

HAVE A LAUGH

Some classic bumper stickers seen around town.....

There are three signs of old age.....The first is loss of memory. I forgot the other two.

Don't worry about tomorrow....After all, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

With Age comes wisdom... and great discounts

I'm so old....that whenever I eat out, they ask me for money up front.

Army Duck



Army Ducks
Courtesy of Swamp Productions, Everton Park.

For new Mess Dress, Jackets or 'shrinkage' alterations contact:-
TIK TAK
Level 3
231 George Street
BRISBANE

Phone: 07 3221 7886
Authorised Mess Dress suppliers



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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.

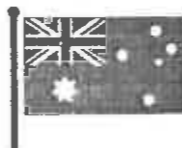
New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Ex Members Association Inc.
Includes former members of the Pacific Islands Regiment, Papuan Infantry Battalion and New Guinea Infantry Battalions

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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 56 APRIL 2009



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Following our Annual General Meeting last year at the 1 Division Sergeants Mess, Gallipoli Barracks, I was pleased to welcome the Executive Committee for 2008/9.

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

President: Phil Ainsworth.
Vice President: John Mudge, MBE. OL. C St J.,
Vice-President: Bob Collins
Secretary: Col Gould, MBE. JP (Qual)
Treasurer: Doug Ng, JP (Qual)

Hon Solicitor: Bruce Crawford
Museum Curator: John Holland
Welfare Officer: Paul Brown
Committee Members
Tom Dowling, Jesse Chee, Mike Griffin
Mal Zimmermann and new Member
Gerry McGrade.

Your Committee has been very active over the past few months. Our Museum under the capable guidance of Curator, John Holland, continues to improve our display of memorabilia, thanks to the support of many members who have donated or given items on loan for display purposes. Numerous group tours have been taken through the Museum, with many coming back a second or third time.

Thanks to the support of the Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch, our Association has been given the opportunity to run several late night "sausage sizzles" on Saturday nights outside the RSL from 2200 hours till 0230 hours to raise funds for our Museum. I will let John Holland elaborate on this later in this Newsletter. Needless to say, we are most grateful to the Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch for their wonderful support, in so many ways.

Unfortunately, with the closure of the Victoria Barracks Officers/Sergeants Mess in Brisbane, we found ourselves without a cost effective venue for our annual Regimental Dinner in April. After much effort, we have decided to hold our Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion in a private function room—The Memorial Room— at the Greenbank RSL on

Wednesday 22 April 2009. 1815 Hrs for 1900 Hrs. The cost is \$50 pp inclusive of a 3 course alternate drop menu, sherry, limited wines and Port. Full details were included in my E-newsletter in March 2009.

ANZAC Day will be with us very shortly, and Parade details have just been released (see information in this newsletter) I look forward to as many members as possible to support this major function in Brisbane.

In the later half of 2008, our ANZAC reunion venue—the Victory Hotel, suffered severe fire and water damage, and has only been recently opened after detailed renovations. Last week, our Secretary finally got 'confirmation' from the Hotel management, that they will be able to host our post march reunion in April.

Please ensure that you put in your diary—Saturday 13 June 2009—for the next Jimboomba Bush Dinner.

Another item for your diary is Wednesday 1st July 2009 for our annual Montevideo Maru Memorial Service in ANZAC Square, Brisbane. Details will be confirmed shortly.

Also scheduled on the same date, is the dedication of the Montevideo Maru Memorial Plaque at Subic Bay, Philippines, where there are many such plaques dedicated to the POW "Hell Ships" of the time. Our Member, Clive Troy, is heavily involved in this project, and will be able to provide us with further details of the dedication, travel, accommodation and such like for 1 July 2009.

For many years, we have had the wonderful and dedicated support of our Association Chaplain, Rev Allan McFarland. Allan has since retired, so we are on the lookout for a new Association Chaplain, and welcome any suggestions from our members.

