



# Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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

## Annual General Meeting And Luncheon

Date: **Sunday 28 April 2013**

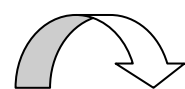
**Venue:** Killara Golf Club in Sydney. Full details are on page 3 of this issue; booking slip and payment form are on a separate yellow insert.

*The Management Committee would like to thank all those who sent Seasons Greetings.*

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

If you would like your email address included - please E: [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net)

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**'UNA VOCE' IS THE JOURNAL OF  
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Please send all correspondence to: **The  
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Mona Vale NSW 1660.**

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

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**Advertising** is available - please contact the Editor.

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

**Membership is available to any person having an interest in PNG.** Annual subscription - \$30. The membership year corresponds to the calendar year and an application form is available from the Secretary at the above address or you can download one from our website.

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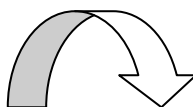
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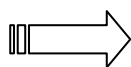
**We encourage members to please pay membership fees by direct deposit to the PNGAA account as follows:**

BSB: 062 009 Account No.: 0090 7724

Please ensure you include your Membership Number. If you could also notify our Treasurer by email that would be appreciated. Thank you!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Deadline for June issue of *Una Voce*: 17 May 2013**



**The PNGAA collection at the Fryer Library can be accessed at,**

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

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia, Incorporated, will be held in Sydney on Sunday 28 April 2013 at the Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara, NSW, commencing at 11:30 am.

A Luncheon has been arranged starting at approximately 1:00 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Members present and apologies.
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 61<sup>st</sup>. AGM (circulated in June 2012 Una Voce p61)
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Receipt of Audited Financial Statements
6. Certificate required by Section 27 (1) (b) of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009
7. Correspondence
8. Election of Honorary Auditor (Refer Rule 37 of the Constitution)  
Mr. Len Bailey, CPA, a Life Member of the Association, offers himself for re-election
9. To note the election (unopposed) of the Management Committee of the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia for 2013-14 Rules 16 and 25 (2) c of the Constitution
10. General discussion

### AGM Luncheon Details

Please note that alcoholic beverages will be available from a cash-only bar. Members, their families and friends are all welcome – but please let us know if you wish to come to the luncheon by completing the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow insert and returning it as soon as possible. *Anyone with special dietary requests?* Please let us know.

Please let us know if you would like transport from Lindfield station which has lifts and a ramp - phone Harry West #9418 8793. Public transport # 131500. There is free on-site parking available to those driving – look for the red and yellow balloons at the entrance immediately after Fiddens Wharf Road on the Pacific Highway as you travel north.

The cost is \$50.00 per person – this does not include liquor or soft drinks - those attending need to pay by 16 April please, and not at the door. If you wish to confirm any seating preferences or that your payment has been received, please ring Juli Allcorn on Ph.: 02-9416 1430 Mob: 0405 625 912 or Email: [juliallcorn@gmail.com](mailto:juliallcorn@gmail.com) prior to 16 April.

Cancellations advised to Ann Graham (02 9999 4490) by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 will secure a full refund. This is the date we inform the Club of final numbers – after this date the Association must pay for those unable to attend.

**Please complete the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow 'Treasurer's Corner' insert and return by 5pm Tuesday 16 April.**

**Please note that there is no postal ballot for the 2013 election has all 10 positions have been filled unopposed. We will be farewelling some older faces and welcoming some new ones!**

Details regarding the Annual General Meeting will be posted on our website in the near future.

**The objects of the Association are:**

1. to strengthen the civil relationship between the peoples of Australia and Papua New Guinea;
2. to foster and encourage contact and friendship with Papua New Guineans and promote friendly association among members;
3. to foster and maintain an interest in contemporary and historical events in Papua New Guinea;
4. to provide appropriate financial, material or intellectual assistance to projects of benefit to Papua New Guinea as an Association individually, or in conjunction with other agencies;
5. to publish journals, magazines, newsletters, websites, books and other media to inform and educate people about Papua New Guinea and to provide a means of communication among members of the Association and others;
6. to encourage the preservation of documents, historical and cultural material related to Papua New Guinea; including the production and recording of oral and written histories.
7. to safeguard and foster the retirement conditions of superannuated members of the former services in Papua New Guinea.

In pursuance of these Objects, the association:

1. Will not be involved in, nor engage in partisan politics; however this does not prohibit the association from engaging with members of parliament or public servants in pursuit of its objects.
2. May raise funds for its approved projects.

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

## UPDATE ON PNGAA ACTIVITIES

**By Andrea Williams**

**New Editor:** After nine years at the helm it is time to step back and allow someone else the enormous privilege of being your Editor! I have thoroughly enjoyed this tremendous connection with our members and look forward to keeping in touch.

I now wish to introduce Keith Wall, from Cairns, who has edited the March 2013 *Una Voce* – a very warm welcome Keith!

**Events:** It has been a busy few months with several events taking place and some major activities taking shape. The Christmas Luncheon in Sydney with Dame Carol Kidu as guest speaker was an enormously successful day with a vibrant spirit. A dinner in Brisbane was organised with Justice Logan updating those present on his experiences with the PNG judiciary and advocating that the PNGAA support the introduction of a Rhodes Scholarship in PNG. Sean Dorney, our delightful Master of Ceremonies, recalled some of his more bizarre experiences reminding us why PNG is so unique. The following day, a group of approximately 15 were privileged to be given a free personal tour of the PNG collection within the 20<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane by Curator, Ruth McDougall. All agreed it was extraordinary and most enjoyable. Ruth explained that the focus for the exhibition was on ephemeral structures where artists are asked to step outside their usual confines, creating traditional objects whilst using contemporary media. Several artists were brought from the Sepik to Brisbane for two months and, in promoting their own culture, met and could be influenced by other artists.



To Perth - and Murray Day has kindly offered to coordinate a gathering for Perth members - somewhere close to transport with easy parking. If you are interested, please email him at: [murraythelma1@bigpond.com](mailto:murraythelma1@bigpond.com) or contact Marie Clifton-Bassett Ph.: 02-9958 3408.

### **Digitisation of Material Relating to Papua New Guinea's History**

The PNGAA is establishing a committee, chaired by Michael Waterhouse, to investigate the scope of and seek Government support for a digitisation project that would enable material documenting PNG's history to be made accessible to researchers in PNG and Australia. This project is necessary because a large amount of documentation of PNG's history is located in Australia and Papua New Guineans are effectively denied the opportunity to research their own history. This is a significant issue as history is the key to establishing a country's national identity. Digitisation of original materials offers a solution not available to previous generations. The Committee might determine the best way to seek Government support for a survey to see just what might be involved, and a request for funding may be made on the basis of the results of the survey.

### **PNG Historical sites, cemeteries and memorials – Please refer December 2012 Una Voce p16**

The PNGAA would like to establish a photographic and factual register (database) of identified historical sites, cemeteries and memorials - together with identification of any potential local government or Provincial Government authority that may be a stakeholder. This register will initially be made available on the PNGAA website.

If you can assist with photos or information please contact PNGAA member, Paul Johnson on email: [johnsonpa@optusnet.com.au](mailto:johnsonpa@optusnet.com.au)

## **INTEGRATION OF RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU SOCIETY WITH PNGAA**

After investigations by a joint working group, the PNGAA Management Committee recently agreed to the proposal that the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society (RMMS) integrate with the PNGAA, to operate as a sub-committee of the PNGAA Management Committee established under Rule 22 with functions in conformity with the RMMS objectives, for example, for historical research and for educational and training purposes related to the New Guinea Islands which were affected by the events of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru tragedies in 1942, using the substantial balance of funds received from RMMS for these purposes.

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society was initiated within the PNGAA Management Committee in late 2008. It subsequently operated as a separate

identity and, now that its major goal has been achieved with the dedication of the national memorial at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, it was agreed to wind the Society up with a proposal that it return to the PNGAA as a sub-committee to manage new and ongoing objectives, which are broadly in line with those of the PNGAA.

A separate fund will be maintained for the transferred assets of the RMMS; also, any measures necessary to ensure that any fiduciary duty binding on RMMS officers or the PNGAA in respect of RMMS funds will be diligently observed.

### **Website**

The website [www.memorial.org.au](http://www.memorial.org.au) will continue with the same name. There will be more opportunity to cross reference appropriate articles.

### **Newsletter**

*Memorial News*, the RMMS newsletter, will cease and a section in *Una Voce* will be specifically allocated for Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society news and activities.

### **RMMS Sub-committee**

A dedicated sub-committee, elected at the last AGM of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society, will administer and be accountable to the PNGAA for the pursuit of RMMS purpose and objectives within the PNGAA. This sub-committee will be chaired by Frazer Harry.

### **Ideas for some of its activities include:**

- an annual commemorative function at the memorial on or near 1 July with a luncheon or dinner for those attending and ensuring the funds are spent wisely (*Please register your interest to attend in 2013 on June 29/30 with Marg Curtis* Email: [Marg.Curtis@hsv.com.au](mailto:Marg.Curtis@hsv.com.au) or M: 0418323 555)
- some form of educational/training grant which could be within PNG and/or Australia
- support of PNGVR Museum
- further research relating to the mortuary cards and NAA Montevideo Maru list
- a civilian memorial, to include names, located in East New Britain.

These worthwhile and important initiatives of the Association will assist towards refocussing it towards a more meaningful role in fostering better relations between the peoples of PNG and Australia.



# *Tingting tasol*

## **From the Editor Elect –**

I responded to a request in the September edition of *Una Voce* for those with an interest in the editorial production of this journal. So here I am now as Acting Editor. I hope I can meet the benchmark standards that have been tirelessly and professionally provided by our previous Editors.

I was sent to Papua New Guinea in 1974 for a two year term transfer, and returned to Australia in 2004. I initially went as a radio technician with the (then) Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) to the Jacksons Airport radar section. There was no airport radar at Jacksons until at least the mid-80s. Among the many “other duties as directed” jobs, I worked at Nadzab airport during construction, and as a technical instructor at the now nonexistent Civil Aviation Training College at Six Mile (Taldora). Many of the graduates from that College are now senior administrators with the Civil Aviation Department, and remain good friends and colleagues. After my position was “localised”, I transferred to Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Technical Communications Directorate. After qualifying training courses and numerous level examinations, I took a commission with the RPNGC and filled various support roles, including technical support advisor to National Disaster and Emergency Services department, and National Security

Advisory Committee. I left RPNGC after an extended tour of duty in Bougainville during the 1990s insurrection crises.

Following Bougainville, I went back to civvie street and worked in the radio communications industry, finally settling down into maritime communications technical support. I left Port Moresby after a long period of job uncertainty and took an early retirement to “the village”. I went with my wife and second young family to her clans’ land at Mukawa village on Cape Vogel in the Milne Bay Province. We built a house there, and I kept busy clearing an old coconut plantation, planting, putting in water pipe lines and running a small trade store. The money stopped flowing when the local airstrip closed.

Back to Port Moresby for a few more years and then back to Australia. My first job in Townsville had me travelling regularly to PNG sub-contracting to companies that I had just previously left, all on the grounds that I had previous experience in those roles. I now live and work in Cairns

My wife regularly goes back to Milne Bay, but I don’t get to have that luxury these days.

**Keith Wall**



## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2012

Over 190 people attended the wonderful Christmas lunch last December organised by Juli Allcorn and her small band of helpers. The spirit and atmosphere of the day will be long remembered. 'Mariah and the Wantoks', aka committee member Gima Crowdy, drew an



Juli Ross Allcorn with Dame Carol Kidu

enormous following with many joining in the singing. It was heartening to see many of our interstate members back again - as well as Sir Ray Thurecht and Lady Bet Whitten who came from Port Moresby. We were grateful that Lady Carol Kidu was able to join us from Port Moresby - her address was greatly enjoyed and much appreciated. The text of this address can be read at: <http://www.pngaa.net/Library/CarolKidu.htm>



Left: Andrea Williams with Dame Carol Kidu  
Right: Bob Cleland, Ross Johnson and Pat Bradley



Lower Left: Jill Marsh, Jennifer Davies, Margaret Johnston



Lower right: Pamela Foley and Joe Nitsche



## MYSTERY UTE AT ELA BEACH PORT MORESBY

The aircraft is a Bristol F.2B (ex -Royal Air Force fighter) being assembled at Ela beach, Port Moresby in January 1928 for Bulolo Goldfields Aeroplane Service Ltd.. The aircraft was then flown off the beach and over the range with two DH-9 aircraft to Salamaua. This was the first flight over the Owen Stanley Ranges.



The aircraft was converted to Bristol Tourer standard circa October 1924, after having been exported to Australia from Britain. G-AUEB was used at one stage by Qantas as an air ambulance.

The aircraft was written off in a crash at Wau, New Guinea on 17 April 1928.

Note: If anyone can identify the old ute in the photo (is it a Model A Ford?) please contact Bob Piper Email: [mars55@tpg.com.au](mailto:mars55@tpg.com.au)

*This photograph appears in multiple locations on the internet and it is difficult to determine its origin. Ed.*

## REUNIONS

► Possible reunion **Rabaul High School Students** 1969 thru to 73/74. We are thinking of having a reunion in June/July in Brisbane Qld. If you want to come or know any other ex-students, please email me [rabaul1959@gmail.com](mailto:rabaul1959@gmail.com) with your name and contact details and what year you attended.

**Sophie Watson nee Wong**

## NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

**Jim Toner**

Many of our members have interesting backgrounds and Dr Albert Foreman now practicing in Darwin is certainly one of these. As a young man in Melbourne he graduated in Civil Engineering and joined COMWORKS in the NT for ten years. In 1967 he was posted to Moresby as Senior Engineer for Roads and Aerodromes in Papua. By 1971 having obtained a Diploma in Education he began teaching in High Schools. However during 1972-75 he studied medicine at UPNG and his 1976-77 internship took him to hospitals in Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Goroka, Kainantu and Kudjip Mission. He was responsible for surgery and obstetrics at Mt. Hagen before seeking overseas experience in 1978.

Dr Foreman has maintained his interest in PNG, attended the 48th Annual Medical Symposium in Moresby last September, and plans to be in Lae for the next conference this year.

Marengo Mining Ltd is poised to commence copper mining at Yanderra near Bundi and its Field Manager is Paul MASON. He bears the same name as his father the valiant Bougainville Coastwatcher but is better known to me as "Paulipops". Paul was raised on Inus plantation but when his mother, Noelle, visited Mendi where the Masons operated a trade store, she would telegraph her husband with details and conclude "Much love to Paulipops", then a small boy. As the Mendi radio operator I invariably had to spell this out (Peter-Able-Uncle etc.) for the operator at Madang to the considerable amusement of listeners.

After his father died in 1972 Paul jnr. worked in Highlands businesses until 2000 before moving to Brisbane but he returned to PNG in 2008 for the mining company where he works an unusual schedule, 5 weeks on followed by 3 weeks off. Apart from the 95 km pipeline to a new port on the coast another interesting proposal from the miners is the creation of a road from Yanderra over the Bismarck Range to Kundiawa. Good luck.

Weekend editions of the PNG Post-Courier have been carrying historical accounts of sporting events during 'the colonial era'. These have been supplied from the records of Dave Keating, former chalkie (ASOPA 1961/62). One tale which I had never heard before referred to Peter Manser, a Gibbes Sepik pilot, who many readers will have known. A rugby league team was flying from Rabaul to Lae for an inter-Zone match when their Fokker got sick and had to be put down at Kimbe. Gloom! Then Manser's DC3 floated in with a cargo of copra which he promptly tipped out and replaced with side saddle seats to accommodate the footballers. The flight thus resumed reached Lae just in time for the opening whistle.

*Pasin bilong Territory tru.*

I discover that I have now been contributing news and notes from the Top End to *Una Voce* for 23 years. With a bit of luck I intend to continue but in the meantime have been able to take a peek at our archives for 1989. The first thing to be said is that Nick Booth has done a hugely impressive job in placing them on the PNGAA website and all members owe him for his time and toil.

My first offering, made at the urging of Harry WEST, appeared in the September 1989 edition in which I noticed a Vale entry for Bob Towers, ex-DCA. This reminded me that he had established a cinema for indigenes in Boroko called the Nita Theatre where one evening being at a loose end and observing that 'ZULU' (in which a fistful of VCs were awarded to the winning side at Rorke's Drift) was the main feature I decided it should have my patronage.

Sadly when I pushed my money across the counter to the cashier it was swiftly shoved back at me. "No Europeans in 'ere" declared the expatriate. "Youse only get down the front row touching up the *meris*". Suitably abashed I headed for the door and had to watch the film years later.

To my surprise when this incident was reported in the December issue it read "chatting up the *meris*". The Editor's decision is final and I had great respect for Doug Parrish and the work he was doing in maintaining *Una Voce* for us at a high standard. Not to forget that he was concurrently our President so I asked no questions but the 'Black Knight' was good enough to inform me that in effecting the change of verb he had been obliged to take into account the sensitivities of our more senior lady members....

I said no more but did in fact wonder a little about the presumed delicate condition of those ladies who had accompanied their man to PNG to live in *pitpit* huts lit by Tilley lamps and serviced by long drop toilets. But the words "tough old birds" shall never pass my lips. ■



### **KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH**

If you could find the time and would like to nominate yourself as a point of contact to organise small social gatherings for PNGAA members and to welcome new PNGAA members in your area or to support a particular goal or PNG related project, please let either the Secretary, Marie Clifton-Bassett E: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) or Ph.: 02-9958-3408 or Juli Allcorn E: [juliallcorn@gmail.com](mailto:juliallcorn@gmail.com) Mob: 0405 625 912 know.

## **PNG...IN THE NEWS**

► Now on at the Gallery of Modern Art and the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, is The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT), including works from Papua New Guinea. These include a spectacular group of performance masks as well as painted and carved structures from New Britain and the Sepik. On until 14 April 2013.

See

[http://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/current/apt7\\_asia\\_pacific\\_triennial\\_of\\_contemporary\\_art](http://www.qagoma.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/current/apt7_asia_pacific_triennial_of_contemporary_art)

### **► New Chairman for Ok Tedi Mining Limited** Media Release PNGSDP 11 Jan 2013

The board of PNG Sustainable Development Program Limited (PNGSDP) announced that it had accepted the resignation of Professor Ross Garnaud as PNGSDP's nominee chairman and director for Ok Tedi Mining Limited. PNGSDP is the majority shareholder of Ok Tedi Mining Limited owning 63 per cent. The board of PNGSDP has nominated its chairman, Sir Mekere Morauta to succeed professor Garnaud on the board of Ok Tedi Mining Limited.

