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New Guinea is testament to their spirit of incredible resilience.

Santos values its partnership with Air Niugini and looks forward to marking this golden anniversary.

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IN PARADISE

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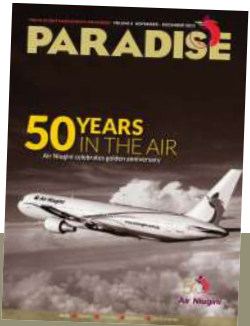
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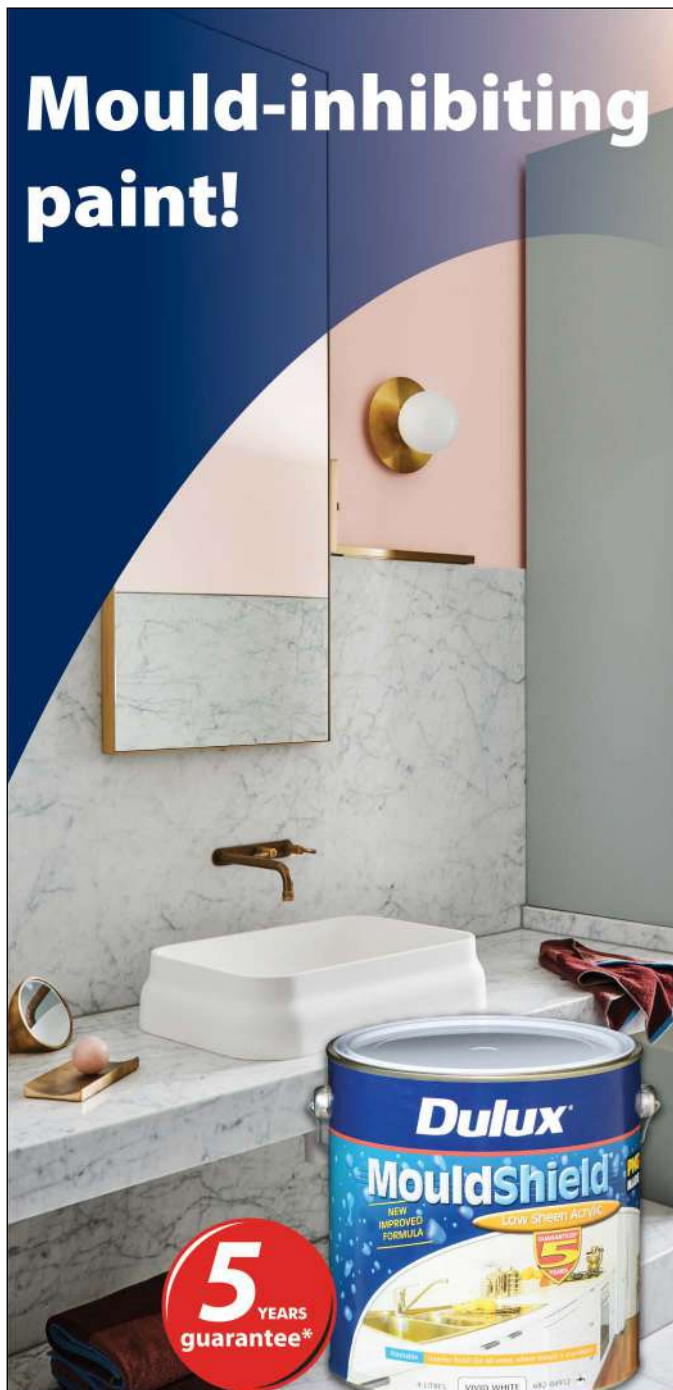
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COVER PHOTO: An Air Niugini Boeing 767-300, a reliable and comfortable aircraft used by the airline for long-haul flights. For more about Air Niugini and its half century in the air see our special 50th anniversary section starting on Page 26.



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PARADISE



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Message from the Acting CEO

Welcome aboard



Welcome aboard this Air Niugini Bird of Paradise flight. It is our pleasure to share with you our special golden anniversary edition of *Paradise*. As we celebrate the 50th year of Air Niugini, I am proud to reflect on the airline's rich history and bright future.

Air Niugini was founded in 1973 with a single aircraft and a handful of employees. This was a momentous occasion, undertaken during extraordinary times. On November 1 of that year, Air Niugini carried out its first revenue flight and cemented its place in the birth of a nation.

Many people still have fond memories of climbing aboard our DC3 aircraft – a very different experience to modern-day air travel. Today, as the national airline, we are the flag carrier, with a fleet of 24 aircraft and over 1750 employees. We fly to over 30 destinations in Papua New Guinea and around the region. And we are still growing.

Over the past 50 years, Air Niugini has played a vital role in the development of PNG. We have helped to connect people and businesses, and we have helped to promote culture and tourism, fashion and the arts. We have supported medical interventions and disaster relief. We continue to help PNG sports teams to tournaments, from the PNG Games to the Olympics – and I take this opportunity to wish all our athletes the very best at the 17th Pacific Games in Honiara. Represent your country well and come back with lots of gold.

Our mission is to connect PNG with the world, providing safe, reliable and efficient air transportation services.

We are investing heavily in training and skills development, and we are addressing our on-time performance and improving our service delivery, both inside and outside the cabin. Air Niugini has not been immune to the challenges in the airline industry and, with the support of our government, is taking confident strides towards the future.

Our fleet replacement program gathers momentum as we proudly announce our orders with Airbus, for the Airbus A220 regional narrow body jet. The aircraft is a versatile game changer, allowing Air Niugini to spread its wings, flying further with greater frequency. The regional jet replaces our Fokker fleet from 2025. The Airbus A220 jets will complement our new widebody Boeing 787 Dreamliners, which arrive in 2026.

The award-winning *Paradise* inflight magazine has been a regular feature in our cabins since the first publication in July 1976. It is a chronicle of the enchanting and beautiful features of our country, from food to culture, from diving to trekking, festivals and corporate engagement. We are currently assembling a digital library of all the *Paradise* magazine editions over its 47 years of publication.

The push to implement sustainable aviation initiatives across the airline will gear up with the introduction of the new fleet – burning 27 per cent less fuel is a great start; however, we hope this will accompany efforts to improve recycling and reduce waste. Air Niugini is embarking on a sustainable aviation practices program, commencing with investigations into alternative fuels, wastewater reduction and community carbon capture programs.

Thank you to all our customers for your support over the 50 years of Air Niugini's operations. You truly are the reason why we do what we do. We look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Bamahuta! Lukim yu bihain.

Gary Seddon
Acting Chief Executive Officer





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PARADISE Q&A

VEIALU AILA-UNSWORTH

This Papua New Guinean born filmmaker had her short film *Butterfly/Bataplai* premiere at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film festival earlier this year. *Mary Aseari* spoke to the writer, producer and director, who now resides in San Francisco.

Q: What was the inspiration behind *Butterfly/Bataplai*?

A: I was inspired by my lead actress, Regina Pande. We randomly met on Instagram and realised that we live in the same area (in San Francisco). We basically sat together as two multiracial Papua New Guinean women and talked about our experiences of what it felt like living between two worlds where you never really feel Papua New Guinean enough when you're in PNG or Western enough when you're in the West. We are in an interesting space of having to juggle multiple worlds and multiple values. Through these conversations we decided to base the film on her experience.



Filmmaker Veialu Aila-Unsworth (above); actress Regina Pande depicting her Western self and her PNG self (above right).

Q: *Butterfly/Bataplai* premiered in the Los Angeles Asia Pacific Film Festival 2023. How did that come about?

A: I was awarded, with six other Pacific Islanders, the Armed With a Camera Fellowship, which was created by Visual Communications, a non-profit organisation that runs both the film festival and the fellowship. And so the festival was used as the platform for the fellows to come together and release our short films to the world.

Q: What is the message you hope to share in your films?

A: First, I hope that people who feel like an outsider or are juggling

different worlds will connect with my story and with the experience of being a Pacific Islander, particularly a Papua New Guinean female living in the diaspora. Second, I hope it encourages other Pacific Islander women to tell their stories and make films.

Q: What are your memories of PNG?

A: I was born in Port Moresby and moved to New Zealand when I was four, but I still have vivid memories of PNG. I remember as a kid I would draw houses on stilts (like many PNG houses). I'd be asked why I drew the houses like that, and I'd answer, 'because that's how houses are.'



“

I hope that people who feel like an outsider or are juggling different worlds will connect with my story.

”

Q: What's next in your filmmaking?

A: I'd like to make a few more short films. I also hope to make a feature film. I have been working on a historical drama for years. I've lived with the characters (in the film) for a few years now so they almost feel like friends. I feel I have to bring them to life.

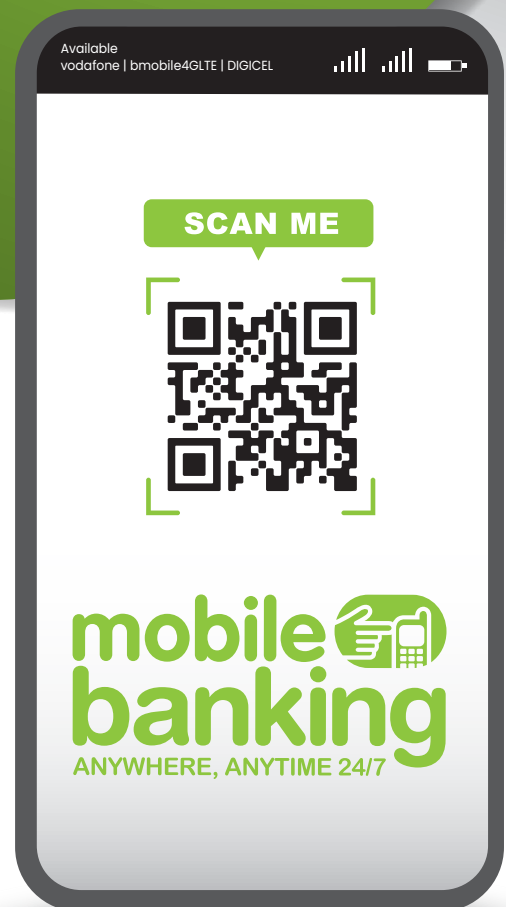
Q: What are your observations of the PNG film industry?

A: The industry is small, but through social media I can see there's so much talent. I follow a lot of creatives, videographers, cinematographers and animators, and the level of talent is amazing. I hope one day I get the chance to collaborate with some of them to tell a cool story. ■



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Justin Olam steps up for love of country



Papua New Guinean rugby league star Justin Olam (pictured) has been appointed as a brand ambassador for the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA).

Olam, who plays for Melbourne Storm in the NRL, has an online following of 300,000 and says he is aiming to inspire his fans and followers to travel in PNG.

"Papua New Guinea is my home and I want to help support initiatives that allow the rest of the world to see our beautiful country," he says. "Our diverse and rich cultures, our pristine waters and environment and our wonderful people make for an ideal tourist destination."

The Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Isi Henry Leonard, says Olam will be a great ambassador for the country because of his status as one of the top rugby league players in the world.

“

PNG is my home and I want to help support initiatives that allow the rest of the world to see our beautiful country.

”

The Minister said he was excited that rugby league will be used as a vehicle to promote the country's tourism.

As part of his role, Olam will travel around PNG and will post online about his experiences. ■



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Mary Fowler proud of her PNG heritage

Papua New Guineans had something extra to cheer about in the recent FIFA Women's World Cup played in Australia and New Zealand.

Australian player Mary Boio Fowler (pictured) has deep roots in PNG, with her mother, Nido, coming from Kira Kira village in Port Moresby.

The village rallied behind Fowler by putting up banners and decorating the village green and gold, the colours of Australia's Matildas.

Fowler posted on Instagram: "Touches my heart ... so proud to be Papuan."

She was quoted by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as saying: "It's so special to see how much they support me and how much they believe in me and look up to me. I would love to be able to connect with my mum's roots a lot more and spend time with her family over there as well."

Fowler's father, Kevin, is an Irishman who travelled to PNG as a backpacker. He met Nido, they married, and then settled in Ireland, later relocating to Cairns, where Fowler was born.

Fowler, 20, was the youngest player in the Matildas team for the World Cup, known for her exciting pace and passes, including that scintillating pass that set

up Caitlin Foord for a goal through the goalkeeper's legs against Denmark.

Fowler, who plays for Manchester City in England when she's not representing Australia, also kept her cool by goaling in the tense penalty shoot-out against France.

Matildas coach Tony Gustavsson says Fowler's technical skills are one of a kind and superstar Australian captain Sam Kerr says Fowler is one of the most amazing players in the team.

The Matildas finished fourth in the World Cup, behind Spain, England and Sweden. ■

“Touches my heart ... so proud to be Papuan.”



PICTURE: FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA



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They ran, they walked, they staggered and they triumphed

The Port Moresby Road Runners group has staged the first marathon in Papua New Guinea since 1998, with 141 runners pounding the streets of the capital on a hot and humid day at the end of July.

The event was hosted by the National Capital District Commission and included a fully-fledged marathon over 42.195km, a half-marathon over 21.1km, and a 10km course.

The field was made up of locals and expatriates, as well as 42 international entrants.

The men's marathon was won by Alexander Scherz (Switzerland) and the women's marathon by Yvonne Dubois (Hong Kong).

The half-marathon winners were Peter Baki (PNG) and Marjaana Raf (Finland), and the 10km winners were Jason Richard (PNG) and Antonia Ndrawii (PNG).

The event started and finished at APEC Haus and followed a route that stayed close to the sea and included Ela Beach Road, Stanley Esplanade and Champion Parade. The runners in the full marathon started at 4am.

The Governor of the National Capital District, Powes Parkop, wore the No.1 bib and was among the runners in the 10-kilometre event, and he handed out the prizes to category winners.

Prior to 1998, several marathons were run in PNG, mainly as part of the program for the South Pacific Games, however the marathon has since been dropped from the Games.

It is planned for the marathon to become an annual event to help promote Port Moresby as a sports tourism destination. ■



PICTURES: GODFREY KAPITIGAU



- 1** Runners take off at the start of the 10km event.
- 2** Barefoot runner Joshua Yaha.
- 3** The international entrants gathered at APEC Haus for a pre-event briefing.
- 4** Runner Peto Elijah.



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- 5** Female marathon winner Yvonne Dubois with Governor Powes Parkop.
- 6** Men's marathon winner Alexander Scherz with Governor Powes Parkop.
- 7** US runner Thomas Brand is watched by a prime minister and a president (on the poster).
- 8** Winners with the Governor (from left) Antonia Ndrawii, Jason Richard, Yvonne Dubois, Governor Powes Parkop, Alexander Scherz, Marjaana Raf and Peter Baki.



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Co-working space opens in Port Moresby

A shortage of affordable offices in Port Moresby for the growing community of entrepreneurs has prompted local company High Tech Otees Limited to open a co-working space.

Xoneshare is in a secure part of the Gordon Industrial area, and offers 30 office pods, two conference rooms, a breakout room and high-speed internet.

General manager Leslie Ratcliffe says the co-working space is ideal for locals, as well as business people who need a temporary office and secretarial services while passing through Port Moresby.

"As we researched affordable options it became apparent that there was a void in this particular space," Ratcliffe says.

Ratcliffe says that Xoneshare aims to provide a welcoming environment.

The facilities can be rented from PGK90 per day.

Xoneshare has a second phase of development underway, which will add 30 work pods and five lockable offices.

It also has an agreement with the Micro Small Medium Enterprise Council of Papua New Guinea to ensure permanently discounted rates for members of the council. ■

— CARMEL PILOTTI

Xoneshare is at HT Haus, Ago Street, Gordons. Tel. +675 325 7477, WhatsApp +675 7418 8711, email xoneshare@htpng.biz.

Xoneshare has 30 office pods, conference rooms, a breakout room and high-speed internet.



PICTURES: GODFREY KAPTIGAU

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Photography tours of PNG and India

David Kirkland is a globally acclaimed professional travel photographer whose work regularly appears in publications around the world, including *Paradise*.

Kirkland has partnered with tour company Crooked Compass (crooked-compass.com) for two small-group tours next year, to PNG and to India. He will personally guide travellers and share his experience in photographing people and traditional culture.

In the photo on this page, Kirkland has captured crocodile scarification on the back of a boatman in the Sepik. The scars are part of an ancient initiation.



Next year's PNG trip includes time with tribespeople at the Melpa Festival in the Highlands, as well as visiting remote communities in the Sepik. ■

To see David Kirkland's photographic essay of the recent Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival turn to Page 90.

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BIG PICTURE

TAKEN BY TIANA REIMANN

This piece of paradise was photographed with a drone while the photographer was on a liveaboard expedition boat, the MV *Ultimate One* (in background), operated by Baia Sportfishing PNG. The photo shows Tongalama Island, off the coast of New Britain. "It's populated by birds and trees, and surrounded by pristine coral," the photographer says. "Unfortunately, due to increasing sea levels, the old trees are succumbing to the waves and tides; soon it may just become another sandbar."





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



Fifty years ago, on November 1, 1973, PNG's new national airline took off for the first time.

FLYING HIGH

THE STORY OF AIR NIUGINI

On November 1, 1973, Air Niugini flight PX100 taxied towards the runway at Jacksons Airport in Port Moresby. As the blades of the twin propellers gained momentum, the Fokker F27 Friendship picked up speed and lifted into the air. The plane banked towards Rabaul, and the first flight of Papua New Guinea's new national airline was on its way.

The flight, bound for Lae and Kieta, via Rabaul, had been sent off after a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the then Chief Minister of the Territories, Michael Somare.

Grainy photographs from the time show the airline's first General Manager, Ralph Conley, looking on as the ribbon was cut.

"Air Niugini began with no reservations system to speak of, and the volume of

passengers clamouring for seats (especially during the Christmas period) almost overwhelmed the airline," writes James Sinclair in his book *Balus*.

Sinclair notes that when the airline was being formed it was estimated that 250,000 passengers would be carried in the first year, but the number turned out to be closer to 350,000.



AIR NIUGINI'S HISTORY IN A TIMELINE PAGE 30
A PIONEER PILOT RECALLS THE EARLY DAYS PAGE 50



An Air Niugini Boeing 767 (opposite page); an Air Niugini DC3 (above); the then Chief Minister of the Territories, Michael Somare, cuts the ribbon to send the first Air Niugini flight on its way while the airline's first General Manager Ralph Conley looks on (left); the first flight PX100 after it arrived in Lae (below).



"Projected total flying hours were 22,000, and 27,000 were achieved," he writes.

In the early days, the airline had just eight planes – a mix of DC3s and Fokker F27 Friendships – flying domestically.

By 1975, the airline was acquiring Boeing 727s from Ansett and Trans Australia Airlines (TAA), and a Boeing 707 from Qantas, to fly internationally to Brisbane, Manila and Hong Kong.

As it celebrates its 50th anniversary, Air Niugini has grown into a major carrier with 10 international destinations, 21 domestic destinations, more than 1750 employees and 24 aircraft in its fleet. In 2022, it carried more than 1.2 million passengers.

The idea of creating a single national airline for PNG was formed in September 1972 when the country was still under Australian rule and the PNG skies were dominated by Australian airlines.

The Australian airline companies, the PNG government and various interested parties all vied for a stake in the new airline. After several months of discussions and debate by members of the Australian parliament, an agreement was reached.

Initially, the PNG government had a 60 per cent stake in Air Niugini (it's now 100 per cent), Ansett had 16 per cent, Qantas 12 per cent and TAA 12 per cent.

The airline was named Air Niugini (with *Niugini* being Tok Pisin for 'New Guinea'), despite a local newspaper competition that came up with the name 'Kumul Air Services' as a favourite among readers.

Captain Garry Honour, a pilot with TAA and then one of the first to sign on with Air Niugini, says the name came about from a suggestion by him to the new airline boss, Ralph Conley.

"My experience with Air Niugini during those formative years was incredibly exciting and most satisfying. This was an airline that was really going places," Honour says. (See our story on Page 50 for Honour's recollections about the early days of the airline.)

Air Niugini plays a crucial role in PNG's economy and basic transport needs. With no road to link Port Moresby to other towns, the airline provides a vital service to the local communities and the tourist industry. ➤

Acting CEO, Gary Seddon, says: "Our mission is to connect PNG with the world, providing safe, reliable, and efficient air transportation services. We are committed to delivering a quality memorable travel experience, and we are proud to be a part of the fabric of PNG."

The celebration of Air Niugini's 50th year starts on November 1 with a *bung wantaim kaikai* with members of the board and management team hosting and helping serve food to staff. The event runs for the full day so that all staff, including shift workers, can attend.

It includes live music, videos on big screens and huge anniversary banners showing some of the airline's aircraft, pilots, cabin crew and other staff since 1973.

Air Niugini's contribution to the communities over the years will also be on display. Among the banners is an Air Niugini timeline displaying the airline's milestones over the years. (See our timeline starting on Page 30.)

Similar but smaller anniversary events will be hosted at Air Niugini outposts in PNG and at international ports.

Among other activities, the DC3 aircraft mounted at Air Niugini Haus has been repainted and, as *Paradise* was going to press, a monument was being put in place to commemorate the airline's 50 years.

The DC3 will be lit up at night for a few days from November 1 and Air Niugini is encouraging people to come and see the monument and take photos of the illuminated aircraft.

Next year, Air Niugini will release a coffee-table publication to commemorate the 50 years. ■

“

We are committed to delivering a quality memorable travel experience, and we are proud to be a part of the fabric of PNG.

