

was funded and built as a joint project between the Australian, New Zealand and Thai Governments and is a magnificent building with many mock ups of the actual conditions our men worked under, with an original movie showing the horrific war time conditions. The place was hellish and the name "Hellfire Pass" comes from the fact that the POW's were forced to work up to 18 hours a day including night work by the light of open flame oil torches.

The actual Dawn Service was held in the "Hammer and Tap" cutting and the cutting and track was lit in the same way. It was rather eerie and a little disturbing to reflect on how it might have been working there at night under appalling conditions.

We set the old alarm for 0315 hours on ANZAC Day morning and drove to the museum car park. I wore our full Association ANZAC Day dress with my service awards. Small taxi trucks transported old Diggers down onto a new concrete road that has been constructed to provide a flat walk way for them to the pass. I escorted one old gentleman on the 400 m walk along the rail bed to the actual cutting. The Dawn Service started at 0530 hours.

The service was a magnificent tribute to our old soldiers and those who made the supreme sacrifice.

The following morning tea at the museum included a shot of, yes, Bundy rum—most enjoyable.

We returned to our Hotel, showered and change then drove the 75km into the War Cemetery in town, arriving for the 1100 hours memorial service. The war cemetery is magnificent and, as expected, kept in immaculate condition. It contains the remains of some 1,356 Australian soldiers plus those from Holland and many other Commonwealth countries. Prior to the actual service a young Australian boy of about 10 recited a very beautiful poem called "The Rose". He was well applauded. The Last Post and Reveille was played by Thai soldiers.

I estimated that over 100 wreaths were laid at the memorial that day, including mine on behalf of and in the name of the NGVR / PNGVR Ex Members Association.

Later in the day I changed from my ANZAC Day dress into shorts and T-Shirt to be more comfortable to drive the 600 km back to our home in Buri Ram.

What a wonderful experience and a most appropriate place to remember the men and women who served us in all the wars.

### FROM THE PIR ARCHIVES.....

TROOPING OF THE COLOURS—1st BATTALION, PACIFIC ISLAND REGIMENT—approx 1969—Port Moresby

Commanding Officer:- Lt. Colonel M B Pears, MC  
Adjutant:- Capt K Noga  
RSM:- Warrant Officer Class 1 Osi Ivaraoa

No: 1 Guard:-	Major P Stokes	2Lt P J Challands	WO2 Paulus	Sgt Pokoi Popisal
No: 2 Guard:-	Major B W Howard, MC	Lt R J Harvey	WO2 Tsioni	Sgt Kaule Goudre
No: 3 Guard:-	Major B W Hawkins	2Lt G M Stooke	WO2 J Daniel	Sgt Ravu Hura
No: 4 Guard:-	Major T A Gee	2 Lt B W O'Shea	WO2 Kekeao	Sgt Suku Tutuman
Ensign to the Colour:-	Lt P H Fraser			

*"Where are they now ??*

### MEMBER EMAIL ADDRESSES

In order to increase and improve on communication between the Association and its members, your Executive Committee is requesting members to submit their current EMAIL ADDRESSES so that information can quickly be relayed around the traps. If you wish to be included on our Association email network, please email your name and email address to:-  
pngvr@optusnet.com.au  
Your email address will only be used by your Association to communicate information to you.

**New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc.**  
Includes former members of the Pacific Islands Regiment, Papuan Infantry Battalion and New Guinea Infantry Battalions

All correspondence to:-

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

Mobile:- 042 456 2030 Email: [pngvr@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pngvr@optusnet.com.au) [www.pngvr.com](http://www.pngvr.com)

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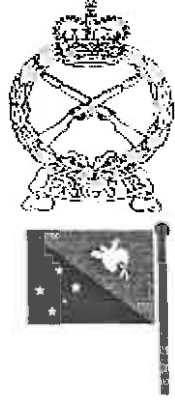
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Col Gould—Editor



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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.)



President's Update.....

VOLUME 55 AUGUST 2008

Greetings Members, This is basically an update of my July email newsletter.

The big news is our Secretary Colin Gould received a MBE in the PNG Queen's Birthday Honours list for his many years work in PNG, particularly with the Ombudsman Commission and for his work with our Association. Congratulations Colin!

Our Curator John Holland had his back attended to mid June and you will be pleased to hear it was a great success. John has carried this problem with great fortitude for a number of years. You will not recognise him when you next see him as he looks ten years younger.