### **► The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall**

visited Papua New Guinea for three days on November 3 2012. It was Prince Charles's first visit to the country in 28 years. The country's capital had been in road works overdrive for the month preceding the visit to repair some of the city's notoriously pot-holed streets at a cost of \$A4.8 million.

Prince Charles, who is colonel-in-chief of the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment, presented the infantry unit with new colours.

### **► The Manus Island detention centre.**

The Australian Federal government signed an agreement in mid-2012 to house hundreds of asylum seekers in the Manus Island facility, used previously by the former Australian government. It once was part of the Lombrum Naval base built during World War 2 for mostly American forces. There have been intermittent news items since then concerning the conditions there and at the Nauru centre. One for example quoted an official as saying the conditions there were "similar to PNG people's living conditions." On 8/1/13, an ABC radio news item reported that Belden Namah, the PNG Opposition Leader, was threatening to go to court because he questioned the legality of the detention centre because the detainees "have not broken PNG laws."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

► **Brian Hartley** writes:

The article on pages 17-19 of Issue 2012 No. 3 September by Bob Cleland brought back memories of my time as a Patrol Officer in Rabaul during '74 and '75.

During that time, one of my duties was to liaise with the Patrol Officers in Charge at the patrol posts of Milim on Wide Bay and Molot on the Duke of York Islands. One of the ways to do that was to actually visit them, by means of the government trawlers based at Rabaul, so from November '74 to August '75 that is what I did, at intervals of 2 or 3 weeks, depending on requirements at the time.

Quite often I was the only passenger, but there were times when other people also needed our help to access otherwise inaccessible places. We always had cargo to deliver to various plantations, including Tol, and the two patrol posts, plus a couple of deliveries also to the sub district office at Pomio in Jacquinot Bay. We usually left Rabaul on Tuesday evening to arrive in Wide Bay early Wednesday morning so, if the weather conditions were ok, it was possible to get a sleep overnight. We had to anchor offshore, as there was no jetty, and go ashore by dinghy. I would then spend as much time as needed with the Patrol Officer (PO) receiving his reports, discussing and where necessary viewing any problems, also passing on information and advice from district HQ. Visits to view any problem sites or work in progress often entailed bone-shaking journeys on a tractor drawn trailer along a dirt road.

We would try to sail north again by mid to late afternoon, so that we could then be at the Duke of York Islands by early Thursday morning, where there was a jetty we could tie up to. I would then follow the same procedure as at Milim, with the PO at Molot. When we were both satisfied that we had said, done and seen everything necessary, all that was then left was the short journey across to Rabaul.

I would then resume my other duties on the Rural Improvement Programme, (as the) Housing, Licensing, Social Development and VIP Liaison Officer. My availability for the trawler trips was restricted by being appointed Acting OIC of the Civil Defence from February to April in '74, and again from August to November 75.

Most of the trawler trips were fairly routine but still interesting, enjoyable and quite rewarding. There was added interest occasionally, such as when we trawled a couple of lines over the stern and managed to catch some fairly large fish, then there were two occasions when weather intervened and we had to find sheltered inlets to anchor in overnight, before proceeding onto Molot.

One memorable event was when another PO and I were returning to Rabaul and the trawler suddenly started to sail in a circle. (This was) followed by the crew of three (Captain, Engineer, Deckhand) 'abandoning ship' leaving the two of us wondering what the heck was going on and whether or not we were capable of 'taking charge of the vessel'! We soon saw the reason for the action by the crew. It was two turtles on the surface nearby, which the crew brought back and we helped to get them aboard. The crew were only interested in them as food, so they were happy to sell us the shells.

In all respects my time based in Rabaul was quite fascinating, with my wife and daughter there to share it. A weekend in West New Britain teaching Refereeing, helping to organise and officiate at the New Guinea Islands soccer championships, meeting and escorting VIPs from various countries, the Queen's visit, Self-Government and Independence - it was a really great time to be there.

► **Pam Marquardt** writes:

Some time ago I read a web page relating to Samarai Island, with an attached article regarding the Samarai Cemetery Restoration project. I have attempted to contact the relevant person, Judith Bona, on several occasions, but without success.

My interest in this project stems from the fact that my Great Grandfather is buried in the LOGEA Cemetery. His name was James Lomax, and he was involved in gold mining on Woodlark Island. He became ill with fever and dysentery and died on board the boat as it returned to Samarai.

The story of his demise was documented in a Cooktown newspaper in February, 1901.

As I am searching for some kind of documentation relating to the burial of James Lomax, I would be most grateful for any news relating to the cemetery restoration. James was a ship builder of note, from Balmain in Sydney. He also worked in Lismore, Fiji and Brisbane. My great grandmother had died in Brisbane in 1898, so it would seem James decided to try his luck on Woodlark. It turned out not to be a wise decision.

*Ed: Two articles appeared in March 2007 and June 2006 issues*

► **Des Martin** writes:

(The late) Bob Blaike and I met up in Lae in January 1949. He was Patrol Officer based in Lae and I was visiting from Finschhafen. We served together in the Milne Bay District in the mid/late 1950's - Bob as Assistant District Officer (ADO) in the Trobriands and me as ADO Baniara and later Esa'Ala.

A wonderful bloke and colleague whose friendship I valued. We caught up accidentally about ten years ago when his daughter was at a birthday party for a distant relative of mine and I was introduced as ex PNG. Through her I renewed my friendship with Bob and he visited my home a few times and we were in regular contact by phone or e-mails until his recent death.

I am attaching a piece I wrote mainly for my children about the Mt. Lamington eruption in January 1951 which bonded Bob and me together for all time. It was a horrendous experience for both of us.

*Ed: Des' article "Mount Lamington" will appear in June 2013 edition of Una Voce*



## **CORRECTION**

*Una Voce* No 3 September 2012 page 42

Photo taken of 1952 Protestant Girl Guide group at Sacred Heart School Rabaul where Mary Lou Uechtritz taught. The uniforms of this Girl Guide group varied to those of the Catholic Girl Guide group.

If you recognise anyone in the photo please contact Mary Lou Uechtritz by email: [uechtritz.marylou@gmail.com](mailto:uechtritz.marylou@gmail.com)

This 1963 film about the Mt Hagen Show can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/HagenShow>

► there is a new site [www.pngclimate.net](http://www.pngclimate.net), it has multiple fixed cameras at various locations around PNG The Rabaul site has a camera focused on Tavuvur with an update picture every 10 minutes. Weather in Papua New Guinea, including climate overview, seasons, and a 7 day forecast Climate Monitoring Network, PNG

► Mark Baker's Tribute to Sir Barry Holloway was in The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald at the following links;

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/an-affair-to-remember-20130131-2dnel.html>

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/an-affair-to-remember-20130131-2dnel.html>

## **PNG Society of Writers, Editors and Publishers**

By: Bob Cleland

On Saturday 9 February 2013, a significant literary double bill meeting will take place in Port Moresby. Bob Cleland will introduce, and then demonstrate, the concept of small writers' groups. Later in the year, he plans to visit other centres in PNG to repeat the exercise. Writers groups, which will be called 'Writers Bungs' in PNG, consist of 10 or so writers, from beginners to experienced, meeting regularly as equals to talk about each other's writing. Bungs will be informal with only a few basic procedural rules. Experience with similar groups elsewhere has proven them to be an enjoyable way of improving writing skills and just talking about writing in a friendly social setting.

Second, the Society will launch the *Crocodile Prize* for 2013. The Society president, Ms. Amanda Donigi says "With the success of the Crocodile Prize in 2012, we are really excited about what is to come in 2013. As well as administering the Prize, we also hope that our society (SWEP) can offer regular opportunities for writers to improve their skills, including their ability to research their theme or genre then edit and revise their own writing to perfection. Events such as the Writer's Bung are excellent opportunities for writers to meet and share their experiences, successes, and challenges to be able to really move forward with the craft of writing in Papua New Guinea.

We are extremely grateful for the time and effort that Mr. Bob Cleland has put, and will put, towards these Bungs in Papua New Guinea this year."

Bob will report in full for the June *Una Voce*.



## **Barry Blyth Holloway –**

**Champion of PNG independence**

- ***From: The Australian January 26, 2013***

**OBITUARY Sir Barry Blyth Holloway. Patrol officer and Papua New Guinea politician. Born Kimberley, Tasmania, September 26, 1934. Died Brisbane, January 16, aged 78.**

THE generation of Australians who grew up in the 1940s and 50s heard much from their older brothers and fathers about war.

The best of them volunteered for their own challenge. At an astonishingly young age, they travelled to the remotest corners of their country's big tropical colony to administer vast areas and populations of Papua New Guinea.

They were magistrates, police chiefs, road and bridge builders, health and education supervisors, all roles wrapped in one, that of the patrol officer or "kiap" - a word derived from the old days of German New Guinea.

This afternoon, appropriately Australia Day, the best of those best is being buried at St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in the tiny north Tasmanian township of Kimberley, alongside his parents.

He is Barry Holloway, the most prominent Australian to stay on in independent PNG and the best-known of a generation of patrol officers who effectively ran the country until independence in 1975 and maintained a key role afterwards. He was still playing a central role in PNG life until recent days, almost succeeding in recapturing his Eastern Highlands constituency at last year's election, aged 78.



Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said in a tribute to the man his country knighted: "At independence, he was one of the first to take out citizenship.

"He had no hesitation in embracing the new nation of Papua New Guinea."

Sir Barry, a hard-living, empathetic intellectual, typical of the best of the kiaps, arrived in the then Australian territory in 1953, aged just 18, following a six-week orientation course.

He told ABC radio: "We were given basic, multi-functional activities to do, such as learning how to map, how to handle government stores, and all sorts of clerical work, which really dampened our spirits somewhat, because we were coming up for

high adventure."

Which he certainly found.

He was one of about 1000 kiaps who each ruled and helped develop vast areas of the country during the 25 years leading to independence.

He described an early assignment to settle a tribal conflict involving hundreds of fighters.

He was accompanied by a handful of PNG police armed with .303 rifles, which he said appeared to the combatants to be mere sticks.

"We demonstrated the power of the rifle by lining up about five shields, and showing how the bullet would come out causing a great gap at the other side."

Sir Barry established himself as a political systems reformer, so impressing Paul Hasluck, as minister for territories on a visit to his Kainantu district in the Eastern Highlands that Hasluck put him on his aircraft and flew him to headquarters to brief senior officials.

He was also a founder, with Michael Somare, of the Pangu Party that pressed strongest for independence. Tony Voutas, a fellow patrol officer and then a fellow MP, and also a founder of Pangu, described Sir Barry as "a combination of a political mastermind and an exceptionally generous person".

"He made a substantial personal and financial contribution in 1966 and onwards to a nascent 'Left Bank salon' in the new Port Moresby suburb of Hohola, built for Papua New Guineans recruited into the public service."

The political salon was centred on the basic fibro houses of the then union activist Albert Maori Kiki and of Sir Barry, about 150m apart. Voutas said: "The Information and Broadcasting Department's new recruit, Michael Somare, had an identical house about 400m away."

To push for independence before the 1968 elections was an especially brave move by Sir Barry, Voutas said, "As his electorate was in the Highlands, where many people were as frightened of self-government as if it were an apocalypse".

But Sir Barry won his seat, and later became Speaker, from 1972 to 1975.

He was appointed to the cabinet at independence, and held a series of senior portfolios during his 20 years as an MP.

These included education and finance - thus effectively making him the country's treasurer.

He eventually fell out with Sir Michael and formed a new party, with the late Anthony Siaguru.

Sir Barry had three wives, Liz from Australia, and Ikini and Fua from PNG, 12 children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

HOLLOWAY, Sir Barry Blyth. - On Australia Day, Sir Barry Blyth Holloway, one of Tasmania's distinguished but unheralded sons will be buried in Kimberley. After initially serving with the Australian Administration he entered politics to become a voice of moderation, restraint and good sense within the youthful, political elite leading to Papua New Guinea gaining political independence from Australia in 1975. Australia benefited much from Sir Barry's service in Papua New Guinea and Tasmania may be proud that he was one of ours. R. Giddings.

*Published in the Mercury on January 24, 2013*

## Brian John HOLLOWAY, CBE QPM



Brian was born on 31 July 1927, in Adelaide, South Australia. He was the third and last surviving son of Percy Holloway KPM and Mabel Holloway of Adelaide.

Brian married the love of his life, Fae Ferguson on November 19, 1948. Brian and Fae had three children: Patricia (Patsy) (Dec. 1972), Gary and Susan. They had five grandchildren: Scott, Ben, Sam, Tess and Brandi and four great grandchildren: Trinity, Alex, Eve and Elizabeth.

After entering the South Australian Police College in 1943, he became noted for his considerable athletic ability and won the Police Heavyweight Boxing Championship at a time when boxing was a major sporting activity in the police force.

Brian also won the police athletics one mile championship in 4 minutes 27 seconds, a very respectable effort at the time when the world record was still above 4 minutes. He broke and held the State Basketball goal-scoring record for many years with 96 points scored in a single game.

Recalling an event on the parade ground in his police college days, Brian's unpublished autobiography begins with the words, bawled at him by Inspector Bill 'Rajah' King, formerly of the Indian Army, *'OLLIWAY YOU ARE THE TYPE OF SILLY LOOKIN BASTID THAT WOULD WEAR PIJAMIS ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF 'IS HONEYMOON'*. He had a great sense of humour and would often sign his letters 'Brine'.

Soon after graduation, Brian was posted to Port Adelaide which held special memories for him. "My last and most memorable recollection of the time I spent in the Port, concerns again standing on the Black Diamond Corner, this time with another Police Officer called Ned Kelly. Ned and I were on afternoon shift on a quiet afternoon when a bus pulled up and a young girl of about eighteen alighted.

She was dressed in red, had her hair done up on top of her head in a bun and was, without question, the most gorgeous young lady I had ever set eyes on. When she had walked past, Ned said 'Her name's Fae. She's the new cashier at the Ozone Theatre. Little did I realise then that this was the girl who was to become my wife, look after me with loving care and share my life and adventures in New Guinea and elsewhere.'

Looking for adventure, Brian took Fae to New Guinea a month after they were married in November 1948 where his first posting was Assistant Sub-Inspector in the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. In December of that year he was posted to Wau as Second in Command.

In May 1949 he was posted to Bulolo to establish the first Post War Police Detachment, and in December he and Fae moved to Rabaul where he was

Investigations Officer and Police Prosecutor. In November 1951 He was commended by the Commissioner of Police for the apprehension of two murderers who also raped their victim, a young girl.

In June 1952 he was appointed acting Inspector at Madang and then Officer-in-Charge. In March 1954 he was posted to Goroka in the Highlands to establish a police station where he was commended by the Commissioner of Police for successful investigations at Minj involving serious allegations of police corruption.

At Goroka, where Fae was in charge of the town kindergarten, Brian spent many weekends working on an impressive arbour, covered with passionfruit vines – a place with idyllic views to sit having a quiet drink around a barbecue. Before leaving for an outlying area one day he asked the sergeant in charge of the prison work detail to clean up the surrounding area and trim the vines. When he came home he said that it was like driving into Sydney with the harbour bridge gone. Something familiar was missing but he couldn't work out what until he realised that the shelter had been included in the clean-up. The sergeant stood smiling, well pleased with his efforts until he saw Brian pick up an axe and come towards him. The sergeant took off with Brian in hot pursuit and yelling dire threats – reminiscent, in Brian's words, of a Tom and Jerry cartoon – with Fae behind Brian calling out 'Brian don't you dare touch him' until the sergeant disappeared into Goroka.

In August 1957 he was promoted to Inspector and transferred to Kokopo as Officer-in-Charge of the District. In January 1960 he became Superintendent of Training and Personnel, (being the youngest Superintendent worldwide at the time).

He planned and established the Police College at Bomana, Port Moresby from which the first indigenous Police Officers graduated on 26 August 1964. He designed and wrote the entire course including training manuals and lecture materials.

He planned and established the Police Training Depot in Port Moresby and formulated the Riot Manual, with procedures to be adopted by police in the event of disturbances anywhere in the country.

He planned and conducted induction courses for overseas Officers appointed to the PNG Constabulary. He was appointed Chairman of the Police Recruiting Board, Promotions Board and Transfer and Dismissals Board. In this context he trained selected Police for special duties associated with border surveillance.

When severe riots broke out in Rabaul in July 1961, he was ordered there to introduce emergency procedures which earned him special commendation from the Administrator.

In keeping with his hard earned reputation as a specialist in handling out of control situations, he was placed in charge of the Police Contingent sent to Bougainville as a result of the peoples' rejection of Government Authority and Law and Order. He commanded the action involving 1200 civilians and eighty police. Brian was popular among the villagers of PNG and he stood out because of his height – 'five foot seventeen'. Some Solomon Islanders who had seen Brian in Moresby assured me that he was a 'looong-pela true'.

He represented PNG at an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East forum in Canberra on 'The Role of Police in the Protection of Human Rights'.

In April 1965 members of the Lyndon Johnson cargo cult were creating major unrest in New Hanover and Brian assumed command of the Police Contingent ordered there to deal with it. He was officially commended by the Commissioner of Police as a result of another successful outcome.

He was Posted to Rabaul as Divisional Superintendent, New Guinea Islands Division in June 1965 and again officially Commended by the Commissioner of Police over his handling of a serious incident involving many hundreds of squatters on disputed land in the Kokopo Region in October 1967.

Brian was promoted to Assistant Commissioner in July 1968. He was awarded the Queens Police Medal and the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, both in January 1969.

He was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary in December 1970.

He was appointed a Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in January 1971.

In 1972 he was elected President of a Senior Police Executive Officers Course at the Australian Police College. Chrissie and I stayed with Uncle Bri and Aunty Fae in Moresby for a few weeks at that time and Uncle Bri amazed me by singing a couple of songs from the Sound of Music. He was a fair way off sounding like Julie Andrews but he did sing in tune and there was even a bit of vibrato in there.

