

THE IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE OF AIR NIUGINI VOLUME I JANUARY - MARCH 2023

# PARADISE



## 2023 ALMANAC

A GUIDE TO THE YEAR'S  
BEST EVENTS IN PNG AND  
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# PARADISE

*Paradise is the complimentary in-flight magazine of Air Niugini, Papua New Guinea's international airline. The magazine is published by Business Advantage International.*

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Printed in Australia. Both printer and paper manufacturer for this publication are accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised standard for environmental management.

This publication is printed using vegetable inks and the stock is elemental chlorine free and manufactured using sustainable forestry practices.

Some of the articles in this publication are edited versions of those first published on the online PNG business magazine, businessadvantagepng.com.

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**COVER PHOTO:** PNG's distinctive Mudmen feature on a new calendar stunningly photographed and produced by David Kirkland. Take a peek at the calendar and find out where to buy it, Pages 68, 69.





# Message from the CEO

## Welcome aboard



**W**elcome aboard, and may I wish you a happy and prosperous 2023 from all of us at Air Niugini.

The airline's international and domestic services have largely returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, and we are carrying more passengers than before the pandemic.

We are planning major investments in our fleet this year and next, as we look to replace some of our aircraft with more modern, comfortable and fuel-efficient replacements.

With international services back, we are also re-establishing our codeshare and interline relationships with international airlines such as Qatar Airways, Cathay Pacific, Air France, Emirates and Qantas to ensure it is even easier for you to travel the world on an Air Niugini ticket.

This also involves re-establishing our network of international lounges. Our Executive Club members and business class customers can now enjoy Air New Zealand's lounges in Brisbane and Sydney, with premium lounge access also available in Singapore, Manila and Hong Kong.

Domestically, we have opened new lounges in Goroka and Wewak and look forward to soon adding Kavieng to our existing lounge network.

Travellers will also be able to enjoy brand-new terminal facilities at some of Papua New Guinea's key domestic airports this year. November 2022 saw the opening of Kavieng's modern new terminal, while Lae's state-of-the-art terminal is scheduled to open in mid-2023.

We have every expectation that demand will grow again this year, and your national airline is gearing up for the challenge.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to a recent agreement reached between Air Niugini and PNG's Tourism Promotion Authority. The aim of this agreement is to support our tourism industry as it bounces back from the COVID pandemic by encouraging more people to explore this beautiful country and enjoy its many marvellous resorts.

Under the arrangement, Air Niugini Tours is offering some fantastic flight-and-accommodation packages at deeply discounted prices to some of PNG's most memorable locations, both for domestic tourist travel and for those flying into PNG for tourism.

I encourage you take advantage of these excellent deals as we roll them out.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your loyal support of PNG's national airline as we have returned during 2022 to the opportunity to travel, and wish you and your families a safe and blessed Christmas period.

Bruce Alabaster  
Chief Executive Officer







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# Ribbon cut for opening of 'new' Kavieng Airport

**A**ir Niugini's first Boeing 737 aircraft landed at Kavieng Airport on November 3, following a PGK125.72 million upgrade to the runway and a new terminal building.

The airport development has included a 500-metre runway extension to achieve a total length of 2200 metres to take bigger planes, the upgrading of existing runway, taxiway and apron pavement, and a new ground lighting system.

The new terminal includes a spacious departure lounge with a shop and ATM facilities, baggage screening machines, conveyor belts for baggage, state-of-art check-in counters, back-up generators, and two VIP lounges.

The new-look airport was opened by the Prime Minister, James Marape, witnessed by local MPs, dignitaries, CEOs of state-owned enterprises and the people of New Ireland.

The new facility is part of a program by the National Airports Corporation to upgrade all 22 national airports and is funded by



**The new Kavieng terminal (top); the airport was opened by the Prime Minister James Marape, witnessed by dignitaries (above left); an Air Niugini big bird parked on the tarmac (above right).**

the Asian Development Bank and the PNG Government.

The Kavieng development means Air Niugini

passengers can enjoy brand-new airport facilities, as well as a fast and smooth ride to the destination on a B737 aircraft. ■

## Air Niugini running like clockwork

**A**ir Niugini is continuing to achieve high targets with its on-time efficiency, outperforming many airlines in Australia and the Pacific.

Air Niugini's domestic departures were on time 81 per cent of the time during a three-month period late in 2022.

On-time flights are those that leave within 15 minutes of the scheduled departure time.

For the same period in 2022, the Qantas group was on time with 65 per cent of flights, and Virgin Australia with 66.7 per cent.

Air Niugini operated more than 5500 flights during the survey period, with more than 90 per cent flying on domestic routes.

The cancellation rate for Air Niugini for the 12 months to August in 2022 was under 3 per cent, compared to the Qantas group that cancelled 9.7 per cent of services, Jetstar 11.9 per cent and Virgin Australia 8.2 per cent.

Air Niugini's Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Alabaster, says: "To be able to continuously achieve such a result in an environment like this against other larger regional airlines

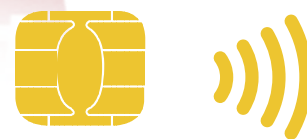
is not easy. I commend all staff for a job very well done."

The CEO confirmed that the strong performance has allowed the airline to return to profitability after a tough two years due to COVID-19.

This has allowed new sales offices in Gerehu and 8 Mile in Port Moresby, and new lounges at Kavieng and Goroka airports. There are plans to also open more sales offices and lounges, with announcements coming soon. ■







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# A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Meet Air Niugini's longest serving employee, Alcan Mattiunga, an aircraft maintenance engineer who has been with the airline for 45 years.

Mattiunga has seen Air Niugini grow from a small domestic carrier into the international airline it is today with flights to Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

He was only 18 when he joined Air Niugini in 1978 as an apprentice. He is now 62 and admits the option for retirement may not be far off.

"I wouldn't have made it here without my family's support and of course Air Niugini, a great company to work for," he says. "Air Niugini has given me everything, for which I am forever grateful."

Mattiunga is a product of late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare's vision in 1975 for Papua New Guineans to be professionals in their own country in fields such as engineering, medicine, law and accounting.

He says he was glad to be part of that vision and to make it a reality.

"PNG was a new sovereign nation, and as a young Papua New Guinean coming out of colonial rule it wasn't easy to work in a professional field. But some of us took the challenge head on," he says.

"As a Papua New Guinean working for the national airline at that time, I was very proud, and I am still today."

Mattiunga recalls that during the early days of his career engineers were guided in their work by the Aircraft Maintenance Manual (AMM), a bulky and



**Air Niugini's longest-serving employee Alcan Mattiunga (third from left) with the manager of aircraft support services Maso Haro (left), line manager Boromea Siriman (second from left) and general manager of engineering Ferdinand Almada.**

heavy book that detailed the way maintenance tasks on a specific aircraft must be carried out.

"The AMM contained information required to service, repair, replace, adjust, inspect and check equipment and systems on the aircraft," he says. "We used to fly with the manual

Mattiunga has acquired several aircraft maintenance licences during his career, including licences to work on F28, F100, F70 and B737 aircraft.

As a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer (LAME), his responsibility is to certify that aircraft systems such as

"While successfully acquiring aircraft maintenance licenses has been my biggest achievement, the thing that satisfies me most is training and mentoring young Papua New Guineans to also pick up their licenses," he says.

He has some words of advice for young Papua New Guineans considering the same career path that he has taken.

"Becoming an aircraft engineer is not easy, it's a demanding job that requires great responsibility, but always remember that nothing is too hard when you set your mind to it.

"Set your priorities right, ensure honesty, reliability, commitment, discipline and show respect to your co-workers. Finally, always be guided by rules and regulations that are in place." ■

Becoming an aircraft engineer is not easy, but always remember that nothing is too hard when you set your mind to it.

when carrying out maintenance at the outposts. This, however, is not happening anymore as all work is now computerised."

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# AIRLINE BOARD ON THE MOVE AROUND COUNTRY

Since taking up the role of chairman at Air Niugini five years ago, Sir Kostas Constantinou has made it a point to take board meetings to the provinces.

This is so board members can see and talk to staff about work issues and be updated on the progress of infrastructure work at regional airports.

One of the meetings late in 2022 was in Wewak. As seen in the main picture, the chairman and directors were warmly welcomed by a *sing-sing* group on arrival at Boram Airport.

Apart from catching up with staff, there are opportunities through the roving board meetings for corporate functions where board members can meet with Air Niugini's key business partners.

The board and management have been able to update customers across the country on Air Niugini's recent performance, how it survived during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its plans for the future. ■



Air Niugini chairman Sir Kostas Constantinou and directors are welcomed by a *sing-sing* group on arrival at Wewak's Boram Airport.

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# Air Niugini staff show spirit of independence

To commemorate Papua New Guinea's 47th Independence anniversary on September 16, Air Niugini staff dressed for work in PNG colours and traditional attire (pictured).

In the week leading up to September 16, staff marked Independence with several activities, including the sharing of traditional dishes during lunch time, raising the national flag, singing the national anthem, and reciting the national pledge.



Air Niugini has removed all COVID-19 restrictions associated with air travel. This includes the requirement to wear a mask in



airports and on aircraft. It has also removed the requirement that passengers travelling into PNG from overseas must show evidence of having been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Passengers travelling from PNG to Australia do not have to show evidence of having been vaccinated against COVID-19, however some other international destination still have restrictions in place.



Qantas Club members travelling on Air Niugini international flights can now access the Air Niugini lounge in Port Moresby, and the Air New Zealand lounges in Brisbane and Sydney.



Fifteen Air Niugini staff have completed training on how to support victims of family and sexual violence within the workplace.

The two-day training was conducted by the Business Coalition for Women.

Air Niugini Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Alabaster, says

such training is important as it ensures airline staff who may be faced with violence and suffering can get the help they require through a well-co-ordinated program of support.



Air Niugini's Destinations loyalty program destinations.com.pg has renewed partnerships for another 12 months with Kumul Consumer Goods and Axellerate Sports.

Both have a wide range of products to offer loyalty club members, who can either redeem points for goods or airline tickets. ■

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## PARADISE Q&A

# SIMON SILAS

Behind the scenes at Air Niugini is a dedicated workforce. Here, we meet an aircraft engineer whose role is to inspect, maintain and repair the airline's Bombardier Q400 turboprop planes.

**Q: What's a typical working day look like for you?**

A: I am usually at work before 7.30am to meet with the foreman, who updates engineers and gives out tasks for the week. This is followed by another meeting with the lead hand, who dishes out daily jobs from troubleshooting to the removal of components that can range from a small part, or an engine, or even the landing gear. While experience is a plus, patience and perseverance are essential.

**Q What type of aircraft do you work on?**

A: I am a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer (LAME) on Q400 aircraft. I obtained my license in August 2022, after joining the airline as an engineer recruit in 2014.

**Q: Why did you decide to become an aircraft engineer?**

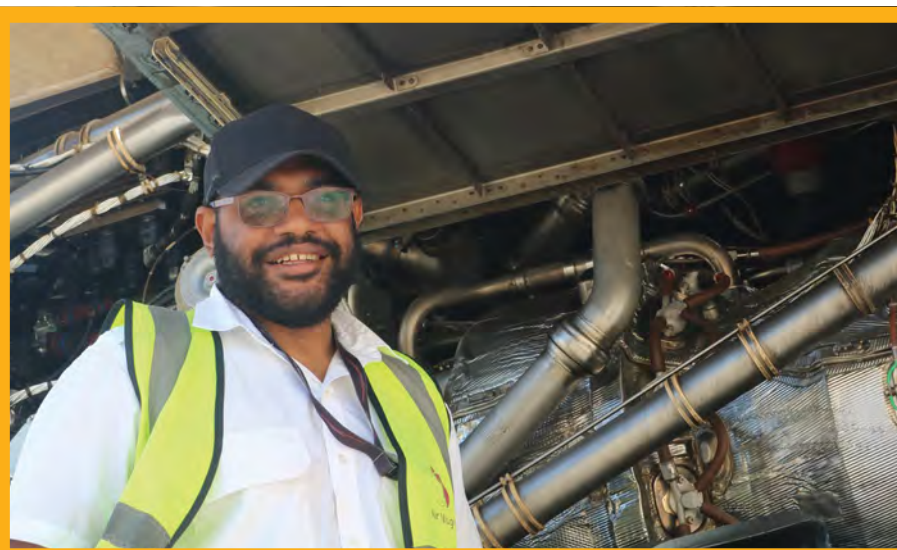
A: I was always interested in science growing up and when it came to aircraft, I have always been fascinated how a heavy piece of metal can lift off the ground with so much ease. I was also fascinated about how a human mind works and its capability and ability to ensure that the metal flies. That really pushed me to take up engineering.

**Q: How did you become a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer?**

A: I was in my fourth and final year of a Bachelor of Science, majoring in physics, at the University of Papua New Guinea when recruited by Air Niugini to join its engineering cadet program.

**Q: What's something we don't know about aircraft engineering?**

A: There are two streams of aircraft maintenance engineer: mechanics and avionics. The mechanical field is focused



PICTURE: ILLAN KAPRANGI

“

I have always been fascinated how a heavy piece of metal can lift off the ground with so much ease.

”

on the structure of the aircraft and avionics concentrates on the electrical systems of an aircraft.

**Q: What do you like most about the job?**

A: The satisfaction you get after a long day's work on an aircraft inspecting, maintaining and repairing the various electrical/electronic, mechanical and

structural components of the aircraft and eventually seeing it lift off the ground.

**Q: What advice do you have for people wanting to get into this career?**

A: To become an aircraft maintenance engineer requires a lot of commitment and sacrifices. It takes an even longer period to qualify as a licensed engineer, however with perseverance you can get there. Never shy away from tasks and challenges, take them as they come. If you are interested in something, go for it, if you are not sure about something, it's always good to ask.

**Q: What personal skills do they need?**

A: It helps if you are a technically minded person who is focused and result oriented. It is important to have strong analytical and problem-solving skills, computer skills and attention to detail. You must also have strong awareness of safety and must be good with your hands. ■





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# Kokoda, 80 years on

**T**he 80th anniversary of the end of hostilities on the Kokoda Trail was commemorated on Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels Day on November 3 with a laying of wreaths and the re-opening of a community museum at the Kokoda Station in Oro Province.

The anniversary event was attended by officials from Papua New Guinea and Australia, as well as Wallace 'Soc' Kienzle, the son of Australian soldier Herbert Kienzle, who lived and fought on the trail 80 years earlier.

After the war, Soc and his dad Herbert collected military artefacts left behind. This collection became the basis of the Herbert Kienzle Memorial Museum, which has been refurbished with an investment by the



Australian Government to mark the 80th anniversary.

Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels Day (recently gazetted by PNG as November 3 each year) commemorates the enduring bond that

was formed between the Papuan and New Guinean carriers and the Australian troops they supported during the Kokoda Campaign.

"I'm returning to pay homage to what my father and the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels did."



**Governor of Oro Province, Gary Juffa, and the Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Pat Conroy, with Soc Kienzle (middle at back), at the museum re-opening; Captain Herbert Kienzle (above).**

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Officials at the Kokoda Arch to celebrate the 80th anniversary (from left) the PNG Minister for Arts Tourism and Culture Henry Isi Leonard, the Australian High Commissioner to PNG Jon Philp, Governor of Central Province Rufina Peter, Governor of Oro Province Gary Juffa, and Member for Sohe District Henry Amuli.

What they achieved together can never be underestimated," Soc Kienzle said.

"Without the Papuans, victory at Kokoda would not have been possible."

By the end of fighting, both Australia and Japan had suffered thousands of casualties. The number of carriers who died remains unknown.

Prior to COVID-19, about 3500 trekkers, mostly from Australia, made the 96-kilometre pilgrimage along the Kokoda Trail annually. Tourism provides a source of income for local communities and honours the historic friendship between the two nations.

Through the Kokoda Initiative, PNG and Australia have committed to protecting the trail's military heritage, improving the lives of communities along the trail, and preserving its unique environment.

Guided by the Papua New Guinean National Museum and Art Gallery, the Australian Government has invested in the construction of three community museums along the trail and at Buna. The museums protect and display local artefacts, and double as community trade centres.

The Australian Government is also supporting the Kokoda Track Authority to sustainably manage the tourism industry and improve livelihoods of people in the region. ■

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# New ambulance centre for Port Moresby

**S**t John Ambulance has officially opened a new emergency operations centre at its Taurama Road site in Port Moresby.

The centre provides St John with a much-improved ability to coordinate ambulance services, doubling the previous number of call-taker and dispatcher desks.

The centre has a capacity to support up to 120 ambulances and 10 flight medical teams at any one time around Papua New Guinea.

The Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council invested PGK500,000 and Kumul Consolidated Holdings

PGK1 million towards the centre. Other business houses that assisted in the construction include Motorola, MJE and TEPNG.

Earlier in 2022, the Australian Government supported a significant upgrade of communications systems for St John, and the New Zealand Government and United Nations Development Program helped supply HF radios for rural ambulances.

At the opening of the centre, Prime Minister James Marape said: "St John Ambulance Service will be allocated increased budgetary support in 2023."



PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY ST JOHN AMBULANCE

More than 150 people serve St John in ambulance service-related roles in four regions of PNG, including Port Moresby,

Kundiawa, Lae and Kokopo. The ambulance service responds to more than 15,000 emergencies annually. ■

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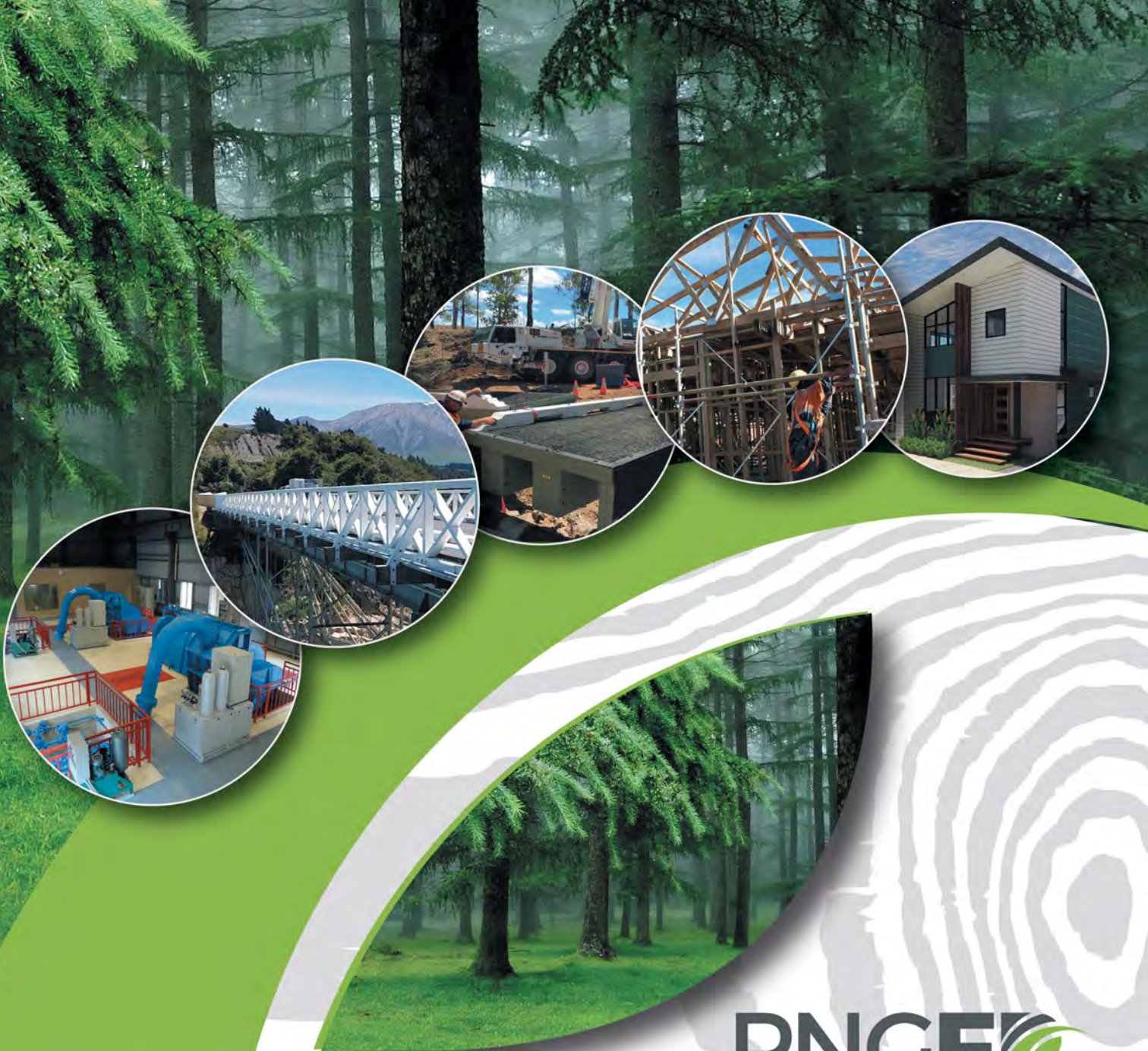
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## Brisbane hotels to consider

**A**ir Niugini passengers flying to Brisbane can now check into a Voco hotel, with the recent opening of the first in the city.

Voco Brisbane City Centre is an upscale international hotel brand owned by the InterContinental Hotels Group (ihg.com). Although tied to a major brand, Voco hotels typically have a boutique feel with lots of character.

The Brisbane Voco has 194 artfully designed premium rooms that feature an abundance of



The colourful and character-filled Voco hotel in Brisbane.

natural light, plush, bedding, vibrant artworks, smart in-room technology, modern bathrooms and sweeping views over the city or river.

There's a rooftop pool, a 24-hour fitness centre and Kraft & Co, a chameleon-like space

that transforms from a bustling cafe during the day into an atmospheric lounge bar at night.

Meanwhile, the Pullman Brisbane Airport (all.accor.com) has been voted the best airport hotel in the Australia/Pacific region in the Skytrax

annual global awards (worldairportawards.com).

The Pullman was also named the sixth-best airport hotel in the entire world. (The honour for the top airport hotel in the world went to Crowne Plaza at Changi Airport in Singapore.)

The five-star Pullman Brisbane Airport opened in October 2017, offering guests a premium transit experience with restaurants, bars, swimming pool and an executive club lounge.