”

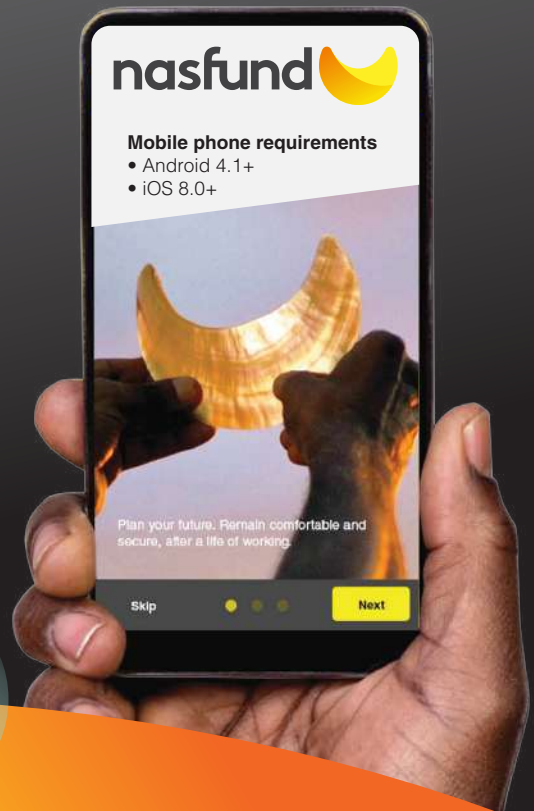


Air Niugini connects PNG communities across the length and breadth of the country (above); service with a smile on one of the airline's early flights (left).

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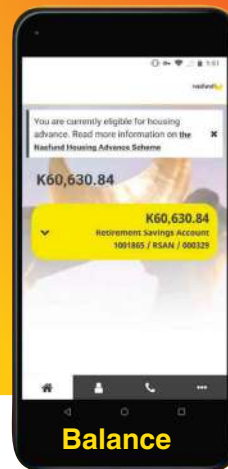
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A RIDE THROUGH TIME

Sit back, buckle up and take a journey with Air Niugini through the airline's highlights over 50 years.

1973

- ✈ Ralph Conley joins Air Niugini from Trans Australia Airlines (TAA) as its first General Manager. He was an executive with TAA, seconded to Qantas and then offered Air Niugini's top job.
- ✈ November 1, Air Niugini's inaugural flight departs Port Moresby for Lae and Kieta, via Rabaul. The flight number is PX100, and the aircraft is a Fokker F27 Friendship. Michael Thomas Somare, the Chief Minister of the Territories, cuts the ribbon to send the first flight on its way.



50

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ALL THE EXECUTIVES



Joseph Tauvasa (1980–1984)



Ralph Conley (1973–1976)



Tahawar Durrani (March to October 2018)



Bryan Grey (1976–1979)



Dieter Seefeld (1986–1996)



Masket Iangalio (1984–1986)



Bruce Alabaster (2020–2023)

- ✧ Air Niugini announces its official colour scheme of a white upper fuselage, a yellow, red and black speed line, a red bird of paradise on the tail and grey paint on the lower part of the fuselage. The first aircraft to appear in these colours is DC3 VH-SSB.
- ✧ There are eight aircraft in the Air Niugini fleet, comprising six Fokker F27 Friendships and two DC3s.

1974

- ✧ Air Niugini makes a profit in its first calendar year of operations.
- ✧ With no roads linking Port Moresby and other centres, and time constraints with sea transportation, Air Niugini plays a crucial role in transporting goods and services, allowing trade to prosper, supporting the country's economy.

1975

- ✧ PNG gains independence, with Air Niugini taking over the international routes operated by Qantas, including Brisbane, Manila and Hong Kong.
- ✧ Air Niugini leases Boeing 727s from TAA and Ansett Australia and uses them on

the Brisbane–Port Moresby route, while a Boeing 707 leased from Qantas is used on the weekly Manila–Hong Kong service.

- ✧ Two additional Fokker F27 Friendships join the fleet, bringing the total aircraft fleet to 10.
- ✧ September 17, Air Niugini becomes the first international airline to operate flights to Cairns, with a Fokker F28 Fellowship flying from Port Moresby to the Queensland town.

1976

- ✧ New General Manager Bryan Grey takes over from Ralph Conley and oversees a period of rapid expansion, adding destinations like Kagoshima, Japan, to the airline's international network.
- ✧ Fokker F28 Fellowship services start operating from Port Moresby to Lae, Madang, Kavieng and Kieta.
- ✧ Air Niugini construction projects include a new administration complex in Port Moresby, a cargo building at Jacksons Airport, and an Air Niugini housing estate at 6 Mile.

- ✧ Air Niugini publishes its first inflight *Paradise* magazine. The editor is Gerry Dick.
- ✧ Air Niugini installs and commissions its first mainframe computer.
- ✧ Air Niugini adds a Boeing 720B to its fleet, leased from Templewood Aviation (Tempair) for services to Sydney, Australia, and Kagoshima.
- ✧ Air Niugini opens a sales office in Sydney.

1977

- ✧ First Officer Aria Bouraga becomes the first Papua New Guinean to complete Fokker F28 Fellowship training and obtain turbo-jet endorsement.
- ✧ Komini Kanawi becomes the first Papua New Guinean licensed engineer on DC3s.
- ✧ Air Niugini operates its inaugural flight to Kagoshima on Boeing 707 P2-ANH.
- ✧ July 15, Air Niugini Haus officially opens.



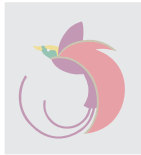
50TH ANNIVERSARY



Gerald Fallscheer (1979–1980)



Simon Foo (2013–2018)



Peter Roberts (2000–2003),
photo unavailable



Alan Milne (2018–2020)



Wasantha Kumarasiri
(2006–2013)



Andrew Ogil (1998–2000)



Gary Seddon (March 2023 to
present, Acting CEO)



Rod Nelson (2003–2006)



Moses Maladina (1996–1998)

1978

- ✧ Captain Minson Peni is the first Papua New Guinean to take command of a Fokker F27 Friendship. His First Officer is Lekwa Gure who later becomes a Dash 7 captain and captain of the airline's flagship aircraft, the Boeing 767.

1979

- ✧ Gerald Fallscheer takes over from Bryan Grey as the General Manager.
- ✧ Air Niugini opens routes to Honolulu and Singapore via Jakarta, Indonesia, on a Boeing 707.
- ✧ February 21, Air Niugini mounts DC3 P2-ANQ outside Air Niugini Haus. Transport and Civil Aviation Minister, Paias Wingti, unveils the plaque.
- ✧ Air Niugini opens sales offices in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Europe and the US.
- ✧ Air Niugini adds two Boeing 707s and two Fokker F28 Fellowships to the fleet.
- ✧ July 7, Air Niugini operates the inaugural service to Honolulu on Boeing 707 P2-ANA.

1980

- ✧ January 3, Air Niugini operates Port Moresby–Singapore–Bahrain–Beirut charters for the United Nations, carrying Fijian peacekeepers.
- ✧ The former Director of Civil Aviation, Joseph Tauvasa, becomes the first Papua New Guinean to be appointed Air Niugini's General Manager, taking over from Gerald Fallscheer.
- ✧ Wasting no time, he gets to work expanding the fleet and the airline's network to include Rabaul, and announces plans for a new service, linking Auckland, New Zealand, and Hong Kong in a multilateral tripartite service with Air Niugini and Cathay Pacific. (This service operates from 1981 to 1985.)
- ✧ May 8, first flight to Fukuoka, Japan, on Boeing 707 P2-ANB.

1981

- ✧ Air Niugini introduces Canadian-built Dash 7s to its fleet to supplement the Fokker F28 Fellowship as the Fokker F27 Friendship is being phased out.

1982

- ✧ Air Niugini operates United Nations charters to the Middle East for Fijian peacekeepers. The flights operate via Muscat, Oman, to Larnaca, Cyprus, to Tel Aviv, Israel, due to war in Beirut, Lebanon.
- ✧ November 25, Air Niugini management signs an agreement with Dutch airline KLM to help boost Air Niugini's performance. KLM provides four executives for a period of three years from February 1, 1983. Former KLM Director of Operations and Boeing 747 pilot Leen Van Ryswyk leads the group from Holland and takes up Air Niugini's Deputy General Manager position.

1983

- ✧ Air Niugini is again chosen by the United Nations to ferry Fijian peacekeepers between Fiji and Lebanon.
- ✧ Fokker F28 Fellowships commence services to Hoskins.
- ✧ Dash 7s commence regular scheduled flights to Kiunga, Mendi, Kundiawa and later Tari.



✧ May 5, with the airline's rapid expansion going hand in hand with investment in new technology, the Chairman of the National Airlines Commission, Bart Philemon, officially activates Air Niugini's new computer system, Fujitsu Facom M180, and acknowledges Air Niugini's proud position as the leading state-owned corporation in PNG. The new computer system replaces an ICL computer, which is sold to Brunei Airlines.

1984

- ✧ Papua New Guinean Masket langalio replaces Joe Tauvasa as General Manager and increases the fleet to help improve international services.
- ✧ Air Niugini flies Pope John Paul II from Mount Hagen to Honiara in a Fokker F28 Fellowship aircraft. Air Niugini modifies the aircraft interior to cater for the Pope and his delegation.

1985

- ✧ Air Niugini introduces its first home ownership scheme.
- ✧ The last Boeing 707 (P2-ANB) flight.

1986

- ✧ Dieter Seefeld takes over from Masket langalio as General Manager. langalio had resigned to enter national politics.
- ✧ Seefeld, with 18 years in marketing with Lufthansa, updates uniforms and the corporate logo.
- ✧ Air Niugini declares an operating profit of PGK7.6 million.
- ✧ Air Niugini selects its first five cadets for the National Pilot Training Scheme.
- ✧ Air Niugini welcomes its first Airbus A300-B4 (P2-ANG), provided by TAA to replace the original Airbus. It's painted in

a striking colour scheme in the form of a bird of paradise from nose to tail.

1987

- ✧ The National Airlines Commission appoints Michael Bromley as Chairman of Air Niugini.

1988

- ✧ Captain Lekwa Gure becomes the first Papua New Guinean Airbus captain.
- ✧ He flies the Pope from Port Moresby to Sydney with Captain Paun Nonggor-r.
- ✧ June 29, the first Airbus flight with an all-national crew flies from Brisbane to Port Moresby. In command is Captain Lekwa Gure, accompanied by First Officer Granger Narara and Flight Engineer Eddie Matane.

1989

- ✧ The National Airlines Commission appoints Sir Mekere Morauta as Chairman of Air Niugini.

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50TH ANNIVERSARY

- ✈ Air Niugini unveils a modernised version of its bird of paradise corporate logo. The logo is placed on all aircraft.
- ✈ Air Niugini introduces an Airbus A310 to the fleet to replace the Airbus A300 leased from TAA. It operates on the Singapore, Manila, Brisbane and Sydney routes.

1990

- ✈ Plans are underway to replace Air Niugini's computerised reservation system hosted by Qantas' Quantum.

1991

- ✈ Air Niugini takes delivery of a second Airbus A310 (P2 ANG MSN 549).
- ✈ Air Niugini operates shuttle services using Fokker F28 Fellowships between Port Moresby and Lae to move athletes for the South Pacific Games. The opening ceremony is in Port Moresby. The sporting events take place in Port Moresby and Lae.

STAFF



An Air Niugini Boeing 737 crew (above); father-and-son pilots Jason and Paun Nonggor-r (below).



Captain Beverly Pakii (above), the first female to captain a jet aircraft in PNG. Her first flight was from Port Moresby to Lae in a Fokker 100 on January 4, 2018.



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50TH ANNIVERSARY



An Air Niugini Boeing 707 crew on a Beirut flight in 1981 (above); international crew in the 1970s (left); service with a smile in 1998 (above right); flight crew (above far right); flight attendant Angelyn Tukana who won Miss PNG in 1978 (right); an undated photo of the airline's reservation staff in Port Moresby some decades ago (far right).



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1992

- ✧ Air Niugini unveils its new SITA passenger reservations, departure control and ticketing system. The system is used by many airlines around the world.
- ✧ Air Niugini carries 125,000 international and 570,000 domestic passengers during the year.

1993

- ✧ Air Niugini operates internationally to Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Honiara, Jayapura, Singapore, Manila and Hong Kong.
- ✧ Air Niugini embarks on its first travel road show, touring Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne in Australia. The roadshow takes four days and includes the famous Asaro Mudmen.
- ✧ The fleet comprises two Airbus A310s, a Fokker F28-4000 Fellowship, Seven Fokker F28-1000 Fellowships and two Dash 7s.

1994

- ✧ Captain Lekwa Gure becomes the first Papua New Guinean to be appointed Director of Flight Operations.

1995

- ✧ Air Niugini operates domestically to Buka, Daru, Goroka, Gurney, Hoskins, Kavieng, Kundiawa, Lae, Madang, Manus, Mendi, Moro, Mount Hagen, Popondetta, Port Moresby, Rabaul, Tabubil, Tari, Vanimo, Wapenamanda and Wewak.

1996

- ✧ Moses Maladina succeeds Dieter Seefeld as Chief Executive and General Manager.
- ✧ Lekwa Gure is approved as an Airbus check captain.

1997

- ✧ The first Dash 8 is added to the fleet in April.

- ✧ Air Niugini launches its website, www.airniugini.com.pg.

1998

- ✧ Air Niugini appoints Andrew Ogil as Managing Director.

1999

- ✧ Air Niugini leases an RJ75 from National Jet Systems in Australia to cater for the Christmas rush.
- ✧ The airline operates international flights to Brisbane, Cairns, Honiara, Manila and Singapore.

2000

- ✧ Peter Roberts takes over in September from Andrew Ogil as Managing Director.

2001

- ✧ Air Niugini appoints Lekwa Gure General Manager, Flight Operations and Chief Pilot.



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2002

- ✈ Aircraft added to the fleet include a Fokker F28-4000 P Fellowship and a Boeing 767-319ER.

2003

- ✈ Air Niugini appoints Rod Nelson as the Chief Executive Officer.

2004

- ✈ The last Fokker F28 Fellowship flight departs Cairns for Port Moresby in March.
- ✈ Air Niugini experiences a 6.6 per cent growth in domestic passenger numbers and a 12.4 per cent increase in the international market.
- ✈ Air Niugini appoints general sales agents in Stockholm and London.

2005

- ✈ Air Niugini introduces e-ticketing training to its staff.
- ✈ Air Niugini's flagship Boeing 767 is named 'Bulolo' in tribute to the town where aviation in the country started.

The then Chief Minister of the Territories, Michael Somare, and the first General Manager of Air Niugini, Ralph Conley (right).



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2006

- ✈ Sir James Tjoeng becomes Chairman of the Air Niugini Board.
- ✈ Wasantha Kumarasiri is appointed Chief Executive Officer, taking over from Rod Nelson.
- ✈ July 18, the first Fokker 100 (P2-ANB MSN 11349) operates to Buka. On the flight deck is Captain Mike Rosier, Captain Naime Aihl and First Officer Paul Boga.
- ✈ Captain Daniel Wanma is appointed General Manager, Flight Operations.
- ✈ Air Niugini operates internationally to Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns, Honiara, Manila, Hong Kong (via Manila), Tokyo and Singapore.
- ✈ The domestic flights include Buka, Goroka, Gurney, Hoskins, Kavieng, Kundiawa, Lae, Madang, Manus, Mendi, Moro,

Mount Hagen, Popondetta, Port Moresby, Rabaul (Tokua), Tabubil, Tari, Vanimo, Wapenamanda and Wewak.

- ✈ December 20, Air Niugini launches online bookings.

2007

- ✈ Air Niugini establishes a general sales agency in Suva, Fiji.
- ✈ New bag tag and boarding pass printers are put into action at Jacksons Airport domestic check-in counters. Boarding passes have a 2D barcode, which can be read by a suitable barcode reader.
- ✈ March 23, Air Niugini operates the inaugural flight to Nadi, Fiji, via Honiara, Solomon Islands, using a Fokker 100.
- ✈ Air Niugini leases a Boeing 767 from Air Macau and a Boeing 757 from Iceland Air.

2008

- ✈ April 18, Air Niugini operates the inaugural Port Moresby–Sydney direct flight using an Embraer 190.
- ✈ Air Niugini and Boeing announce in July that the airline has ordered a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner. In addition to the direct order placed with Boeing, Air Niugini plans to lease a second 787-8 Dreamliner from Iceland Air.
- ✈ October, Air Niugini announces direct flights to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ✈ The airline launches a new look for its website.
- ✈ The PNG Government's Falcon jet joins the Air Niugini fleet. The airline operates the jet on behalf of the state.



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PLANES



An Air Niugini Fokker F28 Fellowship and an Airbus A300-B4 with bird of paradise livery (above); an iconic DC3 (above right); a Fokker F28 Fellowship and a bus at Nadzab Airport (far right); a Boeing 707 (right); the flagship Boeing 767 (below).



A Dash 8-Q400 (above), an Airbus A300-B4 with bird of paradise livery (left); a Fokker F27 Friendship (right).



2009

- ✦ Air Niugini launches a foundation membership drive in August for its Destinations Loyalty Program.
- ✦ Air Niugini places an order for two Bombardier Q400 NextGen high-speed turboprop airliners.

2010

- ✦ In April, Air Niugini officially launches its Destinations Loyalty Program, PNG's first-ever frequent-flyer program.

2011

- ✦ New cabin crew uniforms are introduced.
- ✦ Boeing 767 P2-PXW is added to the fleet.
- ✦ November 25, Air Niugini's first General Manager, Ralph Conley, visits Port Moresby for the last time before his passing three years later.

2012

- ✦ April 28, Air Niugini names its latest Fokker 70 'Kokoda' in commemoration of the battle of Kokoda. The naming event is officiated by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.
- ✦ May 21, Air Niugini's inaugural flight to Daru, Western Province, takes off from Port Moresby.
- ✦ July 17, direct flights from Port Moresby to Cebu, Philippines, are launched.
- ✦ The inaugural Boeing 737 service from Port Moresby to Momote Airport, Manus, takes off in November, as well as an inaugural Boeing 737 flight to Tokua Airport, Rabaul.

2013

- ✦ Simon Foo takes over from Wasantha Kumarasiri in February as the Acting Chief Executive Officer. The board confirms his appointment in July.

- ✦ March 27, Air Niugini's corporate charter terminal is opened at the 7 Mile Airport in Port Moresby by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill.
- ✦ July 13, Air Niugini launches Boeing 737 livery depicting the Owen Stanley Ranges in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the battle of Kokoda.
- ✦ Air Niugini implements a 40 per cent cut-price fare promotion to mark its 40th anniversary on November 1.
- ✦ August 5, Air Niugini starts a direct service from Port Moresby to Bali.

2014

- ✦ Air Niugini signs an e-ticket agreement with Qatar Airlines.
- ✦ October 15, Air Niugini announces that it will launch Link PNG as its subsidiary airline serving smaller ports.

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- ✦ November 1, on its 41st anniversary Air Niugini launches Link PNG.
- ✦ December 20, Air Niugini returns to Aropa/Kieta airport after almost 25 years.

2015

- ✦ In February, Air Niugini, Air Vanuatu and Solomon Airlines sign an initial agreement in Honiara, Solomon Islands, to enter a tripartite codeshare arrangement on the Port Moresby–Honiara–Port Vila route.
- ✦ March 12, Captain Beverly Pakii becomes the first female under Air Niugini's pilot cadet program to attain her command on Dash 8s. She flies from Port Moresby to Lihir in New Ireland, continues to Tokua Airport, Rabaul, and back to Port Moresby. Captain Pakii started with Air Niugini as a cadet in 2004.

- ✦ May 29, an all-female crew operates for the first time in a Dash 8 from Port Moresby to Tabubil and back. Captain Pakii is in command.

- ✦ June 24, Air Niugini operates its first flight to Port Vila, Vanuatu.

- ✦ Air Niugini introduces a 'pay later' method of payment.

- ✦ Air Niugini teams up with Flight Centre Australia to sell flights.

2016

- ✦ Air Niugini's subsidiary Link PNG introduces 'Combi Flights', which means the aircraft transfers both passengers and cargo.
- ✦ December 6, Air Niugini launches its first commercial flights to Chuuk and Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia.

2017

- ✦ March 31, Air Niugini starts flights to Townsville in Queensland, Australia.
- ✦ May 28, Air Niugini launches the Kokoda Cup to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the battle of Kokoda.
- ✦ Air Niugini appoints its first female General Manager, Bonai Pepena Wala, to manage one of its new subsidiaries, properties and facilities.

2018

- ✦ Tahawar Durrani takes over from Simon Foo in March as Acting Chief Executive Officer.
- ✦ March 12, Captain Beverly Pakii becomes the first female Papua New Guinean pilot to captain a jet aircraft, attaining her command on a Fokker 100.

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- ✈ March 28, Air Niugini opens a new staff accommodation complex, next to its head office at 7 Mile in Port Moresby. The eight-storey building with 138 units cost PGK100 million to build but saves the airline PGK18 million annually in commercial accommodation costs.
- ✈ July 9, Air Niugini implements in-house 'C' checks, or heavy maintenance checks, on its jet aircraft at the airline's engineering hangar in Port Moresby.
- ✈ Alan Milne takes over in October from Tahawar Durrani as the Chief Executive Officer.

2019

- ✈ February 1, Captain Mark Yates and First Officer Christian Yates take their first commercial flight as father-and-son pilots, on a service from Port Moresby to Hoskins and back.



Pope John Paul II flew from Port Moresby to Sydney with Air Niugini on January 18, 1995.

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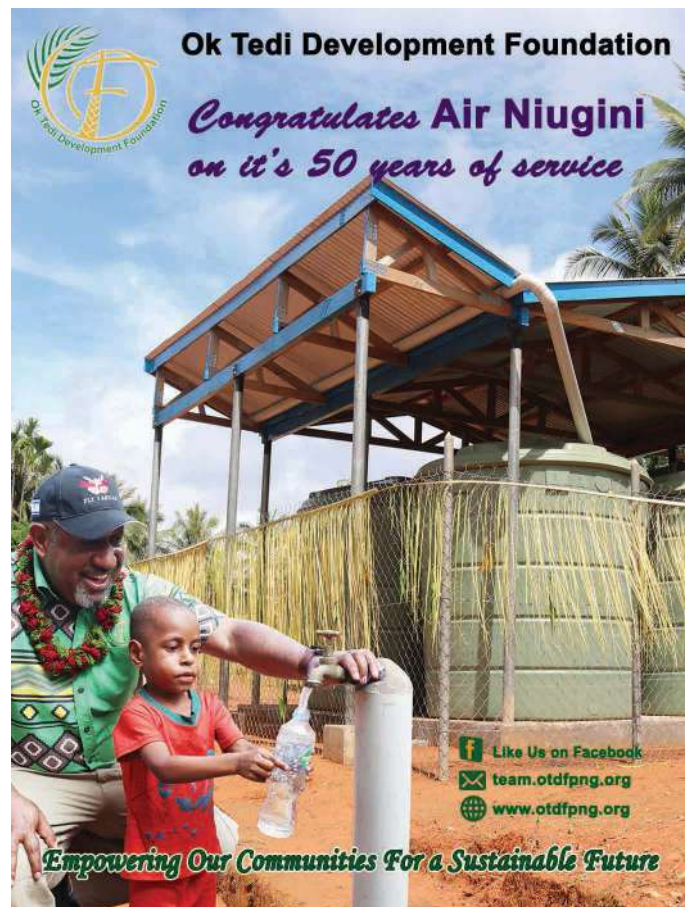
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✧ June 14, Air Niugini announces that it will take over the Cairns–Hong Kong route relinquished by Cathay Pacific. The first flight takes off on October 31, flying via Port Moresby and carrying mostly cargo.

