



Harim Tok Tok

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION Inc.

VOLUME

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DATE APRIL, 2017.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

ANZAC Day this year takes on a special significance. It is the 75th Anniversary of when the Japanese invaded Australian Territories of Papua and New Guinea and when NGVR engaged with the Japanese at Rabaul and earned its name **Keepers of the Gate** in their defence of the New Guinea Goldfields and a southern gateway to Port Moresby.

NGVR was an Australian Militia Unit attached to an AIF unit sharing the brunt of the invasion fighting on the north western shore of Simpson Harbour with A Company 2/22 Battalion. Later, on mainland New Guinea, NGVR held out for four months with minimal arms, communications, medical attention and resupply before being reinforced by 2/5 Independent Company, a highly trained AIF commando unit. By August 1942, NGVR was an exhausted unit and most of its soldiers were withdrawn to Australia and the unit disbanded.

On ANZAC Day we will be marching in commemoration of the soldiers of NGVR and remembering their exploits in the inhospitable terrain in PNG, inspiring yet unheralded feats. May as many as possible of our members and friends march and this year in memory of their service and sacrifice. Details about the march, the following remembrance service in the Hall of Memories and reunion at the Exchange Hotel will be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

There will be several other services in Brisbane, Canberra and Rabaul in July 2017, organised by our Association and the PNGAA, commemorating those who died in these events including those in the sinking of the Montevideo Maru. Details of these services are on page 15 and attachments.



For some years, our NGVR Military Museum has been a hidden gem to the public at large. However, this is changing as word of mouth advertising and our modest marketing programme are taking traction. Group visits to the Museum by organisations, both for profit and non profit, of up to 50 people each visit are occurring.

Many of these are retired folk, from retirement villages or care centres, Probuss clubs and the like and from children, school, scouts, cadets and guide groups. The special group visits are usually for a half day incorporating either a luncheon or morning tea. For example, forty people from Wynnum Probuss visited on a very inclement 23rd March with morning tea served in the newly refurbished Everyman's hut, which was made available by the National Servicemen's Association. This courtesy was greatly appreciated by the visitors, Museum Curator John Holland and his three helpers, Colin Gould, Paul Brown and John Batze.

How often do we hear adult children say 'Dad never spoke to us about the war'. With the 75th Anniversary of the Pacific War being remembered this year, now is a good time to speak to your families about the fine work of your association in supporting our Museum. Perhaps you should suggest to your children/ grandchildren that their school might like to visit the Museum? Whilst there is plenty to interest all age groups, the school curriculum in upper primary and years 9/10 in high school has a focus on WW2 and a visit to the museum would be an enjoyable day out whilst complementing their studies. And whilst one of their highlights might be seeing grandad involved on the day, the Museum Curator, John Holland, is always looking for assistance, especially on days with larger numbers. If anyone is available to help, please contact the Curator on 0449 504 058 or rabaul42@gmail.com.

Member Ross Johnson was recently at the AWM and reported on the condition of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru National Memorial '... the lettering on the plaque is



indistinct because of mould and needs a clean up... a maintenance requisition has been submitted for a clean prior 1st July service'. This is Ross's photo of the Memorial.

Please remember that all members and friends are invited to attend the Association's committee management meetings which start at 10am on the Saturdays advised on the rear of our newsletter. Bring your lunch along and enjoy a chat over lunch after the meeting. The meetings are as much social as they are business.

Phil Ainsworth , March 2017

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**AN ANGAU EXPERIENCE
DONALD STALLEY BARNES
SX 31210
Continued**

Leave and return Home

After discharge from hospital I came home on leave. We flew from Port Moresby to either Cairns or Townsville and then travelled by troop train to Adelaide. The train ride was interesting as some chaps slept on the luggage racks while others put packs down in the corridors and slept on them. We used to call the carriages 'dog boxes'.

I recall being at Brisbane Showground lined up waiting for transport. There must have been hundreds of us waiting around when suddenly we all started to 'baa' like sheep - no reason for it.

On conclusion of my leave I returned to Port Moresby the same way - troop train from Adelaide to Townsville and then air to Port Moresby.

Posting back up the Kokoda Track

I was then posted back up the Kokoda Track.

At the time the Overseas Telephone Line was being laid and we had the task of supervising the carrying of the large coils of copper wire to where it would be laid.

Each coil initially came in a 200 lb (about 91kg) and these had to be cut into native labour carrier loads of 70 lb (32kg) and carried up the track.

The line was the overland part of the Overseas Line from Melbourne forward to Lae. At the time it was a sophisticated line which could carry 8 telephone calls simultaneously.

Again my job was the health of the native labour lines. Maintenance of the overhead line was a problem as, with the weather, often when it stormed a branch would fall down and sever the overhead line.

It was a heart wrenching journey back up the track. The remains of the battles that had been fought were still lying about.

This lasted for a month or so and I was then required back in Port Moresby.

Being a Pharmacist, every time a specialist pharmacist went on leave I would be called in to Headquarters in Port Moresby for the packing and distribution of pharmacy supplies to our ANGAU men in the field. Overall I spent some 6/7 weeks doing this.

Medical Course at Gemo Island (Port Moresby)

In August/September, 1943, I attended a refresher medical course at Gemo Island, situated on the southern side of Port Moresby Harbour. Gemo Island has been a leprosy hospital pre-war, but, when war came to the area, had been turned into the native hospital. The course was a six week course. These courses were regularly held for field staff to bring them up to date with the latest developments in medicine.



Don Barnes, 1945

Posting to Kairuku

I was then posted as Medical Assistant to Kairuku, on the mainland in the Gulf of Papua, not

far from Yule Island, near the mouth of the Lakekamu River, which was the start of the journey up to the Bulldog Track. Because the war had moved on from the Bulolo Valley the road had been built but was not in use.

There was a pretty big native hospital at Kairuku and my job also entailed patrolling up and down the coast and into the inland mountains. It would take me three days walking to get to the mouth of the Lakekamu River.

In each village a census book was kept which was maintained by patrols going through. I would have to record entries such as births, deaths, etc in the book as I visited the village. I did not report treatment of illnesses in the census book as this would be recorded in my patrol report.

I left Kairuku at the end of 1944 and went back to HQ to the position of forwarding out medical supplies before coming down on leave again.

The procedure for leave was the same - fly to Cairns or Townsville and then train to Adelaide with the procedure reversed when coming back to New Guinea.

Next Posting Kikori

Kikori is also in the Gulf of Papua and is surrounded by thousands of square miles of swamp. It is situated near the estuary of three major rivers and the natives even find it difficult to find enough dry ground to plant a garden.

Again there was a large native hospital staffed by medical assistants, one a European who had been in the Administration medical services pre war, the others native medical assistants. I used to do all the patrolling - this time by taking two large canoes with me. At one stage I carried out a six week patrol accompanied by a police boi, a dokta boi (native medical assistant) my hausboi (house boi) and enough carriers to man the canoes. Leaving Kikori I went up the coast to Goaribari Island (Pig Island), then it was a matter of following each river up stream and visiting the villages on the way, then downstream and following another river.

I had malaria on a number of occasions but the only time I was hospitalised was my attack at Bulldog. Every other time you just sweated it out. It was not until the Americans had been in the war for some time that we had Atebrin. Prior to that the only preventative/cure was quinine and that was not in plentiful supply in the Army.

When I returned from this long patrol I was off on another. I had only been gone two days by canoe when a messenger came from Kikori and he had a message with him that I was to be discharged.

Discharge

I had previously applied for a discharge, because, being a pharmacist I did not feel that I was doing serious war work where I was. The Army obviously agreed with me as I received an early discharge.

This was in April, 1945, so I proceeded by canoe to Port Romilly, where there was a big sawmill, and was picked up by coastal vessel from there and took me to Port Moresby.

From Port Moresby I was flown to Cairns and back to Adelaide on the familiar troop train. I was discharged in Adelaide.

My Discharge Certificate No 111515 reads:-

Warrant Officer 11.

Enlisted 21st October, 1941.

Served 1,342 days

In Australia 130 days

Outside Australia 1,108 days

Civilian Life

The head of pharmacy at Adelaide University had actually assisted me in obtaining my discharge. I had written to him from New Guinea and explained my circumstances and he must have known someone in authority as my discharge came through. He had been a Serviceman in WW1.

He assisted me with the Reconstruction Training Scheme, and, having gone through the process with me, then proceeded to get another pharmaceutical student who had been in the same year with me at University out of the Army also. We then completed our final year together.

Most of the pharmacists in Australia's chemist shops had not had any holidays during the war so there was no shortage of relieving jobs after I had graduated. However I could not imagine myself behind the desk at a pharmacy after the life I had lead and in 1946 applied to go to New Guinea with the Medical Health Services. I received a letter telling me that my services were not required but a month later received another one asking me to go.

I had met my future wife, Joan Harding, at Kensington Gardens, a suburb of Adelaide, at the Methodist Church of which my father, Rev T.J. Barnes, was the Minister and we were married in October, 1946.

I Return to Papua New Guinea

In November, 1946, I returned to Papua New Guinea on the M.V. 'Duntroon', which had yet to be fully converted for civilian use.

I did not have to attend any courses because of my previous experience and was posted to Gaima on the lower Fly River.

There we had a native materials hut, no doors, and there was not any other European there except an Assistant Patrol Officer for about six months.

I used to patrol out from Gaima and when I went away Joan would go and stay at a plantation on the opposite bank of the Fly River with the Manager and his wife who were about the same age as ourselves.

In the dry season I would patrol by land and in the wet season by canoe.

We were there for 2 years before we came down on leave.

While we were on leave our first son Ray was born in February, 1949.

Postings to Morobe and Lae

When we went back we were posted to Morobe, which was just down the coast from Salamaua. There was absolutely nothing at Morobe, not even a radio and here we were with a six months old son.

When I received a letter from Administration HQ posting me to Lae to be in charge of pharmacy stores for New Guinea I gladly accepted. We were in Morobe for just on 11 months.

We spent the rest of our time in New Guinea at Lae where I was in charge of pharmacy stores.

Our other son Terry was born in Lae in October, 1952. The hospital in Lae at the time had been a hospital for American Army Officers.

My job was to order medical supplies through HQ. Our first concern was Government Hospitals for the whole of New Guinea Mainland for the first few years, and later for the whole of the Morobe and Highlands districts. It was an interesting job as you had to understand such things as the Poisons Act, the Pure Foods Act, Pharmacy Act, Dangerous Drugs Act and more. Then all items had to be cleared through Customs. It was not uncommon for Customs if they did not understand something being imported into the country to send it to me for examination and clearance.

