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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

The President and
Committee wish all members
a very
Merry Christmas
And a happy 2014



**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON,
Sunday 01 December
At the Killara Golf Club**

556 Pacific Hwy Killara (Sydney) NSW

RSVP: 15 November 2013

See p3 and booking form on yellow insert

MEMBERSHIP FEES are now due for 2014.
They can be paid for a maximum period of
three years. Please think about a Xmas
Gift Subscription to members of your family
- email: admin@pngaa.net

**PNGAA WEBSITE
www.pngaa.net**

**DATE of 2014 AGM and
LUNCHEON
Sunday 27 April 2014**

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'UNA VOCE' IS THE JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC Please send all correspondence to: The Secretary, PNGAA, PO Box 1386, MONA VALE NSW 1660.

Items for *Una Voce*

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

Una Voce is published in March, June, September and December.

Advertising is available - please contact the Editor.

Website: 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.

No receipts are given for subscriptions as it would add to our postage expenses.

PNGAA Office Bearers –

President

Andrea Williams

Mob: 0409 031 889

Email president@pngaa.net

Secretary

Amanda Warhurst

Tel/fax 02-99836 1327 A/h only

Mob: 0414 773 677

Email: admin@pngaa.net

Treasurer

Nick Booth

Phone 02 9868 2197

Email: treasurer@pngaa.net

Editor

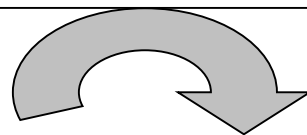
Keith Wall

Phone 0477 308 497

Email: editor@pngaa.net

In selecting articles and stories for *Una Voce* we aim to publish a wide range of topics from different times and places. Unfortunately due to postage we do have a page restriction and we therefore encourage both short articles (200-500 words approximately) as well as longer ones from 500-1500 words (approximately), in addition to an installment series.

Whilst we like to acknowledge contributions, we thank you for your understanding that it may take a little time.



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 notify our Treasurer at Email: treasurer@pngaa.net it would be appreciated. Thank you.

Wondering what to give somebody for Xmas?

Email: admin@pngaa.net.

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

The Management Committee joins me in wishing you all a safe and happy festive season over Christmas and the New Year.

We hope that as many as possible will join us for the annual Christmas Luncheon in Sydney on 1 December 2013 – already we have several coming from interstate and seats are filling fast. We look forward to having **His Excellency Charles Lepani** join us. There will still be plenty of time to meet him and also to chat with friends. Speaking of friends, if you know someone who isn't a member, please feel free to ask them along to share this special day.

Tingting tasol 



From the editor

Welcome to the December 2013 edition of Una Voce.

This edition again bears very sad news of the passing of more of our members. This September alone we have lost three very prominent lady members in Florence Cohen, Lorna (Whyte) Johnson, and Merle Wall.

Each of these wonderful ladies has contributed to countless other people's lives in their own special and individually unique ways.

Our sincere condolences go out to their families.

There are two memorial articles for Lorna that shows differing perspectives of her brave and astounding life.

One is a reprint from an article that was originally published in her adopted New Zealand "Aucklander" newspaper. This article builds on Lorna's post-war activities that displayed her equally prodigious personal and social abilities.

The second article is in the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru section and relates to her close relationship with her activities 'on this side of the ditch'. Truly she was an amazing person.

This Festive season, do take care and enjoy.

We promise a bountiful new year's publications of UNA VOCE

Have a peaceful Festive Season

Keith Wall

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Sunday, 1 December 2013
Killara Golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara NSW
11.30am onwards

Members, together with family and friends, are all welcome.

*We are delighted that The High Commissioner for PNG in Australia **His Excellency Charles Lepani CBE** will be joining us.*



Charles W Lepani first came to Australia as a school boy boarder in 1961, in the northern Queensland town of Charters Towers.

He earned a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

He was one of Papua New Guinea's highest ranked civil servants during the decentralisation process in the mid-1970s, working as an economic and public policy expert. He was a member of the Aid Review team for the governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia. As director of the PNG National Planning Office from 1975 to 1980, he was involved in the formulation of PNG's post-independence macroeconomic policy and public sector planning system, including aid coordination. Lepani served as PNG's ambassador to the European Union from 1991 to 1994. He was managing director of Minerals Resources Development Co. from 1994 to 1996, leading the partial privatization of the state's mining and petroleum assets and subsequently heading Orogen Minerals Ltd. He was appointed to The High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea in Australia in 2005.

Please get your bookings in quickly! RSVPs by 15 November 2013. The cost is \$60 per person and needs to be paid in advance. This does not include liquor or soft drinks which will be available from a **cash-only bar**. Advance payment enables us to plan the seating and confirm numbers. Seating is for tables of 10. If you wish to be seated with family or friends please advise on the order form OR feel free to make up your own table of 10.

For those coming by train please take the exit on the western side of Killara station, walk along Marion Street, cross the Pacific Highway at the lights and turn left for 550m. Alternatively please let us know if you would like transport from Lindfield station which has lifts and a ramp - please phone Harry West on 9418 8793 regarding transport. Public transport information can be obtained on # 131500.

For those driving – free on-site parking is available. Look for the red and yellow balloons at the entrance immediately after Fiddens Wharf Road on the Pacific Highway as you travel north. **Entry to Killara Golf Club is immediately after the Noodle Blast.**

An exciting Christmas raffle/silent auction is planned - please contact Juli Allcorn on (m) 0405 625 912 or email: juliallcorn@gmail.com to make a donation or for any further information. Keep a check on the forum (website) for updates.

Come along, renew those old friendships, and share the familiar experiences once again at this delightful and most memorable occasion. **Please complete the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow 'Treasurer's Corner' insert and return as soon as possible or by 16 November 2013.**

NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

From Jim Toner

The PNG Social & Cultural Group was apologetic about being slow this year to arrange the usual large-scale Independence Day bash in Darwin but its President, Rick HIGLETT, formerly of DCA Moresby, and his effervescent wife Hudson from Matupit, Rabaul, refused to let it pass unmarked. They turned on a delightful family affair in their spacious back garden where nearly 50 parents and children listened to PNG music and danced before kai was served.

In the space of a week the letters page of the *NT News* has been peppered with comments from 'grumpy old men' of the PNG fraternity. Pat SOMERS, kiap; Keith GREGORY, chalkie; and Graham HOCKEY, didiman. An exploit of the latter on a Darwin rugby field is worth recounting. When nearly 50 yrs old he headed off on a Saturday afternoon to referee a C grade game, as permitted by his wife, but surreptitiously changed into his kit and played instead. In fact he scored the match-winning try but pleaded with his club not to have it publicised lest it occasion domestic strife. Rugby being a game for gentlemen... there was agreement that the points be assigned to a second rower who, to borrow from Cricket jargon, had not "troubled the scorers" for the past 20 years. He was delighted and the didiman got away with it... for a while.

You might have thought that by now Ben MOIDE who, aged 16, joined the PIB in 1940 and was discharged as a Sergeant in 1945 had attended his last parade but in the PNG Independence Day Honours list this September he was awarded the Distinguished Military Service medal. From Pari village he had already travelled to Buckingham Palace to receive a CBE from the Queen so he won't have to make that long journey again. A good thing as he is not quite as sprightly as when he played for Magani in the Moresby Rugby League during 1961-62.

2018 may seem to be some years away but Port Moresby should not delay planning for APEC (the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum) which is to be held there then. This will bring 3000 delegates and multiple logistical problems. One idea is for a massive Convention Centre and hotel complex to be built over the water at Ela Beach, or alternatively for participants to be accommodated on cruise ships anchored in the harbour. We can only wish PNG luck in turning ideas for this project into reality.

I haven't discovered where the Governor of Oro Province received his education but seemingly Gary JUFFA did not skip the class in Florid English Rhetoric. Regarding the so-called Manus solution to Australia's asylum-seeker invasion he wrote "*Not everyone in PNG will accept being fed the foul excrement of injustice that emanates from the bowels of neo-colonialism*". Phew!

Visit to the Blue Mountains

Thank you to George and Edna Oakes who again warmly welcomed a group to their home at Woodford in the Blue Mountains on Thursday 3 October.

MEMBERS ONLY: SEARCH every issue of *Una Voce* online!

Did you know that you can now access every past issue of *Una Voce* through the web site? This may be of particular interest to our overseas members – if they elect to view the journal this way, it will save them paying the airmail surcharge as part of their subscription.

Your username and password were in the June 2013 *Una Voce*.

You can also search for a particular article or a particular author. Don't forget you can also search each individual issue (or all issues) by keyword.

If you are interested in accessing the journal by this method and no longer need to receive your hard copy of *Una Voce*, please let us know!

Email: editor@pngaa.net

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

► Geoff Atkins writes:

Thank you for the interesting reading in your magazine. I was born at Namanula Hospital, Rabaul in 1933. Although my parents were missionaries on Mussau, we made frequent visits to Rabaul.

Like a lot of others, my mother, sister and I spent Christmas 1941 on board the Macdhui. Later my father and his close friend Trevor Collett were taken prisoners. Dad died at Vunapope, and Trevor was on the Montevideo Maru.

In 1995 my sister and I went back to Mussau for two weeks. We were thoroughly spoilt!

I guess like the farmer, you can take the boy out of New Guinea, but you can't take New Guinea out of the boy.

Your magazine helps to maintain that connection.

► Des Martin writes:

My Mount Lamington article in the June Edition of *Una Voce* obviously omitted a couple of paragraphs for reasons of spacing and editing. However paragraph one is pertinent and I quote "When WW2 ended I had completed four years army service with some eighteen months pursuing Japanese along the Aitape – Wewak littoral as part of 6 Division AIF. The stress, death and trauma of war fighting slowly faded. Other than the occasional flashback I assumed that I would never be faced with similar circumstances. The Mount Lamington eruption proved me wrong."

This prior exposure to the stress of war certainly allowed me to put aside the Mount Lamington experience fairly quickly. The same could not be said of my close friend the late Bob Blaikie with whom I retained contact on a regular basis in recent years up until his death in 2012. Bob had confided in me that he was

haunted by the experience for the rest of his life in PNG and afterwards albeit it never interfered with the role as a Kiap and academic in later years. PTSD was not recognised in the 1950's and in particular Bob was left to his own devices without the sort of intensive counselling he would receive these days... A wonderful bloke sorely missed.

Editor: *Just this month, it was announced in USA, that PTSD, mental trauma, shell shock or whatever various historical terms it was given, would now be treated by the US Military with the same status as a severe physical injury. It has taken well over a century for that to occur.*

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

THE INTERNATIONAL FLEET REVIEW 3-11 OCT 2013 **Elizabeth Thurston**

Over forty warships, seventeen tall ships and up to 8,000 naval personnel from over twenty nations participated in the International Fleet Review celebrating the centenary of the Royal Australian Navy's fleet arrival into Sydney harbour. A spectacular programme of events culminated in a stunning fireworks and light display on the harbour and Opera House on Saturday night. Two ships from PNG joined the fleet sailing into the harbour: *HMPNGS Dreger* and *HMPNGS Rabaul*. His Excellency Mr Charles Lepani, the High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea, and Mr Sumasy Singin, OBE, the Consul General welcomed the officers and crew from both ships at a very animated and friendly cocktail party at Parliament House in Sydney. Among the dignitaries and guests present were Captain Sebastian Maru from the *Dreger* and Captain Douglas Inau from the *Rabaul*. The Hon Charlie Lynn, Parliamentary Secretary for Veterans Affairs addressed the room and reiterated the strong ties that exist between our two nations and the hope that we will enjoy many more social events at the lovely Parliament House venue.

HMPNGS DREGER IN PORT MORESBY 2008 Photo K. Wall



PNG EPIC JOURNEY – From the FLY to the SEPIK!

Enjoy a presentation about this extraordinary voyage

Date: Thursday 7 November 2013

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Venue: The Roseville Club, 64 Pacific Highway, Roseville NSW 2069

Cost: \$20

RSVP: 30 October 2013

Contact: Juli Allcorn 0466 521 313 Email: admin@pngaa.net

Payment by Cheque to: PNGAA, PO Box 1386, Mona Vale NSW 1660, or Electronically (Direct Debit) to: PNGAA, BSB 062:009 (CBA, Wynyard), account 0090:7724.

Please ensure that the information provided with your payment allows us to identify you, and send a confirmation e-mail to treasurer@pngaa.net.

HELP WANTED



This photo may be recognised by one of our Members. My guess is Samarai and could be the residence of Bob Bunting or Viv Crisp (Steamships Trading) circa 1924?

By way of background Viv was my Uncle and spent 35 years in PNG

David Montgomery PNG 1956 - 1966

(Email: montykimbe@gmail.com)

Owen, Genty-Nott... would like to know if anyone has any schedules, competitions, programs etc., relating to the New Britain Agricultural and Horticultural Show Society, which they would be happy to donate to the Fryer Library.

I have a few items which Dr Peter Cahill is happy to put on display, but I'm sure there is other material out there that would help tell the story of this annual event. Even some history on the show itself; when it commenced and when wound up as I presume it is now.

I was a member from 1958 and later became a Life Member of the Society, but left the Gazelle in 1974, when it was still a major event.

Any member with news of the Society could contact me on email. thejackaroo@gmail.com

Sue Promnitz sent in a photograph of some 'bark cloth' and asked: I have a (not sure what they are called) bark cloth printed with a design and it is 1.73 meters long by 600mm high. It was given to me at Port Moresby by a village elder when I left New Guinea after living there for seven years I'm not sure of its history, I have had it since 1993 and have tried to preserve it but am unable to display it as it deserves, so was wondering if your museum would be interested in having it. I was told that the item is not something that is usually given to expatriates so it may be of interest to you.

Ed: My daughter was able to respond to Sue: I have an answer for you relating to your Tapa cloth. It is pronounced Tar-pah. The piece originated in the group of villages between Wanigela on the West coast of Collingwood Bay and Tufi. This piece is a traditional dance adornment, "The tapa is worn around their shoulders and they flap it like wings up and down representing the butterfly. The women are the ones that do that dance. It is the butterfly motif that identifies the origin" Wanigela (also spelt as Wanigera) is very close to the border of Milne Bay province and Oro (Northern) Province.

Nancy Manu is in search of a John Williams who worked for TAA here in Port Moresby in the 60's presumably 1963-1966. I am told he was attached to the sales and marketing department in TAA. A few of his acquaintances have asked me to search for him online. They are in the 70's. I have searched online and am also checking the airline's data files. Any information on Mr Williams would be appreciated.

Email nmanu@airniugini.com.pg

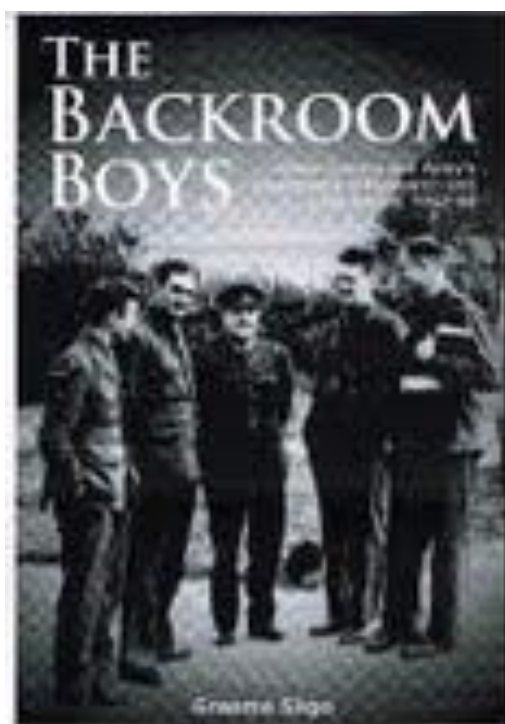
Book Reviews and Book Releases

***The Backroom Boys* by Graeme Sligo** ISBN 9781921941122

Publisher (Big Sky Publishing): Sharon@bigskypublishing.com.au

(Ph.) 1300-364-611; PO Box 303, NEWPORT, NSW 2106.

This is the remarkable, but little known, story of how a varied group of talented intellectuals, drafted into the Australian Army in the dark days of 1942, provided high-level policy advice to Australia's most senior soldier, General Blarney, and through him to the Government for the remainder of the war and beyond. Published 2012



This band of academics, lawyers and New Guinea patrol officers formed a unique military unit, the Directorate of Research and Civil Affairs, under the command of an eccentric and masterful string-puller, Alf Conlon.

Among his team were a future Governor-General, John Kerr, a future head of Foreign Affairs, James Plimsoll, the future Chief Justice, Harry Gibbs, the *Ern Malley* hoaxers, James McAuley and Harold Stewart, as well as Jim Taylor and John Black, who led the expedition that made 'first contact' in the New Guinea Highlands in the 1930s. The Directorate has been depicted as a haven for underemployed poets or meddlesome soldier-politicians.

Based on wide-ranging research, this book reveals a fuller and more fascinating picture. The fierce conflicts in the wartime bureaucracy between public servants and soldiers, in which the Directorate provided critical support to Blarney, went to the heart of military command, accountability and the profession of arms.

The Directorate was a pioneer in developing approaches to military government in areas liberated by the combat troops, as demonstrated by the Australian Army in New Guinea and Borneo in 1945-46. It is an issue of enduring importance. The Directorate established the Australian School of Pacific Administration, and had an important role in founding the Australian National University. Its influence extended into post war Australia. *The Backroom Boys* emphasises the personality of Colonel Alf Conlon, as well as the talented men and women he recruited. Above all, this book shows how, unexpectedly, the Australian Army fostered a group

of men and women who made a lasting contribution to the development of Australia in the decades after the war.

Graeme Sligo is a colonel in the Australian Army who has served overseas in East Timor and Iraq. He is a graduate of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, the Canadian Forces Command and Staff College, Toronto, the National Defence University of Pakistan, the University of New South Wales and the University of Melbourne.

