Minister did not say this in jest.

In Africa there seem to be problems from one end to the other. So it is interesting that one eminent commentator there has said "the best advertisement for colonial administration is post-colonial administration"....

The recent Japanese earthquake set up a tsunami which spread to PNG particularly the Sepik coast. Wewak suffered three major waves causing damage and all patients at the Boram hospital had to be evacuated. An estimated K5 million is required for its re-establishment. This disaster stirred memories of the 1960 tsunami which swept across the Pacific from Chile and was remarked on by Dennis COMPSTON, Pat MURRAY, John BRADY, Ossie DENT, Robin McKAY and myself in *Una Voce* 45 years later. The tidal surges then seen at Wewak, Madang, Rabaul, Kieta, and on the east coast of New Ireland did not cause the appalling damage to Japan's people and property which resulted from their magnitude 8.9 earthquake but the named members

can say that we were witnesses, if somewhat distant, of the world's biggest Quake since 1900. For Chile was a magnitude 9.5

Higher costs concern us all so a call for the regulation of bride prices in the Western Highlands is a little amusing but quite understandable. Recently at a village near Mt. Hagen K54,000 and 72 pigs were paid by a business man for his son's bride but he pointed out that poor families were increasingly unable to acquire wives for their young men with detrimental social consequences.

It might have astounded the authors of Moresby's "*Black and White*" magazine in the '70s but given education and training PNG nationals can, of course, rise to great heights. As in the case of the pilot of a 500 seat Airbus mentioned in the March issue. However some news from the Southern Highlands concerning perceived competency as instant builders stretches the imagination. Construction of the three-storied Mendi Valley Plaza is under way and the contractor says it has employed over 50 local men *who were handpicked from the street without any experience* and trained on the job as carpenters, bricklayers, concretors and steel fixers. The Plaza will – so long as it stands up – be the second tallest structure in the Valley outdone only by the seven storeys of the Provincial Government Centre.

On a personal note I shall in May celebrate the 40th anniversary of my becoming an Australian. O happy day! My proposers were two ex-RAAF types – Des CLANCY (Native Affairs) and Barney MADDEN (Education) and what Immigration bureaucrat could challenge that pair? As a subject of the Queen already there was no need for ceremony but my so-called friends decided otherwise. Seized and sat in a chair, wrapped in the flag, and then baptised with upended 'greenies' and 'brownies' I became a wet alcoholic mess. During which ritual Ed Brumby (Education), talented lyricist, declaimed his ode written on toilet paper extolling my many virtues and applauding my renunciation of Pommy bastardry....

So on the 29th I shall be celebrating once again, sadly without the raucous *wantoks* present, but with a beverage from the Barossa, Hunter, or Margaret River, none of which precious liquid shall touch my hair. What remains of it.

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REVISITING PNG By Graham Jones

That so many delightful and interesting stories fill the pages of *Una Voce* and '*PNG Attitude*' convinced me to add my small contribution to the mill.

In October 2010, after years of procrastination, I decided to revisit Madang by myself over a 10 day period (my wife declined). Madang, because our first daughter was born at Yagaum Lutheran Hospital in May 1964, after a dramatic early morning flight (she was a week early) in Doug McGraw's MAF Cessna 185 from Banz, where I was teaching. Also, Lae (where I taught at Lae Technical College 1969-72) and Hagen, my two other preferred options, apparently have significantly lower levels of law and order.

I had a most exciting and enjoyable time (all too short) and some thrilling highlights.

Revisiting Yagaum Hospital again was a special experience. The buildings were virtually unchanged and the maternity ward and delivery room were, apart from maintenance and technological improvement, as they were back then. My wife is currently nursing at an Aged Care facility here in Sarina, Queensland and the residents had knitted about 20 'premature infant jackets' (my term) which I took to distribute as needed. The Sister-In-Charge at Yagaum was delighted to receive them and to my astonishment when we visited the ward, a one-week premmie baby had a ray lamp on him. So the jackets were indeed welcome. After much discussion with mum she declared she would name her newborn after our latest grandson Xaver. All the other mothers and *wantoks* were delighted to hear me tell 'our story' (which I retold many times in other situations) and were amazed that we had a baby there 'way back then'.

Other highlights:

- The CWA (we had stayed there occasionally) is still there! And managed brilliantly.
- Meeting such interesting people as Busy Bee (Madang Resort) and Maureen Hill (long time resident and public benefactor par excellence).
- Visiting Alexishaven (visited an old, dying German Nun who had spent her life there).
- 2 days at Divine Word University for an international resource development conference (would love to tell you more on that - China, Deep Sea Tailings Disposal, hoodwinking people, etc). Met a delightful young woman from Enga province who is a lecturer at DWU – the life obstacles she must have had to overcome!
- Kalibobo Village (Madang Resort) was a delightful place to stay.
- Transport is a real problem for potential tourists.
- First Kokomo Cultural Show (it will be held again this year). This small village is about 1 hour drive into the mountains. Although a small event (compared to the outstanding 1964 Hagen Show) it will hopefully develop into a similarly extravagant affair.
- Visited a couple of schools in the mountains one of which occupied a particularly spectacular location on a ridge looking towards the Highlands - (distributed classroom material I had brought from Oz which was most welcome).

To conclude, the people were always friendly and helpful. It was a delight to launch into Pidgin again, which was surprisingly easy to do. Even though I'm a North Queenslander, the tropical ambience of the country is palpable, exotic and addictive (as so many of you know).

My wife declines to 'go back' and so many people over the years said 'don't', but this was my first foray and I intend to now 'front' the apparent threats of the Hagen-Banz-Wabag area later this year. Any suggestions?

Em tasol (sorry, couldn't resist it!)

With thanks to Marie Clifton-Bassett and Andrea Williams for encouraging me to 'do it'.
Great to hear it was a success Graham! - Ed ■

JOHN MAY'S MEDALS go to the TASMANIAN MUSEUM and ART GALLERY



The Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Bill Bleathman, said that the museum was honoured to receive a Tasmanian World War II chaplain's collection of military medals.

John May's Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) and several of his military service medals, which were recently purchased by a group of anonymous benefactors, were presented to TMAG by members of his family on 13 April 2011.

'I am pleased the generosity of these benefactors has enabled TMAG to acquire these medals, whilst also allowing Mary May to raise funds towards a permanent memorial to commemorate the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*,' Mr Bleathman said. A cheque was presented to Marg Curtis, representing the Society.

John Lovatt May MBE was born in Tasmania and educated in Penguin, Queenstown and Hobart before completing theological studies at the Australasian College of Theology. In 1940, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces as a chaplain and served with the 2/22nd Battalion which was sent to garrison Rabaul in New Guinea in 1941.

When the Japanese invaded Rabaul in January 1942, John May was taken prisoner along with over 1 000 other Australian troops and civilians, many of whom subsequently embarked the *Montevideo Maru* bound for Hainan in south China.

Although John May was not aboard the *Montevideo Maru*, he tended the men of the 2/22nd Battalion as soldiers and as prisoners. After the war, he was always concerned that efforts be made to recognise the terrible loss of both troops and civilians on the *Montevideo Maru*.

He was awarded the MBE in 1947 for his actions as a prisoner of war (POW) in maintaining morale of troops and POWs in World War II.

'I am pleased that through this gift, John May's medals will enable TMAG to continue to tell the stories of Tasmanians who have made such important contributions through their service to their country'" Mr Bleathman said. ■

TROPICAL MATTERS MEDICAL

By Paul Oates

At ASOPA, part of our preparation for PNG was to get our 'shots'. We were required to attend the Government Health Centre at the old Commonwealth Government Centre in Phillip Street, Sydney. We were then medically inspected and approved for tropical use by a Commonwealth Medical Officer, who in my case was a thick set, grey haired man of about 60.

Then our Course was lined up and inoculated and vaccinated for Smallpox, Typhus, Typhoid, and Cholera. There was a production line for the 39 of us where our arms were scratched and a needle inserted in our arm. A syringe with each type of vaccine was then thumped in through the needle, one after the other. On the third load of serum, the room started to spin and I remember the Doctor saying, "Nurse, Nurse, look to your patient." Lying back in a chair and with a wet flannel around my neck brought the room back into focus.

During our training at ASOPA we were given a very basic 'walk through' what we might encounter during our daily work. We also were required to qualify for our First Aid Certificates.

Information was showered on us about tropical diseases including Tropical Ulcers, Malaria, Dengue Fever, Skin Fungus, Coral Ear, Leprosy, Snake bite, Leaches, Rat Urine infections, Worms, injuries as a result of tribal warfare, births and deaths and coronial investigations.

All this was presented with an air of, *'Well it's nothing too dramatic, you understand'*.

A particularly graphic Canadian Air Force film was shown to us and the presenter told us to bring our meat pies and tomato sauce along. I wasn't the only one who left the room before the film finished however it was good preparation for the real thing that many of us had to cope with. I found that looking at something in cold blood however is entirely different to coping with a 'hot action' situation in practice.

Tropical Ulcers or TU's as they were known were something that you quickly become acquainted with. Any little scratch or cut can quickly become infected and if not treated, can develop into a very nasty ulcer. Those of us from temperate areas who thought we were well prepared for skin infections had another thing coming. Antiseptic creams and lotions were of little or no use in the tropics where sweat will quickly remove them from the cut. They are too slow acting anyway for the tropical germs. After a while, we learnt to have some Antibiotic powders handy and at the first sign of infection, treat the wound with these.

Later advice suggests these antibiotic powders may be not a good long term strategy however and an Iodine solution, commercially known as Betadine, is a good standby especially for minor cuts and abrasions. Cuts from coral reefs were particularly susceptible to infection.

Leach bites and flea bites if left unattended or inadvertently scratched, would very quickly develop into Tropical Ulcers. With particularly bad T.U.'s a penicillin injection from the local Aid Post was required.

Malaria is a big killer in Papua New Guinea. Not only is the disease a curse but even if a person has some immunity, the effect on the liver and spleen is

permanent and ongoing. We were instructed to be very careful if taking a person into custody as they could well end up with a ruptured spleen if a struggle occurred.

So serious was malaria in PNG that there was an Anti Malaria Unit that went around spraying houses with the insecticide DDT to combat the *Anopheles* mosquito that spread the disease. When the long term effects of DDT were discovered, the Unit ceased operations and malaria returned with fierce intensity.

More is known about the disease these days and how it is spread. Mosquito nets sprayed with insecticide are being distributed by Rotary clubs and it is said, if you can cover yourself up and remain unbitten by a mosquito between the hours of dusk and night, you won't catch the disease as this particular *Anopheles* mosquito only bites between those hours. However, in 1969 we weren't privy to all of this information. Dire tales of 'Blackwater Fever' and 'Cerebral Malaria' were common place and I even remember my father's stories about how the Australian troops during the war had to take a daily dose of 'Atebrin' that turned their skin yellow.

The treatment of Malaria we were told was simple. Take two Anti Malarials once a week and we wouldn't get malaria. Anti Malarial treatment for us was in tablet form and either called Chloroquine, or distributed under another name, Nivoquine. Sunday morning was reserved for anti malarials, hopefully downed with swig of beer if there was some available for the tablets were as bitter as gall.

Leprosy was apparently less common in PNG after there had been concerted efforts to eradicate this disease. The common conception of fingers and limbs falling off the sufferer were however not true. The disease actually eats away at the boney tissues and the limbs and extremities gradually shrink. Traditionally, lepers are shunned and ostracised and in times gone by, isolated from the community. We were told that in order to actually catch leprosy, you have to be in contact with a sufferer for an extended length of time.

On patrol in the Kabwum Sub District in 1972, I remember shaking hands with a leper outside Lama Village. All the villagers had lined up along the track outside the village and as I walked down the line, I would make a few comments to everyone like, '*Gut Moning*' (Good Morning), '*Gut de*' (Good Day), etc. As I progressed down the line I was suddenly confronted by what I can only call an 'apparition'. The man's face was terribly disfigured and he had a hole in what was left of his face where his nose should have been. I looked down and found I was actually 'shaking' the ends of what was left of the two main bones of his right forearm that had seemingly fused together.

Not wishing to indicate any emotional reaction, I kept on shaking hands until I was past the village. We had been briefed that you had to have a long period of contact to actually catch the disease however I washed my hands vigorously in every stream and river we came to for the next few hours.

The treatment for the common complaint skin fungus, ('grille') or *Tinea Embricata* was usually observed on PNG people by patches of their skin being light coloured, raised and roughened. This gave rise to the Tokpisin term of '*skin pukpuk*' or literally translated, 'Crocodile Skin'. If clothes had not been aired and had come into contact with this fungus, it was fairly easy to catch this fairly innocuous disease. The remedy then available was to paint the affected

area in a weak solution of Salicylic acid and when the acid started to actually burn your skin, you knew you had successfully burnt off the fungus

Coral Ear was apparently something that one could catch by swimming in the ocean when coral polyps were spawning. You have to be very careful to check any ear infection if you lived on the coast of PNG.

Papua New Guinean snakes come in all shapes, sizes and potentially lethal varieties. In the hot, humid *kunai* (2 meter plus high tall grass), Death Adders were very common. A highly venomous black variety of both the Australian Eastern Brown and Black Snake called the Papuan Black are also very important to stay away from. Given that most village people walked around and worked in their gardens in bare feet, snake bite was a fairly common event. Pythons and other 'constrictors' are common and often followed their natural prey of rats and mice into buildings and houses.

Rat Urine, we were told was something to be avoided. Rats would scamper about on the rafters of grass houses at night and their urine contained Hepatitis. When the urine dried, the powder would then float around in the air and could be inhaled at night when you were sleeping.

Worms (both Round Worm and Hookworm) were another thing to be avoided we were told. Round Worms could be caught by eating uncooked or poorly cooked village pig. Considering that many pigs at village ceremonies were cooked in ground ovens and might not be properly cooked it was something to consider when you were offered a piece of pork at a celebration. To refuse would, of course, have been very bad manners. Round worm could, we were told, burrow through your gut wall and give you peritonitis.

Hook Worm was a continual problem in villages where it was traditional for village pigs to roam wild. In some areas, pigs were used to dispose of human faecal matter at night. The pigs helped spread hook worm which people would catch through cracks in their feet when they trod on the faecal matter of pigs. The Hookworm would then work its way through the bloodstream to the lungs and when a person then coughed at the irritation, they would swallow the worm so that it ended up in their gut. There the worms would latch onto the lining of the intestine wall and suck the blood of the unfortunate host. Eggs would then be expelled in the faeces to start the infection process all over again.

People who were badly infected could lose so much blood that they became anaemic and could be very susceptible to easily catching or coming down with other diseases.

To break the infection cycle, we kiaps were told to enforce a 'pigpen rule' and to also strongly encourage the use of pit latrines. This was a particularly difficult task in some villages who had after all, never seen a hookworm or how these worms could be caught from their pigs.

Using a pit latrine in the villages, one might see some blood around or even some blood mixed with faeces and worms around the latrine and it didn't take much to imagine there were plenty of worm eggs around in the vicinity. Usually the hole for each pit latrine would be covered with fresh clay or earth to hopefully prevent further infections but I often wondered if the worm eggs could be inhaled.

It was after all, nothing too dramatic, you understand!

▪

TABIBUGA: MY EXPERIENCE

by **Roy Kirkby** (serving in PNG, 1962-75)

Great to have those stories of experiences in the Jimi Valley in previous editions of *Una Voce*. I was originally a 3rd E course teacher and after expanding the school at Kompiam I was posted to Tabibuga to run the Primary T school there in 1963. The kiap at the time spent every day he could on patrol so I had the addition of running the station when he was away which meant daily radio contact and some station duties but mainly it ran itself with Corporal Poti in charge. I had a great year or so there building up the school and enjoying those lovely evenings looking down the valley from my veranda while listening on my battery powered record player my only two LP records –the Bruch and Beethoven violin concertos played by Isac Stern. Let me relate a couple of my experiences of Tabibuga and the road

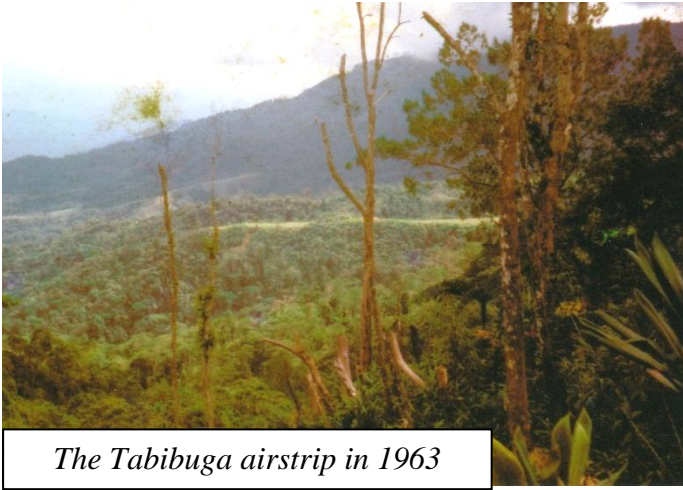


The Jimi Primary T School at Tabibuga in 1963. About half the students were boarders from up and down the valley and from 8 different language groups.

Those were the days when you could regularly see Birds of Paradise and one of my student's father took me one day only a few hundred metres from the school to where a male bird of paradise had its courting tree. Custom was that when the bird eventually found a mate and mated then the person on whose land it was had the right to kill the bird and take its feathers. This may take some years to eventuate.

Since I had the only European dwelling – the little aluminium teacher's house (since the kiaps house was incomplete) any Europeans coming in would stay with me. This included the two missionaries in the Upper Jimi Valley. One day I had a radio message from the DC Tom Ellis in Mount Hagen asking me to accommodate two photographers from the Frankfurt Museum for a couple of days to take photos of Birds of Paradise with the help of a local man who would accompany them. They duly arrived in a private charter with equipment covered in long bags. They were not very communicative but polite. The next day they went out and came back and again said as little as possible. The next day they were gone at dawn. I went down to my classroom and about mid- morning I heard a number of gun shots which was unusual because there were no guns I knew of in the Jimi except those of the kiap who was out on patrol down the valley and station police.

A little while later I saw the two Germans with the local man running past the school with their equipment (high powered rifles with telescopic sights) exposed and something in their bags down to the airstrip where a plane was coming in. They got on it and left. At about the same time there was a lot of noise and shouting and a deputation of local men arrived at my classroom very upset and brandishing weapons. I got a translation and it appeared the two Germans had



The Tabibuga airstrip in 1963

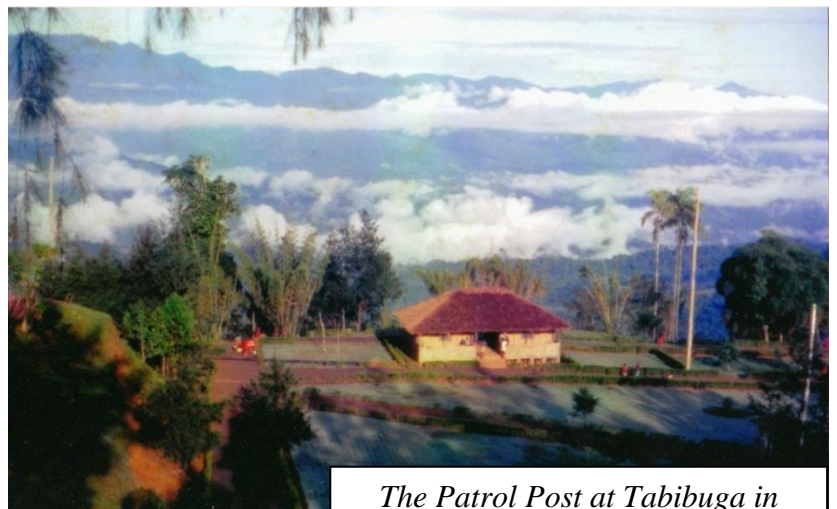
shot and taken a number of Bird of Paradise and left. Soon other groups arrived in a similar mood. I got on the radio but it took more than an hour to eventually get through to Tom Ellis in person, which I had demanded. He said he would be coming across the next morning and I was to send a message out to the kiap to be at the airstrip when he arrived. Meanwhile there were more than a hundred men almost covering the parade ground

outside the Patrol Post office. I explained to them that The DC himself would be out the next morning. However they were not happy and for the rest of the afternoon and evening I heard groups arguing about the issue. That night I did not sleep very well. But the next morning I was still alive and about 9am Tom Ellis arrived and I met him half way down to the airstrip with the ADO and a couple of police. He shook hands (unusual for Tom to initiate this after all he was known as 'God' in the WHD) and greeted me with 'We didn't catch the bastards. They had a plane direct to Moresby and out of the country.'

Tom asked me when I had last been into town. I said it had been some months. He told me to take his plane and go into Hagen for a couple of days but send the plane straight back for him. The result was some government compensation and Tom Ellis claiming compensation from the Museum and banning various people from the District without his permission – he could do that in his day. And I had a couple of days going from the Pub to the Club!

I later moved to Mound Hagen where I met my wife Nonie. We decided to make our honeymoon, in 1965, a walk from Tabibuga over the range to Banz in the Wahgi. It was a most interesting walk. We would be going through thick bush when suddenly we would come upon a beautiful unsealed perfectly smooth road with a continuous border of colourful plants growing on either side. Then after about a hundred metres it would cease and we would be going through bush on a single person width track.

This was of course the early days of the Tabibuga Road. It was the result of a local group of clans doing their bit of road and with others yet to start. We camped the night on top of the range at 8000ft in a little hut and almost froze to death but saved ourselves by using one sleeping bag! On the descent down into Banz there were no stretches of road and for Nonie there was a lot of sliding on her backside it was so steep. But it was an experience not to be forgotten even if it wasn't the usual kind of honeymoon.



The Patrol Post at Tabibuga in 1963 looking down the Jimi Valley with the Bismarck Range ahead.

SANGUMA NESCAFE by David Fopp

It was the mid-70s and the conference was being held in a village on the shores of Hansa Bay. The topic was how to encourage villagers to take a more active role in the life of their village school. There were 20 of us plus two Australian cinematographers who were recording the event. We were billeted with the villagers.

In the evenings we sat about discussing a wide range of topics, as the fire-flies flittered about. One evening one of the cinematographers asked if there were enough fireflies, would it be possible to read with their light. No-one had any idea.

About a kilometre further around the Bay was another village, with a well-worn path connecting both. Either side of the path was cleared with coconut trees growing. About 40-50m to one side was the seashore, and about the same distance on the other side was stubby regrowth.

One evening as we sat talking three teenage girls raced in, screaming in terror. They had been returning from the neighbouring village when a spirit floated out of the scrub, about a metre above the ground. It approached them. They fled.

About five minutes later the two cinematographers walked in accompanied by three 10-12 year old boys. One of the boys was carrying on his head a large Nescafe bottle – which contained ten fireflies, all sparkling.

Note: They did not emit enough light to enable reading! ■

RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL DONATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

Help commemorate an important part of the history of Australia and Papua New Guinea by donating to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial which is to be located in the grounds of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

The Society's goal is to dedicate the memorial on the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the Montevideo Maru on 1 July 2012. The Society is now seeking donations with a commitment to applying all funds raised to the establishment of the memorial. Assistance is urgently needed from all charitable organisations, companies, foundation boards and individuals to support and assist us in achieving this.

Donations, which attract tax deductibility, can be made to the **Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089**, or electronically to the Society's bank BSB 082-401 Account: 16-083-2367. Please notify your deposit in an email to tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au

For amounts over \$10,000 please contact Phil Ainsworth E: P.Ainsworth@Kingco.com.au M: 0418 730 348

A special fund has been set up at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) and donations over \$10,000 should be made direct to the AWM. Direct deposits to the AWM should be identified with: **cc11120/Montevideo Maru Memorial**. Please also notify the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society by email: tharyjanto@jacksonwells.com.au or by writing, so that donations may be acknowledged.

Bank Details for the AWM are: BSB: 082-902 Account Number: 3501 8614
Account Name: Australian War Memorial Fund Account, NAB

To commission an artist and achieve the memorial by the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the Montevideo Maru, donations need to be received urgently.

Support for this national memorial, to be located at the Australian War Memorial Canberra, is greatly appreciated.

THE DAY OF THE KUNDUS by Pat Poircuitte (nee Spence)

I read with interest the article in the last edition of Una Voce - "Kiap Tribute Event" - but of more interest to me was the article taken from the speech Nance Johnston made regarding the life and times of the wives of the Kiaps. It dealt with the trials and difficulties of everyday living, especially those crises involving children. All this prompted me to put pen to paper (or fingers to computer) and describe my own parents' initiation into life in the tropics. The following story is part of our family history, told me by my mother.

My parents, Albert and Louise Spence (Bert and Lou) together with six-week old son, Richard Albert (and always to be known as Dick) arrived in Rabaul from Sydney in 1926. Dad had taken a position as manager of a copra plantation (probably Kurakakaul) and had to disembark at Rabaul to wait for the government trawler to take them on the last leg of their journey to the east coast of New Britain. No roads in those days. As the trawler would take a few days before it got to Rabaul, mum spent that time stocking up on tinned food and milk as a precaution against shortages at the house.

Finally the little party set off for what was to be 'best part of a day's voyage' but which actually turned out to be two and a half to three days on the water. Some malfunction of the trawler motor caused it to shut down and they had to drift until help came. There was no problem with food, but exposure in an open boat, for a tiny baby, caused him to develop a nasty throat infection and he became steadily worse. When they finally tied up at the wharf, and were escorted to the house, he was, in fact, a very ill baby.

I use the word 'house' but it was really only a shack, though standard accommodation on plantations in that era: bamboo walls, pitpit flooring (split wood) and Kunai Grass roof. As the baby could scarcely breathe by that time, it was realised that unless medical help came, he would not survive, but of course they were miles from help.

As has been the custom for many centuries, indigenous people have been able to give and receive news by *Kundus* (bush telegraph) relaying messages from village to village. The workers on the plantation were no exception, and a young doctor, Ray Cilento (later to be known as Sir Raphael Cilento), who happened to be at a mission station on his rounds, heard of the trouble and began his errand of mercy. He decided to perform a tracheostomy on the baby. Even though he was so very young, there was really no option. But that necessitated waiting until the throat stricture reached a certain point and it was at this time that a message reached the doctor, again through *Kundus*, that a patient in childbirth at the mission would not survive without his help. So the good doctor left all the necessary medical instruments, sedation, etc, laid out on the table with verbal and written instructions on how my father was to perform the operation on his six-week old son. And so the waiting began.

One can only begin to imagine the horrors and fears that must go through the minds of parents in this situation. But the gods (or fate) must have looked down kindly on this pitiful domestic drama, for within two hours, the swelling decreased, as did the temperature, and the child breathed normally, as no doubt did my father, having been released from such a terrible responsibility. Dick gradually regained his strength and the *Kundus* relayed the good news yet again

to the doctor who returned a few days later to check the patient out and to retrieve his instruments. My parents were told that Dick should not be allowed to put any pressure or strain on his throat, as in screaming, etc, for a couple of years, and for this reason, the child's every wish and whim was granted by his doating Meri and because that particular area was so isolated, there were no other European children with whom he could play. He grew up trilingual, speaking fluent "place talk", pidgin and bad English. Mum said he was probably the most spoiled child on the island. But he grew from 'L'enfant terrible' to become a fine man, respected, admired and loved by all, especially the very many students with whom he worked in his position as Department Head of the Faculty of Civil Engineering at Sydney TAFE.

When my parents moved into Rabaul, they often came into contact with Doctor Cilento who said he'd never forget Dick, the mission mother and child or the day of the *Kundus*. ▀



Claire Van Der Boom Won The Silver Logie for Most Outstanding Actress in her role in the ABC miniseries *SISTERS OF WAR* on 1 May 2011. Writer John Misto recently won the Queensland Premier's Literary Award for *Sister of War* in the category of Best Television Script.

Sisters of War is inspired by the true story of two extraordinary Australian women, and PNGAA members, **Lorna Johnston (nee Whyte)**, an army nurse and **Sister Berenice Twohill** (see photo), a Catholic nun from country New South Wales who was stationed at Vunapope. Although very different women, their friendship has survived nearly 70 years after the extraordinary events they found themselves in when the Japanese military made them prisoners-of-war in Rabaul in January 1942. The story of their captivity, their friendship, their will to survive and their extraordinary courage has never before been told. It is a story of strength, survival and forgiveness.

Sisters of War is based on Rod Miller's manuscript *The Lost Women of Rabaul*.



**KAINANTU HIGH SCHOOL
AND ITS COFFEE PLANTATIONS
by Riley Warren**

In 1974 I was posted to Kainantu High School in the Eastern Highland District as Head of Maths and Social Science. It was my third year in the country, having spent my first two at Goroka High School after graduating from ASOPA. The school was only one year old and I enjoyed my time there, but was posted to Port Moresby High School in 1975 as Head of History.

I could not have been more fortunate than to be in Port Moresby during all the Independence festivities in 1975. Being present in the capital and observing the great ceremonies that saw Papua New Guinea move from colonial oversight to independence was one of the great events of my life.

They were heady days following independence and full of promise with the country led by an articulate and good leader in Michael Somare. He encouraged the people not to simply look to the government to meet their needs, but to be self-reliant. 1976 saw me posted back to Kainantu High School as Deputy Headmaster under a newly appointed national Headmaster as part of the rapid localisation policy following independence. I was also the Secretary of the school's Board of Governors.

There was much talk and no small amount of enthusiasm in those days of being self-reliant and not being a burden to the new government. With that in mind, when I heard that Tudor Plantation, a small five acres coffee plantation adjacent to the school was for sale, I brought it to the attention of the Board of Governors. The plantation was owned by a large local company with many holdings in coffee and other enterprises. From memory the cost was some K25,000. Naturally the school did not have cash of anywhere near that amount.

The Governors believed the purchase of the plantation would eventually bring money into the school and so reduce the need for government assistance. Not only that, but the Eastern Highlands was a major producer of Arabica Coffee one of PNG's export earners. It was considered rightly that the students would learn about coffee plantation management as well as initial processing of the coffee while still at school. With those skills they would be able to run their own plantations back in their villages. The Board of Governors believed this was in every way a positive and beneficial enterprise for the students and for the school. I was asked to find ways of funding the purchase if possible.

Coffee prices were high and I eventually found a bank willing to lend almost the full amount to be paid off in five years. Such a business enterprise for a school was rare if not unique in PNG and the purchase was reported nationally.

To manage the plantation a scheme was set up whereby the students were rostered on plantation clearing and fertilising during work parade. Under the excellent guidance of a staff member with farming experience who was a Canadian Volunteer Abroad, concrete vats were built and hand driven machines to separate the coffee bean from the 'cherry' was purchased as well as metres and metres of yellow plastic sheeting to dry the coffee – all the sort of materials that would be used in the village situation for small coffee plantations.

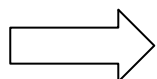
At harvest time students were rostered on to pick the coffee and a record was kept of the weight of the coffee each students picked. At the end of the season a cash figure was calculated from the total weight each student picked and that amount was set against that students school fees - no small contribution.

The Board of Governors, recognising that the oversight of the business side of the school was more that it or the Headmaster could reasonably be expected to undertake, set up a trust to manage the plantation and its finances. Three local expatriates were chosen as trustees. Those appointed were a local Member of Parliament, a businessman with large holdings in Kainantu and a lady who owned plantations and a small business in Kainantu. It was expected they would see to the repayment of the loan as quickly as possible and then arrange for the profits to go to the benefit of the school. I left Kainantu High School at the end of 1977 to take up a post in Lae.

I understand the loan was quickly paid off. However when I visited the school some years later I expected to see a very well established and well-resourced school – perhaps the wealthiest school in PNG. What a shock I had. While the school was well looked after by the head and the students it was not much better resourced than many other schools in the country. The school had gone back to having an expatriate Headmaster who told me that the Trustees had not been generous in distributing the profits to the school at all. Instead they had provided a squash court at the instigation of an expatriate staff member who was a keen squash player, but the court had fallen into disrepair through lack of money. The Governors also paid for the set up a computer room for the school. However the real profits for the sale of coffee instead of going to the school were being used to buy other plantations around the Eastern Highlands.

While the Trustee were buying more and more properties Kainantu High School was languishing. Even the opportunity for students to earn money towards their school fees was stopped and the coffee machines and vats for processing the cherry coffee were disused and overgrown so that the students were not learning about coffee plantation management any more.

As I understand it none of the Trustees now live in PNG and one can only wonder at what became of the properties and where the money went that was supposed to go to Kainantu High School. It is a real mystery and a great pity that what had begun so well with great vision for setting up financial security for a school was side tracked. ■



Have you used our **PNGAA Forum yet?** Just click on the top tab in the left hand menu bar on the home page of the website: www.pngaa.net

70th Anniversary DVD sets to raise funds for Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial...with thanks to Ken MacGowan.

WL MacGowan Escape from New Britain 1942 \$20

2/22nd Btn Lark Force Association 50th Anniversary Return to Rabaul

June 1992 - 2 disc set \$30

Cheques to Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society - please add \$5 for p & p.

Please contact Andrea Williams - 24 Melaleuca Drive St Ives NSW 2075

REGISTER OF BIRTHS IN NEW GUINEA 1952-1969

By Ross Johnson

Information from the National Archives of Australia (NAA) website covering details of a series of registers they hold relating to the Birth of Australian citizens in New Guinea.

'This series comprises three different register formats relating to the birth of Australian citizens in New Guinea, in particular the Port Moresby area. The registers consist of 8 maroon covered volumes which contain entries of the names of children granted Australian citizenship through descent, though being born outside Australia.'

Of particular interest is the fact that two of these Registers have been digitised by the NAA and can be viewed on-line. Details for each entry (birth) include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Number | <input type="checkbox"/> Date and Place of Birth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Name of Child | <input type="checkbox"/> Name of Father |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sex | <input type="checkbox"/> Maiden Name of Mother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Date of registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Issue (Names and Ages) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Present or Not | <input type="checkbox"/> Witnesses to Birth |

Because some people registered births when the register commenced, or when they found out about it, there are records of births some years before the date of first registration. Also there is a political nuance, the registers – at least the two that have been digitised - do not record the births of any children born in Papua. All the births registered occurred in New Guinea, with the exception of one or two ring-ins from other overseas countries. The detail for those listed as previous issue does not give the place of birth, but in many cases gives the actual date of birth.

The first digitised volume (No. 36) covers the period from 19 June 1952 to 13 June 1961, is of 206 pages containing a total of 1,270 entries. This volume commences with registration No 1, the registration of a birth (Aug 1950) registered on 19 June 1952.

The second digitised volume (No. 64) covers the period from 29 April 1965 to 4 March 1969, is 203 pages but contains 3,776 entries.

To access these two registers –

1. Open the Australian National Archives web page (<http://www.naa.gov.au/>).
2. Select Record Search
3. Go to 'Search now (as a Guest)' – unless you already have an account.
4. Now select the RecordSearch – Advanced Search tab.
5. Select the 'Items' under the 'Series' box.
6. Enter 'A9125' in the box adjacent to the 'Series Number'.
7. Click 'Search' - the resultant 2 pages will list 7 Registers, 19 Receipts and 1 Index.
8. The 2 Registers that have been digitised are identified by this symbol
9. Click on either to view.
10. If you want to print an item, suggest you read the 'How to view and print this page' – top right hand of screen. Also, you can 'enlarge' – see top LH of screen.

It is presumed that the National Archives will progressively digitise the remaining five registers and, hopefully, the Index, however we have no information as to when this is likely to occur. Further information at: www.pngaa.net > News

Our thanks to Member Bill Brown for alerting us to this facility. Happy hunting!▪

JOHN (JACK) PATRICK BEAUMONT 1914-1944

Jan and Janice Steinfurth (nee Beaumont)

The poem below belonged to Jack and was passed on via his wife to Janice Steinfurth nee Beaumont. Written on E&A Mail Liner paper, dated 21 May 1937, a note in pencil beside it read: *'Please do not let this get lost as I would like to keep it so put it away safely please'* – it was written by Jack.

The verse about Jack talks about *'a sad and lonely hear'* – that was Annie Clara Manning whom he married in Rabaul 2 April 1941. We would love to find out if any of the persons named in the poem are known to any of our members. Please contact E: triplej2@accsoft.com.au T: 02-9579 1839.

A TRIBUTE TO THE RABAU REBELS.

Across the great Pacific
To Rabaul five heroes came
To seek their fame and fortune,
To carve themselves a name.
The ship on which they travelled
Was the 'NANKIN' E & A,
And oft the vessel sounded
With their laughter loud and gay.
KEN SIMPSON was the Romeo
Whose tongue was never still
Well-versed in all the wiles and ways
The maidens' hearts to thrill
JACK BEAUMONT with his sunny smile
Most nobly played his part,
And when he goes he'll leave
A sad and lonely heart.
PAT BARRIE when in joyful mood
Would fill the air with song
When we to china sail away
For Pat we'll often long
Brave JOHNSON, boyish in his shorts
Oft graced the swimming pool,
He claimed a bride before he sailed,
Believe us, he's no fool.
NORM WOODS – a good six feet of vim,
Of kindness and of fun,
A gap he'll leave that none can fill,
Good pal to everyone.
We wish you all the best of luck
Wherever you may roam,
If fate is kind, perhaps we'll meet
Once more when wending home.
And in Rabaul when work is o'er,
And it is growing dark,
In memory fancy you can see
'TO LET', on Kanga Park.



PATROLLING THE MARAMUNI by Graham Hardy

I was saddened to read of Don Vincin's death in the March 2011 edition of *Una Voce*. The mention in his obituary of the Maramuni area stirred memories of one of the most satisfying patrols I ever carried out. The Maramuni and Wale/Tarua census divisions were located on the northern slopes of the main range, generally north-west and north of Wabag, in the now Enga Province and were named for the rivers which flow into the Karawari and eventually the Sepik. It is a remote mountainous area, thinly populated and a couple of days walk from (then) Laiagam Patrol Post to the first population. Wabag in 1958 was a typical sub-district headquarters, accessible only by air. It would be a couple of years before the road connection to Mt.Hagen and the outside world was completed. The only permanent materials house was the recently completed ADO's residence, the remaining buildings being a mixture of local material and corrugated iron and *kunai* thatch roofing. Wabag was a pretty station and at an altitude of 6,700 feet had a pleasant climate. At the time Bob MacIlwain was the Assistant District Officer (a title later to be changed to Assistant District Commissioner) and Dr. Keith Wilson was the Government Medical Officer.

By 1958 the anti-yaws campaign had been launched throughout Papua New Guinea and it was decided a joint DDS&NA/PHD patrol would be carried out in the Maramuni and Wale/Tarua to record the initial census and to carry out anti-yaws treatment as well as any other medical treatment that could be provided. I was a patrol officer at Wabag and Don was an EMA (European Medical Assistant) at Wabag Hospital, so we got the job.