The Pullman Brisbane Hotel was also named the best airport hotel in the region in 2019. ■



**Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Brisbane seven times a week. See [airniugini.com.pg](http://airniugini.com.pg).**

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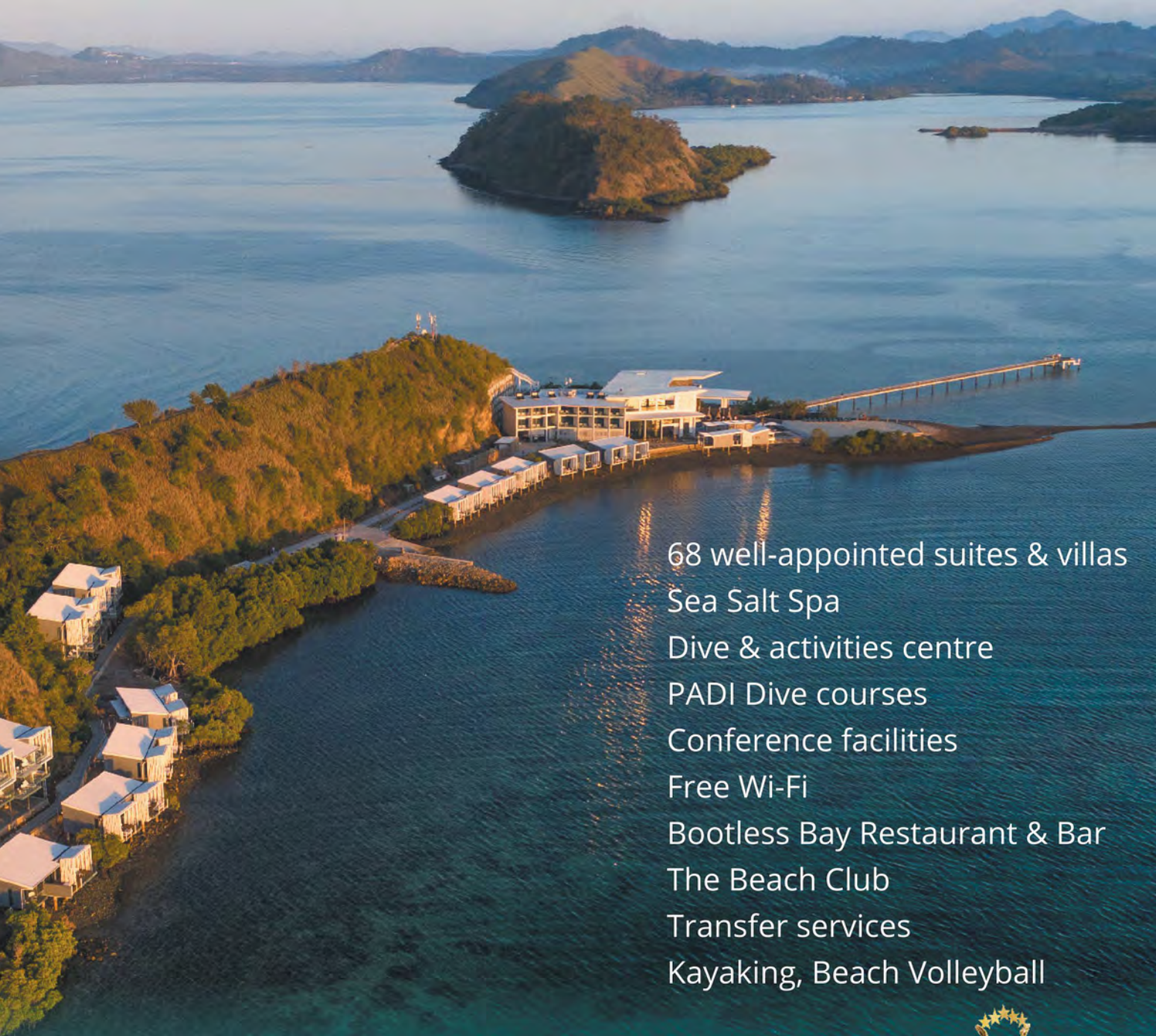
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# BIG PICTURE

TAKEN BY BART NAPIERALA

The photographer, visiting from Poland, took this behind-the-scenes photograph at the Kenu and Kundu Festival in Alotau before COVID-19 shut down the world in 2020. It shows members of the Kaikuwali Theatre Group from Waema, shortly before performing. "I made friends with the leader of the group," Napierala says. "Consequently, I had a chance to take many pictures and after the festival I was invited to their village where I put on their traditional costume. I had an absolutely awesome time with them." To see more of the photographer's work, go to [snapshotniugini.com](https://snapshotniugini.com).







*If you have a photo of Papua New Guinea that you'd like published in Paradise, email your submission to [paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com](mailto:paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com). Photos should be at least 1.5mb and 300dpi.*





# TRAVELLER

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# Bougainville

## BECKONS

*Richard Andrews*  
reports on a  
journey into  
Bougainville, which  
included a cultural  
show seen by  
foreigners for the  
first time.

A presidential welcome from a former rebel leader; impassable routes; an outlaw jungle king; a 'missing' mountain; pristine beaches; stunning coral reefs; the hidden plane wreck of Pearl Harbour's mastermind; and a first for foreigners at a unique event.

All on the daily agenda for Lisa Pagotto.

Pagotto's recent expedition to Bougainville opened the path for further adventures in previously closed areas of Papua New Guinea's autonomous archipelago.

Pagotto, 38, spent two years with local contacts in Bougainville, setting up the trip for a Sydney-based travel company she founded. Crooked Compass organises custom tours for small groups of adventurers who prefer the 'road less travelled' to five-star vacations.

But as it turned out, the start of the Bougainville journey was not that rough.

"When we arrived in Buka from Port Moresby, an official entourage had been arranged for us," says Pagotto.

"We were welcomed by President Ishmael Toroama who chartered a Cessna Caravan to fly us down south to Buin, with his tourism minister, Patrick Nisira. ►

Warriors from Buin lead the march into the festival grounds for the opening ceremony of the Siwai Cultural Show (left); children from the Unity Faith Play School meet foreigners for the first time (above).

PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY CROOKED COMPASS







Children get into the spirit of the Siwai Cultural Show (top); village life in South Bougainville is simple, yet beautiful (above); the Panguna Mine, slowly succumbing to the wilds of the jungle that entangle the island of Bougainville.

Pagotto says the arrival of the first aircraft to land on Buin's new grass airstrip attracted huge interest.

"The local police were out in force and hundreds of children ran across the runway to greet us. We were told some had never seen a plane or white people before."

That's about to change if the president and community leaders have their way.

"Tourism has the potential to provide much needed revenue for Bougainville while promoting Bougainville's cultural heritage," says Toroama.

Toroama sees tourism as important for Bougainville's economic development as it negotiates with the PNG government for independence, following a referendum in 2019.

"All sides in the civil war united to organise the Siwai Cultural Show in 2021, to celebrate the southern district's cultural, historical and natural wonders," says Pagotto.

"Only local villagers participated the first time, because borders were closed. But in 2022, we were the first and only foreigners invited to see the second show."

Pagotto's group included seven well-seasoned travellers from Australia, Germany and the US.

"They got close and personal with their friendly hosts, eating the local food, listening to traditional sing sings and watching the impressive bamboo drumming."

At one ceremony, participants hoisted two of the visitors on their shoulders, in the way other villagers carried young men who were wearing the traditional *upe* headdress.

"It was all in good fun as the *upe* signifies the wearer is unmarried and still in training as a hunter-gatherer, to be paraded publicly in this way," says Pagotto.

Less traditional sights were the crumbled bunkers, shipwrecks and other World War 2 relics that litter parts of Bougainville.

"We saw one hut built on top of an old cannon and houses with big tanks or artillery in the yard," says Pagotto. "Even under clotheslines."

Perhaps the best-known relic in the south is the crashed military plane that carried ➤





## 7 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BOUGAINVILLE

- 1** The autonomous region of Bougainville comprises two main islands: Bougainville Island and Buka Island. There are also many smaller islands in the region. The three main towns are the capital Buka Town, Arawa and Buin.
- 2** The autonomous region of Bougainville is seeking independence from PNG by 2027, pending approval by the PNG government.
- 3** The Panguna copper and gold mine was one of the world's largest open-cut mines.
- 4** There are talks of re-opening the mine. It was closed in 1989 because of the Bougainville Civil War, also known as the 'conflict'.
- 5** The armed 'conflict' between landowners and PNG government forces lasted from 1988 to 1998 and was brought about by a landowner rebellion. The landowners felt they were being exploited by the mine and were also worried about environmental damage.
- 6** Bougainville has a population of 300,000 and the people who live there are known as Bougainvilleans.
- 7** Diving, snorkelling, fishing and bird watching are key tourism activities.



Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto – the mastermind behind the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour.

“The Yamamoto plane wreck lies on land contested by three different clans,” says Pagotto.

“Chiefs from all three accompanied us through the jungle to the wreck, which was hidden by foliage. They competed with their machetes to quickly clear the site.” ➤



The elusive Upe tribe, the true indigenous people of Bougainville, adorned with their famed *upe* hats.

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*“With Lightspeed's Internet services, I am able to communicate with other colleagues in terms of patient management. As a lone doctor in a rural setting, there are times when I need a second opinion on how to manage my patients and so such an internet service will help me relay important patient information to colleagues who can then provide the much-needed feedback in real time. We needed a reliable and affordable internet service and Lightspeed has certainly delivered that for us.”*

**Dr Cindy Gaso, Veifa'a Health Centre**

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Not so quick was the four-wheel drive from Siwai to Arawa, on the southeast coast, which was meant to take two hours.

"The river crossing was flooded, and a vehicle was stuck in the middle. We had to take a 12-hour detour over the world's most terrible roads. The upside was that we saw a lot of the island we wouldn't have visited otherwise."

On the way to Arawa, the group passed the so-called Twin Kingdoms of Me'ekamui and Papaala, 'ruled' by the self-styled King David Peii II.

The reclusive Pentecostal Christian declares his edicts in biblical terms and has issued his own worthless currency. Photos show the king wearing a 5kg gold crown, although observers suspect it's made of brass.

"The kingdom is really just a village with a 'sovereign nation' sign outside," says Pagotto.

"We were curious to meet King David and visit his realm, but the Royal Protocol Manager denied an audience."

However, the group did visit a site of real wealth: the Panguna mine, which was at the centre of the civil war. Disused for more than 30 years, the massive open-cut mine was once one of the world's largest and most profitable copper and gold mines. Its reserves are estimated at about AUD\$60 billion and reopening the derelict mine is under discussion with landowners.

"It's an awe-inspiring site when you're perched on Panguna's rim," says Pagotto. "Especially as, as one local pointed out, there used to be a mountain here."

Back in Buka, the group chartered a boat to cruise the nearby islands and end the trip with a beach barbecue.

"We spent the last day snorkelling the beautiful reefs in the warm water of one island. There's incredible marine life just metres from shore."

Pagotto's travels have taken her from the eagle hunters of Kazakhstan to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, but she has a particular fascination with PNG. ➤



“

Chiefs from three clans accompanied us through the jungle to the wreck, which was hidden by foliage. They competed with their machetes to quickly clear the site.

”



**The wreckage of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's plane (above); children from Siwai (right).**





# THE BEER YOU DESERVE







A rusted shipwreck sits in the clear waters of Buka's archipelago (above); one of the tribal faces at the Siwai Cultural Show (right).



"We're so lucky to have this amazing destination, with some of the richest and most vibrant cultures in the world, on our doorstep," she says.

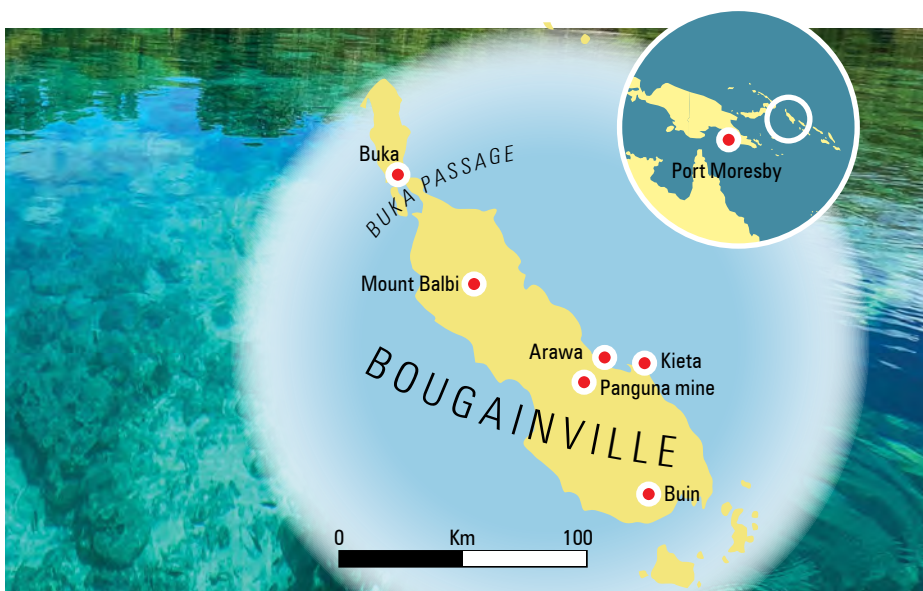
"After the success of our first Bougainville trip, we're planning another group tour for August.

"Bougainville is an untouched land where history isn't just told; it can also be seen and touched like a living museum." ■

See [crooked-compass.com](http://crooked-compass.com)



**Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Buka in Bougainville daily, except Sundays. At the time of publication flights to Kieta were temporarily suspended. See [airniugini.com.pg](http://airniugini.com.pg).**





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# VILLAGE CULTURE, JUNGLES, WATERFALLS, EMPTY ROLLING WAVES

# A surfer's paradise

BY ROBERT UPE

PICTURES: MATTY WILLIAMS, @MATTYWILLIAMS PHOTO

**A**fter two abandoned surf seasons because of COVID-19, the Vanimo Surf Lodge in the far northwestern reaches of Papua New Guinea has reopened.

The PNG surfing season runs from November until the end of April and bookings for the lodge are solid once again.

But don't expect a crowd. The lodge sleeps just 16 and there are eight named breaks to choose from. Usually there are just four to six surfers in the water.

"Often you can have a break to just you and your friends," says Managing Director Dave Ryan.

Two of the breaks, Lido Right and Lido Left, are on the doorstep

of the lodge. "You step out of your cabin and right onto the sandy beach, with an easy paddle out to the line-up," Ryan says.

The set-up is pretty well perfect. If Lido Right is onshore then Lido Left is offshore, and vice-versa.

The waves break over smooth limestone rock covered by sea grass, so there's no coral to contend with.

There are more waves at Town Beach, where the surf breaks over sand and is usually ideal for beginners, or you can access some breaks further away with the lodge's surf trucks and boat. Among those breaks is Yako, a high-performance left-hand wave. ➤







Vanimo Surf Lodge manager Jake Wieman on a wave at Yako, one of eight breaks accessible from the lodge.





The lodge consists of four West Sepik traditional-style huts with four single beds each. Linen, towels and mosquito nets are provided, and each of the huts has a verandah that looks over Lido Right.

There is a common shower and toilet block, and a kitchen and dining hut. Meals are part of the deal, and you can expect plenty of local produce and fresh seafood.

In between surfs, guided waterfall walks, fishing, village visits, bird watching, snorkelling, swimming, table tennis and darts are available.

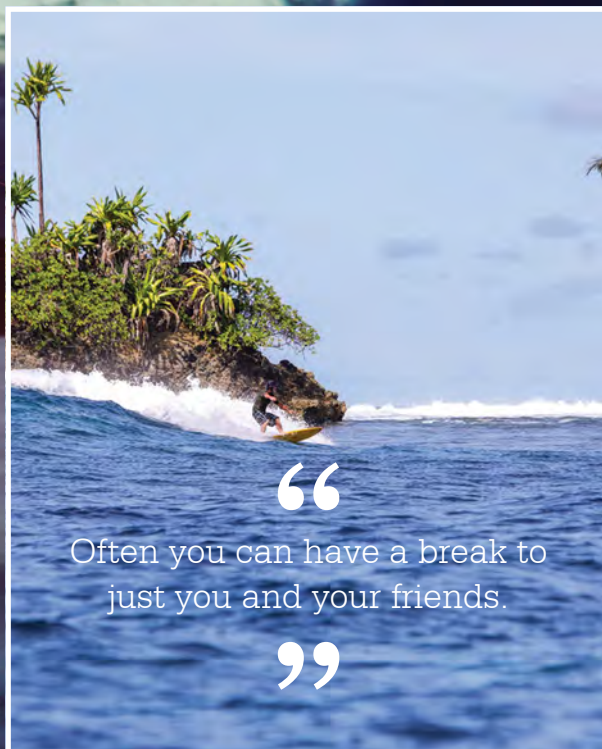
"It's the uncrowded and consistent surf that makes this place so special," says Ryan. "The water is clear and 29 degrees, the locals are friendly, and we're in a West Sepik village setting.

"What more could you want?" ➤





Warming the toes on the beach in front of Vanimo Surf Lodge (main); a local rider at Lido Right; riding a wave at Narimo Island, a short boat trip from the lodge (below).



“  
Often you can have a break to  
just you and your friends.

”







A dreamy junglescape at Yako (this picture); the beach on the doorstep of Vanimo Surf Lodge (opposite).



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- No coral; waves break over smooth limestone or sand.
- The Vanimo Surf Lodge has a small range of stand-up paddleboards, short boards, long boards and body boards for hire.
- Lodge accommodation is PGK440 a night, including three meals a day. Special deals are often available for longer stays or larger group bookings. See [vanimosurflodge.com](http://vanimosurflodge.com).

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The good news for surfers is that all of PNG's key surf camps and boats are back to full operation following the COVID-19 interruption, including Tupira Surf Club, north of Madang, which was also forced to close for a long period.

A new surf camp has also opened in Bougainville this surf season.

For a full list of the surf camps and boats available around the country, see the Surfing Association of Papua New Guinea website at [sapng.com](http://sapng.com).

 **Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Vanimo daily. Surfers arriving from Australia can catch a 10.30am flight from Brisbane to Port Moresby, and then connect to Vanimo for a 5pm arrival. See [airniugini.com.pg](http://airniugini.com.pg).**



## SURFBOARDS ON PLANES

Air Niugini uses Fokker 100 and Fokker 70 aircraft on its Vanimo route.

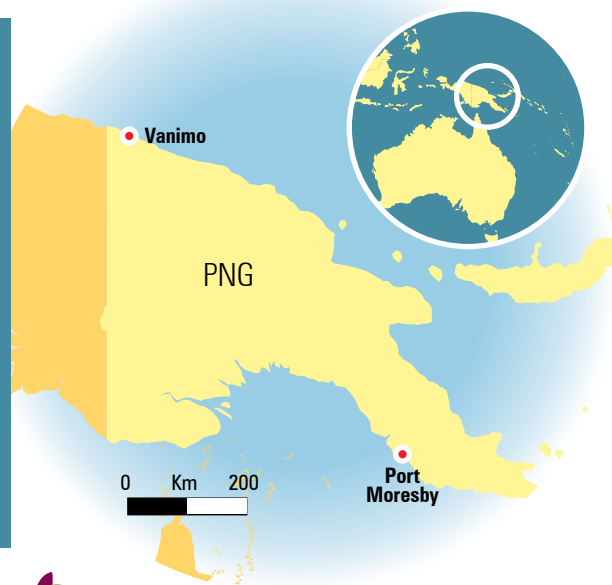
The Fokkers can carry surfboards in enclosed surfboard bags (preferably with fins removed) up to a length of 277cm (9ft).

The same applies to Air Niugini's international flights.

Surfboards carried on Air Niugini's smaller Dash 8 aircraft cannot exceed 240cm (7ft8in).

There is no charge to carry surfboards if total baggage (including hand luggage and checked-in luggage) does not exceed 32kg (for economy passengers).

Surfboards exceeding length specifications can be sent as freight, with applicable charges, however in some cases the boards may be carried in a different aircraft to the passenger.







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## MY PNG

BY NATALIE CHOLOHEI

# Weekend escape out of the city

Our writer packs her bags after work on a Friday evening and heads into another world, just a short drive from Port Moresby.

For me, travelling isn't just about getting on the plane and going to another province or country; it is about packing my bag and taking a long drive out of Port Moresby, to go camping or to a local village for the weekend.

Recently, my partner and I travelled to the Koitaki Country Club to get away from the city's hustle and bustle, and heat.

We set out as soon as we finished work on a Friday. I had been so excited that I had already been thinking of what to pack and

“ We woke up to birds chirping and roosters crowing from afar, telling us to get up and see the beautiful scenery.

take on the trip several days earlier.

Driving up into the Sogeri Plateau in the evening is a little more daunting than during the day, but I was glad when we reached the red-soil road leading into the club.

The cool night breeze was refreshing and relieving. I am not good with cold, but this was refreshing in the best possible way.

Our room was small and cosy, and had a balcony.

The next morning we woke up to birds chirping and roosters crowing from afar, as

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The Koitaki Country Club is about an hour's drive from Port Moresby on the Sogeri Plateau. See [koitakicc.com.pg](http://koitakicc.com.pg).

if telling us to get up and see the beautiful scenery.

It looks so easy to reach the top of the hills behind the cabins, but our morning climb up there took longer than I thought. I had to stop every 10 strides to catch my breath.

The view looking down at the main club house and the nine-hole golf course is

spectacular, so the effort to get to the top of the hill was well worth it.

I love the atmosphere here, the friendly staff and the good food.

I'm not so much of a food critic, but I can say the club's chicken schnitzel and grilled lamb with potato wedges are very good.

There's also a barbecue near a creek, where you can have dinner and catch sunsets, and the Varirata National Park is nearby.

I've come to love this place and I use every excuse to come here to escape the city. It's all about relaxing and enjoying the nice scenery, unwinding over nice food, and good company.

