



# Una Voce

JOURNAL OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC

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



**PNGAA**  
**SYMPOSIUM 2014**

PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC  
17-18 SEPTEMBER 2014  
NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY

## \*PNGAA DINNER and SYMPOSIUM

Dinner – 17 September 2014

Symposium – 18 September 2014

Parliament House Sydney

Seats are limited, so please respond promptly to ensure your place!

Information? E: [info@conference-organisers.com.au](mailto:info@conference-organisers.com.au) P: 02 9882-2688

PNGAA Website – Members Access has changed.

See page 30



\*\* Rabaul & Montevideo Maru – see page 60

## \*\*CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

This year's Christmas Luncheon will be held on Sunday 7 December at the Killara golf Club, 556 Pacific Highway, Killara (Sydney NSW)

## \*\*VISIT TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

George and Edna Oakes are kindly welcoming members to their home at Woodford on Thursday 25 September 2014. Further details E: [admin@pngaa.net](mailto:admin@pngaa.net) P: 02-4758 8754



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

## COMMEMORATING CENTENARY OF WW1 BATTLE OF BITAPAKA 11 SEP 1914 and LOSS OF AE1 14 Sep 1914

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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.

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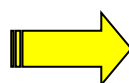
**We encourage members to please pay membership fees by direct deposit to the PNGAA account as follows:**

BSB: 062 009 Account No.: 0090 7724

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**Deadline for submissions to December issue of *Una Voce*: 03 October 2014**



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

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

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## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Andrea Williams



It is with great pleasure that we announce that the **Honourable Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will be the keynote speaker at the 2014 PNGAA Centenary Dinner on Wednesday 17 September.**

It has been an intense and rewarding few months as the PNGAA has prepared for our major event this year commemorating the ANZAC Centenary and the subsequent relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea. We look forward to seeing many of our members there.

We are delighted to have Oil Search as a major sponsor of the 2014 Symposium, to have wonderful support from the Hon. Charlie Lynn MLC, from the Papua New Guinea High Commission in Australia and from the Australian High Commission in PNG, the Lowy Institute and the many speakers and attendees who are travelling from both interstate and Papua New Guinea to attend.

Besides the time and effort that our committee members have put in to ensure its success, we are grateful to have the professional expertise of our conference organiser, Margaret Reid.

Efforts to secure funding through grants takes up an enormous amount of time and detail in completing applications – receiving an approval appears to be like winning the jackpot!

Our speakers at the Symposium on Thursday 18 September will take you on a journey marking the centenary of Australia's first battle of World War 1, near Rabaul in September 1914 and the loss of Australia's first submarine, AE1, to the Kiap era and on to the contemporary Australia/Papua New Guinea relationship. This is one event not to miss!

**We are also delighted that Sir Henry Chow Kt, OBE has accepted our invitation to attend the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia annual Christmas Luncheon on Sunday 7 December 2014 in Sydney.** Details on page 5 and on the Treasurer's Corner.

Sir Henry has extensive business interests in Papua New Guinea and is Chairman of Council of the National Research Institute in PNG. His family has been in Papua New Guinea for 120 years.

With an extraordinary history in and knowledge about Papua New Guinea, varied interests and friend to many, I know you will enjoy hearing him talk. Sir Henry will discuss present and future PNG and about his own personal experiences in business and political developments.

On a sadder note, two past committee members of the PNGAA passed away in June and will be enormously missed. Our lovely Ann Graham who quietly and generously supported the committee and contributed so much over 15 years...quick to offer bouquets, Ann's kindness to so many will be long remembered. Barry Creedy, our Treasurer in 2009, also passed away. His business acumen and humour was greatly appreciated as was his continual support of the PNGAA.

The committee had a productive meeting recently. In between times, there are other working group meetings taking place and there is much ongoing voluntary work of the association continually happening. Two of our members, Margaret Silvester, and Jack White, have been involved in donating books to the children of Papua New Guinea through groups they are connected with. Please see page 9 for Margaret's story. Jack and his colleagues are in the process of packing 10,000 – yes, 10,000 – books up ready for transportation. It's a busy and exciting year!

See you at the 2014 PNGAA Centenary Dinner and Symposium in September!

Preliminary program of speakers for the 2014 PNGAA Symposium  
**Major General the Honourable Michael Jeffery, AC, AO (Mil), CVO, MC (Retd),** PNGAA Patron

**His Excellency Charles Lepani, PNG High Commissioner to Australia (invited Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, AC, AFC (Ret'd),** Special Adviser to the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC

**The Hon. Charlie Lynn MLC:** White Australia – Black Melanesia

**Geoff Anderson,** President, Submarine Association Australia: NSW

**Dr Christine Winter** – Visiting Research Fellow, ANU, Senior Research Fellow University of Sydney – to provide an historical overview of the German and AN&MEF administrations and of some of the people who collected these 'native curios'

**Dr Barry Craig** – Senior Curator, South Australian Museum - The cultural context of ethnographic objects in the collection

The 'War Museum Collection' by Dr Barry Craig, Dr Christine Winter and Dr Ron Vanderwal is due to be published in September.

PANEL Discussion: The Papua New Guinea Kiap

**Chair: Ross Johnson with presenters: Bob Cleland, Chris Warrillow, Chris Viner-Smith**

DVD screening – excerpt - KIAP: 'The Stories behind the Medal' by Greg Harris and the PNGAA. (Continued on page 6)

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2014**

**Sunday 7 December 2014**

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

**11.30am onwards**

**RSVP: 21 November 2014**

**Sir Henry Chow Kt, OBE has kindly accepted our invitation to be guest speaker at the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia annual Christmas Luncheon on Sunday 7 December 2014 in Sydney.**

Sir Henry has extensive business interests in Papua New Guinea and is Chairman of Council of the National Research Institute in PNG.

Sir Henry's family has been in Papua New Guinea for 120 years. Arriving in Kokopo as 'Indentured Labourers' in the 1890s, six generations later the family now has 1500 employees in various businesses. The family owns the largest food manufacturer in PNG with a focus on biscuits, ham and sausages. Large interests are also held in tuna, shipping and agriculture as well as retail and wholesale businesses. In August, he has taken delivery of a new 370 passenger vessel for the New Guinea islands.

Sir Henry's interests are varied and his knowledge about PNG is unsurpassed. He is known by many, and we know you will enjoy hearing him talk about his extraordinary life.

Members, together with family and friends, are all welcome...so please organize the date now! Seating is limited!

The cost is \$60 per person. RSVP and payment is due by 21 November 2014. Drinks will be available from a cash-only bar. If anyone has special dietary requests, please let us know so we can arrange something suitable.

Seating is in 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. For those driving, free on-site parking is available. Remember to look for the red and yellow balloons at the entrance immediately after Fiddens Wharf Road on the Pacific Highway as you travel north, and *immediately* after the Noodle Blast Restaurant.

Our Event Coordinator, Julianne Ross Allcorn, is planning an exciting Silent Auction – *if you have an item that could be donated eg jewellery, artworks, beautiful crafts from PNG, books and alcohol*, please contact Juli at: E [juliallcorn@gmail.com](mailto:juliallcorn@gmail.com) H: 02-9416 1430 M: 0466 521 313.

**Please complete the booking form and payment details on the separate yellow 'Treasurer's Corner' insert and return as soon as possible or by 21 November 2014.**

**Please Note: When transferring funds by EFT to PNGAA – please also email: [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net) to advise your name, membership number, amount and what the payment is for. Thank you.**

**(Continued from page 4)**

**Phillip Bradley**, Author and Military Historian - World War Two (WWII)

**Dr Andrew Moutu**, Director, PNG National Museum and Art Gallery

**Dr Jonathan Ritchie** - Senior Research Fellow – Alfred Deakin Research Institute

WWII Oral History Project –A comprehensive collection of oral accounts of Papua New Guineans' experiences in WWII.

**Peter Botten**, Managing Director, Oil Search

Oil Search Health Foundation – see article on page 19

The role of the private sector in service delivery in PNG. The Oil Search Health Foundation is an internationally recognised non-profit organisation that supports the Papua New Guinea Government through Oil Search's commitment to strengthening health systems in PNG – undertaken through public-private partnerships with the PNG Government and other multilateral financing and development organisations. Strategic partnerships as well as the technical aspects of conducting HIV, malaria and maternal and child health programs in PNG will be discussed.

**Jenny Hayward-Jones**, Director of The Myer Foundation Melanesia Program at the Lowy Institute.

As a career diplomat and commentator, helping to inform and shape Australia's policy on PNG and the region, Jenny will discuss Australia's contemporary relations with and interests in PNG. Since independence Australia and Papua New Guinea have maintained strong links across government, business, NGOs and civil society. Jenny will talk about the future of our bilateral links including opportunities like PNG LNG, challenges such as the Regional Resettlement Program, delivering effective aid and engaging a new generation with our closest neighbour.

**Anthony Smare**, Chairman, Nambawan Super Limited, PNG

Leadership Transitions: From Somare's generation to O'Neill's generation to the Kumul Generation

The first Pacific Islander to be named by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader – in 2014 – Anthony will talk about the generational transition in PNG's leadership in government, business and society from Sir Michael Somare's generation to Peter O'Neill's generation to the generation of those who were born at or after Independence, the Kumul Generation, and what has impacted the leadership transition.

**Graham Ellis SC** has had an association with PNG for almost 30 years. In 1985 he was admitted as a lawyer in PNG in order to appear in a court case. In 2008, Graham Ellis SC was appointed by the Australian Government to serve as an AusAid adviser in the Office of the Solicitor General. He also has experience of an ICAC, having appeared before the NSW ICAC on a number of occasions.

**Alexander Rheeney** - Editor-in-Chief of the Post Courier

## From the editor



Welcome to the September 2014 edition of *Una Voce*.

As you will have noticed, this edition is now is now enlarged from the previous 72 pages to include information about the many activities in this ANZAC Centenary year.

Our committee is still very hard at work preparing for the September Symposium. The list of speakers is most impressive and should present a very broad range of topics for discussion.

A quantity of book news and reports is growing daily and will be presented in the PNGAA website.

On page 33, you will find your new Username and Password that will allow you access to the digitized back copies of *Una Voce*. The past newsletters and journals are searchable and allow easy access to past issues.

When the next membership listing is published, we intend to also publish members email addresses. If you do NOT wish to have your email address attached to the membership list, please advise our membership officer on email [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net).

## Help Wanted

John Farquharson: requests anyone who may have information about Jerry (or Gerry) TOOGOOD, who was an officer in the Administrator's Department, during the years that Donald Cleland was Administrator. He dealt with foreign affairs.

## Letters to the editor

**David Johnston** writes:

Having recently read a number of books by Margaret Reeson about the South Pacific and especially about Papua New Guinea, I wondered if it would be helpful for readers of *Una Voce* to know about some of her books. Margaret, and her husband, worked with the Methodist Overseas Mission at Mendi

during the 1960's. They currently live in Canberra and Margaret was the Moderator of the Uniting Church in N.S.W. for a period in recent years.

Some of the books she has written include:

*Torn Between Two Worlds.* This is the story of a young Mendi boy, who became a Christian and the challenges he met with living in two cultures.

*A Very Long War.* About the experiences of the families of men missing in the New Guinea Islands during World War 11.

*Whereabouts Unknown.* This is a detailed account of the Japanese Occupation of New Guinea; the capture of many prisoners and the effect on their families. This is a full account of the people, who were left in uncertainty, especially of the fate of the Montevideo Maru.

*George Brown, Missionary to the South Pacific: A detailed account of the work of a pioneer missionary to Tonga, Fiji, Samoa and New Guinea.*

To me this has been very interesting, sad and challenging reading.

**Mick Smith** writes:

Regarding your most interesting article by Ivan Champion in the March (2014) issue concerning Ikupu Ovia, I can add further history on Ikupu.

I arrived in Moresby in early 1952 as an electrician with Commonwealth Department of Works (CDW). It was then that I met and worked with Ikupu along with fellow artisans Lohia Kevau and Kedeia Tau, all from Hanuabada.

Ikupu and Lohia worked with the electrical section, while Kedeia was attached to the town powerhouse that was then utilized at evening peak periods to augment the output from Konedobu power station. All three transferred over to the Electrical Undertakings Branch in 1956. This branch was the forerunner to the establishment of the Electricity Commission or ELCOM.

In 1963, the commission was established. Ikupu, Lohia and Kedeia were then employed by the Commission, and were still employed at Independence. All long and rewarding service by all three gentlemen.

**George Oakes** writes:

I was looking at the Yahoo/7 News tonight on the computer and found this article. I think it would be great to get this article or something similar for the Una Voce if possible. I travelled on the *BULOLO* soon after it was built from Kavieng to Sydney in 1939 and later Edna and I travelled on it in January, 1959, after we got married. I remember seeing the plaques on board and heard then the wartime story of it. In 1967 it was anchored in Sydney Harbour for several months several miles up from the Harbour Bridge before it went to Taiwan to be broken up.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/nsw/a/24186508/the-sydney-cruise-ship-that-became-a-battleship/>

## **BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS – RABAUl PROJECT'**

Former Commonwealth Bank Rabaul employees from 1965-1975

Reading for a Better Education

By Margaret Silvester

It's 50 years since some of the contributors to this project toiled away at the Commonwealth Bank, Mango Avenue, Rabaul. After completing their term (usually 2 years) and returning to various towns and cities "South" a great many kept in touch. This led to events known as 'reunions' which is code for a catch up beer and chat and these reunions have moved in regularity from 10 years to 5 years to now lesser periods – being that time is now against us. Having a collective group gathered with a common purpose presented the opportunity to do something meaningful while the beer was swilling and the stories told and so it came to pass that at our most recent gathering last November a collection of donations was carried out under the project banner "Books for Schools – Rabaul". The aim being to donate school library books suitable for Years 1 – 8 to three schools in Rabaul Town.



Before the project was off and running some honing and planning was required and input was sought via the internet (facebook) from a couple of locals in Rabaul and Kokopo. Our group knew we wanted to raise some funds for a charitable purpose but needed some local knowledge that came from John Dikaung (Manager, Technical Services, Rabaul Volcano Observatory). It was John's suggestion that reading books for school libraries would be ideal and he nominated three schools – Malaguna Primary, Sacred Heart International Primary and St. Martin's Primary – we decided to run the project for all three. Once our funds were raised it was mutually decided that the best course of action was to purchase the books in Australia then ship them to Rabaul. Next came the challenge of shipment and delivery. I was put in contact with Sandra Lau of Tropicana Limited at Kokopo and Sandra very generously offered to cover the shipment of the books and any associated costs. This was a very generous offer from her, indeed. She and John also agreed to run the delivery errand to the three schools at a mutually agreeable time and so our project ran its course to completion.

We purchased our books via online company, Booktopia, who were also generous and compliant with packaging and pick-up. Following pick-up the cartons were delivered to the shipping agent and we eventually received news that the three cartons had arrived in Port.

The three cartons being weighed in at the Shipping Agents Warehouse after labelling and delivery by John Worchurst (ex Commbank Rabaul).



With the assistance of both Sandra and John, delivery was made to the three schools on

Wednesday 11 June and the following photos show just how excited the students were. I'm told they sang and cheered and that's just the reaction we were hoping for.



Malaguna Primary School – the largest school in Rabaul Town.

*Right:* Sandra Lau of Tropicana Limited, Kokopo, reading our letter to the Headmaster and students at Sacred Heart International Primary School.

Sandra also gifted the student's biscuits and sweets etc so it was a good day all round.

St. Martin's Primary School assembled and singing a song in appreciation on Wed 11 June 2014.



It was great to see our project being so well received. Our reunion friends remember their time in Rabaul with great affection, most of them were in Rabaul while they were all relatively young but the memories hold strong to this day – the friendly people, the great adventures, the volcanoes, the fishing trips. Returning some affection by way of our project seemed like just the thing to do and in supplying reading books for the school libraries we hope it will give the students an opportunity to enrich their education.

Since seeing the photos of the students on 'Book Day' it has been remarked to me how well presented the students are and it's hoped that in some small way our efforts will help these students better manage their country as each generation grows.

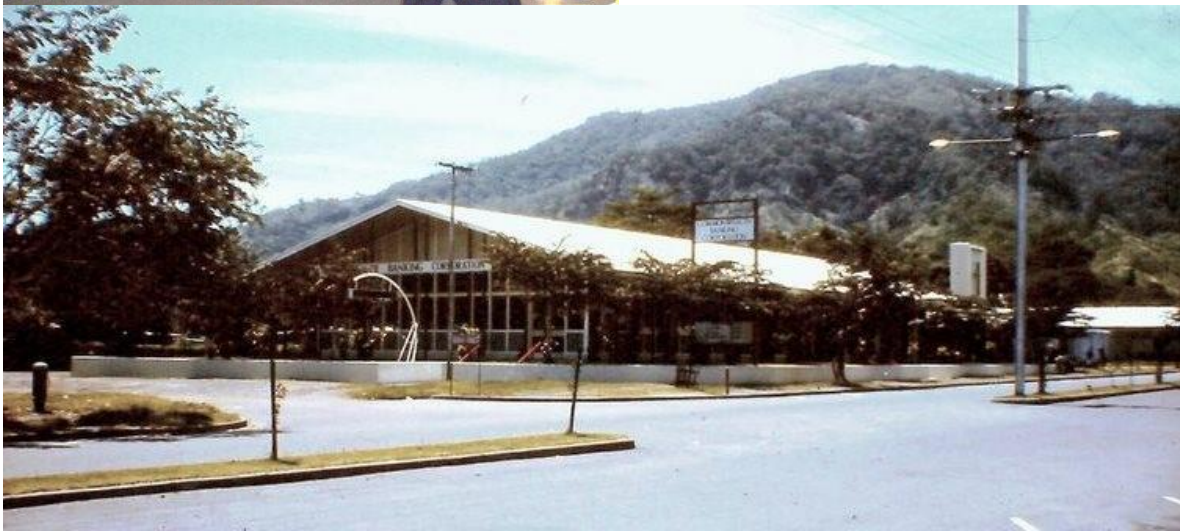
If you have the urge to do something for the PNG area in which you resided, there are plenty of ways by which you can help. Any school will benefit by the gift of pencils, biros, rulers, stationery etc and these can be purchased during 'back to school' sales for the best price/quantity ratio. Andrea Williams will be

able to assist you and direct your efforts along the right path including ‘donation bins’ set up in Sydney. You can contact her at [andrea.williams@bigpond.com](mailto:andrea.williams@bigpond.com) or via the PNG Association of Australia.



A photo of our latest reunion group – unfortunately not all our friends could make it along on this occasion but those who did had an enjoyable drink with friends.

**RABAU COMMONWEALTH BANK 1965**



**AND  
ANOTHER  
VIEW  
TAKEN  
ABOUT  
1967**

For some ten years I have been photographing privately named and purchased number plates from the Road Traffic Authority in Victoria (VicRoads). Rarely though, I do see an odd few that have PNG connotations. I have a collection of some 12,000 privately named and purchased number plates and every day the collection grows.



Maxwell Hayes

## PNGAA/PNGVR Raffle Results

The raffle was drawn on 01 August at the Brisbane Air Niugini offices under the control of PNGVR/NGVR Committee Member Tony Boulter and supervision of Air Niugini staff and other independent observers. The winners were advised by phone and confirmed by email. The winners were:

**First Prize**, the flights for two to, and accommodation in Rabaul:

Ticket No. 11386 ; Brian & Nancy Jones of Beachmere, Qld

**Second Prize**, the Centenary Dinner and Symposium in Sydney:

Ticket No. 14261; Sean Dorney of Chelmer, Brisbane

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PNGAA will put proceeds towards the costs of the 2014 Symposium whilst PNGVR proceeds will provide improvements to the PNGVR Military Museum at Wacol. The PNGAA thanks the PNGVR for handling the volume of work in processing the raffle. This was a productive and useful joint initiative.

**ASOPA CEOs 1963 – 1964**  
**Neil Harvey**

Sufficient contacts have been made, and sufficient interest has been shown in holding a reunion of the 1963-1964 ASOPA CEOs to set a date and place to do just that.

Having said that, more precise details are yet to be determined, but I can say that those who can and those who wish to are meeting over the weekend of Friday, 24th to Sunday, 26th October, 2014 in Canberra.

At this stage, the suggested venue is the Yowani Country Club, both for accommodation and for meeting and dining. For those thinking of coming (and who contact me), I will provide further details closer to the time.

Although specifically for the 1963-1964 class, other ASOPA graduates would be welcome to join us.

By way of update, contact has now been made with:

Sue Hall nee Noblet, Betty Yip nee Tsa, Vera Ralfe nee Zander, Mary Sullivan nee Chee, Janine Paterson nee Outram, Janet Baker nee Lucas, Maxine Mundell nee Grainger, Faye Owner nee Nielsen, Adrian Black, John Segal, Peter Plummer, Leyland Minter, Bob Creelman, Murray Russell, Peter Croker, Peter Brigg, Mike Owner, Rob Burlington, Glenn Warwick and Mick Wilson.