In 1956, just before the official opening of the Highlands Highway between Lae and Mt Hagen I did the journey on my motorbike. It was a trip just to have a look at the road, as trucks were getting through at that stage but it sometimes took two or three weeks, if there was a washout or a flooded river.

I also had to ensure that pharmacies were manned by a qualified pharmacist at all times they were open. On one occasion I had to enforce a section of the Pharmacy Act on a retail pharmacist who left his business on several occasions without a qualified pharmacist present, for several days each time. He was convicted.

Return to Australia

Independence Day for P.N.G was 16th September, 1975. Joan left PNG a short time later. She naturally wanted to be there for the celebrations of such importance to the country that had been our home for so many years and I left in February, 1976. She had 27 years in PNG and I had 32.

Ray, our oldest son, is a representative for an international pharmaceutical firm.

Terry is the Chief Executive Officer for a shire in northern South Australia.

We purchased our present home in Mitcham, a suburb of Adelaide, when we arrived in Australia and have been here ever since.

Fortunately both of us at the time of writing (2005) enjoy the best of health.

***This is Don's story as told to Bob Collins
Don died on 1st March, 2013, aged 91.***



21.10.1953 PNGVR

at the Consecration of the Lae War Cemetery.

Below- The Governor General of Australia, Sir William Slim, saluting the fallen at the Consecration. The guard was provided by the PNGVR. Photos by Don Barnes



Police Band and PNGVR at the Consecration

ADVANCE IN REVIEW ORDER

Prior to 1788 the tactical training of infantry units was mainly left to the individual commander's discretion, there being little guidance from above. This had obvious disadvantages, the ability of each unit being subject to the commander's skill, forethought and thoroughness. Likewise the task of a general in the field was made more difficult by not knowing the capabilities and methods of his units.

In 1788 a manual was produced by one David Dundas, which laid down in detail eighteen manoeuvres to be carried out by all infantry units. These manoeuvres were designed to combat, in the most effective manner possible, the tactical moves of an enemy both in attack and in defence. Eventually they became outmoded and were referred to by Sir John Moore as, "Those damned eighteen manoeuvres". However, at the time, they fulfilled a long-felt need. Those units most practised in the manoeuvres, able to carry them out expeditiously and with intelligence, became the most formidable to the enemy and were the foundation of the supremacy of the British Infantry on the Continent. Every unit had to perform these manoeuvres each year before a reviewing general in order that its efficiency and preparedness might be judged.

As an enemy was defeated by offensive action, the eighteenth manoeuvre was the attack in line and consisted of an advance followed by a volley to the right and a volley to the left, with a further advance followed by two volleys to front. At the annual review, the Colours were then brought to the front, the unit advanced fifty paces and finished the review by presenting arms to signify both the end of the manoeuvres and that they had been carried out with no offensive spirit towards the reviewing general. It is this last manoeuvre which is nowadays, as part of a great tradition, known as the Advance in Review Order.

As in the past, the Advance is usually the last movement of the parade prior to dispersal. The Colours are in the centre, where the whole attack was controlled by the commander, and brought to the front out of the ranks before the first phase. Therefore the troops dressing is on the centre. The men have to maintain their alignment in order that the enemy, trying to drive a wedge in the line, would need to cope with at least two men at a time, one on either side of him, as opposed to one if the dressing were lost. It was done in two or more ranks, so that any gaps in front, caused by casualties, could be sealed immediately from behind and the line preserved. Ranks were in the open order position so that, when the volleys were fired, the leading rank could lie down, the second rank kneel and the third, if there were one, stand. The extent of the advance was controlled from the centre and broadcast along the lines by beating drums, thus accomplishing three major tasks. Firstly the start and finish of the advance, secondly, the rate of the advance in order that the long line might not waver; and thirdly, the progress of the battle. For it should be remembered that, in the swirl and dust of battle, the Colours might not easily be seen. Therefore, any change in tempo of the drums would immediately strike the senses, with the result that all would know that the centre was threatened and be prepared for counter measures.

Wo1 C.J. Jobson, former RSM Ceremonial, ADHQ

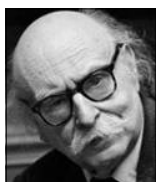


Robert Benchley...

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

Jean Rostand...

Kill one man and you're a murderer, kill a million and you're a conqueror



BIGOT LIST IN WW2

As D-day approached, a special security procedure was put in place to protect all documents concerning the time and place of the invasion (D-Day). It was the highest security classification of all. General Eisenhower had ordered that no one with any knowledge of D-Day be sent on operations where there was the slightest danger of being captured. Those with such information were called 'Bigots'. One theory is that the word was derived from the two words 'To Gib' which was stamped on papers and baggage of all officers being sent to Gibraltar prior to the invasion of North Africa in November 1942. The letters were reversed to form the code word 'Bigot' and used to list all persons with the secret information about D-Day. During the catastrophic 'Operation Tiger' ten officers who died were known to be Bigots. Top priority was given to find and identify the bodies. Fortunately all bodies were recovered and the secrets of D-Day were safe.

Other sources state that BIGOT was a codeword for Operation Overlord, the Western Allies' plan to invade German-occupied western Europe during World War II, and that the term was an acronym for "British Invasion of German Occupied Territory". However, the term "BIGOT", used to designate the highest level of military secrecy, appeared on amphibious operations planning documents prior to Operation Overlord, for example, the BIGOT map created for use in Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily, which took place in 1943, preceding Operation Overlord, which occurred in 1944. This map is referenced on the British Imperial War Museum site, <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/publication/120304>. It is possible that the term itself, supposedly suggested by Winston Churchill, was a "backronym"—a phrase created to fit an acronym such as the existing "To Gibraltar" code.

Courtesy of Wikipedia

Kokoda Trail under threat from Political Correctness By Charlie Lynn, OL (Order of Logohu)

Australian-funded projects have removed "mateship" from the lexicon used in Papua New Guinea to describe the heroism of Diggers fighting the Japanese on the Kokoda Track, in what a prominent critic describes as politically correct revisionism to "demilitarise" the battleground's history in the lead up to its 75th anniversary.

According to former Australian Army major, Vietnam War veteran and NSW Liberal state MP Charlie Lynn, who for the past 25 years has run treks on the Kokoda Track, \$65 million of Australian taxpayers' money has been directed through "a conga line of consultants" to green-leaning and leftist development projects promoting Australian liberal values such as gender equity on the track.

At the same time, he claims, bridges and toilets on the track have fallen into disrepair and Australian-sponsored aid projects such as schools have no desks and clinics no medicines.



Charlie Lynn, former Major, at a Kokoda Memorial in Sydney

The reinterpretation of the World War II campaign, during which Australian troops started to turn the tide against Japanese forces, has been carried out under the Department of the Environment and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"They are anti the military heritage of the trail," Mr Lynn told The Australian, adding that he believed Australia's Kokoda Track effort should have been under the charge of Veterans Affairs. Now, they are starting to subtly rewrite the history of the track."

Mr Lynn pointed to a departure from the four words traditionally used to sum up the Australian war effort on the track, a campaign waged with the assistance of PNG communities: Courage, Endurance, Mateship, Sacrifice. Each of the four words is engraved on one of the four marble pillars in the war memorial established by the Howard government at Isurava, the site of a major battle in August 1942.

"The power of that memorial is in the simplicity of the memorial and those four words," Mr Lynn said.

By contrast, he observed, a set of new interpretative panels erected at Owers Corner at the entrance to the track drops the word "mateship", and instead refers to "friendship", which Mr Lynn said reflected a preference for gender neutrality.

One of the panels speaks of how "Australians, Papuans, and New Guineans served side-by-side in atrocious conditions". "The Track has become a shrine to their courage, endurance and sacrifice," the panel says. "It is an enduring reminder of the unity and friendship shared by the people of Papua New Guinea and Australia."

Another section quotes a PNG man as having said "Friend ... I'll walk with you" with regard to the help he provided to Australian soldiers. Mr Lynn claims the line was selected to mimic the fake social media campaign "I'll ride with you" to combat supposed anti-Muslim sentiments after Sydney's Lindt Cafe siege.

A spokeswoman for Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the signs at Owers Corner were part of a project managed by the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority, funded by the Australian Environment Department. "The Foreign Minister had no role in the approval of the language used in the signs," the spokeswoman said. "The word 'friendship' has been chosen as this is understood by Papua New Guineans. 'Mateship' is a uniquely Australian term and we will request both words are used as part of the new signage."

The spokeswoman said the "I'll walk with you" line was simply a referral to the iconic image of the Kokoda campaign in which a blinded Australian soldier is being led by a Papua New Guinean, and had nothing to do with the "I'll ride with you" campaign.

Mr Lynn said Australian authorities had employed Australian consultants at a cost of millions of dollars to undertake leftist social engineering projects such as a gender equity study of PNG women on the track, where more than 600 Australian fighting men were killed and 1680 wounded during the campaign.

Entitled A Gender Snapshot of the Kokoda Initiative, the 2014 study laments that "indigenous women and children, more than half the population are neither visible nor heard in most existing literature on Kokoda war history". "Most accounts of the war on Kokoda are Australian and male, thus bringing a specific lens ... Women are hardly mentioned."

Mr Lynn said rather than get PNG villagers to do the work on the track, Australians were being flown in. Ms Bishop's spokeswoman said this project "twinning" PNG rangers with the Australians.

Mr Lynn claimed bureaucrats and consultants missed the point of what attracted Australians to Kokoda. "They don't go up there to have a bloody environmental levitation, they are going there to walk in the footstep of the Diggers," he said.

The result had been a decline of more than 50 per cent in the number of trekkers over the nine years since the Department of Environment took charge of the Kokoda project.

Ms Bishop's spokeswoman did not directly respond to Mr Lynn's claims of a deterioration of facilities on the track, but said: "The Australian Government is working with the Kokoda Track Authority to improve safety, including by upgrading roads, installing a weather station, improving the Kokoda airstrip and updating the VHF radio network along the track to improve communications."