The Boonah Light Horse Members have challenged our Members to a .303 shoot on Sunday 31 May 2009 at the Boonah Rifle Range. Rifles and ammunition will be provided at a small cost. Partners are welcome, and may also participate if they wish in a .22 shoot. Please email your interest in attending as it may be possible to organise a hire bus from the Museum to Boonah return if numbers are sufficient. Sorry, no SLR's allowed. TOP GUNS are encouraged to attend.

In this issue:- President's Update: ANZAC Day march Brisbane 2009: Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion: Museum Snippets: From our PNG Comrades: Queens Honours 2008; Victoria Cross for Australia: Royal Pacific Islands Regiment: Have a Laugh:

The steel disabled access ramp for the Museum is on the agenda. The idea is to run a ramp from the verandah stairs along the side of the verandah connecting to the verandah at the other end. This will greatly improve access for disabled and aged visitors to the Museum. This project has been made possible by the generous supply of steel by **Blue Scope Steel** and a wonderful donation of \$1500 by the **Australia-Papua New Guinea Association** to help with the construction of the ramp and associated works.

We also intend to develop a static display of NGVR's wartime activities in the Lae / Salamaua / Wau / Bulldog areas during 1942-43. We are seeking donations or loan of appropriate memorabilia, artifacts, photographs, maps, documents etc. We are also planning to set up a display relating to the activities of the PIB, NGIB, ANGAU and PIR and seek donations of appropriate material as well.

Please contact John Holland (home 07 3375 5484) if you can assist.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will be held at our Museum on Saturday 16 May commencing at 1230 hours. Members are invited to attend—call in from 1030 hours, inspect the museum and enjoy your BYO lunch before the meeting at 1230 hours.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible on ANZAC Day.

Phil Ainsworth
PRESIDENT

ANZAC DAY—BRISBANE MARCH

DATE: Saturday 25 April 2009.

NGVR/PNGVR ASSEMBLY POINT: Left Side of George Street facing Queen St Mall. Look for our Banner.

ORDER OF MARCH: Army Leading— NGVR/PNGVR Unit Number 39 in the "NEW GUINEA FORCE" Group.

JEEP LOAD POINT: Top end of Elizabeth St— look for coordinator John Holland.

ASSEMBLE FROM: 9.30 am **MARCH COMMENCES:** 10.01 am

DRESS: Association ANZAC Day dress (white shirt /tie/ beret/ long trousers / Dark Blue or similar jacket / or similar neat attire. NO JEANS. Full size medals.

The ANZAC Day Parade Committee have issued the following **march protocols for 2009** for all Units:-

- Veterans must march the full distance or ride in a jeep or golf car.
- Next-of-kin representation is restricted to ONE per veteran and that representative must wear that veteran's full sized medals on the right breast.
- A child representing a veteran is to be of a discretionary age.
- Next-of-kin are to march to the rear of and separate from the unit's veteran contingent.
- Children are not to be carried or pushed in prams
- No torn denim, sporting attire, dirty joggers or quasi military dress.

There will be a brief NGVR Memorial Service in the Shrine of Memories, ANZAC Square, immediately after the unit completes the march.

POST MARCH MEMBERS REUNION

VENUE: Victory Hotel (Renovated) —Corner Edward and Charlotte Streets Brisbane
ENTER: Via ground floor main door in Charlotte Street and straight up the stairs.
TIME: From 11.00 am. **PAYABLE AT THE DOOR:** \$20 PP exact change please
Includes limited beer, wine and soft drink and light finger food.
Members and their guests welcome—more seating available.

Colonel Robert (Bob) Rothsay COLE, MC. 3/11/1913 - 24/11/2008 Aged: 95 Years.

Over 200 family and friends attended the funeral of Colonel Bob Cole, MC on the 29 November 2008. Attendees included Colonel Maurie Pears, John Holland, Paul Brown, Tom Dowling, Doug Ng, Ralph Seeto Jesse Chee and Bill McGrath, et al plus extended family members. Colonel Cole served in ANGAU during the war and then as a PNG District Commissioner, Commissioner of the Royal Papua New Guinea Police Constabulary and Honourary Colonel of PNGVR. The PNG Consul General to Queensland, Mr Paul E Nerau, LL.B. OBE sent a letter of Condolence:-

It is with regret that I am unable to attend today's celebration of Robert Rothsay Cole's long and productive life.