✧ September 5, Air Niugini operates its first direct service from Port Moresby to Nadi, Fiji.

2020

✧ Bruce Alabaster is appointed as the Chief Executive Officer on March 31, taking over from Alan Milne.

✧ Air Niugini, like airlines all around the world, has its flights severely curtailed as COVID-19 grips the globe.

2021

✧ June 30, Captain Paun Nonggor-r retires from Air Niugini after 45 years.

2022

✧ Air Niugini opens three more sales offices in Port Moresby, for a total of nine in the capital and 22 across the country.

✧ A Boeing 737 operates for the first time to Kavieng Airport. The airline also resumes flights to Nadzab Airport, Lae, made possible after runway works.

2023

✧ February 28, Air Niugini operates an inaugural weekly service connecting Australia, PNG and Palau.

✧ Gary Seddon is appointed as the Acting Chief Executive Officer in March, replacing Bruce Alabaster.

✧ June 17, Air Niugini mourns the passing of much respected Board Chairman Sir Kostas Constantinou.

✧ Air Niugini operates to 21 domestic and 10 international routes during the year.

✧ The airline has 24 aircraft in the fleet including Boeing 767s, Boeing 737s, Fokker 100s, Fokker 70s, Q400s, Dash 8-300s, Dash 8-200s and a Falcon.

✧ As part of a major re-fleet exercise, Air Niugini is acquiring new aircraft, including the Airbus A220 and Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner in 2025 and 2026 respectively. ■

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FROM THE

One of Air Niugini's pioneer pilots talks about naming the airline, flying in war zones and mountain ranges, and his 15 years in a cockpit.

"People thought I was taking a crazy risk when I joined Air Niugini back in November 1973," recalls Captain Garry Honour, one of Air Niugini's first pilots.

"They said I was bonkers, but I could see a future in Papua New Guinea," says the now retired Australian aviator. "And I thought, if it's going to have a future, it's got to have an international airline."

Four years earlier, in 1969, Honour had spotted a message on a pilots' noticeboard in Melbourne's Essendon Airport, calling for pilots to fly DC3s for Trans Australia Airlines (TAA) in PNG, which was then still an Australian territory. From bases in Lae and Madang, his flight paths would cross the entire Highlands, the islands of New Britain and the Papuan Gulf area as far west as Balimo and Daru.

With no roads through most of the country, everything was freighted by air, and there was a huge demand for pilots. Yet when he was offered the opportunity to remain in PNG to join a new national airline in 1973, 28-year-old Honour was one of only two TAA pilots – along with his colleague and friend Captain Larry Blackman – to jump at the chance.

"I could see a very bright future by being loyal to PNG," recalls Honour. "I had full confidence in the prospects of our emerging airline, with a promising and exciting future on offer."

Not only was Honour one of the first pilots to sign with the new airline, but he recalls suggesting a name for the airline.

He remembers suggesting to the incoming CEO of the airline, Ralph Conley, that they consider Tok Pisin spelling for a uniquely PNG name. His idea saw the first aircraft, a 36-passenger, twin turboprop Fokker F27 Friendship, emblazoned with the words 'Air Niugini' and a *kumul* (bird of paradise) along the fuselage.

From Rabaul, Honour would fly the Fokker F27 Friendship, dubbed 'the 20-tonne dog' ➤

PILOT'S SEAT





Flight attendant Esther Sapulai serves troops on an Air Niugini flight going to the war in Lebanon (left); the Air Niugini flight crew on the inaugural flight to Honolulu in 1979 (below). Garry Honour is pictured second from left.



Captain Garry Honour in 1983 (left); the rare event of de-icing an Air Niugini plane, in Japan in 1979 (right).



“

It was the golden days of flying – everyone was dressed well, they had a full meal, it was a privilege to fly.

”

whistle’ due to the high-pitched whine of its propeller turbines, to Lae and Port Moresby until late 1976.

“Our two hosties (as we called flight attendants in those days) managed to take bar orders, serve drinks, offer a full hot meal with tea and coffee for all passengers and both pilots, and have it all stacked away prior to landing at Lae just 60 minutes after departure in Port Moresby,” he recalls.

“It really was the golden days of flying – everyone was dressed well, they had a full meal, it was a privilege to fly.”

Overnighting in Rabaul and Madang, there were always a lot of laughs among the crew. One of Honour’s most memorable was flying as First Officer to a “larrikin captain” on an empty, repositioning flight for TAA from Lae to Madang. Aside from the two pilots, the only other person on board was Suzie, the flight attendant.

“The morning was calm, so we decided to have a bit of fun,” says Honour. Shutting the door between the cabin and cockpit, he and the captain steered the DC3 on a clear route, opened all the cockpit windows and, just before they hid in the cockpit’s cupboard, rang the flight attendants’ call button.

“She opened the cabin door, looked around – no pilots, all the windows open, just two caps on the seat – there were mountains to the left, mountains to the right, the blue Pacific up ahead and she was apparently the only one left on board!

“She never forgave us,” Honour still laughs decades later.

In late 1976, Honour was promoted to the cockpit of the iconic Boeing 707, dubbed



Captain Garry Honour on the flight deck in 1980 (top); Air Niugini’s crew on the ground in Fukuoka in 1981 (above).

locally as the *simok balus* (big smoke airplane) on account of the enormous amount of black engine smoke they produced shortly after take-off.

The Boeing 707 was purchased from Qantas and included training under Qantas senior check captains in Sydney, with hands-on flying at Qantas’ pilot training base at Avalon Airport near Geelong, Victoria.

“We cut our teeth on the Boeing 707 in Avalon, then started flying from Port Moresby

on regular routes to Brisbane and Sydney, Manila, Hong Kong and Jakarta’s Halim Airport, all with just one aircraft.”

Singapore was next on the route map, and, with the addition of a second Boeing 707, the network extended to Japan. The routes, first to Kagoshima and then also Fukuoka, had surprising success as Japanese families undertook pilgrimages to where their fathers or sons had fought in PNG in World War 2.

“It was a dream, flying in those days,” Honour says. “Not too much traffic, not too much pressure on flight schedules. It was a very satisfying, leisurely lifestyle.”

The route map grew again, and, in July 1979, Honour captained Air Niugini’s inaugural US flight, from PNG to Honolulu with fellow captain Bill Moore. The eight-hour flight path passed over Nauru, the Marshall Islands and the Johnston Atoll before descending into Honolulu.

Also on board was an over-enthusiastic, non-ticketed reveller who, having imbibed too much at the take-off celebrations in Port Moresby, was found mid-flight, slumped in an economy-class toilet.

“We now had a stowaway on board, not really what we had in mind for our inaugural Honolulu flight,” remembers Honour. The ➤





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'stowaway' happened to be an airport security officer from Port Moresby, who subsequently spent his night in Hawaii in the Honolulu airport watchhouse.

Such hiccups aside, the PNG-based pilots were honing their skills and building their reputations, which led to the airline winning a contract in Lebanon.

For three years from 1980, Air Niugini flew from Nadi to Beirut via Singapore, ferrying Fijian peacekeeping missions in and out of Lebanon during its civil war. "No-one had heard of this little South Pacific airline, but we had the right-sized aircraft and, geographically, were the right location between the two countries."

Captain Garry Honour with Papua New Guinean Captain Granger Narara in 1988. (After flying around the world for Emirates and Etihad Airways, Captain Narara has re-joined Air Niugini and is now the airline's Chief Operating Officer.)



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Honour recalls how they would leave Port Moresby with their own cabin crew and engineers, and now Peter Kelly, an Australian flight operations liaison, would board with a bag full of US dollars used to pay for fuel, clearances and accommodation on the round-trip journey in and out of the war zone.

"Cheques weren't accepted, so Peter would pay cash, and used to sleep on this bag full of money," he says, remembering how the Fijian peacekeeping soldiers – led by a Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, now Fiji's Prime Minister – would come home after six months' duty, loaded with duty-free shopping from the Middle East, with massive boom boxes and TVs. "And we were trying to fit them all in the economy section of a 707 for 15 hours' flying!"

With early morning fogs in PNG's Highland valleys and tremendous tropical thunderstorms in the afternoons, not to mention mountain ranges to just under 15,000 feet, flying in PNG was purely visual in the early days.

"You really cut your teeth on bush flying," says Honour. "Airstrips were rough and ready, and practically none of them level.

"It was adventure; that's why we called it a pilot's paradise," he says.

Although flying for Air Niugini took Honour across the world, it was the regular B707 flights to New Zealand that changed his life forever.

"I weakened to the charms of a lovely Japanese girl who was living and working in Auckland and we were married in a Japanese shrine in Hokkaido in November 1986," he says. It was also at this time the airline changed to flying Airbus A300 B4s, which had a limited ability to fly long-haul.

"Very reluctantly, I submitted my resignation after 15 years with Air Niugini, and all that time with the coveted Seniority Number 1 position," he says. Honour moved to Singapore Airlines in January 1988 to command an Airbus 310, and later, the 'Queen of the Skies', the Boeing 747,

until his retirement from the airline in 2005, aged 60.

He flew another four years with Air Pacific in Fiji before teaming up with his eldest son, Kent who is now flying Boeing 787s internationally for Air Japan. After graduating, the father and son found themselves both flying with PNG Air. Kent was assigned to the 19-seater Twin Otter, while Garry captained the Dash 8 turboprop to establish Solomon Airlines' domestic routes, which he flew for two years before he fully retired in late 2011.

Over his 49 years in the cockpit, Honour filled 17 logbooks, and retired with 41,000 hours' flying time under his belt – more than double that of most pilots – with 23 years spent flying in PNG.

"I've never done a day's work in my life," says the retired pilot who started flying at 19.

"It was always fun. I took a gamble, and it paid off," he says. The best decision of my life was to go to PNG." ■

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Once again, congratulations on this momentous occasion. We look forward to partnering with Air Niugini for many more years and welcoming your valued passengers to our establishment.



The master aviator and the DC3

The story behind the DC3 mounted at Air Niugini headquarters.

The DC3, P2-ANQ, mounted on display outside Air Niugini's head office at Jackson's Airport in Port Moresby is named after respected Air Niugini pilot Larry Blackman.

The airline had the aircraft mounted on February 21, 1979, to commemorate the airmen who gave their lives flying in Papua New Guinea. The then Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation, Paias Wingti, officiated at the launch.

Captain Blackman commanded that aircraft for many of the 17,000 hours that he flew DC3s for Air Niugini. (He later flew Fokkers.)

“

His reputation as an excellent pilot of the DC3 was well known in PNG and Australia.

”

Before joining the airline, he was a check and training captain on DC3 aircraft for Trans Australia Airlines (TAA). He joined TAA in 1951 after flying for the Royal Australian Airforce since 1938.

One of Air Niugini's pioneer pilots, Captain Garry Honour (see previous story), describes Blackman as a true legend.



The DC3 at Air Niugini's headquarters in Port Moresby (above); Captain Larry Blackman (right).

“Larry was a master aviator in every respect and watching him do his magic when flying, what was not an easy aircraft, was truly a delight to witness,” he says. “There was nothing that he did not know of the iconic Douglas DC3/C-47.”

Another pioneer Air Niugini pilot and PNG's own son, Captain Granger Narara, remembers a flight he had with Blackman.

“I was only 19 and it was my first inflight engine shut down as we were climbing out of Madang on December 2, 1978. The number two engine had oil loss, so we had to shut it.

“Captain Blackman looked at me and very calmly said ‘why don't you land it; I've done many of these’. And so, I landed the aircraft safely back in Madang. Every time I see Captain Blackman's memorial DC3, I am reminded of that experience.”

Blackman's son, David, recalls: “We occasionally would take trips with dad, and it was always great sitting in the jump seat. At home in Lae, I recall him flying over the house and dipping his wings on his return from somewhere. His reputation as an excellent pilot and master of the DC3 was well known in PNG and Australia.”

Blackman retired from Air Niugini on September 29, 1975. He was diagnosed with motor neurone disease and passed away two years later.

He loved PNG so much that he had requested his ashes be spread across Simpson Harbour in Rabaul, which Air Niugini honoured. The Blackman family travelled to Rabaul where Blackman's ashes were cast from the open door of a Talair Islander aircraft by his widow Shirley.

Back to the iconic DC3 aircraft. It joined Air Niugini fleet in 1973 after the formation of the airline.



Before joining the Air Niugini fleet, this DC3 Skyliner was operated by TAA in PNG.

Prior to that, it was used by a Greek shipping tycoon Stamos Niarchos. The US Army also operated it before transferring it to the Royal Airforce, which used it in Europe during World War 2.

The DC3 provided a safe, reliable and comfortable air service throughout PNG before the Fokker 27 and 28 were introduced to the Air Niugini fleet. The last commercial service for P2-ANQ was a charter from Losuia in the Trobriand Islands to Port Moresby on June 13, 1977. ■



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How uniforms have changed

Throughout its 50-year history, Air Niugini's flight attendants have presented a polished and professional image. Here, have a look at how uniforms have changed over time, from cabin crew wearing white slacks in the 1970s to the current purple outfits.



Red and black tunics matched with flared white pants were worn by flight attendants on domestic flights in the 1970s (above left). Another 70's look for female flight crew was an orange skirt and jacket with white top. Once inside the cabin, the female crew would wear traditional *meri* dresses (above right).



Bird of paradise uniforms were seen in the late 1970s and the 1980s. They came in a variety of colours, including yellow, green and orange.

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Pink and blue uniforms with butterfly prints were worn in the mid-1990s until 2000.



The current uniform of purple skirt with plumes of the bird of paradise was introduced in 2011. The skirt is matched with a purple jacket (gold for pursers on international flights).

A SALUTE TO THE CAPTAIN

Barney Orere meets an Air Niugini pilot who has left an indelible mark on the history of the airline.



Captain Lekwa Gure (left) and (above left).

When Air Niugini was born on November 1, 1973, Lekwa Gure was a student at Kwikila High School in Central Province.

Half a century later, he is one of the airline's most feted pilots. Although Gure left Air Niugini in 2016 to enter politics, his legacy as a pioneering Papua New Guinean aviator remains.

He was the first Papua New Guinean pilot to captain the Airbus A300-B4, the biggest wide-body jet in Air Niugini's fleet, in 1988.

He went on to captain A310 and B767 aircraft.

For the next 30 years he flew them to overseas destinations and sometimes on charter. In his 39 years with Air Niugini, Gure spent only nine years flying domestically.

Reminiscing for this interview, he says: "Every time I jumped into an aeroplane and strapped myself into the pilot's seat, I became one with the machine."

After leaving school and gaining a flying scholarship, Gure travelled to Australia to train at the NASA Flying School at Cessnock, NSW, as a cadet under the tutelage of Papua New Guinean Minson Peni, who was later given command on an Air Niugini

Fokker 27, he was the first PNG national to get a captaincy.

Gure says that in the early days of his flying career with Air Niugini on Fokkers and the Dash 7, there were no full flight simulators and, therefore, all the base training was done on the plane itself, which invariably had an added risk factor.

Among his flying highlights, he recalls flying Pope John Paul II from Port Moresby to Sydney in 1995 with Captain Paun Nonggor'r. A papal medallion and rosary beads are treasured keepsakes from that memorable flight.

He also recalls flying prime ministers – Paias Wingti and Peter O'Neill among them – to important overseas meetings in places like Indonesia and Fiji, as well as being appointed as the first Papua New Guinean Director of Flight Operations for Air Niugini in 1994, and General Manager Flight Operations and Chief Pilot in 2001.

"It's a great milestone," he says of Air Niugini's golden anniversary. "In comparison to other airlines of the world Air Niugini is relatively young; nevertheless, it's congratulations to the board and management." ■

Every time I jumped into an aeroplane and strapped myself into the pilot's seat, I became one with the machine.



A lifetime of service with Air Niugini

Engineer Alcan Mattiunga is the airline's longest-serving employee.

Meet Air Niugini's longest-serving employee, licensed aircraft maintenance engineer Alcan Mattiunga, who has been with the airline for 45 years and continues to do what he knows and loves best.

He was only 18 when he joined Air Niugini in 1978, after being selected for a four-year apprenticeship program.

Since then, he has acquired several aircraft maintenance licences to work on a variety



Engineer Alcan Mattiunga (third from left) with Air Niugini colleagues.

of planes, including Fokker aircraft and the Boeing 737.

When Mattiunga first started, he recalls that engineers used a bulky aircraft maintenance manual to guide them through procedures.

"It 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 when carrying out maintenance at the outposts.

This, however, is not happening anymore as

all work is now computerised. We also have better hangar facilities and tools."

In his role as a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer, his responsibility is to certify the correct state of systems maintained on an aircraft, such as engines, hydraulics, autopilot, communications and radar.

Mattiunga is a product of the late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare's vision in 1975, when he emphasised the need for Papua New Guineans to be engineers, pilots, doctors, lawyers, accountants and professionals in their own country. Mattiunga was among young Papua New Guineans who were 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 to work in a professional field wasn't easy. But some of us took the challenge head on.

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

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VETERAN REJOINS AIR NIUGINI

Captain Granger Narara is back with Air Niugini after a distinguished career with Emirates. *Barney Orere* reports on the crucial role the veteran pilot will play in re-fleeting Air Niugini.



Captain Granger Narara as a cadet first officer on a Fokker F27 Friendship in 1978 (left) and as an Airbus A300-B4 captain in 1987 (far left). He is now Chief Operating Officer of Air Niugini.

Veteran Air Niugini pilot Granger Narara has returned to the airline, initially as a technical consultant and now promoted to Chief Operating Officer.

Narara, who first joined the airline in 1978 before moving to Emirates for 32 years, will help drive Air Niugini's ambitious re-fleeting program, and it's not out of the question that he may fly domestically again.

"I left in 1991 after 13 years (at Air Niugini) and now that I am back in PNG, I hope to fly again," he says.

But right now, he is focused on the re-fleeting program, which, it

can be revealed, will deliver new aircraft over the next four or five years such as the Airbus A220 and Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

"We are basically bringing Air Niugini into the 21st century," he says.

Narara says Air Niugini is "going down a very modern road of operation".

"I am here to make sure all those deliveries are taken care of."

Narara is no stranger to re-fleeting.

After leaving Air Niugini, he worked with Emirates where he was Airbus chief pilot. He says Emirates brought in 40 aircraft while he was in charge and he ran the Airbus fleet, which had 80 aircraft and 800 pilots.

Narara's active flying career ended in 2022, at age 63, when he says he felt he was finished with the living-out-of-a-suitcase lifestyle.

His career took him from bush aviation on smaller aircraft accorded him by Air Niugini before he could fly the airline's Dash 7, to captaining the wide-bodied B777 jets.

Narara's aviation journey started in October 1976 when he applied to become a cadet pilot.

The Civil Aviation Authority in PNG advertised for pilot cadets through an AUSAID scheme. The interviews were done in Lae with a team from the Royal Australian Airforce and by December 1976 they had selected nine cadets from over 500 applicants. Narara was fortunate to be one of them.

He recalls: "Most of us (the cadets) had never had a passport or travelled overseas, and our first flight abroad was on the Air Niugini Boeing 707 to Sydney for our flying course at Cessnock in NSW. I was 17. We returned to PNG 18 months later and were inducted into Air Niugini." ■

“
Air Niugini is going down a very
modern road of operation.
”



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Best Business Hotels

The Sydney Four Seasons (main); a function room at the Hilton Hotel Port Moresby (below); opulence at The Regal in Hong Kong (bottom).



Daniel Scott rounds up some of the best hotels for business travellers at Air Niugini's key destinations.

When travelling on business, it can be tricky choosing the best base for your stay. In the big cities on Air Niugini's network, like Hong Kong and Singapore, business travellers are spoilt for choice, with many outstanding, well-located hotels offering excellent facilities.

In smaller hubs like Honiara and Palau, there are fewer options. Overall, the decision comes down to a combination of convenient location close to the CBD and conference spaces, on-site facilities for business travellers like an executive lounge and function rooms, and options for dining with colleagues. Nor should downtime while on business be forgotten, with gyms, pools and wellness centres also important.

This story runs the rule over Air Niugini's 10 principal destinations, and consulted with local experts, to nominate the top business hotels in each city.

PORT MORESBY

HILTON HOTEL & RESIDENCES

PNG's capital is well equipped for business travellers, with strong options like Airways Hotel and the Stanley Hotel. The Hilton, close to Parliament House and with its new, fully equipped residences, hotel rooms and on-site convention centre, is an ideal work base.

Where Star Mountain Plaza, Port Moresby

Website, phone hiltonportmoresby.com
+675 7901 8000

Rooms 212 hotel rooms (including executive suites) with high-speed Wi-Fi, 180 residences (1, 2 or 3 bedrooms with kitchens).

Work Modern convention centre for 650 guests, including outdoor amphitheatre. Has PNG's first co-working office facilities, Hubworks.

Food and drink Six restaurants and bars, including Mumu, for traditional cuisine, and Summit, with views over Port Moresby.

Wellness Two fitness centres open 24/7; two outdoor pools.

Club lounge An executive lounge, on the 15th floor, offers complimentary internet, breakfast, all-day refreshments and evening drinks and canapes.

