

THE BLATCHFORD COLLECTION - 1949

For 1949 information concerning the Sogeri Education Centre refer to 'RC Ralph, 'The Development of the Sogeri Education Centre As a Teacher Training Institution' located under '1944 Pre and Post-War Summaries'.

Principal ASOPA to RC Mills, 10 January 1949. He met with Minister Eddie Ward and Acting Minister Cyril Chambers, who is off to PNG shortly. Discussed appoint of WS Arthur (approved) and Wurm (deferred). Also Administrator's proposal to enlist 50 teachers for immediate training (deferred). Ward wants ASOPA Council tenure reduced from 3 to 2 years so succeeding ministers have more control of membership.

GT Roscoe to WM English, Native Education – Talasea, 19 January 1949. School has never been visited.

C Julius, Education and Mass Communication in Papua-New Guinea, February 1954. Presented to Seventh Pacific Science Conference, New Zealand, 1949. Eight pages on Publications, Wireless Broadcasting, and Visual Aids.

J Taylor to JK Murray, 3 February 1949. Looks like Murray was in Goroka in December 1948. Acting Minister Cyril Chambers here for 2 hours the other day. 'A crude sort of fellow ... might get things done...does not approve of our native policy.'

CM Goode to His Honour, Debate on Papua and New Guinea Bill 1949, 15 August 1973. 15 February 1949, Acting Minister Cyril Chambers gave second reading speech and justified the administrative union of PNG and the official majority on the Legislative Council.

Bishop Sorin to Director of Education, 20 March 1949. Objects that mission schools for 'Asiatics or Malays or Half Castes' shall not be entitled to grants-in-aid if operating near an Administration school. To go to His Honour for consideration.

RC Ralph to Director of Education, 24 March 1949. Ralph was OIC Education Rabaul. Wants clarification of school hours. Roscoe the Acting Director of Education says 25 hours minimum.

JK Murray to James McAuley, 26 March 1949. Undesirable to have ASOPA move to the Territory. Wonders whether we over-emphasise the bad living conditions, the drinking habits, the discontent and low morality of Moresby.

M Keich to His Honour, 11 April 1949. Wants information about establishing a mission station.

RC Mills to WC Groves, 20 April 1949. Asks for 1800 word statement and photos for the Commonwealth office of Education's journal 'Education News'.

WC Groves to Acting Government Secretary, NZ Evangelistic & Publication Association, 29 April 1949. Details government assistance to missions asked for in Keich letter of 11 April 1949.

JK Murray to M Keich, 10 May 1949. Forwards Groves information of 29 April 1949 together with information from other departments. Notation that the mission was never heard of again.

JK Murray to J Burton, 10 May 1949. Dr Laubach of Lutheran Mission demonstrated in Lae his methods of making adults literate in a short period.

Impressive. Also ask for consideration for Reverends Strauss and Streicher to stay in Territory to help Education work.

JK Murray to the Director District Services and Native Affairs, Baptist New Guinea Mission, 20 May 1949. Requests that assistance be given to the missionaries to find a suitable location to establish themselves.

Précis of the Proceedings of the Administrator's Conference, 20 May 1949. Gives attendance (including Roscoe Acting Director of Education). Secondary school proposed. Murray wants a submission to Department of External Territories finalised by 23 May 1949 and provision made in the 1949-50 Estimates.

Précis of the Proceedings of the Administrator's Conference, 27 May 1949. W Steele representing Director of Education. Doesn't know of Secondary Education progress.

JR Halligan to JK Murray, 20 May 1949. Approval for Reverends Straus and Streicher to return to Territory.

L Villiers to JK Murray, 21 June 1949. Villiers writing thesis on 'Education in Papua-New Guinea'. Wants introductory letter to Camilla Wedgwood at ASOPA.

JR Halligan to JK Murray, Australian School of Pacific Administration – Committee to examine and recommend, 21 June 1949. Wants the name of the Administration representative for the Committee and whether that person can come to Sydney or Canberra for a few days at short notice.

JR Halligan to William Dunk (Chairman PSB), 21 June 1949. Asks whether RF Archer and P Curtain could be made avail to sit on ASOPA Committee. If not whom do you suggest?

JK Murray to the Secretary Department of External Territories, Executive Council for the Territory, 24 June 1949. Notes attempts to bring the P and NG Act into operation 1 July 1949 and proposes all Departmental Heads plus four District Officers become the Executive Council.

Commonwealth of Australia, Territory of Papua. Annual Report for the Period 1 July 1949 to 30 June 1950.

Commonwealth of Australia, Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Administration of the Territory of New Guinea from 1 July 1949 to 30 June 1950.

Note: The Trusteeship Council of the UN made arrangements to send a visiting mission to the four Trust Territories in the Pacific, the first on the spot examination of the Australian Trusteeship, to take place between 10 May and 27 June 1950. Ref Ian Downs' book, p70.

