

# paradise

in-flight with Air Niugini



Take this  
copy with you  
**THE GREAT  
SINGSING**





Ela Motors is a major supplier of excavation and loading equipment to a wide range of industries in Papua New Guinea. We offer a comprehensive selection of machines fully supported by Hitachi Genuine Parts and heavy duty servicing facilities through Ela Motors Truck & Equipment Division Nationwide.

For specialist assistance  
and full technical specifications  
please contact :

Norm Keay  
Business Development Manager  
Ela Motors  
Ph 229467 Fax (675) 217268  
PO Box 74 Port Moresby NCD  
Papua New Guinea



**Ela Motors**





# paradise

No 106 September-October 1994

Welcome aboard!

As Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism it is my pleasure to welcome you on board and trust that you enjoy your flight.

Helicopters are often the only way people can travel areas of this great country. Some of the mountain ranges are so heavily forested that is almost impossible to provide walking tracks, much less roads, as Ron and Georgie McKie found out when endeavouring to locate a particular village known for their barrel shaped headdresses.

Two of the most prestigious shows are featured in this issue, the Goroka and Mt Hagen shows now held annually. Tour operators receive world-wide reservations 12 months in advance for visitors to witness these events which have become part of PNG's history.

I hope that you enjoy reading of these shows and our other articles.

Hon. Avusi Tanao  
Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation



Hon. Avusi Tanao  
Minister for Tourism and  
Civil Aviation

Editor – Geoff McLaughlin MBE  
Consultant – Bob Talbot  
Editorial – Ross Waby  
Art Director – Robin Goodall  
Subscriptions – Maggi Worri

## Advertising

Papua New Guinea –  
c/- The Editor,  
Paradise Magazine,  
P.O. Box 7186, Boroko,  
Australia –  
Samuelson Talbot & Partners Pty. Ltd.  
4/312 St. Kilda Road,  
Melbourne, Vic. 3004  
Telephone Melbourne (03) 693 1400

## Subscriptions

Annual subscription rates for six issues are: PGK30, US\$30, A\$45  
Papua New Guinea subscription K15.  
(Payment by international bankdraft).

Printed in Hong Kong by  
Progressive Printing Agency.  
Block C, 2/F, Kam Ming Yuen  
No. 11, Kam Ping Street  
North Point  
Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 563 0145  
Fax: (852) 811 1344

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 5 THE GREAT SINGSING - MT HAGEN**  
A spectacle not to be missed.
- 13 THE GREAT SINGSING - GOROKA**  
Traditional celebration of music, dancing and feasting.
- 21 GOOD NEIGHBORS**  
Marine species living together for mutual benefit.
- 29 ART AND CRAFT**  
Spiritualism and religion are basis of PNG art and craft.
- 35 NO NAMES ON THE MAP**  
Thriving communities in the roadless landscape
- 41 HOUSING DIRT CHEAP**  
Mud bricks make durable housing.
- 47 SEPIK ON A SHOESTRING**  
A canoe, a guide and a few kina a day for a getaway holiday.

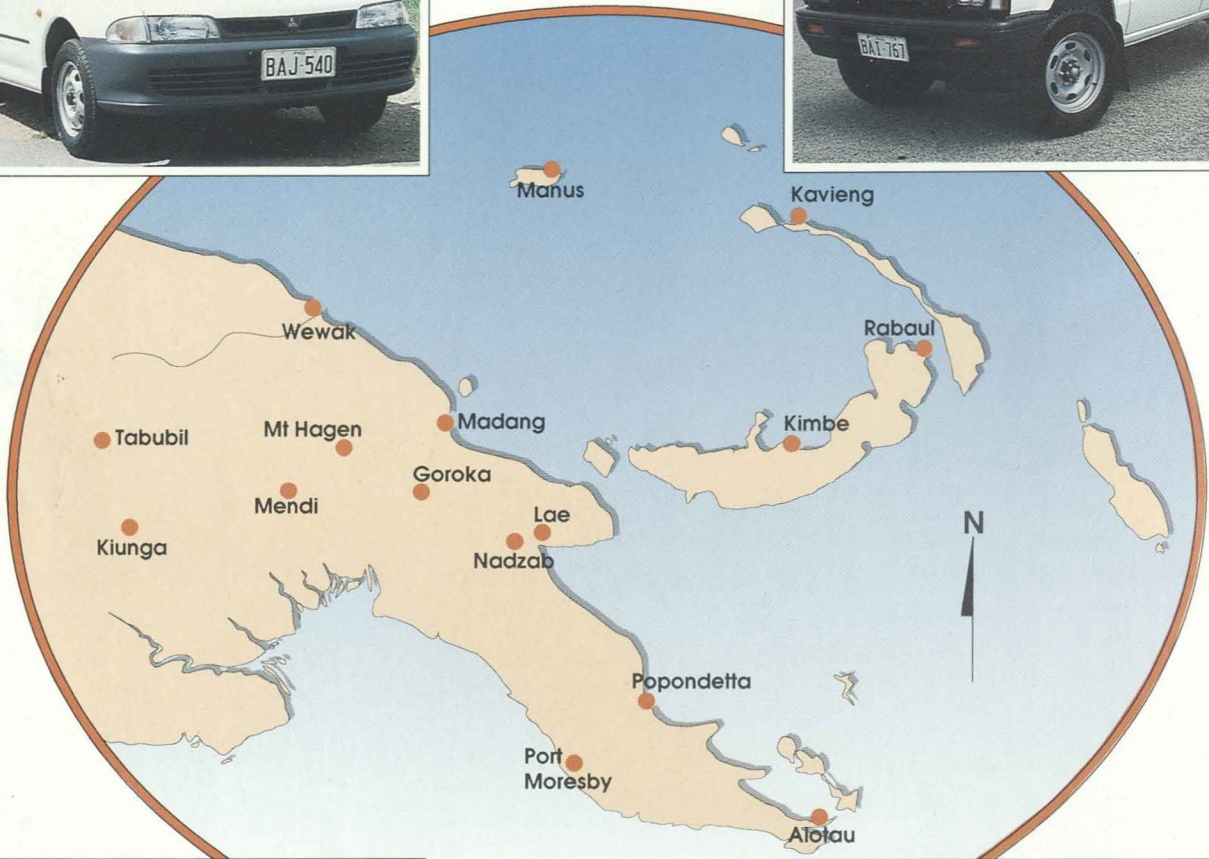
**Cover:** Baisu woman from Western Highlands Province  
(see page 5). Photograph by Peter Bennetts.

While every care will be taken, no responsibility will be accepted by Air Niugini for the return of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

No responsibility is accepted by Air Niugini for the accuracy of information contained in the text, illustrations or advertisements.



# Budget has Papua New Guinea fully covered From corner to corner And all locations in between



**Budget**  
rent a car

Central Reservation - Port Moresby  
Phone: (675) 25 4111 Fax: (675) 25 7853





# THE GREAT *Singsing* Mt HAGEN

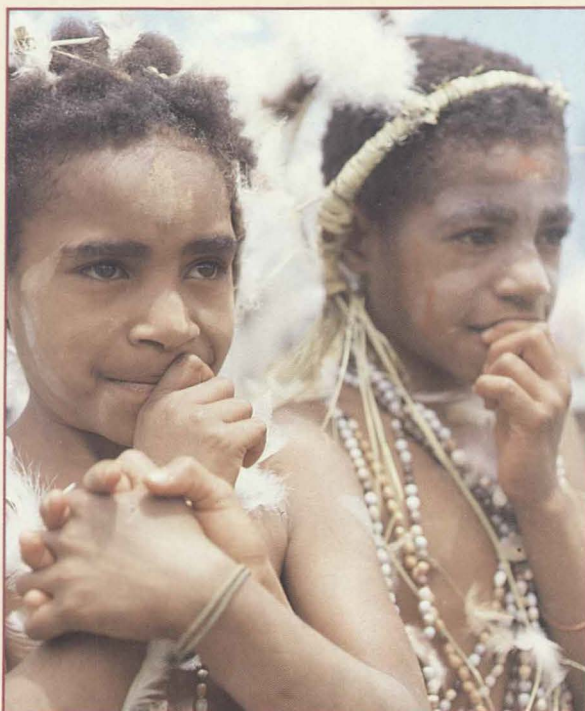




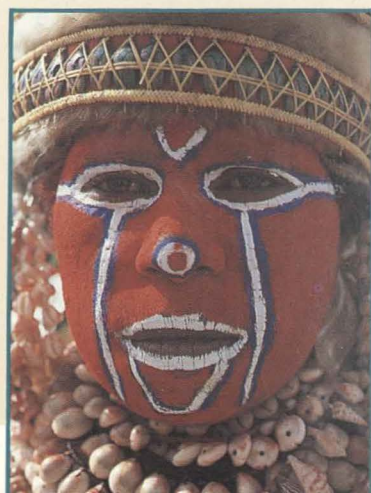
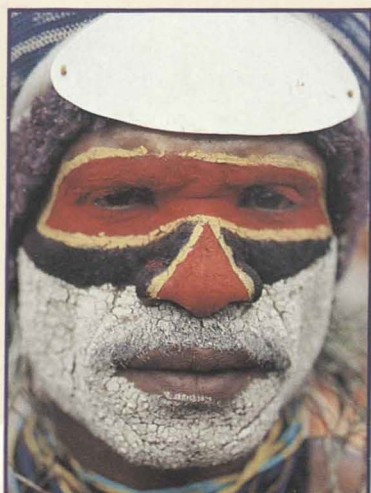
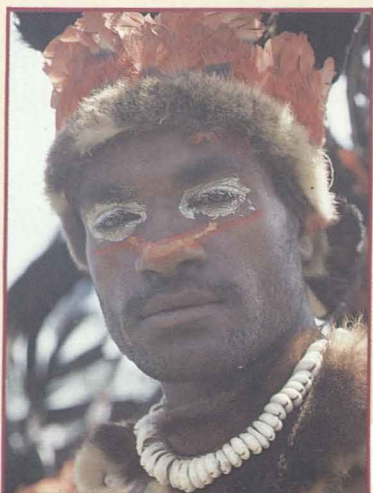
The fertile soils of the Waghi valley end in cloud tearing mountains. Mt Hagen airport bustles with modern jets and helicopters. This is the background to a moving sea of exotic feathers, thundering drums and dancing bodies, a celebration of Papua New Guinea's cultures. It is August, time for the Mt Hagen Show.

The Mt Hagen Show brings together people from all over PNG. Tourists come from around the world to witness the two-day event, now held annually.

People as art: Hagen warriors, Huli wigmen, Chimbu mudmen and mudwomen, skeleton men, groups from far away Rabaul and Finschhafen in Morobe Province and the spectacularly adorned Baisu Women's Group are among the 51 participating groups.



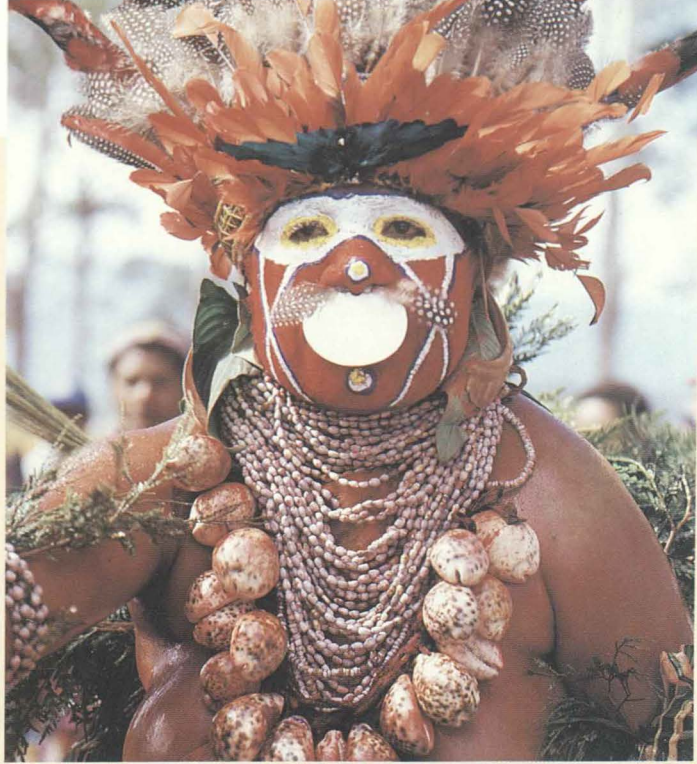
Top Mt Hagen Show crowd. above Young women of a Finschhafen group, Morobe Province. bottom, from left Singing performers.



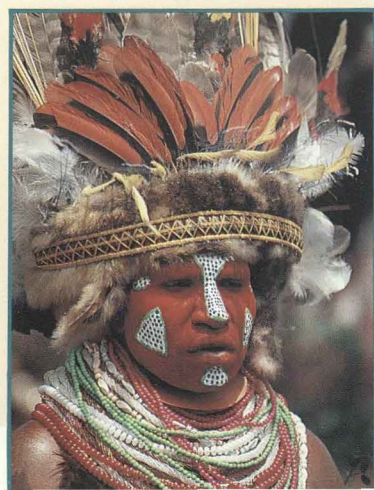
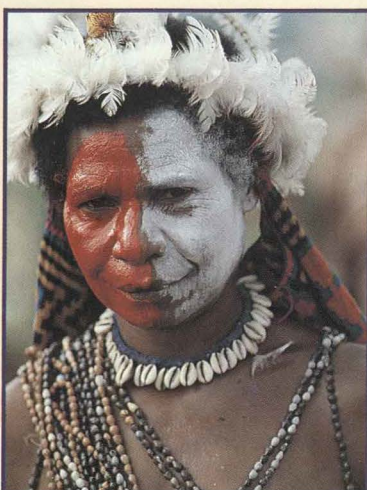
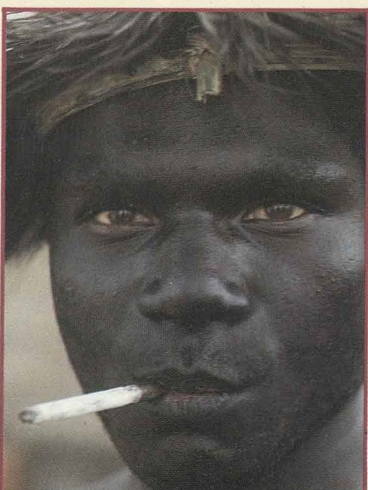


In the mists that accompany the Highlands morning, performers ready themselves, painstakingly arranging their headdresses and applying paints and greases. Smells of cooking from the performers' fires hang in the mist, the crowds and heat have not yet arrived. Before the show starts, spirited rehearsals take place around a temporary village for performers.

A din fills the air as the performers race onto the showground. The dust kicked up mixes with smells of exertion and the fragrant flowers used in some traditional dress. The sounds of the show are many and varied.



Top Baisu woman from Western Highlands province.  
above Simbu man as bush spirit.



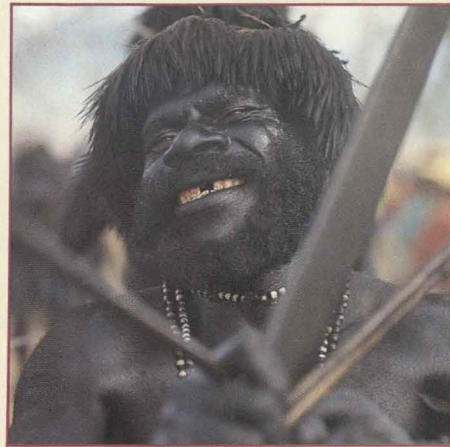




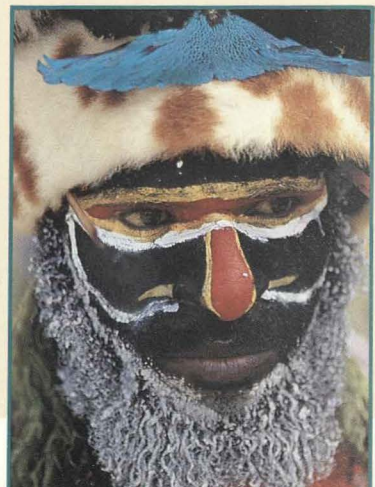
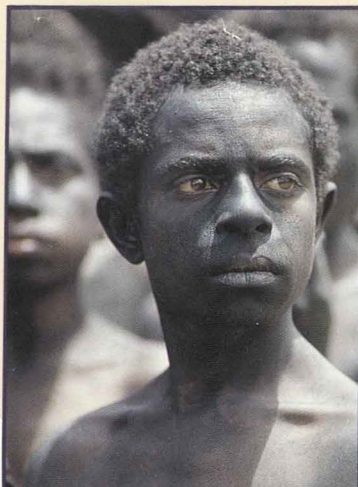
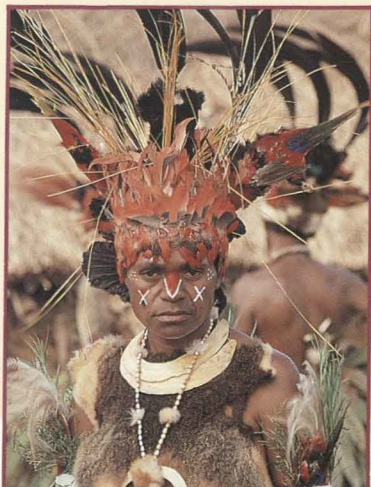
Instruments and voices, kundu drums covered with snake and crocodile hides, water pipes and even electric guitars played through portable radios.

