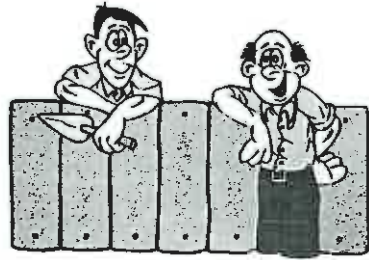


HAVE A LAUGH

.....Only in Australia.....



- Being an Australian is about driving a German car to an Irish pub to drink Belgian beer, then on the way home stop to grab an Indian Curry or Turkish kebab, then at home sit on Swedish furniture to watch American shows on a Japanese TV.....
- Only in Australia can a pizza get to your front door faster than emergency services
- Only in Australia do supermarkets make sick people walk to the rear or far end of the complex to get medical supplies while healthy people can buy cigarettes right at the front counter...
- Only in Australia do people order a double beef pattie hamburger with all the extras and a DIET coke.....
- Only in Australia do banks leave their main doors wide open but chain their cheap biros to the counters...
- Only in Australia do we often leave expensive cars and 4 wheel drives parked in the drive way but lock up our junk and 10 year old lawn mowers in the garage.....
- Only in Australia do we have answering machines to screen income calls and also have call waiting so we wont miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.....

ALSO

- 142 Aussies we injured in 1999 by not removing all the pins from a new shirt before trying it on...
- 543 Aussies were admitted to hospital in the last year after trying to open none screw beer bottles with their teeth...
- Some 60 Aussies are injured each year trying to undo or tighten screws with a handy sharp knife instead of a proper screw driver....

ASSOCIATION TIES

The last of the stock of Association ties—Do you have a spare???

\$35-00 including post pak and postage within Australia

GOLD "PNGVR" EPAULETT / LAPEL INSIGNIA

One Pair—\$15 including post pak and postage only 10 pairs available.

PNGVR

Before you close this newsletter have you.....

- Made arrangements to attend the NGVR/ANGAU and PIR Plaque dedication in Canberra on **Tuesday 15 May 2007** and informed the Association of your intention to attend???
- Phoned, written to or emailed the Secretary, Col Gould, and reserved your seat for the Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion on **Monday 23 April 2007** at 6 RQR Long Tan Sergeants Mess, Gallipoli Barracks ????
- Penciled in your Social Diary **Sunday 1 July 2007** for the Montevideo Maru Memorial Service and Reserve Forces Day march in Brisbane ???????
- Phoned or emailed Barry Wright or Bob Collins and booked your seat at the Jimboomba Bush Dinner on **Saturday 14 July 2007** (new date)???????

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

All correspondence to:-

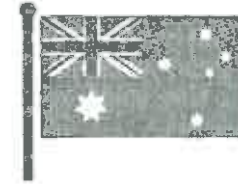
The Secretary, PO Box 885, PARK RIDGE, Queensland 4125

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Col Gould—Editor



HARIM TOK TOK

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES

AND

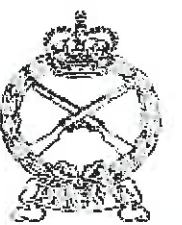
PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES

EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC.

PATRON: Major General John Pearn, AM, RFD. (Retd.)

VOLUME 50

MARCH 2007



PRESIDENT'S UP-DATE



Plaques in May at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

By the time you get this issue, our first function attending the National Servicemen's Association, Queensland Branch dedication ceremony of a RAAF flag in the Wacol Chapel on Sunday 11 February will be over. A working bee on the 3 February prior to our Executive Committee meeting cleaned up the Museum grounds for its first public opening for 2007.

Our timely supply of stubbie coolers should provide a steady resource. The coolers are made of soft sponge foam—green in colour featuring the name of the Association and Museum, with badges— Our very own stubbie coolers are now available for \$7 each plus a flat postage fee of \$5 per order. Contact the Secretary with your order while stocks last. They will also be available at the ANZAC Day reception after the march. Our Secretary will also throw in a colourful and informative brochure which backgrounds the NGVR, PNGVR, the Association and Museum.

Not many people know that our Association initiated and oversaw the Brisbane/Chinese Commemorative Bell project, which was dedicated on Sunday 10 March in China Town, Fortitude Valley. In the late 1990's Joe Fisk, a founding member of our Association, suggested that there should be a Memorial to Papua New Guinea Chinese who served Australia during WW2, especially as the *New Guinea Volunteer Rifles* had an unofficial auxiliary medical platoon comprising of Chinese in Rabaul at the time of the Japanese invasion in January 1942. The platoon was 'unofficial' because Chinese could not be members of the Australian Army at the time.

Rabaul's Chinese were obliged to stay on that strategically

important island during the Japanese occupation through to the end of hostilities in 1945. During this period many served the Australian war effort, often at great risk and personal cost, by providing intelligence to the Australian Army about enemy activities in that area. As might be expected, much of their assistance was in reaction to the extreme harshness of the occupiers towards them, actions that were given added impetus once word got back to the Rabaul Chinese from relatives in China about the atrocities melted out by the Japanese.

The Association proudly supported Joe Fisk's suggestion and made the initial approaches and arrangements for an Australian first—a national memorial for our brave Chinese compatriots in arms during the Second World War. The memorial project was actively pursued by our member Ralph Seeto right through until the dedication. (See full story and photos later in this issue.)

Another important coming event is the dedication ceremony of the NGVR / ANGAU and PIR Plaques at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on Tuesday 15 May 2007. Canberra is very pleasant in Autumn and highlighting a couple of days touring the area by attending this ceremony with friends will be an uplifting experience. (Further details in this issue)

Our 2007 calendar is set out in this issue. While details of some of these events including dates are not yet set in concrete, please diarise these events and help support your Association.

Finally I hope to see many of our members and partners at our 2007 Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion on Monday 23 April at the 6 RQR Long Tan Sergeants Mess, Gallipoli Barracks and at the ANZAC Day march in Brisbane and following reception. We need at least 50 guests or more at the Dinner to make this annual event an enjoyable and viable evening. Our Patron Major-General John Pearn, AM,RFD. (Rtd) will be attending the dinner.