JK Murray to Camilla Wedgwood, 2 July 1949. Introduces Villiers of PNG Education Department to Wedgwood to assist with his thesis.

Camilla Wedgwood to JK Murray, 17 July 1949. Wedgwood will help Villiers. She too was at Institute of Education in London.

WC Groves, Syllabus for European Schools. Classification of Pupils, 26 July 1949. Gives starting ages for each grade 4+ Prep and 5+ Grade 1.

TPNG, Constitution of Ministerial and Inter-Departmental Committees to Plan the Development of Papua and New Guinea, 1 Aug 1949. Prime Minister suggests replacing 1947 Departmental Committee with Ministerial Standing Committee (Membership) to consider plans for development of the Territory and

report to Cabinet, and an Inter-Departmental Committee (Membership) to undertake investigations and prepare reports for Min Standing Committee, and report on plans and proposals prepared by the Administrator. Then gives 3 page history of 1947 Departmental Committee. Filed under '1944 Pre and Post WW2 Summaries.' (Next entry is 26 September 1949.)

T Pyman for MW Hope (Allied Commission for Austria) to JK Murray, 5 August 1949. Both ASOPA and Groves want the services of Dr S Wurm (studies native languages and problems). Summarised correspondence back and forth. Wurm wants to know if he is to be offered employment and where.

WC Groves to Director Commonwealth Office of Education, 9 August 1949. Been out of the Territory a large part of the time since your letter (Mills to Groves 20 April 1949) but will try to write article soon.

JK Murray to RD Wright, 19 August 1949. Jones, Director of District Services just back from conference in Australia in regard to the School. Arthur and Mills were there. It was unanimously recommended to the Minister that the School be continued, whereas it looked as if there was quite a prospect that the recommendation would be to the contrary. Hope the Minister will approach you for position on Council. Alf (Conlon) gives up the reins next month.

DOET to JK Murray, 30 August 1949. As I have heard that Alf Conlon has left the School could you finalise something for Wurm. Would like Gunther to go to South Pacific Commission Conference in Noumea starting 26 October 1949. Will be absent from Canberra for 2 or 3 months from middle September 1949.

WC Groves to a/Government Secretary, 1 September 1949. Replying to Sorin's letter of 20 March 1949 and recommending that no special subsidy be paid to the school. See below for reason.

WC Groves Bishop Sorin, 1 September 1949. The Government could not be expected to maintain its own school and subsidise a denominational one in the same area.

From this time there is a flurry of correspondence between the Missions, Groves, Murray, DOET and the UK on the question of aid to Mission education. I have not listed these but they are available if you want to see them. Also refer to Roscoe's letter to Director of Education of 19 November 1949 and Irvine to a/Gov Sec 23 November 1949.

JK Murray to FB Phillips, 6 September 1949. Little reference on ABC or in papers to the commencement of permanent Administrator or visit of Governor General. "It does look as if only the things which are useful, or can be made useful, in discrediting the present Australian Government receive much space." Head, the new Public Service Commissioner, arrives end of week. The conference called to consider the future of ASOPA recommended continuance which takes a load off my mind. Thought cadets might have to go back to Sydney University taking courses not designed for them.

TPNG, Reconstitution of Ministerial and Inter-Departmental Committees to Plan the Development of Papua and New Guinea, 26 September 1949. Halligan called the meeting at Min's request. Those present. Approval for Committees will have to come from Cabinet. Draft submission has been prepared. Functions of Committees and program of work to be undertaken.

Annual Revenue of Territory 1945 to 1949 including Commonwealth contribution and Territory Revenue. £15 million to be spent on buildings in the

next 5 years including £7million on hospitals. (Now see memo to Leeson 10 October 1949)

JK Murray to T Pyman, 10 October 1949. Wurm's appointment. Murray says, "after so much effort being made to get his services to Australia, there must be a resolute antipathy to the appointment somewhere." Murray has recommended Gunther, Groves, McAdam and Granger as associate members of the South Pacific Commission Research Council. Forsyth has been to PNG.

JK Murray to I Leeson, 10 October 1949. Alf Conlon. Murray says, "I do not know quite when he left the school, or the circumstances under which he did it ... I am quite sure that Alf did a good job there, even though there was some friction at the finish. Someone said to me, not so long back, that he has more streaks of genius in him than any other person he knew, but that occasionally the machine could not keep up with the fast pace." Looks as though the third Inter-Departmental Committee will get the opportunity to do something, the earlier ones looked to me as if strangulation of a slow type prevented them from functioning. (See 18 October 1949 for next reference.)