The feathers, furs and shells are not the result of gathering in the weeks preceding the show. Rather, they are the collections of a lifetime, items often passed from generation to generation. Traditionally the adornments were indicators of an individual's wealth and their standing in the village hierarchy, and were often acquired by trading. Complex trading existed between the coast and the Highlands with stone axe heads being traded for the prized cowrie and mother of pearl (kina) shells used in the ceremonial dress of many Highlands societies.

Much sought after are the body and face paints used in ceremonial dress, some paints coming from mineral deposits, others from plants like the appropriately named red paint tree. The tree's guava-like, small



**Top** Mud man from Simbu Province. **left** Simbu warrior adorned with charcoal and oil. **bottom, from left** Singing performers.



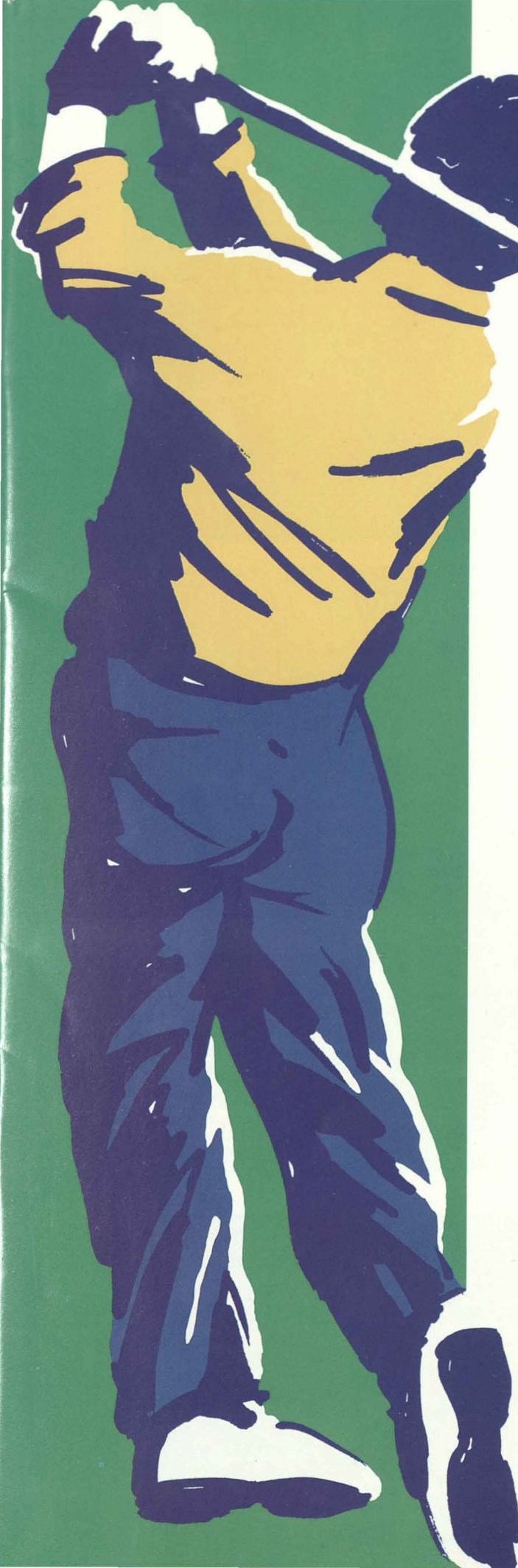
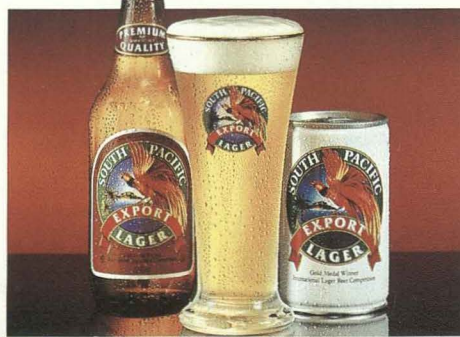




# WORLD of GOLF 1994

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Lions Classic	Port Moresby	February 19/20
SP EXPORT MONTHLY STABLEFORD	Port Moresby	Feb-Nov
Ramu Open	Ramu	February 26/27
New Guinea Motors Pro-am...	Mt Hagen	March 5/6
Isuzu Morobe Open	Lae	March 12 - 15
SP EXPORT NEW BRITAIN OPEN	Rabaul	March 18-20
3N PNG Open	Port Moresby	March 26/27
Port Moresby Amateur Open	Port Moresby	April 1 - 4
Mobil Mile High Ambrose	Kainantu	April 23/24
Bulolo Cup	Bulolo	April 30/4 & 01/5
Madang Provincial Open	Madang	May 14/15
SP EXPORT HIGHLANDS OPEN	Goroka	May 21/22
West Sepik Open	Wewak	June 4/5
Mercedes Benz Huon Open	Lae	June 11 - 13
Kimbe Open	Kimbe	June 25/26
Ela Motors Mt Hagen Open	Mt Hagen	June 18/19
Angco Goroka Open	Goroka	July 2/3
National Foursomes Title	Madang	July 16/17
Prime Minister's Cup	Kerevat	July 23
Johnny Walker Classic	Port Moresby	July 23/24
SP EXPORT WAHGI VALLEY OPEN	Wahgi Valley	July 30/31
Kimbe Classic	Kimbe	August 6/7
SP EXPORT LAE GOLF CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS	Lae	August 13/14/20/27
PNG Mixed Foursomes	Rabaul	August 20/21
Benson & Hedges Open	Port Moresby	August 27 - 28
SP EXPORT KAINANTU CUP	Kainantu	September 2/4
New Ireland Open	Kavieng	September 10/11
Wau Open	Wau	September (To be advised)
Mazda/Suzuki Ind. Open	Port Moresby	September 16 - 18
Dunhill Classic	Lae	September 10/11
Air Niugini Classic	Mt Hagen	September 24/25
SP EXPORT MADANG MULTI SPORTS	Madang	September 16/18/19
West New Britain Provincial Open	Kimbe	October 6 - 10
Boroko Motors Cup	Goroka	October 15/16
Kerevat CC Open	Kerevat	October 22/23
Isuzu/Sky High/British Airways Open	Port Moresby	October 22/23
Oro Open	Popondetta	October 22/23
SP EXPORT MASTERS	Mt Hagen	October 29/30
Kokopo Open	Kokopo	November 19/20
Shell Open Tournament	Port Moresby	November 26/27
SP EXPORT ALL NATION'S CUP	Port Moresby	December 4

*\*Dates are subject to change*





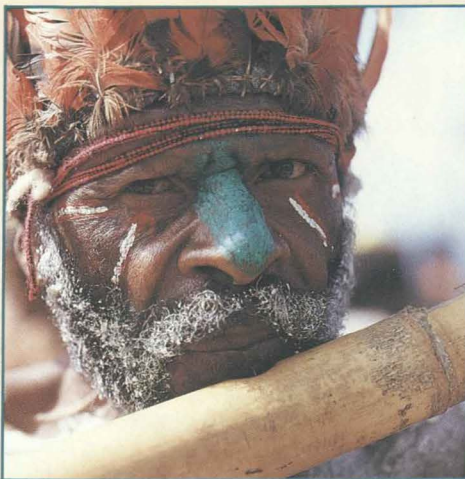
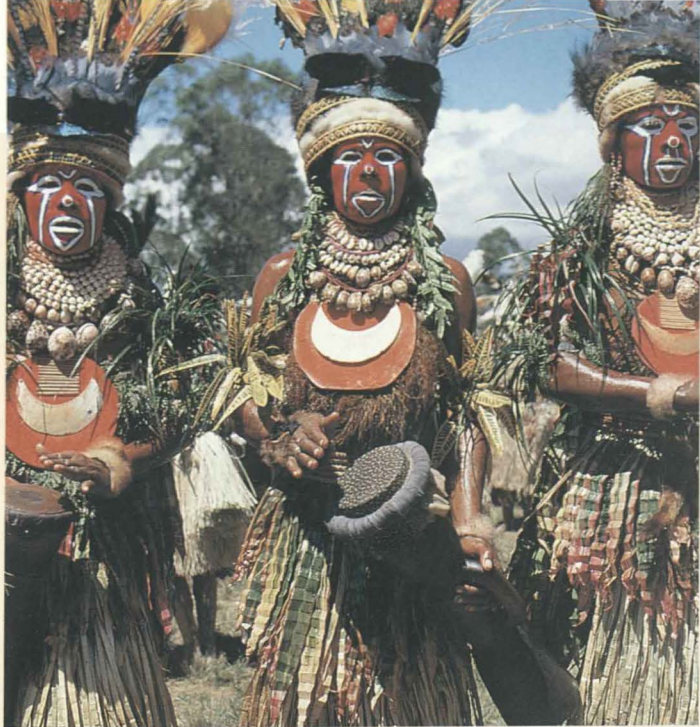
green fruits are broken open revealing smallish green seeds, the crushed seeds producing a thick red paint.

Often the traditional colorings are supplemented with commercial paints, tubes of which are sold in the smallest village's trade store.

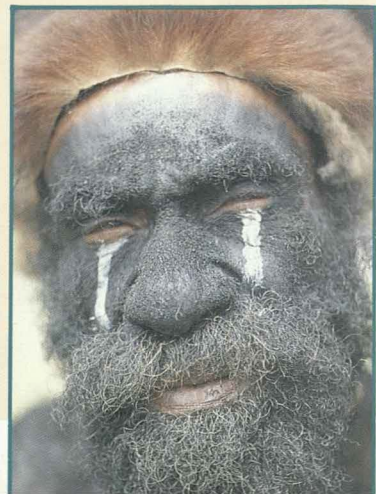
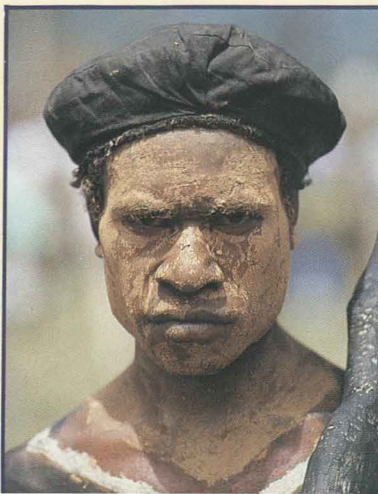
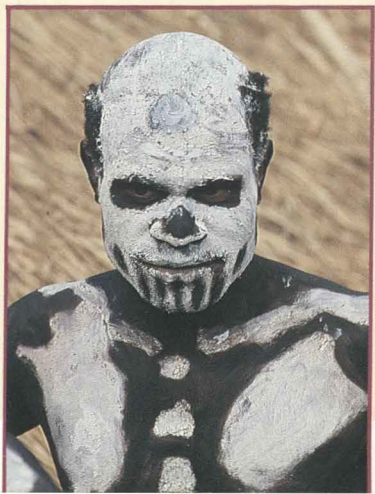
Body grease worn by performers is for more than looks. It serves as insulation to keep the wearer warm, working even in the rain; important when some areas of PNG get more than six metres of rain a year. Traditionally pig fat was combined with ash and colorings, although coconut oil is now common. Motor oil is favored by some groups and car engines are drained, sometimes to the great surprise of the owners.

Body ornamentation and dressing at the show is generally ceremonial, used with song and dance in rituals and feasts accompanying initiation, the paying of bride price, preparation for war, funerals and gift exchange. Everyday dressing traditionally is simpler and generally dictated by easily available materials, the Huli wigmen being the exception.

Traditional dress is common in the Southern Highlands, home of the proud Huli wigmen. Hulis seem dressed for ceremony year round, wigs adorned with specially cultivated yellow everlasting flowers and anything else that takes their fancy. Long cassowary femur daggers are strapped to their sides, necklaces of hornbill beaks, great kina shell



Top Baisu women from Western Highlands Province. above Performer plays bamboo flute. bottom, from left Singing performers.







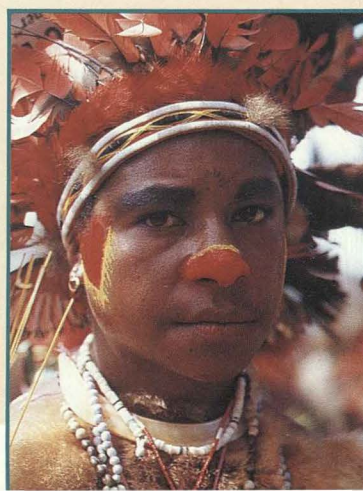
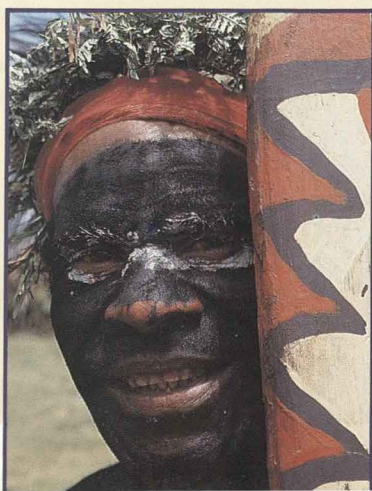
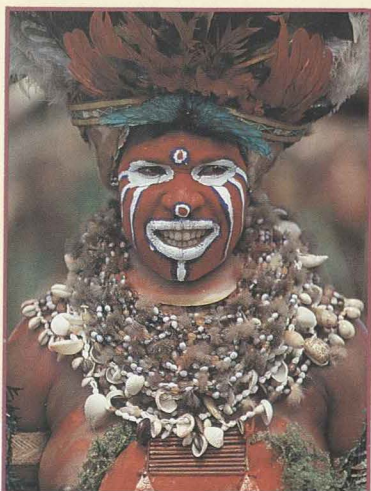
**Top** Women of a Finschhafen group, Morobe Province. **above** Huli wig men from Southern Highlands Province.

breastplates are worn and occasionally much prized umbrellas are carried.

Ingeniously the mud used as body paint by the mudmen is scraped from the insides of their masks. If they seem to rest frequently it is because they need to, their masks being solid and, weighing about 15kg.

Judges have it hard. Performers are marked from 1 to 3, and are awarded accordingly a percentage of the admission monies. The costs of getting whole villages to the show are considerable and this way everyone is compensated for their efforts. The judges look particularly for an adherence to traditional dress, carefully considering the efforts made by all groups.

The third weekend in August is the time for a memorable experience. It is a spectacle not to be missed.