The number of those known to have died has reached TEN - Fay Seeto nee Robinson, Ruth George nee Vaughan, Robyn Gray, Mary Hunter nee Bray, Alex Maggs, Phil Ralfe, John Waters, Peter Hanigan, Wes Rooney and Dave Agir.

Those still not contacted are Irene Boronaev, Gary Armstrong, Wayne Coleman, Bill Allen, John Redfearn, Colin Hooper, Warren Gibson, Paul Smith, Lindsay Carlin, Dave Parker and Peter Moses.

I can be contacted at: [neilandbarb@spin.net.au](mailto:neilandbarb@spin.net.au) or 8 Castleton Street Wodonga, Victoria, 3690 or (02) 6024 3667 or 04 1539 0058.

**MV THETIS**  
**Rod Noble**

In 1955 I travelled on this vessel for several days.

I do not know why, and, I do not know whether I went upstream or downstream. That is unusual because I do remember the reason for many, many river trips I had during the year and a bit whilst I was stationed at Angoram on the Sepik River.

What I do remember is the skipper, Goya Henry. He had a pleasant, weather worn face and welcomed me aboard and up to the wheelhouse. That I remember very well. It had a bunk along each side and a huge scarlet skull and cross bones

flag draped along the port side. My mother would have been proud of my good manners. It was not until we had had a few rums and chatted for a while that I asked about his two wooden legs.

In the 1930's he had been a "barn storming" pilot, flying up and down the country (Oz) giving paying customers a joy flight. My mother had had one of those joy flights – I wonder if he had been her pilot? The lost legs were the result of a crash.

When we arrived back at the Tobacco Road wharf I invited him to the club for a few drinks before supper at my place. In those days, vessels like the Thetis were used by the Administration to supply coastal and river outstations with furniture, rations and sometimes a vehicle if a road had been built. Goya was well known to everybody and I listened to the stories of all the old-timers with great interest.

I have mentioned before that the next year I had resigned from the service and enrolled in first year law at Sydney Uni. And guess what I surprise I received when in first term I was invited by the lecturer in Constitutional Law 1 to study a law report entitled "Henry v The Commonwealth".

Very briefly: - In the 1920's or 1930's, the Government said that anyone wishing to fly an airplane had to get a licence to do so. Goya Henry said that the Government had no power under the Constitution to make such a law. Moreover, the High Court judges agreed with him. He won.



National Library of Australia

nla.pic-an22731058-v

MV THETIS AT KANGANAMAN VILLAGE 1956

[HTTP://NLA.GOV.AU/NLA.PIC-AN22731058](http://nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an22731058)

## **MY LIFE AFTER 1941    George Oakes**

After we left Kavieng in New Ireland, the *Macdhui* took us to Sydney where we moved in with my mother's parents at Lindfield where my grandfather, Rev. G. E. Johnson was the Methodist minister. In 1942 I went to Lindfield Public School when I did years 2/3 in one year as I was so far behind. My mother, who had no training before she was married in any sort of work, commenced nursing training at Royal North Shore Hospital. Later, we moved to Mosman and lived in a house that had a view through the Sydney Harbour heads.

Because of the war, all of the windows were covered, so that the light would not get out at night. When the Japanese submarines entered Sydney Harbour the sirens went and we turned off all lights and sat together under tables in the hallway in the centre of the house until the all clear siren went - it was spooky!

In 1945, my brother Parker and I went to Wolaroi College, Orange as boarders. I was 11 and went into year 6 while Parker, who was 8 went into year 3. We had heard nothing about the whereabouts of our father since we left Kavieng. Later in the year on VP Day we were all happy boarders and walked around the school banging garbage bin lids - I think we were given half a day off school. Later, that year in October, the Headmaster called Parker and myself into his office and told us that our father had been lost on the *Montevideo Maru* and would not be coming home. I cried but Parker was not so overwhelmed - he was too young to comprehend what had happened. In 1946, our mother joined us at Wolaroi as the Sister/House Matron. Wolaroi at the time had about 90 boarding students. Mother only stayed at Wolaroi for one year and then went back to nursing in Sydney.

In October, 1947, our mother married again and moved to Cheltenham in Sydney. At Easter, 1948, I left Wolaroi as a boarder and became a dayboy at Newington doing third year of high school (Year 9). At the end of that year as my marks were so low because of my broken background, I repeated 3rd year in 1949, and did the Leaving Certificate (year 11) in 1951. I also did well in long distant running winning a cup for it. Our school fees at Wolaroi and Newington were partly paid by the Methodist Church, as my father was a Methodist missionary. At the end of 1951, I became a Cadet Survey Draftsman in the Department of Mines.

In March 1952, I started 6 months National Service in the Air Force and was lucky to be in the 12 selected in NSW for pilot training. Six of us trained on Tiger Moths at Newcastle while staying at the Williamtown RAAF Station. We did 50 hours flying including over 40 hours solo.

About August 1953, my mother noticed in the paper an advertisement for applications for Cadetships in TPNG. She knew I was not happy living at

home spending a lot of time babysitting my two sisters and young brother aged then 5, 3 and 8 months, and not getting on well with my step father who was a Member of the NSW Parliament which meant he and my mother were out many nights each week. I applied for 3 Cadetships as a Patrol Officer, Forestry Officer and Surveyor. At the interview, I was offered any of the three but decided on the Patrol Officer as the other two entailed going to University in Sydney for several years before going to TPNG. The Chairman of the committee that interviewed me, had been District Officer at Kavieng prewar and knew me as a child. I only found this out later when I spoke to my mother.

I went to TPNG in January 1954, and after attending a short course in Port Moresby was posted to Mendi, which was in a restricted area as the people were still fighting. I went on several patrols with senior staff.

In 1956, after having leave, I went to Lumi in the Sepik District where I was almost constantly on patrol. On one patrol, I did the first census for some people in the Yellow River area and 6 weeks later, about 30 of these people were killed and cannibalized by May River people. I also visited a village, Magaleri, which had never been visited by a white person before. The looks on the women and children were very interesting. In 1957, I supervised the construction of a new airstrip at Nuku in the Palei/Maimai which then became a new patrol post. I had up to 1,500 people working together daily on the airstrip with only a few spades and many previous enemies got to know each other.

In 1958, I did the Patrol Officer's Course at Mosman, Sydney, and at the end of the year married Edna Brawn, who like me was born in New Britain where her parents had been Methodist missionaries from 1932 to 1935.

In 1959, we were posted to Pomio on Jacquinot Bay in New Britain where I was the Officer in Charge until late in 1963 - nearly 5 years. While here, I walked over a lot of the area that the soldiers retreating from Rabaul in 1942 travelled over to Palmalmal in Jacquinot Bay where they escaped on the *Laurabada* to Papua. I often visited the Catholic Mission at Malmal where the Japanese killed Father Harris in the war. I also got to know many of the native people who helped Australians and Americans to escape during the war. Golpak, a well-known leader during the war died the day before we arrived at Pomio and I attended his funeral the next day. (See 'Hostages to Freedom', where there are many references to Golpak.) In 1961, we unveiled a Memorial to Golpak at Pomio. In attendance was attended Group Captain Townsend who was one of the pilots rescued by Golpak's team. The bush around Pomio was real jungle as Pomio had an annual rainfall of 6.426m. (253 inches) being one of the highest recorded rainfalls in PNG. I can understand the difficulties that the men had to face escaping Rabaul in

1942. I then spent some time at Kokopo patrolling the Duke of York Islands where my father had been the Methodist missionary from 1933 to 1935. Here I met our prewar cook, Iotam.

In 1959, talking to Fred Kaad, District Officer, he told me to start a University course because I would not always have a job in TPNG. I started a Commerce degree course with University of Queensland. In 1964, I transferred to the Business Advisory Service and I was posted to Lae. In 1967, went to Port Moresby. In 1972, I obtained my Bachelor of Commerce degree by correspondence (I never went to the University of Queensland in Brisbane in semester time) and I also got other accountancy qualifications. In 1974, I was President of the Port Moresby Lions Club. I left PNG shortly after Independence in 1975 as Principal Finance Officer of the Department of Business Development.

After a long holiday, I became Bursar of Barker College, Sydney, in December 1976. Barker is an Anglican boarding school that had over 1,500 students when I retired in 1992. As Bursar, I was in charge of the non-teaching side of the school, which included finance, building and ground maintenance, cleaning and catering with a staff of over 100. I was also Secretary of the School Council. In 1990 and 1991, I was President of the NSW Bursars Association Inc. that included the Bursars from most of the private schools in NSW.

In 1993, we moved for our retirement to Woodford in the Blue Mountains. From 1994 to 1998, I was a member of the School Council of the Blue Mountains Grammar School.

In 2002, Edna and I went to Kavieng for the unveiling of a plaque to the people who died during the war from New Ireland because of the Japanese. There are nearly 100 names on the plaque including the names of the Europeans and some Chinese who died. My father's name is on the plaque. While there, we went back to Pinikidu where I grew up as a child. I previously had been back to Pinikidu in 1969 and 1971. It was a moving experience. The house we had lived in, was destroyed during the war and only the front steps and a concrete water tank remained. On the site of the prewar Mission Station is now the Pinikidu Upper Primary School. My father would have been very pleased.



**PNGAA SYMPOSIUM 17 - 18 Sept. 2014**

NSW Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney

Hosted by PNGAA with assistance 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.***

***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.***

This major event will be held at the NSW Parliament House in Sydney, with assistance from PNGAA member, the Hon Charlie Lynn MLC.

**Dinner:** Wednesday 17 September 2014 7pm Strangers Dining Room NSW Parliament House

Guest Speaker: The Honourable Julie Bishop MP

Dress: Lounge suit or PNG formal tailored Sulu suit

**PNGAA Symposium:** Thursday 18 September 9am-5pm (Registration from 8am)  
Theatrette NSW Parliament House

**Master of Ceremonies:** Dr Jonathon Ritchie

Please see program on PNGAA website: [www.pngaa.net](http://www.pngaa.net)

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.

Please watch our PNGAA website, email [info@conference-organisers.com.au](mailto:info@conference-organisers.com.au) or phone Margaret Reid Ph: 02-9882 2688 for further details.

PNGAA wishes to thank the following symposium sponsors for their support: **The Australian High Commission, PNG**





The Oil Search Health Foundation is an internationally recognised non-profit organisation that supports the Papua New Guinea Government by establishing innovative, meaningful public-private partnerships that build

national capacity to deliver safe, effective health care in one of the world's most challenging environments. Since 2011, the Oil Search Health Foundation has attracted grants worth nearly US\$80 million, in addition to Oil Search's contribution of AU\$10.8 million. Today, nearly 100 Health Foundation staff work in five of PNG's 22 provinces, delivering public health services in HIV, malaria and maternal and child health. Driven by a dedicated team of public health, medical and nursing specialists, the mission of the Oil Search Health Foundation is to identify high profile health issues in Papua New Guinea and seek opportunities to strengthen and support the country's health systems and processes that will result in improved health outcomes for the people of Papua New Guinea. In order to build, strengthen and sustain healthcare infrastructure and capacity in PNG, the Health Foundation draws on a number of core areas of expertise:

- Program and grant management
  - Health workforce development
  - Public-private partnerships
  - Support and mentorship
  - Monitoring and evaluation
  - Service delivery in rural and remote areas
  - HIV, malaria, and maternal & child health
- Over the past decade, innovative public-private partnerships (PPPs) have become core components of healthcare strategies in many countries around the world, including PNG, and are delivering better health services and outcomes than what the public sector could have achieved alone.

The Oil Search Health Foundation recognises the value of such partnerships and focusses on cultivating innovative and meaningful collaborations between PNG's national and provincial governments, faith-based and non-governmental organisations and other corporate partners.

This PPP model enables the Health Foundation to work along with other donor, development and government partners to deliver targeted public health programs that focus on community mobilisation and health systems strengthening across the country.

Partners include the PNG national and provincial governments, local and international development partners, including faith-based organisations, donors and global financing institutions.

At the heart of every partnership and program is meeting the needs of Papua New Guinea's National Health Plan and serving not only the communities that are closest, but those in greatest need of support. For more information: Dr Tim Siegenbeek van Heukelom - Manager of Business Intelligence and Communication.

[tim.svh@oilsearch.com](mailto:tim.svh@oilsearch.com) | +61 (0)2 8238 8093 | [www.oilsearchhealthfoundation.org](http://www.oilsearchhealthfoundation.org)

## NOTES FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Jim Toner

The sadly short list of ex-Territorians in Darwin may now be supplemented, indeed headed, by His Imperial Majesty King Roman the First, Royal Sovereign of the Kingdom of Europa, Grand Duke of Lithuania, etc. He will be better known to some *wantoks* as Ronald Mann, *liklik* kiap at the Sub-District Office, Ela Beach 1970-73.

Ron has an interesting c.v. Scottish born, service in the RAF at Aden before migrating to Victoria and a job in its Public Works Department. Then Port Moresby and patrolling in Central District before returning to UK and becoming a Customs Officer at Dover. Back to Australia and a desk job with the Commonwealth Law Department in Darwin until claiming through his father's line the throne of not only Lithuania but also Latvia, Belarus and Ukraine. In July 2014, he informed readers of the *NT News* that he had written to the United Nations proposing to address its General Assembly.

Members seeking further information can Google "Ron Mann, Patrol Officer".

A boat slumbering in Darwin's harbour while its owner has been away is that of Ray Lanaghan a former ADO at Koroba. For some months, he has been 'minding' if that is the word an absent friend's cattle station in the Kimberlies. Meanwhile his onetime colleague in the Southern Highlands, Mike Press, is attempting a DIY renovation of his house in Palmerston. *Lapun* kiaps can tackle anything.... ?

War raises many questions but an unusual one is how a bird can win a medal? In our 2014 news bulletins, Manus features as the location of a much-debated detention centre but seventy years ago on that war-torn island it was about an example of devotion to duty by a pigeon. During an advance by US Marines on a Japanese position they found themselves trapped but the Royal Australian Corps of Signals operating in support released three pigeon messengers to warn HQ of an impending counter attack. Two were shot down but the other "despite heavy fire directed at it reached HQ with the result that enemy concentrations were bombed and the patrol extricated". The Aussie pigeon which surely had a pet name but officially known as DD.43.Q.879 was awarded a Dickin Medal for conspicuous gallantry.

I have misfiled the actual quotation (managing a District Office is well beyond Masta Jim these days) but a recent terse comment by PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill instantly recalled for me his father, a Highlands kiap and later Magistrate. Brian could be very much to the point about perceived nonsense. Peter's words identified him for me as what in England would be called "a chip off the old block". However, it seems that Peter did not live with his father until he was 15 years old. Barefoot at the Pangia and Ialibu schools until that age he put on shoes to attend the High School at Goroka where Brian

was Magistrate. He did well there subsequently graduating at UPNG and the rest is history. Booted and suited he now rubs shoulders with heads of government from around the world. A tick for the educational system that Australia established in PNG seems appropriate.

*King Roman has a letter in today's NT News listing aggressive dogs (Chihuahuas are the second worst!) so I don't think he is averse to publicity. Anyway, I hope I have been accurately careful in my mention of him. Cheers JIM*

**PNGAA Adelaide reunion lunch**

**Date 26 October 2014**

**If you are interested in attending, please contact Jan Kleinig for further details**

[janis.kleinig@bigpond.com](mailto:janis.kleinig@bigpond.com) 0407 791 086

**BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY**

Paul Dennett

One day as I was preparing my blackboard towards the end of lunch recess at Nanu River school, some kids came to announce that one of their number had collapsed on the playground. However, very soon afterwards, he had regained consciousness. Alois was in Helen's class, a popular, good-natured boy of about twelve. Apart from having a clammy brow he appeared to be OK except that he seemed anxious about not being able to focus on the 'snakes' that he kept seeing in the periphery of his vision. I had him take a few pills, the usual aspirin and chloroquin, and arranged for him to lie down on a stretcher affair in the office that was kept for the frequent malaria cases we had. After an hour or two he had not improved and had developed a high temperature so I decided to take him up to Kaugia Mission quick smart so that the resident Australian volunteer Maternal & Child Health nurse there, Jill, could attend to him. Her diagnosis was possible meningitis. Jill gave him a couple of shots and we called up a mission plane from Wewak for a medical emergency flight. But before it could come, Alois fitter and died.

Alois' mother had also died just six months before him and his father was away working on his resettlement block down in the Gawanga territory, a long way from the village. The deceased's relatives agreed with me that it would take a couple of days for his father to get the message and return, also that it might not be a good idea, for obvious reasons, to delay the funeral till then. Because he had died 'on our watch', so to speak, I felt some responsibility to arrange his

burial. An additional consideration was the seeming reluctance of the relatives to become too involved. Did they fear the absent father's wrath? Did they think that two deaths in the same family indicated sorcery? They were reticent.

The teachers got to work at fashioning a coffin for him and Helen produced a covering for the body, a shroud of white cloth with a cross in green. We took these up to the village and watched as Alois' body was prepared for burial. His exercise books, ruler, and pencils were laid beside him in the coffin. His schoolmates assembled with the flowers they had prepared. They said some prayers, lead by me, before the coffin was lowered into the deep hole and the grave filled in. It was a simple but moving ceremony. As I write this he would have now been a man in his late 50s had not death claimed him so soon. The Australian Assemblies of God pastor south of the school had been told that I had put money into the dead boy's hands as he lay in the coffin. I told him that this was not so. Despite this denial I had the feeling that the personnel of this Mission were very suspicious about my involvement in the funeral. Conversely, Fr Carmon at Kaugia Catholic Mission, now a retired bishop in New Orleans, had no problems with it.

Later we moved into Maprik town and I took over the larger than usual school there that catered for the majority of its child population. Maprik was the centre of a populous sub-district with a resident Deputy District Commissioner and the headmaster of its main school was regarded by most as, amongst other things, the unofficial representative of the Department, the father confessor, the general Mr. Fixit, etc.

One weekend I was looking forward to a relatively peaceful two days off when on the Saturday afternoon a ramshackle Landrover pulled up noisily at the back door. It was driven by William, the half-Sepik/half-Chimbu headmaster of a government school some way off, who told me the story of how his Highlands brother-in-law had been killed, over 24 hours before, by falling back as he was helping push a vehicle up a steep track. In his rush to get out of the way of the vehicle he had stumbled badly and cracked his head on a large rock.

His body was now in a lidless coffin on the back of the Landrover and William wanted my help to deal with the protocols for flying the body back to the Highlands. As I went closer to the vehicle it was obvious that the body wasn't going to make the journey without some serious attempt to seal it up properly. I consulted with the DDC who was about to hit off for the third hole on the airstrip/golf course and he advised in the circumstances, a Maprik burial. After viewing the corpse and conducting a mini-coronial hearing with the concerned village people who had witnessed the accident and accompanied their headmaster to Maprik, the DDC duly provided a death certificate that was a prerequisite for a burial within the town.

William worriedly wrung his hands imagining the concern of the deceased's family. Their hearing of the death of a family member was one thing but, but not being able to give the body a customary burial in its native place was another. However, he was soon convinced of the practical and financial advantages of a local burial and gave his approval. I can't remember if there were any repercussions from the Highlands for his decision.

We had a coffin without a lid but I was sure that the laplap/shroud they'd provided would do as a cover. We needed an approved place to bury him, a grave, and a minister of religion to conduct the burial. The DDC took me to the town cemetery – until then I didn't know it had one – and the village people who'd come down on the Landrover made a start digging the grave. I drove round the town as well as going out to Bainyik Agricultural Station and spoke to the few highlanders I knew of. A strapping Gulf man and a tough Melpa fellow, equipped with crow bar, spades and shovels, came with me to the gravesite. Although the dead man was a Lutheran, and because the nearest mission of that persuasion was in Madang, our Catholic parish priest from 'Bawston', Fr Mike Hughes, agreed to come along for the obsequies. At the appointed hour we awaited the priest's arrival. Soon a Morobe Lutheran pastor appeared on the scene. He just happened to be in town for the monthly Lutheran service the next day and had been told of the burial. Some Highlands women came up from the compound with beautiful wreaths they had made from local flowers. Word had obviously got about. Father Hughes arrived and the two clergymen conferred and conducted a joint service to send the deceased on his way. Some were weeping at the end of the simple ceremony. I'm sure that the dead man's kinsmen, had they been there to see, would have given our efforts some measure of approval.

We covered quite a lot at Malaguna Teachers College, Rabaul, during our six-month E Course teacher training but arranging for burials of the dead was not one of them.

## **Website Walkabout:**

CENTENARY OF GREAT WAR IN RABAUL September 2014

September 11<sup>th</sup> will be the 100 year Centenary of the first casualties of the Great War. The Rabaul Historical Society together with the ANMEF will be hosting Centenary Events, including the Centenary Commemoration on the 14<sup>th</sup> September of the sinking of the AE1 with all souls still missing at sea somewhere near Rabaul. Contact Susie McGrade, Rabaul Hotel, for further information.