JH Irvine, Conference of Education Officers of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, Staff Memorandum No 13 of 1949, 14 October 1949. To be held Sogeri Jan 1950 on all aspects of education activities and to coordinate the work and organisation of the Divisions of the Department. All must attend. Suggest items for discussion.

EJ Ward, Programme of Work for the Inter-Departmental Committee, 18 October 1949. Cabinet approved the Committee. Gives membership. No Education representative. Directs the preparation of a balanced 5 year plan. (Now to 1 November 1949)

JK Murray to The Secretary DOET, Curfew, 19 October 1949. 9 pm curfew. Trusteeship Council wants it lifted. Murray says could be pushed out to 10.30 pm but no power to do so until he gets an Executive Council.

JK Murray to EJ Ward, Australian School of Pacific Administration, 22 October 1949. Murray has seen report of the Committee appointed by Chambers to consider matters related to ASOPA. "As you know I have always considered that continuing the Military School as a Civil on was a statesmanlike action and I know that you will ensure that the School has good opportunities for doing its work with officers of the Administration and other people interested, including the Missions. It is now essential to finalise details with regard to the School so that the staff know precisely what their engagements are." McAuley had been there for six years on a year-to-year basis. Could lose him and Wedgwood. The home for the School was presenting a lot of difficulty. Murray would like a Cabinet decision on the matter. The home for the School was presenting a lot of difficulty. If the school could, on a Cabinet decision, be given the position on Middle Head for five years (without any question of reconsideration of the matter again except in the case of war), it would be able to settle down under conditions which are good. Of course if a permanent and suitable home is available so much the better.

JK Murray to FB Phillips, 22 October 1949. No word yet of the Executive Council.

Abstracts. Missions Conference, November 1949. Education Policy, Ordinance, Grant-in-Aid, Review of Departmental Programs, Mass Education and Mass Literacy, Social Welfare, Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, Village Schools.

JR Halligan to JK Murray, Determination of Policy for the Development of Papua and New Guinea, 1 November 1949. Advises Murray of Cabinet approval of Inter-Departmental Committee.

JK Murray to EJ Ward, 4 November 1949. "I do hope that you will, before the hurly burly of the election and despite your heavy duties, be able to give decisions concerning the ASOPA so that it will have the stability that it has not yet had, and which it needs so much ... Apparently the continuance of the School on its present site has been arranged for since Mr. Chambers was definite that the School must get out by June. It is a good site and I am not sure that, apart from the viewpoint of immediate convenience, the Services have really decided what they need in view of the almost unpredictable form a new war may take. It is possible that the location of Service Units at Middle Head Middle Head has not much to be said for it under likely conditions."

Acting Government Secretary to Rev HT Shotton, 3 November 1949. "It is considered likely that there will be a change in the scope and organisation of the School ... a change in the training of your staff (be) deferred until the future scope of the ASOPA has been decided."

EJ Ward to JK Murray, 14 November 1949. Murray's points raised 4 November: "I ... shall be pleased to give the matter my immediate attention."

GT Roscoe to Director of Education, Inspection of Roman Catholic School for Chinese, Rabaul, 19 November 1949. "The Mission was not willing to permit any of its schools to be inspected, which were not being assisted by Government subsidy. I shall, however, pay a courtesy call."

JH Irvine to a/Government Secretary, Subsidies - Anglican Schools, 23 November 1949. This matter is to be the subject of a special conference between the Administrator and Administration Officers Friday. Will also be dealt with very fully at the forthcoming Mission's Conference.

JR Halligan to His Honour the Administrator, 25 November 1949. Final meeting of Commonwealth Executive Council, prior to the elections, will take place in Melbourne, Wednesday 30 November 1949. Anticipate it will be possible to appoint following members to the Exec Council for a period of 6 months.

WC Groves to His Honour the Administrator, Methodist Mission of New Zealand, Bougainville, 29 November 1949. Lack of confidence in Mission's accounting of CRTS funds.

Gore to Administrator, Radiogram, 30 November 1949. Names appointments to Executive Council for period not exceeding 6 months. Groves appointed.

JK Murray to Lucy Mair, 20 December 1949. "We have just had a change in Government, really a political landslide." "So much to do ... that our achievements still look rather small." Commonwealth Government very good, even generous. £3 million per annum for a population of 1 million. Still not recruiting anything like the numbers we need. First batch of 15 to complete 2 year ASOPA course arrive March 1950. 15 more have completed first year and 15 drawn from the field to go down in February. 23 cadets to arrive Xmas after completing orientation course. Will spend some weeks in Port Moresby doing course to acquaint them with various departmental requirements. Then 18 months in PNG and back to ASOPA for 2 year course.

**WC Groves, Syllabus for European Schools – Social Studies, Staff
Memorandum No 16 of 1949, 29 November 1949.** Syllabus issued 17 March
1948 to be destroyed. This one replaces it.