Phil Ainsworth
PRESIDENT

In this issue:-

President's Up-date: Chinese Memorial Bell Dedication : Coming Events:
Plaque Dedication Canberra : Regimental Dinner: ANZAC Day march: Letters to the Editor:
Museum Curator's Tok Tok: Mess Dress suppliers: Reunions: Photos:
Recollections by Colonel Mal Bishop, MM (Rtd) Have a Laugh:



THE COMMEMORATIVE CHINESE BELL

On Saturday 10 March, 2007, members of the Association attended the dedication of the Chinese Memorial Bell in the Chinese Mall, Fortitude Valley Brisbane.

Unveiled jointly by Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, Major-General Ash Power, AM.CSC (Commander 7 Brigade Gallipoli Barracks) and Mr Peter Low, OAM, the dedication plaque reads:-

Service to the Nation

This Commemorative Bell is dedicated to all Australian Service Personnel—past and present, especially those of Chinese Heritage. These Men and Women served with Loyalty, Courage, Sacrifice and Honour in the Navy, Army, Airforce and Merchant Navy during World War 1, 2, and in other times and Conflicts.

The Chinese Patriots

These people served as Coast Watches and intelligence Gatherers for Australia in the South Pacific during World War 2.

All Men and Women who have served and are serving in the Peace Keeping Operations around the World.

LEST WE FORGET

An initiative of

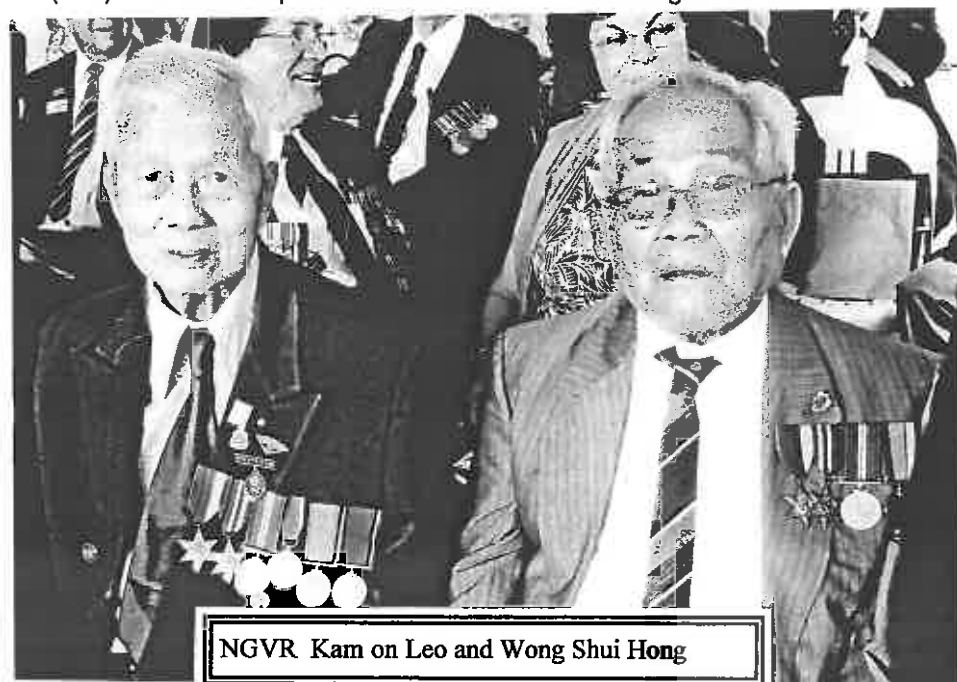
**Queensland Chinese Forum Incorporated
Cathay Community Association Incorporated
New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Incorporated**

Sponsored by

**Australian Government
Queensland Government
Brisbane City Council**

Gary Hargrave, MP and Peter Low, OAM spoke highly of the Service to the Nation given by members of the NGVR and PNGVR, and our presence on the day was well and truly acknowledged. Present also on the day were two of our NGVR living Treasures, Kam on Leo, and NG 2448 Wong Shui Hong of NGVR Lae, and our PNG Consul General Paul Nerau, LLB. Our VP John Mudge flew down from Port Moresby for the dedication.

After the dedication, several VIP guests were invited to participate in the striking of the Bell, including our own Ralph Seeto. Unfortunately PNGVR Joe Fisk, one of the initial driving forces behind the project, passed away before the project was complete. (Mrs) Val Fisk was present at the dedication standing in for Joe.



NGVR Kam on Leo and Wong Shui Hong

long and what alternative postings were offering? The answer soon made up my mind – “at least 12 months, and Army Headquarters Canberra”. Ian had taken over from A.L MacDonald who had gone on promotion to DCGS Canberra.

I handed over to Lt Col Ken Gallard and took up the job at Igam Barracks. Captain Barry Sullivan and a few of the PNGVR HQ Staff also transferred with me. I had asked for WO1 Col Lee to also be transferred but the policy was that all future RSMs were to be selected from indigenous soldiers, so WO 1 Don Bowie who had been my top Sergeant when I was with PIR, came over as Area RSM. He proved to be an excellent choice and with his war service with PIB was eligible and joined Lae RSL. To wind up the background of this fine soldier, he was near retirement when I was due to be transferred, so with HQ Command “input,” a job with War Graves as head of Lae War Cemetery was arranged for when he retired.

Igam Barracks was still under construction, and as each area was completed, new subunits came in, thus the build up was steady and manageable. One of the last to arrive was HQ PNGVR, so once again I had an association with them. I am not sure of details, but at some stage Ken Gallard was replaced by Lt Col Bill Harrington. Bill also took over from me in the role of Area Commander as well as CO PNGVR when I eventually departed.

Meanwhile Ian Hunter had been replaced by Brigadier Ralph Eldridge as my period in Lae kept going from the original “at least 12 months” to nearly 3 years, but I was more than happy to stay there. Army HQ had other ideas however, and after 6 years, my wife and I were returned to Australia for a few months to the Officer Supernumerary List, and then retirement. After nearly 33 years service, I could now look back on the highs and lows of army service - my view was that if I had my time over, I would choose the same path.

With Independence Day for Papua New Guinea approaching, orders for PNGVR to disband were issued by Army Headquarters. The next event was the Laying up of Colours to take place in Canberra. Harry Green, in his capacity of Honorary Colonel, made all the arrangements for this important event and its successful finalization was a tribute to his organizational ability. The ceremony was followed by a function, again organized by Harry, where many members of the now defunct Unit, including myself, met in what we all thought would be the last “get together.”

