

NIUSPEPA BILONG APNG ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2013 EDITION

EDITORIAL

Hi folks,

If the average Australian knew little about their nearest neighbour Papua New Guinea a fortnight ago, they most certainly are aware of the existence of Manus Island and its value as a political location for both Australia and Papua New Guinea after the events of the past fortnight.

Our Papua New Guinea "Yutok" correspondent described the asylum seeker agreement as "very risky" even though Australia has promised Papua New Guinea a virtual open cheque for infrastructure improvements which should have been enacted on using previous years Australian grants.

I honestly do not think that Prime Minister (Peter O'Neill) has given much thought to the race, religion and other factors of their prospective asylum guests and the pride of the Manus Island hosts.

Forgetting the Manus Island fiasco, Papua New Guinea have had a memo-

orable three months since the last newsletter.

The contentious absence of an ombudsman position was filled with the appointment of Rigo Lua. This essential position was vacant for too long.

The police report that William Kapris had finally been rounded up was welcome news to a lot of his cohorts, but did nothing to allay the fears that Bomana gaol was a swinging gate manipulated by corruption.

The other excellent news was the announcement by the O'Neill government that a form of pension, both aged and disabled, will be introduced within three years.

On the home front, your association will be sponsoring the PNG Independence Day Golf Tournament at Virginia Golf Club on September 13th. The format for golf for the day embraces the creed of networking to a remarkable degree and certainly is worth sponsoring a company team.



Give Hank a ring on 3397 4667 if you have not received a sponsorship or flyer letter.

Our next business breakfast is scheduled for the 29th October and covers recent decisions and future plans for Ok Tedi by Nigel Parker.

I guess that I am a little bit negative on the Manus Island plan but I spent time there in the early fifties and found the atmosphere, scenery and people as a paradise on earth.

That's all folks.

God bless

Hank

Important Note: The views expressed in this article are not necessarily those of other members of the committee of the APNG Association.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Kiaps awarded for service*

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JUFFA: RENAME KOKODA TRACK

The world-famous Kokoda Track should be called “Kokoda Trail”, says Oro Governor Gary Juffa.

The MP said the name of the World War II icon was the subject of intense debate in Australia but visitors including Australian trekkers should respect PNG’s right to name its own geographical features, including the Kokoda Trail.

“Does the name belong to the nation which retains sovereign ownership of the land between McDonald’s Corner and Kokoda i.e. Papua New Guinea? Or to the Papuan Infantry Battalion and ten Australian Battalions whose battle honours are emblazoned with the name “Kokoda Trail”? Or to modern day commentators in Australia who dislike the name “trail” because of its American connotation?



Referring to former digger and author Captain Bert Kienzle, the Oro governor said he was adamant the correct name was “Kokoda Trail”.

“In his biography, The Architect of Kokoda, Mr Kienzle said: “We, who fought and saved this nation, PNG, from defeat by a ruthless and determined enemy knew it as the Kokoda Trail not track.

“So I appeal to you and all of those who helped us defend this great country to revere and keep naming it the Kokoda Trail in memory of those great men who fought over it,” he added.

Mr Juffa said Captain Kienzle was a good friend of his grandfather: “As the recently elected Governor of Oro Province I wish to honor the legacy of my grandfather’s good friend, Captain Bert Kienzle and indeed all those who fought along that trail in World War II and ensure the Kokoda Trail is referred to by its proper name.”

DIARY DATES

Friday, September 13, 2013—

PNG Independence Day Golf Tournament.

Tuesday, 29th October, 2013—

Ok Tedi’s Nigel Parker.

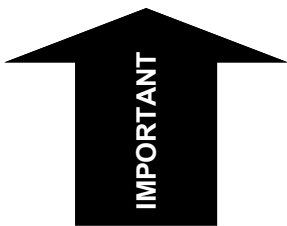
CALL TO HALT ORIGIN TELECAST

An appeal has been made to EMTV national television service not to telecast a State of Origin match played in Australia between New South Wales Blues and Queensland Maroons. Some prominent people in the Jiwaka Province made the call to EMTV not to telecast State of Origin games in the future because Papua New Guineans were getting too carried away about the game.

