



PNG/KLS/SPLC 2023 Reunion

*Starts: Thursday October 5, 2023 at 3 pm
Ends: Sunday October 8, 2023 at 2 pm*



A collection of PNG artifacts at the 2021 PNG reunion.

July 2023 Newsletter

GREETINGS WANTOKS

The 2023 reunion is now two months away. It is shaping up to be a delightful, uplifting, informative and moving event. If you have not yet registered to attend, you are urged to do so ASAP, especially in this post-pandemic era.

In this email you'll find:

- A reservation link
- Wantoks attending
- Information on the reunion, speakers and fees
 - Reunion highlights
 - Online participation
 - Book suggestion
- Meet members of our team - Dianne Tuff and Phil Davis
- Link to past Zoom Gatherings

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

To request a reservation form, click on the link below:

PNGreunion2023@gmail.com

We request payment asap, but final payment is due by September 15th, 2023.

Wantoks Attending

Fred Brandt, Mark and Merrily Brandt, Mary (Brandt) Croft
Miriam (Senff) Bunn, Tanya (Senff) Mayer, Grace (Senff) Payne
Jonathan Davis, Phil Davis, Loretta Davis
Donna (Daechsel) Smallwood, Dawn (Daechsel) McLean, Darlene (Daechsel) Schnuelle
Jonathan and Marian Frerichs, Peter Frerichs, Ruth (Imbrock) Frerichs
Paul Johnson and Melanie Lewis
Keith and Christy (Mesplay) Moyer, Lisa (Mesplay) Turvey
Connie (Mansur) Hassan, Cynthia (Mansur) and Gary Schoonover
Daniel Heist
David Hueter, Mark Singh-Hueter
Else (Helbig) and Ron Schardt
Maggie Tuff, Dianne Tuff and Murdoch Johnson
Leslie Walck
Eric Walters
Ruth Van Reken - speaker
George Weiblen - speaker

The PNG-KLS-SPLC Wantok Reunion

Thursday October 5 - Sunday October 8, 2023

Where: Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, Farmington, Minnesota

<https://mtolivetretreat.org/>

Featured Speakers:

Jonathan and Marian Frerichs - he has agreed to share stories about his adventures growing up in PNG, and she will join him to talk about their return to work in PNG and later life stories.

Ruth Van Reken - will lead sessions on Friday and Saturday, sharing more of her wisdom and research about being a third culture kid (TCK). One session will focus on attachment issues and related trauma that TCK's often experience and carry with them into adulthood. A small group opportunity will focus on ways to cope. Ruth enjoys meeting all attendees and is open to individual and small group discussions throughout the reunion.

George Weiblen will update us on his ongoing research in PNG—his specialty is the interactions of flowering plants with insect pollinators and pests. On Friday evening, he will be joined (via Zoom) by a PNG national colleague who works at their research station in Madang. He plans to stay overnight and on Saturday will share samples of his collections from PNG. He will also discuss safe travel options with those who consider visiting there.

Fees: There are two Motel rooms left open, one being handicap accessible. Rates cover all program and facility costs.

For the full three-day reunion:

Motel Rooms - single \$561.00 all meals

Motel Rooms - double \$419.00 all meals

Dorm Boarders - \$365.00 all meals

For partial stay:

Dorm - 2 nights 6 meals \$245.00

Day Guest - 1 meal \$55.00

Day Guest - 2 meals \$72.00

Day Guest - 3 meals \$83.00

Off-site Hotel:

For those preferring to stay off-site, there is a motel option 14 miles away from Mt Olivet at the Baymont by Wyndham in Lakeville. Click on the blue tab below to go to their website. A block of rooms is reserved at \$75 per night and continental breakfast is offered. If you choose this option, then register for the 'Day Guest' rates listed above.

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/baymont/lakeville-minnesota/baymont-inn-and-suites-lakeville/overview?CID=LC:BU::GGL:RIO:National:49867&iata=00093796>

Reunion Highlights

Fun Activities

Chatting with wantoks, hanging out with the speakers, singing by the campfire each evening (bring your harmonica, ukelele or flute), volleyball with Phil, walking the trails, and swimming with Maggie, to name a few.

Saturday Remembrance Service

Once again, this year's Reunion will have a *Service of Remembering Loved Ones*. A couple changes will enhance the service.

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? Would you like to share your music live during an extended prelude before the service? Please pray about sharing your talents with your wantoks, and let us know. There is a link below.