# FUTURE AIRLINE PILOT

**Layton Roroi**

**“9 year old Layton is determined to one day be a Captain with our Nations Airline.”**



**“At the PNGBC, we are interested in Layton's future and the future of all young Papua New Guineans.”**

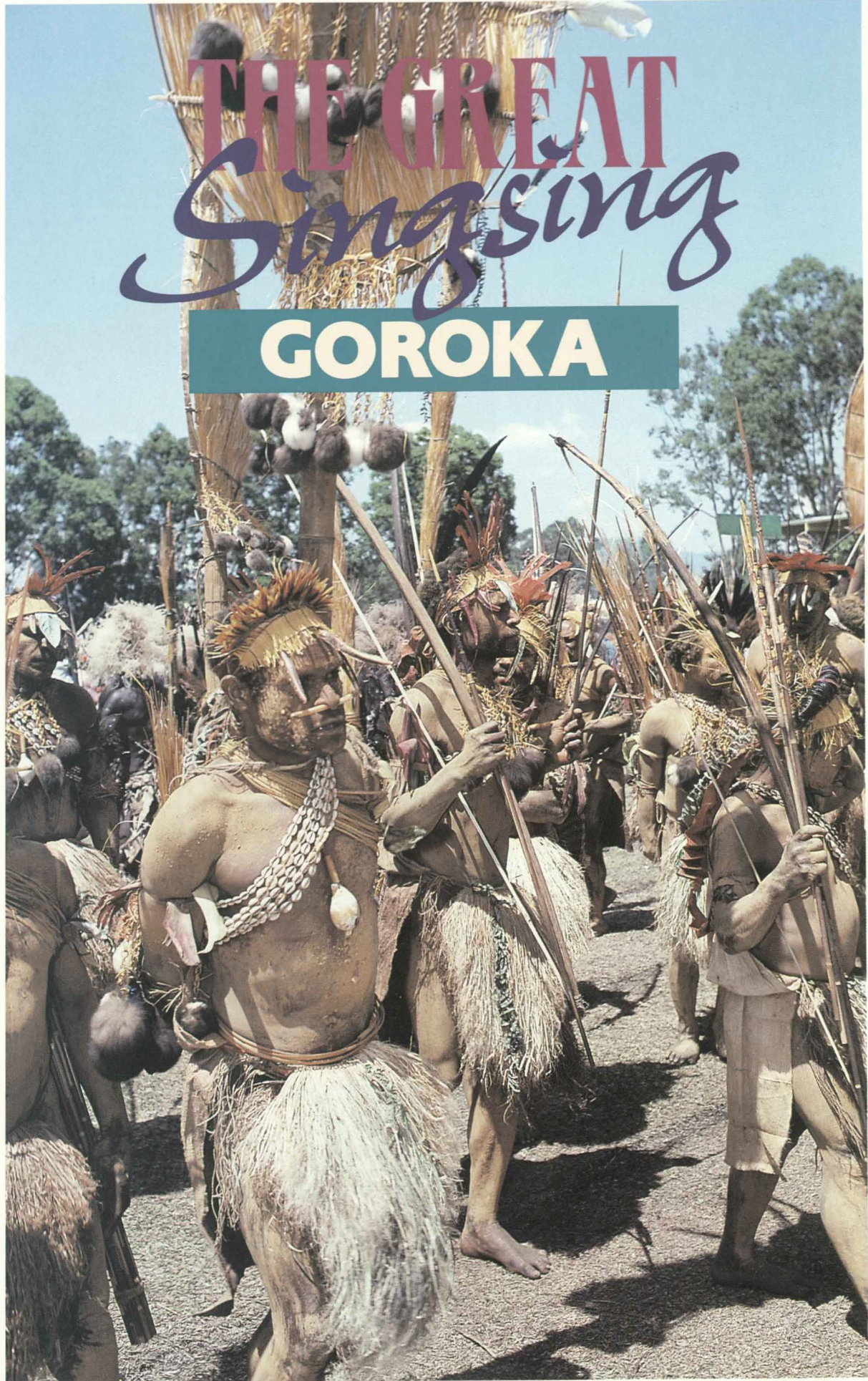


for us tomorrow



# THE GREAT *Singsing*

## GOROKA



Story and Photographs by Susan Turner

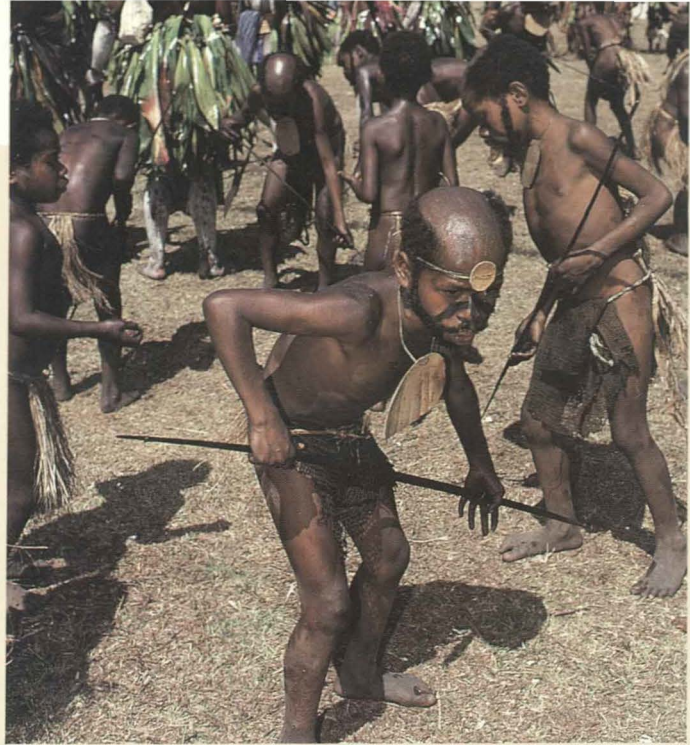


With hundreds of spectacularly dressed dancers representing cultural groups from all parts of the country, the Goroka Show is one of Papua New Guinea's great singsings. Singsing is the Melanesian pidgin word for the traditional celebration of music, dancing and feasting that takes place for many reasons such as a marriage or a reconciliation between two warring tribes.

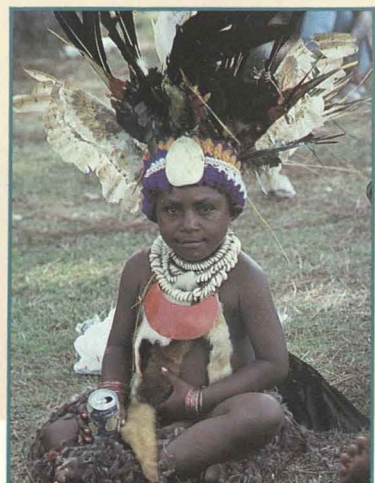
The first show was staged in 1957 by Jim Taylor, an early explorer and administrator in the Highlands, and a group of pioneers, as a way for many diverse cultural groups to get to know each other under peaceful circumstances. Thousands of warriors, curious to see their distant neighbors, walked for days to reach the government station of Goroka.

Now, most performing groups arrive by truck or aircraft. The aim of the Goroka Show is to encourage Papua New Guineans to preserve their traditional values while at the same time uniting a country of more than 700 different languages. A special emphasis is put on fostering pride among young people.

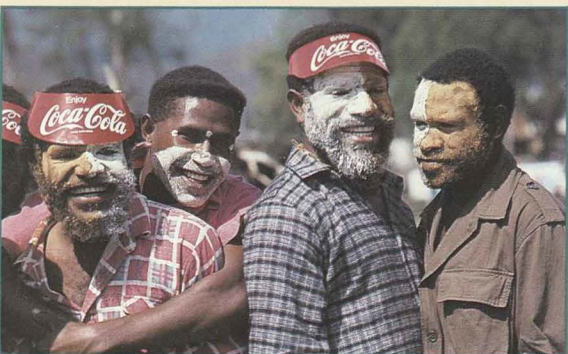
The show, more formally known as the Eastern Highlands Cultural Show, was held one weekend every even numbered year in the past. But in response to ever increasing numbers of visitors, it was changed to three days over Independence weekend. The Eastern Highlands Cultural Society recently decided



Top 'Toy people' children's group from Lufa, Eastern Highlands Province. above Kuka 'Frog people', from Kenetisaro, EHP. bottom, from left Singsing performers.







**Top** Gembogl dancers, from Simbu Province. **centre** Packing valuable decorative feathers for safekeeping. **above** Spectators sharing the opportunity for some dressing up.

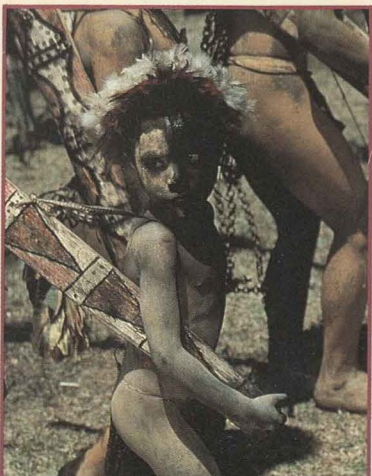
to make the show an annual event.

This year, the show was scheduled to open on Independence Day, Friday, September 16 and close Sunday. More than 60,000 people were expected at the showgrounds at the National Sports Institute, only a few minute's walk from the centre of town.

According to Warren Daniels of the Bird of Paradise Hotel, "This year's committee is working with regional Council Presidents to obtain an even better representation of singsing groups from every corner of PNG. And with the usual strong emphasis on authenticity, the show is shaping up very well."

As in the past, about 80 dance groups which best represent PNG's 19 provinces were selected from the 140 or so that applied.

The Goroka Show is a once-in-a-lifetime chance for visitors to





# STIHL®

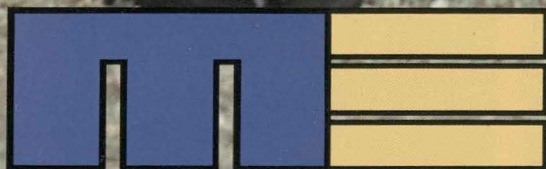


The **STIHL** Product Range  
available from Exclusive Distributors

**MORGAN EQUIPMENT PTY. LTD.**

LAE Aircorps Road  
PORT MORESBY Morea Tobo Road  
RABAUL Airport Road  
HONIARA Ranadi Industrial Estate

42 2444  
25 5766  
92 2488  
677 3 0171



A member of the **UMU** Group of Companies

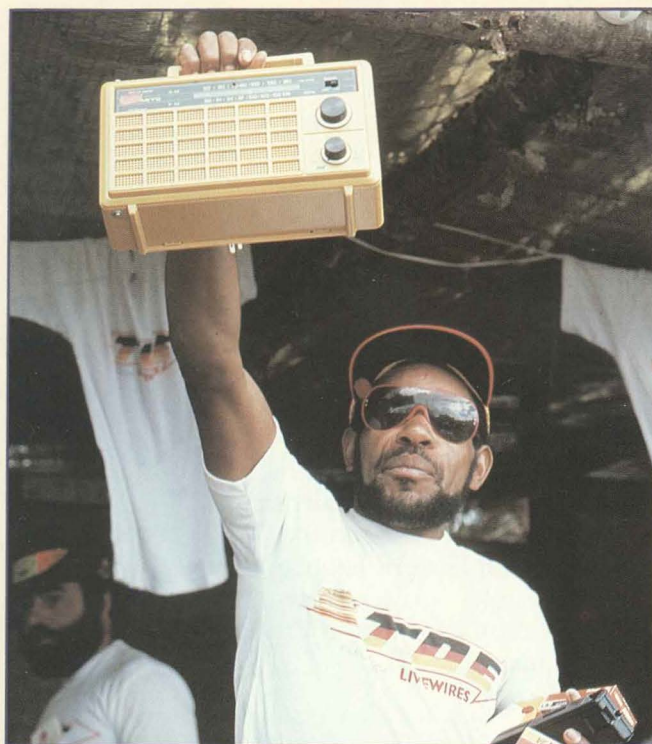


PNG to see an incredible variety of cultural groups, each with its distinct singing regalia. The Huli from faraway Tari have elaborately painted faces and wide, human-hair wigs. Melpa women from Mt Hagen wear tall headdresses of glistening Princess Stephanie bird of paradise feathers. Dancers from Okapa are decked out in little more than black and gold mud, while the many running Anga warriors from Marawaka are a blur of dried grass, bows and arrows.

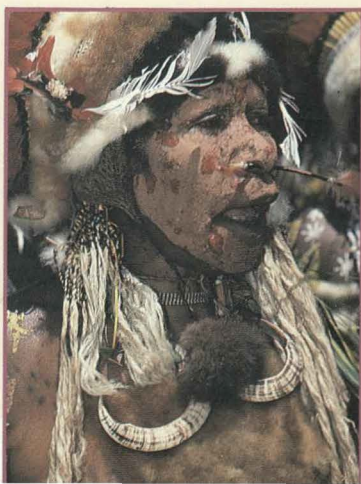
While most groups appear in perfect traditional dress which includes face and body paint, red tree oil, valuable exotic feathers, shells and masks, there are new adaptations of old styles and legends. In the past, Jim Taylor's first expedition into the Highlands has been re-enacted and a new version of the famous Asaro mudmen, the Kuku frog group, have hopped around the arena.

On Sunday morning, as the final decisions are being made and each group is at its best, the visitor is carried away by the wild performances and the cacophony of drums, singing and war cries.

There is more to see than the photogenic dancers. There is a Miss Goroka Show contest, a string band competition and performances by some of the country's most popular musicians. There are agricultural and livestock displays, and booths selling artefacts and crafts, food and drinks. Adjoining the show ground is the J.K. McCarthy Museum with a small, but fine



**Top** Spectators and performers mingle. **above** Sellers enjoy good trading at the show. **below, from left** Singing performers.





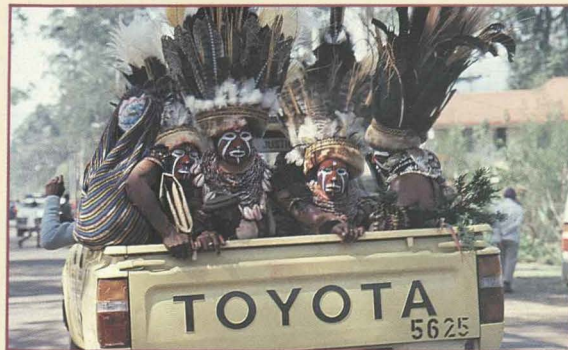


collection of Highlands artefacts.

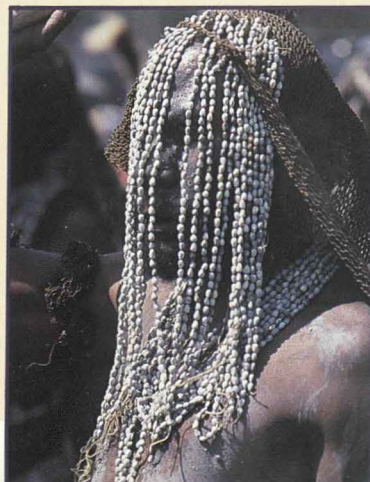
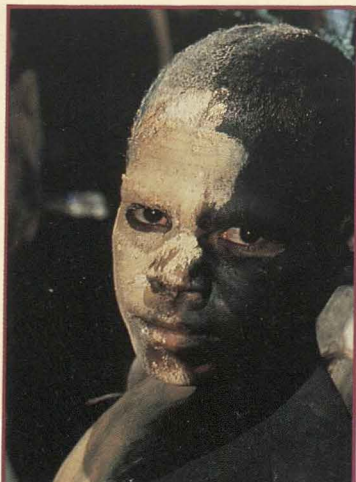
An added treat for lovers of PNG art and culture are the dozens of sellers who come into town with treasures such as bright bilums (handwoven string bags), bilas (finery such as necklaces, arm bands and headdresses), bows and arrows, miniature clay mudmen, baskets and more. In general, prices are excellent, and hard bargaining is not the custom.

Goroka, a town of 25,000 and the prettiest in the Highlands, is a wonderful setting for the show and a good place to visit anytime.

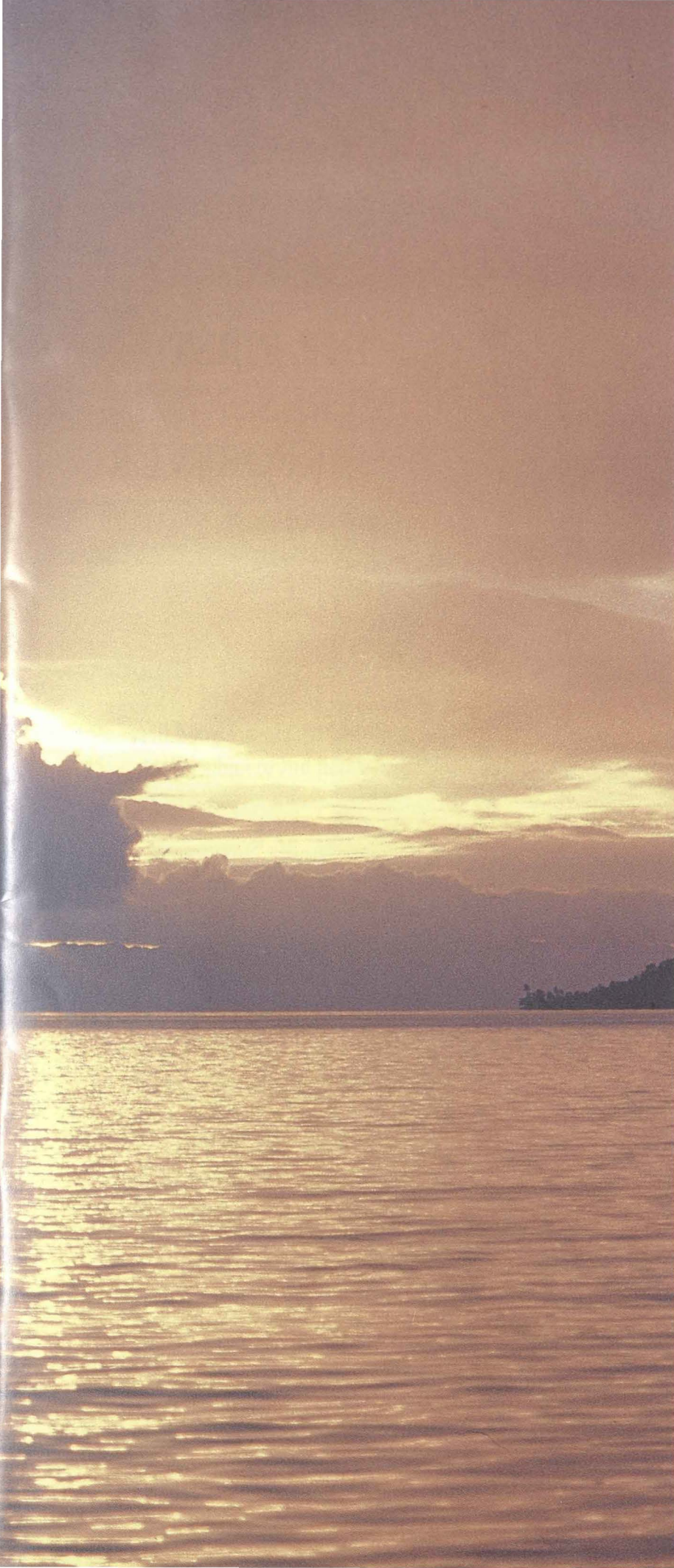
There is much to see in the cool, beautiful Eastern Highlands, and the Goroka Show is truly one of the greatest singsings in Papua New Guinea.