BEAUTIFUL TUFI: Between the Past and the Future

By **Jan Hasselberg** November 09 2012

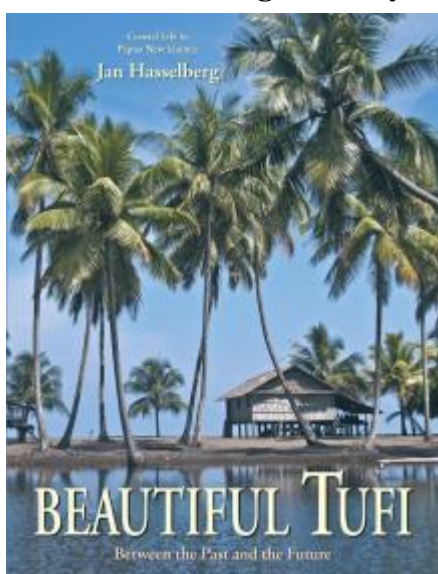
This is a story of the villagers of Tufi, in Oro Province of Papua New Guinea...their dramatic yesterdays, their joys and worries of today, and their expectations of tomorrow.

Luxury Travel Magazine describes this publication as “a colourful coffee table book” about the people, culture and life at Tufi, Papua New Guinea.

The book paints a picture of the peoples’ daily tasks, special occasions, their surroundings and history, and how they combine their old traditions and ways with adaptations and preparations for the future.

After several visits to Papua New Guinea, Jan Hasselberg became inspired by the beauty and culture that surrounded him that he returned to write Beautiful Tufi.

“During my first stays at Tufi, I learned that the area has a very dramatic and interesting history, and a great wealth of natural treasures,”



Hasselberg says. “To experience a place where the natural environment is still a fundamental part of everyone’s lives made a deep impression on me, and this is some of what I have tried to express in my book. Here I was also met with great warmth and hospitality, which made it natural for me to go back and find out what more the area has to offer.”

In Beautiful Tufi, Hasselberg follows a number of individuals, some in dramatic situations and some in their every-day chores. He follows them in the rainforest, in their gardens; fishing on the reefs and taking a dinghy to town. The text is

supported by a large number of the author's own photos and some from historic archives."

That is the sales pitch ... however when I first picked up the book and started to skim through, I suddenly stopped. "WOW" I thought.

This book has absolutely stunning photographs throughout its 241 pages. There on average two photographs per page, and many at full A4 size. Many of the photographs were taken by the author and have appeared in some other publications including Panoramio / Google Earth sites, and Flickr. The photographs are superb, and instantly draw the reader to read the supporting text.

This is one of the first books of its genre that I have been compelled to read from cover to cover.

It is not a "coffee table book", as described. It could be if you were trying to impress your visitors. You would not have to try very hard to do that.

The book text and photos take the reader from the earliest days of Tufi regional and village habitation and folk law, through major periods in past and recent history, to today and into the foreseeable future. You are led by the writer as characters in the book, describe their realistic observations and feelings first hand.

The book deserves a place in every school library, both in Papua New Guinea and elsewhere. It certainly deserves a place in any home where previous memories of coastal PNG need to be invigorated.

Keith Wall

David Pye, FOOLS GOLD Publisher TBA 2013.

ISBN 9-780992297701 paperback 270 pages. RRP around \$25.00

Sales: contact david.pye1@bigpond.com

This new novel brings to life the excitement of men chasing the dream of finding the always elusive gold in the mountains behind Rabaul in the hard but picturesque Gazelle Peninsula of East New Britain. The WW2 based story draws from the author's extensive own knowledge and backed up by actual wartime records. Many of the scenes and characters are real, and the fictional sides of this story have realism that shows direct and tangible results of thorough research.

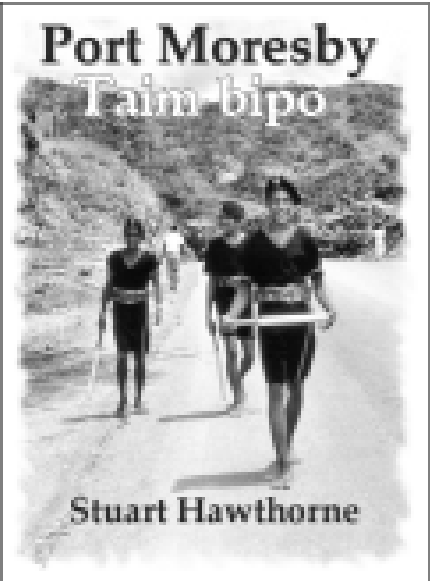
David Pye writes with a 'down to earth' style and builds his story line with an easy to read fashion. His use of language of the day adds to the realism of the story telling. His use of Pidgin English or Tok Pisin is based on the language as

it was spoken by the Tolai people of New Britain during the 1920 – 30s. Pidgin was the writer's first language, and taught to him by his indigenous minders and friends. When I first read a draft of this book, the pidgin in use did seem different in comparison to what I was taught in much later years. David has included a glossary of pidgin as used in this book, that will certainly provide assistance to non-Pidgin speakers and to 'later learners' as well.

I thoroughly enjoyed this tale of adventure, bravado, hardships and stupidity, of young men searching for riches during the WW2 time period.

Fool's Gold is David Pye's first novel. He has a sequel novel planned.

Keith Wall



Port Moresby
Taim-bipo
Stuart Hawthorne

Port Moresby as it used to be

**Port Moresby, 1950s to 1970s,
over 400 photographs**

See review in *Una Voce*, September 2012

Online at
<http://www.StuartHawthorne.com>
or write to
PO Box 182, Kedron, Qld 4031.



A SPECIAL THANKYOU!!

'The PNGAA very gratefully received a donation of 12 boxes of library books from Mona Vale Library in Sydney recently. These were shipped to Rabaul courtesy of **Tropicana Pty Ltd** and will be distributed shortly.'

PNGAA Western Australia gathering

Time and Date: 11am Friday 29 November 2013 RSVP 25 October

Venue: The COMO HOTEL, corner Canning Highway and South Terrace Como. Freeway users from the north can turn off the Freeway easily over the Narrows into South Terrace, while those approaching from the south will need to get off at Canning Bridge and head north a few km. Approach from the east, via Canning Highway from the Causeway heading south.

Please contact **Murray Day** as soon as possible for further details.

Email: murraythelma1@bigpond.com Phone: 08-92461403

PNGAA SYMPOSIUM 9 -10 Sept. 2014
NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

The PNGAA Management Committee has agreed to hold a Symposium in September 2014 to reflect 100 years of the Australian/PNG relationship. This major event will be held at the NSW Parliament House in Sydney, with assistance from PNGAA member, the Hon Charlie Lynn MLC.

The 2014 PNGAA Symposium will bring in to focus Australia's interaction with PNG, covering its development as an independent nation and its growing influence in the region as our nearest friend and neighbour.

The Symposium will be held in conjunction with the beginning of the Anzac Centenary, which marks 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War and the anniversary of the centenary of the Australian conflict at Bitapaka, East New Britain Province PNG on 11 September 1914.

Australian troops, the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) were landed to capture the wireless station at Bitapaka. Six Australians died. A further 35 Australians died when the submarine, AEI, disappeared off the coast of Rabaul on 14 September 1914. Six weeks later a convoy of ships that carried the Australian Imperial Force and New Zealand Expeditionary Force to the First World War in Europe departed from Albany in Western Australia.

Our PNGAA members have shared much of that history and retain a wealth of knowledge. The 2014 Symposium will have significant relevance to all our members and we look forward to your interest.

From Pacific WW1 battlefield to Pacific Powers: A Century of Australia Papua New Guinea Relations

To Remember – To Acknowledge – To Educate and inform our futures.

In association with Anzac Centenary commemoration.

To review the relationships between Australia and PNG over the century from Australia's first military engagement in WWI at Bitapaka, the administration of New Guinea as a Mandated Territory, the Pacific War, the continuing influence through to Independence; to discuss Australia's ongoing connections – commercial, social and cultural - before looking to the challenges of now and the future.

Please watch our PNGAA website or email admin@pngaa.net for further details.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S THIRTY EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

Our President Andrea Williams attended the Official Reception to mark PNG's 38th Independence Anniversary and saw our mini display of bilums. The attached is a short statement made on bilums. Some paragraphs were taken from Dr Katherine Lepani's work with the National Department of Health's Safe Motherhood program...

Brief Information on Bilum

Good afternoon and welcome to the mini display of bilums to mark this special occasion. Firstly, I would like to thank Dr Bill Standish and Dr Sue Andrews, long-standing friends of PNG for a stunning collection of bilums that span over four decades dating back before Independence, just after Independence and up to the present day. I also would like to thank Ms Onu Palm, Mr Tony McDonald, Dr Katherine Lepani and staff of the Mission who have contributed to the display.

For those of you who are familiar with PNG, undoubtedly you know about bilums, the traditional hand woven string bags that women and used to be some men make out of plant fibers or commonly nowadays store-bought wool and nylon. Bilums are ubiquitous throughout the country and serve multiple purposes. They are PNG's equivalent to the green bag, used to carry garden produce, sago from the swamps, firewood from the bush, food from the markets, and groceries from the shops; students use them to carry their school books; and they also make great hand bags. In fact women today match their bilums with their outfit for the day. The classic image of a woman carrying heavy load of root crops like sweet potatoes, taro, yams and cassava in a bilum on her back, the strap across her forehead, typifies the productive labour of women in rural PNG. As an important wealth item in the traditional exchange economy, bilums represent reciprocal links between different individuals, families, and clan groups. The production of bilums also provides an important source of income for women who make



and sell them at markets throughout the country. They are one of the major items that make up the informal economic sector in PNG.

Bilums are unique expressions of social change and modernity. Over the years since independence, PNG women have creatively produced numerous innovations in bilum designs and motifs, many of which are personalized with names or symbols to reflect social or historical events, but not abandoning their traditional designs. Innovations also include using the weaving technique to produce high-fashion clothes. The country uniform worn by the PNG women athletes in the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006 was a collection of bilum dresses in stunningly beautiful and colorful designs.

One of the most important traditional uses of bilums, which is still widely practiced today, is to carry infants. Grandmothers and aunties will busily make new bilums in anticipation of the arrival of a new baby in the family. Used like a hammock, hung from a house rafter, the suspended bilum provides a safe and cozy cocoon for a sleeping baby.

In Tok Pisin, one of the three official languages besides Police Motu and English and out of over 850 different languages, the word bilum also refers to the womb. This association between bilums and maternity has become a national icon, representing women's productive and reproductive role and status as mothers. Many civil society organizations in PNG like the National Council of Women, Business and Professional Women's Club of Port Moresby carry the symbol of bilum on their official crests. A drawing of a baby in a bilum is the symbol for the National Department of Health's Safe Motherhood program, which is a fundamental policy area for primary health care services.



The bilums displayed here in the Haus Kamasan are just a sample of the many unique types of bilums made by the women of PNG. Some are quite old and pre-date independence, while others are the latest styles incorporating new features and designs. Please enjoy our mini display of bilums away from home.

Thank you.

Jacinta Manua

Deputy High Commissioner
Papua New Guinea High Commission

FRESH PITPIT and KINDAMS by Paul Oates

Fresh pitpit, broiled in freshly made coconut cream is indeed fit for a king. I thought the flavour was somewhere between corn and mushroom but I don't remember the taste of peas that others reported. The curl of purple colour, twisting up the yellow cob was also visually very appealing.

We were told at ASOPA that pitpit was wild sugar cane. I assumed that the edible flower head, prior to it erupting and flowering, eventually seeded and became those white seeds (Jobs tears) that the highland women used to beautify themselves with.

I must admit however that I never actually investigated to see if it was the same plant. *Husat I savvy?*

Small boys often used to bring crayfish (kindam) to sell to us at Sialum. Some were 'tu siling' and some (only a little bigger) were 'po siling'. I remember asking why the doubling in price for just a little increase in size?

The explanation was rather humbling.

'Em dispela kindam mipela painim long insait long rip. Narapela bikpela liklik kindam mipela kissim long hapsait long rip.

[This crayfish/lobster we found inside the reef. The other crayfish/lobster we found on the outside of the reef.]

'Orait', I said, 'tasol bilong wanem emi po siling a?' 'Watpo ino tri siling?'

[Ok, I said – but why is it four shilling? Why not three shilling?]

'Olsem mipela savvy paitim sampela sak long hapsait long rip!'

[Well it's like this – we had to fight some sharks on the other side of the reef!]

'Here's your money kid. You've earned it.'

It's Cricket Season again:

EARLY DAYS OF CRICKET IN NEW GUINEA

Graham Jones

There have been occasional reports over recent times of the 'state of play' with reference to cricket in PNG. As a lover and former long-time player of this 'Sport of gentlemen', and I always follow such articles with interest.

My career in cricket in PNG included matches at Minj, Mt Hagen and Lae.

Having today (17 July 2013) just read about the discovery of a 'vintage cricket pitch' just re-found at Salamaua that was played on in the 1930's by teams from Wau, Bulolo and Salamaua; and another article about a U/19 PNG Team today beating Vanuatu in the final of the ICC East Asia-Pacific U/19 Trophy.

I thought that perhaps some readers might enjoy some more reminiscing.

One game I played in was particularly note-worthy. An invitation team from Madang flew to Minj to play a 2 day game against the 'local boys'. I was teaching at Banz at the time. The attached article from the South Pacific Post tells the story – (it was in either 1963 or 1964 – I think the former)

TEAM HUMBLLED IN INTER—TOWN CRICKET GAME

MADANG, Monday: A strong Madang representative cricket team was humbled by a team from Minj, the Cinderella team of New Guinea.

Full credit must go to Minj skipper, Ron Orwin, and his merry men for their most creditable display

At no stage before donning the pads, the visiting Madang players considered any possibility or danger of defeat.

But in less than an hour they were all out for the insignificant total of 13 runs, due to a magnificent spell of bowling by Arthur Rooke and Graham Jones.

No less than seven of the visitors failed to score, and three of those failed to survive the first ball bowled to them.

Madang skipper, John Sheehan won the toss and decided to send the locals in to bat, which viewed in the light of the small score of 78 by the home side seemed the correct thing to do.

Grieve continued to bowl well and captured two more quick wickets.

Minj were three for 26.

Ken Godden seemed to be settling down nicely before being bowled by Grieve.

Arthur Rooke and Graham Jones carried the score to 45 before Rooke was bowled by Dave Taylor for nine.

None of the other batsmen showed any organised resistance and the side were eventually dismissed for 78.

This total looked well within the range of the

ALL OUT FOR 13

a pretty strong batting line up.

For Minj, Ken Godden 10 and Graham Jones 15 were the only double figure makers, and of the Madang trundlers, John Grieve five for 14 and Don Cannon three for nine were outstanding.

At stumps on the first day, Madang seemed to be well and truly in the box seat, but such is the game of cricket, where it is quite apparent that very little is impossible.

Madang openers seemed full of confidence, but disaster struck early when Bill Synnott was run out by a keen piece of fielding on the part of Ken Godden.

The first wicket fell at four.

The rout which followed would have to be seen to be believed, with batsmen of the calibre of Lance Grant, Don Cannon and John Sheehan each failing to score and four were out for six, Arthur Rooke capturing two of the wickets and Graham Jones the other one.

The Minj opening pair of bowlers seemed to be virtually unplayable, and from that point onwards

Much to their surprise and humiliation, the visitors were all out for 13 runs.

Arthur Rooke took seven wickets for six runs from six overs, and Graham Jones two for six off the same number of overs; two most creditable performances.

TRIED OUTRIGHT

Minj went for the outright victory, and sent the visitors to the wicket for a second time.

Bill Synnott and John Grieve put on 29 for the first wicket, but some of the seriousness had gone out of the game by this time and Madang were eventually dismissed for 92 runs.

Synnott 23, Sheehan 17, Taylor 11 and Grieve 10 were the main scorers, while for Minj the wickets were divided between Bowden two for 14, Godden one for three, Middleton three for 20, Channell three for 23 and Jones one for five.

Needing only 28 runs for an outright victory, Dick Channell and Ken Godden hit up the necessary runs

Hidden cricket pitch discovered at Salamaua, Morobe Province



Salamaua Point

Pitch was covered in sand at

The historical district of Salamaua in the Morobe Province has discovered a hidden cement cricket pitch in the small village of Laugui at the Salamaua Point. The historical discovery confirms reports of cricket matches being played between Wau, Bulolo & Salamaua in the 1930's.

Salamaua is located south of Papua New Guinea's second largest city, Lae and has a rich history dating back to the 1930's when the township was declared the capital of New Guinea in 1938. The township was originally developed as a hub for coastal shipping and to support gold mining operations inland at Wau. Buildings and facilities were constructed on the isthmus as well.

The town was attacked on January 21, 1942 during the World War II by the Japanese and was evacuated immediately by the Australian residents. The Japanese then took over the city on March 8, 1942 and was later recaptured by the Australian & American troops with the help of the "fuzzy wuzzy" angels on September 12, 1943.

The district isn't known for the sport of cricket but the history of the sport suggests otherwise. Even the existence of the cement pitch or what its actual purpose was never known to the people of Salamaua. Coincidentally, the current generation of the people of Salamaua never knew that such a pitch would exist in their homeland.

Morobe's Regional Cricket Manager (RCM), Rodney Maha was in Salamaua to conduct several school clinics as part of the award winning BSP School Kriket program when he stumbled across the existence of a cement cricket pitch. The program was run in four schools around the district including, Salamaua Primary, Iwal Primary, Lakala Primary & Pobdubi Primary School.

The existence of the cement cricket pitch was mentioned when Maha was speaking to one of the village elders about the history of World War II.

Further investigations were done to discover where and why this pitch was built where it is today. A local elder in the village, Simon Zava said that his father used to tell them stories of the white man playing a game on that cement pitch.

“I was shocked when a local elder (Simon Zava) was explaining that there was some sort of cement pitch at Salamaua Point. He went on to explain that there were stories told to him about the white man playing with a bat, ball and three sticks on the ground” said Maha.