Chronology of Facts Prepared by Charlie Lynn OL

- Up until 2001 approximately 70 trekkers crossed the Kokoda Trail each year. The combined income of all villages along the trail was estimated to be K60,000 per year.
- Interest in the 50th and 60th anniversaries of the Kokoda campaign saw trekker numbers increase dramatically from 76 in 2001 to a peak of 5621 in 2008.
- In 2003 the PNG Government established the Kokoda Track Authority (KTA) as a statutory government body of the Kokoda and Koiari Rural Local-level Governments to manage the emerging trekking industry and to ensure villages along the trail received a share of the benefits from it.
- In 2006 a proposal to mine the southern section of the trail resulted in an Australian Government offer to assist the PNG Government develop a case for a World Heritage listing for the Owen Stanley Ranges.
- In 2008 the Australian Department of Environment was allocated responsibility for the assistance package because of its responsibility for our register of overseas heritage sites
- Military heritage is not a consideration for a World Heritage listing so it did not rate a mention in the Joint Understanding which noted that 'The Owen Stanley Ranges are one of PNG's major carbon stores and will be assessed along with other locations as potential sites for demonstration Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) activities within the Papua New Guinea-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership'.
- From a military heritage aspect responsibility for our iconic World War 1 site (Gallipoli) and our iconic World War 11 site (the Kokoda Trail) was then split between two government departments, Veterans Affairs and Environment.
- Department of Environment managers and advisors were dispatched to PNG and assumed control of the PNG Kokoda Track Authority (KTA). They were followed by a plethora of consultants to advise Canberra on management, cultural and environmental issues along the trail. Numerous stakeholder forums were conducted in Australia and PNG. For reasons

known only to Canberra there were no workshops/forums conducted in villages along the trail to get the input of landowners and local communities. Advice provided by trek operators who had been operating along the trail for a decade before their arrival was ignored.

- Responsibility for development along the Kokoda Trail was split between AusAID which initiated a Kokoda Development Program and the Department of Environment which initiated a Kokoda Initiative. Both programs were focused on Kokoda but there was little evidence to show that the left hand knew what the right hand was doing as they were responsible to different masters in Canberra. The only common trait they shared was that neither organisation consulted with local villagers or experienced trek operators. In 2014 both programs were amalgamated within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under the Minister for International Aid and the Pacific.

- Department of Environment officials in Canberra extended the definition of the Kokoda Trail to the 'Kokoda Trail Corridor' and later to the 'Kokoda Trail Region' which then included areas further afield such as Sirinumu Dam and the beach-heads of Buna and Gona. This subtle rebranding provided a smorgasbord of opportunity for Canberra based academics and consultants.

- A Strategic Plan developed by the Department of Environment managers for the period 2012 – 2015 contained 5 strategies and 33 objectives. The plan was developed without consultation with experienced Kokoda trek operators. As of 2015 not one of the five strategies or one of the 33 objectives had been achieved! No follow-up plan has since been developed.

- In 2009 a \$1.5 million Village Livelihoods Project, conceived in Canberra without any consultation with the PNG Department of Community Development or experienced trek operators, was developed to assist local villagers to earn additional income from trekkers. As of 2016 the program has not generated a single dollar in additional income nor has it produced a single vegetable from a local garden across the trail. The program had now changed its focus to 'capacity building, mentoring and gender equity where outcomes are impossible to assess.

- Australian Department of Environment management staff did not develop any legislation to support trek operator licensing standards. They did not incorporate any local landowner groups. They did not develop any dispute resolution mechanisms. They do not conduct any due diligence checks on trek operators. They have no enforcement provisions for breaches of their own Code of Conduct.

- Not a single management protocol has been put in place to manage the trekking industry. There is no trek itinerary management. It is not possible to book campsites. There is no protection for the welfare of local guides and carriers. There is no audit of campsites to ensure owners are receiving the full amount owing from trek operators. There are no hygiene standards for campsite toilets. There is no training system for potential service providers in villages along the trail. Etc. Etc.

- Over the past decade 43,000 Australians have trekked Kokoda including some of our most wealthy and influential people. Many would be willing to make a contribution to assisting villagers in the areas of health, education and agriculture. This is not possible because Australian managers did not develop a database so they do not have the contact details of a single trekker.

A database is the most basic of all management tools yet today – after 8 years insitu and after the expenditure of more than \$50 million in aid funding – they still do not have one.

- The 43,000 Australians who have trekked Kokoda over the past decade have generated more than K500 million for airlines, hotels, transport, supermarkets, camping stores, employment of guides and carriers, campsite owners, local villagers and the provision of services to paying clients i.e. trekkers. In addition to this:

- Approximately K53 million has washed through village economies in the form of wages, campsite fees and local services.

- Donations of trekkers personal clothing, boots, medical and educational supplies and camping gear would be in the region of K10 million.

- Kokoda trek operators have paid more than K10 million in trek fees to the management authority over the past decade. The fees were originally intended to help fund the management of the industry and to ensure villages along the trail received shared benefits. Unfortunately the money now received in trek fees tends to circulate in Port Moresby.

- It is highly probable that the Australian and PNG governments have received more in GST income than they have invested in the Kokoda Trail.

- Trekker numbers increased rapidly from 76 in 2001 to a peak of 5621 in 2008 when the industry was managed as a Kokoda Track Special Purpose Authority (KTA) by the PNG Government. Since the Australian Government assumed control for the management of the industry trekker numbers have crashed from 5621 to 2597 – a massive 53 percent drop! This is due to the fact that the industry has been run as a government bureaucracy rather than as a commercial enterprise.

- The 'Ranger System' put in place by the Australian management is dysfunctional because the villagers selected were not qualified; were inexperienced; and never received any training. As a result sections of the trail are now dangerously unsafe; all bridges had collapsed as at the end of 2016; environmental degradation of sections of the trail continues unabated; and significant heritage sites continue to be desecrated.

- Not one representative from the KTA, the Kokoda Initiative or the Conservation Environment Protection Authority trekked across the Kokoda Trail to meet with village communities in 2016. If they had they would have learned that no medical supplies have been distributed to any of the health centres along the trail and no school supplies reached any of the schools. They would also have noticed the environmental degradation, the collapsed bridges and the fact that there is not a single toilet along the trail that meets the most basic hygiene standards for the paying customer i.e. trekkers.

- The Kokoda Trail, which many regard as our most important icon of the War in the Pacific, does not feature as a priority with the Australian Government. After 8 years in situ, a plethora of consultants' reports and more than \$50 million in taxpayer funding there has been no action taken to develop a master plan for the protection and interpretation of the wartime heritage of the Kokoda Trail.

It is time for the Kokoda Trail to be extracted from the Joint Agreement for the development of a World Heritage listing for the Owen Stanley Ranges and have it managed as a tourism

asset for PNG on a commercial basis. The 'Kokoda Initiative' should therefore be rebadged as the 'Owen Stanley Initiative' and a Kokoda Trail management company should be established with shareholdings by the PNG Government and the Kokoda and Koiari Rural Local Level Governments.

Paddy phones an ambulance because his mate's been hit by a car.

Paddy: 'Get an ambulance here quick, he's bleedin from his nose and ears and I tink both his legs are broken.'

Operator: 'What is your location sir?'

Paddy: 'Outside number 28 Eucalyptus Street ...'

Operator: 'How do you spell that sir?'

Silence.... (heavy breathing) and after a minute.....

Operator: 'Are you there sir?'

More heavy breathing and another minute later....

Operator: 'Sir, can you hear me?'

This goes on for another few minutes until.....

Operator: 'Sir, please answer me. Can you still hear me?'

Paddy: 'Yes, sorry bout dat... I couldn't spell eucalyptus, so I just dragged him round to number 3 Oak Street.'

1st Commando Regiment celebrates 60th anniversary

The Australian Army's 1st Commando Regiment on 14th July, 2016, celebrated the 60th anniversary of the presentation of the unit's first commando Sherwood-green berets with a parade at Victoria Barracks Sydney – site of that first beret ceremony 60 years earlier.

The parade was reviewed by Governor-General General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

Commanding Officer 1st Commando Regiment Lieutenant Colonel M said the presentation of the commando beret was an important and significant milestone for the individual and the unit. "On 14 July 1956, the first commando beret parade was held on this very same parade ground," Lieutenant Colonel M said.

"The presentation of the Sherwood-green beret identifies that a soldier has passed all the arduous and rigorous requirements to become a fully qualified commando.

"Marking our 60th anniversary, with the parade reviewed by the Governor General, has been a great honour for the Regiment." 1st Commando Regiment is unique within Army. As the oldest unit within the Australian Army's Special Operations Command, the regiment has provided unbroken service from the commandos of WWII through to the modern Australian special operations community of today.

1st Commando Regiment is unique within Army. As the oldest unit within the Australian Army's Special Operations Command, the regiment has provided unbroken service from the commandos of WWII through to the modern Australian special operations community of today.

The Regiment contains some of the most skilled, dedicated and combat experienced soldiers within the Australian Army.

Over the past decade, combat operations and the evolution of the commando role has changed the character of the 1st Commando Regiment.

The Regiment consists of highly skilled, well-equipped and motivated soldiers, who maintain high levels of preparedness to provide collective and individual special operations capabilities.

As a result, the regiment is being increasingly relied upon to augment and supplement the efforts of regular Army special-forces counterparts on operations and in training.

The Regiment is an integrated unit comprising a high number of full-time and part-time soldiers, all of whom are required to meet the same rigorous standards of a regular commando.

The primary role of the Regiment is to provide a scalable and deployable mission command headquarters to Special Operations Command.

In addition, the regiment is manned, trained and equipped to provide commando-force elements up to a company size, as well as providing high quality, competent individual commandos to round out, reinforce and rotate with other Special Operations Command capabilities.

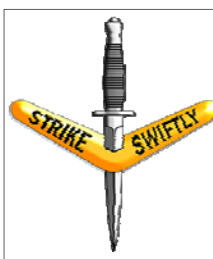
Raised in 1955, the regiment has grown from two independent commando companies in Sydney and Melbourne, to a commando signals squadron, and finally, a regimental headquarters in 1981.

In recent years, the regiment has frequently deployed on operations, providing small detachments and individuals to Bougainville, Timor Leste, the Solomon Islands and Iraq, and up to company-sized combat elements to Afghanistan.

The Sherwood-green beret is the Regiment's primary head dress and formally recognises the individual achievement of a commando qualification.

It also reflects the Regiment's close association with the British Army and marine commandos of WWII.

The Regiment maintains a lineage to the 1st Battalion Australian Imperial Force and the 1st Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment (Commando) through the regiment flag and colours of black on Sherwood green.



1st Commando Regiment is known as the "City of Sydney's own Regiment".

The regimental badge features a silver WWII-era Australian fighting knife surmounted by a gold boomerang and engraved with the regimental motto

'Strike Swiftly'.

Source - 'Contact' Air Land & Sea Newsletter



Graham Jones (dec'd) memories of his introduction to PNG

The advertisement appeared in the Morning Bulletin' in Rockhampton during August 1962. It called for applications for Queensland School Teachers to go on secondment to teach in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea for a minimum of 2 years.

One could dream about personal ambitions to reach out into the mysterious wilds of Africa or other challenging opportunities, but here was one on the very doorstep of Australia. A country deep in the dark ages and with an emerging desperate need for help from the wonderfully democratised, developed culture of Oz. Such was the naive, culturally indoctrinated attitude of superiority common to the Australian culture of past WW2.