As the Papua New Guinea Consul General in Brisbane and on behalf of the people of Papua New Guinea I wish to convey their condolences to Robert Cole's family and friends and express gratitude for his work and dedication in our Country before and during the second world war and later as an Officer in its administration leading towards Papua New Guinea Independence in 1975.

Bob's involvement in PNG commenced prior to the war and at the time of the Japanese invasion in 1942 he was the ADO at Maprik. He became a member of the Far Eastern Liaison Office—an intelligence gathering and psychological war time unit—and later joined ANGAU. He led a successful patrol through rugged, partly unknown and unfriendly country south of the border near Hollandia which resulted in the award of his Military Cross. He served with distinction in the Aitape area where he established a 600 strong New Guinea Force for gathering local intelligence. His own unit of about 60 Police was commonly called "Cole's Praetorian Guard." which was accredited with the killing of some 350 of the enemy.

After the war he returned to the Administration and served as District Commissioner in the Southern Highlands District from 1954—1957 and as the District Commissioner for the Sepik from 1958 - 1964. He was PNG Police Commissioner from 1964 through to 1969. He also served as the Honourary Colonel of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles from 1966 to 1968. Although Bob left PNG in 1969 to live in Australia he returned from time to time using his vast experience as a consultant for various companies.

I thank you for the opportunity to express, on behalf of my people, their gratitude for the life and service of this brave and dedicated man, Robert Rothsay Cole.

Paul E Nerau, LLB. OBE Consul General 27/11/08.

Robert Gregory DAVIES 860410 PNGVR Robert was born in Sydney On 29 March 1940. In 1961 at the age of 21 Robert applied for a clerical position in the administration and ended up in dormitory style accommodation at the Malaguna Technical College in Rabaul. Bob joined the PNGVR in 1964 and attended two camps at Mt Ambra in 1964 and 1965. He attend the annual PNGVR Camp at the Butibum River (Lae) and clearly recalled the wet weather that plagued that camp. Bob left the PNGVR as a L/Cpl in 1968 when he was transferred to the Sepik. He was never informed that D Coy PNGVR was located at Wewak.

He returned to Australia in 1979, but by 1982 he was back teaching in Madang and in West New Britain. In December 2000 he returned to Australia after some 40 years in PNG. He passed away on 6 October 2008 from cancer.

Jim Cruikshank Peter Porteous has advised long time passionate supporter of the PIR Association and its members passed away in September 2008. No further information available at this time.

Cpl (Dr) Norman Henry Fisher NG 608 30/9/1909 to 23/9/07 Norm was born in Hay, NSW and passed away one week short of his 98th Birthday. In 1934 he moved to PNG as a Government Geologist at Wau. After the 1937 volcano eruptions in Rabaul, he was sent to Rabaul TO established the Volcano observatory there. Norm joined the NGVR in September 1939 and transferred back to Rabaul; in December 1939. He was promoted to Corporal in October 1940 and was in charge of NGVR's only 3 inch mortar when the Japanese landed in Rabaul in January 1942.

Norm was able to escape from New Britain by small boat arriving at a Government station off Samarai on 26 February 1942, then by plane to Port Moresby and by the MV Macdui to Townsville. He was discharged from the Army to take up a post in Canberra. He became Chief Geologist in 1969 and retired in 1974.

Lance Hageman passed away January 2008. Friends of Lance can contact his daughter Kerry Johnson on 0415542962

Thomas (Tom) Nunan 1/59682 PNGVR Rabaul Born Blackall in Qld - Passed away 5 December 2008 in New Zealand. —aged 76 years. Tom worked for the Commonwealth Bank, London Metro Police, New Zealand Police 1961-1995—Auckland CIB. He passed away after spending some days with his extended family and many friends.