“It then clicked, that this old man was talking about cricket being played here well before World War II”

“I never knew cricket used to be played here let alone a cement cricket pitch been around for more than 60 years” added a stunned Maha.

Unconfirmed reports indicate the pitch was built around the 1930’s for the Australians and British who played against other teams from Wau and Bulolo. After the War the people of Salamaua covered the pitch with sand to play soccer, which was due to the Australians and British leaving no gear behind.

Years of erosion and the rising sea level finally uncovered the pitch. Although the cement pitch had been discovered, no one knew what the pitch was used for until the arrival of the Morobe BSP School Kriket team.

Fellow cricket enthusiast and guide, Ian Singas who hails from Nuknuk village was shocked to discover that there has been a cricket pitch in his homeland. Singas plays with Maha in the local Lae Cricket Association competition and had suggested for Maha to run the BSP School Kriket program in his hometown.

“I grew up in this area (Salamaua), and have lived here my entire life and never knew there was a cricket pitch in this area. I’m lost for words. This is unbelievable” added Singas.

Article courtesy of Cricket PNG website: <http://www.cricketpng.com>

Keen followers of Milne Bay news will probably be aware that there is a strong and ongoing argument that KWATO was the first home of cricket in Papua and probably New Guinea as well. It was said to have been introduced by Reverend Charles Abel in 1891. He is possibly best remembered for his theory that the game of cricket would have a civilising influence over the tribes and a local variation of the game is still strong in Papua New Guinea today. Howzat! Editor

DAVID MONTGOMERY AM
Member of the Order of Australia (AM)
Queen's Birthday Honours awards 2013

After gaining his Diploma of Agriculture from Hawkesbury Agricultural College in 1955 David was employed by the Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries (DASF) from 1956 to 1965. During this time David and Gillian Marks were married and had their first two children born at the Namanula Hospital in Rabaul. David was employed as an Agricultural Officer in Tropical Agriculture. His work was multifaceted and covered cocoa, coffee, coconuts, rice and peanuts in respect to establishment, development, production, processing, transport and marketing. His postings included Goroka and Kundiawa (Eastern Highlands), Finschafen (Morobe District), Aitape and Bainyik Agricultural Station (Sepik District), Kerema (Central District - Papua) and Talasea (West New Britain).



In West New Britain, David had an inaugural role in the land selection for oil palm development, the basis for an economic re-settlement project for PNG citizens. San Remo plantation was purchased by the PNG Administration and became the focal point for the established of the town of Kimbe.

David's interpersonal skills, cultural awareness and empathy reinforced by his example contributed to the resettlement project, based on oil palm production, getting off to a good start.

Armed with this background knowledge and experience in the horticultural industry David and Gillian returned to Australia. They chose to settle at Crookwell in the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales which was close to Gillian's ancestral home. They purchased a farm at Grabben Gullen (near Crookwell) and with fond memories of PNG named it "Kimbe" where they still live. This area had, and still has, a long history of success in the growing of potatoes and cool climate vegetables. David's innovation, skills drive and importantly his credibility as a manager and leader quickly made him a valued member of the local potato growing community. In the mid 1980's the local potato industry was in trouble, faced with drought, a downturn in sales, problems of quality control, and the inability of the industry to maintain continuity of supply. These issues were resolved by teamwork. David, other associates and industry representatives formed the (still) very successful Crookwell Potato Association. David went on from this to develop new marketing concepts throughout Australia and overseas. He was a foundation director of the Australian Horticultural Research and Development Corporation and a founding director of Technico Pty Ltd incorporated in Crookwell in 1994. This followed a number of years of scientific research into potato tuber development. Technico is now a global company and has revolutionised the global seed potato market.

Locally, David has been recognised by the Rotary Club of Crookwell on two occasions. In 1990 he received a Vocational Service Award and in 1994 an Enterprise Award - in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the potato growing industry.

Internationally, on 23rd August 2006, David received a Citation from the World Potato Congress for his contribution to the potato industry.

David's honour is well deserved and we congratulate him on this recognition. David was invested by the Governor-General Ms. Quentin Bryce AC on 12 September 2013.

Toby Rose AO and Jack White OAM

National Gallery of Australia ART OF THE SEPIK

There will be a large scale exhibition held at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, from August 2015 on the Art of the Sepik.

This exhibition is in development and will focus on the arts of the Murik Lakes, Lower Ramu, Pora Pora River, Yuat River, Blackwater River, Korowori River, and the Sepik itself from its mouth to around the Manambu people just west of the Iatmul and Sawos people.

I would be keen for interested members of the PNGAA who have experiences of working or travelling in those areas to contact me on crispin.howarth@nga.gov.au if they hold photographs of the people of the Sepik region and/or their arts.

Crispin Howarth

Curator Pacific Arts

National Gallery of Australia

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EARLY DAYS FLYING IN NEW GUINEA

By WILLIAM JOHN ROBINS

In 1937 two jobs came available and I applied for and was accepted for both. One was Assistant Instructor with the Aero Club in Sydney and the other with Guinea Airways in New Guinea.

I went back to one of my relatives who had been a mining engineer for Bulolo Gold Dredging in New Guinea and his advice was to take the Guinea Airways job as it would only be a matter of a year or two before I was on to large aircraft. His idea was that I would stay on small aircraft at the Aero Club.

I went by ship from Sydney to Port Moresby in 1937. In Moresby I was met by Jack Turner, a Ford pilot for Guinea Airways, and I sat in the cockpit of a Ford aeroplane for the first time as we flew from Port Moresby to Lae. The General Manager for Guinea Airways was Eric Chater who was also a pilot and had flown all their aircraft. I was staying at the Guinea Airways single men's mess and a very comfortable one it was too.

Every day I would fly with one or other of the pilots to study the terrain. Mainly I flew with Bertie Heath to Bulolo and occasionally in one of the big Junkers aircraft into Wau. There was no instrument flying in New Guinea in those days - the pilot had to know the mountains, valleys etc. by sight.

The pay with Guinea Airways was very good. Once you got onto the big Junkers you were on top money. I started off in 1937 on 600 pounds (\$1200) per year with a living allowance of 120 pounds (\$240) p.a. and there was no taxation in New Guinea in those days.

William John Robins passed away on 08 November 2012, aged 99 years. This article was scheduled for inclusion in the June 2013 Una Voce, but was inadvertently deleted from the final print edition. The article is printed with the kind permission of his family.

- Editor

My first flying in New Guinea was in the Gypsy Moth, the smallest aircraft we had. I had to do circuits and bumps and gradually flew out further and further. Then I was given a 100 lb. (46kg) bag of rice and told to fly it into Bulolo on a nice clear morning. I went around the Wampit and into Bulolo where I picked up some mail and some small items and flew back to Lae. That was the commencement of my New Guinea flying.

I really enjoyed flying in New Guinea. I flew the Gypsy Moth for a while, then the Fox Moth which had belonged to Sir Douglas Mawson who had it at the South Pole for a while. It had floats on it when it arrived and I eventually ended up with one of the floats as my canoe when we put land undercarriage on it. It was a wonderful aircraft to fly and I flew it for many months. It ended up in the Wau area, as a lot of flying was done out of Wau to the smaller outposts - Upper Watut, Slate Creek, Bulwa, Surprise Creek, Roma (a most difficult strip). I would do these runs day in and day out for many months. Guinea Airways had two float planes which used to fly between Port Moresby and places like Samarai, and different stations in the Papuan Gulf such as the Lakekamu River and Lake Kutubu.

I then graduated to the Stinson which was a bigger and more comfortable aircraft with a battery starter. In the Stinson you actually sat inside the cabin like a car. I flew Stinsons for some months and was then put on to the single engine Junkers with a Pratt & Whitney 550 h/p engine and eventually on the small Fords which had 3 Pratt & Whitney motors in them. From there I graduated to the bigger Ford which had three Pratt and Whitney motors and



This JUNKERS G.31go nicknamed "Bulolo 1 PAUL" was flown by Robins. It was destroyed in an air raid at Bulolo

eventually, after another year or so, on to the three engine Junkers, the biggest aircraft Guinea Airways had flying in New Guinea.

By this time I had flown into just about every airstrip in our area of New Guinea. The single engine Junkers flew to Mt Hagen, Benabena, Chimbu, Kainantu etc. Fortunately I had been able to manage without any communications, wind socks

etc. Very seldom did I have to stay overnight, with the exception of Mt Hagen which was much further away from Lae or Madang. If I had to overnight in Mt Hagen I would stay with one of the Leahy brothers.

At one stage I had for Mt Hagen to pick up George Greathead, a Patrol Officer in the Bogadjim area, south of Madang. George had made a beautiful airstrip - on either side he had the natives dig drains and then planted yellow and green crotons around the strip - you could see it from miles away. Later on he did the same thing in Mt Hagen when he was stationed there. George Greathead would meet me in Mt Hagen on his horse. There were many private airstrips in New Guinea at the time. The Missions all had their own strips and aircraft and the

Leahy brothers had a private strip outside Mt Hagen called 'Mogai'. It was not uncommon for me to get a call as I was arriving into Mt Hagen - "Kuta calling Gormus" (Mick Leahy calling me) "You must stay here overnight — make sure you bring up plenty of medicine". This is when Mick would call George.

Most of my flying was out of Lae but occasionally I would be stationed for brief periods in Madang from where I would take loads into Mt Hagen, Chimbu, and Benabena etc. On one occasion I had to fly into Wabag. There was a Patrol Officer there who was with the famous Taylor, Black expedition who had contracted beriberi or some such. We had to lift him in a blanket into the Junkers and take him to Madang to the hospital. All his skin was peeling off but he survived. It was our practice to airdrop supplies into expeditions such as that. I personally did not do much airdropping as Tommy O'Dea would normally go in with the Ford. The biggest problem was finding the patrol as they were not always where they thought they were. Anyway they would put up smoke and place out markers so we usually found them.

One of our big problems was with the loading of the aircraft. Each load was supposed to be supervised by an expatriate load master, but occasionally they would get distracted and the loading was not always right. One of the loads which always caused difficulty was the big slabs of steel going to Bulolo. They were very heavy - 6/8ft long (over 2m) and 4/5 ft. wide (1.5m). However they didn't look much like a load when you looked in from the back door and on a couple of occasions the natives came in with another load and placed in, on top of the steel. Funnily enough in the big Junkers it was not so noticeable on take-off but more when you were trying to sneak up say, the Snake Valley, between the mountains that you noticed how sluggish the Junkers handled. On more than one occasion when the airport staff at Bulolo jokingly asked me if I had any more weigh bills (2 loads on board) I would have to admit that the Junkers was a bit sloppy coming up through the gap at 6,000 ft. The big Junkers was a beautiful aircraft to fly.

Bulolo Gold Dredging must have made a lot of money in New Guinea. The first dredge flown into Bulolo was the smallest of the lot and Bulolo Gold Dredging paid for the flying in of the rest with the gold taken out by that dredge alone.

I used to fly into Bulolo once a month and fly out a ton of gold to Salamaua on behalf of the Company.

In August 1939 I came down on leave and was married. My wife was Flora Mitchell and her father was a well-known solicitor in Sydney, with one of the biggest Conveyancing practices in Sydney.

We went to New Zealand on our honeymoon, and were half way across the Tasman in one of the larger passenger ships on its way to Los Angeles when Captain Davies announced that we had been pulled up by a small sloop and told that Australia was at war with Germany. I distinctly recall everyone looking at each other in amazement. Immediately crew came around the ship and closed all the shutters on the portholes for blackout purposes. Then the sloop escorted us into Auckland. We heard Mr Chamberlain say Britain was at war with Germany.

Even though the War had only been on for 3 days when we arrived in Auckland there were tables out in the middle of the streets with men queued up to join the Forces.

I went straight back to Lae but had to wait a while to obtain married accommodation and then Flora came up. I only had to wait for a few weeks and a house came available at Salamaua so I took it. Flora made some lovely friends in New Guinea and really enjoyed it.

My job was then flying Junkers from Salamaua to Wau on a daily basis - up to six trips a day, and on one occasion, 7 trips. That day I flew more cargo in the big Junkers than the opposition flew in New Guinea with all their aircraft put together.

Life continued as usual flying out of Salamaua until late 1941 when the Administration decided to evacuate the women and children from New Guinea. My first evacuation flight to Port Moresby was on 21st Dec, 1941, in VH-UOV one of the Bulolo machines and I could not get across the ranges into Port Moresby.



I landed in Kokoda with 51 passengers, all women and children. I then rang Port Moresby for Tommy O'Dea to come across to Kokoda and bring fuel with him, as, with the westerlies that were blowing at the time I would not have made it to Port Moresby with the fuel I had left. This was the first time that a Junkers had landed at Kokoda. From then on it was:-

22/12/41	Port Moresby - Bulolo - Port Moresby - Wau - Bulolo
23/12/41	Bulolo - Port Moresby - Bulolo - Wau - Port Moresby
24/12/41	Port Moresby - Bulolo - Port Moresby - Wau
25/12/41	Wau - Port Moresby - Wau
26/12/41	Wau - Lae - Port Moresby - Bulolo.

Flora had left New Guinea earlier than this. She came down on a Carpenter's Plane

On 3rd Jan, 1942, I had been asked to take a Ford across to Rabaul - a Government Charter. Unfortunately nobody had notified Rabaul we were coming in. We were lucky not to get shot down by our own soldiers. Actually the

Aussie soldiers saw me flying over and told me how lucky I had been that they knew the old Ford.

The following day I flew back to Lae and that day went to Rabaul again twice, these trips without incident. I stayed in Rabaul that night and came back with a load of mail on the 5th January. I had been advised to get out of Rabaul as the Japanese were bombing it at that stage and the aircraft was a sitting target on the airstrip. The Japanese were using a 'daisy-cutter' bomb which sprayed a lot of shrapnel and 20 people were killed in the attacks on the 4th January. I dug out a couple of pieces of shrapnel from the angle iron on the corrugated sheds where natives had been accommodated and you could see pieces of copper and soft metal in the steel so that when the bomb exploded it would break up into small pieces.

Later in January it was known that the Japanese Navy was approaching New Guinea so I went to Madang and flew personnel, records and stores into Mt Hagen, Chimbu and Benabena. Much of the stores consisted of rice, bully beef etc. which soldiers and Patrol Officers could be capable of living on. On these runs I would drop off at Mt Hagen first so the plane would be a bit lighter to get into Chimbu without falling over the edge.

After a few days I was asked to go to Port Moresby and from there I did a few trips to Kokoda where there was a big experimental farm. When I came back from Kokoda one morning I noticed a few Lae chaps on the Moresby strip and asked what they were doing there. One of them said "Haven't you heard? The Japs have bombed Lae and Salamaua".

Guinea Airways had the biggest aircraft workshops in the Southern Hemisphere at Lae and it was destroyed completely in the air attacks. The Japanese concentrated on the hangars and workshops and left the airstrip relatively undamaged so they could use it themselves later on. One of our pilots, Fonce Parer, was killed while attempting to get his plane off the ground during the attack on Lae

I was then tasked to fly out of Port Moresby with a Doctor, 6 Nurses from Wau and 2 hospital patients for Australia. Our mechanic in Port Moresby at the time was McDonald and I told him to put a few small drums of fuel up front and a semi rotary pump above my head in the cockpit so he could pump fuel during the flight.

Bertie Heath, our Senior Pilot, was coming with me so we set off for Australia with no radio aids or any navigation equipment. I knew Daru, on the Fly River in the Papuan Gulf so we headed that way first, flying low because it was so stormy. If you flew high you would be lost straight away. From Daru we could see coconut palms on the islands south so we flew towards Horn Island. I circled Horn Island a couple of times but could not see a suitable airstrip, however the people on the ground were pointing across at another island, so we flew there. Sure enough there was an airstrip but it was covered with barbed wire, drums and all sorts of obstacles, so we had to fly around until the airstrip had been cleared before we could land. I flew the following day to Cairns with my passengers.

I had been flying for about a month now with a temperature above 100 degrees, but had not been able to take it easy because of the necessity for my flights. In Cairns at the Hyde Hotel the nurses told me I had to go to bed but they would stay with me. After about 4/5 days I felt a bit better but my weight was below 9 stone by now.

I then flew to Townsville where Wing Commander Bill Garing at Garbutt airbase came out and did a few circuits and bumps in the Ford and then I left for Adelaide.

I had account books and logbooks for Guinea Airways as I had been away from any of the main offices during the last month or so, so I had to get them to Adelaide where Guinea Airways was headquartered. When I handed in the information to Guinea Airways I was told that the Air Force wanted me back in New Guinea but Guinea Airways wanted me to fly the Adelaide-Darwin run.

Darwin was being built up at that time as a precaution against a Japanese landing and there was a lot of flying of personnel between the two places. Crews of bomber squadrons stationed at Fenton and Batchelor. I stayed in Adelaide on that run for the remainder of the war.

Flora came across from Sydney and we eventually purchased a house at St. Georges. I did a few trips from Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville, but most of my flying was in Lockheed Loadstars between Adelaide and Darwin. These were aircraft issued to Guinea Airways by the U.S. Airforce who wanted experienced pilots flying them while carrying personnel.

I was inducted into the Air Force Active Reserve and was issued with Air Force uniform. I had Air Force crews of navigators; radio operators etc. but the pilots were Air Force Active Reserve. The aircraft I flew still had U.S. markings on them.

When WW2 finished Guinea Airways were not granted a licence to fly again in New Guinea as it was claimed that they had flown out of the country and left people stranded there. This does not sit well with me after all the evacuation of women and children I did and those who were left in New Guinea when the Japanese landed had plenty of warning and plenty of time to have left before then. Most of the remaining aircraft were ruined on the dromes at Lae and Bulolo.

When the War had finished Flora said to me "You have been flying continually, without much leave for 10 years now, and during that time I have had to raise the children. It's time!" My reply was that the only other thing I knew was farming so we purchased a property of about 200 acres at Penwortham in South Australia which had been owned by one of the early settlers in South Australia and had a lovely two-storied home on it. Much of the land was still in timber and a beekeeper friend asked me if he could put 100 swarms of bees out near the stringy-bark trees.