The group’s spokesman Matthew Ope said they do not understand why Papua New Guineans were going crazy over supporting New South Wales Blues and Queensland Maroons, when they do not know them.

He said the competition had been and was continuing to draw a lot of fans in the country. Mr Ope said all kinds of unexpected things happen around match time; fans paint their face, decorate their vehicles with Blues and Maroons flags, dig money out of their own pocket to buy alcohol and sacrifice all sorts to do whatever they want to do.

He said in every game played each year the country reports a death, family argument or other unexpected conflict.



MOVE TO BAN NON-CHRISTIAN FAITHS

Parliament has passed a motion to carry out a nationwide consultation on the question of religious freedom and whether to ban faiths that are non-Christian.

Hela Governor Anderson Agiru moved the motion during grievance debate in July that was unanimously

supported by both sides of the house.

The motion, which was carried on the floor of parliament now means that the Minister for Community Development and the Constitutional Review Commission set up a bipartisan team, to consult the people of Papua New Guinea with a view to de-

termine whether or not we have a freedom of religion in this country or we adopt and strengthen and reaffirm the spirit and intent of the constitution of Papua New Guinea which basically states in the pre-ambles that we are a country or sovereign nation under God.

Articles re-printed courtesy Post-Courier Online

KIAPS AWARDED

The Australian Government has recognised its veteran police officers who served in Papua New Guinea as kiaps.

The Australian Home Affairs and Justice Minister yesterday awarded the Police Overseas Service medal to fifty-five "kiaps" - the former Australian members of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary between 1949 and 1973.

From the end of World

War II until independence in 1975, it is estimated that around two thousand young Australian men served as patrol officers, or "kiaps" in the then territories of Papua New Guinea. A career as a patrol officer required the officers to juggle multiple roles of ambassador, policeman, explorer, farmer, engineer and anthropologist.

As part of the law enforcement structure in the ter-

ritory these young Australians patrolled vast areas on foot with the help of an indigenous police force and established the fundamentals of the rule of law in the emerging nation.

"These Australians served as officers of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary, greatly contributing to the stability and development of the region," Minister Clare said.

Cont'd on page 8

55 POLICE
OVERSEAS
SERVICE MEDALS
AWARDED TO
KIAPS



Change of address policy

Over the past 12 months, our mail out procedures have been disrupted because letters have been returned due to change of address or change of company personnel who have been nominated to receive our mail outs.

Those disruptions can be avoided by:

1. Advising Treasurer Berry of any change of address.
2. Advising your mail room to monitor our envelopes and pass the mail to the present incumbent if the nominated person has left the business.

Please help!

NEWS ROUNDUP

The Papua New Guinea news roundup is compiled by Colin Gould and Hank Cosgrove from reports in the Post Courier and the National.

Please note that the Australia Papua New Guinea Association is non-political and the reports in this news summary are direct lift outs from the press and are published for the information of members.

The news items have been listed in sections of Business, Mining, Health, Crime, Aviation and Asylum Seekers.

The period of reporting covers April to July 2013.



Business

- Premier Campbell Newman headed a trade delegation to PNG in May to talk about shipping up to 150,000 live cattle to PNG. Queensland has a beef glut and PNG has a “protein drought”.
- Between 500-800 workers to be recruited to work on the new economic corridor to be constructed between Lae and Madang. The project is estimated to cost between K2-4 billion.
- PNG is experiencing a growth in the economy on the average of eight per cent per year, says PM Peter O’Neill.
- Buka town in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville will soon be taken over by foreigners especially the Chinese, according to locals. Many local business operators say the influx of the Asians could lead to many Bougainvilleans closing their businesses in town.
- President of the Asian Development Bank (Takehiko Nakao), has highlighted the importance of innovation at a business breakfast hosted by the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce

and Industry. He said to sustain growth like the rest of the Asia and Pacific region, PNG must be more innovative and look towards broad-based sustainable growth.