I have started writing this letter in front of my P.C., the screen saver on which is a Chimbu Elder of that era, resplendent with pig tusks, shell headband, grass necklace and hibiscus flowers. His hair is long and grey, like mine and the beaming look shining from his eyes reflects the wisdom, tolerance and empathy of a Mandella, Ghandi or even my beloved father.

On graduation from Kelvin Grove Teachers' College in 1958 and serving, as was the custom, the first year of teaching at home in Rockhampton at Frenchville State School, my first transfer as a 19 yo teacher was to Sarina (where the hell was that?). I fell in love with a local girl and after a 2 year courtship and the appearance of that ad in 'The Morning Bulletin', asked her to marry and go to New Guinea. She said yes.

The response to my application for the position arrived from Canberra inviting me to an interview in Rockhampton in October at the Commonwealth Employment Service Office. Accordingly, I caught the only transport then available from Sarina - The Rocky Horror' freight train, leaving Mackay/Sarina at 8pm and arriving in Rockhampton 310km) at approx 5am, with the interview being at 9am. Sid Nielsen was the interviewer; I enjoyed the interview and must have done well because a few weeks later a letter arrived from Canberra accepting my application and detailing the necessary actions to take effect.

So the marriage was on, duly effected in December and we prepared for the future together in that far off alien world. She was 18 going on 19 - and I, 22.

In 1962 Federal Government Regulations excluded newly appointed officers from having their spouses accompany them to 'The Territory' as it was then called, until an appointed position included appropriate accommodation.

Accordingly, after the wedding in Sarina on 22nd December 1962 and a very brief honeymoon at a nearby beach we sorted our affairs and I left alone on the 71h January for Port Moresby and a brave new life.

The trip in those days involved boarding a Fokker Friendship (no jets yet) in Mackay which then flew on to Townsville and Cairns. This was my first flight! From Cairns the 2 hour flight



Many of us travelled side saddle in DC3's in PNG. This is how civilians travelled in a RAAF C130 Hercules in Vietnam. This was common practice and I (the editor) travelled from Saigon to Nui Dat in an American Hercules with a group of civilians like this. Our safety belt was a rope over your lap looped from side to side of the aircraft.

over the Coral Sea brought us to Jacksons Airfield at Moresby.

The Heat! I am a Queenslander born and bred, but, as so many before have said, this heat was something else - as soon as you stepped from the aircraft it was like hitting a brick wall. As one walked into the Terminal, the first cultural introductions greeted you. It seemed like hundreds of local people had turned out to view and stare at these new arrivals. The small contingent of new appointees like myself were met and bussed through town to barracks at the Administrative centre of Konedobu, not far from the major Papuan village of Hanuabada. This was to be our home and induction centre for the orientation course over the next three weeks.

Every step of the way brought new, different and exciting sensual stimulus - the sounds (loud Motu voices), the smells, the pristine scenery, the crystal beaches, the local, flamboyant people, the distant, legendary Owen Stanley mountains over which we would soon be flying. It was a breath-taking introduction to what was obviously a totally new and amazing experience for a Central Queensland boy who before had only travelled to the marvellous metropolis of Brisbane.

At Konedobu we were each 'claimed' by a local who was to be our 'hausboi', (can't remember the Motuan term). His name eludes me now, but it was quite unnerving to have a person wait on your every move and takeover cleaning,, ironing, washing etc. I have only vague recollections of the induction course but it was exciting. Those of us who liked to 'party' a bit did so. We went snorkelling at beautiful Ela Beach, and caught taxis to visit local attractions. One day a small group of us hired a Peugeot 304 for the day and drove to Sogeri up in the mountains, visiting Rouna Falls and the hotel as well as Owers Corner, the start of the Kokoda Track. (I still get angry at it being called a Trail).

After about 2 weeks, we were given our appointments. I don't think any of us were given a choice. I was told I was transferred to Kar Kar Island. Okay, even if it was an active volcanic island off Madang, it sounded good. (Our parents will freak), Then a day or two later, the situation changed. Instead of Kar Kar, I was offered a choice between a Primary T School at Angoram on the Sepik River or a Primary A School at Banz in the Western Highlands District.

A coin toss sent me to Banz. "A" Schools were for European children operating under the New South Wales curriculum, while "T" Schools were for indigenous students under a Territory Syllabus.

*A couple who work at the circus go to an adoption agency.
Social workers there raise doubts about their suitability.
The couple produces photos of their 50 foot motorhome, which is
equipped with a beautiful nursery.
The social workers then are doubtful about the education that the
child would get.
"We've arranged for a full-time tutor who will teach the child all
the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin and computer
skills."
Then there are doubts about raising a child in a circus environ-
ment.
"Our nanny is an expert in paediatric welfare and diet." The so-
cial workers are finally satisfied.
They ask, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"
"It doesn't really matter, as long as he fits in the cannon."*

The Public Service Board was true to its word about married officers' wives joining them. As Banz had 'appropriate' accommodation approval was granted for Kathy to join me in Moresby prior to leaving for our posting, all her travel arrangements etc. were organised efficiently and effectively by the Federal Government. Following the same route via Cairns she arrived 3 days before our departure to Banz.

Having been married for 2 weeks then separated for nearly a month made our reunion memorable. The wonderful Administration had booked us (all expenses paid) into the Boroko Motel/Hotel. It had excellent rooms and dining room. What a hoot! Did I miss Central Queensland and teaching at Sarina State Primary School? Na!

Already, Australia was starting to look so far away, in that what we were experiencing was so novel, so different, so exciting! Bring it on!!

We were ticketed on a TAA DC3 from Moresby to Mt Hagen. It happened to be a 'milk run', landing at Goroka, Kundiawa (Chimbu), Mini, Banz and Mt Hagen.

The initial stages of the flight were pretty scary for a naive, inexperienced couple. The Owen Stanleys were covered in cloud, but, unlike today (2014), the DC3 couldn't achieve the height to completely clear the cloud covered peaks so the ride was rough and tumble with turbulence. Suddenly we were over the mountains and floated down into the astounding Wahgi Valley, a deep breath. The aircraft circled a small town for the pilot to check the windage sock, then around and on approach for landing. We could see that the end (start) of the airstrip was a vertical cliff of several hundred feet. It looked like we were flying straight into total oblivion. Then the plane touched down at Kundiawa. Phew!

The sequence was repeated at Minj (without the cliff) and then at Banz, a one way strip where we were to experience many memorable take-offs and landings in small aircraft including those with the legendary, indeed heroic MAF pilot Doug McGraw.

As this was soon to be our home, we alighted to wait for cargo to be unloaded, including several 44 gal drums of kerosene, one of the staple necessities of highland living. The man in charge was one, Peter Harbeck. One of those eternal 'shame' moments occurred (in retrospect) asking Peter, (the father of two of my soon to be new students) if he would take care of the spear that I had bought at Owers Corner a couple of weeks earlier. I did eventually obtain an 'authentic' Highlands Ceremonial Spear, and it now hangs on the wall of our home, the spear I had brought in the plane was a tatty 'tourist' artifact compared to the magnificently carved local product. Harbeck must have wondered what I was on about.

And so, we landed at Mount Hagen, capital of the Western Highlands District, to be met by the District Education Officer, Tas Hammersley. Tas was very welcoming and congenial, putting us in the picture as to our posting at Banz Primary "A" School. The Highlanders were so different from the coastal Papuans, not only in cultural aspects such as dress and language, but in build and appearance, and then there was the all pervading smell of pig-grease - more on that later. It was another new world.

In casual conversation with Tas we wondered at the occasional reference to 'God'. Only later did we learn of the exalted standing and power of the legendary District Commissioner of the Western Highlands, Tom Ellis. There's

that 'legendary' word again - it is not used loosely and seemed to aptly apply to so many characters we were to meet in the future.

We soon left Hagen in Tas' open Land Rover for our trip down the Wahgi (even today this word sends a thrill through my body), Valley. The initial experience of driving down the Highlands Highway (which leads all the way to Lae, on the coast), was amazing. Men, women and children all dressed in traditional garb, walked by the roadside. They would gaily wave and shout as we passed. The sight of women carrying large billums of vegetables and other produce never ceased to surprise. They balanced the very heavy loads on their heads often whilst carrying a child on the hip and leading another, closely followed by one of the family piglets. The scenery was breathtaking with the rolling foothills along which the Highway snaked spiralling up and down into the foothills of the mountains.

We stopped at a local "T" School where Tas had issues to discuss with the Head Teacher and focal community. Immediately the Land Rover was surrounded by a horde of the local villagers who were obviously fascinated and intensely interested in the new 'master' and 'missus'. Kathy and I were both slightly unnerved by the outpouring of attention. As we were soon to learn, this was normal behaviour shown to visiting 'wait' (white) people. We were literally corralled by a teeming mass pressing against the vehicle. One elderly man, a headman no doubt, held out a grimy hand and kept repeating in our ears, 'morni, morni'. "What is he saying?" Kathy asked. "I don't know. Perhaps he's asking for money?" How presumptuous can you be? We found out later that he was saying 'good morning'. Talk about a cultural faux pas!!! We were horrified when we found out (I hadn't taken his proffered hand). Tas came out and we continued the journey. He only laughed when we recounted our first Highlands welcome and how we had nervously declined the 'welcome' of the elderly 'lului' (village head man). Talk about fracturing local customs and sensibilities!

Banz is the hub for many coffee plantations and missions of the central Wahgi Valley (Simbu/Chimbu). I would become the first full-time teacher to live amongst them and run the small Primary "A" School, attended by about 30 children from this area. These numbers covered all Primary level students from Prep to Grade 7 under the New South Wales School Curriculum. As a Queenslander, and not having run a "one teacher school", I had a bit of a learning curve to address.

About 15 minutes from Banz, Tas turned off the Highway and drove about 5km to the house of a large coffee plantation owned by Pat and Col Toole. I learned that their two children were to attend the school. They would accommodate and 'look after' us for the first week until our home nearer to 'town' was 'satisfactorily' refurbished. They were most gracious hosts and we enjoyed being with them. Pat had flown light aircraft with Gibbs Sepik Airways in the 50's and 60's. She was the first female pilot to fly the wild and dangerous air pattern of the Territory. Now, she and her husband managed this large coffee plantation.

They were fans of 'trap shooting' and I enjoyed trying the sport on their own 'trap range'. They had trained some of their 'bois' to operate the machinery used to fire the 'clay pigeons'. While staying with the Tooles we were introduced to many of the local Europeans, mostly connected to the coffee industry or missions. The three major missions were Fatima (Catholic), Lutheran (German) and Church of the Nazarene (American), the latter two providing about eight of the Primary age students at my school.

