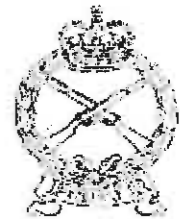


HAVE A LAUGH

Army Ducks
Courtesy of Swamp Productions, Everton Park.



NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
AND
PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOLUNTEER RIFLES
EX MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC.



PATRON: Major General John Peam, AO, RFD. (Retd.)

VOLUME 57 AUGUST 2009

President's Up-date....



The mixed dining night at Barry and Pam Wright's property at Jimboomba on Saturday 13 June was well attended by some 60 members and friends, the largest group ever at this bi-annual function.

A most enjoyable evening was had thanks to the wonderful preparatory and hosting efforts of Barry, Pam, Bob and other helpers. The next mixed dining night at Jimboomba is scheduled for Saturday 10 October 2009. Put this date in your diary now so you don't miss a thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable evening.

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Several members attended the 29th June "Astronomical Evening of Wonder" at Bancroft Park, Kelvin Grove, Brisbane. Sponsored by our Patron and the SEQ Astronomical Society. Sky tours of the moon, Jupiter and its satellites. Saturn with its magnificent rings, stars, star clusters, and nebulous clouds of dust and far away galaxies were viewed through a range of telescopes. This was a much appreciated and unusual event.

The Montevideo Maru Memorial Service was conducted by Paul Brown and John Holland in the Hall of Memories, ANZAC Square, Brisbane on the 1st July— the 67th Anniversary of the sinking of the ship with the loss of all POW's on board. Some 50 people attended and part of the service was aired on SBS news that night.

Clive and Harriet Troy, Gerry and Joyce McGrade and their daughter Susie, and I attended the unveiling and plaque dedication of the Montevideo Maru sinking at the "Hell Ships" Memorial in Subic Bay, Philippines on 1 July 2009. Over 100 attended the event including about 20 friends and descendants of the victims on board in 1942. The key speakers were the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, Rob Smith, and Andrea Williams, editor of Una Voce, PNGAA. I had the honour of dedicating the plaque. I understand that there was significant coverage in southern newspapers and the ABC and SBS television that night.

John Schindler's documentary team was present and it is hoped that a DVD of the whole event may soon be produced for distribution through our Association and PNGAA. Their 104 minute documentary will go to air on the History Channel in November 2009.

The engraved plaque is 6ft x 1 ft in Italian black marble and has a prominent place on the "Hell Ships" Memorial on the shore front of beautiful Subic Bay, not far from the area where the Montevideo Maru was sunk on 1 July 1942. As the plaque tells the story of the Montevideo Maru—a Japanese naval prison-ship, it is much larger than originally anticipated and cost more. The short fall of donated funds will be made up by the original sponsors—the 2/22nd Battalion Lark Force Association, the PNGAA, the Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch in Brisbane, and our own NGVR / PNGVR Ex Members Association. The magnificent plaque also features the PNGVR Badge. There is a Subic Bay Trust Fund in place to ensure the maintenance of the Memorial and all its various plaques to the "Hell Ships" - Japanese POW Transports of WW 2.

The Montevideo Maru Memorial Committee, whose Patron is Kim Beasley, and in which I am a representative, is preparing a submission through the Federal Government for national recognition of the Montevideo Maru tragedy. The submission is expected to be lodged in November 2009. It is a well balanced submission and should suit most, if not all interested parties. The "Finding the Montevideo Maru Foundation" is also submitting a submission to Federal Parliament around this time.

FUNCTION DATES

- Sunday 13 September**— NGVR/PNGVR Military Excellence Awards 9 RQR Enoggera
- Monday 14 September**— Museum Visit Sherwood RSL
- Wednesday 16 September**—34th Papua New Guinea Independence Day Anniversary
- Saturday 26 September**—Association Executive Committee Meeting at the Museum at 12.30 pm - Members welcome BYO Lunch / Drinks and inspect the museum from 1100 hours.
- Saturday 10 October**—Jimboomba Mixed Dining Night—Contact Bob or Barry now.
- Saturday 17 October**— Association AGM at the Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch Drop-in Centre. Assemble from 12.00 noon Light Refreshments. AGM commences 12 30 pm.