At the time, the area was still part of the Restricted Area, and although the people were peaceable enough, officially a PHD patrol by itself would be against the rules. Earlier patrols by Jim Taylor and a few others had passed through over the years since the Enga had first been visited pre-war, but were few and far between. As a matter of interest, Mick Leahy had passed through while escorting a party of Catholic nuns escaping from the Japanese invasion of the Sepik on their way to Wabag. The last patrol before this one was carried out by ADO Dick White five years before.

An Administration presence in the Maramuni had been maintained in the person of Constable Perano, himself a Maramuni man, for some years. Perano was a quiet, unassuming man, who probably would not have stood out if posted in a normal police detachment, but a decision by some earlier kiap to send him to live in his home area gave him his chance, and it may well have been a unique experiment in extending government influence in a Restricted Area. He supervised construction of a few rest houses at strategic spots, and looked after the fairly primitive track system. He no doubt arbitrated minor disputes. He may well have been the first indigenous kiap! Every six months or so he would emerge from the bush to collect his pay and some 'luxuries': bully beef, rice and tobacco.

Because of the small scattered population and the rough terrain, such a large patrol presented some logistical challenges. We could not depend on enough local food being available without placing a burden on the local people so it was necessary to take rations for a large party: half a dozen police, half a dozen

medical orderlies, as well as a considerable quantity of medical supplies, tents and other patrol gear requiring a large carrier line. Constable Perano was sent for to escort an advance party of carriers with additional rations.

We departed from Laiagam where Chris Day PO and his wife Gwen were posted. It took two days to cross the range and reach the first rest house and population at Woilep. Readers unfamiliar with patrolling in PNG should be aware that a day's walk did not necessarily mean eight or ten hours on the track, especially if a bush camp had to be set up at the end of the day's stage. If rain was about it often meant stopping early, for example 11 am or midday to pitch tents and make bush shelters to get everybody and the patrol gear under cover. This was especially important at high altitudes where night time temperatures were often very low.

The main objectives of the patrol were for me to record the census for the first time while Don and his team administered penicillin injections to all, and rendered other medical treatments. For this reason, we needed to contact as near as possible one hundred percent of the population, especially if the anti-yaws programme was to be successful. Therefore we did not necessarily travel far between meeting places, because we did not want the aged and mothers and their children to miss out on the treatment. At a couple of places Don wanted to build a village aid post, as plans were afoot to train locals as medical orderlies to work among their own people. With our carrier line and the local men getting stuck into it, it took only a day or so to build a bush material clinic and a house.

Don and I got on well together, and his medical team was very efficient. His head orderlies had been well trained by a former EMA at Wabag, John Tommerup, and included Tei Abal who later became a prominent political figure in post-independence Papua New Guinea. We had no radio transceiver and Tei demonstrated his fitness when he volunteered to take a message to Wabag when we only had a couple of days to go before ending the patrol at Kompiam Patrol Post in the Sau Valley. We thought it would take him a couple of days, but he walked virtually non-stop overnight and reached Wabag the next day!

Our last stop in the Maramuni was at Kaiyematok rest house, where we also built an aid post. Here we found some cases of tinned meat and margarine which Dick White had left in the care of the local *Luluai* five years before. If 'use by' dates existed in 1958 I know not, but apart from a few 'blown' tins, the rest was soon eaten by the carriers without any ill effects. Our visit here coincided with a visit by five men from an unpatrolled area further north in the Sepik District, who claimed Don and I were the first Europeans they had seen. Crossing the dividing ridges to the Tarua valley involved a bush camp under canvas at a spot identified by a local as one of Jim Taylor's camps. I had to call for a few volunteers at Kaiyematok to help shift our surplus stores, and to my surprise a couple of young women stepped forward. They were given light loads, but when we reached the first stop in the Tarua, the first carrier into camp was a woman nonchalantly carrying a four gallon drum of kerosene in a bilum. It would be hard to imagine a more uncomfortable load on such a bad track.

After completing the census and anti-yaws programme in the Wale/Tarua, we finished the patrol at Kompiam without any problems and with a great sense of

satisfaction. Joe Martyn PO was OIC Kompian at the time. We had been out for 52 days and Don and I were both a bit leaner than we were when we left Laiagam. Almost another five years later when I had returned to Wabag as ADC, I did another patrol into the Maramuni with CPO Peter Wilson. Little had changed except that with de-restriction, the Lutheran and Catholic missions had started up stations, the former at Kaiyematok, and the latter at a place named Pasalagos. Both missions proposed building an airstrip at their respective stations. I thought the work load on the small population in building two airstrips would be too onerous, and after discussions with the local heads of the two missions, they agreed to join forces and build one strip at Pasalagos. It was high on the side of a ridge overlooking the junction of the Maramuni River and a major tributary, with a magnificent view towards the Sepik. It would require a lot of work cutting into the hillside for most of its length, with a one way approach and take-off over the Maramuni Valley, but with a drop off of a couple of thousand feet it would be a breeze taking off. Years later I met a pilot who had landed there and he said it was a hairy experience because of crosswind.

This was the longest patrol in my experience, and I could not have wished for a better patrol companion than Don Vincin. Vale Don! We kiaps have been getting a lot of publicity lately about our role in pre-independence PNG, but has the work of the EMAs been sufficiently recognized and honoured? Is somebody out there writing a comprehensive history of their part in the development of PNG from the end of the Great War onwards? ■



BUK BILONG PIKININI –
setting up children's libraries
across Papua New Guinea.

By Anne-Sophie Hermann –
Founder of Buk bilong Pikinini.

For as long as I can remember, I have loved books. I fondly recall my childhood visits to the local library in Denmark, where I used to take out as many books as I could load on to my bicycle. When I became a mother, I

wanted to transmit this love to my daughter, and I read to her as often as I could.

I wanted this to continue when my husband took up his position as Australia's High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea in December 2006. However, upon our arrival, I learned that there were no bookshops* or well-functioning public libraries in PNG. Apparently, at Independence, there were thirty-two public libraries in Port Moresby alone.

This prompted me to start a project, which has now become *Buk bilong Pikinini*. Since day one, the idea has been to provide access to books and getting books into the hands of children, as a first step to literacy. The idea slowly turned into a model for libraries, which have a strong focus on early childhood learning. I thought that from the start these ought to be set up in community-based localities, serving mainly the vulnerable children in the society who miss out on formal education.

* Thanks to Dr. John Evans, there is now a very well stocked book store at UPNG.

Our first library is located at the Port Moresby General Hospital in the Children's HIV, Tuberculosis and Malnutrition Ward and is instrumental in the children's rehabilitation. The second library is at the RCSERC special needs school for hearing impaired children, where we have also made sure that there are sign language books and materials available. The remaining five libraries are next to clinics, a police station, markets and settlements.

The process of setting up such a project has not been easy, but I have to say that at the very least it has been extremely exciting. The tireless work of all the *Buk bilong Pikinini* committee members combined with the commitment and financial support of the local business community has enabled us to set up seven libraries to date - with many more planned. In PNG of course a lot can happen -we have had to close our Koki Markets library on a few occasions due to tribal fighting between Taris and Goilalas, we have had our teachers in Goroka thrown into jail for trying to prevent the son of a police officer from stealing a book, and have had trees fall on our library at Six Mile -and the list goes on.

The most exciting part of the project has been the close contact I have been able to establish with the children coming to our libraries on a regular basis. Their stories are amazing and have touched me deeply. In Australia, we all take books and libraries for granted and most people have a number of books at home.

For children in PNG it is quite a different story: there are no books in the home, no libraries or bookshops and the school libraries mainly hold books from the 1960s and 1970s. But the children's thirst for learning is palpable. Most of our libraries cannot cater for the large number of children presenting themselves every morning for a literacy session. In Goroka, for example, we have more than 300 children lining up to get into a library which can only comfortably hold 100. The enthusiasm and the joy of the children eager to read the more than 2000 children's books we put in each library is an inspiration to be reckoned with.

We employ a minimum of two teacher-librarians at each library to conduct our literacy- and numeracy-based learning programme every morning, but our core business is really to read to the children and introduce them to books. I still get quite emotional every time I see a child holding a book for the first time.

With this project, we are hoping to encourage the PNG government to recognize the importance of libraries - not just for providing access to books, but also for the sake of preserving PNG's history through proper archiving of the nation's written record.

More than 43% of school-aged children miss out on formal education in PNG and the literacy rate is officially around 56%. If you are able to somehow assist Buk bilong Pikinini in its efforts to try to increase literacy rates in PNG, please do not hesitate to contact me personally. I can be found most days in the office very kindly provided for me by the PNG High Commissioner to Australia His Excellency Charles Lepani (a strong supporter of our efforts).

If you would like to hear and see more about Buk bilong Pikinini libraries, you can do so by viewing podcasts and reading stories about our up and coming libraries, by going to our website: www.bukbilongpikinini.org

If you would like to assist *Buk bilong Pikinini* in establishing libraries in PNG, we would be very grateful for financial donations, and cheques made out to *Buk bilong Pikinini* can be sent to me at the High Commission.

C/ High Commission of Papua New Guinea, 39-41 Forster Crescent, 2600 Yarralumla, ACT, Phone: 02 6129 1801 and 6273 3322

INFANTICIDE AT POMIO

by Edna and George Oakes

Prior to the Europeans coming to New Britain, in most of the island infanticide was practiced. In 1934, Edna was born at Malalia Methodist Mission station near Cape Hoskins on the north coast of New Britain together with her twin sister, Nancy. Because her parents knew that the people killed off all except the first born in multiple births, both Edna and Nancy were kept out of sight for the first few months of their lives on the Mission station. After 3 months, Edna's father, Rev. Brawn, told his head teacher that Marama had had two babies. The teacher replied, 'We knew, because two of everything went in and two of everything came out!'

In 1959, we were posted to Pomio, on the south coast of New Britain, almost opposite Cape Hoskins. In our first years at Pomio, there were no multiple births seen. In late 1961 George heard that in a village near Cape Orford, a woman had given birth to twins and had immediately killed the second born and threw its body into the sea. Later, when the first born would not stop crying she killed it too! George immediately went in the workboat up the Mengen coast to the village where he conducted an investigation and then brought the woman and her husband back to Pomio to await a District Court to be conducted by the Assistant District Officer. At the District Court the case was referred to the Supreme Court.

In April, 1962, the Supreme Court case was held in Rabaul and George attended as interpreter. The judge committed her for Infanticide and asked George what should be done. He suggested to His Honour that she should serve a short sentence at Pomio so it could be a lesson to other women in the Pomio area. The judge gave her 7 months to be served at the Pomio Corrective Institute. At Pomio, although she was a prisoner, she was allowed considerable freedom. Her husband was also at Pomio. Before she finished her term she was pregnant again. At the end of her term she and her husband moved back to their village – there were no hard feelings.

This case certainly had an effect in the area. A month after her court case, a woman in a nearby village to Pomio gave birth to triplets. Rain was steadily falling. This is the story of what happened as Edna wrote at the time in a letter to her mother in Sydney.

"The meri had the babies in the village only one hours walk from the hospital. About 3am on Friday she walked to the hospital and people carried the babies in too but not wrapped up. The mother died at 9.30am of a retained placenta. As I was a teacher in the local school the school children told me, '*wanpela meri emi karim tripela pikanini wantaim, tru misus!*' ['a woman has had triplets... this is true!]' so I went down to have a look at them about 3pm after school. The first born Michel (the medical assistant) thought was a blue baby because it was plum coloured, the others were pale.

We have no Infant Welfare Nurses here, only doctor boys, and Michel is busy so I said I would take them with a young *meri* to help me with them. We sent for Denise's basket (our daughter) and wrapped them in a nappy each then a blanket overall. Michel only gave them a 10% chance of survival. It was wet but we hurried up the hill and immediately put hot water bottles around them and lit a Tilly lamp to heat the room. I then sat down to make three bonnets and jackets for them and gosh they looked cute, 3 in a row. We could not get them warm until about 9pm. I thought then we would be lucky to pull them through. Do you know where I got the clothes idea from? I remember the ones you kept that you had made for us (Edna and Nancy). I know now what you must have gone through 27 years ago. Luckily, it

was the weekend I was able to give them my undivided attention or at least as much as Wesley allowed me to. George was good with helping with them, because I thought if I could get them past three days they might have a chance and I would be able to give attention to Wesley. I suppose it was mean to ignore my own child but I wanted to save them.

I got out Dr Spock and the mothercraft book Nancy gave me and we rigged up a covered basket, set it on a bed under a mosquito net. We fed then milk drop by drop by an eye dropper. We did everything as carefully as possible, masks for all attending the babies and washing hands. The first born just stopped breathing. I was changing hot water bottles every hour and checking every quarter hour, and found her dead – her little body was very warm so we sent for a stethoscope but Lapan, the doctor boy, said she was dead. We had been giving them oxygen one hour on and one hour off all day too!

The first one had been called Rosa, so when she died we called up the catechist to '*wash*' [christen] the others, one named Margaret (Denise's second name) and the other Michelle (after Michel, the medical assistant).

Margaret started having difficulty in her breathing. I gave her oxygen for an hour again and she seemed to pick up. I went for a cup of tea and when I went back she had gone. Michelle's little body was burning so we took her temperature and it read 105deg. I sent immediately to Michel and a doctor boy came up and gave her a chloroquin injection and today her temperature is a 100deg.

(At 2.30pm) Our little Michelle is dying and I cannot help her. Her temp went up again at 12noon to 105.2deg. and a doctor boy gave her another injection but now it is only a matter of time. The other two died peacefully but this little one is struggling to stay alive. I have been giving her oxygen continually since 1230 but it does not seem to be helping her much. I have kept the doctor boy here to help me with the oxygen. We rigged up a makeshift oxygen tent with plastic and blankets.

(At 7.30pm) Little Michelle died about quarter to five this afternoon. I put her back into the basket and she seemed peaceful. I checked every quarter hour on her. I had Michelle on my lap for a while giving her oxygen and her little hand came out and clutched my finger. The meri who had been helping me went with Peter (a workboy) to the hospital and found a man going to Kes who took the body home.

Julius, the wash boy, wanted to know why the 4 chickens I have by the stove should survive and not the babies. Golly, it has been an experience to me that not many people would get. Now I am going to have a good shower and a good sleep."

While the above was taking place there was a constant stream of people coming to our place wanting to know how the babies were going. They stood around on the verandah waiting for news.

Michel, the medical assistant, would try and get all the mothers-to-be to come to the hospital and have lots of vitamins before their babies were born, but this meri would not come in, if she had the triple birth would have been picked up.

After these cases many multiple births were noted in the area. When we left Pomio in October, 1963, there were at least one set of triplets and over 10 sets of twins in the area.

We hope the practice of infanticide in much of New Britain has now stopped. ▪

**A former New Guinea resident and avid family historian is
looking for descendants - or information on –
BOB AND DORIS SCHULTZE**

Max Uechtritz writes: I want to trace descendants or connections of Bob Schultze and his wife Doris, who were part of the extended American-Samoan pioneer family who settled in New Guinea and became known as the Queen Emma mob. They moved to Australia during WW2.

Bob's mother Caroline Rosmina 'Carrie' Schultze was the niece of 'Queen' Emma Coe Forsayth and her sister Phebe Coe Parkinson. Her father was William Pritchard Coe - brother of Emma and Phebe - who also figured in the early establishment of the trading empire centred on Ralum plantation near Kokopo, New Britain.

Carrie Schultze and my great grandmother Phebe Parkinson both died while internees together in a Japanese prison camp on New Ireland during WW2. Carrie's son H.L 'Bob' Schultze figured in a daring escape from the 1942 Japanese invasion, commanding a group of New Ireland settlers and militia aboard a small boat named the '*Gnair*' which dodged enemy patrols in a dash across to the Solomons Islands and then to Australia. His wife Doris had been evacuated to Australia with their infant daughter, Caroline Alice Schultze, not long before the invasion of Rabaul and Kavieng.

Bob and Doris settled in Canberra after the war and a 1947 *Canberra Times* notification of his intention to be naturalised Australian has his address as 'Glebe House', Reid ACT. I am not sure whether he stayed there the rest of his life but am told Bob died in 1977. I do not know whether they had any other children to give young Caroline brothers or sisters. Efforts by myself, other family and interested historians to trace Schultze descendants have so far been unsuccessful. It is not known - by us - whether Caroline married and changed names or whether she had children. From records it is believed Caroline herself would be 70 years old on November 7 this year.

Any help in locating Caroline, relatives or friends of the family would be greatly appreciated. It would be fascinating to find out the story of this side of the bloodlines. In Apia, Samoa, in August this year there will be a 'reunion' of descendants of Jonas Myndersee Coe - the notorious American Consul who sired 18 children (including Emma, Phebe and William) from three wives. Jonas Coe was Bob Schultze's great grandfather. It would be a great opportunity for any Schultze descendants.

Secondly, the tracing of any Schultze family may hold the key to another 70-year family mystery I am trying to unravel. That is, the fate of Richard and Phebe Parkinson's youngest son Paul who also ran a plantation on New Ireland when war broke out.

Recently I discovered Paul Parkinson tragically had been wrongly interned as a German 'alien' in Tatura POW camp in Victoria during WW2, a bitter irony given his mother was a prisoner of the Japanese. I have tracked his movements to various residences in Sydney after the war - at Maroubra, Darling Point and Willoughby - but public records run cold in 1947.

Given his mother Phebe and seven brothers had all died, it is very possible, even probable, that a rootless and lonely Paul made contact his second cousin Bob Schultze - and New Ireland neighbour - in Sydney. Bob is known to have kept extensive family archives and, even if there are no descendants, hopefully the old

letters and documents were kept safe and reside somewhere with a family friend. My eternally optimistic gut instinct just knows that they would shed light on what happened to my great uncle Paul Parkinson. Also, given that our ancestors died together in the POW camp and that Phebe and Carrie were two of the great characters of the pioneer years, any Schultze descendants have a fascinating joint legacy to share with our family.

If anyone has any information or leads that may help, please email me at maxuechtritz@hotmail.com

HELP WANTED

An opportunity to make a difference! A sponsor is needed to provide a young PNG lady currently in Year 12 in Port Moresby the opportunity to attend undergraduate or TAFE studies in Australia. Her mother passed away recently and her father would like to ensure she receives further educational opportunities. It is understood she would need to meet some criteria provided by the sponsor and education establishment - if you can assist, please contact **Don Hook** on Ph: 02 6286 6588 or E: hookdon@bigpond.net.au

* * *

Christine Leonard is interested to know **how mainland Papua New Guinean men came to Bougainville to work on plantations** specifically prior to WWII. Whilst many came by ship via Rabaul, when Sepiks were recruited, was there a shipping service from Wewak to Rabaul? if so possible ship names?

If anyone has any information on early recruiting processes and perhaps how early in 19th/20th Century were 'red skins' brought to Bougainville, I'd love to hear from you. Please contact Christine at Ph: 07 33567476 M: 0422002667, 63 Gaunt Street Newmarket Qld 4051.

* * *

Rev Neville Threlfall has a number of books about PNG, and old copies of *Paradise* magazines, for sale at modest prices. He will supply a list to anyone who enquires. If newer members of the Association would like back numbers of *Una Voce*, Neville Threlfall has some to give away, with only postage required.

Please contact Neville at P: 02-4334 4289 or by post: 18 Mawson Drive, Killarney Vale NSW 2261 or E: threlfallnm1@bigpond.com

* * *

Dr Peter Cahill asks: In a letter dated 240265 Gordon Thomas wrote to a Mrs Brawn who was desperate for information of a relative possibly on the Montevideo Maru:

"... we travelled from Namare Jap headquarters to Ramale mission camp, calling at the HQ of the Kempei in the area known as Kuranakane ..."

Could anyone confirm that Namare was in the tunnel complex at the top of Tunnel Hill, Rabaul? And where is/was Kuranakane (probably a Japanese name)?

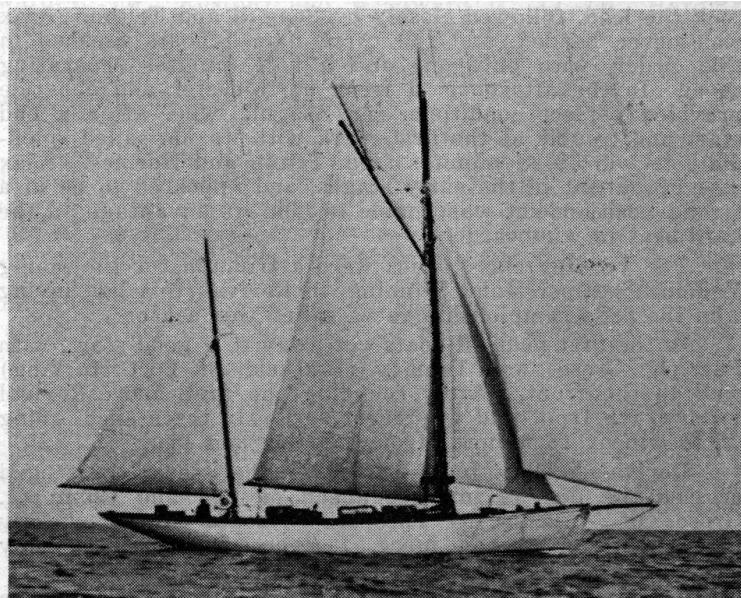
* * *

John Wilkinson is moving shortly to Tasmania.

My wife is PNG and wants to know if there is **any contact or association** or other way of getting in touch **with PNG citizens who may be married or living in Tasmania**. Your help would be appreciated.

* * *

Steve Gunns is tracing information on a yacht he owns, *Hurrica V*. He has found a photo titled "Hurrica at Blanche Bay Rabaul Harbour 1930". *Hurrica* was a Charles Nicholson design built in Sydney with a length on deck of 59ft and



about 72ft to end of bowsprit. She was a gaffer ketch (two masts with the rear mast smaller). In 1930, she would have been a sizable private yacht and probably visited several PNG ports.

From 1924 until 1941 *Hurrica V* was owned by William Oliver a grazier from Melbourne. He had three full time paid crew, chauffeur, Rolls Royce and took staff wherever he went. His presence would have been noted in 1930. During WWII, *Hurrica* was requisitioned by the Commonwealth and re-named

HMAS Stingray. She was stripped of masts and sails, mounted with machine guns and sent to war. She served in search and rescue around Milne Bay from 1943 - 1945. Steve would greatly appreciate a photo of her in war guise too.

If you can help, please contact Steve Gunns at: Tel: +61 2 9410 0144

Email: sgunns@architrade.com.au

BOOK REVIEW

The Coast Watchers: Behind enemy lines, the men who saved the Pacific by **Patrick Lindsay**; ISBN: 9781741669244 Trade Paperback, William Heinemann (London) 2010; Random House Australia. 416 pp; \$34.95

General histories of the Coast Watchers — the mixed bag of planters, traders and public servants who remained in enemy territory after Japan occupied parts of New Guinea, Papua and the British Solomons in 1942 — were until now limited to one: Eric Feldt's *The Coastwatchers*, published in 1946, written by the founder of the organisation. Another general work, by Walter Lord, covers the Solomons only. A handful of others, some excellent, are personal memoirs, fragments of a bigger picture, and virtually unobtainable.

Lindsay's work therefore revisits an area untouched in 65 years. He deals with it well, devoting several chapters to developing the background, and painting colourful pictures of the main players. It's a story of exploits by individuals or small teams; it is not a coherent military operation, but of responding to needs and opportunities as they arose.

In the early stages of their war the Coast Watchers were involved in the evacuation of the defeated Rabaul garrison, Lark Force. Keith McArthy was instrumental in saving many of the evacuees, who totalled only about 400 out of the 1400-strong force. Some of the remainder had died in and after the battle for Rabaul, but most perished later, along with civilians, when the POW ship SS *Montevideo Maru* was sunk by an American submarine.

The achievements of Jack Read and Paul Mason on Bougainville also loom large in history. Constantly on the run from pursuing Japanese patrols for months, they warned the beleaguered Marines on Guadalcanal of incoming air raids from Rabaul and Buka, giving them time to get their fighters airborne and high.

Many other rescues and many timely warnings, more than justified the existence of the Coast Watchers.

Some Coast Watchers were caught in the early stages of the war; most were executed. Few were caught after that; they learned fast. Later, some became guerrillas; they took over 5400 enemy lives for losses of 47.

Lindsay's book covers the Coast Watchers and their war very adequately across the spread of operations. He doesn't ignore the contribution by the local people to the success of the Coast Watchers either. It's an honest book; it takes a fresh look at a long-ignored aspect of Australia's war, and tells it well.

Photographs are of a good quality. Maps are mostly adequate, though the one of Bougainville is so devoid of information as to be unhelpful. The book is recommended for those interested in Australian military history and the war in the Pacific.

Jerry Lattin

BOOK NEWS

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Richard Parkinson Sydney University Press ISBN: 9781920899639

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Or you can purchase a paperback copy of the whole book for \$A50 from Sydney University Press. Peter White Oceania Publications (H42) THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

"Mr B": the life and times of Sir Brian Bell by James Sinclair

ISBN 9780646541617 448pp illustrated – further details available next *Una Voce*

Articles submitted for *Una Voce* are greatly appreciated and enjoyed by our readers. It is important that our members contribute memories of their time in PNG to preserve an important part of its history. Space is increasingly being challenged and we ask that contributors limit submissions to between 100-1800 words enabling variety in our journal. Longer articles will take longer to appear. Sometimes it may be possible to include an 'extract' in *Una Voce* whilst the longer article is published on the PNGAA website. For members not on computer, the longer article can be personally requested. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

REUNIONS

► **KIAP REUNION – 13 November 2011**, Kawana Waters Hotel, Nicklin Way, Buddina, Sunshine Coast, Queensland; (near Kawana Waters Shopping Centre, on main road between Mooloolaba and Caloundra); gold coin entry fee to cover postage costs etc

RSVP 16 October 2011

An invitation is extended to all Kiaps, their families and their friends. The venue outlook is over water to an extensive marina and has a covered outdoor deck area linked to an indoor bar/lounge with adequate dining and seating facilities available for our use. Last time we catered for 227. The Kawana Waters Hotel has sixteen motel style rooms available for the nights of Saturday, 12 November and Sunday, 13 November, 2011. If you require a booking please phone the hotel on 07- 54446699 and mention that you are part of the 'Kiap Reunion' group.

Breakfast on the Monday morning, for those available, will be held at Bellissimo's Restaurant on the Esplanade at Mooloolaba overlooking the beach.

Further information available from:

Denys/Helen Faithful

Home Ph. 07. 54444484

denysfaithful@hotmail.com

Bob/Heather Fayle

Home Ph. 07. 54447446

bobfayle@hotmail.com

► **69th anniversary commemoration 2 and 3 July 2011**

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society is holding two major events in Canberra on July 2 and 3 to mark the 69th anniversary of the loss of troops and civilians in the New Guinea islands and the sinking of the *Montevideo Maru*.

A Memorial Luncheon will be held at the National Press Club on Saturday 2 July where the guest speaker will be Major General John Pearn, Patron of the NGVR/PNGVR Association and a member of the PNGAA. Currently senior paediatrician based at the Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane, and a historian of note, he will provide an interesting and always challenging viewpoint on the subject under focus, the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru tragedies. Also attending will be the Hon Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth and Patron of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, General Peter Cosgrove, Major General Adrian Clunies Ross and Mrs Clunies Ross.

An ecumenical memorial service will be held in the RMC Chapel at Duntroon on Sunday 3 July. The Society is delighted that former Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffery and his wife Mrs Marlene Jeffery will take part in the service. A combined Salvation Army band will play at the service. Much of the music to be played was composed by Bandmaster Arthur Gullidge who perished on the *Montevideo Maru*. He was a most prolific composer of brass band music, developing a unique and distinctive style of street march. Members of Canberra Legacy's Southside Laurel Club will provide some light catering following the memorial service. We look forward to seeing as many along to these functions as possible. People interested in attending should contact Andrea Williams at andrea.williams@bigpond.com or 0409 031 089

► **Memories of the South Pacific Islands Are Being Recalled**

Toowong Library, Level One in the Toowong Village

9-12 noon first Friday of each month in 2011

Interested? Please email or telephone the meeting convener –

Jim Burton (former resident of Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea)

Email - burtonjf@bigpond.com Ph: 07-3376 3356 (leave a message if necessary)

THE EVENNETT FAMILY AND SAMARAI –
ERNIE EVENNETT 1935-2011
From Richard Evennett of Alotau, Milne Bay District

The name 'Evennett' is familiar to anyone who has spent time in Samarai. Ernie Evennett's forebears lived in Essex, England. Sometime around the middle of the 19th Century, three Evennett brothers migrated to Australia. One of the brothers, Charles, ended up in Rockhampton, Queensland. Charles got caught up in the Gold Fever that swept through Australia, and in 1873, along with his wife and five young children - three boys and two girls - he set sail for the Palmer River Goldfields. A week into the voyage he died, aged only 44. His widow remarried but kept the name Evennett for her five children. The three boys, Charles Jnr, Frederick and Ernest, became gold miners for a short while, but soon took up trading, and supplying food, hardware and labour. Ernie's grandfather, Ernest, and his two brothers started coming to Samarai in 1894 and established themselves as traders and planters. Their sister Emily married John Adam Craig and was also a pioneer in Samarai. Ernie was the last link to the English Evennetts.

Even back then, the brothers regarded Samarai as their home. They transported four houses from Cooktown to Samarai. They took the 'Queenslanders' apart, panel by panel, in Cooktown, loaded them onto the schooners they owned, and sailed them to Samarai. How many trips this took is not known, but it was a feat in itself.

The houses were rebuilt – one on Samarai for Ernest (in later years called 'the Bake House'), one on the headland at Mwaneuna Point for Frederick, one on the hill at Lei Lei for Charles, and one was apparently sold to Mr Munt at Nivani Island near Misima. The Bake House had to be rebuilt after WWII but the houses at Mwaneuna and Lei Lei survive to this day. The Nivani house was taken down a few years ago.

Rumour had it that the boys were 'blackbirders'. That is not true, the following story is much closer to the truth. It started when Charles bought leases at Mwawneuna, Lei Lei, Dawa Dawa, Ito and Bole Bole. He had the leases but not the plantations. What he had was bush that he needed to clear before he could even plant coconut trees. Frederick was given the task of finding the labour, and he sailed to Wagifa Island at Goodenough to recruit. He ended up doing this for another 40 years. He was well known in the area and respected as an honest businessman. Frederick lost his life at Mud Bay in 1941, but not in the war. He had gone into Mud Bay to pick up some labour. One of the boys called out, 'Hey Taubada!! ...plenty fish'. There was a huge school of 'Kaduna' close to the boat. When Taubada lit the dynamite fuse with his pipe, the fuse curled around and somehow lit itself where it joins the dynamite. He was too late to throw it into the water. His grave is still kept clean by the government workers at Mapamoiwa. The brothers cleared and planted acres and acres of coconut. In those early days, a lot of copra came from small village groves and gardens, there were only a few established plantations.

Ernie's father, Joseph, was the first white baby born in the north Queensland township of Coen - in 1902. Ernie was born on 6th Feb 1935 at Cairns Base Hospital. He was named after his grandfather. His siblings were Lionel, Colin and Patricia. His parents moved to Samarai and operated the bakery and a small trading business on Samarai Island. Only a year after they arrived in Samarai, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour. The family was evacuated to Cairns on 27th Dec 1941 on a Sunderland seaplane. Samarai was burnt to the ground – it was feared

the Japanese would occupy it and use it as a base to attack the Australian mainland.

In 1945 the family returned to Samarai and rebuilt the The Bake House. Ernie attended the local primary school, but when the time came for him to go to high school in Australia, he ran away to his uncle's plantation at Mwawaneuna and hid in the plantation for two days until the ship left, and he then returned to Samarai. He had inadvertently charted his destiny. His father was naturally angry, but got him to work in the bakery, carting and loading firewood from the mainland to keep the bakery ovens going. Ernie worked all his teenage years doing this, and delivering bread and groceries from Samarai to the nearby communities. It was during this time that Ernie got himself a little launch and called it *Yalasi*. Then Ernie's father bought a 32 ft launch in Sydney and shipped it to Samarai on the MV *Bulolo*. The new launch was called the *Sirius*. Ernie continued working for the bakery and in the early 60's he inherited the *Sirius* and began his own business doing charters and getting the contract for lineboat and tender services on Samarai Island. The *Sirius* also did tender work for the Catalina flying-boat which flew between Samarai and other Milne Bay areas, and also to Port Moresby.

Ernie's two brothers, Lionel and Colin, also kept the family's pioneering and seafaring tradition alive by captaining Government trawlers. Ernie was quite a dashing young bachelor in his time, and the *Sirius* was a fast and powerful boat. The *Sirius* was always pulling ropes of the big steamers and zipping around the wharf and the dolphins. Ernie used to sit on the roof of his boat and drive it with his feet through a hatch. His crew boy was KANIKU TOGINITU, from Tube Tube Island.

Ernie soon caught the eye of Lynette Hancock who stayed with her parents on Ebuma Island, and a romance ensued. Ernie married Lynn in Samarai in 1960 and had two daughters, Gina and Maria. He then moved to Ebuma and built himself a small house on the southern beach front. This house was to become his home for many years to follow.

Just prior to this, he was delivering some cargo to the Wilkinson family at Sewa Bay where he met a young woman and after a brief relationship, Ernie's first son, Jimmy Ceddia was born. Ernie and Jimmy's mother never married. Ernie and Lynn Hancock separated in 1973 and Lynn took Gina and Maria to live in Sydney.

Ernie sold the *Sirius* and bought a boat from the Anglican Mission, the *St George* which he renamed the *Georgina*. The names *Georgina* and Ernie Evennett were to be entwined for many years.

In 1974 Ernie met Marjorie Masiboda from Kitava Island. Marjorie was working for Col Scown who had a reject copra cleaning business on Ebuma Island. Ernie and Marjorie had five children: Abel, Willie, Joe, Bruce, and Melanie.

Ernie's love for his children was a thing to be admired. Because of his upbringing, Ernie was often caught between his traditional white upbringing and his new family. Ernie was born to a colonial family which liked to keep races apart, but the subsequent years allowed Ernie's family to find their own unique niche in Samarai and Milne Bay society. Ernie became a Papua New Guinea Citizen after independence. This alone reflected his vision of his future.

Ernie's wife Marjorie was a mainstay in Ebuma life. She supported her husband and made the Island a lovely home. Marjorie passed away in 2000, a victim of cancer. Ernie and Marjorie had been a good influence not only on their own children, but on others like myself, my brother Richard, Tim Abel and many others.

Staying at Ebuma, Ernie and Marjorie had met many people from all walks of life. All kinds of people came to visit and stay - visiting yachtsmen, businessmen, prime ministers, governor-generals, millionaires, villagers, doctors, lawyers, Indians and chiefs. They all came to Ebuma and were told to 'Pull up a rock'. There was no special treatment from Ernie and Marjorie. Ernie saw nothing wrong with offering a governor-general or visiting dignitary an enamel plate of fried fish and banana.

This apparent carefree attitude toward all and sundry was just the way it was. If the pantry was bare, the kids would jump in the *Panama* and a quick spin around the rocks would yield a dinner never to be forgotten. This lack of airs and graces and an honest down-to-earth approach to life was to become Ernie's signature. He was loath to wear shoes - a pair of green slippers had to be sufficient if Ernie was invited out for a meal or drink; I have never seen him with his shirt tucked in.

The children grew up with boats. Even going to school on Samarai was by boat. Ernie never had any money to speak of. He often said to me when I was broke, 'We Evennetts are too kind to be rich'. He was right of course - I have witnessed Ernie's generosity many times. He always did his best to ensure that the kids got the best he could offer. After his wife Marjorie died, Ernie later re-married Ruth, and became father again to her children.

There are many things synonymous with the name Ernie Evennett - boats and the sea life are the foremost of these. After the *Georgina* sank at Goodenough Island, there were several other boats. Ernie Evennett just could not stay ashore too long. Then the *Vinaritokae* came on the scene. The *Vinari* as it was called was a famous one. Ernie decided in 1985 to take the kids to Australia to visit family. But he hated flying so he packed up the family and sailed the *Vinari* from Samarai to Port Moresby, then to Thursday Island, Cooktown, and Cairns. In Cairns, he anchored the boat, bought an old bomb Holden Station Wagon for \$500 and drove all the way to Sydney with the family and crew. He then drove all the way back to Cairns, sold the car for \$500 and got back on the *Vinari* and came all the way back to Samarai.

There are many many stories about this trip. When the mob arrived in Port Moresby, I was working for Steamships at the Coastal Shipping wharf - I asked for a week off and joined them. Half-way to Thursday Island we anchored at Stevens Island. It was about 3 pm and there was no sign of life. Willie asked his father, 'Dad, are we in Australia yet?' When Ernie said yes, Willie asked, 'When am I going to see an Aboriginal?' Just then an aluminium dinghy started buzzing across the reef top, the propeller occasionally catching the coral. Ernie just watched and told Willie, 'Looks like you're gonna meet your first Aboriginal, son'. The Islander parked the dinghy next to the *Vinari* - he had an unlit cigarette hanging out of his mouth. He looked up at all of us looking down at him and said, 'Any of you blokes got a light?'

After the '*Vinari*', the '*Arona*' came and went, as did the '*Morning Star*', followed by others. In later years Ernie was given the *Oceanus* to look after, and the lifestyle suited Ernie. His last trip was from Alotau to Samarai, his beloved home. Tomorrow Ernie will do that trip again for the last time. Truly a fitting farewell voyage for our own 'Old Man of The Sea'.

Ernie Evennett has many friends. Every island he anchored at there was always somebody who paddled out to the boat to say hello. His knowledge of this Province and its people was second to none. Ernest William Evennett will be buried at Kumwagea Village on Kitava Island next to Marjorie.

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA - MY 'LAST FRONTIER'¹
Barry Craig, South Australian Museum

I was a pre-WW2 model so I got used to walking everywhere (my family never owned a car so I didn't learn to drive till I was 21). My father fought at Tobruk in the 9th Division, 2/13th Battalion ('The Devil's Own'); I reported to all and sundry that my father was a 'Rat of the Brook'.

Then Australian troops were called home to defend our shores from a Japanese invasion and were sent to New Guinea, my father to Finschhafen and Sattelberg on the Huon Peninsula. I have sent his handwritten war diaries to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

As a child I read voraciously, especially about New Guinea – Ion Idriess's *Gold-Dust and Ashes* and *Drums of Mer*; Frank Clune's *Prowling through Papua* and *Somewhere in New Guinea*, Colin Simpson's *Adam with Arrows* and *Adam in Plumes*.

I completed High School in 1956 and applied to be a cadet patrol officer. The smell of the paperwork of that application plays at the edge of memory, tinged somehow with anticipation of dank vegetation and the sense of a 'last frontier'. The medical officer failed me on the grounds that I had tinea between the toes of my left foot. I've always had tinea come and go there and I've lived and worked in PNG for a total of eight years, over the past five decades, without my foot dropping off. In fact, the tinea goes away in PNG! Go figure...