And so, the day came to take us to our new home in Banz. The 'town' consisted of four homes, the Clubhouse (Farmers and Settlers Association), trade store and the one-way airstrip. The 'townspeople' consisted of:- Ian Rutledge who managed a business comprising, the trade-store, selling petrol etc and operating the Post Office (including daily skeds (radio) to Madang and Mt Hagen: Ann & Des Pryde who did general jobs including procuring items for locals, Doug McGraw and his wife, Doug was a Church of England Minister who flew the MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) Cessna 185 to resupply missions in incredibly remote parts of the Highlands, (and still are). I was to have quite a few hair-raising trips with him over the next two years.

And so, up about a kilometre into the foothills to our first home! It was a little one bedroom wooden structure with obvious age. The position was spectacular! The house was perched on a 100m wide ridge with a vertical high ridge directly behind, and a breathtaking vista of the Wahgi Valley stretching away across the floor to the southern wall of the Bismark range. Clustered close around the house were three separate, small buildings -the 'boi haus' to accommodate our hired help, the 'haus wash' for laundry and 'haus pec-pec' for toilet. The latter was built of kunai grass over a deep drain with a drop of about 5 metres. A large clump of bamboo flourished beside the 'laundry' and the front yard fell in natural terraces towards the valley. We were at about 2,000 meters above sea level, with the Main range rising to 3-4,000m behind us and a similar height to the southern wall across the valley. Wow!!



The house belonged to a legendary ex-kiap (Patrol Officer to District Commissioner), coffee planter -Jim Taylor. Taylor was with the first exploratory patrol along with Mick and Dan Leahy, to penetrate over the ranges from Morobe and 'discover' the vast heavily populated valleys of the Highlands. The year was 1933. Prior to that, it was believed that the interior of the island consisted of impenetrable largely unpopulated mountain ranges.

We had precious little 'furniture' or household necessities. The Tooles and others had provided the basic requirements but our crate full of 'possessions' was not to arrive till early

May - 3 months away. Our cargo was to be shipped from Townsville to Lae by ship then flown up in a government charter DC3. Not a problem.

Upon arrival, we were surrounded and stared at by a large group of locals. They were chatting and reacting in local 'pies tok', so not a word was understood. These were friendly, happy people who were socialising just as they have done for thousands of years. The men looked so fierce dressed in bark belt and 'pul pul', bird-of-paradise feathers and carrying spears or bows and arrows. The women wore nothing but a bark belt and grass skirt and carried incredibly large and heavy loads of vegetables on their heads. They were usually accompanied by their 'piccannies' and often pigs of all shapes and sizes.

Abruptly, one mustachioed Chimbu emerged from the large group and appeared to berate the crowd to silence. We understood none of this of course, we were in awe. He then

proceeded to inform us in Pidgin English -'tok pisin' - that he was our new 'haus boi'. I understood a tiny bit of pidgin and understood that this was our self-appointed man servant or 'haus boi', with or without any discussion or interview. He then delivered an impassioned oratory to that effect to the gathered throng and more or less sent them on their way. We then repaired inside where our new hired help named Kasbang proceeded to organise us and the arrangement of what few possessions we did have.

Thirty metres behind the house was a vertical, grassy ridge about 100m high. A well worn nature track followed along the base of the ridge to Banz - virtually on our back door. It was quite extraordinary at first to have Highland warriors in all their finery and meris carrying on their heads huge billums of produce which they carried to trade in town, moving along our back yard. Never did it feel menacing.

The track led up into the mountains, eventually reaching the village of Tabibuga, many hours (days?) walk to the headwaters of the Jimi Valley which fell away to the north of the Bismarck Ranges to the coastal plains of the Ramu River and the coast.

None of the Highlanders had ever seen the coast prior to the arrival of Australians exactly 30 years prior. It was along this very path through our back yard that the famed David Attenborough who had arrived from England, on another of his legendary expeditions, had walked to Tabibuga in 1956. He had been researching the unique Birds of Paradise.

And so, a few days before school was due to start, Kathy & I settled into our 'new' first home together.

A great story of an introduction to the Highlands of PNG. Graham died in Armstrong Beach, Qld on 31.8.2015.

'Strangling cats' for fun in Iraq

One Australian soldier has been raising hell in Iraq and raising the morale of Iraqi soldiers in the process.



Australian soldier Corporal Kenneth Horton plays his bagpipes at the Taji Military Complex, Iraq.

As a Force Protection Section Commander with Task Group Taji, CPL Kenneth Horton's primary focus is protecting Australian and New Zealand trainers - but as a secondary task he also plays the bagpipes.

He deployed with his bagpipes with the view to play during ANZAC Day but that quickly changed when he found himself front and centre playing for an Iraqi Army battalion during training.

"I was on an escort task to visit training with the Training Team CO and he asked me to bring the pipes along as he had been telling the Iraqi soldiers about them," he said.

"I played a tune for them and they loved it!"

His musical skills have proven so popular he is asked to play almost every time he visits the Iraqis.

"Now every time I do an escort task with the CO or RSM, the Iraqi soldiers ask me to get the bagpipes out," he said.

He also played at the Ninewa Operations Command Commando Battalion's graduation parade.

"Coming onto that parade ground in front of a few hundred Iraqi commandos and playing for their commanders was one of the coolest things I've ever done as a piper," he said.

Cpl Horton is also looking forward to playing at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Taji.

Courtesy of Air Land & Sea newsletter.



ESPS Cantabria (foreground) in company with HMAS Success off Sydney after the Spanish tanker joined the Royal Australian Navy in 2013.

Navantia wins Aussie tanker contract

The Australian government has signed contracts with Navantia of Spain to build Australia's two replacement replenishment ships.

Defence Minister Marise Payne said Australia's current supply ship HMAS Success would reach its end-of-life in 2021 and needed to be replaced as a matter of priority.

"As part of the \$640 million contract with Navantia more than \$130 million will go to Australian industry," Minister Payne said.

"Local industry activity will include combat and communication systems integration, integrated logistics support, and elements of the onboard cranes.

"In addition, an initial \$250 million, five-year sustainment contract also signed with Navantia will be undertaken in Australia.

"Australian shipyards simply do not have the capacity to complete the replenishment vessels in the required time and a local build would delay the other projects."

Courtesy of Air Land & Sea newsletter.

New appointments to AWM Council

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan announced two appointments to the Council of the Australian War Memorial in March, 2016.



Cpl Daniel Keighran, VC.

Corporal Daniel Keighran VC and Wing Commander Sharon Bown (Ret'd) have been appointed to the council for three years.

"Wing Commander Bown had a distinguished 16-year

career with the Royal Australian Air Force, commencing as a Nursing Officer in 1999 after studying nursing, peri-operative nursing and advanced nursing in family, child and youth health," Mr Tehan said.

"Wing Commander Bown served in Afghanistan, Bali, Papua New Guinea and East Timor and was the Aide-de-Camp to the Minister for Defence in 2006.

"Corporal Keighran enlisted in the Australian Army at 17 and served his country for 15 years as part of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR), discharging in 2015.

"Corporal Keighran is the only Victoria Cross recipient from the Royal Australian Regiment in its proud 67-year history, with his citation reading 'For the most conspicuous acts of gallantry and extreme devotion to duty in action in circumstances of great peril'.

"Since completing his full-time service with the ADF, Corporal Keighran has held several private sector roles. He continues to serve the army as reservist and is currently an ambassador for Mates4Mates."

Mr Tehan said the new appointments would bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Council, as well as a perspective from contemporary veterans.

He also thanked the outgoing members, the Hon. Graham Edwards AM, who served on the Council for six years, and Ms Gabrielle Trainor, who served for three years.

Courtesy of Air Land & Sea newsletter.

THE OWEN GUN

The Owen Gun, or Owen Machine Carbine to give it its official army name, was the only such weapon designed by an Australian in WW2.



Evelyn Owen, the 24 year old inventor, demonstrated a 5.6mm caliber prototype to the Australian Army Ordnance Board six weeks before the outbreak of WW2, but the Board decided that there was no use for such

a weapon in the Australian Army. When war broke out, Owen joined the Australian Army as a private soldier.

In Sept 1940, Vincent Wardell, the manager of the Lysaght steel works in Port Kembla, NSW, returned home from work to find a sack sitting by his garage door. In it was the prototype sub-machine gun conceived by Owen, the son of Wardell's neighbour. Wardell was impressed by the simplicity of the design, and used his influence to have young Owen transferred to the Army Inventions Board so he could continue work on his brainchild. The Army was still indifferent but Owen was allowed to continue work to modify and improve his machine carbine.

To begin with, the prototypes - made by Lysaght - were fitted with a top-mounted drum magazine. This was replaced by a straight 32 round box magazine, similar to the one fitted to the Sten sub-machine gun but on top of the gun. Sights were fitted to the side in such a way that the firer could line up on the target by sighting alongside the magazine. At the time, there were large quantities of 11mm caliber ammunition available in Australia, and initially this round was chosen for

the gun. Lysaght, however, made three versions for trials: and 11mm, a 9mm and a 5.6mm. All three were tested against the sub-machine guns with which British and Commonwealth forces were equipped at the time: the 9mm British Sten and the 11mm US Thompson (the Tommy Gun). The test included immersing the guns in mud and sand to simulate use in battle conditions. The Owen came through the test with flying colours, in marked contrast to the other two types of gun.

Despite this dramatic test of the gun's reliability, the Australian Army continued to dither over which caliber gun should be brought into service. Eventually, after some chivvying by senior government ministers, the Army ordered the 9mm gun. This was an excellent choice, as the stopping power of the available 5.6mm round fired from a short-barreled weapon was inferior to the 9mm. The 11mm 32 round magazine was heavy and, added to the weight of the gun, made it less easy to handle and carry than a 9mm version, especially in thick undergrowth.

The Owen was produced at the Lysaght works at Port Kembla and Newcastle in NSW, about 50,000 being made between 1941 and 1945. Although the gun was heavier and bigger than the Sten, it was hugely popular with Australian soldiers. It came into service just as the Australians became engaged in fighting the Japanese in New Guinea. This involved much close-quarter fighting in thick jungle and scrub where the ability to fire several bursts proved invaluable against an enemy who kept coming until he was stopped by death. It proved outstanding in a jungle environment, being able to continue firing after being coated in mud, immersed in rivers and rained on for days on end. The key to its reliability was the top-mounted magazine, so the weight of the ammunition used gravity to help the spring push each round down to the breech of the gun. The design of the breech, which prevented dirt jamming the bolt, also played a part in keeping the gun firing in very muddy or sandy conditions. Not surprisingly, the gun came to be called the "Diggers Darling". It was used by the Australian Army until the mid 1960's, seeing service in Korea and Vietnam.

