

8 February 2007.

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter with the accompanying moving and impressive tribute to Gerald Gallagher, which hitherto I had not seen. It is, indeed, a tribute to a man, who put duty ahead of self. It is good that you and your colleagues appreciated his efforts.

I was interested to read in Dr. Macpherson's account of the events surrounding Gallagher's illness and death. Having read "From a Santa Feas Diary" yourself, you will have observed that Sir Harry Luke thought highly of both men. Dr. Macpherson too had an untimely early death. Throughout that incredible year I had at the start of my colonial career, I had the good fortune to have been able to spend time in the company of many talented worthy individuals, whose friendships and advice I greatly valued. Dr. Macpherson was certainly in that group. Another was that great navigator, Harold Gatty, who like me stayed in Government House as Sir Harry's guest. With his wife, Fenna, they stayed for about a month.

One of my regrets in life has been my failure to emulate the good practice of Sir Harry Luke and others like him, who meticulously wrote up their diaries to record special events in their lives together with facts & figures involving visits to places like Nukumaroro !! I would then undoubtedly have been able to have provided you with more information on that memorable visit to the Phoenix Is. in 1941.

Best regards & Good wishes.

T
-am.