So I resolved to go to Sydney University and study anthropology. Upon graduating, it was decided that I wasn't smart enough to get a research scholarship so I got a Territories cadetship to do a Dip.Ed. and go to PNG as a teacher. One way or another, I'd get there.

Four of us (including Mary Mennis, who has written about the peoples and cultures of the Madang Province – eg. *A Potted History of Madang*, 2006) attended courses at ASOPA in education in Papua New Guinea and teaching English as a foreign language. As no anthropological research had been done at Telefomin, I asked to be posted to the Primary 'T' School there. "What?!! You want to go there???"

¹ I gave a show-and-tell (PowerPoint) presentation at the annual luncheon of the South Australian Branch of the PNGAA in Adelaide on 31st October. Jan Kleinig and the Adelaide organising committee asked me to convert it to words and submit it to *Una Voce*. I intended to recount a number of anecdotes at the Luncheon presentation but an hour spent trying to get a computer to talk to a projector disturbed my equanimity and these tasty bits fled my mind. I now have the opportunity to make good those omissions.

Telefomin had suffered from nine years of bad press by the time I got there in 1962. In 1953, Gerald Leo Szarka and Geoffrey Brodribb Harris, and Constables Buritori and Purari, were killed in the Elip valley by Telefolmin. Those responsible, or most of them, were rounded up and found guilty and condemned to death. However, the sentence was commuted to 10 years imprisonment in Wewak gaol. One notable getaway was old Femsep, whose involvement as a planner was kept away from the attention of the authorities by his compatriots. It is an interesting story and I have explored it in an essay entitled 'The Telefomin Murders: Whose myth?' in the Oceania Monograph 40: *Children of Afek* (1990). In 1963 the gaoled men returned to Telefomin, two of them to the village where I had chosen to build a house to facilitate anthropological research for myself and my then-wife. I got to know these men fairly well and one of them in particular, Nimisep, became a friend.

The administration at Telefomin were a jolly lot. Robin Calcutt was the ADO; John Tierney was the Patrol Officer soon to go on leave with his wife Margaret and son David. John Kelly was a younger PO coming in to take Tierney's place and John Stobart was the Cadet Patrol Officer. There were the usual weekend competitions to see whose pile of beer cans rose the highest - Calcutt had a prodigious capacity and I was the pygmy as I did not acquire a taste for beer till many years later.

One day - it was a weekend I think - the two Johns were engaging in some competitive shooting of arrows - more or less straight up in the air to see whose arrows would go highest. I was standing close to the ADO's house and Robin came out to the small balcony off the kitchen and stood with his right leg athwart the balcony rail, pondering (he recounted later) whether he ought to stop these mad fools from doing something that could end in tears. Suddenly, I saw him grab frantically at his right thigh, rush indoors, rush back out, then indoors again, to the accompaniment of much colourful language. Kelly's arrow had got him! I still remember to this day the look on Kelly's face when he realised he'd shot his boss; quite like the expression one imagines on the face of a naughty boy who has just belted a cricket ball through the parson's window pane.

But Robin, being the stalwart person he was, took the whole thing in good part and was grateful for the sudden lack of urgency to depart on a gruelling Mianmin patrol the next day. He wondered how he could explain it all to the DO in Wewak without Kelly being found guilty of attempted murder!

The Mission people were great sports too - Betty Crouch the Infant Welfare Sister, Don Doull the Baptist pastor and carpenter, and the SIL Linguists, Alan and Phyllis Healey. We were sharing an isolated outpost with sometimes irregular supplies by air and it pulled us together. I know I became quite attuned to the sound of approaching aircraft (though my school students usually heard them before I did) because the plane meant mail and freezer supplies, among other occasional goodies. To this day I am aware of planes overhead, their type and direction.

It was the custom that 'Steamy's' store in Wewak would try to find a close substitute for anything on your freezer or weekly grocery order that was no-stock. I recall a later ADO's wife having a near nervous breakdown when she opened a parcel expecting lamingtons and found they had been substituted with frozen peas.

Apart from the periodic chartered DC3, there was the AMAF Cessna 186 flown by ex-RAAF pilot, Max Meyers (who flew the damn thing like a fighter plane!), the weird push-pull Cessna, the pugnaciously powerful Piaggio with rear-facing twin-engines, and even a Bristol Freighter. All a far cry from the fragile aircraft piloted by Stuart Campbell that landed at the first Telefomin strip built by the Ward Williams gold-seeking expedition in 1936. This was only 22 years after Richard

Thurnwald had struggled up the Sepik to Telefomin to be the first white man to enter the highlands of the island of New Guinea, and only ten years after Karius and Champion camped there on their historic patrol across New Guinea from the Fly to the Sepik.

Binengim, a charming old man from the Telefol village of Derolengdam, was in his early teens when Thurnwald arrived in 1914. He told me he traded some food for a small knife but at first he did not know what it was for. He had to be shown.

In 1962, the Primary 'T' School consisted of a single building divided into two classrooms and a small office and there was a small cottage for the Tolai assistant teacher. With a bit of creative accounting and by sourcing local timber from the Baptist Mission sawmill instead of having it flown in, Robin had managed a loaves and fishes outcome to infrastructure development. A couple of 'native materials' huts nearby housed the boarders from more distant tribal groups, fed by locally purchased taro and kaukau nominally for the station's 'labour line'. Amazingly, the classroom and teacher's house were still standing when I visited Telefomin in 2002, supplemented by additional buildings and a quite large High School half a click away. Some Vanimo parents had wangled jobs at Telefomin so they could send their kids to the Telefomin High School rather than to the Vanimo High School, as there are no roads in to Telefomin and therefore no raskols!

Although I was trained in social anthropology, I did not find the kinship-and-marriage thing particularly engrossing. Instead, an interest in material culture was inspired by Bryan Cranstone, then of the British Museum, who came to Telefomin in 1963 to make a collection in a nearby valley for his museum. I helped him with introductions, logistics and learning *tok pisin*, and became very interested in what he was doing. The Telefolmin and other nearby tribes had carved and painted boards on the front of their houses and I had never really noticed them before. I ended up doing an almost complete survey of houseboards and war shields in the whole region and came up with enough material to write a Master's thesis at the University of Sydney in 1969. The Australian Museum got a comprehensive collection of material culture out of me as well.

I took lots of photographs too, and admired the engineering skills of these stocky mountain people who built impressive suspension bridges across wide rivers and truss bridges to span narrow gorges, all secured by rattan. I was privileged to see the last of the initiation rituals of the Telefol. During my brief visit to Telefomin in 2002, I was greatly saddened to note the destruction of the pan-tribal ritual temple at Telefolip by fanatical expatriate-inspired evangelical Christians. There was a deep sense of loss among the few surviving traditionalists. This was not something that the Baptist pastor Don Doull or the SIL linguists Alan and Phyllis Healey would have condoned.

Apart from a few exploratory trips to nearby valleys with some of my older students, the most exciting adventure was my participation in the Australian Star Mountains Expedition of 1965. A planned British caving expedition to the Star Mountains didn't eventuate and evolved into an Australian caving expedition. I was asked for advice on logistics and so inevitably I was keen to participate. The Star Mountains were tantalisingly just visible from Telefomin on a clear day.

I read the report of Des Fitzer's 1963 patrol which walked from Kiunga to the Star Mountains but fell short of climbing to the 3000 metre plateau because of the large number of carriers and police and insufficient local food to feed them all. I devised a plan where each of the five participants would carry his own backpack (20-25 kg) and we would rely on just 16 full-time Telefolmin carriers and one Tifalmin

doubling as an interpreter. As needed, we would enrol local people to carry from one camp to the next. I identified routes in and out using the Border Special maps and aerial photographs provided by Defence in Wewak who, of course, were interested in terrain data and track times.



The members of the Expedition, apart from myself intending to collect anthropological and linguistic information, and plant and herpetological specimens, were Tom Hayllar, an eccentric school teacher and caver from Sydney; David Cook, a geologist who had been working at Mt Isa; Mike Shepherd who was a University of Sydney student looking for evidence of glaciation; and Paul Symons, a clinical psychologist and a

caver, who later joined the Territory service as regional psychologist at Lae, then became Burton-Bradley's second in Port Moresby, retiring in the early 1980s. A sixth person was not really a member of the Expedition but attached himself to us. This was John Huon de Navrancourt, a big blustering Frenchman who had fought with the French underground in WW2 and recipient of the Legion d'Honneur, who had recently arrived at Telefomin as Medical Assistant. He walked in independently to join us for a health survey at our first base camp south of the Star Mountains, then departed for Telefomin just before we moved up into the Star Mountains, assuring us he would continue to 'assist' the expedition by throwing out the airdrop bags over our Plateau base camp.

His 'assistance' went pear-shaped. The Piaggio was streaking across a marked area of Plateau about a hundred feet above the ground, Huon ejecting bags. But at the end of the second run it seemed suddenly to lurch awkwardly, one engine sputtering, lose height and head for a mountain it had easily cleared on the first run. When it looked like a crash was imminent, the engine refired, the plane just made it over the mountain and it disappeared with most of the airdrop still on board. What had been dropped were caving ladders, boots and the like - nothing to eat! Wild dog was on the menu the next day.

Frantic radio messages revealed the scenario. John had gone forward to say something to the pilot and, being French and a dedicated extrovert, his gesticulations came into unfortunate contact with one of the main engine levers above the pilot's head. The pilot managed to flick the lever back on and, convinced he had a lunatic on board, shaped a course straight back to Telefomin. Subsequent drops were done from a thousand feet and sans Huon.

We set up three base camps in all and from each we explored the surrounding country for a few weeks. At each we arranged for airdrops signalled by a tiny radio. One airdrop bag was opened and we found a bottle of rum and a few other goodies had survived the drop, but we hadn't ordered these items. It turned out that they were meant for the patrol officer at Oksapmin, in the exact opposite direction from Telefomin. He generously donated them to the expedition when he learned what had happened to his outpost comforts.

Our time in among the peaks of Capella and Scorpion was magical but nearly the death of me. I was walking along with a full pack, heading back to our camp that

was perched behind the ridge overlooking the Busilmin settlements on the north fall, when I slipped into a deep crevasse in the limestone. As I fell I grabbed at a tree root and it held but I dislodged a stone that hit me on the knee cap where I had a developing ulceration and the pain was excruciating. We were spread out along the track and no one saw me fall and probably would not have heard me if I had called out. Somehow I managed to pull myself out and reckon on another of my nine lives gone.

Our walk in along the south side of the mountains took us just a few kilometres north of the Ok Tedi 'Pot of Gold' so, despite having a geologist along with us, we missed The Big One. But three months out in that magnificent country was reward enough, especially the view west from Scorpion fifty kilometres to the snow cap of Juliana, and the view north from over 4000 metres ASL over the lowlands of Green River, beyond to the Border Mountains and to the Bewani Range on the horizon, some 200 kilometres away (see Gallery: Photosets: Star Mountains on www.uscngp.com).

There is possibly a book in that part of my story alone. Even the rather dry account of the 1959 Dutch expedition to the Star Mountains of [West] Papua (Brongersma and Venema 1962 *To the Mountains of the Stars*) is fascinating reading for a New Guinea hand.

So what of my 'Last Frontier'? Of course, others had preceded me but there were nooks and crannies still left to explore, people to meet and cultures to discover. In subsequent years I spent months walking through central New Guinea, the upper Sepik and the Border Mountains collecting for museums; in 1972-73 a year in the Idam valley south of Green River; in 1980-83 as Curator of Anthropology at the PNG National Museum which enabled me to extend my experience down the length of the Sepik River, and to New Ireland and New Britain; and in 1993 and 2002 again to the Bismarcks but also to the Lumi-Anguganak area.

If we did not find gold in the Star Mountains, some of us fell under the spell of 'New Guinea fever'. Perhaps with malaria, the mossies inject also a love of the country and a vast respect for the people and the unparalleled variety of languages and cultures. My first experience of any culture outside of Australia was with the Telefolmin, who struck me as a rather dour and reticent lot of whom a morally-conservative Protestant work ethic seemed entirely apt but who in time became firm friends with their own laconic sense of humour.

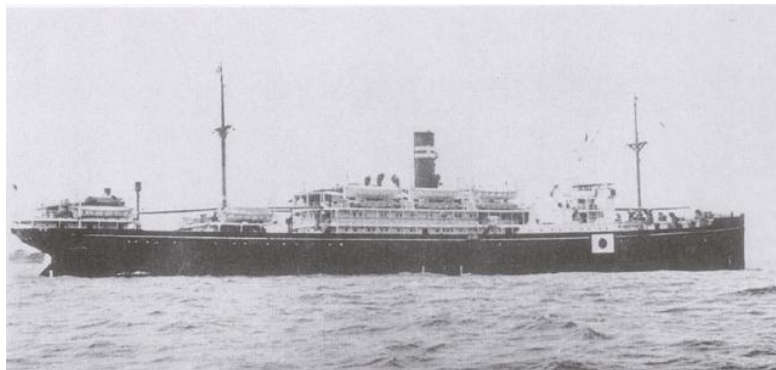
I am no poet, but a colleague and friend, Dan Jorgensen, who did his doctoral research in anthropology at Telefomin in the mid-seventies, has expressed it all for me:

Men of gentle heart and hard anger,
children of the Ancient one, the Great, Mother of Birds
hornbills and eagle-men;
bush-trekkers and mountain-crossers,
slayers of boars and tree-fellers,
makers of gardens and builders of villages,
pig-feasters, drum-dancers, lore keepers,
men of the earth,
shining flowers of the place where frogs sing and the two
hoop-pines tower,
masters of taro and arrow
in the place where enemies fled
before the broad bamboo blade.... ■

RUDY BUCKLEY: WITNESS TO THE RABAU CAPTIVES BOARDING THE MONTEVIDEO MARU

by Maxwell R HAYES
RPNGC PNGVR

One of the most incredible discoveries to come to light



confirming the *Montevideo Maru*(1) departure from Rabaul with captive service personnel and civilians was from the eye witness account of a then twelve year old child. This led to further investigations with conclusive proof identifying one of the many soldiers being herded onto this unfortunate Japanese POW vessel.

Rudy Buckley(2), as a young child living in Rabaul with his parents(3), was one of several children given camp jobs and various other duties by his Japanese captors one of which was cooking rice for the soldiers. They worked for nine to ten hours daily for a small sack of rice.

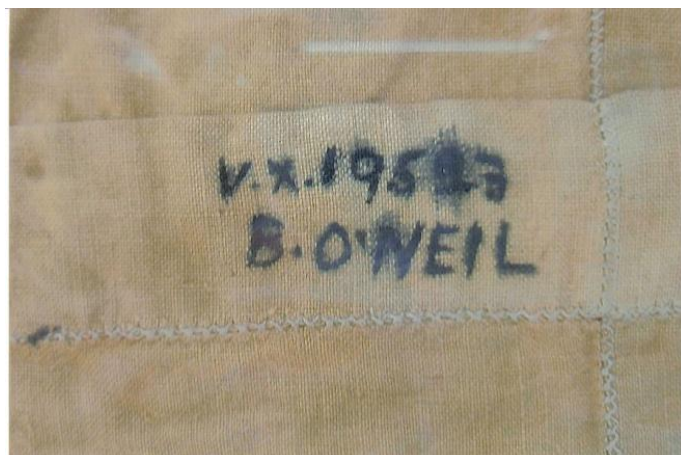
Around the time of the sailing of the *Montevideo Maru* from Rabaul in June 1942, Rudy was working within the area of the Colyer Watson wharf (coal wharf) near the former Shell depot in Wharf Street, Toboi, when he became aware of extensive lines of servicemen and civilians all in shorts, part or tattered uniforms, under cover of soldiers with machine guns. They were being herded from a POW camp situated in the area later known as 2/22nd Street towards this partly burnt out wharf. Rudy recalls that at this time the town was under aerial bombardment and squads of the captive soldiers were forced to take cover in a very large concrete rain water drain until the raid was over. After this he saw that they were then being taken by barges (of the type Rabaulites have later seen in the tunnels, i.e. a landing type barge with an armoured elevated steering position at the rear) from this wharf to the vessel anchored two to three hundred metres further out in the harbour. The loading of these POW in this manner took the better part of a whole day. Later that afternoon there was an allied bombing run over the harbour and the undamaged POW vessel left before nightfall.



Rudy Buckley in NGVR/PNGVR Ex
Members Association parade
dress. Photo by T. Dowling

As these captive soldiers and civilians were being marched to the foreshore for carriage on the barges to be taken to the *Montevideo Maru*, one soldier(4) smiled at Rudy and threw him a khaki army issue handkerchief, secreting it from the view

of ever present Japanese guards. As was then the requirement, soldiers' names and serial numbers were written on issue uniforms and accoutrements in Indian (black) ink. Rudy, being unaware of the significance of this name and serial number retained this memento and thought little of it. He kept it in a tin box along with Australian soldiers' badges and other items which remained buried at Ratongor about twenty miles from Rabaul on the north coast road, during the period of his family's captivity there. This would have occasioned severe punishment had his captors discovered the buried tin box.



In recent years there has been substantial public exposure on the loss of the *Montevideo Maru* with its 1,053 service personnel and civilians. With the intensity of the Japanese bombing of Rabaul in January 1942 the acting Administrator, Harold Hillis Page, cabled Canberra for permission to evacuate from the untenable position at Rabaul, on the Norwegian vessel '*Herstein*' then loading copra in Simpson Harbour. The request was denied by the Curtin war-time government; the '*Herstein*' was bombed and burnt three days later sealing the fate of those in Rabaul.

An active member of the NG & PNG Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association, Rudy recalled around 2004 that he had a tin box at home containing various mementoes collected over a number of years and discussed this with another association member, Douglas Ng who thought the matter of significance. One of these was a handkerchief from a soldier more than 60 years earlier and still in its original condition. He notified the Association thereby establishing a link with one of the many captives who boarded this vessel.

This handkerchief bore the soldier's serial number, VX19523, and his name B. O'Neil. With this information, I accessed the Australian War Memorial WW2 nominal roll and found details of his service and more importantly that he had been living in Box Hill, Victoria, when volunteering and where, by coincidence, I happened to be living. I thought that it might be possible to locate surviving O'Neil family relatives close by and contacted a journalist from the local Whitehorse Leader. A full front page feature article was published on 4.6.2008. There was nothing for over a week and then a single phone call. One reader phoned details of a lady in North Balwyn, an adjacent suburb, who might have information. At that address, I was given a name of the former owner as well as an address of a woman who had moved to Queensland.



On 3.7.2008 I received a phone call from a Carole Worthy whose mother, in 1941 was Miss Grace Robinson of 5 Barcelona Street, Box Hill, and had been the girl friend of Barry O'Neil for a couple of years prior to his transfer to Rabaul in early

1941. A week or so before this, Carole had come to Melbourne to clear out the family home in North Balwyn where her mother had resided, before moving to Queensland to be with her. She was shown the newspaper article. She then located two letters, dated 14th and 31st December 1941(5) from Barry O'Neil to her mother, two photographs and some other documents(6).

Carole came to see me on 7.7.2008 and allowed me to copy her mother's documents. After the letters stopped arriving from Rabaul and with the fate of the Rabaul captives not known for some time, Grace married some years later and became Mrs Grace Baker.

Late in 1945 Australian families, following an investigation in Japan by Major H. S. Williams, received notification of the deaths of those on the *Montevideo Maru*. As Grace had then married it is thought unlikely that the O'Neil family in their grief (a cousin of Barry's had also died at Singapore) conveyed this news to Grace. It was not until she received a letter dated 11.11.1963 from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that she was advised of Barry's death on the date of the torpedoing on 1.7.1942.

On a broadcast on ABC radio Macca's 'Australia All over' on Sunday morning 20.6.2010, Carole visiting Canberra in connection with the long overdue Federal Parliament recognition of the greatest maritime loss Australia has suffered stated that the discovery of the handkerchief, which her mother viewed at the Association's museum shortly before her death in 2008, finally brought closure to her after more than 60 years.

Having been involved with Montevideo Maru interests and investigations for around two decades, I have come to the conclusion, despite the conspiracy theories to the contrary, that the pows were on this vessel. Apart from Rudy Buckley's remarkable eye witness account, there is positive evidence from a Japanese seaman, Yosiaki Yamagi, now the sole surviving crew member, that prisoners were confined below decks on this vessel when torpedoed. This was proven when Albert Speer, MBE, of Sydney working in conjunction with Hisashi Noma, a Japanese historian and author of a book on the history of the merchant fleet of the O.S.K. line, located Yamagi after an extensive search.

We know that the Rabaul officers and nurses were taken to Japan on the Naruto Maru, which left Rabaul at about the same time and, in due course, survived their captivity in Japan. Japan regarded captive prisoners a slave labour and it is highly likely that those captives from Rabaul were being conveyed to work in Hainan mines; why would they eliminate such a large number of labourers on an otherwise empty vessel returning to Japan?.

1. The Montevideo Maru was one of the vessels built for the South American trade by the Osaka Shosen Kabushiki Kaisha (later the OSK line) in 1926 and, commandeered by the Imperial Japanese Navy, departed Rabaul on 22.6.1942. It was torpedoed on 1.7.1942 with the loss of all the 1,053 prisoners of war off Cape Luzon, Phillipines.

2. Rudolph Joseph Buckley, born in Rabaul on 2.8.1930, was the third of seven children born to William Buckley(3) (of Irish and Tolai descent) and Maria Rocca (of Spanish and New Ireland descent). He was schooled pre-war at the Roman Catholic church grounds in Malaguna Road. Post-war he attended St. Joseph's school in Malay town for about two years and was then employed by the Commonwealth Department of Works for about twenty five years. During this period as a tradesman he was principally employed in the building and repair of housing supplied to Administration officers. After this he was employed by the

Department of Civil Aviation and transferred after PNG Independence in 1975 to Queensland where he now lives. When granted Australian citizenship(7) in 1964, he joined 'B' company, Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, s/n 860478, at Rabaul was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and served until 1971. His elder brother Harold(10) was a ship's supercargo/purser and left Rabaul in December 1941(11).

3. William Reuben Buckley, born 7.11.1896 at Rabaul, a mechanic, was forced to work for the Japanese . He was at the Japanese navy workshop in the former Burns Philp garage situated in Mango Avenue opposite Colyer Watsons when accused by a Japanese civil administration officer named Seki of deliberately slowing a vehicle repair. When telling that spare parts were not available, he was accused of lying and cruelly bashed 16 times with a crank handle leaving him with extensive injuries. This was witnessed by a friend, Philip Taligatus. Another Japanese, Machiheso, directed that the wounded and bleeding William be taken to where the family were living at Ratongor, where he died four days later of his injuries on 7.3.1943 and was buried there.

4. Barry Richard David O'Neil, V80018, born 30.3.1920 at Ararat of Box Hill enlisted in the Australian Army on 26.9.1939 and served in 3 District Records. He was discharged on 5.6.1940 and on the following day as VX19523 volunteered for active service no doubt following the military tradition of his father William O'Neil, Barry served in 'B' company 2/22nd Australian Infantry Battalion and was promoted to Corporal. His date of death was the date of the torpedoing of the Montevideo Maru, 1.7.1942. His mother was Beatrice Laura O'Neil and he lived at 5 Hannaslea Street, Box Hill with his parents (8) and elder sister(9).

5. The letters mention personal family matters; describe a little of service life with three weeks exercise in the bush; received Christmas parcels and magazines; attacked by a coconut crab; how he hoped to be back home for his sister's wedding; the Chinese have shut up shop and Rabaul is dead at night; they had a good Christmas dinner better than the bully beef; beer ration down to half a bottle per day; there had been an air raid; etc.

6. In 1964, the Commonwealth Government made a distribution of Japanese assets to dependents of former prisoners of war and the amount of eighty six pounds in respect of his service was paid to Corporal O'Neil's mother. A further payment of sixteen pounds ten shillings was payable but by that time she had died.

7. With the exception of indigenous natives, the status of other persons born in New Guinea was that of Australian Protected Person. Our daughter, Vanessa, born in Rabaul, was at first given this APP status until eventually, after completion, payment for and swearing of a number of forms, naturalized by the signature of the District Commissioner, Harry West.

8. Major William Barry O'Neil, VP7545 of the pre-war (Victorian) Australian Instructional Corps (a permanent military force within the Australian Military Forces). Died 18.12.1946 aged 63. His wife, Beatrice Laura died 5.6.1957 aged 71. Their graves are in Box Hill Cemetery.

9. Mahala Eleanor O'Neil, dob 20.3.1912. She joined the Australian Womens' Army Service on 19.1.1942 four days before the fall of Rabaul. She served until 17.1.1946 at rank of Warrant Officer Class 2. She never married and died c. 1978.

10. Harold Buckley, dob 28.4.1926 at Rabaul served on the Desikoko until 8.7.1942. He had a distinguished record of war service also serving in Malaya and later Vietnam. He was the elder brother of Rudy. He was awarded the R.S.L. Meritorious Service Medal. He lives in New South Wales.

11. W.R.Carpenter vessel 'Desikoko' (desiccated coconut) left Rabaul on 8.12.1941 for Brisbane to pick up supplies. On the way back to Rabaul, in January 1942, she was diverted to Samarai where she collected evacuees and conveyed them to Australia. A short while later as the 'USS Desikoko' she was commandeered by the United States Army Small Ships unit.

A recently located photograph shows this vessel named on the stern MONTEVIDEO MARU OSAKA (port of registry) over the seven hiragana characters. Subsequently Mr Hisashi Noma, who is a world expert on the OSK line, identified a photograph of its namesake built in 1956 and used in the South American trade until 1981 when it was scrapped. This more modern vessel also bore the name MONTEVIDEO MARU under seven hiragana characters and was pictured with the Oakland Bay Bridge in San Francisco in the background.

For photographs of the various Montevideo Maru memorials in Rabaul, see *Una Voce* September 2007.

My thanks to Rudy and Harry Buckley, Carole Worthy, Hisashi Noma and the NGVR & PNGVR Ex Members Association. ■

SOME BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON PRE WAR NEW GUINEA ADMINISTRATION STAFF By Philip Selth

I am writing a biography of **John Joseph 'Mangrove' Murphy** (1914-1997), New Guinea Patrol Officer, Coastwatcher, POW, District Commissioner.

As part of my research into John Murphy's life, I am endeavouring to prepare brief biographies of many of those with whom Murphy worked or in some way had contact. Unfortunately, there are few published biographies of these pioneer men and women. The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* has entries for men such as Sir John Murray, Ernest Chinnery, Harold Page, Mick Leahy, John Black, Father William Ross, Joan Refshague and Leigh Vial. There are biographies of Dan Leahy and Father Ross², and James Sinclair gives us tantalising glimpses of many in his books such as *Golden Gateway: Lae & the Province of Morobe*, Bathurst, 1998. There is the invaluable ABC's radio series *Taim Bilong Masta: The Australian involvement with Papua New Guinea*, made by Tim Bowden and Hank Nelson in 1980 and Hank Nelson's book based on the radio series, *Taim Bilong Masta: The Australian involvement with Papua New Guinea*, Sydney, 1982. There is also James Griffin's edited *Papua New Guinea portraits: The expatriate experience*, Canberra, 1978. There are other books and articles, but with a few exceptions they provide little biographical information on individual members of the pre WW2 New Guinea Administration. I hope to contribute to the filling of this gap.

The PNGAA has graciously offered to post on its web site my biographies, in the hope that others will come forward with information about their subjects - and correct any errors I may have made.

John Murphy went to New Guinea in June 1936. His first posting was to Salamaua under the 'doyen of District Officers', Ted Taylor. He was immediately set to observe the more experienced staff at work, including Warrant Officer Tom Upson, in charge of the police. One of his first patrols was with John Black to check on the work of the surveyor Max Bergin. In 1938 Murphy attended a six-month course at

² Mary R. Mennis, *Hagen saga: The story of Father William Ross, first American missionary to Papua New Guinea*, Boroko, PNG, 1982; John Fowke, *Kundi Dan : Dan Leahy's life among the highlanders of Papua New Guinea*, Brisbane, 1995..

the University of Sydney with 15 colleagues, among whom were Les Howlett and Lloyd Pursehouse.

Thomas William Upson was born in Enfield, Middlesex, England on 25 January 1902. He was appointed to the New Guinea Administration on 29 January 1929. He was in charge of Police at Madang when war broke out. Upson enlisted in ANGAU at Kainantu, New Guinea on 14 February 1942 as a WO 2, and promoted Lieutenant on 4 August 1942. He was present at the execution of Tuya, killer of Les Howlett. Major Upson, Officer in Charge, 1 Australian War Criminals Compound, Manus Island, was discharged on 14 February 1950 when the Navy assumed full responsibility for the control and administration of the compound from 1 March 1950. His duties had included being the hangman for Japanese war criminals. Upson returned to duty with the Territory of Papua-New Guinea Police Force on 4 March 1950. Superintendent of Police Upson, Department of Civil Affairs, retired to Brisbane on 31 August 1957. He died in Brisbane General Hospital on 14 February 1964.

Max Wulfing Bergin, born on 10 August 1900, a qualified surveyor in NSW, commenced in New Guinea as a temporary chainman on 24 April 1931, having previously spent two years in the Federated Malay States as Assistant Superintendent, Topographical Surveys, and then a period with the Revenue Survey Branch in the Malay States. In July 1932 he was appointed as a Surveyor. He married Joan Refshauge in May 1937 in Melbourne. He joined the NGVR in August 1941 (after failing to join the RAAF), and was mobilised on 22 January 1942. He commenced with ANGAU on 14 February 1942, serving, among other postings, on the Rai coast. Bergin enlisted in the AIF on 6 February 1943; Lt. Bergin was discharged from ANGAU on 7 January 1946. He joined the Provisional Administration of Papua-New Guinea on 8 May 1946. In May 1947 Bergin, then an officer of the Department of Lands, Mines and Surveys, at Kanakaul, near Kokopo, was charged with having carnal knowledge of a native against the order of nature. Convicted in the Supreme Court in Rabaul by Justice Phillips, Bergin was sentenced on 11 July 1947 to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour. Justice Phillips (at Bergin's request) recommended treatment by a psychiatrist. Bergin was formally dismissed from the Provisional Administration that day. Bergin served his sentence in NSW; he was released from the State Penitentiary, Long Bay on 28 January 1948. He was not permitted to return to New Guinea (or Papua). Bergin took up a position as a surveyor on Rarotonga during the 1950s, where he lived until his death in 1983.

Howlett, Leslie (Les) Frederick. The Tasmanian teacher, born 13 December 1923, who the Public Service Inspector thought 'has a good physique, gives impression of sternness and would be strict disciplinarian and is a good sound and reliable type', was appointed a Cadet as of 22 February 1936. Howlett enlisted on 22 January 1940. Captain Howlett was attached to the Far Eastern Liaison Office (FELO), a military propaganda and field intelligence unit established in June 1942 ultimately responsible to the Commander-in-Chief, South West Pacific area (Douglas Macarthur), when he joined Peter Ryan on a patrol into the Wain country. Howlett was injured in a Japanese ambush at Chivasing village in the Markham Valley on 21 June 1943 and subsequently shot through the head by the native Tuya, who was assisting the Japanese. (Tuya was tried for murder, and executed in February 1944.)

Pursehouse, Lloyd (Chook). Born at Goulburn on 4 November 1912 and educated at Canberra Grammar School as a boarder (School Captain 1930),

Pursehouse was appointed a Cadet as of 5 September 1935, having been interviewed by the Minister for Territories, Major Charles Marr and found to be 'a good type'. Mobilised on 14 February 1942, Pursehouse was stationed at Finschhafen at the time of the fall of Rabaul. He radioed a warning of Japanese carrier based aircraft headed for Lae and Salamaua on 21 January 1942. (The warning was picked up at Lae but not at Salamaua, because the power unit for the radio station was not working.) His position was discovered by the Japanese on 8 March and he signed off over the radio: 'This is my last message – I'm off'. He then walked for six weeks through the jungle to safety. After serving with ANGAU, Pursehouse joined 'M' Special Unit in May 1943, formally transferring to the AIF on 1 June 1943. He was posted to Arawe and Sio. Lent because of his local knowledge to the 2/17th Battalion pushing up from Finschhafen to Sio, on 17 January 1944 Captain Pursehouse was killed by a Japanese straggler.

I would be grateful for any assistance readers of *Una Voce* can give me to improve these biographical notes. Please contact me at:

P O Box 1682 Lane Cove NSW 1595 Ph: 02 9229 1735 E:pselth@nswbar.asn.au

LAND RIGHTS IN PNG – IS PANDORA'S BOX ABOUT TO BE 'PRIZED' OPEN? By Paul Oates

PNG Community Action Group 'Act Now' is calling for a moratorium on the issuing of Special Purpose Agriculture and Business Leases (SPABL). It is reported that over 10% of PNG is now controlled by business corporations. These government approved leases are now being used to potentially exploit PNG's natural resources without effectively providing any safeguards to ensure the traditional landowners maintain any real control over their land.

Anyone who knows something about PNG will know that the most important issue in PNG has always been communally owned land. Any form of land alienation has the potential to stir up deeply held, grass roots emotions. So too is the issue of just who profits from the proceeds of any future so called business development and how do any financial gains be distributed in a fair and equitable manner.

What happens if the existing forest has to be cleared to plant crops like oil palm for the production of so called 'green' fuel? Who will benefit from the sale of the timber and what will happen to the land that has been cleared?

Special Purpose Land Leases have the potential to develop into a serious problem for PNG's traditional landowners. How will they be able to ensure they still have control over their land after a lease is signed and the income distributed and spent?

What happens if extensive mineral deposits are found under the leased land? How will any potential returns from any lease be distributed equitably and in whose eyes? Traditional landowners see any returns from their land as being theirs to do what they like with. What happens when there is a long standing dispute over who owns what land? Who will hold any future lease holder accountable and responsible for any abuse, misuse or possible pollution caused through what ever action takes place on the leased customary land?

Rumours are circulating that some people in the Highlands are stockpiling high powered weapons. Given the reported inability of police to stop the tribal warfare already occurring, the potential for land disputes to escalate into full scale civil warfare could well now be exacerbated. The reported controversy over Special Purpose Agriculture and Business Leases at this stage appears to raise a lot of questions and provide very few answers. ■

Sister M. Colomba, then an Irish missionary with the sisters of our lady of the sacred heart, in Rabaul, sends a letter home to friends with a moving account of life under the Japanese 1942-45. It has been edited for space reasons. Part One of two.

With thanks to Gillian Nikakis

SISTER M COLOMBA

RAMALIE CAMP 13 November, 1945

My dear Mother, Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

Other more eloquent accounts will appear in print but I know that nothing, however eloquent, would appeal to your own good Mother, Brothers, Sisters and friends as a composition of my own. I will do my best to satisfy your legitimate curiosity.

You will wonder why we did not go to Australia. We certainly would have done so had we had the slightest idea of what was ahead of us. We really hoped the Japs would never land; besides help from South was expected. But alas: on the 23rd January 1942 the view which met our gaze on rising that morning was not pleasant - 40 Japanese war boats in Rabaul Harbour. How blue and helpless we felt. But an aged Sister on seeing them exclaimed: "Thank God, help has come in time." No, it was not help and we had to wait three long, weary years and more; years of suspense and anxiety, before we saw a free white man again.

For a week previous to the invasion Rabaul was heavily bombed and the wounded and sick were brought out to our mission hospital in Vunapope. The evening of the 22nd Jan, I shall never forget. It poured and poured as lorry after lorry of sick and wounded drove in. Some of the men had been buried by bombs and dug out, Many of their mates and friends were missing. How sad, sick and broken those men were. Many other soldiers retreated to the jungle still expecting help. As no help came many had to come in again and surrender: a great many died of sickness and misery in the bush, whilst others more lucky managed to get to the South Coast and were taken away by submarines to Australia.

On this same evening six military, six civilian and four Methodist Missionary nurses came to us. They too, were low spirited and tho' we made the evening meal as appetising as possible they could not eat it.

Next morning, knowing that the Japs would take everything they came across, a Sister suggested getting foodstuffs from Carpenters and Burns Philps stores for the hospital. Three of us Sisters, with the aid of Mr Edwards and some native boys, carted goods for two hours when word was sent to come home, that it was dangerous to remain out any longer. We came home. Mother Martha said she thought that it would be all right for the two Irish Sisters to go back, that Ireland was neutral, so there would be no danger. Off we went, Sr Fidelma who comes from Dublin, and myself. Just as our lorry was packed we heard a shout, "Hands up!" and we saw hundreds of ferocious-looking Japs unfolding flags from their bayonets as they rushed madly towards us. I trembled in every limb, my heart bounced as if it would burst through my side, They halted in front of us, two thrusting their bayonets right on our chests and shrieking at us: "You English!". We told them that we were Irish Missionaries. They shook their heads, it meant nothing to them that we were. They shouted: "Where are the Australian soldiers?" We gave the same reply trying at the same time to look as if we had never seen Australian soldiers nor knew what they meant. After some more questions to which they got no satisfactory answers, the two suddenly pulled out their revolvers. I almost collapsed. Thrusting

them at our chests they viciously commanded, "Tell us where the Australian soldiers are!" It was useless, we only reiterated our first reply and in desperation they left it at that and went off. We got home thanking God that those Jap bayonets were not stained with Irish blood.

Next day at 5 pm about 500 soldiers surrounded our convent. We were lined up on either side of the veranda, a Jap with a rifle and bayonet and another with a machine-gun at each end. Some officers went up and down between the lines asking questions as to our nationality etc. Every now and again they would roar out some order or other, which of course we imagined to be orders to shoot us. Two solid hours they kept us lined on the veranda, whilst the mob downstairs ransacked the place. I would have given anything to have our Bishop or one of the Fathers with us. But they, too, were lined up in the monastery.

As night approached our fear became intense, convinced that they would either shoot or molest us. After what seemed an eternity an officer came up with a body guard. He, after investigating, announced that we could stay where we were but that we must not act as spies. Some hours later, Rabaul was bombed by the Aussies, and they (the Japs) flew for their lives to the beach. We breathed freely once more. But at 3 am we were awakened by the tramping of soldiers. They were all back! My bones rattled, my knees hit together. Never before had I realised what real fear was. But to our relief they were satisfied with the veranda downstairs for sleeping. From this day on we had them as armed guards day and night.

On Sunday 25th Jan the Fathers and Brothers were marched out of their three-storey house, told to take only a change of clothing and their mattresses with them, as they would be back in two days. They were interned in the convent of the German Sisters (we have two religious orders here, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, who have their mother house in Germany and the Sisters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart, ourselves. There they were kept in the upper storey for six weeks, and not allowed to come downstairs, not even during air-raids. The Fathers and Brothers were never allowed to return to their house, which was occupied by the Japs, who also destroyed all their belongings; clothing, books, furniture etc. At the end of six weeks the missionaries were removed to the Girls' school nearby and the Sisters had the convent to themselves once more. We were interned in our convent and not able to continue our ordinary duties. We spent our time studying languages and other subjects.