It is one of life's little wins. ■

***'My PNG' is a column in which Papua New Guineans write about where they live, or about a part of the country they know and love. If you wish to contribute, email [paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com](mailto:paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com).***

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UPDATE

# HONG KONG

BY BRIAN JOHNSTON

**H**ong Kong is perennially pulsating, and a visit to the scintillating harbour city will provide you plenty of novelty, from new hotels and restaurants to an entire cultural venue, as well as additions to classic attractions such as Ocean Park's Water World ([waterworld.oceanpark.com.hk](http://waterworld.oceanpark.com.hk)) and Hong Kong Disneyland Resort ([hongkongdisneyland.com](http://hongkongdisneyland.com)).

Among new hotels is everything from the sleek New Territories beach resort WM Hotel Sai Jung ([wmhotel.hk](http://wmhotel.hk)) to urban boutique Hotel 1936 ([hotel1936.com](http://hotel1936.com)) in a heritage building in bustling Kowloon. In June 2022, MGallery Hotel Collection opened its first Hong Kong hotel, The Silveri ([thesilveri-hongkong.com](http://thesilveri-hongkong.com)) on Lantau Island near the airport, quickly followed by AKI Hong Kong ([aki-hongkong-mgallery.com](http://aki-hongkong-mgallery.com)) in busy Wan Chai.

The dining scene remains as vibrant as ever. Tuck into upmarket, seafood-focused Thai at new Central venue Plaa ([plaa.hk](http://plaa.hk)), the latest in reimagined Cantonese cuisine from Michelin-starred chefs Alvin Leung and Cheng Kam-fu at The Demon Celebrity ([thedemoncelebrity.com](http://thedemoncelebrity.com)) or stylish Mediterranean fare at chic Basin ([basin.hk](http://basin.hk)).



PICTURE: PEAK TRAMWAYS

## TOP ATTRACTION

### Peak Tram

The Peak Tram isn't new: Hong Kong's famous attraction is Asia's oldest funicular railway. But August 2022 saw the debut of the sixth generation of trams, still decked in classic green but with an increase in passenger capacity that will reduce long queues by 70 per cent. The terminal has also been revamped and is now graced with a 10-metre-high Eye of Infinity sculpture, dynamic displays on the Peak Tram's history, and a full-immersion video experience on the Peak's wildlife.

[thepeak.com.hk](http://thepeak.com.hk)







## CULTURE

**Hong Kong Palace Museum**

Opened in July 2022, this museum is the latest West Kowloon addition and displays over 900 artefacts – many designated national treasures – from the Forbidden City in Beijing, including imperial portraits, calligraphy, ceramics, jade, textiles and jewellery. Galleries also explore former life in the Forbidden City and its architecture and heritage. Two galleries are devoted to Hong Kong art and interesting juxtapositions with western artworks to show variations on universal artistic themes. Huge windows provide wonderful harbour views.

[hkpm.org.hk](http://hkpm.org.hk)



PICTURE: HKPM



PICTURE: FOUR SEASONS HOTELS

## RESTAURANT

**Noi**

Luxury hotels have always been at the forefront of Hong Kong dining, and the opening of Noi at the Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong continues the tradition. Michelin-starred chef Paulo Airauda takes the stiffness out of fine dining in this relaxed venue, with its retro music, dark moody decor and ever-changing, Asian-inspired tasting menu that runs to dishes such as lobster or monkfish with Jerusalem artichoke, paired with the chef's selection of wines.

[restaurantnoi.hk](http://restaurantnoi.hk)



## HOTEL

**The Fullerton Ocean Park Hotel**

The first resort from this otherwise urban Singapore hotel group sits in Aberdeen on Hong Kong Island's south coast, gazing over the South China Sea. Sitting adjacent to Ocean Park's Water World, it's aimed squarely at the luxury family market, with an expansive themed kids' zone, outdoor play area called The Lagoon, and a 60-metre free-form infinity pool. Cantonese, Singaporean and Italian restaurants and an indulgent spa round out the facilities; beaches and hiking trails unfurl nearby.

[fullertonhotels.com](http://fullertonhotels.com)

PICTURE: FULLERTON HOTELS



PICTURE: SPICE MARKETING



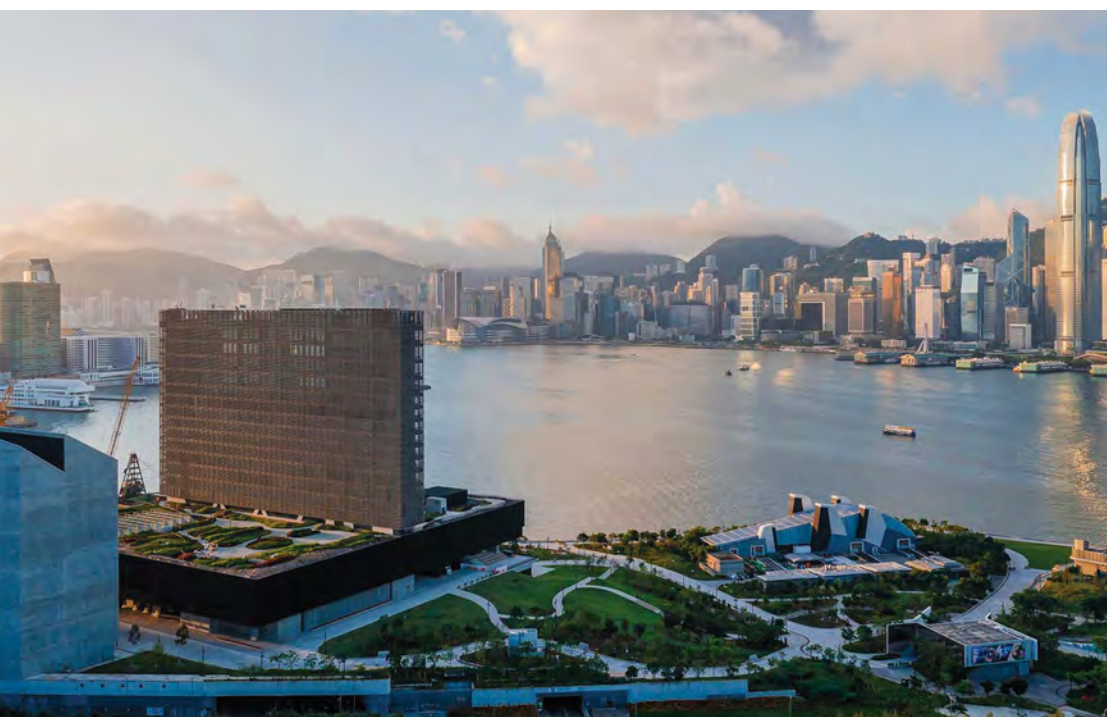
## RESTAURANT

**Jiangsu Club**

The decor of this new restaurant is stunning, but more to the point is that it showcases Jiangsu cuisine, which is big on fish, soup, cured ham, boiling and braising, and light, delicate and seasonal flavours. Signature dishes include braised pork belly, cod steamed in wine, chicken and wonton soup, and flavour-rich Jiangsu duck. The restaurant also serves dim sum; dumplings are taken to new levels with the addition of truffle and gold leaf for a special treat.

[instagram.com/jiangsu.club](https://www.instagram.com/jiangsu.club)

 **Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Hong Kong weekly. See [airniugini.com.pg](http://airniugini.com.pg).**



PICTURE: HKTB

## PRECINCT

**West Kowloon Cultural District**

The years-long transformation of West Kowloon into a dynamic cultural hub of striking architecture, new museums and contemporary restaurants is complete. Take a stroll on harbour-gazing promenades and through Art Park, enjoy live music performances, and visit M+, Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture. Further along the waterfront is the Xiqu Centre, which celebrates Chinese opera and has a very enjoyable theatre and tea shop where you can indulge in refined chrysanthemum (Pu'erh) tea.

[westkowloon.hk](http://westkowloon.hk)





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# HOTEL REVIEW: HOTEL INDIGO, SINGAPORE

Tel +65 6 7237001, see [ihg.com](http://ihg.com)

**WHO STAYS?** Foodies and culture lovers.

**HOW BIG?** 131 rooms over 16 floors.

**COST** About PGK535 a night.

**CHECK IN** 3pm

**CHECK OUT** 12pm

**HIGHLIGHTS** With walls covered in colourful artworks celebrating Singapore's Peranakan (Straits Chinese) culture, traditional tiles and rooms full of ceramics, you feel surrounded by local culture without setting foot outside the door.

**NEARBY** Just a short walk from the hotel is Katong 328, one of the best laksa stalls on the island, and the whole area of Katong is vibrant and filled with bars and restaurants.

Wi-Fi in rooms/public areas:	✓
TV:	✓
Air conditioning in room:	✓
Room service:	✓
Swimming pool:	✓
Free airport transfers:	✗
Gym:	✓
Business centre:	✓
Hotel arranges tours:	✓
Breakfast included in standard charge:	✗



## LOCATION

Katong is a foodie paradise on an island known for its food. This area, sandwiched conveniently between the centre of Singapore and the airport, is home to the famous Singaporean laksa (Katong 328 and others) but also to modern food trends like the island's newfound love of natural wines on display at the Drunken Farmer. Katong is full of historic, colourful shophouses that you have a great view over from one of the tallest buildings in the 'hood.

## THE PLACE

The public areas of Hotel Indigo are a riot of colour thanks to the celebration of Peranakan culture. Reception uses traditional tiles and has a modern art sculpture version of traditional water jars dominating the area by the lifts. There is a relaxing rooftop pool and, to the left of reception, a 'mama stall' – a small convenience stall that used to be found in the housing estates in the '60s – packed with bright-coloured clothing, fabrics and decorative wooden screens.

## ROOMS

The rooms continue your immersion in Peranakan history with murals on the wall of local *kampung* (village) life, plus the rooms are designed to mimic the flow of a historic

Singapore bungalow. The rooms are about 30 square metres but pack in a lot of special features from a foot-soaking bowl to an historic sewing machine. The bathroom has a killer view with floor-to-ceiling windows looking over the historic neighbourhood; lighting is clever with a rooftop strip mimicking the local tile design and the bathroom mirror lighting up with a decal of an old vanity mirror. There is careful curation everywhere you look.

## FOOD AND DRINK

Baba Chews is an all-day diner on the ground floor that has an international menu. It has a mix of modern European and Singaporean dishes with a Western-Asian breakfast menu and pub vibe after dinner. Your morning coffee comes from local roasters Common Man Coffee around the corner from the hotel.

## WHAT GUESTS LIKE

"The rooftop pool was a gift, such a relaxing amenity. Baba Chews restaurant was a delight – great crew there and good breakfast selections." – TripAdvisor

"I love the small details like the notes they had placed to explain the choice of candies and other items. The staff is unbelievably welcoming and helpful with sincere and warm smiles as they greet you." – Trip Advisor





# HOTEL REVIEW: SANCTUARY, PORT MORESBY

Tel +675 303 7400, see @the\_sanctuary\_hotel\_resort\_spa on Instagram.

**WHO STAYS?** International tourists, business travellers, walk-in guests.

**HOW BIG?** 64 rooms

**COST** From PGK400 + GST per night to PGK650 + GST per night.

**CHECK IN** 2pm

**CHECK OUT** 11am

**HIGHLIGHTS** The hotel is set in a tropical garden, which provides an oasis from Port Moresby's humidity. Take in the sound of birds from the hotel's bird sanctuary, and feed the hotel's tree kangaroos.

**NEARBY** It's five minutes' drive to the National Museum and Art Gallery and 15 minutes' drive to the Port Moresby Nature Park.

Wi-Fi in rooms/public areas:	✓
TV:	✓
Air conditioning in room:	✓
Room service:	✓
Swimming pool:	✓
Free airport transfers:	✓
Gym:	✓
Business centre:	✓
Hotel arranges tours:	✗
Breakfast included in standard charge:	✓



PICTURES: PETER SEVARA JNR

## LOCATION

The Sanctuary Hotel Resort and Spa is in Waigani, the administrative, commercial and educational heart of Port Moresby. It's at Section 276, Lot 60 Pitpit Street, about 10 minutes from Jacksons International Airport. The central location allows easy access to other parts of the city. The Sanctuary also offers complimentary shuttles for guests to the Vision City and Stop & Shop shopping malls.

## THE PLACE

The Sanctuary offers a comfortable and affordable stay. The hotel's locally inspired dishes ensure an authentic PNG experience. The Lingzhi Serenity Spa was closed for renovations when *Paradise* went to press, but you can relax by the pool or catch up on some fitness in the gym. For meetings, there is a conference room that comes with IT support and can fit 20 people.

## ROOMS

The rooms range from single to twin share and deluxe. Deluxe twin rooms provide two

separate sleeping areas connected by a lounge area. All rooms have free in-room Wi-Fi and views of gardens and shady trees that provide a tropical vibe to the hotel. Some rooms have balconies with a bonus pool view.

## FOOD AND DRINK

The in-house restaurant, the Gold Palm, opens at 6am and closes at 10pm. The menu includes western-style dishes, pizza (pictured) and locally inspired dishes. On the local menu, the whole grilled red emperor fish served with taro cooked in coconut cream is recommended.

## WHAT GUESTS LIKE

"The Sanctuary is a great small hotel set in rainforest gardens. The staff are caring and friendly." – TripAdvisor

"I've been here several times and I've always been extremely impressed. The staff are friendly and professional and the food is always delicious. It's located in a safe neighbourhood." – TripAdvisor





# THREE OF A KIND: ROOMS WITH A VIEW



## KOKOPO BEACH BUNGALOW RESORT, KOKOPO, PNG

Perched on the shore of Blanche Bay, this traditionally styled resort has views of the Duke of York Islands and volcanoes. Depending on the level of accommodation you choose, the bungalows include private balconies that take in the views, air conditioning, ceiling fans, bar fridge, internet and satellite TV. The Hauswin Restaurant exemplifies the traditional character of the resort, built with big poles and a sago roof. There's an outside restaurant deck that extends into the tree canopy and makes you feel like you're sitting in a tree house.

### SOMETHING SPECIAL

So much is so special here. The resort has a private beach and a very good range of tours, whether you want to go island hopping, climb a volcano, see spinner dolphins (with a chance to jump in the water with them if conditions are right), attend a fire dance, go on a village visit, snorkel, dive or see the local war museum. The annual National Mask Festival is usually held in July and provides a spectacle of song and dance.

### HOW TO EXPERIENCE IT

Connect from Port Moresby with an Air Niugini flight to Tokua Airport, which services Rabaul and Kokopo. It's about 20 minutes from the airport to the resort. Airport transfers are provided by the resort.

[kbb.com.pg](http://kbb.com.pg)



## FOUR SEASONS HOTEL, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Just footsteps to the harbour, the Four Seasons sits in a prime location at the junction of Circular Quay, the city's historic district The Rocks to the north and the CBD gateway to the south. This position has made the hotel one of the most popular places for visitors to not only explore the city but also secure a guest room or suite where they can take in sweeping views of Sydney's iconic harbour – a panorama that extends from the Sydney Harbour Bridge to the Opera House and far beyond. The entire hotel underwent a multi-million dollar upgrade a few years ago.

### SOMETHING SPECIAL

The Four Seasons Sydney recently debuted its revamped a la carte offering, Mode Kitchen & Bar, where diners can experience a taste of Italy. Mode's chef Francesco Mannelli hails from Florence, has worked in some of Italy's and Australia's best restaurants, and whips up the cuisine of his home country like few others in Sydney.

### HOW TO EXPERIENCE IT

When you book into the Four Seasons Sydney be sure to ask for a room with a view.

[fourseasons.com/sydney](http://fourseasons.com/sydney)



## SHERATON RESORT & SPA, TOKORIKI ISLAND, FIJI

There are few places more relaxing than a beachfront hotel villa. Those at Fiji's Sheraton Resort & Spa on Tokoriki Island, however, are a cut above – each villa featuring the ultimate luxury of its own plunge pool and oversized outdoor designer lounge chair (perfect for two) on the deck. Views of the ocean and neighbouring islands in Fiji's Mamanuca chain can be enjoyed from inside the villas too, even from the beds thanks to their position in front of sliding glass doors. Each villa's deck is private, flanked by high walls and surrounded by manicured garden, creating the ideal place to kick back, relax and gaze across the sparkling blue water.

### SOMETHING SPECIAL

At dusk, make sure you are at the Coco Palms terrace fronting the resort's main restaurant, Waitui House and Sala Bar. This is when a highly entertaining troupe of Fijian entertainers appear nightly to sing and dance.

### HOW TO EXPERIENCE IT

This resort is reached by private transfer (or helicopter if you so desire) from Fiji's main harbour on Denarau Island.

[marriott.com](http://marriott.com)



**Air Niugini has flights from Port Moresby to Kokopo, Australia and Fiji. See [airniugini.com.pg](http://airniugini.com.pg).**







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<b>BRAKE VALVES</b>  <b>Bendix</b>	<b>BRAKE COMPONENTS</b>  <b>O.E. SPARES</b> <b>Bendix</b>	<b>BEARINGS &amp; SEALS</b>  <b>MERITOR</b>	<b>ELECTRICAL &amp; LIGHTING</b>  <b>NARVA</b> <b>KELL</b>	<b>EXHAUSTS &amp; INTAKES</b>  <b>Fleetguard</b>
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## TIME TRAVELLER

**South Pacific Brewery office workers, Port Moresby, 1980s**

South Pacific Brewery (SP) celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2022. The first brewery in Papua New Guinea was built on Scratchley Road in Badili by SP in 1952.

Two years later, most of its shares were acquired by Malaysian Breweries Limited, themselves affiliated with Heineken.

SP's early years were relatively unprofitable, but all that changed in 1962 when Papua New Guineans were allowed to consume alcohol, and this drastically expanded the customer base.

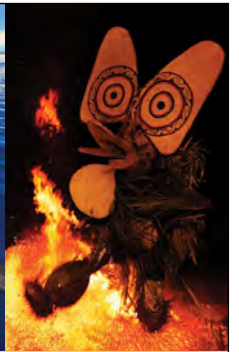
The main products in those early years were draught kegs, SP Green and SP Brown bottles, each variety with its own staunch supporters.

SP is still associated with Heineken and employs many Papua New Guineans in technical and administrative roles.

The women in this photo are some of the SP office team in the 1980s: Marisa Kaerai, Olive Tabua, Hemlyn Ila, Kara Morea, Bernadette Chakumai, Derry Willie, Regina Lillywhite, Mitty Toua, Imorea Sariman, Leva Bingeding and Loa Arua.



***If you have a photo that may be suitable for Time Traveller, email [paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com](mailto:paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com).***



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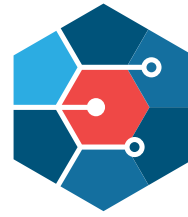
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[www.aespng.com](http://www.aespng.com)



# PNG's Leading Business & Logistics Park

The PNG Business and Logistics Park is strategically located in the growth corridor between the Port Moresby CBD and the expanding LNG plant. Central to the attractiveness of the 94-hectare development, is its privately owned port and container terminal, complete with 540 metres of wharf and a suite of on-site logistics services and infrastructure. Tenants, including oil and gas majors, as well as operators in their supply chains, enjoy purpose-built facilities and even on-site accommodation.

The PNG Business and Logistics Park is privately owned and operated by **AES**, a local company employing 450 staff. AES has nearly 70 years' experience delivering large-scale engineering, civil, and construction projects throughout PNG.

AES Principal, Dom Avenell, emphasises that there are several important drawcards to the business park but that its modern and well-equipped port with more than 500 metres of berth is key. "Many of our tenants have a port requirement, and we are the only industrial park in the country that has its own port. We not only provide the full range of services you'd normally associate with a port and container terminal, but we're also a project cargo specialist providing shore base logistics and staging."

Another key drawcard for the business park is AES' proven capacity to provide tenants with just about any kind of facility, as well as all of the necessary infrastructure specific to industry and operational requirements. AES has the in-house expertise to do this, as well as an enormous amount of space (ideal for when tenants need to scale up).

Examples of facilities AES has provided its tenants with, include dangerous goods storage, specialised workshops, cement silos and truck loading facilities, petroleum storage and bunkers.

Another feature of the PNG Business and Logistics Park that appeals to tenants, are its safety systems and credentials. The business park meets PNG and international safety standards, and AES is ISO certified (i.e., 45001, 14001, 9001).

In addition to these certifications, the business park's restaurant and mess facilities that support its 300-person camp, are HACCP certified. Residents that choose to live in the park's leafy and secure housing estate (45 x 1-3 bedroom homes) also enjoy these facilities, as well as recreational facilities and a private medical clinic.

To learn more about the PNG Business and Logistics Park: [pom@aespng.com](mailto:pom@aespng.com)



*The PNG Business and Logistics Park is ideal for businesses wanting to establish a strategic operational base and capitalise on its privately owned port and container terminal within minutes of the Port Moresby CBD and expanding LNG plant.*





PICTURE: TOURISM TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND



# ALMANAC

BY BELINDA JACKSON

**A** rugby tournament, country music concert, a *sing-sing* or a yacht race – there's always something happening across Air Niugini's flight network.

From the streets of Port Moresby to a remote village in Simbu Province, or to Air Niugini's network, which spans Singapore, Sydney and the Solomon Islands, our 2023 almanac shares some of the top events in each city.

After several years of uncertainty, 2023 sees the return of some of Papua New Guinea's most beloved *sing-sings*, from such national headliners as Mount Hagen's Goroka Show or the Morobe Show, to smaller gatherings including East Sepik's crocodile and arts festival.

Internationally, Singapore feasts at its food festival, while Brisbane goes ball crazy for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. Book your front-row seat at Fiji's

# 2023

annual fashion week, bite the dust at the Maree Rodeo in outback Australia or see flamboyant Manila turn it on with street floats and a beauty pageant in what's dubbed 'the mother of all festivals'.

Our almanac will give you the ideas; our airline will get you there.







From left: Traditional dress at the Goroka Show (September); Cairns dance festival (July); street dancing in Manila (February); the Hong Kong marathon (February).

## JANUARY

### MANILA FEAST OF BLACK NAZARENE

JANUARY 1 & 9

An intense, day-long festival highlighted by a mammoth procession of the Black Nazarene (a life-sized dark wooden sculpture of Jesus Christ), which is carried by barefoot devotees through Manila's Quiapo district. The procession of the Black Nazarene happens on Good Friday, New Year's Day and January 9.