In May 1974 he was appointed Commissioner of Police, Royal PNG Constabulary. He attended the 43rd General Assembly Session of Interpol in Cannes, France, September 1974.

He retired as Commissioner of Police under Section 14 of the Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance Act) 1973, June 1975 as PNG became independent.

On September 16 1975, he was promoted to Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

In 1976 he retired after 28 years of truly dedicated service to the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary and he and Fae returned to Australia.

Brian and Fae lived in various places around Australia before retiring permanently in Perth including the Gold Coast, Geraldton and Horrocks. One of Brian's retirement projects was to produce his autobiography, an idea that was enthusiastically received by those of us who knew that his truly extraordinary life, his gift with words and his brilliant sense of humour would make a great story. It would be a tragedy if it is never published. Brian's career as a pioneering police officer in Papua New Guinea is best summed up in his own words:

'This is a story based on fact, about the old days of policing when common sense, loyalty and dedication were prerequisite to being a good police officer and before the introduction of 'modern methods'.

The world is a significantly better place for Brian having lived in it - and no-one can leave a better legacy than that. To me he was and always will be a real hero.

Robert Holloway

Brian HOLLOWAY CBE, QPM, PLS&GC <sup>1</sup>Medal joined the South Australia Police as a Cadet on 15.2.1943, at the age of fifteen following the tradition set by his father Percy Holloway, Kings Police Medal . During his training in the mounted police, "tent pegging" (galloping on horseback and taking out the stakes holding tents so that they collapsed) was part of the course. He never could understand why that was necessary in a modern police force. When in the police training depot, John Spillard Grimshaw (later to become the first post WW2 war police superintendent (later first commissioner) of the Royal Papuan Constabulary and New Guinea Police Force in 1947) was a senior instructor. Brian resigned from the police on 22.11.1948 and, inspired by Grimshaw, joined RPC&NGPF on 30.11.1948 as an assistant Sub Inspector.

His first posting was to Wau in December 1948, shortly after to be posted to Bulolo. Over the next few years he served widely at Rabaul, Kavieng, Madang, Minj, Goroka and Kokopo.

At the time of the Navuneram (Rabaul) riots in 1958 he was nearly murdered but saved by a courageous Senior Constable.

July 1961 saw him in charge of police during the Rabaul town riots between Sepik and Tolai tribes, in which 3 Tolai were shot dead by police. Tolais murdered three innocent Sepiks in the Papua New Guinea "pay back" fashion.

In February 1962 he was in charge of the police detachment at Hahahis, (Little Buka, Bougainville) during the insurrection of the "baby farm" anti-Council riots led by John Teosin and defrocked former Catholic priest Francis Hagai, who were, between then, breeding a "super race".

May 1965 saw him in charge of peacefully quelling the insurrection at Lavongai, New Ireland during the "President L.B. Johnson" cargo cult riots.

Again in October 1967 he was in charge of restoring major unrest involving hundreds of illegal squatters on disputed land in the at Kokopo, New Britain, area.

In January 1969, he was awarded the Queens Police Medal for meritorious and exemplary police service and, for service in policing in excess of 22 years, the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. January 1971 saw him being appointed to be a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE)

In a very real sense, Brian Holloway was the "Sheriff" of Papua New Guinea. Whenever there was an insurrection, he was placed in charge, even being recalled from leave in Australia on occasions to handle the explosive situation then existing.

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<sup>1</sup> Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

In the early 1960's he planned and established the Police College at Bomana from which the first 11 indigenous police graduated as Sub Inspectors on 26th August 1964 after a four year course.

On 10.7.1969 he was appointed Assistant Commissioner and on 3.12.1970 he was appointed Deputy Commissioner. In the transition period prior to forthcoming Independence was appointed on contract for a one year term as Commissioner of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary on 7.5.1974 a position which he held, as the last white Commissioner until he handed his baton to Commissioner Pius Barbey Kerepia on 8.5 1975

The peaceful transition of Papua New Guinea as administered by the Commonwealth of Australia to an Independent State within the British Commonwealth on 16.9.1975 is in very large part due to due to Brian Holloway for the planning, leadership, skills, dedication, courage, fortitude, exemplary character and respect with which he was held in the highest esteem by the Officers and indigenous police as well as the ordinary Papuan New Guinean. No man could have done more, recognition for which, after leaving Papua New Guinea, came in being appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in September 1975 (CBE)...

For some time he has been compiling his autobiography "Cadet to Commissioner" which remains unfinished,

He was one of the three surviving police officers (John Graham and James Dutton) of the late 1948/49 era of the Constabulary. He is survived by Fae, his wife of 64 years, son Gary, Susan and her husband Len Roberts-Smith and their sons Ben Roberts-Smith VC, MG, Australia's most highly decorated soldier and Sam Roberts-Smith, a tenor and Young Artist with Opera Australia. An exceptionally tall man, Brian was known by fellow police officers as "5 feet 17 inches". There will never be another Brian Holloway and he will be missed by all whom he touched in many ways.

Maxwell R. HAYES, RPNGC 1959-1974 1

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

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## **Kevin MURPHY: PNGRFL Stalwart**

*Extract with thanks to Post Courier of 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013 By **EPHATA SAMUEL***

Kevin came to PNG in the late 1960's as a young kiap and served in the West Sepik Province. He was a contemporary of the late Sir Barry Holloway. He left the kiap service and joined the Education Department as a primary school teacher.

"I first met him in 1970 when he was teaching at the Demonstration School at Goroka Teachers' College and I was at Hagen High School," close friend Hugh Greer said in his message when breaking the news to this paper on Friday.

"We got together and formed a combined Highlands school boy rugby league side and took them down to Lae to compete in the PNG trials to select a team to tour NSW. These were the days of barefoot Rugby League," Greer said.

Kevin then moved over to Vocational Schools and was manager of Agarabi Vocational Centre in 1975 when Greer went to Aiyura to complete the building of the National High School.

"We worked together in the Kainantu Rugby League and in 1976 Kevin was the secretary of the Highlands Zone Rugby League and I was the president, Greer recalled.

Kevin maintained his active involvement with Rugby League throughout all his time in PNG and in 2003 was awarded an OBE for services to the game. He moved into the private sector and worked at many jobs including Rothmans and Consort Express Lines. He also worked at the Goroka National Sports Institute for several years, on minimal conditions, helping to develop Rugby League in PNG.

Greer said: "His last job was with me in Niugini Oil when I employed him to run the Mt. Hagen branch and while still working there in 2008, he urgently travelled to Cairns for medical treatment."

Kevin was diabetic and unfortunately his right leg was amputated in 2009 as a result. While convalescing in Cairns, his wife Wendy died of cancer. This was a huge blow to his health and life style and Kevin was not able to return to PNG to work. After almost a year in Cairns, he moved to Tamworth where one of his sons settled him into a home. "Kevin could not stop talking about PNG and Rugby League....it was his life" Greer said. "He knew his health was not good but continued to enjoy life."

Last weekend he headed home to Orange, sadly, to attend the funeral of a young relative who had died in a motorbike accident. While in Orange, in the bosom of his family, with his sons around him, he had a massive heart attack and died.

"I met all Kevin's extended family while he was hospitalised in Cairns and saw the wonderful family he came from. Being Irish Catholic, it was of course a large family, he said.



Greer said Kevin's contribution to rugby league in PNG is unequalled by anyone but I'm sorry to say many did not appreciate the passion, commitment, money and time he put into the game.

"The current state of the game was a massive disappointment for Kevin, as it is for me," he said.

Another close family friend John Numapo when contacted said one of Kevin's son's Daniel rang on Friday morning to advise him of Kevin's death. "I was shocked when Daniel called because my only son is named after Kevin and we are very close," Numapo added that two of Kevin's three sons including Daniel were named after prominent Papua New Guineans. "His second born son is Daniel Sabumei Murphy, named after former member for Unggai/Bena and Ben Sabumei's father Sabumei Kofikai, and the third son is named Anthony Kilage Murphy, after former Governor General, late Sir Ignatius Kilage.

"I was a student at Goroka High School in the 70's when Kevin would come up from Kainantu while teaching at Agarabi Vocational Centre to conduct schoolboys training programs," Numapo recalled.

Numapo was first elected to the PNGRFL Board in 1989 when the late Sir Jim Jacobi was chairman. "That's where I met Kevin who was also serving as a Board member," Numapo said.

In 1996, Kevin was elected chairman of the PNGRFL replacing the late Joe Keviamé. He stood down as Chairman after a year and Numapo took over in 1997 as chairman but continued to serve on the Board as an ordinary member. Rod Pearce was the deputy Chairman then. "We set up a PNGRFL National Development Office at the National Training Institute in Goroka and appointed Kevin as the manager along with Joe Tokam and Francis Matmilo. He was reporting to Martin Adamson who was the General Manager of PNGRFL at the time," Numapo said. He said that since the problems of the PNGRFL started, Kevin had been in touch constantly sometimes calling in the middle of the night to talk about the problems and what must be done to solve it so that the game did not suffer. "He even volunteered to come up despite his health conditions to assist in solving the problems and get PNGRFL back on track," Numapo said. "Kevin Murphy contributed immensely to the development of rugby league in PNG. He had the game at heart and was so passionate about it. His dream was to see PNG equal with the other rugby league playing nations and one day to become the world champion," Numapo said.

Kevin believed in school boys and junior development as he always said that 'this is where rugby league starts.' Numapo said: "Kevin once told me that he had one wish when he died and that was "to put a PNGRFL flag and a rugby ball in his coffin because all the angels upstairs play rugby league and anyone coming through the gates to join the team must bring their own rugby league ball and a flag to indicate where he came from". He said Kevin's houses in Aubrey and Tamworth, NSW have PNG flags flying on the front veranda.

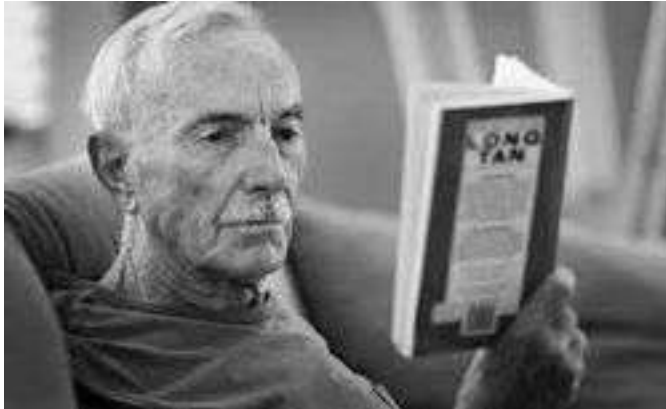
He spoke fluent pidgin and sometimes said he was "*PNG insait na waitman outside*".

## Australia Day Awards 2013

The Papua New Guinea Association of Australian congratulates the following members on their outstanding achievements:

### AOM

**Francis Xavier (Frank) ALCORTA**, 4/54 Johnson Street, Bargara Qld 4670



For service to veterans and their families, and to journalism.

Founding President, Northern Territory Branch, Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia, 1979-1985; played a prominent role in establishing Long Tan Day in the Northern Territory; Life Member, 1995.

Responsible for lobbying the Federal Government to establish

an office of the Department of Veterans' Affairs in Darwin.

Involved in the establishment of Coral House; a Veterans' refuge.

Chief political reporter and editorial writer, *Sunday Territorian* and *NT News*, 1985-1996.

**Rick Giddings** OAM for service to the community of Brighton.

**Gillian Nikakis** OAM for service to nursing through mental health support programs. Her father was a civilian who was lost with the *Montevideo Maru*.

### Senior Australian of the year 2013

**Emeritus Professor Dr Ian Maddocks**



Internationally recognised South Australian palliative care specialist still cares for the terminally ill and continues to supervise post graduate students. He was a specialist physician in the Australian Administration of Papua New Guinea for 14 years and, in 1971, became Foundation Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of PNG.

Dr Ian Maddocks recently published a book - PARI HANUA. Dr Roy Scragg wrote a joint review with SINGSING, SUTURES AND SORCERY by Dr Anthony Radford which was published in the recent

December 2012 *Una Voce*.

About PARI HANUA, Scragg writes: Dr Ian Maddocks has written the history of the Motuan village that accepted and entranced him for six years. In PARI HANUA, he has described the history of Pari and the Motu people based on oral history, post-colonial records and his personal observations...He has recorded the impact of western society on every aspect of community life over the past 130 years and illustrated it from photographic records. It is a story that every village near a centre in PNG could replicate...

See: [http://www.pngaa.net/Books/books\\_dec12.htm#Maddocks](http://www.pngaa.net/Books/books_dec12.htm#Maddocks)



### **A Flight of Terror – Kavieng to Rabaul -**

**By Paul Johnston**

An incident that burnt itself into my subconscious memory happened on a scheduled Air Niugini flight from Kavieng to Rabaul sometime in 1979. This trip only takes about 40 minutes in a Fokker F27 as it is not a long hop - about 260 km.

Rabaul airport, then, consisted of a single runway, flanked on either side by tall coconut trees, and the south-easterly runway direction pointed almost directly at a smouldering volcanic cone called Tavurvur – not far from the runway end. After take-off from that runway you had to immediately commence a right-turn to avoid the volcano and continue the turn out into the bay to gain height. Now at the back of the passenger cabin in the Fokker was a cargo storage bay which was secured by webbing – a semi-open network of broad nylon straps. It was used to load overflow freight when the front cargo compartments were full.

We had reached cruise altitude and were about half-way to Rabaul when the senior flight attendant - a smart girl from the Chimbu (her name was Grace) - came running up to the flight deck. The conversation went something like this:

Senior Flight Attendant:	“Captain Johnson, Captain Johnson – the crabs have escaped!”
Captain Johnson:	“Wha...?”
Senior Flight Attendant:	“The crabs – they’ve escaped!”
Captain Johnson:	“What crabs Grace?”
Senior Flight Attendant:	“Kavieng loaded huge crabs into the rear locker – in big bags, and they have got out - Look!”

Grace pulls back the privacy curtain dividing the flight deck from the cabin area (there was no flight deck door on those aircraft).

*Captain Johnson and the First Officer then peer back down past the forward galley area into the cabin...*

....and there in the half-full passenger compartment, were a number of dinner-plate sized mud crabs - advancing slowly up the aisle waving their massive claws at the passengers – who were shrinking back in their seats in sheer terror...

Captain Johnson: “Geez Grace – try and find a passenger who can help you beat those things back into the cargo compartment will you! Whatever you do – don’t touch them - try using the Air Niugini in-flight magazines - rolled up”

Captain Johnson - to the First Officer: “Call Air Niugini Rabaul on company frequency and tell them to meet the aircraft with extra bags – will you...!”

Later – captain’s official report: Somehow Grace and a group of PNG passengers were able to swiftly form a team and successfully bring this short-lived attempt at a coup d’état to a rapid conclusion by encouraging the delinquents to return to their assigned places in time for landing at Rabaul.

## HELP WANTED

This is an attempt to find several former didiman colleagues who were based in Madang in 1963-64. They are former DAO Ron McCormack, and AOs Peter Jones, Trevor Joyce and R.M. (Ralph) Burnett. Time, of course, might have taken its toll, but if anyone reading this knows of their whereabouts, or knows someone who does, I would be most grateful if the following contact information could be passed on: Bill Kraitzer, 14 Ridge Road, Stirling, South Australia 5152; Phone: (08) 72255234; Mobile: 0421106706; email: [willythekay@gmail.com](mailto:willythekay@gmail.com); or [dkraitzer@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dkraitzer@optusnet.com.au)

**Mark Baker** recently paid some money into the PNGAA bank account electronically. We do not appear to have a contact for him and would appreciate if anyone who knows him could please ask him to contact Marie Clifton-Bassett E: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) Ph.: 02-9958 3408

Dr Peter Cahill would appreciate any assistance in identifying the people in this photo please. A stamp on the reverse of the photo identifies that it was taken on 4 June 1938 in Port Moresby.

Please contact Dr Cahill by Email: [petercahill7@bigpond.com](mailto:petercahill7@bigpond.com), by post: 7 Wynyard Street, Indooroopilly QLD 4068 or Ph.: 07-3371 4794



## **Invitation to holders of Imperial Honours from PNG who live in Northern NSW**

It is possible that you were a member of the NSW Association which was dissolved in early 2012. I ask you to now consider joining our association.

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Queensland Association) Inc. remains a vibrant organisation conducting a number of functions each year to bring together holders of Imperial Honours in fellowship. Three metropolitan luncheons are usually held at the Queensland Club with a guest speaker, and one regional lunch is usually held on both the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast.

There is a once only joining fee of \$15.

The three categories of membership are:

1. Ordinary Members who are members of the Order and British Empire medallists
2. Association Members who may be spouses of deceased ordinary members, or members of kindred orders of chivalry
3. Honorary Associate Members, a membership category introduced recently by the Committee that allows it from time to time to invite suitable persons to become members.

Please contact Professor Robin Cooke OBE OAM for further information on Ph.: 07-3263 1413 Email: [cooker@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cooker@ozemail.com.au)

## **Independence Hill - Port Moresby**

**By: David Marsh**

In early 1960 on my second day in Port Moresby, then the Australian Territory of Papua another young man and I went out to a place called Waigani to shoot some wallabies and pigs. He drove his onetime sedan, now a vague sort of utility truck, out past what is now the main police barracks and enroute we shot several wallabies. There were no people to be seen anywhere and there were wind rows of liquor and beer bottles stored there by the hotels in Port Moresby. Further out we climbed a hill to wait for bush pigs and sure enough a sow with a litter came grunting and squealing along the creek. It was all too easy. Later we drove back to Badili and gave the load to the Catholic Mission who had a hospital and a school.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War in 1942 an Australian anti-aircraft army unit had a gun placement on the same hill for the defence of Wards Airstrip. They were desperate days.

At the time of PNG's Independence in 1975 I decided that the same hill should fly the nation's flag and that the main government services should be in the same vicinity. The proposal met with approval and so today Independence Hill proudly flies the flag each day and is the focal point of a flag raising ceremony each Independence Day.

Long may it endure.