LEST WE FORGET

ROYAL PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT

Wayne Bensley— Retirement hasn't slowed down the past Treasurer of the PIR Association, Wayne Bensley. Wayne's new role as the coordinator of the Sir Roden Cutler Charities Wheel Chair Roll, has seen him all over country NSW with the charity and lime Taxis helping local country charities with funding their programs.

Some people he has helped through the charity have been a kids ward at Coffs Harbour hospital, a motorized scooter in Evans Head and riding for the disabled in Murwillumbah. He has been to dozens of country towns over the past months and has had a great time of it as well. So if the Sir Roden Cutler Wheel Chair Roll comes to a town near you, say hello to Wayne. He would love to have a yarn. In 2008 / 9 the charity hopes to expand into Queensland, so keep an eye out for him.

VALE: Wesley Alan COLEMAN Passed away peacefully on 21 June 2007—aged 87 years. His son, Geoffrey Coleman wishes to thank all who knew his Dad for their friendship extended to him over many many years.



On 4th July, 1956, the Queen's and Regimental Colours were presented to the Regiment by His Excellency, the Governor-General, Field Marshal Sir William Slim, KG, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, GBE, DSO, MC.

THE COLOURS OF THE REGIMENT

Colours were presented to the Regiment (subsequently the Colours of the 1st Battalion) on 4 Jul 1956 at Taurama by His Excellency the then Governor General, Field Marshal Sir William Slim. Colours were presented to the 2nd Battalion by His Excellency the then Governor General, Lord Casey, on 18 May 1966 at Moem. The following battle honours are emblazoned on the Regimental Colours:—

- South West Pacific 1942-45 (Not shown on Colours)
- Kokoda Trail
- Kokoda-Deniki
- Nassau Bay
- Tambu Bay
- Finschhafen
- Scarlet Beach
- Liberation of Australian New Guinea
- Sio-Sepik River
- Bonis-Porton
- Koboibus-Kiarivu

His Excellency saluting the Colours. Right foreground — Major C. D. Kayler-Thomson, MBE, MC, and Ensign. Lt N. T. Williams.

MUSEUM SNIPPETS



HAUS KUKS - John Holland & Barry Wright cook up a storm outside the Greenbank RSL at 12 midnight.

Our NGVR / PNGVR Military Museum, situated in Brisbane on the site of the old Wacol Army Barracks, is one of the major activities of our Association. In line with our Constitution, the Museum displays and preserves the unique history of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, as well as other service Units such as the PIB, NGIB, ANGAU and PIR, and those who served.

Our collection includes memorabilia from the Great War to post World War two, with the emphasis being on the New Guinea Campaign.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of Curator John Holland and his small band of volunteers, all members can be proud of our Museum.

To help fund the costs involved in running such an activity, the Greenbank RSL Sub-branch offered the Association the opportunity to run regular Bar-B-Q "Sausage Sizzles" outside the RSL as a fund raising venture for the Museum. We share a roster system with other community organizations, which give us at least two sizzles each month.

Hungry RSL patrons love the "sizzle" which operate on a Friday & Saturday night from 10.00 pm to 2.00 am (yes 2.00am). After stock costs such as sliced onions, grated cheese, quality sausages, bread etc are covered, the Association can nett between \$300 and \$500 a night. A valuable and much welcome source of funds for the Museum.

John Holland is to be thanked for taking on the role of Convenor—organise supplies and equipment—whilst our Haus Kuk crew consists of 4 for each sizzle. Our highly skilled Haus Kuk teams consists of:-

On the Sausages.....Barry Wright / Col Gould
Bread & cheese.....Bruce Crawford / Col Gould

On the onions..... Bob Collins / Jess Chee
Cashier.....Doug Ng / Mike Griffin / Jessica Harrington

We thank the Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch for their wonderful and much appreciated support.