We had three children by then with a fourth born later.

Tony born 4/8/1940 at Salamaua

Timothy born 5/9/1944 in Adelaide

Jonathan born 14/7/1946 in Adelaide
Penny born 24/1/1951 in Adelaide

In 1951 when the Korean War was on I was called up for the Air Force Reserve again. I went to East Sale for a refresher course, not knowing what I would be doing. I had been asked to bring in my log books which I did and, after a few weeks was told "You have a family and are a bit older than most of the chaps here. It's a bit risky in Korea so we are posting you to Woomera (where there is a drome being constructed. 5 Construction Squadron had just returned from Cocos Island in the Indian Ocean where they had built an emergency airstrip for Qantas flights between Australia and Colombo. On their return to Australia they had been tasked to build an airstrip at Woomera so I then flew Bristol Freighters and Dakotas between Adelaide and Woomera. At the time we were stationed at Mallala and had to fly down to Parafield, which was then the main Adelaide airport, and then on to Woomera. We flew freight and passengers.

Any call up into the Active Reserve is a two year call up from March 1951 until 25 November 1952. I became a bit of a Jack of All Trades after getting out of the Air Force. One particular job I had was being an Inspector of orchards for the Department of Agriculture. Fruit fly was pretty bad at the time and I had to supervise a gang who went around the orchards carrying out inspections.

I also went back flying for Guinea Airways as a First Officer for some years. We only flew in South Australia and had Convair 440, a nice aircraft which carried 50 passengers. The only times we flew outside South Australia was to Proserpine in Queensland where we would take charters of people who wanted to go to the Whitsunday Reefs. We would go there every two weeks or so. We also used to fly to Alice Springs when the Todd River was in flood to transfer people from Alice Springs to Oodnadatta and would make two or three trips a night. On a moonlight night it was a great sight to see so much water over the countryside.

When Guinea Airways were taken over by Ansett it looked as though a number of pilots would be retrenched so I went up to the Operations Manager, who I had known for years, and told him that, rather than have one of the young pilots retrenched, I would retire. It was a pleasure to go to a Guinea Airways reunion some years later and see this young chap who had been kept on then a Captain of an Ansett jet.

In 1973 I had a major lung operation. In 1974 my daughter Penny was married in Johannesburg in South Africa so Flora and I flew over there with Qantas. We had a lovely time and went from Johannesburg to Durban and Cape Town and generally had a great trip around the country.

We lived in North Adelaide for some 20 years.

Unfortunately Flora passed away on 6th. July, 1986, after having had Alzheimer's for a few years.

WASTE NOT

Denis Compston

I was manager of Potsdam Plantation for four years in the early '60s and no doubt a few readers of "Una Voce" have read some of my short stories of plantation life. Potsdam is half way between Madang and Wewak with Bogia being the nearest hospital and administration station.

I was only 18 years old when I took over this very rundown plantation. It was a very large Japanese base during WW2. With the help of the local boys, we found the remains of a Japanese hospital dug into the hills of the plantation. There were hundreds of tons of unexploded bombs everywhere around the plantation. On the south side of the manager's house was a large Japanese mass grave. I could not get over how well my garden thrived. I only found out about this grave, when my dog brought a very yellow, half broken part of a human skull into the house. After making a few enquiries, the dear old gardener told me of the grave, and of how the US Army came into the plantation when the war was coming to an end. There were so many dead and dying Japanese that they bought a bulldozer in and dug a mass grave. A few years later the manager's house was built without the knowledge of the grave.

When I arrived there was a tired old tractor that brought the copra into the driers daily. It was such a slow process with the tractor breaking down all the time. The company I worked for (W.R.C. Rabaul) was of no help.

In a shed was an old WW2 Chevrolet Blitz truck that was left after the war. It was in rather good condition; however the engine was a mess. I had a wonderful old driver boy [sic] who had leprosy. Otto was astonishing for his knowledge of machinery. He kept my WW2 jeep going, plus the damn tractor. He told me that he looked after the Japanese transport during the war. He hated this but it kept his family and his village alive and safe. There were Japanese bombed trucks, a tank and two smashed planes around the plantation. Otto told me "why don't we take an engine out of one of the Japanese trucks and put it into the Chevy truck?" With a lot of help and effort we did exactly that. Within a short time, Otto had the Japanese engine installed and BINGO, the old Chevy truck was back on the road and bringing in tons of copra. The truck was a monster to drive and very basic. Otto was one of the most humble, and the nicest guy. He had a lovely wife and son who thankfully were not afflicted with the disease.

An army disposals unit used the Blitz to collect tons of unexploded bombs from the plantation and the local area. The bombs were taken to a desolate beach at the end of the plantation. Warnings were given to air, sea and local villages that the bombs would be detonated at a particular day and time. The explosion was massive and heard miles away with the shock wave creating a thunderstorm.

It was a sad day when I left Potsdam and all the lovely people who worked for me. In those days it was safe and we lived off the land and just enjoyed life. The ADO and his family, the POs and the staff at the hospital in Bogia were good company.

A few years later I heard that the Japanese found out about the mass grave, however the Company would not let them back onto the plantation. There were still very bad memories of the war. No doubt, today, the remains would have been taken back to Japan.



FIFTY YEARS OF TOYOTA IN PNG

Charles BETTERIDGE

Penny and I were recently invited up to Port Moresby by Toyota Tsusho in Brisbane to attend the 50th Anniversary of Toyota in PNG. We flew up from Brisbane on Sunday 22nd September to Port Moresby, the main day/night was on Monday 23rd and we flew back the next day (Tuesday 24th) to Brisbane. We had left our Yaris at the Airport Motel in Hamilton (about 6 km from the International Airport) while we were up in POM and picked it up on our return then drove back home to Modanville.

My long association from the very first day that Burns Philp took on the Toyota agency on Friday 9th February 1963 is why they asked Penny and I up to this special 50th Anniversary, and I was to be the guest speaker at the gala function in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port Moresby on Monday night 23rd.

Every bit of our expenses were paid for by Toyota Tsusho, our air fares, our taxi charges in Brisbane, our PNG visa costs, our accommodation in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port Moresby, all our meals etc. etc. We were on the 9th floor of the Crown Plaza Hotel - right next door to the Presidential Suite!! As a matter of interest, our room rate was AU\$550 per night plus all meals!

This all started back in November 2012 when I made up a special 300 photograph photo album taken from my hundreds of slides and photos from the very first day in Port Moresby, and that was on Friday 8th April 1960. I had taken numerous photos during the thirty plus years I was in PNG and a lot of these were to do with all the BP's and Ela Motors branches throughout PNG and the Pacific Island Nations over the years. I also made up a few DVD's for them from my original Super-8 movie films of Toyota's up in the Highlands of PNG and of their sixteen branches throughout PNG.

I personally hand-delivered all these items to them in Brisbane in late November last year and they were all very surprised at what I was giving them in the many photos and the few DVD's and all the historical events from February 1963 to February 2003 to do with Burns Philp/Port Moresby Freezing Company Limited and later, Ela Motors. These were the only historical photos and the history of it all that they were given. No one in the Brisbane Head Office knew that any of this material even existed!

When I arrived in Port Moresby on April 8th 1960 as a spare parts salesman for Burns Philp New Guinea Ltd all you could see were heaps of British made vehicles. At that time the Thiess Company of Australia were involved in building the roads etc. up to the newly found Bougainville Copper mine up in Panguna and they brought in directly from Toyota Japan their own Toyota FJ25 Landcruiser utilities for the mine site. You may recall that Thiess were heavily involved in the construction of the giant Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric scheme near Cooma in New South Wales in the 1950's. Apparently, the deal struck between Thiess New Guinea operations and Toyota in 1960, was that Thiess were also to sell Toyota to the general public, but this wasn't happening.

Toyota Japan approached Burns Philp in June and November 1962 to take on the Toyota agency, but was knocked back each time. A deal was finally struck on the 5th February 1963 and the dealership was set up in the old Moresby Garage in downtown Port Moresby on Friday 9th February 1963. That was the day I was transferred out of BP's to the Port Moresby Freezing Company's Moresby Garage to set up the new Toyota agency.

We took over the two Toyota vehicles from Thiess and the few spare parts they had - and I sold the very first Toyota for Burns Philp on April 4th 1963 - a Toyota Tiara sedan - the forerunner to the famous Toyota Corolla sedans. The Tiara was one of the two Toyota's we took over from Thiess - the other vehicle was a Toyota RK45 Stout utility.



That was to be the beginning of Toyota in PNG and the Pacific Island nations. Of the four of us who established initially the Toyota dealership I am the only one remaining - the others having passed away since.

Actually, I thought that Toyota Tsusho might have held a 50th Anniversary of Toyota in PNG in February this year, (2013), to coincide with the exact date when it all started, being the 9th February, but apparently they held back. Then about a month ago I received an email from Toyota Tsusho's Brisbane office inviting Penny and I up to the 50th Anniversary celebrations to be held in Port Moresby on Monday night 23rd September and inviting me to be the guest speaker for that night. I was "gobsmacked" when I got the email and replied that we would be honoured to be their special guests on that night.

I had to prepare a ten-minute speech on my "Living and Working in PNG" and after about five attempts and sending "samples" on to the Brisbane office and making some small changes here and there for them, it was finally accepted. Because it was a Gala night I had to wear a proper dinner suit. I have never owned one in my whole life, so I managed to hire one from a menswear store in Lismore to take up with me.

The week prior to the Gala night in Port Moresby, Ela Motors held a vehicle "Spectacular" of Toyota vehicles in the Port Moresby Sports Pavilion and it included a 1963 Toyota Landcruiser!

On the Monday morning 23rd September Penny and I were taken out to Ela Motors Badili Headquarters and it has certainly expanded. It's been 23 years since Penny was last in POM and just over ten years for me. I met up with several National staff still working in Head Office that I knew from the 1980's! It was so wonderful to see them again after over ten years (for me).

Port Moresby is now covered in by high-rise buildings all over the place - mainly units of either single bedroom or two-bedroom units ranging from nearly AU\$1,000 per week and up to AU\$7,000 per week. I managed to speak to the actual owner of several high-rise units in POM and units and office space are at a premium in Port Moresby.

Unfortunately the same filth and garbage still lies beside the roadways and other places and security is a premium. For example, on the Monday morning (23rd) I just wanted to go out some 40 feet from the front of the Crowne Plaza Hotel to take a photo of what was once the single expatriate girls quarters "Burnsfels" just a bit down Douglas Street from the hotel entrance. I was told NOT to go outside by myself (time now 7.40am) as it was still not safe even at that time to be outside. A security guard accompanied on that little walk! Burnsfels is now a Liquor Barn!!

The 50th Anniversary Gala night in the Crowne Plaza Ballroom was well attended with some 140 guests in attendance, including the Ambassadors of the Australian, British, New Zealand, Japanese, Korean and Chinese Embassies. A lot of top managers from many companies and organisations were also in attendance. The PM of PNG, (Peter O'Neil), was supposed to have been in attendance but he declined at the last moment and instead sent his Minister for Transport along.

My own speech of my "Living and Working in PNG" went down very well and more so with the top managers from Toyota Japan that when I told them I was born on the 2nd November 1937, and on the very next day, 3rd November 1937, was when the Toyota Motor Company of Japan was founded! They were quite surprised at the closeness of our "births" and they stood up and clapped!! It has been a very interesting few days for Penny and me. Such an important event like this happens but once only in a lifetime.

Compare the original "Burnsfels" single expatriate female staff living quarters that I took in 1960 to the present "Burnsfels" building that I took 53 years later, on September 22nd, 2013, during my recent visit to Port Moresby for Toyota's and Ela Motors 50th Anniversary.



The original building is now an Inn and an SP Brewery Liquor barn!!

I do remember some of those wonderful young expat girls in those days in the 60's - and you simply took them to the "pictures" on Friday and Saturday nights to the old Papuan Theatre which was just a hundred yards or so down the road and the PMF Milk Bar was THE place to be seen having big milkshakes right next to the Papuan Theatre. They WERE the days (and long nights) back then.



The photo of Burns Philp's store in Musgrave Street after the disastrous fire in mid-2009 is a reminder of what was once a pinnacle of Burns Philp's throughout PNG. I remember that store very well with the overhead "Punkahs" fanning the store - firstly by some native boys using their big toes with ropes attached so they could "power-up" the punkahs by moving their big toes back and forth. They were

replaced with small electric powered motors in 1962 from memory.



The old Moresby Garage that used to be on the corner of Hunter Street and Champion parade was pulled down in early 1964 and Burns Philp built the "new" branch (see second photo) in Pascal Avenue in Badili. (Now known as Raskol Avenue – Ed.)



As Toyota sales and service increased they built a proper showroom and head-office department on the corner of Scratchley Road and Pascal Avenue (photo in 1985)

Ela Motors built another complete new branch out along Waigani Drive some five years ago; I have seen everything from its humble beginnings from inside a run-down garage in Port Moresby (Moresby Garage), right through to the biggest Automotive Distributor throughout PNG and the other Pacific Island Nations. In PNG and Honiara it's known as Ela Motors and throughout Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu, Samoa and American Samoa it is known as Asco Motors. The "Asco" stands for "Automotive Supply Company".



I have been to every branch of Ela Motors and Asco Motors wherever they were located and have seen the many changes taking place - and still is.

50th Anniversary Speech.

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and Distinguished Guests.

Firstly, I would like to thank very much indeed Toyota Tsusho South Pacific Holdings, and Ela Motors, for inviting me and my wife to this historical event of Toyota's 50th Anniversary in Papua New Guinea. Tonight I would like to share with you a few stories of my experiences of living and working in Papua New Guinea.

I was born on the 2nd of November 1937 in Lismore, New South Wales, Australia, exactly one day before the Toyota Motor Company of Japan was founded.

My career in the automotive industry began in 1953 as a spare parts salesman for a truck and tractor dealership in Lismore. I moved up to Brisbane in 1957 to take on a specialized role in automotive electrical and diesel fuel injection equipment and parts.

In February 1960, I saw an advertisement in the Brisbane Courier Mail newspaper where Burns Philp (New Guinea) Ltd required a spare parts salesman for their Port Moresby branch. Firstly, I had never heard of Burns Philp before, and I didn't know where Port Moresby was, let alone knowing very little of New Guinea. I got a world atlas out, found Port Moresby in New Guinea and thought I would give it a try, so sent my letter off to them.

I was selected for the job and arrived in Port Moresby on Friday 8th April 1960. That was to be the beginning of my automotive career in Papua New Guinea.

To provide you with a little historical background, when I arrived in PNG, there was a Toyota sub-agent in Port Moresby - Star Service Station located at Boroko, and they were the sub-agent for the Thiess Company of Australia who was involved in the early construction of the Bougainville Copper Mine.

Thiess shipped their Landcruisers into PNG for the mine site and this included selling other Toyota vehicles as well, but very few retail sales were being made.

Representatives from Toyota Motor Corporation Japan approached Burns Philp in Port Moresby in June 1962 and again in November 1962 asking them to become the agent for Toyota in Papua New Guinea.

An agreement was finally reached in February 1963 and Burns Philp (New Guinea) Ltd became the distributors for Toyota through its subsidiary company, the Port Moresby Freezing Co. Ltd. The new Toyota distributor for PNG operated out of the Port Moresby Freezing Company's -Moresby Garage- and started off with just two vehicles and six items of spare parts, a very frugal beginning indeed.

When taking on the distributorship, Burns Philp had, however, made one specific condition, and that was that a minimum of ten Toyotas had to be sold by end of December 1963 or the deal was off. At 4:00 p.m. on 31 December 1963, we had sold only nine Toyota units. With only 30 minutes until the deadline, I am proud to say that I was very strongly involved in making sure the target of ten was reached, selling and receiving payment for the tenth Toyota at 4:20 p.m. on the very last day of the deadline! That was cutting it close indeed!

In those early days, expatriate staffs were on a two year contract. My two year contract ended up being a thirty year contract for it was on April 8th 1990 that I decided to retire back home to near Lismore. I thoroughly enjoyed my thirty years in Papua New Guinea and was happy to return again 11 times between 1993 and 2003 on a consultancy basis for Ela Motors.

The most momentous event from my time in PNG was meeting my wife, Penny, in 1966. We married a year later in the old Catholic Church near Ela Beach. Our one and only daughter, Ursula, was born in Wewak in October 1975 – so my family and I certainly have a long historical link with Papua New Guinea.

Judo is also one of my passions and in 1961 I joined the newly formed Port Moresby Judo Club. I was very fortunate to visit Japan in 1965 to enhance my Judo training in Tokyo at the Kodokan. I was the first person ever from PNG to train in the Kodokan. During the six weeks I was there I took a few days off to visit the Toyota Motor Company operations in Nagoya and Yokohama. I was also the very first person from PNG to visit Toyota in Japan.

It was during this visit that I saw for the very first time the Toyota UP15S 800 Sports car designed by Tatsuo Hasegawa, (a former aircraft design engineer during WW2). I fell in love with the vehicle and on my return to PNG in late July 1965; I immediately ordered one of these famous sports cars. My Sports 800 arrived in Port Moresby in March 1966. This vehicle was a prized possession and also served as our wedding car.

There have been many other memorable occasions including witnessing first hand, the changes to the Government, from its very first Legislative Assembly in 1962, to self-government and then independence in 1975.

I was also witness to a Royal Visit. I was in Kieta on Bougainville Island when Queen Elizabeth II and her family made their first visit to PNG in February 1974. Kieta was the very first port of call for the Royal Yacht, Britannia. I photographed and filmed the Royal visit and sent copies of the photos to the Queen at Buckingham Palace and I received an official letter from her thanking me for my generosity, and advising that she had enjoyed her trip to PNG.