## **RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO SOCIETY NEWS**

### **Integration of Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society into the PNGAA**

Two significant announcements were made at the PNGAA's Christmas function held at the Killara Golf Club 7th December, 2012 with 196 members and friends in attendance,

Firstly, President Andrea Williams said the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society would, subject to a Memorandum of Understanding, integrate back into the PNGAA, the organisation from which it grew. The Society had for practical purposes achieved its objectives and sought a higher resource based organisation and new ideas to grow into its next phase- the PNGAA being the one best suited and allied with its cause. After a close examination, the PNGAA executive committee readily approved the proposal submitted by the Society. The Annual General Meeting of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society held 23<sup>RD</sup> November 2012 in Canberra passed the necessary motions to enable the integration.

The integration will transfer about 180 new members immediately to PNGAA, a 15% one off increase in the Association's membership. Further the Society has about \$100,000 remaining in its fund which is to be expended according to its objectives. This transition and group's development will be steered by a seconded sub-committee comprised mainly of ex-Society members, under the tutelage of the President of PNGAA. The sub-committee members comprise Frazer Harry, Chairman, Marg Curtis, Secretary, Ally Martel, editor, Don Hook, Canberra representative and Rebecca Mills, Carol Worthy, Max Clarke and a representative, still to be nominated from the Salvation Army, as Committee persons. So far the new members have been added to PNGAA's roll with the transfer of the funds occurring at the time of closure of the Society, scheduled by 31 March 2013. The real work of the group will then commence.

Some of the sub- committee's activities envisaged include:

- Ensuring the funds are spent wisely – suggested uses have already been canvassed
- An annual commemorative function at the memorial on 1 July with a luncheon of dinner for those attending
- Some form of educational/training grant which could be within PNG and /or Australia
- Support of the NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum
- Further research relating to the mortuary cards and NAA Montevideo Maru list
- Modest financial assistance to John Schindler's third and final DVD , *Some Came Home*
- A civilian memorial, to include names, located in East New Britain.

The Society's website [www.memorial.org.au](http://www.memorial.org.au) would continue with the same name and would be linked and maintained by PNGAA. It is thought the Society's newsletter, *Memorial News*, as it is known, would cease and, in its stead, perhaps the allocation of the use of up to four pages of the *Una Voce*, the quarterly journal of the Association, would be sufficient to promulgate the information about the sub-committee's activities. Importantly, the Society funds would need to be accounted separately within PNGAA to ensure the fiduciary responsibilities of the Society and the Association are satisfactorily managed.

Secondly, Andrea announced the establishment of a committee to investigate the scope of and seek Government support for a digitisation project that would enable material documenting PNG's history to be made accessible to researchers in PNG and Australia. This project is necessary because a large amount of documentation of PNG's history is located in Australia and Papua New Guineans are effectively denied the opportunity to research their own history. This is a significant issue as history is the key to establishing a country's national identity. Digitisation of original materials offers a solution not available to previous generations. The Committee might determine the best way to seek Government support for a survey to see just what might be involved, and a request for funding may be made on the basis of the results of the survey.

A PNGAA sub-committee possibly named 'Committee for the Digitisation of Material Relating to Papua New Guinea's History', chaired by Michael Waterhouse, will be established. Several key people, Australians and Papua New Guineans, have agreed to come on board. The digitisation sub-committee shall be comprised of Michael Waterhouse, Max Uechtritz, Bill Gammage, Andrea Williams - with power to co-opt a further three members. The committee would investigate the scope and seek Government support for a digitisation project that would enable material documenting PNG's history to be made accessible to researchers in PNG and Australia.

As the project is under PNGAA auspices, it is reasonable to assume that PNGAA may need to pay for flights and accommodation for a few committee members to ensure their contribution. It is envisaged that there should be a maximum of only three meetings during the process, the important one being the first to gather people together. With enough warning, the PNG contingent might find a way of combining it with another trip. The first meeting is planned for February. The funding will be arranged through the already approved budget allocation of the Fryar Library Digitisation Project.

These two worthwhile and important initiatives of the Association will assist towards refocussing it towards a more meaningful role in fostering better relations between the peoples of PNG and Australia. The Society's funds may be used for significant training and research programmes and, spent wisely, could be vital seed money towards much larger projects to be implemented by others, including the Commonwealth Government and voluntary bodies.



The work of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society has provided high level awareness in government, voluntary organisations and private enterprise and this exposure can be used by PNGAA to highlight its activities and profile. PNGAA is a good citizen and has a good name - let's use both and the Society's profile to further our objectives and enhance the Association standing in the communities of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

*WEBSITE:* [www.memorial.org.au](http://www.memorial.org.au)

**Access archived issues of Memorial News on the website.  
Memorial News will from now on be integrated in Una Voce the journal of the PNGAA.**

**Submit stories and photographs to [allymartell@bigpond.com](mailto:allymartell@bigpond.com)  
and letters to [Frazer.Harry@programmed.com.au](mailto:Frazer.Harry@programmed.com.au)**

### **Diary Date Claimers**

**The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society's annual get-together in Canberra**  
Saturday, 29 and Sunday 30 June, 2013.

**The Annual 2/22nd Battalion Reunion at Traawool - 28 July, 2013**

Enjoy a special day at Trawool on the very site where the 2/22 Battalion was formed.

Join members and friends of the Lark Force Association for a BBQ lunch complete with Lark Force wines

You don't have to be linked to the 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, anyone with an interest or connection to Rabaul and the Montevideo Maru is welcome to come along

More details to come  
Please register your interest by  
Email: [Frazer.Harry@programmed.com.au](mailto:Frazer.Harry@programmed.com.au)

### **Lark Force Memorial Service – Melbourne**

The 2/22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion (Lark Force) held its annual memorial service at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance in January.

It's an annual event to honour those who died in Rabaul and on the Montevideo Maru.

The day has been held dear by the Lark Force Association since the 1940s and this year around 60 people took part in the ceremony.

Despite the solemn nature of the occasion it was a good opportunity for friends and families of the soldiers to get together to remember and socialise.

## **Lark Force Memorial Service – Melbourne (Cont.)**



Many guests were eager to catch up with Norm Furness who remains a stalwart supporter. Everyone enjoyed the Salvation Army Band's moving performances. The service was followed by afternoon provided by the Lark Force Association.

## **PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM NEWS**

**By Phil Ainsworth**

### **Disability ramp to PNGVR Military Museum at Wacol dedicated**

Over sixty people attended the Wacol Military Museum for the first 2013 activity of the NGVR & PNGVR Association on Saturday, 19 January. The ramp provides a convenient entry for our ageing and increasingly frail members, and other friends and visitors to view the Museum in a comfortable and safe manner.



The President Phil Ainsworth, welcomed the members, ramp sponsors, friends and guests. These included The Patron of the NGVR & PNGVR Association, Major General John Pearn; Hank Cosgrove, the Secretary of the Australia Papua New Guinea Association and his wife Berry; Lige Donald of Bluescope /Smorgan Steel, the Greenbank RSL, Chris and Christine Leonard, Jim Burton of the Memories of the South Pacific group; Carol Worthy, representative for the Rabaul

and Montevideo Maru Society, and her husband David.

The design, fabrication and erection depended on many with the principal players being Paul Brown, Gus Macklin, John Holland and the other committee members of the Association. The all-important coordination and

facilitation was handled by the Museum Curator John Holland. Phil extended his thank you to the committee members and members and friends who assisted in the preparations for the ceremony.

Patron John Pearn spoke briefly about inclusion and how Australia has benefited from this important aspect of the Australian character. He related this to the work of the Association .His talk was followed by Hank Cosgrove formally cutting the ribbon with Mrs Mike Griffin being the first user by driving her electric wheelchair up the ramp to a rousing cheer by all.



Phil Ainsworth concluded proceedings by thanking all for attending and sharing the success of the Association's achievements.

He reviewed the 2012 activities to confirm the vitality of the Association and reiterated the importance of the Museum as a piece of the community infrastructure which the Association held in trust. He also reminded all that, over time, the Association will not be able to maintain this responsibility as fragility of its members grows.

This valuable resource must not be lost and renewed efforts will be made to arrange a suitable successor.

Finally everyone was invited to test the ramp, review the exhibits of the Museum and partake at the bar-b-q prepared by the Association.

It was a special day!

*If you wish to visit the Museum please contact John Holland on Ph.: 07- 3375 5484*

## ***PNGVR Patron presents awards to executive of the NGVR & PNGVR Association***

Major General John Pearn, the Patron of the NGVR & PNGVR Association, presented his specially minted Patron's medal to each of the executive



**Pictured above: Maj Gen John Pearn presenting Curator John Holland a framed copy of the citation with medals for display in the Museum.**

members at the committee meeting of the Association on 19th January 2013 held in the Military Museum at Wacol, Brisbane. John said the award is a tribute to those who have rendered exceptional service to the Association, or promoted its aims in an exceptional way. The medals serve to honour the gallant service of the soldiers of NGVR on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their first operational service in WW2 – 1942 was the year of NGVR.

Those who received these medals were struck by the unexpected and unusual recognition of their many years of service to the Association and the generosity of their Patron. The medals were presented to John Holland, Colin Gould, Doug Ng, Bob Collins, Paul Brown, Bruce Crawford, Jesse Chee, Mal Zimmermann, Mike Griffin, Tom Dowling, Tony Boulter, Leigh Eastwood, Barry Wright and Phil Ainsworth.

The obverse of the medal portrays the Association's badge and motto which was the badge and motto of PNGVR, while the reverse depicts the national BIRD OF PARADISE symbol of PNG with the southern cross on each side surrounded by the objectives of the former units and a Latin phrase which freely translates as "the preservation and promotion of their heritage is our duty".

## **HAMAMAS HOTEL, RABAUL, has its own currency.**

**By Maxwell R. HAYES, R.P.N.G.C. 1959-1974.**

When in Rabaul in August 2003 and staying at the Hamamas Hotel, in what remained of Mango Avenue after the 1994 volcanic eruption, I noticed some unusual coins in usage by those local citizens playing snooker and pool tables in the lounge bar and the sportsman's bar at the hotel rear. These pool table games were very popular with the local citizens.

Kina currency was used in exchange for these coins required to operate the pool tables. The value of the coin remained at the rate set for the game, e.g. it could be exchanged for 50 toea, 75 toea or 1 (one) Kina cash depending of the cost per game which increased from time to time.



Strictly speaking, from a numismatic point of view, these are not coins but tokens. Bruce Alexander, then the co-proprietor with his wife Susie, generously gave me a handful of these tokens. He had a couple of full calico bags and stated that they made a successful foil which could be taken in lieu of actual currency in the event that the bar was held up by rascals, a not unlikely event.

These tokens were the idea of Gerry McGrade, then owner of the Hamamas, and who had 1,000 of these tokens manufactured by a Brisbane firm A. J. PARKES, 555 Tarragindi Road, Salisbury circa 1995/1996. Each token bears the "H" logo of the Hamamas Hotel on the obverse, and on the reverse a punched 4 numeral number commencing with 0. I have a series going from 0421-0480. Each weighs 9.7gm, measures 27mm in diameter and is 2mm thick. They are manufactured in cupro-nickel.

The earlier Hamamas Hotel sign at the entrance is shown with Stanley, still a faithful employee of the Rabaul Hotel.

In later years these tokens were used for disco entry and tours to tourist sites of the adjacent hot springs or the more distant Tavurvur (Matupi) and later redeemed for cash by the tour operators.



These tokens remain as a very interesting numismatic souvenir of the former Hamamas Hotel. From c. 1952 it was known as Arthur Brown's "Ascot Hotel" on the same site at the top of Mango Avenue. During the September 1994 eruptions, due to monumental efforts by the proprietors and staff, the Hamamas survived and was renamed in recent years as the Rabaul Hotel and owned by Susie McGrade. Many visitors to Rabaul during April 2012 for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the capture of Rabaul by the Japanese on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1942 stayed with Susie McGrade at her Rabaul Hotel.

These tokens are very possibly the only tokens minted for use in Papua New Guinea since Independence in September 1975.



**Ascot Hotel, current site of Hamamas Hotel**



## Transport troubles in Bougainville

(Contd. from Marooned in the Mortlocks  
Una Voce December 2012)

**By Mike Bourke**

My colleague, Tom Betitis, had only limited time left for fieldwork, so to complete the second half of our agricultural survey, it was important that we leave Buka for Bougainville Island as soon as possible. I hurriedly found a vehicle-owner who was willing to take Tom, myself and local *didiman* (*Agricultural Officer*) (Gabriel Wayen) to the locations on Bougainville which were accessible by road and not too politically sensitive. These included all of the east coast from Tinputz and Wakunai to Kieta, and South Bougainville (Buin and Siwai areas).

The daily hire rate was very high (K900 per day), with a substantial deposit, but I had no choice. Once the owner was paid, he told me it would be some days before he could get his vehicle across the narrow strait separating Buka from Kokopau on the northern tip of Bougainville. He suggested that, if I wanted to go immediately, he could get the Toyota Hilux onto two canoes for the trip. Given the fast flowing current between the two islands, I immediately dismissed this idea and decided to wait for a barge. I took a mental note that, if ever I needed to hire a vehicle for travel on Bougainville again, I would hire it on that island, not on Buka.

While we waited three days for a barge, we surveyed the local agriculture and land use. Returning on a rough track from the west coast, we came across a group of ladies making sago, which is not a common food in the province. We stopped to talk with them and take a few photos. They were clearly startled to see us. Later, when I commented on this, Gabriel explained that with the crisis, they hadn't seen many outsiders for years. Then suddenly a black man, a white man and a brown man turn up from nowhere and start asking questions about making sago! Henceforth we referred to our little team as the Black, White and Brown *didimen*. Finally, we arrived on Bougainville, with sufficient fuel and supplies for a 12 day trip. We headed down the east coast, then south of Kieta to Buin. The Australian government, through AusAID, had repaired the main East coast road, but had not repaired the bridges. The river crossings in south Bougainville are notoriously treacherous as one *didiman* can testify. He was stationed at Buin in the early 1970s and is still remembered for losing an entire Landcruiser in the shifting sands. When our vehicle also became bogged, a kind local villager came to our aid to tow our Hilux out with his Landcruiser. However, since the four wheel drive mechanism in his vehicle was not functioning, he soon became bogged too. So here we were, stranded in the middle of a fast-flowing river, with not one but now *two* vehicles stuck in the river bed. I have visions of my limited research budget being swallowed by compensation demands for two drowned vehicles. Fortunately a lad turned up from nowhere, as constantly happens in PNG, and said that for a consideration of twenty kina, he knew the owner of a grader who would pull us out. I would have paid many times that amount to release the two vehicles from the grip of the river. We were on our way again within the hour.

The rest of the trip to Big Bougainville went well. We worked our way back to Wakunai from Siwai. As we headed north back to Kokopau, we stopped at a small roadside market where our security guard and driver bought some 'steam' (homemade very strong distilled alcohol). I immediately read them the riot act. If

they so much as drank one drop of the liquor, I would not pay the balance of money owing on the vehicle! They deemed this a very poor attitude, but I was unmoved. There were going to be more transport issues to be faced before our survey was over, and being in a vehicle with a drunken driver was something we could do without. Back on Buka, Gabriel and I were joined by a colleague from UPNG, Jane Mogina, while Tom departed for West New Britain. We were to go to islands west of Buka and Bougainville, for the next phase of our survey.

I soon located the owner of a 'banana' boat for hire, and asked for an estimate of our fuel requirements. To this I added 20 litres, and told the boat owner that, should it not be needed, he could keep the fuel. He argued that it was not necessary, but I insisted. I had been on too many trips on banana boats in the islands where there was just sufficient fuel to limp home as the owner took the minimum quantity for the trip. Every year in PNG, banana boats run out of fuel, occasionally with tragic consequences.

After completing our work on the islands west of Buka, we were on our way down to the small islands off Northwest Bougainville when – you guessed it! - the operator announced that there was insufficient fuel for the trip back to Buka. I was less than impressed! His defence was that I had not explained that we would be stopping at so many locations! Some hours later, we had sourced fuel from the Bougainville mainland and were on our way back to Buka.

As Jane departed for Moresby, I organized the final survey leg, to Nissan and Pinipel Islands. I was to fly to Nissan, use the Division of Primary Industries vehicle on Nissan and hire a banana boat to get to Pinipel. How simple could that be! But when I turned up in Nissan, the DPI vehicle was not available. A local business man had impounded it following non-payment for repairs. It was only after lengthy negotiations that I eventually hired the confiscated DPI vehicle anyway, filled it with diesel and completed my survey on Nissan. Then to Pinipel by banana boat. The operator asked if he could take a short cut across the reef to save fuel. I was dubious but was assured that we would be fine as long as we got through the reef before low tide. I don't know whether you have ever dragged a banana boat, complete with outboard motor and fuel, across a reef, but suffice to say that, if ever I return, I'll opt for the longer route to Pinipel! When my work on Nissan and Pinipel was completed, I went to the airline office to confirm the flight back to Buka. At least air travel is reliable, I thought, but I had not reckoned with Tavurvur, the volcano at Rabaul. Although it has been erupting more-or-less constantly since 19 September 2004, normally the ash does not reach the port-eruption airport at Tokua, east of the new provincial capital at Kokopo. That week in October 2002, it did, and all aircraft movements to Tokua were suspended. The light aircraft that was scheduled to do the Tokua/Nissan/Buka run was moved to Madang for safety. So: *No gat balus! (no aeroplane)* I had a few spare days on Nissan so I did what I often do in this situation in PNG - I volunteered as a guest teacher at the local high school and gave a talk on the origins of PNG crops and agriculture. With a change in wind direction, Tokua airport was re-opened and I flew back to Buka. After a few days gathering data and reporting to the provincial government, I flew on to Moresby where I ran into a media storm –but that's another story. A few days later, after checking in for my flight to Brisbane, there was an announcement in the international departure lounge: Air Niugini regrets that due to a technical issue, the Brisbane flight will be delayed. It would have been disappointing if the transport troubles of the last six weeks had ended without one final delay on the way home.



## Maria Von Trapp in Papua New Guinea.

By Mary Mennis

*On a Web site of the Rabaul E-Course, the question was recently asked whether a member of the famous Von Trapp Sound of Music Family were on one of the E-Courses. Yes it was true.*



**Maria VonTrappe bottom row second from left**

Link to the course photograph is <http://www.ecourserabaul.com/Rollcall>

I first met Maria, step-daughter of Baroness Maria Von Trapp, in 1962-63 in Rabaul while she was doing the 4<sup>th</sup> E-Course at Malaguna. It was over on the other side of the town and I only had a bicycle to get around, but we often met at the Church on Sundays where Fr. Franke said Mass. The E-Course was a six month long teacher-training course designed to train people to teach in primary schools in rural areas. The Administration sought people with something of a missionary spirit who would be willing to live in native material houses in villages. Maria threw herself into the course, especially the musical side with Fred Ebbick as music teacher.