<http://www.kokodahistorical.com.au/index/index.php/tours/anmef-tour>

8-12 September 2014 <http://www.militaryhistorytours.com.au/site/Rabaul.asp>

9-14 September 2014

David Howell of Kokoda Historical was interviewed recently on Radio National about the Battle of Bitapaka:

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/drive/historyonics3a-the-battle-for-bita-paka/5407518>

Descendants of World War I veterans have commemorated their service in Australia's first military engagement with a small parade in Sydney. The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) was formed 11 days after Australia's declaration of war on Germany on August 4, 1914.

Numbering 2000 sailors and soldiers from regular, reserve and militia forces, the AN&MEF left Sydney Harbour for German New Guinea on August 19, 1914.

Their journey to what is now known as New Britain in Papua New Guinea marked a series of firsts in the war: they were the among the first killed, first wounded and first decorated for their service.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott, represented at the parade by Speaker Bronwyn Bishop, said in a message the AN&MEF's feats had been overshadowed by the later defeat at Gallipoli and victory on the Western Front. Of the volunteer soldiers, six were killed and four wounded in the battle to capture Rabaul from the Germans. "For them, the war began in German New Guinea," Mr Abbott said in his message. "Their capture of Rabaul was our first victory, but it was our loss."

Marchers carried five Australian flags in the parade, each representing 20 years since World War I began.

Governor-General Peter Cosgrove said in a message to the gathering the soldiers led from the front when Australia faced its first big national trial. "They serve in our nation's military uniform, and they do so in addition to their civilian work," he said. "I have great admiration for their ability, courage and diligence."

The group of about 40 descendants, was presented with a medal of commemoration, and was accompanied by a light horse brigade and armoured military vehicles.

<http://www.goldcoastbulletin.com.au/news/breaking-news/wwi-guinea-veterans-honoured-in-sydney/story-fnjbnvyk-1226979421165> ■

Just a reminder!

**PNGAA has a Facebook** group – see: <http://www.facebook.com/PNGAA>

Please join the network and contribute your comments, anecdotes, events etc.

## **PNGAA Committee and Members offer sincere congratulations**

### **Meritorious Achievements of PNGAA Members and Friends**

**Dr Roy SCRAGG**, OBE, MD, FRACMA, MPH has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) by the University of Adelaide This degree will be conferred at a commemoration on September 17th. 2014

Both of Roy's theses are now available in their original presentation format as a pdf. URL links are:

MD Adelaide 1954, " Medical aspects of the depopulation problem in New Ireland"; <http://digital.library.adelaide.edu.au/dspace/handle/2440/38607>;

MPH Sydney 1983, "Lemankoa 1920-80 a study of the effects of health care interventions on the people of a pre-industrial village in North Solomons Province, Papua New Guinea"; <http://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/handle/2123/11545>;

**Rowan CALLICK** awarded OBE in 2014 PNG Queen's Birthday awards, for service to the Anglican Church , to journalism and the education of national journalists.

### **PNG...In the News**

► Papua New Guinea's government has moved to ban polygamy.

The National Civil Registry office has made amendments to the Civil Registration Act to ban the practice of taking multiple wives.

Under the amendments, all marriages must now be registered, including customary marriages, which were previously not registrable under law.

Bigamy is already illegal in PNG, but the law will now extend to reject customary polygamous marriages, particularly between people in different provinces.

"If you were looking at polygamy in the context that somebody in the city [was married to] somebody in another province and then another province, that definitely is out of the question," Registrar-General Dickson Kiragi told Pacific Beat. "That kind of relationship will never be recognised." Mr Kiragi says polygamy has been popular in remote communities and will require collective effort to stamp out. "The fact remains that there are still pockets of society that practice those kinds of practices," he said. "We now want to ensure that the law itself is practiced at that [community] level also."

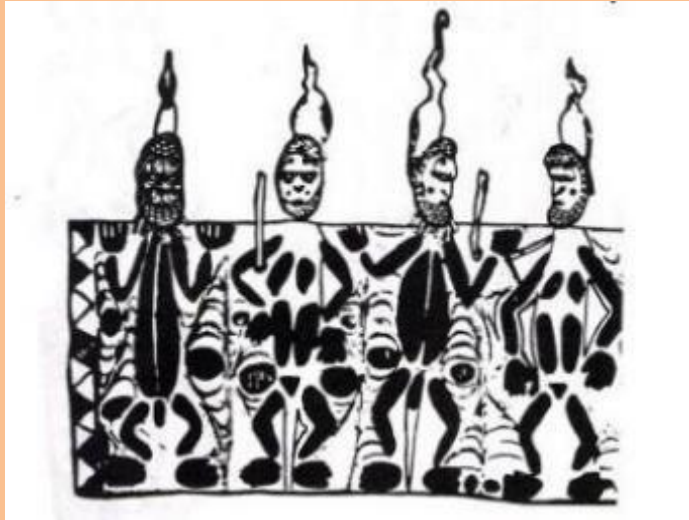
"The community must be involved in trying to deal with that issue, so that the polygamous marriage is not given the kind of recognition that is outside of the law."

Mr Kiragi says the amendments should not impact on existing marriages.

The new law will affect only future customary marriages.

"Eventually through this process we will be able to outlaw it completely," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-29/png-polygamy-ban/5486248>



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TRIBAL ART FAIR**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

10 AM – 3 PM, ST MATTHIAS CHURCH HALL,  
Oxford St. Paddington,  
NSW (OPPOSITE Jersey  
Road & Queen Street)

**Contact: OAS PO Box 1084  
Edgecliff NSW 2027 Email:**

**[secretary@oceanicartsociety.org.au](mailto:secretary@oceanicartsociety.org.au)**

► **Papua New Guinea's Dame Meg Taylor**, a senior World Bank official, will become the next Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat. Pacific leaders have for the first time chosen a woman to head the region's premier representative group.

In nominating her for the role in May, PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said Dame Meg had "a wealth of experience and knowledge that spanned 20 years in active service to the Government of Papua New Guinea".

Dame Meg Taylor was PNG's ambassador to the United States, Mexico and Canada from 1989 to 1994.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-31/an-meg-taylor-named-next-pacific-forum-secgeneral/5639496>

## **AUSTRALIA'S FIRST BATTLE AGAINST GERMANY IN WORLD WAR 1**

**Seven months before Gallipoli**

**Maxwell R. HAYES©**

The world's second largest island later to be known as New Guinea was not colonized until the Netherlands acquired the western half. In the scramble for external colonies, by the then great nations in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, focus turned to the eastern half. The top portion, including the islands, was sparsely first settled by missionaries and German traders around 1874. In 1884 it was officially taken possession of by Imperial Germany and henceforth known as Deutsche Niugini (German New Guinea). The lower portion became a British protectorate in 1884 and in 1888 was known as British New Guinea (subsequently called Papua from 1906).

With the outbreak of World War 1, Britain declared war on Germany on 4.8.1914 which knew that a large hostile German naval fleet was active in the Pacific Ocean. Britain feared that a newly constructed wireless station at Bitapaka near Rabaul in German New Guinea would be of immense assistance to that fleet. By cable on 5.8.1914, Britain requested Australia to capture and destroy that wireless station.

In the early nationalistic fervour of doing battle with Germany, in the space of two weeks, a force of 1,116 New South Wales army volunteers together with 451 naval reservists was quickly enlisted and uniformed. This force embarked on the HMAS *Berrima* (requisitioned as a hospital ship and troop carrier) from Man O' War steps at Circular Quay, Sydney, on 19.8.1914. The force became known as the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force. The accompanying flotilla of almost the entire Royal Australian Navy, including our first submarines AE1 and AE2 (sunk in the Dardenelles and since discovered in situ in 1998,) steamed north. It stayed a few days at Palm Island and two weeks at Port Moresby for further training. This was then the largest ever Australian force to leave our shores and the first commanded by Australian officers. Earlier foreign wars such as the Maori Wars, the Boxer Rebellion and the Boer War were comprised of colonial (state) forces before Federation in 1901.

Early on the morning of 11.9.1914, the Australian fleet entered Rabaul's magnificent deep volcanic Simpsonhafen (Simpson Harbour). Earlier, troops and naval reservists had landed some 20 miles away at Herbertshohe (later Kokopo) and the stone Kabakaul jetty. This was thought to be the nearest access to where the wireless station was probably located. In fact it was located some 5 miles inland and directions to the inland track were obtained from a Chinese trader.

Shortly after dawn, the attacking force consisting mainly of naval reservists, with some army medical personnel, started to make its way along a narrow track through the thick jungle which was mainly impenetrable on both sides. The

force came under the first volley of fire from a numerically superior German force of reservists backed by native troops firing from positions in high trees. Reinforcements including a machine gun-detachment landed and, despite being targets on this narrow track, pushed further inland. About a mile further along the narrow dirt bush track, a wounded German was captured. Australian Army Medical Corps Captain Brian Colden Antill Pockley, aged 24 educated at Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore), Sydney, under rifle and small arms fire, was forced to surgically remove the shattered hand of this seriously injured German reservist. As the Australians proceeded along the track Able Seaman William George Vincent Williams, RANR number 294, aged 28 of Northcote, Victoria was mortally wounded from hidden enfilade rifle fire.

Pockley, still under fire, rushed to his aid and realizing that the extent of William's wounds were far too serious for his field dressings, ordered that Williams be carried back to the jetty and transported to the HMAT Berrima. This vessel had several surgical theatres. Pockley, wore his Red Cross brassard (armband) which meant that he was a medical officer and not a combatant. In a feat of heroic and as yet unrecognized bravery, he gave his brassard to the sailors carrying Williams back to the jetty. This signified to the Germans that Williams was entitled to protection from enemy fire. But without his brassard, Pockley then bravely identified himself to the Germans as a combatant. Within a few minutes he was also mortally wounded and taken back to the HMAT Berrima. On board, both he and Williams succumbed to wounds and died that day, two the first six Australians killed in World War 1.

As the party fought its way along the track, mostly the width of a horse-drawn carriage, Able Seaman John E. Walker (served as J. Courtney), RANR number 45, was shot dead. A few minutes later Able Seaman Robert David Moffatt, RANR number 121, was mortally wounded and carried back to the jetty. There he was rowed to HMAT Berrima, where he died and was buried at sea. Here as the track widened and the encroaching thick jungle thinned the party encountered the first of three trenches across the track manned by native troops. Lieut Commander Charles B. Elwell, of Wentworthville NSW, in leading a bayonet charge on the trench, was shot dead before the defenders were either themselves shot dead or surrendered.

Pressing ahead the Australians encountered battery detonated pipe mines buried underneath the track but disabled those mines without injury before they could be exploded. At about 4 miles inland, they encountered another manned trench in which defenders quickly surrendered. A few hundred yards further the attackers encountered the final trench where Able Seaman Henry W. Street, RANR number 419, was shot dead. After a brief battle the remaining German force was either shot dead or captured and the party continued to advance along the track capturing the wireless station. German deaths were estimated to be 1 reservist officer and about 30 native troops.

On the same day, having received information that the seat of government had been moved inland to Toma, HMAS Encounter shelled the position. The German acting Governor, Dr. E. Haber, then sought a truce until officially surrendering three days later. On 14.11.1914 our first submarine, AE1, on patrol near the Duke of York Islands some 20 miles from Herbertshohe, was lost with its crew of 35 and has never been seen since. Various theories exist but it seems likely that the navigator, who was using captured metric German charts, may have misunderstood them and hit a reef.

German New Guinea then came under military administration from Australia until 9.05.1921 when it became a Mandated Territory of the League of Nations and administered by Australia. During WW2 in 1942 Japan captured much of New Guinea. From 1946 it became a United Nations Trust Territory and with Papua, became known as the independent nation of Papua New Guinea on 16.09.1975.

Despite this being Australia's first battle in WW1, Australian Government commemoration has been nonexistent and there are surprisingly few memorials. At the Victoria RAN base, HMAS Cerberus, there is a memorial in tiles naming those who perished in this battle. In Sydney, high on the Tarpeian sandstone wall near the Opera House at Circular Quay, is a small plaque erected by the City of Sydney on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 1964, to commemorate the sailing of the Australian fleet from The "Man of War" steps at Circular quay. For many years Northcote RSL club (Victoria), has recognized that one of the first two killed was a Northcote citizen. On 16.12 2001 it commissioned a large mounted bronze plaque commemorating this battle with images of Williams and Pockley.

Each year on 11<sup>th</sup> of September a small group meets to commemorate Australia's first six killed in battle with the loss of the AE 1 and its crew in World War 1. At Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance wreaths are laid by two grandnephews of Pockley and Williams within the Shrine and at the "Rabaul" tree. The 100th anniversary of this small but important battle is in September this year. It is hoped that the Australian Government might see fit to recognize Australia's first battle as a sovereign nation. Locating and hopefully recovering our lost and forgotten coral encrusted steel coffin the, AE1, with its 35 crew still entombed would be a significant gesture. The posthumous award, in what should have been Australia's first World War 1 Victoria Cross to Captain Pockley for the meritorious deed which cost him his life would be appropriate.

It seems appropriate to me that as the first event in World War 1 was the departure from Circular Quay of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force there should be some significant event organized by the City of Sydney. As mentioned there is nothing at this site to commemorate the departure, save for a small bronze plaque high of the sandstone wall, which is

passed by thousands daily without ever knowing of its existence or the reason for it being there.

If you care to ask the ordinary citizen as to where Australia's first battle in World War 1 was, I venture to state that 99% would specify Gallipoli. Yet the battle at Bitapaka near Rabaul saw the first six Australians killed World War 1, with our first submarine, AE1, still there and, as yet, undiscovered nearly a century later. ■

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Members area of PNGAA website**  
The PNGAA web site has an area available only to members, containing scanned versions of every issue of *Una Voce*. You can access this area by clicking on the "Search" button at the left side of most pages.

The members' area is protected by a User Name and Password. This is to ensure that only current PNGAA members can have access.

From 15 September 2014,

User Name will be **pngaa** and the Password will be **konedobu**.

## **THE CROCODILE PRIZE**

### **Contemporary writing from Papua New Guinea**

In May 2014, the PNGAA initiated a sponsorship that will greatly assist the more rapid development of an indigenous creative writing and reading culture in Papua New Guinea.

The Crocodile Prize, now in its fourth year, administers PNG's national creative writing awards and your Association, through the vehicle of the PNGAA Crocodile Prize Publishing Program, has provided a \$5,000 sponsorship to underwrite the production of the Crocodile Prize Anthology 2014.

This is a compendium of the best PNG writing, and it is published each September.

The Crocodile Prize Organising Group, COG, under the joint direction of Keith Jackson and Phil Fitzpatrick, has committed to matching the PNGAA sponsorship on at least a dollar for dollar basis and it is hoped this project will enable the publication of around 2,000 anthologies for distribution throughout PNG.

As part of the relationship with PNGAA, COG has agreed to provide outstanding examples of the writing coming out of PNG for periodic publication in *Una Voce*.

## Lazy & naïve young men sweep away fine traditional leaders

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*Una Voce presents another entry in this year's Crocodile Prize – the national literary awards of Papua New Guinea. The annual anthology of the best PNG creative writing will be published in September, funded in substantial part by a sponsorship from the PNGAA. A profile of the author can be found at the end of this article*

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Kela Kapkora **Sil Bolkin**

In those older nostalgic days, leadership in Simbu was reserved for those who stood the test of time and had infinite civic virtue that protected social cohesion. These leaders earned their place in society by working their land to make ends meet and stood tall during the troughs as well as the peaks of Simbu life.

Their values and discipline as leaders of their households won the admiration of the community and, when a vacancy was created due to a passing leader, the community knew who would be the replacement.

These leaders built their own houses, cultivated bananas, sugarcane and domestic animals in their yard. They looked after their wife and children and send their kids to school, contributed in cash and kind to feasts and compensation, and were an asset to the community.

The disciplined, mature, hardworking family man would be elected as a councillor or leader because he had a life résumé that impressed. Many true leaders in Simbu won consecutive council elections and served 20-30 years as councillors.

Then things change for the worse. There was talk that more money would be pumped into provincial treasury offices and the third tier of government would handle a lot of cash. Suddenly, in the 2008 and 2013 provincial and local government elections, interest in council ward seats soared.

Drug addicts, conmen, lazy buggers and young men aged 20 to 34 that fed on other people's crumbs vied for ward council seats. They threatened and shooed away dignified community elders. Some of these lazy buggers went to ask their sisters and relatives to give them money or a pig to sell and pay their election nomination fees. They told their sister or brother-in-law that there is a lot of cash coming down for councillors. 'We will dine off this. I have to contest and win.'

Others demand that the community paid their nomination. The wit of these young men's behavior is that they don't build a house for themselves, don't have a wife, don't have a garden and, to sum up, don't know how to make ends meet in life.

Will a miracle happen and transform them if they are elected ward councillors? What good and bad experiences in life do they accumulate to give them the wisdom to be accountable, responsible and make them toil the land for life and sustenance to prop up the community?

Ward councillors are at the level where the wheels meet the turf and they must have the diplomacy to collaborate with the street bureaucrats like police, nurses and teachers to produce peace, health, food, education and so forth.

But the signs on the ground are different and scary. For example, one bachelor who was elected mayor of Kerowagi this year got drunk as soon as he was declared and tried to rape a hospital sister who was on duty at night attending the sick. Reports published later revealed he was a bachelor and had been a marijuana addict for many years and, furthermore, was a well-known thief. He stood for the town council seat and won by threats of more thieveries if not elected. But the opposite is true too; more theft if elected!

Another council president married three more women upon taking office. When asked what formula he used to get more women he proclaimed, 'Yaltom married Maria,' referring to his first wife. 'The other three married the *President*.' Yaltom concentrated on the welfare of his new wives and Maria's kids. The community perished. If he loses the next election, will the three women hang on with Yaltom? No, they will flee and Yaltom will shrink to bones and walk home to Maria and the kids for nourishment.

Another ward councillor was on a borrowing spree saying he would repay the debts with interest as soon as he gets the Local Level Government services improvement funds. He was later locked up in Barawagi jail.

Some men who built a feeder road gathered on a mountain top from dawn to dusk waiting for the councillor to turn up with their payment. After keeping a vigil for a couple of days, they heard he had fled to Madang after finishing the K10,000 on poker machines in Kundiawa.

He later sent word from Madang that he would pay them with the next tranche of disbursement from the Treasury office. Simbu people are used to these lies so they don't care and move on with day to day life as if nothing was wrong.

There are many factors that turn people to pursue individual greed and lust other than communal good but the one factor that catalyses such moral breakdown is the demise of the men's house.

Informal education and mentoring in the men's house is lost to relativity and the outcome is this hand-to-pocket leadership. Well, our democracy is cut, sewn

and reshaped to suit these lazy buggers' needs and to the despair of the community.

One wonders how much more tailoring will be done to democracy as time wears on.

It makes me recall Plato and Churchill's views on democracy. The former said democracy is irrational; the latter added that 'it has been said that *democracy* is the *worst form of government* except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.'

**Sil Bolkin** *was born in the Galkope area of the Simbu Province. He studied to become a Catholic priest but quit soon after completing his philosophical studies and attended the University of Papua New Guinea graduating in social development and anthropology and Johns Hopkins University (USA) gaining a certificate in strategic health communication. He is senior policy analyst of the National AIDS Council Secretariat in Port Moresby currently undertaking a master's degree in policy and governance at the Australian National University. He is the author of The Flight of Galkope, a book about the rich history of Simbu, published last year by Crawford House.* ■

## OBITUARIES



**Ian Stuart Anderson:** his story and his published books (refer VALE section *Una Voce* December 2013) "*By age six, the Australian Ian Anderson had already decided what he wanted to be when he grew up -- a red-coated Canadian Mountie. By the age of seven, he also knew he wanted to be a writer.*"

These words began the author's bio in Seal Book's first printing of *CORPORAL CAVANNAGH* in 1983. With the publication of *CAVANNAGH*, Anderson had already achieved both dreams.

Anderson began by joining the South Australian Mounted Police, where he "learned to ride a horse, fight bush fires and battle with sword and bayonet."

In 1948, he then journeyed to Canada, where he achieved his dream of joining and serving in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. His postings were in Alberta: at Jasper, in the soaring Rocky Mountains, as well as Lethbridge, Fort Macleod, Coutts and Medicine Hat -- the very settings of the early exploits of the NWMP. He later -- after serving in the Royal Papua-

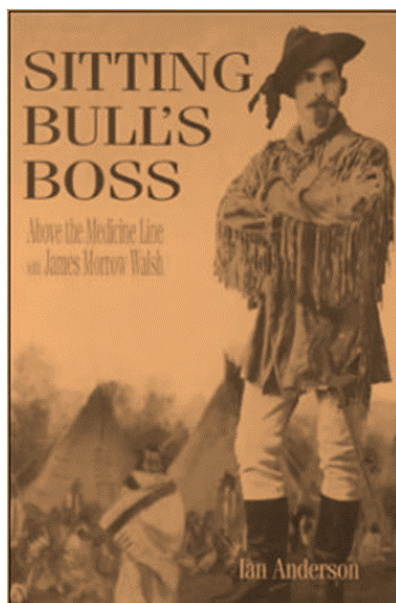
New Guinea Constabulary -- returned home to Australia. As well as working as a private investigator in Melbourne, he sat down to write.