Would you like to remember your loved one(s) with a couple pictures and brief highlights of their service in PNG? A meditative PowerPoint Presentation is being developed for the beginning of the service. If you would be willing to share, please submit the following:

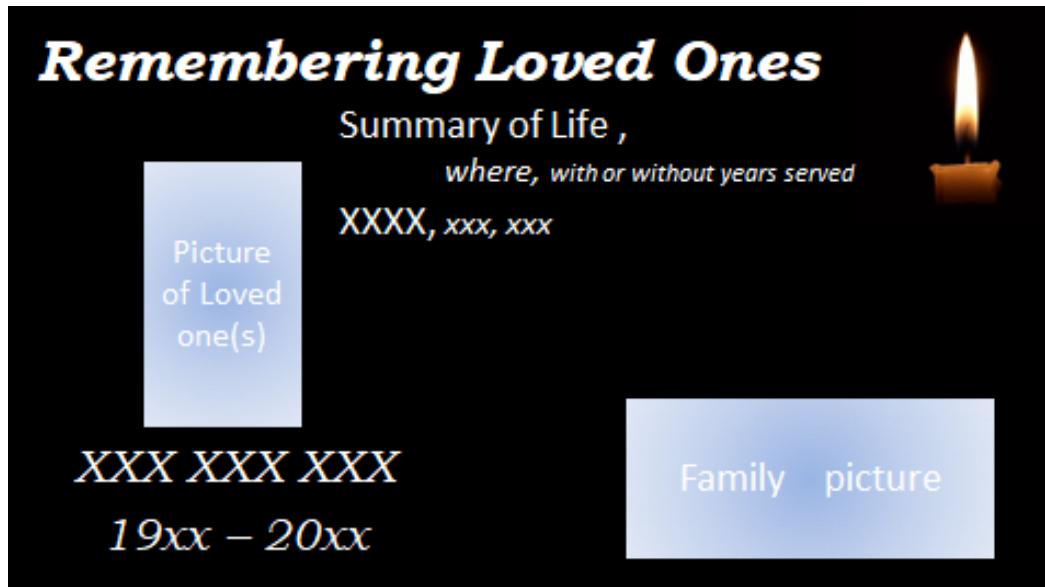
- Name, and years of life,
- A picture of your loved one (it can include their spouse),
- A family picture,
- Brief highlights of their service in PNG.

You can submit this information ahead of time to Les via the link below. The sooner the better, to allow for the PowerPoint presentation to be developed.

As in the past, group participation will be encouraged. So-o-o if you would like to be a reader of scripture, prayers, or names during the service, please let Les know.

Send Les a message by clicking on this link: lwalck748@gmail.com

The PowerPoint slide will look something like this:



Online Participation

If you cannot attend in person, the planners want to make it possible for you to participate online.

Several of the sessions will be made available online via Zoom! Join in online, for example, to see and hear the conversation with *Ruth Van Reken* on attachment issues and related trauma that third culture kids often experience and carry with them into adulthood; or to hear *Dr. George Weiblen* with his PNG national colleagues at the New Guinea Binatang Research Center in Madang. Or listen in to the conversation with *Jonathan & Marian Frerichs* sharing stories about adventures growing up in PNG, and their work together in PNG. Join in via Zoom for the Remembrance Service Saturday evening or for Sunday Worship. Details on how to join in will be passed along in due time.

To make all this possible, free-will donations will be welcomed! Please consider contributing because you appreciate the opportunity to participate online, or just because you think this is a worthwhile project!

To make a free-will donation, please click on either the link below:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YSGR/campaign/C-13QQ8>

"Third Culture Kids - the Experience of Growing Up Among Worlds"

by Ruth Van Reken and Dave Pollock

This is a book that gives insight into how our boarding school and mission-focused childhoods impacted our lives in many different ways.

We encourage you to read it.

Meet Members of Our Planning Team

Two members of our team share about their lives and involvement in planning the reunion.

(Continued on next page)

DIANNE TUFF



First photo - Fun with an alligator in Texas - luckily not a Saltie.

Second photo - Railroad bridge at Achilty, Scotland.

Where do you live? I live in Central Minnesota with my husband Murdoch, enjoying the beautiful rolling hills, our gardens, woods, and prairie areas that we are slowly restoring to wildflowers and grasses.