Of course, Maria was already a gifted musician and singer trained with her family group the Trapp Family Singers on which *The Sound of Music* was based. At that stage it was a Broadway Musical which had run since 1959. The family was already quite famous but Maria was self-effacing and called herself Maria Trapp not Maria Von Trapp. She was very charismatic and her face lit up brightly when she smiled.

The movie "*Sound of Music*" with Julie Andrews was produced in 1965. Many years later, I watched the movie with Maria and she pointed out some differences between her own family life and that portrayed in the film. Overall

her family liked *The Sound of Music* but they felt the story was far from reality in many aspects.

Maria's father, Baron Georg Von Trapp, was a submarine commander in the First World War and married Agatha Whitehead in 1912. They had seven children with Maria being the third child. The oldest child was a boy, Rupert, born 1911 and [not a girl called Liesl as in the musical]; then Agatha, born 1913, Maria, 1914; Werner, 1915; Hedwig, 1917; Johanna, 1919; and Martina, 1921. Maria's name was changed to Louisa for the musical as there obviously could not be two Marias. Maria was about eight when she and her mother, Agatha, both caught scarlet fever and became very ill. Her mother died in 1922 and Maria was sick for a long time and unable to attend school. In 1926, unhappy at the death of his wife, the Baron moved from their home to another beautiful mansion in Salzburg. It was at this time that he appealed to the Reverend Mother at the Abbey for a tutor for his daughter, Maria. Enter Maria Augusta Kutschera who at twenty years of age, was sent from the Salzburg Abbey to be a governess for Maria. She married the Baron in 1927 – not just before the Nazi invasion as depicted in the musical. Together they had three more children: Rosemary, 1929; Eleanore, 1931; and Johannes 1939.

My friend, Maria, thought the portrayal of her father in *The Sound of Music* as quite a dictatorial man who ordered the children about was misguided. He may have blown whistles but it was more in fun. He was a warmhearted man who enjoyed music with this family. He hesitated to let them sing in public but was over-ruled by a family vote Reverend Franz Wasner, acted as their musical director with the family singing group winning first place in the Salzburg Music Festival in 1936,

They sang in many cities across Europe. They became so famous that Hitler wanted them to sing for his birthday when he visited Salzburg. This was one reason the family decided to leave Austria as they did not want to jeopardize their principles. They hated the Nazi party and refused to hang flags from their house with swastikas on them. "We called them spiders," Maria remembered. Captain Von Trapp had been ordered to command a submarine for the Germans. Time was running out as some of their servants were spies. Maria said in those days her sister would hardly have befriended a postman as the Trapp Family was aristocratic.

When the children were told they would leave their large estate and all their belongings, Maria remembers dancing around saying "We will be poor, we will be poor." It may have been the Biblical poverty she wanted and indeed they lived in poverty for quite a number of years. When they left Salzburg they went by train to Italy whereas in the film it has them climbing the Alps to Switzerland. They travelled to many European countries as poor refugees, singing as they went for the cost of food or accommodation. Later they moved to Norway, where they boarded a boat at Oslo for the U.S. in 1939. Here ends the story of the family as depicted in *The Sound of Music*, the 1959 Broadway musical and the 1965 Academy Award-winning Best Picture.

But, of course, the story of the real family continued when they made the United States their home. They established their singing group, The Trapp Family Singers and bought a farm as a home base at Vermont where members of the family and their descendants live today. Maria sang soprano with her sister, Martina, when the family of ten children and their parents toured America. The Trapp Family Singers was finally disbanded in 1955.

After this, some of the family wanted to become missionaries so Baroness Maria Von Trapp accompanied Maria, Rosemary and Johannes to Papua New Guinea where they travelled around the country helping in various mission outposts. They worked for six months with Fr. Atchison at Budoya on Fergusson Island in the Milne Bay Province where Johannes built a church and Maria and Rosemary helped the village women. Next they stayed in Vunapope, New Britain, where they met Bishop Scharmach who entertained them with stories of the war. He sent them to many outstations where they enjoyed the local chants and *singsings*. From here they travelled to Wewak and were flown to many outstations by Bishop Arkfeld, the flying bishop, travelling to the Sepik River and into the Highlands. Soon afterwards Maria decided to do the E-Course as already mentioned.

After meeting her in Rabaul in the 1960s, I did not see Maria for another 15 years as we lived in Madang for eight years, before transferring to Port Moresby in 1979. One day while shopping at Boroko, I noticed a sign advertising pot-plants for sale at a certain address. When I went there Maria answered the door and said she wasn't selling plants – the notice belonged to a previous owner. Before I turned away, I asked, "Are you Maria von Trapp?" At first we hadn't recognised each other as it was so unexpected but there were many joyful occasions after that.

Her house in Boroko was a House of Prayer with weekly prayer meetings. Maria also continued her missionary work with the Port Moresby youth. She had quite a large garden with big open water tanks containing fish. Her garden beds needed attention and she employed some of the local young rascals to do the work as there was no dole for the unemployed. Some of them came to work in our garden as well. Maria also bought four ducks and our children used to collect snails for them. She was very proud of her ducks and the eggs they produced.

One day, Maria generously lent her car to a missionary priest. It was only when he was driving off down the road that she realised he had her house key on the key-ring and she was locked out. At this point, I arrived with my two youngest children; Gregory aged 9 and Joanna 5. "Oh dear what am I going to do?" she mused. To add to her dilemma there was a group of youths working in her garden and she definitely did not want them to see us breaking into her house.

Maria had a bright idea: "Gregory I'll take them around the back while you pull out the louvers on the verandah and get in".

Quickly, we moved some furniture and it was easy enough to dislodge the louvers. In crawled Greg and opened the door. We pushed the furniture back hurriedly as the group of youths suddenly appeared at the bottom of the steps, very interested in what was happening. Maria was just happy to have access to her house again. However, young Joanna suddenly decided to crawl into the house the same way Greg had done even though the door was now open. She pulled the furniture to the side pulled out the louvers and began crawling in. Maria was aghast. She stood there in front of the young rascals and tugged her skirt sideways trying to block their view. Joanna meanwhile came out the door smiling broadly, "I did it! I did it just like Gregory" she said happily.

After this Maria got a small dog as protection and took it along to my brother, John Eccles, who was the vet in Port Moresby. He vaccinated the dog and refused to charge Maria. "Just say a prayer for me" he told her and any of the missionaries who came to the clinic.

Once when we were going on leave, Maria was there to wave us off at the airport. She gave us a slab of chocolate which began to melt in the heat and got all over Joanna's dress. That was something else to laugh over afterwards.

There were times we visited the slum areas of Port Moresby. Once, we called on the people living beside the six-mile dump. They had small houses made out of cardboard, sheets of iron and anything else they could find in the dump. They greeted Maria as Sister Maria and I was Sister Mary. As we were sitting chatting to them, a large truck from Steamships Supermarket arrived with discarded food. The people rushed out with their plastic bags to fossick in the rubbish for their next meal. It was so sad to see this and see their living conditions. Maria tried to interest some builders in making mud brick houses, but I don't know if anything came of it. The Port Moresby climate might have suited this.

We did other trips also going out to visit Mother Genevieve of the Handmaids of the Lord out near Bomana. These sisters dressed in grey habits and white veils and even sat with people at the markets selling food and the clothes they had made. We also took Maria down to Bereina for the consecration of our friend, Father Benedict ToVarpin, as Bishop. The Bereina people were dressed in their finery and it was a memorable occasion.

In Port Moresby, rascals were getting quite dangerous, even in those days. A string of them held hands in front of my car at Koki and then smashed rocks though my rear window where they landed on the seat Joanna usually occupied. Fortunately she was not with me at the time. Maria too had a rock hurled through her back window and she said if it happened again she would leave the country.

We 'went finish' in 1982 and Maria left in 1987. We saw her again in Brisbane in 1995 and entertained her with a dinner party. She also visited St Dymphna's School where I was teaching. The choir happened to be practicing songs from

*The Sound of Music* for an Eisteddfod Competition. Maria accompanied them with her accordion and the children were very excited.

In 2012, Maria, is still living in Stowe Vermont. At 98, she is the last surviving member of the original family of seven children of Captain Von Trapp and his wife Agatha. Although she had been very ill in her childhood, she is a survivor and still manages to smile through her sorrows.



## **WHERE MY HAT HAS BEEN *Part 2 of 2***

**By Robert Harrison**

As well as managing the station, I had another major chore associated with a gang of pit sawyers who were cutting the decking for the bridge over the Wahgi River, which would eventually enable road access between Nondugl and Minj, the administrative centre for the central Wahgi Valley. It was my job to sharpen all of their saws, each night.

For the first few days of my "managership" all went well. A few sick animals had to be treated as well as a couple of cut and bruised boys. The food was coming in at the right rate, my weather forecasts were reaching Port Moresby twice daily, and the DC 3 was due in the next day with stores and mail. The night before it was due I went to charge the batteries that ran the radio so that I would have a strong signal, but alas, the engine that drove the charger would not start. As there was no weather or airstrip report, no plane came in and I had no contact with the outside world. As a boy on our dairy farm, I had watched the old mechanic strip down and service the engines that drove our milking plants, and now my only hope was to try to remember what he had done. I carefully dismantled the engine, putting each part in order on a hessian bag and prayed that no person or animal would get into the workshop and disturb my rows of parts. I cleaned the carburettor, decarbonised the head and ground in the valves, before slowly putting everything back together. Pleased to find that no parts were left on the bag, I filled the tank and turned the handle. One of the sweetest sounds I had ever heard was when that engine fired and continued to run. The clamps went onto the battery, and by the next day there was enough charge for me to contact Port Moresby again and to reopen Nondugl airstrip. My superiors in Port Moresby had started to worry after three days of silence, as it was still quite possible for isolated Europeans to be murdered by local tribesmen.

On all my collecting trips I carried a loaded, sporting .303 calibre rifle with me as I penetrated areas where the natives had no contact. Luckily I found all of the tribes most welcoming, even though they had trouble with my skin colour. I was prodded and poked by many a dark brown finger, and hoped that they

were not assessing my value for the pot! As far as it was known, the tribes in the Wahgi Valley did not practice cannibalism, although it was a common practice in the valleys to the north and east of where we were.

Another of my duties was to shoot any pigs found roaming freely on our designated pasture paddocks. A few pigs could do enormous amounts of damage in a short space of time to pastures. On the other hand as they were the natives most valuable possession I had to be very careful that the odd arrow did not come my way in retribution. Barry had made it very clear to the local luluais and tultuls (government appointed leaders) that pigs must not be allowed to trespass on station land. This was well accepted, even to the extent that bois who were with me would assist by shooting stray pigs with their bows and arrows. They used an arrow-head of sharpened bamboo for pig shooting, and I was amazed that one of these arrows, fired from a black palm bow, could go right through a mature pig.

When the South Pacific Grassland Commission and Barry reached the Highlands, Don Glasgow, a vet student from Queensland and I were asked to drive the Nondugl and Banz Land Rovers from air strip to air strip to take them around the various areas to make their inspection. This meant that we travelled the full length of the Wahgi Valley from east of Nondugl to Baiyer River, which was a trip that very few people had been privileged to do by road. On one occasion I drove into an area where there had been a tribal war and quite a few men had been wounded. There were a number of first aid huts in the Highlands and each one was supposed to be manned by a "dokta boi", trained in first aid. On this occasion the "dokta boi" had fled to safety and I had to break into his hut to get some dressings. Most of the wounds were from spears and arrows and some from axes. I remember one particular man who came in with a long spear right through his neck. The spear was about nine feet (3 metres) long and the point had come through the left side of his neck and he was holding the shaft with his right hand. There were both forward and reverse barbs on the hardwood spear head but, as two thirds of them pointed one way, it was easy to decide which way it had to come out. I cut the shaft off with a hand saw and then grabbed the point with a pair of fencing pliers and pulled hard while his friends held him. I expected a great rush of blood from his jugular or other blood vessel, but nothing came. He could still speak and seemed none the worse from my gentle operation, so I dressed the wounds on both sides of his neck with a cotton wool pad soaked in friar's balsam and sent him on his way. There was no drug resistance in the bacterial population, and a single injection of veterinary penicillin or a dusting with sulphanilamide powder could cure the nastiest looking infection.

When Barry arrived back at Nondugl, I was only too happy to hand over all the responsibilities and let him detect and deal with any irregularities that had occurred during his absence. One of these was a quantity of salt missing from our pantry. Salt was a very precious commodity in the Highlands and was used as a form of currency. The culprit was found and dealt with severely. Wahgi Valley natives did not respect weakness in cases such as these and those who administered strong discipline were always well respected and consequently much safer in this remote area.

Now that Barry was back I could concentrate on collecting glasses and legumes from areas outside the station. By now I had a sufficient grasp of pidgin to communicate with Pondo, the foreman, and Barry was good enough to let him come with me when I ventured into the more remote areas. This was a double bonus because Pondo was very well respected throughout the area and spoke several of the local languages. When we came to an area where he could not speak the language, he would recruit someone from an adjoining tribe to act as a second interpreter. As some messages were relayed to me through a series of up to six or seven people, the message that I received probably bore no relation at all to the original statement. However the challenge was there and I enjoyed going into remote places and collecting plants and insects that were unknown to me. On one occasion we attempted to reach Mt. 'O' (3500 m.). It was very rough going and we managed to penetrate the wonderful old Arctic Beech (*Nothofagus*) forest and reached the tree line, above which only moss and very small plants grew.

Unfortunately each time we thought we were making a final assault on the summit, we were confronted by yet another ravine and when time ran out we had to return to base.

It was in the Wahgi valley that I gained my first understanding of what massed manpower could achieve. The building of the pyramids became a little less of a mystery. A prison gang was building a new road from Nondugl to Banz, which would eventually lead to the bridge being built over the Wahgi River, which would give the first vehicular access to Minj and the other side of the valley. A bridge also had to be built over the Al River to replace the ford we used. This bridge was small compared with the one over the Wahgi but, like the road, it had to be built entirely with mass manpower and hand tools. The natives had gone up high into the mountains and had felled six very large *Nothofagus* trees. The logs, each of which weighed several tons, were dragged many kilometres down the mountains and across to the gorge where the Al River was to be bridged. This was done by a large number of men using vine ropes. So far, so good, but now each of these massive logs, which must have been about twenty metres long, had to be put in place across a gorge that was some twenty metres deep and twenty metres wide.

We Europeans, with our modern thoughts and modern equipment decided to help and brought down the John Deere crawler tractor, coils of wire rope and a large block and tackle. After having broken both the wire ropes and the block and tackle and with the first log precariously balanced on the edge of the gorge, from which it could not have been retrieved, we gave up and went back to the house for a cup of coffee. About forty minutes later we returned to try and work out some other way of getting the logs across. To our amazement two of the logs were already in place and a third was being hauled across by hundreds of men using vine ropes. They were all chanting in time and after every so many beats they would increase the volume and all strain on the ropes in unison. The result was spectacular. These hundreds of men, dressed in almost nothing, had an astounding singleness of purpose and were in great humour, even to the extent that when a log rolled, and one man's leg was badly broken, they all burst out in spontaneous mirth. In a few hours all six bearers

were in place. The problem of how to build the bridge was solved and I had witnessed a sight that will never be forgotten.

The first coffee plantations were just coming into production on the Highlands and New Guinea coffee was very much in demand on the world market bringing up to \$700 a ton. Those who had got in early, like Messrs Mathews and Ferguson, who had left their jobs with DASF some years earlier and settled at Kinjipe, were picking their first major crop and in their own words were just waiting to wake up out of their dream. There was no taxation in New Guinea at that time, wages were very low and the quality and quantity of the coffee was excellent. They were progressive men and had planted Leucaena to shade the coffee and this proved to be very successful. Another of their ideas that marked them apart was their "house wheel". They built a wheel of between three and four metres in diameter with half 200 litre drums set all around the circumference. This was assembled onto a large axle and set up in a boxed water race. When water was let through the race the wheel turned an alternator and produced enough electricity to light a small town. The whole settlement was always a blaze of light, as I don't think they ever turned any switches off.

One of my most vivid memories is of the two days I spent with Danny Leahy at his farm "Kuta" near Mount Hagen. Danny Leahy was one of a small party who, in 1933, were the first Europeans to discover the Wahgi Valley. Later I was also privileged to meet his brother Mick who lived at Zenag and Jim Taylor who were both in that same prospecting party. I also met Danny's other brother, Jim, who had settled near Goroka. By the time I met Danny he was almost blind as a result of poor nutrition during the war. However he was still very active and could easily find his way around his own farm. His memory and his hospitality were excellent, and his farm called Kuta, which means salt, produced almost everything they required. His was the farm where the meris had learnt to spin and weave their own wool and make all their own blankets and warm clothing.

Tea, coffee, sugar and a wide range of fruit, vegetables and other crops were also grown. My most wonderful memory is of sitting in front of a fire in his house for several hours listening to him reminisce about the discovery of the Wahgi Valley and of how he came to select and settle at Kuta.

I finally collected about 125 specimens of grass and legumes and with the help of Mr J S Warmesley, the forest botanist at Lae; they were classified to the best of our ability. Thirty years later I was surprised to find that these specimens were still being used as a reference collection in the herbariums in Lae and Goroka.

On the day that I left the Highlands the Nondugl strip was too wet for a landing so I had the privilege of driving over the new Wahgi River Bridge the day before it was officially opened by the Administrator. This bridge had been built under the supervision of Mr Joe Durbridge and as I had sharpened hundreds of pit saws, used to cut the decking, I felt it was right that I was



allowed to unofficially open it. From Minj we flew to Wabag, which is close to the western border of New Guinea.