**Top** Angen dancers from Morobe Province. **centre** Hornbill beaks as body decoration. **above** Performers on their way to the showground. **below**, from left Singing performers.







WE KNOW PNG...  
BECAUSE WE ARE PNG.

We know...  
Our People...  
Our Resources...  
Our Businesses....

We are...  
**KILA BOWRING**  
Being expert in our  
field is your bonus.

**MOST PEOPLE  
CALL IT PARADISE...  
WE CALL IT OUR  
COUNTRY.**



**Kila Bowring Insurances Pty Ltd**

A MEMBER OF THE MARSH & McLENNAN GROUP  
INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS  
Ph: 21 1811 Fax: 21 1324



# LAE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL



Lae's Most Prestigious  
International Hotel

## SOME FIRST IMPRESSIONS LAST FOREVER



### AT LAE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

we know we make a good first  
impression but to make it last  
forever takes a lot more!

#### It takes:

More than — almost nine acres of tropical  
gardens.

More than — first class standards and service.

More than — three superb restaurants.

More than — convention facilities for 500.

More than — a pool, tennis court, aerobics,  
gymnasium and sauna.

### It Takes Style!

**AND THAT'S WHY  
YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION  
WILL LAST FOREVER**

For reservations and further  
information, please contact:

Lae International Hotel

P.O. Box 2774, Lae,

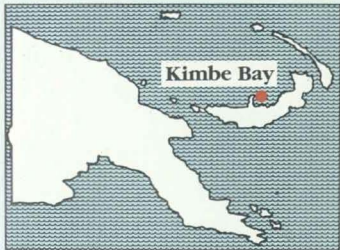
Papua New Guinea

Telephone: (675) 42 2000

Facsimile: (675) 42 2534



# GOOD neighbors



*Left Razorfish, when not lit by diver's torch, are almost invisible in their host red firewhip.*

**Story by Danielle Amyot  
Photographs by Pat Manly**

**T**he sea is the Earth's largest and oldest environment. In it, a diverse range of associations between species has evolved over a vast expanse of time.

In a symbiotic relationship, members of different species may exchange services or share accommodation for their mutual benefit. Sometimes the partners cannot exist without each other. In other cases, one animal may gain all the benefit, while its host derives neither pleasure nor pain.

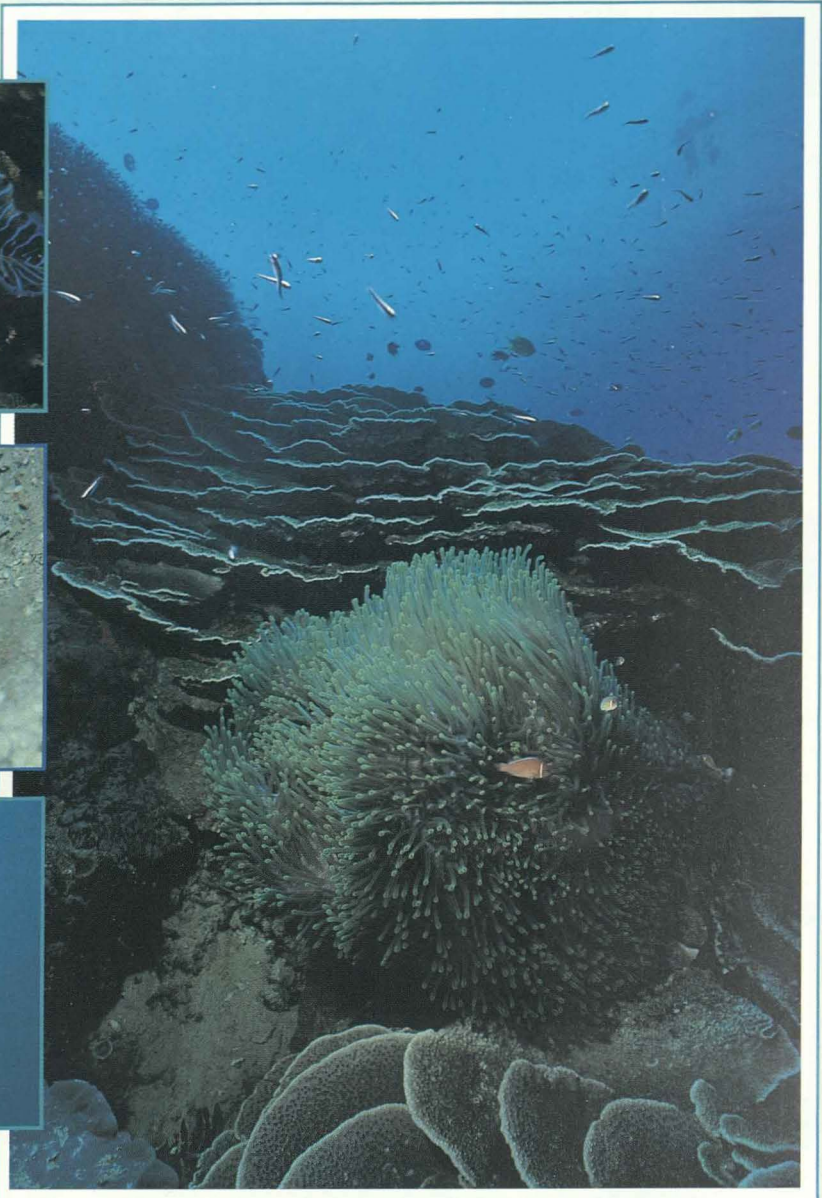
A peek through the watery windows of Kimbe Bay, New Britain, reveals some interesting neighborly relations.

For the little creature in a big sea, camouflage by a coral companion is an interesting strategy for survival. The long fingers of red firewhips on Susan's Reef stab towards the sunlight, while within them, razorfish float head downwards in their effort to avoid detection by their predators. The fish have an elongated, tapering shape and are nearly transparent. Swimming in small synchronised groups, they may not be noticed until a passing diver shines a torch on their reflective bodies, and exposes their secret hideaway.

Sometimes effective protection means finding someone to do your fighting



**below** Blue mantle of clam is home to invisible algae colonies which share host's meals. **centre** Goby fish and alpheid shrimp share the same burrow. **bottom** Small cleaner wrasse feed on parasites attached to this sweetlips



**Right** Clownfish live safe within anemones, immune to the poisonous tentacles.

for you. Clownfish live within the fortress of a sea anemone's tentacles, protected by the stinging cells called nematocysts which the anemone uses to capture prey. The clownfish have evolved mechanisms to remain unaffected by the nematocysts' sting.

Sponges often find themselves in symbiotic relationships. Simple though they may appear, they are a good friend to have. They are distasteful, possessing chemical deterrents within their systems that few animals can tolerate. Some crabs plant a sponge on their carapace or hard shell, holding it in place with a

clawed hind leg until the sponge is fixed. Some hermit crabs can be covered by an exuberant growth of sponges.

Not all symbioses are one-sided. In sandy patches between coral bommies, such as on South Emma Reef, we can creep up slowly to watch the alpheid shrimps and goby fishes who have a mutually beneficial relationship. The near-blind shrimp spends its day excavating a burrow on the seafloor, ploughing sand and bits of coral outward with its claws it will devote much time and energy in the construction of an architecturally sound

dwelling.

Standing sentinel is the goby, who uses the burrow as a refuge during the day and as a resting place at night. The fish pays for his friend's hospitality by raising the alarm at the approach of a carnivorous goatfish or wrasse. The room-mates then retreat together to the safety of their den.

Creatures who live together often share meals — a situation known as commensalism. Generally, a host obtains a meal and shares it with a non-paying guest.

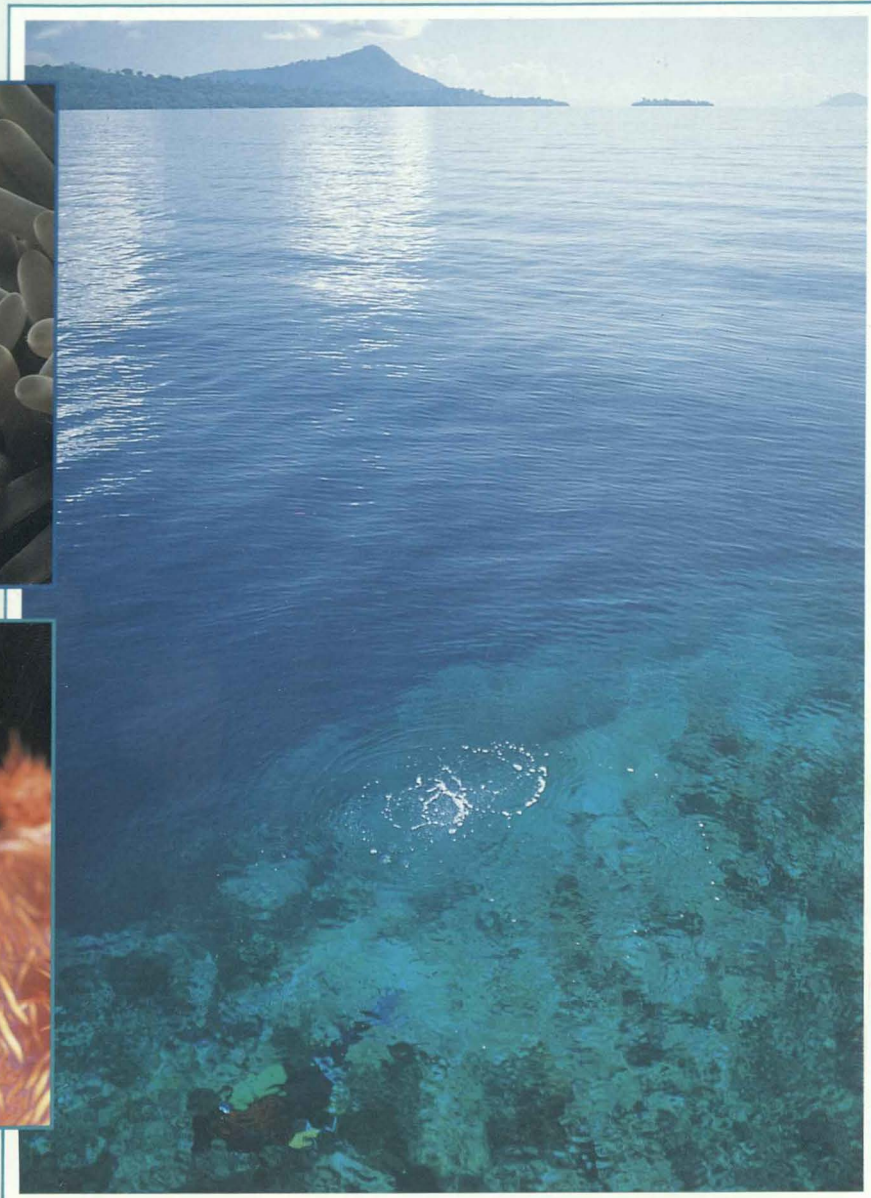
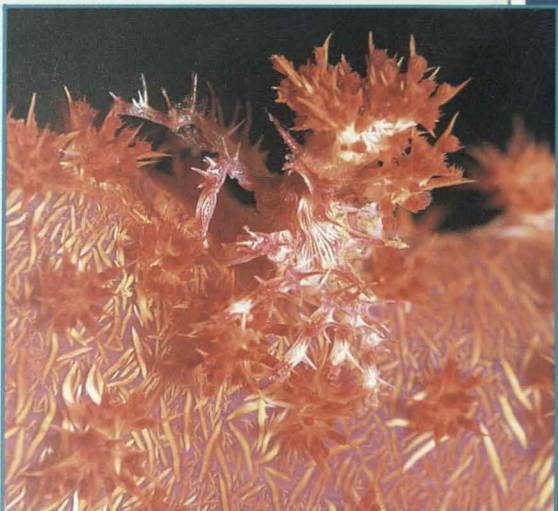
Crabs will often adorn their shells with sea anemones to avoid

becoming main course on an octopus's menu. It is a mutual arrangement. The anemone's nematocysts protect the crab, and the crab's movement stirs up items of food for the anemone. In some cases, the anemone climbs onto the crab itself, and in others the crab may deliberately plant the anemone onto its shell. Shallow reefs are a good place to observe these friendly neighbors.

Associations based on food are sometimes less obvious. Corals feed on plankton, extracting calcium to build their skeletons. Unicellular green algae, zooxanthellae, live within



**Below** Cleaner shrimp await customers on an anemone. **bottom** Decorator crab is well camouflaged.



**Right** Kimbe Bay neighborhood.

the coral and create chemical compounds which the coral can use as an energy source. In return, the coral's wastes feed the zooplankton. Because of this dependence, corals can only live if there is sufficient light for photosynthesis. In Kimbe Bay, the water is clear and the corals will thrive from basement to penthouse of many of the reef complexes.

Pilotfish are scroungers and often swim in large numbers around sharks and mantas. They were originally named pilots because it was thought that the little fish guided the large animals to the food

source. But since when did a shark need help to find its prey? The pilotfish's station in front of the predator's mouth allows them to take advantage of the pressure waves formed as the large bodies move through the water. 'Surfing' on the waves, they pick up scraps from the large messy eaters. These pelagics are usually itinerant, paying visits to the reefs to feed on the residents.

Remoras are peculiar fish which attach themselves to large animals such as sharks and rays, turtles, whales and dolphins. They use an oval suction disc which is really a dorsal fin that has become

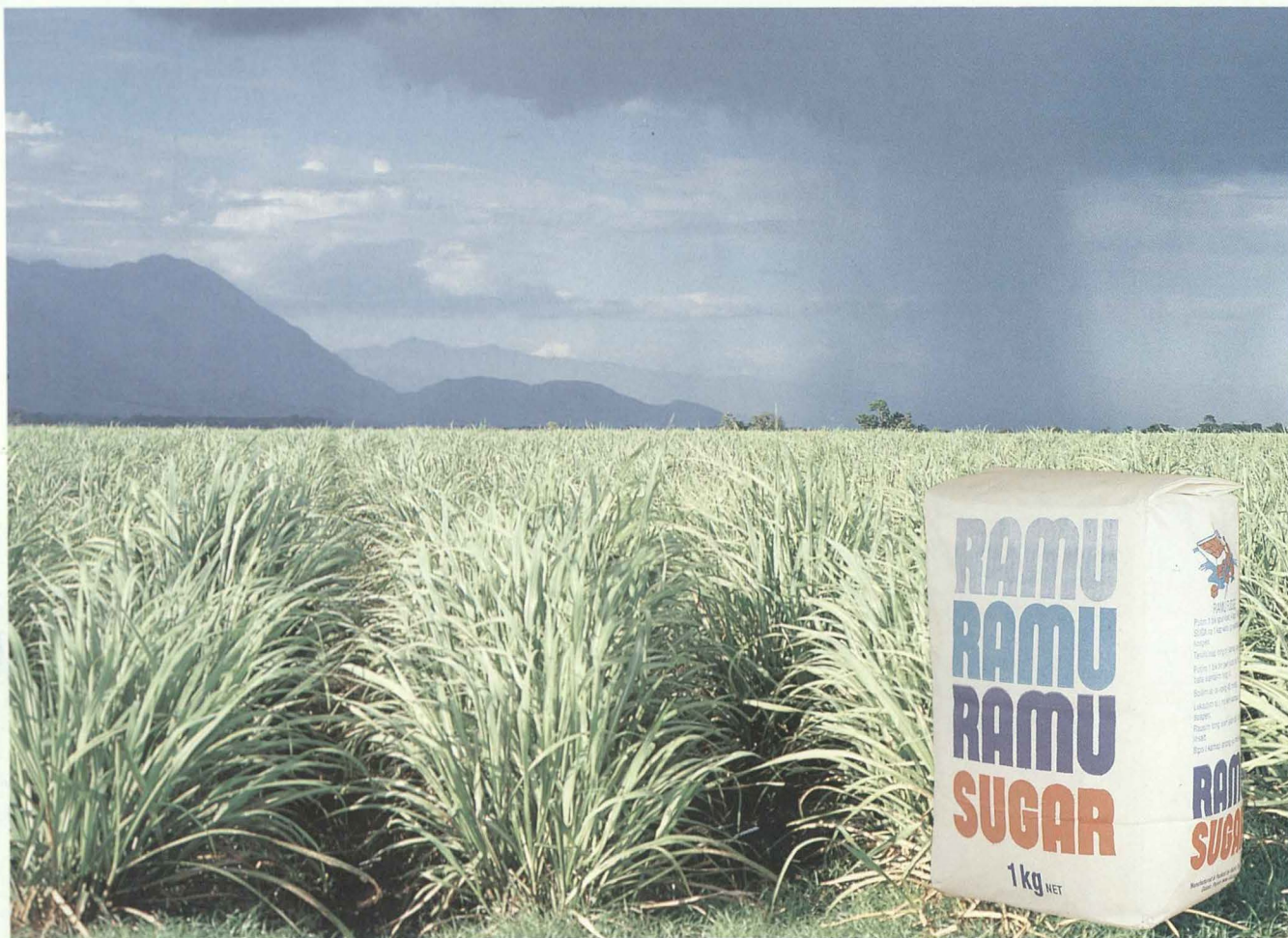
modified over millions of years. These marine hitchhikers are towed by their host, dropping off to eat when the host is feeding. Piggybacking also assists the dispersal of the species. A remora relocating to a new neighborhood can catch a ride with a passing shark.

