

# FROM FANNING THE ROWBOAT MAIL

While the rest of OTC are busy striving to increase the speed of international communications, at least five members of Sydney staff are at present feeling rather proud about possessing examples of what must be some of the slowest communications on record.

It's probably some form of inverted snobbery.

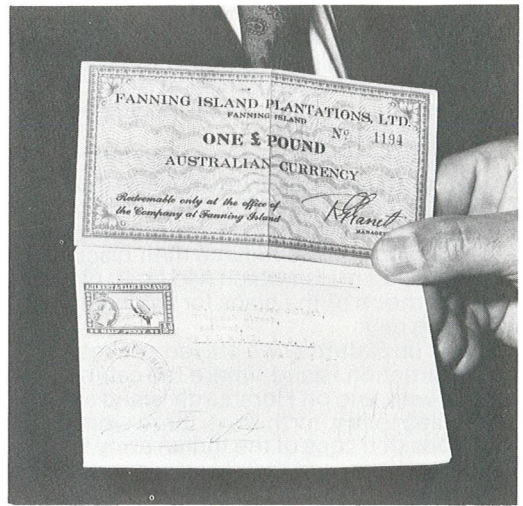
The two staff members in question are senior international relations officer Randy Payne, customer relations officer Lou Brown (that's right, the same Lou Brown who has won fame as chief cork sniffer of the Tipplers' Club), senior technical officers Keith McCredden and Bruce Collett and acting area controller Noel Chapman.

The objects of their pride are letters delivered from Washington Island, in the Line Islands group of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands colony, on Friday, September 8.

The letters were posted at Washington Island on October 28, 1971.

They reached their destination via the rowboat of trans-Pacific rowers, John Fairfax and Sylvia Cook.

The letters, each of which contained an old Fanning Island plantation note to the value of £1 (Australian), were posted by



*The Fanning Plantation note and autographed envelope.*

Washington Island plantation manager, Bill Frew.

The five met Bill when they were serving at the old Fanning Island cable station.

As well as the address, the envelopes which contained the notes carried a Gilbert and Ellice Islands halfpenny stamp and the autographs of both John Fairfax and Sylvia Cook.



*From left: Keith McCredden, Noel Chapman, Bruce Collett, Randy Payne and Lou Brown compare notes.*