Back home, Harry approached me and gave me an outline of his vision to form an Association based on ex

members of NGVR and PNGVR, and asked me if I would support such a move. I agreed, never thinking that it would reach such strength. I imagined that what Harry had in mind was a social club where members met for a meal and a few beers on the odd occasion. How wrong can one be. The basic organization was set up and ex-members of both NGVR and PNGVR embraced the concept almost 100% Not only was the social side catered for but the Ceremonial events were to play a major part in the program of the Association. ANZAC Day is the major event on the calendar and it makes one proud to be a spectator on such occasions, and to be able to join the men at their “get together” afterwards.

Sadly, we have had to say farewell to a number of loyal “mates” over recent times, but life and the Association go on from strength to strength. The recent opening of the museum at Wacol and the proposal to open Clubs for ex-members in New Guinea are a tribute to the Committee. One of my fellow residents, Major General Kevin Cooke, told me of a visit he had to Wacol and how impressed he was with the museum. He also spoke well of the Association members he had met there. I would dearly like to be able to participate in these activities, but indifferent health does not allow it at present. One always remains positive and hopefully the future will allow some participation.

I still have close contact with Bob Cole who was PNGVR’s Honorary Colonel before Harry Green. My wife, sister in law and I take lunch out to see him at his home in Nerang on an average of once a month. We also are regularly in touch by phone. Bob is nearly 93 going on 100 years young. His body is slowing somewhat but his mind is still razor sharp. Another contact I have is Alan Wadsworth who takes me to Brisbane with him on the odd occasion that I can make it for the ANZAC Day march and “get together” after the march.

In closing, I hope that my writings will be of some use to President Phil Ainsworth and his Committee - may they go from strength to strength.

**Col. M.A Bishop MM
2007**

Colonel Mai Bishop has been on ‘sick parade’ for the past few months including hospitalization.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mai and his family at this difficult time.

We thank him for providing more historic and personal views of the NGVR and PNGVR.

Col Gould—Editor

I had to lobby both the Command Secretary and the Commander to get the required financial approval. This was ultimately approved and I was able to make the payment at the camp site. The camp was called Ambra after a mountain close by. In hindsight the camp was real value for money, as in addition to use by PNGVR for camps and bivouacs, 35 Cadet Battalion also utilized it.

There was another issue involving the District Commissioner, Tom Ellis and the Commander TP&NG, Brigadier Mac Donald. The Company HQ at Mt Hagen was located in a kunai hut next to the Police Barracks and the DC wanted it back. Meanwhile financial approval had been given to build a new Company HQ at a site to be mutually selected by the Army and Administration and the present Army site surrendered. When the Commander and I arrived in Mt Hagen we were met by Ellis and told that a site had already been selected. Ellis then put us in his car and drove us to an area next to a rubbish tip some two miles out of town.

The Commander asked me what I thought of the site and my reply was, "I wouldn't put a dog kennel here" and the Commander forcibly expressed the same opinion. The DC said "Well it's this site or nothing." There followed a violent argument with the Commander finally telling the DC that he would show the DC where the new building plus a surrounding area would go. We then drove back to town and an area was pointed out by the Commander near the market area. The DC would not agree so when we returned to Port Moresby, the next visit was to see the Administrator (Sir Donald Cleland) where the Commander was given the authority to erect the new building at his chosen site.

It was events such as this that were time wasting and at times frustrating, but in the main the cooperation between the Army and Administration was excellent. In hindsight it seemed that I was continually fighting for covering finance for "glitches" of our own making, such as getting agreement on the "old boy" net for use of an Administration boat to take troops to an island for a bivouac, or moving more troops to Annual Camp than the Companies had advised, with subsequent accounts coming in that had not been catered for.

I tried to visit each area at least once every two months and found that by using Army Aviation aircraft, long delays could be avoided. The number of close calls experienced would cover many pages, but the pilots were a grand bunch of men who were dedicated to their task.

I recall one interesting conversation I had with my usual pilot, Captain Charlie Barnett. We were flying from Rabaul to Lae, had just come out of a violent storm and were discussing ditching procedures. Charlie had a theory that if making a forced landing in heavily wooded country, he would *try* to make a belly landing on the canopy, with the passenger side of the aircraft made to hit first and slow down the momentum, I asked why the passenger side first - his reply "because I've got the First Aid Kit". I just hoped that he would never have to use that First Aid Kit!!!!

One of the most interesting things that came out of these visits was the similarity of the current PNGVR men and the original NGVR. There was the same mateship attitude and it made me humble to serve with them. I recall on a visit to Madang to be proudly taken out to see a site they had built for their weekend activities. I noted that the building material was obviously top quality and I knew that no approval had been sought for finance for such a project. There are times to ask questions and times to ignore the obvious, so I did not pursue the matter, but for weeks after I waited for the repercussions. They never came and showed that apart from being a close knit group they were very able scroungers

Our Annual Camps were a chance for the Unit to get together and have some healthy competition between sub units. I recall the camp at Lae Showgrounds. Major Harry Green had been appointed as my 2IC and showed that he was a very efficient administrator. At this camp we invited all the ex NGVR to a dining-in night in the Officers Mess. We had about 8 guests and it was a wonderful experience to have them in circumstances so far removed from the original. The highlight of the evening was when they presented the Unit with two Infantry swords and scabbards, these were eventually placed in the A Company Training Depot at Lae. They subsequently disappeared when the Unit was disbanded, which is a great pity as they should now be a centrepiece in the PNGVR Museum.

We were fortunate in Lae to obtain the services of the Anglican Mission Secretary as our Chaplain, His name was Reverend Alf Miller and he had served in the Middle East as an Infantry Sergeant before being ordained. Alf is now retired with the title of Canon and we have remained close friends, with meetings up here or in Melbourne at infrequent times. When I became Commander Lae Area, he also became Area Chaplain.

My term of 3 years with PNGVR was coming to an end when the Commander, Brigadier Ian Hunter asked me if I would open Igam Barracks at Lae, I wanted the job but did not want to appear too keen so asked "for how

Speech given by Phil Ainsworth at the unveiling of the Chinese Bell Memorial, Brisbane on the 10th March, 2007.

Good Morning Lord Mayor, Mr Peter Low, Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Ralph Seeto, a member of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-members Association suggested to the Queensland Chinese Forum in 2002 the need for a memorial to Australian servicemen and patriots of Chinese heritage, who served Australia during wartime. Ralph spoke to Joe Fisk, a representative of our Association, who facilitated the start of the project.