While pilotfish and remoras pick up scraps, other species pay for a meal by offering a service. Watching closely the comings and goings on Christine's Reef, we spy some of the shrimp and fish which feed on ticks and parasites, removing them from the bodies of the reef inhabitants. They may also

signal impending danger by characteristic behaviors.

These cleaners take up stations such as rocky outcrops or coral heads which become well-known to their customers. The clients congregate regularly and queue up for service. Cleaner fish are characteristically bold, and don't keep the customer waiting. When no customers are on site, they signal their occupation with elaborate dances.





# RAMU SUGAR A HOME GROWN PRODUCT

More than any other manufactured product, Ramu Sugar is completely home produced. Grown in PNG, from a plant that originated in PNG, processed in PNG, packed and sold in PNG.  
*~ and abroad.*



Ramu Sugar - over a decade of  
downstream processing







# Air Niugini

International routes

N

NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN

INDIAN OCEAN

OCEAN

SOUTHERN OCEAN

TASMAN SEA



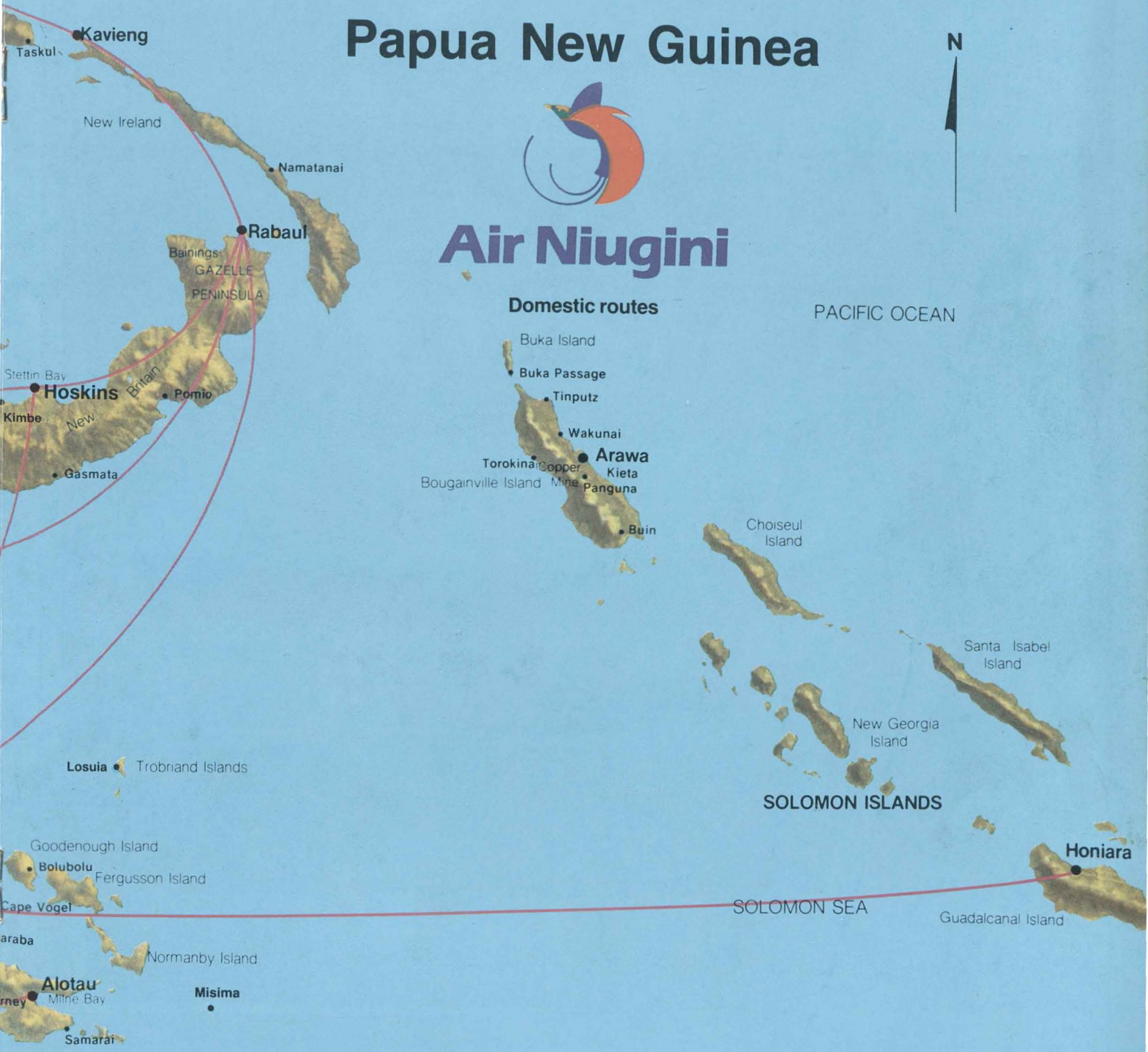




# Papua New Guinea



## Air Niugini





# AVIS - PAPUA NEW GUINEA (1974 - 1994)



AVIS have been renting cars in Papua New Guinea for twenty years - a long time in our business and in some quite interesting places....

To do that, has meant striving harder to ensure we deliver the most reliable, trusted service available.

Fleeting current model quality vehicles is just one of the ways AVIS does that.

The other is trained and committed staff who make sure the vehicle is clean and then welcome you with a smile.

Happy renting in 1994....

**AVIS**  
We try harder.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 25 8299 OR FAX 25 3767



# ART AND CRAFT

Story and photographs by Liz Thompson

Galleries all over the world exhibit Papua New Guinea art. Traditionally the basis of art in PNG could be seen as religious or spiritual. It gives form to ideas of the supernatural or spiritual world and in giving it form allows it to be experienced more closely. Images depicting these ideas find form not only in carvings of spirit masks, gables and 'religious' objects but also in basic utensils, bowls, weapons and jewellery.

As the knowledge and appreciation of these art forms have developed in the outside world, artists have been inspired to produce objects for a commercial market within PNG and overseas. While the objects are produced for sale they continue to be based on the rich cultural background from which they are inspired.



Originally ancestors were depicted on bark paintings. When artefact dealers began to collect and transport art from PNG they found that the designs often rubbed off and the delicate bark was easily broken. For this reason, dealers requested that the artists make a more durable form of artwork and the result is these carved wooden storyboards which can be found in many locations along the Sepik River. While bark paintings usually depicted spirits, these more contemporary versions often depict everyday life in the village.

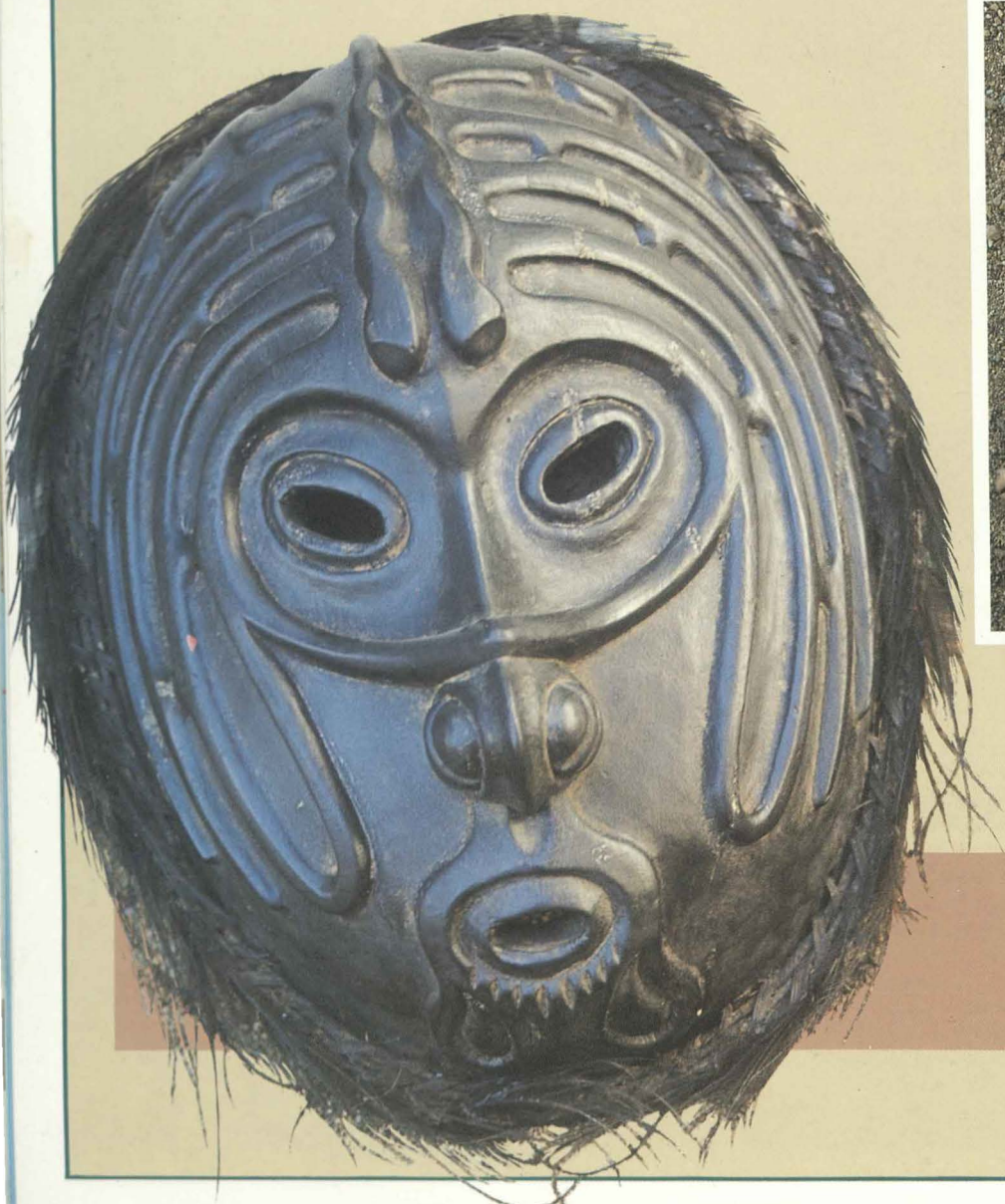


Spirit figure from the Middle Sepik.





Carvers in Tambanum, in the Middle Sepik, producing carvings for the tourist market.



A cowrie shell necklace threaded on twine of rolled bark. These necklaces come from the Highlands region of PNG, the shells having been used as trade items in their journey from the coast.

An ancestral or spirit mask from the Middle Sepik. Spirit and ancestral masks, unlike dance and gable masks, were traditionally the most important. The mask represents the face of a supernatural being.



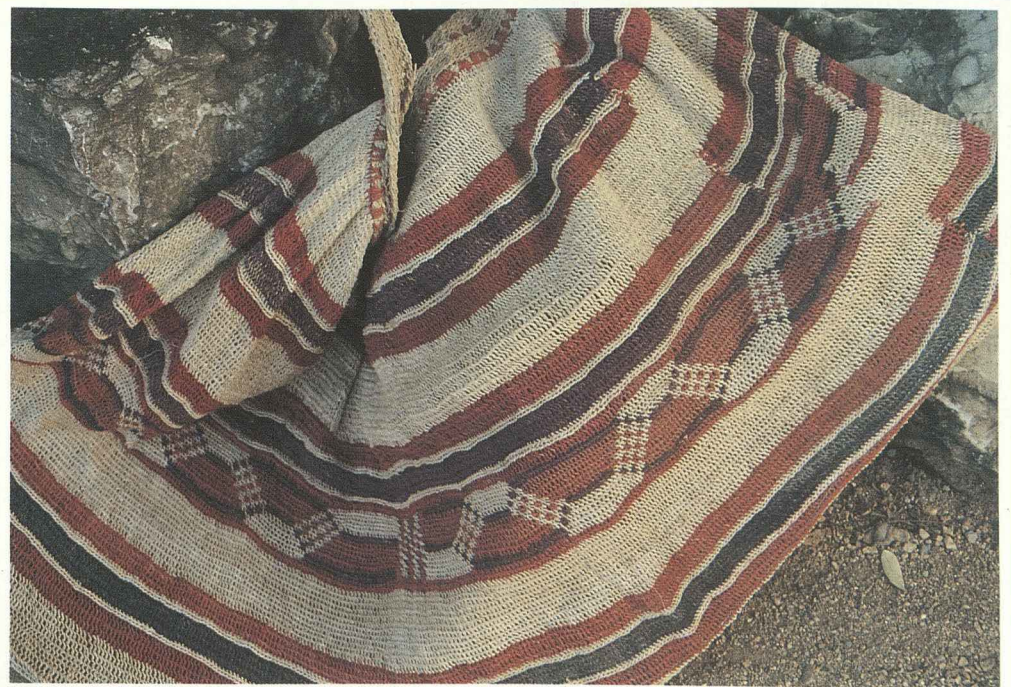


A spirit figure from the Upper Keram river. This figure is decorated with cassowary feathers though they also appear without this additional adornment.

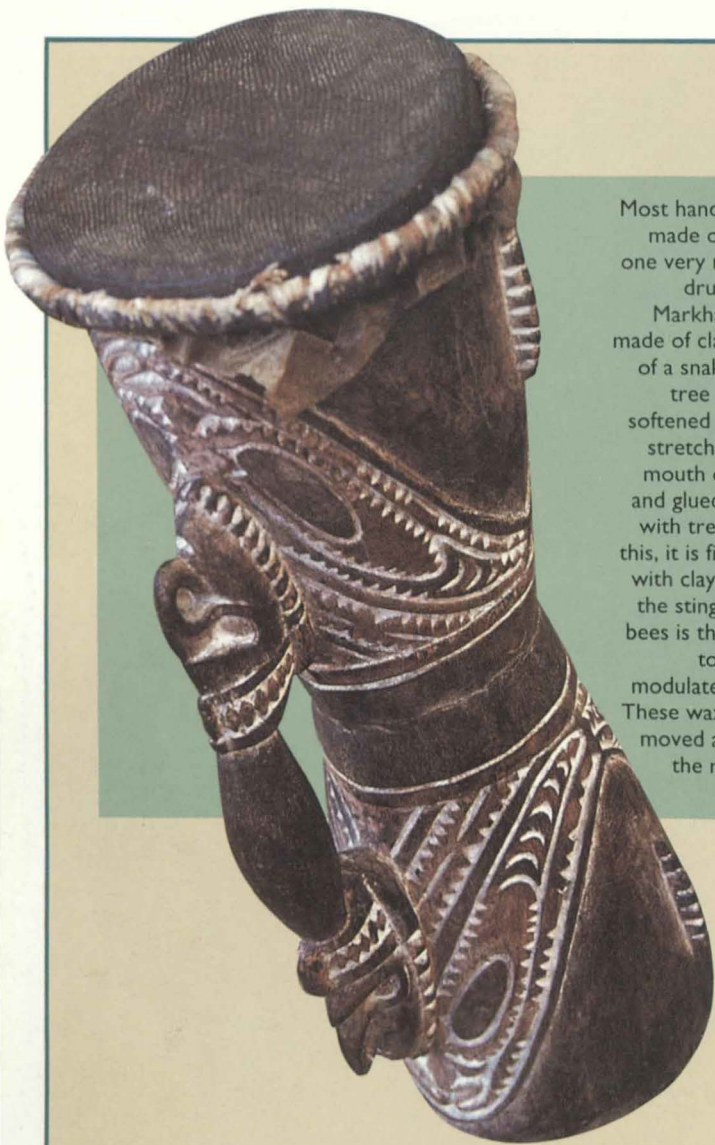
Lime pot from the Trobriand Islands. These pots are made from gourds and decorated with intricate designs. They are used to store lime used to chew with betel nut but these gourds are now produced for purely decorative purposes.



