



The Sun, Melbourne

Wing Commander Roberts limbers up with a few press-ups for a flight to launch his book, *Box Kites and Beyond*

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Where is Australia going?

'YOU HAVE GOT IT all there. You can't go broke.' This assessment of Australia by a 26-year-old London 'bobby' reflects the 'lucky country' tag.

'Australia is having its fourth election in five years,' is a sentence common to all the editorials and TV comment on Australia's December 10 election.

Perhaps there is a link between the popular view of a country bountifully provided for and the sense of an almost luxurious use of the ballot box to try and decide where Australia is going.

In Japan, Australia's largest trading partner, one gets much franker views these days. 'We may have a problem of rationalisation but Australia needs to deal with "koala-isation",' said a Japanese businessman recently, referring to the koala's love of the quiet life and sleep.

Perceptive as these views from afar may be, it remains for the Australians to find their distinctive role in the world.

'Time for new goals', the theme of the Moral Re-Armament conference to be held

in the New Year in Brisbane, Australia, sums up the need of the hour. It applies to what Australia does with other nations and particularly the Pacific nations.

It would be a Godly paradox if Japan and Australia came closer together in helping the USA find and fulfil her role in the Pacific. A senior Australian diplomat said recently: 'Only Russian or Chinese actions have stirred America, Japan and Australia to act together. Now is the time for us to find and take positive initiatives.'

Held in reserve

Many have regarded the nations of the Pacific as having been held in reserve by the Almighty. The conference at Brisbane can help in the achievement of the vision expressed by Prime Minister Michael Somare of Papua New Guinea when he said: 'We can build the Pacific into an ocean of peace where we are passionately committed to caring for each other and for the true peace



Armagh

that comes from a struggle to overcome the destructive forces and to free the creative forces.'

In the task to which Prime Minister Somare refers, Armagh, the newly-extended Asian/Pacific centre for MRA in Melbourne, is playing an increasing role. This issue of NWN reports recent events at Armagh. **JRC**

Thousand dollar browse

IF EVERYONE CARED, the autobiography of Aboriginal princess Mrs Margaret Tucker, MBE, was featured at a 'Books—Browse and Buy' last month at Armagh, the MRA Asian/Pacific centre in Melbourne.

'It is the story of the attainment of a dignity beyond oppression, misrepresentation, flattery, the desire for approval, and beyond malice,' writes Kim Beazley, former Australian Minister for Education, in a foreword to the book. 'She has, without sentimentality, the spirit that refuses to hate when people are hateful.'

Mrs Tucker autographed copies of the book at the Browse. 'If it were not for your people, I would not be here,' one lady said to her. She told how her father, when a young man on a Queensland cattle station, had ridden off one day and his horse had returned riderless. An Aboriginal tracker searched for 30 hours and brought him home alive.

Music, records and poetry, biographies

and educational books were all on sale. A Burmese and a Sri Lankan arranged a section of Asian books. There was also a display of paintings by Australian artists. One phoned later to say she wished to give one of her paintings to Armagh. Unable to find the right painting among those on sale, she gave one from her own home to hang in the new dining-room.

The Browse drew 200 people. The first to come was a technical college student, a quarter of an hour early 'because I have only a few minutes to spare'. He was still there an hour later talking to people. Many neighbours came, since the local newspaper had carried an interview with Wing Commander Eric Roberts, who was autographing his book, *Box Kites and Beyond*, at the Browse. One lady travelled over 400 miles from New South Wales.

By the end of the day over \$1,000 had been taken.





Rev Father John McCristal speaking on 'St Francis of Assisi'

THE FIRST PHASE of the course has included lectures and tutorials on such subjects as ideology, family life and the gap between rich and poor nations. There have also been seminars open to the public on such topics as 'The moral aspects of economics' and 'What does democracy need to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow?'; and in-depth studies of the lives of people as diverse as the prophet Jeremiah and Dr Sun Yat Sen, the founder of modern China, who have had a decisive influence on history.

Those taking part in the course have been welcomed at the Aboriginal Legal Aid Centre, the control tower of the Port of Melbourne (an occasion arranged by the President of the Melbourne Waterside Workers' Federation), and the La Trobe Valley, a farming area which is also the power-generating centre for Victoria.