- The PNG-Australia relationship should move to one of economic and social partnerships as PNG acknowledges its development challenges while riding the waves of positive economic growth, according to Jane Prentice an Australian federal politician.
- Townsville and Port Moresby have had a sister city relationship since independence and PNG is now looking south for technical assistance in helping develop PNG. PM Peter O’Neill visited Townsville in July to strengthen the strong existing links between the two neighbouring states.
- The Madang Industrial Zone will require up to 20 mega litres of water once in operation. WaterPNG has been entrusted with the task of meeting this demand. The infrastructure required to supply the water needs of this major impact project, situated at Vidar, outside the town precincts, will be constructed with the assistance of Hunter Waters, an Australian based company.
- Economic growth in the Pacific appears to be slowing more than anticipated in the Asian Development Outlook for 2013. Although PNG—the largest developing economy in the Pacific is on track to achieve the Asian Development Outlook, lower prices for export commodities present clear downside risks for government stimulus that was meant to support growth following completion of the PNG liquefied natural gas pipeline project.
- The Government will soon open new diplomatic missions at locations of critical importance both regionally and globally. They include Bangkok, Geneva, Israel, Paris and Shanghai.
- Air Niugini CEO Simon Foo announced in July that the airline will be implementing a new schedule with additional flights for the domestic sector and direct services to Bali and Nadi. The schedule is effective 5th August 2013.

PNG
EXPERIENCING
GROWTH OF 8%
PER YEAR

NEWS ROUNDUP CONTINUED

Aviation

- The national flag carrier, Air Niugini has acquired an additional Dash 8 aircraft to boost service in the domestic sector.
- To further promote tourism in PNG, Air Niugini has opened up a new direct service between Cairns, Rabaul and Cairns on a trial basis. The service started on May 30.
- East New Britain Province will now have twice weekly direct flights between Cairns and Tokua Airport thanks to a joint initiative by Air Niugini and East New Britain Chamber of Commerce.
- Air Niugini's inaugural flight to Denpasar, Bali is set for 5th August. The airline's Boeing 737 will operate once a week.
- Port Moresby is to have an alternative route to and from Jacksons International Airport. Morea Tobo Road between Six-Mile to the airport will be upgraded to a 4 lane road and other feeder roads will be upgraded.
- A mid-air collision between two planes nearly occurred in the skies of Morobe province in July. It is alleged that one of the planes, a privately-owned and unlicensed fixed wing light aircraft was flying unauthorized at a much higher altitude.



Crime

- The death of notorious criminal William Kapris has closed a chapter in the annals of PNG's law and order challenges. He was shot by police on the 22nd July but his death has left many unanswered questions. Kapris escaped from Bomana gaol with the help of a female warder.
- More than 150 personnel will be recruited by NCD Enforcement Unit to serve as reservists assisting police in Port Moresby.
- Former commanders of the PNG Defence Force have warned that the recent attack by armed soldiers against students of the Medical Faculty reflects a potentially dangerous element of militancy present in the Defence Force. Two PNG Defence Force soldiers were arrested and locked up with more to be arrested following the attack.
- Fifty Australian Federal police personnel will be deployed to PNG by the end of the year to assist with capacity building in PNG police to address law and order problems in the country.
- There has been rumbling discontent building up over Chinese businessmen in Bougainville's capital, Buka town, and some fear it may come to a head. The armed hold up of a local Chinese store, along with other incidents involving theft from other Chinese retailers are being seen by some in the community as a sign that locals are fed up with the Asians who own retail outlets in Buka town.
- Four Chinese nationals were killed at a bakery shop in Koki market in Port Moresby in June. The three men and one woman were killed at about 8.40 p.m. inside the shop where they also lived.
- A 25 year old man has been arrested and charged after being caught having sex with a pig.
- Anyone caught smoking in any identified public places and enclosed areas will be fined K500 and a penalty of K1000 will apply for corporations.