*Source "The second World War in 100 Objects"
by Maj Gen Julian Thompson and Dr Allan R. Millet.*

On their way to get married, a young Catholic couple was involved in a fatal car accident. The couple found themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven.

While waiting, they began to wonder if they could possibly get married in Heaven.

When St. Peter arrived, they asked him. St. Peter said, I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. "Let me go find out" and he left.

The couple sat and waited for an answer for a couple of months. While they waited, they discussed the pros and cons. If they were allowed to get married in Heaven, should they get married, what with the eternal aspect of it all? What if it doesn't work? Are we stuck in Heaven together forever?

Another month passed. St. Peter finally returned, looking somewhat bedraggled. "Yes", he informed the couple, "You can get married in Heaven."

"Great!" said the couple. "But we were just wondering, what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?"

Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard on the ground.

"What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple.

"OH COME ON!" St. Peter shouted. "it took me 3 months to find a priest up here! Do you have any idea how long it'll take to find a solicitor?"

Orders of Dress of PNG Command

The first mode of dress for Area Command, PNGVR and PIR came with the uniforms worn by the staff of PNGVR in 1950 at Port Moresby which was typical of that worn by Northern Command, as follows, slouch hat, caps for officers and warrant officers, khaki shirt, khaki trousers and khaki shorts, boots AB with khaki socks, shoes with long khaki socks for officers and warrant officers and white and standard issue gaiters. Prior to 1964 PNGVR and PIR used various 'jungle green' modes of dress until the juniper green uniform: PIR introduced a beret from the beginning, PNGVR began using cloth berets in lieu of the slouch hat during bivouacs, with B Coy leading the way. USA Army gaiters and combination gaiter boots were also popular non issue items for bivouacs. From the issue of Juniper Green dress the following orders of dress were applicable to PNGVR.

Ceremonial Dress

Black beret

Juniper green shirt with blue lanyard, juniper green shorts

Black Sam Browne belt officers and warrant officers class 1

Black web belt

Juniper green stockings

Black boots and short black puttees

Side arms and other weapons as ordered

Orders, decorations and medals

Walking Out Dress

Black beret Juniper green shirt with blue lanyard, juniper green shorts

Black web belt Juniper green stockings

Black shoes and short black puttees

Ribbons or orders, decorations and medals

General Duty Dress

Black beret

Juniper green shirt with blue lanyard, juniper green shorts

Black web belt

Black boots and juniper green stockings

Black shoes and juniper green stockings

Ribbons of orders, decorations and medals.

Field Dress

Green drill beret, beret or jungle hat or steel helmet

Green shirt and green trousers and jersey

Patrol boots and khaki socks or black boots and gaiters

Web equipment or web belt

Side arms and personal weapons.

Mess Dress for Officers, WO's, S/Sgts and Sgts

Blues cap or beret

White mess jacket

Soft white shirt and black bow tie

Blues trousers with cummerbund

Black socks and black shoes

Mess Undress for Officers, WO's, S/Sgts and Sgts

As above less Blues cap and white mess jacket.

Lieutenant Colonel Lionel Kenneth Shave OBE Soldier and Businessman



Ken Shave was born in Melbourne in 1916: he died at the age of 92. He was educated at Scots College, Melbourne and later at Scots College Sydney. After university, he became involved in oil drilling, first at Lakes Entrance in Victoria and then in New Zealand: his other interest was theatre. Shave joined the Victorian Scottish regiment and was a Second Lieutenant at the outbreak of war

in 1939 and was posted to the Middle East to the 2/5th Infantry Battalion as an intelligence officer. As a company commander he was wounded by shell fragments and whilst in hospital, on a whim, he purchased a 9mm automatic Beretta for five pounds sterling from an Italian officer: later, when a convoy he was travelling in was ambushed by Afrika Korp personnel, he used the pistol to free the convoy from the Germans. The 2/5th was shipped out of Tobruk and Shave returned to Australia. After marrying he went to Toowoomba to prepare for the New Guinea campaign where he was posted to Lt General Vernon Sturdee's staff as an intelligence Officer: General VAH Sturdee was General Officer commanding the Australian First Army.

Whilst with the First Army, the now Lt Colonel Shave translated from the Japanese, Lt General Adachi's Appreciation of the Situation in the Wewak-Aitape Area based on the Japanese 8th Army. This translation was done in January 1945.

The war ended for the Japanese on September 2, 1945 and at 1040 hours on September 6, the Japanese General Imamura and Vice Admiral Kusaka boarded HMS Glory off Rabaul and surrendered the Japanese First Army and Naval contingents to Lt General VAH Sturdee, GOC of the First Australian Army: Lionel Shave was Master of Arms for the ceremony. He was awarded an Order of the British Empire for his work during the war.

Thank you Bob Harvey Hall for the above two articles.

Most Indigenous Soldiers in Australian Army since WWII

The number of full-time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers serving in the Australian Army recently topped more than 500 for the first time since World War II.

A revolutionary program being run by the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education has had a significant impact on the number of Indigenous recruits entering the Australian Army.

The Army Indigenous Development Program (AIDP), run in partnership with the Australian Army, combines educational initiatives with the army's induction training. AIDP offers a safe middle ground to trainees, allowing young Indigenous men and women to learn and adjust to the demands of full-time employment in the army before being sent for recruit training at Kapooka.

Commander 2nd Division Major General Stephen Porter visited the Batchelor Institute campus recently and spoke of the program's benefits in offering new opportunities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"This course makes the opportunity of joining the army available to people who may not have normally been successful in getting in," Major General Porter said.



Kitchell Dorante (left) and Bethany King – two recent recruits to the Australian Army via the Army Indigenous Development Program.

"What are the long term benefits? We've given them a challenge, so they have got to meet that challenge. It's about giving them a vision where they can achieve and be successful and, at the end of the day, get a job."

AIDP is open to Indigenous Australians across the country. It

aims to bring trainees up to a year 10 educational standard and also introduces elements of life in the army to trainees.

Since 2013 the program has experienced increasing enrolments, with most of the trainees going on to complete the course and enlist in the army.

Due to this high level of success, the program is expected to expand in coming years.

Source Air Land & Sea Newsletter

1. *You don't need a parachute to go skydiving. You need a parachute to go skydiving twice*
2. *My teacher accused me of plagiarism. His words, not mine.*
3. *What do you get when you cross the Atlantic with the Titanic? About half way.*
4. *I, for one, like Roman numerals.*
5. *Why does a chicken coop have two doors? Because if it had four doors it would be a chicken sedan.*
6. *Working in a mirror factory is something I can totally see myself doing.*
7. *There is no 'T' in denial*
8. *I broke my finger last week. On the other hand, I have to say I'm okay.*
9. *You're not totally useless; you can always serve as a bad example.*
10. *Q: What's the difference between a well-dressed man on a bike and a poorly dressed man on a unicycle? A: Attire.*
11. *You can never lose a homing pigeon – if your homing pigeon doesn't come back, what you've lost is a pigeon.*
12. *I didn't believe my dad was a construction site thief until I got home. All the signs were there.*
13. *I have a stepladder, because my real ladder left when I was a kid.*
14. *Why are deer nuts better than beer nuts? Beer nuts cost \$1.50 but deer nuts are just under a buck.*

Congratulations John Holland!



Our military museum curator was presented with a Brisbane Lord Mayor's Australia Day Achievement Award on 24th January 2017 in the function room, Brisbane City Hall. John was one of 21 awardee recipients for their outstanding voluntary work in the community. John received his award for his 11 passionate years establishing and maintaining the NGVR &

PNGVR Memorial Military Museum in the former Army Camp at Wacol for use by present and future generations of Australians.

Well done John

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS (DVA)

DVA is undergoing, a lot of changes, which should be completed by the end of 2016. See below for some of them.

GPO Box 9998, in capital city.

Ph: 133 254 or 1800 555 254.

Email: General Enquiries@dva.gov.au

www.dva or www.dva factsheet index (or list).

1. DEFINITION OF A VETERAN: (Just in case you missed it, last time.)

This has changed recently from, a member of Australia's Defence Force who has served overseas.

The new definition of a veteran is; anyone who has been a member of ADF, including reservists, civilians and cadets, irrespective of whether they have served overseas or not.

Advise your doctors of this change, as they may not be aware of this.

2. VETERANS' CLAIMS:

DVA has reduced the requirements for liability for 5 medical conditions. There are now 13 medical conditions streamlined for acceptance of liability under

Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986 (VEA) & the Military & Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA). All you need is a doctor's certificate. Show this to your doctors anyway, as they may not be aware of the changes.

VEA covers service in wartime and certain operational deployments, as well as certain peacetime service between 7 December 1972 – 30 June 2004.

Google DVA VEA for more details.

MRCA provides rehabilitation and compensation coverage for members of the ADF who served on or after 1 July 2004. Google DVA MRCA for more details.

DIAGNOSED MEDICAL CONDITION STREAMLINED

	<u>Liability for claims under VEA</u>	<u>Liability for claims under MRCA</u>
Chondromalacia patella (Deterioration of kneecap cartilage)	NO	YES
Internal derangement of the knee	NO	YES
Malignant melanoma (Harmful skin cancer)	YES	YES
Pterygium (A growth over the eye)	YES	YES
Tinea (Fungal skin disease)	YES	YES
Achilles tendinopathy & bursitis (Degenerative Achilles tendon & small fluid-filled sacs)	NO	YES
Acquired cataract (Abnormality of the eye)	YES	YES
Non-melanotic malignant neoplasm of the skin (Some forms of skin cancers)	YES	YES
Plantar fasciitis (Pain in the heel and bottom of the foot)	NO	YES
Sensorineural hearing loss (Deafness in inner ear)	YES	YES
Shin splints (Pain along the shin)	NO	YES
Solar keratosis (Damaged skin from the sun)	YES	YES
Tinnitus (Ringing noise in the ears or head)	YES	YES

Long Tan Awards 50 Years after the Bloodshed

Long overdue bravery awards for 10 diggers who fought at the Battle of Long Tan 50 years ago were presented by Gov-Gen Sir Peter Cosgrove at Government House on 8 Nov, 2016.

Former OC D Coy, 6RAR, Lt Col Harry Smith said perseverance led to the awards finally being made.

"My PI Comds and I recommended those awards to the soldiers in 1966" he said.

Sir Peter said he was in his second year at RMC when the Battle of Long Tan occurred on 18 Aug, 1966. "I can assure you, as the news of the battle circulated through the ranks of the Corps of Staff Cadets, we were both amazed at the gallantry and nonplussed by the ferocity of the action. Certainly the vastly

outnumbered Aust Force had put up the most resolute and stern resistance and it was the only reason any of them survived."