The museum was in need of additional storage and thanks to the efforts of Jesse Chee, Timothy Chee, Paul Brown and others, we were donated a large steel shipping container which is now next to the Museum. A working bee saw Paul Brown, Doug Ng, Mike Griffin, Jerry McGrade, John Holland, et al give the container a clean out and an external paint job. John Holland's Mum, Mabel, kindly donated a set of storage shelving for the container. Our thanks to all who made this possible with little or no expense to the Association. Inside the Museum, Tom Dowling, Bruce Crawford, and John Winterbottom attended to display touch ups. We now have TV/DVD and CD equipment to enhance our displays on open days.

As mentioned in the President's Up-date, we would like to make two new additional displays, (1) Dedicated to the Wau/Salamaua/Bulldog theatre of the war, and, (2) The war time and post war activities of the PIB, NGIB, ANGAU and PIR. To make this possible we are in need of photographs (digital copies if possible), documents, maps, equipment etc. Members can either LOAN such items for a specific period of time but retain ownership of the item, or DONATE items whereas the Museum takes ownership. Receipts are issued for all items.

Over the past few months several material donations have been received for the museum. Our sincere thanks to Member Rudy Buckley who recently donated a propeller off a Japanese outboard motor found in Rabaul, and a Japanese Imperial Navy brass anchor emblem taken of an old Nissan Truck captured in Rabaul, plus a clock removed from a Japanese mine sweeper also in Rabaul.

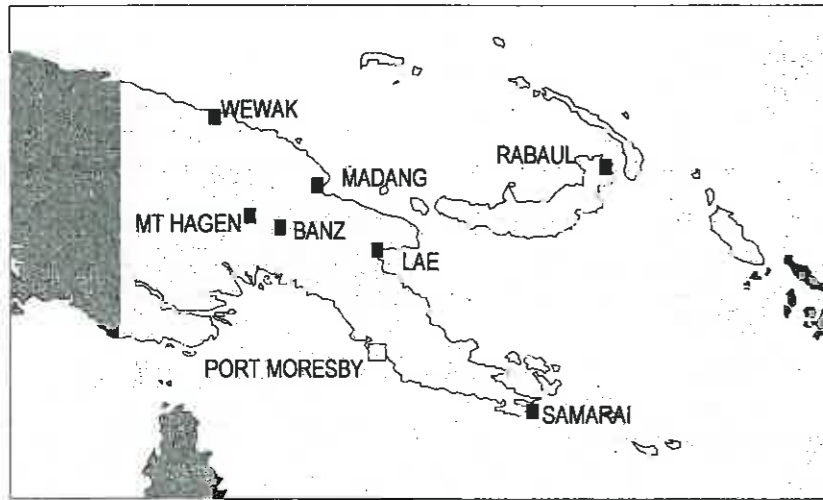
Member Bernie Arnold in South Australia organized a shipment of memorabilia from a SA Army museum all relating to the New Guinea campaign. Thanks Bernie and Rudy, your donations will shortly be on display in our Museum.

Finally, the success and running of our Museum in not a one man show, we still need volunteers who can assist from time to time, especially with those visits by groups of veterans or interested parties. Please contact the Association or John Holland direct if you can assist.



Mike Griffin and Paul Brown put the last coat of paint on the Museum's donated storage container.

FROM OUR PNGVR COMRADES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



LAE Lae was the HQ of 'A' Company PNGVR—The Association is keen to locate former members who may still reside in the Lae or Morobe area, and will be writing to the last known address of the following ex members of A Company:-

Pte Gabriel Raupuri (enlisted 1964) ; W T Willyman; Cpl Yaputong George Feda (enlisted 1964); Cpl Siliving Munduai (enlisted 1963); Pte Amapula Mondo (enlisted 1971); Pte Mueri Mosoke (enlisted 1970); Pte Lavurvur Panipas (B Coy ??); Pte Gau Morea Helai (enlisted 1964) :

MT HAGEN: It is surprising what you find when you look through old files and records of our PNGVR days. Below is an extract of **C Coy PNGVR August 1966** Company strength:- (Mt Hagen; Banz; Goroka:)

HQ Major Peter Harbeck; Lt B Swanton; WO2 J Fisk; Sgt K Aschhoff; Sgt B Wright; Cpl P Howard; L/Cpl I Bugga
Pte P Amberye; Pte G Latu