[philippines.travel](http://philippines.travel)

### SYDNEY SYDNEY FESTIVAL

JANUARY 5-29

The city lights up with 24 days packed solid with over 100 dramatic dance events, visual arts extravaganzas, and live music.

[sydneyfestival.org.au](http://sydneyfestival.org.au)

### SINGAPORE CHINESE NEW YEAR

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

One of Singapore's biggest cultural festivals starts with the Street Light-Up, which sees Chinatown's streets lined with beautifully designed lanterns.

[visitsingapore.com](http://visitsingapore.com)

## FEBRUARY

### HONG KONG HONG KONG MARATHON

FEBRUARY 12

Pin a number on your shirt and hit the streets in the city's biggest marathon, running since 1997. Aside from the full marathon of 42km, half-marathon and 10km races are also scheduled.

[hkmarathon.com](http://hkmarathon.com)

### MANILA CARACOL FESTIVAL

THIRD WEEK OF FEBRUARY

This street dance-off in the Manila suburb of Makita encourages participants to come out of their shell as local dance groups don flamboyant costumes for their exuberant dances.

[philippines.travel](http://philippines.travel)

## MARCH

### PNG HIRI MOALE FESTIVAL

MARCH 3-5

The Koitabu and Motu people gather at Ela Beach in Port Moresby to re-enact the past homecomings of their sailors, who had been at sea for months on epic trade voyages (*hiri*), in a three-day festival that also celebrates the friendship between the trading tribes.

[papuanewguinea.travel](http://papuanewguinea.travel) ➤





## BRISBANE CMC ROCKS QLD

MARCH 17-19

Australia's biggest country music festival by attendance takes over Willowbank Raceway in Ipswich, just over an hour west of Brisbane. Some of the biggest names in the 2023 line-up of Australian and international stars include the Zac Brown Band, Kip Moore and Morgan Wallen.

[cmcrocks.com](http://cmcrocks.com)

## HONG KONG ART BASEL HONG KONG

MARCH 23-25

Soak up Asia-Pacific's astonishing artistic diversity through modern and contemporary works by established and emerging artists in galleries, on film, through art publications and in conversation.

[artbasel.com/hong-kong](http://artbasel.com/hong-kong)

## APRIL

### MANILA ALIWAN FIESTA

APRIL 29-30

Street dance-offs, beauty pageants and a parade of super-sized floats from the 17 regions of the Philippines are the keystones of Aliwan, which is often referred to as 'the mother of all festivals' and takes place in Manila.

[philippines.travel](http://philippines.travel)

## MAY

### PNG TUMBUNA SHOW

MAY 11-21

Kum Mountain is the gathering point of over 300 tribespeople from 15 Highland tribes, each dressed in *bilas*, their traditional dress. Smaller than PNG's best-known *sing-sings*, guests are welcomed into the village in the Paiyagona Valley in Mount Hagen and can join the dancing and singing that remembers the tribes' ancestors.

[papuanewguinea.travel](http://papuanewguinea.travel)

### MANILA LA LOMA LECHON FESTIVAL

MAY

Manila's best lechon (roasted suckling pig) is found in the district of La Loma in Quezon City – isn't that cause for celebration? The festival sees costumed lechons representing every village, and a 'boodle fight' – a tradition of eating off banana leaves.

[philippines.travel](http://philippines.travel)



From top to bottom:  
The 'mother of all  
festivals' in Manila  
(April); Art Basel in  
Hong Kong (March);  
rugby league in  
Brisbane (May); the  
Mareeba Rodeo west  
of Cairns (June).





## BRISBANE NRL MAGIC ROUNDS

MAY

Suncorp Stadium hosts the world's largest rugby league festival, where all 16 teams in the national league play eight games over three days of high-intensity action.

nrl.com

## SOLOMON ISLANDS WOGASIA SPEAR FESTIVAL

MAY

Spear fighting is just one aspect of this harvest festival held at Santa Catalina island, East Makira. Celebrating spear hunting and a bountiful yam season, the three-day festival sees old arguments laid to rest and a fresh start in the year ahead.

visitsolomons.com.sb

## FIJI FIJI FASHION WEEK

MAY

Celebrating their 16th annual event in 2023, local and international designers reveal luxe resort wear, punchy prints and stylish menswear at this world-class fashion event in Suva.

fijifashionweek.com.fj

## JUNE

## SYDNEY VIVID SYDNEY

MAY 26 - JUNE 17

Bright lights, big city – Sydney glows during this citywide festival of light, music and ideas. Walk the streets to immerse yourself in the illuminated cityscape, with sculptures, performances and thought-provoking talks.

vividssydney.com

## CAIRNS CAIRNS INDIGENOUS ART FAIR

JUNE 13-16

Australia's top indigenous art fair returns with a program spanning all arts, including music, sculpture and comedy.

ciaf.com.au

## CAIRNS MAREEBA RODEO

JUNE

Daredevil riders meet in Mareeba, west of Cairns, for an annual rodeo, going strong since 1949. Bareback riders, bucking broncs and barrel racers compete in the big arena, while the ute muster attracts the best motors in the district.

mareebarodeo.com.au

## JULY

## CAIRNS LAURA QUINKAN INDIGENOUS DANCE FESTIVAL

JULY 7-9

The sacred dance grounds in the town of Laura, north of Cairns, are the gathering point for dance troupes from Cape York and the Torres Strait.

lauraquinkanfestival.com.au

## SOLOMON ISLANDS ROVIANA LAGOON FESTIVAL

JULY 12-13

On land and on sea, the people of the Roviana Lagoon gather in Munda, in Western Province, to compete with brightly decorated floats.

visitsolomons.com.sb

## PNG NATIONAL MASK &amp; WARWAGIRA FESTIVAL

JULY 12-16

The famed masks of East New Britain, New Ireland and across PNG are the focus of this festival, many of them sacred, requiring ceremonies to enable their travel. The five days are filled with fire dances, shell money exchanges and masked dancing in Kokopo, East New Britain.

papuanewguinea.travel

## PNG MELPA SHOW

JULY 13-23

Towering feather headdresses and shell jewellery are features of this intimate *sing-sing*, which sees about a dozen tribes gather in full tribal dress in Mount Hagen.

papuanewguinea.travel

## PNG SIMBU PASIN TUMBUNA

Visitors to this festival can get hands-on experience in carving, cooking, making musical instruments, weaving and costume-making in traditional ways at this festival in Kundiawa, the capital of Simbu Province.

papuanewguinea.travel

## PNG NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

JULY 23

Remembrance Park in Ela Beach, Port Moresby, is the site for this annual commemoration of the services and sacrifices of PNG people in the world wars and other conflicts.

papuanewguinea.travel

## AUGUST

## PNG ENGA CULTURAL SHOW

EARLY AUGUST

Thousands gather in the meeting of tribes of the Enga Province, in PNG's Highlands, at this annual showcase of traditional dance, rituals, costumes and chants. Now in its 28th year, the three-day event is held in Wabag.

engashow.com

## SOLOMON ISLANDS SHELL MONEY FESTIVAL

AUGUST 16-17

The Malaita Province's traditional shell currency was used for bartering and to pay bride prices, a tradition kept alive in this two-day festival at the Langalanga Lagoon in Malaita Province.

visitsolomons.com.sb

## BRISBANE FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

JULY 20 - AUGUST 20

Football fever grips Australia and New Zealand as 32 teams play in cities across the region, including matches scheduled at Brisbane Stadium

fifa.com

## PNG SEPIK RIVER CROCODILE &amp; ARTS FESTIVAL

AUGUST

Fast, cunning and intelligent, the fresh and saltwater crocodiles of the Sepik River are the focus of this annual festival in Ambunti Station, East Sepik. In practice deeply ingrained in local culture, local tribesmen scar their bodies as crocodile skin, paying homage to the primordial hunter.

papuanewguinea.travel

## PNG HAGEN SHOW

AUGUST

One of PNG's most famous *sing-sings* sees more than 80 tribes congregate in the West Highlands town of Mount Hagen. There are also live bands, with handicrafts and clothing stalls.

papuanewguinea.travel

## SINGAPORE SINGAPORE FOOD FESTIVAL

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

The delicious food of Singapore gets its own festival – and it's big. Foodies celebrate Singapore's rich food culture, honouring the creativity of all culinary talents from engaging workshops to eye-opening food tours.

visitsingapore.com ➤





## SEPTEMBER

SINGAPORE SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX SEASON  
SEPTEMBER 15-17

The thrum of engines fills the Lion City, which is consumed with speed fever on and off the racetrack. Off-circuit entertainment includes precinct parties, glitzy soirees and big-name music concerts.

[singaporegp.sg](http://singaporegp.sg)

PNG INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL  
SEPTEMBER 16

Celebrating its Independence from Australia in 1975, PNG became a constitutional monarchy and a member of the British Commonwealth. All PNG takes a three-day holiday and, in the capital, Port Moresby, the celebrations centre on Ela Beach, with street processions, sports competitions, music, dance and fireworks.

[amazingportmoresby.com](http://amazingportmoresby.com)

PNG KALAM FESTIVAL  
SEPTEMBER 18-21

The remote *sing-sing* in the Simbai Valley, in Madang Province, is reached only by air or a three-day walk from Mount Hagen. Its isolation has kept the Simbai tribes' ancient traditions alive, with bridal exchange and young men's coming-of-age ceremonies included in the three-day festival.

[papuanewguinea.travel](http://papuanewguinea.travel)

PNG RABAU FRANGIPANI FESTIVAL  
SEPTEMBER

In 1994, the East New Britain town of Rabaul was devastated by twin volcanic eruptions. The first plant to flower after the destruction was the sweet, hardy frangipani. The two-day festival welcoming Rabaul's rebirth coincides with national Independence Day celebrations.

[papuanewguinea.travel](http://papuanewguinea.travel)

PNG GOROKA SHOW  
SEPTEMBER

Attracting more than 100 tribes, PNG's biggest *sing-sing* has been a highlight on the nation's calendar since it started in the Eastern Highlands in 1950s and is one of the most popular with tourists.

[papuanewguinea.travel](http://papuanewguinea.travel)



From top to bottom: Spear festival in the Solomon Islands (May); the Frangipani Festival in the land of volcanoes in Rabaul (September).

PNG MONA FESTIVAL  
SEPTEMBER

The seafaring traditions of Bougainville are the focus of this annual celebration of local culture – a *mona* is a large canoe Bougainvilleans used for trade and transport in the Solomon Sea. Held in Buka, each year sees three days of friendly rivalry between bamboo bands, dancers and *sing-sing* groups from across the region.

[bougainvilletourism.com](http://bougainvilletourism.com)

PNG KUTUBU KUNDU & DIGASO FESTIVAL  
SEPTEMBER

The Southern Highlands Province display its prowess with the *kundu* (drum) and the healing digaso oil in an annual *sing-sing* at Lake Kutubu, in the Southern Highlands.

[facebook.com/PNGKutubuKunduandDigasoFestival](https://facebook.com/PNGKutubuKunduandDigasoFestival)

## OCTOBER

BRISBANE OKTOBERFEST  
OCTOBER

Lovers of lederhosen gather at Australia's biggest Oktoberfest, a six-day celebration of all things German, with steins and sausages raised on high at the Brisbane Showgrounds.

[oktoberfestbrisbane.com.au](http://oktoberfestbrisbane.com.au)

## NOVEMBER

PNG MOROBE SHOW  
NOVEMBER 4-5

First held in 1959, the Morobe Show in Lae has grown to become one of the country's biggest events, drawing crowds to its livestock and agriculture displays, cowboy and daredevil bike acts, and the traditional dancing.

[morobeshow.org.pg](http://morobeshow.org.pg)

FIJI DIWALI  
NOVEMBER 13

A triumph of light over dark, good over evil, the Hindu festival of light is one of Fiji's most widely celebrated events. Get ready for noisy fireworks, sweet-scented incense, delicious sweets and *pūja* celebrations at the country's temples.

[fiji.travel](http://fiji.travel)

PNG TAVUR SHOW  
NOVEMBER

The five-day event in Kimbe, West New Britain, promotes the province's culture as seven major tribes gather at the festival, which bears the icon of the *tavur*, or cone shell, which the people of West New Britain used to communicate with other tribes.

[papuanewguinea.travel](http://papuanewguinea.travel)

## DECEMBER

SYDNEY SYDNEY-HOBART YACHT RACE  
DECEMBER 26

Sydney Harbour is the star of the show at the beginning of this week-long yacht race, which sees more than 100 yachts leave Sydney on Boxing Day to travel 630 nautical miles down Australia's southeast coastline to Hobart.

[rolexsydneyhobart.com](http://rolexsydneyhobart.com)





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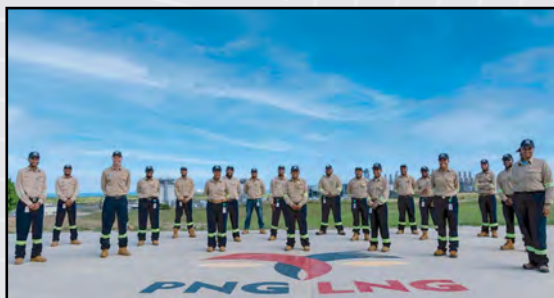


## A Message from Peter Larden, Chairman and Managing Director at ExxonMobil PNG Limited

As ExxonMobil celebrates 100 years of continuous business in Papua New Guinea, we reflect not just on the past century, but on the potential ahead.

We are proud of the legacy we have built, we are proud of the partnerships we have created, and we are committed to strengthening our collaboration with all stakeholders going forward.

In 1922 our downstream business started our journey in this great country with a small fuel products business in Rabaul to supply the emerging local customer base.



ExxonMobil PNG Chairman and Managing Director Peter Larden with the next generation of technical leaders from the PNG LNG Project's Operations and Maintenance trainee program.

Since then, ExxonMobil has focused on opportunities to grow its Papua New Guinean presence. Our continued confidence in PNG led to what you see today, a world class LNG operation and a robust pipeline of investment potential.

ExxonMobil has a proven history of generating value for the State, local landowners, and the people of Papua New Guinea.



ExxonMobil PNG Chairman and Managing Director, Peter Larden (third from right), meets with the Angore Project Pipeline and Construction team.

This success is thanks to the efforts of our Papua New Guinean workforce and the strength of our collaboration with all levels of government, local businesses, partners, and the diverse communities in the areas where we operate.

My journey in Papua New Guinea started 13 years ago, and every minute has been a privilege. From my first role working in the early phase of the PNG LNG Project's construction through today I have been amazed not only by what was being achieved, but by how it was being achieved. Under the leadership of my predecessors Peter Graham and Andrew Barry, ExxonMobil PNG Limited, as operator of the PNG LNG Project, has helped place Papua New Guinea firmly on the world's LNG map.



From left to right, ExxonMobil PNG Chairman and Managing Director Peter Larden, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea the Hon. James Marape, and Mineral Resources Development Company Managing Director Augustine Mano.

While there are many highlights, what stands out for me is how our Papua New Guinean workforce has and continues to set and surpass the highest of standards each and every day. I constantly learn from and am humbled by the efforts of this team, and truly cherish the opportunity to be here in this wonderful country.

Today, ExxonMobil continues to invest in initiatives across our downstream and upstream businesses. We are fiercely passionate about helping create a positive future for all Papua New Guineans, and I remain excited about what Papua New Guinea is and can become.





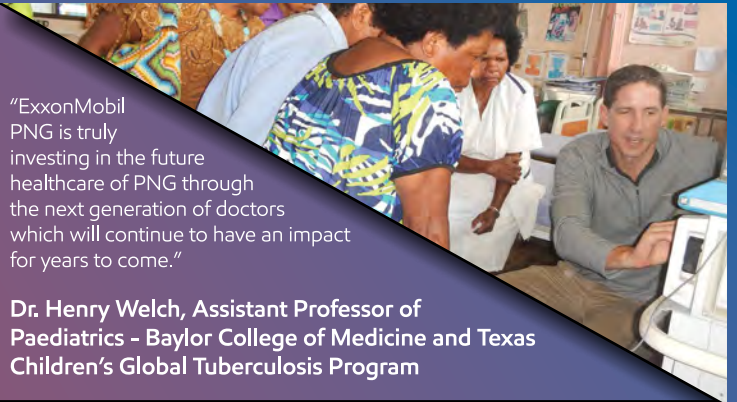
**Anne-Sophie Hermann, Founder - Buk bilong Pikinini**

"For a decade, our partnership with ExxonMobil PNG has helped foster a life-long love of reading and learning that is increasing literacy rates and empowering Papua New Guinean children."



"ExxonMobil PNG is truly investing in the future healthcare of PNG through the next generation of doctors which will continue to have an impact for years to come."

**Dr. Henry Welch, Assistant Professor of Paediatrics - Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Global Tuberculosis Program**



**Larry Andagali, Managing Director - Trans Wonderland Limited (TWL)**

"I worked with ExxonMobil PNG in 2001, I worked with them between 2005 and 2007 during PNG LNG FEED and I have worked with them from 2010 to now. ExxonMobil PNG's partnership with companies like TWL is very important because we can learn from their success and become sustainable just like they have been for the past 100 years."



"I've seen change in people's lives, and I am grateful for the PNG LNG Project. To me, sustainability is when we as people can experience lasting impacts from projects like this."

**Sally Pake, Owner - Mo-Ha Trading**



**Paul Bluett, Chairman and Founder - Islands Petroleum**

"We grew the business together and we are now one of the largest distributors in Papua New Guinea. We enjoy the stability of a relationship with ExxonMobil PNG, and it has enabled us to expand our business."



"The four plant-side villages have benefitted from the PNG LNG Project. ExxonMobil PNG as the developer is our partner in this business and has contributed to our communities."

**Igo Rei, Chairman of the Board at Laba Holdings Limited**



**Libe Parindali, Chairman - Hides Gas Development Company Energy Services (HGDC)**

"We consider ExxonMobil PNG here as our big brother, as our friend, a serious corporate citizen in the community. Because of them we are here."



"The PNG LNG Kumuls partnership, through ExxonMobil PNG, has had a huge impact on the sport over the past ten years by helping us invest in our domestic pathways, our high-performance programs."

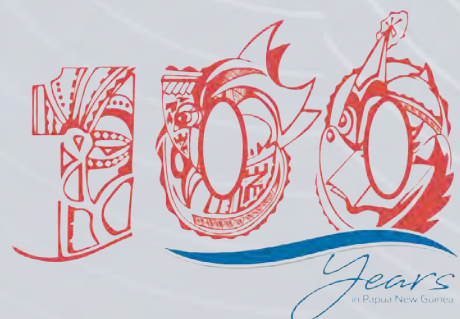
**Sandis Tsaka, Chairman - Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League**



**ExxonMobil**



**Mobil**



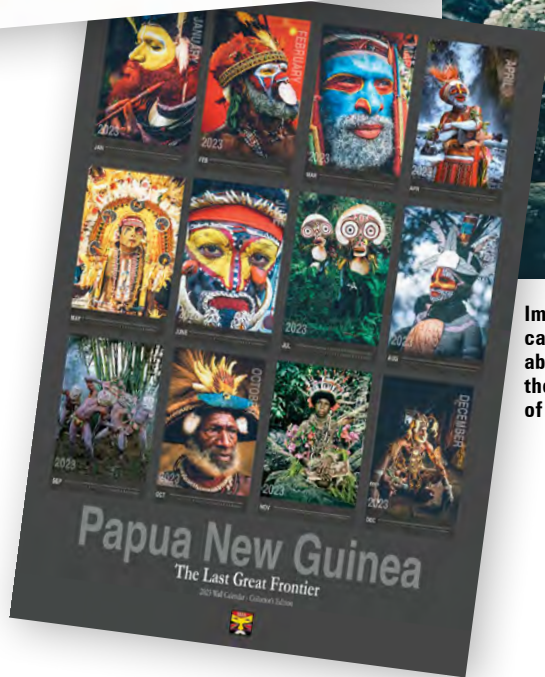








Images that appear in the calendar (opposite, right and above right); the front cover of the A3 calendar (left); the back of the A4 calendar (above left).



# THE YEAR AHEAD



Prolific photographer of Papua New Guinea David Kirkland (left) has released a calendar of some of his favourite photos taken in the country.

The calendar features portraits and photos from cultural events. Among them are the Asaro Mudmen (see them on our cover), Huli Wigmen, a Tufi woman with full-facial tattoo (above) and the Sepik River man (opposite) who wears elaborate body decorations made from shells that are bound together by natural fibres.

"The theme of the calendar is to celebrate PNG's rich traditional culture by featuring strong images of men and women dressed in their traditional *bilas* (costumes)," Kirkland says.

"I've been photographing PNG for more than 30 years and travelled the world on assignment, but PNG remains one of the most fascinating places on the planet because of the diversity and richness of its culture," he says. "For a photographer, it simply doesn't get much better."

The calendar has been released in two formats: a standard-sized A4 wall calendar and a limited-edition A3 version. ■

**The A4 calendars are available for PGK75 through Chin H Meen's retail outlets in PNG, including the shop A Little Something from PNG at Jacksons Airport. The limited-edition calendars (only 500 have been released) are AUD\$50 each and can only be purchased by ordering directly at [david@kirklandphotos.com](mailto:david@kirklandphotos.com).**





# A SNAPSHOT OF INDEPENDENCE

PICTURES: GODFREEMAN KAPTIGAU



Photographer Godfreeman Kaptigau caught the colour of Independence celebrations in Port Moresby on September 16.

"There wasn't a single place that wasn't painted, draped or clothed in black, red and yellow (the traditional colours of Papua New Guinea)," he says.

The country's 47th Independence celebrations included traditional dancing and music representing all of the country's provinces at the University of PNG, a *bilas* fashion show organised by Yumi-FM at Vision City Mega Mall, and smaller community events like those staged at the Bagita Police Barracks in Waigani. ■



The *bilas* fashion show at Vision City Mega Mall (left); Independence celebrations at the Bagita Police Barracks (top right and right).



Joy Havak in traditional *bilas* performs at Independence celebrations in Waigani (left); celebrations at the University of PNG (right).







# ROYAL MEMORIES

Sadness fell over Papua New Guinea with the death of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8 at the age of 96.

The Queen reigned for 70 years and visited PNG three times – in 1984, 1977 and 1982 – with Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. She was affectionately known by many Papua New Guineans as *Missis Kwin*.