L-R. W. Roche, Noel Grimes, Frank Alcorta MG, Lt Col Harry Smith SG. MC., G. Peters, I. Campbell, N. Bextrum, Col F. Alcorta MG. Those with MG after their name were awarded the Medal for Gallantry, the others were awarded the Commendation for Gallantry, for which there is no post nominal.

After receiving a Medal for Gallantry former Troop Comd Lt (later Col) Adrian Roberts said there were still soldiers out there who did brave things and weren't recognised. I have to say in our unit we weren't up to speed on medals and the burning question was "What was doing your job, and what was going beyond."

Col. Roberts said one of the things that still made him angry was the way National Service soldiers - his soldiers- were treated when they came home. "Nobody talked to them, nobody counseled them - it was one of the great insensitivities of the Army in those days."

The Gov-Gen said the Battle of Long Tan stood as the emblem of the Vietnam War. "The Australian Army in Vietnam was brave, professional, determined and well led, especially at the lower levels where the action took place."

Source - Army Newspaper

How the Japanese 'Zero' got its name.

Japanese aircraft design numbers derive from the last two digits of the calendar year in which the first type took to the air. The Japanese calendar began in 660 BC, so the Western world's 1940 was 2600 to the Japanese. The Mitsubishi A6M first flew in the year 2600, so it became a Type 00, hence Zero.



VALE Kelvin Donald Williams (Kel)
159590
21.7.1930 - 20.1.2017

Four Assn members, Paul Brown, John Holland, Gil Harvey-Hall and Phil Ainsworth farewelled Kel at Moonah Park Community Centre, Mitchelton on 27th January 2017.



Kel served in PNGVR, Pt Moresby for about a year in the early 1950's when he was working with APC on the oil exploration rigs in the Papuan Gulf and was unable to regularly attend PNGVR parades.

On his return to Queensland he served until his retirement with the Queensland Fire Emergency Service (QFES). Kel had a larrikins sense of humour and liked nothing better than to share a beer and jokes. He was also a much loved family man. Kel's service was conducted by QFES Major Lyn Cook and a QFES fire appliance was in attendance. At its conclusion QFES serving and retired members and our four representatives farewelled Kel with a Guard of Honour. The photos show Pte Kel Williams circ 1953 and our reps in front of the fire appliance.

LEST WE FORGET



1961. Brian with Col. Eldridge, then CO. PNGVR.

VALE Cpl. Brian H Andrew 860099

Brian came to Madang in 1960 and joined PNGVR that year, serving until 1962.

He worked for Madang Slipways, had a boat and car (unusual in Madang in 1960), and together with fellow PNGVR members, Jack Hobbins, Percy Neville and Bob Collins used to go on weekend excursions on the limited roads around Madang.



The limitations did not apply to the boat and many a weekend was spent investigating the numerous islands in Madang Harbour. Some outings were more adventurous than others, particularly when the motor gave problems whilst on a remote island in the Harbour. Brian and Bob Collins regularly went crocodile shooting on the Gogol River, south-East of Madang, using Brian's boat to get there before transferring to native canoes. The rifle they used was a .303 US Jungle Carbine, borrowed from Inspector Mike Thomas, Madang Police.

Brian was an adventurous person and when he left Madang, went to Europe, suffering a severe electric shock in Gibraltar whilst working in the British Naval Workshops there and recovering in England. He retired to Western Victoria before getting itchy feet again and in later years lived in South America. He died on 21 Jan 2017.

LEST WE FORGET

VALE Lt Geoffrey B Grace 860462 23.11.1928 - 18.11.2016

Geoff was born in Sorrell, Tasmania and raised on a sheep and cattle property. He joined the 12th Inf Bn, The Launceston Regt and the 40th Inf Bn, The Derwent Regt, and later the 12/40th Bn, the Tasmanian Regt when they were merged.



In 1953 he joined the British Colonial Service and served in Uganda, East Africa, where, amongst other things, he was required to investigate and prosecute murders, quell riots, deal with the terrorist Mau Mau, patrol large areas of a remote region, Karamoja, to combat raiding and tribal fighting, and repel raids by the Turkana and other tribes into Northern Uganda. During this time he undertook joint operations with the 4th Bn Kings African Rifles in which the subsequent President of Uganda, Idi Amin, was a WO11.

In 1959 he trained with MI5 as a Special Branch Officer and served until 1962 when he was condemned as an "imperialist enemy of the state" by the then President, Milton Obote, and sensibly left the country.

On return to Australia in 1962 he joined ASIO and served in Rabaul and Port Moresby between 1963-75.

He served with PNGVR for 3 years (1963-67) in Rabaul and Pt Moresby. He commented re PNGVR "I was impressed by a small cadre of dedicated officers and NCOs, who always did their best with the very raw material with whom they worked. It was always going to be difficult - PNGVR was well scattered between Port Moresby, Mt Hagen, Goroka, Lae, Madang, Wewak and Rabaul with only one annual camp to be together as a cohesive unit. In the circumstances I think that they did fairly well in the long run.

During his time in Rabaul he commanded the PNGVR Guard of Honour at Bita Paka War Cemetery to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landing at Kabakaul.

Between 1978-82 Geoff operated in South America, based in Santiago, Chile, and then in Buenos Aires in Argentina. In 1983 Geoff retired to the North Coast of NSW where he raised beef cattle and developed a macadamia plantation. Geoff received a decoration for bravery during his service in Africa.

He leaves his wife, Joan, two sons and six grandchildren.

LEST WE FORGET

75th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES RABAU and MONTEVIDEO MARU

To be held in RABAU on 22 Jun 2017.

Rabaul Hotel has put together a package including accommodation, meals, tours and transfers for five nights. Please contact Susie McGrade at Rabaul Hotel on email: susie@rabaulhotel.com.pg
Saturday 1 July 2017 – 75th Anniversary Commemorative Service and Dinner, Canberra, ACT.

The service will be held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT, on Saturday 1 July starting at 1pm. **Dinner 6.30pm Venue:** Mercure Canberra, Corner of Ainslie and Limestone Ave, Braddon, ACT 2612, Cost of dinner on Saturday 1 July – \$80 for 3 course meal with soup - Payment will confirm booking, www.pngaa.org

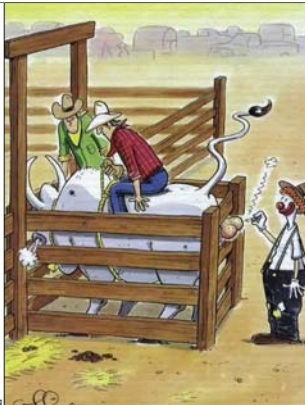
ANZAC DAY

An unexpected number of Navy ships in Brisbane on Anzac Day has caused delays in finalising the order of march, so our forming-up place is still unknown. However the following applies as usual:-

- Immediately after the march an NGVR Memorial Service will be held at the Hall of Memories in Anzac Square.
- Our reunion will be held at the Exchange Hotel. Entry will be \$20 for finger food and limited drinks.
- **Requests for Jeep transport to John Holland NOW.**

Details pg 16.

No matter what your job, you should always try and make it interesting



NATIONAL MEDALS
Pty Ltd



REPLICA MEDALS OR MOUNTING OF MEDALS

A reliable source for medal work is National Medals, natmedals@bigpond.com, Ph 07 3871 0600 Ask for Greg Faux, mobile 0419 196 172. Located at 13/200 Moggill Road, Taringa, Brisbane, 4066

New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc,

Includes former members of the PIR, PIB and NGIB.

For correspondence contact Secretary, Colin Gould, email pngvr@optusnet.com.au, phone 0424 562 030 (The Secretary, P O Box 885, Park Ridge, Qld, 4125)

For Military Museum enquires contact Curator John Holland, email rabaul42@gmail.com, phone 0449 504 058

(NGVR/PNGVR Military Museum, Corner Boundary Road & Fulcrum Street, Wacol, Qld, 4076)

Membership fee payments to Treasurer, Doug Ng, email doug-lasng@iinet.net.au, phone 0413 014 422

(NGVR & PNGVR Ex-members Association : BSB: 064006 - A/C: 10001126)

Website Master: Trevor Connell email trevor.connell@internode.on.net, phone 0409 690 590

www.pngvr.weebly.com (all back copies of HTT may be obtained from our website)

Facebook Master: Kieran Nelson, email kierannelson@bigpond.com, phone 0412 236 013

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ngvrndpngvrilitarymuseum/>

Harim Tok Tok Editor: Bob Collins, email bob-collins@bigpond.com, phone 0413 831 397

President: Email p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au to get on members electronic distribution including Harim Tok Tok (you will receive it in colour, earlier and can adjust the print size to suit) **Informative and Topical articles on PNG.** Keith Jackson's Blog. [Keith Jackson & Friends: PNG ATTITUDE](#)

NGVR/PNGVR service recollections are copyright.



Mubo 1943. Portion of the airstrip can be seen lower left. When the Japanese attacked Mubo after the NGVR - 2/5th Ind Coy attack on Salamaua they advanced along the air-strip which had 100 yard markers (biscuit tins) on it and the Vickers Machine Guns on Vicker's Ridge and Matnat Hill cut them to pieces.

When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me a full months pay. That's why in the Navy, the captain goes down with the ship.

FUNCTION DATES

- 25 April Anzac Day
(March, Commemorative Service & Reunion)
- 20 May Committee meeting
- 22 June Rabaul & Montevideo Maru (R&MvM)
Comm Service at Rabaul
- 1 July 10am R&MvM Comm service
Hall of Memories, Brisbane Cenotaph
- 1 July 1:30pm R&MvM Comm Service
National Memorial, AWM, Canberra

MUSEUM EVENTS

- 29 April Memorial March from Museum to Serbian Church.

PNGVR participants welcome for this
28 June Redlands Genealogy Society

The last Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Sun 13 March raised over \$1,500 for the Museum. Volunteers wanted for such future museum events.



Industrial property specialists

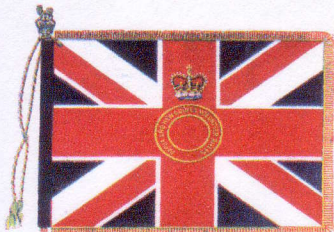
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Email: p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au

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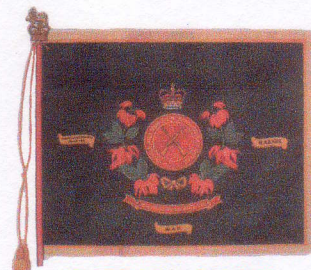
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QUEEN'S COLOUR

**NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
and
PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
Ex Members Association Inc**

PER ANGUSTA AD AUGUSTA—Through Trials to Triumph



REGIMENTAL COLOUR



BATTLE HONOURS
Rabaul Wau South-West Pacific 1942-43



(Association) ABN: 79 434 396 499
(Military Museum) ABN: 85 845 181 461



The President Mr Phillip Ainsworth,
and members of the Executive Committee cordially invite Members
to attend the

75th Anniversary Memorial Service

1 July 1942—1 July 2017

of the tragic loss of 1056 allied military and civilian personnel
who were taken prisoner during the Japanese invasion of Rabaul and
surrounding areas in January 1942, and who lost their lives as
prisoners of war during the sinking of the Japanese prison ship
“*Montevideo Maru*” off the Philippines coast on 1 July 1942.