Distance to airport 4.9km

Shuttle Airport transfers on request.

Room rate From PGK595

Other top business hotels Airways (airways.com.pg); The Stanley (thestanleypng.com). In Lae: The Lae International Hotel (laeinterhotel.com). In Mt Hagen: The Highlander Hotel (coralseahotels.com.pg), the McRoyal Hotel (mcroyalhotelpng.com). In Kokopo: The Gazelle International Hotel (gazelleinterhotel.com).

HONG KONG

THE REGAL HONG KONG

With its long history as a strategic trading hub, Hong Kong has been accommodating business travellers for centuries, and there are countless choices here. The Regal Hong Kong, in Causeway Bay, close to the Convention Centre, and busy Admiralty, Wan Chai and Central districts, is a great base for visiting execs.

Where 88 Yee Wo Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Website, phone: regalhotel.com/en/regal-hongkong-hotel
+852 2890 6633

Rooms 481, including 33 suites, with full-sized work desks, free Wi-Fi. Four Executive Club floors of executive/superior rooms.

Work Business centre including comprehensive secretarial services, 20 function rooms with cutting-edge facilities.

Food and drink Five outlets including Regal Palace, for Chinese cuisine.

Club lounge Executive Club for deluxe/ superior room/suite guests. Complimentary refreshments.

Wellness Rooftop pool, gym, running tracks/ tennis in nearby Victoria Park.

Distance to airport 42km

Shuttle Inbound for a fee/outbound free to direct-booking guests.

Room rate HK\$3600 (PGK1652)

Other top business hotels Kowloon Shangri-La (shangri-la.com/en/hongkong/kowloonshangrila); Regal Kowloon (regalhotel.com/en/regal-kowloon-hotel). ➤





BRISBANE

CRYSTALBROOK VINCENT

Although the Queensland capital, recently awarded the 2032 Olympics, takes its commerce seriously, there is a relaxed vibe around business that makes the Crystalbrook Vincent, in the happening Howard Smith Wharves precinct, beside the Brisbane River, this city's top pick.

Where 5 Boundary Street, Brisbane

Website, phone crystalbrookcollection.com/vincent
+61 1300 002 050

Rooms 166 bright, contemporary rooms and suites, with city and river views. Fast, free Wi-Fi, in-room tablet control-centre and desk.

Work Three event spaces with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment.

Food and drink Fiume Rooftop Bar, for alfresco drinks, under Story Bridge, Mews Cafe for breakfast meetings. Howard Smith Wharves has many riverside options for entertaining clients, including Felons Brewing Co and Yoko restaurant.

Wellness Rooftop infinity pool. Free bicycle hire to explore Brisbane's riverfront.

Distance to airport 13.3km

Shuttle service Airport 20 minutes by taxi/rideshare.

Room rate A\$225 (PGK530)

Other top business hotels Brisbane Marriott (marriott.com/en-us/hotels/bnedt-brisbane-marriott-hotel); Novotel Southbank (novotelbrisbanesouthbank.com.au).



The eye-catching Crystalbrook Flynn in Cairns (above); the infinity pool at the Crystalbrook Vincent in Brisbane (above left).

CAIRNS

CRYSTALBROOK FLYNN

As the tourism hub for Tropical North Queensland and Great Barrier Reef, Cairns is an inspiring conference destination. Among the properties close to the conference centre and CBD, the Crystalbrook Flynn, opened in late 2020, is the freshest, with an eye-catching tropical design, dedication to sustainable luxury and views across the Coral Sea.

Where 85 Esplanade (access via 68–72 Abbott St), Cairns

Website, phone crystalbrookcollection.com/flynn
+61 7 4253 5000

Rooms 311 rooms and suites, all with small working desk; free Wi-Fi throughout hotel.

Work Meeting spaces for up to 120. Photocopying/secretarial services through reception.

Food and drink Boardwalk Social for informal breakfast meetings, Flynn's Italian for stylish dinners based on seasonal local produce.

Club lounge N/A

Wellness 24-hour fitness centre, glass swimming pools, on-site spa.

Distance to airport 6km

Shuttle By arrangement, A\$55 (PGK130).

Room rate A\$259 (PGK611)

Other top business hotels Hilton (hilton.com/en/hotels/crnhitw-hilton-cairns); Sebel Harbour Lights (thesebelcairnsharbourlights.com). ➤





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SYDNEY

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

In a city full of excellent hotels, several with multi-million dollar views over Sydney Harbour, there are plentiful choices for business travellers. At the harbour's edge, adjacent to the historic Rocks and Circular Quay, the Four Seasons adds top-notch business facilities to its stellar location.

Where 199 George Street, Sydney

Website, phone fourseasons.com/sydney
+61 2 9250 3100

Rooms 531, including 33 suites, most with harbour or city views, all with desk, free Wi-Fi and multi-line telephones.

Work 12 function spaces with best-in-class technology.

Food and drink Including modern-Australian Mode Kitchen & Bar, and Grain, a lively cocktail bar.



Club lounge Lounge 32, complimentary to suite-level accommodation, for breakfast, snacks and evening drinks.

Wellness 24-hour fitness centre with latest work-out equipment. Largest outdoor pool in CBD. Endota Spa.

Distance to airport 14km

Shuttle Limousine transfer A\$140 (PGK330).

Room rate A\$401 (PGK947)

Other top business hotels Sydney Intercontinental (sydney.intercontinental.com); Sheraton Grand (marriott.com/en-us/hotels/sydsi-sheraton-grand-sydney-hyde-park).

Sydney Harbour views from a room at the Four Seasons Hotel.

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SINGAPORE

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

In a city that is all about business, there are numerous accommodation options for discerning execs, including landmark addresses like the venerable Raffles Hotel. Set at the edge of the city's bustling centre, beside Singapore's World Heritage listed Botanic Gardens, and fully equipped for business travellers, the Four Seasons is highly recommended.

Where 190 Orchard Boulevard, Singapore

Website, phone fourseasons.com/singapore
+65 6734 1110

Rooms 259 (including 41 suites) overlooking Garden City. Tech facilities include USB charging ports, universal sockets and adjustable LED lights.

Work Business centre on level three, including work stations. Meeting spaces accommodate



small groups up to large conferences.

Food and drink Five on-site dining/entertainment venues, including Japanese-Peruvian restaurant, Nobu Singapore.

Club lounge Executive Club offers complimentary breakfast, refreshments, concierge services.

Wellness Two outdoor pools, tennis courts, fully equipped fitness centre, award-winning spa.

Distance to airport 22km

Shuttle From S\$195 (PGK525), via concierge.

Room rate From S\$653 (PGK1750)

Other top business hotels Marina Bay Sands (marinabaysands.com); Fullerton (fullertonhotels.com/fullerton-bay-hotel-singapore). ➤

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The Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara (above); Manila's Makati Shangri-La (above right).



MANILA

THE MAKATI SHANGRI-LA

The Philippines' capital has several good business accommodation options. Perfectly located in the heart of Manila's central commercial district, and re-opened in August 2023, the Makati Shangri-La provides an unbeatable base for visiting execs.

Where Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Website, phone shangri-la.com/manila/makatishangrila
+632 8813 8888

Rooms 696, including new Horizon Club Business rooms with Omnidesk adjustable standing table, ergonomic chair, dual 4k monitors.

Work Multiple, extensive function spaces, full business facilities including printing/copying.

Food and drink Options include Shang Palace Cantonese fine dining and the Sage Grill.

Club lounge 24-hour Horizon Club, personalised check-in/check-out, breakfast, refreshments, meeting spaces.

Wellness Fully equipped health club, outdoor pool, tennis courts.

Distance to airport 13km

Shuttle Pre-booked hotel limo, at cost/taxi US\$10 (PGK35).

Room rate US\$298 (PGK1068)

Other top business hotels Novotel Manila Araneta City (novotelmanilaaranetacity.com); Sheraton Manila Bay (marriott.com/en-us/hotels/mnlsh-sheraton-manila-bay). ➤

HONIARA

HERITAGE PARK HOTEL

Belying its laidback ambience, the Solomon Islands' capital has some good business accommodation options. Of these, the waterfront Heritage Park, erstwhile residence of the Solomon Islands Governor-General, set in landscaped gardens, is the principal business hotel, ideally situated in Honiara's CBD.

Where Mendana Avenue, Honiara

Website, phone heritageparkhotel.com.sb
+677 24007

Rooms 27 serviced apartments (1, 2 and 3 bedrooms) with kitchen/laundry facilities, 60 executive/deluxe rooms, with desk and free Wi-Fi (to 1.5GB).

Work Business centre, including secretarial

services, five conference rooms with modern audio-visual equipment.

Food and drink GG's restaurant is arguably Honiara's classiest and the Terrace coffee shop is good for informal meetings.

Wellness Air-conditioned gym, pool.

Club lounge N/A

Distance to airport 12km

Shuttle SBD150 (PGK 64) one way.

Room rate SBD2750 (PGK1177)

Other top business hotels Coral Sea (coral-sea-resort.com); Solomon Kitano Mendana (kitanomendana.com).





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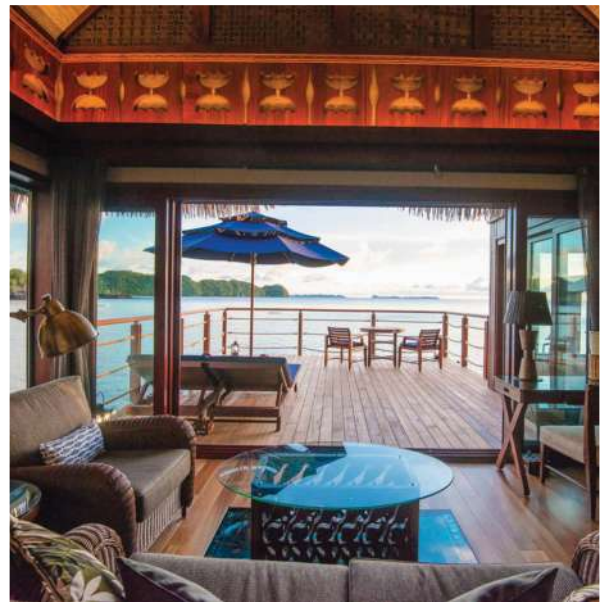
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A meeting room at the Sofitel in Nadi (above); the Palau Pacific Resort includes overwater bungalows (above right).



NADI

THE SOFTEL

In Nadi, a *bula* welcome is guaranteed and Fiji's popularity for conferences ensures multiple choices for business travellers, including the new Sheraton and a Crowne Plaza opening soon. After a full refurbishment, the Sofitel stands out for its French flair, airport check-in facility and enviable Nadi Bay location.

Where Beachfront, Denarau Island

Website, phone sofitel-fiji.com
+679 675 1111

Rooms 298, including Waitui Plus king rooms and suites, giving access to Executive Journal Lounge.

Work Fiji's largest, most flexible conference spaces, including 11 meeting rooms, with audio-visual equipment.

Food and drink Include Mediterranean seafood, at Solis restaurant, and La Parisienne Cafe for informal meetings.

Club lounge Executive Journal Lounge offers breakfast, all-day refreshments, evening drinks and a quiet workspace (including library).

Wellness Fitness centre, with free group classes, spa for restorative treatments.

Distance to airport 20 minutes

Shuttle Available, at cost, via Sofitel's Bula Lounge, in arrivals.

Room rate FJD650 (PGK1040)

Other top business hotels Hilton (hilton.com/en/hotels/nanhihi-hilton-fiji-beach-resort-and-spa); Sheraton (marriott.com/en-us/hotels/nands-sheraton-denarau-villas).

PALAU

PALAU PACIFIC RESORT

This Micronesian archipelago, spread across the Western Pacific, is best known for its diving, but with the new Air Niugini flights linking Palau with Brisbane and Port Moresby, tourism and business are opening up. Hotels are mostly resort-style, for now, with Palau Pacific a strong option for business travellers.

Where Koror, 96940, Palau

Website, phone palaupr.com
+680 488 2600

Rooms 160 air-conditioned rooms set in tropical gardens, including 12 luxury overwater bungalows and pool villas.

Work High-speed Wi-Fi throughout, large, well-equipped event space.

Food and drink Coconut Terrace restaurant for alfresco dining, beachside bar and barbecue.

Club lounge N/A

Wellness Two resort pools, onsite gym, tennis courts, resort spa.

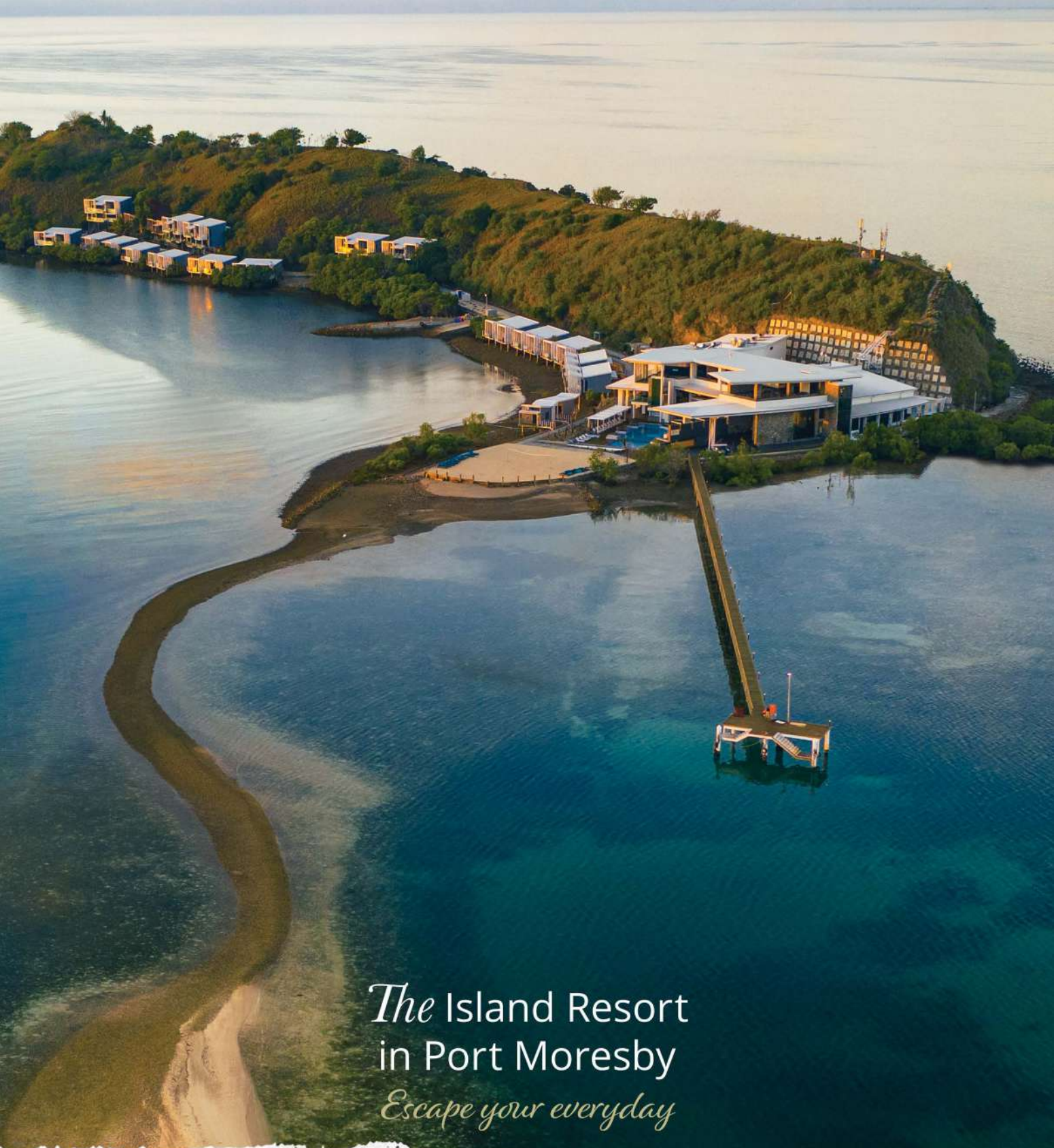
Distance to airport 30 minutes

Shuttle Neco Shuttle Bus US\$30 (PGK108) one way.

Room rate US\$300 (PGK1075)

Other top business hotels Palau Central Hotel (palaucentral.com); Palasia Hotel (palasia-hotel.com). ■





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ISLAND IMMERSION

Kate Webster journeys to the Duke of York Islands to experience life in a homestay.

Nestled like precious gems in the embrace of the South Pacific, the Duke of York Islands offer an authentic off-grid experience.

Anchored in Papua New Guinea's north-eastern waters, these islands boast a tapestry of vibrant island life, pristine shores where footprints are scarce, and traditions that have stood the test of time.

Among the island treasures is Maira Homestay – an immersive experience that lets you unravel the islands' captivating history while being enveloped in warm Papua New Guinean hospitality.

My journey starts in PNG's East New

Britain Province, where I board a boat in Rabaul's Simpson Harbour and set off across the water to the Bismarck Archipelago.

Passing the magnificent active volcanoes, the hour-long ride to St George's Channel between New Britain and New Ireland islands is scenic, and we are joined by dolphins riding the bow wave and locals travelling around in their canoes.

The Duke of York Islands are more than just picturesque landscapes; they are a testament to the resilience and unity of the local people. Steeped in history, these islands were named after Prince Frederick,

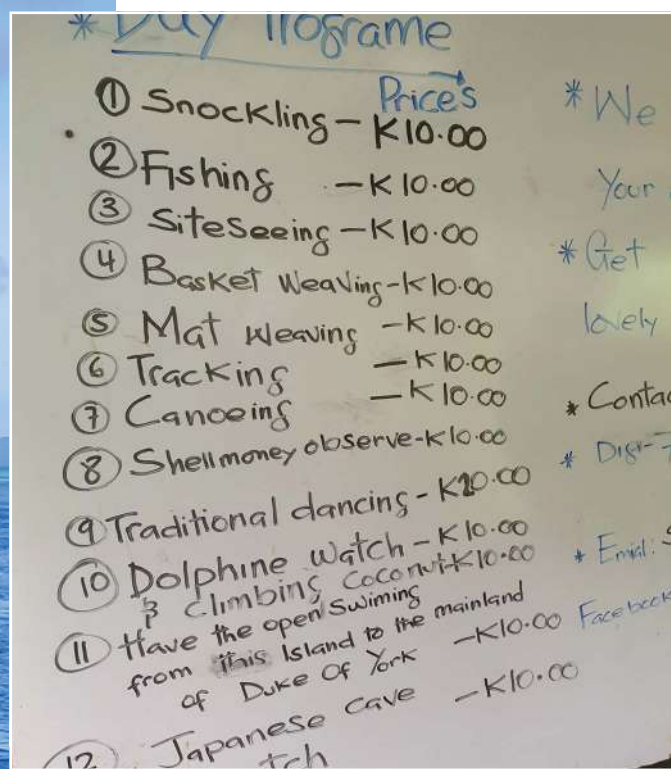
Duke of York, and have witnessed the passage of time from colonial eras to modern-day PNG.

Arriving at Doy Island, I am greeted by the laughter and squeals of delight from the children of the village. They swing from overhanging tree branches, launching themselves into the water in acrobatic displays. I'm met by Simon Robin, the owner of Maira Homestay and my host for the coming days. He walks me up the beach and into the lush gardens I have come to expect in the region, showing me to my room so I can offload my bag.

The traditional wooden hut is basic but ➤



PICTURES: KATE WEBSTER



The Duke of York Islands with a volcanic backdrop (this picture); the welcoming clan at Maira Homestay (above right); the homestay's activity list (above middle); a traditional wooden hut where guests stay (right).



has all I need. My bed is a thin mattress laid on the ground on top of a woven mat, with a sheet and a pillow provided. A mosquito net hangs over the bed from the ceiling. Outside my hut, there is a separate toilet and shower, simple in set-up but a welcome sight as I was prepared to brace myself for jungle restrooms. A short walk down a jungle path from my hut is the kitchen hut and dining area.

Once I have settled into the homestay, Robin joins me to discuss the activities on offer, from visiting the neighbouring island of Mioko Palpal, canoeing, snorkelling, shell money making, dolphin spotting, traditional masked dancing performances and more.

Opting for the snorkelling trip, at PGK10 per person, we head out to a reef off the neighbouring island. Under the glassy ocean surface there is thriving, vivid coral reef. The vibrant corals shelter an abundance of marine life. The kaleidoscopic colours and movement of fish are dazzling, and hours pass before I realise the sun is starting to go down.

Arriving back at Maira Homestay just as the sun dips beneath the horizon, casting golden hues on the waters, I am greeted by a delicious smell wafting from the dining hut. A feast of freshly caught fish, chicken and vegetables from the island await. Joined by Robin and some of his children, the dinner experience makes me feel like part of the family. Robin tells me stories about island life and the traditions they continue to pass down to the next generation.

As I lie in bed that night, reflecting on my day, I feel touched by the warmth of the village's hospitality and willingness to invite me in to immerse myself in the rhythm of local life. My thoughts are broken by the sudden downpouring of rain, that soon turns from a deafening drenching to a light patter, and it lulls me off to sleep.

The rain seems to awaken the jungle and I wake to the melodious calls of the birds. As I emerge from my room, I notice a congregation of villagers in the nearby clearing, laying out shells, baskets and other handicrafts on woven mats, while handmade jewellery hangs from displays made of sticks.

I browse their makeshift stalls and find among the treasures some old Australian

shilling coins – weathered by the ocean. Without any phone reception to research the coins, I have no idea of their value, so I take a chance and buy them all. Seeing this, the children in the group scatter and run along the shoreline. Within moments they return with handfuls of these coins, and I soon realise they are not as valuable as I had hoped. Still, it is a nice memory of the history of these islands, a remnant of the colonial era.

With my purchases safely stored in my pocket, I join the women in some basket weaving. This activity proves to be harder than it looks. While my basket weaving skills provide entertainment to the women, I am about to be entertained in return, by a traditional dance performance.