The Prime Minister, James Marape, attended the Queen's funeral at Westminster Abbey in London and expressed the nation's deep affection for the Queen to the new monarch, King Charles III.

The PM was among more than 100 world leaders at the state funeral. During a meeting with King Charles, he invited the new monarch to visit PNG.

The conversation was reported like this:  
"Your Majesty, if you don't mind. In three years' time, your country Papua New Guinea will be celebrating 50 years of Independence. I would like to, on behalf of your people in PNG, place a call to you, if you can be our chief guest on that occasion."

King Charles replied: "That's so kind of you, I shall see what I can do. I should have to brush up my Pidgin to make sure. But many, many thanks and my kindest thoughts and wishes to you. I absolutely love Papua New Guinea, which I hold very much in my heart."

PNG is one of five countries in Asia and the Pacific where the British monarch is head of state. They also include Australia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. ■



Queen Elizabeth II shakes hands with Winnie Kiap, the then High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea, during a private audience at Buckingham Palace in 2011 (top left).

Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh were greeted by adoring crowds at the Sir Hubert Murray Stadium in 1982 (above).

Her Majesty inspects a guard of honour at Jacksons Airport in 1982 (left).

Prince Charles, now King Charles III, opens PNG's first parliament (below).





## WINE GURU

**Q:** Why are corks in wine bottles being replaced by screw caps?

**A:** No one is exactly sure who first used cork to keep wine in the bottle, but it is often credited to Dom Perignon, one of the monks responsible for creating French champagne. That was in the 17th century and for over 200 years the pop of a cork became synonymous with celebration and good times.

There is, however, one problem with a cork stopper: it can taint the wine, rendering it 'corked'. A wine is corked when it reacts with the trichloroanisole (TCA), a tiny molecule found in wine that only begins to react when it is sealed with a cork; TCA-tainted wine smells and tastes terrible, with some drinkers describing a bad wine as having the scent of a wet dog.

One way to avoid this problem is to use screw caps that do not contain cork. These caps not only protect the wine better, but also are cheaper, more efficient and easier to open.

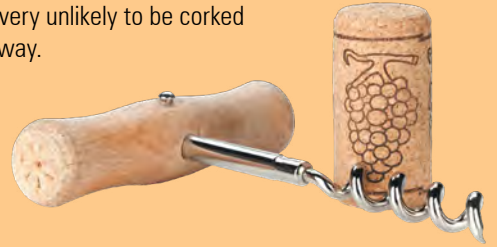
Screw caps were first adapted for wine bottles in the 1950s. They are made of aluminium with a coating of polyethylene that seals and protects the wine. If your wine is sealed with

a screw cap it is very unlikely to be corked or spoiled in any way.

Screw caps were once used for only the cheapest and nastiest wines but in 2022

almost a third of wine bottles around the world are screw cap, including most that you can buy in Papua New Guinea. But the uptake is slow in traditional regions like France.

Screw caps are likely here to stay, but expect cork to linger because it will be a long time before the French establishment fully commits to this new technology. Vive la cork! ■



**Do you have a wine question? Email us at [paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com](mailto:paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com).**

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BY HAL DENTE

## BACCHUS RESTAURANT, AIRWAYS HOTEL, PORT MORESBY PNG REVIEW

**B**acchus is back, and almost as you know it. The grande dame of Port Moresby's fine dining scene underwent a thorough renovation during COVID-19. When we visited on a Saturday evening it was looking sleek but had not lost any of its old charm.

The menu also has a familiar ring to it. It makes the most of Papua New Guinea's outstanding fish and seafood, features a selection of decadent wagyu steaks and, of course, includes the signature crepe suzette, dramatically flambeed at your table.

My wagyu tenderloin was a real treat, cooked perfectly and served with peppercorn sauce, truffle mash and excellent locally grown vegetables. Another highlight was the pistachio and coriander crusted scallops (delightfully complemented with mushroom puree and crispy prosciutto), while you can't go wrong with the catch of the day.

The service was pleasant and faultless, right down to a good matching wine recommendation. If you feel like being spoilt, then Bacchus is still the place to go. ■

### WHERE:

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Parade, Port Moresby

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### WEB:

airways.com.pg

### OPEN:

Daily. Lunch 11.30am–3pm. Dinner 6–10pm.

### STYLE:

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### TYPICAL PRICE:

Appetisers PGK45–79. Mains PGK79–119.  
Wagyu steaks PGK159–199. Desserts PGK39–69.

### OUR FAVOURITE DISH:

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### IN A WORD:

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### Designer carry-on luggage

Designed in Australia using information gleaned from thousands of online luggage reviews, July luggage has responded to customer needs with thoughtful compartments to make packing easy. The hand luggage has a unique eggshell shape that makes it sturdier, and you can add extras like packing cells and luggage tags, or opt to have the cases engraved so they are easier to spot on the carousel. PGK777; [july.com](http://july.com).



### Portable safety door lock

If you are travelling on your own and staying in a holiday home or hotel, the Addalock portable safety lock can give you peace of mind. This portable lock is effectively a wedge that you install to stop someone opening the door while you are inside the room, but does it not damage the door. From PGK63; [addalock.com](http://addalock.com).



### Stylish, compact umbrella

New Zealand umbrella brand Blunt is elevating the humble umbrella with superior engineering and a new, trademarked shape. "Here was a product that had been around for over 150 years and hadn't fundamentally evolved since inception," said Blunt founder, Greig Brebner. It has now. PGK286; [bluntumbrella.com.au](http://bluntumbrella.com.au).



### Colourful plane socks

Make a bright and colourful statement with a new collection from Swedish loud and proud sock maker Happy Socks. The Pretty Ugly collection is one of its most outrageous collections yet. PGK48; [happysocks.com](http://happysocks.com).



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The Bonelk Long-Life Slim 4 Port USB-A 3.0 Hub is a great solution to connect up to four additional USB-A high-speed devices to your laptop, smart device or desktop computer. Create your very own local network in your hotel room or charge multiple devices from one cord. PGK90; [bonelk.com](http://bonelk.com).



### Quality in-flight sound

The EPOS ADAPT 660 is the ideal set of headphones for the remote worker on the move. With 30 hours of battery life, superior sound and call quality, and adaptive tech that changes sound based on your environment, these headphones can keep you working whether you're at home, the office, or on a plane. PGK1050; [eposaudio.com](http://eposaudio.com).

**Prices may vary, depending on currency fluctuations.**





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# 5 QUESTIONS FOR IAN KEMISH

## DIPLOMAT AND AUTHOR OF *THE CONSUL*

Former diplomat Ian Kemish has written an insider's account about the largely unknown world of Australia's diplomatic service, in which he was confronted with some of the most dramatic events in the world, including the September 11 attacks, the Boxing Day tsunami and the Bali bombings.

Among other appointments around the globe, he served as the Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea from 2010 to 2013.

Here, he speaks exclusively to *Paradise* about his time in PNG.

**Q: Can you tell us a bit about your childhood in PNG?**

A: I had a truly happy childhood in PNG, living in Lae, Rabaul and Port Moresby. I look back at my time at Waigani Primary School in the early 1970s, and my Papua New Guinean friends, with great fondness. I made friendships then that remain strong today.

**Q: Why did you want to go back there as the Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea?**

A: The position is one of the most important in the Australian foreign service. The relationship with PNG is of fundamental importance to Australia – from a strategic, economic and cultural perspective. It's one of Australia's largest overseas missions, and our largest development cooperation and defence cooperation

“The kindness and strength of the PNG people surprises many. I was often struck by these attributes.”

”

Ian Kemish served as the Australian High Commissioner to PNG and has written a book about his experiences in the diplomatic corp.

program. So, the primary reason was professional. But of course, my childhood in PNG gave me an additional reason to apply for the role. I was delighted when I was chosen. Part of my role was to support mutual understanding between our two nations. Fortunately, our interests are inseparable – PNG's prosperity and security are in Australia's interests.

**Q: What surprised you about PNG?**

A: The kindness and strength of the people surprises many. I was often struck by these attributes, although perhaps I was less surprised than most given my background.

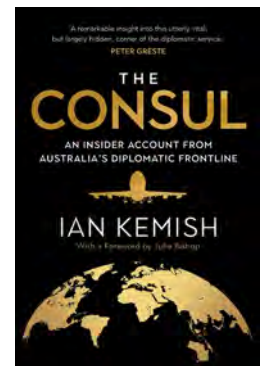
**Q: What were the key issues you faced in PNG?**

A: Supporting the growth of the PNG economy through technical assistance and development support, helping maintain a calm and supportive relationship through a period of considerable political turmoil, and providing extensive civil and defence logistical support for the 2012 elections.

**Q: What are some of your fondest memories in PNG?**

A: Exploring childhood haunts, meeting old friends, travelling in the islands, highlands, and coastal regions of this wonderful country. ■

**The Consul, by Ian Kemish, is published by University of Queensland Press, [uqp.com.au](http://uqp.com.au).**







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## THE ROYALS

### ***Queen of Our Times: The Life of Elizabeth II* By Robert Hardman (Pan Macmillan)**

Renowned writer and broadcaster Robert Hardman started reporting about the monarchy over 30 years ago. He has spoken to sources who met the Queen and has had access to unpublished papers from the Royal Archives to write *Queen of Our Times*, his third book about Elizabeth II (1926–2022). Mixing history, research and anecdotes, including that of Barack Obama's first visit to Buckingham Palace, Hardman paints a detailed picture of the Queen to highlight her legacy and try to define her reign. Starting in 1925 and culminating in 2019 for her Platinum Jubilee, the book highlights the Queen's love for her job, her relationship with her husband and her capacity to not dwell in the past. From her coronation to COVID-19 and the most recent controversies around her family, *Queen of Our Times* is one of Elizabeth II's most complete and intimate biographies.



## MEMOIR

### ***So Far, So Good* By Aaron Fa'aoso with Michelle Scott Tucker (Pantera Press)**

At six, Aaron Fa'aoso lost his father and grandfather. Two extraordinary women, his mother and grandmother, raised him to be a survivor. But what happens when you are raised this way and live in a culture that perpetuates racism and violence? You don't give up: Fa'aoso became a professional footballer joining the Canterbury Bulldogs rugby league club in Sydney, Australia, worked as a Kings Cross bouncer, was a community health worker and eventually became an acclaimed actor and the owner and manager of production company Lone Star Productions. But the road to success wasn't easy. Fa'aoso lost his wife under tragic circumstances and faced other challenges. This memoir centres on his healing journey, placing community and family at the centre of an inspiring story about succeeding despite all odds. This is the first memoir commercially published by a Torres Strait Islander.



## BUSINESS

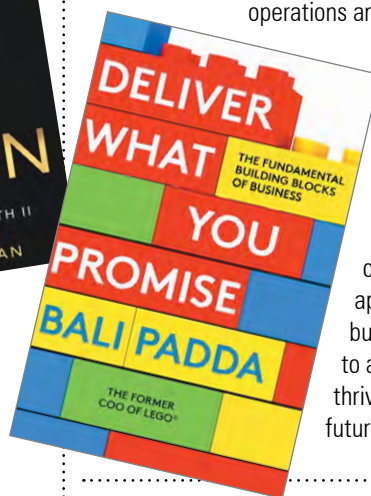
### ***Deliver What You Promise* By Bali Padda (Allen & Unwin)**

Also available as an audiobook

What does it take to turn a business into the biggest toy brand in the world? In *Deliver What You Promise*, British-Indian business executive Bali Padda, LEGO's former chief operating officer and first non-Danish CEO, explains in 10 succinct business lessons how he shook up operations and resolved supply issues to turn LEGO

into the biggest toy brand in the world.

Padda's secrets, including cutting unpopular product lines, a focus on excellent customer service and weekly performance briefings, can apply to any business. Insight and advice about discipline, execution, focus, transparency, collaboration and the art of negotiating appear in these pages, providing a business masterclass easily accessible to anyone – from the CEO who wants to thrive to those in the planning stages of a future enterprise.



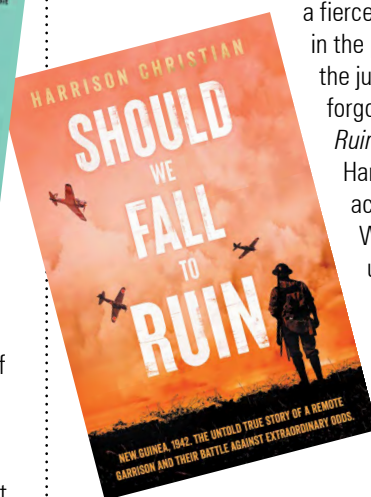
## WAR

### ***Should We Fall to Ruin* By Harrison Christian (Ultimo Press)**

Also available as an audiobook

In 1942, Japanese forces invaded New Guinea, then part of Australia. There, a small garrison of Allied soldiers, known as Lark Force, put up

a fierce resistance and fought the Japanese in the port of Rabaul, later escaping into the jungle. Their efforts had been long forgotten, until now. In *Should We Fall to Ruin*, New Zealand journalist and writer Harrison Christian draws from first-person accounts and explores this chapter of World War 2 history. The book tells us what happened to these soldiers and nurses who had no means to escape the island. With a gripping prose, Christian sheds light on a forgotten yet important chapter of the war. ■







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# AT THE MOVIES

What's happening in the world of cinema



## FAMOUS FACES LINE UP FOR AWARDS

The Academy Awards will be held on March 13, which means all the big award wannabes are making their way on to screens across the globe. That means cinemas as well as streaming on television.

As usual, there is a very heavy slate of biopics for audiences to watch because the Academy loves nothing more than famous people portraying other famous people.

Baz Luhrmann's *Elvis* was a big hit in 2022. Netflix recently released the (partly fictionalised) Marilyn Monroe biopic *Blonde* starring Ana De Armas (*Knives Out*) to very loud controversy. This is because many viewers have suggested it is obsessed with her many R-rated traumas instead of her ground-breaking achievements in Hollywood.

Elsewhere in 2022 and 2023, there are movies, there are movies about Whitney Houston, Golda Meir, civil rights icon Mamie Till and the heroes of the Thai cave rescue.

Despite all of those names, the most likely to be a hit with Oscar voters may be *Meet the Fablemans*. This autobiographical drama from Steven Spielberg follows his own journey to becoming the most famous film director of all time. Who can resist?

## MALAYSIAN ACTRESS HAS OSCAR IN HER SIGHTS

Speaking of the Academy Awards, the 95-year-old institution could be on the verge of breaking one of its most shameful streaks. Michelle Yeoh is currently in a strong position to become the first woman of Asian descent to win a Best Actress Oscar.

Her performance in the beloved *Everything Everywhere All at Once* is a blend of her varied acting history, fusing drama with comedy and adding kung-fu. She wasn't labelled the female Jackie Chan for nothing!

Yeoh will likely face off against big names like Australia's Cate Blanchett (*Tar*) and Margot Robbie (*Babylon*), Viola Davis (*The Woman King*) and Ana De Armas (*Blonde*).

Only one Asian performer has won an Academy Award, and that was Miyoshi Umeki for *Sayonara* way back in 1959.

Yeoh's sparring partner, Ke Huy Quan, is also considered a strong contender for his comeback performance after having quit acting for decades after *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and *The Goonies* in the 1980s.



## PREVIEW

### *Avatar: The Way of Water*

**Cast:** Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Kate Winslet

A re-release of the record-breaking *Avatar* delivered strong box office returns in October. It's rare for a 13-year-old film to return to cinemas and to do so well again, but this science fiction adventure has indeed proven more successful than many brand-new releases.

This is no doubt thanks to its combination of groundbreaking 3D technology and digital remastering. The film's re-release was in anticipation of the sequel *Avatar: The Way of Water*.

Technical innovation is at the new movie's forefront, and for this edition actors trained underwater so that they could remain in massive water tanks for minutes at a time while being filmed by 3D cameras.

The result is something truly spectacular – the *Avatars* look like no other movies ever made. It's why the original made \$US2 billion at the international box office and why the new one may just match it.

## WHAT TO WATCH IN CINEMAS

### December

*The Banshees of Inisherin*. Colin Farrell is remarkable in this laugh-out-loud funny Irish movie that is a reunion for the team behind *In Bruges*.

### January

*I Wanna Dance with Somebody*. Naomi Ackie stars as Whitney Houston in this biopic.

### February

*Magic Mike's Last Dance*. This comedy with Channing Tatum is based on his own life experiences before he was a huge star.

**Port Moresby's Paradise Cinema screens many of the movies mentioned in 'At the Movies'. For screening dates and session times see [paradisecinemaspng.com](http://paradisecinemaspng.com).**





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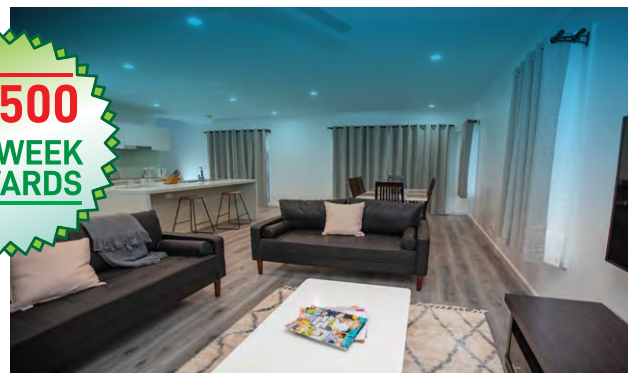
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# MADE IN PNG

## A SPECIAL FEATURE



# THE COUNTRY'S PRIDE & JOY

**G**reat things are happening in Papua New Guinea, and in this special feature we celebrate some of the country's manufacturing success stories.

Products made and created in PNG come in many forms, from chocolates and beer, to bridges and bricks.

This PNG ingenuity is derived from a variety of sectors, including smallholder businesses, creative minds working in the fields of fashion and technology, and bigger companies that have become household names.

They include companies like Monier, which employs hundreds of Papua New Guineans and is the biggest manufacturer of construction materials in the country, Trukai Industries, which is a leading supplier of rice, South Pacific Brewery, famous for its SP beers, and Paradise Foods, one of the country's biggest food manufacturers.

On the following pages we go behind the scenes of some of these companies and tell the stories of their remarkable enterprises.







# STRONG FOUNDATIONS IN PNG

**W**hen it comes to construction, Monier is the largest producer, supplier and distributor of construction materials and building products in Papua New Guinea. The products are used in everything from major projects to home renovations.

The Port Moresby based company employs about 300 staff, most of them Papua New Guineans, and has been in business in the country for more than 60 years.

Just look around town, and you'll find somewhere that Monier has been involved, including the LNG Project, APEC Haus, the Hilton Hotel, the ExxonMobil headquarters, several embassy buildings, the John Guise Stadium, and the Kumul overpass.

The name Monier dates to 1887, when Joseph Monier exhibited his inventions of iron mesh-reinforced concrete in the Paris Exposition. The modern day Monier, based in PNG, was established in 1958 and was purchased in 2005 by the late Chief Sir Theophilus G. Constantinou.

Monier operates several divisions, including quarry and sand material supply, ready-mix concrete supply, and finished concrete products. The latter consists of a specialist pre-cast division, a reinforced concrete pipes division, Masonry concrete blocks and a pavers division. Monier also has a specific plastic division known as Monier Water Solutions, which offers a range of water and

PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY MONIER



Monier is the largest producer of construction materials in PNG.

septic tanks as well as HDPE polyethylene (plastic) pipes.

He says that externally, Monier is committed to the community it operates in, providing funding and facilities for a school in Port Moresby, as well as support for Buk Bilong Pikinini.

“

Monier products are used in everything from major projects to home renovations.

”

Monier is part of the Constantinou Group, which places healthcare as a high priority for the community. The organisation provides support to Port Moresby General Hospital through the affiliation with the Sir Theo Foundations and has undertaken projects such as the Port Moresby General Hospital car park upgrade and assisting with the installation of the Lady Maria Constantinou Palliative Care Ward, which opened in 2020. These projects allow for the better allocation of hospital funds.

During the recent pandemic Constantinou Group contributed its services to the healthcare industry to prepare testing centres around Port Moresby, and also contributed much needed funds to assist with the pandemic response at the Port Moresby General Hospital. ■

## THE TOAST OF THE NATION

The South Pacific Brewery (SP) is one of the oldest and best-known companies in Papua New Guinea and the brewery's SP lager is one of its most popular products.

The lager, in green cans and brown bottles, first came out on November 26, 1952. It won its first international recognition in 1964 and since then it has won several international Monde Awards, which recognise high quality in consumer goods.

Since the 1950s, SP has played a significant role in supporting various community activities, from sports to cultural events, boat races, music

festivals, and even local bands. One of the early sponsorships was for the popular local string band Gwadus.

The current slogan for the beer is *bungim yumi*, which means bring us together.

The company believes that the national beer does bring Papua new Guineans together to celebrate the great things about the country.

“With all its diversity, only a few national brands can actually bring Papua New Guineans together from all walks of life and that is SP Lager,” says SP Brewery Managing Director Ed Weggemans. ■



Blast from the past – SP lager as it looked years earlier.







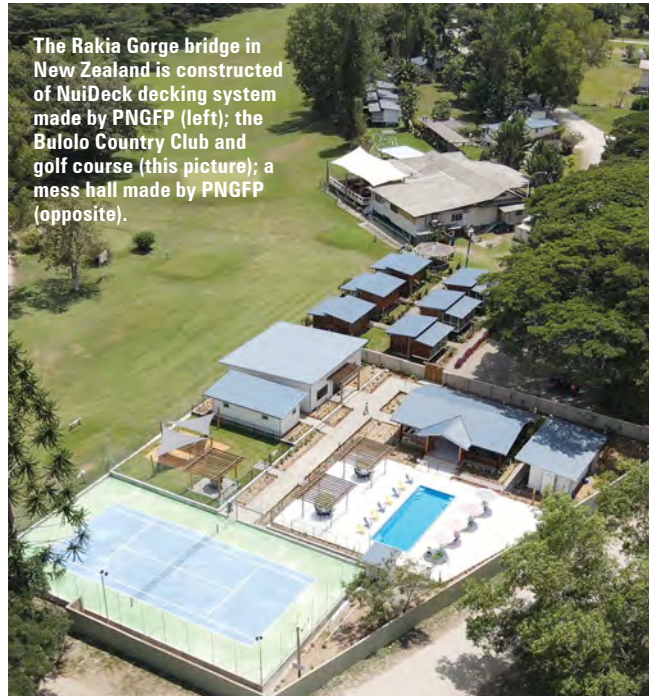
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PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY PNGFP



The Rakia Gorge bridge in New Zealand is constructed of NuiDeck decking system made by PNGFP (left); the Bulolo Country Club and golf course (this picture); a mess hall made by PNGFP (opposite).

