THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PACIFIC STUDIES

NEW GUINEA RESEARCH UNIT

ANNUAL REPORT 1965

List of Staff:

Executive Officer
D.G. Bettison, M.A., Ph.D. (Rhodes).
(to June)
R.G. Crocombe, B.A. (N.Z.), Ph.D.
(from June)

Research Officers
N.D. Oram, M.A. (Oxon.)
W.F.M. Straatmans, Dip. Trop. Agric. (Deventer). (from Sept.)

Research Assistants
E.W. Waddell, B.A. (Oxon.) M.A. (McGill)
Miss Dawn Ryan, B.A., M.A. (Syd.)
M. Rimoldi, B.A., Dip. Soc. Anthrop. (Syd.)
(to May)
P.A. Krinks, B.A. (Bristol)
Miss P.M. Richardson, B.A. (Syd.)
Mrs. S. Faircloth, B.A. (A.N.U.)
(from May)
Dr. Bettison left the Research Unit in May to take a post as Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and was replaced by Dr. Crocombe who returned from a lecturing assignment at the University of California in June.

Research

Mr. N.D. Oram completed the major study of urbanization in Port Moresby on which he has been engaged since 1962, and moved to Canberra to write up his research data. Miss Dawn Ryan, who has been concentrating on resettled Toaripi people in Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul and Madang has almost completed her field work and expects to begin writing up in Canberra in January.

Research organized by Dr. D.G. Bettison in conjunction with Dr. C. Hughes and Dr. P. van der Veur of the Australian National University on the 1964 election in Papua-New Guinea was published towards the end of the year.

Mrs. K. van der Veur and Miss P.M. Richardson devoted most of their time to analysis and writing up a study of certain aspects of education and aspirations of the urban elite school child in Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul. This work is expected to be completed in the first half of 1966.

The detailed study of the allocation of time and resources undertaken by Messrs. P. Krinks and E. Waddell in the Northern District was completed and analysis of their very extensive data worked on during the year. Both these researchers were awarded Ph.D. scholarships during the year but their work on the former project is expected to be ready for publication towards the end of 1966. This work was financed by a grant from the Rural Credits Development Fund of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Dr. R.G. Crocombe undertook, as a consultant to the South Pacific Commission, a survey of the adaptation of the customary systems of land tenure to modern economic conditions. This necessitated visits to the United States Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the New Hebrides, Fiji, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands and Samoa between 4 June and 30 September 1965. The report to the Commission is now being prepared.

A small study begun by Dr. Crocombe in 1963 on indigenous entrepreneurs in the Northern District is being continued with the help of a student from the University of Melbourne, Mr. W. Oostermeyer and should be completed early in 1966.

The Unit devised a research program and assisted the Land Titles Commission to recruit an appropriate research worker to undertake a brief study of the effects of land tenure conversion in the Northern District. A more extensive study of this program is planned for 1966/67.

Three new members of staff were recruited towards the end of the year, and will begin research in New Guinea in 1966. They are Dr. R. Kent Wilson, Senior Lecturer in Economic Geography, Faculty of Commerce, University of Melbourne, who will undertake a study of industrialization and the
potential for the development of industry in Papua-New Guinea. Dr. William Rowe, Director of the South-East Asia Study Program at Duke University, U.S.A., who will undertake local studies of non-traditional forms of association in the New Guinea Highlands. Dr. Behari Abbi, Lecturer in Anthropology at Monash University who will undertake studies of non-traditional associations at the national level and with reference to the linkage between national and local institutions.

A Research Fellowship for psychological study of factors involved in motivation in Papua-New Guinea was advertised, but no appointment has been made in the meantime. A bibliography on the subject is being prepared and consultants with specialist experience in this field have been asked to advise on the way in which this program should be undertaken. It is expected that an appointment will be made early in 1966.

Dr. Sumer Singh of the Department of Economics at the University of New England began in December a comparative study of three months duration of Government resettlement schemes in the Rabaul area. This study was undertaken at the request and expense of the New Guinea Research unit.

Proposals have been drafted for a major study of the economic and sociological aspects of Co-operative Societies (there are now about 300 Co-operatives with an annual turnover of £2,000,000). Plans for a major study of entrepreneurial activity in New Guinea are in the course of preparation.

Dr. David Lee of the Department of Geography, Monash University, was given partial assistance to enable him to undertake a revisit to the Magrip area where he had previously undertaken work when he was with the Australian National University, and on which he is planning a major publication.

