

**Robert Gregory DAVIES** (October 5 2008, aged 68)

Bob was born in Cremorne, Sydney. He left St. Aloysius' College after Fourth Year, when his father passed away, and took a job with MLC Insurance. Bob could not see himself spending the rest of his working life in insurance, so when he turned 21 he gained a teacher training opportunity within PNG on the recently established E Course, set up to help staff the expanding primary system that was optimistically aimed, in line with firm UN recommendations, at universal primary education in the country.

He spent three stints working in PNG – a total of 36 years. From 1961 to 1979 he worked in East New Britain, East Sepik, and Manus. From 1982 to 1987 he was secondary headmaster in the East Sepik and Eastern Highlands. And for his last period in the country – 1990 to 2000 – he worked as a secondary headmaster in Madang and in West New Britain. He reluctantly said good-bye to PNG for the last time in December 2000.

Apart from teaching, for which he had a special talent, he was an enthusiastic member of the PNGVR, Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles – often called the 'Weekend Warriors' by the cynical. He also served for three years as a councillor with the Wewak Local Government Council where his sense of humour and flair for organisation were greatly valued.

In the broader community he will be remembered particularly for his prowess on the tennis court. He represented PNG several times at South Pacific Games and won gold and silver medals for his efforts. His last involvement was as PNG team coach for both men and women for the 1984 Games in American Samoa.