A bilum bag used for carrying anything from babies to root vegetables. These bags are used in many parts of PNG. Originally made from beaten and woven bark and dyed with ochres and umbers from earth and plants, they often appear now in bright colored nylon or thread dyed with store paints. Large bilums such as this one from Wosera are worn around the forehead so that the bag itself drapes across the back of the carrier. Worn in this way they are simply another layer of clothing.







Most hand drums are made of wood but one very rare type of drum from the Markham Valley is made of clay. The skin of a snake, lizard or tree kangaroo is softened with water, stretched over the mouth of the drum and glued to the rim with tree sap. After this, it is firmly bound with clay. Wax from the stingless trigona bees is then attached to the skin to modulate the sound. These wax pieces are moved around until the right pitch is found.



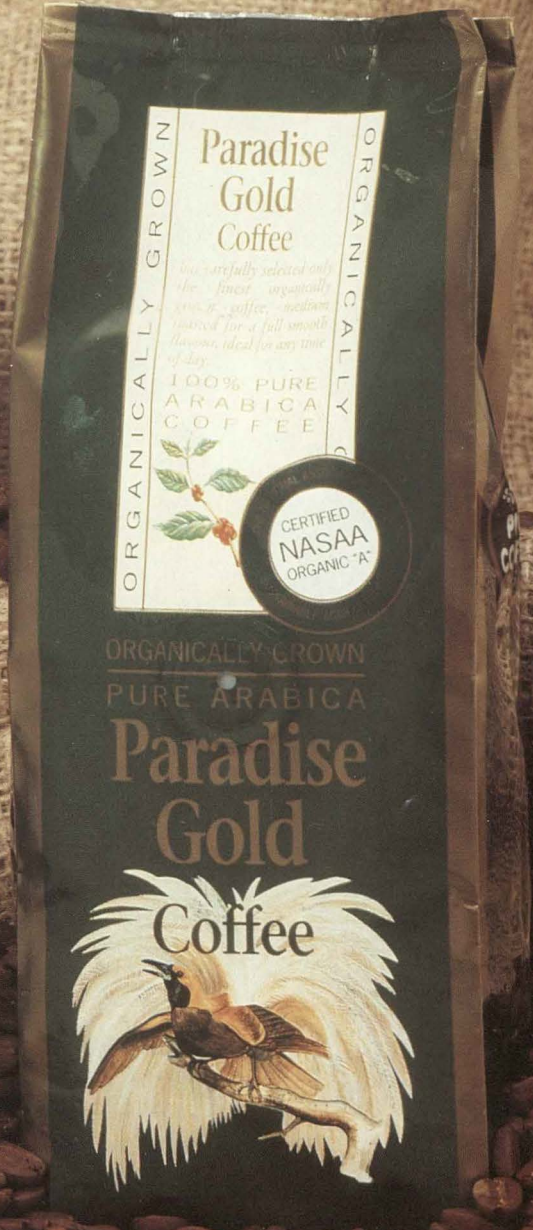
Crocodiles carved from ebony wood and inlaid with mother of pearl shell. Crocodiles, hunted for food and leather, have a spiritual significance to the river people.



These clay jars come from Aibom Village in the Chambri Lakes. Made from coils, they are not glazed but painted with faces of animals. Used to store sago, the staple food of people in this area, the pots are now made to sell to artefact dealers. As a result, the faces which appear are more ornate than they might have been traditionally.



# PAPUA NEW GUINEA COFFEE



**Goroka Coffee Roasters Pty Ltd**

PO Box 555 Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province,  
Papua New Guinea.

Tele:(675) 72 1245 Fax:( 675) 72 2835





Aviation  
Papua New Guinea.



Shell Papua New Guinea Pty. Ltd.



# No Names On The Map

Story and photographs by Georgie & Ron McKie



Over the course of a year, we four friends, two residents of PNG and two regular visitors from America, had planned a helicopter safari.

In dazzling, early morning light we left Madang, and followed the coastline north and west to Bogia and the Ramu River delta. Extensive coconut

plantations spread from the coast to far inland. Spectacularly sited villages overlooked white sand beaches and azure seas, facing offshore islands still shrouded in early morning cloud. Children and fishermen waved as we passed overhead. Shoals of fish and flocks of feeding sea birds attracted our attention.

With the Ramu clearly in sight we turned inland to the Adelbert Ranges, to visit remote villages which had no airstrip or nearby road system. Such villages were not hard to find as small clearings in the dense forest stood out clearly from the air.

Our first landing was in the lush, grassy grounds of a primary school, where

**Above** A ridge-top village, Adelbert Ranges. **inset** Simbai airstrip.



students boarding from other villages raced outside to greet their unexpected visitors. Our guide, Kepas, explained that we were tourists wanting to visit remote villages. Discussions between Kepas and elders of the village led us to continue flying further into the Adelbert Ranges.

Deep in the ranges, the villages were located on ridges and several attempted landings had to be abandoned as few landing sites could be found. Eventually a sloping field suited our needs, and we landed in waist high grass. The village was laid out as a long rectangle, with the church at one end and houses flanking the sides. Items of traditional bilas (finery), mainly bird of paradise plumes, were produced and greatly admired. Babies were brought forward to be photographed, and little girls giggled as the old ladies posed with enormous hand-made cigarettes clamped between their teeth. Our return to Madang took us over extensive, rugged and forested mountains.

The following day, we decided to fly west to a District Headquarters called Simbai.

In spite of Simbai's size and ready contact with other areas, the reaction of Simbai children to the two women of the group was startling and unexpected. Ginger has curly auburn hair and Georgie has long blonde hair. Within minutes of leaving the helicopter, the ladies were mobbed by little children squealing and laughing, all trying to touch both heads of hair.

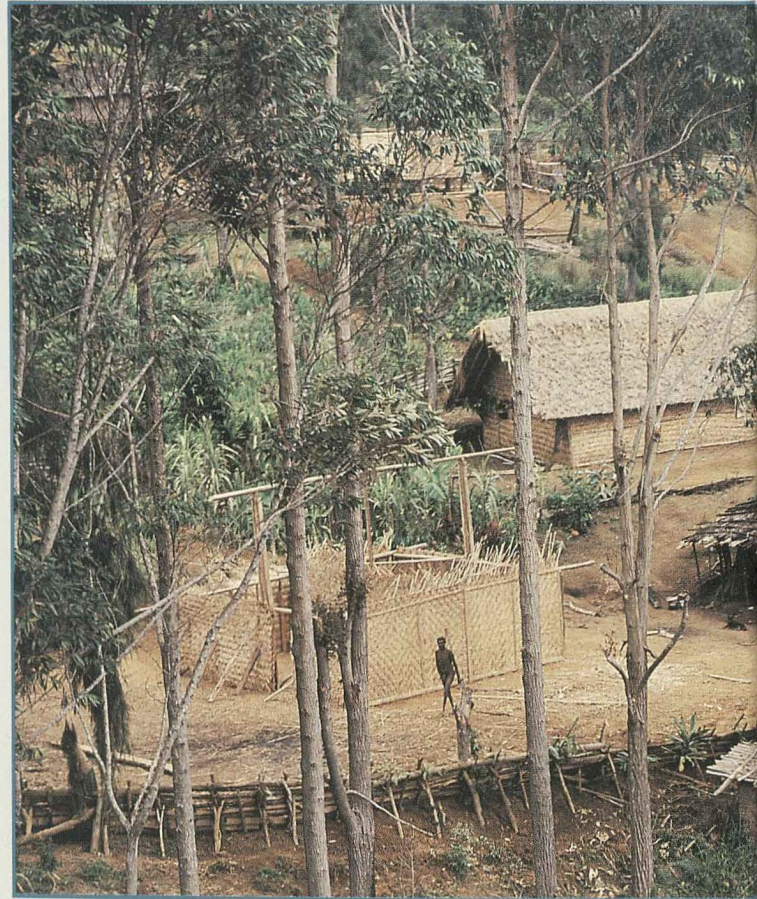
One of our reasons for coming into Simbai was to locate a guide who could take us to a village where the men make wonderful barrel-shaped helmets, covered in green beetles, as part of their singsing finery.

Photographs of the helmets were circulated and the locals confirmed that we were in the right region. A Suranapi man offered his services as guide, and explained that he had worked as a guide to the helicopter pilots who collected the ballot boxes after the last election.

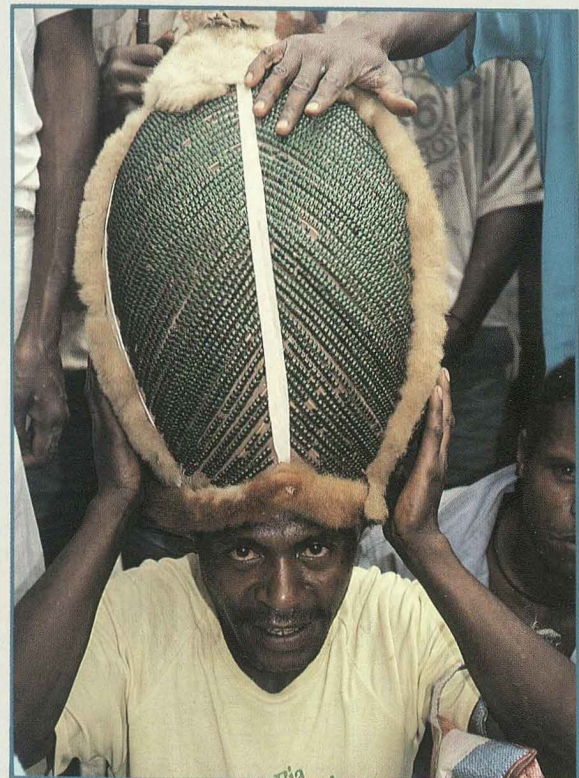
After flying through spectacular mountains, we landed at Aradip village, 2,000 metres above sea level. Light mist covered the village and hilltop. In spite of its isolation, the village boasted a large, beautifully constructed bush material church and a primary school with five teachers.

The traditional Aradip house is a long diamond shaped building, low to the ground and housing several families in individual rooms. Each family area has its own central fire and sleeping platforms. Young piglets are tethered inside near the warmth of the fire. More recently, the influence of the Western Highlands' style of housing has led to substantial experimentation in house building. Some elevated houses with woven pitpit walls were under construction, and there was much debate as to whether or not it would be an improvement over the local design.

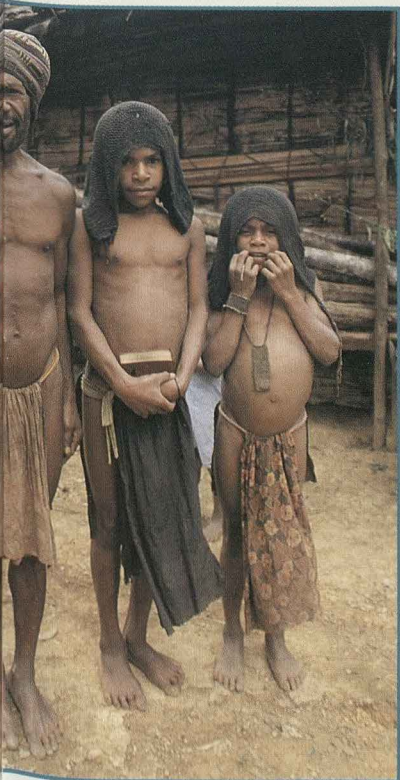
The boys and men remain traditionally dressed. The heads of the teenage boys were draped with heavy, black, bush material bilum fabric. Many of the men wore padded, circular, black hats over their hair. The men produced the bases of the sought after green beetle helmets. They are solid barrel shaped hats. Strings of threaded beetles are attached diagonally and the seams are covered with strips of cuscus fur. Like most bilas, all the component pieces are stored separately, and only assembled at a time of celebration.



Top Aradip village. below, left Simbai green beetle helmet. below, right Traditional dress of Aradip males. right Copra plantation, near Bogia.









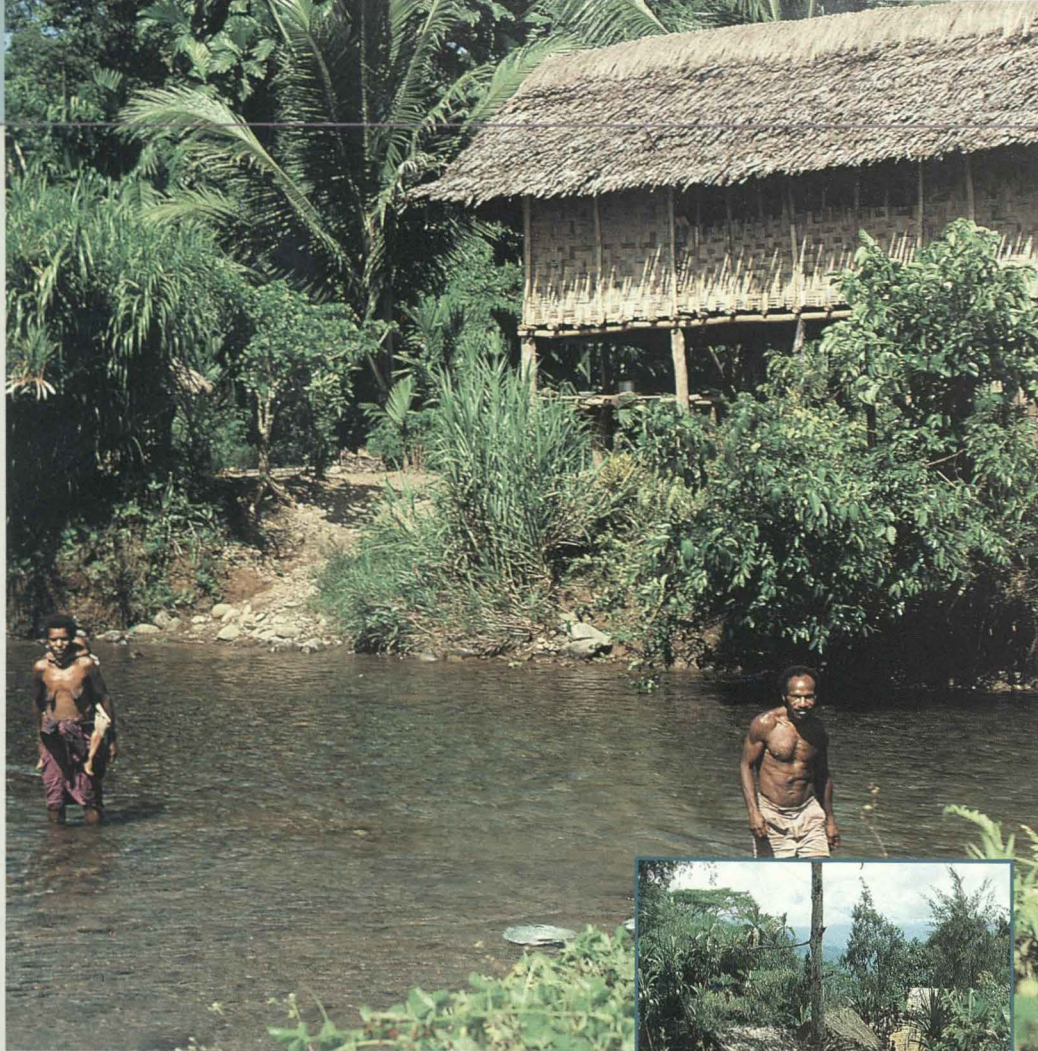
By putting the helicopter skids across a ridge, we were able to land at Gunz village which runs the length of a long, narrow, and steep ridge, just wide enough to support a line of houses and a foot track beside each house. Sheer drops on both sides gave spectacular views to nearby mountains.