# RAISING THE ROOF

PNG Forest Products is a company building PNG and the South Pacific, piece by piece.

If you are standing in a school, a health clinic or workers' quarters in Papua New Guinea, there is a fair chance the building has been made by PNG Forest Products (PNGFP).

The Port Moresby based company is the largest supplier of timber housing and infrastructure projects in the South Pacific, delivering more than 10,000 buildings in the region and more than 2000 in PNG, including 1000 PNG school buildings.

PNGFP supplies PNG's only kit-set buildings, engineered to PNG and Australian building codes, that are preservative pressure treated to protect from termites and rotting.

The company also provides pressure-treated pine timber and plywood, and produces kit homes, modular bridges and bridge decking.

The company's Managing Director, Tony Honey, says: "We are producing and

“  
PNGFP is the largest  
supplier of timber housing  
and infrastructure projects  
in the South Pacific.

”  
exporting some innovative and interesting  
engineered wood products that are value  
adding to an otherwise basic piece of  
plywood.”

He says modular bridges and decking  
are being exported to Australia and New  
Zealand, along with specialised railway  
bridge re-decking, sound barriers along  
Australian highways and rail corridors, and

scarf-jointed bus and train floors for Australia,  
New Zealand, and Malaysia.

The origins of the company go back to the  
early 1920s, when Bulolo Gold Dredging  
Limited (BGD) was developing alluvial mining  
operations in the Bulolo Valley.

To facilitate this large-scale operation,  
housing was needed in the valley for  
hundreds of workers and their families. So  
BGD secured timber permits, established  
a sawmill and joinery, and set about  
building a town, complete with school  
and hospital.

By the mid-1930s, eight dredges worked  
the valley floor, powered by BGD's own  
hydro-power stations. As the operation grew,  
so did the town and the need for  
more timber.

To meet this demand, the Forestry  
Department eventually established a pine







nursery and reforestation program. More than 60,000 pine trees were planted in 1948, and each year thereafter.

When the mining operation scaled down, BGD formed Commonwealth New Guinea Timbers Ltd and constructed a plywood factory. Plywood production and the export of the product overseas started in 1954, signalling the birth of a new industry.

Today, PNGFP employs about 1300 Papua New Guineans and is committed to building a better future through sustainable manufacturing practices.

Timber is sourced from renewable pine plantations managed by PNG Forest Services. Sawdust and wood chip waste from the mills are utilised to power the boilers for the veneer driers and kilns.

PNGFP also works in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Conservation to ensure that the best environmental practices are maintained.



As a further commitment to sustainability, the company's manufacturing facilities in Bulolo are powered by its own hydro-power stations, one of which was originally established by the BGD company in the 1930s.

Operating three hydro-power stations, with a fourth nearing completion, PNGFP

is the only independent power producer in the country that supplies hydro-power to PNG Power.

In Bulolo, PNGFP also operates a supermarket, bakery, butchery, liquor store, hardware store, service station, country club, abattoir, poultry farm and a 600-hectare cattle farm, all servicing the town and surrounding districts.

"Our future lies in adding value to our resources, whether it be timber, land or water," says Honey. "Improved recovery from our log supply is essential, as is developing new products for our Pacific region.

"Continuing our diversity through power generation, forest products, and poultry and cattle operations develops employment and sustainable income. Continuing reinvestment in our business is the key to our continued viability and the core to our future success," he says. ■

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# PNG COFFEE HITS A SWEET SPOT

Mary O'Brien reports that good things are on the brew in PNG.



PNG coffee beans (above);  
coffee exporter Elijah Harro (left).

**P**apua New Guinea coffee is grown on mountain slopes, in rainforests and along fertile valleys. These areas are remote and coffee farmers often must walk for days over rough terrain to the nearest coffee station to sell their produce.

While we all love our daily coffee, few of us realise the hard work that goes into producing it. The best coffee is the arabica variety, grown by small farmers using traditional methods.

PNG coffee is ranked among the best in the world and often scores at the top end of specialty coffee grades, says coffee exporter Elijah Harro.

"People say our coffee has got a very nice taste – it's balanced, clean and sweet," he says.

Goroka businessman and farmer Harro was delighted with the reaction to the samples he brought to the Melbourne International Coffee Expo in Australia in September. About 25,000 people visited the trade show.

Harro founded Alpha Coffee, a collective of small farmers from the Eastern Highlands, about seven years ago. About 400 farmers supply beans to the collective.

"We represent our small-holder growers, and we want to assist our growers to find a market in Australia," he says.

Coffee is grown in 18 of PNG's 22 provinces and it's the second-most important agricultural commodity, according to the World Coffee Research organisation. While the country supplies less than one per cent of the world's coffee exports, it's the second-largest producer of washed arabica in Asia.

It's also one of the few cash crops in the country and it offers farmers a path out of poverty. In 2019, about 752,000 bags of coffee were produced.

The Eastern Highlands is the second-largest coffee-growing area after the Western Highlands. Alpha Coffee focuses ➤







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on single-origin arabica, a mix of the arusha, typica and PNG blue mountain varieties. These typically score between 85 and 89 points (which means 'excellent') on the international Q grading system for coffee.

Harro has his own two-hectare farm near Goroka. If 10 farmers each supply 30 bags of coffee, they will have enough to fill a shipping container and supply roasters directly, he explains.

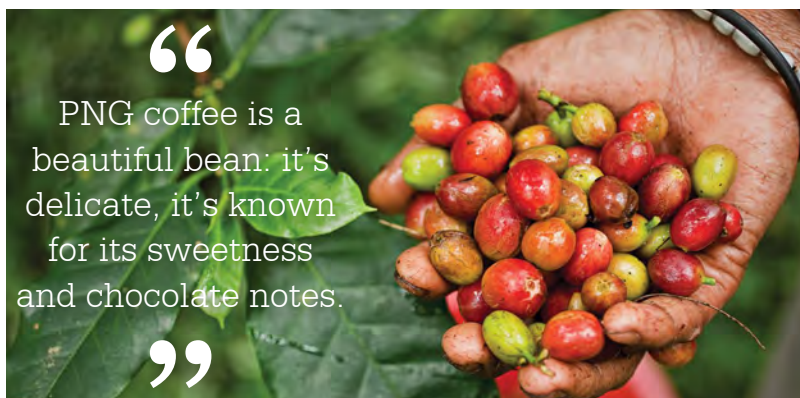
"We need to explore the possibility of getting the small grower to supply the small roaster and the only way to do it is through the consolidation of their stock," Harro says.

If small holders can sell directly to specialty roasters, they will earn between 25 per cent and 35 per cent more, he says.

The money from coffee helps families pay school fees, increases living standards and improves farming techniques.

Almost all PNG coffee is organic. It's organic by default because farmers use traditional methods and cannot afford pesticides or fertilisers. Unfortunately for PNG growers, it's often too expensive to go through the organic certification process, which takes years.

Quality is essential as small roasters are searching for high-grade coffee beans.



Harro says he had samples from 12 farmers for the expo but rejected eight because they didn't make the grade.

There is a strong demand in Australia, the US, Germany and Japan for quality PNG coffee. As Australia is the closest market, it is the most attractive one. Coffee is shipped and arrives within one to two weeks, and this means farmers are paid quickly.

"The future is bright if Papua New Guinea growers can focus on quality and increasing volume over time," says Jeremy Grennell, Australia's general manager of exports at Pacific Trade Invest.

"Coffee feeds a lot of families, and the coffee industry provides a really good income for those people that grow coffee," he says.

As coffee prices are rising globally, Grennell says Papua New Guinea farmers are in a sweet spot.

The other good news is that since August PNG has had a minister for coffee, which is thought to be the first coffee ministry in the world.

Harro hopes his country's coffee will get to more international shows in the future. "PNG coffee has its own story and it's a story we have to sell to be able to get out our message about it," he says. ■

## THE ROASTER: GINA DI BRITA

**A**ustralian specialty coffee roaster Gina Di Brita is a big fan of Papua New Guinea beans.

Di Brita, who owns Numero Uno Coffee Roasters in St Peter's in Sydney, is also an international coffee judge.

She says she was blown away when she initially sampled some of the Alpha Coffee.

"PNG coffee is a beautiful bean: it's delicate, it's known for its sweetness and chocolate notes," she says. "It's got a balanced acidity."

She believes this coffee is special because of the environment where it's grown, and the traditional methods used.

"It's quite nice as a single origin and it's good as a filter coffee and we can roast it to suit."

Di Brita co-founded the International Women's Coffee Alliance in Australia and won the Eleonora Genovese Australian Coffee Woman of the Year award in 2019.

She travelled to PNG three years ago and formed a connection with the farming communities there.

"I fell in love with the story and the people behind the coffee," she says.

Di Brita, who used to be a tobacco farmer in Australia's Far North Queensland, understands how difficult it is to grow any produce.

"Being an ex-farmer, I really do connect very quickly and passionately with people of the land."

After suffering setbacks and seeing production drop in recent years, PNG coffee is making a comeback, Di Brita believes. Younger baristas and roasters have yet to discover how good PNG coffee can be.

Women play a very important part in the coffee-growing industry, she says. There are many women growers who own their own coffee gardens.

"The women are such a vital presence in every sector of the coffee journey – they really are the backbone of all the coffee regions."

"Some carry bags of coffee on their heads and walk for a couple of days until they get to a local market to sell their coffee; it's extraordinary."





# FEEDING THE NATION







# LIFTING THE LID

## ON PNG'S FAVOURITE CHOCOLATES

Karina Makori, the General Manager of Queen Emma chocolates, tells *Paradise* about the business of making chocolate.

Since starting production in 2016, Queen Emma chocolate has become one of Papua New Guinea's most recognised and loved products.

The brand is named after Emma Coe, a Samoan who settled in PNG in 1878, set up large coconut plantations and started growing cocoa.

She became so well respected that she

became affectionately known as Queen Emma of New Guinea.

Her namesake chocolate is so popular that today 120 tonnes of it is churned out annually by Paradise Foods Limited, one of the biggest food manufacturing companies in PNG.

Karina Makori, the General Manager of the company's chocolate operation, says the chocolate is natural, with no added preservatives or deodorising agents.

"We use only best cocoa beans bought directly from smallholder farmers, so when you buy a bar of Queen Emma chocolate you know you are helping PNG growers," she says.

### How many different chocolates do you make?

Our current range comes in three flavours: dark, milk and white chocolate. We have four sizes, beginning with a small treat-size 15g to the 140g family sharing block. Then, we have a range of catering products used for pastries and desserts, which are easy to use even for home cooks, such as chocolate chips, chocolate buttons and cocoa powder. And for those who want to make their own yummy chocolates, we have ingredients such as cocoa liquor, cocoa butter and roasted cocoa nibs.

### Which chocolate bar is most popular?

The most popular is our white chocolate bar. It's a very different taste

to usual white chocolate, not too sweet, and it is great for ganache. Several leading cake makers use it for wedding cakes.

### What's the secret to the success of the chocolate?

I think the success is in the cocoa beans we use. Our Papua New Guinea cocoa is really an explosion of flavours. There's a variety of bitter, sweet and fruity flavour notes.

### Are they sold overseas?

We are already exporting bulk cocoa ingredients like cocoa liquor, butter and powder to Australia and New Zealand. Recently we went overseas to scout the international market and we were overwhelmed with the interest shown for our products. We are in the final stages of embarking on expansion of our chocolate factory, so we are excitedly looking forward to having Queen Emma chocolate bars sold soon in supermarkets internationally.

### Are all ingredients, such as cocoa, sourced locally?

Yes, it all comes from PNG. We are currently supporting over 2000 farmers in Bougainville, Morobe, Milne Bay, Madang and Central provinces.

### How many people are employed making chocolate?

Our team has grown from two part-time staff hand-making and hand-wrapping chocolates in a small room to 35 full-time Papua New Guinean staff. ■



MAIN PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY PARADISE FOODS LIMITED



Karina Makori says more than 2000 smallholder farmers in PNG supply cocoa for Queen Emma chocolates.







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## BIG GAS

### What it will mean for PNG businesses

The partners in the Papua LNG gas project – TotalEnergies, ExxonMobil and Santos – provided an extensive briefing late in 2022 about the project to the business community in Port Moresby.

The project is expected to be the single largest constructed in PNG since the completion of the PNG LNG project in 2014, and will provide many opportunities for Papua New Guinean businesses, according to the briefing.

Previous estimates suggest the project, based on the Elk and Antelope gas fields in Gulf Province, will require investment in excess of US\$10 billion (PGK35.2 billion).

While a final investment decision (FID) on the project is not expected until the end of 2023, the process of front-end engineering and design has started, and businesses in PNG have been invited to pre-register for both early works contracts, and for work under the expected engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contracts that will follow FID.

“

Businesses attending the briefing were advised of the intent to involve local companies wherever possible.

”

The construction phase of the project, which is expected to take until early 2028, will be managed primarily by TotalEnergies, with ExxonMobil PNG taking responsibility for the expansion of its LNG plant in Caution Bay near Port Moresby, from where the Papua LNG gas will be exported.



PICTURE: EXXONMOBIL

According to presentations from TotalEnergies and ExxonMobil PNG, while the project's major EPC contracts won't be issued until after FID, early works are expected to commence upstream at the Elk and Antelope gas fields as early as quarter one of 2023.

These will provide an early opportunity for local businesses to get involved in the project.

Due to the lack of infrastructure close to the fields, 45 kilometres of new roads and bridges will need to be constructed, as well as a new quay, logistical base, and airstrip infrastructure at the project's Herd Base on the Purari River. Early works for this stage will include the construction of a quarry.

Once FID is achieved, work will commence on the construction of an upstream central processing facility close to Herd Base, to process both condensate and gas from the fields. Work on this is planned to commence in quarter two of 2024 and be completed before the end of 2027.

Once processed, the condensate and gas will be sent down a set of parallel pipelines, running 64 kilometres overland to Oroko Bay in Gulf Province, and then for 260 kilometres across the Gulf of Papua to ExxonMobil's LNG Plant at Caution Bay near Port Moresby. Pipeline construction is scheduled to start in early 2024 and finish in quarter one of 2027.

While a formal national content plan of the Papua LNG project had yet to be

signed off (when *Paradise* went to press) by the Minister for Petroleum, Kerenga Kua, businesses attending the briefing were advised of the intent to involve local companies wherever possible. Given the complexity of the project, there are likely to be several levels of cascading contracts operating under the EPC contracts.

Products and services for which the Papua LNG project is seeking expressions of interest include civil works, security, training, transport and logistics, accommodation, catering, ICT services, waste management, medical services, engineering, recruitment, plant equipment supply, construction supplies and food and drinking water supply.

More briefings and forums are expected during 2023 as the project progresses towards FID. ■

**The stories in our 'Strictly Business' section were first published in PNG's online business magazine, [businessadvantagepng.com](http://businessadvantagepng.com), and are re-published by arrangement with Business Advantage International.**







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# 5 QUESTIONS FOR MAURO LEONE

Area General Manager of Intercontinental Hotels Group, PNG

The Intercontinental Hotels Group (IHG) is represented by the Holiday Inn & Suites, Holiday Inn Express and the Crowne Plaza Residences in Port Moresby.

**Q: How has business been this year?**

A: There's no doubt, quarter one provided a rocky start, because we were hoping to continue the great business of providing (COVID-19) quarantine facilities. 2021 was a record year for us. All the Port Moresby hotels did very well. But as of February 1 (2022), all quarantine just about stopped.

Fast forward to quarter three and we did a mid-40 per cent occupancy in the Holiday Inn Express, which is fantastic given the hotel had been closed for two years. A major driver (of guests) for the Express is derived through the Kokoda Trail arrivals, which look to return in March 2023. October was a record month for the group. Our Crowne Plaza Residences



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did mid-90 per cent occupancy, the Holiday Inn did mid-80 per cent. We think business is going to continue well ...

**Q: There are signs that the planned Papua LNG project is starting to influence the economy.**

A: The recent project briefings (see our story previous page) showed the different project development phases, and it looks like it starts to ramp up in quarter four of 2023. And that's only one project we're talking about. If all the anticipated projects come onboard, we are not going to have enough rooms or apartments in Port Moresby. In 2011, during the PNG LNG boom, there was a shortage of accommodation, triggering construction which then led to oversupply. But if all the projects that are on paper come to fruition, it's going to be another 10 years of growth.

**Q: The Crowne Plaza Residences are in a great location. What kind of people are you appealing to with that property?**

“

If all the anticipated (gas) projects come onboard, we are not going to have enough rooms or apartments in Port Moresby.

”

A: It's the serviced apartment market: about 80 per cent of our guests there are long-term. We have two- and three-bedroom apartments (some facing the ocean). We have a fully equipped gym, with state-of-the-art conferencing facilities. And we have the Port Terrace Restaurant, which

undoubtedly has the best sunset view in Port Moresby.

**Q: What plans are there to revamp the Holiday Inn precinct?**

A: The business centre on the ground floor of the Holiday Inn & Suites will be replaced with a 'Grab and Go' cafe. The existing Kopi Haus Restaurant will be refurbished. We're adding a wood-fired pizza oven from Italy and an Argentinian grill. We are now in talks to open a beer garden too. This should all be done by early 2023.

**Q: IHG has a very strong loyalty program, IHG One Rewards, which must be a big selling point.**

A: There is no doubt that part of our success was due to our loyalty program, IHG One Rewards. If you look at most people coming into Port Moresby for work, they have to stay somewhere, and you might as well earn points while you're staying. Our guests use their points in over 6000 hotels globally. ■



# Forging your own path

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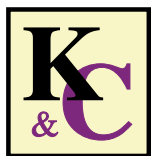


# MINUTE EXPERT

## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

In the time it takes you to read this page, you'll become an expert on GDP.

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**G**DP, or gross domestic product, is one of the most important measures in economics.

It is the figure used to assess the size of a nation's economy and whether it is growing. If GDP is increasing it means the economy is faring well; if it has declined for more than six months, it means the country is in a recession.

### WHAT IS GDP EXACTLY?

GDP is a measure of transactions, or how much money has changed hands. It is defined as the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country in a specific time period. Usually, that period is a year. Economists compare how much money has been transacted in the current year compared with the same time a year earlier.

### HOW BIG IS PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S GDP?

In 2021, PNG's GDP was PGK96.32 billion, according to the World Bank. That represents 0.02 per cent of the world economy.

### WHAT IS GDP PER CAPITA?

This measure is calculated by dividing GDP by the number of people in the population. It provides a crude measure of how much income people on average earn and indicates what stage of economic development the country is at. In 2021, PNG's GDP per capita was PGK10,266, which was a 5.78 per cent increase from 2020. It is generally agreed that a country needs at least a GDP per capita equivalent to PGK35,000 before it can be considered to be 'developed'.

### WHAT IS GDP PURCHASING POWER?

GDP measures how much money changes hands, but it does not measure what that money actually buys. This can vary substantially from country to country. Economists attempt to adjust for this by using a measure called GDP purchasing power parity. According to World Economics Research, PNG's GDP in purchasing power parity terms in 2021 was PGK130 billion. That is significantly higher than the estimate for the country's base GDP, implying that Papua New Guineans can purchase more with their money than people in many developed economies.

### HOW USEFUL IS GDP AS A MEASURE OF PNG'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE?

GDP is a good measure of the formal economy, where all monetary transactions are recorded. But it is not useful for assessing the informal economy, where transactions are either not recorded or there are exchanges that do not involve money, such as barter. It is estimated that about 80 per cent of PNG's population is involved in the informal economy, which implies that there are severe shortcomings when using GDP to assess economic activity in the country (in developed countries, by contrast, the entire population will be in the formal economy). To get a realistic picture of PNG's economy, it is necessary to look beyond the basic economic statistics. ■





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For business or pleasure, these items are sure to catch the attention of executives.

## Technology

### New Apple Watch Series 8

The updated Apple watch has new features including health sensors to measure temperature and blood oxygen, a crash detection function that calls emergency services in case of an accident, and an enhanced workout app. It is also a tougher design that can take more knocks. From PGK1380; apple.com.



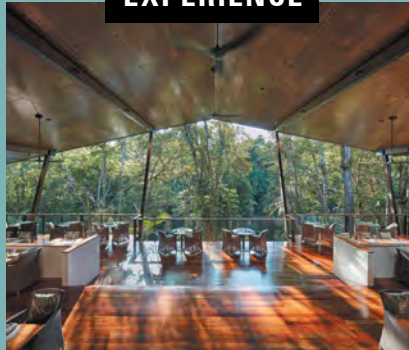
## Wrist bling

### For her

The Cartier Love Bracelet has remained a cult classic for decades. The bracelet is literally screwed onto the wearer's wrist using its own mini screwdriver, designed as an ode to the bond of love between giver and receiver. PGK21,000; luxeitfwd.com.au.



## EXPERIENCE



### Queensland retreat

Renowned as one of Australia's enduring luxury resorts, Tropical North Queensland hideaway Silky Oaks Lodge reopened in December 2021 following a multimillion-dollar rebuild by the team at Baillie Lodges, bringing their globally lauded style and sensitivity to a genuinely iconic lodge and location in the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest. From PGK1195 per night; silkyoakslodge.com.au.



## Style

### Cool shades

Inspired by a love of travel, the Rhodin range has a variety of stylish sunglasses that will have you looking fashionable. The Rhodin Collection 50/50 Dust Sunglasses have a classic, retro look with tinted brown lenses that are protected to UV400 to keep you safe too. About PGK175; rhodincollection.com.



## Wrist bling

### For him

Combining style with functionality, the Cartier Roadster Watch is a timeless design. The stainless steel timepiece with black dial and luminous hour markers is made in Switzerland with a brushed stainless steel case and strap. PGK7500; luxeitfwd.com.au.