One Sunday in June 1942 we were awakened at 4 am by troops who ordered us from below to come down quickly. There we found ourselves surrounded by Japs with rifles and bayonets, machine-guns, picks and ropes. We thought that they were going to make us dig our graves and then shoot us, as a few days earlier they had made some soldiers at the hospital dig their graves then the Japs lined them up and then informed them that they would be shot and buried there if they did not answer certain questions satisfactorily. It looked pretty black for us. It took the Nips quite a time to line us up to their satisfaction, the only thing we could understand was, "Speak no, speak no". The whisper went from one to another, "they are going to shoot us." Finally an officer said; "Anyone who moves or speaks will be shot." They searched the house, rooms, presses, books, papers, everything they could find. They even pulled down the pictures and mosquito nets and turned up our beds in the vain endeavour to find the wireless that we didn't have. The search lasted seven hours, four of which we spent standing out in the boiling sun. It was almost midday before even the very old Sisters were able to have a drink.

Mother had asked if a Sister could light a fire to make a cup of tea for the latter, but it was refused, and not a cup of water even did they get.

It was 5th July when the military, civilian and missionary nurses were taken to Rabaul, and from there we now know to Japan together with the officers of the 2/22nd Battalion. Since peace we have learned that they have all been rescued and are now back in Australia. But the ordinary soldiers, about 800 of them, and the civilians from this territory, were not so fortunate; they were taken on a troopship which was bombed by the Americans and all on board were lost. Our only Australian priest and Brother, Rev. Fr. McCullagh and Brother Brennan, were taken with the civilians and of course shared their sad fate.

By special request of our Bishop, I was allowed to come to Vunapope from Tapo (under guard of course) on the 2 November 1942 to see Father Barrow, who was dying of dysentery. On the way in we passed ninety British and Australian prisoners brought here from Singapore. Tho' surrounded by armed guards I could not bear to pass by our own men without waving to them. They answered with a beautiful salute. The Japs could not salute like that - not for a fortune. Going back that same evening we met again those same men, tired and hungry after working unloading ships all the day. Some of them were supporting mates who seemed too exhausted to walk.

Father Barrow, who was Parish Priest in Rabaul for two years previous to the invasion, had remained in the vicinity when the attack started, hoping to help dying and wounded. He was captured with hundreds of Australian soldiers on the 24 Jan 1942, and during five weeks he got a rough time. Had to unload ships, chop wood and other menial work. Whilst in the camp he got dysentery, and like all the others got no medical treatment. At the end of five weeks Father was brought to Vunapope. He was bright and apparently his old self, the sunshine of the camp, always full of wit and humour. But tho' he never spoke of it he was suffering all the time and early in November he got a serious relapse. When I saw him on the 2nd November he was dying and even then witty and cheerful. He died next day. Father was loved and admired by all, white, yellow and black. He was a great missionary and is still talked of and mourned.. His funeral was very simple. He was carried to our little cemetery followed by all who were at the Mission. The Sisters told me there was not a dry eye, I was not at the funeral, as you know, I had seen him for the last time the day before, but I was able to visit and pray at his grave later on when I had been brought in to the camp. The seminarists whom he had been teaching for some months previous to his death simply idolised him and took great pains to keep his grave in order.

Back in Tapo we went on fairly well except that we were pestered by the Japs imposing on us and in spite of all my protestations that I had many sick, etc. I had to make shirts, trousers and even whole uniforms for them. One day too, a Jap threatened to cut my head off. I had refused to give him an injection, told him they had their own doctors. Some days later, the man was shot - a bullet from a New Zealand plane - and died almost immediately. He had been supervising about a hundred native men who were working in a garden for the Japs, and though the bullets were many and fast he was the only one struck. This incident increased the estimation of the natives for the pilots about 100%.

We were always being told that we were to be taken into the compound but it was not until 12 Oct 43, that they actually put us behind barbed wire. That day about 500 planes came over Rabaul. Planes flew over us in Tapo, machine gunning fiercely, bullets went through the church, convent, hospital and school, but the

Lord takes care of his own, no one was hurt tho' we were all caught unawares. The bombing and machine gunning continued every day, so at long last the Japs came and ordered us to Vunapope. It was the 28 October, we went off with a heavy hearts leaving weeping natives behind us.

In Vunapope everybody was bright and cheerful (even behind the barbed wire) and in spite of the fact that the food was most unpalatable. But we had sufficient food at the time, it was sent in by the three Brothers who had been allowed to remain at the farm to look after the natives. From this time on we had two or three raids every day; they were terrifying although only a few bombs actually fell close to our camp. Most of the Sisters were terribly scared and would fly to the trenches, about two hundred yards from our house, as soon as a plane was heard.

Then the tragic and never-to-be-forgotten day dawned. T'was Feb 11, 1944. At about 9.30 am the siren went. Those ever on the alert went straight to the big trench. After about thirty minutes on came the bombers. We, standing near a very small trench near the house, were as usual admiring them when suddenly Mother Martha shouted "Sisters get in, they are diving!" Immediately they opened fire, riddling the place with machine gunning. A few minutes later the bombs were falling all around us. The little trench, which had only a covering of about a foot of earth, could not stand it and it caved in, nearly burying us.

We were terribly frightened, but it was only when we emerged that we realised how serious things were. In the missing buildings alone, three hundred Japs were killed. All our buildings which the Japs occupied got a direct hit. Ninety were killed in this trench. When we came out there were human bodies, pieces of flesh, hands, arms, etc., all over the place. It was gruesome. The Japs came around gathering up the remains of their comrades, but they didn't get the half of it, our children were gathering up pieces for weeks after. You can imagine the stench was indescribable. We Missionaries had few casualties. An American Brother was killed outright and ten Fathers, Brothers and two Sisters were wounded. The two Sisters recovered, but the others all died later. Of course we got no treatment or medicines for them from the Japs. Our laundry, kitchen, hospital and pharmacy were completely destroyed. The side of the chapel was blown away, bullets and pieces of shrapnel penetrated all our camp houses destroying almost everything that was in them. Very few though, ever slept in the house again. That first night nobody dared to remain in the house, we went early to our battered chapel, said our prayers and each taking a blanket and pillow went to the trench. It was like leaving home, we wondered if we would ever again see our house. There was not nearly enough sleeping space in the trench, so some of us slept on logs, others in tool sheds close by. We took up our duties once more but of course under very altered conditions. Each day we had to rush several times to the trenches. There were several big raids daily, besides single planes dashing out of the blue at all times of the day. On the 18th we had a particularly terrifying experience. Two planes shot over us, machine-gunning fiercely as they went. We made a wild rush to get to the trench, but only about three yards from the house we had to throw ourselves to the ground., The bullets fell all around us. That same night Vunapope was shelled from the warships. It was a continuous blasting for about three hours -- the noise was ear-splitting. We sat praying in our trenches, trusting our good angels to keep the shells away from the entrance. Sunday night a second shelling was just as terrifying, if not more so.

Cont. next issue...

ABRIDGED AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For year ended 31 December 2010

1. Statement of Income and Expenditure

| 2009 (\$) | INCOME | 2010 (\$) |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1,040 | Donations and raffles | 801 |
| 13,474 | Functions (gross receipts - AGM & Xmas) | 8,918 |
| 2,181 | Interest | 1,696 |
| 30,776 | Membership Subscriptions | 34,737 |
| - | Coast Watchers Functions (Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society) | 22,558 |
| 2,745 | Trading activities – Book and DVD sales (net) | 2,655 |
| 50,216 | TOTAL INCOME | 71,365 |
| | EXPENDITURE | |
| 6,975 | Administration Expenses | 4,966 |
| 140 | Caring Committee | 635 |
| 8,909 | Constitutional Review Committee | - |
| 865 | Depreciation | 805 |
| 12,914 | Functions (expenditure – AGM & Xmas) | 9,038 |
| - | Coast Watchers Functions (Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society) | 17,505 |
| 976 | Income Tax | 1,012 |
| 730 | Donations, Subscriptions and Contributions | 5,052 |
| 17,890 | Una Voce – printing & distribution (incl Membership Listing) | 18,766 |
| - | Secretarial Expenses | 6,840 |
| 2,168 | Storage | 4,767 |
| 51,575 | TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 69,387 |
| (1,359) | Surplus / (Deficit) transferred to Members Funds | 1,978 |

2. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2010

| 2009 (\$) | | | 2010 (\$) |
|-----------|--------|---|-----------|
| 25,212 | | Current Assets | 39,795 |
| | 17,106 | Cash at Bank | 32,704 |
| | 8,115 | Stock on hand | 6,851 |
| | | Accounts Receivable | 240 |
| 45,029 | | Investments - Term Deposits | 45,029 |
| 1,674 | | Fixed Assets (written-down value) | 869 |
| 71,915 | | TOTAL ASSETS | 85,693 |
| 23,377 | | Current Liabilities | 35,534 |
| | 2,062 | Accounts Payable | 7,703 |
| | 350 | Provision for Audit Honorarium | 350 |
| | 976 | Provision for Income Tax | 1,012 |
| | - | Prov. for Donation (Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society) | 5,052 |
| | 22,082 | Subscriptions in Advance (next 12 months) | 21,457 |
| 8,987 | | Long Term Liabilities | 10,180 |
| | 8,987 | Subscriptions in Advance (> next 12 months) | 10,180 |
| 34,457 | | TOTAL LIABILITIES | 45,754 |
| 37,458 | | NET ASSETS | 39,940 |
| | | Represented by | |
| 30,552 | | General Reserve | 29,194 |
| 8,264 | | Historical Preservation Reserve | 8,264 |
| (1,358) | | Net Surplus (Deficit) for Year | 1,978 |
| | | Prior year adjustment | 504 |
| 37,458 | | TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS | 39,940 |

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

MINUTES OF THE 60th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PNGAA

HELD AT THE KILLARA GOLF CLUB, SYDNEY, ON 27 March 2011

Meeting opened at 11.35 am

Members Present (as per Attendance Book): Phil Ainsworth, Andrea Williams, Paul Munro, Marie Clifton-Bassett, Gima Crowdy, Ann Graham, Peter Coote, George and Edna Oakes, Michael Waterhouse, Graham Munkley, Dennis and Jane Doyle, Nick Booth, Anne Collins, Leonie and John Stevenson, Stuart Inder, Ross and Pat Johnson, Clive and Harriet Troy, Harry West, John O'Dea, Patsy Weaver, Marie Day, K.W.G. O'Connor, Joan Stobo, Warwick Fisher, Barbara and John Groenewegen, Fred Kaad OAM, Pat Bradley, Oscar Oberholzer, Rod Miller, Barbara Jennings, Pamela Foley, Ian Reardon, Kyran Lynch, Nancy Johnston, Alan Johnston, Barry and Joy Creedy, Julianne Allcorn.

Apologies: Joe Nitsche, Ron Carne (Vic), Madeline Parsloe (WA), Deveni Temu.

Moved J Stevenson, seconded G Oakes, that the Minutes of the 59th AGM be confirmed, subject to the addition of Nancy Johnston's name to 'Members Present' list – Carried

Business Arising: Nil

Nomination of Fred Kaad OBE as Hon. Life Member: R Johnston foreshadowed this motion at the 2010 AGM, and it was seconded H West. D Doyle said the Management Committee recommended that the nomination be accepted. S Inder said we would be mad if we didn't agree. *Carried unanimously*

Nomination of Ross Johnson as Hon. Life Member: Moved H West, seconded S Inder. Again, the Management Committee recommended that the nomination be accepted, and S Inder repeated his comment (above). *Carried unanimously*

President's Report: Received with acclamation (reprinted at the end of these Minutes) – *Moved G Oakes, seconded B Creedy, that the report be accepted. Carried*

Treasurer's Report and adoption of Audited Financial Statements: B Creedy presented the financial report for the year ended 31 December 2010. This included statements covering Income & Expenditure, Assets & Liabilities and the Auditor's Report (an abridged version of these financial statements is shown on p.60)

Moved G Oakes, seconded N Booth, that the Financial Report as presented be accepted, – Carried

Certificate required by Associations Incorporation Act 2009: R Johnson explained the implications of the new Act for our Association. Public Officer (M Bassett) to comply with the requirements.

Correspondence: M Bassett said that most of the correspondence concerned membership status or fees, and any matters needing special attention had been dealt with by the Management Committee. She expressed her sincere thanks to Ann Graham for her generous help and support in a range of areas.

Election of Honorary Auditor: Len Bailey, who has been our Hon. Auditor for many years, has kindly offered himself for re-election. *Moved R Johnson, seconded N Johnston, that this appointment be confirmed – Carried*

Appointment of Management Committee for the next two years: As there were the same number of candidates for Management Committee positions as

there were positions available, there was no need for a Postal Ballot. The nominations were:

President - Dennis Doyle; Secretary - Marie Clifton-Bassett; Treasurer - Nick Booth; Editor - Andrea Williams. Committee Members: Phil Ainsworth, Julianne Allcorn, Giminama Crowdy, Pamela Foley, Paul Munro, Deveni Temu.

These ten nominees were declared elected.

There were no items for general discussion. *The meeting closed at approx. 12.10 pm.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present the President's Report to this, our 60 Th Annual General Meeting.

We have lost our redoubtable Patron, Roma Bates. Roma passed away following a hip replacement at age 100. She arrived in PNG in 1927 and was widowed in 1954. In the 1950s she was part of a small group which met to set up the Retired Officers Association of Papua New Guinea, now the PNGAA. In 1961 she became a Nominated Member of the PNG Legislative Council, the second women to achieve that distinction and at the same time continuing to support various community organisations in Madang. Right to the end she maintained a love for and a keen interest in PNG affairs.

She was an extraordinarily talented and redoubtable lady. Amongst other things she survived three forced landings, two in PNG and one in Australia. It is reported that it was the same pilot, who was shocked to find her on the tarmac at Darwin, after the third forced landing, exclaiming, "Not you again".

As you know we also lost our elected President, Riley Warren, to his research project. I take this opportunity to congratulate Riley on his outstanding leadership and dedication to our Association over the time of his involvement.

As a result, I am the fifth president of the Association in three years.

We also lost Will Muskens, our Brisbane based Treasurer, who resigned due to the pressures of his own business. I thank Will on your behalf for his contribution to the Association and the Committee.

Barry Creedy, one of our Una Voce envelope stuffers and former Kiap, was persuaded to take on the job as Treasurer in August 2010. Barry reluctantly decided not to stand as Treasurer this time as his plans for overseas travel would not have allowed him to do justice to the job.

Nick Booth has stood unopposed as our new Treasurer, our fourth in two years. Nick has had considerable administrative experience and has been our webmaster for some time.

We have also been fortunate to co-opt the Hon Paul Munro as an addition to the committee. After extensive and varied legal experience in PNG, Paul served as a Senior Presidential Member of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (the AIRC) and its predecessors for eighteen years (amongst other roles). Paul is another Una Voce envelope stuffer.

Paul and Barry have been invaluable in reviewing and negotiating our ongoing insurance cover.

We have undertaken a detailed analysis and review of the operations of The PNGAA. Your committee decided that the clerical functions of the PNGAA could best be handled externally to provide certainty and a sustainable base for now and the future.

There have been some important lessons to be learnt from such a significant change to the continuity of our operations. As a result we are presently engaged in a strategic planning exercise. Your new committee will move forward to plan the future direction and operational requirements for the PNGAA. Ann Graham and Ross Johnson have provided their considerable experience to help reach this point.

We have had very good response from the surveys; while not a large number, some very thoughtful and insightful ideas have been put forward. We thank all those who took the time to respond and value your help. Our website has some information on the results.

It was generally and clearly agreed that Una Voce provides the key high quality value of the Association. In fact many members refer to the Association as Una Voce (and occasionally send in cheques made out to that name). It was also agreed that the contacts made and kept through the Association were also very valuable. Most of the respondents were very happy with the Association. There were some useful suggestions.

I will briefly share with you some of the things that have occupied your Committee this past year. I have discovered that the job of President involves a good deal of travel.

We are involved in a project to index past copies of Una Voce on our website to make the material accessible to researchers and others. This is a work in progress. There is a continuing need to preserve and make accessible historical material.

We have just packed a collection of books for transport to PNG.

We worked with the NGVR/ PNGVR Association to celebrate the Centenary of the foundation of Rabaul at their Museum in Wacol, Brisbane. It was a very entertaining and nostalgic day. We continue to work with the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society to meet their objective of a permanent memorial in Canberra. Andrea Williams arranged and ran a number of events in Sydney and Brisbane to hear Patrick Lindsay, author of the Coast Watchers. These were well attended. The net proceeds will go to funding of the memorial.

I and other members were present in Federal Parliament when the government made a statement concerning the loss of the lives on the Montevideo Maru and promised a \$100,000 contribution to the memorial.

We assisted with the raffle organised by the NGVR/ PNGVR Association and the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society to raise funds for their respective projects.

We were asked by the National Archives to help facilitate invitations to their Sharing Histories: Kiap Tribute event in November 2010, in Canberra. The day's program highlighted and celebrated the role Kiaps played in Papua New Guinea. There were almost 300 guests for which we can all thank Barry Creedy for his efforts to provide names and addresses.

The PNG cultural group performed on the day. It was quite wonderful particularly their performance of Raisi, specially requested by Fred Kaad, for which we are eternally grateful. Great costumes, great voices, great dancing. Deveni Temu was a standout performer.

I have had the pleasure of attending, with other PNGAA members, a number of functions and events including:

The Oro Project dinner in St Paul's college. It is uplifting to hear of the work of this project and the evening was very entertaining as well.

The Independence Day Celebrations in the PNG High Commission in Canberra,

The Sydney PNG Wantok Club dinner dance.

The PNG Chinese Catholic Association's Hamamas 101010 dinner dance, with two absolutely outstanding bands, and their Xmas service followed by a quite extraordinary vaudeville show, not to be missed.

I was pleased to visit the Fryer library in Brisbane with Andrea Williams and Dr Peter Cahill to meet Mark Cryer, Manager of the Fryer, to discuss the relationship between us in the preservation and access to historical PNG material.

At a personal level it has been wonderful to meet such interesting and interested people.

I have particularly enjoyed meeting His Excellency Charles Lepani, High Commissioner for PNG and Mataio Rabura, Consul General Sydney and Paul Nerau, Consul General Brisbane, not to mention catching up with people I had not seen for half a century.

On a trip to New Britain last year I was moved by the affection for *Una Voce* expressed by those PNGAA members whom I had the good fortune to meet.

I visited Rabaul, Kokopo, Kimbe and Garove in the Witu Islands with my eldest son. The trip was to visit my brother Dick and family and to revisit old haunts. We stayed at the Rapopo Plantation Resort and Walindi Plantation Resort, both outstanding places to stay. The only downside was that I was regularly brought wide awake by the nocturnal grumblings of a lovelorn pukpuk outside my bungalow.

You will be sad to know that Rabaul is an empty shell of itself. The trip, however, was an invaluable reminder of the past. From my own plantation childhood I recall with deep affection our many family friends from around the plantations of the Gazelle peninsular. It is a real privilege to have had the opportunity to have lived and known of a small part of the extraordinary Pacific islands history.

An upside of this role with the Association is that I have run into old friends and acquaintances and met many new ones. For many of us that is the kernel of the Papua New Guinea experience and, as you well know, the fellowship that developed with our friends seems to last forever.

I come to the most important part, to thank the volunteers without whom the Association would grind to a halt. The work of our volunteers is invaluable.

First I want to thank each and every member of our Committee for their hard work and dedication. Each one has contributed in their own way to the benefit of our members. I would like to mention Marie Clifton Bassett, who has been the rock for this Committee and Juli Allcorn, the highly creative organiser of our Sydney events.

The widely acknowledged quality and pertinence of *Una Voce* is a credit to the Editor, Andrea Williams and her team: our regular correspondents and contributors. It would be impossible to provide this as a commercial operation.

In addition to her *Una Voce* and website responsibilities Andrea has worked tirelessly on events and other matters for the Association. She is deserving of special thanks from all of us.

There is a large group of others outside the Committee who ensure that we can provide the services to our members.

We continue to monitor, and action where appropriate, matters that affect our superannuant members through the good offices of Fred Kaad and Tim Terrell in Canberra. They do a wonderful job.

Ann Graham provides tireless support in supporting communications and membership and caring issues. Ross Johnson has been invaluable on sharing his advice and knowledge. Harry West readily shares his vast experience, good humour and wisdom.

Our long term *Una Voce* label and envelope stuffing team do a wonderful job under occasionally quite trying circumstances. Paul Munro and Barry Creedy are graduates to the Committee from the stuffing group. Clearly a great recruiting ground.

Dr Peter Cahill continues to provide excellent work at the Fryer Library.

Len Bailey, our Auditor, and Jane Barrington have been enormously helpful in getting our accounts out for this meeting, as has Sharon Johnson of the North Shore Corporate Centre.

Our members deeply appreciate those who provide so much time and effort to organise local and regional events and those who regularly provide news and stories to the Editor.

Last but not least we value the continuing interest of our patrons, Fred Kaad OBE and Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (retd).

I am sure you join me in thanking all these wonderful people and those others who have provided, and continue to provide, outstanding volunteer and other services to the Association.

You will be not surprised to learn that we have aging membership. There is a consequence to our Association. Your committee reckons that there is good opportunity to increase our presently less than 60 year's old membership from its paltry 10%.

We are working on ways to do this. There is renewed interest in PNG in those who are involved in developments and the sons and daughters who may be belatedly developing an interest in our nearest neighbour. I encourage you all to seek new members to share the wonderful heritage and connection that the PNGAA and Una Voce offer.

I strongly urge those of you interested in taking part in running the PNGAA to consider serving an apprenticeship in your chosen role.

For example we will need a President in two years' time as I am precluded from election for a further two year term under our rules. ■

| |
|--|
| <p>VALE – With deep regret we record the passing of the following members and friends</p> |
|--|

Maurice James KIRBY, died Coffs Harbour 9.2.2011, after a long illness of Azheimers complicated by a stroke, age 73. Jim joined the Administration on 22.10. 1962 as a motor mechanic. Was at Kundiawa when he joined RPNGC as a local appointment on 10.10.1965. He served at Moresby, Boroko, Rabaul, Kokopo, Kavieng, Kieta, Kundiawa, Mt Hagen, Bulolo and Lae before resigning as Inspector 2/c on 1.6.1974. On returning to Australia, he became NSW state manager for Avis for 2 years and then served for 22 years in the NSW Dept of Corrective Services retiring at the rank of Deputy Superintendent in January 1998. He is survived by Marie, three children and grandchildren. MR Hayes

Ernie EVENETT 23 March 2011 – see page 41

Terence DWYER (21 February 2011) – further details next issue

John HERBERT (4 May 2011, aged 86 years)

Rossie BARRAND (nee THOMAS) (4 May 2011)

LC PENDERS (Septemner 2010) – further details next issue

Mr TD (Ted) SEXTON (22 July 2010)

Gregor Valentine ROSS (11 November 2010)

after 4 years and 3 months on twenty-four hours a-day oxygen, due to emphysema and heart issues.

Greg went to TPNG in 1953 for Comworks and worked at Wewak Lae Hospital, Shed-20 4-mile and Gemo Island. In 1958, he joined Dept of Public Works and worked at Newtowne, Daru, Balino, and Rouku.

A set of six-point deer-antlers, the souvenir of a combined PWD / District Services work-trip up the Fly River under District Commissioner Dave Marsh, still graces the wall of his computer room/den. Greg transferred to Corrective Institutions Branch, Dept of Civil Affairs in 1962, working at Bomana under George Gough and at Mt Hagen where District Commissioner Tom Ellis provided much construction work for internees.

Greg 'went finish' after leave in early 1965, due to in-law pressure; raising a family of three sons and three daughters on 8 ½ acres at Moss Rd, Manly (Brisbane) and working as a Plumbing Supervisor for industrial-plumbing firms on high-rise building in Brisbane and Surfair marcoola.

In August 1978, a music shop at Annerley was opened in partner-ship, and expanded to a second shop in Beenleigh, but responsibilities in the extended family in late 1989 required that he work from home. Retirement was a gradual process as health concerns increased, but his growing interest in the resources of his computer filled many gaps. He died peacefully at home on the morning of the 11th November after a cup of tea, a read of the newspaper, a growl at the Phantom (comic strip) 'still not found Diana' with family present or on the way.

Greg is survived by wife Beth, children: Janet (Mrs Wayne Munro), Robert, Mark, Gregor, Elizabeth Ruth (Mrs Yosef Pe'er) and grandchildren: Scott and Robert Munro, Thomas and Ella Ross, Reuven Pe'er.

Beth Ross (Roscoe)

Billie GRIFFITHS (23 September 2010 aged 88 years)

Billie lived in the Bulolo area at various locations, then in the Snowy Mountains Scheme for 27 years before retirement at North Haven.

Ian Griffiths

John HURRELL (15 February 2011 aged 82 years)

John was born in England but spent his early childhood in India where his father was with a Gurkha regiment. In 1940 John and his mother, on passage to India, were torpedoed by a U-boat, and spent some time in an open lifeboat awaiting rescue – very dramatic for a small boy. John was a Sandhurst graduate and saw active service during the Malaya emergency flying spotter aircraft.

In 1960 John, then captain, took early retirement from the army and commenced a long and adventurous career as a helicopter pilot. His flying took him to many parts of the world including PNG. His first contract commenced in January 1964 flying out of Madang, when on only his third day there, he was called up by DCA for an emergency rescue. A company helicopter had crashed while working on Mt Otto near Goroka. John and his engineer, who had to jump down with an axe and clear a landing pad, successfully rescued the pilot and passenger, and all this at an altitude of 12,000 feet! John sometimes spoke of the difficulties encountered in flying in the high mountains, once trying for nine days before being able to land at

the work site and then sitting precariously on a narrow landing pad but with spectacular views on all sides. A significant project in which he was involved was the joint Indonesian Australian border survey. Based at Wutung and commencing in August 1966, John did a large part of the helicopter supply work over the following year. His last job in PNG was for Phillips Exploration in 1988. In a flying career spanning some 35 years, he had flown 1528 hours on fixed wing and 12,436 hours on rotary wing. John passed away after a long illness at home on the Central Coast. I think it can be safely said that John Hurrell had experienced a most adventurous life.

Grahame Morgan

Bill BUCH (11 December 2010, aged 89 years)

Bill's early sea training was on the '*Priwall*', on eof the last legendary 'P' liners, square riggers, running from Hamburg to Chile, taking coal to Chile and returning with guano. He made five rounding's of Cape Horn – East to West – including a world record. This sail training provided the young cadets with strength and lasting self-confidence. However Bill was on a steamer, *SS Erlangen* when captured in the Atlantic in August 1941 by the British cruiser *HMS Newcastle*, under the command of someone he would later know as Fearless Freddie Feint of the Bank Line. As time went on Bill's thoughts turned to the Pacific Islands. As a POW in Canada he improved his English speaking skills and on return to Germany after the war he was employed as interpreter for the British Military Police in his home town Cuxhaven at the mouth of the Elbe. An opportunity presented itself in the form of a ship bound for Japan. Bill signed on as a Steward and jumped ship in Brisbane.

An amnesty provided the chance to hand himself in and ultimately he achieved his goal – running a small ship, the *Chinampa* for Perrson & Ericson in Samarai. Later Bill worked for Steamships Trading Co as skipper of the *Muniara*, followed by his appointment as Government Trawler Master Lorengau (*MV Tami*) and Kavieng (*MV Theresa May*). He was a happy man. Bill was known for his seamanship and dependability, also for his hospitality. Many people speak of memorable meals on the trawlers. It was a credit to him as a skipper and a person that he kept the same indigenous crew for ten years. The crew greatly respected and trusted their captain. Leaving New Guinea and finding work in Australia was a challenge for Bill. Several years in Gladstone on barges and line boats, another stint as a security guard for ANZ and then once again a great opportunity to return to the sea. Bill signed on as an Able Seaman on the Commonwealth Dept of Transport Cape ships, supplying and maintaining lighthouses around the Australian coast with several interesting survey trips in the South Pacific. By then Bill had his Certificate in Basic Radar. He reluctantly retired in 1986 at the age of 65. When Bill became vision impaired he adapted and never complained about it. He would wear his Vision Impaired Person (VIP) Badge with pride and had a wicked sense of humour to go with it.

Bill was always an active and interesting presence in our lives and he is truly missed by friends and by his family, Margaret, sons and daughters-in-law, Will and Shelly, Bruce and Julia and two grandsons, Tyler and Christian. Margaret Buch

Bryan Norman McCOOK (20 August 2010, aged 83 years)

Bryan grew up in a small country town in New Zealand where his parents owned a dairy farm. His interest in aeroplanes began early in life and remained with him always. Being too young to join the NZ Air Force, he spent many happy hours/days at the Wellington Aero Club and then at 17 years he joined the Air Training Corps. After the end of WW2, the NZ Air Force opened the door to his dream of becoming an aviator. He was one of 21 young men selected from 340 applicants to undertake

training at Christchurch. His first posting, in 1949, was to the No. 5 Catalina Squadron based at Suva, Fiji. Just before the Fiji posting, Brian married Betty – a union that was to last 60 years. The Fiji posting was followed by stints with other airlines, then in 1959 the family moved to Victoria where Bryan worked for Aerial Missions. Then at 36 he took up a position as mission pilot with the Lutheran Mission based in Madang, where the family enjoyed a new life experience in the company of Australians, Germans and Americans. The next move was to the Eastern Highlands where Bryan flew with Territory Airlines. Bryan spent many years in PNG and became very well known for his services. In 1978 he went to the US Virgin Islands to fly seaplanes but the Company got into difficulties so Bryan took up a position with Continental Oil of Indonesia, based in Singapore where the family spent eight happy years. He ‘retired’ at 60 and returned to Brisbane, but flew in PNG again for different companies when asked, until he turned 70. In all he accrued over 26,000 flying hours, flew 40 different types of aircraft, lived in seven different countries, and enjoyed meeting many interesting people from all walks of life. One of his fellow pilots wrote, ‘His flying career always seemed to have that pioneering adventure and romanticism about it.’ Bryan was always ready to share his knowledge and exceptional skills with the aviation community especially the younger pilots. He is survived by his wife Betty, children Kathryn, Dianne, Roger, Jack and Scott, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Betty McCook

Helen REARDON (27 October 2010 aged 71 years)

Helen first travelled to what was then TPNG in 1965 with Dianne and Mark. Ian had gone ahead to Popondetta. Always willing to give things a go Helen adapted to life and made the best of everything. They spent three years in Popondetta, a year in Kokoda, four years in Alotau where Helen worked in Education, a year in Daru where Helen, known as the ‘Vice-Admiral’, ran the fleet of Government trawlers. Eighteen months in Wau followed this before their final PNG move to Lae where Helen worked for New Guinea Motors. In some remote outstations the highlight of the week may have been going to the airstrip to receive the latest fresh meat and other items from Port Moresby coming in on the Piagio and Skyvan. Helen was a keen gardener enjoying adventures through the Wau Valley to locate new plants. Helen spent 18 years in PNG leaving in 1983. Helen is survived by Ian and their two children Dianne and Mark. Mark Reardon

Note: With Ian on the PNGAA committee for many years, Helen spent many Thursdays packing *Una Voce* for our members and doing a variety of other tasks as the need arose.

Neville Ernest BARNES (19 March 2011 aged 81 years)

Neville first arrived in Rabaul in 1954 as the local representative for Brown and Dureau Ltd. In 1955 after his marriage to Jan in Brisbane he returned to the islands and in 1957 opened up NE Barnes Trading Company, importing goods from various countries and covering a range of commodities from trade store supplies to luxury items such as Wedgewood china, Daum crystal and Parker pens. The business was successful and branches were established in Lae, Madang, Goroka and Mt Hagen with head office in Port Moresby. When China opened up its doors to trade with the western world in the early sixties Neville was first in and secured agencies covering a wide range from textiles, clothing, light machinery and foodstuffs at the same time importing prefab bridges from Japan on behalf of the PNG government and many other commodities from Australian and international sources. The company was also involved in the marketing of Rothman cigarettes and in the Rabaul area with the South Pacific Brewery.

In the 60's he was approached by Pearls Pty. Ltd in conjunction with Brown and Dureau Ltd to oversee the establishment of a culture pearl farm at Idumava Point in Fairfax Harbour. This was a massive task and involved taking electricity and town water across the harbour underwater to the farm. The quarters and operation rooms were designed by Higgins and Lloyd and were models of comfort and efficiency by any standards. The Maxima Pinctada oysters were transported from Broome in specially designed ships and kept in the hulls with sea water constantly flowing over them until they were suspended in baskets off rafts at the pearl farm. Japanese technicians were employed to operate and seed the oysters and local people were employed and taught the technique. The venture was very successful for many years but eventually closed because of harbour pollution and the devastating effects of the polychaete worm.

From there Neville became involved in the marketing of South Sea pearls and established offices in Sydney and Singapore and this business is now carried on by elder son Bruce. He retired to Pelican Waters and enjoyed this time travelling and golfing and seeing his nine grandchildren thrive. He was gregarious and good company and an excellent cook. He dressed every evening in casual Yukata - Japanese leisure kimono and in the voluminous sleeves many kittens and puppies were carried around until they got too big. He was also an excellent long distance swimmer and would be in the pool most mornings by 5.30.

He treasured his family life with Jan and his two boys Bruce and Dominic and took great pride in seeing them develop in the pearl business and in medicine. He passed away after a long battle with Alzheimers. He is sadly missed. Jan Barnes

Rod MORRISON

Rod and I were friends in PNG. I was quite sad to hear of his passing. Rod was a kiap and I had a farm, or plantation, depending on what definition you use. Despite this, we got on well, we both liked to bet on the horses and have a few quiet ones at the local watering hole. One thing he was always very rude about was rugby union and rugby league which he referred to as 'sniff bums'. He was an AFL fan.

Rod had a dog called Eccles who followed Rod everywhere, even to the watering hole. One afternoon a group of us were discussing a certain club member and I said he should be kicked out. Another member who would argue about two flies on the wall burst out and declared that the gentleman in question had more rights in the club than Morrison's bloody dog! I said Eccles caused no trouble, minded his own business, never got drunk and caused fights and behaved like a gentleman. That ended the conversation. Eccles became a temporary member and the member I wanted kicked out remained in the club and Rod was pleased. There were quite a lot of interesting people in Wau at that time. One was an Englishman who worked as the chief storeman for the local mining company. He joined the British forces as a boy soldier and served in all parts of the world. He was in Malaya when the Emergency was on and one afternoon at the watering hole he was telling us a tale about what he witnessed. In the middle of his story he was interrupted by another patron who thought he was an important person in town asking him what he was rabbiting on about. I said he was telling us about the Emergency and asked Ted to continue his story. After a while the important person rudely interrupted again, saying 'that's not right - I was there!' At this point Rod Morrison, diplomat extraordinaire, said, 'Yeah, and whose side were you on?' which rather finished the conversation. When I went to South Australia to see Rod I was quite shocked to see how his health had deteriorated. He and I spent long hours talking about PNG and people we had met there and we both felt like fish out of water back in our native land.

Ian Fraser

Elva Rose JONES (24 October 2010 aged 85 years)

My Mother was a dedicated wife and mother - and she always supported Dad unconditionally even during difficult times in Lae (way back when the living was not so good) however our family's time in Lae was wonderful - we enjoyed a lovely life there and made a lot of long standing friends - many of whom we are still in touch with. Our father, Arthur Kenneth JONES MBE (Ken), was the Manager of the Artificial Limb Clinic in Lae from 1952 - 1972 (The Clinic was part of the Lae and Angau Hospitals when he retired.) Dad received the MBE for his dedicated work in Lae - providing artificial limbs to hundreds and hundreds of amputees all over PNG. When they returned to Australia (Perth) they enjoyed 35 years of wonderful retirement which included lots of travel overseas and extensive travel within Australia including visiting many 'ex PNG people'. In 2006 and in 2008 I attended the PNG Reunions and my parents were very interested when I returned to hear about many folk they knew.

Elva is survived by daughter Glenda and grandson Ryan.

Glenda Clapp

Dr Dora SPENCER (6 January 2011) – no further details

Gladys Barbara (Nancy) EASTICK (20 February 2011 aged 90 years)

Nancy dedicated her life to working with the Girl Guides. It took her to England where she was trained by founders the Baden-Powells; to Germany during the war to work with refugees and to Papua New Guinea; where she worked as a leader and a trainer. The Guides International Service was established in Britain and Commonwealth countries in 1942 to participate in relief work in Europe at the end of the war. From October 1955 to July 1956 she was seconded to New Guinea as a travelling trainer, returning in 1958 as a full-time trainer, living in Port Moresby. Initially she taught eight indigenous women who were to become Guides and Brownie trainers, returning to their villages where they set up units. They were the first educated women in these villages. From February 1960 to October 1961 she repeated this process in Rabaul before returning to Sydney. In 1965 Nancy returned to New Guinea where she found rapidly improving education levels had changed her training role. Leaders from QLD, NSW and Victoria joined Nancy – they paid their own fares and gave up their holidays to teach in PNG. She wrote training manuals and an unpublished history of guiding in PNG. In 1967 she married Frank Eastick and worked out of the Guides' head office in Port Moresby.

Information from SMH

Ulli BEIER (3 April 2011, aged 88 years)

Ulli was an influential contributor to the cultural life of PNG through his work at the University (1967-1971) and as the founding director of the Institute of PNG Studies (1974-1978). Born in Glowitz, Germany, Ulli spent his childhood in Berlin where his father was a medical doctor. The family emigrated to Tel Aviv where Ulli went to school. Ulli excelled at languages and worked as a translator. Taking up an appointment in Phonetics at the university college Ibadan, Nigeria, Ulli developed a fascination for Yoruba cultures. He then successfully applied for the position as a senior lecture at the then new University of PNG. With great energy Ulli devised the University's first courses in literature and creative writing. Because no suitable PNG writing was available to teach, he assigned students to collect, record and translate into English their Tok Ples legends and songs. Many of these translations formed the basis of the *Papua Pocket Poets* series that Ulli later published. He founded and published *Kovave* – first magazine devoted to PNG culture and writing, and together with his artist wife Georgina, arranged exhibitions and promoted contemporary PNG artists such as Akis and Kauage in Port Moresby and overseas.

The first Papuan that the Beiers met at Brisbane airport on their initial journey was Albert Maori Kiki who became a close friend. Ulli encouraged Kiki to tell his life story onto tape which Ulli transcribed. This project resulted in the first publication of an autobiography by a Papua New Guinean '*Kiki: 10,000 Years in a Lifetime*'. This was a great success and was translated into many languages including Japanese, Russian and Swahili. Vincent Eri, then a student of Ulli's, was persuaded to expand his story, set in Moveave, called '*The Crocodile*'. This became the first published novel by a Papua New Guinean and was a best seller.