John Schindler, who is producing a documentary about the Montevideo Maru tragedy presented the Association with a DVD copy of his earlier Krait documentary. It is a 35 minutes reconstruction telling of the exploits of the Z Force commandos on the two raids into Singapore Harbour during WW2. It is a good addition to our Museum.

Our last committee meeting was held on 21st June. We all turned up early to assist Paul Brown, John had just got out of hospital, to show a group of New Zealand ex-National Servicemen through the museum. They did not turn up - we were told the wrong date - they did however turn up the following week. A second ex-RAAF RSL group also visited the museum during the same week. The Museum has purchased a lockable book cabinet and King & Co Property Consultants gave a 10 drawer horizontal map filing cabinet to the Museum. Several significant artifacts / memorabilia items have also been donated. John Holland has organized several working bees at the Museum to continue upgrading our exhibits, general maintenance and provide a social outlet for those with a little time. Please contact John if you can spare the time. Thank you to those who have participated.

Wewak is forming another Chapter of our Association, so far rounding up about 35 ex-PNGVR members. Our Mt Hagen Chapter which comprises Banz, Minj and Mt Hagen has about 70 members. As a gesture of goodwill, our Association has arranged for a limited number of PNGVR Association pockets, in similar style as our own, to be made and sent to the executive of both Chapters. Hopefully this will keep some uniformity in their badging and provide an incentive for all members to obtain their own. These should be enroute by the time you read this newsletter.

Colin has sent about 20 ASMs to our Mt Hagen Chapter, which medals were to be presented at this years PNG Remembrance Day on 23rd July. Unfortunately this did not occur and will now be presented this 33rd Anniversary of PNG Independence on 16th September. Ian Thompson in Mt Hagen is assisting Patrick Amberye to arrange a suitable ceremony in Mt Hagen with an military attaché from the Australian High Commissioner's Office to make the presentations.

Tim Vincent from Wau has been in touch and is arranging advertisements in the Post Courier to assist in putting together a Lae Chapter of ex-PNGVR members. Tim was recently visited by Phillip Bradley who is researching his "Wau to Salamaua" book. Tim took the time to fly Phillip around and photograph the battle sites in his ultra light aircraft, a dicey venture to me. In September Tim is intending to walk to the junction of the Busival and Black Cat tracks and retrace the Japanese invasion path to Wau as described in Phillip's "Battle of Wau" book, a very interesting venture indeed, and one in which I would like to be involved.

We did not attend the 29th June Reserve Forces March this year because of the seemingly poor organisation and its usual clash with our 1st July Montevideo Maru Memorial Service. Sure enough, after the March we were asked why we did not turn out. It is good to know we were missed. We will review this early next year. No additional work has been done to erect a plaque in Brisbane's Anzac Square for allied servicemen and women who served in the PNG Archipelago during WW2. This is to go on the base of the "Fuzzy Wuzzy" statue on the left hand side near Adelaide Street. and would be used for PNG Remembrance Day ceremonies. Hopefully we will get this done in time for the 23rd July 2009 inaugural ceremony.

Our annual 1st July Montevideo Maru Memorial Service was well attended, about 50, although again, the press did not think it was newsworthy. This years service was given greater momentum by "the Finding the Montevideo Maru Foundation" sponsored by Cynthia Schmidt and Clive Troy. Two Liberal politicians, Senator Russell Trood (Qld) and Stuart Robert (Fadden) turned up and said they would be supporting the Foundation's work. John Schindler and his camera crew arrived and filmed the service and afterwards

interviewed Rud Buckley with the handkerchief thrown to him by Cpl O'Neil in June 1942, as well as other people whose relations were aboard the Montevideo Maru. An interesting development is that Max Hayes, ex-RPNGC 1959-1974, told us about a woman in Brisbane, who was romantically linked with Cpl O'Neil before he went to Rabaul. John Holland and Rudy Buckley visited this lady and she gave the Museum photographs of O'Neil in Rabaul and copies of letters from him. John said the meetings were very emotional. The lady also had the handkerchief properly framed and presented it to the Museum. Further, it appears that Cpl O'Neil was in the militia before he joined the AIF, in hindsight an ill fated move.