[Cont. over...]

In 1982, he began writing his '*Scarlet Rider*' Series, starting with CORPORAL CAVANNAGH. After leaving the U.S. Seventh Cavalry, John Tarlton Cavannagh rides north, where he joins the newly-arrived North-West Mounted Police. The novel was first published by Seal Books in Canada, who published his next two:

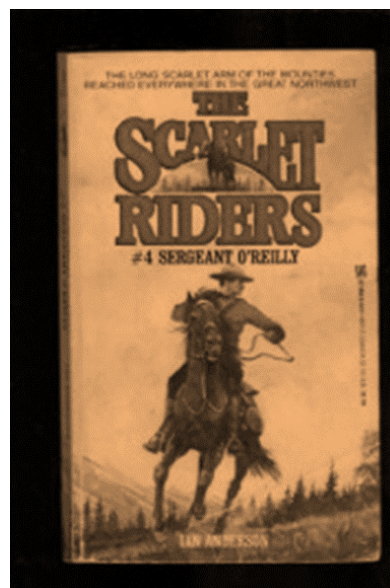
THE RETURN OF CAVANNAGH

and BEYOND THE STONE HEAPS.



BEYOND THE STONE HEAPS dealt with arrival of Sitting Bull's Sioux in Canada after the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

When Zebra Books of New York bought the World rights to the Scarlet Riders Series, they republished his first three titles and put out four more up to 1988:



SERGEANT O'REILLY  
FORT TERROR  
THE FLYING PATROL  
and DEAD OR ALIVE.

The character of Sergeant Hugh O'Reilly "who hailed from Halifax... was loosely based on Inspector Fitzgerald -- or perhaps inspired would be a better word -- of the Lost Patrol of 1911 fame," Ian explained in a letter to this writer.

While working on an article about the friendship between Sitting Bull and Inspector James Walsh of the Mounties for Wild West Magazine, Anderson decided to "broaden the article into a book." The result was SITTING BULL'S BOSS: Above the Medicine Line with James Morrow Walsh, an excellent study of the subject.

He had first happened upon the story of Major Walsh while visiting the RCMP museum in Regina. "As for Major James Walsh, I feel as though I knew him personally," said Anderson.

Ian passed away on April 10, 2013. He was 83.

**Leah Collins**

## **ALOTAU**

### **John Quinn**

This article could well be sub-titled " HOW ALOTAU CAME TO BE " or even " THE WASTE OF WAR " and will take a broad-brush approach to what I am prejudiced in believing is one of the prettiest Provincial Capitals in P.N.G. today.

ALOTAU (meaning Beautiful Bay in the local Suau language) is now the bustling capital of the Milne Bay Province; but it was not always so and I hope to chart the reasons for the town's foundation and development.

Prior to the Second World War , the actual Milne Bay ... which incidentally, was named after a late 19th Century British Admiral, Sir Alexander Milne... was a sleepy little backwater with the local people living a largely traditional life-style . A few London Missionary Society stations, and attempts to mine alluvial gold and platinum from the south shore rivers hardly disturbed the tranquility with the greatest excitement coming from the establishment of a huge coconut plantation at the head of the Bay by Lever Bros. of soap fame, who wanted to use the resultant copra in their business. The Bay was administered fitfully from Samarai Island, the aptly nicknamed "Pearl of the Pacific" , which had been District Head-Quarters since its purchase in the late 1880' s from its owners , the adjacent Logeia Island people.

Digressing slightly... when I was Assistant District Commissioner in Samarai in 1973-74, I was chatting to some of the Local Government Councillors and our talk somehow got around to that old purchase; astoundingly a couple of weeks later, a deputation came into my office and unrolled from grubby old cloths some of the original purchase price.. Old bottles, tomahawk and axe heads that had been carefully kept hidden in a cave on Logeia for well over 90 years and is probably still there today. The idle thought did cross my mind at the time that I hoped they would not pile the goodies on my desk and say, "Deals off mate ... we want our island back"!!

Anyway, back to the Milne Bay story and the cataclysmic days of early 1942; with Japanese landings in Rabaul, the panicked collapse of the Australian civil Administration , the scorched earth destruction of Samarai and the Armed Forces take-over of the flat land of the Lever Bros. plantation as the ideal site for the development of airstrips. Luckily, one of the strips was operational when the Japanese landed an assault force in late August. It was just to the east of the later site of Alotau and this strip played a vital part in bombing and strafing the invaders. That No. 1 strip was later named "Gurney" and still remains the main commercial airstrip for the entire Province. "Gurney" commemorates Squadron Leader Charles R. Gurney, who had been a pre-war pilot in New Guinea until enlisting in the RAAF. He was the co-pilot of an American B-26 that was badly damaged in an attack on Rabaul. On the way back, the aircraft tried to make an emergency landing on a promising green field on Kiriwina Island that

unfortunately turned out to be a swamp. The B-26 flipped over and Gurney and the American pilot were killed with other crew-members surviving. When I was A.D.C. on Kiriwina in 1972-3, I actually waded through the swamp with local guides to inspect the upside-down wreck, finding the interior still draped with rusting and corroded .50 Cal ammunition belts. I understand that the wreck was later salvaged.

The Eastern edge of No.2 strip ,then non-operational , to the East of Gurney Field was where the final Japanese thrust was repulsed ---- a sign visible there indicated a mass grave for nearly 200 Japanese Imperial Marines who perished in that final attempt to rout the Allies, though ,again , I understand that the remains were later returned to Japan. That strip was named “Turnbull Field”, after R.A.A.F. Squadron Leader Peter Turnbull who was killed whilst strafing the retreating Japanese, and crashed into one of the ravines near the later site of Alotau.

What happened after the Japanese defeat was that this sleepy little backwater transformed into a gigantic Allied base. The airfields were expanded and enlarged. There was mile upon mile of roads, camps for personnel, revetments and hardstands for hundreds of aircraft. The shores of the bay were dotted with radar installations, coastal gun batteries, oil-tank farms, a destroyer repair base, a torpedo and patrol boat base... the list goes on. Just a couple of examples -- in the 3000-4000 metres of shore between Gopi Point and Ahioma on the Northern shore ,there were no less than 14 wharves ( prosaically numbered 1 to 14) with concrete and gravel hardstands behind them with storage buildings galore. On the Southern shore at Gamadodo was erected probably the largest single building ever built in PNG to that time--- and probably many years afterwards--- a staggering 120,000 sq. feet, AND, this base had thousands of square feet of cold storage ... the Americans needed their ice-cream and cold Cokes to prosecute the fight.

It is an undoubted fact ---and indicative of the times, I suppose that in all these tales of warfare and construction, the lives of the local people feature not in the slightest. Villages were bulldozed, gardens and cemeteries were buried under concrete and gravel and the people's ancient way of life was totally and utterly disrupted.

The site of what later became Alotau had been developed into a huge American Hospital (one of three in the bay), complete with wide gravel roads, dozens and dozens of wards, operating theatres, staff quarters, recuperation areas, etc. etc., all supplied with piped water, electricity and telephone lines.

No sooner had many of these Installations been completed than they began to be dismantled and moved North as the War edged ever closer to Japan and this trend accelerated once that country surrendered and the Americans began to pack up and go home. The Milne Bay people told me of watching Landing Craft

being loaded with jeeps, tanks, guns ,loaded trucks and whatever--- the Ship sailing into the middle of the Bay, opening its bow doors and everything being driven or pushed into the 300 fathom depths before the Ship came back to shore for yet another load! Apparently, this was because the U.S. Government had a policy at the time that none of its War material could be returned to the States.

To further illustrate this policy, the Roman Catholic Mission on Sideia Island had a large, derelict U.S. Navy Patrol Boat type of vessel run up into the mangroves at the entrance to their little harbour and, on a later visit to see the Bishop on some matter or other; I made enquiries about the wreck. Over afternoon tea... served incidentally on crockery emblazoned with the U.S. Marine Corp logo. The Bishop told me that some of his predecessor missionaries had been chugging up the Bay in late 1945 and had seen this vessel motor out from shore and stop nearby. Being curious, the crew of the Mission Boat came closer and saw an American Negro sailor climbing down into a small dinghy and preparing to leave; they enquired if anything was wrong and he replied that his order was to take the boat out and sink it! One of the missionaries laughingly said "In that case, could we have it "? The sailor replied that he had followed his orders and couldn't care less! Hastily, the missionaries jumped on board, closed the flooding seacocks, got the pumps and then the engine working and took the vessel back home where it performed sterling Mission service for many years until the impossibility of getting spare parts caused it to be run up into the mangroves.

Whether the following amazing story is apocryphal I cannot say, but it was certainly current at the time I was stationed at Alotau.

Apparently the American Colonel in charge of the Hospital had wanted to hand the whole place over to the then ANGAU (Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit) official nominally in charge of the area. This officer had procrastinated and dithered so much that finally ,the American had stormed into his office and said that he and his Unit were leaving in a week or so and unless the Hospital was officially taken over, it would have to be destroyed! All he needed was a signature on a piece of paper and that signature could be "Donald Duck" or Mickey Mouse" as far as he was concerned.

More dithering by the Australian, so the American called in a Construction Battalion that bulldozed the entire complex off into the gullies and ravines at the side of the Plateau, leaving only the gravel roads, concrete pads and a large solid concrete water-settling tank. Some credence could be given to this story by the fact that if one ventured down into the jungle-covered gullies, one could find piles of wreckage and debris.

Once the war was over, it was thought that the pre-1940 life would proceed as normal. Samarai was rebuilt, the "Natives" would know their old place in the

scheme of things and the benign neglect of the past would continue; but time and events move on.

It was soon found that congested Samarai was too small for any development and its only air access ... by Catalina flying boat... was becoming completely uneconomic and antiquated. A decision was made to move down into the bay and the old hospital site was selected and purchased, as the local people had no use for the trashed site.

In 1962, the township of Cameron Plateau was declared open and gradually government and business started the move. In 1968, a big new wharf was built in Sanderson Bay, a powerhouse provided electricity, the District H.Q. officially moved and accommodation was rapidly built on the high Plateau with its magnificent views across the Bay.

The name "ALOTAU" was soon selected as more appropriate than "Cameron Plateau" and the pretty town has continued to develop and prosper...long may it continue to do so.

Anybody wishing to delve further into the war-time history of Milne Bay Province could look up numerous web-sites devoted to the subject ... a few noted are [www.pacificwrecks.com/provinces/png](http://www.pacificwrecks.com/provinces/png) and [www.history.navy.mil/library/online/buildbaseswwii](http://www.history.navy.mil/library/online/buildbaseswwii) , though the stories I have related don't feature in any of them.

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[johnquinn12@bigpond.com](mailto:johnquinn12@bigpond.com)

**DVD for 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS including dedication of the RABAUL and MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL, AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA on 1 July 2012.**

This DVD is a moving tribute featuring all the significant aspects of these two historic commemorative events – the informative speeches, the flypast, the beautiful anthem from Ramale especially composed for the Salvation Army Band for this occasion from the original score.

The presentation, running for 21/2 hours, was professionally filmed in high definition format. This is a historic item and will be treasured by families of all generations. Support the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group by buying for family, for donating to school libraries and for associated groups now.

Available for \$30 (including postage within Australia)

Electronic payment to PNGAA: BSB 062 009 Account No: 0090 7724, CBA Wynyard or post to PO Box 453, Roseville NSW 2069

*As the amount is the same as the PNGAA membership fee for two years, please ensure you email: [treasurer@pngaa.net](mailto:treasurer@pngaa.net) and [membership@pngaa.net](mailto:membership@pngaa.net) to advise what it is for and your contact details.*

## NEW NARI OFFICE AND LIBRARY AT KERA VAT

from **Mike Bourke**



About 3 years ago the office complex at the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) station at Keravat in ENB burnt down. This included the library, archives etc, so a huge amount of both published and unpublished information was lost.

I have been helping the librarian at Keravat (Elizabeth Ling) restock

the library by sending books, papers and maps that I have picked up second hand, from my own collection, those donated by publishers and other colleagues at The Australian National University (ANU). Images of the new library and of the new office complex at Keravat, which opened a few months ago.

The books are being used by CCI staff, Keravat staff and some NARI HQ in Lae staff as well as the Vudal university students. Some Keravat primary school students also like to come in the afternoons to see the books that interest them.

CCI is Cocoa and Coconut Institute, which is located at Tavilo a few km from Keravat. 'Keravat staff' refers to the NARI staff, who are based at Keravat in ENB. NARI headquarters are at Bubia near Lae. The University of Vudal is about 8 km from Kerevat.



## **MARAMA A TENA VINAUMA – A TRIBUTE TO ROMA THRELFALL**

**by Neville Threlfall**

*(At the time of Roma's death, we were not members of the ROAPNG, and no notice was submitted to the Vale section of Una Voce. A belated tribute is given here, for one whose influence still remains in Papua New Guinea, through the many children whom she taught. Neville Threlfall.)*

Roma was born in Wagin, Western Australia, in 1932, the daughter of farmers Sydney and Violet Thompson. In the struggles of the depression she learned early to make herself useful and to cope with shortages, qualities that stood her in good stead later in PNG; and as the eldest of four children, she helped with the rearing of her younger siblings, becoming skilled at managing children.

Educated at Wagin and at Albany, she completed her high school course by the age of 16 and immediately became a monitor at Wagin School – nominally assistant to a class teacher, but actually teaching a class of her own. After one year as a monitor, she trained at Claremont Teachers College; after graduation as a teacher, she taught at primary schools at Broomehill and Wagin. (Her first inspection report at Broomehill contained a note by the Inspector: “The children like her!”)

In 1955, Roma married Rev. Neville Threlfall and shared his ministry in the Methodist Church at Mount Barker and then Moora; during this time, their children Timothy and Bethany were born. The couple were accepted for service with Methodist Overseas Missions, and they were posted to the Territory of Papua and New Guinea in 1961, after a preparation course in Sydney. This included not only academic subjects such as Theology, Anthropology and Linguistics, but for Roma, the practical subjects Tropical Health and Hygiene, Bread making and Haircutting.

Their first posting in the Territory was to Malalia in West New Britain: a remote area with little development, compared with today. Neville's extensive circuit, from Talasea to Open Bay, meant that he was often away from home; Roma learned to deal with the outstations radio schedule and with callers who voiced their requirements in a variety of languages, none of them in English. As her children reached school age, she became their teacher, using correspondence lessons. When necessary, she treated Neville and the children for malaria, hookworm and chickenpox.

In 1964, the family moved to Raluana in East New Britain. Tim and Beth were able to attend the Kokopo 'Primary A' School, freeing Roma to help supervise the dozen church schools in the Raluana Circuit and give advice to the

indigenous teachers. She did some relief teaching at 'Primary A' schools at Kokopo and at Court Street, Rabaul, but also acted as a housemother to the girls boarding at the Raluana Methodist Primary School, and it was here that she acquired her reputation as a gardener.

The students were growing much of their own food, and Roma noticed that they made no use of mulch to improve their crops; grass cuttings and garden rubbish were all burned. She taught them to bury green stuff when planting new crops, and to put mulch around the growing plants. Visitors to the school took notice of this, and of the extensive flower garden she established, and said admiringly, in the Tolai language, "*Marama a Tena Vinauma!*" ("The Minister's Wife is an Expert Gardener!")

The next move was to Kavieng, and here Roma taught full-time in government schools, first in the 'Primary T' School; then in the 'Primary A' School, which contained Australian, Chinese and New Guinean children. Her influence on the children, and their affection for her, was noticeable. By now, Tim and Beth were completing primary schooling and going off to boarding schools in Australia.

In 1971, Neville and Roma moved to Matupit Island in Rabaul Harbour, just in time for a series of shocks: after a fight between islanders and police, their car was held up by armed police and then searched for weapons every time that they drove in or out of the island. Two massive earthquakes shook the area, destroying the island's causeway and causing one end to sink; and residents were evacuated until the causeway was rebuilt.

The murder of District Commissioner Jack Emanuel revived the political tensions and the police barricade of the island was renewed. A big outbreak of dengue fever affected many people. Roma did not teach that year, but helped sort out records of the Regional Office of the United Church (the new name for the Methodist Church in PNG, as it had joined with other churches). She also helped Neville with historical research and typing, as he was preparing a history of the Methodist Church in the region for its coming centenary in 1975. She still found time for gardening, surrounding their house with flowers and establishing a banana grove.

In 1982, the Threlfalls moved into Rabaul, as Neville had become Secretary of the New Guinea Islands Region of the United Church. Roma taught full-time, first in 'Primary A' Schools at Kamerere St and Court St, and after their merger as Rabaul Primary School. Her final years of teaching were in the Sacred Heart International Primary School, where her classes included Papua New Guinean, Australian, German, Chinese, Ambonese, Japanese, Philipino and mixed-race children; a challenging but interesting experience.

Gardening activity continued during her nine years in Rabaul. Cuttings of exotic flowers thrived, and such a collection of pot plants was built up that strangers passing by sometimes came in off the street and asked for a closer look at them.

On their return to Australia, the Threlfalls spent time in Canberra gathering information for Neville's next writing assignment: a comprehensive history of Rabaul. Roma again acted as research secretary and typiste; the book, *Mangroves, Coconuts and Frangipani: The Story of Rabaul* was not finally published until 2012, but serves as a memorial to Roma.

From Canberra Neville and Roma went back to work in Uniting Church rural parishes in Western Australia. Roma's musical gifts were much in demand for church services, and she spent much time as a volunteer in Senior Citizens activities and in community craft shops. Again, she built up the gardens wherever they lived, including an extensive collection of chrysanthemums at Northam, their final posting.

In 1993 Roma was diagnosed with cancer, too extensive to be treated, and she died on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1994, aged 61 years and mourned by Neville, her husband for almost 39 years, children Tim and Beth, grandson Andrew and other relatives, and many friends in Australia and Papua New Guinea. The name Roma lives on in those women of PNG, who were named after her.

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## **William Dobell research and Exhibition - Natalie Wilson**

### ***Painter in Paradise: William Dobell in New Guinea***

**S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney 29 May – 12 July 2015**

In 2015, the year of Papua New Guinea's 40th anniversary of independence from Australia, the S.H. Ervin Gallery will be presenting a touring exhibition, which will focus on the little-known work produced by William Dobell following two journeys made to the Australian-administered Territory of Papua and New Guinea in 1949 and 1950. I am writing today to seek your support for loans to this significant exhibition.

In May 1949, William Dobell left Australia with his friend, writer Colin Simpson, in the company of philanthropist and trustee of Taronga Park Zoo, Sir Edward Hallstrom. One of 27 guests flown by Hallstrom from Australia to Port Moresby and on to his experimental sheep station and bird of paradise sanctuary at Nondugl, in the central highlands of New Guinea, it was the first time Dobell had ever stepped inside an aircraft and, despite initial nerves, the artist was captivated by everything he saw. For the following three months he drew and painted watercolours of the landscape, village life and the highlanders themselves, adorned with magnificent bird of

paradise plumes, intricately constructed jewellery and elaborately painted faces and bodies.

Returning to Sydney, Dobell was haunted by his experience in the highlands and in April 1950, sponsored by Qantas Empire Airlines, returned to the area, this time extending his travels to include an extended period in Port Moresby, and a boat trip on the Sepik River. On this second expedition, Dobell not only took his sketchbooks but a camera, and recorded on black---and---white film daily life in Mount Hagen and Nondugl, as well as rare early images of the Upper Sepik region. These photographs and sketches formed the basis of many paintings he produced in the following decades.

The exhibition, conceived by guest curator Natalie Wilson, Curator of Australian Art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, will be the first exhibition to focus solely on this aspect of one of Australia's most recognised and well---loved painters, renowned for his sensitive portraits of Australian cultural icons, as well as internationally respected dignitaries and political figures. Through an extraordinary group of approximately 80 drawings, paintings, watercolours, and photographs from private and public collections the display will explore the artist's engagement with the landscapes and people he encountered on his journeys. The S.H. Ervin Gallery will also publish a fully illustrated catalogue to accompany the exhibition.

I am most interested in viewing your Dobell work at your earliest convenience, and would be very pleased to answer any questions you might have regarding this project.