7 PL:

- Lt F Collins
- Sgt R G Sears
- Cpl B Scheelings
- Cpl R Giddings
- Cpl M Yere
- L/Cpl E Palum
- Pte G Apio
- Pte D Backley
- Pte M Bande
- Pte T Dimain
- Pte M Danga
- Pte C Eko
- Pte S Haniba
- Pte D Hollett
- Pte M Konda
- Pte S Kapun
- Pte M Kugame
- Pte S Mazopo
- Pte W Malalalaina
- Pte M Midi
- Pte P Sulsun
- Pte G Timu
- Pte T Unaro
- Pte I Waikaidi
- Pte I Gelu
- Pre P Wasalebe

8PL:

- S/Sgt A Booth
- Sgt G Camerson
- Cpl A Eve
- Cpl G McBride
- Cpl N Garth
- Cpl P Fillery
- L/Cpl J Tai
- Pte T Connors
- Pte G Evambo
- Pte F Gari
- Pte M Goi
- Pte A Judge
- Pte W Kumia
- Pte P Kumio
- Pte T kumai
- Pte D Mamp
- Pte A Nanguren
- Pte L Richards
- Pte A Sowelu
- Pte M Taurari
- Pte A Tolnga
- Pte L Un
- Pte B Wilkie
- Pte J Taimbari
- Pte K Kamayagl

9PL:

- Lt D S Lewis
- Sgt T Downes
- Cpl R Cruickshank
- Cpl I Thompson
- Cpl K Maro
- Cpl J Trevellyn
- L/Cpl Gulaga
- L/Cpl Tatauro
- L/Cpl Quinlan
- Pte A Bau
- Pte C Butler
- Pte G Craft
- Pte M Daniel
- Pte N Frazer
- Pte R Gehrke
- Pte S Irogi
- Pte N Kumbé
- Pte C Knaru
- Pte a Koupere
- Pte A Livuana
- Pte P Linton
- Pte B Ma
- Pte W Molony
- Pte W Moiba
- Pte P Ninji
- Pte D Pamunda
- Pte H Paitale
- Pte D Rankine
- Pte P Tourata
- Pte D Rankine
- Pte P Tourata
- Pte A Unlmann
- Pte B Sami
- Pte T Kamalu
- Pte L Aldan
- Pte E Einam
- Pte D Jones
- Pte G McDonnell
- Pte L LeFevre

ON LEAVE

- Lt M Farland
- Lt W Stoies
- Sgt P Robb, BEM
- Sgt R Thiele
- Cpl I Parsons

ARA INSTRUCTOR

- WO2 K D Pyrde

Trooper Donaldson was involved in an incident on 2 September 2008 in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan that resulted in him being awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia. He was invested by her Excellency the Governor-General of Australia at Government House, Canberra on 16 January 2009. Trooper Donaldson remains posted to the Special Air Service Regiment in Perth, WA.

Trooper Donaldson is married to Emma and has a daughter Kaylee. His parents are deceased.



Trooper Mark Gregor Strang Donaldson, VC



Trooper Mark Donaldson and his wife Emma (prior to being awarded the Victoria Cross).

exceptional gallantry in the face of accurate and sustained enemy fire ultimately saved the life of a coalition force interpreter and ensured the safety of the other members of the combined Afghan, US and Australian force. Trooper Donaldson's actions on this day displayed exceptional courage in circumstances of great peril. His actions are of the highest accord and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Special Operations Command, the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force

Personal biography of Trooper Mark Gregor Strang Donaldson, VC

Mark Donaldson was born in Waratah, Newcastle, NSW on 2 April 1979. He spent his formative years in northern NSW where he graduated from high school in 1996.

Trooper Donaldson enlisted into the Australian Army on 18 June 2002 and entered recruit training at the Army Recruit Training Centre, Kapooka, NSW. He demonstrated an early aptitude for soldiering and was awarded the prizes for best shot and best at physical training in his platoon. Subsequently he was allocated to the Royal Australian infantry corps and posted to the school of infantry at Singleton, NSW, where he excelled in his initial employment training. At the completion of this training he was again awarded best shot and best at physical training, as well as the award for the most outstanding soldier in his platoon.