The reason for our Association's strong support was that upon the formation of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles in September 1939, the Chinese community were keen to play a role. In Rabaul, the Administrative headquarters of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, the Chinese who were not Australian citizens were unable to serve in an official capacity. On the mainland of New Guinea, away from headquarters, a more pragmatic approach was used and at least four Chinese residents of Lae and Bulolo joined NGVR and served until its disbandment late 1942. We are fortunate to have with us today Kam On Leo from NGVR's Rabaul CAAD and Shui Hong Wong from NGVR - please stand so we can see you.

The Regimental Medical Officer of NGVR, suggested the Rabaul Chinese form an unofficial detachment. The Chinese Auxiliary Ambulance Detachment, comprising about 40 young Chinese Rabaul residents, under the guidance of NGVR's Medical Warrant Officer was formed early 1940, and served until disbandment, shortly after the Japanese invasion of Rabaul, late January 1942.

Rabaul's Chinese were obliged to stay on New Britain, that strategically important

island during the Japanese occupation. Many served the Australian war effort, often at great risk and personal cost, by providing information about enemy activities. In at least two instances, these included coast watching duties. As might be expected, much of their assistance was in reaction to the extreme harshness of the occupiers towards them, actions that were given added impetus once word got back to the community from relatives in China about the atrocities meted out by the Japanese.

The Association strongly supported Ralph Seeto's suggestion and Joe Fisk's initiatives by assisting wherever possible in the arrangements. The Queensland Chinese Forum, Brisbane City Council and other organisations and individuals who have participated in this project can be justly proud of their achievement, for what we honour here today. While Joe died a couple of years ago, his wife Val is present today and agrees that we are fortunate to have the benefit of Ralph Seeto's foresight and Joe Fisk's drive; this memorial to our brave Chinese compatriots in arms.

Incidentally, Cabel Shang, the highly decorated First World War, Australian soldier of Chinese heritage, mentioned by the General earlier, was born on the 4 August 1884, not far from here, in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

On behalf of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex-members Association, I have the honour of presenting this framed collection of photographs of the Rabaul based Chinese Auxiliary Ambulance Detachment of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles to the Queensland Chinese Forum. Thank you.

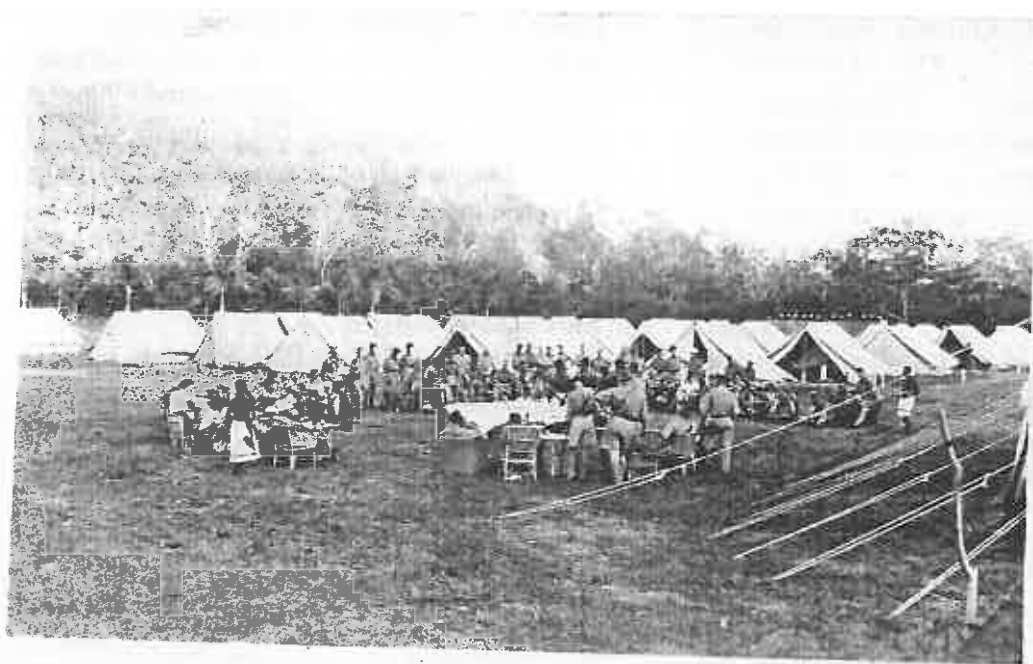
**Phil Ainsworth,
President, NGVR & PNGVR Ex-
members Association, 10th March, 2007**



President Phil Ainsworth presents a framed history and photos of the Rabaul based Chinese Auxiliary Ambulance Detachment of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles to Peter Low, OAM for the Queensland Chinese Forum.



(L) Jesse Chee, Doug Ng, Ralph Seeto, Simon Hui and Peter Chow at the Chinese Memorial Bell dedication.



CAN YOU HELP TO IDENTIFY THIS PHOTO ?

Believed to be an NGVR camp in 1940/41

Photo: Courtesy Don Hook.

later when the rifle was found by a patrol.

Rifleman Charlie Blake had meanwhile been ordered to set out on horseback to look for the missing pair. He ultimately found them some five days later on the Black Cat track where he was ordered to hand over his horse to Fleahy. There is no doubt that the raid did play a big part in drawing the enemy into the Valley as subsequent events have shown, but destruction of the Valley, in my mind, can never be justified.

My next move was to be sent back to Australia with two of my best mates, Sergeants Bill O'Neill and Paul Beal, to attend an officers school and for reposting. I was leaving behind many members of my own unit and NGVR who later became life time friends. Due to their influences I think that I had grown from a boy to a man as I was certainly very naive when I first arrived in New Guinea as a 20 year old.

The NGVR were disbanded and many of their members were posted to ANGAU to continue their work with native control and direct support in further offensive operations. In particular, two of the former Scout Group were promoted to Major, with Lea Ashton joining Special Forces in operations behind enemy lines and Jim McAdam in charge of a Forestry Unit.

Details of this phase of operations are covered in two publications, The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles 1939-1943 by Ian Downs and Double Diamond Black by Andy Pirie. Andy was an original member of 2/5th Independent Company, the Unit name before it was changed to Commando Squadron.

Post war I became a Regular Army Officer with various postings. One was a posting to PIR as a Company Commander where I was able to use my improving Pigin in discussions with the native soldiers. It also gave me the chance to renew friendships with many of the old NGVR members who had returned to New Guinea to resume work.