Max Hayes is preparing a paper with photographs about the six memorials, of which he is aware, commemorating the Montevideo Maru victims. His paper should be published in our Harim Tok Tok before the end of the year. There is a move for another plaque at Subic Bay in the Philippines to be dedicated on Armistice Day 2008. The plaque is to be placed on an existing massive "Hell Ships" Memorial erected by the US Navy. Subic Bay was up to 1992 a huge US Naval Base and is now a very busy free trading port, situated about 100km north of Manila. It is arguably the closest and best location for such a plaque, as it is less than 150 km south of the Montevideo Maru's resting place. The Association is supporting this project and we are seeking assistance from the Australian Government for the cost of the plaque and for representation at the ceremony on 11th November. Clive Troy, who has business interests there, is our representative organising the Philippines end. Incidentally there is a petition circulating for presenting to the Federal Government by years end for similar assistance it provided for finding HMAS Sydney. This petition is sponsored by the "Finding the Montevideo Maru Foundation". Our Association supports this petition. Copies will soon be emailed round and/or attached to our next Harim Tok Tok for your consideration. If you require more information, please speak directly with Cynthia or Clive,

Last month I spoke with John Smallwood who works for the Wacol developer about our Museum's relocation. He said the court case with BCC and government departments would start in August, which it has, with a result expected before Christmas. The developer wants our Museum on the new site, which is just over the hill backing onto Blunder Creek esplanade adjacent to the proposed main entry to the development, but any relocation is 18 to 24 months away. He added that other buildings are available and we may get one at that time. By the way, the work on the ramp is awaiting new drawings, NSAAQ approval and a building schedule. Hopefully this will be under way soon.

Eleven of our members and our Patron attended the Sherwood RSL's 66th Anniversary Kokoda Day Memorial Service at Corinda on Sunday 10th August. The Corinda RSL is the adopted home of the original Victorian recruited, 39th Infantry Battalion, and the service is particularly dedicated to that unit. About a dozen original 39 Bn members and several original ex-PIB Members were in attendance. It was a fine ceremony and a great opportunity for us to net work with our peers. Thank you Mike Griffin for arranging the invitations for us to attend.

Denis Samin has been in touch. He still resides in Cairns, but at a new address. Denis had a bad stretch with his health but is now fine. Joshua is doing very well at school, is now over six feet tall and is a great soccer player.

About 10 of our members attended Jack Goad's funeral on the 7th August. Jack had been sick for some time and was living in the Masons Home at Brighton. He died suddenly on the 3rd August. The family was most appreciative our Association's input, Thank you Paul Brown for managing the "Poppy Parade" segment of the service.

The monthly email newsletter seems to be working. I now have 73 reliable email addresses, which is less than a third of our 250 plus membership. If any member has an email address or is able to use one or have a relative who can reliably pass on information, please send an email to either myself or Secretary Colin to get on the list. The list was used to give timely advice to members of Jacks Goad's death and funeral arrangements.

Our AGM has been set for 4pm, Saturday 20th September at 1st Division's Sergeants Mess. The cost is \$20 per attendee. Details including the agenda and how to get there are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Phil Ainsworth. - President.

### ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—2008

Saturday 20 September

1st Division Sergeants Mess—Gallipoli Barracks—Enoggera, Brisbane.

Assemble: 4.00 pm AGM: 4.45 pm AGM Buffet Dinner: 6.30pm

( Please RSVP ASAP as firm catering numbers are required )

Email: pngvr@optusnet.com.au or Phone Col 042 456 2030

Dress: ANZAC Day Dress or Jacket with Miniatures - guests welcome. \$20 pp for dinner

### From the Editor's Desk.....



- **NGVR/PNGVR Museum** Curator John Holland has conducted a number of working bees over the past few months to upgrade our military displays and has hosted a number of visits by interested returned and ex servicemen Associations.

Member Leigh Eastwood has made and donated a large sign for the outside wall of our museum facing the main road. Many thanks Leigh.

Member Rudi Buckley has kindly donated some of his memorabilia he collected in Rabaul, to our Museum. We thank Rudi for a steering wheel from a Japanese landing barge sunk in Simpson Harbour; a small propeller from a Japanese long shaft outboard motor which he found in a tunnel near the blue lagoon on the Kokopo Road; a brass clock taken from a Japanese mine sweeper that was run aground near volcano Vulcan, along with one cast aluminium street sign "Malaguna Road". The things one finds laying around. Our thanks to Rudi for making these items available for display in our Museum. Does any ex Rabaulite know what "malaguna" actually means??? Your Executive Committee would like to thank all those members who have made memorabilia donations to our Museum which is steadily expanding items on display.