Mr Eiji Toyoda, of Toyota Motor Company in Japan, was another VIP visitor to PNG. Sadly, I received the news last week that Mr Toyoda died on the morning of Tuesday, 17 September 2013 at age 100. All at Ela Motors were very honoured when Mr Toyoda visited Port Moresby in July 1986. I was especially pleased to receive such a distinguished visitor and, in the few hours I spent with him, I found him to be a most honourable man indeed. I think the world has lost a great innovator of the automobile, and those very humble words he used to inspire his workforce, "Good Thinking, Good Products" still stick with me to this day. Mr Toyoda will be well remembered. I am sure you will join me in sending sincere condolences to his family and his Toyota family at this sad time.

Earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, tribal fights and even being shot at in Mount Hagen are further highlights of my action filled days in Papua New Guinea.

The biggest quake I've ever experienced was in Lae in November 1970. I woke up in the early hours to a deadly quiet. I'm a light sleeper and throughout any night in

PNG there were always dogs barking some-where, a cat fight somewhere else and the odd vehicle passing by. On this particular morning it was the utter stillness and quiet that somehow woke me. I then heard rumbling in the distance like an express train coming towards us; the house started to shake and sway.

The main shockwave knocked us to the ground; and the huge pine trees across the road were being whipped to and fro like a rag doll. The noise of the quake was incredible, but it was all over very quickly. I was surprised to discover that it wasn't Lae that copped the full force of the quake, but Madang over 300km away! The quake measured 8.1 on the Richter scale.

Mount Hagen also proved to be an exciting challenge when I was based there between 1979 and 1983. One very action packed morning involved a very upset individual who started shooting randomly. As the Ela Motors branch was located next to the Police Barracks, we had a commanding view of the unfolding event. From the top of the steps I had a good view from about 60 meters away. The gunman looked right towards me, and probably thought that my camera was a weapon, so he let off two shots in my direction. The bullets hit the wall about three feet above my head. A close shave indeed and a little more excitement than I needed!

Another thrill of working in Mt Hagen was being heavily involved in test runs of new model Toyota vehicles including new model Landcruisers in 1980; new model Coaster buses in 1981 and testing of the FJ40/47 Landcruisers in 1983. All test runs were carried out in and around the Western and Southern Highlands of PNG, over very difficult roads and tracks.

Along with all these thrills and excitement, throughout my 30 years in PNG, I came across many wonderful PNG National staff who worked for me in all the various locations and I thank them all very much indeed for their kindness and understanding to me and my family throughout those many years.

I will also never forget the stunning beauty of PNG from its incredible mountains, valleys, coastal villages, and remote islands, and those beautiful Birds of Paradise that I saw on my many trips around PNG.

When I look over the past 50 years I think back to the day when I sold the very first Toyota in April 1963 for the new Toyota dealer which became Ela Motors. It was to be the beginning of the most successful automotive distributorship ever in Papua New Guinea. I am proud that I was a part of it from the very beginning.

And lastly, I give my greatest thanks to my wife Penny who has been my wonderful supporter throughout our many years in PNG as we were transferred from place to place, and to put up with my very long hours of work.

THANK YOU.

Charles Betteridge.

FRONTIER OLD BOYS
Greg Leatham.



On the Great Papuan Plateau , 2300 metres above the Gulf delta that runs from Kerema through to Daru and the Islands of the Torres Strait, Old Scotch Collegians Quentin Lee and Greg Leatham recently met up in the most extraordinary union of Old boys, continuing their journey of a life time of experiences in Papua New Guinea.

Both old boys have an extensive background in this unique world of extreme cultural diversity and mystic that has keep them attracted to the adventure and challenges of working in this environment.



In PNG's Southern Highlands , Hela Province, home of the many Huli Clans, sits the massive Exxon Mobil LNG Project along with other Mining based operations including Oil Search's' Moro Site. It is anticipated exploration and extraction will continue for decades, not only on the limestone mountain ridges but also in

the Papuan Gulf where PPL's are attracting big investment for future activity. Early expeditions by Australian patrols into these areas are noted in 1935 when a Patrol Officer named Jack Hides led a party at the request of Lieutenant-Governor Hubert Murray into the unexplored Great Papuan Plateau between the Strickland and Purari rivers. The Strickland, Purari, Kikori and the Fly Rivers are some of the significant waterways that work their way through the Gulf Delta and into the Papua Gulf.

The Papua Gulf separates PNG and the Northern tip of Australia and joins into Torres Strait on the west and the Coral Sea to the East

Like much of PNG the area is inhospitable and wildly remote, rugged is an understatement and “a man’s” world where local tribes base wealth on pigs, land and women.

Given that PNG now has 21 provinces and a population of approximately 7.6 million, 790 dialects and the tribal cultural diversity clearly identifiable from coastal areas to landlocked isolated pockets of mountain clans it ceases to capture the imagination.



Quentin is stationed at Hides working for Exxon Mobil as the Senior Community Affairs Manager. The Lee’s family association with PNG began after WW2 when their parents bought an island plantation in Buka Passage, Bougainville. It was later expanded to three copra and cocoa plantations.

The four Lee boys began their association with Scotch in 1962 when Marshall began, Cameron and Warwick followed and in 1975 Quentin completed his HSC. All were boarders in McMeckan house. The boys all remembered the difficult periods when the prices of copra and cocoa fell and the school accounts kept rolling in. Scotch would always respond to our father when he was struggling to pay an account, “you’re our best customer, hang tight.”

Quentin managed the family plantations from 1984-1987.

However it was becoming clearly evident in these years that Bougainville was descending into chaos and in 1987 it was decided to sell the plantations, just prior to the revolution beginning.

It was a 23 year gap until Quentin returned to begin working with the Resettlement group for Exxon. They were looking for people who could speak Pidgin and who had an understanding of the society. Resettlements role was to negotiate with landowners, to access land for the LNG project. He has now moved to Exxon Drilling.

What ensued was three years of the most incredible and exhilarating work experience.

(This is) a region of extraordinary beauty, and the feisty Huli who reside here, and whose culture at times confronts and fascinates the morés of social behaviour.

Greg is also stationed at Hides working for the Alliance Group, contracting to Exxon Mobil, as the Project Operations Manager for Hides controlling Site Catering and associated services across the 8 Sites including well pads.

Greg first came to PNG in 1981 on his return from a stint in the U.K and Europe where he worked for Grand Metropolitan Hotels. He joined Bechtel Pacific on the OK Tedi Mining Project, based on the Indonesian/PNG border in Western Province and later BHP/OK Tedi and this is where his PNG journey began.

He spent a number of years with PNG's No1 Public Company, Steamships Trading Co, in the Hotels Division as Group Operations Manager.

He married into PNG and has three daughters. He is widely known throughout the country for his work in the Hospitality / Tourism sector and community project involvement.

What is more intriguing is that Greg's PNG wife Eva, a high profile Media and Community face in PNG (Ex Miss Asia, Ex Miss PNG, the face of the Country's first Television News Program) was born on Skotlan Island in Buka Passage, Bougainville, and initially raised on Yame Island on a Plantation, so close to the Lee Family, and a Plantation the Lee Family would lease for some time.

Originally from Orbost, Victoria, a border in Arthur Rob House for two years at Scotch, Greg excelled at sport, representing the 1st eleven and 1st eighteen, went on to play for Old Scotch Collegians FC and University Blacks. He was a member of the 1976 A grade amateurs Old Scotch Football Club premiership team.

He left Scotch to study Commerce/Arts at Melbourne University, owned his own Antique and fine art business in Carlton and mixed in the creative Arts scene in inner Melbourne, before travelling to Europe. Subsequent to his first appointment in PNG the rest is a colourful history of adventure, personalities and tales.

Greg says, "It is an amazing country, an amazing map of culture that once you have experienced it for any extended period it is very consuming. The exciting thing of working and living PNG style, every day is a challenge, every day is different and you can expect the unexpected. When it comes to Cities I love Melbourne. Great food, art and a sports paradise.

I often reflect on great friends I have there, but I choose PNG which means I have missed many years of those friendships. "

Prior to this meeting in Hides, Quentin Lee and Greg Leatham had never met.

Sailing Ship ALMA DOEPEL

Papua New Guinea and Aussie history restored at Williamstown



The BAE Systems Williamstown Dockyard has played an important role restoring this historic ship. The *Alma Doepel* was built in 1903 and was used to sail around the Australian coast carrying goods such as timber, wheat and jam. She was also used in World War II as a supply vessel in Papua New Guinea. As part of a restoration project, the ship arrived at the shipyard to be floated onto a barge and towed back to Docklands where the restoration works will be completed.

ALMA's WARTIME SERVICE 1943 to 1946

In January 1943 the whole crew left *Alma* in Melbourne and the Army took over the vessel. In February she was taken to Sydney, and there she not only underwent some drastic dismasting, but her conversion to army needs took an unconscionable time. Army personnel manned her, and a slipway firm was contracted for the work. On 7 June 1944 she set out to sea for the first time in some 16 months, and after several visits from investigators as to why she was never ready. She was minus two masts and bowsprit (sawn off), and in place of her one small 1936



engine, she now had three bus engines, and she was heading for Jervis Bay. She was renamed as AK82 during her wartime service.

She got as far as Port Kembla, with 60% of her crew disabled with mal de mer. There she was permitted to enter port, and was soon sent back to Sydney, mission incomplete.

On 23 July she left Sydney for the war zone, in a roundabout way. First to Brisbane, she entered the Tropics for her very first time on 1 September, and on 16 October she reached Darwin, after sheltering by night along the way until New Year. *Alma* made a few calls with supplies to the islands and mainland outposts. In the New Year she made a trip westward from Darwin to Wyndham, and was back in Darwin three weeks later. She then loaded a cargo for Lae, but had engine troubles for the next six weeks.

At last, on 8 March 1945 she headed out of Darwin harbour for New Guinea. She delivered her cargo, and made various short trips with other supplies, up and down the east coast of New Guinea and thereabouts.

Her greatest glory came on 28 April, while the last bastion of the Japanese remained at the eastern end of New Britain. General (Red Robbie) Robertson loaded 400 troops on board *Alma*, for a 100-mile trip to near the front line, more or less surrounding Rabaul. It was night time, and the stowage of so many men must have been uncomfortable. Records of her Army days are then missing, for at least six months.

In March 1946 she was back in Melbourne from the Tropics, then left for Hobart. Between then and January 1947 the Army was responsible for *Alma's* re-conversion to Bass Strait trading conditions.

Since the war years she has carried many bulk cargo voyages across Bass Strait, and eventually was fully re-fitted as a sail training vessel.

Her new refit at Melbourne is being conducted by a motivated restoration crew of mainly volunteers.

Her complete history and current restoration progress can be viewed at website <http://www.almadoepel.com.au>

A Tribute to Merle Wall MBE



Merle, an admired mentor and friend to the people of Bougainville and a great supporter of her church and family, died on the 5th September 2013 aged 85 years. Merle was born on 23 March 1928 the second youngest of the four children of Bob and Millie Hallam, growing up in the Whitsundays, with her parents holding a lease on Hayman Island in the 1930s.

Merle first visited Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 1954, when visiting her brother, Bill Hallam, who was a captain on the MV *Polurrian*. Merle travelled on the *Polurrian* calling into Nissan, Carteret Islands, Buka and all ports along the east coast of Bougainville. Bill and the ship's engineer, Noel Jones, had visions of home cooked meals dropping

hints that “*scones would be appreciated for morning tea.*” The ship's galley had a tiny kerosene fridge to keep a little meat and a small supply of beer - for emergencies, a rocking primus stove and one porthole that hadn't been wiped since the ship's maiden voyage. Butter and milk came in tins and batting flies off the milk turned Merle off white tea for decades.

The Walls married in January 1955 in Mackay and on accepting a job on Tenakau Plantation, the newlyweds, with Wayne, Merle's son from a previous marriage, took the three day journey to Bougainville. Throughout the '50s and '60s Merle suffered an ongoing heart disorder with doctors warning she may not live past thirty. So when Merle was expecting in late 1955, she travelled to Rabaul where Dr Mattie Radcliffe-Taylor while conferring with specialists over a radio-telephone delivered daughter Christine by caesarean section under local anaesthetic.

The Walls spent five happy years on Tenakau during which Merle was finding her place in the complexities of colonial expatriate life and a growing awareness of local people, their culture and the challenges they faced. While Greg was learning the ropes of plantation life, Merle taught Wayne through correspondence. In 1960 Greg took up a manager's position on the Colyer Watson owned plantation, Cutarp, located on New Britain's South Coast. The children were growing up; Wayne went to boarding school and Christine started correspondence.

Bill Hallam was managing the Kieta Trading Company on Bougainville but by 1962, was keen to return to sea, so he recommended Merle and Greg to take on the job.

But by the time the Walls arrived in Kieta, the guest house was upgraded to a hotel. Merle took charge of housekeeping, teaching Christine school and supporting Greg in running the second business of copra and cocoa handling. Kieta was heading for radical change. Ken Phillips, CRA's first Geologist and the early drillers all stopped over at the Hotel Kieta before trekking into the mountains around Panguna. An overseas wharf was built and the road between Kieta and Arawa Plantation opened up.

Merle noticed the pressures of village life often saw girls taken out of school early, so to create a culture of learning, she decided that girl guiding, an international movement, was the answer. With no experience in 1963, Merle began with eight Brownies.

In 1964, The New Guinea Biological Foundation, the brainchild of 'Kip' McKillop from Arawa Plantation purchased Aropa Plantation. The Aropa project would benefit PNG in agricultural research and tertiary scholarships. Greg was offered the manager's position which included handling the airline agency as the airport was a long way from town.

Merle catered on plane days, which whilst such duties made for a very busy time, they also provided Merle with opportunities to fundraise for community causes.

In the seven years the Walls lived at Aropa, Merle taught school for a while and they threw themselves into local initiatives, supporting the RSL and what was then the native ex-servicemen's association.

Merle's commitment to Guiding, Brownies and Red Cross continued which led to Merle approaching Theresa Reina Jaintong in 1971 to stand as Bougainville's first entrant in the Red Cross Miss Papua New Guinea competition. It was a good choice, because Theresa won the competition.

While a bulldozer was creating new roads in Kieta, Merle appealed to the Lands Department for a small block on which to build a Girl Guide House. Brownie and Guide Packs had expanded to Sohano and Buka. At first officials said there was no spare land. Undaunted, Merle asked, "*If I find some, would the answer be 'yes'?*" Greg and Merle knew the 'dozer driver and worked out that if he took fill from the base of Kieta Hill, they'd end up with an ideal house pad. The project was a banker's delight as it was the only scheme that finished with a bigger bank balance than when it started.

In 1970 Merle started Island Casuals, a part-time business, and on seeing the looming shortage of accommodation with Bougainville Copper Ltd expanding its operations, Merle purchased some land in Toniva and built a block of flats. Building works were completed only months before Greg's sudden death in July 1971. He was 48. Merle and Christine left Aropa to live in one of the flats, renting the other three as a necessary income given Christine was still at boarding school and Wayne was completing an apprenticeship as a radio technician.

The next few years saw Merle continuing her community projects through her church, the Red Cross and Lioness Club commitments. She became a lay

magistrate in the children's court, started a sub-agency for the Bank of NSW and was a stringer for PNG's national newspaper. Merle educated several children including some from the atolls of Mortlocks and Tasmans. In 1975 Merle escorted Queen Elizabeth II for more than an hour, chatting and walking past the parade of Guides and Brownies on Toniva oval.

When the Kieta Lions Club built a war memorial in ANZAC Park, Merle wanted the sacrifice of local ex-servicemen remembered. She organised a bronze plaque to honour Chief Barosi of Sirovai Village near Koromira, who was beheaded in Kieta by the Japanese in 1942 because of his loyalty to Australian troops. In 1980 Merle was honoured with an MBE for her service to the community.

Merle's application for PNG citizenship in 1983 was about to be accepted but on considering her looming health issues the family strongly advised against this which meant giving up her Australian citizenship. While Merle retired to Australia in that year she maintained a close association with her extended Bougainvillean and PNG friends and family. The 25th Anniversary for Guiding on Bougainville was celebrated in 1988 and thanks to the brilliant organising by Annette Embery and others; Camp Aropa was staged in Arawa with representatives from PNG, Australia, Canada, Solomon Islands and New Zealand attending. Merle returned to open the Camp as the name was chosen in honour of Merle and all she and Greg had done for Guiding. The Camp's theme, PUFF, was an acronym for Peace, Understanding, Fun and Friendship. It was about 12 months before the Crisis.

Recent years have seen Merle's health deteriorate with breast cancer in 2009 followed by a debilitating auto-immune disease. But Merle was always cheerful and positive and will be remembered as a graceful, caring and remarkable woman who always had time for others. Merle was farewelled on 13th September 2013 in a Requiem Mass which included a Bougainville choir and coffin being adorned with a photo wearing her MBE medal, shell money, a Buka basket and a spray of Australian native flowers.

Merle's ashes will return to Bougainville to settle in the coral sands on Greg and Bill's graves sometime in the next year.

A Tribute to Florence May COHEN

Florence was born in Taralga on June the 5th. 1926 and died in Cairns on the 18th September this year - my birthday. Unusually, her timing was dreadful and my birthday will never be the same again.

Florence was the youngest of nine children. Her Father died when she was only four months old. Life was not easy. At seventeen, she was employed at The Public Works Department in Sydney, but as soon as her age allowed, she joined the WRANS. According to Florence, that was the turning point of the Second World War!

Florence was demobbed and in 1948 went to Rabaul on a two year contract with The New Guinea Company as a stenographer. She stayed in Papua New Guinea for forty three years!

In 1949, Florence, to quote: "Met the opening bat Bill Cohen, fell in love and later married him."

Bill and Florence had an interesting honeymoon – a labour recruiting trip by boat to Kandrian. Bill was obliged to bunk in with the Brothers and Florence, the Nuns!

They managed Kap Kap Plantation and then Tobera. In 1951, they had Chris (who suddenly passed away in 1993). Shortly after Peter came along in 1952, they moved to Tovakundum on the North Coast Road out of Rabaul. Geoffrey was born in 1961 and their family was complete. Mum home-schooled all three boys and was delighted when they later went to High School in Australia and were on par with the other pupils. I personally call it a minor miracle given that she first had to catch them for lessons most days!