What kind of work did you do? My first 12-year career was in many nursing positions and settings, including large city and small rural hospitals, county and university positions, and community health education. I returned to college, then spent over 30 years consulting with nonprofit organizations, educators, health care and government agencies, helping them identify, evaluate and live their mission, vision and goals in service to their clients and communities. Murdoch joined me in this work for the last 15 years.

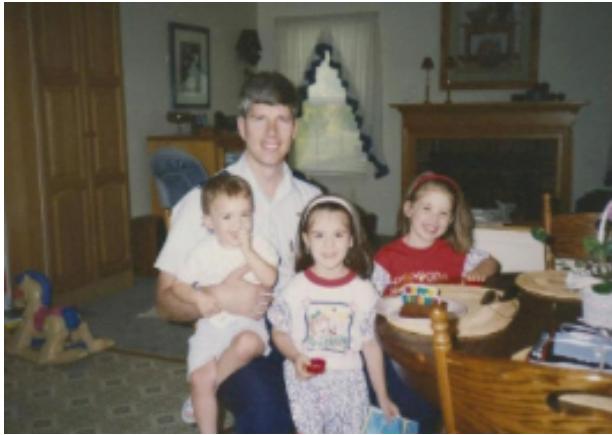
What did your parents do? My parents, Dave and Florence Tuff, took us to Papua New Guinea in 1961 and served in Banz, Kol, and Wonenara where they started the mission station. Dad was the area missionary working alongside local pastors, and Mom taught school with children of many age groups. Later, they ran the mission guesthouse in Goroka and Dad worked with the mission's aviation board.

What schools did you attend? Along with my brother Bob and sister Marilyn (now Maggie), I spent PNG elementary years 5 to 7 at KLS Wau, and 8th to Junior years at SPLC in Brisbane.

What is your role on the team? I have enjoyed helping organize many of our PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunions, facilitating core committee meetings for the past 3 reunions at Mt. Olivet, and working with awesome volunteers dedicated to providing wantoks with a great experience.

Share something that had a big impact on your life. Living in PNG and Aussie as a kid helped me appreciate and enjoy getting to know people of cultures different from mine, and seeing their needs influenced my values and career choices. PNG's tropical beauty, so different from the US, gave me the travel bug. And the friendships formed in PNG and Aussie remain important in my life, in part thanks to these reunions that bring us together.

PHIL DAVIS



First photo - celebrating my 35th birthday with my three daughters.

Second photo - enjoying January snow at the Air Force Academy.

Where do you live? Jonesboro, Arkansas

What kind of work did/do you do? A career in the US Air Force (jet pilot, teacher and staff officer). Six years working in Information Technology for John Deere. A couple decades self-employed as an IT consultant (still active).

What did your parents do? Dad served as missionary at Sumburu in the central highlands initially. He also served at Kewamugal Evangelist school when we returned from furlough. He then served several ALC churches until he retired in 1993. Dad passed away in 2015. Mom was a terrific help to Dad in all his work in New Guinea and worked as a teacher for several decades after we returned to the US for good. Mom is 89 and lives near my brother Jon in the Denver area.

What schools did you attend?

1st and 2nd Grade homeschooled by my mom

3rd Grade in Turtle Lake, North Dakota and KLS New Guinea

4th Grade in KLS

5th Grade in KLS and Coulter, IA

6th-10th Grades at Coulter, IA

11th-12th Grades at Mattoon, IL

College at the US Air Force Academy, CO

Grad School at Princeton, NJ

What is your role on the team? I'm part of the Communication and Registration team.

Share something that had a big impact on your life. Probably attending KLS. I still feel very fondly about my time there.



Link to Past Zoom Gatherings

Videos of various Zoom Gatherings are available on our reunion website.

Click on the link below to access them.

<https://pngklssplc.org/videos-from-zoom-meetings/>

Please Share This Newsletter

If you know a fellow wantok who doesn't receive our newsletters, please forward it to them and suggest they get on our email list at:

PNGreunion2023@gmail.com

or our Facebook page:

PNG/KLS/SPLC

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1468705713377972>

We would like to get the word out to as many as possible.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN OCTOBER!

The 2023 PNG Reunion Planning Committee

Mark Brandt, Phil Davis, Tim Johnson, Dawn (Daechsel) McLean, Paula (Schulz) Mitchell, Grace (Senff) Payne, Else (Helbig) Schardt, Cynthia (Mansur) Schoonover, Gary Schoonover, Mark Singh-Hueter, Dianne Tuff, Les Walck

*Remembering, honoring and missing Barb (Hueter) Reardon