He was posted to 1st battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, Townsville, QLD in November 2002. It was during this time that Trooper Donaldson decided to pursue his ambition to join the special air service regiment.

In February 2004, he successfully completed the Special Air Service Regiment selection course and was posted to the regiment in May 2004. He was then posted to I Troop, 3 Special Air Service Squadron. Since that time he has been deployed on operations to East Timor, Afghanistan and Iraq.

On 12 August 2008, Trooper Donaldson was wounded in action whilst conducting nighttime operations in Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan. He recovered from his minor wounds and continued on the deployment.

MT HAGEN On the 16 September 2008, on the occasion of the 33rd Independence Anniversary, former members of C Coy PNGVR gathered at Banz, to mark the celebration, and to have a number of members receive their Australian Service Medals (ASM) and Australian Defence Medals (ADM). The following is an extract from a report written by (ex Cpl) Patrick Amberye—Secretary—C Coy PNGVR Ex Members Association.

First of all I would like to thank the Australian Government for recognizing our service in PNGVR and providing Australian Service Medals to eligible National members, in both 2006 and 2008. A very special thanks to our Secretary in Australia, Mr Colin Gould and Mr Bruce Crawford for their excellent work and dedication with our medal approvals.

On behalf of C Coy members, I congratulate Mr Colin Gould on receiving an MBE during HM the Queen's Birthday Honours, PNG, 2008. I also congratulate one of our C Coy members, Senior Thomas Mond who was awarded the BEM.

A special invitation was sent to the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby, and on the 15 September, Lt Col. Paul Simon from the Australian Military Attaché arrived at Kagamuga airport and was met by Mr Ian Thompson, ex Cpl Patrick Amberye (9 PI) and Peter Kia and Liris Unn.

On the morning of the 16th September, members help decorate the grandstand and the Banz Hotel and prepared for a mumu. Official guests included The Catholic Arch Bishop for Hagen, SVD Bishop Douglas Young, Ex Vietnam Veteran, Mr Jeffery Kikimba, LLG President Mr J Kunda, and other LLG councillors. Members assembled at the Banz Police Station, and under the leadership of PNGVR member Mr Ian Thomson, marched to the Banz Hotel for the presentation of medals and lunch. Lt Colonel Simon was given a general salute, followed by flag raising and the National Anthem.

Arch Bishop Young spoke on the importance of (a) Independence Day 16 September, and PNG Remembrance Day 23 July. Lt Colonel Simon's speech to the large gathering was really touching and a memorable one. This was followed by the presentation of 16 service medals.

My thanks to Ian Thomson and all those who helped and contributed to the function.

Our thanks and congratulations to all our comrades in Mt Hagen and Banz for organising such an important event. Well done Patrick—well done Ian and well done all the members concerned. Col Gould

WEWAK ...by Col Gould Whilst attending Government House in Port Moresby in November 2008, I met with two PIR Colonels who were being awarded an MBE (Mil) for services to the Papua New Guinea Defence Force—Lt Colonel Dominic BULUNGOL, and Lt Colonel Mark GOINA. Lt Colonel Bulungol, MBE is based at 2 Royal Pacific Islands Regiment, Moem Barracks in Wewak and is providing valuable assistance to our former PNGVR members in Wewak who are in the process of finalizing their Constitution and forming their own "Ex Members Association". Some 30 plus former members of D Company are finalising their ASM applications under the guidance of Secretary Joseph N Pupoata, MBE—a former member of D Coy Wewak. He was present at the last Parade in Wewak in 1973.

I congratulate Colonel Bulungol on his MBE (Mil) & for his assistance and support of PNGVR Ex-servicemen.



On the 6th November, 2008, I had the honour to be invested with an MBE by His Excellency the Governor General of Papua New Guinea at Government House, Port Moresby For services to the community and the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles Association.