In 1972 Bill died suddenly and Florence was devastated. She later told me that, for over two years she would put out two coffee cups each morning. No one ever matched up to Bill. True to form though, she soldiered on, filling her life as best she could. Despite her job with Rabaul Stevedores being very demanding, Florence remained Commissioner of The Girl Guides and became involved in many other community groups. She even forayed into the realms of home brewing, but that soon ended after Peter had to shoot the tops from the beer bottles with a gun before any more exploded and killed someone!

In 1981, Rabaul Stevedores relocated to Lae. Florence and three of her staff set up office there. In Lae, she renewed old friendships, made many new ones and carried on with her community work.

1981 was also the year that the Gods were smiling on me. Florence and Peter bought a block across the road from my riding school at Moggill and I met my own 'Opening Bat' by inviting him to a party.

From the outset of what was to be a thirty two year friendship, Florence impressed me no end. She would arrive at the farm with armfuls of cut orchids from Papua New Guinea and we would immediately hit the lunch and shopping circuit together. Her generosity knew no bounds. I very soon learnt not to say 'that's nice,' or it would end up in her cargo! We spent many hours riding together – Florence always on board Brownie, her favourite horse. I was in awe of her stamina at such a great age! (Florence was in her fifties at the time – it is amazing how one's perception of old age changes with time!)

In 1982, we set out on a road trip from Port Douglas to Brisbane. It took us four days as we kept diverting to catch up with Mum's friends. Peter, Geoffrey and Matthew, in another vehicle took twenty two hours.

1987 was another year of note. Mum again relocated, this time to Port Moresby. Peter, Matthew and I, went to Rabaul. Our move from Moggill to Rabaul involved four or five cubic metres of cargo, but Mum's move to Moresby from Lae required two, twenty foot containers. One for her personal effects and the other for her orchids!

Florence loved her time in Port Moresby. She lived alone in a house and we worried constantly about her safety. We worried needlessly, because she had once again established a wonderful circle of friends who looked after her admirably. Her social life was dynamic and she visited us often in Rabaul.

In 1992 Mum decided to retire. She left Papua New Guinea, with not only fond memories, but also a swag of awards, medals and life memberships, so richly des

Florence moved to Sydney to care for her beloved sister Aunt Jean and as usual got into the spirit of things. She joined the Ashfield Bowling Club and the Canterbury RSL. She helped out at the local church and in her 'spare time,' looked after Matthew who was then boarding at Joey's.

Aunt Jean died in 1999 and Mum was alone once again. We tried every trick in the book to persuade her to move to North Queensland to be nearer to us, but she refused to do so until her health began failing badly in March of 2012. Mum left an enormous number of friends in Sydney, along with amazing neighbours who helped her and kept a close eye on her. Her reluctance to leave was understandable.

On Thursday 26th September we farewelled Mum at St. Monica's Cathedral in Cairns, followed by a lively party in The Plantation Dining Room at The Hotel Cairns. Lots of laughter, catching up and of course champagne..... Florence would have loved it!

Mum leaves behind Peter, Geoffrey and his partner Bertie, and I. She also leaves six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

The world is a much poorer place for her passing.

Julie Cohen – Kuranda

In 1995, using information from her notes, I surprised Mum by producing her memoirs of Papua New Guinea which I wrote in Rabaul. I would be more than happy to send a copy of those to any of her friends who may like one. Email canoona1@optusnet.com.au or telephone (07) 4093 7409.

A Tribute to LORNA (WHYTE) JOHNSTON

Editor: This tribute to Lorna was written by Andre Hueber, on the occasion of Lorna returning to Japan to receive an official apology from the Japanese government. It was originally printed in "The Aucklander" newspaper 01 Dec 2011



Lorna (Whyte) Johnston and Sister Berenice Twohill. 1997.

Almost 70 years ago Lorna Johnston's life was hell ... as a prisoner of war in Yokohama, Japan, surviving on eating the glue off envelopes.

The 96-year-old Kohimarama resident is the only survivor of a group of 76 Australian POW nurses and is returning to Japan, the country that caused her so much pain, this time for an official apology.

Far from being anxious about the experience, spritely Lorna is looking forward to it.

"I'm going to enjoy it," she says. "I'm not carrying any baggage - I've put it behind me.

They're going to so much trouble to be friends, I think we should reciprocate and make peace."

She'll be flying business class and staying in top-notch hotels, a far cry from the filthy, deprived conditions she encountered on her last sojourn.

Lorna was born in Hay, New South Wales, and trained as a nurse before joining the army in 1941.

She was one of six nurses chosen to go to the island of New Britain in New Guinea, a "front door" to Australia - now part of Papua New Guinea.

The women arrived at the capital, Rabaul, in April 1941 and spent a year at a military hospital treating soldiers suffering from tropical diseases before the Japanese began dropping bombs.

"All of a sudden they were on top of us. The Australians were taken by surprise."

It didn't take long before the first wounded soldiers were brought in for treatment – many requiring amputations.

"It was traumatic, we didn't have time to think, and it was all automatic."

The military nurses were joined by seven civilian nurses before being moved with their patients to the Australian-run Catholic Mission in Vunapope, formerly owned by Germans. It was no safe haven.

"Japanese soldiers came in with guns and bayonets, flipped the boys out of their beds and pushed us around. While they had their machine guns trained on us the bishop told them the place was actually a German mission. They swallowed it and let us go."

The bishop, Polish-born Leo Scharmach, considered the soldiers with them a liability so sent them back to Rabaul, leaving the nurses alone for five months.

"There was no contact from the outside world ... no newspapers, books or letters. Our families thought we were dead."

We... ended up eating the glue on envelopes

A Japanese military chief came to the mission one day to tell the women they were being taken to the "land of full and plenty".

"He said there's no mosquitoes there and you will be well looked after. We thought we were going [back] to Australia - but we were taken with 70 Australian officers in the hold of a ship to Japan."

Imprisoned in Yokohama

The nurses were imprisoned at the Yokohama Boat Club for 18 months from July 1942, and forced to knit silk bags and make envelopes.

"In the first year the food was awful but sufficient, in the second year it got worse - in the end it was non-existent."

The women fashioned clothes for themselves with used canvas sails and bamboo needles and ended up eating the glue on envelopes.

"We were doing fewer and fewer envelopes and eating more and more glue. They said we were wasting it. They didn't realise we were eating it."

Lorna recalls telling the cook, Fuji San, they needed more food to eat.

"He'd say: 'More? Better you die'."

"I remember watching him cut up cabbage for the guards. He'd cut it in half and throw the core in the rubbish. We'd grab it and put it under our arms.

He'd notice straight away and say: 'Where gone? You take?' In the end he threw them out the window and we'd retrieve them at night."

Lorna says Fuji San had also been selling the nurse's rice rations to his family.

The soldiers were later replaced by two policemen withdrawn from the army because they had tuberculosis.

"They used to cough all the time. We'd take trays into the room, bow and put them down.

When we collected them later, if there was any food left, we'd eat it. Three girls ended up with TB."

She says Fuji San showed a nicer side at one point when he lent the women a small heater.

"But one of the guards came in and saw it and threw it into the sea. Fuji San was furious.

Then we were made to stand in a line for two hours while the guard went up and down slapping our faces and waving his sword around."

Lorna describes the policemen as "utter lunatics". "We called them Cougher and Basher."

The women were hit across the back and punched, but were not raped.

"We weren't their type," she says. "They never broke our spirit. We always had hope and knew we'd get out one day."

At one point, she remembers looking through a hole in the palisade and seeing a ship in the harbour with a white cross on it. "We were positive we were going to be exchanged - but they took us on a truck in the other direction - towards Mount Fuji. There were so many disappointments. They came and they went."

The nurses were taken to a former TB clinic on a hill at Totsuka to dig stumps and sweep snow. They survived in sub-zero temperatures with no running water and only two futons each. "We had them for three years and they never saw a washing machine. We were working in fields with human manure and our duvets could have stood up they were so stiff with dirt."

They knitted jumpers for children and told the Japanese mothers each would take six balls of wool when they knew it would take only four. "We lived by our wits."

One day the guards ordered the women to walk down the hill.

"We thought those bastards want us to lift stuff up the hill. We were in a weakened state. They marched us down, our feet wrapped in rags."

But a pleasant surprise awaited them in the form of a Red Cross parcel, with tea, cocoa, butter and cigarettes. They were careful to make it last. "We added half a spoon of sugar and half a spoon of powdered milk to our bowl of rice. It made such a difference, it was like heaven."

Firebombing of Tokyo

Lorna has vivid memories of the fire-bombing of Tokyo, which killed 100,000 people in March 1945 - more than the 70,000 killed by the atomic bomb in Hiroshima in August the same year.

"We sat on the windowsills and watched. The sound of sirens went on for half an hour before more than 1000 bombers flew across in waves. It was like daylight, there was so much light in the sky. It was one of the worst things anyone could see."

The Japanese weren't prepared for the bombing and didn't have underground shelters.

"Women were running in the streets with babies burning on their backs and thousands ran into the river - it was packed with bodies floating out to sea."

Corpses were stacked on top of each other in graveyards and family members laid rice balls on them to give to their spirits. The nurses crept in at night and ate the rice balls, despite the putrid smell.

"We tried to get to them before the rabbits. We decided the spirits that are alive deserve them more."

They overheard the Japanese Emperor's surrender speech on the radio but it wasn't until American soldiers visited them that they knew the war was over.

"We'd never seen Americans before. We didn't know who they were, we'd never seen Jeeps."

The emaciated women celebrated by eating a large lump of meat ... but their digestive systems were so damaged it caused diarrhoea.

They were flown to Manila for a month, fed, tested and detoxed, before returning to Australia on September 25, 1945.

"We had lots to learn. We were out of the world for four years and coming back to a strange place."

Lorna's mother had died while she was away and her family home had been removed. "It was a wonderful time, but it was very hard."

In 1947 the Australian Government recognised her with a Mention In Dispatches Award (MID) for holding the hospital at Vunapope together.

Arrival in New Zealand

By 1948 she decided she wanted to experience the world, so planned a trip to the US with a friend. They stopped in New Zealand, and Lorna never left.

She stayed at a private nurses' home in Auckland but fell ill and spent six months in hospital.

Her body became stiff and she couldn't move, so her legs were put in splints. Doctors thought she had polio, but healthy doses of sunlight and fresh air helped her make a full recovery.

Once she was well, she married Bill, a Kiwi, who served in the New Zealand 18th battalion. He died in 1980.

In 1992 Lorna was awarded a Queen's Service Order medal for 14 years of work with physically handicapped children at Mt Roskill School.

Last year, her story and that of another Australian nurse, were made into a telemovie, *Sisters of War*, based on Rod Miller's transcript, *The Lost Women of Rabaul*. Lorna makes a guest appearance at the end of the film.

Then, this year, Lorna was nominated to take part in a Japanese-organised prisoners-of-war programme, one of five POWs invited.

She left on the 10-day trip last Sunday, with her daughter Patricia, and will meet Government leaders and visit places of special significance.

Hardly will Lorna's feet have touched the ground when she returns home to Auckland, when she'll be visited by Australian artist Peter Wegner who'll be painting her portrait. It will be hung in Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance as part of an exhibition on the entry of the Japanese into World War II.

Despite an apology coming so late, the amazingly gracious and eloquent Lorna shows not a shred of bitterness.



TRIBUTE TO GORDON STEEGE



Gordon Steege was undoubtedly one of the most outstanding airman of them all. Already a Pilot Officer in the RAAF at the outbreak of World War II, he served as adjutant with 11 Squadron based at Port Moresby until May 1940 and sailed with 3 Squadron to the Middle East. As Flight Lieutenant, he was Wilf Arthur's flight commander.

Air Commodore Gordon Henry Steege, DSO, DFC, 30 Oct 1917 – 01 Sept 2013

In December 1940, flying an antique Glouster Gladiator biplane, he was credited with three confirmed 'kills', two 'probables' and one enemy aircraft 'damaged'. In 1941, initially with 3 Squadron, and then as Commanding Officer of 450 Squadron he was credited with another five confirmed 'kills' and four 'damaged'. Returning to Australia in 1942, he was promoted Wing Commander and commanded 73 Wing (three squadrons of Kittyhawks and one each of Spitfires, Beaufighters and Bostons) at Kiriwina, leading the Kittyhawk squadrons in strafing operations. He took the Kittyhawks and Spitfires to the Admiralty Islands in March 1944, where he was awarded a DSO and promoted Group Captain.

He was Director of Operations at RAAF HQ, when he resigned his commission to become a Patrol Officer and was posted to Esa'ala. He attended ASOPA for six months in 1947, was posted to Kairuku, under ADO Kevin Atkinson in January 1948, to Madang and Bogia in late 1948, and to Manus, as ADO, in mid-1950 from where he resigned because of family ill health.

He re-joined the RAAF as a Wing Commander and commanded 77 Squadron in Korea. Promoted Group Captain, he commanded the base at Canberra, was the Australian Military Adviser's Representative at the Military Planning Office, SEATO HQ, Bangkok, 1959-60 and then, for four years, Director, Joint Service Plans, at RAAF HQ Canberra. After being promoted Air Commodore he commanded RAAF bases in Australia and Malaysia before being appointed Senior Air Staff Officer, RAAF Headquarters, Operational Command: the position he held till retirement.

Gordon, accompanied by his wife Jennifer, returned to New Guinea in 2007, to visit Jeanette Leahy at Zenag, and to revisit his old haunts at Madang and Manus.

He is survived by Jennifer, son Peter and daughter, Diana.

A WONDERFUL END TO MY TALE

John Stevenson

In October 1949 I boarded a 'DC3' plane in Brisbane along with 20 other passengers ... most of us were bound for Manus Island.

Our departure was delayed with some trouble to the port engine, and wet weather didn't help. So it was late when we got to Townsville for an overnight stay. I met my first cane toad (ugly aren't they)

An early breakfast of hard boiled eggs, toast and tea or coffee, and then caught the bus to the airstrip. We were off to Moresby and then to Lae for another overnight stay at Ma Stewart's Hotel – ex AMWA's Quarters, I was told.

As I entered the bar, a man said "What are YOU doing up here?" he had been my younger sister's boyfriend in Merrylands NSW. He was a chainman with the Department of Lands. I never met him again.

Next morning we were off to Manus via Rabaul and Kavieng. We landed late at Momote strip, thence to Lombrum (Naval Base) by road.

I was sitting on the steps having a smoke before dinner when a male voice said "G'day John", and when I looked it was a chap called Bruce Burrows, with whom I had served my apprenticeship as an electrician in Sydney a few years earlier.

A small world, but there is more ...

On the morning of my first day on the Australian Navy Base there were Japanese P.O.W. walking around clad in just a breech cloth and getas (thongs). They were awaiting their war trials.

A short time later a man from the highlands of New Guinea mainland was told to wheel a load of some sort of material from one place to another. The poor fellow did not know how to because he had never used a barrow in his life before, and could not handle it without 'capsetting'. I thought then that these people have a lot to learn.

Sometime in 1957 I was working on the leper colony on Anelaua Island (off shore from New Hanover and Kavieng). I was having lunch with the priest when a Methodist missionary John Robins arrived and joined us for lunch. During that lunch John said he was also an electrician, and it turned out that he and I served our apprenticeships at the same place and time.

On the 6th July 1963, John Robins performed our wedding in the Rabaul Methodist Church, and the best man was also an electrician, John Pickering.

In the early 1960's there was a cartoon in a paper showing two new Guinea pilots flying at 10,000 ft. and one said to the other 'did you check the fuel?' and the other replied 'I thought it was your job'. – Still a lot to learn.

If you have not read the June 2013 copy of *Una Voce*, then you should turn to pages 18-19 and all will be revealed.

The story of the Narara family father and son is wonderful, and I hope that their story is told all over Papua New Guinea.

ACPSRO AGM – INDEXATION, CSHC and other issues

The 2013 annual general meeting of the Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations was held in Canberra on 8 October. It was attended by most Council members, including State representatives from NSW, Victoria and Tasmania.

The main focus of the meeting was on reviewing strategy in light of the outcome of the election and the formation of the Abbott government. This has resulted in a situation where for the first time all three of the major political parties have acknowledged there are problems with the CPI based indexation of Commonwealth retirees' superannuation that need to be fixed. This is an important new development. Where the difference between them now lies is in what they plan to do about it.

The outgoing Labor government committed itself to a very limited package of reform, to use the better of CPI or PBLCI for 65 years or older members of 2 of the 3 superannuation schemes applicable to military retirees. The Coalition promised more, with indexation based on the best of CPI, PBLCI or MTAWA for 55 years or older members of the same schemes.

While recognising that the Coalition's proposal falls well short of fair indexation for all Commonwealth retirees, it was agreed that it was nevertheless an important step in the right direction, and that its full implementation should be the immediate objective. ACPSRO will accordingly fully support the Defence Force Welfare Association's ongoing efforts to achieve this.

Pursuing fair indexation across the board will then follow.

It was noted that the most strongly held opposition to fair indexation was the supposed cost involved. This has consistently been expressed by governments in terms of the unfunded liability it would incur. This is a multi-billion dollar sum, because it is made up of the aggregate cost of the scheme over 40 years. The annual budgetary costs of the change are relatively modest but have not been made available. It was agreed that the debate must be turned around to focus on these costs rather than the unfunded liability.

The meeting noted and acknowledged the success of the DFWA's fair indexation campaign. This has been ongoing for some years and its success owes much to the strong input that has been made to it by State and regional units specifically set up for the purpose. Among other things, this resulted in local politicians being made more keenly aware of the issue, and suggested a model that other organisations might use to increase their impact.

Access to the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card has been another issue where many retirees have been disadvantaged. Eligibility is determined by income thresholds which have been unchanged since 2001. As incomes have risen, more and more retirees have lost their eligibility. The Coalition promised as a matter of policy to index these thresholds to CPI. ACPSRO strongly supports this policy and is urging its priority implementation. Constituent members are asked to do likewise. It is also seeking a one-off increase in the level of the thresholds to make up for the lack of indexation since 2001.