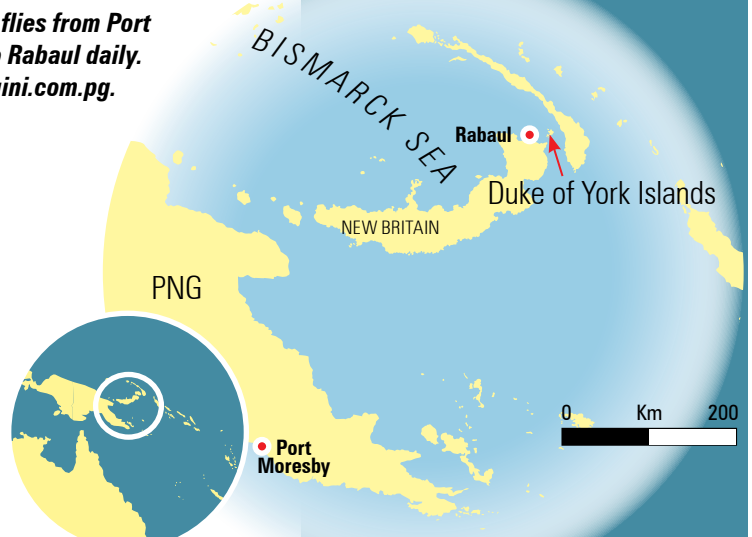
The energy from the villagers and how they bring it into their everyday lives is refreshing. As my time at Maira Homestay comes to an end, I farewell my newfound family in warm embraces. The Maira Homestay experience isn't just a visit; it enriches the soul through a community that embraces you with open hearts.

As I bid farewell to the Duke of York Islands, I carry with me more than memories, and the Australian shillings in my pocket. I carry the essence of an untouched paradise, the spirit of enduring traditions, and the warmth of friendships from the island.

Just as it greeted me on my arrival, the laughter of the children playing in the water echoes across the ocean as I leave. ■



Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Rabaul daily.
See airniugini.com.pg.



“

The Maira Homestay experience isn't just a visit, it enriches the soul through a community that embraces you with open hearts.

”



NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE

Boat transfers from Rabaul to Maira Homestay are PGK250 each way.

STAYING THERE

PGK120 per night. Breakfast/lunch/dinner PGK15 per plate.

CONTACT

Simon Robin tel. +675 7932 0882,
sgerard779@gmail.com.



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72 HOURS IN BRISBANE

Brisbane's Story Bridge (above); Greca, a modern bustling Greek taverna (right); Bianca, a new Italian trattoria (far right).

PICTURES: DANIEL SCOTT, MICHELLE GRACE
HUNDER & SUPPLIED

78 Paradise – Air Niugini's in-flight magazine





Daniel Scott reveals some of the best things to see and do in the Queensland capital for a long weekend.

With daily Air Niugini flights into Brisbane International Airport, the happening Queensland capital is within easy reach for an exciting short break. Whether you're on a sport-themed trip – with the city recently awarded the 2032 Olympics, that is a compelling reason to visit – or on a mission to experience some of Australia's finest new restaurants, this rapidly evolving city will easily fill three days.

Built around the coiling Brisbane River, which can make orientation a tad confusing, the best way to get a feel for this increasingly sophisticated destination is by exploring thriving inner-city neighbourhoods, like Fortitude Valley and West End. Hanging out at waterside precincts like South Bank and the recently developed Howard Smith Wharves will help round out a packed 72 hours full of sport, gourmet food and drink and culture, in the city that locals dub BrisVegas.

DAY 1 EVENING

Begin your visit in Fortitude Valley, once one of the city's grungier areas, but now more glitzy, particularly around its hip James Street hub, where diners are spoilt for choice. For glamorous Greek food, or a slinky pre-dinner cocktail, try Hellenika restaurant and bar, at the Calille Hotel. For a modern Australian take on the traditional Italian trattoria, settle in to recently opened Bianca, at 46 James Street. With a family-like welcome, vibrant ambience, antipasti that include kingfish carpaccio and burrata (a creamy, soft-centred mozzarella) and pasta dishes such as squid ink spaghetti with prawns, Bianca is no place to hurry your meal. For dessert, it is worth joining the queue, around the corner, at Gelato Messina, where you'll be spoilt for choice with the 40 ice-cream flavours on offer. ➤



DAY 2 MORNING

Staying in the Valley, have breakfast at The Green in a leafy enclave of James Street. Expect tasty Middle Eastern treats like the breakfast mezze with manoush, makaneek sausages, olives and Turkish eggs, and Lebanese sausage and egg muffin with halloumi and pickles.

For sports fans it is worth checking whether Sun Corp stadium (suncorpstadium.com.au), Brisbane's home to the Brisbane Broncos, Queensland Reds, State of Origin and Rugby Union Tests, is running tours during your stay. The historic Gabba stadium (thegabba.com.au) across the river is also a must-visit, before it is redeveloped as the main venue for the 2032 Olympics, to see some Test or Big Bash cricket, or do a tour.

DAY 2 AFTERNOON

Whatever your plans today, make time for a lingering lunch at Mosconi, on Alfred Street in the Valley. In a simple front-room-like setting you'll find upscale fare, including delectable starters such as crispy zucchini flowers with Abrolhos Island scallop risotto and crustacean aioli, and pastas – home-made by the owner's mother – like tagliatelle with Mooloolaba prawns and black-lip mussels. The fine dining is matched by a spectacular wine list full of hand-picked European treasures.

DAY 2 EVENING

Head to the Howard Smith Wharves, under the steel girders of the Story Bridge, for a memorable al-fresco evening by the riverside. Begin with a pale ale or IPA created on site at Felons Brewing Co. Then stroll about 100 metres to dinner at either Greca, a bustling modern Greek taverna with dishes like saganaki and souvlaki, designed for sharing, or Yoko dining, where breezy Brisbane meets Tokyo, with hibachi grilled seafood the specialty. End the night with a cocktail at Mr Percival's overwater bar.

DAY 3 MORNING

After all that gorging on food, it is time to do some exercise. With over 100km of bike routes in Brisbane, cycling is an excellent way of exploring and shifting some of those calories. Hiring a bike from Riverlife Adventure Centre, at Kangaroo Point, puts you straight



Moulin Rouge was staged at the QPAC Playhouse (above); an alfresco evening the Howard Smith Wharves under the steel girders of the Story Bridge (right).





The front room at Mosconi is recommended for a lingering lunch (left); fine food on show at Exhibition restaurant, which is said to be the hottest ticket in town (below); QAGOMA, the Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art (bottom).

on the city's extensive network of riverside bike paths. From here, the South Bank cultural precinct, the city centre and New Farm, home to the excellent Powerhouse Brisbane, are all within easy pedalling distance.

Some time at South Bank's QAGOMA on a guided tour taking in the permanent modern art collections and latest exhibitions, is highly recommended. As is a ride on the Wheel of Brisbane, the conspicuous ferris wheel set beside the river, for lofty views of the city and the snaking waterway that defines it.

DAY 3 AFTERNOON

Break the day with some moreish Asian street food at Chu The Phat, in a setting featuring laneway art and a brass staircase, on nearby Melbourne Street, before perhaps taking in a matinee at QPAC Playhouse, back at South Bank, where *Moulin Rouge*, the musical, recently played to packed houses.

DAY 3 EVENING

For an equally theatrical experience visit Exhibition, an intimate, 24-seat underground restaurant in the former Metro Arts building on central Edward Street. Opened in mid 2022 by executive chef Tim Scott and Michael Nguyen from Thai Hoa Grocer, it is currently the hottest ticket in town. Sit up at the counter for the most enthralling dining adventure, allowing you to watch Scott and his team tease a succession of exquisite Japanese omakase-style dishes to fruition. ➤



DAY 4 MORNING

If it's a Saturday then head to West End for Brisbane's farmers market, with fresh local produce, an array of hot food stalls and a variety of trinkets on sale, in the shade of big fig trees. It's open Saturday 6am–2pm.

Alternatively, grab a healthy brunch at Felix for Goodness, hidden down a central Brisbane laneway (50 Burnett Lane), where the frittata and falafel are as delicious as they are nutritious.

DAY 4 AFTERNOON

A great way to end a busy visit to the city is by chilling out at the rooftop Soak Bathhouse (pictured), in West End. With a choice of outdoor tubs, from ice-cold through to piping-hot mineral baths, a sauna and steam room, Soak will help you leave Brisbane feeling suitably Zen, as well as extremely well fed and watered. The cost is about PGK165 (A\$69) for a 90-minute package including wellness snack and two alcoholic drinks. ■



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ALL ABOARD

A SLEEPER TRAIN FROM BRISBANE TO CAIRNS

Tim Richards rides the rails on a 25-hour, 1681-kilometre journey along the Queensland coast.

Glancing up from my seat aboard the *Spirit of Queensland*, I can see history through the windows. Landsborough Station is a classic timber railway station, and beyond it is a lovely old pub. Nearby is a neat row of Queenslanders, the traditional colonial-era houses that stand on stumps above termites and floodwater.

Inside this train, however, it's the future. For the *Spirit of Queensland* is not your old-fashioned sleeper train with separate compartments and bunk beds. Instead, I'm seated in a gleaming open carriage arrayed with RailBeds in a 2+1 configuration. Resembling business-class seating on a plane, these units provide leather-covered seats during the day, then convert to lie-flat beds by night.

It's a 25-hour journey along the 1681-kilometre railway that links Brisbane to

Cairns, so that bedding will come in handy later. For the moment, though, I'm enjoying the view as the train starts its long trek north to the tropics.

We left Brisbane late due to a technical problem, but that doesn't matter – you never catch a sleeper train with a yearning for on-time precision. This is a relaxed form of transport, granting time to relax and take in Queensland's variety as we slide through the huge state at ground level.

Beyond the state capital we pass the Sunshine Coast and the impressively craggy Mount Tibrogargan, one of the Glass House Mountains.

Before too long the sun sets, and an entirely different atmosphere settles upon the carriage. Except for the brief minutes spent at stations along the way, it's pitch-black outside on this moonless night, and it seems as if we're soaring through the void in a spaceship.

To pass the time before dinner there's an unexciting selection of TV shows and movies on the seatback entertainment system. What's more impressive, though, is the meal. Included with the RailBed ticket, it's delivered to our seats in airline fashion. For my three courses I've chosen the chickpea

and pumpkin salad, roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, and an apricot and ginger cake with custard. It's all very good and sets me up for a relaxing night's sleep – I hope.

I have some doubts about the restfulness of an open carriage with people (including me) snoring, but at least the prelude is entertaining: after dinner a staff member uses an electronic control to flip the back of the seat forward, revealing a mattress. Deftly made up with sheets and duvet, this produces a narrow bed for the night.

It enables a surprisingly good sleep, helped by lying in the direction of travel. As we've been warned of a 6am wake-up on our approach to Townsville, I've set an alarm for 5.30am to get first dibs on the shower stall in the adjacent bathroom. An impressive facility, it has plenty of space for a proper hot shower.

Back at my seat I realise we've just passed Mackay and are now running three hours late, which allows for a leisurely breakfast of cheese and chive omelette before I disembark at Townsville.

I have two nights in the city before reboarding the *Spirit of Queensland* to continue my trip north. This time I'm seated in economy for the run of over four hours to my next stop, Innisfail. Economy





The *Spirit of Queensland* (this picture); RailBeds configured for sitting during the day (below left); the seats configured for sleeping (below right).



“

I'm seated in a carriage with RailBeds, resembling business-class seating on a plane. These units provide leather-covered seats during the day, then convert to lie-flat beds by night.

”

seats are narrower than RailBeds but relatively comfortable, with access to the entertainment system and power-points.

We're in the tropics now, with the rails crossing wide rivers. Sugar-cane plantations appear, framed by the Great Dividing Range to the west. Occasionally a sugar-cane train runs by on very narrow rails, hauling cut cane to local refineries. We pause for a while in

Tully, reputed to be the wettest place in Queensland, and passengers take photos of the station's potted plants wreathed in light tropical rain.

Lunch is bought from the train's cafe bar. It serves an array of food, including hot dishes such as pasta, but my simple sandwich and orange juice hits the spot.

I have another stopover at Innisfail, where I'm exploring the art deco architecture of the town – a by-product of its near-destruction by a cyclone in 1918. Then it's back to Innisfail Station for my final two-hour leg north.

The train's running late, so that's the cue for a beer at the adjacent Goondi Hill pub. Then I wait at the station, until at last I hear a distinctive horn in the distance. Way down the track, visible through the rain, a red-and-silver train appears against a backdrop of sugar cane, and soon I'm back aboard the *Spirit of Queensland*. Next stop: Cairns. ■



Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Cairns and Brisbane daily. See airniugini.com.pg.

NEED TO KNOW

THE TICKET Fares aboard the *Spirit of Queensland* from Brisbane to Cairns start at A\$221 (about PGK520) for economy, A\$389 (about PGK920) for RailBeds. See queenslandrailtravel.com.au.

STOPOVERS

MERCURE BRISBANE King George Square is near Roma Street Station, see all.accor.com.

MERCURE TOWNSVILLE is a resort in a garden setting, see all.accor.com.

THE OLD CHURCH offers heritage accommodation outside Innisfail, near the popular attraction of Paronella Park, see theoldchurch.net.au.

MANTRA ESPLANADE has rooms in the heart of Cairns, see all.accor.com.



KNOW THY NEIGHBOUR: FIJI



Visiting Fiji is all about soaking up tropical island life and relaxing with a cocktail by the pool.

Where is Fiji?

Fiji is a group of 333 South Pacific islands (and countless islets). Part of Melanesia, the archipelago lies south-east of Papua New Guinea, east of Vanuatu and north-west of Tonga, and sits roughly at the same latitude as Cairns, Australia. Fiji was a British colony until 1970. Following a series of coups d'état, it was declared a republic in 1987. The main (and largest) island of Viti Levu is home to the capital, Suva, and gateway city of Nadi (pronounced 'Nandi'). The airport here is connected to more than 20 international destinations. Visitors overnighing near Nadi usually head to Denarau Island, home to nine resorts and hotels. Denarau also houses a marina, from where you board ferries and boats to reach smaller, more scenic islands. Fiji's second-largest island is Vanua Levu.

What languages do they speak?

Fiji's three official languages are English, Fijian and Fiji Hindi (Indo-Fijians make up 38 percent of the population).

What's there for visitors?

Visiting Fiji is all about soaking up tropical island life. Divers and snorkellers are drawn

to Fiji, known as the soft coral capital of the world, for its eye-popping underwater pleasures. Others come to laze on a beach, enjoy time in a spa and slurp cocktails (or a half-shell or two of *kava*) by the pool. Another attraction is the warmth and friendliness of Fijians, who greet visitors with an exuberant "*bula*".

What makes the economy tick?

With tourism a major economic driver (more than 12,000 hotel rooms are offered across the islands), the pandemic left a deep scar. Many tourism professionals returned to their villages to help on family farms. However, visitor arrivals in June this year topped numbers for June 2019, solidifying Fiji's tourism bounce-back. Fiji also manufactures garments, which are among the country's major exports along with bottled water, fish and sugar.

What is the currency?

Fiji's currency is the Fijian dollar.

What are the highlights?

Take your pick of how you want to enjoy Fiji's picture-postcard islands. From Denarau

Marina, embark on a day trip – maybe to Mana Island, where the US *Survivor* TV series is filmed – or head out to a party pontoon such as Cloud 9 off Malolo Island. On Viti Levu's Coral Coast, Sigatoka River Safari is an adrenalin-pumping jet boat ride incorporating a village visit.

Anything unusual?

Fiji's only UNESCO World Heritage site is on the island of Ovalau, off Viti Levu's east coast. Inscribed on the list in 2013, Levuka Historical Port Town was Fiji's first colonial capital and a bustling hub bursting with bars and boarding houses. With copra sheds, bond stores, port facilities and religious, educational and social institutions intermingled with indigenous villages, it's a fascinating example of co-existing European, US and islander cultures. Today, you can still visit the timber post office, built in the 1870s, which was Fiji's first post office. After the capital relocated, a 'pigeongram' service operated between Levuka and Suva, with pigeons delivering news to *The Fiji Times* in a mere 22 minutes. ■





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TIME TRAVELLER

A future prime minister, 1960s

Before entering politics, Sir Julius Chan (pictured right) worked as an agricultural extension officer for the country's colonial administration for a short time. This photo of Sir Julius, taken in the 1960s, shows him in the field as a newly graduated *didiman* (Tok Pisin for agricultural officer). Sir Julius entered politics in 1968 when he was elected to represent Namatanai, and he served as prime minister twice (1980–1982 and 1994–1997). He has served as deputy PM four times and has held countless ministries. He is now in his 10th term as a Member of Parliament, and the Governor of New Ireland Province. He is one of the last surviving members of Michael Somare's first post-Independence cabinet in 1975.

If you have a photo that may be suitable for Time Traveller, email paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com.





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SONG AND DANCE

Thousands of performers and spectators attended the recent Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival in Vanuatu. *David Kirkland* was there to photograph the colourful event.

The seventh Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival was hosted in Vanuatu in July, bringing together performers from Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, the Torres Strait Islands, New Caledonia, West Papua and the Solomon Islands.

The festival's aim is to promote Melanesian brotherhood – a subject spoken of with great enthusiasm by each of the participating countries as they took to the stage.

More than 50 cultural groups performed during the 10-day event held across three venues in Port Vila – the National Cultural Centre, the National Convention Centre and the Waterfront Pavilion.

Vanuatu provided the largest contingent of performers, including 100 dancers from Malekula, one of the country's six island provinces. The festival was a rare opportunity for spectators to glimpse a range of sacred rituals such as the Rom Dance of Ambrym and the Toka Dance from Tanna – rarely performed outside of the host islands.

Three groups of performers flew in from PNG – the Huli Wigmen from Hela Province, as well as a group from West New Britain and another from Bougainville.

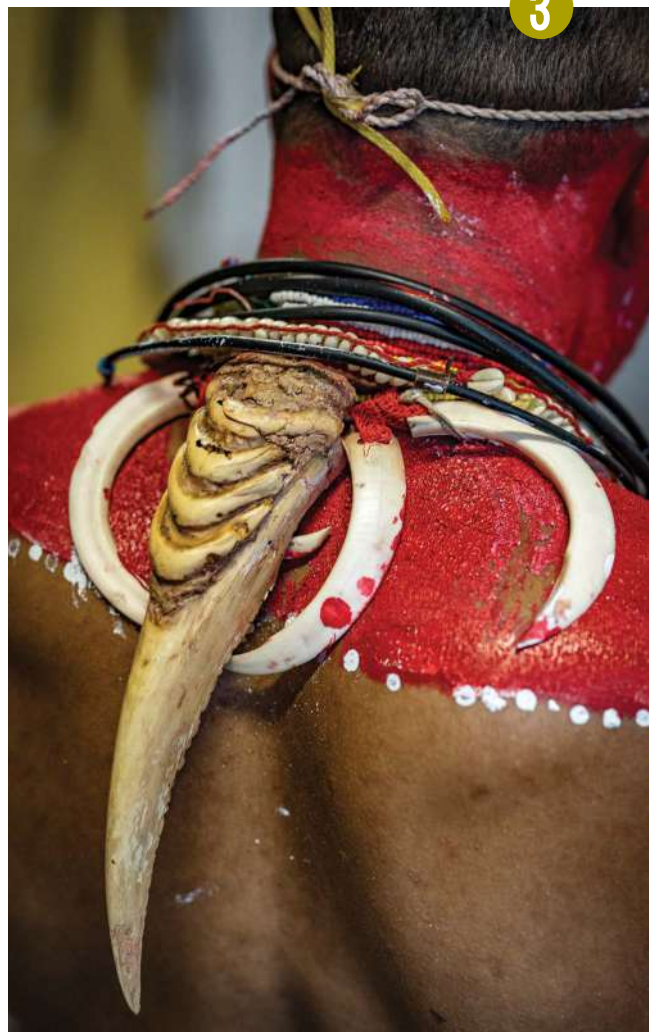
Although COVID-19 delayed the festival until this year, it is generally held every four years. The Solomon Islands hosted it in 2018 and PNG in 2014. Fiji will host it next. ■



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1 A mirror image: a Huli Wigman carefully paints his face in preparation for an appearance at the Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival.

2 Huli Wigmen at Port Vila's National Convention Centre. Heavy rain forced their performance inside.

3 The beak of a hornbill forms part of the *bilas* (traditional costume) of the Huli Wigmen.

4 Behind the scenes with the Huli Wigmen as they are driven to a performance at the festival.





5 A Papua New Guinean performer from West New Britain.

6 A big smile from one of the performers of the Toka Dance from Vanuatu's Tanna Island.



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- 7** A cultural group from Vanuatu's Malekula Island.
- 8** Students in a cultural group from Vanuatu have time for a few giggles in between performances.





9 PNG performers at the festival.

10 Enthusiastic local crowds turned out in Port Vila to see the colourful costumes and to watch the cultural dances.



Opening Soon

Host offers a wide selection of freshly brewed coffee's, choices of tea flavours and an evolving array of freshly made sweet and savoury delicacies and deli items.

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ON THE PNG RUNWAY

The annual PNG Fashion Festival showcased the work of local and international designers.

Papua New Guinea's fashionistas gathered at the Stanley Hotel recently for the annual PNG Fashion Festival organised by PNG Fashion and Design Week Limited.

Thirteen local and international designers, including student designers from the University of PNG's creative art and design strand, paraded their collections.

For the students, it was the first time they had walked and delivered collections at a major runway event.

The fashion festival was started in 2016 by Janet Sios, who said she was amazed with the effort by the students and the collections by all designers in this year's runway.

"The runway created a hub of well-trained, confident, and proud young individuals who

walked gracefully to deliver a brilliant touch of colour and fabric," she said.

Air Niugini was the official airline partner for the event, and in one of the show's highlights cabin crew took to the runway to parade the airline's latest uniforms and accessories.

Air Niugini also conducted a grooming workshop for models before the event.

The show's theme was 'Fashion for Peace'. ■

1 Model Irene Cassar parades a Kathryn Turbarat design from the 'Tropic Surf and Curls' collection (JeyMal Designs).

2 Backstage with designer Iki Haangana and models posing in outfits from the 'Lavender Ephemeron' collection (Public Island Society).