The Beier's returned to Nigeria in 1971, fortunately returning to PNG in 1974 where Ulli was invited to establish an Institute of PNG Studies. At the Institute Ulli set up a film unit under the direction of Chris Owen. Both saw the need to document the aspects of tradition before change transformed their societies. The film units' first productions included '*Tighten the Drums*' (Enga), '*The Red Bowman*' (West Sepik) and '*Gogodala – A Cultural Revival?*' (Western Papua).

A music department and archive was also formed. Frederick Duvelle, Les McLaren, Kakah Kais and Don Niles were soon recording and preserving traditional and contemporary music from all areas of the country. Don Niles is still continuing this very important work. Over 100 publications were published by the Institute under Ulli's direction. These include oral history, poetry, art history, plays, novels (including Russell Soabas' *Wanpis*) and translations of traditional languages. A journal of Papua New Guinea culture – '*Gigibori*' was also produced. Jack Lahui and John Kolia organised a National Literature competition of poetry and prose. For the NBC, where I was then producer of drama and features, Ulli presented a series of radio programmes broadcast nationally. With his passing the world and Papua New Guinea has lost a great friend and teacher. Ulli is survived by his wife Georgina, his sons Sebastian and Tunji and Ulli's three grandchildren.

Peter Trist

(Peter worked at the University of PNG from 1966 to 1972, and as Senior Producer Drama and Features at the National Broadcasting Commission from 1974 to 1984.)

Edward John HERBERT (4 May 2011 aged 85 years)

A former rear gunner in a RAF Lancaster bomber flying sorties over Europe in WW2 John was appointed to the RPC&NGPF in Port Moresby as an assistant sub-inspector of police in 1949. Transferred to Rabaul as sub-inspector and later inspector he undertook sensitive special duties. After serving briefly in Lae, Wau and Kundiawa he studied at The University of Queensland and earned a BA degree and a DipPubAd. He returned to Port Moresby as Licensing Inspector with the Liquor Licensing Commission before joining the Department of Labour as an Industrial Relations Officer. He represented PNG, and also mentored trainee local officers, at an ILO conference in Switzerland in 1970. After training his local successor he retired as Chief of Division (Industrial Relations) in 1976 and left PNG.

In Australia he was appointed Industrial Officer for the West Australian Colleges of Advanced Education, and later to a similar position in Brisbane where he became Industrial Advocate for Queensland CAEs. Retiring again, he joined a writers' group in Brisbane and entertained members with thinly-disguised tales of his life in pre-WW2 London and postwar Rabaul.

He is survived by his wife, Kath, daughters Carla and Cherry and their families, son Tony and his family, and son Kieran. He had six grandchildren and one great-grand-child.

John was unique; a one-off respected and trusted by friends, colleagues and villains, always willing to help and advise. "Novice coppers could not have had a

truer friend” a colleague wrote; nor could the Papua New Guineans he guided into their pre-and post-Independence careers.

Max Hayes/Peter Cahill

Dieter Erich Paul IDZIKOWSKI (22 January 2011, aged 72)

Dieter was born in East Germany shortly before the outbreak of WWII. After leaving school he became a toolmaker and motor mechanic. In 1956 he moved to West Germany and in 1963, together with his younger brothers Klaus and Peter, he emigrated to Australia. In 1970 Dieter went to PNG to help Klaus, who had established Pedford Constructions Limited, a civil engineering company engaged in road building and maintenance in the Lumi/Nuku area of the Sepik District. Following the sale of the business, Dieter worked for the Sepik Coffee Producers Association, managing the large workshop at Maprik, and then for Sepik Coffee/Sepik Construction in Wewak. It was Dieter's great desire to become a PNG citizen - to this end he held a glowing reference from Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare (a friend and golfing partner!) Unfortunately no citizenship committee meetings took place for some years, so Dieter decided most reluctantly that he must leave PNG to meet the residency requirements for Australian citizenship. Dieter married his long-time partner, Priscilla, in Cairns in 2003. Immediately following his naturalisation as an Australian citizen, Dieter volunteered for work as manager of the Bishop of Wewak's mechanical workshop which he brought from chaos to good order. Dieter in his day was a fine sportsman. He not only took part in events, but also took major responsibility for organising and promoting them. He was a founder member and life member of the golf and yacht clubs, vice-president of the former and commodore of the latter for eleven years. He died suddenly and unexpectedly, on the golf course – teeing off number 9.

Peter Johnson

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| David Fr Gregory | PYE BOURKE | 10/217 Vimiera Road PO Box 133 | Eastwood Aitape via Wewak | NSW 2122 PNG |
| Richard Rosemary Joan Helen Glenda Betty Barry Anne Bill John Ruth Konrad Alexandrina David | DOYLE BROWN DWYER MANFIELD CLAPP MCCOOK DENSLEY GILMORE BERGEN COLLINS HARRY BEINSEN LEWIS BLACK | 43 Boyle St "Salamo' 6 Woodlawn Dve 121 Lincoln Green Drive 10 Edwin Avenue 21 Durban Crescent 6/26 Charles Street PO Box 227 PO Box 2110 8/178-180 Durham Street 398 Old Northern Road 15 Maughan Parade PO Box 4056 Karawatha Drive 41 Richardson Road | Balgowlah Budgewoi Forestdale Avalon Kingsley Devonport Katherine Port Moresby Bathurst Glenhaven North Balwyn Amity Point Buderim Croydon North | NSW 2093 NSW 2262 QLD 4118 NSW 2107 WA 6026 TAS 7310 NT 0851 PNG NCD NSW 2795 NSW 2156 VIC 3104 QLD 4183 QLD 4556 VIC 3136 |
| Geoffrey Robert | VINCIN HICKS | PO Box 1294 226 Hawkesbury Road | Boroko Winmalee | PNG 111 NSW 2777 |

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June 2011

Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, Inc.



Membership

as at

1 May 2011

Please note that this list of PNGAA members is provided solely for your own information so that you can keep track of your Papua New Guinea friends. Please respect the privacy of your fellow members by ensuring that this listing remains under your personal control.

The Association's commitment in relation to safeguarding the privacy of a member's personal information is contained at Rule 45 of the Rules of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, Inc and is reprinted overleaf.

If you do not want your address to be listed in future membership listings, please advise the Secretary, PNGAA, Inc., PO Box 1386 Mona Vale, NSW, 1660, or send an email to admin@pngaa.net.

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The personal information collected from members is what is required to provide membership and support services in furthering the objects of the Association. In this respect, the Association is committed to the provisions of the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988, as amended.

1. Members:

- a) have the right to access, and if necessary correct, the personal information held in respect of their Membership of the association; and
- b) may advise the secretary in writing to withhold publication of all or part of their collected personal information in any communication, magazine, journal or newsletter published by or under the authority of the Association.

2. The Association:

- a) shall not share Members personal information with other entities other than to those who may be contracted to undertake Association initiated mailing services and then only under a confidentiality agreement.
- b) may, from time to time, request members to voluntarily update personal information held on their behalf by the Association.

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President: Dennis Doyle
Secretary: Marie Clifton-Bassett
Treasurer: Nick Booth
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General Committee

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Phil Ainsworth | Juli Allcorn | Gimanama Crowdy |
| Pamela Foley | The Hon Paul Munro | Deveni Temu |

A

ADAMS-HANCOCK Mr A J 3 Waterman Close, KIRWAN, QLD, 4817
 ADDLEY Mr M G PO Box 4154, EIGHT MILE PLAINS, QLD, 4113
 AHERN Mrs M A 3 Ashburton Street, CHAPEL HILL, QLD, 4069
 AINSWORTH Mr P A 89 Ascog Terrace, TOOWONG, QLD, 4066
 AISBETT Mrs M 11 Panorama Road, HERNE HILL, VIC, 3218
 AITCHISON Ms J K 110 Boundary Road, SCHOFIELDS, NSW, 2762
 AITCHISON-PHILPOTT Mrs J 466 Claremont Avenue, WESTMOUNT (MONTREAL),
 QUEBEC H3Y2N5, CANADA,
 AITKEN Mr R H 1/33 Manning Road, DOUBLE BAY, NSW, 2028
 ALBIEZ Mrs R PO Box 217, LANDSBOROUGH, QLD, 4550
 ALDER Mr O K 4 Falcon Crescent, COOROY, QLD, 4563
 ALLAN Mr R 214 Beecroft Road, CHELTENHAM, NSW, 2119
 ALLCORN Mrs J R 100 Shirley Road, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069
 ALLEN Dr B J 40 Bambridge Street, WEETANGERA, ACT, 2614
 ALLWOOD Mr M B PO Box 636, MALENY, QLD, 4552
 ALPERS Dr M P 3 Watkins Street, FREMANTLE, WA, 6160
 AMESBURY Mr H R J PO Box 856, CABOOLTURE, QLD, 4510
 AMON Mr D PO Box 536, KAVIENG 631, NIP, PNG, +675
 ANDERSON Dr J L PO Box 2109, HIGH WYCOMBE, WA, 6057
 ANDERSON Mr A W G PO Box 704, NARRABEEN, NSW, 2101
 ANDERSON Mr M J 1 Hamlan Place, NEWTOWN, VIC, 3220
 ANDERSON Mr G R PO Box 1239, PORT MORESBY 121, NCD, PNG,
 ANDERSON Ms B M 2 Christopher Street, REDLAND BAY, QLD, 4165
 ANDERSSON OAM Mr L E 10 Girraween Drive, NAMBOUR, QLD, 4560
 ANDRE Mr R N 451 Esplanade, GRANGE, SA, 5022
 ANDREWS Mr R J PO Box 474, YARRA GLEN, VIC, 3775
 ANGELL Mrs E P Unit 7, 39 Cayley Street, GLENDALOUGH, WA, 6016
 ANGUS Mrs M M 5 Gold Court, MODBURY NORTH, SA, 5092
 ANTHONY Mr Q P PO Box 1080, TERRIGAL, NSW, 2260
 ARDEN Ms L M 39 Margaret Street, NORWOOD, SA, 5067
 ARMSTRONG Mr J S 16 Mary Street, HUNTERS HILL, NSW, 2110
 ASHWORTH Mrs E J 36 Downing Street, HOVE, SA, 5048
 ASTLE-STEEP Mrs D 21 Macleay St, GLOUCESTER, NSW, 2422
 ATKINSON Miss J A 10 Paisley Street, NICHOLLS, ACT, 2913
 AUCHETTL Mr L A 15 De Jarlais Street, EARLVILLE, QLD, 4870
 AURICHT Dr C 8 Wigley Drive, McLAREN VALE, SA, 5171
 AUSTIN Mr L R S 2 Orion Court, ROTHWELL, QLD, 4022
 AUSTIN Ms Rowena 54 First Avenue, ST PETERS, SA, 5069
 AWINE-CLARIDGE Ms I 89 Railway Terrace, ASCOT PARK, SA, 5043
 AYLING OBE Mr D J 70/125 Montacute Road, CAMPBELLTOWN, SA, 5074

B

| | |
|---|---|
| BAILEY Dr P T | 2 Woodworth Street, BLACKWOOD, SA, 5051 |
| BAILEY Mr L W | PO Box 504, DEE WHY, NSW, 2099 |
| BAIN Mr G A | 32 Derwent Avenue, MARGATE, TAS, 7054 |
| BAKER Mr Tony | 139 The Bay Village Estate, 601 Fishery Point Road, BONNELLS BAY, NSW, 2264 |
| BAKER Mr Jack | 34 Clayton Street, WOORIM, BRIBIE ISLAND, QLD, 4507 |
| BAKER Mr C | 13 Veronica Place, LOFTUS, NSW, 2232 |
| BAKER Mr D S | 17A Cove Boulevard, NORTH ARM COVE, NSW, 2324 |
| BALDWIN Mr D | 6 Midden Place, PELICAN WATERS, QLD, 4551 |
| BALDWIN Mr F J (Jeff) | PO Box 75, POTTSVILLE BEACH, NSW, 2489 |
| BALL Mr K R | 4 Blue Lagoon Close, BATEAU BAY, NSW, 2261 |
| BALL Mr G F | 65 Boronga Avenue, WEST PYMBLE, NSW, 2073 |
| BALLARD Dr C | 27 Froggatt Street, TURNER, ACT, 2612 |
| BALMER (Nee Lumme) Mrs F T | 5 Heidke Street, EIMEO, QLD, 4740 |
| BAMFORD Mr R H | 47 Marsala Street, CALAMVALE, QLD, 4116 |
| BAMFORD Mrs E | 17 Yulema Street, MULLALOO, WA, 6027 |
| BAMFORD Mr G N | PO Box 262, SUMMERTOWN, SA, 5141 |
| BANBURY Mr J L | 1/49 Hind Avenue, FORSTER, NSW, 2428 |
| BANNISTER Mrs E M | Unit 2, 167 Pacific Highway, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069 |
| BARCLAY Mr R I | 11 Harold Street, BLACKBURN, VIC, 3130 |
| BARNE Ms N J | 350 Moore Park Road, PADDINGTON, NSW, 2021 |
| BARNES Mr J | 4 Ocean View Drive, ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477 |
| BARNES Mr D S | 31 Old Belair Road, MITCHAM, SA, 5062 |
| BARNES Mr N E | 36 Campellville Circuit, PELICAN WATERS, QLD, 4551 |
| BARNES, OFM, MBE OFM, MBE Archbishop Emeritus Brian | Archbishop of Port Moresby, PO Box 1032, BOROKO 131, NCP, PNG, |
| BARRETT Mr J H | Address withheld |
| BARRITT Ms K | 99 Husband Road, FOREST HILL, VIC, 3131 |
| BARTER Kt, OBE Sir Peter L C | PO Box 707, MADANG 511, MP, PNG, |
| BARTLETT Mr J R | 5 Monitor Street, ADAMSTOWN HEIGHTS, NSW, 2289 |
| BARTLETT Mr J R | 10 Shirley Street, ALTONA MEADOWS, VIC, 3028 |
| BARTLETT Mrs E A | 12/41-49 Darley St East, MONA VALE, NSW, 2103 |
| BARTLETT Mr W R | PO Box 400, SMITHFIELD, QLD, 4878 |
| BASEDEN Mr S | 9 Napier Street, COTTESLOE, WA, 6011 |
| BASKETT MBE Mr F H G | 27 Serene Circuit, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444 |
| BASTOW Mrs M A | 66 Summit Road, THE SUMMIT, QLD, 4377 |
| BATE Mr P W | 31 Parkside Crescent, LEANYER, NT, 0812 |
| BATES Mr R E | PO Box 316, MT HAGEN 281, WHP, PNG, |
| BATES Mrs L M | 33/1-9 Tara Street, SYLVANIA, NSW, 2224 |
| BATHO Mrs J | PO Box 317, WODEN, ACT, 2606 |
| BATTERSBY Mr J B | 177 Lindemans Road, LOWOOD, QLD, 4311 |
| BAWDEN Mr D | "Grantham",, Grantham Lane, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| BAYLES Mrs J | 5 Pipino Place, DEE WHY, NSW, 2099 |
| BEAN Mr I | PO Box 361, MALANDA, QLD, 4885 |
| BEARD Mr C R | 49 Mooroondu Street, THORNESIDE, QLD, 4158 |
| BEARD Mr A R | 34 Froggart Street, TURNER, ACT, 2612 |
| BEATON Mrs Ronnie | 13/11 Brewery Place, WOOLNER, NT, 0820 |
| BECKHAUS Mr I B | 4 Fenton Circus, ORAKEI 1071, NZ, |
| BEECH Mr J R | 16 Wangoola Terrace, MT NASURA, WA, 6112 |
| BEIL Mr B J | 345 Cleveland Redland Bay Rd, THORNLANDS, QLD, 4164 |
| BEINSSEN Mr K | PO Box 4056, AMITY POINT, QLD, 4183 |
| BEINSSEN Mr P | PO Box 2010, BUDDINA, QLD, 4575 |
| BELFIELD Mrs J | "Haus Tambaran", C/- Post Office, NARRAWONG, VIC, 3285 |
| BELL Mr J R | PO Box 5040, AIRLIE BEACH, QLD, 4802 |
| BELL Mrs Barbara | 6 Parker Close, BEECROFT, NSW, 2119 |
| BELL Mr M F | 25-27 ZigZag Road, ELTHAM, VIC, 3095 |
| BELTZ Mr C L | 56 Blackwood Terrace, HOLDER, ACT, 2611 |
| BENJAMIN Mr M | Walindi Plantation Resort, PO Box 4, KIMBE 621, WNBP, PNG, |
| BENNETT Mrs B E | Unit 55, 34 Toolara Road, TIN CAN BAY, QLD, 4580 |
| BENSON Mr J | 30 Aylmer Street, NORTH BALWYN, VIC, 3104 |
| BENSON Mrs Joyce | 37 Findlay Avenue, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069 |
| BENSON Mr M | 37 Findlay Avenue, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069 |
| BENSTED Mr D E | 123/72 Little Mountain Home Park, Mark Road West, LITTLE MOUNTAIN, QLD, 4551 |
| BENTON Mrs B M | PO Box 1090, MOOLOOLABA, QLD, 4557 |
| BERG Mr J H | 63 Pandanus Street, FISHER, ACT, 2611 |
| BERGEN Mr W | 8/178-180 Durham Street, BATHURST, NSW, 2795 |
| BEST Mr CJ McD. | 505/1 Holman Street, KANGAROO POINT, QLD, 4169 |
| BETTERIDGE Mr C | 7 Sunny Valley Place, MODANVILLE, NSW, 2480 |
| BEVEN Mr E T | PO Box 5066, DORA CREEK, NSW, 2264 |
| BICKLEY Mrs V M | 26 Restormal Avenue, FULLERTON, SA, 5063 |
| BIENVENU Mr W | 2/9 Maude Street, SHEPPARTON, VIC, 3630 |
| BIGGS Mr P G | 35 Esdale Street, BLACKBURN, VIC, 3130 |
| BIGNOLD OBE Miss V | 9/7 Jersey Road, ARTARMON, NSW, 2064 |
| BILTRIS Mrs B | 36 Ellenvale Avenue, PASCOE VALE SOUTH, VIC, 3044 |
| BIRD Mr W K | 21 Spain Street, NORTH NOWRA, NSW, 2541 |
| BIRRELL Mr J A | 36 Careel Close, HELENSVALE, QLD, 4212 |
| BISCOCHO Mr M C | 21/163 Willoughby Road, NAREMBURN, NSW, 2065 |
| BLACK Mr D W | 41 Richardson Road, CROYDON NORTH, VIC, 3136 |
| BLACKBURN Mr R C | 14 Cassowary Court, CABOOLTURE, QLD, 4510 |
| BLACKBURN Mr K J | PO Box 68, HOWARD SPRINGS, NT, 0835 |
| BLADWELL Mr M V | 184 Leybourne Street, CHELMER, QLD, 4068 |
| BLAIK Mrs J | 52 Grayson Street, HACKETT, ACT, 2602 |
| BLAIKIE Mr R W | PO Box 2462, RUNCORN, QLD, 4113 |
| BLATCHFORD Mr L B | Unit 6, "The Links", 39-47 Soorley Street, TWEED HEADS SOUTH, NSW, 2486 |
| BLEIJIE (Nee Turner) Mrs Lisa | 33 Martin Place, FAULCONBRIDGE, NSW, 2776 |
| BLESSING Mr P W | 16 Kruger Street, TOOWOOMBA, QLD, 4350 |
| BLOGG Mrs J A | 15 Greengully Retreat, DONCASTER, VIC, 3108 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| BLOINK Mrs D R | PO Box 45, KENMORE, QLD, 4069 |
| BOAG Mr A D | Unit 72, Palmwoods Retirement Village, 61 Jubilee Drive, PALMWOODS, QLD, 4555 |
| BOCK Mr W M | 99/2A Railway Avenue, WERRIBEE, VIC, 3030 |
| BODMAN Mr H MacD. | 37 Norman Street, FIG TREE POCKET, QLD, 4069 |
| BOLGER Mr P | Upson Downs, 5 Tamarix Avenue, BRAY PARK, QLD, 4500 |
| BOND Mrs J | 6/31 McMillan Street, LABRADOR, QLD, 4215 |
| BONNICK Mr R | 11 Morehead Street, CURTIN, ACT, 2605 |
| BOOIJ Mr J | 2 Panoramic Place, WHITFIELD, QLD, 4870 |
| BOOTH Mr Nick | 34A Third Avenue, EPPING, NSW, 2121 |
| BOOTH Mr C S | 12 Anita Crescent, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444 |
| BOSANKO Mr W | 47 Gould Street, FRANKSTON, VIC, 3199 |
| BOSWELL MC Mr P A K | 38 Rosedale Avenue, FAIRLIGHT, NSW, 2094 |
| BOTTRIELL Mrs D | 10 Augustine Drive, Highton, Vic, 3216 |
| BOULTON-LEWIS Prof G M | 14 Lakeway Drive, COOROIBAH, QLD, 4565 |
| BOURKE Dr R M | PO Box 492, BURGENDORE, NSW, 2621 |
| BOURKE OFM Fr G | St Anna Friary, PO Box 133, AITAPE SP, PNG, 553 |
| BOURQUIN Mr G F | 4 McAlister Place, Mt Roskill, AUCKLAND 1041, NEW ZEALAND, |
| BOWDEN Mr G J | 8 Bedelia Way, HAMERSLEY, WA, 6022 |
| BOWERS Mr J | Unit 709/33 Birkley Road, MANLY, NSW, 2095 |
| BOWMAN Mr G L | 90 Powlett Street, EAST MELBOURNE, VIC, 3002 |
| BOYLE Mr H M | 4 Shevill Close, St James Village, HEATLEY, QLD, 4814 |
| BOYS (Nee Wood) Mrs Pat | 19 Andresen Street, FOXTON BEACH, NZ, 4815 |
| BRADBURY-MOHAMMED Mrs J A | 66 Sydney Street, BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, QLD, 4868 |
| BRADLEY Mrs P | 71 Dalrymple Avenue, CHATSWOOD, NSW, 2067 |
| BRADY Mr J D | PO Box 240, MAPLETON, QLD, 4560 |
| BRAGGE Mr L W | PO Box 191, FRESHWATER, QLD, 4870 |
| BRANCH Dr C D | 3/54 Dunvegan Road, APPLECROSS, WA, 6153 |
| BRAND Mr W J | 17 Glencairn Avenue, RINGWOOD, VIC, 3134 |
| BRAXTON AM Mrs D | Ginninderra Gardens, 18/23 Burkitt Street, PAGE, ACT, 2614 |
| BRAZIER Ms M | 36 Embie Street, HOLLAND PARK WEST, QLD, 4121 |
| BREDEN Mr M J | 3 Recluse Place, SALT ASH, NSW, 2318 |
| BREDMEYER Mr T R | 160 Bagot Road, SUBIACO, WA, 6008 |
| BRERETON Mr M B | "Rahanga", 2175 Mickleham Road, MICKLEHAM, VIC, 3064 |
| BRETHERTON Mr D | 25 Dell Parade, MORUYA HEADS, NSW, 2537 |
| BRIDGES Mr L G | PO Box 2021, ASCOT, QLD, 4007 |
| BRIGGS Mrs M J | PO Box 7464, EAST BRISBANE, QLD, 4169 |
| BROOMHEAD Mr R F | PO Box 3457, HERMIT PARK, QLD, 4812 |
| BROUGHTON Mr J | 93 Stonehaven Crescent, DEAKIN, ACT, 2600 |
| BROWN MBE Mr W T | 3 The Serpentine, BILGOLA, NSW, 2107 |
| BROWN Mrs R D | "Salamo", 6 Woodlawn Drive, BUDGEWOI, NSW, 2262 |
| BROWN Mr M D | 28 Steinwedel Street, FARRER, ACT, 2607 |
| BROWNE Mr R C | 8 Billabong Place, MAPLETON, QLD, 4560 |
| BROWNE Mr J F S | 36 Clanville Rd, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069 |
| BRUCE Mrs G | 113 White Street, WAVELL HEIGHTS, QLD, 4012 |
| BRUTNALL Mr H R | 4 Ethyl Street, RAVENSHOE, QLD, 4888 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| BRUYERES Mrs G | Unit 24A, Tall Trees., 3745 Pacific Highway, SLACKS CREEK, QLD, 4127 |
| BRYANT Mr H | 13 Haynes Avenue, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444 |
| BRYDE Mr A | 18 Lark Close, CLIFTON BEACH, QLD, 4879 |
| BUCH Mr W J | 7 Renton Street, CAMP HILL, QLD, 4152 |
| BUCHANAN Lady D | Sutherland Tower, 20/27 Harbour Road, HAMILTON, QLD, 4007 |
| BUCHANAN Mr J J | Address withheld |
| BUCKLE Mr P D | 1 Deloraine Drive, CHATSWOOD HILLS, QLD, 4127 |
| BULL Mr J | 179/61 Karalta Road, ERINA, NSW, 2250 |
| BULL Mr I G | 4 Fraser Road, KILLCARE, NSW, 2257 |
| BULLEY Mr M T | 1/7 Henry Street, BALWYN, VIC, 3103 |
| BUNTING Mr P R | PO Box 4227, CASTLECRAG, NSW, 2068 |
| BURFOOT Mr G R | PO Box 4, TYALGUM, NSW, 2484 |
| BURKE Mr J T | Suite 89, Pine Village, 764 Morayfield Road, BURPENGARY, QLD, 4505 |
| BURKE Dr C M | PO Box 1224, KENMORE, QLD, 4069 |
| BURNS Mrs B | 3/38 Burlington Street, MONTEREY, NSW, 2217 |
| BURSLE Mrs S | 8 Clermiston Avenue, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069 |
| BURTON Mr J | 4 Gwydir Street, RIVERHILLS, QLD, 4074 |
| BUTEL Ms E | PO Box R1906, ROYAL EXCHANGE, NSW, 1225 |
| BUTLER Mr L M | 8 Dickson Street, ECHUCA, VIC, 3564 |
| BUTLER Mr G R | Wauchope House, 36 Weismantle St, WAUCHOPE, NSW, 2446 |
| BUTLER (Nee Johnston) Mrs A E | Unit 275, 118-120 Monash Avenue, NEDLANDS, WA, 6009 |
| BYRNE Mrs C M | 18 Clara Street, CORINDA, QLD, 4075 |

C

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| CADDEN Mrs E G | 2/6 Alan Street, CAMMERAY, NSW, 2062 |
| CADDEN Mr A | 12/55 College St, DRUMMOYNE, NSW, 2047 |
| CAHILL Dr P H | 7 Wynyard Street, INDOOROOPIILLY, QLD, 4068 |
| CAMERON Mr I D | 9 Cavell Court, BEAUMARIS, VIC, 3193 |
| CAMERON Mr D E | Fordon, THE NILE, TAS, 7212 |
| CAMERON Ms C L | Wild Horse Hill, WILLIAMS, WA, 6391 |
| CAMPBELL Mr C A | 20/37 Marathon Street, ASPLEY, QLD, 4034 |
| CAMPBELL-WILLIAMS Mr D C | Apartment 111, 66 McLachlan Avenue, RUSHCUTTERS BAY, NSW, 2011 |
| CAMPS Mrs E M | 12 Pall Mall, Golden Crest Manors., Mackenzie Drive, HIGHLAND PARK, QLD, 4211 |
| CANTLAY Mr R F | 17 Mistletoe Street, ALICE SPRINGS, NT, 0870 |
| CAPP Mr D M | PO Box 40, MACLEAN, NSW, 2463 |
| CARNE Mr R S | C/- Uniting Aged Care Box Hill, 75 Thames Street, BOX HILL, VIC, 3128 |
| CARRICK Mrs M M | 42 Mittagong Road, BOWRAL, NSW, 2576 |
| CARROLL Mr L J | 3 Asher Street, COOGEE, NSW, 2034 |
| CARROLL Mr M F | PO Box 845, GRAFTON, NSW, 2460 |
| CARSWELL MBE Mr S J | 25 Mazlin Street, EDGE HILL, QLD, 4870 |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| CARTER Mr T | 66 Chalk Street, LUTWYCHE, QLD, 4030 |
| CAVANAGH Mr N J | 125 Bilsen Road, WAVELL HEIGHTS, QLD, 4012 |
| CAVILL Mr J R | 21 Craighill Road, ST GEORGES, SA, 5064 |
| CHALKER Mr F V | 43 Magin Crescent, WALLSEND, NSW, 2287 |
| CHALMERS Mrs G M | PO Box 302, JERRABOMBERRA, NSW, 2619 |
| CHAMBERS Mr G M | PO Box 3581, MOUNT GAMBIER, SA, 5290 |
| CHAMPNESS Dr L | 5 North Valley Road, HIGHTON, VIC, 3216 |
| CHAN Mrs S | PO Box 837, CHATSWOOD, NSW, 2067 |
| CHAN Mr G | 838 Barry Road, HANGING ROCK, NSW, 2340 |
| CHANDLER Mrs J O | Unit 9 "Pleasant Grove", 22 Gibson Street, MT. PLEASANT, WA, 6153 |
| CHANDLER Mr P A | Mill Field, Bookers Lne, Earnley, Chichester, WEST SUSSEX PO 20 7JD, UK, |
| CHANG Mrs M E | PO Box 400, WESTCOURT, QLD, 4870 |
| CHANING-PEARCE Mr J R | 3/6 Stillwater place, NOOSA WATERS, QLD, 4566 |
| CHAPMAN Mr Geoff | 486 The Scenic Road, MACMASTERS BEACH, NSW, 2251 |
| CHARTERS Ms J | 8/3-7 Luke Street, HUNTERS HILL, NSW, 2110 |
| CHEONG Mr B | 93A Middle Harbour Road, LINDFIELD, NSW, 2070 |
| CHESTER Mrs F | 29 Parnki Parade, PALM BEACH, QLD, 4221 |
| CHEUNG Mr Brian | 75 Middle Harbour Road, LINDFIELD, NSW, 2070 |
| CHEUNG Mr L | 20 Grosvenor Road, LINDFIELD, NSW, 2070 |
| CHINN Ms P H | 37 Bradley Road, CLONTARF, QLD, 4019 |
| CHOW Mrs M P | 68 Park Road, KALINGA, QLD, 4030 |
| CHRISTIANSEN Mr R L | 3 Lentara Court, MAGILL, SA, 5072 |
| CLANCY Mrs M | 55/20 Dean Street, CLAREMONT, WA, 6010 |
| CLAPP Mrs G | 21 Durban Crescent, KINGSLEY, WA, 6026 |
| CLARINGBOULD Mrs J | Unit 5, Norwood Place, 104 Station Road, INDOOROOPIILLY, QLD, 4068 |
| CLARK Mr B M | PO Box 3804, WESTON CREEK, NSW, 2611 |
| CLARKE Mrs M W | Unit 20, 27 Harbour Road, HAMILTON, QLD, 4007 |
| CLARKE Mrs W E | 69 Smith Road, WOODRIDGE, QLD, 4114 |
| CLAY Mr & Mrs Peter & Elaine | Villa 47, 37 Burkitt Street, PAGE, ACT, 2614 |
| CLEARY Mrs A | 1 Champion Street, DONCASTER EAST, VIC, 3109 |
| CLELAND Ms Kathryn | 127 Cabarita Road, BOGANGAR, NSW, 2488 |
| CLELAND Mr R D M | 83 Beilby Road, KENMORE HILLS, NSW, 4069 |
| CLELAND Mr E D | 39 Charlton Street, Nambucca Heads, NSW, 2448 |
| CLELLAND AM Grp Cpt R C | 23 Ethel Street, CAMP HILL, QLD, 4152 |
| CLEMENTS Mrs M | 100A Huntriss Rd, KARRINYUP, WA, 6018 |
| CLEZY AM, OBE Dr J K A | 5 Rugby Street, COLLEGE PARK, SA, 5069 |
| CLIFTON Mrs M | 21 Valda Street, WEST PENNANT HILLS, NSW, 2125 |
| CLIFTON-BASSETT Mrs M | 54 Sugarloaf Crescent, CASTLECrag, NSW, 2068 |
| COADY Mr C | PO Box 2062, WELLINGTON POINT, QLD, 4160 |
| COATES Mr P E | PO Box 118, NELSON BAY, NSW, 2315 |
| COCHRANE Mr R H | 13 Circulo Drive, COPACABANA, NSW, 2251 |
| COCHRANE Mr J R | PO Box 58, CRESCENT HEAD, NSW, 2440 |
| COCHRANE Dr S | PO Box 387, EUMUNDI, QLD, 4562 |
| COCKBURN Mrs M A | 33 Newlop Street, NGUNNAWAL, ACT, 2913 |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| COCKBURN Mr M | 33 Newlop Street, NGUNNAWAL, ACT, 2913 |
| COCKBURN Mr P G | 10 Somerset Avenue, NORTH TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074 |
| COCKRAM Mr G E | 3/2 Weybridge Street, SURREY HILLS, VIC, 3127 |
| COEHN Mr H | 8/15 Lakes Crescent, MARRARA, NT, 0812 |
| COHEN Mrs F | 64 Palace Street, ASHFIELD, NSW, 2131 |
| COHEN Mr & Mrs P | Canoona Cat Motel, 40 Punch Close, KURANDA, QLD, 4881 |
| COLE Ms K | PO Box 3532, MANUKA, ACT, 2603 |
| COLEMAN Mr F | 103 Flinders Crescent, BORONIA HEIGHTS, QLD, 4124 |
| COLEMAN Miss J M | 82\8 Rundle House, Judge Book Village, 43 Diamond St, ELTHAM, VIC, 3095 |
| COLEMAN Mr P J | 83/71 Ruislip Street, WEMBLEY, WA, 6014 |
| COLLETT Mr G G | "Lahara",, 70 Lahara Road, GLEN INNES, NSW, 2370 |
| COLLINS Mrs A | 398 Old Northern Road, GLENHAVEN, NSW, 2156 |
| COLLINS Mr J D | 398 Old Northern Road, GLENHAVEN, NSW, 2156 |
| COLLINS Mr. E D | 193 Ball Road, MALANDA, QLD, 4885 |
| COLLIS Mr E G | 31/24 Mcdonald Street, BRIBIE ISLAND, QLD, 4507 |
| COLMAN Mrs Joan | PO Box 6320, GOLD COAST MAIL CENTRE, BUNDALL, QLD, 4217 |
| COLWELL Mr M J | 50 Hume Street, TOOWOOMBA, QLD, 4350 |
| COMERFORD Mr P | 233 Woy Woy Road, HORSFIELD BAY, NSW, 2256 |
| COMPSTON Mr D | 2 Egmont Road, MEDLOW BATH, NSW, 2780 |
| CONNOLLY Mr K E | 69 Hillview Parade, ASHMORE, QLD, 4214 |
| CONROY Mrs M C | 16 Patrick Street, AVALON BEACH, NSW, 2107 |
| COOK OBE Mr F J | PO Box 8, LAE 411, MP, PNG, |
| COOK Mr G M | 27 Pinewood Street, REDCLIFFE, QLD, 4020 |
| COOKE Mr K V | 21 Aldenham Road, WARNERVALE, NSW, 2259 |
| COOKSON Dr M | PAH, RSPAS (Coombs),, Australian National University, CANBERRA, ACT, 0200 |
| COOPER Mrs S I | 70 Arden Street, CLOVELLY, NSW, 2031 |
| COOTE Mr E M | PO Box 495, BOWRAL, NSW, 2576 |
| COOTE Mr P R | 36/1 Seabeach Avenue, Seabeach Gardens, MONA VALE, NSW, 2103 |
| CORDER Mr H | 20 Vaggelas Crescent, BIGGERA WATERS, QLD, 4216 |
| CORDUKES Mr P | 541 Noosa Springs Drive, NOOSA HEADS, QLD, 4567 |
| CORLIS Mr J M | PO Box 250, PETRIE, QLD, 4502 |
| CORRIGAN Mrs J M | 4 Maldives Way, BURLEIGH COVE, QLD, 4220 |
| CORRIGAN Mr K D | 8 Gretel Drive, MERMAID WATERS, QLD, 4218 |
| COSTELLO Mr B F | Unit 11, Iris Court, 91-93 Lower King street, CABOOLTURE, QLD, 4501 |
| COTTINGHAM Mr S G | PO Box 1097, BUDDINA, QLD, 4575 |
| COTTON Mrs E | Unit 21B, 17 Lourdes Street, LESMURDIE, WA, 6076 |
| COUSINS Mrs W | 13 Jolliffe Street, BALGOWNIE, NSW, 2519 |
| COWLEY Mr G J | 2/126 Bower Street, MANLY, NSW, 2095 |
| COX Mrs T V | 45/136 Palm Meadows Drive, CARRARA, QLD, 4211 |
| COX Mr J I | PO Box 157, PENGUIN, TAS, 7316 |
| COYNE Dr G F | 11 Murray Grey Drive, KUREELPA, QLD, 4560 |
| CRAGG Mrs V | 96 Elm Road, AUBURN, NSW, 2144 |
| CRAIG Mr D J | 1 Olive Court, ATHELSTONE, SA, 5076 |

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|-----------------------|---|
| CRAIG Dr B | "Pangkalilla", RMB 492, CHERRY GARDENS, SA, 5157 |
| CRAINEAN Mr J J | 3/3 Fulton Street, WISHART, QLD, 4122 |
| CRANE Mr D B | 21 Sunrise Drive, Ocean View, DAYBORO, QLD, 4521 |
| CRANE Mrs E J | 164 Settlement Point Road, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444 |
| CRAPP ofm Rev. A | 58 Veales Rd, DEERAGAN, QLD, 4818 |
| CRAWFORD Mr A L | PO Box 50, BELAIR, SA, 5052 |
| CRAWFORD OAM Mr Bruce | 14 Bullard Street, GREENSLOPES, QLD, 4120 |
| CREEDY Mr B J | 3 Cammeray Road, CAMMERAY, NSW, 2062 |
| CREELMAN Dr R A | 108 Midson Road, EPPING, NSW, 2121 |
| CRONIN Mrs H | 69 William Street, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556 |
| CROSS Mr A H | PO Box 10, LAIDLEY, QLD, 4341 |
| CROUCH Mrs H M | 2113 Geelong Road, MOUNT HELEN, VIC, 3350 |
| CROWDY Mrs G | 61 Gwendolen Avenue, UMINA BEACH, NSW, 2257 |
| CROWE Mr P G | 66 Summit Road, THE SUMMIT, QLD, 4377 |
| CROWLEY Mr L | Victoria Park, Temora Road, JUNE, NSW, 2663 |
| CRUICKSHANK Mr R W | 1 Gill Avenue, AVOCA BEACH, NSW, 2251 |
| CRUIKSHANK Mr J M | Villa 37, Glengara Village, 220 Hansens Road, TUMBI UMBI, NSW, 2261 |
| CULLEN Mrs E R | 50 Elliott Road, BANYO, QLD, 4014 |
| CULLEN Mr T K | 81 Woongar Street, BOREEN POINT, QLD, 4565 |
| CURRIE Mr R M | 11 Edward Court, HASTINGS, VIC, 3915 |
| CURTIS Mrs J M | PO Box 156, LANE COVE, NSW, 2066 |
| CUSH Ms J | Millgate Range Road, MITTAGONG, NSW, 2575 |
| CUTLACK Mr S S | 2 Coconut Grove, KURANDA, QLD, 4881 |