The final open seminar was planned and conducted by the course participants.

Andrew Dawson comes from a farming family in the La Trobe Valley: 'We have probably all had the experience of picking up the paper and flicking through the daily disasters, crises and famines,' he said. 'It's all a long way off and we are pretty safe and sound here in Australia. So we whip over to the back pages and check up on the "footy". With the presence of our friends from overseas, it is not so far removed. You start to feel like a global family. It has been a challenge to get over the arrogance on our part that we grew up with. We are finding a way of healing some of these divisions and coming to terms in our own minds and hearts with the problems that the world faces.'

Charles Ova and **Dumodi Wolaka** raised their course expenses and their air fares from Papua New Guinea by baking and selling bread. Charles Ova said, 'I want to help the young people in our villages in Papua New Guinea. I have come here with heart sickness. God healed my heart sickness here. These are the things that made me heavy in my heart; when I was in the village I killed people's chickens and I stole money from the Red Cross store and the bakery. I have apologised to those people and I shall pay back. Now I understand that honesty brings fresh life. Our new generation here today has made one great decision—we must never as individuals or as a nation give up in

Fifteen young men and women from Papua New Guinea, Japan, the Philippines and the United States have just completed the first phase of the 'Studies in Effective Leadership' course. They then set out for their final phase of training, based in two of Melbourne's inner city areas.

On course in

PHOTOS: A

the face of evil. When the Holy Spirit moves the hearts and minds of men and nations, we will begin to build a new world which all of us long to see.'

Dumodi added, 'I have learned not to have bad feelings in my heart against white or black. It does not matter if a person comes from my country or another country, I must think of him as a child of God. I have decided to fight, with freedom in my heart, along with all different races.'

Dainesi Wasi, like Dumodi, had to leave school at the end of her primary education because of a lack of facilities. By 1980 it is estimated that there will be 250,000 young people like her (out of a population of three million), with the beginnings of an education but no job opportunities outside their villages.

'This training course has shown me a great hope for the future,' she said. 'It has helped me in training for leadership and responsibility. Leadership to me means not relying on others all the time, but getting guidance from God, and to do what He wants me to do. Responsibility to me means doing the difficult things; not so much the bigger things, but the simple thoughts that God gives me every day. I want to go back to my country a new person—to serve. And not only Papua New Guinea, but other places where God wants me to be. It is not going to be easy, but it will be an adventure.'

Junny Anakapu, also from Papua New Guinea, said, 'My purpose in life was very small; it was to have a nice home and a car and to live for my parents. I thought I would survive in the world by having boy friends and using them for my own satisfaction. I was spiritually hungry. I have been fed in this course. Now I know what to do when I am asked to cook while others are playing volleyball outside! I have decided to put my life in God's hands and promise to go anywhere and everywhere He tells me to.'

Marian Crosby, from Western Australia, was among those who visited the Aboriginal Legal Aid Centre. On the wall she saw a poster of one of the few Aborigines who survived the massacres in Tasmania. 'When we were asked to sing an Aboriginal song that we had learnt,' she said, 'tears were rolling down my face. I felt so ashamed and deeply sorry for what we whites had done to the Aboriginal people. We cannot ignore the mistakes of the past. There is much to put



Dumodi Wolaka and Charles Ova at a Melbourne bakery



Ida Smith

Jim Ramsay, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Victorian Cabinet, speaks to the course



from Australia, Malaysia, Philippines and New Zealand
 first phase of a course in
 'Living' at Armagh.
 'field work'—
 industrial suburbs.

the Pacific

LAN WEEKS

right between our people and I want to make a start by apologising to the Aboriginal people for this.'

Alistair Miles comes from Melbourne. He is a boat-builder. He said, 'I have found that my pride cripples me spiritually and mentally. It tells me not to accept responsibility in case something goes wrong. Pride acts as a barrier between God and me. If we are to deal with the social and economic problems in the world today, we have to be prepared to do or say anything that God guides us to do without thought for ourselves, and to be sensitive to the needs of others. We can't do this and keep our pride simultaneously.'

Ida Smith comes from Maoridom in New Zealand. 'Apology is the easiest way of breaking down barriers. I do hope that more Maoris, islanders and pakehas (whites) from New Zealand will come to do this course in effective living. Our future as a people, our very survival, depend on the Maori, pakeha and islander sharing a common destiny.'