INTERESTING WEB SITES

- www.pngvr.com
- www.australian-pow-ww2.com
- www.montevideomaru.com.au
- www.postcourier.com.pg
- www.pacificwrecks.com

Association ties

\$ 32-00 plus \$5 for post pak and postage
Make cheques payable to:-
"NGVR / PNGVR Ex Members Association"
Orders to the Secretary:-
PO Box 885 Park Ridge, Q 4125
Or email; pngvr@optusnet.com.au



C J MEDALS

Professional Medal Mounting
Shop 17—Foodworks Shopping Complex
59 Bryants Road, Loganholm.
Ph: Clive Johnson
Ph: 07 3806 5980 www.cjmedals.com

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 www.pngvr.com
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In this issue:- President's Update: Subic Bay Hellships Memorial: Vale: WO2 Bruce Inch
PNG Honours Awards: Regimental Mixed Dinner Reunion 2009 Museum Up-date:
Steele Tuff 2008: ANZAC Day 2009 Brisbane: PNG Golf Day 2009:
PIR History & Posters: Have a Laugh with Swamp Ducks: Function Dates:
Interesting web sites: Association Ties: Medal Mounting.



Congratulations to our Patron, Major-General John Pearn, AO, RFD (Rtd) (left) who was made an Officer in the Order of Australia for his long and dedicated service to medicine, in particular as a Professor of Paediatrics, Brisbane Royal Children's Hospital. Well done Sir!

The Army Reservist magazine has been in contact with us seeking an article on PNGVR. Bob Harvey-Hall has kindly offered to prepare an article for their March 2010 issue. They publish 4 issues a year and I understand is allied with the Defence Reserves Association, in which Bob Harvey-Hall is a member. Bob has previously published articles in this magazine. A reminder that Bob is drafting a history of the PNGVR and would welcome any stories, photos etc members may care to contribute.

On the 6 August, John Holland, Tom Dowling and I met with the National Servicemen's Association of Queensland Executive at Wacol. It was a get to know you meeting as well as a briefing about the museum, costs and possible re-location etc. The meeting was friendly and this augers well for our future relationship with NSAAQ.

The Association has also been advised by the Dept of Veteran's Affairs of its approval for a grant of \$1,020 "Saluting their Service" to assist with the conservations of our museum's materials.

On Saturday 8 August VP Bob Collins represented the Association at the 2nd Kokoda Day Commemoration Service held at the Rotary Kokoda Memorial Wall, Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach on the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of the Defence of Kokoda from the 8-10 August 1942, by the Australian 39th Australian Infantry Battalion. A catafalque party and flag orderlies were provided by the Southport School Cadets and the Officiating Chaplain was the Rev Peter Holloway, a member of the 39th Battalion at Kokoda. The ceremony was well attended by most RSL Branches in the area, the Mayor and Councilors from the Gold Coast, ex-and returned servicemen and women and Association member and former PIR Company Commander, Colonel Maurie Pears, MC. (Rtd)

For those members who are unaware, there is a magnificent Kokoda Memorial Wall depicting, in a series of bronze panels "The Arrival, Imita Ridge, The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, Menari, Courage, Mateship, Sacrifice, Endurance, Biscuit Bombers and Warriors". The Memorial Wall was dedicated in 2008 and I encourage any member who is passing by the Gold Coast to visit the Memorial.

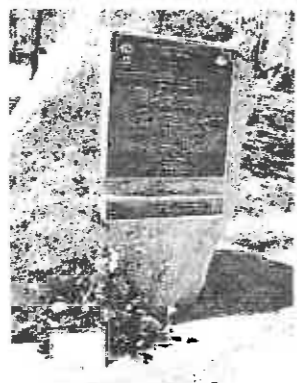
On the 10 August, 2009, W02 Bruce Inch, a stalwart of the Association passed away in Coolamon, his home town some 40km north of Wagga Wagga. I understand several members for the ACT and surrounds attended the funeral. Also on this date, Bruce Crawford, John Holland, Mike Griffin and I attended the 67th Anniversary of the Defence of Kokoda at the Kokoda Stone, Corinda RSL, Brisbane. Guest Speaker Peter Dorman gave a well balanced presentation of the campaign placing importance on the 2 day delay of the Japanese invading force created at the Battle of Isurava by the 39th Battalion.

On Sunday 16 August, member and Piper, Don Lawrie attended the Rocky Creek Military Muster near Atherton in North Queensland, and laid a wreath on the NGVR Memorial Stone. Don played the Lament for the Service.