D

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| DALE Mrs Patsy | 11 Churinga Street, MINYAMA WATERS, QLD, 4575 |
| DALLOW Mr B | 20 Chestnut Crescent, VICTORIA POINT, QLD, 4165 |
| DALY Mr D R | "Fernleigh", Tops Road, NOWENDOC, NSW, 2354 |
| DANGAR Mr G | "Garthowen", 174 Jessie Street, ARMIDALE, NSW, 2350 |
| DANGAR (nee Holstein) Mrs K J | "Garthowen", 174 Jessie Street, ARMIDALE, NSW, 2350 |
| DANIELS MBE Mr D J | 83/278 Silom Suite Condo, Sathorn SOI 12, Bangruk, BANGKOK, THAILAND, 10500 |
| DARCEY Mr Brian | PO Box 5899, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| DARGIE Mr R | 27 Attunga Way, MOUNT ELIZA, VIC, 3930 |
| DASH Mr James | PO Box 5392, ALICE SPRINGS, NT, 0871 |
| DAVIES Mr S J | 701/102 Alfred Street, MILSONS POINT, NSW, 2061 |
| DAVIS (Nee Washington) Mrs J A | 15 Banksia Drive, MT CROSBY, QLD, 4306 |
| DAW Mr T E | 31 Margaret Street, WATERMANS BAY, WA, 6020 |
| DAWE Mrs A M | 19 Whytecliffe Parade, WOODY POINT, QLD, 4019 |
| DAY Miss M | 12/30 Meadow Crescent, MEADOWBANK, NSW, 2114 |
| DAY Mrs G | 12 Blaxland Avenue, MOLENDINAR, QLD, 4214 |
| de BRENNAN Mr S | 2/35 Military Road, NEUTRAL BAY, NSW, 2089 |
| de KANTZOW Mrs D | 3/16-18 Wolseley Rd, POINT PIPER, NSW, 2027 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| de MORIER Mrs E | 6 Le Mans Drive, MERMAID WATERS, QLD, 4218 |
| DEASEY Mrs M D | Unit 9 Aminya, Goolgung Avenue, BAULKHAM HILLS, NSW, 2153 |
| DeCARBO Mr E A | 415 W. 55 Street, Apt. 1A, NEW YORK NY 10019, USA, |
| DELANEY Mr B F | 14A Tower Court, CASTLE HILL, NSW, 2154 |
| DENNETT Mr P A | 139 Brook Street, COOGEE, NSW, 2034 |
| DENOON Mr D | 203/40 Refinery Drive, PYRMONT, NSW, 2009 |
| DENSLEY Mr B | PO Box 227, KATHERINE, NT, 0851 |
| DENT Mr O G G | Unit 87, Immanuel Gardens Retirement Village, 10 Magnetic Drive, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556 |
| DESAILLY Mr R N | 205 The Scenic Road, KILLCARE HEIGHTS, NSW, 2257 |
| DEUTROM Mr Kevin | 18 Kay Crescent, PORT AUGUSTA WEST, SA, 5700 |
| DEVERELL Mrs R | 4 Wilson Street, LITTLE GROVE, WA, 6330 |
| DEVINE Mrs G | 16 David Street, GREEN POINT, NSW, 2251 |
| DEWDNEY Dr J C H | 204 Botany Street, KINGSFORD, NSW, 2032 |
| DICK Mr G | PO Box 2390, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444 |
| DICKSON Mr A A | 9 Crase Street, KAPUNDA, SA, 5373 |
| DIERCKE Mr L | PO Box 4177, ST LUCIA SOUTH, QLD, 4067 |
| DILENA Mr M J | 3/15 Patawalonga Frontage, GLENELG NORTH, SA, 5045 |
| DILLON AM Rev P R | 14 Poole Place, SUNSHINE BAY, NSW, 2536 |
| DIXON Mr R | 10 Wilmot St, HOBART, TAS, 7000 |
| DIXON Mr J E | 46 Durali Ave, WINMALEE, NSW, 2777 |
| DOBSON Mr R A | 137 Coromandel Road, EBENEZER, NSW, 2756 |
| DODD Mr Brian | 22 Rattray Road, MONTMORENCY, VIC, 3094 |
| DOHERTY Mr K R | PO Box 67W, WESTCOURT, QLD, 4870 |
| DONALDSON Mr & Mrs C K & R O | 14 Ferrabetta Avenue, EASTWOOD, NSW, 2122 |
| DONALDSON Mrs N A | Unit 7, Warwick Towers, 51 Marine Parade, REDCLIFFE, QLD, 4020 |
| DONNAN Mr D R F | PO Box 7194, KIN KORA, QLD, 4680 |
| DONNE Mr R W S | Unit 10, 24 Martin Court, WEST LAKES, SA, 5021 |
| DONNISON Mr P M | 18/27 Campbell Parade, MANLY VALE, NSW, 2093 |
| DONOVAN Mr F | PO Box 5892, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| DONOVAN Mr R D | 21 Sand St, PORT DOUGLAS, QLD, 4871 |
| DOOLAN Mrs R | 7 Centenary Drive, MALENY, QLD, 4552 |
| DOOLAN Mr T | 7 Centenary Drive, MALENY, QLD, 4552 |
| D'ORCHIMONT Mr C | 18 Arnlyn Road, COOROY, QLD, 4563 |
| DORGAN Mr W F | PO Box 331, PORT MORESBY, NCD, PNG |
| DORNEY AM MBE Mr S | 149 Queenscroft St, CHELMER, QLD, 4068 |
| DOUGLAS Mr M A | 11/82-84 Yathong Road South, CARINGBAH, NSW, 2229 |
| DOUGLAS Mr I M | 201 Landsborough, Maleny Road, LANDSBOROUGH, QLD, 4550 |
| DOWLING Mr S J | PO Box 1740, MILTON BC, QLD, 4064 |
| DOWLING Mr C E A | 49 Ferndale Road, NORMANHURST, NSW, 2076 |
| DOWLING (nee Mossman) Mrs J | 54 Byrne Circuit, MOIL, NT, 0810 |
| DOWNES Mr B A | PO Box 1434, BUNDABERG, QLD, 4670 |
| DOWNIE Mr J | 92 Cyclades Crescent, CURRUMBIN WATERS, QLD, 4223 |
| DOWSETT Mr J S | 15 Walpole Avenue, BELMONT, VIC, 3216 |
| DOYLE Mr D R | 18 Ruskin Rowe, AVALON, NSW, 2107 |
| DOYLE Mrs J C | 18 Ruskin Rowe, AVALON, NSW, 2107 |

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|----------------------|--|
| DOYLE Mr R D | 43 Boyle Street, BALGOWLAH, NSW, 2093 |
| DOYLE Mr R B H | PO Box 695, KIMBE 621, WNBK, PNG, |
| DRYDEN Mr P F | 21 Cramer Street, WARRNAMBOOL, VIC, 3280 |
| DRYER Mrs A | 44 Coronation Avenue, BEACHMERE, QLD, 4510 |
| DUFFY Mr J | 72 Axiom Way, ACTON PARK, TAS, 7170 |
| DUFFY Mr B | 865 Waterworks Road, THE GAP, QLD, 4061 |
| DUGGAN Mr D J | 14 Natan Road, MUDGEERABA, QLD, 4213 |
| DUNBAR-REID OBE Mr R | 19 Gore Street, GREENWICH, NSW, 2065 |
| DUNBAR-REID Mrs S | 57 School of Arts Road, REDLAND BAY, QLD, 4165 |
| DUNCAN Mr M | 7 Margaret Street, HORSHAM, VIC, 3400 |
| DUNCAN Mr W A G | 30 Arnold Janssen Drive, Beaumont Hills, KELLYVILLE, NSW, 2155 |
| DUNCAN Mr R B | 101/34 Elizabeth Street, URANGAN, QLD, 4655 |
| DUNLOP Mrs M | 1A Lower Almora Street, MOSMAN, NSW, 2088 |
| DUNN Mr B J | PO Box 6076, MOOLOOLAH, QLD, 4553 |
| DUTTON Mr J | 14 Corsair Circuit, BRAY PARK, QLD, 4500 |
| DUTTON OBE Mr W H | PO Box 20, KIUNGA, WP 335, PNG, |
| DWYER Mr P V | 5 Fenellia Crescent, CRAIGIE, WA, 6025 |
| DWYER Mrs J | 121 Lincoln Green Drive, FORESTDALE, QLD, 4118 |
| DYER ISO Mr K W | 60/9 Salford Street, VICTORIA POINT, QLD, 4165 |
| DYKGRAAFF Mrs J | 24 Derby Road, HORNSBY, NSW, 2077 |

E

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| EAMES Mr J M | 6 Craig Place, GERRINGONG, NSW, 2534 |
| EDE Mr B R | PO Box 1079, MANJIMUP, WA, 6258 |
| EDGAR Mr M J | PO Box 827, CABOOLTURE, QLD, 4510 |
| EDMONDSON Mr C | 19 Willow Crescent, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444 |
| EDWARDS Mr E C | 8 Janelle Court, Moreton Downs, DECEPTION BAY, QLD, 4508 |
| EDWARDS Mr G L | 3 Nicholas Drive, KINGSTON BEACH, TAS, 7050 |
| EDWARDS Mr P | 59 Burgess Drive, LANGWARRIN, VIC, 3910 |
| EGAN Mr G J | 3/4-6 Bligh Street, KIRRAWEE, NSW, 2232 |
| EGGLETON Mr M | 39 Southern Cross Parade, SUNRISE BEACH, QLD, 4567 |
| EKINS Mr D C | 4 Wellington Street, RICHMOND, TAS, 7025 |
| ELDER Mr J | 21 Darwin Drive, LAPSTONE, NSW, 2773 |
| ELLIS Mr D | 42B Toongoon Road, BURRADOO, NSW, 2576 |
| EMBERY Mrs A | Kaslo Motel, Box 697, KASLO, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, VOG IMO |
| ENDACOTT Mr N D | 50 Highfield Avenue, WARRANWOOD, VIC, 3134 |
| ENGLISH Dr F P | 'Ladhope', 1st Floor, 131 Wickham Terrace, BRISBANE, QLD, 4000 |
| ESSAI Mr B | 8 Gannon Place, CHARNWOOD, ACT, 2615 |
| EVANS Mr K | PO Box 8114, BARGARA, QLD, 4670 |
| EWING Mrs Y | 12 Coral Gables Key, MIAMI KEYS, QLD, 4218 |
| EYRE Mr D P | PO Box 1116, PORT PIRIE, SA, 5540 |

F

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| FAIRCLOUGH Mr R J | Macarthur House, 1 Hyde Parade, CAMPBELLTOWN, NSW, 2560 |
| FAIRHALL Mr R | Flat A, 16th Floor, Costa Court, LA COSTA, DISCOVERY BAY 0000, HONG KONG, |
| FAIRHURST (Nee Read) Mrs J E | 306 Heinz Lane, INVERMAY PARK, VIC, 3350 |
| FAITHFUL Mr D E | 46 Tarwarri Crescent, MOOLOOLABA, QLD, 4557 |
| FARQUHARSON Mrs L | PO Box 2024, BOWNING, NSW, 2582 |
| FARQUHARSON Mr J M | 17 James Cook Court, TURA BEACH, NSW, 2548 |
| FARROW (Nee Cleland) Mrs Susan | 29 Harrogate Terrace, BIRKDALE, QLD, 4159 |
| FAULKNER Mr V W | 60 Stewart Street, LENNOX HEAD, NSW, 2478 |
| FAULKS Mr G J | PO Box 521, BALLINA, NSW, 2478 |
| FAVETTA Mr F S | 10 Mannix Square, WANTIRNA, VIC, 3152 |
| FAYLE Mr R J | 31 Moondarra Crescent, MOOLOOLABA, QLD, 4557 |
| FENBURY Mrs H M | 45 Rupert Street, SUBIACO, WA, 6008 |
| FENTON Mr P J | PO Box 2160, GRACEVILLE, QLD, 4075 |
| FENWICK Mr R | Ivanhoe Mines, Rooms 518-519, Lido Place, No. 6 Jiang Tai Road, Chaoyang District, BEIJING 100004, CHINA |
| FERGIE Mr R W | 70/121 Thynne Street, BRUCE, ACT, 2617 |
| FILEWOOD Mr L W | PO Box 188, WINGHAM, NSW, 2429 |
| FINNIMORE Mrs E S | 705/21 Pixley Street, KANGAROO POINT, QLD, 4169 |
| FINTER Mr K | PO Box 15465, CITY EAST, QLD, 4002 |
| FISHER Mr W | PO Box 585, TAMWORTH, NSW, 2340 |
| FISHER Mr G M | 116 William Lindsay Road, WAMURAN, QLD, 4512 |
| FITZER Mrs V A | 11 Parsonage Road, CASTLE HILL, NSW, 2154 |
| FITZGIBBON Mr D J | Lyell Highway, DERWENT BRIDGE, TAS, 7140 |
| FITZPATRICK Mr P P | 68 Dayman Street, URANGAN, QLD, 4655 |
| FLANNERY Sr W | 7/37 Marathon Street, ASPLEY, QLD, 4034 |
| FLENTJE Rev J D | 44 Mitchell's Lane, SUNBURY, VIC, 3429 |
| FLETCHER Mr C T | 40 Franklin Road, DONCASTER EAST, VIC, 3109 |
| FLOWER Mr E | Unit 9, Orana Gardens Lodge, Coronation Drive, DUBBO EAST, NSW, 2830 |
| FLOYD (nee Golland) Ms Jan | 2 Gemini Place, ORANGE, NSW, 2800 |
| FOERS Mr J | 33 Bellsizes Ave, CARNEGIE, VIC, 3163 |
| FOLEY Mrs P D | 113 Mowbray Road, WILLOUGHBY, NSW, 2068 |
| FOOTE Dr J L | 9 Elmgrove Drive, OAKDEN, SA, 5086 |
| FOPP Mr D A | 25/2 Joy Cummings Place, BELCONNEN, ACT, 2617 |
| FORDE Mr P L | City North Apartments, 2/5 James Street, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| FOREMAN Dr A E W | 54 Ellengowan Drive, NAKARA, NT, 0810 |
| FOULGER Mrs E H | Unit 334,, Carlisle Gardens Retirement Village, BARGARA, QLD, 4670 |
| FOWKE Mr J P | 24 Monterey Avenue, THORNLANDS, QLD, 4164 |
| FOX Mrs J H | 30 Beach Road, LEMON TREE PASSAGE, NSW, 2319 |
| FRAME Mr P J | Laga Industries Ltd, PO Box 1441, LAE, MP, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, 411 |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| FRANKLIN Mr D P | Unit 158 "The Summit", Keperra Sanctuary Ret. Village., 998 Samford Road, KEPERRA, QLD, 4054 |
| FRANKLIN MBE Mr P D | PO Box 712, LAE 411, MP, PNG, |
| FRASER Mr I | Lot 4, Taylors road, NASHUA, NSW, 2479 |
| FRASER Mrs B M | 6 Longview Crescent, O'HALLORAN HILL, SA, 5158 |
| FREEMAN Mr Colin | 9 Colebatch Place, CURTIN, ACT, 2605 |
| FREEMAN Mr M J | 2/38 Lurnea Crescent, VALENTINE, NSW, 2280 |
| FREESTONE Mr T | 120 Kahibah Road, KAHIBAH, NSW, 2290 |
| FRIEND Mr A | 11 Cambanora Place, KANIMBLA, QLD, 4870 |
| FROST Mr R | 45 Melton Green, WATH ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE S63 6AA, ENGLAND, |

G

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| GABRIEL Mr V V | 26 Kevin Street, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| GAFFNEY Mr M J | 30 Procyon Street, COORPAROO, QLD, 4151 |
| GALLASCH Mr H E | 77 Main Street, HAHNDORF, SA, 5245 |
| GALLOWAY Mrs V | Unit 2 Parkview Court, 69 Orleigh Street, HILL END, QLD, 4101 |
| GALLOZZI (nee Leydin) Ms M | 621 North St. Asaph Street, Apartment 310, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, 22314, USA, |
| GALVIN Mr D R | PO Box 235, TENNANT CREEK, NT, 0861 |
| GAMMAGE Dr W | 1 Hackett Gardens, TURNER, ACT, 2612 |
| GARNER Mr M J | 25 Sheoak Drive, ATHELSTONE, SA, 5076 |
| GASCOIGNE Mr K R | 25 Colstan Court, MT ELIZA, VIC, 3930 |
| GAUCI Mrs J | 5 Barrine Close, WESTLAKE, QLD, 4074 |
| GAULT Ms R M | "Derrymore Park, PO Box 3002, UKI, NSW, 2484 |
| GEISSLER Mr K D | PO Box 6316, BOROKO NCD 111, PNG, |
| GENTY-NOTT Mr O | 24 Luculia Drive, MT MAUNGANUI, NZ, |
| GEORGE Mr R L | PO Box 163, SINGLETON, NSW, 2330 |
| GEYLE Mr A M | PO Box 42, BALLINA, NSW, 2478 |
| GIBBES Mrs J | Room 56, Connie Fall Hostel, Endeavour Drive, NARRABEEN, NSW, 2101 |
| GIBSON OBE Dr G W | Unit 84, Garden Village, 61 Jubilee Drive, PALMWOODS, QLD, 4555 |
| GIBSON Mr S G | 266 MacWilliam Drive, TUROSS HEAD, NSW, 2537 |
| GIDDINGS MBE Mr R J | 7 Blackburn Avenue, PONTVILLE, TAS, 7030 |
| GILES Mrs A M | 55 Dobell Drive, WANGI WANGI, NSW, 2267 |
| GILLET Dr M | 16 Elliott Street, DONNYBROOK, WA, 6239 |
| GILLILAND Mr S | 127 Kenmore Road, KENMORE, QLD, 4069 |
| GILMORE Ms A | PO Box 2110, PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, NCD, |
| GITTINS Mr W J | 244 Bli Bli Road, BLI BLI, QLD, 4560 |
| GLADWIN Mr T A | 29 Danaher Avenue, WALLAN, VIC, 3756 |
| GOAD Mr J C | PO Box 1266, POTTS POINT, NSW, 2011 |
| GODDEN OBE Mr E M | 14 Handel Avenue, WORONGARY, QLD, 4213 |
| GODLEE Mr J | 1018 Barrington West Road, BARRINGTON, NSW, 2422 |
| GOERLICH Dr J | Fasanenstr. 29, D-10719 Berlin, GERMANY, |
| GOERMAN Mr M P | "Riverbend", NELLIGEN, NSW, 2536 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| GOMEZ Mrs M | 6 Amor Street, ASQUITH, NSW, 2077 |
| GOODE Mr N W | 106 Currey Road, UPPER COOMERA, QLD, 4210 |
| GORIN Mr J C W | 228/2462 Albany Highway, GOSNELLS, WA, 6110 |
| GORNALL Mr J W (Bill) | 120 Gardners Lane, MALENY, QLD, 4552 |
| GOSBELL Mr J | PO Box 5049, VICTORIA POINT, QLD, 4165 |
| GOUGH Miss A M | 25 Bourne Street, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444 |
| GOUGH Mr M T P | 72 Gleeson Road, SAMSONVALE, QLD, 4520 |
| GOUGH-O'NEIL Mrs R R | 25 Duval Street, WYNNUM WEST, QLD, 4178 |
| GOULD MBE Mr J W | 60 Albert Avenue, BORONIA, VIC, 3155 |
| GOVAARS Mr A G | 8 Peake Place, CURTIN, ACT, 2605 |
| GOWING Mr J R | 24 High Street, BEGA, NSW, 2550 |
| GRAHAM Mr G | PO Box 93, ARTARMON, NSW, 1570 |
| GRAHAM Mr R F | Unit 12,, 6-12 Austin Crescent, BELFIELD, NSW, 2191 |
| GRAHAM Mr I J | PO Box 4166, FORSTER, NSW, 2428 |
| GRAHAM Mrs A T | PO Box 776, MONA VALE, NSW, 1660 |
| GRAHAM Mr J F | 42 Coolibah Drive, PALM BEACH, QLD, 4221 |
| GRAHAM (Nee Kramer) Mrs L R | 1 Kearney Street, MAREEBA, QLD, 4880 |
| GRANT Mr & Mrs N J & C D | "Forest Gate", 280 Tugalong Road, CANYONLEIGH, NSW, 2577 |
| GRANT Mrs J | 12 Lindsay Parade, PARADISE POINT KEYS, QLD, 4216 |
| GRAY Mr G M P | 7 John Street, MOUNT LAWLEY, WA, 6050 |
| GRAY Mrs J K | 29/140 Carrington Road, WAVERLEY, NSW, 2024 |
| GREANEY Mrs P J | 73 North Street, WOORIM, BRIBIE ISLAND, QLD, 4507 |
| GREATHEAD Mrs N | 34 Dorset Street, ASHGROVE, QLD, 4060 |
| GREEN Mr D C | PO Box 593, GRAFTON, NSW, 2460 |
| GREEN Mr C F | 17 Wilde Street, WYNNUM, QLD, 4178 |
| GREENWOOD Mr G | PO Box 210, WALKAMIN, QLD, 4872 |
| GREER Mr H R | 32/308 Kamerunga Road, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| GRIESHABER Mr F | PO Box 255, MALANDA, QLD, 4885 |
| GRIEVE Mr R B | 3 Engel Avenue, MARSFIELD, NSW, 2122 |
| GRIFFIN Ms A M | 3/207 Abbott Street, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| GRIFFITHS Mr I R | 3 Coral Street, NORTH HAVEN, NSW, 2443 |
| GRIMES (Nee Clark) Mrs M E | 16 Auld Avenue, EASTWOOD, NSW, 2122 |
| GROAT Mr J C | 15 Tavistock Road, FRANKSTON, VIC, 3199 |
| GROENEWEGEN Mr J M T | 21 Long Avenue, EAST RYDE, NSW, 2113 |
| GROENEWEGEN Mrs B M | 21 Long Avenue, EAST RYDE, NSW, 2113 |
| GROGAN Ms Rhonda | Unit 10, 224 Ben Boyd Road, NEUTRAL BAY, NSW, 2089 |
| GROSART Mr Ian | 2 Dresden Avenue, BEACON HILL, NSW, 2100 |
| GROSE Mrs D E | PO Box 430, ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477 |
| GROSE Ms Alison | 11 Lee Street, FRESHWATER, QLD, 4870 |
| GRUBB Mr G | 11/24 McDonald Street, BRIBIE ISLAND, QLD, 4507 |
| GRUNDY Mrs P | 'Castlebrook', 61/18 Denver Road, CARSELDINE, QLD, 4034 |
| GUEST Mrs A P | 2 Nichols Road, KIPPA-RING, QLD, 4021 |
| GUGENBERGER Mr H | 40 Tennyson Drive, BEAUMONT, SA, 5066 |
| GURN Mrs V | 76 Seaville Avenue, SCARBOROUGH, QLD, 4020 |
| GUTHRIE Mr T W | Site 18, GALIANO, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, VON 1PO |

GUTHRIE Mrs S 28 Spina Crescent, CARSELDINE, QLD, 4034
GUY Ms D F 14/1470 Pacific Highway, WAHROONGA, NSW, 2076

H

HADLOW Mr M L PO Box 245, SAMFORD, QLD, 4520
HALLAHAN Mr R W 14 Empire Avenue, BLAKEHURST, NSW, 2221
HALLAM Mrs C 23 Plateau Road, SPRINGWOOD, NSW, 2777
HALL-MATTHEWS Bishop A 5 Wattle Close, YUNGABURRA, QLD, 4884
HALSTEAD Rev. A J 44 Whites Road, LANDSBOROUGH, QLD, 4550
HAMILTON Mr R D 64 Stafford Street, GERROA, NSW, 2534
HAMILTON Mrs J F 64 Stafford Street, GERROA, NSW, 2534
HAMILTON Mr & Mrs J A 8 Kimmins Street, TOOWOOMBA, QLD, 4350
HAMMERMASTER Mr E T 30 Captains Way, BANORA POINT, NSW, 2486
HANLEY Mrs E E 1/11 Blackbutt Crescent, LAURIETON, NSW, 2443
HANRAHAN Mr K J 1286 Waterworks Road, THE GAP, QLD, 4061
HANSON Ms S M Bribie Pines Island Village, 273/126 Cotterill Avenue, BONGAREE, QLD, 4507
HARD Mr R 25 Carinda Drive, GLENHAVEN, NSW, 2156
HARDIMAN Ms S 6/10 Mary Avenue, HIGHETT, VIC, 3190
HARDING Prof. T G 302 Poquito Lane, TOPANGA, CA 90290, USA,
HARDY Mr C PO Box 220, LITHGOW, NSW, 2790
HARDY Mr G G 15A Old School Road, SPRINGBROOK, QLD, 4213
HARING Mr E 81 Survey Street, SMITHFIELD, QLD, 4878
HARLEY Mr J C PO Box 69, PYRAMID HILL, VIC, 3575
HARRIDGE Mr J L G Villa E 1., 61 Explorer Drive, ALBANY CREEK, QLD, 4035
HARRIS Mrs N 20 Collingwood Drive, COLLINGWOOD PARK, QLD, 4301
HARRIS Ms M 20 Collingwood Drive, COLLINGWOOD PARK, QLD, 4301
HARRIS Mr I C PO Box 2062, McLAREN VALE, SA, 5171
HARRIS Mr G V 70 Parkhill Street, PEARCE, ACT, 2607
HARRIS (Nee Laws) Mrs J 6/48 William Street, DOUBLE BAY, NSW, 2028
HARRISON Mrs J A 2/10 Channon Street, RUSSELL VALE, NSW, 2517
HARRY AM, OBE Mr C O 15 Maugham Parade, NORTH BALWYN, VIC, 3104
HARRY Mrs R M 15 Maughan Parade, NORTH BALWYN, VIC, 3104
HARRY Mr Frazer 20 Niblick Street, WODONGA, VIC, 3690
HART Mr B 26 Limosa Street, BELLBOWRIE, QLD, 4070
HARTLEY Mr B F RMB 9, 148 Lakeside Court, Oasis Village, COBRAM, VIC, 3644
HARTNETT Cpt G PO Box 11, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870
HARTY Mr M 379 Pearces Creek Road, ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477
HARVEY Mr L J PO Box 453, WAHROONGA, NSW, 2076
HARVEY Rev. E N 8 Castleton Street, WODONGA, vic, 3690
HARVEY-HALL Mr W R 4 Katrina Court, MOOROOLBARK, VIC, 3138
HATTON Mr N G 2/20 First Avenue, GYMEA BAY, NSW, 2227
HAVILAND Mr F E 22 Cabbage Tree Road, BAYVIEW, NSW, 2104
HAY Mrs H A 5b Shark Court, SORRENTO, WA, 6020

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| HAYES Mr J F | 15 Rapanea Street, ALGESTER, QLD, 4115 |
| HAYES Mr M R | 5 Peppermint Grove, BOX HILL SOUTH, VIC, 3128 |
| HAYES Mrs J C | 1/29 Maroochy Waters Drive, MAROOCHYDORE, QLD, 4558 |
| HAYMAN Mr R H | 27 Wooran Street, COOMA EAST, NSW, 2630 |
| HAYNES Mr F J L | Unit 1, Oceania on Broadbeach, 100 Old Burleigh Road, BROADBEACH, QLD, 4218 |
| HAYWARD Mr C | 30 Terrys Hill Road, GOSHEN ST HELEN, TAS, 7216 |
| HAZLEWOOD Mr A J | 200 Dawson Road, BERAJONDO, QLD, 4674 |
| HEAD Mr C R | PO Box 79, FLYING FISH POINT, QLD, 4860 |
| HEAD Mrs M J | 1/3 Nash Street, GYMPIE, QLD, 4570 |
| HEALEY Mr P | 55 The High Road, BLAXLAND EAST, NSW, 2774 |
| HEALEY Mrs D | 267 Verney Road East, GRACEVILLE, QLD, 4075 |
| HEALY Mrs A | 24 Greenway Street, TURNER, ACT, 2601 |
| HENDERSON Mrs M I | 20A Wattle Street, FULLARON, SA, 5063 |
| HENDERSON Mr M F | PO Box 1132, MALENY, QLD, 4552 |
| HENDRIKS Mr W R | 5 Wesley Court, HIGHFIELD, QLD, 4352 |
| HENDRY Mrs S | 106/31 Thompson Street, VICTORIA POINT, QLD, 4165 |
| HENNESSY Mrs M C | 58 Janet Avenue, UMINA BEACH, NSW, 2257 |
| HENRY Mr A L | 15 Sandringham Place, CHRISTCHURCH, NZ, 8053 |
| HENRY Mr Stirling | 81 Telegraph Road, PYMBLE, NSW, 2073 |
| HERBERT Mr E J | 11 Lytham Street, INDOOROOPIILLY, QLD, 4065 |
| HERSCHEID Mr F | 258 Aumuller St, WESTCOURT, QLD, 4870 |
| HEWETT Mrs V | 17 Cook Street, OXLEY, QLD, 4075 |
| HEWETT Mr T J | PO Box 253, TRINITY BEACH, QLD, 4879 |
| HIATT MBE Mr R A | PO Box 326, CLIFTON BEACH, QLD, 4879 |
| HIBBERD Mr W J | 55 Nicholls Road, DAISY HILL, VIC, 3465 |
| HICKS Mr I | 5 St Stephens Avenue, SANDY BAY, TAS, 7005 |
| HICKS Mr R E | 226 Hawkesbury Road, WINMALEE, NSW, 2777 |
| HIDE Mr R L | 7 Toms Crescent, AINSLIE, ACT, 2602 |
| HILL Miss V | 2/130 Australia Avenue, UMINA BEACH, NSW, 2257 |
| HILL Mr R C | 125 Dean Road, Verrierdale, QLD, 4562 |
| HITCHCOCK Dr G | PO Box 4115, MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY, VIC, 3052 |
| HOARE Mr S J | 16 Wellington Street, ROZELLE, NSW, 2039 |
| HOBAN Mr D F | 46 Lytham Street, INDOOROOPIILLY, QLD, 4068 |
| HOCKEY Mrs P A | 7 Perth Street, BAYVIEW, NT, 0820 |
| HODGSON Mrs R G | 52/1 Tewkesbury Avenue, DARLINGHURST, NSW, 2010 |
| HOERLER Mr K | Dylup Estates, PO Box 521, MADANG, PNG, 5211 |
| HOERLER Mr E J | 16 Sue Court, NERANG, QLD, 4211 |
| HOERLER Mr E C | PO Box 278, PADDINGTON, NSW, 2021 |
| HOERTELMANN Mr H J | Auf Dem Brenneck 10, 21220 SEEVETAL, GERMANY, |
| HOGBIN Mr G R | PO Box 1489, NORTH SYDNEY, NSW, 2059 |
| HOGG Mrs L | PO Box 49, EUDLO, QLD, 4554 |
| HOILE Mr K | 16 Vines Avenue, FORESTVILLE, NSW, 2087 |
| HOLLAND Mr J | 62 Formigoni Street, RICHLANDS, QLD, 4077 |
| HOLLANDS Mr S O | 450 London Road, Ditton, Aylesford ME20 6DA, KENT, UK, |
| HOLLOWAY CBE, QPM Mr B J | Unit 24, Regent Park, 80 Mooro Drive, MOUNT |

CLAREMONT, WA, 6010

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| HOLMAN OAM Mr H S | 62 Dartford Road, THORNLEIGH, NSW, 2120 |
| HOLT Mr C R | 7 Raynor Street, CRANBROOK, QLD, 4814 |
| HOOK Mr D J | PO Box 5484, KINGSTON, ACT, 2604 |
| HOOK Mr D J | 9 Aston Street, TOOWONG, QLD, 4066 |
| HOOPER OBE Mr A J | PO Box 160, BYRON BAY, NSW, 2481 |
| HOOPER Mrs L | Unit 1208, Mantra Beach Resort, 1 Venning Street, MOOLOOLABA, QLD, 4557 |
| HOPLEY Mr Ian | 8 Kimberley Close, KIDMAN PARK, SA, 5025 |
| HOPPER Mr P A | 140 S Burlingame Ave, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90049, USA, |
| HORNE Mr J R | 61 Wargundy Street, DUNEDOO, NSW, 2844 |
| HORNE Mrs Sue | 145 Chinaman's Creek Road, TUCHEKOI, QLD, 4570 |
| HORNER Mr R I | 9 O'Mara Boulevard, ILUKA, WA, 6028 |
| HOST Mrs Mavis | 27 Oatberry Crescent, SHAILER PARK, QLD, 4128 |
| HOWARD Mr L B | PO Box 8057, BARGARA, QLD, 4670 |
| HOWARD Mr K J | 106 Woods Road, SHARON, BUNDABERG, QLD, 4670 |
| HOWARD Mr P C | PO Box 707, CAIRNS MAIL CENTRE, QLD, 4870 |
| HOWARD Mr F J | RMB 5500, Craig Avon Lane, MERRICKS NORTH, VIC, 3926 |
| HOWARD Mr J M | 26 Durham Street, STANMORE, NSW, 2048 |
| HOWARD Mr P G | PO Box 975, TOOWOOMBA, QLD, 4350 |
| HOY Mr B D | PO Box 249, ASPLEY, QLD, 4034 |
| HUGGINS Mr C F | 1/5 Stoneleigh Street, ALBION, QLD, 4010 |
| HUGHES Mrs Bettyann | 123 Hillview Crescent, WHITFIELD, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| HULL Mrs O | 153 Palm Lake Resort, Webster Road, DECEPTION BAY, QLD, 4508 |
| HULL Mr D J | 12 Strehlow Place, FLYNN, ACT, 2615 |
| HUME Mr S R | 172 Doohans Road, BOORABEE PARK, NSW, 2480 |
| HUNT Mrs G | "Seasons", 1/12 St Martin's Terrace, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556 |
| HUNTER Mr J O | PO Box 591, BOWEN, QLD, 4805 |
| HUNTER Dr R | 40 Volga Crescent, INDOOROOPILLY, QLD, 4068 |
| HURRELL CMG, OBE, MC Mr A L | Bangalore Retreat, 3 Stott Street, TWEED HEADS SOUTH, NSW, 2485 |
| HUTTON Mr G | 2 Gretel Drive, MERMAID WATERS, QLD, 4218 |
| HUXLEY Mrs L M | 1/42 Victoria Street, WAVERLEY, NSW, 2024 |

I

| | |
|----------------|---|
| INDER MBE Mr S | 244 Kissing Point Road, SOUTH TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074 |
| INGRAM Mrs P | 2/26-28 Merimbola Street, PAMBULA, NSW, 2549 |
| INNS Mr G J | 60 Gover Street, NORTH ADELAIDE, SA, 5006 |
| IVERSEN Mr R W | 2 Ulva Avenue, WARRADALE, SA, 5046 |

J

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| JACKMAN Mrs G J | PO Box 320, ANGASTON, SA, 5353 |
| JACKSON AM Mr K | Apartment 901, 206 Ben Boyd Road, CREMORNE, NSW, 2090 |
| JACKSON Mr C | 67 Old Road, CHURWELL, LEEDS LS27 7TH, UK, |
| JACKSON Mrs P A | PO Box 77, MALENY, QLD, 4552 |
| JACOBS Mr & Mrs Greg & Martha | PO Box 359, KAVIENG N.I.P., PNG, |
| JACOBSEN Mrs G | Unit 74, 10 Lower River Tce, SOUTH BRISBANE, QLD, 4101 |
| JAGO Mrs G C | "Belmore", 41 Pacific Highway, ULMARRA, NSW, 2462 |
| JAKES Mr R | 77 Janet Street, MEREWETHER, NSW, 2291 |
| JAMES (Nee Evans) Mrs J L | PO Box 503, JAMISON CENTRE, ACT, 2614 |
| JANKE Mr N | PO Box 93, KURANDA, QLD, 4881 |
| JANSEN Mr J | 27/1 Battery Square, BATTERY POINT, TAS, 7004 |
| JANSSEN Mr H J M | PO Box 50, MONTROSE, VIC, 3765 |
| JEFFREY AC AO (Mil) CVO MC (Retd) | Dept of Prime Minister & Cabinet c/- Wendy Button, Major General Michael PO Box 3162, MANUKA, ACT, 2603 |
| JENNINGS Mrs B A | 62 Bent Street, NEUTRAL BAY, NSW, 2089 |
| JENSEN Mrs M G | PO Box 256, BELMONT, VIC, 3216 |
| JEPHCOTT Lady Barbara | "Yundah", M/S 28, WARWICK, QLD, 4370 |
| JEWELL Mrs S | PO Box 13639, GEORGE STREET POST OFFICE, QLD, 4003 |
| JOHNS Mr E A | 178 Osburn Drive, MACGREGOR, ACT, 2615 |
| JOHNSON Mr E R (Ross) | 3 Boronia Avenue, BEECROFT, NSW, 2119 |
| JOHNSON Mrs D J | PO Box 572, CLAREMONT, WA, 6910 |
| JOHNSON Dr R W | 45 Alroy Circuit, HAWKER, ACT, 2614 |
| JOHNSON Prof. F C | 1/6 Lister Court, HYAMS BEACH, NSW, 2540 |
| JOHNSON Mr P C | 26 Brimstone Court, KALLANGUR, QLD, 4503 |
| JOHNSON Mr Allan | 8 Glenbrook Court, MACLEAN, NSW, 2463 |
| JOHNSON Mr W R | 43 Glenrowan Drive, TALLAI, QLD, 4213 |
| JOHNSON (nee Bates) Mrs P | 3 Boronia Avenue, BEECROFT, NSW, 2119 |
| JOHNSTON Mrs L | 4/4 Averill Avenue, Kolinarama, AUCKLAND, NZ, |
| JOHNSTON Mr J R | PO Box 12757, GEORGE STREET, QLD, 4003 |
| JOHNSTON Mr A | 51 Kings Road, INGLEBURN, NSW, 2565 |
| JOHNSTON Mr C F | 6 Surrey Place, KAREELA, NSW, 2232 |
| JOHNSTON Mr D A | 46/32 Hocking Road, KINGSLEY, WA, 6026 |
| JOHNSTON Revd D W | PO Box 114, POINT LONSDALE, VIC, 3225 |
| JOHNSTON Mrs N E | 25 Hillview Street, SANS SOUCI, NSW, 2219 |
| JOHNSTON Mrs J | 25 Grevillea Crescent, STONYFELL, SA, 5066 |
| JOHNSTON (Nee Maclean) Mrs C | 7 Tudor Street, BELMONT, NSW, 2280 |
| JONES Mr G J | 16 Melba Street, ARMSTRONG BEACH, QLD, 4737 |
| JONES Mr R E | 70 Barkly Place, BENDIGO, VIC, 3550 |
| JONES Mr P M | 11 Bowser Place, CURTIN, ACT, 2605 |
| JONES Mr D C | 20 Dorriggo Crescent, KARAMA, NT, 0812 |
| JONES Mr N C | 46 Creekside Street, KENMORE HILLS, QLD, 4069 |