It would be impossible to recall all the people I again met up with but I do remember dinner with Jim McAdam and his family in Port Moresby and meeting with Lee Ashton, Jim Birrell, Nobby Noblet, Ray Watson and Terry Powell in Lae. It is interesting to note that Terry Powell's son was RMO with PNGVR for a time. I also met up with Tom Lega again and from memory, it was at Bulolo.

During my posting with PIR, I was fortunate enough to be selected to take the PIR party of 3 Officers, 100 Ors and Pipes and Drums to Australia for a visit by Her Majesty. At a parade at Yarralumba, Canberra we were

joined by parties from the RAN Base at Manus and PNGVR. There were a large group of New Guinean and Papuan people there as guests, and after the parade I was again able to meet up with Jim Leahy who had looked after me after my hospital stay in Wau, so many years earlier.

After my spell with PIR I was posted as DAA&QMG at Murray Barracks where Lt Col Bill Young was in the joint postings of Area Commander and CO PNGVR. A lot of my work involved carrying out administrative detail for PNGVR, but I had no involvement with the Unit in command and control. This was to come after Staff College and a number of postings in Australia and overseas. In my last posting prior to returning to New Guinea, I was G2 to Brigadier A.L. MacDonald who subsequently went to New Guinea as Commander PNG. He decided that I was to also return to New Guinea as CO PNGVR.

In January, 1965 I arrived in Port Moresby to take over from Major Dick Newman as CO PNGVR. I felt for Dick as he had commanded the Unit well, but with the upgrade of CO from Major to Lt Col, he was not considered for promotion into the job. He had already set a number of projects in motion, two that I recall as being significant in the future of the Unit. One was the ongoing efforts to have the Colours presented and the other was the building of an annual camp base at Mt Hagen.

Details of the fight to have D'Albertis Creeper in lieu of wattle on the Colours has been adequately covered by Major Bob Harvey Hall in his writings, but I must reinforce the incident that occurred in my office at Murray Barracks. A letter had arrived from Northern Command advising that wattle was to be the floral design for the Colours. When I showed the letter to Colonel Bob Cole, our Honorary Colonel at the time, he was angered to such a degree that he immediately dictated a letter which was typed and he signed, stating that wattle was not regarded as an emblem in TPNG and would not be acceptable to him or the Unit.

As future events now show that the efforts of all concerned with the "Battle for the Colours" was won. Now there was another problem to solve. Dick Newman had arranged with Sgt Phil Robb, who was District Officer at Mt Hagen, to employ a local tribe to build the new camp, but cost or approval for finance had not been sought. Despite this, building had proceeded and the project was nearing completion. After an emergency meeting with Phil Robb he advised that the tribe would accept 600 pounds, paid in one shilling pieces.

under tilly light that night and carried back to Wau, the next two day walk. After a spell in hospital there I was sent to recuperate with Jim Leahy an NGVR member who had the job of growing kau kau and other vegetables near Bulolo. Two events of excitement occurred during my evacuation, one was when a Japanese float plane appeared when I was being stretchered up a kunai ridge outside Lae called Komiatum Ridge. My carriers dropped me and disappeared into the kunai The other event was when carrying me over the ranges after Mubo, one of the carriers slipped on the narrow track and almost sent me over a cliff. I tried to walk after that incident but had to give in and become stretcher borne again.

After my spell with Jim Leahy I returned to Wau and joined up with some members of my Engineers there. We had lost our Engineer Officer in an accident in Port Moresby and he had been evacuated back to Australia. He rejoined us the day I was leaving the Unit, but was killed in action on his first patrol. As a result of his initial accident, I was put in charge of the Engineers.

The next job of note was the burning of the Bulolo Valley. I was called to Kanga HQ where I was ordered to proceed to Bulwa at the far end of the Valley, preparing all bridges, powerhouses etc for demolition and when complete, was to wait there for further orders. I set out from Wau with two of my Sappers, Larry Nicholls and Scotty Smith, in a utility loaded with demolition equipment and proceeded with the job. By the time we reached Bulwa it was late afternoon and an NGVR man there told me I was to ring Captain Cam West back at KANGA Headquarters.

When I contacted Captain West he said, "You are ordered to burn and blow everything in the Valley. The Commander (Lt Col Norman Fleahy) has ordered that you are not to even leave a shithouse standing." I recall with sorrow that when we started to burn the houses, the NGVR man who had joined us, asked if he could burn one particular house as it had been his home. The method of burning a house was simple-throw a bucket of petrol in followed by a match.

By the time we had reached the outskirts of Wau it was daylight and with no communications to ascertain the position, we were very apprehensive. When we finally got in to Wau we found it had already been destroyed and the place was deserted. The NGVR man spoke to a native and advised us that everyone had gone to Edie Creek. It transpired that only the Kanga HQ and a few stragglers had gone to Edie Creek while the majority had gone on the Bulldog Track, and a camp was set up called Blakes Camp after one of the NGVR men, Charlie Blake.

With no more demolition to do we headed for Blakes Camp and joined up with the main body, where we were advised that a raid had been ordered on Mubo as it had been reported that there was a build up of Japanese forces there. In hindsight many of us believed that this raid was designed to draw the enemy into the Bulolo Valley to justify the order to destroy everything in the Valley.

While at Blakes Camp we received our first air drop of supplies with mixed results. The free dropped bags often burst and scattered the contents of rice cans of bully beef and other supplies over a large area. The parachute drops often ended at the top of trees or could not be found. Similar results occurred at a subsequent air drop at Skindewai which was on the track leading to Mubo and one man was killed as a result of being hit with a box of ammunition.

The raid party of 5 Company and NGVR troops moved to Skindewai where briefings on the planned raid took place. At these briefings Lt. Col Fleahy addressed the group and told them that he was accompanying the raiding party as an observer and rifleman only, with no command or control and that Captain Norman Winning was the raid commander.

The raid was a disaster due to Lt Col Fleahy calling out in the dark for everyone to get out when enemy ground mines were set off by our leading men on a narrow track leading up to our objective on a hill named Mat Mat. Captain Winning called for the approach to keep going but the "get out" call kept being repeated and the troops began pulling back. Fortunately Sgt Bill O'Neill and two of his men with tommy guns fitted with 50 cartridge drums had been detailed to cover the main track and were able to inflict heavy casualties on a large party of enemy who came running to cut us off.