The formal function was extremely well organised and the music provided by the RPNGC, was simply outstanding. I was also able to witness first hand the Knighting of four prominent PNG leaders—Chief Sir Mari Kapi, GCL.CBE.SCI Sir Dr Morgan Lourdenadin, Mr Jerry Nalau and Koitaga Mano, MBE.

Following the investiture, I was pleased to be able to meet with PNG Defence Force Commander, Commodore Peter Ilau, CBE who was present on the day.

Whilst in PNG I was able to meet senior staff of the Ombudsman Commission including two of the Ombudsman Commissioners, and the Secretary (which was my last position before going to finish in 1982).

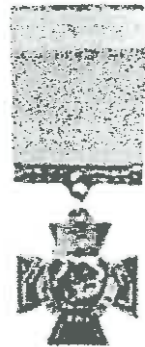
Colin Gould, MBE with His Excellency Grand Chief Sir Paulias Matane, GCL, GCMG, KSIJ. Governor General of Papua New Guinea—Nov 2008

I dedicate my MBE to my late father, PNGVR S/Sgt Stan Gould. Col Gould

AUSTRALIAN ARMY

TO BE AWARDED TO THE VICTORIA CROSS FOR AUSTRALIA

8248070 TROOPER MARK GREGOR DONALDSON



The Association congratulates Trooper Mark Donaldson upon the awarding of the Victoria Cross for Australia for gallantry in action in Afghanistan in September 2008.

For most conspicuous acts of gallantry in action in a circumstance of great peril in Afghanistan as part of the Special Operations Task Group during Operation SLIPPER, Oruzgan Province, Afghanistan.

Trooper Mark Gregor Donaldson enlisted into the Australian Army on 18 June 2002. After completing Recruit and Initial and Employment Training he was posted to the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. Having successfully completed the Special Air Service Selection Course in April 2004, Trooper Donaldson was posted to Special Air Service Regiment in May 2004.

On 2 September 2008, during the conduct of a fighting patrol, Trooper Donaldson was travelling in a combined Afghan, US and Australian vehicle convoy that was engaged by a

numerically superior, entrenched and coordinated enemy ambush. The ambush was initiated by a high volume of sustained machine gun fire coupled with the effective use of rocket propelled grenades. Such was the effect of the initiation that the combined patrol suffered numerous casualties, completely lost the initiative and became immediately suppressed. It was over two hours before the convoy was able to establish a clean break and move to an area free of enemy fire.

In the early stages of the ambush, Trooper Donaldson reacted spontaneously to regain the initiative. He moved rapidly between alternate positions of cover engaging the enemy with 60mm and 84mm anti-armour weapons as well as his M4 rifle. During an early stage of the enemy ambush, he deliberately exposed himself to enemy fire in order to draw attention to himself and thus away from wounded soldiers. This selfless act alone bought enough time for those wounded to be moved to relative safety.

As the enemy had employed the tactic of a rolling ambush, the patrol was forced to conduct numerous vehicle manoeuvres, under intense enemy fire, over a distance of approximately four kilometres to extract the convoy from the engagement area. Compounding the extraction was the fact that casualties had consumed all available space within the vehicles. Those who had not been wounded, including Trooper Donaldson, were left with no option but to run beside the vehicles throughout. During the conduct of this vehicle manoeuvre to extract the convoy from the engagement area, a severely wounded coalition force interpreter was inadvertently left behind. Of his own volition and displaying complete disregard for his own safety, Trooper Donaldson moved alone, on foot, across approximately 80 metres of exposed ground to recover the wounded interpreter. His movement, once identified by the enemy, drew intense and accurate machine gun fire from entrenched positions. Upon reaching the wounded coalition force interpreter, Trooper Donaldson picked him up and carried him back to the relative safety of the vehicles then provided immediate first aid before returning to the fight.

On subsequent occasions during the battle, Trooper Donaldson administered medical care to other wounded soldiers, whilst continually engaging the enemy. Trooper Donaldson's acts of