JONES Mr K W 1A Hungerford Street, KIPPA-RING, QLD, 4021
JONES Mrs P A 68 Cowles Road, MOSMAN, NSW, 2088
JONES Mrs V E 105c Concord Road, NORTH STRATHFIELD, NSW, 2137
JONES Mr A 61 Airlie Road, PULLENVALE, QLD, 4069
JONES (Nee Washington) Mrs T K 30 Ormond Street, ASCOT, QLD, 4007
JOYCEY Mr G J 9 Bauhinia Court, CURRIMUNDI, QLD, 4551
JOYNTON-SMITH Mrs M W 34 Government Farm Crescent, CASTLE HILL, NSW, 2154

K

KAAD OBE Mr F P 36 Prince Albert Street, MOSMAN, NSW, 2088
KARNUPS Dr V P University of Latvia, Aspazijas bulv. 5, LV-1050, RIGA., LATVIA
KEATING Mr D A PO Box 73, NEW FARM, QLD, 4005
KEENAN Mr N A PO Box 281, YORKEYS KNOB, QLD, 4878
KELENY Mr G P PO Box 364, MAROUBRA JUNCTION, NSW, 2035
KELLIHER Mr T M 51 Twenty-Third Avenue, BRIGHTON, QLD, 4017
KELLY Mrs C 30a Sellwood Street, BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS, NSW, 2216
KELLY Mrs J R Unit 14, 'Linneair Apartments', 32-36 Queen Street, CALOUNDRA, QLD, 4551
KELLY AM Mr L B 51 Moruya Parade, KOTARA SOUTH, NSW, 2289
KELLY Mr J P P O Box 1095, NEW FARM, QLD, 4005
KELLY Mrs J M 13/28 Pelican Waters Boulevard, PELICAN WATERS, QLD, 4551
KELLY Mr J S 98 Renown Avenue, PUNCHBOWL, NSW, 2196
KELLY Mr T M Larsen & Toubro Limited, RAYAGADA ORISSA, INDIA, 765001
KELLY Mrs M 12/135 Macquarie Street, TENERIFFE, QLD, 4005
KELLY Mr R J PO Box 1162, TEWANTIN, QLD, 4565
KEMP Mrs P 206 Adelargo Road, GRENFELL, NSW, 2810
KEMSLEY Mr J H 1/72 Commercial Road, YARRAM, VIC, 3971
KENNEDY Mrs A PO Box 115, COONAMBLE, NSW, 2829
KENNEDY Mrs Louise 173 Cliveden Avenue, OXLEY, QLD, 4075
KENNEY Mr G 34 Appin Street, KENMORE, QLD, 4069
KENNY Mr M J 2/23 Loder Street, BIGGERA WATERS, QLD, 4216
KENNY Mrs H L 27/1-13 Mackenzie Street, LAVENDER BAY, NSW, 2060
KENT Mr L J 5 Joyce Place, LAVINGTON, NSW, 2641
KENTISH Mr D J H PO Box 629, NORTH ADELAIDE, SA, 5006
KERLEY Fr K Marist Fathers, Villa Maria, 1 Mary Street, HUNTERS HILL, NSW, 2110
KERR Mr M PO Box 757, RAVENSHOE, QLD, 4888
KESBY Mr D G 69 Alan Road, BEROWRA HEIGHTS, NSW, 2082
KIMMORLEY Mr W J 26 Pinegold Place, NUNDERI, NSW, 2484
KIMMORLEY Mrs E M 26 Pinegold Place, NUNDERI, NSW, 2484
KING Mr G A PO Box 21, BIALLA WNPB, PNG,
KING Mrs C PO Box 349, LAE 411, MP, PNG,
KING Mr A S 110 Victoria Street, MALABAR, NSW, 2036
KINGI Mr M , PO Box 992, SIGATOKA, FIJI,

| | |
|------------------|---|
| KINGSTON Mr T J | 33 Warrina Crescent, BURLEIGH WATERS, QLD, 4220 |
| KIRBY Mr M J | 388 Bent Street, GRAFTON, NSW, 2460 |
| KIRKBY Mr R | 42B Bricknell Street, MAGILL, SA, 5072 |
| KLECKHAM Ms E L | Unit 12, 13 Chandler Street, BELCONNEN, ACT, 2617 |
| KLECKHAM Mr Fred | 22 Louis Street, REDCLIFFE, QLD, 4020 |
| KLEINIG Rev. I E | 41/7 Sommer Place, PASADENA, SA, 5042 |
| KLEINIG Mrs J E | PO Box 1114, STIRLING, SA, 5152 |
| KLEINIG Mr J R | PO Box 1114, STIRLING, SA, 5152 |
| KNEEN Mr B J | PO Box 22, TAMWORTH, NSW, 2340 |
| KNIGHT Mr G | 20 Siandra Drive, KAREELA, NSW, 2232 |
| KNIGHTS Mrs R | 31 Stanley Street, ST THOMAS, ONTARIO, N5R 3E7, CANADA, |
| KNIGHTS Mr J | 6 Honeybee Place, UPPER KEDRON, QLD, 4055 |
| KOMAREK Ms M | 3 Kyong Street, LANE COVE, NSW, 2066 |
| KRAUSE Mr H J | 110 McCormack Street, MANUNDA, QLD, 4870 |
| KREIS Mr D | 169 Raeburn Street, MANLY, QLD, 4179 |
| KROGH Mrs P J | 19 Darryl Road, WYOMING, NSW, 2250 |

L

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| LAMBDEN Mrs C | 9/13 Galloway Drive, ASHMORE, QLD, 4214 |
| LAMING Mr B | 38 Adaluma Avenue, BUDDINA, QLD, 4575 |
| LANAGAN Mr H V | 47 Dwyer Street, COOK, ACT, 2614 |
| LAPTHORNE Mr G C | 17 Pine Court, TOOWOOMBA, QLD, 4350 |
| LARKINS Mr T | PO Box 234, GISBORNE, VIC, 3437 |
| LARNER (Nee MacGowan) MBE Mrs M L | Sandalwood 11, Forest Place Retirement Vllage, 356 Blunder Road, DURACK, QLD, 4077 |
| LASSEN Mrs E C | 120 St Helena Road, BANGALOW, NSW, 2479 |
| LASSEN Mr M D | 120 St Helena Road, BANGALOW, NSW, 2479 |
| LATTIN Mr J N | 88 Wakehurst Parkway, NORTH NARRABEEN, NSW, 2101 |
| LATZ Mr P J | 123 Tunnel Road, STOKERS SIDING, NSW, 2484 |
| LAVER Mrs B J | 15-17 Gramby Street, BELLBIRD PARK, QLD, 4300 |
| LAWES Ms J P | 19 Thames Street, BALMAIN, NSW, 2041 |
| LAWES Mr B D | PO Box 7053, TWEED HEADS SOUTH, NSW, 2486 |
| LAWES Mrs B | PO Box 7053, TWEED HEADS SOUTH, NSW, 2486 |
| LAWRENCE Mr R | 18 Anglo Street, CHATSWOOD, NSW, 2067 |
| LAWSON Miss M V A | PO Box 892, CALOUNDRA, QLD, 4551 |
| LAYBUTT Mr P R | 4 Rocky Point School Road, Rocky Point, MOSSMAN, QLD, 4873 |
| Le FEVRE Mr L D | 16 Highland Avenue, CROYDON, VIC, 3136 |
| LEA Dr J P | 10 Haig Street, CHATSWOOD, NSW, 2067 |
| LEAHY Mr J R | Unit 4, 25 Kuran Street, CHERMSIDE, QLD, 4032 |
| LEAHY Mrs J G | Unit 3, 4 Cremorne Road, CREMORNE, NSW, 2090 |
| LEAHY Mr T J | 15a Archibald Street, DALBY, QLD, 4405 |
| LEAHY Mrs C A | PO Box 965, GOROKA 441, EHP, PNG, |
| LEAHY Mr P J | 26 Rosewall Place, MORAYFIELD, QLD, 4506 |

| | |
|--|---|
| LEAHY Mr J F | PO Box 1736, NEW FARM, QLD, 4005 |
| LEAHY Mrs C | PMB No. 1, Zenag, VIA LAE 411, MP, PNG, |
| LEAN Mr M M | PO Box 123, WOODGATE BEACH, QLD, 4660 |
| LEARMONTH Mr G A | 35 Colorado Crescent, ALBANY CREEK, QLD, 4035 |
| LEAVER Ms L | 4/139 Rous Road, GOONELLABAH, NSW, 2480 |
| LEE Mr R M | PO Box 2285, GREEN HILLS, NSW, 2323 |
| LEECH Mr G F | PO Box 1101, CANNING BRIDGE, WA, 6153 |
| LEGA Mrs Barbara | 57 Claymeade Street, WYNNUM NORTH, QLD, 4178 |
| LEHMANN Mr B V | Unit 5, 23 Wayford Street, ELIZABETH VALE, SA, 5112 |
| LEIBFRIED Mr F | PO Box 841, ROSNY PARK, TAS, 7018 |
| LEICESTER Mr M D | 26 Canonbury Circle, SEABROOK, VIC, 3028 |
| LEKE Mr Daniel | 70 Lehunte Avenue, PROSPECT, SA, 5082 |
| LEKKAS Mrs J L | 18 Shand Close, ILLAWONG, NSW, 2234 |
| LENEHAN Mrs I V | Unit 8, 3-7 Northcott Avenue, WATANOBBI, NSW, 2259 |
| LENFIELD Mr I | PO Box 98, MUDGEERABA, QLD, 4213 |
| LEONARD Mrs C | 63 Gaunt Street, NEWMARKET, QLD, 4051 |
| LEONARD Mr N | 7 Baker Mews, WELLARD, WA, 6170 |
| LESLIE Mr C | 14 Paterson Street, NORAH HEAD, NSW, 2263 |
| LESLIE-GREEN Mr P | 1 Bream Cove, MOUNT LAWLEY, WA, 6050 |
| LEUNG Ms R | 82/88 Wycombe Road, NEUTRAL BAY, NSW, 2089 |
| LEVY Gayle | 650 Cawdor Road, CAWDOR, NSW, 2570 |
| LEWIS Mrs A | Unit 148, Hibiscus Retirement Resort, Karawatha Drive, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556 |
| LEWIS Mr J I | 59 Bunya Court, Eli Waters, HERVEY BAY, QLD, 4655 |
| LEWIS Mr I E | PO Box 1296 MCC, METRO MANILA, MM 4117, PHILIPPINES, |
| LEWIS Mr B G | PO Box 899, SEYMOUR, VIC, 3661 |
| LEWIS (Nee Wills) Mrs Lesley | PO Box 1402, PARADISE POINT, QLD, 4216 |
| LEYDEN Mr P | 7 Erawar Close, WESTLEIGH, NSW, 2120 |
| LIDDLE Mrs E A | 14 Afric Street, MIDDLE SWAN, WA, 6056 |
| LINDSAY Mrs M | 10 North Terrace, HIGHGATE, SA, 5063 |
| LITTLER MBE Mr C G | Silwood, Old Bowling Green Road, PALMWOODS, QLD, 4555 |
| LIVINGSTONE Ms D | 98B Watkins Road, WANGI WANGI, NSW, 2267 |
| LOCK Mr K A | 11 Jasper Court, BIBRA LAKE, WA, 6163 |
| LOCK Mr R N | PO Box 201 (F), FRESHWATER, QLD, 4870 |
| LOCK Ms D M | Lourder Valley Nursing Home, 18 Cross Road, MYRTLE BANK, SA, 5064 |
| LOCK Mr B J | 169 Sixteenth Street, RENMARK, SA, 5341 |
| LOCKEY Mr P | 4 Nardoo Crescent, O'CONNOR, ACT, 2602 |
| LOGAN Mrs L | 3 Coolangatta Close, KEWARRA BEACH, QLD, 4879 |
| LOGAN Mr P | 6 Ocean View Road, MOUNT MELLUM, QLD, 4550 |
| LOKOLOKO GCL, GCMG, GCVO, OBE Sir Tore | PO Box 5622, BOROKO 111 NCD, PNG, |
| LOLKES de BEER Mr A | PO Box 351, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556 |
| LONG Mr P | 193 Jones Road, WITHCOTT, QLD, 4352 |
| LONGAYROUX MBE Mr J | 333/81 Maroondah Highway, CROYDON, VIC, 3136 |
| LONGMORE Mr G L | 17 Lema Circuit, KURABY, QLD, 4112 |
| LOPES Mr R I | PO Box 14238, MT SHERIDAN, QLD, 4868 |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| LORIMER Ms Claire R | 305 South Terrace, ADELAIDE, SA, 5000 |
| LORNIE OAM Mr R | 54 Irrawang Road, GLOUCESTER, NSW, 2422 |
| LOUREY Mr D A | 19 Skyline Drive, BLUE MOUNTAIN HEIGHTS, QLD, 4350 |
| LOWE Ms J C | 15/144 Edwin Street N, CROYDON, NSW, 2132 |
| LOWING OBE Mr P A | PO Box 2388, NADI, FIJI, |
| LUCAS Mrs J | 9 Bickerton Street, KUMBIA, QLD, 4610 |
| LUCAS Mrs E A | 36 Bottlebrush Crescent, SUFFOLK PARK, NSW, 2481 |
| LUI Miss C | 64 Arkose Street, EIGHT MILE PLAINS, QLD, 4113 |
| LUMME Mrs N | 2/25 Cambridge Drive, GOONELLABAH, NSW, 2480 |
| LUSSICK Mr A D | 11 Glossop Crescent, CAMPBELL, ACT, 2612 |
| LUTTON Ms N | 456 Brentwood Village, 1 Scaysbrook Drive, KINCUMBER, NSW, 2251 |
| LUTTON Rev W | Unit 5, 7 Elizabeth Street, POINT LONSDALE, VIC, 3225 |
| LUXMORE Mr M | 594 Image Flat Road, KUREELPA, QLD, 4560 |
| LYNCH Mrs K | 32 Lyne Street, ALEXANDRIA, NSW, 2015 |
| LYNCH Mr M | PO Box 234, THE JUNCTION, NSW, 2291 |
| LYNN Mr Charlie | PO Box 303, CAMDEN, NSW, 2570 |
| LYONS Mr N J | PO Box 212, Rabaul ENBP, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, |

M

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| MACARTNEY Mrs B | Unit L6, 356 Blunder Road, DURACK, QLD, 4077 |
| MACDONALD Ms R | 4617 Vantreight Drive, VICTORIA V8N 3W8, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, |
| MACEY (Nee Kennedy) Mrs M | 107/319 Macquarie Street, SOUTH HOBART, TAS, 7004 |
| MACGOWAN Mr K H | PO Box 104, AIRLIE BEACH, QLD, 4802 |
| MACGOWAN (Nee Crawley) Ms D E | 21/45 Bilga Street, MIDDLE PARK, QLD, 4074 |
| MACINTOSH Mr A | 209/168 Queenscliff Road, QUEENSCLIFF, NSW, 2096 |
| MACKAY Mr R D | 77 Mt Spec Road, PALUMA, QLD, 4816 |
| MACKELLAR Mr M | PO Box 914, WARWICK, QLD, 4370 |
| MACKERELL Dr John R | PO Box 909, MADANG 511, PNG, |
| MACLEAN Mr F D | 29 Jagera Circuit, TAIGUM, QLD, 4018 |
| MADDEN Mrs M | 11 Rialanna Street, KENMORE, QLD, 4069 |
| MADGWICK Mr R N | 56 Victoria Street, MT VICTORIA, NSW, 2786 |
| MAHER Mr H J | 68 Murrnaji Street, HAWKER, ACT, 2614 |
| MAHER Mr A P | 325 Moranding Road, WILLOWMAVIN, VIC, 3764 |
| MAIDMENT Mr E W | 14 River Street, OAKS ESTATE, ACT, 2620 |
| MAIER Mr O | 69 Deans Street, MARGATE, QLD, 4019 |
| MAKSIMAS Mr J | 135/26 Goldmine Road, ORMEAU, QLD, 4208 |
| MANFIELD Mrs H | 10 Edwin Avenue, AVALON, NSW, 2107 |
| MANNING Mrs L E | 301 Forest Road, BIBRA LAKE, WA, 6163 |
| MARKE Mr A | 187 Low Head Road, LOW HEAD, TAS, 7253 |
| MARKS Mr A | Ascot House, 15 Newmarket Street, TOOWOOMBA, QLD, 4350 |
| MARONEY Mr D P | 27 Collingwood Street, SANDRINGHAM, VIC, 3191 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| MARSDEN Mr J | 2/53 Spencer Street, ROSE BAY, NSW, 2029 |
| MARSH OBE Mr D R | 5 McDonald Street, FRESHWATER, NSW, 2096 |
| MARSH Mr & Mrs L N & B A | 371 Mt Melum Road, LANDSBOROUGH, QLD, 4550 |
| MARSH Mr A W | "Springdale", MS 1981, THE SUMMIT, QLD, 4377 |
| MARSHALL Mrs G B | PO Box 1340, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556 |
| MARSHALL Mrs F L | 26 Erave Rd, RUNAWAY BAY, QLD, 4216 |
| MARTELL Mrs D R | 78 Bielby Road, KENMORE HILLS, QLD, 4069 |
| MARTIN Mrs J A | 5 Way Avenue, MYRTLE BANK, SA, 5064 |
| MARTIN Mr D J | PO Box 50, OAKBANK, SA, 5243 |
| MARTIN Mr W J | 15 Strone Avenue, WAHROONGA, NSW, 2076 |
| MARVELL Ms C A | 7 Fairview Place, MT KURING-GAI, NSW, 2080 |
| MARVELL Mr P C | 11A Miowera Rd, NORTH TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074 |
| MASON Mrs P J | 104C St Patrick's Garden, St Patrick's Road, SINGAPORE, 424193 |
| MATHEWS Mr N J | 16/49 Osborne Rd, MANLY, NSW, 2095 |
| MATTOCK Mr R H | 7 Normandy Street, NARRAWALLEE, NSW, 2539 |
| MAUME Mr B J | Unit 2, 52 Alma Road, CLAYFIELD, QLD, 4011 |
| MAVOR AM Rev. J | Eastlake #106, 3 Robina Town Centre Drive, ROBINA, QLD, 4226 |
| MAY Dr R J | 17 Osmand Street, WANNIASSA, ACT, 2903 |
| McALPINE Mrs G | PO Box 1074, TOOWONG, QLD, 4066 |
| McARTHUR Mr A H | 35 Union Street, ARMADALE, VIC, 3143 |
| McBRIDE Mr W | 4/9 Creek Street, REDCLIFFE, QLD, 4020 |
| McCARTHY Mr B P | 7 Towerhill Place, MOUNT CLAREMONT, WA, 6010 |
| McCHEYNE Mr R | 5 Sarah Court, GOONELLABAH, NSW, 2480 |
| McCHEYNE Ms K | 5 Sarah Court, GOONELLABAH, NSW, 2480 |
| McCLUSKEY Mrs J | 3 Steamboat Court, BILAMBIL HEIGHTS, NSW, 2486 |
| McCONAGHY Mr C D | PO Box 957, COOLUM BEACH, QLD, 4573 |
| McCOOK Mrs B | 6/26 Charles Street, DEVONPORT, TAS, 7310 |
| McCOSKER Ms Anne | Far Fleet, 60 Radipole Lane, WEYMOUTH, DORSET DT4 9RR, UK, |
| McCRUDDEN Mr F | 6 Dunbarton Avenue, SORRENTO, QLD, 4217 |
| McCULLOUGH Mrs P A | Unit 4, 8-10 Grose Street, LEURA, NSW, 2780 |
| McDONALD Mr A R | 30 Dolphin Court, PALM BEACH, QLD, 4221 |
| McDONALD Mr A T | Unit 33/20 Church Street, WAGGA WAGGA, NSW, 2650 |
| McDONALD Mr D N | 1004 Norton Road, WAMBOIN, NSW, 2620 |
| McGETTIGAN Mr J | 54 Doris Avenue, WOONONA, NSW, 2517 |
| McGOLDRICK Mrs M | 1/51 Whipps Avenue, ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477 |
| McGRATH Mr W A | PO Box 1072, BURLEIGH HEADS, QLD, 4220 |
| MCGREGOR Mr K C | PO Box 5319, CHITTAWAY BAY, NSW, 2261 |
| MCGREGOR Mr J | PO Box 106, MILLAA MILLAA, QLD, 4836 |
| McINTOSH Mr D H | 32/1 Lauderdale Avenue, FAIRLIGHT, NSW, 2094 |
| McKAY Mrs E | 8 Elmwood Grove, 31A Alexandrina Road, MOUNT BARKER, SA, 5251 |
| MCKAY KCMG Sir Peter | PO Box 610, MT ELIZA, VIC, 3930 |
| McKEOWEN Mrs D | 5 Burkitt Court, DUBBO, NSW, 2830 |
| McKINLAY Mr A C W | PO Box 7374, NORTH BUNDABERG, QLD, 4670 |
| McKINNON AO Prof. K R | 14/1 Sutherland Crescent, DARLING POINT, NSW, 2027 |
| McLAUGHLIN Mr J J | 14 Moola Court, BROADBEACH WATERS, QLD, 4218 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| McLAUGHLIN Mrs B M | "Silverwood", 105 Porter Street, TEMPLESTOWE, VIC, 3106 |
| McLELLAN Mr R W | PO Box 4218, KINGSTON, ACT, 2604 |
| McMAHON Mr M J A | PO Box 840, WARWICK, QLD, 4370 |
| McMASTER Mr Wesley | 140 Clear View Road, CRABTREE, TAS, 7109 |
| McMURRAY Mr G D | 10 Wanjina Place, NORTH ROCKS, NSW, 2151 |
| McNABB Mr J R | PO Box 354, GLEN WAVERLEY, VIC, 3150 |
| MCNAMARA Mr N G | Address withheld |
| McNAUGHT Mrs E C | 2 Damson Street, PROSPERINE, QLD, 4800 |
| McPHERSON Dr N | 851 De Hart Avenue, KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA, V1Y 6A2 |
| McRAE Mrs M | 2a Gallipoli Street, HURSTVILLE, NSW, 2220 |
| MEEHAN Mrs T | Unit 28, 18-24 Crozier Avenue, MODBURY, SA, 5092 |
| MEEHAN Mr J W | 16 Nantes Street, NEWTOWN, VIC, 3220 |
| MEEHAN Ms Kathryn | PO Box 105, SOUTH GRAFTON, NSW, 2460 |
| MEEK OAM Mr B J | 5 Holmden Avenue, MANGERTON, NSW, 2500 |
| MEERWALD Mr Peter | PO Box 40, ROCHEDALE STH, QLD, 4123 |
| MEINTJES Mr L A | PO Box 4, COORANBONG, NSW, 2265 |
| MEISSNER Mr E C | PO Box 8545, BARGARA, QLD, 4670 |
| MELLOR Mr R H | PO Box 26, PORT MORESBY 121, NCP, PNG, |
| MELROSE (nee Ringuet) Mrs B R | PO Box 1549, BONDI JUNCTION, NSW, 1355 |
| MEMBREY Ms R | 2/24 Gormanston Crescent, DEAKIN, ACT, 2600 |
| MENNIS MBE Mrs M R | 11 Jethro Street, ASPLEY, QLD, 4034 |
| MERRETT Mr Q R | 26 Helenbrae Avenue, FAIRY MEADOW, NSW, 2519 |
| MESZAROS Ms E | PO Box 64, CAMPBELL, ACT, 2612 |
| MIDDLETON Mr J | 3 Barclay Street, BRONTE, NSW, 2024 |
| MIDDLETON Sir J | PO Box 486, MADANG 511, MP, PNG, |
| MIDDLETON Mrs V V | 36-40 Kerrs Lane, NAMBOUR, QLD, 4560 |
| MIDDLETON Miss H V | 36-40 Kerrs Lane, NAMBOUR, QLD, 4560 |
| MILBURN Mr P J | 16 Chablis Crescent, VERMONT SOUTH, VIC, 3133 |
| MILES Mrs V V | Unit 24, Willow Glen Retirement Village, 11 Donahue Street, TOOWOOMBA, QLD, 4350 |
| MILLAR Mr I | 50 Knox Terrace, SKYE, SA, 5072 |
| MILLER Mrs M C | 33/11 Yarranabbe Road, DARLING POINT, NSW, 2027 |
| MILLER Mr H | PO Box 164N, NORTH CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| MILLER Mr R | 48 Delange Road, PUTNEY, NSW, 2112 |
| MILLER Mrs R | 2 Bellata Street, THE GAP, QLD, 4061 |
| MILLIST (Nee Reeves) Mrs E F | PO Box 348, MALANDA, QLD, 4885 |
| MILLS Mr J D | PO Box 207, NAMBUCCA HEADS, NSW, 2448 |
| MINTO Mr James | Unit 3, "Sand Dunes", 86 Brighton Road, SANDGATE, QLD, 4017 |
| MISPEL Mr A J | PO Box 44, BALMAIN, NSW, 2041 |
| MITCHELL Mr N L | 8B Rutherford Crescent, AINSLIE, ACT, 2602 |
| MITCHELL Mr B C | 4/46 Powell Street, HOLT, ACT, 2615 |
| MITCHELL Mr Iain | Unit 227, 53 Rohini Street, TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074 |
| MOFFATT Mr J F | 48 Moons Avenue, LUGARNO, NSW, 2210 |
| MOLDERS Ms Jenny | 10 Janine Court, KONDALILLA VIA MONTVILLE, QLD, 4560 |
| MONTGOMERY Mr D | "Kimbe", GRABBen GULLEN, NSW, 2583 |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| MONTGOMERY Mr M | Weldborough Hotel, Tasman Highway, Weldborough, TAS, 7264 |
| MOONEY Mr R | PO Box 546, ULLADULLA, NSW, 2539 |
| MOORE Prof C | Head, Department of History, University of Queensland, BRISBANE, QLD, 4072 |
| MOORE Mr J N | 8 Ewel Avenue, WARRADALE, SA, 5046 |
| MOORHOUSE Mrs R | 82 Claudare Street, COLLAROY PLATEAU, NSW, 2097 |
| MORGAN Mr G M | 32 Nukara Avenue, KILLCARE, NSW, 2257 |
| MORRIS Mr P | 45 Cock Lane, High Wycombe, BUCKS HP13 7DY, UNITED KINGDOM, |
| MORRIS Mrs B A | 10 Edgewood Avenue, BURWOOD EAST, VIC, 3151 |
| MORRIS Mr A R | 24/75 St. John's Road, GLEBE, NSW, 2037 |
| MORRISON Mrs J E | 3a Cameron Road, ALDINGA BEACH, SA, 5173 |
| MORRISON Mr J | Simbai Anglican Vocational Centre, c/- PO Box 747, MADANG, MADANG PROVINCE, PNG, |
| MORRISON Mr M | PO Box 388, GORDONVALE, QLD, 4865 |
| MORSE Mrs J | 11A Beach Road, COLLAROY, NSW, 2097 |
| MORTON Mr I H | 3 Aisbett Avenue, CAMBERWELL, VIC, 3124 |
| MOXHAM Mr P J H | PO Box 2278, COFFS HARBOUR, NSW, 2450 |
| MULDER Mr H A | 7 Glanor Drive, STANTHORPE, QLD, 4380 |
| MULHEARN Mr D W | 14 Coriedale Drive, COFFS HARBOUR, NSW, 2450 |
| MULLAN Mr A W | 15 Hibiscus Way, CALALA, NSW, 2340 |
| MULLER Mrs B | 93 Darwinia Terrace, RIVETT, ACT, 2611 |
| MULLER Mr Trevor N | 6/30 Mangano Place, WANNEROO, WA, 6065 |
| MULLINS Mr N | 12 Port Drive, MERMAID WATERS, QLD, 4218 |
| MUNKLEY Mr G R | GPO Box 448, SYDNEY, NSW, 1043 |
| MUNRO Mr P R | 20 B Redan Street, MOSMAN, NSW, 2088 |
| MUNSTER Dr P M | 77 Bluff Rd, ST LEONARDS, VIC, 3223 |
| MURPHY Mr C J | PO Box 24072, Bourke Street, MELBOURNE, VIC, 3001 |
| MURPHY OBE Mr K E | Easy Living Villas, Villa 13, 19 Power St, TAMWORTH, NSW, 2340 |
| MURPHY Mr V D | 30 Lawley Street, TUART HILL, WA, 6060 |
| MURRAY Dr B E | 82A Rutland Road, BOX HILL, VIC, 3128 |
| MURRAY Mr N | Unit 1003-AXIS, 23 McLeod Street, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| MURRAY Mr L | PO Box 331, CORRIMAL, NSW, 2518 |
| MURRAY Mr J M | 7 Raglass Street, EVERTON PARK, QLD, 4053 |
| MURRAY Mrs P A | William Cape Gardens, 40 Pearce Road, KANWAL, NSW, 2259 |
| MURRAY (Nee Lukin) Ms J | 158 Macpherson Street, BRONTE, NSW, 2024 |
| MUSCIO Dr A W | 144 Campbellfield Avenue, BRADBURY, NSW, 2560 |
| MUSCIO Mrs J | 144 Campbellfield Avenue, BRADBURY, NSW, 2560 |
| MUSKENS Mr W H | 465 Simpson Road, BARDON, QLD, 4065 |

N

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| NEASMITH-SHORT Mrs B | 27 Chesterfield Road, EPPING, NSW, 2121 |
| NEEDHAM Mrs L C | 24 Paranka Drive North, CLEVELAND, QLD, 4163 |
| NEESON Mr Andrew T | PO Box 636, LAUNCESTON, TAS, 7250 |
| NEHMY Mr R | 53 Cumpston Place, MACGREGOR, ACT, 2615 |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| NEIGHBOUR Mrs P | 8/59 Eagle Street, ALDERLEY, QLD, 4051 |
| NEILSEN Mr A R | 39 Lord Street, MOUNT COLAH, NSW, 2079 |
| NELSON Mr K J | PO Box 5129, DAISY HILL, QLD, 4127 |
| NELSON Mr C | 3 Astley Place, GARRAN, ACT, 2605 |
| NELSON AM Prof H N | 21 Loddon Street, KALEEN, ACT, 2617 |
| NERAU Mr Paul | Papua New Guinea Consul General, GPO Box 220, BRISBANE, QLD, 4001 |
| NEVILLE Mrs C | PO Box 65, REDCLIFFE, QLD, 4020 |
| NEWTON Mr T G | 35 Jasmin Circle, BOKARINA, QLD, 4575 |
| NG Mr F | 14 Arpege Crescent, EIGHT MILE PLAINS, QLD, 4113 |
| NIBBS Mrs E A | 622 Mt Cotton Road, SHELDON, QLD, 4157 |
| NICHOLAS Mrs Gerri | 10 Armstrong Street, CAMMERAY, NSW, 2062 |
| NICHOLSON Mr C | 12 Herbert Street, NORTH FREMANTLE, WA, 6159 |
| NICHOLSON Mrs C | 12 Herbert Street, NORTH FREMANTLE, WA, 6159 |
| NIELSON Mrs Beth | 6/16 Marine Walk, ALEXANDRIA HEADLANDS, QLD, 4572 |
| NILAN Mr J G | 161 Hinkler Drive, WORONGARY, QLD, 4213 |
| NILES Mr D | PO Box 1432, Boroko, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, 111 |
| NITSCHKE Mr J J | 87 Melwood Avenue, KILLARNEY HEIGHTS, NSW, 2087 |
| NOAKES Mrs Gail | 6 Mirral Crescent, NEW LAMBTON, NSW, 2305 |
| NOBBS Mr K | PO Box 29, NORFOLK ISLAND, NSW, 2899 |
| NOBLE Mr R G | Unit 6, 18 Knoll Road, NORTH TAMBORINE, QLD, 4272 |
| NOBLET Mr A J | Unit 4, 333 Wattletree Rd, MALVERN EAST, VIC, 3145 |
| NORMAN Prof P A | Divine Word University (DWU), PO Box 483, MADANG 511, MP, PNG, |
| NORTON Mr J E | 29/30 Mollison Street, WEST END, QLD, 4101 |
| NUNN Mr A G | 26 Waratah Drive, CLONTARF, QLD, 4019 |
| NUNN Mr R J | 12 Symonds Drive, MOUNT BARKER, SA, 5251 |

O

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| OAKES Mrs Edna | 5 Weroona Avenue, WOODFORD, NSW, 2778 |
| OAKES Mr G D | 5 Weroona Ave, WOODFORD, NSW, 2778 |
| OAKLEY Mrs N R | 60/3554 Main Beach Parade, MAIN BEACH, QLD, 4217 |
| OATES Mr P D | 205 Bunjurgan Road, WALLACE CREEK, QLD, 4310 |
| OBERDORF Mr J H | 19/9 Tristania Street, RIVETT, ACT, 2611 |
| OBERHOLZER Mr O P | 43 Allard Avenue, ROSEVILLE CHASE, NSW, 2069 |
| OBERLEUTER Mr B | PO Box 2, CLIFTON BEACH, QLD, 4879 |
| O'BRIEN Mr J A | Room 88, Southern Cross Hostel, Broadford Crescent, MACLEOD, VIC, 3085 |
| O'CONNOR Mr T J | 20 Lorimer Street, BATHURST, NSW, 2795 |
| O'CONNOR Mr M J | 32 Sunnypark Close, GISBORNE, VIC, 3437 |
| O'CONNOR Mr K W G | 3/251 Pacific Highway, LINDFIELD, NSW, 2070 |
| O'DEA Mr J | 16 Prices Circuit, WORONORA, NSW, 2232 |
| O'DEAN Mr D W | Room 22, Ronald Coleman Lodge, 88 Wallis Street, WOOLLAHRA, NSW, 2025 |

O'DRISCOLL Mrs J 54 Glaisher Pde, CRONULLA, NSW, 2230
OETTL Mrs P C 32 Cockleshell Court, RUNAWAY BAY, QLD, 4216
OGIO GCMG, KStJ Governor General of Papua New Guinea, Government House,
His Excellency Sir Michael PORT MORESBY NCD, PNG,
O'HARA Mr R G 22 Sailors Gully Road, EAGLEHAWK, VIC, 3556
OLLERENSHAW Mr D C 5 Hillside Court, LITTLE MOUNTAIN, QLD, 4551
O'MARA Mr K D PO Box 102, POTTS POINT, NSW, 1335
O'REGAN Mr J PO Box 390, BYRON BAY, NSW, 2481
O'REILLY Mr B E 2/14 Mollys Place, CURRUMBIN WATERS, QLD, 4223
ORWIN Mr R G 2 Finch Court, LOGANLEA, QLD, 4131
OSBORNE Mr H F 14 Parkmore Street, BOONDALL, QLD, 4034
O'TOOLE Mr G M PO Box 190, AGNES WATER, QLD, 4677
OTTLEY Mrs J 398 Old Northern Road, GLENHAVEN, NSW, 2156
OWEN Mr I L PO Box 5539, BOROKO 111, NCP, PNG,
OWEN-TURNER Mr J C 63 Riverview Drive, BURRUM HEADS, QLD, 4659
OWNER Mr M 1429 Dayboro Road, RUSH CREEK, QLD, 4521

P

PAGE Ms S B 37 Bevington Rd, GLENUNGA, SA, 5064
PAGE Mrs P C/- 37 Bevington Road, GLENUNGA, SA, 5064
PAGE Mr W B 28 Quai du Chatelet, ORLEANS 45000, FRANCE,
PAGE Mr J B "Terka", PO Box 242, WILMINGTON, SA, 5485
PANNEKOEK Mr F 261 Aberglasslyn Road, ABERGLASSLYN, NSW, 2320
PARER CMG MBE Mr R L 33 Twickenham Street, CHELMER, QLD, 4068
PARKES Mr W J Unit 2, 101-103 Collier Street, REDHEAD, NSW, 2290
PARKES Mr K B F PO Box 424, THURSDAY ISLAND, QLD, 4875
PARNWELL Mr P J "Kurrajong", Warrah Creek Road, WILLOW TREE, NSW, 2339
PARRY Mr C A 16 Gwynore Court, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556
PARSLOW Mrs M M Room 36, St Francis Hostel, 678 North Beach Road, GWELUP, WA,
6018
PASQUARELLI Mr J PO Box 133, NEWSTEAD, VIC, 3462
PATERSON Miss J 27 Broadwater Street, ANGLERS PARADISE, QLD, 4216
PATERSON Mr A PO Box 956, BOWEN, QLD, 4805
PATERSON Mr W R PO Box 222, MENINGIE, SA, 5264
PATTON Mr R W 35 Thorn Street, PENNANT HILLS, NSW, 2120
PAVSIC Mrs L "Treetops", 81 Parrish Avenue, MOUNT PLEASANT, NSW, 2519
PAVSIC Mr E "Treetops", 81 Parrish Avenue, MOUNT PLEASANT, NSW, 2519
PAYNE Mr N H 32 Joffre Street, TEMORA, NSW, 2666
PEARCE Mr B R 2 Eastcott Street, YARLOOP, WA, 6218
PEARS Mr M B PO Box 1, ISLE OF CAPRI, QLD, 4217
PEARSALL Mrs A Kenilworth Gardens, PO Box 2670, BOWRAL, NSW, 2576
PECKOVER Mrs J 14 Balanda Street, JINDALEE, QLD, 4074
PEGG Mrs N 170 Burbong Street, CHAPEL HILL, QLD, 4069
PEMBERTON Mr G PO Box 321, ETTALONG BEACH, NSW, 2257