When we withdrew to a position above Mubo I was ordered to form a rearguard to cover our withdrawal. When the enemy followed up we were able to inflict more casualties on them and allow us to make a clean break. In the wash up we suffered one officer died of wounds, some of us with shrapnel wounds of varying degrees including myself with deep gashes in my right leg and a boot full of blood.. There was no sign of Lt Col Fleahy.

Subsequent events were that Fleahy, with one of our men who had been detailed to accompany him on the raid had taken another track out and this track led up to Black Cat, a mountain area above Wau. Our man later told the story of how Fleahy had hidden his rifle in a tree hollow, justifying this by stating that one rifle was enough. This story was authenticated some months

COMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

- **SATURDAY 31 MARCH:-** Executive Committee Meeting—Wacol Museum at 12.00 noon.
- **MONDAY 23 APRIL:-** Regimental Mixed Dinner Re-union—Long Tan Sergeants Mess -Gallipoli Barracks.
- **WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL:-** Brisbane ANZAC Day March—commences at 10.00am from George Street.
- **WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL:-** ANZAC Day Reception—Exchange Hotel, crn Edward & Charlotte Sts. Brisbane
- **SATURDAY 28 APRIL:-** Open Day at the Wacol Museum—10.00am to 2.00 pm BYO lunch, drinks etc.
- **TUESDAY 15 MAY:-** Plaque Dedication, AWM Canberra 10.00am ANZAC Day Dress—full medals
- **JUNE** Executive Committee meeting at the Museum
- **SUNDAY 1 July:-** Montevideo Maru Memorial Service—ANZAC Square Brisbane & morning tea
- **SUNDAY 1 July:-** Reserve Forces Day March—Brisbane— 10.00 am
- **SATURDAY 14 July:-** Jimboomba Bush Dinner
- **SATURDAY 25 August:-** Proposed PNG Independence Ball & Dinner—Brisbane—Aust/PNG Association Inc
- **AUGUST** Executive Committee meeting at the Museum
- **SEPTEMBER** Association Annual General Meeting
- **SEPTEMBER** PNG Independence celebrations TBA
- **OCTOBER** Executive Committee Meeting at the Museum
- **NOVEMBER** 9 RQR Military Excellence Awards
- **SATURDAY 17 November:-** Jimboomba Bush Dinner
- **DECEMBER** Association Christmas Bar-B-Q TBA



PLAQUE DEDICATIONS—TUESDAY 15 May 2007. Australian War Memorial Canberra

NGVR / ANGAU
&
PIR

(1 PIB, 1st NGIB, 2nd NGIB, 3rd NIB, 2nd PIDB & HQ PIR)



The Dedication of the plaques has been organized to take place at the Australian War Memorial on Tuesday 15 May 2007 commencing at 10.00 am. Sharp. Guests should assemble in the Museum fore-court by 9.45 am at the latest.

His Excellency Major-General Michael Jefferies, AC.CVO.MC has agreed to attend as has WO Keith Payne, VC. The format will be a dedication followed by morning tea, a conducted tour of the AWM and lunch. The dedication is recognized as a service for the men of their Regiment, their wives and families.

A good response has been received from both NGVR / PNGVR members and PIR members so there should be a good roll-up on the day. As yet no other functions have been organized in Canberra but as numbers firm up, no doubt a luncheon can be put in place the following day so that those attending can meet up with old friends and comrades over kai kai and a few drinks etc. The lunch on Tuesday will be available at the War Memorial Café for \$15-00 pp. Expenses such as travel, meals and accommodation will be the responsibility of each member attending.

Word of warning—the 15 May is budget night and accommodation may be at a premium—SO BOOK YOUR ACCOMODATION WELL IN ADVANCE.

Dress for the service will be our NGVR/PNGVR ANZAC Day dress with full medals and beret or jacket with medals.

I have asked the War Memorial if they could bring out for display our PNGVR Queen's & Regimental Colours.

Please let me know if you are attending. This will help with organise formalities on the day.

Bruce Crawford, 07 3397 5532 email bjcrawford@aapt.net.au

Bruce Crawford for NGVR/PNGVR Executive Committee

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REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER REUNION

Date: Monday 23 April 2007

Venue: 6 RAR Long Tan Sergeants Mess—Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera,

Dress: Mess Dress / Jacket with Miniature medals / evening wear

Time: Assemble in the Mess from 6.00 pm onwards / Sherry from 6.30 pm
Dinner Served at 7.00 pm.

Included in the cost of \$45-00 pp

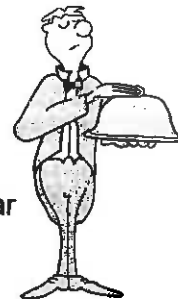
Pre-dinner Sherry * 3 Course dinner * Table wine * Port * Tea/Coffee
* Humorous Kangaroo Court awards * Great camaraderie * Mess price drinks

Special Guest: Major-General John Pearn, AM, RFD. (Rtd) - Association Patron

Overnight accommodation may be available in the Mess—names to Col Gould ASAP

For those taking City Accommodation, why not get-together and take a **yellow cab maxi-taxi** which can seat up to 10 adults. Estimate cost from the city to the Mess is in the region of \$35 one way—that is only \$ 4 to \$8 per person, depending on the number of passengers. Yellow cabs can take you right to the door of the Mess and take you home again later that night. We need a minimum of 50 to 55 guests to make the evening a viable success. Please support this annual formal occasion. **Names to Col Gould ASAP**

Phone: 042 456 2030 email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au



ANZAC DAY—BRISBANE MARCH

Assemble from: 9.30 am **At:** Left side of George Street facing towards Elizabeth Street.

Order of March position: NGVR/PNGVR No: 87

PIR No: 88

March commences: 10.00 am **Dress:** ANZAC Day Dress with full medals / Jacket & Hat

Jeeps: Look for John Holland at the jeep loading site in Elizabeth St. Names for Jeep transport are required NOW. Please contact John Holland, Paul Brown or Col Gould. We Must have your name ASAP.

There will be a brief NGVR Memorial Service in the Shrine of Memories immediately after the March.

Please note: It is a stipulation of the overall Parade Committee that any non-service personnel, such as family members, grandchildren etc MUST have the approval of the individual Unit Leader to march on ANZAC Day. Such personnel will be required to march at the rear of each Unit (behind the returned and ex service members) and must be neatly and appropriately attired. No photographs (framed or non-framed) of departed service members are to be carried or displayed during the march.