3 Model Cephas Aroga on the catwalk in a colourful outfit from the 'Lavender Ephemeron' collection.



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- 4 Music was provided by PNG legend Tonton Malale.
 5 Air Niugini model Mary Meyer wears a purser uniform and Kimberly Bebegu a standard flight attendant's uniform with apron.
 6 Model Chloe Vali in a design by Wandid Korimbo from the 'Maino Tiarena' collection (Wiska/Niugini Native).
 7 Model Elthon Roana in an Anna Amos design from her 'Sea and Sky' collection (AA Tribal).
 8 Model Judy Sakail strides out in an outfit from the 'Peace with Nature' collection designed by Elizabeth Omeri (Denani Designs).

8



PNG is a country
of colour,
character and
tribal customs.
John Brooksbank
explains 10 unique
Papua New
Guinean rituals
and traditions.

UNIQUE PNG

1 KUNDU

Although there are regional design variations, all *kundu* drums follow a similar construction process. A log is hollowed out and a reptile skin is stretched over one end as a tympanum, tuned by attaching and removing knobs of wax or soft tree sap. The skin is held in place with a ring of twisted cane, today sometimes replaced by a possibly more efficient piece of bicycle inner tube. *Kundus* are played by being hit with the hand.

Kundu drums are an essential part of traditional ceremonies and dances in many provinces. On the national coat of arms, a *kundu* provides a perch for the *kumul*, the bird of paradise.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: Most traditional dances incorporate *kundu* playing. See them at the Mount Hagen and Goroka annual shows in August and September, the Hiri Moale Festival in Port Moresby in March and the Kenu and Kundu Festival in Alotau in November.



PICTURES: DAVID KIRKLAND FOR THE PNG TOURISM PROMOTION AUTHORITY; OLGA FONTANELLAZ; JT PHOTOGRAPHY



2 BILUMS

These utilitarian string bags are found throughout PNG. They are traditionally manufactured from material extracted from fibrous trees and vines. The material is dried, twisted together and woven, usually by village women. *Bilums* are used to carry firewood, vegetables and babies – sometimes all at the same time.

The design, and colour, of bilums is distinctive to particular areas. They can be large enough to carry garden produce, swing babies to sleep, or smaller to carry just a few personal items.

Today, wool, cotton and other fibres are used in *bilum* manufacture, resulting in a range of colourful and distinctive products, including *bilum* dresses.

WHERE TO FIND THEM: *Bilums* are widely sold at PNG markets, shops, villages and outside major hotels; the Goroka Bilum Festival (facebook.com/BilumFestival) is held annually.



3 SHELL MONEY

Before European contact, most parts of PNG were linked by trade networks, within which various forms of shell were considered valuable and a store of wealth because of their rarity.

In Highlands areas, crescents of mother of pearl (called *kina*) and strings of certain cowrie shells had value as a means of exchange for bride price and compensation payments. They were used by early missionaries, government officers and explorers to pay for wages and goods and services. Arm ornaments, carved from certain cone shells called *toea*, were used in the Hiri trading voyages of the Motuan people to the Gulf of Papua.

Kina is PNG's national currency, consisting of 100 *toea*.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: *Toea* arm shells can be seen at the Hiri Moale Festival held during March in Port Moresby. Shell money is still sometimes used in the Kokopo market in East New Britain.



4 TAPA CLOTH

The inner bark of paper mulberry or breadfruit trees is laboriously beaten with stone mallets to produce a thin and pliable material called *tapa*.

Tapa from the villages of the Maisin people of the Collingwood Bay area of Oro Province is the best known. It is decorated with distinctive black and brick-red designs, which traditionally were unique to particular clans. In some provinces in the Highlands, undecorated *tapa* cloth is manufactured for use as rain capes.

Traditionally used in Oro as loin cloths for men, called *koefi*, and short skirts for women, called *embobi*, *tapa* cloth today is made into a range of attractive clothing, caps, purses and wall hangings.

WHERE TO FIND IT: *Tapa* cloth is still made in Oro villages but more commonly seen in goods and finished clothing. Plain *tapa* is worn at the annual Kutubu Kundu and Digaso Festival (festivalkuts017@gmail.com) held in September in the Southern Highlands. ➤





5 SKIN SCARIFICATION

This initiation practice for young men in the middle Sepik region celebrates the return of the ancestral totemic crocodile through cuts being made on the initiate's chest, back and buttocks with a bamboo knife, a test of their physical strength and self-discipline.

After healing, the scars represent the teeth marks of the crocodile that has ceremonially swallowed the youths, who are reborn as crocodile men.

WHERE TO SEE IT: At rarely held initiation ceremonies in Sepik River villages.



6 HULI WIGS

The Huli live mainly in Hela Province of the Highlands region. Here, men's traditional ceremonial attire commonly consists of bright red and yellow face paint and a huge wig that is commonly decorated with bird feathers, animal fur, flowers, shells or bright green beetles.

As a Huli male grows from a boy to a man he grows his hair, periodically cutting it until he has enough for at least one wig to be woven, usually by a member of his clan who specialises in this craft.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: Wigs are still part of everyday male attire in Hela Province villages. Hulis also participate at the annual Mount Hagen Show in August in Western Highlands Province.

7 LAGATOIS

These double-hull outrigger canoes with distinctive woven crab claw sails were used by the Western Motu people during their trading voyages to villages along river deltas in the Gulf of Papua.

Fleets of *lagatois*, loaded with tonnes of pottery to trade for sago, left Motuan villages between Bootless Bay and Caution Bay in September/October with the *lahara* south-easterlies, returning in the early months of the next year with the *laurabada* north-westerly winds.

The outline of a *lagatoi* is familiar to many as the logo of the National Capital District Commission.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: *Lagatois* are usually constructed for the Hiri Moale Festival held in Port Moresby in March.

“

They smear their bodies in clay, wear long bamboo fingernails and carry traditional weapons.

”



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8 ASARO MUDMEN

In the Asaro area of the Eastern Highlands Province the Holosa people re-enact a legend in which they had run from a tribal fight and escaped into the muddy Asaro River. When they re-emerged covered in grey clay, their enemies thought that they were spirits, and fled.

Started after its popularity at a Goroka Show some decades ago, the Holosa now create and wear grotesque and elaborate clay helmets or masks, complete with eyes and teeth. They smear their bodies in clay, wear long bamboo fingernails and carry traditional weapons as they retell the story of how they vanquished their enemies.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: At the annual Goroka Show (gorokashow2014@gmail.com) held in September in the Eastern Highlands Province.

9 BIRDS OF PARADISE

Birds of paradise live in the tropical forests of PNG. What makes them especially distinctive is the display plumage of the males, which in different species can be very colourful or spectacularly shaped, such as the ribbon-tailed and King of Saxony varieties.

The Raggiana bird of paradise is one of the largest of this bird's genera. It is known locally as a *kumul* and is the national emblem of PNG. Its image is used in many forms and the national rugby league team is called the Kumuls.

WHERE TO SEE THEM: Birdwatching tours almost always include viewing birds of paradise. The Port Moresby Nature Park (portmoresbynaturepark.org) has a number of species in its aviary.



10 SHARK CALLING

This is a traditional practice of three villages in New Ireland Province – Kontu, Tembin and Mesi.

It is believed that sharks carry the spirits of ancestors, and after following certain strict protocols villagers sitting in small outrigger canoes sing the names of their forebears and shake a rattle of coconut shells on the surface of the sea to attract the sharks. When the sharks come close to the canoes they are caught by hand.

This traditional fishing method was made famous by Australian filmmaker Denis O'Rourke in his 1982 documentary, *The Shark Callers of Kontu*.

WHERE TO SEE IT: At the three villages on the west coast of New Ireland; or see a film clip at youtube.com/watch?v=FTbyViHY3Ls. ■





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PICTURES: STEPHEN RICHARDS



3

FROG

Richard Andrews meets an adventurer who has discovered amazing frogs in PNG despite his close encounters with snakes, crocodiles and floods.

Stranded on mountains, cold wet nights in the jungle, snakes, crocodiles and horror-movie body invaders. These are all part of Stephen Richards' dream job – to explore the amazing world of Papua New Guinea's frogs. These wondrous creatures can fly, sing, resemble chocolate and even camouflage themselves as bird poop to survive.

Born and raised in the Himalayan foothills of Nepal, Richards has been surrounded by wildlife since childhood. "We lived in a little missionary station in the forest, and I was fascinated by the sounds of frogs and the wonderful voices that we knew little about."

The quest to know more has led the Australian herpetologist to Papua New Guinea, where he's discovered and described more than 100 new species of frogs, with another 40 to 50 set to be classified.

"Thanks to its geographic isolation, tropical climate and complex geological history, Papua New Guinea has more species of frogs than any other island in the world, and most are found nowhere else," says Richards.

"I first went to PNG in 1991 and couldn't put names on many of the frogs that I saw. It

HUNTER

turned out that most of them were scientifically undescribed."

Working with colleagues at the South Australian Museum (where he's based) the Queensland Museum and Griffith University, Richards recently described five "beautiful treefrog species" he discovered in the remote, dripping-wet forests of the PNG Highlands.

"These species belong to the *Litoria* genus and display some unusual ways to make a living as a frog," he says.

"In particular, the *Litoria naispela*, or Crater Mountain Treehole Frog, has attracted international attention. It's a cool story," he says.

"The juvenile frog is camouflaged as bird poop, so it looks unappetising to birds drinking from the tree holes where it breeds. I spent many nights waiting beside tree holes in



Frog hunter Stephen Richards has discovered and described more than 100 species of Papua New Guinean frogs.





4

“

New Guinea has more species of frogs than any other island in the world.

”

“To my discomfort, his response was: ‘Wow! I haven’t seen one of these before.’ However, the leech was extracted and fortunately there was no lasting damage.”

Richards says such incidents are outweighed by what he calls his “eureka moments”. One of his most memorable moments occurred high in the mountains on the upper Sepik.

“I heard a wonderful sound that the locals told me was a singing worm. I was convinced it was a frog and eventually tracked down a spectacular specimen with a warty body, an enormous head, and a gorgeous call.

“Their response was: ‘Wow. We always thought it was a singing worm.’ Although that worm turned out to be a frog, one of the most rewarding things about working with local landowners in PNG is learning even a small amount about their incredible traditional knowledge,” Richards says.

Herpetologists point out that frogs play an important part in ecosystems and provide early warning of environmental dangers.

“Fortunately, a chytrid fungus that has decimated many frog species elsewhere in the world has not yet been found in PNG,” says Richards. “However, the region’s frogs face increasing threats and there’s still much to learn about PNG’s flora and fauna.”

As a result, Richards works extensively with local students and conservation organisations to spread awareness of environmental dangers such as logging and climate change.

“Far from the Himalayas, I consider myself lucky to follow my dream and the passion that started in childhood. It’s been quite an adventure,” he says. ■



5

- 1 The Crater Mountain Treehole Frog, camouflaged as bird poop.
- 2 A PNG local, a Nursery Frog, guarding eggs.
- 3 The suitably named Chocolate Frog, part of the *Litoria* genus.
- 4 The New Guinea Gliding Frog, found in southern PNG.
- 5 Lisa’s Treefrog, named after Stephen Richards’ wife.

pouring rain, waiting for these amazing frogs to come down from the forest canopy and reveal themselves.”

Despite the poopy appearance, the frog’s scientific name, *Litoria naispela*, comes from the Melanesian word *naispela* which means ‘pretty’ or ‘beautiful’, to highlight the colour patterns of the more attractive adult.

Richards named another frog *Litoria lisae* (Lisa’s Treefrog), after his wife, in gratitude for her support and willingness to put up with his absence in the wilds of PNG for long periods.

But roaming the wilds is not always as romantic as it sounds. Richards has been stranded in remote areas, blocked by flooded rivers, bitten by insects, and he has escaped snakes and faced-off crocodiles.

“You must have a passion for discovery and adventure. And that often means living in a wet

tent for weeks on end. I’m doing less of that now, having reached 60. It can get gruelling after a while,” he says.

To make the point, Richards graphically recalls being stuck on top of a mountain in West Papua for 10 days, with a leech in his eye.

“The unwelcome visitor had found a nice comfortable place to stay, with plenty to eat. I could feel the leech moving around at night. It was excruciating.”

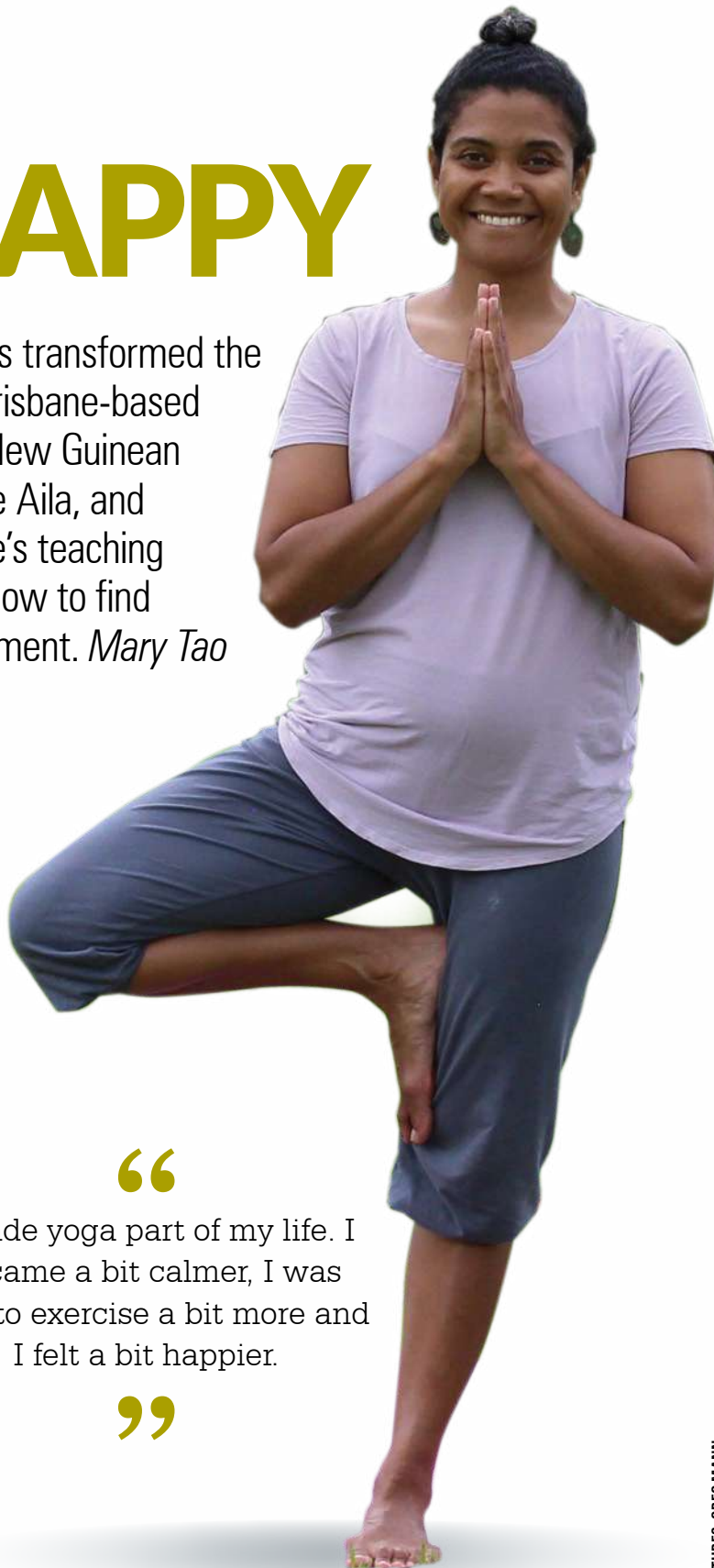
Local remedies such as application of special herbs to the eyeball, drips of increasingly high concentrations of salt-water solution, or just grabbing at the leech with tweezers, failed to help until the team finally reached Jayapura and found an eye specialist.

“My colleagues took bets on whether the doctor would say: ‘No problem, this often happens around here,’” says Richards.



BE HAPPY

Yoga has transformed the life of Brisbane-based Papua New Guinean Roxanne Aila, and now she's teaching others how to find contentment. *Mary Tao* reports.



“

I made yoga part of my life. I became a bit calmer, I was able to exercise a bit more and I felt a bit happier.

”



When Brisbane-based yoga instructor Roxanne Aila turned 40 early this year, she headed home to Port Moresby, eager to celebrate the milestone with her family. A highlight of her party was indulging in local cuisine. “I miss PNG food. So, for my birthday I wanted to eat *mumu* (a dish cooked with hot stones in an earth oven). That was special.”

Aila, who mostly goes by the name Roxy, comes from Kairuku, Central and Sewa Bay, Milne Bay. She first moved to Brisbane at the age of 12 to attend Lourdes Hill College. Even though she has spent most of her life there, she is very clear about where her heart belongs. “I feel connected to both places but in terms of my spiritual home, it’s PNG.”

“With COVID-19 recently, I couldn’t travel up for a couple of years and I did find that a bit hard. But I think my yoga practice helped me.” Aila used meditation and movement combined with “a lot of prayer and gratitude practice” to stay calm.

Today, she splits her time between being an instructor and being the marketing and communications manager for a non-profit organisation that supports people with disabilities, the homeless and elderly across Queensland and northern New South Wales. But it is yoga that has become what Aila is most known for.

After high school she went on to study at the Queensland University of Technology. What followed was a successful career in advertising, working her way up to marketing executive in Brisbane’s corporate world. By 30, her career had taken her across the globe to advertising in Canada. However, her life took a turn when her mental health began to suffer.

“It (the job) was fast paced. I didn’t have good work–life balance and didn’t know how to breathe properly or manage my stress levels. I burnt out. I found it hard to get out of bed and I was just not well for a while,” she recalls.

PICTURES: GREG MANN



Aila resigned and moved back to Australia where she got professional help after being diagnosed with depression and anxiety.

"That's when I found a local yoga studio. Because I was not well, I knew that I had to force myself to do something. I found that I really liked yoga because it helped me to move and breathe properly. Because when you're stressed you have a shallow breath and you panic," she explains.

"I started practising yoga more regularly. I made it part of my life. I became a bit calmer, I was able to exercise a bit more and I felt a bit happier."

Ready to share all that had helped her, Aila started her yoga teacher training and became a certified level one instructor in 2018. She now gives classes at Anchor Training in Newmarket for people who want to do yin yoga and at Snap Fitness in Sherwood for those wanting to do vinyasa yoga flow.

Yin yoga involves passive stretching, a technique where a person relaxes their body and stretches with the help of their instructor or a tool like a resistance band. A person can hold that stretch for up to several minutes, focusing on their breathing and meditation. Vinyasa yoga flow is a style that moves smoothly from one pose to another. Aila also teaches classes online, which includes videos on her YouTube channel (Roxy Aila Yoga) and her own website. She also shares regular posts on her social media sites, particularly positive thoughts and steps to achieving self-care.

"Part of why I became a teacher is because I wanted to share practical information so that people can use it in their daily lives," says Aila, who finds the most joy in teaching breathing techniques to her clients, who come from all walks of life.

As for what comes next, Aila plans to run yoga self-care workshops in PNG and Brisbane. So far, her work has begun with instructors in Port Moresby, having already run a two-day workshop where local instructors brushed up on skills like vocal projection, lesson planning and yin yoga poses. ■

See roxyailayoga.com.

If you or someone you know needs help, contact 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain on toll-free 7150 8000.



Roxanne Aila lives in Australia but says her spiritual home is PNG.

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WELLNESS

It sounds counterintuitive, but one of the best ways to stay physically and mentally healthy is to pick up your phone or device.

That's because there's a swag of nifty apps, websites and online channels that will have you up and active in no time.

Among those that we like is KrunK (krunk.com), which can help you stay fit and connect with like-minded people while travelling.

Download the KrunK app on your device and you'll soon be making real-time connections with active, like-minded people. After signing up, you are asked to choose at least five activities that interest you – running, cycling, hiking and so on. Set your location wherever you go and KrunK will generate a list of people with whom you may want to connect.

Flow Athletic TV (flowathletic.com.au) is an online channel



directed by personal trainer Ben Lucas and yoga instructor Kate Kendall, among others.

It features a wide range of fitness modalities to choose from including HIIT, strength training, Pilates, running and yoga with classes for newcomers right through to the experienced. There is also the chance to try before you buy with a free class.

The Fast 800 diet (thefast800.com) by leading international health guru Dr Michael Mosley (pictured) has already transformed the lives of tens of thousands of people.

It is also available via an app, allowing users to more conveniently access the concept based on blending three different approaches – a Mediterranean-style diet, keto and intermittent fasting – to achieve weight loss and manage health. ■

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BAKEOLOGY CAFE & BAKERY, PORT MORESBY PNG REVIEW

Tucked between the trees at Shady Rest Hotel is the hotel's newest dining spot, Bakeology Cafe & Bakery. There are two seating areas in the alfresco-style cafe: round tables on the ground level surrounded by plants, and the deck upstairs with larger tables also surrounded by greenery, but this time with the tops of trees.

When I arrive at Bakeology for breakfast, the kitchen staff have just replenished the most popular item on the menu, the quiche. There are two types: a bacon, broccoli and cauliflower, and a vegetarian option with eggplant zucchini and tomato.

The cafe's busiest time is 7am to 8.30am. On weekdays, the place is filled with working people getting their caffeine fix, and is perfect for early risers because of the 5am opening time. Bakeology aims to present customers with the perfect cup of coffee using local Banz Kofi, coffee grown in Mount Hagen, Western Highlands. Fresh dairy milk is used, but an assortment of milk (soy, almond, macadamia, lactose-free) is available if that's your preference.

If you want to grab something quickly, there are plenty of ready-made options, including an assortment of freshly baked muffins, which sit in beautiful woven baskets, and scones that come with butter or cream and mixed berry coulis. Don't forget to try the chewy chocolate chip cookies, which are made from a recipe by Shady Rest's general manager, Ziya Rayani.