Our arrival was taken as a good omen. The men were in the process of killing a large pig in preparation for a feast later that night.

As we flew over the Foroko area, adjoining a tributary of the Ramu River, we spotted two villages with distinctively Highlands construction. Landing in one, we found that its inhabitants had run away. Flying on to the second, we again saw a mass evacuation. Curious, we landed and located one elderly man nearby. When he realised we were tourists he shouted and called, and the villagers returned.

As soon as the returning women saw us, they ran towards us. Bear hugs, handshaking and dancing followed, in a joyous welcome. These people, who moved from the Western Highlands and acquired land from local owners, established a village much as it would be in the Western Highlands.

Back at Madang we pored over aviation maps to confirm the location and names of the villages visited. Apart from Simbai and Suranapi, there were no names on the map. It is interesting to realise that the people of these un-mapped villages vote in elections, have formal schools and churches, may grow cash crops, but are not yet recorded on any map, an indication of the continuing remoteness of many of the people of PNG.



Above Unmapped village, Foroko area. right Gunz village. below Interior Aradip house.







## TOBA MOTORS

## NEW GUINEA MOTORS

We're not just about selling vehicles. We are about service, customer satisfaction and quality in everything we do and we strive continually to raise industry standards. We are not the biggest but we want to be the best. That is our goal. We operate in nine centres in PNG offering new vehicles from the smallest runabout to the heaviest specialist truck. Our used vehicles are prepared in our workshops and backed by our reputation as PNG's number one used car dealer. We offer service and panel shop facilities second to none, that are supported by a countrywide distribution network for spare parts.

**Above all this we have our people.**

**"They are our true assets."**



SAVI NGM 0204

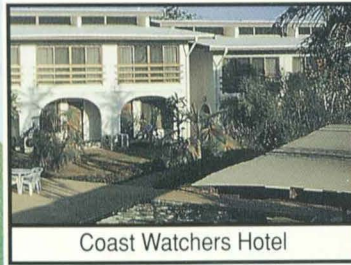
 **MITSUBISHI**

 **LAND  
ROVER**

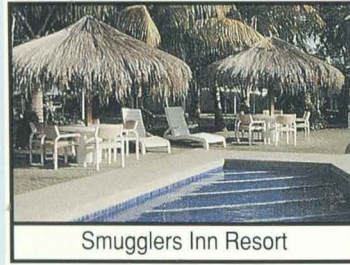
**ISUZU**



In these times,  
 people want more for their money.  
 Why not send them to a hotel,  
 that's had this philosophy all along?



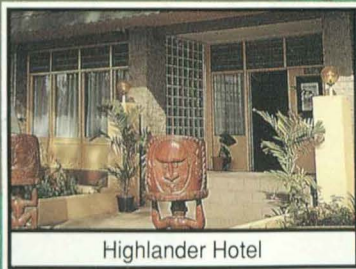
Coast Watchers Hotel



Smugglers Inn Resort

**MADANG**

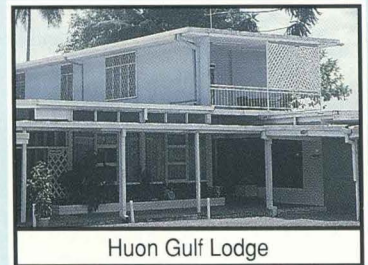
**MOUNT HAGEN**



Highlander Hotel



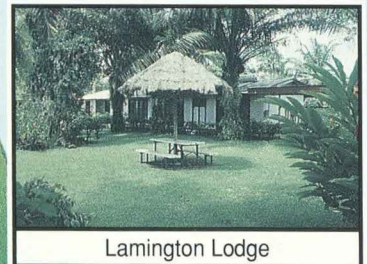
Melanesian Hotel



Huon Gulf Lodge

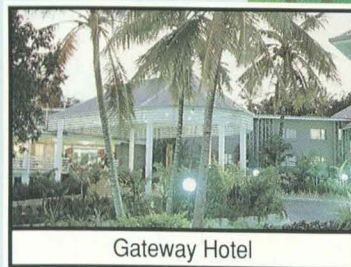
**LAE**

**POPONDETTA**



Lamington Lodge

**PORT MORESBY**



Gateway Hotel



**Coral Sea Hotels**

PO Box 1215, Boroko N.C.D., Papua New Guinea

**FLAG**  
 INTERNATIONAL  
 HOTELS · INNS · RESORTS · APARTMENTS

**CENTRAL RESERVATIONS PHONE (675) 25 2612**

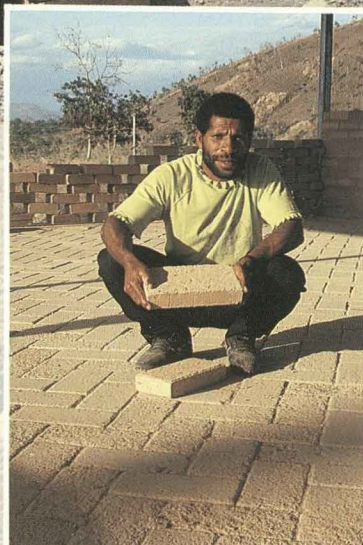
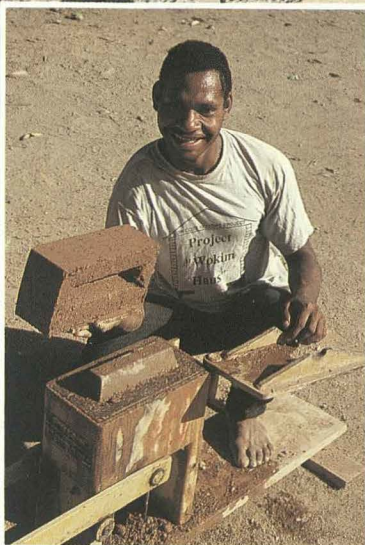


# HOUSING DIRT CHEAP

Story and photographs  
by Keith Briggs

Human dwellings usually reflect the surrounding environment. Houses of stone are set in terrain of the material from which it was hewn, as seen in Bible lands. An igloo of ice is beautifully compatible with the great frozen wastes where virtually no other building materials exist. In tropical lands like Papua New Guinea, houses of tree products are in complete harmony with the jungle background, the climate and people's lifestyle. Humans have skilfully adapted the materials at hand to provide appropriate dwellings.

Roofing of sago leaf, kunai grass or paper bark; walls of split saplings, sago limb ribs, plaited bamboo or pitpit are complemented by flooring of earth, black palm or sheets of tree bark almost as smooth as linoleum. Traditionally these materials have been plentiful and free, requiring only the labor of cutting, carrying and preparing with axes or knives. So house building has not been a problem or an expense to the people of PNG.



Top Mud bricks construction of Waigani church office block. above, left Freshly made mud brick. above, right Mud brick floor of Waigani church.





# Investment Corporation of Papua New Guinea

The Investment Corporation was established in 1971 by the National Government.

Papua New Guinea is known worldwide for its mineral wealth, but enormous potential exists for the further development of both primary and secondary industries, particularly for value added products. In keeping with the Government's policy of encouraging investment in Papua New Guinea, the Corporation is keen to identify and implement viable new business projects in conjunction with overseas partners.

Given our unique position and wide experience, the Investment Corporation is well qualified to provide a wide range of services for discerning investors.

*Below: Niugini Insurance House located in downtown Port Moresby is owned by the Investment Corporation Fund.*

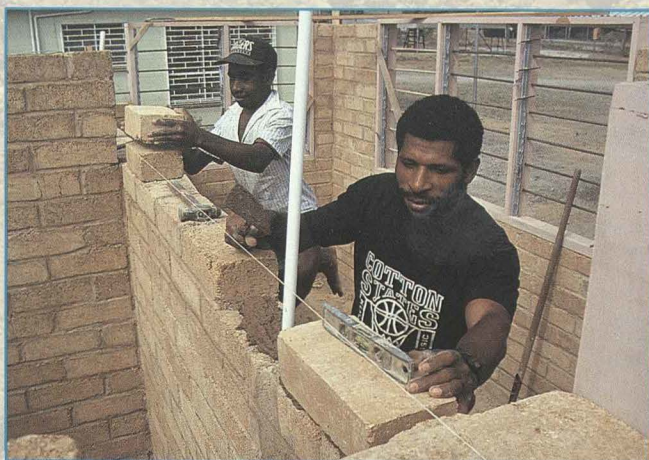


*Investors who would like to take advantage of the excellent business opportunities available in Papua New Guinea are invited to contact:-*

**The Managing Director  
Investment Corporation  
of Papua New Guinea  
PO Box 155 Port Moresby  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

**Telephone: 675 - 212855  
Facsimile: 675 - 211240**





*Top Mud bricks and mortar quickly become a wall. left Bubble level indicates accuracy of the brickworks. below Two Cinva rams can produce hundreds of bricks a day.*



In rural villages this is still the case but in cities and towns the rapidly increasing population has depleted natural materials to the point where they are no longer available, or have to be transported long distances. Port Moresby feels this particularly because of the open, almost treeless country in which it is set.

Most of PNG is rich in forests from which milled timber is available, and metal roofing and cladding are produced in this country. The cost of these is beyond an urban wage earner who might support both his own family and numerous relatives.

For many years, expatriate church workers have sought inexpensive materials with which urban Papua New Guineans can build homes at very low cost.

Sections of the Great Wall of China made of mud brick are still standing after 2,500 years, and one Pakistani house is reported to be 3,000 years old. In China, there are at least 90,000,000 mud brick homes, while 30,000 have been built in Australia, mostly by owner builders. With these impressive figures in mind, missionaries in different parts of PNG tried mud bricks and the buildings are still in excellent condition after 15 years or more. They prove to be up to 10 degrees Celsius cooler than conventional structures.

In Port Moresby, Mike Jelliffe of the Evangelical Church of PNG, after experimenting with various techniques and materials, settled on the Cinva ram method of making mud bricks. This demonstration enterprise is named Project Wokim Haus. The pilot project was a house for some of the church workers. Their first big venture is the Waigani Church.

Suitable soil, usually on the construction site, is



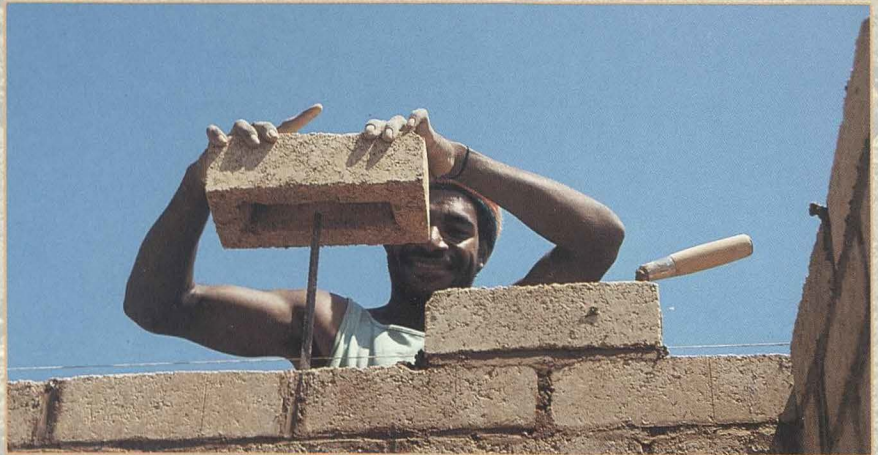
sieved to remove roots and vegetable matter before being mixed with 10 per cent by volume of cement powder. Water is added to make a damp, almost crumbly mixture ready to be compressed.

A team of workers using a Cinva ram can produce hundreds of mud bricks a day.

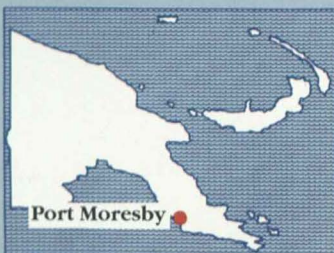
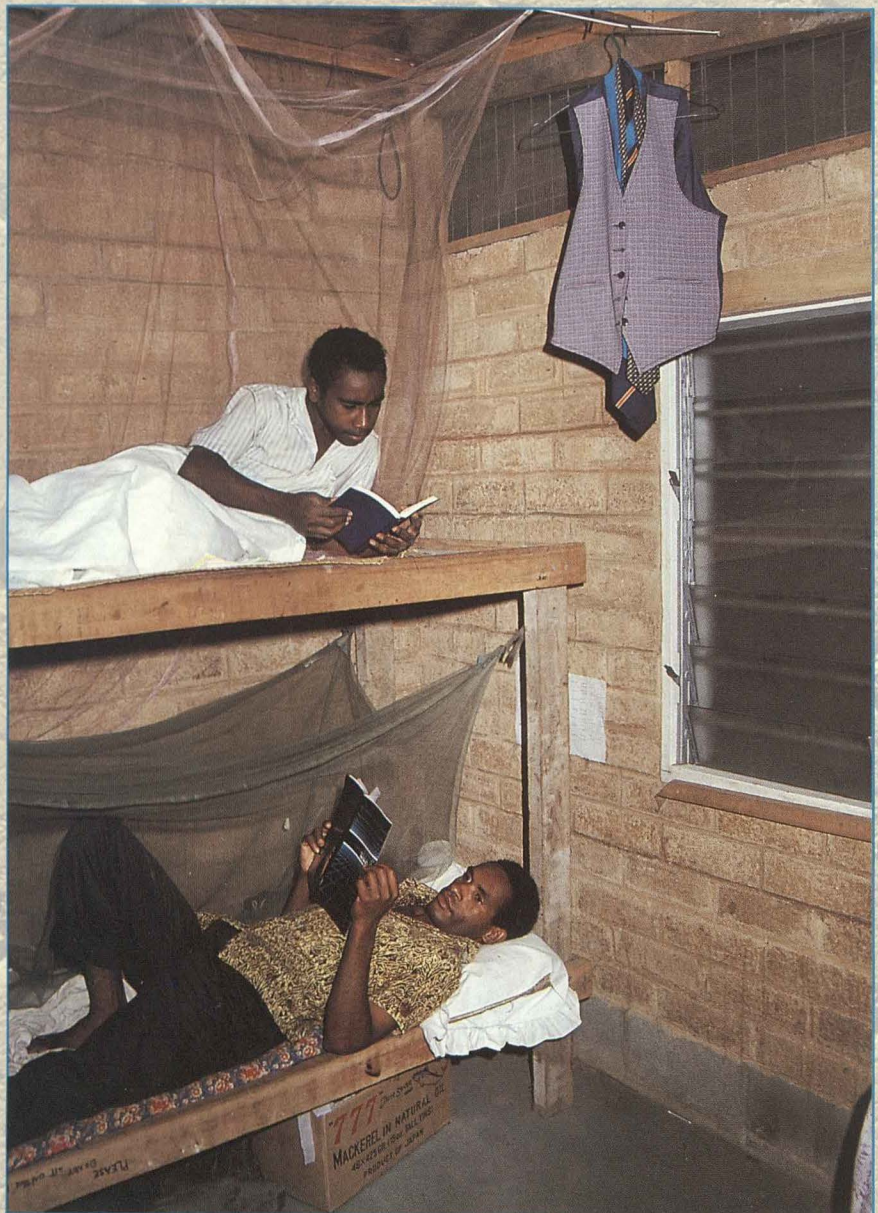
Normal bricklaying procedures are employed with the mortar needing a slightly stronger cement mix than for the bricks. The almost timberless construction made possible by mud bricks is attractive in areas of heavy termite activity, as these creatures can destroy a fine timber building in a few years.

Authorities the world over are concerned about increased migration to the towns which is putting tremendous pressure on existing housing.

Any able bodied man and his family can be shown how to build a durable, cool, attractive home for very little cash outlay. Just as it was in the bush with free materials transformed into a house by a person's labor, so with Earth's most plentiful building material under his feet. A man can take and use it to form shelter, one of humanity's most basic needs.



*Above* Drilled brick goes over down rod in wall. *below* Young men's living quarters are mud brick construction.



Port Moresby



# From the mountains to the sea, We've got PNG covered.



## **NZI** **Peace of Mind**

*Providing fire and  
general insurance in PNG since 1916.*

**NZI**  
**NZI Insurance**  
Peace of Mind

### **THE NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE CO. LIMITED**

#### *Branches*

#### **PORT MORESBY**

P O Box 1574,  
Port Moresby, NCD.

Defens Haus - Level 3,  
Cnr Hunter Street & Champion Parade.

Ph: (ISD 675) 21 2211  
Fax: 21 2383

#### **LAE**

P O Box 961,  
Lae, Morobe.

ANZ Bank Building - 1st Flr,  
Central Avenue, Lae.