John Holland would welcome any new members to his group of volunteer museum helpers. Phone John now on 07 33755484 if you can offer an hour or three.

- **Jimboomba Mixed Dining Nights** Barry & Pam Wright extend a very warm invitation to members and guests to attend the next Bush Dining Night on Saturday 11 October 2008 with Pre-dinner sherry at 1800 hours with Dinner being served at 1900 hours. If you have not yet attended one of these remarkable evenings, then make sure you don't miss this one, by phoning Barry on 07 5546 9865 or Bob Collins on 07 5526 8396 NOW!

Cost is only \$30 pp inclusive Sherry, Dinner and Port. BYO drinks. Overnight campers welcome. Facilities include an excellent camping site, hot showers, electricity, gas cooking facilities for breakfast on the Sunday morning, an evening bon fire and great companionship. *Plenti wan-toks I stap.*  
( 2009 Dinner will be held on Saturday 13 June)

- **2008 Samarai and Milne Bay reunion** will be held in Gladstone over a number of functions Friday 26 September to Sunday 28 September. Eg. Friday night 'Meet & Greet' at Rydges International—Tropical night on the Terrace \$20 pp Saturday 27th September—'Reunion Dinner & Dinner Dance' Rydges International with a "Samarai Ball Theme" \$55 pp Sunday 28th September, "Farewell Sausage Sizzle" at the Gladstone Marine complements of the reunion organizers. Contact: Sharon Catford, PO Box 569 Gladstone BC Qld 4680
- **Nui Ailan Reunion ( New Ireland Reunion)** will be held on Saturday 15 March 2009 at the Sofitel Hotel, Broadbeach, Queensland. 11.00am to 5.00 pm Sit down smorgasbord Luncheon. \$60 pp. Numbers are limited and early registration is essential. Payments required by 30 November 2008. Contact Tony Thomas, PO Box 840 North Lakes, Qld 4509.

**ANZAC Day reunion venue** Our venue for our post ANZAC Day march function in Brisbane 2008, the Victory Hotel, was burnt down a number of weeks ago. A decision has yet to be made by the owners whether they will repair and renovate or demolish and rebuild. If the Victory Hotel is unavailable for April 2009, another venue, perhaps the Exchange Hotel across the road—now under new owners and management and recently upgraded, will come to our assistance. Watch this space.



### In the mail box.....

**" ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Hell Fire Pass " 2008**  
By Member Lt. Bill Bickerton (Rtd)

On the 24 April my wife Sawai and I booked into the River Kwai Village Hotel which is just 10km from the Hell Fire Pass Museum in Thailand. The resort is right on the bank of the River Kwai. The Resort was well and truly booked out with Australian families and ex and returned servicemen and women. That evening we had dinner at the resort and met with many Australians. This was an interesting and humbling experience because most of them had no connection with the war or POW's that were forced by the Japanese to labour on the infamous railway. They were simply patriotic, decent Australians who recognized the importance of keeping the ANZAC legend alive.

I had the privilege to buy a drink for an old Digger who was one in a group of five attending the service, who had served on the Siam/Burma Railway. What a remarkable man. For the past 11 years he has organized and sponsored fund raising in his Australian country town to take a group of local teenagers to Hellfire Pass each ANZAC Day for the memorial service. Over that period he has escorted 163 young Australians to Thailand for ANZAC Day.

We visited the Railway museum which is located on top of the ridge through which Hellfire Pass was cut. The museum

NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC.  
**2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**DATE: Saturday the 20th SEPTEMBER 2008**

**VENUE: 1st Division Sergeants Mess, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. Brisbane**

**TIMES:** 4.00 pm.....Assemble in the Mess - Comradeship  
4.45 pm..... ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
6.00 pm..... AGM ends  
6.30 pm..... Buffet Dinner / Port / Camaraderie until "late"

**DRESS: Anzac Day Dress with Miniatures or Suit/Jacket with Miniatures**  
**\$20 pp Buffet Dinner / Sweets / Port Payable on the night.**

**4.45 pm** Call to Order  
\* Welcome Address  
\* Apologies  
\* Confirmation of Minutes of the 2006 AGM (to be circulated)  
\* Business arising from the previous AGM Minutes  
\* Correspondence / Treasurer's Report / Welfare Officer / Historic Officer  
\* President's Report  
\* Election of Officer Bearers for 2008/9  
\* General Business  
- Appointment of Auditors  
- Other General Business