Natalie Wilson

Curator, Painter in Paradise: William Dobell in New Guinea

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## **TAIM TUDAK (Time of Darkness)**

### **Foreword** Professor Russell Blong

Volcanic eruptions have long fascinated people. Almost everybody knows something about the 1883 eruption of Krakatau (Indonesia), commonly regarded as the biggest during the last few hundred years. Such knowledge stems from detailed field investigations by a Dutch geologist published in 1886, a Royal Society of London compendium (1888), a number of popular accounts, the deaths of some 36,000 people, mainly at the hands of the ensuing tsunami, the rapid spread of news of the calamity on the telegraph, and the subsequent brilliant optical effects observed all over the world. The newspapers and scientific journals of the time were full of items concerning the eruption as returning sea captains, ministers of religion, and natural

historians reported their observations. Even Alfred, Lord Tennyson was inspired to begin his poem *St Telemachus*:

*Has the fierce ashes of some fiery peak*

*Been hurl'd so high they ranges about the globe?*

*For day by day thr'o many a blood-red eve, .....*

Although the 1883 eruption of Krakatau has captured the public attention as the great eruption there are, in fact, numerous contenders of the title. The eruption of Tambora (Indonesia) in 1815 produced more volcanic ash than did the Krakatau eruption and resulted in deaths of over 90,000 people, primarily because of starvation. The AD 79 eruption of Vesuvius entombed the Campanian towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum, and produced the largest literature on the effects of an eruption as well as one of the World's great tourist attractions.

More than 300 years ago, a massive volcanic eruption caused darkness to fall over most of the highland provinces of Papua New Guinea. This brief event in PNG resulted in a multitude of legends that describe a "time of darkness".

Early missionaries and anthropologists gradually began collating legends from areas that had no history of any relationship with each other, different terrains, languages and tribal wars meant that each legend was very parochial, yet when the stories began to emerge after colonisation and pacification amongst the various tribes there was an amazing similarity between the legends. They all described a time of darkness lasting one or two days, when sand fell from the sky and destroyed gardens and people and animals.

It is also interesting to note that the famous Russian Naturalist, Nicholay Mikloucho-Maclay who first settled in 1971 at Gorendu Village on the Rai Coast of Madang was made aware of the time of darkness. His diaries, again supporting the same basic information from the legends documented by early missionaries and anthropologists, based throughout the Highlands of PNG including Mt Hagen, Wahgi Valley, Tari, and Wapenamanda. It was the consistency of this information that bought about intrigue and ultimately the need to further research the extent of this massive eruption.

It is easy to sit back today and read the work done by many internationally acclaimed anthropologists, geologists, archaeologists and volcanologists having been able to identify that the eruption occurred on Long Island 70 miles east of Madang and 30 miles North of Saidor.



Professor Russell Blong has written many papers and a book based on the Long Island eruption titled “Time of Darkness” was first published in 1982. Now at the age of 71 he continues to undertake research to find out more about the eruption, in particular a more accurate date for the actual eruption. This eruption is now regarded as one of the 10 largest eruptions anywhere in the world

in the last six hundred years.

My interest in Long Island over 40 years as a Tourist Operator, operating small expeditionary vessels to most of the maritime islands in PNG including the Sepik River. This interest was further enhanced during my term as



CHRIS MCKEE & PROFESSOR RUSSELL TAKING A BREAK WITH ENTHUSIASTIC HELPERS AT MATFUN

former Regional Member, Governor of Madang and as a National Minister during which time I personally experienced a number of eruptions at Manam Island, Rabaul and West New Britain. This interest

prompted me to make contact with the various academics and scientists. It did not take long before I was communicating with Professor Russell Blong, Dr Stewart Fallon, Chris McKee,

Mary Mennis a well-known author on

Madang culture, Professor Glenn Summerhayes, Louise Mourata, and Jared Diamond. We were then able to set a date for a special visit to Long Island on 13-16 June 2014 aboard my vessel, the Kalibobo Spirit.

The day before departure, an old friend of mine living at Sugalau, Dadok Tamsen who was born on Bagabag Island, lived most part of his life on Graged Island (Mittibog Is) opposite the Madang Resort and a very respected and agile person with a sharp mind of early colonial life in Madang joined the group.



CARBONISED TIMBER

Our small group of scientists boarded the Kalibobo Spirit and sailed the 70nm across the Bismarck Sea to Matafun on Long Island in strong SE Winds with moderate seas arriving at first light. Professor Blong reminded me of his first visit (with Chris McKee) in 1976 which had taken him 14 hours in rough weather, they went ashore, met some of the many people

I know on Long Island, met an SIL Family who had just completed the translation of the new testament after 28 years living amongst the people. Prof Blong, Dr Fallon, Chris McKee and Dadok set about walking up the dry creek bed in search for old charcoaled logs that had been buried and preserved by the eruption; and that could be used to more accurately determine the date of the massive Long Island eruption.

Mary set about scouring the shoreline for any remnants of pottery and visiting a small impromptu “sing sing” performed to celebrate a birthday and launch of the New Testament in their language.

The group returned to Matafun in the early afternoon satisfied with having been able to extract material they felt could provide the information required. We departed Matafun and headed for Pt.Kiau which is basically a lighthouse and small Aid Post on the North Western tip of Long Island under Mt Reaumur and to the north of the huge caldera measuring 13kms long by 8kms wide and occupied by Lake Wisdom which is more than 300 m deep.

This is possibly the largest fresh water lake in the Pacific and being several



hundred metres above sea level and maintaining constant level it could ultimately serve in making Long Island one of the most productive agricultural islands in the region with an unlimited source of water and potential hydro power.Strong SE winds reaching 40kts deterred us proceeding to Malala and we anchored at Pt Kiau and spent some time talking to the people

about our purpose for the visit and it was not long before they were describing a buried village ‘long way liklik’, or ‘close to liklik’ – a very confusing method of depicting distance. The result was that the group never reached ‘Pompeii in the Pacific’ and the team returned to the ship to cool off with an ale and the air conditioning.



PT KIAU IN/OUT PATIENTS WARD

In previous years, the Melanesian Foundation had funded the Lutheran Health Services to build an aid post and house at Pt. Kiau. The Nursing Officer who was the only trained medical person on the Island had no medicine and was caring for a patient under a shelter made on the beach who was on the drip.

The Matafun Health Centre was closed and I never did determine if Bok Aid Post was operational,

but I was assured there was no medicine, which resulted in us having to leave medicine ourselves on the island. The reason given for the closure of health services was no water, no radio, no medicine, no boat, bad weather (dry and SE winds) and all the medical staff had ‘run away’.

Interestingly enough, prior to departure, I contacted the Provincial Health Office and advised them we would be visiting Long Island and would be happy to take whatever medicine is available – no response!

The next day we visited Surao/Sakao River on the northwesternside of Mt Reaumur where the scientific group walked along the dry creek bed and located good carbonised trees. Charcoal was extracted and carried back to the Kalibobo Spirit.

The brief visit to Long Island was very successful. Dr Fallon will process the samples bought back to the radiocarbon dating laboratory at the Australian National University in Canberra. It is expected that some results will emerge in the next few months providing an estimate of the date of the eruption to within 10-15 years and possibly more accurately –quite amazing.



KALIBOBO SPIRIT

Krakatoa and other volcanoes have been well researched and documented. Long Island is in 'the ring of fire' which in PNG includes Manam, KarKar, Bagabag, Long Island, Tolikiwa, Rabaul, Ritter, Umboi, Talasea, Cape Gloucester, Ritter and volcanoes on Bougainville.

An improved estimate of the time of the last major eruption on Long Island will give us a clearer idea of just how long the 'taintudak' stories have been passed down from generation to generation and a better idea of the actual size of the eruption. The improved age estimate will also help us date changes in prehistoric agricultural activity at the Kuk World Heritage site near Mt Hagen,

So many times research is carried out and so little of this information is provided to the public yet the information provided by research can affect not only the future but also enhance our understanding of the past.

**Peter Barter, GCL, OBE, Kt**

Acknowledgements:

Professor Russell J Blong, Retired Professor of Geosciences at Macquarie University

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Chris McKee, Department of Minerals & Energy, PNG

Mrs Mary Mennis, Dip. Ed, BA, MBE, Author of numerous books on PNG

Pictures taken by Sibona Mani, Dr Stewart Fallon, Sir Peter Barter

At Matafun, Willie Mathew helped us dig out the logs, he is in the pictures with a black shirt and tassle sleeves. At Saoko river Sam Tross and Jimi Tadoos

## **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

**Paul Dennett**

The names of people and places have always fascinated me and PNG was a goldmine for such an enthusiast. When I arrived in Aitape in 1963, fresh from my E Course teacher training at Malaguna in Rabaul, I found that a number of the school children in my class had quite strange names that they insisted had been inherited. Their grandparents had been given them by German missionaries at the time of their baptism. The name Sapet obviously stood for Elizabeth, but what could you make of Yenopepa, Connyconders, Kontrak, and Bilseta – for a boy? These all seemed to be the end result of games of Chinese whispers. But Yenopepa later turned out to stand for Genevieve; Connyconders, Gunecundus; Kontrak, Conrad; and Bilseta, Sylvester.

Children in the villages round Balupwine school were often enough given names at birth to indicate that they had some physical defect or other personal problem. In *Ambulas*, the local language, typical examples could translate as

‘twisted leg’, ‘bad smell’, or ‘ugly face’. These examples were inoffensive enough; others though were not for the ears of polite society. The practice was followed (so as) to keep the children ‘under the radar’ and not to attract the attention of evil spirits. When the infants had survived their first year, and were not so vulnerable, they were given names that were more fitting for healthy children. Strangely enough, some people kept these ‘trick’ names right into adulthood. A boy in the upper grades at Balupwine school was called Rapis (Pidgin for ‘rubbish’) and had been since his birth. He personally liked having it as a name.

When I was posted to Minj High School in the Western Highlands I took great interest in the names that I encountered when enrolling the new kids soon after my arrival there. One fellow was called ‘Kants’ and his name was pronounced just like the plural of our taboo term for female genitalia. He was from Kudjip and an adherent of the U.S. Baptist mission there, so he had no Catholic baptismal name to fall back on. I discreetly told him what his name signified in English. He said that he was aware of that but wanted to hold onto his village name anyway, despite the connotation. (I was reminded of a story I’d heard from a teacher somewhere in the Sepik enrolling one ‘Asol’ and suggesting that he add an alternative name in the records, just in case it was needed later on. Asol’s parent declined the opportunity and the boy was known as ‘Asol’ for the duration of his school career).

A lanky individual called ‘Pop Paul’ enrolled. This was at the time that Paul VI was pope. He responded wearily to the obvious comment that I made about his name. It was evident that I wasn’t the first to be tempted to address him as ‘Your Holiness’. We ended the enrolment exercise with an interesting harvest which included a ‘Ping’, two ‘Bangs’, an ‘Ule’, a ‘Gule’, and a ‘Bule’. Two other names worth mention are ‘Bamp’ and ‘Wamp’, rhyming with ‘bump’ of course.

In the beginning of my second year as Minj headmaster, I was sitting in the grass-thatched open building that served as our office and staff room giving some orientation to four new female staff – an AVA (Australian Volunteer Abroad), a CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas), and two VSOs (Volunteer Services Overseas) from Britain. Kants, a lively boy, well settled in after a year at Minj, was not far from us making quite a racket, so I stood to remonstrate with him over the wall. ‘Kants!’ I called out to the horror of the four ladies, ‘Clear off!’

One thing I regretted during my time at Minj was that I never had the opportunity of catching Ping, the two Bangs, and Ule, Gule, and Bule, misbehaving in a group, so that I could call them similarly to order. ■

## DONATIONS TO PNGAA COLLECTION, FRYER LIBRARY

The University of Queensland –31 July 2014

Dr Peter Cahill

**Ann Wood:** memorial envelope issued by the Submarine Association of Australia Queensland marking the loss of Australian submarine AE1 in New Guinea waters;

**Lesley Russell:** copy *Papuan Times* vol.2 no.33 March 3, 1950; copy *Lae Garamut* Vol.V no.12 21<sup>st</sup> April 1951 includes Pidgin advice how to play golf (“paitim liklik bal”).)

**Rev. Neville Threlfall:** an extraordinary and comprehensive collection of photographs primarily of Rabaul area with some from other Districts. *Note: descriptions below are as written on each. Dates included where known, otherwise n.d. indicates No Date.* Two large grey folders containing (1) photographs of Australian era 1914-1942 including places, identities; buildings; individuals; schools; cemeteries; process-ions; sporting fixtures; Coronation Day 1937 celebrations; Chinatown; Police Force Band; market (bung); many others listed below. (2) 1942+ post-war ruins of buildings - Masonic Lodge, Burns Philp store; New Guinea Club; Administration, commercial and private buildings; Japanese surrender on HMS “Glory”; Australian troops; huge quantities of Japanese war material (ordnance, vehicles, supplies etc.); welcome to Australian troops from Catholic nuns and priests at Ramale (near close to Kokopo); Matupi Farm “temporary” housing for Chinese; Montevideo Maru memorial; Gough Whitlam in Rabaul; Duke of Edinburgh in Rabaul 1956.

**Notes:** information extracted from logs of whaling ships in NG waters; aerial view of Port Hunter (Duke of York islands) taken by RAAF, 1943. *Negatives* of Katang dancing (New Ireland, 1950), Watnabara women’s sewing class, general Rabaul negatives mostly pre-WW2, all identified.

**Loose photos of Australian era 1914-1942** Botanic Gardens avenue 1930; police troop Rabaul; (none of the following dated) view Watnabara to Duke of York islands; Police band Botanic Gardens; five photos comprising panorama Matupi island to Raluana; Mt Ulawun “The Father”; East Nakanai; Galip tree Namanula; pandanus palm; gathering shellfish at low tide; coil of 100 fathoms of shell money (Tambu) for brideprice; hill above Raluana Point; canoes on beach beside Rabaul-Kokopo road; banyan tree; from the top of the Mother looking across Matupi to Vulcan island; jetty between old Rabaul wharf and Malaguna; (Catholic) Bishop Vesters; sago making (?New Ireland); Tavurvur (Matupi) volcano Rabaul; view from top of Mother; inside the old crater; *mon* (kanu) from New Ireland in Blanche Bay; dugout canoe with

outrigger; mission vessel “Litia” at anchor 1920s; entrance to Government House Namanula Hill 1925; Malakuna mission looking across the entrance to Rabaul harbour with pinnacle at anchor; students farewelling others leaving for the “Litia” 1920s; Botanic Gardens Rabaul 1920s; (Methodist) Jubilee at Malakuna 1925; New Ireland dance group Topaia ?1920s; attendees at burial service 1920s; Burns Philp cargo shed Rabaul waterfront 1920s; New Ireland (planked canoe) visiting Rabaul 1920s/1930s; outrigger canoes Rabaul area 1920s; canoe race New Year’s Day Rabaul 1920s; Kokopo road near the Blue Lagoon 1920s; looking from Malakuna towards Rabaul 1920s; Beehives (Dawapia Rocks) Simpson harbour 1920s.

**Rabaul** by moonlight 1920s; road to Kokopo from Rabaul 1923; canoe with Matupit women 1925; Rabaul harbour 1920s; Bitapaka Wireless Station 1924; Common- Commonwealth Bank of Australia Rabaul 1924; Kokopo road near Karavia 1920s; R.G. Stevens on remains of Rabaul wharf after fire 1923; Chinatown Rabaul 1920s; the “Litia” at anchor Malakuna 1920s, in Rabaul harbour 1920s; seven photos of Pago volcano West Nakanai 27/12/1929; visiting Japanese warships Rabaul 1924; Empire Day celebrations Rabaul 1920s; Malagan carvings east coast New Britain 1920s; ?Malakuna and ?Kabilomo both 1920s; house-building Matupit island; Bitapaka Wireless Station operating and engine rooms 1920s; Government House on Namanula; the hospital Namanula both 1920s; New Britain (Methodist) Jubilee 1925; the Central Court; Government House reception for Methodist missionaries 1925; road to main wharf Rabaul; looking across from Malakuna; looking towards Malakuna with main wharf 1920s; four photos of the Methodist mission ship “Litia”; three photos overseas shipping (?Burns Philp) Rabaul harbour 1920s; Rabaul town and wharves 1920s; Simpson harbour; main wharf burning 3. 1.1923; Vulcan viewed from Latlat May 1938; coconut trees after Vulcan eruptions 1937; Bee Hives (Dawapia Rocks).

**Major Marr** Minister for Territories with Administrator General Griffiths inspecting police guard of honour 7. 5. 33; Giant fig tree Rabaul Botanic Gardens 1930s; after Rabaul eruption; Schwester Auguste Hertzer (retired Red Cross sister) at Palaupai; photocopied photos of the first Methodist mission house; old men who remember heathenism; view from Watnabara Mission House 1925; two photos of MV “Durour” half-buried in pumice 1937 eruption pumice; slopes of Vulcan crater after eruption; Mango Avenue Rabaul; views before and after eruption Rabaul 1937; Rabaul with Vulcan erupting pumice; eruption damage to roads 1937; Chinese returning from Kokopo eruption evacuation camp 1937; steam arising from Vulcan 29 May 1937; dancing the Katang 11<sup>th</sup> August 1935; two photos Malaguna road 1930s; Matupit crater after May 1937 eruption; Rapindik Native Hospital with Matupit crater in back-ground May 1937; Rabaul memorial to victims of 1937 eruption; translation of the memorial; police band leading parade of (European) men

enlisted in 2<sup>nd</sup> RAAF 1940; Beehive Rocks, Blanche Bay 1930s; Miss J.M. Jenkins (Methodist Mission teacher) cycling home from school 1930s; Beehives 1933, Botanic Gardens early 1933; kunai-thatched European home 1930s; Tolai village house 1930s; policemen in old style uniform 1933; Bita Paka Wireless Station early 1930s.

**Lands Office** Rabaul early 1930s; sulphur fumes Rabalanakaia crater early 1930s; composite view of volcanoes early 1930s, the old crater which erupted in May 1937; taken from Raluana looking towards Rabaul 1937; Matupit volcano and the South Daughter 1937; loading SS Montoro 1932; Burns Philps Macdhui at Malakuna 1930s; Maria Till and Augie Batze Rabaul 26.10.35; Rudolph Yanke and Ernst Till families north Bainings coast New Britain 1929/1930 (Natie Wahlen, daughter of Heinrich Rudolph Wahlen, in middle row); Burns Philp's "Matunga" at Rabaul wharf ca.1914; Rabaul police troop in German-period uniforms WW1 era; Rabaul water-front deep-sea wharf centre ca.1914; old-style native house at ground level with low doorway, New Ireland (n.d.); Special Police Troop for Punishment Expeditions at Government Compound Madang; missionaries Mr & Mrs Karl Schmidt and child ?Raluana 1909; Tunnel Hill road cutting Rabaul, before 1906; Mrs (Phoebe) Parkinson translating for her husband; Queen Emma's house at Gunantambu (near Kokopo)1914. August

Engelhardt and fellow sun-worshippers at Kabakon Duke of York islands (n.d.); Governor Hahl's daughter Berta at Herbertshohe (Kokopo) ca. 1900; August Engelhardt and native about 1908; Queen Emma (n.d.); Ratu Levi Volavola and family Fiji 1903; *no dates for the following*: photocopies of Sacred Heart Mission Vunapope; Chinatown Street Rabaul (n.d.); Catholic cathedral Vunapope; church in Rabaul and Bishop Ludwig Coupée; machinery from failed Marquis de Rays settlement Port Breton New Ireland; Tubuan figures; Chinese trader in bush; prominent Chinese merchant (Aloysius) Ah Kun and family; Chinese business man (Paul) Ah Lok; *dates recommence* Matthew, chief of Kabakada and Native Magistrate 1900; group of Methodist missionaries at Tavurvur (Matupit) crater 1908; Lloyd wharf Rabaul 1913; hornbill dance by Kavieng male dancers in Rabaul 1919; Matupit island women 1906; market at Kokopo 1904; Duk Duk dance Rabaul 1914; port of Rabaul after Australian occupation about 1914; Rabaul harbour 1913 with German ships "Emden", "Titania", "Cormoran" and "Scharnhorst" in foreground; two Tolai men in war-paint 1914; west end of Rabaul and Simpson harbour about 1914; August Engelhardt and Max Lutzon "Order of the Sun" members Kabakon 1904; Baining Chief near St Paul's (Catholic) Mission with murderers of nuns and priests 1904.

*Part Two of Rev. Threlfall's donation will be listed in December 2014 Una Voce.*

## CHU LEONG

### By Rod Noble

During WW 2, after the Pearl Harbour attack, when Japanese forces were rapidly conquering Pacific islands, the Australian Government decided to evacuate expatriates from its Papua and from its New Guinea mandated territories – but only if they were white. Other expatriate residents were left to their own devices.

When I was posted to Angoram, I met Chu Leong who had been a pre-war resident there. I was told that before the Japanese invaded the area he had gone up river to avoid contact with them. But before doing so he had sawn his trading vessel in half so that it could not be of any use to the invaders.

Last week Chu Leong's daughter, Tai, replied to my letter of sympathy on the death of her husband, Bill Gittens, and said she had been to Angoram and to her mother's village. This remark brought back a flood of memories because I had lived in the same village as her parents and her sister, Anna, and I had also visited her mother's village.

This was in 1954 when I was a junior colonial bureaucrat known locally as a *lik-lik kiap* (Cadet Patrol Officer ). The village I lived in with Tai and her family was Angoram. After some time in Port Moresby and Wewak, I was posted there. It was a Sub-District office of the then Sepik District. Its expatriate population consisted of nine ( 1 priest, 1 doctor\*, I ADO & wife, 1 Admin clerk & wife, 1 sawmill manager & wife & daughter, 1 crocodile hunter\* and me).

