Academic staff

Senior Fellow (Field Director)
R.J. May, M.Ec.(Syd.), D.Phil. (Oxon.)

Research Fellow
Diana Conyers, B.A., Ph.D. (Sussex)

Research Fellow (till April)
R.G. Garnaut, B.A., Ph.D. (A.N.U.)

Research Fellow
I.M. Hughes, B.A. (Syd.), Ph.D. (A.N.U.)

Research Fellow
R. Lang, M.A. (Texas), Ph.D. (A.N.U.)

Research Fellow (till May)
Jocelyn Powell, M.Sc. (Auckland), Ph.D. (A.N.U.)

Research Fellow
R. Skeldon, B.Sc. (Glasgow), M.A., Ph.D. (Toronto)

Research Fellow (till May)
Marilyn Strathern, M.A., Ph.D. (Cantab.)

Research Fellow
Neil Warren, B.A. (Cantab.), M.A. (LSE), Ph.D. (Sussex)

Honorary Fellow
Marion W. Ward, M.Sc. (N.Z.), Ph.D. (Uinn.)

Visiting Fellow (from February till August)
John D. Conroy, B.Com., Dip. Ed. (Melb.), Ph.D. (LaTrobe)

Graduate Fellow
Boio Daro, B.A. (U.P.N.G.)

Research Assistant (Manuscript Editor)
Mary-Lou Allen, B.Sc. (Philippines)

Research Assistant (from February)
H.A. Holzknecht, B.A. (Qld.)

Research Assistant
M.G. Wright, B.Ec. (A.N.U.)

Research Assistant (part time)
Susan Faircloth, B.A. (Melb.)
The New Guinea Research Unit was established in 1961 within the Research School of Pacific Studies. It has conducted interdisciplinary research in Papua New Guinea in the social sciences and in biogeography and geomorphology, linguistics, and prehistory, and it has served as a coordinating body to assist work carried out by various departments of the School.

Principal research themes in recent years have included rural-urban migration and rural and urban re-settlement; economic development, including national economic policy, land tenure and use, incentives and motivation, transport, and socio-economic change; inter-tribal and inter-cultural communication; and political change, including non-traditional forms of association, dispute settlement, and local government.

In September 1975 legislation was passed in Papua New Guinea providing for the establishment of an Institute of Applied Social and Economic Research. In accordance with earlier discussions between The Australian National University and the Papua New Guinea Government the University will transfer to this Institute the role and some of the assets of the New Guinea Research Unit. The Institute plans to commence operations on 1 January 1976. Present staff of the Unit will be attached to the Institute and the Unit's Field Director has been invited to become the first Director of the Institute.

The Unit's research programme was restricted during 1975 as a result of the decision, due to the proposed handover of the Unit, not to replace research staff as their contracts expired.

Study of the rural-urban relationship again accounted for a major part of the Unit's work. The rural survey stage of the rural-urban relationship study being undertaken jointly with the University of Papua New Guinea (discussed in previous reports) was completed early in the year and analysis of the data proceeded under the direction of Dr Conroy who spent six months, on leave from the University of Papua New Guinea, as a visiting fellow with the Unit. Writing up of the data from the urban survey continued under the supervision of Dr Garnaut and Dr Wright and a series of seminars were held during the year to discuss preliminary results. The Unit's interest in internal migration and urbanisation was strengthened with the addition to the staff of Dr Skeldon.

In the field of political development Dr Hay and Ms Daro carried out further research into micronationalist movements and Dr Warren continued his study of political socialisation. Mrs Faircloth and Mr Holzknecht commenced work on a comprehensive bibliography of Papua New Guinea politics.

Dr Conyers continued her study of provincial planning and administrative decentralisation and Dr Garnaut, before being seconded to the Papua New Guinea Department of Finance in April, carried out further research into national economic policies. Dr Powell's work on subsistence crops was cut short by her departure from Papua New Guinea in May but arrangements have been made for the continuation of at least part of the project by the Department of Agriculture Stock and Fisheries. Dr Strathern, who also left the Unit in May, finalised her work on reform of the law.
relating to sexual offences. Dr Lang made further progress on his study of the role of interpreters and Dr Hughes began to finalise his research into the history of land use in the upper Wahgi Valley.

In June the Unit accepted a commission to undertake a study of the economics of telecommunications in Papua New Guinea. The study will be funded by the Papua New Guinea Department of Posts and Telegraphs and the I.B.R.D. Dr David Evans of W.D. Scott and Co., Melbourne, has been appointed as project director, responsible to the Field Director, NGRU. Other approaches to undertake studies on behalf of government have been referred to the Institute of Applied Social and Economic Research.

Relations with government

The New Guinea Research Unit continued to maintain a close contact with the Papua New Guinea Government during the year. Researchers kept in touch with and received co-operation from interested departments and agencies.

Dr Conyers was attached to the Central Planning Office on a part-time basis for part of the year to assist with planning and administrative organisation in Central Province and worked informally with the Village Development Task Force. She also made a preliminary study of the social and economic impact of the Ok Tedi mining project on behalf of the NGRU for the government's Ok Tedi Committee and her recommendation that a project co-ordinator be appointed has been acted upon.