Behind the scenes our Welfare Officer Paul Brown, has taken on the task to pre-fabricate a steel ramp for disabled access to our Museum which has been helped along with a generous donation from the Australia-PNG Association. John Wintherbottom is gradually up-grading our website and assisting with recording all our museum articles into our computer. The cataloguing programme was made possible thanks to a donation from the Greenbank RSL Sub-branch.

See you at the AGM on Saturday 17 October 2009.

Phil Ainsworth
President



Member Don Lawrie at the Rocky Creek NGVR Memorial Plaque

The 6 ft long Memorial Plaque at Subic Bay, Philippines, August 2009



ROYAL PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIMENT

Our Museum was pleased to have been recently donated two PIR posters from Taim Bipo—the posters are in full colour and on display in the Museum.

We would like to expand the very limited material we have on the PIR and on the PIB, NGIB in the Museum and would welcome any photographs or other historic items to put on display.

Can you help?

The active service of the PIR during the War is very impressive. Records show that the various units that made up the PIR killed some 2,209 enemy for the loss of 63 Australian and Pacific Islands soldiers. For every member of the PIR who lost their life, the Regiment accounted for 35 enemy killed.

PIR took part in every campaign, from the time of first contact with the enemy on the 23 July, 1942 (now Papua New Guinea's Remembrance Day) until the surrender on 15 August 1945, with the exception of Milne Bay., and was awarded 11 Battle Honours.

Bravery decorations awarded include:-

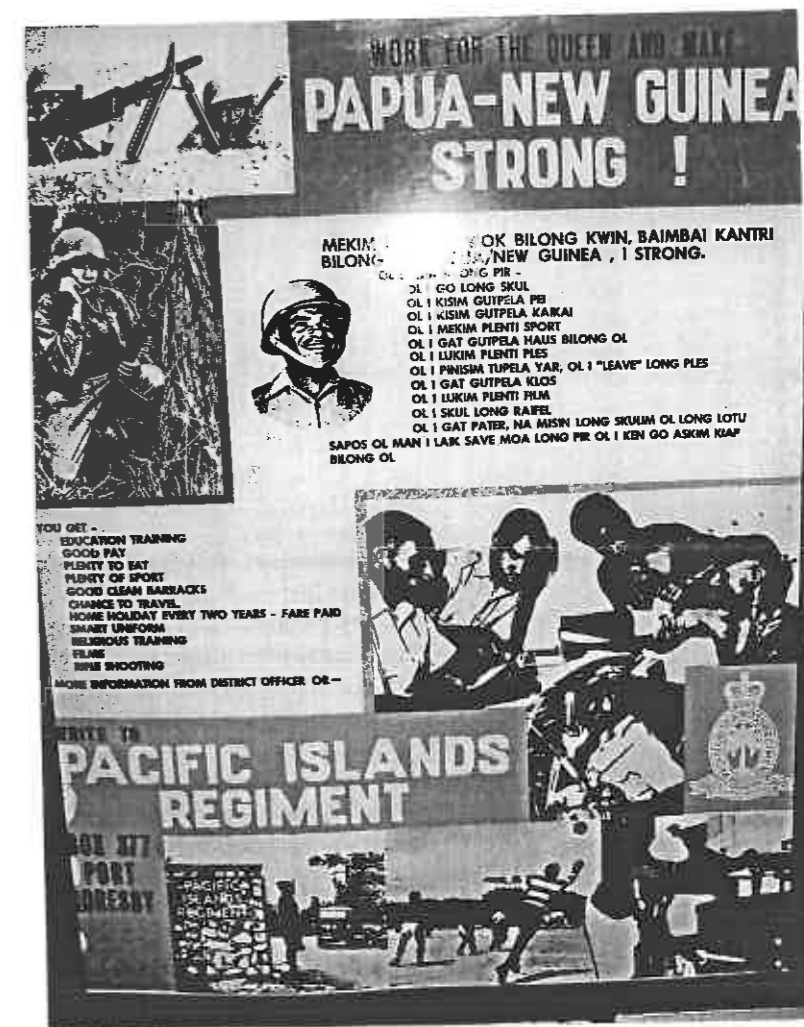
Distinguished Conduct Medal.....3
George Medal.....1
Military Medal.....12
Mentioned in Despatches.....7

In addition, Australian and Pacific Islands soldiers who served in other units such as 'M' Special Unit which carried out guerilla warfare behind the Japanese lines won the following awards:-

Member of the Order of the British Empire.....1
Military Medal.....3
British Empire Medal...3

Comrades-in-arms the Royal Papuan Constabulary and the New Guinea Police Force who fought side by side with the PIR, NGVR and Australian Units were awarded:-

Distinguished Conduct Medal.....1
George Medal.....1
British Empire Medal.....3



9 RQR STEELE TUFF MILITARY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Cpl. A R Morris (Section Leader)
 L/Cpl P M Connor (2IC)
 Pte A L Brighton
 Pte G R Hamilton-Smith
 Pte L Haycroft
 Pte J J McGrath
 Pte T Ollis
 Pte J D Salerno
 Pte J G Salerno
 Pte S A Stockham
 Pte A W Whitrod.