The Wabag airstrip is situated on a small, elevated plateau surrounded by deep ravines and to fly out, there is only one gap in the mountains through which the plane can fly. Just as we were about to take off, a cloud moved into this gap so the pilot told us all to disembark, help him anchor the plane for the night and find billets somewhere in this small community. Mr White the local Agricultural Officer (Didiman) took me in for the night. He used only one match per day to light his first cigarette when he woke up, and then chain-smoked. To offset the dryness in his mouth he drank whiskey and condensed milk throughout the day. His breathing was the worst I had ever heard and one wondered if he would survive each day. However his apparent ill health was deceptive, because the previous year he had led the patrol into Telefolmin to apprehend the murderers of two Australian patrol officers. Telefolmin is in an extremely rugged area on the border with what was then Dutch New Guinea and the only way in and out was by boat. The next morning I was sorry to leave this wheezing man who knew so much about the remote parts of New Guinea.

Several veterinary students from the University of Queensland also undertook practical work in New Guinea that year. The one that I saw most was Barbara Harpham and we spent our last three days in Port Moresby at a series of farewell parties put on by the friends that we had made, mainly people who worked in the various sections of DASf. Their final act was to wheel us out on a luggage trolley to the waiting aeroplane at Jackson Airport. (See photo on page). Barbara returned to New Guinea after graduation and is now Lady Jephcott.

After I graduated both Barry Osborne and Jim Marley approached me, when they were on leave in Australia, to sign on with DASf and manage a nutrition station in New Guinea. I was very tempted to take it on, but in hindsight I am glad that I did not accept the offer. However, I am still grateful that I was given the chance to work in such an interesting undeveloped area, and the experience certainly made me grow up in a hurry and become much more self-reliant.

I regret that I did not own a camera at the time, because the natives living in the Wahgi Valley are the most colourful in all New Guinea. A three-day Sing-Sing, complete with pig killing, took place at Nondugl around Christmas time, in 1954. I would love to have recorded some of the glistening black, pig greased bodies, bedecked with kina shells, Bird of Paradise plumes and other feathers and finery, as they sang and danced around the station. I did, however, bring home a Hagen axe and a black palm bow with eight arrows, which now hang on our front veranda along with a kundu drum.



## THE MEKEO RICE PROJECT 1950-1954

By ALLAN BOAG

*Writers' notes: As it is 60 plus years since the Mekeo Rice Project was conceived, and was part of the history of the Administration of Papua and New Guinea of the time, even if it was not particularly successful, I thought it may be of interest for inclusion in Una Voce.*

*It was at Ilimo the evacuation area set-up following the eruption of Mt Lamington in 1951 that Win and I first met. Win was sponsored by 'Save the Children Fund' and worked with Sister Edna Gilbert. Following Ilimo all staff moved to set up a new hospital at Saiho.*

*The staff consisted of Peter (Fred) Kaad – June was with him, Dr Gibbe-Brown, Bert Speer, Bill Race, Lon Tomlinson, and Gillie Ivani Champion. Janet Chester, Roger Claridge, Geoff Littler (now living in Palmwoods) Ian Wiseman and education officers Grace Moore, Bill Wilson and Merv Moodie.*

*We still have reunions of people who were involved with the rehabilitation of the local people, but time is taking its toll. I never regretted spending those 12 years in an interesting country.*

*Allan Boag*

It was 60 years ago, in June 1952, when I was posted to Inauaia in the Mekeo region of the Central Division of Papua. My wife, Win and I had returned following leave and marriage in March of that year.

Before going any further it is necessary to go back to the inception of the project. In 1949 I, along with Frank Hurrell, was at Wewak when we both received notice to attend the ASOPA short course commencing in July. Not long after commencing, Frank was pulled off the course and sent down to the MIA (Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area) to gain experience in the mechanised growing of rice.

This project was the initiative of the then Director of DASF, Bill Cottrill-Dormer with the dream of making the Mekeo area the rice bowl of TPNG involving the local people in a cash cropping venture using mechanisation in all facets of rice production.

To this end two extension stations, Inauaia on the south side of the Ungabunga River and Beipa on the northern side were established along with a plant introduction and experimental station at Epo (Bereina) downstream of Beipa.

Both Inauaia and Beipa Stations had a full complement of machinery consisting of three tractors, one of which was a TD6 tracked unit and all the necessary cultivating and planting equipment – Inauaia was also supplied with a K56 International tip truck. This was just after WWII ended when such agricultural machinery was at a premium.

The Director, Bill Dormer, relinquished that position in the Department and moved down to Inauaia to oversee the whole project with Frank Hurrell to organise the clearing and cultivation of the areas to be planted. I was posted to Inauaia to relieve Frank who was later to join with (his) brother Lloyd, in a plantation and farming venture in the Wau area. Jack Lamrock, and later Geoff Angell were at Beipa. At Epo, Thorold Sorensen was the agronomist whilst Alan Donaldson was the agricultural mechanic.

The alluvial flood plain of the Ungabunga River was flat and the soil fertile with the rice to be planted at the onset of the NW Monsoon in October/November to take advantage of the necessary rainfall to produce a crop. Yields for 'up-land rice' (non paddy) were very favourable. The only drawback was the variety of rice was subject to 'lodging' which necessitated harvesting by hand. Grain harvesters of the time, of which Epo had such a machine, were not very efficient in coping with lodged or flattened crops.

All was well with the 1951/52 crop and the local people were enthusiastic with the novelty of the use of machinery to produce a crop – machinery that they had never before seen.

However, when the 1951/52 season came, that enthusiasm was starting to wane due to many factors. The tedium of hand harvesting was foremost but also, the local people perceived this as a project foisted on them by the administration with no benefit to their daily lives. The whole concept of the scheme was beyond the comprehension of a people with a culture of generations of subsistence agriculture that provided sufficient food and shelter for a basic existence.

The concept of cash cropping, at that time, on such a scale as envisaged by the Department was years ahead of its time. Also like most New Guineans of the time, the Mekeo people did not embrace the work ethic of Europeans and really who could blame them of that – they were content with their simple way of life and their need of cash was a low priority.

To overcome this declining enthusiasm, it was decided to use the International truck to transport a load of villagers and their produce from each of the three villages in the Inauaia area some 16 miles to a trading point on the Aropokina River (Biotta) to barter trade with the coastal people each and every Saturday. This entailed three return 16 mile trips in the morning and the same in the afternoon.

Of course this arrangement was greeted with glee as it relieved the villagers of the tiresome trudge of carrying their produce those 16 miles each way. It was hoped that this inducement would breathe renewed interest in the project, but however it did little to engender this outcome. With the threat of discontinuing this 'taxi service' the 1952/53 crop was planted and harvested.

It was later in 1953 that the Administrator, Sir Donald Cleland, visited the area to see for himself – the situation regarding the project by visiting each of the three stations. As the only transport at Inauaia to negotiate the swampy areas

of the track to Beipa was by tractor and trailer, there was quite an amusing sequence of events in getting the tractors mobile. Both wheeled machines were not equipped with starter motors and had to be cranked by hand. Unfortunately both had broken cranking 'dogs' and had to be 'tow started' – the smaller Farmall A pulled by a team of labour line so that it, in turn, could do the same for the bigger Farmall M. Whilst all this was happening, Sir Donald stood watching this charade until, with an exasperated fling of his arms, he stormed off up the track to Beipa, some 8-10 miles distant. However he was caught up with at the start of a large swampy area. The TD6 crawler tractor was waiting to tow the trailer through the swamp allowing the Farmall M to follow along behind under its own power.

With the tractor hitched to the trailer, we all bid farewell to Sir Donald still shaking his head in amazed wonderment at what he had just witnessed.

Not long after this visit by the Administrator, Bill Dormer was recalled to Moresby and later posted to Samarai. Come the day of his and wife Kathy's departure, it was a highly emotional one for him – he unashamedly had tears in his eyes. He gave it all for the project which he most sincerely believed would benefit the Mekeo people and change their lives. How disillusioned and saddened he must have been when not one of the local people was there to farewell him and wife Kathy.

Soon after the Dormer's departure I, with Win and baby Michael, moved into the 'R' type residence that had been built for them and it had that 'treasure of treasures' – a septic system.

It must have been the latter half of 1954 and after the birth of our second son in April of that year, that a delegation of ranking Administrative officers and the Administrator, Sir Donald Cleland, this time accompanied by Dame Rachel, visited Inauaia for an in depth assessment of the whole project. The officers included the Directors of DASF and Department of District Services and Native Affairs (DDS & NA), the Treasurer and, I think, the Government Secretary.

A mass meeting of the people from the three villages, centred on Inauaia, was held to hear of their opinions of the project and their reasons for its non-performance. As a lowly Assistant Agricultural Officer it was somewhat disconcerting and daunting to be accused of being responsible for the failure of the project because I had discontinued the 'taxi service' of taking them to their weekly market.

However it was realised there were far more real reasons for its collapse – reasons that have earlier been mentioned. I am sure the learned members of the delegation were well aware of the short comings of the scheme that was decades before its time. Maybe, since those early 1950s, things have changed but at the time the Mekeo Rice Project was an abject failure and a costly one at that. Leave was well overdue, and following the birth of our second son in April 1954, we departed the Mekeo in October of that year with no fond memories of our stay at Inauaia for those some 28 months.

## ANZAC DAY SAN REMO CLUB 2012

**By Cecilie Benjamin**

*The following speech was made at the San Remo Club, West New Britain, on Anzac Day 2012*

We gather today here at the San Remo Club, as we annually have in recent years, to pause and reflect on the past history when war engulfed this country and the tragic consequences which ensued.

This year, being 2012, marks a milestone. It is now 70 years since the horrors of WW2 impacted Papua New Guinea. The Japanese Imperial Forces had invaded Rabaul in January 1942 in defiance of the League of Nations Mandate set over New Guinea. The resulting 3 and a half years of savage conflict saw not only the deaths of thousands of military personnel from Allied and Axis forces alike but deep impacts on local communities caught in the middle of events initiated far beyond their shores.

Australian forces based in Rabaul, both Army and Air, were forced into a desperate retreat which saw their soldiers and administration pushed back along the north and south coasts of this very large island of New Britain. To the majority of the Australian military struggling to survive in such a withdrawal, the foreign environment they moved through appeared a hostile and formidable place.

Australian soldiers escaping along the north coast were gathered up by Talasea A.D.O., Keith McCarthy who took charge of the evacuation. They were eventually brought to Iboki via Baia, Tarobi, Koimumu, Walindi Plantation and Garu Mission by walking, canoes and small sea craft. Waiting for a boat to take them to safety, Mrs Gladys Baker, the then owner of Langu Plantation on Witu Island described the scene, "A steady stream of sick, hungry, ill-clad men started to arrive at Iboki until 250 civilians and soldiers collected there: most were in a bad way with tropical ulcers, malaria, and dysentery. McCarthy commandeered the boat MV "Lakatoi" which had been sheltering at Witu and evacuated the group. It was March 1942.

At a parallel time, the infamous Tol and Gasmata massacres occurred to fleeing Australian troops on the South Coast of this island by Japanese forces.



It was two more long years of raging air warfare to follow until Allied ground troops landed late December 1943 at Cape Gloucester.

The impact and enormity was felt heavily on the local coastal populations of New Britain particularly. Stories of that time will still abound around village fires in the evenings even to this day. Recently, I was visiting the West Willaumez Peninsular and arrived at the village of Bagum. While sitting with community elders prior to a formal meeting, without any prompting and being a relatively unknown entity to the community, one man told me about the day WW2 came to their shore. He was talking about the landing of an American PT boat during the night in March 1944 when a young man, Australian Coastwatcher Rod Marsland, was part of a reconnaissance unit with the USMC 1st. Division. The American Marines had taken Iboki after a major battle for Cape Gloucester resulted in defeat for the Japanese Imperial Army. The Japanese were in full retreat up the north coast of New Britain by land having been given a sock of rice and told to walk back to Rabaul by their Command. The stealth recon was to evaluate the best landing site for the US Marines and Volupai was chosen as that site. Rod Marsland made contact with people he had known in his plantation days in the Talasea area but will always be remembered for the message he carried. He told his trusted friends at Bagum to pass the message to all the villages along the West Willaumez Peninsular right down to Kambili and Garu to urgently move away south from the Peninsular as a big fight was about to occur with aerial bombings and shooting. His heroic action and message saved lives in the coastal communities and is still remembered today. The communities didn't ever forget.

If any of you gathered here today saw the recent epic HBO mini-series "The Pacific" tracing the USMC's 1st Division 3rd Battalion 5th Regiment K Company war time experiences in the Pacific from Guadalcanal in The Solomon Islands, New Britain PNG, Peleliu in Palau and Okinawa, Japan, you may be familiar with some of the true characters in that series such as RV Burgin, Captain Ack Ack Haldane, Merriel (Snafu) Shelton, Gunnery Sergeant Haney and the 235 men of K Company. I realised that this same Company which was the focus of the series had conducted what came to be known as "The Numundo Patrol" after the US Marine landing at Volupai. I decided to try to contact RV Burgin, a Texan, personally and gain his first hand recollection about this time and events in our locality. Within two days, through a series of contacts, I had his phone number and an arranged time to call. The call to his Texas home resulted in an intense hour long conversation concerning "The Numundo Patrol".

His recollection of the events here were crystal clear. It was as if they had happened yesterday and not those which had occurred almost 70 years prior. He is a man with a most lively sense of humour. He knew Rod Marsland though not personally as Rod was embedded with their K Company during and after the Volupai landings. The Numundo Patrol was estimated to take 3 days from Bitokara Catholic Mission to near where Numundo Plantation offices stand today. It didn't work that way. The Patrol ended up taking 10 days and each day K company was ambushed and often under attack from hidden machine guns around water sources. Men died. The Japanese units were led by Captain Terenuma fighting a delaying action in order for struggling, sick and starving Japanese soldiers abandoned by their Commander to retreat from Cape Gloucester and pass through the base of the Willaumez Peninsular heading for Garbubu (Gavuvu) their Hoskins base. The last battle for the USMC on New

Britain occurred at Kilu village at an area named “Tanga Na Wor” in Bakovi or in English, “Place of War” on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1944.

RV Burgin vividly remembered the Papua New Guineans who carried the ammunition for this patrol and who equally came under fire and attack. He recalled vividly the young boy with a machete tied to his waist skimming up a coconut tree to get drinking coconuts and other observations. Recently, Brent Weibe a missionary who spent 16 years studying, recording and translating the Bakovi language into the bible told me a Kilu man had not long ago found a Samurai Sword defiantly planted in the ground in some uncleared bush near the village church. Still, the events of 70 years ago are being played out in our communities.

Many of the Japanese soldiers who were captured in the awful retreat from Cape Gloucester were sent to Cowra POW camp in Australia and died in the Cowra Break Out.

I asked RV Burgin about the plantations they passed through and did they remember Walindi Plantation next to where they battled in Kilu Village. He said they passed through many plantations long abandoned and areas were in terrible economic decay in The Solomon Islands and on New Britain. This gave me an idea. I endeavoured to retrace the steps of RV Burgin’s Numundo Patrol from 1944. Returning to Bitokara Catholic Mission, and the beautiful site overlooking the islands off Talasea, I photographed the church, still standing from that WW2 period. K Company had camped in fox holes in front of it in the middle of a big wet season. Proceeding down the road I photographed the village oil palm projects, community owned cocoa/coconut plantings, the NBPOL plantations employing thousands of the countries citizens and exporting PNG’s premier agricultural export earner, Kilu Water Supply Project bringing water to households and eliminating the need for women to carry heavy loads for their families daily use, Walindi Plantation Resort with visitors from so many nations including former bitter foes who now sit at the one table for an evening meal, Mahonia Na Dari Marine Research, Education and Conservation Centre educating future PNG generations about the wonders of their precious environment, Numundo Beef and the fat cattle in the feed lot. RV Burgin, being a Texan, would appreciate images of healthy cattle I was sure. Photos of the good road built by Dumez Construction followed the same bush track K Company would have fought along.

So, from war to peace in 70 years for our locality and communities and the proof is visible for all to view. RV Burgin was happy to see in the images sent the results of what he and many thousands of others during WW2 basically fought for... a peace where people can get on with their lives and be free to do so.

Whoever it was who said those who have no knowledge of their history are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past spoke some powerful and wise words. It is basically the reason we are here today and gather to commemorate those who lost their lives in terrible conflicts such as WW1 and WW2 to give us the freedom we enjoy today.

**Lest We Forget.**



**Photo: Jeni Spargo**

## BOOK REVIEWS & BOOK NEWS

### **The Kokoda Campaign 1942: Myth and Reality by Peter Williams**

ISBN 97811-7-15944 Hardback Published 2012 by Cambridge University Press. Maps, photographs, bibliography and index \$59.95 Available from your local bookseller

I think it is fair to say that in recent years Kokoda has come to have the same emotive effect on the Australian national psyche as Gallipoli. It defines Australians as individuals and as a nation. However, after having read *The Kokoda Campaign 1942—Myth and Reality*, by Dr Peter Williams, one has to ask how much of that definition is based on myth and how much is based on fact.

I have read any number of books and articles on the desperate early days of the Pacific War, when Australians feared their survival as a people and as a nation might fall to the overwhelming force of an upstart Asian nation less than a hundred years on the world stage. It seems almost every year of late another book about Kokoda comes out. Almost all of them retell the story of how Australian citizen soldiers, poorly trained, underequipped and overwhelmed managed an almost textbook-like fighting retreat over the Owen Stanley Range in Papua New Guinea, slowing and then eventually stopping a Japanese force estimated at—depending on the book—two-to-one to six-to-one, thus saving Port Moresby and also Australia.

Dr Peter Williams, in his five-year research on Kokoda has done what all historians should do when researching and writing on any topic of historic significance. He wiped the slate clean and started almost from scratch, questioning every aspect of the campaign that others have repeatedly expounded upon as if it were part of some holy grail.

To begin with, enlisting both Australian and Japanese documents, Dr Williams dispels the reader of the notion that the Diggers saved Port Moresby. He then sights numerous sources pointing to the fact that contrary to most books and articles written on the subject, the Japanese knew that Kokoda was a track and not a road, and that it led over a high mountain range. The Australians fighting against the Japanese troops of Nankai Shitai (South Sea Force) were not pushed back because they were outnumbered. Meticulously consulting Japanese sources, Dr Williams, doing the math, shows again and again that during each stage of the retreat Australian forces were up against numbers equal to what they had.

Dr Williams also points out that the Japanese on Kokoda did not eventually retreat because they had run out of supplies and were starving. They were ordered back, at least temporarily, due to the turn of events on Guadalcanal that required the full attention of the Japanese military before they could focus their attentions once again on earlier objectives.