Rayani had a hand in creating every dish with her team and tells me that the menu is a fusion of influences from her home, Canada, and styles from all over the world.

Dishes include a Thai chicken wrap, Italian ciabatta with double-smoked ham, and bagels with cream cheese, which are, of course, popular in New York.

I decide to try the chicken and waffles (pictured), a dish that's a hit on the weekends. The crispy boneless chicken pieces are fried in a Southern-style batter and have a hint of spice. Covered in freshly made aioli, the chicken sits on a fluffy waffle. There is a side of extra aioli and Canadian maple

WHERE:

Shady Rest Hotel, Taurama Road,
3 Mile

PHONE:

8112 0000

WEB:

Find them on Facebook and Instagram: @bakeologypng

OPEN:

Weekdays 5am to 4pm, weekends 7am to 5pm

STYLE:

Cafe

TYPICAL PRICE:

Wraps, sandwiches, burgers and bagels: PGK24–32. Desserts PGK12–19.

Coffee and matcha options (cold and hot): PGK8.90–20.

Smoothies PGK19.50–30.

OUR FAVOURITE DISH:

Chicken and waffles

IN A PHRASE:

Fresh and flavourful



PICTURES: LENNOX MATAINAHO



syrup, perfect for dipping or to pour over if you prefer. Trying one dip after the other doesn't disrupt the palate and it all works together, the perfect marriage between sweet and savoury. If you want to indulge, Bakeology also offers waffles and ice cream.

I quench my thirst with one of the healthy smoothie options, tropical burst. It is a blend of pineapple, mango, orange and pawpaw. I don't leave without trying the baked blueberry cheesecake, which has a nice thick base with the right amount of crumble, a hint of lemon in the cream cheese filling, and blueberry topping and cream to bring everything together.

As I head out, more people are coming in for brunch, filling up the top deck, the beginning of what is sure to be a big lunch crowd.

When you pop into Bakeology, take a loaf of bread home with you. Rayani suggests the wholemeal rye bread, healthy and, like everything else on the menu, freshly made. ■





WINE GURU

Q: What are the health benefits of drinking wine?

A: The 'French paradox' was a term coined decades ago for the curious situation in France where the national diet was loaded with more saturated fat than a mountain of *foie gras* and yet the country had a very low incidence of coronary heart disease. Early pseudoscientists leapt straight to red wine as the possible answer, that a few glasses of Bordeaux could magically undo the sins of a plate of *saucisson*. It turned out not to be the case, but there could be some health benefits to red wine.

According to US health provider the Mayo Clinic, the antioxidants in red wine, known as polyphenols, may help protect the lining of blood vessels in the heart and help reduce LDL, or 'bad' cholesterol.

One polyphenol in particular, resveratrol, is said to be so helpful to the heart that there have been supplements produced for those who don't imbibe, but their effectiveness is still up for much debate.

Resveratrol also has anti-inflammatory properties. Several

studies have shown that those who drink a moderate amount of wine (a glass or two a day) experienced fewer issues with inflammation than non-drinkers.

Because of the excitement over the discovery of the 'French paradox, there have been numerous studies to try to find out what exactly red wine does for our health. It has been shown to reduce the incidence of depression, to improve gut bacteria, and it's even credited with increasing longevity.

However, like the resveratrol supplements, there has yet to be any conclusive evidence that shows that red wine is some sort of grape-based health tonic. It needs to be pointed out, too, that for every study that shows a bump in heart health for a moderate drinker there are many more studies that point to the detrimental effects

of drinking too much alcohol, from fatty livers to general weight gain, heart failure and several types of cancer. Moderation is key. ■

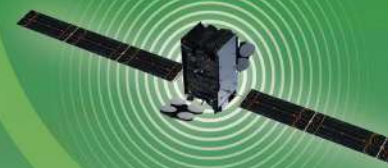
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Trukai has one of the most extensive agricultural programs, investing millions of kina in rice research, science, technology and development. Trukai continues to support local rice farmers by enhancing their rice cultivation skills, strengthening families, building communities and reaffirming our commitment to the people of PNG.



Sharp shooter

Sony's RX100 VII is arguably the best compact camera in the market, capable of producing pro-quality images. It has a 24–200mm zoom lens, super-fast auto-focus, excellent colour reproduction, is exceptional in low-light conditions and supports 4K movie recording. PGK3934; sony.com.au.



Instant clean water

This drinking bottle is super handy for filtering and purifying water on the go, removing 99.99 per cent of viruses, bacteria, parasites, sediment and other pollutants. There's no fuss or action required – just fill and drink. PGK288; sherpa.com.au.



Great coffee, wherever you are

The Wacaco MiniPresso GR portable espresso machine is small enough to take everywhere and produces a shot of delicious espresso in 30 seconds. It's completely hand-powered and works with ground coffee (not pods) so you can use your favourite PNG beans. PGK169; alternativebrewing.com.au.



Comfiest shirt ever

Nothing beats wool for breathability, temperature regulation and odour resistance, and the merino/bamboo rayon blend used in Le Bent's ultralight short sleeve tee also feels luxuriously soft against the skin. It's the ideal choice for rigorous work schedules or when you're out on an adventure. PGK200; lebent.com.au



Keep your tech tidy

Keep all your leads, chargers and other tech bits and bobs in one place with the Tech Kit from July. The zipped case has a translucent top for easy checking of contents. PGK205; july.com.



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The AirFly Pro is a compact wireless adapter that lets you use wireless headphones or earbuds in places that only have a headphone jack, such as in cars, on planes or when using gym equipment. With the battery lasting 25 hours, you'll never get caught short. PGK145; twelvesouth.com.



Never lose your hat

Carry your hat hands-free by attaching it to a bag or belt with a Klipsta Hat Clip. The ultra-strong magnetic fastening holds tight even through thick-brimmed hats. Comes in six colours. PGK73; klipsta.com.



New Galaxy Z Flip5 & Fold5 Phones

Samsung takes the revolutionary design of its flip and fold phones to the next level with the release of the latest in the Galaxy Z series, featuring unrivalled and customisable foldable experiences. Capture selfies from edgy angles and enjoy powerful performance and a pro-grade camera. PGK4011; samsung.com.

Avoid overweight luggage fees

Carry Etekcity's luggage scale whenever you travel to check bag weights on the go. It's compact, accurate, has an easy-to-read LCD display and a rubber-coated handle for a secure grip. PGK76; amazon.com.



Dry gear, no matter what

For the security of knowing your gear will stay dry in all conditions, stash it in a Sea to Summit Big River Dry Backpack. It's completely waterproof with a roll-top closure, made from super-tough nylon, and has a daisy chain for easy lashing to vehicles. Comes in black or red. PGK479; sherpa.com.au.



NATURE

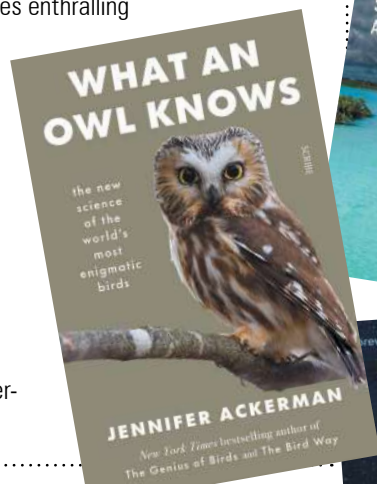
What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds**By Jennifer Ackerman****(Scribe Publications)**

Did you know you can find owls on every continent except Antarctica? Fascinating and enigmatic, owls have been the source of many legends and the subject of many scientific studies.

Award-winning science communicator Jennifer Ackerman has always found these feathery creatures enthralling and has spent years studying and writing about them.

In this book, she delves into the evolution of and latest research about owls, sharing heart-warming stories about veterinarians and scientists working across the globe with them.

The book suggests that if we pay attention to owls' communication, hunting and seasonal patterns, we could learn how to survive in our ever-changing (and warming) planet.



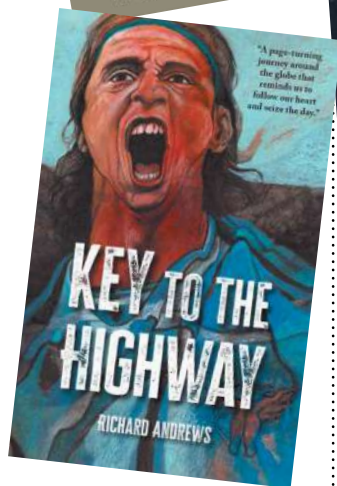
FICTION

Key to the Highway**By Richard Andrews****(Untimely Books)**

Key to the Highway is Andrews' debut novel. Here, the award-winning writer (and *Paradise* contributor), tells the story of Chris Hunter, an Australian musician-turned-journalist who travels the world much like the Greek hero Odysseus.

But instead of fighting sirens, cyclops and sea monsters, he must vanquish bikers, drug smugglers, greedy business owners and other shady characters who take the reader back to a universe in which the gods mess with human lives.

With the aid of his friends and muse, Hunter travels to the Australian outback, Indonesia, India, Bangkok, Borneo and Brazil on a journey of self-discovery and growth.



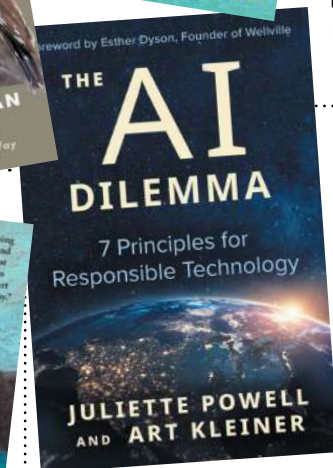
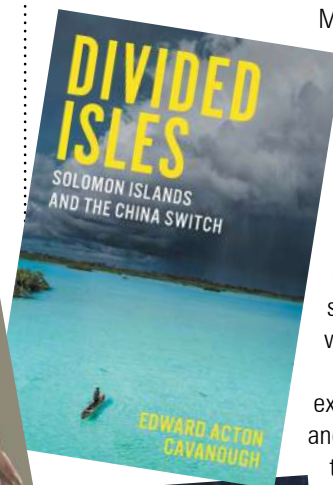
GEOPOLITICS

Divided Isles: Solomon Islands and the China Switch**By Edward Acton Cavanough****(Black Inc Books)**

Much is being said about China's growing influence in the Pacific and what it means for the region.

The year before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Solomon Islands severed an alliance with Taiwan and started a partnership with China. The island-nation's decision made international headlines and raised security concerns in the region. How and why did this happen?

Australian journalist Cavanough examines the lead-up to the development and what the partnership has brought to Solomon Islanders. A must-read to understand the geopolitical situation of the region.



TECHNOLOGY

The AI Dilemma: 7 Principles for Responsible Technology**By Juliette Powell and Art Kleiner****(Penguin Random House)****Also available as an audio book**

The age of artificial intelligence (AI) is here, and the ethical and legal problems it raises. Also arising is the possibility of a future in which AI improves almost every aspect of human life.

That is why futurist and academic Powell and writer and editor Kleiner offer seven basic principles for businesses to use AI responsibly and support, as they call it, "human flourishing".

Four principles highlight AI systems themselves and the importance of these being understood and transparent to anyone, not just developers. Three principles stress accountability and safety for everyone involved, as well as best practices.

The book is an eye-opening read with real-life examples and anecdotes from engineers and activists, who highlight the opportunities AI brings and how to make use of them responsibly. ■



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Economic growth forecast for PNG

Delegates at a business conference in Brisbane were told that things are looking up for the PNG economy.

Papua New Guinea's business community gathered in Brisbane recently for the 11th annual Business Advantage PNG Investment Conference, with delegate numbers exceeding pre-COVID-19 levels.

PNG's economy is set to grow by 2.4 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent in 2024, according to projections presented by the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) PNG Country Economist, Marcel Schroder.

He also told the event's delegates – drawn from countries including Australia, PNG, the US, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and the Pacific Islands – that a reopened Porgera gold mine could add as much as two per cent to the country's GDP next year.

Westpac's Senior Economist Justin Smirk told the conference that global inflationary pressures and supply chain delays had peaked, and that Westpac was more positive than the ADB for coming years, predicting 3.2 per cent growth this year, 4.8 per cent in 2024 and 2.3 per cent in 2025.

After an appraisal of some of PNG's challenges, namely "law and order issues,

1



PICTURES: STEFAN DANILCHENKO

Strictly Business stories
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4



5

- 1 PNG's High Commissioner to Australia, John Ma'o Kali, welcomes delegates.
- 2 Steamships' Vele Rupa and Niugini Assurance's Opi Loi.
- 3 Aditi Khilnani and Isabel Maguire from Swire Shipping.
- 4 Acting Governor of the Bank of PNG, Elizabeth Genia.
- 5 Westpac's Justin Smirk presented a list of six things business needs to know about PNG's economy.
- 6 An expert panel discusses PNG's investment climate.

the high level of unemployment ... and the cost of doing business," PNG's Minister for International Trade and Investment Richard Maru, representing Prime Minister James Marape at the conference, outlined how PNG's government was addressing these issues.

"The good news is this: our government is not sleeping. We are working to improve the business environment and climate in Papua New Guinea."

He highlighted the government's major investment in more police and an expanded judiciary as well as allocating a greater monthly supply of foreign exchange and expanding PNG's capital markets.

"Despite all these challenges, the resource boom that we are going to start experiencing from next year onwards ... when Papua LNG starts, will be unparalleled in our history," he told delegates.

Other speakers at the conference included the Chairperson and Managing Director of ExxonMobil PNG, Tera Shandro; Santos' Executive Vice President – Eastern Australia and PNG, Brett Darley; the Chief Executive Officer of the PNG Institute of Banking and Business Management, Susil Nelson-Kongoi; and the Managing Director of PNG's Mineral Resources Authority, Jerry Garry.

Delegates were also exposed to several successful investment case studies from PNG, across such sectors as mining, business services, agriculture, trading and finance, while Steamships' Managing Director Rupert Bray outlined the PNGX-listed company's extensive investment plans in a special video commissioned for the conference. ➤



6



7



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7 Margaret Morre from Resources and Investment Finance Limited.

8 Kumul Consolidated Holdings' Professor David Kavanamur.

9 ExxonMobil PNG's Tara Shandro.

10 Delegates gather in the conference auditorium.

9



The conference was also a platform for several of PNG's government agencies to communicate with the investment community.

Foremost was Kumul Consolidated Holdings, the holding company for PNG's state-owned enterprises. Managing Director David Kavanamur highlighted the progress of some of its high-impact projects, including its recovery plans for PNG Power, plans to partially privatise Telikom PNG and to expand the People's Micro Bank into a fully-fledged bank.

He also outlined new projects currently seeking private sector investment, including the redevelopment of Port Moresby's old port, and agroforestry rehabilitation projects at Cape Rodney in Central Province (rubber) and Dylup Plantation in Madang Province (copra and cocoa).

Meanwhile, Acting CEO of Air Niugini, Gary Seddon, outlined the airline's long-term strategy to expand its fleet and network.

Eric Mossman Uvovo, CEO of PNG's Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA), unveiled new tourism promotion campaigns aimed at Australia and New Zealand tourists featuring TPA brand ambassador Justin Olam. ■

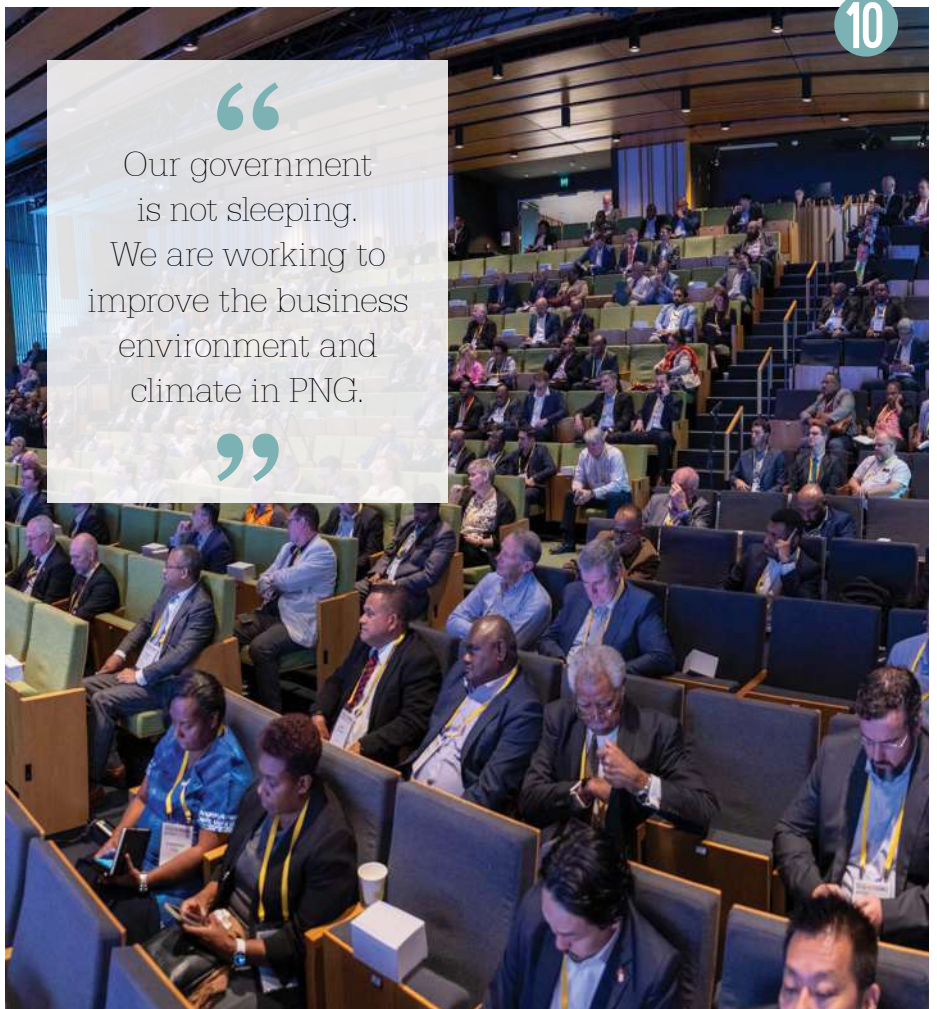
Business Advantage International, the publisher of this magazine, is the organiser of the conference and will announce dates for the 2024 event soon. See businessadvantagepng.com.

“

Our government is not sleeping. We are working to improve the business environment and climate in PNG.

”

10





PAPUA NEW GUINEA
CENSORSHIP BOARD &
OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
**PROHIBITED
ITEMS**

DECISION CONCERNING MATTERS OR GOODS OTHER THAN FILMS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Papua New Guinea Censorship Board and the Office of Censorship are mandated under the **Classification of Publication (Censorship) Act 1989** (the Act) for the determination and declaration of the classification of films and publications produced locally and or imported internationally. This includes regulating and monitoring content of the mass media and public communication systems to rid-off unwanted and indecent information and materials.

In accordance to sections 11 and 12 of the Censorship Act of 1989, the Censorship Board resolved in its Meeting No. 02/2003 on 21st May, 2003 to ban all objectionable publications including matters or goods other than films from entering Papua New Guinea.

The objectionable publications provided for in section 2(a) of the Censorship Act include;

a) Sexual Enhancement Products

All imported sex enhancing products in whatever state, form or shape are not permitted unless specifically prescribed contacted to verify

its use. Such products in this category would include capsules, tablets, sprays, creams, powders, vibrators, penis enlargers, vibe condoms, sex novelties, etc.

b) Medical Drugs

Medical drugs purposely made to cure or correct a sexual dysfunction are permitted on the condition that the drug is registered by the Medical Supplies Branch of the Department of Health to be used as directed by a medical doctor.

c) Dietary Supplements (Vitamins)

Dietary supplements intended for consumption by Papua New Guineans are permitted provided the prescription or prescriptions on the packages or on inserted leaflets are in English.

The Censorship Board views such products and materials as objectionable publications or prohibited items and strongly recommended that these items must not be sold or distributed for use and consumption as they are illegal in the country.

PENALTY:

The general public is reminded that any persons in possession of any of the Prohibited Items are in breach of the Censorship Act and can be imprisoned up to six months or charge a penalty fine of K3,000.00 (individual) or K10,000.00 (Corporate Body).

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Mr. Jim. Abani
Chief Censor

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Location: Waigani, CGO Building, Tower A, Level 4

Women's coalition aims for a fair go in the workplace

Gabriella Munoz speaks with Evonne Kennedy, an advocate for gender inclusion and equity in PNG.

It's no secret that Papua New Guinea has a gender equity challenge. The Business Coalition for Women (BCFW) has been trying to address this issue by offering training programs to businesses for many years and has recently been making significant progress.

"There's appetite at the moment in the business community to be focusing on diversity and inclusion," says BCFW's Executive Director, Evonne Kennedy.

"That appetite is coming from investors; it's coming from global partners such as the IFC (International Finance Corporation) and from donors. There is also a push to create greater diversity at the different tiers of leadership in organisations."

“

There's appetite at the moment in the business community on diversity and inclusion.

”

She says greater gender diversity in leadership delivers commercial benefits for companies through a better mix of leadership skills, wider pool of talent, better reflection of consumers and improved corporate governance.

Membership to the BCFW increased from 65 financial members in 2021 to 81 in 2022 and includes some of PNG's largest companies. The not-for-profit organisation has been able to recruit more staff.

"There's certainly a growing demand for the work we are doing with the business community," Kennedy says.

Among BCFW's recent projects are a safe public transport program to address safety concerns for women and children in Lae.

"Transport is such a big impediment for women's progression (a 2017 survey found over 90 per cent of PNG women reported being sexually harassed or robbed on public transportation) that we've had to put some of our energy in that space," says Kennedy.

BCFW is also running a pilot program to engage men in gender equity to highlight that gender equity is a business issue, not only a women's issue. "If the pilot is successful, we could offer it to all our members as well," she says.

The BCFW is also working with the IFC around childcare and flexible workspaces.

The cost of family and sexual violence is another area of focus.

The BCFW, with the IFC, conducted a study with three PNG companies with the results showing gains for companies, that address family and sexual violence.