Each year, the Association sponsors a Military Excellence Award for members of 9 RQR based at Gallipoli Barracks in Enoggera, Brisbane. This annual award takes the form of a medallion which features the badges of 9 RQR and PNGVR, with the words, 'Military Excellence Award' and worn around the neck with a red ribbon.

Each year soldiers of the Battalion take part in a weekend of weapons, tactics and military knowledge with points awarded for various achievements. Each 'Section' of 10 men competes within the Battalion for the overall best section winner.

In 2008, the winning section was from BRAVO Company. Members of the Committee presented the winning Section members with their medallions at a post exercise Bar-B-Q at Gallipoli Barracks.

We congratulate the winning section, and all those who took part to improve their military skills, and thank the Officers, RSM and men of 9 RQR for allowing us to continue this annual recognition of military excellence in our young soldiers.

This year's competition will be held on the 12/13 September.

ANZAC DAY BRISBANE MARCH 2009

Great Queensland weather greeted some 65 members of the Association for the Brisbane ANZAC Day march this year. We had a good band a couple of units in front of us so the unit kept in step and looked smart. It was great to see so many members, particularly those from interstate, making their usual effort to attend the march.

Present on the saluting stand who acknowledged our presence as we marched past was PNG Consul General Paul E Nerau, LL.B OBE.

Following the march, members attended a brief NGVR memorial service in the Shrine of Memories in ANZAC Square.

Our Reunion reception was held in the recently renovated Victory Hotel in Charlotte Street, following a fire in 2008. The new upstairs function room was a delight and the management, Bar and Catering staff provided a service of excellence, including security assistance at the main door. Some 100 members and guests enjoyed in the camaraderie on the day.



Australia-Papua New Guinea Association—Independence Golf Day

Friday 18 September 2009 - Virginia Golf Club
 Nomination Fee : \$ 80-00 includes green fees, lunch and drinks and GST
 Motorised Golf carts available \$30-00 book direct 3267 6333
 Competition: Ambrose format—team of four
 Registration: 6.30 am (coffee & biscuits & sausage sizzle)
 Tee off: 7.00 am shotgun start Lunch: 12.30 pm Carvery

Contact: Hank Cosgrove - Secretary Aust-PNG Association Ph: 07 3397 4667 Fax: 07 3397 9247

THE SUBIC BAY HELLSHIPS MEMORIAL—PHILIPPINES

For the information of readers, the main Memorial at Subic Bay gives an overall picture of the main purpose of the site which contains many many individual plaques:-

This memorial honours the thousands of World War 2 Allied prisoners of war transported under horrific conditions by their Japanese captors on "Hellships" and scattered all across Asia to work as slave laborers in factories, ship yards and mines to support the Japanese war effort.

Many thousands of men were carried on these ships and thousands of those perished from murder, starvation, sickness, and neglect—or were killed when friendly forces unknowingly attacked unmarked ships. These heroes came from different homelands, different backgrounds and different circumstances, But they shared a love of freedom and a dedication to protecting their homelands. Truly, the Hellships remain among the most senseless atrocities of World War 2, So many lives were destroyed for no purpose or reason.

LEST WE FORGET

VALE

INCH, Henry Bruce, JP. WO2 passed away 28 July, 2009 after a long illness, a few days short of his 75th Birthday. After being inducted into the RAAF National Service in 1952, he later joined the New South Wales Police Force. He resigned and joined the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary on 25/8/1958. He served with the Police in Port Moresby, Lae, Manus, Mendi, Wau and Rabaul resigning on 29 May 1971 with the rank of Inspector (2c). His great love was the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles in which he served in three Companies between 24/11/58 and 1/10/70 being discharged at his own request with the rank of WO2 (CSM) .