Without making this too long, briefly, Dr Williams also dissuades the reader of other myths such as the use of airpower in defeating Japanese forces on the trail and the supposed better medical care received by Australians.



None of the above should be seen as a denigration of the Australians of that generation who saw their fight at Kokoda as a do or die situation that would decide the fate of Australia. General MacArthur and Blamey may have known from intelligence that the Diggers were not fighting against overwhelming odds, but the bloke at the front didn't know that. Most thought, like Brigadier Potts, that they were hundreds up against perhaps thousands.

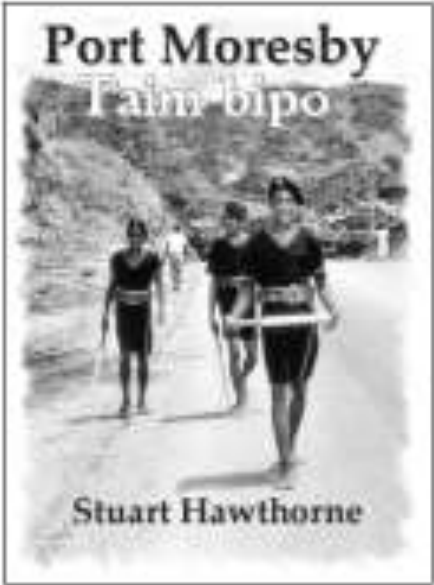
Also, as a result of having read Dr Williams' book, I have a whole new appreciation for both Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Gen. Thomas Blamey, two rather enigmatic yet controversial individuals.

Dr Williams also reminds the reader that Kokoda was not a battle of and within itself, as if it was something organic. Everything at Kokoda, as Dr Williams points out, had to do with other events—the Battle of the Coral Sea, Milne Bay, and most importantly the large force of U.S. Marines that landed on Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942, and their subsequent defeat of all Japanese attempts to remove them.

At a symposium in late 2012 on Kokoda at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, someone commented that *Guadalcanal*, by Richard Frank is the definitive book on that Pacific War battle. I am tempted to say the same thing about *The Kokoda Campaign 1942—Myth and Reality*.

Bruce M. Petty

Bruce has written four books on WWII in the Pacific. He was raised in California and now lives in New Zealand

	<h2>Port Moresby as it used to be</h2> <hr/> <p>Port Moresby, 1950s to 1970s, over 400 photographs</p> <hr/> <p>See review in <i>Una Voce</i>, September 2012</p> <hr/> <p>Online at <a href="http://www.StuartHawthorne.com">http://www.StuartHawthorne.com</a> or write to PO Box 182, Kedron, Qld 4031.</p>
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**Mangroves, Coconuts and Frangipani: The Story of Rabaul by Neville Threlfall** ISBN 978-0-646-58310-5 Published 2012 Soft Cover, 533 A4 pages of text. Foreword by Dr Allan Marat, MP for Rabaul. 150 photographs, 6 maps, Bibliography and Sources, Index. RRP in Australia \$45, plus packing and postage on individual mail orders. In New Zealand, NZ\$56, plus p&p. Order from Rev. Neville Threlfall, Unit 91, Nareen Gardens'19 Bias Avenue. Bateau Bay. NSW Australia 2261.  
Email: [threlfallnm1@bigpond.com](mailto:threlfallnm1@bigpond.com)

This book is as close as we'll ever get to have *the* definitive written account of the history of Rabaul. It really is an incredible book.

The author, Neville is a pretty amazing sort of a man. He spent 19 years living in and around Rabaul and the islands through the 60's and 70's, working as a missionary with the Methodist Church, then with the Uniting Church of PNG. He immersed himself in the local communities, learnt their languages, customs and stories, and basically got to know the people as few others have. And he is still held in extremely high regard by the locals. Before he wrote this book, Neville had already written a commissioned history of the PNG Islands. Due to his background, he was a natural to write a Rabaul history. Neville collected a vast amount of information for this, through painstaking research, delving into government archives, colonial records and the like, interviewing experts in various fields, and talking with many, many people. The scope of it all is huge.

The book covers Rabaul and the Gazelle Peninsula area of ENB. Neville explains the main title of the book – “Mangroves” relates to the original waterfront of parts of the harbor which were covered in mangroves (“Ra Baul” in the local Tolai language, meaning mangroves), “Coconuts” relates to its product, copra, which brought the first trade to the area, and “Frangipani”, which has become the official emblem of the region, as after eruptions and wars they bloom again, giving hope to the people.

The story of Rabaul is told in chronological order, beginning with the geology of the area, and the inherent volcanic activity, the make-up of the landscape, why it has such a wonderful deep natural harbour. It details the first human movement through the Pacific, and early habitation in Rabaul's surrounding areas. Other sections of the book cover early tribal movement and conflict (including the impact of New Ireland people who displaced the earlier coastal groups which were forced inland to make the Baining mountains their home), on to early Western influences, missionaries, trade and commerce in the region, the movement of Chinese workers to the town, who brought their own culture and often stayed on to be very successful. The period of German colonization had a huge impact on the development of the region, its infrastructure, and the expansion of trade. WW I disruption, Australian Administration, through the 1930's and the depression years, the 1937 eruptions, WW II and Japanese occupation (and the subsequent devastating effects on the people, and near destruction of the town of Rabaul), are all detailed in great accuracy and depth. Following chapters detail the rebuilding of Rabaul after the war, the lead up to PNG Independence, and the subsequent years, and an added section which deals with the 1994 eruptions, and on to Rabaul of today.

Frazer Harry

**Porton: A Deadly Trap – The facts about Porton Plantation, Bougainville, 1945**

by **Audrey Davidson & Battle Survivors** ISBN: 978 0 646 44766 7  
Published by Boolarong Press 182pp Paperback \$25.00 + \$8p&p within  
Australia Available from Pacific Book House Ph: 07-55224110 Email:  
[mcgrath@pacificbookhouse.com.au](mailto:mcgrath@pacificbookhouse.com.au) or PO Box 1072 Burleigh Heads QLD  
4220

In July 2003 Audrey Davidson gave a video presentation and address to an 11 Brigade Reunion luncheon in Brisbane. Her film featured the cathartic visit she had made some months earlier to a beach near Soraken in North Bougainville around which the WWII Battle of Porton Plantation had raged during the fateful hours of June 8-10 1945.

Her father, Captain Clyde Downs who commanded the 31/51 Australian Infantry Battalion attack force, was killed in action. His body was never found.

*“PORTON”: a Name, a Beach, a Plantation,  
A Battle a Betrayal, a Bitter Memory*

Porton is a name which can still strike dread into the hearts of men. A handful of elderly veterans remember the beach at Porton Plantation on the island of Bougainville. In June 1945 they survived the brief but bloody offensive which took place there eight weeks before the end of WWII. Some of those diggers are still fighting that old battle. The men were driven to the limit of endurance on Porton beach. During three terrible days of fighting there they were forced to witness many of their mates being needlessly killed or wounded by Japanese gunfire in an operation which was known to be both pointless and unwarranted. The full facts were never revealed and the survivors have bitter memories.



**NEW MEMBERS and CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Our many new members of PNGAA will be welcomed in the June 2013 issue of Una Voce. Changes of address will also be notified in the June issue.

## Donations to PNGAA Collection March 2013

Dr Peter Cahill

**Mike Lean:** tray presented to retiring Public Service Commissioner Neil Thomson by the TPNG Public Service Association, no date. **Laurie Le Fevre:** series of thirty pictures of PNG with map and explanatory notes prepared and published by the Department of Territories, Canberra, September 1959.

**Maxwell R. Hayes:**

details of Sgt Major Simoi of the Royal Papuan Constabulary including biography written by James Griffin; two photos of Simoi and one of the 5/- (five shillings) stamp on which he appeared; card invitation to Annual General Meeting of the New Britain Women's Club, Sydney, 220754; advertisement cartoon for Super Gillette Thin razor blades in Pidgin English. **Ray Montgomery:** large folder of material relevant to the Karius and Champion northwest patrol 1926-1928; brief history; early contact in the Fly-Sepik regions; first and second attempts 1926-1927; background to the 1996

retracing including Bibliography; Lieutenant-Governor Murray's report on the patrol in the 1927-1928 Papua *Annual Report*. **Bill McGrath, Pacific**

**Bookhouse, Burleigh Heads:** *New Guinean 1942-1964*, UFM Press, Boroko. 1965; updated Catalogue *Melanesia* [South West Pacific] mainly Papua New Guinea n.d.; various issues PNG ATTITUDE 2009-2011. **Jim**

**Burton:** English translations of *Tripela Liklik Pik* and *Liklik Redpela Hat* as read by Superintendent Mike Thomas; Cumulative Index of Territory of Papua and Mandated Territory of New Guinea 1930-1945 and 1945-1955 of the *Pacific Islands Monthly* as combined by Jim Burton, 1995. **Jack & Kathleen**

**Bolt PNG 1966-1986:** various publications, including: short history of Steamships Trading Company ("Steamies"); PNG Statistical Bulletins 1972-1979; E.G. Tscharke *A quarter century of healing* [Gaubin Hospital, Kar Kar island] 1973; PNG Official Directory 1976; *Leadership Manual* prepared by the [PNG] Ombudsman-man Commission; Brian Brogan, *Population and economic development in Papua New Guinea 1980-2015*. Institute of National Affairs Working Paper no.2 1985; *The PNG-Australia Relationship – problems and prospects*. Public Security Research Institute & Institute of Public Affairs Ltd. Sydney. 1990; Prospectus 1985 for Lihir Gold initial public offering of ordinary shares. **Rita Albiez:** photographs: Australian nurse Beth Golden with "Cookie" Mui Kwai in garden of Asiatic Hospital, Kambiu Avenue, Rabaul, ca.1950s; hospital staff For Tai (nurse), Mui Kwai, Leong Choi, Shirley Wong, Beth Golden on steps of Asiatic Hospital; Fr Tom Harris and unidentified companion,? Talasea, ca.1943; view of Matupit Island from Lakunai; two views of Tavurvur erupting 1942; internal view of Tavurvur.

**Maria Ling:** photographs: self with Stephen Chung and wife Anne; Maria's aunt's son and daughter in law; coconut palms on plantation. **Ken Cheung:** Brisbane Cathay Community Association news-letter November, 2012; 30th anniversary Souvenir Magazine 1981 – 2011. **John Robins:** *Early days [then] flying in New Guinea* [1937 – Air Force Active Reserve – ca.1970].

**All for now – balance delayed by floods and power blackout will be included in the June 2013 listing.**

## VALE

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

**Maxwell Brian ALLWOOD** (8 November 2012 aged 77 years)

Recruited as a Patrol Officer, Max arrived at Jackson's Strip in Port Moresby on a Douglas DC4, 8<sup>th</sup> January 1954, around 6.00 am. Posted to Mendi in the Southern Highlands, and assigned to the station at Lake Kutubu, this was a very exciting time for a raw 18-year-old cadet.

In 1956, Max moved to Wewak, a sub district of the Sepik, and staffed Green River station. New nursing Sister Doris Hayes from Wewak Hospital became engaged to Max in the New Year 1958. Separation, during a year at the Australian School of Public Administration at Mosman New South Wales, ended when Dorrie and Max married in Townsville, 23 August 1958.

After an Australian Xmas, they left for a new posting to the New Britain sub district of Rabaul in January 1959. Rosemary was born 1 July 1959 into basic living conditions with wonderful sea views. Dorrie briefly returned to Townsville to have John Maxwell 16 February 1961, while Max continued to work with the Tolai people, for whom he had great respect.

He decided that gaining a qualification, to fit him for a position in a town where the children could get a proper education and medical attention was necessary, and he began external study in law at the University of Queensland during 1962.

A shortage of staff at Mt Hagen in the Western Highland District meant they reluctantly left Rabaul during June 1962, for a posting as ADO Local Government. Elizabeth was born at the Goroka Hospital 13 July 1963.

Life again changed in 1964 when Max returned to Wewak, in the Sepik District, as ADO Local Government. Dorrie spent much time on her own with the three children, and battled on, like many women in the Territory. Timothy Gerard was born 14 November 1964, when Max was doing exams. Max took leave without pay, in order to attend Queensland University full time during 1965. The family settled into Brisbane suburban life but money was in short supply, despite part-time work during the year.

After exams were over and passed, they received an ADO Local Government posting to Sohano on Bougainville, and left Australia for PNG early in 1966. The Sohano Club and a house overlooking the island, out to azure blue sea, were two pluses on a very small island. The Administration offered up to six months study leave for officers to complete a degree, which was available to Max if he passed five subjects in 1966; despite patrol work, four lively children, assignments, and no chance to cram at the last minute, he managed to pass the November examinations.

Early in 1967, the family left Sohano for a further year of study at University of Queensland, which Max loved. During that year, Dorrie became very ill with cancer and successfully recovered from surgery, while Max completed his examinations, and received a new posting to Mendi as ADC, which would revive their shattered finances.

Now he had his degree, Max was keen to transfer to the Department of Law, and wrote to the Secretary of the Department, who agreed to this after House of Assembly elections were completed in April/May 1968. Dorrie settled the family and Max got on with general duties. Max became District Officer (Magistrate) in the Department of Law Konedobu, Advisings Section, in Port Moresby. The family settled into their new house at Gordon's Estate, and the two eldest children enrolled at St. Joseph's primary school in Boroko.

Sent to Daru, the headquarters of Western District, to act as Coroner in relation to the murder of villagers near the Irian Jaya border, Max found clear evidence Indonesian soldiers had carried out the killings. He applied and was successful in having his articles reduced to 12 months, on the proviso that he work in the Conveyancing Section of the Department of Law for three months. Dorrie gave birth to Paul William at Port Moresby General Hospital on 27 May 1969.

Max became a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea on his 34<sup>th</sup> birthday, 24 June 1969, in the presence of Dorrie and five children, friends and colleagues. He became more involved in local government matters, and was appointed acting Chairman of the Promotion Appeals Board.

His 1971 promotion to Senior Legal Officer (Local Government), housed in the Local Government Section of the Department of District Administration, was to affect the rest of his life. Had he not taken it, his life would have followed a different course. Then, a series of rapid changes took place. An early reorganisation of the Department of Law upgraded his position to Principal Legal Officer, as more and more councils formed, and more powers and functions devolved to the councils. In early 1972 Joe Lynch, the Legislative Draftsman, considered Max had potential in the field of legislative drafting, and offered him a position as Assistant Legislative Draftsman. In early 1973, the Legislative Drafting Section became a statutory authority by the name "Office of the Legislative Counsel" with Joe as First Legislative Counsel and Max as Second Legislative Counsel.

After the ALP came to power, Gough Whitlam pushed for PNG independence, and self-government arrived in 1973. It did not mean a lot; there was now a different composition in the House of Assembly, and the country now had Michael Somare as Chief Minister.

Joe Lynch' secondment to work on the Constitution for an independent Papua New Guinea, was independent of the Office of Legislative Council, and took instructions from the newly formed Constitutional Commission. Consequently, Max became acting First Legislative Counsel, a level 3 Departmental Head position. Talk about rapid promotion, having gone from articulated clerk in 1968 to departmental head in 1973. He was now responsible for drafting all bills as instructed by various departments of the Government. Being in the House during debates was necessary in case bill amendments required drafting. Normally, the House sat 2-5 pm and 8-10 pm when in session. Apart from the Bills, regulations, statutory instruments, and statutory notices also required drafting.

Joe Lynch and the Constitutional Commission had set out the framework for the Constitution towards the end of 1973.

This heavily affected the workload of the Office of Legislative Counsel, because the Constitution was to be purely an embodiment of the principles of the PNG Constitution, supplemented with organic laws containing the detail of constitutional matters such as elections, citizenship, judiciary, and defence.

Max was to draft the organic laws, which are organs of the Constitution, and only able to be amended by a two-thirds majority in the House of Assembly.

1974 and 1975 were a blur of work with no time for home life. Joe Lynch became very ill in late 1974, resigning soon after, leaving Max to complete the drafting of sections, on instruction from the Constitutional Commission.



Max and Dorrie enjoying life in Maleny, in between chores.

Independence came on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1975. Max wrote, “The celebrations ...were incredible. The people were hysterical with delight, even though for most, Independence brought absolutely no change in their lives. Psychologically, I suppose, the yoke of colonialism had been lifted.”

Many officers had taken advantage of a redundancy scheme and left the Territory before Independence, but

Max stayed on for a while. He had a contract as First Legislative Counsel until December 1976, but Michael Somare asked him to stay on for at least another year, as a consultant on drafting and legislative matters, which involved travelling between Moresby, Canberra, Sydney, and Brisbane. In May 1977, Max suffered his first heart attack. It was time to settle down with the family in Brisbane, so he did not renew his contract when it expired, and with a heavy heart, he left PNG, just before Christmas 1977, after 24 years of enjoyable service.

In August 1978, Max obtained a position as an Assistant Legal Officer at the University of Queensland, which employed a number of ex-kiaps, before joining Brisbane City Council in 1980. Working in the Advising, Drafting and Town Planning Office with Neil Boge involved drafting a new Town Plan for Brisbane, and a Development Control Plan for the Spring Hill area. After taking voluntary redundancy in 1993, Max continued as a consultant until 1997, when he retired from work for good.

Between 1999 and 2008, Max had six major operations and was fortunate to have “quality” time with his family, due to excellent medical treatment, exceptional support and comfort from his wife Dorrie, and a determined streak. He appreciated his final years in Maleny; after an interesting and fulfilling life, he enjoyed meeting PNG and Maleny friends, was dedicated to family, and died peacefully at home.

Brett Collins

**Ray (Kiwi) BLANCHFIELD (21 August 2012. Aged 72 years)**

Kiwi passed away at his home in Gympie on 21 August 2012, a month short of his seventy third birthday, surrounded by his loving adoring family, Beverley his wife of forty five years and his two sons, Desmond and Edmund.

He had suffered from myelodysplasia, a prelude to leukaemia – often termed ‘adult leukaemia’ and heart problems for a number of years which was compounded by a lung condition commonly term asbestosis- from working in unprotected conditions in asbestos mines during his teenage years.