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- ▶ Visitor/sports person (60 days)
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- ▶ Business short-term single entry
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NOTE: PNG Government has allowed visa auto-grant only to selected visa classes under the Visitor visa category and the Restricted Employment Visa (REV).

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## TRAVEL UPDATE

### COVID-19 VACCINATION CARD

It is a requirement to attach your Covid-19 vaccination certificate and a Supplementary Health Form each time you apply for a visa.

### VISA ON ARRIVAL (VOA)

VOA for all eligible nationalities remain suspended until further notice.

### PASSPORT VALIDITY

Your passport must be valid for over 6 months.

### WORK PERMIT

Foreign nationals who will be engaged in formal employment in the private sector needs a work permit approval before applying for a visa. Your employer is responsible for sponsoring your permits.

### PRIORITY PROCESSING

A standard priority processing fee of US\$2,000 applies to all visa categories for fast track processing within 24 - 48 hours.

### VISA AND WORK PERMIT FORMS

You can download the forms on PNG Immigration website.

### MIGRATION FEE

You can pay your migration fee for visa, passport and all other migration charges online by creating a MICA Account on the official website [www.ica.gov.pg](http://www.ica.gov.pg)

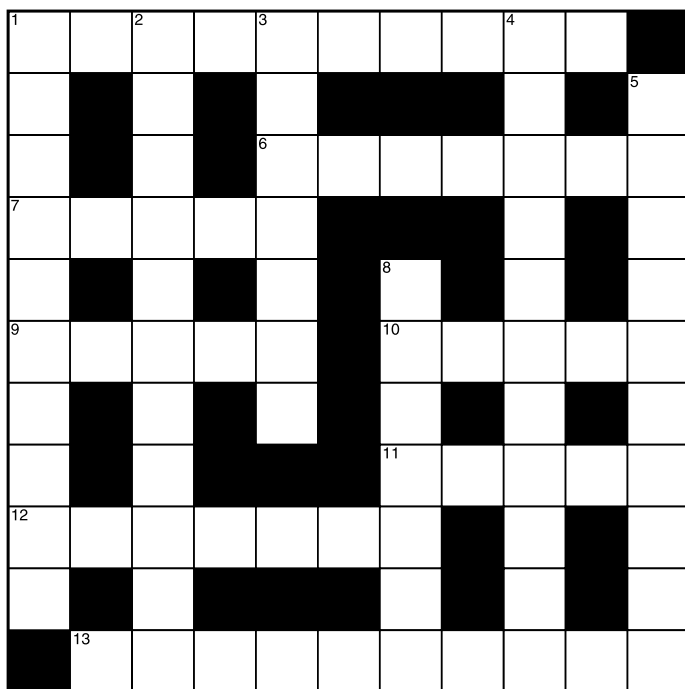


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### DoubleTake

Tackle either set of these clues – you can even mix and match them, because the solutions are the same for both sets.



### CRYPTIC CLUES

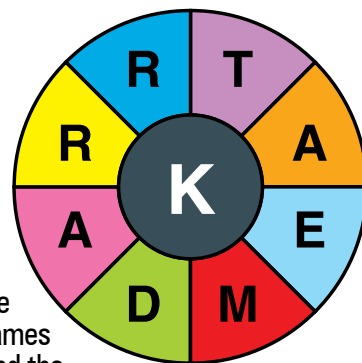
#### ACROSS

1. Loses grip on heavenly creature in city (3,7)
6. Meet on the water (7)
7. Actions outlined in documents (5)
9. Cared about tree (5)
10. Supply food for feline queen (5)
11. Sheepish sign? (5)
12. Enclose in envelope almost completely (7)
13. Short races arranged for big bands (10)

#### DOWN

1. Brings cloaks to earth and designs garden (10)
2. Prison warder stands over chauffeur with handy device (11)
3. Plant centre for babies? (7)
4. An amusing host? (11)
5. Cafe employees told to put locks on the scales (10)
8. Scratches minor fights (7)

### Wheel Words



Create as many words of 4 letters or more using the given letters once only but always including the middle letter. Do not use proper names or plurals. See if you can find the 9-letter word using up all letters.

10 Good

13 Very Good

16+ Excellent

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### STRAIGHT CLUES

#### ACROSS

1. Hollywood is there (3,7)
6. Boat race gala (7)
7. Accomplishments (5)
9. Fragrant timber (5)
10. Pander (to every whim) (5)
11. Zodiac ram (5)
12. Wrap around (7)
13. Musical ensembles (10)

#### DOWN

1. Scenic paintings (10)
2. Vodka/OJ cocktail (11)
3. Infant's room (7)
4. Showbiz celebrity (11)
5. Restaurant workers (10)
8. Just makes it, ... through (7)





# The Paradise Quiz

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE REGION?

1. Which city is the capital of Western Province: Daru, Tabubil or Kiunga?
2. In which year did APEC take place in Port Moresby?
3. Who took off in a light aircraft from Lae in 1937 and was never seen again?
4. Can you name the four former PNG prime ministers who have been knighted?
5. Former SP PNG Hunters coach Matthew Church has taken up a new coaching position next season with which team in the QRL Hostplus Cup?
6. What is about 2000 kilometres south of Port Moresby?
7. Where will the 2026 Commonwealth Games be staged?
8. Where is Singlish spoken?
9. What animal appears on Hong Kong currency notes?
10. Who was in command of PT-109 when it was sunk in the Solomon Islands during World War 2?
11. Which country has the highest number of wild tigers?
12. People born in Guam are considered the citizens of which country: Micronesia, the US or Greece?
13. Which world leader's quotes are contained in the 'Little Red Book'?
14. What is omurice?
15. Which country's flag is pictured?



## Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Rating: ★ ★ ☆ ☆

	8							2
		9			1			8
		3	9				1	6
3			6		7	9		1
	6	8		4		2	3	
9		5	8		2			4
8	5				3	1		
2			7			5		
1							6	

For solutions to the quiz and puzzles, see Page 106.

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# ARRIVALS LOUNGE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VISITOR GUIDE

## Out and about

A quick guide to Papua New Guinea, from catching a taxi to making a phone call.



Port Moresby from the air ...  
the capital city has a population  
of almost 365,000 people.





PICTURE: DAVID KIRKLAND

## CLIMATE

With the exception of the Highlands, Papua New Guinea has a warm tropical climate. The wet season in Port Moresby is from December to April.

## COMMUNICATIONS

**Internet:** Web access in Port Moresby has improved immensely in recent years. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available at hotels and at Jacksons International Airport.

**Phone:** International phone roaming is possible in PNG, but it can be costly. A cheaper option is to buy a local SIM card and pre-paid credit (including data packs for smartphones). Mobile data is available in cities and towns but may not be available in rural areas.

## ELECTRICITY

The current in PNG is 240V AC 50Hz, using Australian-style plugs.

## GETTING AROUND

**Airport transfers:** For arrival/ departure in Port Moresby, hotels provide a complimentary transfer.

**Car hire:** Deal with one of the international names and ask them to provide a driver (PGK450+ per day). With the poor state of roads, especially in Lae, 4WDs/SUVs are recommended.

**Taxis:** Recommended firms are City Loop (70124400) and Comfort (325 3046). Expedient Limited (7232 9990) provides shuttle services. ODESH is Port Moresby's first taxi and chauffeur on-demand booking service. See odes.net.

**Domestic flights:** Travelling within PNG often means taking an internal flight (for instance, you cannot drive between Port Moresby and Lae). Air Niugini offers passengers the chance to

book (and for some flights, also to check in) online, but make sure you print out a copy of your receipt to show at check-in. Aircraft and helicopter charters are available for travel to remote locations.

## HEALTH

Serious medical conditions can be treated in Port Moresby at Pacific International Hospital, Paradise Private Hospital and Port Moresby General Hospital, which have emergency services. Some conditions may require treatment outside the country. Travellers should ensure they have adequate health cover. The cost of medical evacuation can be high. Visitors should also note that malaria is prevalent in PNG and there have been cases of measles and tuberculosis.

## MEDICAL EMERGENCY

For St John Ambulance phone 111 or 7111 1234. St John provides a 24-hour ambulance service in Port Moresby.

## MONEY

PNG's currency is the kina (PGK). Banks and ATMs are located around Port Moresby, Lae and almost all urban centres.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

PNG observes a number of public holidays, including Independence Day on September 16.

## TIME ZONE

PNG has a single time zone, 10 hours ahead of UTC/GMT.

## EATING OUT

### PORT MORESBY

**Airways Hotel:** Port Moresby's ritziest hotel has several places to eat. If you're after fine dining, Bacchus is the place to go. For

something more casual, go poolside to Deli KC. The Vue Restaurant has a buffet each morning and evening, as well as an a la carte menu, and stunning views. See [airways.com.pg](http://airways.com.pg).

**Akura:** An elegant dining and lounge bar at Harbourside. Tel. 7320 7777, [Instagram.com/akurapng](https://www.instagram.com/akurapng).

**Anna's Kitchen:** Vietnamese cuisine and French pastries. Tel. 7068 1766.

**Asia Aromas:** Offering Chinese and Thai food by the water at Harbourside, this eatery has consistently good reviews on social media. Outdoor seating is available. A good spot for sunset drinks. Tel. +675 321 4780.

### Aviat Port Moresby Club:

The club is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Home-style meals include stir-fries, toasted sandwiches and salt-and-pepper prawns. This is a great spot to sit at lunchtime under the shady mango trees, or in the air-conditioned bar. See [facebook.com/Aviat-Club](https://facebook.com/Aviat-Club).

### Crowne Plaza Residences:

The Port Terrace Restaurant and Bar has views of Fairfax Harbour and all-day dining. It's open 6.30am to 10pm. Try a power juice for breakfast, chicken parmy for lunch, or chilli lobster for dinner. The extensive menu also includes burgers and steaks, as well as share plates. Great spot to watch the sunset with a beverage, with wine, beer, spirits and cocktails on offer. See [portrestaurant.com.pg](http://portrestaurant.com.pg).

**Daikoku:** The extensive Japanese menu has teppanyaki, donburi bowls and a large range of sushi. See [daikokupng.com](http://daikokupng.com).

**Duffy Cafe:** Known for excellent coffee and homemade ►





cafe-style food and bakery items, Duffy has three locations – at Harbourside, Gordons and Jacksons International Airport. See [duffypng.com](http://duffypng.com).

**Dynasty at Vision City:** This may be the biggest restaurant in Port Moresby. Its size, its chandeliers and its gold decor make it a favourite for balls, dinners and parties. The menu is huge, too, with pages of Asian dishes. See [facebook.com/100064086213057](https://facebook.com/100064086213057).

**Edge by the Sea:** The 'Edge' cafe has alfresco dining with a wonderful marina outlook from the ground floor at the Edge Apartments in Harbour City. Eggs benedict, burrito bowls, pork burgers and grilled snapper are among the breakfast and lunch menu favourites. There's a mist

water system in the alfresco area that can reduce the ambient air temperature by up to 10 degrees ... perfect for those blistering-hot days. Tel. +675 7995 5263.

**Ela Beach Hotel:** Drop in to Salt Restaurant for casual all-day dining, including curry, burgers and wok dishes, or pizza at Enzo's. See [coralseahotels.com.pg](http://coralseahotels.com.pg).

**Element Bar and Restaurant:** Element offers Asian fusion with excellent service. On Champion Parade, on the first level of MRDC Haus, it has modern decor and a huge balcony. Tel. +675 7252 8778.

**Fusion:** A fusion of flavours from China, Thailand and Vietnam. Takeaway available. There's also a sister restaurant, Fusion 2, in

the far corner of the ANZ Bank Compound in Waigani. Tel. +675 7196 6666.

**Gateway Hotel:** The hotel's dining options include The Wild Orchard for breakfast and dinner buffet daily, Jackson's Gaming–Restaurant–Bar, which has a rooftop bar with views of the airport, as well as claims to the best lamb rack in town, Sizzler's Family Restaurant for value dining, while Enzo's Express does quick lunches, coffee and pizza. See [coralseahotels.com.pg](http://coralseahotels.com.pg).

**Grand Papua Hotel:** The elegant Grand Brasserie has an a la carte menu of modern European cuisine, as well as buffet options. The Grand Cafe, on Douglas Street, has barista-made Goroka coffee, fruit juices, freshly made salads

and sandwiches. The Grand Bar – with stylish marble, high ceilings, timber floors and window shutters – has a light menu and is a popular place to wind down after work. See [coralseahotels.com.pg/grand-papua-hotel](http://coralseahotels.com.pg/grand-papua-hotel).

**Hilton Port Moresby:** The hotel has five eating areas including Mumu, which is named after the traditional earthen oven of PNG and serves traditionally inspired dishes. There's also a top-floor lounge bar called Summit, cafe-style dining in Copper on the lobby level, all-day dining and a breakfast buffet at Feast, and quick bites, such as sandwiches and coffee, at Halo in the convention centre foyer. See [www3.hilton.com](http://www3.hilton.com). Tel. +675 750 1800.

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**Holiday Inn Express:** The Great Room has a buffet breakfast from 6am with a Grab & Go option if you're in a rush. An a la carte dinner menu is available from 5.30pm daily. Tel. 7373 2500 (front desk).

**Holiday Inn & Suites:** The Kopi Haus Restaurant has breakfast from 6am, lunch and dinner. It has a la carte as well as a buffet, with the cuisine including PNG flavours. The poolside Gekko Bar opens at midday and includes a big screen for sports telecasts and tasty bites to go with a range of wines, cocktails and local and international beers. Tel. +675 303 2952.

**Hosi Ramen:** As the name suggests, this Japanese restaurant at Vision City specialises in



**The Mumu restaurant ... the casual and elegant eatery at Port Moresby's Hilton Hotel offers traditional PNG-style cooking.**

ramen (noodles served in broth with meat and vegetables). See [facebook.com/pages/Hosi-Ramen/565779996932557](https://facebook.com/pages/Hosi-Ramen/565779996932557).

**Korean Garden:** An affordable menu at Vision City that includes a do-it-yourself barbecue, as well

as traditional favourites such as kimchi and gimhap. See [facebook.com/koreangardenpng](https://facebook.com/koreangardenpng).

**Lamana Hotel:** Choose from options including Spices Restaurant (Indian), the Italian Restaurant, Cafe Palazzo, and

PNG's biggest nightclub, The Gold Club. See [lamanahotel.com.pg](https://lamanahotel.com.pg).

**Magi Seafood Restaurant:** A local secret on Spring Garden Road (same side as SP Brewery) with excellent Asian food, but specifically the best mud crab in town, which needs to be ordered 24 hours in advance. Tel. +675 323 3918.

**Mojo Social:** This casual Mediterranean-inspired bar and restaurant is on the ground floor of PWC Haus at Harbour City. Tapas-style dishes, risotto and pizza are among the offerings. See [mojofood.co](https://mojofood.co).

**Royal Papua Yacht Club:** Relaxed, spacious and open to non-members. Comfort food, draught beer and an open-plan bar ➤



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area showing sport on large screens. See [rpyc.com.pg](http://rpyc.com.pg).

**Seoul House:** This restaurant specialises in Korean and Thai food, cooked on the hot plate right in front of you. Seoul House is tucked away in a garden oasis compound in Five Mile. Tel. +675 325 2231.

**Shady Rest Hotel:** The Indian dishes at the hotel's Cellar Restaurant draw high praise from reviewers on TripAdvisor. The restaurant also prides itself in its steaks. Mr Mike's Pizza Company is a takeaway located at the hotel and has classic pizzas, such as Hawaiian and margarita, as well as gourmet pizzas such as the Mediterranean, which is packed with feta, olives, mushrooms and more. See [shadyrest.com.pg](http://shadyrest.com.pg). Tel. +675 323 0000.



**Gourmet offering... a Mr Mike's Pizza at Shady Rest Hotel.**

**Stanley Hotel and Suites:**

This Waigani hotel has several restaurant choices, including the fine-dining Silver Leaf and the chic tapas-style Monsoon Lounge. Green Haus restaurant has all-day dining, including buffet dinners with live cooking stations. See [thestanleypng.com](http://thestanleypng.com).

**Tandoor on the Harbour:**

Come here for a curry with great

bay views. See [facebook.com/tandoorontheharbour](https://facebook.com/tandoorontheharbour).

**Tasty Bites:** This Indian restaurant is tucked away in the town centre in Hunter Street near Crowne Plaza. Bookings recommended. Tel. +675 321 2222.

**LAE**

**Bunga Raya:** This local favourite, serving Malaysian-style Chinese, is located next door to the Lae Golf Club. Be sure to try the stuffed lettuce cups, laksa and claypot tofu. Tel. +675 472 7177.

**Cafe 411:** There's a cosy atmosphere at this casual cafe next to Hotel Morobe on Coronation Drive. The Western-style menu includes finger foods and PNG coffee. Tel. +675 479 0100.

**Chigi's Cafe:** This delightful place inside the temporary Brian Bell store near the Lae main markets serves good coffee, milkshakes, sandwiches, cakes and salads. Tel. +675 7217 1966.

**Golden Aviat:** A good option for Chinese, located on Huon Road in Eriku. Open for lunch and dinner, and yum cha on Sundays. Tel. +675 472 0486.

**Huon Club:** This private members' club offers air-conditioned facilities, comfortable lounge chairs, an expansive deck overlooking the Lae Golf Club, a fully stocked bar and Foxtel to preview all the racing and sporting events. Tel. +675 7347 1058.

**Lae City Cafe:** Located in the Lae City Hotel on 3rd street, the cafe

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serves Western and Asian cuisine. The signature dishes include ribs and Nasi Goreng. Tel. +675 472 0138.

**Lae Garden Restaurant:** The Asian menu includes staples such as crispy chicken and butter prawns. The elegant restaurant, inside Hotel Morobe on Coronation Drive, offers breathtaking views of the city from its balcony. Tel. +675 479 0100.

**Lae Golf Club:** The club is excellent for a few sundowners as you overlook the stunning green. Tel. +675 472 1363.

**Lae International Hotel:** Home to three restaurants – Lulua's Italian Pizza, Vanda and Kokomo – which serve an array of international cuisine, including Indian and seafood buffets. The Sportsman's

Bar (aka Jack's Bar) is a good place for a nightcap. See laeinterhotel.com. Tel. +675 472 7000.

**Lae Yacht Club:** The perfect place for late-afternoon beers, or just as nice for a relaxing lunch. Serves pub-style food. See laeyachtclub.com.pg. Tel. +675 472 4091.

**Mountain View Restaurant:** Located at the Crossroads Hotel at Nine Mile. Be sure to try the Japanese fusion menu – it's the only place in town where you can get good sushi. See hornibrook.com.pg/crossroads. Tel. +675 475 1124.

## HOTELS

### PORT MORESBY

**Airways Hotel:** Airways is within a large, secure compound next to

Jacksons International Airport. An inspiring setting, luxurious rooms, excellent service and very good food options. See airways.com.pg. Tel. +675 324 5200.

**Citi Boutique Hotel:** The Citi Boutique Hotel is a three-star property in Boroko. It has 60 deluxe queen and twin rooms, a business centre, cable TV and free Wi-Fi. There's also a day spa and beauty salon, restaurant, bar, karaoke room, and a rooftop terrace. The hotel provides free airport transfers. See citiboutiquehotel.com. Tel. +675 300 1300.

**Citi Serviced Apartments and Motel:** There are two Citi Serviced Apartments and Motel properties, one block located at East Boroko and the

other at Manu. They are set in safe and secure grounds. The apartments are fully kitted out. They include cable TV, free Wi-Fi, washing machines, dryers, fridges, fans and air conditioning. Housekeeping is also provided. See citiboutiquehotel.com. Tel. +675 300 1300.

**Crown Hotel:** Upmarket rooms and suites in the heart of the CBD. Decent gym, business centre, undercover parking, thriving cafe and Mediterranean restaurant. See ihg.com. Tel. +675 309 3329.

**Ela Beach Hotel and Apartments:** On the fringe of the CBD, this constantly expanding hotel/apartment complex is part of the Coral Sea Hotels group. See coralseahotels.com.pg. Tel. +675 321 2100. ➤



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**Gateway Hotel:** Conveniently located just minutes from Jacksons International Airport, the hotel has a range of dining options, conference facilities, modern gym and two swimming pools. Free airport shuttles are available for guests. See [coralseahotels.com.pg](http://coralseahotels.com.pg). Tel. +675 327 8100.

**Grand Papua:** This premium hotel is now part of the Raddison group and features 156 suite rooms (short and long stay), an executive floor, gym and conference facilities. The separate restaurant and bar areas are popular for business meetings. Centrally located. See [coralseahotels.com.pg/grand-papua-hotel](http://coralseahotels.com.pg/grand-papua-hotel). Tel. +675 304 0000.

**Hilton Port Moresby:** The capital city's newest luxury hotel

opened in late 2018 and is in the government district 10 minutes from the airport. There are five restaurants, an executive lounge, six meeting rooms, a convention centre, swimming pool and fitness centre. All rooms in the 15-storey hotel include floor-to-ceiling windows. The accommodation includes standard rooms, executive rooms and suites. See [www3.hilton.com](http://www3.hilton.com). Tel. +675 304 0000.

**Holiday Inn & Suites:** Located in Waigani, the large grounds include a walking track in a tropical garden setting, outdoor restaurant and bar area, business centre and gym. Includes three-star Holiday Inn Express hotel. See [ihg.com](http://ihg.com). Tel. +675 303 2000.

**Laguna Hotel:** The 60-room property is a five-minute drive

from the heart of Port Moresby and features a lagoon-style pool, free airport transfers, free Wi-Fi and free buffet breakfast. See [lagunahotelpng.com](http://lagunahotelpng.com). Tel. +675 323 9333.

**Lamana Hotel:** In Waigani, the hotel has 24-hour free airport transfers, free in-room Wi-Fi, a conference centre, restaurants, and the famous Gold Club. See [lamanahotel.com.pg](http://lamanahotel.com.pg). Tel. +675 323 2333.

**Loloata Island Resort:** This island resort, 40 minutes from Port Moresby, opened in late 2019. There are 68 rooms (including some overwater suites and villas), a day spa and two restaurants. Day passes are available for visitors who aren't staying overnight, and shuttles are provided from Port Moresby. The island is perfect for swimming, snorkelling, diving, walking or just lounging beside the pool. See [loloataislandresort.com](http://loloataislandresort.com). Tel. +675 7108 8000.