Ph: (ISD 675) 42 4433  
Fax: 42 5715



# On business or pleasure, Hertz has your wheels.



Understanding the car rental needs of business and leisure travellers is what Hertz does best! That's why Hertz offers discount opportunities throughout the year on daily, weekly, or monthly rentals.

Plus you'll benefit from the many special services that have helped make **Hertz # 1!**

**Hertz Credit Card** is without doubt the quickest and smoothest way to rent a car. No queues, paperwork and no headaches.

**Hertz Chauffeur Drive** is available in Port Moresby. Using an air conditioned limousine our 24 hour hassle free, no waiting pick up and drop off, will ensure you are safe in the hands of one of our reliable and experienced chauffeurs.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL HERTZ ON:

# 25 4999

Fax: 25 6985

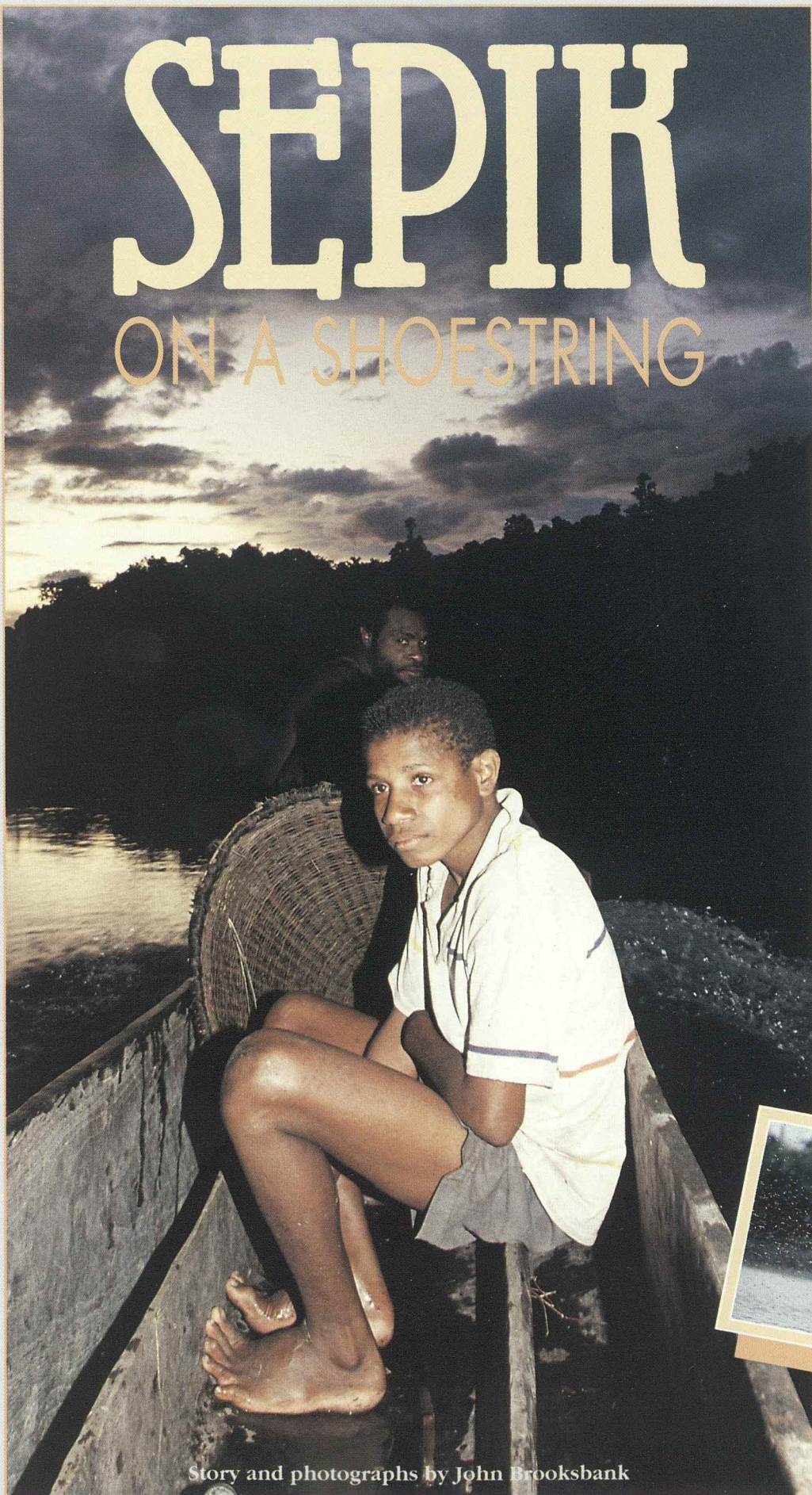
## **Hertz**

Papua New Guinea's first choice in car rental.



# SEPIK

## ON A SHOESTRING



Story and photographs by John Brooksbank

Leaves and branches disappear beneath the dark brown waters of the Upper Sepik, sucked into the hungry whirlpools and eddies at Yambon Gate. Our guides steer the canoe well away from the turbulent centre of the river which even at the low water levels seem quite treacherous.

Yambon Gate is one of the narrowest parts of the Sepik, where it funnels between foothills of the Hunstein Range and the Waskuk Hills. Irregularities in the riverbed create the violent whirlpools which can be dangerous, particularly when water levels are high and the current strong.

For those with a sense of adventure and a limited budget, getting around the Sepik can be relatively inexpensive. Small canoes are available in the Upper Sepik for just a few Kina. Some intrepid tourists have floated all the way down the more than 1000-kilometre river, staying at villages en route to the Bismarck sea.

If one wants a little more control over the direction of travel it is probably better to hire, as we did, a large motorised canoe. Arranged by Alois Mateos of the Ambunti Lodge, we were in the good care of guides Abraham and Phillip for six days on the river.



Left Heading up Govermas River for a spot of night fishing, above Mayflies swirl over the Sepik River in the morning.



Many villages along the Sepik have a guest house of some kind. Never more than K10 a night, they vary in size and facilities, some individually run while others are community owned.

Starting at Ambunti, our journey took us along the mighty Sepik and up some of its many tributaries. Five of us sat like peas in a pod, strung out along the 10-metre long canoe, together with 20-litre drums of fuel, supplies, camping gear and our two guides.

Mist-shrouded, early-morning starts were quite magical as half lights brightened and sounds of the surrounding bush started to warm up to their usual daily volume. After the sun rose, the glassy

smooth surface of the river often came alive with swarms of yellow and orange mayflies, skitting about in seemingly aimless manner. At one village we found that these insects are more than just a pretty sight - scooped off the surface they are eaten raw or made into an apparently tasty soup.

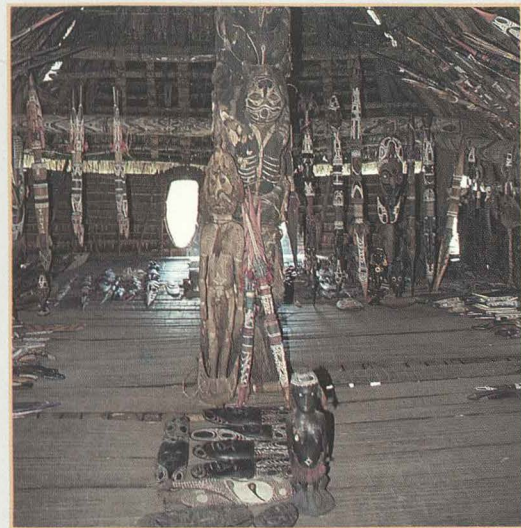
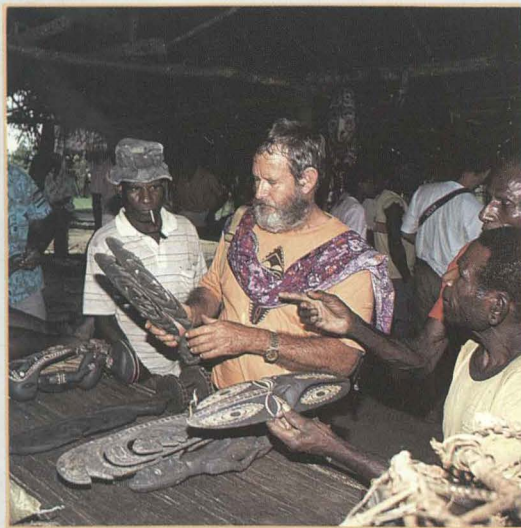
Even with low river levels, the banks of the Sepik are in a constant process of erosion and renewal. In some areas whole chunks of bank complete with trees and vegetation fall away, while in other places the matrix of reeds and grasses trap soil and debris to create new land.

Elsewhere trees and whole islands of reeds are

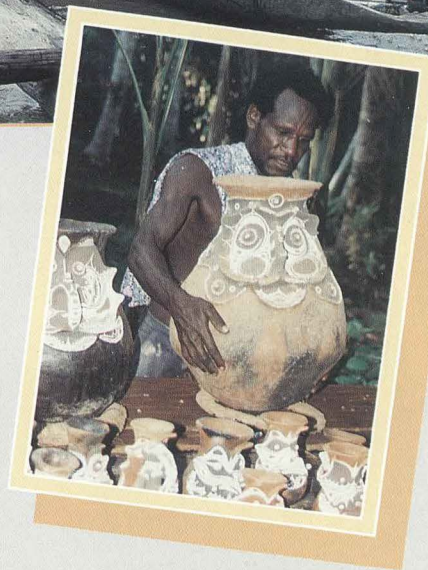
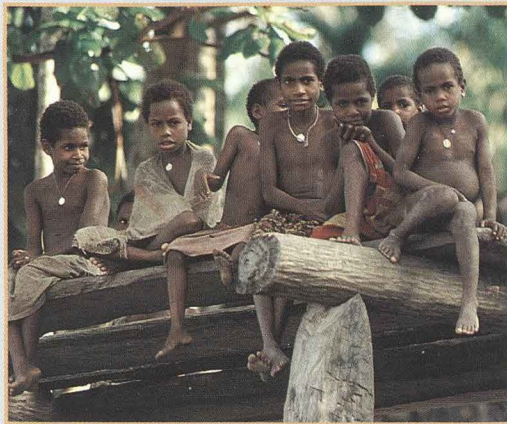
torn from the bank and float sedately downriver. Muddy spits forming on the inside of river bends make ideal sunning spots for crocodiles that patrol the silt laden waters.

In low lying parts, waters of the river collect to form lakes and lagoons. In the Upper Sepik, Wagu Lake has villages on its picturesque and heavily

**Below, left** Artefacts for sale in the *haus tamburan* (spirit house), Korogo village. **below, right** Impressive first-storey interior of Korogo *haus tamburan*. **bottom** The Sepik River supports wide variety of bird life.







forested shores. Ambunti Lodge uses one Wagu village as the starting point for several walking tracks for nature enthusiasts. Rambles offer a scenery from rainforest to swamp, with bird and wildlife.

We entered Chambri Lake as the sun dropped down behind hills on the distant horizon. With its coating of water lilies, hectares of fringing reeds and fishing canoes silhouetted as they paddled home, it was a beautiful scene.

On the Blackwater River, so named because of the very dark coloured sediment it carries, shallow, lily dappled lagoons are breeding grounds for many edible freshwater fish. Once again, panoramic vistas are the order of the day as the

black water forms a perfect natural mirror reflecting sky and surroundings. From the low aspect of a dugout canoe the size and vastness of the ever changing Sepik is quite awesome.

Another night, another guest house. A smoky fire lit under the floor boards soon dispersed any mosquitoes which may have been lying in wait. Unable to get through to Lake Govermas due to floating reed islands and low water we instead trekked inland from Govermas village to a delightful waterfall and swimming hole in nearby hills.

Living essentially a subsistence lifestyle, villagers along the Sepik River appear healthy, sustained by a diet of fish,

sago and vegetables. The shortage of arable land means that there is only limited opportunity to plant crops such as cocoa or rubber. For many, the only cash income is from the sale of young live crocodiles or their skins.

For villages in the Middle Sepik, more frequently visited by tourists and tour boats, the sale of artefacts provides a small but useful

**Top** Setting off from Korogo village. **above, left** River village children are fascinated by visitors. **above, right** Sepik potter, Joel Aundambui, displays his wares.



source of revenue. Effects of this limited interaction with tourists is seen in the size and finish of artefacts - adapted to suit the size of visitor's pockets and suitcases.

The design and underlying mythology of artefacts for sale is authentic, a direct link with traditional culture that makes even these 'commercial' objects something special. In many villages, traditional rituals and initiation ceremonies are still carried out. Older sacred objects used in these are carefully preserved, away from prying eyes or the lens of a camera.

Travelling the river on a 'shoestring' budget and spending time in villages,

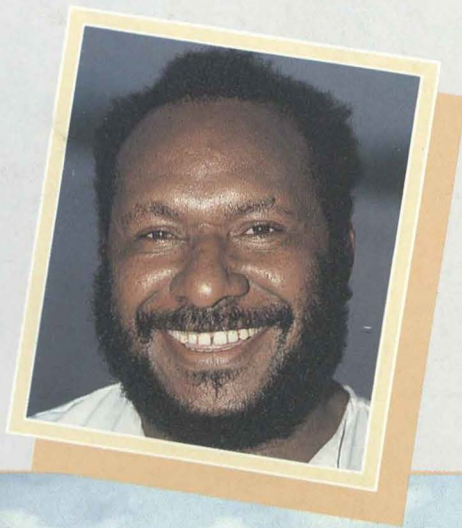
one can gain insight into many aspects of life, such as how villagers reconcile traditional culture with development. On our trip we often sat at night in village guest houses, the hiss of a Coleman lamp almost drowning out the incessant background symphony of insect life, talking with community leaders.

The Sepik is much more than a series of village artefact supermarkets. There are many opportunities for bird watching, bush walking and being part of a living culture finding its feet as PNG undergoes rapid development.

Travelling the river on a tight budget leaves one rich in experience.



**Below, left** Alois Mateos, manager of Ambunti Lodge. **below, right** Villagers set out to fish. **bottom** Village surrounded by lush stands of sago palms.



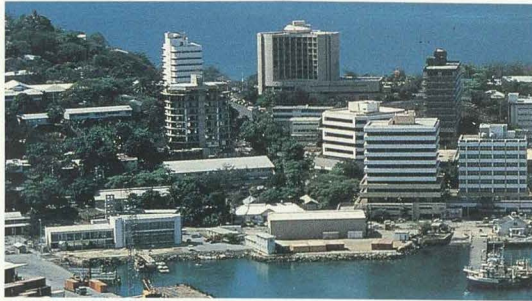




# We have it all...

From the centre of Port Moresby to the tropical paradise of Rabaul, Travelodge Papua New Guinea has a hotel to suit your stay.

*...business*



*Port Moresby*  
**Travelodge**

Situated in the Port Moresby business district, the **Port Moresby Travelodge** offers first class accomodation with stunning ocean views and well appointed rooms. With relaxing restaurants and bars, the Port Moresby Travelodge is a popular meeting place for business and social activities. The hotels conference and function facilities cater for meetings, seminars and banquets from 5 to 500 people.

*...pleasure*



*The Islander*  
**Travelodge**

Just 10 minutes from the Port Moresby city centre the **Islander Travelodge** is an ideal business/resort destination. With 12 acres of tropical gardens, the whole family can enjoy our many recreational activities, swimming, tennis, walking, squash, gymnasium, restaurants, not to mention our full conference and function facilities for the business or social event. Come and be pampered by our friendly staff in our tropical oasis.

*...recreation*



*Rabaul*  
**Travelodge**

Get away and discover **The Rabaul Travelodge**, offering international accommodation on this island paradise. You can indulge yourself with fishing and diving or explore the nearby volcano, markets, war relics and caves, or simply relax and enjoy the stunning view of Simpson Harbour. The hotel has business facilities and first class dining, so why not mix business with pleasure and enjoy this remarkable paradise.

Port Moresby Travelodge  
Cnr. Hunter & Douglas Sts.  
Po Box 1661, Port Moresby

Ph: (675) 21 2266  
Fax: (675) 21 7534

Rabaul Travelodge  
Mango Avenue, Rabaul.  
Po Box 449, Rabaul, ENB.

Ph: (675) 92 2111  
Fax: (675) 92 2104

The Islander Travelodge  
Waigani Drive, Hohola  
Po Box 1981, Boroko.

Ph: (675) 25 5955  
Fax: (675) 25 0837



**TOYOTA**  
GENUINE PARTS

**TOYOTA**  
QUALITY SERVICE

## Let us treat your Car like a Baby...

At Ela Motors we believe in giving your car  
the very best in both Genuine Parts and  
Quality Service. Don't trust your  
Baby with anything less...



**Ela Motors**

NATIONWIDE

TOYOTA  
FILTER, FUEL

23303-54072

1