He struggled valiantly against these debilitating health conditions for a considerable period in retirement on their large estate at Gympie. Nursed and cared for by his ever-loving, dutiful wife Beverly; with the occasional intermittent trip to Chermshire hospital.

Kiwi was born in New Zealand in September 1939. He was educated at a private boarding school and due to the harsh conditions prevailing, Kiwi decided at fourteen he would not endure such privations – which in today’s more enlightened times would be disallowed. He ran away: obtained work in the asbestos mines and was able to support himself.

During this period he also became ‘au fait’ with the driving off and the mechanical maintenance of large bulldozers; from the mining activity he graduated to full time bulldozer operations on road constructions.

So accomplished did he become handling such heavy construction equipment he earned the rank as used in this industry of the “Gunn” driver and operator.

Continual maintenance is an ever lingering requirement with heavy machinery and the engineering skill and detailed knowledge required to keep a fleet running was learnt on the job by Kiwi.

During early 1963 Kiwi obtained employment with Barclay brothers in Mt, Hagen who were then operating a fleet of dozers and other heavy equipment on various road construction sites.

In later years he would often remark about his dealings with, whilst emphasising his respect for, the famous DC of the Western Highlands, Mr Tom Ellis. A man similar to Kiwi ‘who got things done’; they were men who both attained results- no matter what the odds.

In 1967 Kiwi married his childhood sweetheart Beverley and they for brief period resided in Brisbane; but the call of PNG and its unbridled opportunities ever lingered for Kiwi and he and Beverly went to Bougainville in early 1968; he resumed his employment with Barclays.

They had two sons Desmond and Edmund both now successful in their own right and of much support to their mother.

Warren Read

**Barbara BURNS (29 November 2013) – further information next issue**



**Frank FAULKNER** (22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 aged 75 years)

Frank first went to Papuan New Guinea in 1957 as a cadet patrol officer. He was initially assigned to the Milne Bay District with later postings to the Madang Sepik, and Central Districts. He finally left the service in 1975 with the rank of District Officer.

In subsequent years Frank returned to Papua New Guinea and worked in community liaison roles for mining companies at Lihir and Porgera. He was also latterly employed as a camp manager by Oilmin Field Services Pty Ltd which serviced international petroleum exploration companies operating in the Southern Highlands and Gulf Provinces.

In betwixt field assignments Frank liked to frequent the ski resorts in Colorado and Europe, or scuba dive in the Mediterranean and the Bahamas.

In retirement Frank resided in Angeles City in the Philippines.

Frank Faulkner was a genial, well informed and interesting person. He will be missed by his many friends.

Harry Redmond

**Robert Bruce GRIEVE** (19 September 2012, aged 71 years)

After high school he studied accountancy and worked for a short time as a shipping clerk at Birt & Company. After deciding that bean-counting was not for him, he thought it would be exciting to teach in Papua New Guinea and enrolled at the Australian School of Pacific Administration at Mosman, where he graduated in 1962. His first teaching appointment was in Port Moresby, and to



Robert Grieve 2010

Further his education he enrolled part-time at the University of Queensland and studied by correspondence. One year later he moved to Hula – there were no roads, no electricity and the only way there and back was by double-hulled canoe. He studied by the light of a kerosene lamp. His love of education led him to further study, and in May 1979 he graduated with another degree from Macquarie University – a Master of Arts majoring in Education.

Bob lived in Papua New Guinea for 6 years, 3 of those as Head teacher with Laraine in Tapini.

He devoted his time to teaching the local students and was fascinated with the country and its people. He was thought of so highly by his students that they still kept in touch many years after he returned to Australia and let him know of their successes.

His deep interest in the country continued throughout his life and he wrote and published numerous professional journal articles and books on New Guinea's history and geography.

Amongst his published works on Papua New Guinea, one worth highlighting is his book on education in Northern Province of Papua New Guinea which is in the National Library of Australia. He developed his own mini-library of books on Papua New Guinea and there are over 600 in his collection.

Bob had a long and successful career at Barker College, Hornsby, NSW, teaching there for 32 years. Arriving at Barker in 1969, he taught History and English for 2

years before he started teaching Geography. He was appointed Senior School Tutor in 1977 and in 1991 he was appointed Head of Geography.

The results obtained by Geography students over the years in the Higher School Certificate bear strong testimony both to Bob's own teaching and to his leadership of the Geography department. Throughout his time at Barker, Bob coached a variety of cricket, rugby and tennis teams. One of his star cricket players was Peter Taylor, who later became an eminent member of the Australian Cricket Team.

Bob is survived by his wife Laraine, son, John and daughter, Karen.

Laraine Grieve

**John Francis HAYES** (January 2013 aged 81 years)

Ex kiap, late of Algester

**Sir Barry HOLLOWAY** (16 January 2013)

An obituary for Sir Barry Holloway is on page 17 of this issue.

**Brian HOLLOWAY CBE QPM** (23 January 2013, aged 85 years)

An obituary for Brian Holloway is on page 19 of this issue.

**Jane HOOK** (31 January 2013) – more details next issue

**Dr John Lee JAMESON** (26 May 2012 aged 85)

John was born on 12 June, 1928 in Brisbane the son of Harold and Elsie Lee Jameson. His father, a garage proprietor, died 13 months after John was born. In 1933, his mother married Harry Newberry Casey, who had a property at Macalister in the Darling Downs.

John attended Toowoomba Grammar School where he was dux in his senior year. He studied medicine at the University of Queensland, graduating in medicine in December 1950, and did his residency at the Brisbane General Hospital.

He served as a Captain in the Australian Military Forces at Taurama Barracks from 17 Dec 1951 to 14 May 1952.

He met Lesley Nothling, an air hostess, while he was at university and they married at St John's Cathedral in Brisbane on 13 December 1952. John returned to PNG with PHD in January 1953 and was the first Australian

graduate to come to PNG after the European refugee invasion of 1950. In his first year he was attached to the Minj malaria research unit. In February 1954 he became DMO at Goroka where Louise was born.

In 1955 he studied the D T M & H in Sydney and became a Regional MO, first at Lae then Moresby from 1965. In 1967 he graduated as MPH at the University of Michigan and was admitted as a member of Delta Omega. He was a Foundation Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators.

His administrative competence saw him promoted to Assistant Director of Preventative Medicine in 1969 through to his retirement 1975 where he provided valuable advice over the complex years through to independence.

John was an able compassionate doctor and an intelligent quiet achiever who listed no publications but worked tirelessly to improve the health of the people in the areas he served.

He left just prior to independence and continued to provide health services for those in real need in the Aboriginal Health section of the Queensland Department of Health where his experience in PNG was extremely useful.

After his retirement, he continued to grow orchids, and took up bridge which he thoroughly enjoyed. Lesley died in October 2005. John is survived by his daughter Louise and three granddaughters.

Roy Scragg

### **John Thomas LEAHY (15 January 2013, aged 66 years)**

John was Tom Leahy's younger brother. He was in Goroka for many years in coffee and ended up working for Niuminco. He bought Duna from the Kingsford Smiths.

### **Eileen LIDDLE (21st September 2012)**

### **James Edward (Jim) McKINLEY (6 Jan 2013 aged 67 years)**

Jim died on January 6 in a house fire in Canberra. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

During his time in Port Moresby, Jim was employed by the then Department of Civil Aviation and was a member of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. He was a member of the Canberra Rifle Club for many years and, as recently as last year, he was winning competition events.

Don Hook

**Ferdinand Donald MACLEAN** (9 August 2012 aged 86 years)

Don, or Rangarere Don, as he was known in Rabaul, was born in Namanula hospital to Lottie and Jock Maclean, of Rangarere and Old Massawa plantations on the Bainings coast of New Britain. He spent his early childhood on the plantation, doing correspondence lessons from the Queensland Correspondence School and in 1937 was sent to Brisbane Boys College in Brisbane to complete his secondary education. This was not a happy time for him, being separated from his family and only seeing them once a year in the Christmas holidays.

In December 1941 after Pearl Harbour, and while he was home for the holidays, the administration decided to evacuate the white women and children from Rabaul. Don, his mother and sister were sent to Brisbane. Because his father was missing in New Guinea, Don had to get a job to support his mother and sister so he worked for Mars Machine Tool Company until he was old enough to join the Army in late 1943.

Don served in Bougainville in 1944 and 1945. As he was very fluent in pidgin, at the end of the war he was transferred to Rabaul to act as an interpreter for the Allied Occupation Force. He took his discharge in Rabaul and joined his father in clearing and rehabilitating their plantations after 5 years of neglect and war damage.

Don had great rapport with the local people and was instrumental in forming the Lassul Local Government council, for which he received, in September 2000, a Recognition Award for contribution in services to the development of Papua New Guinea from Sir Silas Atopare GCMG KStJ.

In 1972 he and his family moved to Brisbane. While driving a taxi at night he graduated as Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies in 1980. In 1984 he completed a Master of Social Science degree at UQ after which he was employed by the ATSIC Educational Unit at the University of Queensland. In 2008 his deteriorating health forced him to retire from the tutoring which he loved.

Don is survived by Judith, his wife, four of his children and their spouses, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren and will be dearly missed by his family and many friends.

Judi Maclean

**Jan (Johannes) MOLDERS** - no date given –

**Kevin MURPHY OBE** (25 January 2013, aged 63 years)

Kevin was an ex-kiap. He received his OBE for services to PNG Rugby League.

See the extract of tribute from Post Courier of 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013 on page 24

**Vincent Alexander Henry NIELSEN MBE** (5 October 2012 aged 86 years).

Vince was born at Killarney, Queensland, 24 December 1926 and joined the Queensland Police Force in June 1943. He was sworn in on 9 April 1945 (Reg. No 4215) and after commencing at Roma Street, served at Augathella, in the Charleville Police District. He resigned in April 1948 to join the Royal Papuan Constabulary and New Guinea Police Force as an Assistant Sub Inspector on 28th May 1948. He served with the Constabulary at Port Moresby, Lae and Wau. He resigned in May 1957 to operate a poultry farm at 14 Mile, Sogeri, in partnership with Jim DUTTON.

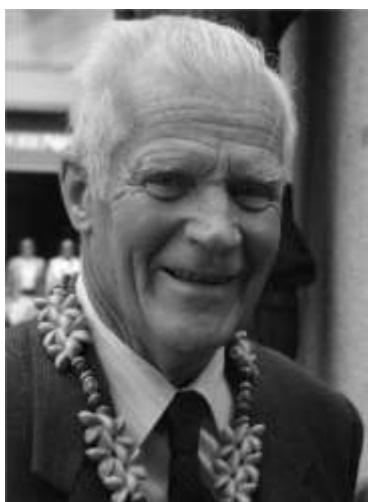
He served in the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles.

After the end of 1981 he sold his PNG property and moved to Queensland where he commenced his own business as a Consultant to Investment Corporations.

Earl Sanders

**Jacqueline OTTLEY** (24 November 2012, aged 83 years)

**John Morley PHILLIPS OAM, ED, RFD, MPS, Ph.C., JP** (4 October 2012, aged 80 years)  
"Service Above Self"



Born in Northbridge, John enjoyed attending North Sydney Boys High. He was always proud of the Scottish connection in his heritage and his first date with my Mother was to a Scottish dance when she was 16 and he was 17.

He had wanted to do Medicine, but had to have a job at the same time so he did Pharmacy. John and Allison were married at 21 and 22, and opened their first pharmacy at Long Jetty, NSW, with a bank loan of 4000 pounds. They struggled and "went without" to pay the loan back in eighteen months to the astonishment of the local manager. Both John and Allison maintained a keen interest in the Pharmacy

Industry and never did retire! Phillips Pharmacy has now been in Gosford for 48yrs. In later years, although not dispensing, John was regularly in the pharmacy, faxing lengthy letters he would write after midnight, to anyone he thought could benefit from his wisdom, or the odd 2 page appeal over a speeding fine.

John, even in his younger days, was fiercely patriotic and a budding philanthropist.

John felt the need to show the Australian people's appreciation for the help and sacrifices of the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels during the Kokoda campaign of

1942-43. John wanted to establish a hospital in the Kokoda area and with Allison raised \$4,000. The hospital would cost \$3 million. Undaunted John sought donations from local business, from large corporations and state governments as well as from the RSL. Initially when he sought funds from the Keating federal government he was turned down. John in his dogged manner persisted and eventually the Prime Minister thought this would be great PR for the Labour government and gave John a grant of \$3 million for the hospital.

John went to New Guinea no less the 38 times over 35 years representing the Australian people, Rotary International and Gosford Rotary in particular. Besides the hospital he built 11 Aide Posts so that sick people there would not have to walk more than two hours to get medical treatment.

Oliver the dog was a special training partner for John's (2<sup>nd</sup>) trip to walk the Kokoda track aged 70. Oliver was walked up every hill so John would be fit enough. Two years ago he had 30yr olds panting up the hills of PNG trying to keep up with him.

John was also involved in The Royal Australian Army Medical Corp, Chamber of Commerce, Battle for Australia and the Kokoda Memorial Project.

His love of land and farming began in his youth at Northbridge when, on weekends he would ride his bike from Northbridge to Wilberforce to help on his uncle's farm. In 1968 he purchased 400 acres at Warnervale. Later, the Department of Main Roads resumed the Warnervale farm with the building of the F3 and in 1978 4000 acres were bought between Coonamble and Coonabarabran, the property called "*Bouwick*". John taught his family much – he fixed and repaired rather than threw things out...he differentiated between "wants" and needs".

In 1974 John took his family to South East Asia for a trip of 7 months.

His organising of and involvement in Australia Day celebrations spanned over 20 years. It was also his interest in and passion for remembrance of the Battle for Australia which was a highlight of the Gosford Rotary calendar. For years John would organise a team of Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels to be present at the annual talk.

He stressed that it was important for all Australians never to forget our history.

John is survived by Allison, David, Debbie, Suzette, Anne and families

*With thanks to David Phillips and Jim Katrakilis, President Gosford Rotary Club, and Rotary International newsletter Volume 62 Issue 15 of October 2012.*

**Frederick Victor (Fred) REITANO (16 October 2012 aged 93 years)**

Lieutenant NX129453 AIF, Assistant District Officer, Lawyer, Community worker, Justice of the Peace, and lifelong learner

Born 26 May 1919, Sydney, died Brisbane, Australia

He showed promise as a scholar in the early years of his education. He attended North Newtown Intermediate High School (1932-34) where he excelled in mathematics, science, English, the humanities, and languages.

Life in the Great Depression was hard, and like many other families at that time his parents could not afford his further education. He was fortunate enough to gain employment immediately upon leaving school at the Australian Gaslight Company until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.

He enlisted as a private in the Australian Infantry Forces in 1939 and saw active service in Papua New Guinea where he experienced first-hand the bombing of Port Moresby by the Japanese. He rose to the rank of sergeant, and was later commissioned in 1944 with rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. At the conclusion of his officers training at Duntroon he was posted to a civil affairs unit in Borneo. The war was coming to end and the Australian Government needed officers of his calibre to assist in the reconstruction of the Asia/Pacific region.

During his time at Borneo he met Mary Alice Kathleen Fleming who at the time was serving as a nurse in the Voluntary Aid Detachment with the 6<sup>th</sup> Australian General Hospital. They fell in love and got married in January 10<sup>th</sup> 1946. They then moved to Territory of Papua and New Guinea as it was known then, and spent the next 30 years of their lives there.



**Frederick Reitano 1946**

At the conclusion of the Pacific War in August 15, 1945, he briefly returned to Sydney before deciding to take the opportunity to work with the Australian colonial administration in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. He enrolled in the 1<sup>st</sup> Long Course at the Australian School of Pacific Administration (ASOPA) where he was instructed by a talented group of academics such as Marie Reay, Camilla Wedgewood, Harold Stewart, and James McCauley. He was awarded a Diploma in 1951 and then posted to Mt Hagen as a patrol officer.

Being in the field staff meant regular postings throughout the Territory: Maprik, Mt Hagen, Bogia, Wewak, Manus Island, Rabaul, and finally Port Moresby. One of their first homes was made of thatched material. Such was life in the out stations, especially when one was a patrol officer. He would be away for weeks working with police, 'luluais' and 'tultuls' to collect census data, provide medical support to local villages, and keep the peace.

While stationed at Lorengau, Manus Island, as an Assistant District Officer, he enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Queensland. From 1956-1959 he studied for his degree externally. He was granted 2 years leave without pay to complete his studies. He boarded at Cromwell College, an experience he enjoyed immensely. He graduated with an LLB in 1961.

He left the field staff after gaining his law degree, and joined Crown Law in Port Moresby in 1962. After 3 years, he joined a law firm and practiced as a barrister and solicitor, before re-joining Crown Law just before independence. During this time his wife Mary worked as a Welfare Officer. They left Papua New Guinea in 1975.

He was then appointed Principal Legal Officer in the Attorney General's Department in Darwin in 1976, eventually becoming Assistant Crown Law Officer. Two years he and Mary then came to live in Brisbane where they built a home at Sunnybank in Queensland.

Upon his retirement in 1978, he set about further study as a part time student at Griffith University where he studied for a Bachelor of Arts, graduating in 1989. He then enrolled in a Master of Arts and completed that in 1992.

Apart from studying at university, Mr Reitano became heavily involved in volunteering in a variety of organizations that focussed around education, culture, and health. He strongly believed in helping others. He was an active, community minded citizen. One of his great thrills as 'audio-visual literacy reader' at the University of Queensland was to assist a sight- impaired law student to graduate in law - with first class honours.

There were two organisations he was regularly involved with. The first was the United Service Club of which he was a member for 32 years. He and members of the family regularly patronised the club. He was also involved the Sunnybank RSL for many years.

In January 2010, he and Mrs Reitano moved into RSL Care at Cazna Gardens. He kept up with current affairs and read widely. He had a large of books on Papua New Guinea. He continued in his role of Justice of Peace until 6 months before he died.

Mr Reitano is survived by his wife Mary; Sons Paul and Jeffrey; daughters-in-law, Danielle, Janelle and Kate; grandchildren - Emma, Noel, Odette, and Peter; great grandchildren - Ashley, Michael, Nikolas, Nicola, Daniel, and Gabrielle.

*Paul Reitano*

**William John (John) ROBINS** (08 November 2012 aged 99 years)

The article "Early days flying in Papua New Guinea" by John Robins will commence in the June 2013 edition of Una Voce.



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