PENDERGAST (nee Grady/Doig) Ms Maureen 36/5 Benalla Avenue, ASHFIELD, NSW, 2131
PENDERS Mrs A 95 Morgan Crescent, CURTAIN, ACT, 2605
PENDRIGH Mrs J O 41 Taronga Road, BONNETT HILL, TAS, 7053
PENSON Mr P J 16 Grove Road, ROSANNA, VIC, 3084
PERKINS Mrs M T 1120 South Pine Road, ARANA HILLS, QLD, 4054
PERMEZEL Mr D F PO Box 212, SANDERSON, NT, 0812
PERRY Mr R F 7 Kim Street, GLADESVILLE, NSW, 2111
PERRY Mr G Address withheld
PERT Mrs I 37 Weyba Esplanade, NOOSA HEADS, QLD, 4567
PETERS Mr R J 42 Faciles Road, ALBERTON, QLD, 4207
PETERS Mrs P A 3 Elizabeth St, YARRAWONGA, VIC, 3730
PETERSEN Mr B F PO Box 887, PROSPECT EAST, SA, 5082
PETERSON Mrs B J Southern Cross Care, 57 Village Way, CALOUNDRA, QLD, 4551
PETERSON Ms C M 14 Warrandyte Rd, RESEARCH, VIC, 3095
PETERSWALD Mrs R PO Box 539, TRINITY BEACH, QLD, 4879
PETR Dr T O 27 McLeod Street, TOOWOOMBA, QLD, 4350
PETRUSMA Mr S 3 Balook Street, LAUDERDALE, TAS, 7021
PFARR Mr C O 186 Buerger Street, MARYSVILLE, OHIO, USA, 43040
PHILLIPS OAM Mr J M 37A Lushington Street, EAST GOSFORD, NSW, 2250
PHILPOTT Dr R F PO Box 420, FREMANTLE, WA, 6959
PICKRELL Mr J J 16 Durbin Street, NUNDLE, NSW, 2340
PIERCE Mr A 13 Plunkett Street, NAREMBURN, NSW, 2065
PIKE Mr G D 12 Marland Court, Avoca, BUNDABERG, QLD, 4670
PIPER Mr R K 7 Brazel Street, HIGGINS, ACT, 2615
PIZER Mrs E H 18 Patey Street, CAMPBELL, ACT, 2612
PLINT (nee Loder) Mrs J 7 Faye Street, THORNESIDE, QLD, 4158
PLOECKL Mr W 5/40 Nirvana Street, LONG JETTY, NSW, 2261
PNG High Commissioner The Papua New Guinea High Commission, PO Box E432, KINGSTON, ACT, 2604
POHLNER Mr D F 51 Lincoln Road, PARADISE, SA, 5075
POIRCUITTE (nee Spence) Mrs P J 3/70 Phillip Road, PUTNEY, NSW, 2112
POLLOCK Ms Helen 16 Kilmaine Street, THE GAP, QLD, 4061
POPLE Mr G H PO Box 2883, BOROKE 111, NCD, PNG,
PORTER Mr J G 8/83 Lindsay Road, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556
POWELL Dr J M PO Box 158, BEROWRA HEIGHTS, NSW, 2082
POWER Mrs S E 38 Bignell Street, ILLAWONG, NSW, 2234
POWER Mr M R 12 Sequoia Drive, NORTH TAMBOURINE, QLD, 4272
PRATT Prof V R 2215 Old Page Mill Road, PALO ALTO, CA 94304, USA,
PRATT Mr F C "Clearview", PO Box 700, STANTHORPE, QLD, 4380
PRENDERGAST Dr P A 99 Bay Road, WAVERTON, NSW, 2060
PRESS Mr R M PO Box 2258, PALMERSTON, NT, 0831
PRIOR Mr W 1 Cato Way, CASULA, NSW, 2170
PRIOR Mr A G 17 Capstone Way, MARANGAROO, WA, 6064
PROUD Mr J 52 Duke Street, NORTHAM, WA, 6401
PULSFORD Mrs F M 25 Weetalibah Road, NORTHBRIDGE, NSW, 2063
PURVIS Mrs IE PO Box 173, INDOOROOPIILLY, QLD, 4068

PYE Mr D

10/217 Vimiera Road, EASTWOOD, NSW, 2122

Q

QUINLIVAN Mr P J

61 Bellata Street, THE GAP, QLD, 4061

QUINN Mr J B

56 Boyce Street, AVOCA, VIC, 3467

QUINN Mrs K L

PO Box 100, LAE 411, MP, PNG,

QUINNELL Mr J R

20 Dolphin Court, PALM BEACH, QLD, 4221

R

RABL Mr E F

7 De Castella Drive, HORSHAM, VIC, 3400

RADFORD Mrs R

PO Box 223, MITCHAM SHOPPING CENTRE, SA, 5062

RALPH Dr H

14 Crescent Road, MONA VALE, NSW, 2103

RALSTON Mr D J

89 Melba Drive, EAST RYDE, NSW, 2113

RAMSAY OAM Colonel D M

121 Edgecliff Road, WOOLLAHRA, NSW, 2025

RAYMENT Mrs P L

PO Box 460, WINTON, QLD, 4735

READ Mr D B

46 Clive Street, BICTON, WA, 6157

READ Mr W

11 Wilpie Street, BRACKEN RIDGE, QLD, 4017

REARDON Mr I S

5 Lumeah Avenue, ELANORA HEIGHTS, NSW, 2101

REDLICH Mr P B

2/114 Castle Hill Road, WEST PENNANT HILLS, NSW, 2125

REDMOND Mr H

182 Wyndora Avenue, FRESHWATER, NSW, 2096

REDWOOD Dr A L

758 Eagle Creek Drive # 103, NAPLES, FLORIDA 34113, USA,

REEVES Ms R A

14 Goldwyn Street, McDOWALL, QLD, 4053

REGAN Mr Patrick

PO Box 421, ARNCLIFFE, NSW, 2205

REGAN Mr J M

57 Newry Island Drive, URUNGA, NSW, 2455

REID Mr D

38 Worongary Road, MUDGEERABA, QLD, 4213

REID (nee Mackay) Mrs P

834/60 Endeavour Boulevard, NORTH LAKES, QLD, 4509

REITANO Dr Paul

5 Meteor Street, COORPAROO, QLD, 4151

REITANO Mr F V

Unit 501, Cazna Gardens RSL Care, 465 Hellawell Road,
SUNNYBANK HILLS, QLD, 4109

RHEINBERGER Mr G J

11 Nierinna Road, MARGATE, TAS, 7054

RHOADES Mr R E

45 Dammerel Crescent, EMERALD BEACH, NSW, 2456

RICHARDSON Mr P J

PO Box 88, KALBAR, QLD, 4309

RICHARDSON Mr J M

PO Box 496, SOUTHPORT, QLD, 4215

RICHARDSON Mr H A

7 Boston Street, TEA GARDENS, NSW, 2324

RIDDELL Mr R B

36/300 Mitchell Road, ALEXANDRIA, NSW, 2015

RIDGES Mr J K

Flat 3, Linden Court, 3 Linden Avenue, Dorchester, DT1 1EJ,
ENGLAND,

RILEY Dr I D

50 Harrington Crescent, BAWLEY POINT, NSW, 2539

RING Mrs Elsa R

Admiralty Quays, 77/32 Macrossan Street, BRISBANE, QLD, 4000

RING Mr J P

Parkglen, 76/360 Cheltenham Road, KEYSBOROUGH, VIC, 3173

RITCHIE Mr J E

6 Mace Drive, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| RITCHIE Dr J W | PO Box 191, PARKVILLE, VIC, 3052 |
| RIVERS Ms V | Market Street, BURRA, SA, 5417 |
| ROACH Mr J H | 17 Fantail Crescent, COOROY, QLD, 4563 |
| ROACH Mr M | 16 Norman Street, DEAKIN, ACT, 2600 |
| ROBBEMOND Mrs W | Unit 130, 53 Old Coach Road, TALLAI, QLD, 4213 |
| ROBBINS Mr D G | 14 Kuralboo Street, SPRINGBROOK, QLD, 4213 |
| ROBERTS Dr J A | PO Box 108, AVALON BEACH, NSW, 2107 |
| ROBERTS Mr S F | 10 Carrington Place, BRIDGEMAN DOWNS, QLD, 4035 |
| ROBERTS (Nee Curtis) Ms Ann | "Saraban", Saraban Road, CANUNGRA, QLD, 4275 |
| ROBERTSON Mr J G | 3/127 Middle Street, CLEVELAND, QLD, 4163 |
| ROBERTSON-ANGUS Mr L A | 20 Rural Vue Terrace, BUNDABERG, QLD, 4670 |
| ROBINSON Mr Penn | 115 Old South Head Road, BONDI, NSW, 2022 |
| ROBINSON Mr P G | 48 Boronia Grove, HEATHCOTE, NSW, 2233 |
| ROBINSON Mrs L | 405/29 Yeo Street, NEUTRAL BAY, NSW, 2089 |
| ROBINSON Mr N K | Suite #306, 1720 Middlehurst Rd, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44118, USA, |
| RODRIGUE Dr R B | 9A Lyndoch Street, BOX HILL SOUTH, VIC, 3128 |
| ROGERS Mr P H | 30 Conway Court, BLI BLI, QLD, 4560 |
| ROGERS (Nee Coote) Mrs B H | 4 Hill Street, KILCOY, QLD, 4515 |
| ROHRLACH Mr L J | 10 Wahroonga Avenue, VALLEY VIEW, SA, 5093 |
| ROSS Mrs B | 3 Dudley Street, ANNERLEY, QLD, 4103 |
| ROSS OBE Mr A E H | 85 Paten Road, THE GAP, QLD, 4061 |
| ROTHERHAM Mr W | 20 Perkins Street, JAMIESON, VIC, 3723 |
| ROUNSEFELL Dr V B | 68 Battams Road, MARDEN, SA, 5070 |
| ROUNSEVELL Mr F W J | 20 Beatty Crescent, TUROSS HEAD, NSW, 2537 |
| ROUTLEY Mr P H | 46 Coopers Avenue, LEABROOK, SA, 5068 |
| ROWE Mr B | 89 Old Gippsland Road, LILYDALE, VIC, 3140 |
| ROWLAND (nee Leabeater) Mrs Gail | 26 Charolais Crescent, BENOWA, QLD, 4217 |
| RUDD Mrs E F | Unit 267 "The Palms, 6 Melody Court, WARANA BEACH, QLD, 4575 |
| RUEDIGER Mr D C | 4/26 Tanah Street East, MT. COOLUM, QLD, 4573 |
| RUMENS Mr J M | PO Box 8396, WAGGA WAGGA, NSW, 2650 |
| RUSSELL-STONE Mrs C | 17 Outram Street, WEST LAUNCESTON, TAS, 7250 |
| RUSSELL-STONE Mr R G | 17 Outram Street, WEST LAUNCESTON, TAS, 7250 |
| RYAN MM Mr Peter | 1/6 Wilburton Parade, BALWYN NORTH, VIC, 3104 |
| RYAN Mrs G C | 28 Gosford Road, BROADMEADOW, NSW, 2292 |
| RYAN Mr P A | 3 Albatross Court, PEREGIAN BEACH, QLD, 4573 |

S

| | |
|----------------|--|
| SABBEN Mr H F | 6/111 Rio Vista Blvd, BROADBEACH WATERS, QLD, 4218 |
| SAGE Mr M | 8 Island Court, MINYAMYA WATERS, QLD, 4575 |
| SAKAGUCHI Mr H | 202 Akiyoshi Mansion, 72-1 Kaminakai-Machi, TAKASAKI-CITY 370-0851, JAPAN, |
| SAKEY Mrs C A | "Tingara", Gundy Road, SCONE, NSW, 2337 |
| SALMON Mr P W | PO Box 740, SPRINGWOOD, QLD, 4127 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| SANDERSON Mr R J | 8 Jendi Court, SPRINGWOOD, QLD, 4127 |
| SAVAGE BEM Mr C | 4 The Stables, Islandmagee, County Antrim, BT40 3NX, UK, |
| SAVILLE OBE Mr S P | 52 Rosehill Drive, BURPENGARY, QLD, 4505 |
| SAVILLE Ms M L | Unit 1, "Killarney", 2 Dalton Road, MOSMAN, NSW, 2088 |
| SAWYER Mr R K | 5 Silverdale Road, SILVERDALE, NSW, 2752 |
| SAYERS Mr I L | 47 Erldunda Circuit, HAWKER, ACT, 2614 |
| SCARBOROUGH Mr P G | PO Box 2174, FORTITUDE VALLEY, QLD, 4006 |
| SCARLE Mr P E | 23 Warragoon Crescent, ATTADALE, WA, 6156 |
| SCHAAFSMA Mrs A L | 15 Cutler Road, CLONTARF, NSW, 2093 |
| SCHEELINGS Mr B | 3 Bellmead St, RUNCORN, QLD, 4113 |
| SCHMIDT Mrs W | 7 Landsdowne Avenue, BELAIR, SA, 5052 |
| SCHOFIELD Mr J W | "Goonhilly", 1660 Dunoon Road, DUNOON, NSW, 2480 |
| SCHWASS Mr C | PO Box 962, EDMONTON, QLD, 4869 |
| SCOTT Mr E P | PO Box 383, Sandakoy Post Office, CHIANG MAI, THAILAND, |
| SCOTT Mr R P | PO Box 944, INDOOROOPIILLY, QLD, 4068 |
| SCOTT Capt. R M | 13 Banksia Street, YEPPON, QLD, 4703 |
| SCRAGG OBE Dr R F | 36 South Esplanade, GLENELG, SA, 5045 |
| SEARLE Ms P R E | 29 Doncaster Street, HENDRA, QLD, 4011 |
| SEEFELD Mr P A | 2/4 Yuruga Street, MOOLOOLABA, QLD, 4557 |
| SEETO Mr Richard | PO Box 2379, RUNCORN, QLD, 4113 |
| SEGAL Mr L J | 39 Nagle Ave., MAROUBRA, NSW, 2035 |
| SELTH Mr P A | PO Box 1682, LANE COVE, NSW, 1595 |
| SERAFINI Mr N | 9 Stanley Street, RANDWICK, NSW, 2031 |
| SEVENOAKS Mr Ken | PO Box 203, GLADSTONE, QLD, 4680 |
| SHAKESHAFT RSM Sister M E | Ebor Flats, 2/3 Sinclair Street, CROWS NEST, NSW, 2065 |
| SHANAHAN Mr Peter | 25 Cadagi Drive, Russett Park, KURANDA, QLD, 4881 |
| SHANAHAN Mr K M | PO Box 367, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069 |
| SHANNON Mr M | 438 Church Road, TAIGUM, QLD, 4018 |
| SHARP Mr Peter | PO Box 3276, RABAUL, PNG, |
| SHARP Rev J | 16 Church Street, SOUTH WINDSOR, NSW, 2756 |
| SHAW Mr R B | 7 Sheoak Place, ALFORDS POINT, NSW, 2234 |
| SHAW Mr B F | "Magani", 209 Wharf Road, JOHNS RIVER, NSW, 2443 |
| SHAW Mr J | Unit 14, Greenleaves Retirement Village, 91 Tryon Street, UPPER MT GRAVATT, QLD, 4122 |
| SHEEHAN Mr G F | 3/57 Queens Parade West, NEWPORT, NSW, 2106 |
| SHERWIN Mr J H | PO Box 362, EDGE HILL - CAIRNS, QLD, 4870 |
| SHIRER Miss R | 1/5 Clare Street, BLACKBURN, VIC, 3130 |
| SHOWELL Mr D P W | PO Box 1693, RENMARK, SA, 5341 |
| SIGGS Mrs O | 2/12 Burwood Court, LABRADOR, QLD, 4215 |
| SIMPSON Mr P H | 204 Schmidts Road, LOGAN RESERVE, QLD, 4133 |
| SIMPSON-LYTTLE Mr K | 1 Slade Crescent, HALLETT COVE, SA, 5158 |
| SINCLAIR OBE Mr J P | 5 Yoomba Crescent, ALEXANDRA HEADLAND, QLD, 4572 |
| SIPPO Mr W G | PO Box 4051, NOWRA EAST, NSW, 2541 |
| SISARICH Mr G J | Unit 1, 3 Glendaloch Court, LAVINGTON, NSW, 2641 |
| SKELLET Mr I L | "Kookaburra Rise", 158/10 Minkara Road, BAYVIEW, NSW, 2104 |
| SKELTON Mr A O | PO Box 63, SWIFTS CREEK, VIC, 3896 |

SKINNER Mr P R S PO Box 456, GOLDEN BEACH, QLD, 4551
 SKINNER Ms J M 1A Rusthall Avenue, LONDON W4 1BW, UK,
 SKINNER Mr D I S PO Box 101, MOSS VALE, NSW, 2577
 SLACK (Nee Maclean) Mrs Serena PO Box 3084, WEST LINDFIELD, NSW, 2070
 SMALES Mr & Mrs A & E 22 Bembridge Avenue, FRANKSTON SOUTH, VIC, 3199
 SMART Mr L B 6 Pavo St, CAMP HILL, QLD, 4152
 SMITH Mr D O 7 Grandis Place, BATEAU BAY, NSW, 2261
 SMITH Mr B R 87 Albury Street, DEAGON, QLD, 4017
 SMITH Mrs D PO Box 373, FORBES, NSW, 2871
 SMITH Mr E V 12 Bribie Court, MERMAID WATERS, QLD, 4218
 SMITH Mr S H PO Box 3200, NORTH TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074
 SMITH Mr & Mrs L F & B 70 Belmore Street, RYDE, NSW, 2112
 SMITH Mrs I V Villa 6,, 55-61 Blundell Boulevarde, SOUTH TWEED HEADS, NSW, 2486
 SMITH Mrs R P 12/2 Cherry Street, TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074
 SMYTH (nee Gane) Ms O 8 Ocean View Crescent, EMERALD BEACH, NSW, 2456
 SNOW Mr R 11/26 Busaco Road, MARSFIELD, NSW, 2122
 SOMERS Mr P 37 Bougainvillea Street, NIGHTCLIFF, NT, 0810
 SOMMERFELD (Nee Thick) Mrs P A 44 Gordon Parade, MANLY, QLD, 4179
 SPARK Mr R A 47 Denmark Street, KEW, VIC, 3101
 SPARREBOOM Mr L M 4 Warrego Place, TERRANORA, NSW, 2486
 SPEAKMAN Mrs A L 9B Dunrobin Court, 389 Finchley Road, LONDON NW36HE, UK,
 SPEER MBE Mr A C/- Mr M Biscocho, 21/163 Willoughby Road, NAREMBURN, NSW, 2065
 SPELDEWINDE Mr W G PO Box 944, WODEN, ACT, 2606
 STANMORE Mr P 19 Satterley Avenue, TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074
 STEEGE DSO, DFC Mr G H 120 Pacific Road, PALM BEACH, NSW, 2108
 STEELE Mr P 22 Donaldson Drive, Warrnambool, VIC, 3280
 STEINFURTH Mrs J 85 Gloucester Road, HURSTVILLE, NSW, 2220
 STENSHOLT Mr R E PO Box 226, ASHBURTON, VIC, 3146
 STEPHENS Mr F V C/- Stephens Trading Co Ltd, PO Box 403, LAE 411, MP, PNG,
 STERLAND Mr R 9 Griffiths St, CHARLESTOWN, NSW, 2290
 STEVENS Mr R D 2 Nimbin Place, YARRAWARRAH, NSW, 2233
 STEVENSON Mr J M 407 Pacific Highway, WYONG, NSW, 2259
 STEWART Mrs J 155 Horizon Drive, WESTLAKE, QLD, 4074
 STOBART Mr J T 15 Lynington Street, TUSMORE, SA, 5065
 STOBO Mrs J 5 Kardella Avenue, KILLARA, NSW, 2071
 STOBO Mr R 35 Wallace Street, WILLOUGHBY, NSW, 2068
 STONE Mr B K 4 Toufik Street, ROCHEDALE SOUTH, QLD, 4123
 STONE Mr P Oceans Enterprises, 303 Commercial Road, YARRAM, VIC, 3971
 STORER Mr R D PO Box 440, STEPNEY, SA, 5069
 STOTT Mr R R Unit 96, Heath Glen Village, 2 Glendale Court, WERRIBEE, VIC, 3030
 STRAATMANS Ms C E 5 Anderson Street, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444
 STRANG Mr J F R 609/87-97 Yarranabbe Road, DARLING POINT, NSW, 2028
 STRAUGHEN Mr G D 9 Deodar Court, MAPLETON, QLD, 4560
 STRECKFUSS Mrs L H "Happy Apple", 1375 Settlers Road, ST ALBANS, NSW, 2775
 STREET Mr P J L 39 Holdsworth Street, WOOLLAHRA, NSW, 2025

STROEHLE Mr R 95 Mallee Drive, TANAH MERAH, QLD, 4128
 STRUTT Mrs A I 7 Lobe Street, BALD HILLS, QLD, 4036
 STUART Mr W M 31 Sophie Avenue, BROADBEACH WATERS, QLD, 4218
 STUNTZ Queens Jubilee Medal, 447 Mt Apo Street, Clarkview, ANGELES CITY,
 PNG Independence Medal Mr J R PHILIPPINES, 2009
 SUTHERLAND Mrs A 78 First Avenue, BICKLEY, WA, 6076
 SUTHERLAND Mr C 171 Fitzwilliam Road, TOONGABBIE, NSW, 2146
 SUTTON Mr R S 7 Boyana Crescent, CROYDON, VIC, 3136
 SWADLING Dr P 3 Magrath Place, SPENCE, ACT, 2615
 SWAN Mr W D 30 Alberto Street, LILYFIELD, NSW, 2040
 SWANTON Mr B PO Box 1225, WODEN, ACT, 2606
 SWIFT OBE, OAM Mr R S PO Box 4244, KINGSTON, ACT, 2604
 SYMONS Mr C A J Darlington Retirement Community, 126 Leisure Drive, BANORA
 POINT, NSW, 2486
 SYMONS Mrs E M 11 Olympiad Crescent, BOX HILL NORTH, VIC, 3129

T

TAIT Mr R 15 Harvie Drive, BOAMBEE EAST, NSW, 2452
 TAIT Mrs E L 143 Ross Smith Crescent, SCULLIN, ACT, 2614
 TANGYE (Nee Coote) Mrs J P 21 Avoca Street, RANDWICK, NSW, 2031
 TARRANT Mr D 60 Moseley Street, GLENELG, SA, 5045
 TAYLOR Mr K PO Box 3357, ALICE SPRINGS, NT, 0871
 TAYLOR Mrs G R Unit 11, 12 Frederick Street, BORONIA HEIGHTS, QLD, 4124
 TAYLOR Mrs V 2 Kellaway Street, EAST RYDE, NSW, 2113
 TAYLOR Mr R S 17 Scarlet Ash Court, ELTHAM, VIC, 3095
 TAYLOR Rev. A L 2/30-32 Redmyre Road, STRATHFIELD, NSW, 2135
 TAYLOR Mr G P 15 St Albyns Avenue, TOORAK GARDENS, SA, 5065
 TEBB Mrs L W 1/4 Grove Road, WAMBERAL, NSW, 2260
 TEMU Mr Deveni 11 Ingamells Street, GARRAN, ACT, 2605
 TENNANT Mr W 7 Hope Road, PALMYRA, WA, 6157
 TERRELL AM Mr C E 17 Woodgate Street, FARRER, ACT, 2607
 TERRELL Mrs J 17 Woodgate Street, FARRER, ACT, 2607
 TERRY Mr A G 280 Coramba Road, COFFS HARBOUR, NSW, 2450
 THACKER Mrs R C 6 Dean Court, URRAWOON, QLD, 4655
 THOMAS Mrs A B 102 Sunshine Drive, CLEVELAND, QLD, 4163
 THOMAS Mrs J M 19 Suffolk Rd, DANDENONG NORTH, VIC, 3175
 THOMAS Mr Ray 19 Suffolk Rd, DANDENONG NORTH, VIC, 3175
 THOMAS Ms C 31/120 William Street, LEICHARDT, NSW, 2040
 THOMAS Mr P J 22 Prider Street, NURIOTPA, SA, 5355
 THOMPSON Mr Deryck PO Box 14, MACHANS BEACH, QLD, 4878
 THOMSON Mr C M 12 Sphinx Street, BALMORAL, QLD, 4171
 THOMSON OAM Mrs J 36 Musgrave Street, YARRALUMLA, ACT, 2600
 THRELFALL Rev N A 18 Mawson Drive, KILLARNEY VALE, NSW, 2261
 THURECHT OBE Sir Ramon PO Box 633, PORT MORESBY 121, NCP, PNG,

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| THURGOOD Mr C M | 48 Lauren Drive, BUDERIM, QLD, 4556 |
| THURSTON Mrs E | 5/1 Wiston Gardens, DOUBLE BAY, NSW, 2028 |
| TIERNEY Mrs M | 63 Fingal Drive, FRANKSTON, VIC, 3199 |
| TILLEY Mr W R | 4/16 Nankeen Avenue, PARADISE POINT, QLD, 4216 |
| TIMPERLEY Mrs K | 68 Fairview, 2573 Moggill Road, PINJARRA HILLS, QLD, 4069 |
| TISDALL (Nee Melville) Mrs Kay | 66A Glover Street, MOSMAN, NSW, 2088 |
| TOMASETTI Dr F | 18 Claines Crescent, WENTWORTH FALLS, NSW, 2782 |
| TOMLINSON Mr L M | 7 Queen Street, MOSMAN, NSW, 2088 |
| TOMS Mrs C | Unit 36 Village Life, 5b Vassey Street, BUNDABERG, QLD, 4670 |
| TONER BEM Mr J B | PO Box 1965, PALMERSTON, NT, 0831 |
| TOPHAM Mrs M | 2 Curlew Glebe, Dunnington, YORK YO19 5PQ, ENGLAND, |
| TRACY Mrs H M | 102c Peel Street, BATHURST, NSW, 2795 |
| TRAINOR Mr J | 64 Richard Farrell Avenue, REMUERA, AUCKLAND, NZ, 1005 |
| TRONSON Mr A D | 84 Arnold Palmer Drive, PARKWOOD, QLD, 4214 |
| TROTT Mrs M P | Meander Village,, 49K/18 Boyce Avenue, WYONG, NSW, 2259 |
| TROY Mr C | 4 Welham Street, BEECROFT, NSW, 2119 |
| TRUSS Mr B J | 21 Janda Street, ATHERTON, QLD, 4883 |
| TUCK Mr G A | PO Box 666, PORT MORESBY NCD, PNG, |
| TUCKWELL Mr E C | 959 Teven Road, ALSTONVILLE, NSW, 2477 |
| TULLOCH Mr J R | 726 Bestmann Road, NINGI, QLD, 4511 |
| TUOHY Mr M J | Aeroglen, 389 Chinchilla-Kogan Road, CHINCHILLA, QLD, 4413 |
| TURNER Mr T A | 11 Redbud Court, MOUNTAIN CREEK, QLD, 4557 |
| TURNER Mr W F | 95 Lake Road, PORT MACQUARIE, NSW, 2444 |
| TURRILL Mr R | 16 Carlingford Place, ROBINA, QLD, 4226 |
| TWOHILL Sister Berenice | Our Lady Of Sacred Heart Convent, 2 Kensington Rd, KENSINGTON, NSW, 2023 |

U

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|-------------------|---|
| UECHTRITZ Mrs M L | "Kuradui Estates", PO Box 107, INNISFAIL, QLD, 4860 |
| UECHTRITZ Ms R K | 17 Ebsworth Road, ROSE BAY, NSW, 2029 |

V

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| VAN DER EYK Mr P | PO Box 764, MANUNDA, QLD, 4870 |
| VAN DER KAMP Mr J A | 36 Kamerunga Villas, CARAVONICA, QLD, 4878 |
| VAN HEES Mr D | Im Letten 12, Duggingen BL 4202, SWITZERLAND, |
| VAN HORCK Mr K H | PO Box 874, Kihei, HAWAII 96753, USA, |
| VAN KOLCK Mr F G | PO Box 1524, CHATSWOOD, NSW, 2057 |
| VAN LIEN Mr L G | PO Box 49, JANNALI, NSW, 2226 |
| VAN OOSTERWIJCK Mr J M | 9 Clarke Street, Kennington, BENDIGO, VIC, 3550 |
| VAN R CLAASEN Mr D B | PO Box 452, Village Market, NAIROBI 000621, KENYA, |
| VEALE MID Mr L | PO Box 408, ASHMORE CITY, QLD, 4214 |
| VELLACOTT Mr P | 380 Montague Street, ALBERT PARK, VIC, 3206 |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| VINCENT Mr T | PO Box 51, WAU, MOROBE, PNG, 422 |
| VINCIN Mr G W | PO Box 1294, BOROKO, PNG, 111 |
| VINER-SMITH Mr C | PO Box 394, CURTIN, ACT, 2605 |
| VIRTUE Mrs P | 4 Centennial Glen Road, BLACKHEATH, NSW, 2785 |
| VON LEIXNER Mrs J | Unit 73, "River Valley Apts", 6 Merthyr Road, NEW FARM, QLD, 4005 |
| VON SCHILL Mrs G E | 3 Goroka Place, BEACON HILL, NSW, 2100 |

W

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| WADE Mr R | Unit 1, 39-41 Kentwell Road, ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS, NSW, 2100 |
| WADSWORTH Mr A F | 10 Metricup Court, MERMAID WATERS, QLD, 4218 |
| WALKER Mrs M L | 31 Josephine Avenue, MOUNT WAVERLEY, VIC, 3149 |
| WALL MBE Mrs Merle | PO Box 3035, NEWMARKET, QLD, 4051 |
| WALL Mr D A | 152 Wilson Street, NEWTOWN, NSW, 2042 |
| WALL QC Judge Clive | 113/40 Cotlew Street East, SOUTHPORT, QLD, 4215 |
| WALLACE Mr K | 41 Maxwell Road, HACKHAM WEST, SA, 5163 |
| WALSHE (Nee Little) Ms Vicki | 35 Palmer Street, CAMMERAY, NSW, 2062 |
| WARD Mrs Sue | 2163 Pittwater Road, CHURCH POINT, NSW, 2105 |
| WARHURST Mr D N | "Old School House", Denham Street, LEADVILLE, NSW, 2844 |
| WARHURST Ms A M | , 7 Claxton Circuit, Rouse Hill, NSW, 2155 |
| WARREN Mrs PE | PO Box 587, CAMDEN, NSW, 2570 |
| WARREN AM Mr R N | PO Box 587, CAMDEN, NSW, 2570 |
| WARREN Mr A T R | 2/9 Colden Street, PICTON, NSW, 2571 |
| WARRILLOW Mr C | 2/4 Magnolia Street, WANTIRNA, VIC, 3152 |
| WATERER Ms J W | "Wrenlea", 15 Woods Parade, FAIRLIGHT, NSW, 2094 |
| WATERHOUSE Mr M | 14 Moore Park Road, PADDINGTON, NSW, 2021 |
| WATSON Mr E J | 19 Wylmar Avenue, BURRANEER, NSW, 2230 |
| WATSON Mr R | "Pitarei", 19 Eveline Street, MARGATE, QLD, 4019 |
| WATSON Mr E K | 16 Cadby Street, MIDDLE BRIGHTON, VIC, 3186 |
| WATT Mr N C | 27 Thomas Crescent, CORAKI, NSW, 2471 |
| WATTERS Prof. D A | 11 Manning Street, NEWTOWN, VIC, 3220 |
| WATTS Mr J H | 8/64 Berry Street, NOWRA, NSW, 2541 |
| WATTS Mr F J | 11 St Albans Street, ST ALBANS PARK, VIC, 3219 |
| WATTS Mr G S | PO Box 37404, WINNELLIE, NT, 0821 |
| WEARE Mr K C | 86 Swallow Street, INALA, QLD, 4077 |
| WEARN Mrs J A | 116 Chapman Parade, FAULCONBRIDGE, NSW, 2776 |
| WEARNE Mr J M | 25 Brunswick Circuit, KALEEN, ACT, 2617 |
| WEAVER Mrs A V P | Unit 81, Rowland Village, 301 Galston Road, GALSTON, NSW, 2159 |
| WEBB Mrs M | 49/37 St Kevins Avenue, BENOWA, QLD, 4217 |
| WEBB Mrs J A | 6 Hammond Drive, NERANG, QLD, 4211 |
| WEBB Mr R A | 55 Hawkesbury Road, SPRINGWOOD, NSW, 2777 |
| WEBER ML Mr R E | PO Box 235N, CAIRNS NORTH, QLD, 4870 |
| WEBSTER Mr R W | 4 Freisa Place, EATONS HILL, QLD, 4037 |
| WEBSTER Mr N T | 5 Avocado Lane, MALENY, QLD, 4552 |

WEEDEN Mr D W 27 Massey Street, EVATT, ACT, 2617
 WEIER Pastor R A 12 Bailey Street, NAMBOUR, QLD, 4560
 WELBOURNE Mr W E 52 Glamorgan Crescent, MOUNT MARTHA, VIC, 3934
 WELCH Mrs H 14 Galway Avenue, COLLINGSWOOD, SA, 5081
 WENKE Mr P B PO Box 333, WILLIAMSTOWN, VIC, 3016
 WEST OAM Mr H W Unit 52, 5 Hart Street, LANE COVE, NSW, 2066
 WESTBROOK Miss A M 20/105-109 Burns Bay Road, LANE COVE, NSW, 2066
 WESTON Mrs I L 625 Pine Ridge Drive, COBBLE HILL, BRITISH COLUMBIA,
 CANADA, V0R 1L1
 WETHERELL Dr D F Faculty of Arts and Education, Deakin University, GEELONG, VIC,
 3217
 WHISH-WILSON Mr Maurice 31 Running Creek Road, YANDINA, QLD, 4561
 WHITE Mrs T M 19 Cameron Avenue, ARTARMON, NSW, 2064
 WHITE Mr M J 14 Tullaroop Street, DUFFY, ACT, 2611
 WHITE Mr K J Jomtien Condotel, 311-312 Thappraya Rd, PATTAYA 20260,
 THAILAND,
 WHITE Mr M B PO Box 2501, TUGGERONG, ACT, 2901
 WHITECROSS Mrs M 232 Oceanview Road, OCEANVIEW, QLD, 4521
 WHITE-FARR Ms H PO Box 124, PINJARRA, WA, 6208
 WHITEHEAD Mr D B 2 Eden Court, CLEVELAND, QLD, 4163
 WHITEHOUSE Mr R W PO Box 801, TAREE, NSW, 2430
 WHITTAKER OAM Ms J L "Fairview", 1130 Old Taradale Road, TUMBARUMBA, NSW,
 2653
 WHITTEN OBE Lady Elizabeth C PO Box 201, PORT MORESBY 121, NCP, PNG,
 WHITTLE Mrs M 131A Victoria Road, WEST PENNANT HILLS, NSW, 2125
 WHITTRED Mr A C 1 Wentworth Court, MOUNT OMMANEY, QLD, 4074
 WHYTE Mr I N Address withheld
 WICKS Mr N F 39 Pelham Close, CHAPMAN, ACT, 2611
 WIGGINS Mr K J PO Box 150, BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS, NSW, 2216
 WIGHTMAN Mrs N 3/1 Dockside, 1 Cherry Street, BALLINA, NSW, 2478
 WILD Mrs P R PO Box 6616, CAIRNS, QLD, 4870
 WILKINSON Mr W R PO Box 4047, FRANKSTON, VIC, 3199
 WILKINSON Mr L R 6 Lions Street, MALANDA, QLD, 4885
 WILKINSON Mrs F Peter Cosgrove House, War Veterans Retirement Village,
 NARRABEEN, NSW, 2101
 WILLIAMS Mr P J 662 Olive Street, ALBURY, NSW, 2640
 WILLIAMS Mr G 1 Peeler Place, GOWRIE, ACT, 2904
 WILLIAMS Mr C D R PO Box 27 Pawong, 11/1 M002, Muang Songkhla, SONGKHLA
 THAILAND, 90100
 WILLIAMS (nee Coote) Mrs A 24 Melaleuca Drive, ST IVES, NSW, 2075
 WILLIAMS Mr L 24 Melaleuca Drive, ST IVES, NSW, 2075
 WILLIAMS Mr A S 30 Odessa Drive, WOODCROFT, SA, 5162
 WILLIAMSON Mr P G 17 Moonbie Street, SUMMER HILL, NSW, 2130
 WILLIS Mr B J 15/20 Enderby Close, NORTH COOGEE, WA, 6163
 WILLIS Mr D C 172-200 Schmidts Road, WATERFORD WEST, QLD, 4133
 WILLS Mr D E 11 Springdale Road, KILLARA, NSW, 2071
 WILSON Mr N L 28 Nelson Place, CURTIN, ACT, 2605
 WILSON Mr L A 17 Bentley Avenue, FORRESTVILLE, NSW, 2087

| | |
|------------------|---|
| WILSON Mrs A | 3 Hyde Place, HUGHES, ACT, 2605 |
| WILSON Mr M C | PO Box 6205, MITCHELTON, QLD, 4053 |
| WILSON Mr W T | 15 Pickering Street, MONASH, ACT, 2904 |
| WILSON Mrs J | PO Box 305, MOUNT MARTHA, VIC, 3934 |
| WILSON Mr T J | Rabaul Travelodge Hotel, PO Box 242, New Rabaul, RABAUL, PNG, East New Britain Province, 611 |
| WOODCOCK Mr A W | 100 Kooyong Avenue, WARRENUP, WA, 6330 |
| WOODHILL Mr R K | 26 Spencer Street, MITTAGONG, NSW, 2575 |
| WOODWARD Mr K R | PO Box 145, SOUTH GRAFTON, NSW, 2460 |
| WOOLCOCK Mr D G | 13 Kerferd Court, WEST WODONGA, VIC, 3690 |
| WORCESTER Mr J W | 119 Scenic Drive, BILAMBIL HEIGHTS, NSW, 2486 |
| WORSLEY Mr P T | 12 Cleopatra Drive, Coodanup, MANDURAH, WA, 6210 |
| WORTH Mr G P | 38 Cater Crescent, SUSSEX INLET, NSW, 2540 |
| WREN Mrs B | 10 Lindsay Avenue, Ballina Heights, CUMBALUM, NSW, 2478 |
| WRIGHT Mrs I | 47 Henderson road, BURPENGARY, QLD, 4505 |
| WRIGHT Mr J L | 2/16 Teak Circuit, BYRON BAY, NSW, 2481 |
| WRIGHT Mr R B | 176 Kurrujong Rd, JIMBOOMBA, QLD, 4280 |
| WRIGHT Mr N | 2 Motu Close, PACIFIC PINES, QLD, 4211 |

Y

| | |
|----------------|---|
| YATES Mr G C | PO Box 1, EUNGELLA, QLD, 4757 |
| YATES Mr R A | 142 The Boulevard, IVANHOE, VIC, 3079 |
| YAXLEY Mr K R | 331/15 Albert Avenue, BROADBEACH, QLD, 4218 |
| YELLAND Mr L C | Cypress Gardens, 24 River Crescent, BROADBEACH WATERS, QLD, 4218 |
| YEOMANS Mrs M | 28 London Creek Road, PEACHESTER, QLD, 4519 |
| YIP Mr C | 34 Merelynn Avenue, WEST PENNANT HILLS, NSW, 2125 |
| YOUNG Mr C G | 14 Kingsview Drive, FLAXTON, QLD, 4560 |
| YOUNG Mr D J | 9 Vista Court, SOMERVILLE, VIC, 3912 |
| YOUNG Ms A | PO Box 710, SUNBURY, VIC, 3429 |
| YOUNG Dr R | 248 Bobbin Head Road, TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074 |
| YOUNG Mrs M E | 248 Bobbin Head Street, TURRAMURRA, NSW, 2074 |

Z

| | |
|----------------|--|
| ZEHNDER Mr J O | PO Box 755, SPIT JUNCTION, NSW, 2088 |
| ZIGAS Mrs J | Aronskelkgweg 40,, 2555 GK 'S-Gravenhage, NETHERLANDS, |
| ZWAR Mr A R | 18 Shortridge Street, MODBURY HEIGHTS, SA, 5092 |