New Guinea Research Unit Bulletin

Four issues of the Bulletin appeared in 1965, they were:

No.6 D.R. Howlett "The European Settlement Scheme at Popondetta".
No.7 R.G. Crocombe "The M'buke Co-operative Plantation".
No.8 Graham Jackson "Cattle, Coffee and Land among the Wain".
No.9 Edited by E.Hipsley "An Integrated Approach to Nutrition and Society: the Chimbu Case" was printed and waiting binding at the end of the year.

Several further issues are now ready for publication and others in the course of preparation.

Unit staff generally publish their short articles in academic journals and major studies as books through University Presses. The Research Bulletin is particularly set up to handle field studies of about 50 to 150 pages in length. There is a considerable and growing demand for the Bulletin, not only within New Guinea itself but also from various institutions from overseas.
Administration and services

The Unit serves the School by controlling the allocation and maintenance of residences, by supervising the location and maintenance of vehicles, and by storing, loaning, and purchasing equipment for, to and on behalf of visiting staff.

There are nine University houses in the Territory, six at Port Moresby, two at Lae and one at Rabaul. Unit staff occupy these on a permanent tenancy basis or as transients depending on their needs, and accounted for 78% of usage during 1965. In addition, accommodation is provided for other visitors where possible and use was made as follows during the year:

- R.S.P.S. staff and scholars: 8%
- Central Administration staff: 4%
- School of General Studies staff and students: 2%
- Other Universities' researchers: 8%

In the last mentioned case visitors from the Universities of Auckland, California, New South Wales, Paris and Sydney were assisted and furnished accommodation was supplied on 55 occasions.

Preparations were made for the construction of two low-cost dwellings at Port Moresby and a residence with garage-cum-store at each of Goroka and Mount Hagen during 1966. New appointments and the growth of research in the New Guinea Highlands necessitate the provision of these units.

There were lengthy negotiations with the Territory Administration, Commonwealth Department of Works and the University of Papua and New Guinea regarding the site of the new Unit Headquarters and the design of the first building to be placed upon it. This will contain 10 studies, a library, seminar room, and administrative offices. It will cost £60,000 and it is hoped that construction will commence in June Valley, adjacent to the University campus, in July 1966. In the meantime, staff continue to work under cramped and wearing conditions in rented huts at Badili.

During 1965 a Renault station sedan was traded in for a Holden station sedan, a B.S.A. motorcycle was sold, and a Morris Minimoke was purchased. One Landrover was shipped to the British Solomon Islands and the School vehicle fleet in New Guinea now stands at nine. It is expected that the three oldest vehicles will be replaced by two Landrovers and two Minimokes during the coming year.

On behalf of the Department of Geography, the Unit constructed a Research Station on Mount Wilhelm at an altitude of 11,500 ft. This involved the collection of the prefabricated building from the wharf at Madang, where it had been shipped from Melbourne, its despatch by chartered aircraft to Keglsugl (8,500 ft a.s.l.), porterage by local labour to the site near the Pindeaunde Lakes, and its erection under adverse climatic conditions. Additionally, a convoy of Landrovers with additional materials was driven from Goroka to Keglsugl; a telephone line was installed over some ten miles between Pindeaunde and Gembogl, the nearest Administration station; labour...
lines, road making and the supply of pitsawn timber had to be organized and many difficulties overcome. The operation drew on the entire resources of the Unit's manpower and materials but its success was wholly due to the direction and leadership of Dr. Bettison.

In the 1964 Report, it was suggested that the problems raised by work in the Territory made it desirable for the University's senior administrative officers to visit more frequently than had been the case in the past. It was pleasing therefore that the Associate Registrar, Accountant, Architect and Business Manager (School of Social Sciences and Pacific Studies) found it possible to do this. Their advice and assistance was helpful and the knowledge of Territory conditions acquired by them will prove invaluable when co-ordination problems arise.

It is expected that, apart from staff living at Canberra, and work by the other departments of the University, the Unit will have eight researchers active in the Territory next year and, in order to ease the burden on the Administrative Assistant and Secretary, it is recommended that a Finance/Stores Clerk be appointed at Port Moresby.

The assistance and co-operation of the Menzies Library, the Assistant Registrar, R.S.P.S., the Business Manager and others in Canberra is gratefully acknowledged. Likewise, in New Guinea itself departments and officers of the Territory Administration have given extensive and valuable assistance.

Publications:


Crocombe, R.G.  'The Parliamentary Seminar at Sogeri.' The Papua-New Guinea Elections 1964, 430-444. (Chapter)


Richardson, Penelope M., Van der Veur, Karol.  'Town Dwellers' Participation in the Elections.' Appendix in The Papua-New Guinea Elections 1964, 523-525.