Dr May continued to serve as a member of the Board of the Bank of Papua New Guinea and Dr Garnaut again acted as a consultant to the government on several economic and financial matters. Dr Strathern, in addition to her previously mentioned research for the Department of Law, acted as adviser to a government committee preparing legislation to control tribal fighting. Dr Skeldon will act as a supervisor of a household expenditure survey to be conducted by the government early in 1976.

The Unit continued to participate in the Joint Programme of Studies in the Transport Process, which is jointly sponsored by the Papua New Guinea Department of Transport, the Universities of Papua New Guinea and Technology, and the NGRU.

New Guinea Research Unit seminars

Nine seminars, as listed below, were held during the year. Attendance averaged about twenty, many attending from outside the universities.

Raymond Apthorpe  
(Univ. of East Anglia)  
Social development indicators for Papua New Guinea

Ronald Skeldon  
(NGRU)  
Internal migration: the relevance or non relevance of a Latin American case to Papua New Guinea

Josephine Abaijah  
(N.H.A.)  
Papua Besena

Ross Garnaut  
(NGRU)  
Neo-colonialism and independence: Papua New Guinea's relations with Australia and Japan
In addition papers were given to a series of seminars on the urban migration project by R.J. May (NGRU), Richard Curtain (ANU), Michael Wright (NGRU), Geoff Harris (UPNG) and Chris Gregory (UPNG).

Publications

The New Guinea Research Bulletin continued to receive wide distribution both within Papua New Guinea and overseas. Five issues were prepared for publication during the year:


60. Sound Producing Instruments in Traditional Society: A Study of Esoteric Instruments and Their Role in Male-Female Relations by K.A. Gourlay

61. 'No Honey on Our Skins': Hagen Migrants in Port Moresby by Marilyn Strathern

62. Roads and Development in South Bougainville by Marion Ward

63. Four Papers on the Papua New Guinea Cattle Industry by P. Philipp, L. Langness, F. von Fleckenstein and M. Evans

Mrs Allen continued as manuscript editor. Number 63 will be the last New Guinea Research Bulletin. The Bulletin will be replaced by an Institute of Applied Social and Economic Research Monograph series.

Only two additions were made to the Luksave series: in English, no.14 Hoskins Development: Oil Palm and Timber, and no.15 Papua New Guinea Businessmen in Port Moresby. Demand for this series has been disappointing.

A new series, NGRU Discussion Papers was commenced in April 1975 and by December nine issues, as listed below, had appeared. The discussion papers, all of which present work carried out within the Unit, are intended primarily as a means of getting preliminary results of research quickly, widely and cheaply into circulation. The series has been very well received.
1. The Introduction of Provincial Government in Papua New Guinea: Lessons from Bougainville by Diana Conyers

2. Employment and Incomes in Papua New Guinea Towns by Michael Wright, Ross Garnaut and Richard Curtain

3. Planning for District Development in Papua New Guinea by Diana Conyers

4. Internal Migration in Papua New Guinea: an introduction to its description and analysis by R.J. May and Ronald Skeldon

5. Spontaneous Rural Resettlement in and near the Chimbu District in 1972-73 by Anton Ploeg

6. Neo-colonialism and Independence: Papua New Guinea's economic relations with Australia and Japan by Ross Garnaut


8. The View From Hurun: The Peli Association of the East Sepik District by R.J. May

9. Towards an understanding of being without formal employment in Papua New Guinea Towns by Michael Wright

The library continued to expand and was again used extensively by members of the Unit and other research workers. Mrs F. O’Sullivan continued as librarian.

Members of the research staff of the Unit would like to express their appreciation of the benefit they have derived from their association with staff and students of the University of Papua New Guinea, the University of Technology and the Administrative College and of the assistance they have received from government departments, missions and others in carrying out research in Port Moresby and in the field; in particular they are grateful to the many Papua New Guinean people who have facilitated the research work of staff members throughout the country.

R.J. May
Field Director
New Guinea Research Unit
December 1975.
Publications

Brammall, J. and May, R.J. (eds.), Education in Melanesia, University of Papua New Guinea and Research School of Pacific Studies, The Australian National University, 524pp.


--- See under Clunies Ross


--- See under Wright


1 Not a member of this university.
2 Member of the Department of Geography, S.G.S.
3 Based on work done prior to joining this university.


--- 'The micronationalists', New Guinea, 10(1), May-June, pp.39-53.


--- (ed.), see under Brammall.


Powell, Jocelyn M., Kulunga, A.1, Noge, R.1, Pono, C.1, Zimike, F.1, and Golson, J.2, 'Agricultural Traditions of the Mount Hagen Area', University of Papua New Guinea, Department of Geography, Occasional Paper no.12, 68pp.

Skeldon, Ronald3, La SAIS como un modelo para colonización: el caso de la SAIS Tupac Amaru, Centro Nacional de Capacitación e Investigación para la Reforma Agraria, Lima.

--- See under May.


--- 'Report on questionnaire relating to sexual offences as defined in the Criminal Code', prepared for the Department of Law, mineo., 166pp.


1 Not a member of this university.
2 Member of the Department of Prehistory.
3 Based on work done prior to joining this university.


1. Member of the Department of Geography, S.G.S.