This tragic event is still today, the largest loss of Australian lives at sea.

Date: Saturday 1 July 2017
Venue:- Shrine of Memories—ANZAC Square—Brisbane
Time:- 9.45 am for 10.00 am Service Private Wreaths welcome

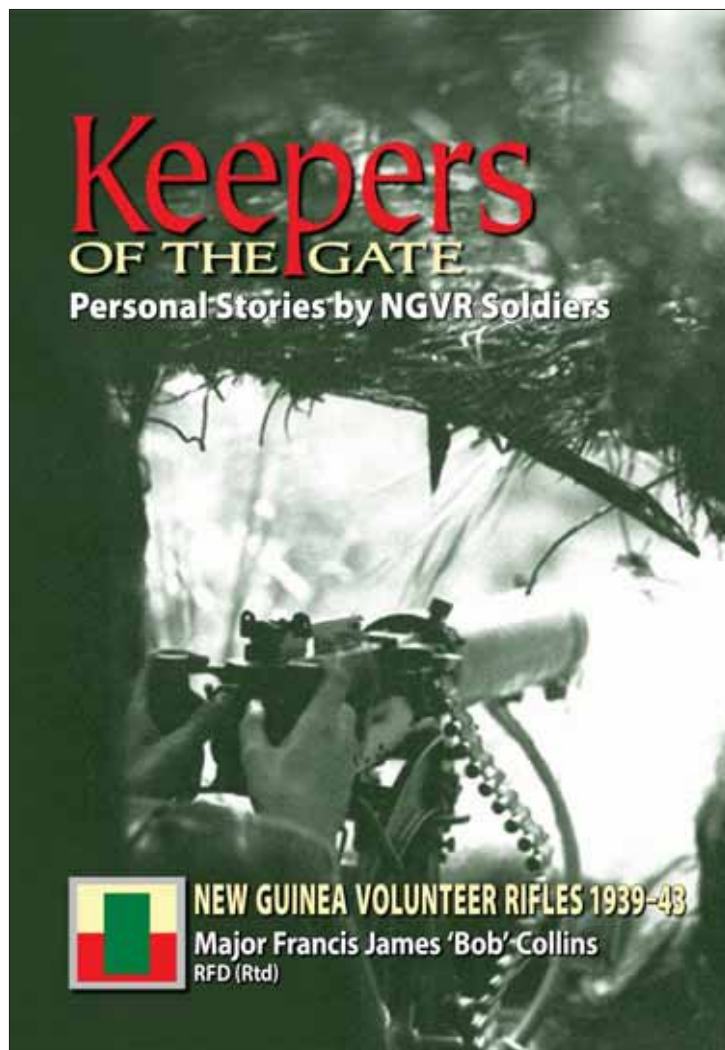
Morning tea / refreshments:- 10.45 am Berkley's on Ann (opposite Central Station)

Your RSVP by 20 th. June will assist for catering purposes.

Colin Gould, MBE (Secretary) Mob: 042 456 2030 email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au
Paul Brown (Welfare Officer) Mob: 040 264 4181

Email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au PO Box 885 Park Ridge, Q 4125

LEST WE FORGET



Who were the Keepers of the Gate?

The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles (NGVR)—one of the few Allied military units engaging the Japanese in New Guinea in early 1942.

With aggressive patrolling and reconnaissance the gate to the New Guinea Goldfields and central range south to Port Moresby and Australia remained closed to the enemy.

Armed with WWI light infantry weapons, no air or artillery support, few rations, minimal ammunition supply, meagre medical services and limited communications, this poorly-trained force was used to exhaustion and disbanded.

Many of the men never served again due to the deprivations suffered; others, after rest returned to New Guinea and served in the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (ANGAU) and units which needed their PNG knowledge and experience.

This is not a history of NGVR. These are the stories of thirty-seven NGVR soldiers—stories which reveal why they were in New Guinea as civilians at that fateful time, their wartime and postwar experiences and the effect on them and their families.

The stories were written as told to Bob Collins, who served in PNGVR, the postwar CMF unit in Papua New Guinea. He met many ex-NGVR men and saw many areas where NGVR operated on the frontline. We are grateful to this small band of courageous and adventurous men, the Keepers of the Gate—our front line of the Pacific War—and these stories are a legacy these outstanding men deserve.

To: NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, PO Box 885, Park Ridge QLD 4125

Purchase for \$50.00 per copy

Please send me copies of **KEEPERS OF THE GATE** at the purchase price of \$50.00 plus \$20.00 for postage for each copy ordered, if required (overseas purchasers will need to allow more)

☐ Enclosed please find my cheque, made payable to NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, for \$..... **OR**

☐ I have transferred \$..... to **NGVR & PNGVR Ex-Members Association, BSB: 064006 A/C: 10001126**

Name: Email or Phone

No.:

Delivery

Address:

P/Code

If transferring funds electronically, please be sure to include your name with your transfer, then either post this form or email details of your order

For more information, please contact Phillip Ainsworth --p.ainsworth@kingco.com.au (email) --0418 730 348 (mob.)

Kieran Nelson: kierannelson@bigpond.com (em



75th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE RABAU and MONTEVIDEO MARU GROUP, PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc

RABAU on 22 JUNE 2017

To remember all those lost in the New Guinea islands in 1942

Thursday 22 June 2017

The 75th anniversary service will be held on dusk at the Montevideo Maru and Rabaul 1942-1945 Memorial, Rabaul, Papua New Guinea

The PNGAA Rabaul and Montevideo Maru group together with the Rabaul Hotel/Rabaul Historical Society are commemorating this 75th anniversary of WWII in Rabaul. Tours include historical sites. Rabaul Hotel has put together a package including accommodation, meals, tours and transfers for five nights.

Cost: \$350 pp twin share/double or \$500 pp single per night. Please contact Susie McGrade at Rabaul Hotel on email: susie@rabaulhotel.com.pg.

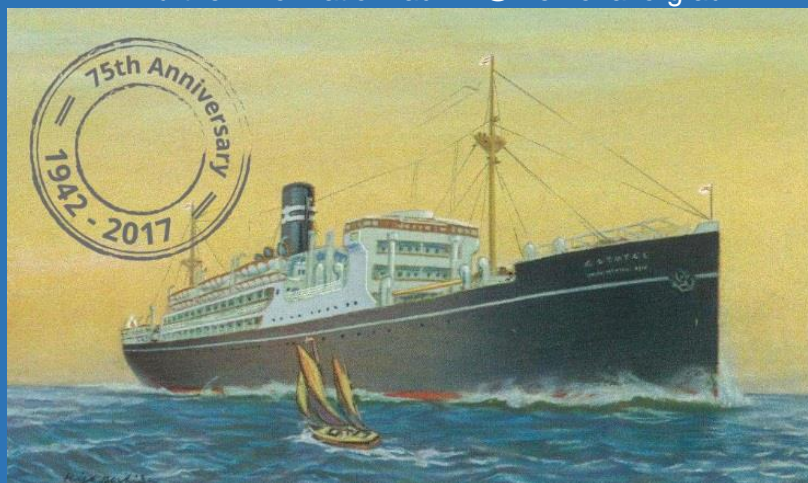
Airfares, drinks and any optional expenses are additional and to be organised and paid for independently.

Air Niugini - daily flights from Brisbane to Rabaul and return.

Three flights weekly from Sydney to Rabaul and return.



Further information: admin@memorial.org.au



www.pngaa.org www.memorial.org.au

Facebook: Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

Facebook: Papua New Guinea Association of Australia



75th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AND DINNER AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA

Saturday 1 July 2017

RABAUL and MONTEVIDEO MARU GROUP, PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc

75th Anniversary Service Saturday 1 July 2017

Time: 1 pm

Venue: Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT.

All welcome – please let your family and friends know.

RSVP by 8 June 2017:

<http://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/03/01/rabaul-and-montevideo-maru-75th-anniversary-commemorative-service-1-july-2017-australian-war-memorial-canberra-act/>

75th Anniversary Commemorative Dinner Saturday 1 July 2017

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Mercure Canberra, Corner of Ainslie and Limestone Ave, Braddon, ACT 2612

COST: \$80 - 3 course meal including soup - Payment will confirm booking. Drinks available from a cash bar. Free parking available.

RSVP: 8 June 2017

Further information and payments:

<http://pngaa.org/site/blog/2017/03/01/1-july-2017-rabaul-and-montevideo-maru-75th-anniversary-commemorative-dinner-canberra-mercure-hotel/>

Note: Mercure Canberra have a two night accommodation package available 30 June-2 July for the Papua New Guinea Association of Australia. Please email:

stay@mercurecanberra.com.au



Please email to admin@memorial.org.au advising the following details.

§ The full name of each person who wishes to attend.

§ The age of each person who wishes to attend (optional but helpful).

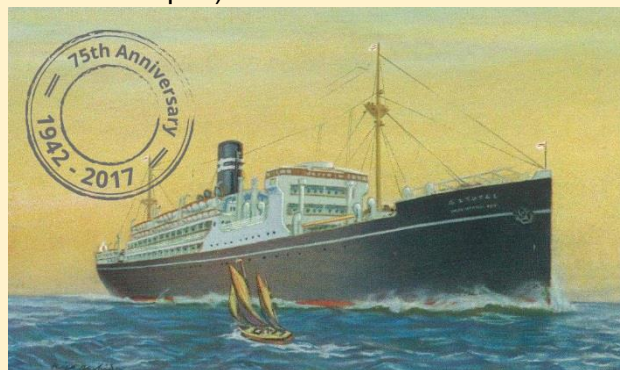
§ Any mobility issue

§ The full postal address, phone number (home and mobile) and email of each person who wishes to attend.

§ The relationship, if any, of the person to the events of 1942 (if you did not attend a previous event in Canberra).

§ The address and phone number, where each person intends to stay while in Canberra.

§ Any other people you are travelling with.



Even if you do not have all this information at this stage, please tell us what you can.

www.pngaa.org www.memorial.org.au

Facebook: Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society

Facebook: Papua New Guinea Association of Australia