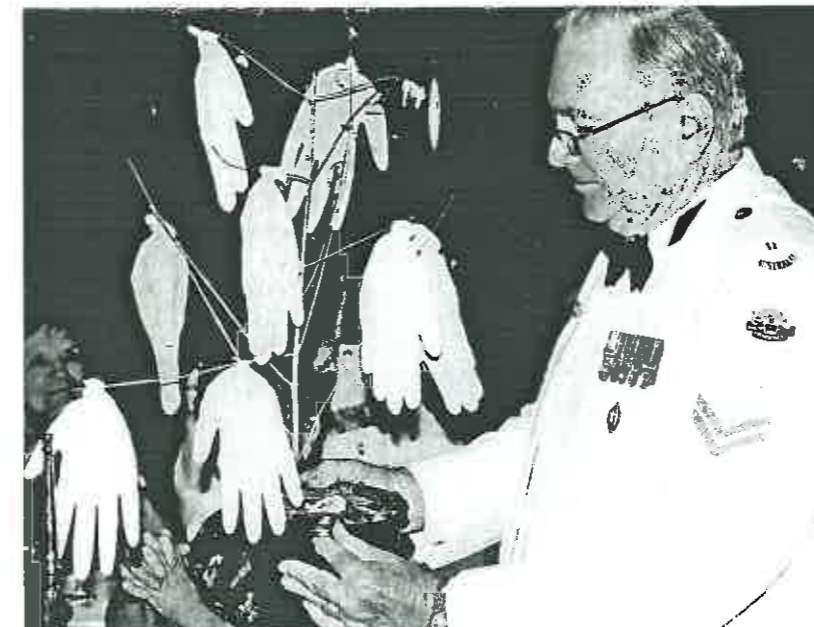
Bruce returned to his birth place of Coolamon in NSW and spent the following 25 years with the NSW Department of Motor Transport as a road Traffic Enforcement officer in the Wagga Wagga region. He was a long term member of the NGVR/ PNGVR Ex Members Association. He is survived by his, Paul. (Courtesy of Max Hayes ex PNGVR & RPNGC)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA HONOURS

Congratulations to Association Member, **Kevin Shorthouse and Gail Shorthouse** in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea who were both awarded the "Officer of the Order of Logohu" OL at Government House, Port Moresby on the 23 April 2009, for dedicated service to the Catholic Church in the field of education and air transport in the Madang and Saunduan Provinces over a period of some 40 years. This is the third highest award in the Papua New Guinea Honours and Awards system.

"Logohu " is the Papuan Motuan word for Bird of Paradise—the National Emblem of Papua New Guinea.

Kevin & Gail reside in Vanimo and run DOVE AIR operating a Cessna 206 aircraft across the region.



WHAT HAS JOHN HOLLAND BEEN AWARDED.?

FIND OUT OVER THE PAGE

"Retreat hell, we're just advancing in another direction." Colonel 'Chesty' Puller, Korea Dec 1950.

2009 REGIMENTAL MIXED DINNER REUNION

1939—2009 70th Anniversary of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles

1989—2009 20th Anniversary of the NGVR / PNGVR Ex Members Association

The Mixed Dinner Regimental Dinner Reunion was held on Wednesday 22 April in the Memorial Room of the Greenbank RSL, Brisbane. 63 Members and guests enjoyed pre-dinner sherry followed by a three course alternate drop dinner. Dining President was Capt Phil Ainsworth (Rtd) with special guests Patron Major General John Pearn, AO, RFD (Rtd) and PNG Consul General Mr Paul E Nerau, LLB, OBE.

Amongst the guests were several Executives of the Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch including Harry & Pearl Mee, Carol & Tugg Wilson, Noel Brown, Ron & Bev Lord, Keith & Estelle Woods, Linde & Eric Cavanaugh et al. The Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch have been very supportive of the Association over the years, and it was indeed a pleasure to have them as part of our 2009 Regimental Reunion Dinner.

The HAUS KUK put on a wonderful dinner—and the service was first class. It has been decided to make a booking for the Memorial Room for our 2010 dinner. If you have not attended one of our pre-ANZAC Day Dinners, please pencil in the week before ANZAC Day 2010 into your diaries. There is also a quality Motel just 100 meters from the RSL.