Although some 60 miles from the mouth of the mighty Sepik River, it was a designated port. I was told that a Royal Australian Navy destroyer had navigated over 400 miles upstream during WW 1. There was a constant stream of traffic stopping at "Tobacco Road" as the wharf area was called (traders\*, recruiters of native labour for plantation workers, croc. hunters, anthropologists, tourists, Admin. cargo vessels, the SS" Yankee" the entire crew of which were scantily clad young American females (except the Skipper) and once the film unit for "Walk into Paradise" who were passengers on three coastal trading vessels.

At Port Moresby, I and the other 23 in our batch had been told that we would accompany senior officers on our first few patrols. In my case that never happened.

Thankfully the experienced police and my *haus boi* got the camp stretcher, table, chair, food rations for police and carriers and the ubiquitous *tabac*\* from the stores building and I headed off on my first patrol to the Murik Lakes for a few days of taking census details and viewing the wonderful scenery in the river's delta.

On my second patrol I was so much better equipped. I now had a mosquito net room 3m+3m which was hung over a sewn lap-lap floor (mossies come through the *limbom* (palm tree bark) floors of haus *kiaps*). A pressure kero lamp gave excellent lighting and I had now acquired a most comfortable demountable lounge chair made for me at the Marienburg Mission and sawmill some miles downstream. I had also bought an AWA short-wave portable radio which gave excellent reception to Radio Australia and the rest of the world if the copper wire antenna was high enough up the coconut palm tree. The “Eveready” battery for it was a dry cell the size of a modern car battery.

And lastly I now had reading matter – a book from the Folio Society, an English magazine “Argosy” and my very first copy of PIM (Pacific Islands Monthly). This magazine carried the news, views and gossip for half of the Pacific Islands, then all colonies. So old timers could catch up with who has gone on leave and who has been posted where.

This second (and my last) patrol was to the Keram River villages, and this is where Tai has just been to visit her mother’s village.

I first met Tai’s father when he supplied a noodle supper at the Sepik Club for some visiting dignitary. Chu Leong was a member of the club. Tai lived with her parents and younger sister, Anna, at the rear of a very well stocked trade goods store near the wharf. It was there I went to have the sewing done for the lap-lap and netting. When I first met Chu’s two daughters, I remembered that my mother had once told me that mixed race children often inherit the best traits of both races. They had.

One day I woke up with an acute toothache. The Dutch doctor could supply pain killing drugs but said I needed to visit a dentist. And I did. Mr. Sid Elliot-Smith, the District Commissioner gave me permission to visit the dentist at the mission at Alexishafen. This Sacred Heart mission was not very far from the Sepik delta on the way to Madang. I was taken there by Chu on his now joined together and very comfortable trading launch. Fortunately the dentist had novocaine or some such, and the treadle drill was not at all a worry. No more toothache.

On the return trip, Chu noticed that I had caught a cold and proffered a tiny jar of noisome dark brown ointment to use to clear my nose. He extolled the virtues of this herbal remedy and showed me his mangled left hand. And with my limited understanding of *tok pisin* I thought he was saying “Look what Tiger Balm did to my hand.”

Of course what he was saying was that without it he would have lost the hand completely. He was a gentleman and a pleasant host.

I think the reason that my memories of my very short stay on this outstation are so clear is because my seniors, the locals and the many visitors were so pleasant and interesting. Of course I was aware of the tragic deaths of Patrol Officers Harris and Zarka and police near Telefomin. That sub-station was not so far away as the crow flies, but a world away from my peaceful world. It was classified as “uncontrolled territory” (No entry without special Admin approval).

I went to the club at 3.03pm (or was it 3.06pm that the Public Service Commissioner had ordained to be knock off time?). There I heard tales of earlier days. I heard “Shanghai” Brown, pre-war river pilot, and Cedric (?) recite Australian bush ballads, line for line. The one who failed to progress bought the next round. I learnt that they had been to the same primary school in England. Mr. Robinson (“Sepik Wobby” – he couldn’t pronounce his “r’s”) told me why the Government station had been moved from Marienberg and of the Patrol Officer at Ambunti, a long way up-stream, who had dressed in a dinner suit for dinner every night. And I learnt that Peter England (McLean’s sawmill manager) had survived the war only because maggots had eaten the rotten flesh from his wounds from a Japanese “burp” machine gun. He was guiding an American patrol and was left for dead, but rescued alive when a search party returned to the sight of the attack. And “Mads” Madsen told me of his serious troubles when arrested by the Gestapo in Denmark. And Francoise Girard, a visiting anthropologist, told me of her life at the Sorbonne. When she landed at the wharf she was told that the young man in the second house past the sub-district often had visitors staying. I was pleased to offer accommodation to her and practice my schoolboy French. And Dadi Wirz also stayed with me for a few days before going upriver to purchase heritage artefacts and carvings. He took them back to sell to museums in Europe. His parents were Swiss anthropologists who had named him after the village in which he was conceived.

Another visitor for whom I was a tour guide proudly told me he was a member of the Explorer’s Club (of New York, I think). He was shooting 16mm film and I ended up being the Director as I translated his instructions and told the actors to put on plenty of *bilas*.

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\* Crocodile hunter – a person who travelled upstream dropping of bags of salt, telling the villagers that he would return in *wun mun* to purchase salted rolled up skins at so many *mark* per inch across the belly. The famous Tom Cole was an exception. He hunted crocodiles.

\* *tabac* This trade tobacco consisted of sticks the size of liquorice sticks and packed in a carton the size of a carton of stubbies. It was very black, very sticky and very smelly and was a trade goods item. It was smoked by paring small chips onto a length (8in or so) of newspaper. Newspaper was also a trade

goods item costing 1 *mark* (1 shilling) per sheet. Of course, tobacco plants were grown and the leaves cured. The resultant '*brus*' was considered an inferior product I think. Expatriates addiction to nicotine was satisfied by sealed round tins of 50 (Ardath, Craven A, and the Sailor's Head brands)

\*Doctor – The head of the Health Department, Dr. John Gunther, had recruited migrant European doctors for two years service in P&NG, after which they would then be accepted by the AMA, to practice in Australia.

\*"trader":- He was an expatriate who provisioned his vessel with "trade goods" which he sold to the locals up and down the river. They had money from being a repatriated plantation worker or from selling carvings and other artefacts to tourists. ■

## **HEAVY TRAFFIC IN DOWN TOWN SALAMAUA**

**By John Cruikshank**

We lived in Lae for 25 years - 1960 - 1985, and one of our favourite weekend breaks was a launch trip to Salamaua.

At that time, a few Lae residents had dongas there but the only recognisable relic from the past was the old Bank of NSW strong room where they used to store gold bars flown down from Wau.

There was also the remains of the road that ran northwards along the coast.

After a couple of kilometres, a sidetrack led to a beautiful waterfall and pool which was a delight to swim in and cool off.

On one visit, the locals had just cut back the kunai (long spear grass) that was growing over the road, and I spotted the remains of two old vehicles in the grass at the side of the track.

Fasten your seat belt because you won't believe this! One was what I estimate to be a 1933 model Riley "Lynx". All that was left was the metal chassis and bodywork, originally red, and some of the wire-spoked wheels with 'knock-off' style hub caps with the distinctive 'Riley' brand on them.

The remains of the other vehicle was a very old wooden horseless carriage frame and not much else, except the manufacturers nameplate on the transverse 'firewall' front panel. All I can remember are words to the effect: "Made by Schacht Automobile Company" (or Schacht Auto-Buggy Company)? I'm sure the year on it was 1898, but researching the Schacht company indicates that my memory might be failing and it might have been 1906 or 1908, which is when the company appears to have been active in the U.S.A.. The mind boggles? A 1933 Riley would be quite likely - maybe it belonged to Errol Flynn? But, a turn of the last century horseless carriage?

Would the previous owner care to comment? ■

## SOME ENCOUNTERS WITH WILDLIFE

By Paul Dennett

My first posting away from the coast was at a school about 2 kilometers out of Maprik. An unforgettable feature of the tropical night there was the constant, and for a young expat on his own, mostly comforting chorus from the different insects in the vicinity. However, on some occasions, unable to get to sleep for the din, I was reduced to creeping about with a torch, determined to fix the problem, by locating the source of some strident noise that had begun to bore a hole in my brain. When I had located the culprit that was usually perched in the croton hedge surrounding my sleeping quarters, I apologetically used my thumb and forefinger to end his noisy existence.

When I was eventually reunited with my trusty little Honda 55 motorbike that had been shipped on from Aitape, I could make the trip to Maprik in a few minutes provided the river was not high. Returning after dark was always a bit of a worry as giant spiders used hitch their webs across the path that was quite narrow in places. It was not until I rode into them with a thud that I realised what had happened. Not pleasant!

Unlike the insects, birds had more to say during the daytime and at night were reasonably quiet, though plovers seemed to enjoy themselves, on moonlit nights particularly, calling and swooping about the green sward that was the school's playground. There was one particular bird round Maprik that called regularly enough, moonlight or no. It produced a ghostly, thin sustained note that soon swelled out slightly, rose up a semitone or two, and then faded away to nothing. When I first noticed it, soon after coming to live at Balupwine school I made a mental note of its call and whistled it before the kids next day to their chilled amusement. They easily identified it as the call of the *mikumaikak*, the ghost bird, a harbinger of death. From then on, I listened to its call with a little more respect.

A colleague in Lumi told me that he was amused by the antics of his *hausboi* (*male domestic*) one night as he danced about trying to shoo a firefly out of the house. What was the purpose of all this to-do, the *masta* wanted to know. The *hausboi* replied that the insect's appearance heralded an imminent death. Next day the *masta* heard that than an old man in a hamlet a stone's throw away had died during the night. After that he followed the *hausboi*'s example and got any such straying insects out as soon as possible.

Like most expatriates, I found the gecko with its loud chuckle an endearing creature and welcomed its nightly presence. They clung upside down without difficulty on the ceiling stalking moths, their tails curling, perhaps in anticipation of their labours being rewarded with a tasty mouthful. They could even manage the difficult maneuver of copulation without falling down, on *most* occasions.

One Easter Helen and I had travelled from Wewak to Kairiru Island by mission plane for a break – a flight of just over five minutes compared to a sea voyage of several hours in a small smelly boat with an inboard motor. We did not realise for a while that the aircraft had returned to Wewak with our bags still sitting in its belly pod. The mission people at Kairiru felt guilty about this and lent us clothes for the four-day stay. These included an extravagant 1940s-style nightdress made of yards of pink satin that turned Helen into a Rita Hayworth look-alike. Their guilt also had them inviting us over for the evening meal as well. The special midday Easter feast was held at St. John's, the minor seminary, to which we were also invited. We sat expectantly at a large table as the nuns organised the local staff. I remember that a Marist Brother, a gloomy individual, was having a whinge about something. One of the younger sisters, a pert creature, responded with, *"If you're looking for sympathy brother, you'll find it in the dictionary under 'S'."* As we sat there with our drinks, I discreetly elbowed Helen to indicate to her the large gecko turd that had just then landed right in my soup plate. Helen scowled and enjoined that I was to make no fuss. (What *me* fuss!) I passed it to the pert young nun and braced myself for a new taste experience! She was standing at the tureen ladling out the soup and dealing at the same time with the complaints of the gloomy Brother. The plate with the turd, by now full of soup was passed to him! I breathed a sigh of relief.

#### **NGVR/PNGVR ANZAC CENTENARY COMMEMORATION**

You are invited to attend the NGVR/PNGVR Anzac Centenary Commemoration

Date: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Venue: NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum, 1001 Boundary Road, Wacol, Brisbane (map reference: UBD map 27, N1).

**The Governor of Queensland, the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC will attend and unveil the Memorial Plaque in honour of the Australians who died in Australia's first WW1 battle at Bitapaka near Rabaul on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1914 and for those who died when Australia's Submarine AE1 was lost without trace near Rabaul on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1914.**

The preliminary Programme for the day is:

- 9:50am RAAF Band playing period music
- 10:00am The Queensland Governor, His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC
- 10:15am NGVR & PNGVR Ass'n President Phil Ainsworth welcomes the Governor.
- 10:20am Patron, NGVR & PNGVR, Major General John Pearn AM, RFD
- 10:25am Flyover by Royal Queensland Aero Club.
- 10:30am Governor to unveil and dedicate the Bitapaka / AE 1 Memorial Plaque.
- 11:00am John Holland to read the Ode, followed by the Last Post.
- 11:07am Firing of the Fusillade.
- 1:00pm Entertainment by the Bougainville Dance Group
- 1:30pm RAAF Band playing period music and songs.
- 3:00pm Conclusion of Formal Activities.

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT JOHN HOLLAND ON 0449 504 058**

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*(Roundtrip Rome)*

on board the Celebrity *Constellation*

22 April 2015 - 4 May 2015

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Cruise group

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Couples, singles and groups are invited to experience this modern luxurious cruise and to be part of this monumental ANZAC anniversary.

The “ANZAC Dawn Service” will be broadcasted live on board the ship on 25 April, 2015 followed by a small reception.

Included in the package is a tour of “The Battlefields of Gallipoli” which will depart out of Canakkale (Kepez) on 26 April 2015 where you will get an opportunity to explore the area where the Gallipoli Campaign took place and you will view Turkish and Allied monuments, cemeteries and museums.

After leaving Rome on 22 April 2015, the Constellation will:

- view Anzac Cove
- Dock and stay overnight both at Canakkale (Kepez) & Istanbul, Turkey
- Dock in Athens (Piraeus), Santorini Greece and Naples Italy
- Returning to Rome on 4 May 2015.

Your cruise tour package will include: airport to hotel arrival transfer, one night pre cruise accommodation with breakfast, hotel to cruise port transfers (Rome to Civitavecchia), and cruise port to airport transfers, upon disembarkation. Post cruise accommodation is available, as an optional extra.

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In addition to the cruise package *Source International Travel* can provide personalised travel arrangement throughout Europe with additional pre and post cruise accommodation.

## RABAU AND MONTEVIDEO MARU MEMORIAL NEWS



47 guests from Victoria, Queensland, NSW and the ACT attended the annual Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Commemorative lunch at the Mercure Hotel in Canberra on Saturday 28 June 2014. Guest speaker was Dr Marian May and those who attended were fortunate to hear her wonderful presentation about the months spent in Rabaul for the soldiers,

nurses and civilians preceding the Japanese invasion of January 1942. Drawn from letters sent home and photos taken by her father, Padre John May, the story wove a vivid picture of life in this Australian Mandated Territory. Those present were grateful to Marian for the time spent in putting this together and providing yet another angle to this story.

Dr Marian May has kindly offered to send either an electronic or hard copy of her presentation to those who request it.

Please contact Marian at: 2 Garling St, Lyneham, ACT 2602 M 0429 323 993

Rebecca Mills provided a fascinating display of photos, memorabilia and newspaper articles. Others also contributed information for the benefit of all. It was another memorable occasion and our thanks to Marg Curtis and Rebecca Mills for their superb organisation.



## **RABAU & MONTEVIDEO MARU 72nd Commemorative Anniversary**

**Remembrance Service – 29 June 2014**

### **AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL**

This years' service was held at the Australian War Memorial by the Pool of Reflection due to inclement weather. The service included an address by Major Kelvin Alley of the Salvation Army together with hymns and a prayer. Wreaths were then laid in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Master of Ceremonies from the Australian War Memorial brought the service together beautifully. It was a dignified service with those attending agreeing that the formality of the day, together with the venue, added much poignancy. Visits were also made to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial. Following the service, guests enjoyed the warmth and camaraderie of a light luncheon in the AWM café near the memorial.



Major Kelvin Alley  
National Secretary  
The Salvation Army National Secretariat



Left: Pat and Ross Johnson



Right: Carole and David Worth

## **72<sup>nd</sup> Commemorative Anniversary Remembrance Service, Australia War Memorial**

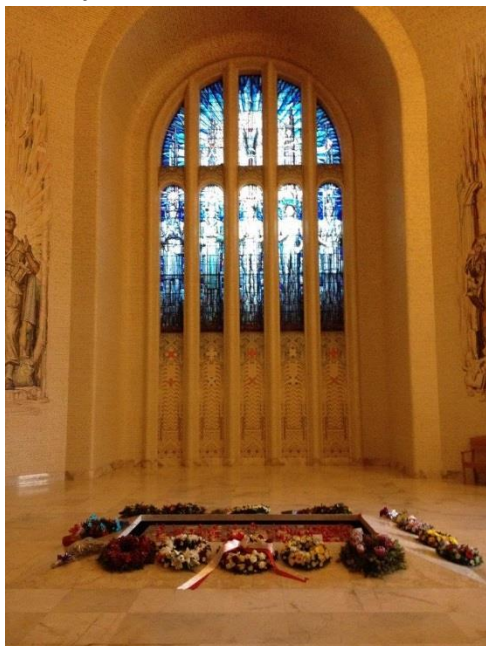
Chaplain - Major Kelvin Alley

It is again an honour and privilege to have been asked to make some remarks at this brief commemorative Service, on this the 72nd anniversary of the tragic sinking of the Prisoner of War ship, the *Montevideo Maru*.

Today we gather to remember the lives of the 853 servicemen, and 205 civilians who tragically lost their lives aboard the *Montevideo Maru*, when it was struck by an allied torpedo and sank in the deep waters of the Philippines Sea, on its way to Hainan.

Today also we remember those who gave their lives in the defence of Rabaul, and the New Guinea Islands, fighting a force that vastly outnumbered them, but fighting nevertheless with courage and bravery. These brave Australians were

your loved ones, your fathers, uncles and relatives. We gather here today, the elements not that pleasant, but gather nevertheless because we choose to never let the memory and our affections fade because of their bravery and sacrifice.



The Old Testament Psalmist, King David of Israel, some 2500 years ago wrote these words:

Show me your ways O Lord,  
Teach me your paths;  
Guide me in your truth and  
teach me,  
For you are God my Saviour,  
And my hope is in you all day.



As we gathered for lunch yesterday, we saw the interview of Nurse Lorna Johnston, who was taken prisoner at Rabaul and kept in captivity with other nurses in Japan until the end of the war. When asked if she ever gave up hope,

and in that confidence of voice despite her 95 years at time of interview, she firmly said 'No, never, we could never let go of hope. It was what brought us through'.

As we gather like this from year to year, we stir and kindle the coals of that hope. We gather in hope today determined to never let the memory fade of the sacrifice and bravery of those in whose memory we gather today.

The 2/22nd Battalion, comprising some 900 men and 38 Officers, formed the bulk of Lark Force, and was dispatched from Australia as a Garrison force to Rabaul, in March and April of 1941. As the year progressed, the numbers in Lark Force grew to some 1400, including Militia with the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, anti aircraft and anti tank batteries, field ambulance and nurses, and also the now infamous Military band comprising almost entirely members of The Salvation Army. Capping off Lark Force was the 130 strong 1st Independent company, commandos assigned to the defence of New Ireland and particularly Kavieng.



Within 6 weeks of Pearl Harbour, an invasion force of over 9,000 troops from the crack 144th Infantry Regiment of the Japanese South Seas Invasion Force, with ships and planes at their disposal, were courageously and valiantly opposed by the 1400 Australians of Lark Force.

We who gather here today know all too well the result. Vastly outnumbered, out trained, out gunned and overwhelmed, outnumbered and overwhelmed in every department except one - character. Character shows itself in courage despite overwhelming odds, a dogged determination to stand for what is right, for what is truth and for what is ultimately integrity, the seed of which is that same hope that Sister Lorna Johnston carried with her throughout her long life.

Today we gather to celebrate the character of our loved ones who, like the young King David as a shepherd boy, took on the might of Goliath despite overwhelming odds.

We gather to keep the memories alive of those of our loved ones who were savagely slaughtered at Tol and at Waitavalo, who died bravely in the fighting to defend Rabaul, who perished in the jungles on their flight to freedom, and particularly those precious to us all who were trapped below decks as the *Montevideo Maru* slipped forever into the depths of the Philippines Sea. We rejoice in those who made the long journey home to freedom, who were able to tell their children and children's children of the great courage of their comrades in Lark Force.

May we never forget them. That is why we gather here today. Small in number, yet so were they.

On Anzac Day this year, the Duntroon Military Band marched on to the main parade ground of the Australian War Memorial. The band entered, playing a most stirring March entitled "Emblem of the Army". The sound was arresting, the music majestic. Even to the least brass band lover, the music had that stirring military rhythm that aroused the passion and pride to be Australian. Little did that vast crowd appreciate, that the music being played by the Duntroon military band, had been written some 85 years earlier by one who found himself on or about 22 June 1942, being herded up a gangplank toward a fateful final journey upon the *Montevideo Maru*.

Perhaps many members of the Duntroon band would have little idea, but as they keep playing the music of bandmaster Arthur Gullidge, they keep the memory of the courage of Lark Force alive.

As we gather here at this Memorial from year to year, and as we continue to tell the story of our loved ones who gave their lives in the defence of Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands, we keep their memory alive.