Megumi Nakajima was one of three from Japan who attended the course. 'I have learnt the importance of care. We have used head, heart and hands in this course, and true care means all of these. It doesn't work saying friendly or sympathetic words without using hands. It doesn't consist in just giving our hands without joy in our hearts. We can't care for nations if we have no knowledge of them. In Japan the young people are called the generation of no concern, no energy, no purpose—and I am one of them. But through working and studying with people of many countries, I have begun to think much of our country and the world, which is a revolutionary thing for a Japanese girl whose society thinks women are better staying in homes and shouldn't meddle in politics and such things! For me, an effective lifestyle is to have a wide vision, live not only for myself, but for others, and to care with joy and honesty.'

Julie Tan, from Malaysia, is a graduate in sociology and psychology. After attending the first of these courses, she decided to help run this one. 'I have learnt that personal dignity goes with hard work. In Malaysia I used to look down on the labourers as people who were not worth much in intellect. I am very sorry for that attitude. An Australian said to me, "When I look at the needs of the world around me, it is not too much to ask that I change." I have decided to do the same.'

Bill Veerhuis resigned from his position in a bank in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, to attend the course. 'When I first came to Armagh and saw the people from different countries, I felt very uncomfortable and wanted to go home. My inner voice told me to remain and overcome my racism. I began to realise how inadequate and immature I was. God told me to change. This course has given me a fresh hope, a vision, a purpose in life—to return this world to justice and to God.'

Robert Lindsay, an apprentice moulder, was sponsored to attend the course by his employer. His home is in Footscray, an industrial suburb of Melbourne. 'The thing I would like to say is not easy for me because I don't like to admit anything. I have dabbled in drugs and I used to drink excessively. I have seen how useless that is—I wasn't getting anywhere, except destroying my mind and my body. Since being here I have set a course and I have a sense of purpose. I see clearly the direction I am going to take in life. I'd like to read you a poem—it has no title:

*Love one another—be as God intended
 Not as man amended.
 Love one another—no need for pretending
 Your soul will do the sending.
 To all men everywhere
 Come and show a little care
 Your brother needs you,
 Just as much as you need him.
 All colours and creeds under the sun
 Living as one
 'Tis God's will done.
 Open your heart, let your sorrows part.
 Open your mind, what glorious wonders
 you will find.
 Open your hand, and you'll not stand
 alone.
 Feel your spirit rising
 It's uncompromising.
 Feel your soul.
 God has made you whole.
 Love one another—feel it go through you.
 Love one another—soon there'll be a new
 you.
 Love one another—all sisters and brothers.
 Clear the tears from your eyes
 And feel the joy of love deep within you
 rise;
 Know that it will never die.'*

Alec Cuthbert, a motor mechanic, talks on vehicle maintenance



Brian Hamley, Chief Economist, National Bank of Australasia, spoke on 'Moral aspects of economics'



Robert Lindsay



Megumi Nakajima

He is hurting my people

an extract from 'If Everyone Cared' by Margaret Tucker

'CALL IT what you like, but deep in my heart I do believe in the Holy Spirit—the Good Spirit, the Wonderful Spirit that has neither hate, bitterness, class or creed.

'It is not the colour of one's skin that matters, it is character.'

I had always said, especially when I had been trying to get a point across to a white person, 'Oh, you want to think like an Aborigine if you want to help our people.' Then one day it hit me. Heaven forbid! Our people, the Aborigines, are people, not separate specimens. We are humans and have the same human nature, and like the same things, the same as any other race. There is a mighty way we can all, no matter what our colour, fight with courage and sincerity in our hearts to put right what is wrong in our countries, starting with ourselves.

I have to start with myself lots of times. I am always saying in despair when I know my thinking is going all haywire, 'Oh God, I want to tear so-and-so to pieces. He is hurting my people, the Aborigines. There are only a few left. Our land has been taken, our hunting grounds, even our right to think for ourselves.' Some of us are afraid to open our mouths, and others who do are 'radicals'!

I do pray from my heart when I think of Jesus Christ and what He gave thousands of years ago to save people from being destroyed by evil in all its forms.