Towards the end of the evening, the traditional Kangaroo Court was held with Sgt Colin Gould, MBE (Rtd) presiding and S/Sgt Barry Wright (Rtd) acting as the ever efficient Court Bailiff. Several members and guests were called before the Court, including RSL Sub-Branch Executive Harry Mee. Harry's *Charge Sheet* deserves a mention:-

MEE, Harry Service No. 38586, Sgt, Infantry—formally of the Irish Armed Forces, English Army and Australian Army. Arrived Australia 1965. No one told him there was a war on. Posted to Vietnam 6 months later. One of the first into Nui Dat and involved in clearing operations with D&E Platoons and 5 RAR and 173 Airborne. Moved into harbour positions at last light. Found ground very hard to sleep on. At first light discovered that he was in the middle of a Vietnamese cemetery. Sleeping on a concrete grave slab not conducive to a good nights kip. Sgt Mee returned to Base and headed straight for the canteen where he is alleged to have partaken in an unknown quantity of alcoholic beverage. As the evening progressed, Sgt Mee departed the canteen to answer the call of nature. Night vision was not one of Sgt Mee's strong points and he fell into a gun pit that had 3 ft of water in it. Not being a strong swimmer, Harry held his SLR rifle across the pit and held on screaming out for help, telling his rescuers to get him out of this ##### gun pit slop. Harry was also not too strong at navigation as he had missed the actual gun pit and fallen into a nearby stinking latrine.

I have no doubt that many of us have had similar experiences following a late night in the canteen or Mess. Any takers??

Now to that photo on the previous page. This year's Kangaroo Court half a horse trophy went to John Holland for above and beyond perseverance at the Association's fund raising sausage sizzles. John seems to have 2 thumbs and 8 fingers on EACH hand when it comes to putting on (or trying to put on) those little rubber gloves for handling food. After several attempts and several broken gloves, John can finally get a glove to fit right. Then he starts the process all over again on the other hand. John was presented with a special *Rubber Glove Plant* so he will always have a ready stock on hand for pre sausage sizzle training sessions.

Special thanks to VP Bob Collins, Barry Wright, Paul Brown, Treasurer Doug Ng and John Holland for all their pre and post dinner assistance

Col Gould.



Harry Mee of the Greenbank RSL Sub Branch Executive Committee presents Museum Curator John Holland with a donation of \$500-00 for the Museum during the Dinner.

NGVR / PNGVR MILITARY MUSEUM—WACOL

Thanks to the on-going and never ending efforts of Museum Curator, John Holland and his small band of dedicated helpers, members can feel proud of their museum and the progress it has made. Whilst many have helped out, special mention must be made of Jessica Harrington, who has toiled away turning a room into a comfortable and well organised "lunchroom" and has taken on the task of sorting out all the material and files in the store room.

To fund developments and the purchase of display equipment, the Association is grateful to the Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch for allocating our Association several dates to run the regular Friday and/or Saturday patrons Sausage Sizzles which run from 10.00 pm till approx 2.15 am, YES—2.15 am. These sizzles have raised hundreds of dollars which are directed to the Museum to meet operating and development costs.

Donations of equipment have come from many sources including King & Co Property Developers who recently donated free standing display shelving which has been put to good use and a fridge for the lunch room. We have also received a DVD player and TV. Mrs Micky Bishop kindly donated the dress uniform of former CO PNGVR Colonel Mal Bishop., MM which is on display.

Over the past few months several groups such as RSL's have visited the Museum with some coming back for a second visit. John is always looking out for assistance on these days, and if you would like to visit the museum or give a hand at some time, please ring John at home on **07 33755484.**



During our ANZAC Mixed Dinner Reunion in April, Member Sgt Trevor Connell (Rtd) (left) traveled all the way down from the Top End to present the Association with a navigational map of the Madang area which was found during the final clean-up of the Madang Drill Hall prior to close down in 1973. Trevor had the foresight to rescue the map from the rubbish heap, and had it framed and presented to Museum Curator John Holland for display at our Museum. Thank you Trevor.

Former Sgt Bernie Arnold, kindly donated a wide range of material he collected from around the Madang area and old Japanese airstrips and bunkers. Bullets, equipment, canteens, badges etc are on display. Thank you Bernie.

As mentioned in the President's up-date, former C Company Corporal and now Secretary of the C Company PNGVR Ex Members Association in Banz/Mt Hagen, Patrick Amberye recently visited Brisbane to attend the University Graduation of his daughter. Col Gould organised a visit to the Museum where he was greeted by President Phil Ainsworth, John Holland Tom Dowling and Bob Harvey-Hall. Secretary Col gave Patrick a album of photos of his visit and the museum to take back to show his members in Mt Hagen & Banz.



Road works sign "GO SLOW"

PNG Style Port Moresby 2008