For our own lives today, I commend the words of the Psalmist:

Show me your ways, O lord

Teach me your paths

Guide me in your truth and teach me,

For you are God my saviour.

And my HOPE is in you all day long.

May we hold on to this hope for our lives, in the same way that our loved ones in Lark Force did in 1942 in the face of overwhelming adversity. May God bless you!

## **RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU EDUCATION TEAM**

Members of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Group have prepared a history supplement titled ***An Insight into the First Engagement of WWII on Australian Territory***, which history teachers can use in the teaching of the national history curriculum. If you know anyone you can pass this information on to, please do.

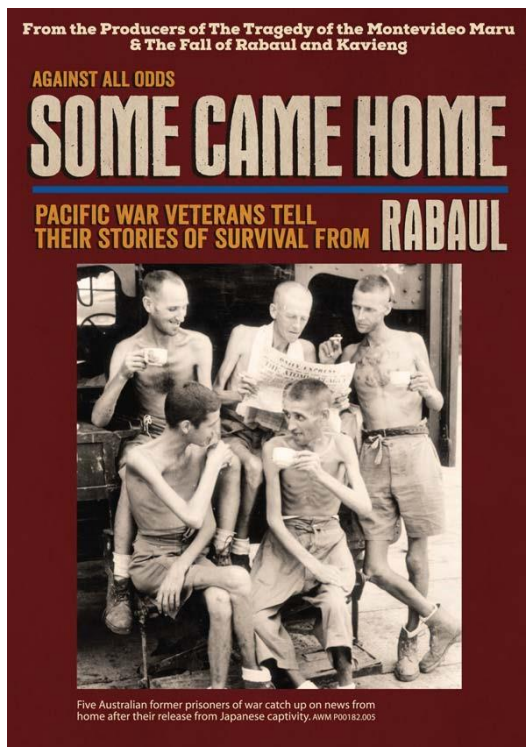
The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Education Committee will provide: a lesson plan following the content links which are in the Australian Curriculum; teacher background notes; list of resources that teachers can use; a short DVD titled *Some Came Home* in which POWs and civilians internees are interviewed about their war experiences; and student worksheets.

The students' exercises can be completed either as individuals or in groups, over two or three periods. It can also be broken into stand-alone sections with a brief background overview.

This teaching supplement can also be used to link the two world wars and as a lead up to Kokoda as well as highlighting the effects of war on Australian POWs and civilian internees and their families.

We invite all teachers to be involved in the trial of this history supplement as part of their teaching of the Second World War and provide feedback. Teachers who wish to participate in the trial can contact the project co-ordinator, Patrick Bourke, phone: 02 9523 2871, email : [patrickbourke58@bigpond.com](mailto:patrickbourke58@bigpond.com).

## DVD: SOME CAME HOME - New Release



imprisonment in Rabaul and Japan for others. We learn a lot about the experiences of those souls who did not make it home by listening to the stories of those who survived – against all odds – because SOME CAME HOME.

**Now available at \$30 delivered anywhere in Australia.** Please send your cheque or money order to: Schindler Entertainment PO Box 303 Northgate Q 4013 Ph: (07) 3267 0515 M:

Gripping accounts from 10 Australians and 2 American veterans and civilians who tell of their experiences during the dark days in Rabaul in the 1940s. First hand stories of escape for some and

**Australian and American Pacific War prisoners and escapees tell their amazing stories. They were expected to die but refused to give up. How did they survive against all odds?**

		(left) Padre John May MBE former Australian Army Padre and ex POW (right) Lex Fraser OAM former Captain Number 1 Independent Company and ex POW
		(left) Sister Berenice Twohill - a Catholic Nun, qualified teacher and nurse imprisoned in Rabaul (right) Paul Metzler former Catalina Pilot and ex POW
		(left) Rudy Buckley indigenous resident in Rabaul talks about his experiences as a 12 year old during the Japanese occupation (right) Len Woolf former Australian Army soldier evaded Japanese forces to escape from New Britain
		(left) Lorna Whyte Johnston former Australian Army nurse and ex POW (right) Norm Furness former Australian Army soldier evaded the enemy to escape from New Britain
		(left) John Holland talks about his Dad Frank Holland - ex Z Special unit operative who saved many Rabaul escapees (right) Fred Kollmorgen former Australian Army soldier and sole Salvation Army band survivor evaded Japanese forces to escape from New Britain
		(left) John Kepchia - American Gruman radio operator and gunner shot down and imprisoned in Rabaul (right) Joe Nason - American SBD Douglas Dauntless dive bomber Pilot shot down and imprisoned in Rabaul

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Buyers, please include a reference so that we know the origin of the funds.

Proceeds from the sale of SOME CAME HOME volume one will help us fund the production of volume two (SOME CAME HOME from the HELL SHIPS)

Interviews with:

Padre John May MBE	Sister Berenice Twohill
Lex Fraser OAM	Rudy Buckley
Paul Metzler	Lorna Whyte Johnston
Len Woolf	Norm Furness
John Holland	Fred Kollmorgen
John Kepchia	Joe Nason

## **Rabaul And Montevideo Maru News (Cont.)**

### **Gail Thwaites writes:**

I am so sorry that I didn't see the post for the recent gathering in Canberra. My Grandfather passed last year and we have been researching his family and we have only just found out that he had two extra Uncles and that were in the 2/22nd Battalion. They were Pte James Neil Olney VX35583 and Pte William John Olney VX30074. James escaped from Rabaul and William went down on the *Montevideo Maru*. This is very new family history for us and we were very saddened that it was forgotten history on our family tree.

I have been researching over the past couple of months and we have been lucky with both William and James being mentioned in books and having photos in the War Service Records.

I am sure there are other families like ours that do not know of our relatives service and sacrifices so I am very appreciative of the work that your society has done. We hope to get to Canberra this year to go to the memorial.

With the help of the National Archives of Australia (NAA) - I am in the process of obtaining Pte J Olney diaries of his experiences at Rabaul and the Japanese

invasion. If documents like these are of any interest to the society please let me know.

We are trying to contact relatives that may have more information - the problem is the family line died out and then the information was passed on to the wives families.

My sister is a History Teacher and is very interested in the teaching resources on the New Guinea Islands.

We both feel very disappointed with our education on WW2 - we only knew about Europe, New Guinea, Singapore, Pearl Harbour and Darwin and we both did History in Yr12 and at University as well. I can only hope that my three boys have a greater understanding of the War that was at our door step in the New Guinea region.

My son, who is 13, asked me yesterday why I am researching this. I told him it's because James and William made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and they no longer have a voice to be heard. And it was up to us to make sure that their voice and story was documented for future generations. He said – '*Are they not just on the internet??*' I told him not yet - but we are going to make sure they are, so his children and their children will be able to find them.

Thank you for not forgetting about the 2/22nd and the men on the *Montevideo Maru*.

### **WW1 connection with WW11**

"It is a story as remarkable as it is tragic. Mary Keid gave birth to nine children – six boys and three girls. She'd already suffered the heartbreak of losing babies Mary and Robert in their first few months. Of the remaining six boys, a war of bewildering alliances and far removed from the tranquillity of Queensland life took four of them, all in violent deaths."

Mary and Charles Keid's six sons served in WW1. Henry (Harry), the eldest, survived as did the youngest, Guy. Four were killed: Bill, Ted, Walter and Leonard.

"Perhaps to fill the void left by her boys, Mary and Charles took in their grandchild, Les, the eldest child of Leonard and wife Eliza."

Les enlisted in the AIF in WW2 and as part of Lark Force was captured in Rabaul and died aged 31 years on the Japanese prison ship *Montevideo Maru* when sunk by US Submarine *Sturgeon* on 1 July 1942 enroute to Hainan. Norman Leslie Keid (listed as Kidd in the *Montevideo Maru* list held in NAA) QX 64902, Corporal, was a member of the 8 Military District AAOC, part of Lark Force HQ.

[Cont. over...]

Mary's granddaughter, Peg, recalls her as "a very serene old lady, a remarkable person". Peg saw a rare display of disdain from Mary on a day collectors came knocking for donations for a local war memorial. "She just looked up and said 'sorry, not me. I already gave four sons'."

### **World War 1 Centenary: Keid Family Lost Four Sons by Mike Bruce**

Brisbane Courier Mail 02 August 2014

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/anzac-centenary/world-war-i-centenary-the-keid-family-lost-four-son-in-less-than-2-years/story-fnmeodw6-1227010419446>

### **TROPICAL FORCE and the KAVIENG GRAVES.**

**By Greg Knight.**

Kavieng is the principal town of Papua New Guinea's New Ireland and less than three degrees south of the equator.

Present day Nusa Parade runs along Kavieng's sleepy waterfront with large tropical trees forming a shady archway over it. A kilometre or two from town and tucked away to the side of Nusa Parade is the local European Cemetery at Bagail where two WW1 Australian graves lay.

New Ireland was colonised by Germany in 1886 – they called it Neu Mecklenburg. By 1900 the German New Guinea Company (*Deutsche Neuguinea-Kompagnie*) had located its New Ireland administration centre at Kavieng.

In 1899, Franz Boluminski, a former employee of the German Astrolabe Company was posted to Kavieng. He was promoted to District Officer in 1910 – his legacy is the coastal 110-mile long Boluminski Highway which runs along the north eastern coast of the island. Each village was commanded to construct a section of the road and maintain it. He also established large copra plantations in the area. In April 1913, he died of heat exhaustion and was buried at the Bagail

Cemetery – his grave is marked by a large cement cross. After the surrender of German New Guinea (*Kaiser Wilhemsland*) at Kokopo (*Herbertshöhe*) on 21 September 1914, Colonel William Holmes the commander of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF), dispatched the *Nusa* from Rabaul with a small force under the command of Major F. B. Heritage to occupy Kavieng. Heritage also had orders to find and release Rabaul's British Consul Frederick Jolley who had been incarcerated at a plantation some 20 miles from Kavieng by the Germans at the beginning of the conflict. They

landed in the afternoon of 17 October 1914 unopposed and raised the British flag.

Leaving ten men under the command of Lt B. Holmes , Heritage then departed in the *Nusa* to search for the small German vessels, *Siar*, *Matupi* and *Senta* which they soon found at anchor near Gardenar (Tabar) Island. All three vessels were quickly seized and their German crews arrested. The little fleet returned to Kavieng on the morning of the 20 October. The following day Heritage departed for Rabaul leaving Lt Holmes and a small temporary garrison.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> November the HMA *S.S. Te-Anau* left Sydney carrying the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Tropical Force. This was a section relief troops for the AN&MEF and under the command of Commander Samuel Petherbridge. His role was to provide a military administration for the area and peoples. During the voyage an outbreak of measles developed on board and in December when the *Te-Anau* arrived at Simpson Harbour, it was immediately ordered into quarantine near Matupi Island. An outbreak of such an infectious disease would have devastated the local native populations who had little resistance to these diseases. For the remainder of the Battalions time in New Guinea they carried the sobriquet "The Measles" as a legacy.

At Kavieng a permanent garrison of three officers, two NCO's, ten men, a European police master (Sgt Howarth) and 61 native police was later established.

**Captain Guy Owen MANNING**, a pre-war plantation manager in Papua, took over the roll of District Officer and Officer Commanding the small garrison at Kavieng in February 1915. His wife, Lynda Manning and two and a half year old daughter were also present at the station.

On the morning of Friday 18 June, Captain Manning and Private Percy Good left Kavieng, each riding a motor cycle along the Boluminski Highway. They spent the day inspecting various plantations and carrying out administration duties. On the return trip and only two and a half miles from Kavieng, Manning's motor cycle failed to round a slight corner properly and he drifted to the side of the road and into a depression where some cut saplings were left. This caused him to swerve and fall off. Good was about three to four hundred yards in front when he realised Manning was not behind him. Good returned and found Manning on the side of the road with two natives assisting him, he was conscious at this stage and as they were only a short distance from their HQ, Good proceeded to get help. He rode to Police Master Sgt David Howarth's residence for assistance. Howarth took Good's cycle and returned to the accident site. Mrs Manning arrived at the scene driving a buggy with Pte Ernest Henry Ward the medical orderly from the Kavieng Hospital. Ward examined Manning and pronounced him dead.

At 9am in the morning of 19 June, Colour Sergeant Dillane conducted a military funeral at the District Office and then proceeded to Bagail Cemetery where a funeral service was conducted and the coffin lowered into the grave. Sgt Penn from Namatanai and Kavieng garrison members formed the firing party.

A Court of Enquiry was held at Kavieng on the 23 and 24 June 1915 to determine the cause of his death. The President of the enquiry was Major Seaforth Simpson Mackenzie, the other Members being Captain Harry Lou Spencer Balfour Ogilvy and Captain Cedric William Campbell Whiting (AAMC). The witnesses were Pte Good, Sgt Howarth, Patlum, a local native who witnessed the accident, Helome, a local boy who also witnessed the crash, Pte Ward, Sgt Dillane and Mrs Lynda Manning. The two locals were interviewed in Pigeon English and translated to English for the court record. They called Manning “Kiap” and his motor cycle a “Wheel-Wheel”.

Mackenzie’s finding was that Manning was “...*inadvertently killed by being thrown from a motor cycle...whilst in the execution of his duty on active service.*” There were no contributing factors.

Mrs Manning and daughter were to “...*return to Sydney by the S.S. Morinda on her next trip*”.

The second grave is that of **Private William Thomas ADDIS**. He was born in Sydney in 1885 and was over 30 years old when he enlisted at Sydney Town Hall in August 1915.

His trade was listed as “striker” and was presumably involved in the steel industry. He was medically classified as “fit”, with a “fresh” complexion and “good” brown eyes. As he was unmarried, he listed his aunt, Myra Addis of Ryde, as his next of kin. He embarked from Sydney on HMAT S.S. *Te-Anau* on 20 November 1915 with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

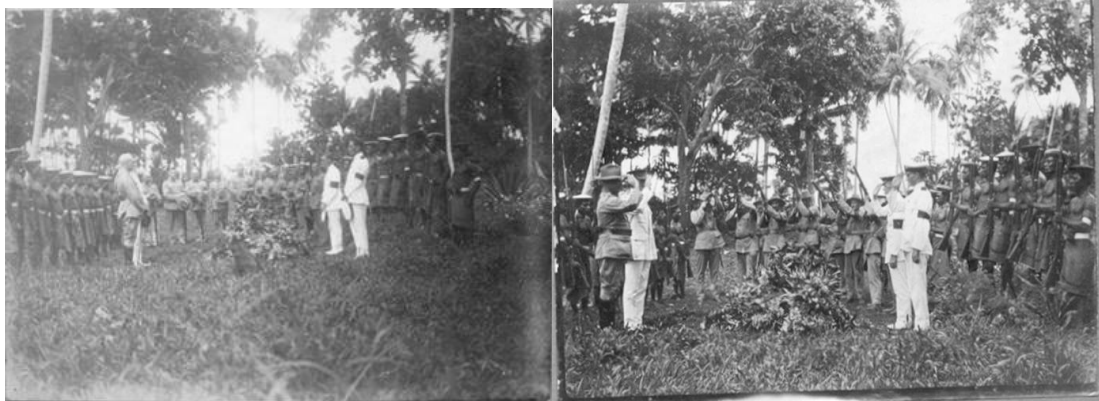
It appears that he finally landed in Rabaul on 6 January 1916 and served for about twelve months at the little Kavieng garrison. He died of malarial complications on morning of 13 January 1917 in Kavieng Hospital.

He was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

There is a third unrestored private WW1 grave in Bagail Cemetery – that of CPO Frederick WREFORD (985), who died, whilst serving in Tropic Force, on 31 December 1921, the day before the Kavieng Garrison ceased duty and returned to Australia. At the time of writing investigations into this grave are on-going.

On 24 January 1942 Japan occupied Kavieng and over the next three years the US Air Force, RAAF and RNZAF reduced Kavieng to rubble but the little Bagail Cemetery survived.

## WW1 AN&MEF New Guinea graves 2014update...



*Pte William Thomas ADDIS's burial at Bagail Cemetery, Kavieng in 1916.*

Last April (2013) the Office of Australian War Graves sent a team to Papua New Guinea to inspect and restore some of the war graves in remote cemeteries. I am pleased to report that **Pte Frederick HOWES** (184) grave and plaque at the Old German Cemetery in Madang was inspected and found to be in good condition.

**Frederick Golden HOWES** of Stewart Street, Granville, Sydney, enlisted on 2 November 1914, he was 51 years old. He departed Sydney in 3 Bn, AN&MEF together with 200 reinforcements on HMAT *Eastern* on 28 November 1914 which arrived at Madang on 7 December 1914. **HOWES** died of Malignant Malaria at the Madang Garrison Hospital on 24 January 1915 after a very brief confinement.

Mackenzie's official history says (p 210) "*Almost the entire garrison at Madang was infected [by malaria], the malignant form (sub-tertian) being most in evidence and causing several deaths*".

And on page 214 – "*...Madang.... the prevalence of Malaria and during the early part of 1915... there were many cases and several deaths among the garrison*". The OAWG team also visited Bagail Cemetery at Kavieng, New Ireland to inspect and repair the two AN&MEF graves there – **Captain Guy MANNING** and **Pte William Thomas ADDIS 802**.

MANNING's plaque was replaced as was ADDIS's headstone. A local contractor has been commissioned to repair the crack in ADDIS's grave cover. Whilst the team was on-site and as a good will gesture, they cleaned up the

cement cross of Franz BOLUMINSKI – the pre war German Administrator of Kavieng, as it was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death – 28 April 1913.

Lieutenant Charles Edye MANNING (Barrister at Law) embarked on the HMAT *Berrima* with the AN&MEF convoy from Sydney on 19 August 1914. On 12 September, he was appointed as Judge Advocate General of the Military occupation of German New Guinea in Rabaul by Colonel William HOLMES. His role was to “...act as Judge of the Colony, and to carry out all judicial and other duties ordinarily carried out by the *Bezirksrichter* [District Judge] and the *Bezirksgericht* [District Court].” HOLMES had retained Herr Gustav WEBER, the *Bezirksrichter* at Rabaul, from who MANNING initially received valuable help in understanding German substantive law. But in December, WEBER resigned his position in protest against the public flogging of the German settlers implicated in the assault of missionary COX, leaving MANNING at a distinct disadvantage in German judicial matters. MANNING was keen to leave Rabaul and New Guinea and as soon as HOLMES had appointed a successor, MANNING returned to Australia on 4 April 1915. MANNING's successor was Lt-Col S.S. MACKENZIE the author of Vol 10, *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18, The Australians at Rabaul*.

MANNING embarked on HMAT *Euripides* (A14) on 10 May 1915 with the 24 Battalion AIF and landed at Gallipoli with the 24<sup>th</sup> on 6 September 1915. He was promoted to the rank of Major on 9 October. The battalion occupied trenches at Whites Valley and at Lone Pine, where he was wounded on 29 November and admitted to hospital with “contusions of head and shell shock” being the result of a trench burial caused by Turkish artillery bombardment. He was evacuated to Malta on HS *Karapara* on 7 December and after treatment re-joined the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Tel el Kibir.

The battalion disembarked at Marseilles, France on 27 March 1916. During the battalions training period at L'Hallobeau (about two kilometers south east of Steenwerck), MANNING acted as 24 Battalion C.O. while Lt-Col WATSON was on leave in England from the 4 to 15 May. After Major General GELLIBRAND was wounded (31 May), WATSON assumed command of the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade and MANNING was again temporally in command of the 24<sup>th</sup>. During the battle at Pozieres Heights, on the night of 7<sup>th</sup> August 1916, the battalion withdrew to a bivouac site at Tara Hill (which is roughly between Albert and Pozieres). The site came under a heavy German artillery bombardment and a shell landed in a trench occupied by the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion HQ, killing Major C.E. MANNING (2IC), Capt W.H. TUTNALL (Adjutant), Lt J.B.N. CARVICK (Assistant Adjutant) and Capt H.F.H. PLANT (Medical Officer) where they were sleeping. The Commanding Officer, Lt Col R. WATSON was rescued “in a state of collapse”.

MANNING was buried at Becourt Military Cemetery (Grave Ref I.V.2) which is two kilometres on the east side of Albert on the Becourt – Albert Road.

His posthumous Mention in Sir Douglas HAIG's Despatches (London Gazette, 2 January 1917) reads "*Major Charles Edye MANNING. Throughout the operations of the [6<sup>th</sup>] Brigade in France and Gallipoli, Major Manning proved himself a most reliable and valuable officer whose steadfast devotion to duty was as conspicuous as his cheerful gallantry in action. His death in action, after holding temporary command of his Battalion, is a severe loss to the Brigade.*"

References and Acknowledgments:

Mackenzie S.S. *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18. Vol 10. The Australians at Rabaul.*

Bean C.E.W. *The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18. Vol 3. The Australian Imperial Force in France, 1916.*

Firth, Stuart *Australia Under the Germans.* 1986.

Rowley, C.D. *The Australians in German New Guinea.* 1958.