Reception: Exchange Hotel—Corner of Charlotte and Edward Streets (use Charlotte St ground floor entrance)
Cost: \$20 pp at the door. **Exact change please.** Includes light finger food, beer, wine and lollie water. Reception to commence at approx: 11.15 am. Doug & Paul's Trade Store will be open between 12.15 pm and 12.45 pm to take membership fees and sell ties and stubbie coolers etc. (Bring extra cash.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Colin,

.....We are going to celebrate my medal award with our Milne Bay Governor, Mr Tim Neville & I am now very happy that I have my Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 and I thank you for this. Gee Colin, you should have seen my eyes were full of tears with getting the medal.—this happened when I look at our old 12 Platoon PNGVR photos and see your father, S/Sgt Stan Gould with his wife (Mummy). Colin please give my greetings to the officers and men who were with us in 12 PI Madang. Please keep in touch, and on behalf of your late parents I send my personal and family greetings to you and your family. God bless you all.

Signed: William Todokta (870453 L/Cpl 12 PI D Coy Madang.)

Like many of our PNGVR comrades in PNG, William is also entitled to the new Australian Defence Medal having served in PNGVR in excess of 4 years.

Editor:

Once the unit had been organized it was split up with one group heading towards Lae, one to Mubo on the Salamaua track and the HQ, Signals group and Kanga Force HQ remaining in Wau. NGVR already had men at both locations plus a Scout Group just outside Salamaua. I went with the Mubo group and once there I became aware of the valuable part that NGVR had already played and were continuing to play in the overall battle plans.

A secure base had been established at Mubo and the Scout Group were busily obtaining information on enemy dispositions including strengths and other data vital to any successful raid. It was highly dangerous and nerve racking work, but the Group under Sergeant Jim McAdam carried it out in a manner to be admired. One of the most important tasks was ascertaining the loyalty or otherwise of local tribes in the area. Our men, with no knowledge of the country or the language were not fitted for such a task.

There followed weeks of intense patrolling to learn the layout of the country. One of our sergeants, Bill O'Neill, took some of his men to join the Scout Group. Our leader in the area, Captain Norm Winning with NGVR Captain John Murphy went on an extended patrol to get first hand knowledge of the areas being considered for the raid on Salamaua.

I was fortunate enough to accompany a small contact patrol to meet up with a RAAF officer, Lee Vial, who had established an OP with a direct view on to Salamaua and in particular the airstrip. The OP was in the range over looking the airstrip and from there all movements of enemy aircraft could be seen and reported by radio direct back to Port Moresby. Vial had been placed near his OP with 6 months supplies for himself and two native police bois. He was killed in an air crash in a future operation.

The layout of the OP was very clever. The battery charger was buried so that it could not be heard running even a few feet away from it. A platform had been built in a huge tree some 80 feet above ground, and up there Vial had a chair and used to sit there with his powerful binoculars to keep watch on the airstrip. In the event that the area was clouded in, Vial had an alternative site on a ridge below the clouds.

Meanwhile, preparations for the raid continued with carrier lines of bois with NGVR and ANGAU men in charge, building up a reserve of ammunition, explosives and other equipment that would be required for the raid. These carrier lines had a hard two day walk from Wau loaded with approximately 100 lbs each boi, either on shoulders, or 200 lbs loads slung on

a pole and carried by two bois. Ultimately these loads had to be taken forward to our assembly area, a further days walk.

Finally the time had arrived for the raiding parties to move forward to the assembly area which had been prepared by the Scout Group. This was an area about 1 hours walk from the objectives and from there the leaders of each group could go forward with a Scout Group member to selected viewing sites of their objectives. Thus the combined members of 2/5th Independent Company and NGVR were ready to proceed with a raid that was the first offensive action in the SW Pacific for many months.

The time had finally arrived for the raid with H Hour set at 0315 hrs 29 June 1942. The dispositions of each party and their targets are detailed in a number of war histories, but they would take too much space to outline here. I will therefore restrict my writings to the particular target at Kela Point. This party was led by an NGVR officer, Coleman O'Loughlen with a number of NGVR members, including Jeff Archer, Tom Lega and Brian Fraser, with myself and 5 of my men.

The target was often called Kong Point due to a number of Chinese trade stores lining the waterfront. Jeff Archer and I tried to find an approach via the back of the buildings but the area was littered with bottles, tins and rubbish, making it impossible to make a silent approach. It was then decided that we would cross the road, get into the sea and move to the front of the buildings under cover of the sea wall. This was successfully achieved and we found ourselves with only the road separating us from the line of trade stores.

In front of the stores were a number of Japanese soldiers completely unaware of our presence and they were laughing, chattering and obviously having fun with a couple of meris. It seemed a shame to break up such a party but duty called and our attack went in. Unfortunately I was wounded and the blast from a bomb I had thrown into one of the stores blew me across the road and back into the sea. I was picked up by a boi called Liklik who was a personal boi of Lea Ashton and he handed me my tommy gun and told me to get on with the job. Lea had sent him with the party to look after me along with a number of other loyal bois of NGVR men.

When the attack was over we withdrew back to our base with Japanese artillery from the Isthmus at Salamaua firing wildly on to the ridge we were moving on, and sometimes bursting miles away. My wounds put me out of action for some weeks as I was stretchered back to Mubo where I was operated on

RECOLLECTIONS BY Colonel M.A. Bishop MM



Colonel Mal Bishop with Counciller Warbra and his band of builders at a sing sing following payment for building Ambra Camp, May 1965

When one has been associated with NGVR and PNGVR for almost 65 years, it is time to put some of the events and lessons on paper so that the younger generations can become aware of the past.

I will begin with my first contact with members of the NGVR in Wau in 1942. As a member of 2/5th Independent Company, I flew in to the Wau Airstrip in a US Air Force C47, an aircraft with metal seats down each side of the aircraft and cargo space down the centre. We were fully loaded with troops and the cargo space was stacked with ammunition and explosives. As Engineer Sergeant I was responsible for the cargo.

On landing the pilot braked hard as it appeared a very small strip, but as it ran up a steep hill, the plane stopped half way and required full throttle to get to the top end.. Due to the very real threat of Japanese aircraft attacking, pilots were urging speedy unloading and our pilot started to throw the boxes of explosives and ammunition out of the door. I had to remind him that if one of the boxes exploded, there would be no plane left to fly out and we would all be killed.