Use of the Future Fund to meet the costs of fair indexation is an important issue that remains on ACPSRO's agenda, and will be taken up with the new government in due course. The unfair taxation treatment of Commonwealth superannuants as compared with self-funded retirees also remains an issue to be pursued.

C E Tim Terrell

PNGAA Representative on ACPSRO

October, 2013.

PNG IN THE NEWS

PNG Treasurer Polye to chair IMF, World Bank board

Papua New Guinea Treasurer Don Polye will be the next chairman of the board of governors of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Polye was selected to be the chairman in 2014 by fellow governors, who are finance ministers of member countries.

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill commended Polye, saying his elevation to chair of the important financial institutions was a vote of confidence in PNG and would raise its profile on the global scene.

In a letter to Polye, the prime minister said his selection was in recognition not only of Polye's leadership and talent by his peers, but also of PNG's increasing role as a major player in the region. "I have no doubt that PNG and the region would benefit greatly from your tenure as Chair of the Fund and Bank," O'Neill said.

The treasurer said the chairmanship was a prestigious position and he was honoured to take it up. "This will certainly complement well our government's drive towards making PNG the leader and big brother amongst Pacific Island nations, and an emerging economy in the Asia-Pacific region," Polye said.

Polye's chairmanship would be formally approved by the board of governors of the fund and the bank at its annual general meeting in October.

Executive director for Asia Pacific Constituency Jong-won Yoon said he was delighted that a Pacific Island nation will hold this office in 2014. "This role affords PNG the opportunity to showcase itself on the international arena," Yoon said.

Source: Smol Melanesian Na Pasifik Nius Digest

HON. DON POMB POLYE, CMG, BE (Civil), MBA, MIEPNG [Reg.], MP is currently the Minister for Treasuries of Papua New Guinea. He has been a Cabinet Minister under two Prime Ministers to date, and was briefly deputy Prime Minister from July to December 2010. Earlier, he has held Foreign Affairs, Immigration, Transport, Civil Aviation, Finance and Treasury portfolios.

RABAU and MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS

Frazer Harry, Chair of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group writes:

A welcome to all Rabaul and Montevideo Maru friends is tempered with the news that Lorna Johnston, the last surviving nursing sister who was based in Rabaul in 1942 at the time of the Japanese landing, has died. The story of Lorna will be told elsewhere in *Una Voce*, but she was a great supporter of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society from inception. Indeed since the war, Lorna was always there for people connected to the tragedy of what happened in and around Rabaul during the war, particularly with the members of the 2/22 Battalion and Lark Force, and their families. Many stories have been told of her efforts in tending to the sick and injured soldiers, her compassion and determination. And just last year it was great to see Lorna at the unveiling of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial in Canberra, in particular seeing her together with Norm Furness of the 2/22 Lark Force, and the special bond they had. Lorna Johnston will be greatly missed by us all.



On behalf of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group, flowers were sent for Lorna's funeral.

2/22 Battalion and Lark Force

Norm Furness, who most would know is a member of the 2/22 Battalion, and made it off New Britain during the war via the North Coast (thanks to Keith McCarthy's amazing actions), has written a piece for this edition. We have been blessed to have Norm involved with us over the past few years, and he has coped with our requests of his time, his efforts and advice like the true soldier he is! As far as Norm knows, he is one of only three Battalion members still alive, the others being Andy Bishop and Ron Brown.

2/22nd Battalion/Lark Force Facebook page

As mentioned previously, this is still a 'goer' which should help provide a link for the more technologically aware - in particular the younger people with interests in the group. One of the original 2/22 Battalion survivors, Laurie Luxmore, died relatively recently. However his family remains involved in the Association, and Laurie's great-grandson Harry has volunteered his services in setting this up!

Please note – this is separate to the **Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Facebook page** – www.facebook.com/Rabaulandmontevideomaru

Shrine Service

"The annual 2/22 Battalion Lark Force Remembrance Service will be held at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, January 19th, 2014, at 12 noon. It is normally held in the main internal Sanctuary area of the Shrine - however this area may not be available on the date we need it, so at this stage (at time of printing) assume 2014's service may be held in the "Garden Courtyard" section of the Shrine (where we normally have afternoon tea after the service), adjacent to the new Visitors Centre. Afternoon tea will be held here too, after the service. (Please ask at the Visitor Centre when you arrive, if unsure of the service location). All family, friends and others interested in the event are welcome.

For further information, please contact Marg Curtis (marg.curtis@hsv.com.au ph. 0418 323 Marg Curtis (marg.curtis@hsv.com.au ph. 0418 323 555 SKYPE 0418 323555 or Frazer Harry (frazer.harry@bigpond.com, ph. 0497 785 112)."

NEW DISPLAY - MELBOURNE'S SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE



Emily Wubben, Shrine Research Assistant, on left, with Norm Furness on right.

In mid-September Norm Furness visited the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance to meet with David Howell and Denis Baguley. Norm wanted to make a donation on behalf of the 2/22nd to the Shrine's 'building fund' for the renovations they are undertaking. David took Norm to the Archives as he wanted to hand over some of his personal things for the proposed museum downstairs.

The Shrine is planning on having a permanent display for the Victorian units in particular. Norm has given them his 'dog tags', his pay book, his watch that still works after 73 years (he wore this during his time in Rabaul and it survived without doing a thing to it), a couple of unit photos, some other 2/22nd material and also a small diary that one of the boys kept during his time in Rabaul and whilst they escaped.

I asked whether they were aware of the *Montevideo Maru* and mentioned that we would like to have something incorporated with the 2/22nd things too, and they seemed keen to do this. If you have any possible items can you please contact Marg Curtis E: marg.curtis@hsv.com.au M: 0418 323 555

There is much work going on with various schools and the curriculum. A new tab, the Education tab, has been added to the website and will be constantly updated with resource material and information. Please keep a check on the website. If you can make contact with a local school and tell your story that would assist!

The Brigade That Never Really Was by Norm Furness

My story begins about June 1940 when many young men, including myself, enlisted in the AIF to fight the war against the German Army overseas. We that enlisted in Victoria mainly went through depots like the Caulfield Race Course, then transferred to training camps at places like Balcombe, Bendigo, Shepparton, Wangaratta, just to name a few.

It was about this time the 6th and 7th Divisions had already gone to the Middle East and the Defence Chiefs decided to form another Division, the 8th which would go to support the two already overseas. In Victoria, as part of that plan, a new Brigade was to be formed consisting, as was routine at that time, of four Battalions plus associated groups - so the 23rd Brigade was formed which I believe would consist of the 2/21st, 2/22nd, 2/23rd and 2/24th Battalions.

This plan was soon to change as the formation of Divisions were to be altered. Instead of four Brigades consisting of 4 Battalions, a Brigade was altered to three Brigades consisting of 3 Battalions per Brigade. Overseas the 9th Division was formed using the overs from the 6th and 7th Divisions, but they needed more Battalions, so the 2/23rd and 2/24th from Victoria were the chosen ones from Victoria - which then left our Brigade one Battalion short.

I hope I have explained what I believe happened in 1940, but at my age 91, I have to put trust in my memory, but now I will continue on with what happened to our Brigade, the 23rd.

At this time we were at Bonegilla (near Albury) and other Battalions mentioned were also there - so we had the four Battalions. Then, as I mentioned the 2/23rd and 2/24th left and we then had another Battalion join us, the 2/40th a Tasmanian raised unit, so at last we had a Brigade and our training for desert warfare stepped up a pace.

At Bonegilla things started to happen, the canteens were allowed to sell beer and we had a few thousand thirsty troops as the weather was pretty warm, so a lot of fun was had by the troops. Also we used to mount a Battalion Guard. The 2/22nd and 2/21st were old hands at it but the Tasmanians, for them it was a first time. On this particular night the 2/22nd was to be relieved by the 2/40th - no doubt you have seen this done in films and on TV - and an Officer inspects the Guard. So there we are, standing at attention ready for inspection, and the Officer of the 2/40th moves off and their band starts to play. The only thing they played was a waltz. It was hilarious to see the Officer trying to be officious. I will never forget it.

I guess it's time to get back to my story of our Brigade. We now had a Brigadier in charge, F Lind from Gippsland, and things started to move along. The only thing was that the weeks kept going past and nothing was happening re our involvement in the war. My unit, the 2/22nd was formed in early July 1940 and by January 1941 we were still training. At last in February we were given final leave and in early March things began to happen.

PNGVR Military Museum Wacol – 14 September 2014

The NGVR/PNGVR Association is continuing to plan for the coming 2014 Anzac Centenary Celebration. An 'open to the public' tribute function is being arranged at the Wacol Military Museum for the 14th September 2014 when a plaque commemorating the capture of the German Bitapaka Wireless Station near Rabaul, New Britain and the lives of the six Australians lost at that time on 11th September 1914, is dedicated.

Several days later the Australian submarine AE1 disappeared without trace with the loss of all 35 men. On the 21st September 1914 all of German New Guinea was formally surrendered to Australia; thus a vast territory contiguous to Australia's Territory of Papua was held and administered by Australia until Papua New Guinea became an Independent nation in September 1975.

The 11th September 1914 capture also is the start of a centenary of Australia's involvement with PNG. Please diary this important day now. The function will be similar to that run by the Association on Rabaul's Centenary in 2010 – lots of fun and entertainment embracing an important commemoration.

Doreen and Frank Beadle, Western Australia recently wrote:

Our small M.M. Society, five of us met in September. We had a viewing of the ABC DVD "Sisters at War" then a lunch at our RAAFA village club.

We are pleased you and the executive are there to encourage us to treasure the bravery our men of our men in Rabaul. We were happy to note that the July 1 get togethers in Canberra are to be continued.

This morning we received an Email from Murray Day, addressed to about 40 others also, inviting us to a proposed luncheon gathering in Perth on the 29 November of members of the PNGAA. We will attend and maybe, hopefully, meet other Montevideo Maru contacts.

We, in our small way are endeavouring to keep the history alive in schools. Outreach by 3 of our small group has been as follows: -Thea Visser has a contact with a history teacher at the private Free Reformed School Armadale, WA. Grace Lovell did an interview with a student attending one of our north suburban schools; the interview covered the story of Grace's brother's experience in Rabaul as a member of the 2/22nd, the lass received top marks and a good review. Jean Rideout's granddaughter is currently writing a review of the 1st Independent Company in PNG; her teacher was incredulous that Australia had been involved in PNG!!!

Grace Lovell, Mt Pleasant, WA wrote:

A friend's grand-daughter recently interviewed me for a school assignment. She had chosen the Rabaul story for her subject – produced an excellent article and amazed her teachers at her choice of subject. She and I agreed that it *should* be part of the school history curriculum!

TRIBUTE TO LORNA JOHNSTON by John Schindler

I feel it a great honor to be asked to write this tribute to Lorna Johnston. I am writing this as both a Producer of the documentary THE TRAGEDY OF THE MONTEVIDEO MARU and also on a personal basis.

I met Lorna in a professional role initially when we interviewed her in regard to the terrible loss of over 1,000 Australian men and boys when the Japanese prison ship MONTEVIDEO MARU was sunk in 1942 in the South China Sea. Lorna knew many of these poor souls personally as they were all stationed in Rabaul together. When Rabaul fell Lorna together with the other Australian nurses travelled as prisoners to Japan in the hold of another Japanese “hell ship” the Naruto Maru which was not torpedoed.

I feel blessed to have met Lorna and her colleagues who came from the same mold. There are not many of them left now. Lorna was from a generation that we are losing fast. They were unique Australians - the salt of the earth those folk and we will never see the likes of them again.

Lorna had a great sense of humour and she would have managed to harness and share this typically Australian larrikin style humour with her fellow nurses during the time they suffered whilst incarcerated. Lorna told me also that in the coldest winter in Japan for 100 years the Australian nurses managed to keep warm by making clothing from the curtains they managed to steal from the Yokahama Police Station. Now that may not sound like a big deal but I'm sure that in those times if the nurses had been caught they could have been easily executed.

Lorna and her fellow nurses in Japan managed to survive because they were made of powerful stuff. Lorna told me they never thought once they would not make it home even when they were so starved that they had to resort to eating the rice based glue they were forced to work with. They had to remove the arsenic pellets first though and they also risked their lives to crawl under the barbed wire to steal mouldy food left as gifts for the Japanese dead by relatives in a cemetery adjoining their place of imprisonment.

It is truly amazing that after surviving all this starvation and suffering that Lorna reached the age of 98.

Lorna once told me her family in Australia frequently tried to get her to move to Australia. Apparently the grandchildren said to Lorna “but Grandma you have to move to Australia – you are an Australian icon”. Quite frankly I sincerely believe that Lorna will forever remain an Australian icon. Long after we are gone Lorna's story will be told. She was the epitome of everything that is good about Australian women. Lorna was a true lady and very modest.

It's not surprising she became a nurse because she had all the attributes needed to sincerely care for other people.

Lorna was always very kind to me and my relationship moved from that of Producer to friend and I feel blessed that I was able to meet such a wonderful woman.

Lorna had all the attributes that give Australians every right to feel proud of our Nationality. Our nation has lost a great Australian.

Even though Lorna suffered so much as a prisoner of war in Japan she went back to Japan not long ago at the invitation of the Japanese Government and met the Japanese Foreign Minister. Lorna spoke of her affection for the current generation of young Japanese boys and girls whom she met. Apparently they treated her like a Queen.

Lorna Johnston was a Queen in my eyes too.

It was an honour and a great privilege to know Lorna and I will forever regard her as a dear friend. Rest In Peace Lorna.

Melbourne Shrine Link to Schools - “Adopt an Ex-Service Organisation”.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, there is the chance for the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group to have a ‘formal’ link, or association, with Victorian schools. The basis for the link would be the 2/22 Battalion Lark Force, but there is flexibility in terms of the ‘Ex-Service’ requirement, so the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru ‘Organisation’, while also incorporating the ‘civilian’ aspect of people and events, could also qualify.

At this stage we are proposing a link with the Tallarook Primary School in Victoria, as a starting point. The 2/22 Battalion was formed at their training camp at Traawool, which is actually on the Tallarook-Traawool Rd, midway between the two towns. Tallarook has a school, and the school children currently have an informal link with the Association as they regularly tend to the 2/22 Battalion Lark Force Memorial, and its small garden, on the roadside at the site of the old training camp. This memorial is where the Lark Force Association has their annual family and friends’ get-together on the last Sunday of July.

We are looking into other options too, and feel that with the whole Rabaul and Montevideo Maru story, and the work the organisation has been doing in the last couple of years, the upcoming 100 year commemoration of the action at Bitapaka in WW1, and all the work that people like Carol Worthy and Patrick Bourke have been doing in schools telling our story, we would have a great deal to offer anyone in such a ‘partnership’.

Sister Schools - Australia and PNG

Following on from the work of Patrick Bourke and Carole Worthy a suggestion has been made:

“Further to the connection between the school(s) and the Melbourne Shrine, members could be encouraged to request any schools they are connected with to form a relationship with one of the many schools in New Britain/New Ireland such as a ‘sister school’ relationship. This could encourage an exchange of information based on the partnership, benefitting both PNG and Australian schools with knowledge about this story”.

What a great idea! This would be worthwhile for so many reasons, but particularly just to have that connection between children from different parts of the world building a special relationship.

I'm proposing to start this with the school my own children attend, St Monica's Primary School in Wodonga, Victoria. Our family spent some time in Rabaul last year, and my children, Sarah and Ryan, attended class at the Sacred Heart School in old Rabaul. We got to know the principal of the school, and met all the staff, and received a great welcome at the school assembly. On return to Australia, our kids presented to their classes, and shared the story and the reasons for their visit and the whole historical link. Our principal is supportive of such an initiative, and the Rabaul School indicated they would be welcoming of such an arrangement.

Schools in PNG are notoriously desperately short of funding, equipment and general teaching and learning aids, so this aspect could be incorporated into any sort of link between schools.



HELP WANTED

Reaching Schools

Since the last issue of *Una Voce*, I have been contacted by Ross Tucker, whose uncle, Roy Stewart McPherson, was lost on the *Montevideo Maru*. Roy, with his best mate Bill Attwood, were civilians working in Kavieng at the outbreak of the war, Roy as a teacher at the European School, and Bill as a motor mechanic. Bill was killed during the massacre at Kavieng Wharf, but Roy was captured by the Japanese and was held at Rabaul, where he boarded the *Montevideo Maru* along with other prisoners of war.

Ross has informed me that both these men came from Caboolture, and attended Caboolture State School. This is exactly the sort of information we need to know, so many thanks Ross for coming forward. Knowing where people came from and which schools were attended allows us to follow up the connection with particular schools, and thus take one more step towards our goal of bringing our little known wartime history to the light. Where there is a specific connection between a school and past students, it is much more likely that the school will want to research and publicly acknowledge that connection.

I have contacted Caboolture State School, and they are very interested in obtaining documented information about these two men, especially since later next year they will be celebrating their 125th anniversary. The information will also be a useful reference for Remembrance Day and Anzac Day activities at the school, when they can honour their past students.

Ross and I will be getting together to prepare a relevant document for the school, and we will also give the school the resource package that was put together for the Queensland History Teachers Conference.

If you have information that could be used to establish contacts with individual schools, please contact me if the person is from Queensland (caroleworthy@gmail.com); Patrick Bourke if the person is from NSW (patrickbourke58@bigpond.com); or Frazer Harry if the person is from Victoria (frazer.harry@bigpond.com).

For Sale

Sets of 3 x DVDs covering the
PNG Highlands circa 1960
AVAILABLE FROM:
The NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum, Brisbane
PRICE:
Only \$30 plus postage per set



Recently the Museum received a donation of various 16mm movies taken in the Highlands of PNG in the early 1960s.

These historic films have been transcribed to printed DVD format, which constitute a set of three DVD's packaged in cases with a beautiful photo of a Bird of Paradise on the front cover and a collage of Highland Tribal people on the back.