50 AUSTRALIAN
FEDERAL POLICE
TO BE DEPLOYED
TO PNG

NEWS ROUNDUP CONTINUED



PNG'S
POPULATION
MORE THAN
DOUBLES OVER
30 YEAR PERIOD

General News

- PNG's coastline from Vanimo in West Sepik to Lae in Morobe province has been described as vulnerable to the effects of climate change.
- Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel, James Ume died at the age of 101 in his Doura village, Central Province days before this year's ANZAC commemoration service. Mr Ume moved ammunition and the sick and wounded for the Allied Forces between the jungles of Central and Oro Provinces.
- PNG Defence Force Commander Brigadier-General Francis Agwi has welcomed an offer by the New Zealand Defence Force to provide engineering assistance for a new road project that will connect Mt Hagen and Madang.
- PM Peter O'Neill told Parliament his Government would not grant any more tax holidays for companies looking to invest in the country.
- The O'Neill-Dion Government has total control of the House of Parliament with more than two-thirds absolute majority of MPs on its benches and can easily carry out its legislative agenda without fear of being obstructed by the Opposition.
- PNG and Indonesia have signed a record 11 memoranda of understanding for closer co-operation between the two countries.
- Rigo Lua (OBE) is the new Chief Ombudsman of PNG. Mr Lua takes over from Ombudsman Phoebe Sangetari who has been acting in the position for more than 12 months when the then Chief Ombudsman Chronox Manek died in 2011, after a long illness.
- PM Peter O'Neill has warned that PNG's high population growth rate presents the government a mammoth challenge in the delivery of its infrastructure development program. He said that the population had more than doubled, from 2 million 30 years ago to 7 million today.

Asylum seekers

- Refugee processing at the Manus Island regional processing centre for asylum seekers has already commenced. Foreign Affairs and Immigration Minister Rimbink Pato said PNG had moved quickly to establish guidelines and train officers to make assessments in accordance with those laws.
- PNG has signed a new deal that will see the dumping of all asylum seekers on Manus Island and freeing Australia in dealing with boat people in the future.
- There is potential for last Friday's landmark agreement between Australia and PNG on asylum seekers to be a win-win for both countries but it is fraught with risks. PNG gets extra development assistance via the redevelopment and upgrading of the University of PNG and University of Technology, the building of a new modern hospital for Lae, the upgrading of the Lae to Madang highway, the construction of a new lower courts complex in the national capital and the deployment of Australian police officers in Port Moresby and Lae by the end of the year. Manus' Lombrum naval base will get a facelift, the Momote Airport and upgrade and new schools and health centres built for the local population.

NEWS ROUNDUP CONTINUED

Mining

- Over 18,000 villagers in the Oro Province have objected to an Australian mining company getting a two-year extension to their permit to explore for gold in their 360,000 hectare area.
- Local landowners from Hidden Valley Gold mine in Bulolo district of Morobe province issued a 14 day ultimatum to shut the mine in May.
- Horizon Oil has sold 40% of its PNG natural gas assets to Japan's Osaka Gas for approx. K452 million. The companies will develop PNG's third liquefied natural gas in Western province.
- After 24 years, the leaders, landowners and people of Panguna mine in Bougainville have reached some sort of agreement and are ready to sit down, talk and negotiate for the reopening of the defunct giant copper-gold mine.
- PM Peter O'Neill held talks with Newcrest Mining executives to discuss the company's controversial US\$6 billion asset write-down with the primary focus on the Lihir gold mining operations in Hidden Valley.
- Rio Tinto, the parent company of Bougainville Copper Limited has emerged victorious in a long-running court battle against victims of the 10-year Bougainville war.
- The Government might have to consider raising more revenue or cutting expenditure if global commodity prices continue to drop.
- Taxes collected from the mining and petroleum sector in PNG dropped a whopping 53% and it will fall further because of the dropping gold price on the world markets.
- The highlight of Oil Search's second quarter activities was a series of successful exploration wells, says OSL Managing Director Peter Botten. They included one gas and two oil discoveries.