The findings show that from 2020 to 2022, support measures such as employee counselling and alternative work arrangements helped participating companies

reduce lost workdays by 1.4 days a year per employee.

The latest findings follow a baseline study in 2021, which indicated family and sexual violence was costing the same employers almost 10 days of work per employee each year. ■

To contact the Business Coalition for Women and learn more about its programs, see pngbcfw.org.

Evonne Kennedy, the Executive Director of the Business Coalition for Women.



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A shake-up for PNG's rice industry

A smart farmer program aims to transform local rice growers into commercial growers. *Mark Story reports.*

With rice farming expanding in Papua New Guinea, the country's largest rice supplier, Trukai Industries, is partnering with tertiary institutions to help upskill farmers on the basics of irrigation rice farming.

A part of its community outreach initiative, Trukai's two-week smart farmer program (SFP) aims to transform local rice farmers into smallholder farmers, and finally into semi-commercial and commercial farmers.

Launched in October last year, the program kicked off with a



Local rice farmers taking part in the Trukai program tend to their crop.

partnership between Trukai and the PNG University of Technology (Unitech) in Lae. Unitech, a longstanding partner with Trukai on numerous projects,

has provided eight hectares of land at the university farm for rice development projects and training on rice farming systems.

Having signed a joint venture agreement in May, Pacific Adventist University in Port Moresby is the second university to join the program. Fifteen hectares of university land are earmarked to be in rice.

“

The program is for farmers of all levels.

”

According to Trukai's Chief Executive Officer Alan Preston, a third tertiary institution, from Central Province, is expected to join the program in 2025.

The program is Trukai's single-largest commitment to crop expansion in PNG, and Preston expects the company to invest PGK40 million in it over the next decade.

While Trukai previously trained between 50 and 150 farmers annually, Preston now expects

the promise of university certification at the end of the program will help attract a lot more farmers to grow rice.

"Given the (attractive) pay back returns on fruit and vegetables, farmers have not embraced rice as a good option," says Preston.

Certification aside, he says the seed, training, access to fertiliser and solar mills offered to farmers under the program are a game-changer in helping remove the obstacles to growing rice.

Based on the current rate of 500 farmers per annum, Preston says the SFP program could potentially turbocharge farmer participation tenfold to 5000 over the next five years.

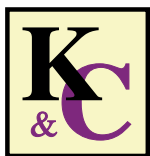
Assuming rice farmers on the SFP program can grow three crops annually, on an average five hectares of land, Preston says it's conceivable they could collectively grow 90,000 tonnes of rice annually. Based on government estimates that peg annual rice consumption at 350,000 tonnes, he notes that one in four buckets of rice consumed in PNG could be grown through the SFP program.

What this would do, he adds, is introduce domestic supply balance and reduce the country's reliance on imported product.

The program is for farmers of all levels, from elementary to commercial-based farmers. Following their final assessment, the initial 120 farmers, who were trained in January, are expected to be certified this year.

Applications have closed for the second batch for farmers enrolled in the SFP program at Unitech and a third is expected soon. ■

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WORLD RENOWNED PARTNERS

Government's vision for the future

A new five-year plan sets out how PNG can maximise its economic growth, boost jobs and develop key infrastructure.

The Medium-Term Development Plan IV launched by Prime Minister James Marape earlier this year is aimed at further championing the aspirations of the late Sir Michael Somare, who in 2009 envisaged the country becoming a middle-income nation by 2050.

The plan is PNG's fourth successive five-year plan. It focuses on economic growth and developing key infrastructure, while enhancing education, health care and law enforcement.

The PM expects the plan to focus on policy and legislative reforms that help broaden

“The plan will help grow the economy to PGK200 billion this decade and create an additional one million jobs.”

the economic base, increase revenue, better monetise the country's strategic assets – which will help grow the economy to PGK200 billion this decade – and create an additional one million jobs for Papua New Guineans.

Unlike past plans, this one will incorporate

key resolutions from the Governors' Council Conference to adopt certain legislative and functional reforms.

Based on their decade-long call for greater decentralisation, provincial governments will be empowered to effectively administer service delivery. Key resolutions agreed upon include increasing the Provincial Procurement Threshold from PGK10 million to PGK20 million, and greater autonomy in relation to tax.

The plan identifies 12 strategic priority areas. Among them are strategic economic investment, quality and affordable health care, quality education and national security.

Some of the key deliverables by 2027 are a PGK200 billion economy, one million new jobs, three new mining and petroleum projects operationalised, and 70 per cent of households connected to electricity. ■

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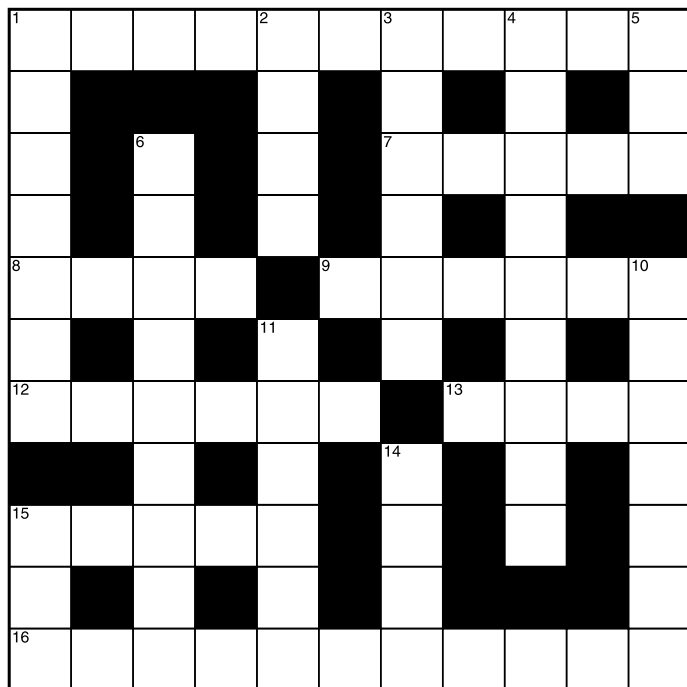
Located: Malaita Street, Lae



Engines

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. Good climate for Spooner to wear feather? (4-7)
7. Eager to adapt and get on (5)
8. Decorates nicest interior (4)
9. They appear to fulfil one's wishes (6)
12. Suit that comes in handy when gardening (6)
13. Lady made changes (4)
15. Sprightly GI surrounded by ale (5)
16. Doubt about land set aside (11)

DOWN

1. They made an impression ages ago (7)
2. Walk through water to get weighed, we hear (4)
3. Very surprised at tortuous path featured in commercial (6)

4. Hurry, Kane! Listen to Gale! (9)

5. Regret taking odd route (3)
6. Story lines involving Erica's son (9)
10. In Sweden, top dog was replaced with lovable alien, to make more palatable (7)
11. Remote-controlled fireball (6)
14. Long sleep in stucco mansion (4)
15. Even Xavier produced a melody (3)

STRAIGHT CLUES

ACROSS

1. Unreliable pal, ... friend (4-7)
7. See eye-to-eye (5)
8. Freezes, ... over (4)
9. Magic lamp spirits (6)
12. Buckets & ... (6)
13. The Hunchback of Notre ... (4)
15. Nimble (5)
16. Booking (11)

Wordsearch

Find all the words listed hidden in the grid of letters. They can be found in straight lines up, down, forwards, backwards or even diagonally.



DOWN

1. Petrified remains (7)
2. Plough (through) (4)
3. Astonished (6)
4. Violent storm (9)
5. Parisian thoroughfare (3)
6. Movie plot summaries (9)
10. Add sugar to (7)
11. Shooting star (6)
14. Prolonged unconsciousness (4)
15. Artist's tool, ... brush (3)

Theme: Jewels

- AMBER
- AMETHYST
- ANKLET
- BRACELET
- BRILLIANT
- BROOCH
- CARCANET
- EMERALD
- GIRASOLE
- LINK
- MOONSTONE
- MORGANITE
- NECKLACE
- RHINESTONE
- SPANGLE
- SPARKLE

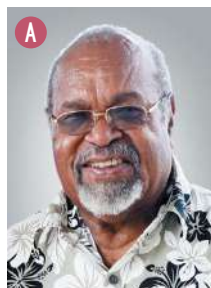


The Paradise Quiz

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE REGION?

1. What is the name of the main sporting stadium in Port Moresby?
2. Does the PNG company Trukai sell trucks, rice or air conditioners?
3. Which letter in the English alphabet is not used in Tok Pisin?
4. What is Buk Bilong Pikinini?
5. How long is the Kokoda Trail?
6. What did Papua New Guinean schoolgirl Susan Karike draw in her exercise book in 1971?
7. Can you name the four countries that have yellow, black and red in their flags, like PNG?
8. Who is richer: the person with 1 million kina in their bank account or the person with 2 million Solomon dollars in their bank account?
9. Which Air Niugini destination has the airport code CNS?
10. What is the name of the popular local dish in Vanuatu that consists of grated banana, breadfruit, and taro or yam?

11. Who met his fate on a beach in Hawaii in 1779?
12. Where in the Pacific is it customary to remove your shoes and hat, and to leave by the same door, when visiting a house or *bure*?
13. What's bronze, 34 metres tall, weighs 250 tonnes and is found in Hong Kong?
14. Where is Sentosa Island and what's there?
15. Can you name the three PNG prime ministers who are pictured?



Sudoku

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

Rating: ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

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

For solutions to the quiz and puzzles, see Page 130.

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C	E	L	H	U	L	N	A	I	N	U	L	M
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R	Z	A	X	A	A	S	C	V	W	O	E	H
B	P	J	N	D	E	R	G	K	Z	R	M	Y
S	R	E	Z	N	O	I	S	N	L	G	E	S
G	T	A	I	B	R	I	L	L	I	A	N	T
X	M	H	C	A	N	K	L	E	T	N	C	R
R	R	J	S	E	R	E	B	M	A	I	P	E
L	T	O	B	V	L	N	A	G	I	T	L	W
Q	L	A	I	R	A	E	X	K	E	E	K	Q
E	V	P	Z	E	N	O	T	S	N	O	O	M

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

The Paradise Quiz

1. The Sir John Guise Stadium.
2. Rice
3. z.
4. A not-for-profit organisation that promotes literacy in PNG by providing books for children.
5. 96km
6. A design for the current PNG flag.
7. Angola, Belgium, Germany and Uganda.
8. The person with the kina is richer.
9. Cairns.
10. *Laplap*.
11. Explorer Captain James Cook. He was hit on the head and stabbed during a confrontation with local people.
12. Fiji.
13. The Big Buddha statue.
14. Singapore; it's a resort island with theme parks.
15. (a) Sir Michael Somare; (b) James Marape; (c) Peter O'Neill.



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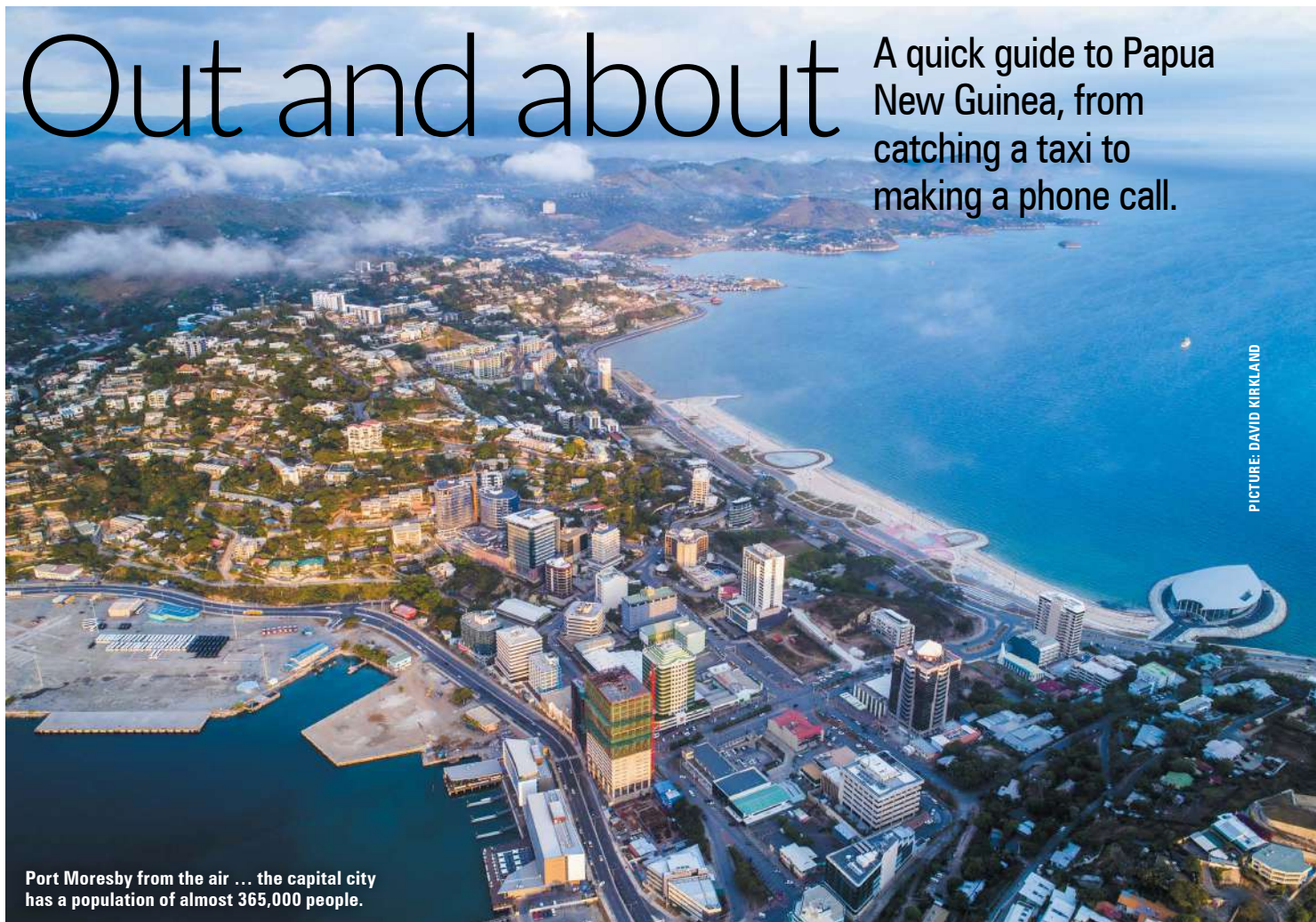
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Out and about

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



PICTURE: DAVID KIRKLAND

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

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 odesh.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.

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.

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.



Freshly baked treats from Duffy Cafe.



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

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.

Daikoku: The extensive Japanese menu has teppanyaki, donburi

bowls and a large range of sushi. See 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.

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.

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.

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.

Grand Papua Hotel: The elegant Grand Brasserie has an a la ▶



PORT MORESBY



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.

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 hiltonportmoresby.hilton.com. Tel. +675 7501 8000.

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 ramen (noodles served in broth with meat and vegetables). See 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.

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.

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.

Royal Papua Yacht Club:

Relaxed, spacious and open to non-members. Comfort food, draught beer and an open-plan bar area showing sport on large screens. See rpyc.com.pg.

Seoul House: This restaurant specialises in Korean and Thai food, cooked on the hotplate 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. Tel +675 323 0000.

Stanley Hotel and Suites:

This Waigani hotel has several ►



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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.

Tandoor on the Harbour:

Come here for a curry with great bay views. See 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 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 – Luluai'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. ➤

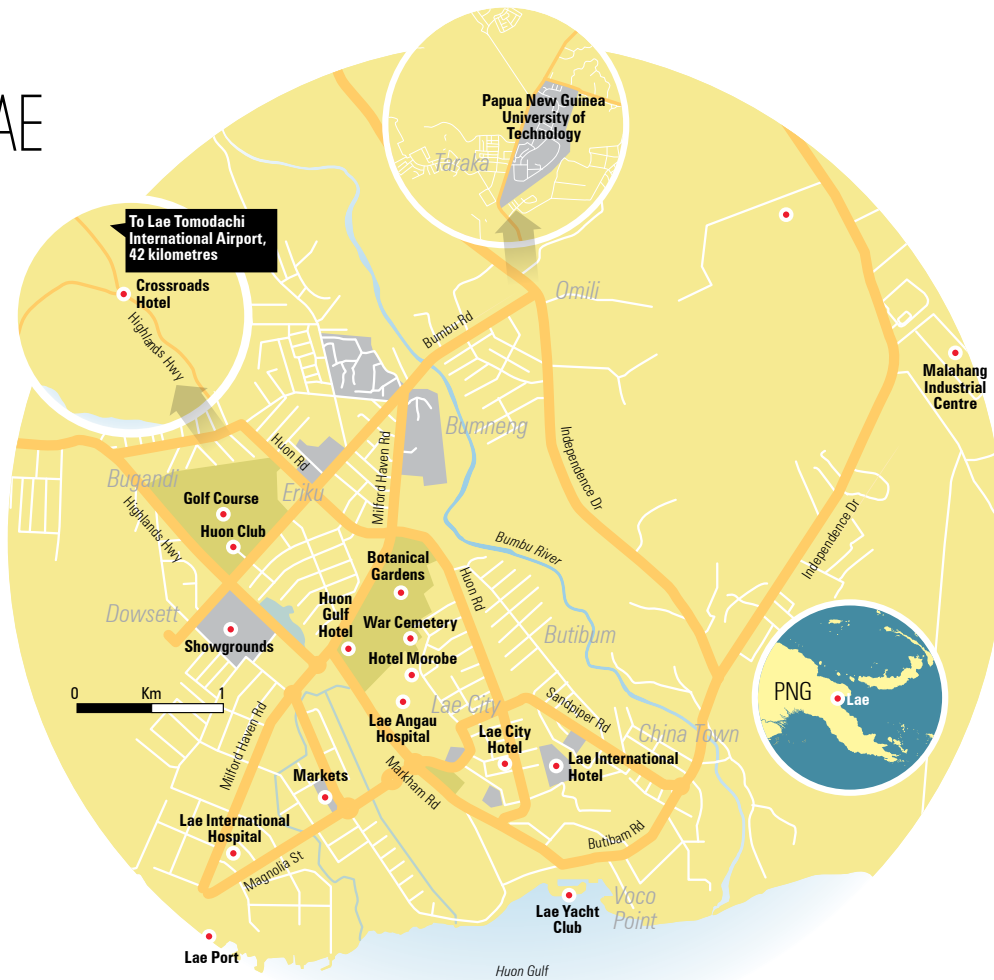


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LAE

**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. 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 facebook.com/citiboutiquehotel. 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 facebook.com/citiboutiquehotel. 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.

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. 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. 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 hiltonportmoresby.hilton.com. Tel. +675 7501 8000.

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. 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 hotelsbeaches.com/laguna-hotel. Tel. +675 323 9333.

Lamana Hotel: In Waigani, the hotel has 24-hour free airport ➤





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- ▶ Visiting relative
- ▶ Restricted Employment Visa (REV)
- ▶ Yacht person (Owner/Captain)
- ▶ Aid worker/volunteer
- ▶ Visitor/Journalist (60 days)
- ▶ Visitor/sports person (60 days)
- ▶ Easy visitor permit (30 days)
- ▶ Easy visitor permit (60 days)
- ▶ Business short-term single entry
- ▶ Foreign Official - short term

NOTE: PNG Government has allowed visa auto-grant only to selected visa classes under the Visitor visa category and the Restricted Employment Visa (REV).

Apply through this website only:

www.ica.gov.pg



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



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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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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 Customs 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



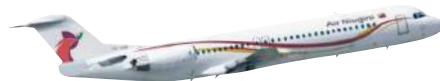
F70 - Fokker

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.



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Bismarck Sea

Kavieng

Lihir

Rabaul

Hoskins

Buka

Arawa

Solomon Sea

Owen Stanley Range

Alotau



Air Niugini routes

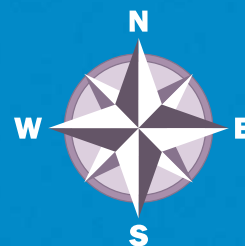


Charter services

Domestic route map



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**PACIFIC
OCEAN**

MAJURO

TARAWA

TUVALU

APIA

PORT VILA

NADI

NOUMÉA

AUCKLAND

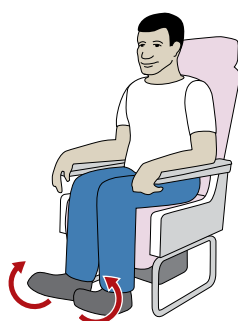
INTERNATIONAL ROUTE MAP

Your wellbeing



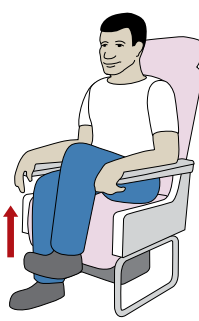
These exercises are designed to encourage a safe way to enjoy movement and stretch certain muscle groups that can become stiff as a result of long periods of sitting. They may be effective in increasing the body's circulation and massaging the muscles. We recommend you do these exercises for three or

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.



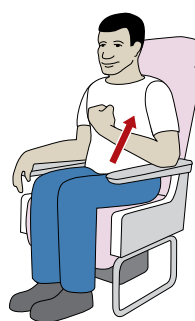
KNEE LIFTS

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.



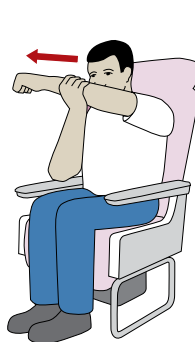
FORWARD FLEX

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.



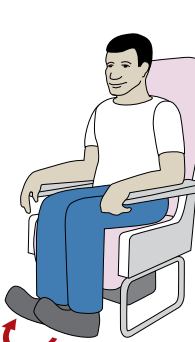
SHOULDER STRETCH

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.

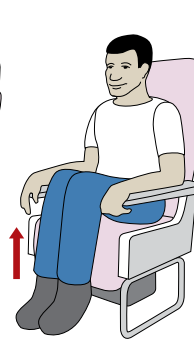


FOOT PUMPS

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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