**Sanctuary Hotel Resort & Spa:** The hotel is an oasis in the city, located 10 minutes from the airport in North Waigani. There is a lot of greenery in the hotel grounds and a large aviary, which includes the bird of paradise. The hotel, close to government offices, has a business centre, a day spa, swimming pool and a restaurant with a traditional PNG menu with a contemporary edge. It also has rooms and facilities with ramps for people with disabilities. Tel. +675 303 7400.

**Shady Rest Hotel:** Located at Three Mile, seven minutes from the airport, this affordable hotel has 74 rooms, including newly built executive rooms, conference facilities, a day spa and salon, a small gaming lounge, a tapas

lounge, the Indian-inspired Cellar Restaurant and Mr Mike's Pizza Company. See [shadyrest.com.pg](http://shadyrest.com.pg). Tel. +675 323 0000.

#### **Stanley Hotel and Suites:**

One of Port Moresby's newest hotels, this is a luxurious 429-room property in Waigani, close to government offices and embassies. It has 95 long-stay apartments, gym, pool, cafe, restaurants and an executive lounge. Connected to Vision City Mega Mall. See [thestanleypng.com](http://thestanleypng.com). Tel. + 675 302 8888.

#### **LAE**

**Crossroads Hotel:** A 45-room facility at Nine Mile. The hotel has a Japanese-themed teppanyaki restaurant with Asian/Western fusion menus, full bar service, a well-equipped gym, Wi-Fi and complimentary transfers to both Lae City and Nadzab Airport. See [hornibrook.com.pg/crossroads](http://hornibrook.com.pg/crossroads). Tel. +675 475 1124.

**Hotel Morobe:** A centrally located 38-room boutique property built in 2014. See [hotelmorobe.com](http://hotelmorobe.com). Tel. +675 4790 100.

**Lae City Hotel:** Located in the main Top Town area, this hotel has 24-hour concierge and an excellent cafe and restaurant with Western and Asian cuisine. See [laecityhotel.com](http://laecityhotel.com). Tel. +675 472 0138.

**Lae International Hotel:** The city's premier hotel has recently renovated rooms, full bar service, conference and banquet halls, a gym and pool. See [laeinterhotel.com](http://laeinterhotel.com). Tel. +675 472 2000.

**Lae Travellers Inn:** An affordable option, offering clean and comfortable rooms. Tel. +675 479 0411. ■

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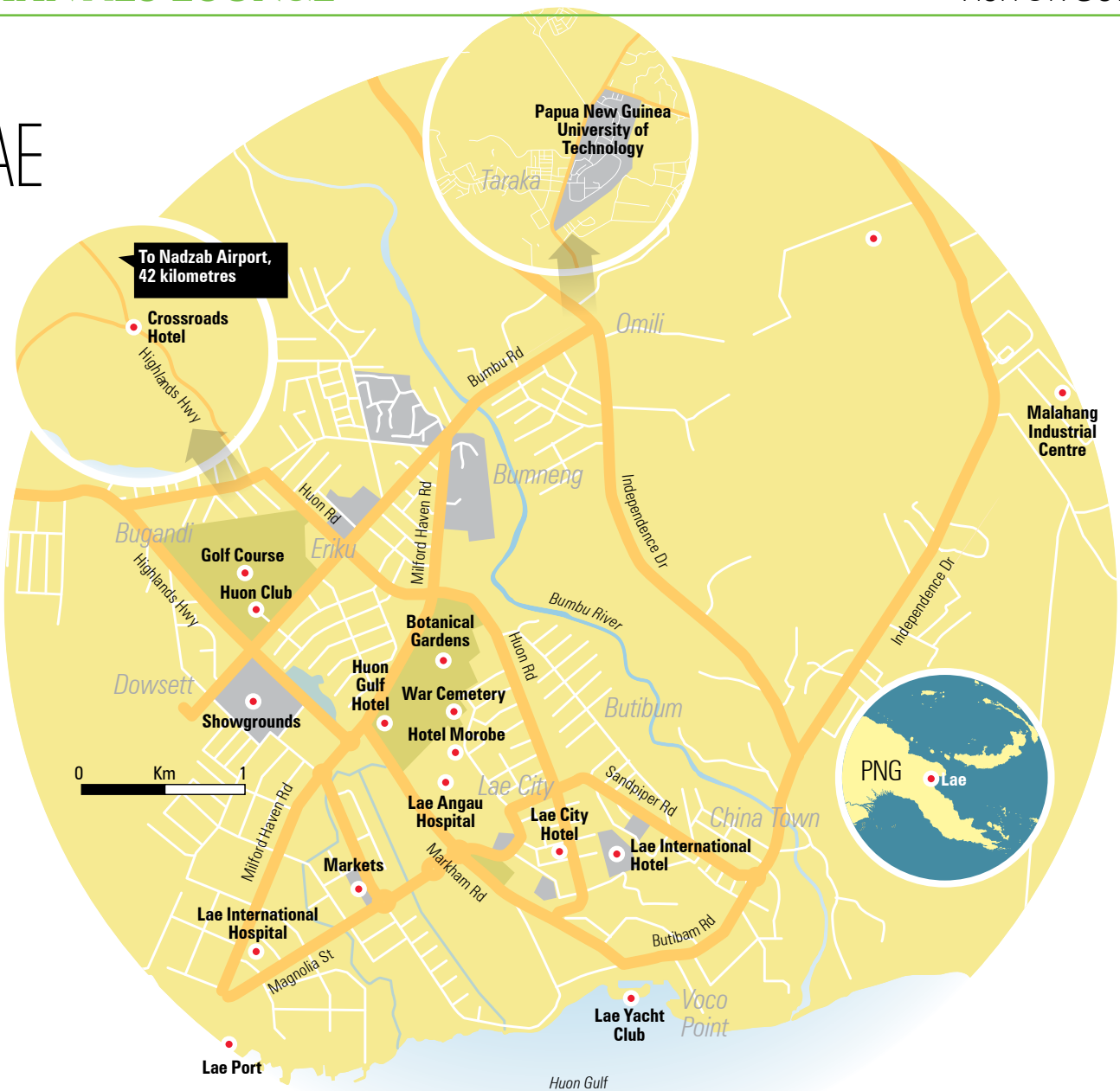


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## MINI GUIDE TO TOK PISIN WORDS/PHRASES

Papua New Guinea has more than 800 languages, but the three official languages are Tok Pisin, English and Motu. Here, we outline some Tok Pisin, which is the largest *lingua franca* of PNG.

- *Where do I find a taxi?*  
**Bai mi painim taxi long we?**
- *One coffee with milk, please.*  
**Wanpela kap kopi wantaim milk plis.**
- *Where is the toilet?*  
**Toilet istap we?**
- *How much is this?*  
**Hamas long dispela?**
- *Thank you very much.*  
**Tenkiu tru.**
- *You understand English?*  
**Yu save long tok Inglis?**
- *Where is my bag?*  
**Bag bilong mi istap we?**
- *Where can I change my money?*  
**Wanem hap bai mi ken senisim moni bilong mi?**

- *One beer, please.*  
**Wanpela bia plis.**
- *Why? Bilong wanem?*
- *How many children do you have? Yu gat hamaspla pikinini?*
- *Where are you from?*  
**Yu bilong wanem hap?**
- *I don't know. Mi no save.*
- *What do you want?*  
**Yu laikim wanem samting?**

- *Restaurant*  
**Ples bilong kaikai**
- *Goodbye* **Gutbai**
- *Hello* **Halo**
- *Water* **Wara**
- *Baggage* **Kago**
- *Airport* **Ples balus**
- *Place* **Ples**
- *Fish* **Pis**

## NUMBERS

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Wan	Tu	Tri	Foa	Faiv	Sikis	Seven	Et	Nain	Ten



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### Please ask us

If there is anything our cabin crew can assist you with during your flight, please do not hesitate to ask them.

### Hand luggage

Please ensure that your carry on luggage is placed in the overhead locker or under the seat in front of you.

### Takeoff and landing

Ensure that your seat is in the upright position during takeoff and landing. Folding tables must be returned to their original position in the seat back or the armrest.

### Safety first

Your seat belt must be securely fastened during take off and landing or whenever the seat belt sign is on. When the seat belt sign is off you may move about the cabin as necessary. However while seated, keep your seat belt fastened securely in case of unexpected turbulence.

### Electronic equipment

Cellular telephones, TV receivers or radio controlled devices are not to be used at any time on board an aircraft. Electronic devices such as portable computers, compact discs or cassette players and video games can be used only when the seat belt sign is switched off.

### Children and babies

The cabin crew will also be pleased to assist in preparing your baby's food and bottle. Baby food and diapers are also available. Please do not hesitate to ask our friendly cabin crew.

### Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

### Entertainment

A selection of movies and music including classical, modern, country and local are available on international services.

### Pillows and blankets

On International flights, pillows and blankets are available on request from our cabin crew.

### Cuisine

Our in-flight meals have been specially prepared for your enjoyment. If you require a vegetarian meal or you are on a special diet, child or baby food, please inform us when making your reservation.

### Immigration and Customs Forms

During your flight, our cabin crew will distribute Immigration and Custom forms before each landing point. Ensure that you carefully read and complete these documents and have them ready for inspection with your passport at the Immigration and Customs arrival counters.

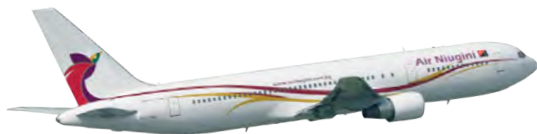
### Before you leave

Please check your seat pocket and overhead lockers before you disembark to ensure you have not left any items of value. We look forward to seeing you when you next fly with us on our Bird of Paradise Service.





## AIR NIUGINI FLEET



### B767-300ER - Boeing

**Length:** 59.94m  
**Wing span:** 47.57m  
**Range:** 8100km  
**Cruising speed:** 857kph  
**Power plant:** 2 x PW4000  
**Normal altitude:** 11000 - 12000m  
**Standard seating capacity:** 188  
**Business class:** 28  
**Economy class:** 160  
**Number of aircraft in fleet:** 2



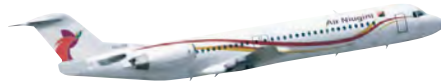
### F70 - Fokker

**Length:** 30.91m  
**Wing span:** 28.08m  
**Range:** 3410km  
**Cruising speed:** 743kph  
**Power plant:** 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 620-15 turbo-fan engines  
**Normal altitude:** 11000m  
**Standard seating capacity:** 73  
**Business class:** 08  
**Economy class:** 65  
**Number of aircraft in fleet:** 4



### DHC8-202 – Bombardier

**Length:** 22.25m  
**Wing span:** 25.89m  
**Range:** 1800km  
**Cruising speed:** 550kph  
**Power plant:** 02 x Pratt & Whitney PW123D  
**Normal Altitude:** 7600m  
**Standard seating capacity:** 36  
**Number of aircraft in fleet:** 2



### F100 - Fokker

**Length:** 35.53m  
**Wing span:** 22.08m  
**Range:** 3000km  
**Cruising speed:** 780kph  
**Power plant:** 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650-15 turbo engines  
**Normal altitude:** 11000m  
**Standard seating capacity:** 101  
**Business class:** 8  
**Economy class:** 93  
**Number of aircraft in fleet:** 6



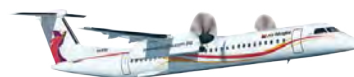
### DHC8-Q315 – Bombardier

**Length:** 25.7m  
**Wing span:** 27.4m  
**Range:** 1700km  
**Cruising speed:** 510kph  
**Power plant:** 02 x Pratt & Whitney PW123E  
**Normal Altitude:** 6100m  
**Standard seating capacity:** 50  
**Number of aircraft in fleet:** 5



### B737-800 - Boeing

**Length:** 39.5m  
**Wing span:** 35.79m  
**Range:** 5000-5500km  
**Cruising speed:** 810-850kph  
**Power plant:** 2 x CFM56 - 7B26  
**Normal altitude:** 11300m  
**Standard seating capacity:** 144  
**Business class:** 16  
**Economy class:** 128  
**Number of aircraft in fleet:** 1



### DHC8 – 400 – Bombardier

**Length:** 32.8m  
**Wing span:** 28.4m  
**Range:** 3000km  
**Cruising speed:** 670kph  
**Power plant:** 02 x Pratt & Whitney PW150A  
**Normal Altitude:** 7600m  
**Standard seating capacity:** 76  
**Number of aircraft in fleet:** 3



### Falcon 900EX - Dassault

**Length:** 20.21m  
**Wing span:** 19.33m  
**Range:** 4500nm  
**Cruising speed:** 650mph  
**Power plant:** 3 x Honeywell TFE731  
**Maximum altitude:** 51000ft  
**Standard seating capacity:** 12  
**Number of aircraft in fleet:** 1





# Your health inflight

At Air Niugini we care about your comfort and safety. We have included the following information about your health in-flight that we hope you will find helpful and useful.

When you are flying you can be seated and be inactive for long periods of time. The environment can be low in humidity and pressurised up to an altitude of 2240 metres above sea level. Unlike other forms of transportation, air travel allows for rapid movement across many time zones, causing a disruption to the body's "biological clock". Although these unique factors do not pose a health or safety threat to most passengers, there are guidelines you can follow that will improve your comfort level, during and after a flight. We hope the following recommendations will help you have a more pleasant flight today and in the future.

## Blood Circulation / Muscle Relaxation

When you're sitting upright in a stationary position for a long period of time, several things can happen.

The central blood vessels in your legs can be compressed, making it more difficult for the blood to get back to your heart.

The long inactivity of your body muscles in this position can result in muscle tension, back aches or a feeling of excessive fatigue during, or even after, your flight.

A stationary position inhibits the normal body mechanism for returning fluid to your heart, and gravity can cause the fluid to collect in your feet. This results in swollen feet after a long flight.

Studies have concluded that prolonged immobility may be a risk factor in the formation of clots in the legs (DVT - deep vein thrombosis). Particular medication and medical conditions may increase the risk of formation of clots if associated with prolonged immobility.

Medical research indicates that factors which may give you an increased risk of blood clots in the legs include:

- Former or current malignant disease
- Blood disorders leading to increased clotting tendency
- Personal or family history of DVT

- Immobilisation for a day or more
- Increasing age above 40 years
- Pregnancy
- Recent major surgery or injury, especially to lower limbs or abdomen
- Oestrogen hormone therapy, including oral contraceptives
- Dehydration
- Heart failure
- Trauma
- Varicose veins
- Obesity
- Tobacco smoking

### *Recommendations*

- If you fall into any of these categories or you have any concern about your health and flying, Air Niugini recommends you seek medical advice before travelling.
- Follow our in-flight exercises programme.

## Jetlag

The main cause of jetlag is travelling to different time zones without giving the body a chance to adjust to new night-day cycles. In general, the more time zones you cross during your flight, the more your biological clock is disturbed.

The common symptoms are sleeplessness, tiredness, loss of appetite or appetite at odd hours.

### *Recommendations*

- Get a good night's rest before your flight.
- Arrive at your destination a day or two early, to give your body a chance to become more acclimatised to the new time zone.
- Leave your watch on home time if you're staying at a destination less than 48 hours. Also try to eat and sleep according to your home time.





- Change your watch to the local time if your stay is longer than 48 hours, and try to eat and sleep in accordance with the local time.
- On longer stays, try to prepare in advance, adjust your meal and rest times to be closer to those of your destination.
- Try some light exercise - go for a brisk walk, or do some reading if you can't sleep after arrival at your destination. It generally takes the body's biological clock approximately one day to adjust per time zone crossed.
- Fly direct to minimise flight time. This allows you to relax more upon arrival.

## Cabin Humidity / Dehydration

Humidity levels of less than 25 percent are common in the cabin. This is due to the extremely low humidity levels of outside air supplied to the cabin. The low humidity can cause drying of the nose, throat, eyes and it can irritate contact lens wearers.

### *Recommendations*

- Drink water or juices frequently during the flight
- Drink coffee, tea and alcohol in moderation. These drinks acts as diuretics, increasing the body's dehydration.
- Remove contact lenses and wear glasses if your eyes are irritated.
- Use a skin moisturiser to refresh the skin.

## Eating and Drinking

Proper eating and drinking will enhance your comfort both during and after your flight.

### *Recommendations*

- Avoid overeating just prior to and during the flight. It is difficult to digest too much food when the body is inactive.
- Drink coffee, tea and alcohol in moderation. These drinks acts as diuretics, increasing the body's dehydration.

## Cabin Pressurisation

It is necessary to pressurise the outside air drawn into the cabin to a sufficient density for your comfort and health.

Cabins are pressurised to a maximum cabin altitude of 2440 metres. It is the same air pressure as if you were at an elevation of 2440 metres above sea level. The cabin pressure and normal rates of change in cabin pressure during climb and descent do not pose a problem for most passengers. However, if you suffer from upper respiratory or sinus infections, obstructive pulmonary diseases, anaemias or certain cardiovascular conditions, you could experience discomfort. Children and infants might experience some discomfort because of pressure change during climb and descent.

If you are suffering from nasal congestion or allergies, use nasal sprays, decongestants and antihistamines 30 minutes prior to descent to help open up your ear and sinus passages. If you have a cold or flu or hay fever your sinuses could be impaired. Swollen membranes in your nose could block your eustachian tubes-the tiny channels between your middle ear chamber. This can cause discomfort during changes in cabin pressure, particularly during descent.

### *Recommendations*

- If you have a pre-existing medical condition that warrants supplemental oxygen, you can order from us. Please give at least seven days notice before travelling.
- To "clear" your ears try swallowing and/or yawning. These actions help open your eustachian tubes, equalizing pressure between your ear chamber and your throat.
- When flying with an infant, feed or give your baby a dummy during descent. Sucking and swallowing will help infants equalize the pressure in their ears.

## Motion Sickness

This ailment is caused by a conflict between the body's sense of vision and its sense of equilibrium. Air turbulence increases its likelihood because it can cause movement of the fluid in the vestibular apparatus of the inner ear. If you have good visual cues (keeping your eyes fixed on non-moving object), motion sickness is less likely to occur.

### *Recommendations*

- When weather is clear and you can see the ground, sea or horizon, you are less susceptible to motion sickness.
- You can buy over the counter medications but we recommend that you consult your doctor about the appropriate medications.





# Air Niugini

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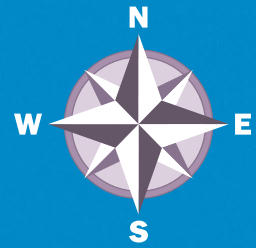
**Domestic route map**





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**INTERNATIONAL ROUTE MAP**

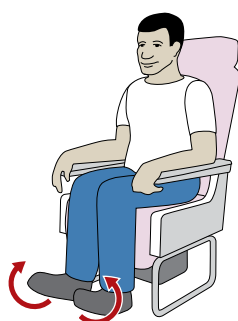


# Your wellbeing



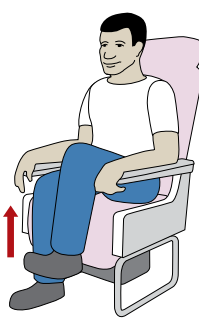
These exercises are designed to encourage a safe way to enjoy movement and stretch certain muscle groups that can become stiff as a result of long periods of sitting. They may be effective in increasing the body's circulation and massaging the muscles. We recommend you do these exercises for three or

four minutes every hour and occasionally get out of your seat and walk down the aisles if conditions allow. Each exercise should be done with minimal disturbance to other passengers. None of the following should be performed if they cause pain or cannot be done with ease.



## ANKLE CIRCLES

Lift feet off the floor. Draw a circle with toes, simultaneously moving one foot clockwise and the other foot counter clockwise. Reverse circles. Do each direction for 15 seconds. Repeat if desired.



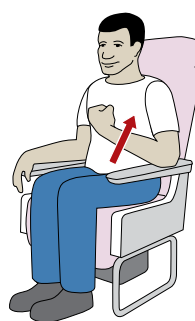
## KNEE LIFTS

Lift leg with knee bent while contracting your thigh muscle. Alternate legs. Repeat 20-30 times for each leg.



## SHOULDER ROLL

Hunch shoulders forward, then upward, then backward, then downward using a gentle circular motion.



## ARM CURL

Start with arms held high at 90° angle - elbows down, hands out in front. Raise hands up to chest and back down alternating arms. Do these exercises in 30 second intervals.



## KNEE TO CHEST

Bend forward slightly. Clasp hands around left knee and hug it to your chest. Hold stretch for 15 seconds. Keeping hands around knee, slowly let it down. Alternate legs. Repeat 10 times.



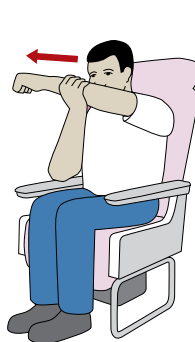
## FORWARD FLEX

With both feet on the floor and stomach held in slowly, bend forward to walk your hands down the front of your legs towards your ankles. Hold stretch for 15 seconds and slowly sit back up.



## OVERHEAD STRETCH

Raise both arms straight up and over your head. With one hand grasp the wrist of the opposite hand and gently pull to one side. Hold stretch for 15 seconds. Repeat other side.



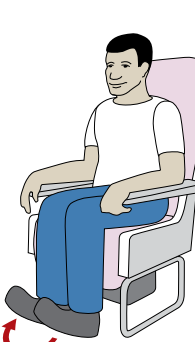
## SHOULDER STRETCH

Reach right hand over left shoulder. Place left hand behind right elbow and gently press elbow towards shoulder. Hold stretch for 15 seconds. Repeat other side.



## NECK ROLL

With shoulders relaxed, drop ear to shoulder and gently roll neck forward and to the other side, holding each position about 5 seconds. Repeat 5 times.



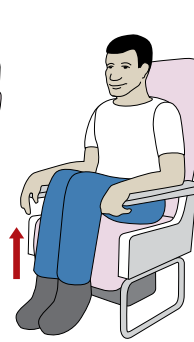
## FOOT PUMPS

Foot motion is in three stages.

1. Start with both heels on the floor and point feet upwards as high as you can.



2. Put both feet flat on the floor.



3. Lift heels high, keeping balls of feet on floor. Continue these three stages with continuous motion in 30 second intervals.



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