We need to put aside our grievances and think positively how to put right what is wrong in Australia today, to forgive past mistakes and to create a leadership that can help our country help the world. Australia can be a pattern for the whole world in the way we live, especially in bridging the gap between black and white. We can do it together. Think bigger from our hearts. Young Aborigines have taught me a lot. They have great courage and can give to our country in many ways.

A great white man once told us that we Aborigines could bring love and care and understanding to all people, and recall the white man to his faith. I am often conscious of talking too much and forgetting that it is great to be quiet and listen, not only with my ears, but with my heart also. In these quiet times, I often find the answer to great difficulties and am given courage to carry out my convictions. I am a coward. I cannot stand hurts to myself or anyone else. I like my own way a lot of the time, but I have learned to own up when I am wrong, and am uncomfortable until I make amends and say I am really sorry from my heart. I like to 'do



Margaret Tucker autographing her book

the wild corroboree' when I feel angry, but this anger diminishes when I try to understand and care for people. Hurts and anger and fears over happenings of the past can be used. We can learn from those mistakes. We may not forget, but in the way of the Good Spirit, we can forgive.

A lot of years have been wasted, but with a new spirit, a new sense of purpose, a Stone Age people who have lost all could learn to live straight and give something to the whole of humanity. There is a right way and a wrong way to care for people. Every day I make mistakes and wonder why we Aborigines cannot get through to the thinking of governments and administrators. Then I realise it is because we have no clear-cut answers. Bitterness clouds our mission, and creates division. We need to fight for people's deepest needs, white or dark, or any race. We cannot really say we are free from ambition and self-seeking. Jealousy and corruption make us an easy prey for those who want to use us for wrong purposes, often splitting us into little groups working against each other.

Evil is the same today as it was thousands of years ago, and the answer to it is the same. *Paperback edition in spring 1978.*

From Grosvenor Books, 54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ, or Box 1078J, GPO Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia.

Box Kites and Beyond



Wing Commander Roberts, left, talks about his book at the Armagh Book Browse

Told as it is

THE NEW STRAITS TIMES (Kuala Lumpur) last month reviewed Thio Chan Bee's 'Extraordinary Adventures of an Ordinary Man' (Grosvenor Books). We print extracts from the review by Adibah Amin:

'This book reveals unexpected facets of important events and personalities in the recent history of Malaysia and Singapore.

The chief charm of these glimpses is their credibility. Dr Thio, despite a record of academic and professional excellence, retains a refreshing simplicity of outlook that supports his claim to being an 'ordinary' man.

He certainly 'tells it as it is'. Particularly interesting when told in this manner are the early attempts of Malay and Chinese leaders to come to some agreement about the kind of independent Malaya they want.

Personalities like Onn Jaafar, Tan Cheng-Lock, Lee Kong-Chian, Yong Shook-Lin and later the Tunku come out vivid and very human, their strengths and weaknesses candidly portrayed.

A special chapter is devoted to Syed Jaafar Albar. Entitled 'Another side of Albar', it is a convincing if surprising portrait of the Lion of Umno.

The book offers everyone food for thought, particularly those of us who are woefully aware of race and other barriers between human beings.

It speaks much for Dr Thio as a person and a writer that his oft-repeated and oft-illustrated belief in the power of prayer has not a jot of phoniness or self-consciousness in it, nothing that would jar on the most critical of sceptics.

The book has delightful flashes of humour. Any suspicion of naivete is swiftly scotched by his very sparing but all the more effective use of irony.

Startling, amusing, occasionally moving, this is not a book to miss. *£1.25 p&p 25p.*

BASED on any reasonable estimate of the probabilities Wing Commander Eric Roberts should not be around to tell the tale! Now aged 83 (and still flying!) he recounts, with consistent understatement, details of numerous flying escapades during and between the two world wars.

His life spans one of the most eventful hinging periods of history during which he has lived, not as a bystander, but as an active participant in the critical events of his time.

To those who ask, 'What can I (one person) do about the world?' Eric Roberts in effect gives the triumphant, unwavering reply of, 'Everything!' The last 40 years of his life he recounts with a lucidity born of passion, demonstrating the basis of optimism and the validity of his conviction. **E McL Holmes**

Hawthorn Press £10.00 p&p 45p.