PNG ONE OF
THE WORST
PLACES FOR
TUBERCULOSIS

Health

- The National Government has declared Sandaun or West Sepik province "a disease area" following the detection of the contagious Newcastle bird disease in the PNG-Indonesia border villages of Wutung and Musu and the provincial capital Vanimo. This means that the movement of poultry and poultry products out of Sandaun province is banned until further notice.
- Almost 90% of the country's population is at risk of malaria. PNG has the highest malaria burden in the Western Pacific Region. Approx. 1.7 million clinical cases of the disease are recorded each year and up to 600 deaths.
- Goroka Base Hospital closed its operations in May following a unanimous decision by the different unions representing workers of the hospital who can no longer operate under the appalling conditions of the hospital.
- PNG has been described as one of the world's worst places for tuberculosis infection. "One of the things that fuel TB everywhere is a weakened health system, poverty, vulnerable people and I think that is the driving factor," a specialist with the Royal Melbourne Hos-

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Health news continued from page 7

pital, Dr Suman Majumdar said.

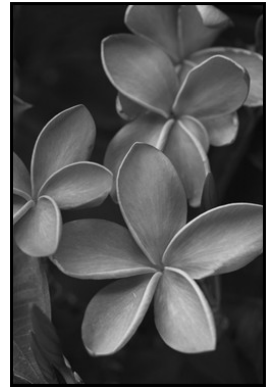
- Situated in the mountains of Bundi and overlooking the famous Ramu River is the “world class” Ramu Nickel mine. Travelling up the winding road will lead to the chromite storage facility. This facility is situated before the mine site. Visual inspection of the vicinity shows that the chromite mineral is stored in the open air in piles of greyish brown, grey and black colour sand appearance type of soil; there are walls which were presumably built to stop chromite from being washed out by rain. The storage facility is also located by the roadside and locals

can be seen sitting/standing around the vicinity. However, it is frightening to see such mineral with high toxicity potential being stored near the road, out in open space, without any regard for public health and safety.

- The Constitutional Law Reform Commission will begin an enquiry into mine waste tailings and its impact on the health of Papua New Guineans. Commission secretary, Dr Eric Kwa said the inquiry is part of a reference by the then Minister for Justice Bire Kimisopa in July 2007, in response to a study by a Sylvester Kotapu in which he alleged high toxic levels in the Angabanga River and the surrounding envi-

ronment was triggered by wastes from the Tolukuma gold mine.

- Reports were announced on the 15th July that the Australian Government will increase support for health and hospitals in Papua New Guinea to help save lives. The Australian Government will provide just over K333.45 million (A\$160m) over four years to 2016. Support for improved health in PNG is a key priority agreed under the Australia-Papua New Guinea Partnership for Development. This additional funding will ensure continued availability of quality assured medical supplies for 2,700 health facilities across Papua New Guinea.



AUSTRALIAN
GOVT TO
PROVIDE
K333.45
MILLION FOR
HEALTH
SUPPORT IN
PNG

Kiaps awarded— continued from page 3

“They have never been properly recognised for the work they did to maintain order in Papua New Guinea. The ceremony is to provide the long overdue recognition of the important work they did.”

NGVR & PNGVR MUSEUM

For Sale

Rare and historical footage taken in the early 1960s in the Highlands of PNG. Originally taken on 18mm movies, the footage has been converted to DVD.

Comes in a set of three 90 minute disks

Cost \$30 plus postage

Please send cheque to: NGVR & PNGVR Association, PO Box 885, Park Ridge Qld 4125

Or

Direct credit to: CBA, A/C No. 10309268 BSB No. 064118. Please add your name to the EFT.

Or contact John Holland on rabaul42@gmail.com for further information



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