C.L. Gould - Secretary

**ALL MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES AND GUESTS WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

1. **To avoid costly over or under catering for the AGM dinner, please email or phone your intention to ATTEND ( or apologies) by 8 September to:-**

**Col Gould Ph 042 456 2030 pngvr@optusnet.com.au**  
**Please subject title your email:- "AGM 2008 "**

**Names are required, in advance, for the Security on the Enoggera Barracks Gate.**

2. Overnight single accommodation may be available in the Mess or adjacent Messes on the Saturday evening, depending on requirements for serving soldiers on the 20 September. Please email or phone Col Gould if you require overnight accommodation, ASAP. Accommodation, if available, will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Ring Col Gould **NOW** | 042 456 2030 pngvr@optusnet.com.au



**1ST DIVISION SERGEANTS MESS**  
**GALLIPOLI BARRACKS**



After driving through the main gate at Enoggera Barracks, take the **FIRST** turn **LEFT** off the main round-a-bout and proceed straight down the main road.

You will pass on your **RIGHT** the Memorial Walk, which is well worth a stop over in the car park. Continue down the main road until you see the small **CATHOLIC Chapel** on your right, turn **RIGHT** at the **Chapel** and take the next **LEFT** which is clearly sign posted.

AGM Dress:- ANZAC Day dress with miniatures or Jacket with miniatures.  
\$20 pp for the Reunion Buffet.

Our thanks to the PMC for allowing us use of their Mess for our 2008 AGM.

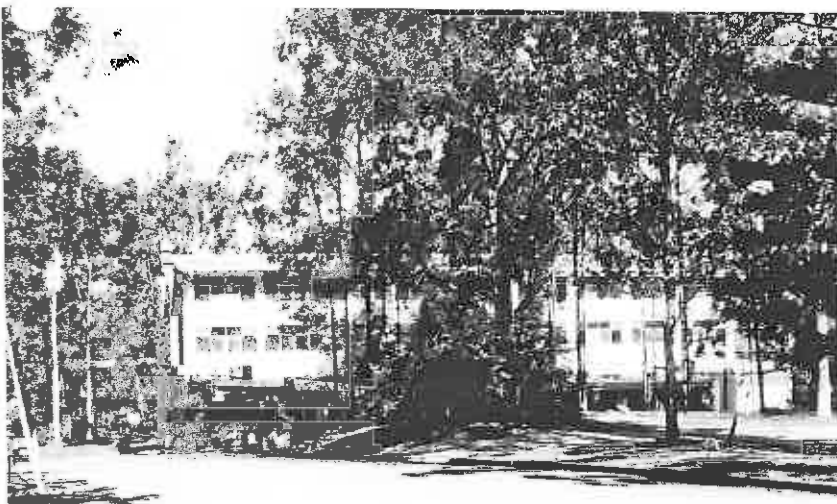
Col Gould

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TOP: Road side signage to the Mess

CENTRE: 1st Division Sergeants Mess

BOTTOM: Inside the Mess.



NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC.

2008

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**PROXY FORM**

I, .....of.....  
(Financial Member's name) (Address)  
being a financial Member of the above named Association, hereby appoint

.....of.....  
(Member's name) (Address)  
as my PROXY to vote for me on my behalf at the 2008 Annual General Meeting to be held  
on **Saturday the 20 September 2008** at the **1st Division Sgts Mess**, Gallipoli Army  
Barracks, Enoggera and at any adjourment thereof.

Signed:.....Date:.....  
(NB Proxy's close with the Secretary 1600 Hours on the day/date of the A.G.M.)  
Post to: The Secretary, PO Box 885, PARK RIDGE, Queensland. 4125

NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
VOLUNTEER RIFLES EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC

2008

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**NOMINATION FORM**

MEMBER NOMINATED:.....

COMMITTEE POSITION NOMINATED FOR:.....  
Positions: President: Vice-President (PNG Rep) Vice-President; Secretary: Treasurer:  
plus Committee Member (up to 7 positions)

NOMINATED BY: (Print).....DATE:.....SIGNATURE:.....

SECONDED BY: (Print).....DATE:.....SIGNATURE:.....

(NB: Nominations, in writing, close with the Secretary last mail 1700 Hours  
Friday 5 th September 2008 )

NB Only those full members who are FINANCIAL at the time of the AGM may nominate/  
second or be nominated for the Committee.

Post to: The Secretary, PO Box 885, PARK RIDGE, Queensland. 4125