Inside is an information sheet with a map of PNG showing some of the relevant places on the front and information regarding the content on the other side.

The price of a set of 3 DVDS is \$30.00 plus postage and handling of \$9.00 to anywhere in Australia. If ordering from outside Australia please ensure that sufficient postage is included with your payment.

Orders can be placed with the Secretary, Colin Gould

Email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au **leaving** your name and address for posting.

Mobile: 0424 562 030

Payments can be made by cheque to:

**NGVR/PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM
PO Box 885
Park Ridge QLD 4125**

Or by direct deposit to:

Bank:	Commonwealth Bank
Account name:	NGVR/PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM
BSB:	064118
Account Number:	10309268
Reference:	8031939/ your name

All goods are posted as soon as cheques are cleared

PLEASE NOTE The **BSB number in September Una Voce was incorrect**

PIR MUSEUM DISPLAY

The official opening of an exhibition relating to the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR) was held on Tuesday 1 October 2013 at the Australian Army Infantry Museum, Singleton NSW.

The exhibition was titled:
Pacific Island Regiment
Australia's Forgotten Regular Army Infantry Regiment
1944-1946 1951-1975

The programme included an Introduction and Exhibition Concept Brief that was delivered by Mr John Land, Curator of the Australian Army Infantry Museum.

This was followed by a response by Major General B.W. (Hori) Howard AO, MC, ESM (Retd.) which was delivered in Pidgin English much to the delight and amusement of the many former PIR members and other former residents of PNG who were in attendance and to the bewilderment of those who have never lived in PNG.

The response outlined the background leading up to the creation of the exhibit and the work done by the late Colonel Donald McInnes Ramsay OAM (Retd.) who lobbied the Infantry Museum for many years to have the exhibit created.

The exhibit was then formally opened by Mrs Elizabeth Ramsay MBE the wife of the late Colonel Ramsay who was accompanied by her daughter and grandson.

The opening concluded with an opportunity to view the extensive Infantry Museum collection now located in its new purpose built building just outside the Lone Pine Army Barracks at Singleton. This was followed by lunch at the Lone Pine Kiosk which forms part of the Museum.

The exhibit included an excellent movie presentation of about a half an hour in length projected onto a large screen. This presentation was a compilation of many aspects of life by PIR soldiers, from enlistment through recruit training to final ceremonial parades. Copies of many relevant newspaper articles were also displayed.

Included with the official programme was a professionally prepared multimedia CD disc with a sound track of many of the PIR Ceremonial parades as well as versions of the PIR books "To Find a Path" by James Sinclair Volume 1 and Volume 2. A copy of this CD has been forwarded to PNGVR Museum.

The NGVR/PNGVR ex members association was represented at the official launch by Lieutenant Colonel Laurie Kelly (Retd.) a former company commander of A Coy PNGVR Lae, and Major Grahame Hall (Retd.), a former member of B Coy Rabaul and A Coy Lae. Also attending was Laurie Kelly's son, Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Kelly who was born in Lae and is currently a staff officer with HQ Second Division in Sydney. All three members currently live in Newcastle.

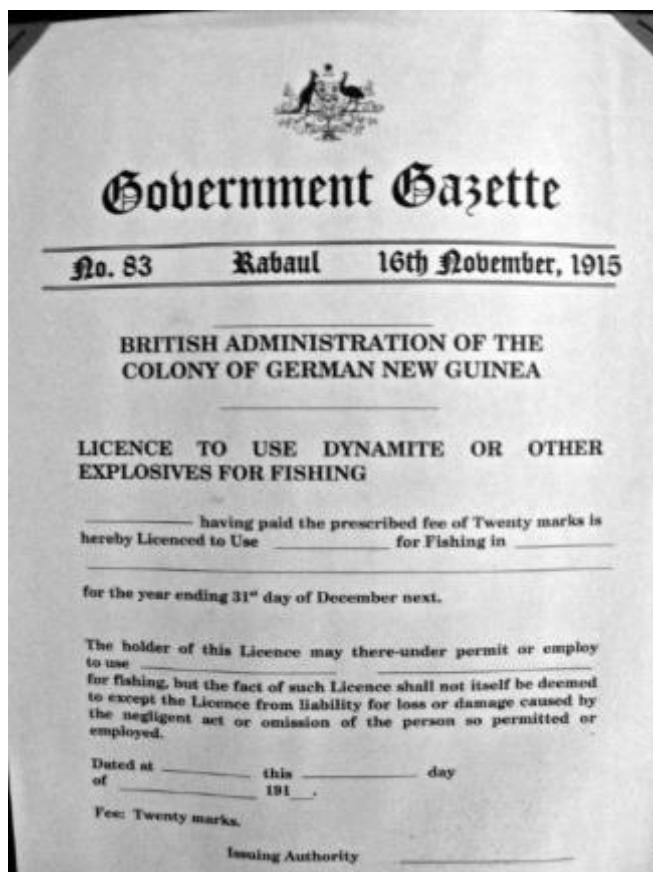
The attached photos show

1. Left to Right Lt Col Geoff Kelly, Lt Col Laurie Kelly and Major Grahame Hall
- 2 PIR Uniform
- 3 Red sea rig worn for evening mess functions

Laurie Kelly
Newcastle



A “BLAST” FROM THE PAST



An example of the practices that were common place, and almost completely acceptable and legal 'Long taim bipo'.

Today we cringe and demand prosecution of those that carry out these acts.

But who taught these fishing methods in the first place?

A WHISTLE from the past:



This whistle instrument is carved from a GARLIP (*Canarium indicum*) nut that is common in New Guinea Islands, New Britain, New Ireland and Bougainville. It is known as 'PIDIL' – pronounced as in piddle.

The instrument was played in the middle of the night in a secluded men only place called a 'marovot' or 'Kiki' during a type of séance called a varbat. A 'varbat' is a seance which is held by a man or men in which certain 'puputa' or an object which was owned by a woman or part of a woman is placed in a small fire and songs are sung over it. This is in order that the woman or girl is enticed into the bush to meet the man for whatever purpose. As the men sing, the

woman feels the heat and will not rest until she has made the journey. The galip nut instrument at specific points in the song, usually at peak points when the emotion is high. This is one of the reasons why the instrument is so rare. In fact most of the men singing would not know who was striking the instrument and would attribute the clicking sound to the spirits being invoked by and during the song.

Background information provided by Gideon Kakabin. Rabaul Historical Society

VALE –

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

Florence May COHEN (18 September 2013, aged 87 years)

Julie Cohen

See separate tribute to Florence on page. 38

James McMichael JAMIESON (29th August 2013, aged 81 years) after a long illness. Born in Ayrshire, Scotland, he served in the Scots Guard for five years including two years in Cyprus during the nationalist EOKA uprising against British control of Cyprus. During this emergency between 1955 -1959, 371 British servicemen lost their lives. After his army service he joined the Ayrshire Constabulary, Scotland, in which he served for nine years before moving to Australia.

He joined RPNGC on 25th July 1967 and served in Port Moresby with service throughout PNG as OIC of a riot squad. He resigned on 15.8.1973 on cessation of his six year contract, at the rank of Inspector (3rd class). On returning to Australia he joined the Commonwealth Police for three years and remained with that force which became the Australian Federal Police (AFP). During this service he returned to Cyprus on several tours of duty with an Australian contingent of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus during the years of inter communal civil violence between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. He retired from the AFP in 1992 at the rank of Superintendent and for some time later was employed as a tour guide at the new Parliament House, Canberra. He is survived by his carer for the last many years, son William, and three daughters Patricia, (who following her father's footsteps joining the AFP) Angela and Pauline.

Any former colleague who may wish to pass on condolences can contact William on (02) 6247 7380.

M.R. HAYES

Lorna (WHYTE) JOHNSTON (30 September 2013, aged 98 years). She was an outstanding Australian who inspired so many with her courage and joy for life. As an Army nurse Lorna was taken prisoner by the Japanese in January 1942 in Kokopo, East New Britain, PNG, and endured over three years captivity in Japan. A true Australian, Lorna's spirit of forgiveness was heartfelt.

Lorna was a generous supporter of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial from the start, always remembering those who had been in Rabaul with her. Along with Sister Berenice Twohill, Lorna inspired the ABC telemovie *Sisters of War*. What a tremendous ambassador for Australia!

Our special thoughts go to her family. Lorna's funeral was held in Auckland, New Zealand, on Friday 4 October 2013.

Read her tributes on pages 42 and 51.

KAM ON LEO (05 September 2013, aged 93 years)

Leo was born in Rabaul on 4 Jul 1920 and he died in Brisbane.

He went to school in Rabaul, after which he spent several years in Hong Kong and worked in Rabaul and Kavieng. He joined the Chinese Auxiliary Aid Detachment (CAAD) of the NGVR (Chinese were not allowed to join the NGVR itself in Rabaul). When the Japanese landed in 1942 he reported for duty and worked with the 2/22nd Battalion Medical Staff during the chaotic escape down the South Coast of New Britain, until ordered by the RMO of the 22nd Bn. to destroy his uniform and join the Chinese community at a sawmill at Adler Bay. During his time there he actively assisted members of the Chinese Community with Coastwatcher activities.

He was eventually ordered back to Rabaul by the Japanese and was there when the War finished.

After the War he opened Chinese Cafes in Rabaul and Lae and later worked as a carpenter in Kainantu and Port Moresby. He later opened a Trade store in Port Moresby and came to Australia in 1977.



His first wife Maria died in Lae of a ruptured appendix shortly after their daughter Rita was born. He remarried Ruby two years later and she died in March of this year. After a lot of delay Leo was presented with his WW2 medals in 1993.

Kam (L). He was with the Chinese Auxiliary Aid Detachment (CAAD), with Shui Hong Wong (NGVR) and Ralph Seeto (PNGVR).

David Arthur MACEY (25 September, aged 83 years) at Caloundra after a long illness. He was born in Bristol, England.

After service in the Coldstream Guards in Malaysia, Africa and the Middle East between 1948 and 1967 he served for a year in the Huddersfield County Borough Police (Yorkshire). He was appointed to RPNGC on 30.9.1969. He served principally as an instructor at the RPNGC College Bomana with other duties as O.I.C. in charge of mobile squads at Mount Hagen and during the Rabaul Mataungan Association troubles in Rabaul and then later in charge of the police armoury at Bomana. After PNG Independence, he separated from RPNGC on 30 July 1976 at the rank of Senior Inspector. On his return to Australia, he worked in the security industry and in small businesses.

He is survived by Margaret and three sons Robert, Nicholas and Graham.

M.R. HAYES

Gordon Henry STEEGE (01 September 2013, aged 95 years)

Air Commodore Gordon Henry Steege, DSO DFC was one of Australia's most decorated airmen. He was Director of Operations at RAAF HQ, when he resigned his commission to become a Patrol Officer and was posted to Esa'ala. He attended ASOPA for six months in 1947, was posted to Kairuku, under ADO Kevin Atkinson in January 1948, to Madang and Bogia in late 1948, and to Manus, as ADO, in mid-1950. His tribute is on page 46.

Eunice Merle WALL (13 September 2013, aged 85)

Merle Wall MBE, a well-known identity who spent nearly 30 years on Bougainville from 1954 passed away peacefully in Brisbane on 5th September. Merle will be remembered for her commitment to improving peoples' lives on Bougainville. Her funeral was held on 13 September in Brisbane at her church, St James Anglican Church, Newmarket. See the tribute to Merle extracted from her eulogy delivered by John Holland commencing on page 35.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr D Hird	27 Gatehouse Street	Moonah	TAS 7009
Mr P Haynes	PO Box 643	Manunda	QLD 4870
Mr F Kirby	668 Carool Road	Carool	NSW 2486
Ms M Fienberg	PO Box 103	Curtin	ACT 2605
Mr G Duggan	PO Box 5527	Hughes	ACT 2605
Ms D McInnes	55 Cassowary drive	Burleigh Waters	QLD 4220
Dr P MacDonald	Australian Doctors International	PO Box 954, Manly	NSW 1655
Mr J Ley	7/2 Joy Cummings Place	Belconnen	ACT 2617
Mrs K Pritchard (Orr-Harper)	36 Rue de la Fontaine aux Dames	62770 LE PARCQ	FRANCE
Ms R Russell	2 Karen Close	Woree	QLD 4868
Mr M Gardiner	21 View Street	Woollahra	NSW 2025
Mrs L Baker	77 Sunderland Drive	Banksia Beach	QLD 4507
Mr J Lonkai	Bishop Wade Secondary	PO Box 220, BUKA	Bougainville, PNG
Mr D Middleton	PO Box 486	Madang	PNG
Mr L Monsbrough	Bosque de Alisos 45a 2 Piso	BOSQUES DE LAS LOMAS	DF MEXICO
Mr K Pfund	Hamisfeld 7	HEFENHOFEN 8580	SWITZERLAND
Mr M Manning	11 Wahgunyah Road	Nelson Bay	NSW 2135
Mr W Bateman	20 Coorumbong Close	MOOLOOLABA	QLD 4557
Ms M Young	3 Grand Street	Bald Hills	QLD 4036

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

	From	To	
Mr JP Sinclair OBE	Alexandra Headland	102/34 Fourth Avenue	Cotton Tree QLD 4558
Mr J Lloyd	Kirribilli	733/25 Wentworth Street	Manly NSW 2095
Mr GJ Faulks	Ballina	PO Box 8001	West Ballina NSW 2478
Mr K Jackson AM	Cremorne	9 Treasure Cove	Noosaville QLD 4566
Mr NG McNamara	Southbank	3 Washpool Street	North Lakes QLD 4509
Mr R Lornie OAM	Gloucester	38/41-55 Terrigal Drive	Terrigal NSW 2260
Mr B Ward	Brunswick VIC	8/2 King William Street	Fitzroy VIC 3065
Mr K McGregor	Chittaway Bay	PO Box 341	Avoca Beach NSW 2251
Mr V Falkner	Lennox Head	Room 63, Kokoda Hostel	Narrabeen NSW 2101
Mr L Tomlinson	Mosman	PO Box 202	Cremorne Junction NSW 2090

PNGAA SYMPOSIUM 9 -10 Sept. 2014
NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney
Hosted by PNGAA and Charlie Lynn MLC

***From Pacific WW1 battlefield to Pacific Powers:
A Century of Australia Papua New Guinea Relations***

To Remember – To Acknowledge – To Educate and inform our futures.

In association with Anzac Centenary commemoration.

To review the relationships between Australia and PNG over the century from Australia's first military engagement in WWI at Bitapaka, the administration of New Guinea as a Mandated Territory, the Pacific War, the continuing influence through to Independence; to discuss Australia's ongoing connections – commercial, social and cultural - before looking to the challenges of now and the future.

The PNGAA Management Committee has agreed to hold a Symposium in September 2014 to reflect 100 years of the Australian/PNG relationship. This major event will be held at the NSW Parliament House in Sydney, with assistance from PNGAA member, the Hon Charlie Lynn MLC.

The Symposium will be held in conjunction with the beginning of the Anzac Centenary, which marks 100 years since Australia's involvement in the First World War and the anniversary of the centenary of the Australian conflict at Bitapaka, East New Britain Province PNG on 11 September 1914.

Australian troops, the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) were landed to capture the wireless station at Bitapaka. Six Australians died. A further 35 Australians died when the submarine, AEI, disappeared off the coast of Rabaul on 14 September 1914. Six weeks later a convoy of ships that carried the Australian Imperial Force and New Zealand Expeditionary Force to the First World War in Europe departed from Albany in Western Australia.

Our PNGAA members have shared much of that history and retain a wealth of knowledge. The 2014 Symposium will have significant relevance to all our members and we look forward to your interest.

Please watch our PNGAA website or email admin@pngaa.net for further details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

PNG Epic Journey presentation: Thursday 7 November, Roseville, p7
Western Australia gathering – Friday 29 November, Como, page 13
PNGAA Christmas Luncheon – Sunday 1 December, Killara, page 4
South Australia luncheon – Sunday 27 October

TREASURER'S CORNER

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

If you would like to:

1. Renew your **membership** of PNGAA;
2. Attend the **2013 Christmas Luncheon**; or
3. Purchase the **Walk into Paradise DVD**

please **print** your name and address below and fill out the relevant parts of the order form overleaf.

Please check your address label: this tells you when your membership expires and also shows your membership number.

Membership number (if known) _____

Full name _____

Address _____

_____. Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

E-mail address _____

☐ I would like to receive *Una Voce* by e-mail instead of by post.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - 1 DECEMBER 2013

Return no later than 16 November 2013

I will attend the AGM Luncheon and will have as my guests:

If possible, I would like to be seated with _____

Please advise the number (if any) of vegetarian meals _____

ORDER FORM

	Quantity	Price
PNGAA Membership		
Resident in Australia 2013: \$30. 2013-14: \$60 2013-15 \$90		
Resident in Asia/Pacific 2013: \$42. 2013-14: \$84. 2013-15: \$126*		
Resident elsewhere 2013: \$46. 2013-14: \$92. 2013-15: \$138*		
Walk into Paradise DVD		
Member price \$30		
Non-member price \$40		
PNG Epic Journey: Fly to Sepik Roseville Club, 7 November \$20		
AGM Luncheon Killara Golf Club 1 December 2013 \$60 per person		
TOTAL COST		

* Members resident outside Australia pay Australian resident membership fees if they elect to receive *Una Voce* by e-mail rather than by post. See the checkbox overleaf.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Please circle method of payment

Payment is accepted by cheque, bank draft, money order, MasterCard, Visa, or EFT by Internet

EFT payments to PNGAA, BSB 062:009 (CBA, Wynyard), account 0090:7724.
Please ensure that the information provided with your payment allows us to identify you, and send a confirmation e-mail to treasurer@pngaa.net.

Credit Card payments

Type of card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card number ____/____/____/____ Expiry date ____/____

Name on card (please print) _____

Signature of card holder _____ Date ____/____/____

All payments must be in Australian currency

December 2013