At this stage a tall man appeared at the door with about 20 natives and took over the unloading, accompanied by orders in Pigin English. I was most impressed with the order he achieved out of apparent chaos. I particularly noticed the long barrelled 45 pistol he had in a leather holster and his dress, which was a mixture of military and civilian clothing.

I then got my first lesson - one of the natives came up

to me and said "masta me nogat smoke". I had a 50 tin of Craven A cigarettes and handed it over to him. At this stage the tall man said "Don't do that". I asked him why not and I will never forget his reply, "Today you will be handing out smokes because you have plenty and think you are being friendly, in a couple of weeks time when you have run out you will be searching meris, billum bags and bois cargo looking for a smoke." I realised that these men, although not as well equipped or dressed as we were, had a far better understanding of the country and its inhabitants.

Our Unit "fly in" to Wau was completed by 2 US Air Force C47s and 4 civilian DC3s flown by civilian pilots with air cover from US Aircobra fighters. It took about 1/2 hour to get the planes on the ground, unloaded and away again. This speedy turn around was made possible by a number of NGVR men, each with a work party of natives to unload planes and segregate the stores. Again we were able to see the efficiency of their work.

My next lesson was not long in coming. Having watched and heard the NGVR men speaking to the natives, I decided to, try out my brand of Pigin on some natives. In hindsight it was a dreadful mess and one of the NGVR men said, "Sergeant, if you want to get something done then please ask one of us, but don't use that gibberish. You'll pick it up in time but meantime use one of us if you wish to issue any instructions". I got the lesson loud and clear and it served me in good stead in future postings in war and post war.

MUSEUM CURATOR'S TOK TOK.....The 9 mm Owen Sub machine gun

In 1940 the Australian Army realized that they would be getting few weapons from be leagued Britain, so they were forced to quickly develop their own weapons in Australia.

The Owen SMG was invented by Lt Evelyn Owen and manufactured at Port Kembla in NSW. There were some 45,477 of various models manufactured for war and post war service. When finally replaced, surplus weapons were stored in secured military warehouses and about 100 were given to museums and private collectors.

Seven Owens were stolen in the 1980's from war storage in Victoria. Just how many were dumped or scrapped is uncertain, but some 35,000 were dumped in the ocean off the NSW coast, whilst others were melted down by the state railway authority and made into train brake pads. Some 6,000 were destroyed at Enoggera and then melted down by Simms & Co.

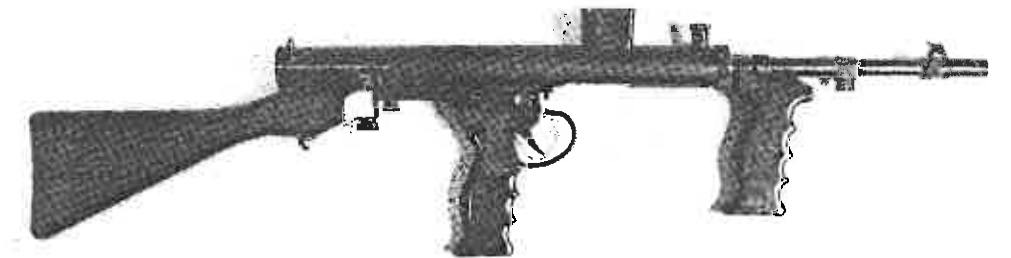
It was a sad end to a remarkable Australian designed and made weapon, a weapon that played a vital role in the New Guinea campaign, the Korean War, the Malaysian anti-terrorist campaign and in Vietnam.

OWEN 9 MM SMG Mark 1- May 1942

- Weight: 10 lb 3 oz. with empty magazine and wooden butt
- Cartridge: 9mm x 19mm Parabellum
- Rate of fire: Approx 600 rounds per minute
- Feed: 33 round box magazine
- Overall length: 32 inches depending on butt type fitted
- Muzzle velocity: 420 meters per second
- Accessories: Bayonet, oil bottle, pull through
- Sights: Fixed aperture—100 Yards
- Manufacture cost in 1942: Aust 9 Pounds 2 shillings.

Our WACOL MUSEUM has an OMC on display. The weapon was issue to Joe Baraglough who was shot and killed by Japanese Sgt Watanabe in a battle near Wewak. Sgt Watanabe returned to Wewak for a reunion in 1971 and indicated the exact battle site. Baraglough's OMC was recovered exactly as indicated, by workers of PNGVR member, Ken MacGowan.

Museum donations and volunteer helpers are always most welcome.



John Holland— Museum Curator

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REUNIONS

- **Goroka/Banz/Hagen International Primary Schools Saturday 15 September** at the Brisbane Irish Club. Contact Lisa Adams 043 291 9401
- **Kiap Reunion—Sunday 11 November** Kawana Waters Hotel, Buddina, Qld Contact Bob/Heather Fayle on 07 54447446
- **Treasurers—At Port Stevens NSW From 13-18 September.** Contact Dave Martin 08 8388 4354
- **Ex Teachers/students of Yang Ching Sacred Heart School Rabaul Reunion Dinner Saturday 30 June** at Greek Club, South Brisbane. Contact Sylvia on 0412 117 225.
- **Bulolo Golf Club 60th Anniversary and Reunion** on weekend of 8-10 June Contact Ron Sneath on 07 5474 5194
- **Madang Reunion Sunday 11 November** at Bribie Island Apex Park Bongaree, BYO.

Information courtesy PNG Association of Australia Inc.



ASSOCIATION HONOUR BOARD



(L) Barry Wright, John Holland and Col Gould visit an old friend from the PNGVR days in Papua New Guinea.— **The DHC-4 Caribou** during a Greenbak RSL Sub-Branch visit to RAAF Amberley

BARRY, DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
DIG THE HOLE DEEPER.

HELL MAL, CAN'T YOU SEE I AM BUSY HOLDING THE SHOVEL UP SO IT WONT FALL OVER AND HIT YOU.



MUSEUM WORKING BEE
Mal Zimmermann & Barry Wright



"DO YOU WANT ONIONS WITH THAT?"

MUSEUM WORKING BEE
The 'Doug & Jesse' Kai Kai Service

(L) Bruce Crawford, Col Gould, Phil Ainsworth and John Mudge have a working lunch at the United Services Club Brisbane. February 2007.