Lonely Planet. *Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands.* 2008.

National Archives of Australia. WW1 Service Records. [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)

Australian War memorial, WW1 24 Battalion diary.

Australian War Memorial photograph H15065.

Photos from Richard Fulton, Office of Australian War Graves.

Photos from Greg Knight's collection.

## **AN&MEF War Memorial near Bita Paka**

### **Bob Fayle**

It was in 1957 while working with Syd Smith in the Native Lands Commission at Kokopo that there was a very minor dispute between clans in Bitagalip and Livuan villages. There was no real disturbance at all, rather just a disagreement regarding a boundary.

I spent a lot of time in both villages discussing ownership and inheritance of land and the rights to land usage.

Three young Tolais who were helping me were Joseph Tomararang of Livuan, Tubung of Bitagalip and my chainman, Enos of Nanuk. Enos, a very practical young man, was particularly helpful as an interpreter especially when the older informants were discussing things in Kuanua, the Tolai language.

The Tolai land problems arose over a period of time. The German administration together with the Australian administration had acquired a considerable amount of land for government usage and plantations. The local Tolais had also taken up cash cropping and had planted large areas of coconuts and cocoa. With a greatly increased population the land available for subsistence farming had been greatly reduced resulting in land pressures not felt to the same degree in other areas of PNG. [Cont. over...]

Anyhow, the discussions I had with the villagers resulted in the acceptance of the Matanatava Creek as a boundary and I surveyed it with the three young Tolais assisting me and accompanied by a number of people from those villagers involved. The people showed me where the Japanese had established prison of war camps for Indian soldiers and further on where camps had been established for missionaries of various denominations. The areas were now completely reverted to heavy undergrowth and jungle.

It was when I had finished and come up with the solution agreed upon and was generally just chatting that a number of old men advised me that the land on which the War Memorial was situated had never been purchased from the owners. This was the memorial in the locality where the first Australian casualties were killed in the First World War. Those killed were members of the AM&NEF. The memorial was several miles from Bitapaka War Cemetery back towards Kokopo and is shown on your map,

I told the old men that I would check this out and asked if they were prepared to sell the land. They said that they were quite happy to proceed with a sale. While there and having just established all clan details we settled on who could be the owners. My investigations showed that the area of land had not been acquired by the Administration and so I proceeded to finalise a purchase



Photo: Rare postcard purchased in 1927 by a James Buckingham Stratton (New Guinea Police Force 1927-1929). Courtesy MR Hayes

much to the satisfaction of the owners.

Looking at a 1960s map, it shows the two villages a little to the West of the War Memorial.

I was quite interested in the War

Memorial due mainly because Syd Smith not only

being the Native Lands Commissioner was also the President of the New Britain Historical Society. He had informed me of the AN&MEF and of the events surrounding the memorial.

## VALE

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

**Ann GRAHAM** (16 June 2014)

**Evelyn Jean ASHWORTH** (March 2014)

Jan Kleinig

**Geoffrey Newton BAMFORD** (17 June 2014, aged 86 years)

Jan Kleinig

**Fr Timothy N. BRIEN** (6 February 2014). - revised

Tim Brien came to Daru in the mid sixties as a lay teacher employed by the Montford Catholic Mission's order of nuns. They were French Canadian: he was Australian.

After leaving PNG, he joined the Blessed Sacrament Congregation in England and trained for the priesthood at their house of studies at Leicester. Ordained in the mid 1970s, he left the order and became a diocesan priest in the Diocese of Wrexham in North Wales.

As a Catholic layman in PNG, resident on an island of expatriate individualists, Tim was one of Daru's most colourful characters. He was an entertaining conversationalist and bon viveur. He was also a man of strong principle.

He did not always see eye to eye with the episcopal leader of his own diocese in the Western Province. As an ex-Anglican, he made no secret of his opposition to the ordination of women priests.

In Britain, he took in people in trouble or in disgrace and gave them bed and board.

An individualist with a kind heart.

David Wetherell

**Grahame Lester CORFIELD** 1934 - 2014

Grahame arrived in New Guinea in 1963 as a cadet patrol officer and was posted to Matupit village, New Britain and subsequently Kukipi in the Papuan Gulf District. After completing an Economics degree at The University of Queensland, he was appointed Development Officer with the Department of Trade & Industry, Port Moresby, and provided a constant stream of ideas for low-cost profitable businesses for Papuans. He was later promoted to Head of Research & Information in the new House of Assembly. The new political parties were just forming and the Pangu Party with Michael Somare was the most prominent. To be involved with the new parliament at that time was the highlight of Grahame's career.

After Independence in 1975, he settled on a farm in northern NSW. He was invited back to Port Moresby in 1978 to design and set up a national lottery system based on "scratchies" – then unknown in Australia for the Provincial Governments. It was an instant success. As well as growing beef cattle, Grahame set up his own accountancy practice in the Murwillumbah district and with his wife Susanne, raised their family of two sons there. An avid reader, he was interested in history and languages and had a wide-ranging general knowledge. He enjoyed playing chess and bridge, was a keen golfer and enjoyed skiing on family holidays. Later he took up croquet.

He is truly missed by his family and many friends.

Peter Cahill

**Ann Dolores McCRAE** (8<sup>th</sup> June 2014, aged 81 years)

Ann passed away after being injured in a fall - on the disturbed footpath - outside her Chermside house.

She was born in Sydney, the eldest of 8 children, and married Art Teacher Malcolm, in Benalla Victoria. As brave young adventurers, they left to a distant and unknown

PNG. Arriving in Rabaul in 1954, they were posted to Vunamami with baby John and adapted to a Tolai village lifestyle. Malcolm worked as a Vocational Centre instructor.

Three more children were born in the Gazelle - Robert, Helen and Jamie.

Malcolm became Senior Lecturer in Art/Craft, for the "E" Course at Rabaul's Malaguna Teachers College. Ann worked at the Rabaul Pharmacy, where she was well-known and trusted member the community.

They moved to Port Moresby in 1965. Ann and Malcolm worked at the Port Moresby Teachers College. Malcolm became Deputy Principal. Anne and Betty Schubert were the College typing pool. Both were efficient, helpful, and organised. This pre-Independence period was characterised by less than sufficient Government resources. Anne's happy efficiency made her a valued member of staff. On return to Brisbane Anne worked for Coopers and Lybrand, until she retired. Anne and Malcolm were one of many Government officers - who gave generously to the creation of a nation. Ann is survived by her three children, Robert, Helen and Jamie.

Courier Mail 13 June 2014

### **Barry John CREEDY (25 June 2014, aged 74 years)**

Barry was the PNGAA Treasurer in 2010. Barry passed away at Royal North Shore Hospital. He succumbed to cancer firstly oesophagus and then pancreatic - both deadly forms of the disease; chemotherapy worked for a while but in the end was insufficient.

I first met Barry when he took over from me a Komo Patrol Post in early 1963. Komo was restricted Territory then - now it lands large cargo jets; what fifty years and oil discovery can achieve. We remained friends for over fifty years and were continually in touch.

Barry married Joy who was a nursing sister at the MOM SHD Tari in 1968. They had two children Basil and Tara, and there are a considerable number of grandchildren; all live in close proximity at Cremorne in Sydney where Barry and Joy had their dwelling.

Before electing to come to PNG on the February 1958 course Barry applied for pilot training in the Naval Fleet Air arm - they only take the best - passing all exams; in the end he optioned for PNG. On leaving PNG from Kimbe in 1977 Barry and Joy opened a motel on the NSW Victorian border Ned Kelly country; after this they purchased another motel at Nambour. Eventually Barry settled for buying and selling property and receiving income from rentals. He always seemed to be in front. They eventually settled in Cremorne.

Barry completed the ASOPA course in 1960 with companions such as Mal Lang, Col Sanderson - both have already 'crossed the Jordan'- plus that great gentleman Bob Fayle, and Jack Matter who later went to the Sydney bar and was the best man at Mal's marriage to Kay. I think they all had in 1960 a memorable time!!

Barry and I, and later our families, stayed in touch for more than fifty years; he was highly intelligent; a brilliant raconteur and a good friend. I will miss him.

Warren Read

**Robert (Bob) DUNCAN** (21 March 2014)

**David Anton FOPP** (08 March 2014, aged 84 years)

Canberra Times

**Roy FROST** (details not available) d. UK

David Keating

**Ken JONES** (6 May 2014, aged 94 years)

Ken was born in 1920 and grew up in idealic Kavieng, New Ireland, where his father was District Officer. Later, in early post Pacific War years Bert was PNGs Director of District Services and Native Affairs.

Ken had a close association with the Coote family of Rabaul and was a class mate of lifelong friend Dion Coote at Shore School, Sydney. As war loomed Ken found his first employment as an assistance purser on the Burns Philp passenger ships servicing the New Guinea ports from Sydney. He served with the AIF in the Middle East before being posted to ANGAU in New Guinea. At war's end, he joined the Provisional Administration and while on an ASOPA course in Sydney in 1948 married Joan, daughter of the renowned pioneer planter Vic Pennyfather of the famous TOKUA Plantation, Kokopo. Anne (Lees) Garrett, David Marsh and Harry West were members of the bridal party.

In the early 1950s Ken and Joan took over TAKAKA Plantation, adjacent to TOKUA and after 15 years moved on to Sydney as their three children grew up. Next step was to KIPARING, Redlands Bay, Queensland, for a long retirement.

Ken is survived by Joan, his children – Peter, Bronwyn and Ken and their families.

*Harry West*

**Betty MULLER** (nee Gascoigne) (04 August 2014, aged 93 years)

**Hugh Frank OSBORNE** (21 June 2014, aged 88 years)

With his wife Jean, they attended all three of our Islands Memories meetings in the Chermside Library in early 2008. Hugh's parents had settled on Rossel Island in Milne Bay Province of Papua New Guinea and that was where Hugh and his brother Ron grew-up learning those wonderful qualities of being young men of the islands, both on the land and the sea. Subsequently they took their wives to Rossel as well, and many years later they all retired in Brisbane.

Jim Burton

**Leonard A ROBERTSON-ANGUS** (19/06/2014) Annette Robertson-Angus

## **Welcome To New Members**

Mr N JOHNSON	33 Bowman Avenue	Armidale NSW 2350
Mrs B PARKER	41 Somerset Drive	Mudgeeraba QLD 4213
Mr J K BOWEN	11 Creswick Street	Glen Waverley VIC 3150
Mrs K A WILLIAMSON	2 Scott Street	Stratford VIC 3862
Mrs R WHITE	23 Holmwood Drive	DUBBO NSW 2830
Mr W ARMSTRONG	86 Isambert Road	GLENVIEW QLD 4553
Mr S P FORAN	Trelawney	GILGANDRA NSW 2827
Mrs J A PALFREMAN	101 Manners Street	Tenterfield NSW 2372
Mr P A RYALL	P.O.Box 88	BURMAGUI NSW 2564
Mr J G JOHNSON	P.O Box 572	CLAREMONT WA 6910
Mr D MURPHY	27 Kingswood Drive	TAMWORTH NSW 2340
Mr P RUXTON	P.O Box 46	MARONG VIC 3515
Ms L A de LANGE	263 Bootawa Dam Rd	TIONEE NSW 2430
Mr B MORRISSEY	39 Wallace Street	BURWOOD NSW 2134
Mrs M SILVESTER	64 Goonawarra Drive	MOOLOOLABA QLD 4557
Mrs H MORRISSEY	39 Wallace Street	BURWOOD NSW 2134
Dr P L CASS	45 Sutherland Road Pt Chevalier	AUCKLAND NZ 1025
Mr. S R FEELY	P.O Box 18203	Collins Street East VIC 8003
Dr. V TURNER (nee Taylor)	24/52 University Way	SIPPY DOWNS QLD 4556
Mrs. J A <i>TERRY</i>	16/8 Grasslands Close	COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450
Mrs. G THWAITES	109A Killara Road	GRUYERE VIC
Mr J HARRIS	51 Thossell Street	CURTIN ACT 2605
Mr P BOUNIOL- LAFFONT	46 Wiley Street	WAVERLEY NSW 2024
Mr G I HOLMES	67 Moxhams Road	WINSTON HILLS NSW
Mr R K CAMBRIDGE	37/181 Allambie Road	ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS NSW 2100

Mr A WOOD	P O Box 41	MILLAA MILLAA QLD 4886
Mr D SNEDDEN	3 / 122 Holt Avenue	CREMORNE NSW 2090

### **Change Of Address**

Mr J BULL	4 Windara Pl	CASTLE HILL NSW 2154
Mrs L HOOPER	Rm 62 Ninderry Wing, Buderim Views 383 Mooloolaba Road	Buderim QLD 4556
Mr R STORER	Unit 180 53 Henry Street	PAYNEHAM WA 5070
Mrs K W TIMPERLEY	Room 23, Wattle Wing, Fairview Retirement Comm. 2603 Moggill Road	PINJARRA HILLS QLD 4069
Mr S G INDER	42 Waratah Way	Wahroonga NSW 2076
The President SYDNEY- PNG WANTOK CLUB	C/O Daniel Luke 45 Alfred Street	MASCOT NSW 2020
Mr P A HOPPER	2826 Roscomare Road LOS ANGELES	CALIFORNIA 90077 USA
Mrs C A SAKEY	131 Marmong Street	MARMONG POINT NSW 2284
Miss R SHIRER	Abervale Retirement Village 7 cyan court	GROVEDALE VIC 3216
Mrs J M KELLY	Unit 32, 11 Namatjira Drive	WESTON ACT 2611
Mr A G TERRY	Unit 16/ 8 Grasslands Close Pacific Terraces	COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450
Mrs G BRUCE	1/56 Buckland Road	Nundah QLD 4012
Mrs M CLARIDGE	6 Hale Road	MOSMAN NSW 2576
Mr N G MCNAMARA	7 McIlwaith Street	NORTH LAKES QLD 4509
Mr I N WHYTE	33 Eliot Ave	Doreen VIC 3754
Mr R R FULTON	536 Oyster Cove Promenade	HELLENSVALE QLD 4455
Mrs P R FRANKLIN	12 Romeo Court	Joyner QLD 4500
Mr N J REEVES	Unit 2 39A See Street	BARGARA QLD 4670
Mrs R WHITE	23 Holmwood Drive	DUBBO NSW 2830

### ***A Tribute to the AE-1***

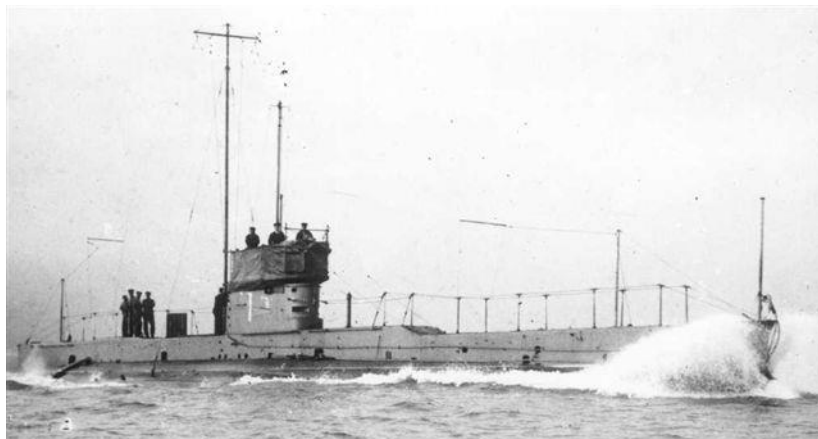
**AE-1 - by Del M'Cay**

She faced no battle flame, she heard no German gun,  
The ship without a name, the luckless AE-1.  
Yet were her sailor's lives no less for Empire lost,  
And mothers, sweethearts, wives must pay the bitter cost.  
Australia's warships sweep the broad Pacific main,  
But one from out the deep will never rise again.  
Yet we shall not forget, through all the years that run,  
The fate that she has met - Goodbye to AE-1.

Pent in their iron cell, they sank beneath the wave,  
Untouched by shot or shell, they drifted to the grave.  
Until their painful breath at last began to fail;  
Upon their way to death let pity draw the veil.  
They could not strike one blow, but out of sound and sight  
Of comrade or of foe they passed to endless night;  
Deep down on Ocean's floor, far from the wind and sun,  
They rest for evermore - Goodbye to AE-1

A harder fate was their's than men's who fight and die,  
But still Australia cares, and will not pass them by;  
When Honour's lists are read, their names will surely be  
Among the gallant dead who fought to keep us free.  
Their winding-sheet is steel, their sepulchre is wide;  
Their's is a Monument of History, begun  
When down to death they went - Goodbye to AE-1.

*This poem has appeared in numerous publications; however, the earliest known appearance of this poem is in the Sydney Sun and to syndicated newspapers from 22 September 1914.*



**TREASURER'S CORNER**  
**Payments to – PNGAA, PO Box 453, ROSEVILLE, NSW, 2069**

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**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Sunday December 7, 2014**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If possible, I would like to be seated with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

No. (if any) of vegetarian meals.....

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Please feel free to make up your own table of 10.

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# AN INVITATION TO THE NGVR/PNGVR ANZAC CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

**NGVR/PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM WACOL**

**SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 2014**

**Time:** 9.30am – 3.30pm

**Where:** 1001 Boundary Road, Wacol, Brisbane (map reference: UBD map 27, N1).

**Entry:** Gold coin donation (All welcome)

**The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, The Governor of Queensland, will attend and unveil the Memorial Plaque in honour of the Australians who died in Australia's first WW1 battle at Bitapaka near Rabaul on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1914 and for those who died when Australia's Submarine AE1 was lost without trace near Rabaul on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1914.**

**Programme:**

- 9.50am RAAF Band playing period music
- 9.55am Air Force Cadets, Logan City Army Community Cadets  
And the Albert Artillery volunteers present arms on arrival of the Governor
- 10.00am Arrival of the Queensland Governor, His Excellency Paul de Jersey AC
- 10.10am Band plays The Australian National Anthem
- 10.15am Welcome by NGVR & PNGVR Association President Phil Ainsworth
- 10.20am Patron, NGVR & PNGVR, Major General John Pearn AM, RFD to speak on the Battle of Bitapaka and the loss of the Australian submarine AE 1.
- 10:25am Flyover by Royal Queensland Aero Club
- 10.30am Governor to unveil and dedicate the Bitapaka / AE 1 Memorial Plaque
- 11.00am John Holland to read the Ode ; Reveille and a minute's silence
- 11.07am Firing of the Fusillade . (Cadets dismount Catafalque)
- 12.00nn VIP's visit NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum
- 1.00pm Entertainment by the Bougainville Dance Group
- 1.30pm RAAF Band playing period music and songs
- 2.30pm Winners announced for Money Board, Jelly Bean Contest and Lucky Door
- 3.00pm Conclusion

Other activities include tours of the Museum; viewing of an Army Bushmaster and Queensland Fire Service Appliances.  
Face painting and jumping castle  
Food availability includes Asian and barbeque.  
Beverages for sale include coffee, light beer and soft drinks.



**For further information contact: John Holland 0449 504 058 or email [Rabaul42@gmail.com](mailto:Rabaul42@gmail.com).**

## The NGVR/PNGVR Ex Members' Association

After PNG's independence in 1975, most ex-NGVR and PNGVR veterans re-turned to Australia. In the late 1980s the Association was formed in Brisbane. It presently has 300 members throughout Australia and Papua New Guinea. Most live in south-east Queensland which is the centre for the Association's activities.

## Association Activities

The objectives in the constitution were influenced by the activities and functions of the Association since its start. These include:

NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum –

Coach tours, group bookings and school excursions welcome

ANZAC Day parade in Brisbane

Since 1989, formal annual regimental dinners have been held on the closest Saturday to ANZAC Day.

Bi-annual mixed bush dinners have been held at Jimboomba since 1998.

Memorial services at the Brisbane Cenotaph for NGVR on ANZAC Day and the sinking of the Montevideo Maru on 1 July each year.

An Annual General Meeting and reunion is held for the election of Association office bearers.

At least 6 regular executive committee meetings are held each year.

Six issues of *Harim Tok Tok*, the Association newsletter are published and distributed each year to all members.

Contact with and assistance to sick and bereaved members.

## Become a Friend of the Museum

The strength of any Museum is to provide and maintain interesting and relevant displays of artifacts, records and memorabilia.

Acquisitioning, cataloguing and establishing exhibits is continuing. Much additional work and support is required to enable the Museum to regularly open to the community. If you have an interest in assisting the Association's Museum, you are invited to become a friend of the Museum. All that is required is to contact either the Association's Secretary, Colin Gould M: 0424 562 030 E: [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au) or the Museum's Curator.

## Opening Times

**Monday to Friday**—by appointment through the Curator, John Holland 0449 504 058  
**Weekends** – Association meetings and NSAAQ function days— contact Curator

**You are invited to donate or loan appropriate items to the Museum, with the knowledge they will be properly and securely looked after. Also please do not forget to make a bequest to the NGVR/PNGVR Museum.**

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-members Association Inc

<http://pngvr.weebly.com/>