

paradise

in-flight with Air Niugini



Take this
copy with you

SEPIK RIVER
CHARMER

fidji

La femme est une île,
Fidji est son parfum.

Guy Laroche
Paris



From Parfums Guy Laroche Paris.
A special offer: an 18k gold plated pendant free
with your purchase of Fidji 1/4oz perfume.
Available exclusively on board.



paradise

Welcome aboard and Happy New Year.

Bark-cloth making is a craft the younger generation of the Menye people seem to have lost interest in continuing; however David Manoku, a true craftsman, demonstrates this craft for us.

Birdwatching can be exciting and interesting. Information gathered can assist Environment and Conservation Departments with the recording of facts. In Papua New Guinea approximately 740 different species attract birdwatchers from around the world. Ron Mackay recently travelled for two weeks with a tour group of 15 birdwatchers and observed 170 species, including 12 different bird of paradise species.

Enjoy your flight.

Dieter Seefeld
General Manager

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 5 SLIDING ON A BANANA STEM**
Children enjoy toys and games created from their natural surroundings.
- 12 WONDERFUL WALINDI**
Divers enjoy the reefs near Kimbe and the luxury of a first-class resort.
- 16 THE ONES THAT DON'T GET AWAY**
Small river fish are caught using a herbal paralysing drug.
- 23 BIRDWATCHING**
Gathering statistics on PNG's spectacular bird population is an investment in the future.
- 29 CREATING BARK CLOTH**
A master clothmaker in Morobe Province turns trees into fabric.
- 33 THE SEPIK IN COMFORT**
The 'Melanesian Explorer' carries its guests on an adventure tour down a mighty river.

Cover: One of the friendly faces of the Upper Sepik, the most artistic waterway in the world. Photograph by Michael Gebicki.

No66 Jan-Feb 1988

Paradise is published bi-monthly by Air Niugini. PO Box 7186, Boroko, Papua New Guinea (telephone 273415; telex NF22235).



Dieter Seefeld
General Manager

Editor — Geoff McLaughlin MBE
Consultant — Bob Talbot
Subscriptions — Maggie Worri

Advertising

Papua New Guinea — c/- The Editor,
Paradise Magazine, P.O. Box 7186, Boroko.
Australia — Samuelson Talbot & Partners Pty. Ltd.
236 Dorcas Street,
South Melbourne 3205.
Telephone Melbourne (03) 699 8677
Editorial — Ross Waby

Subscriptions

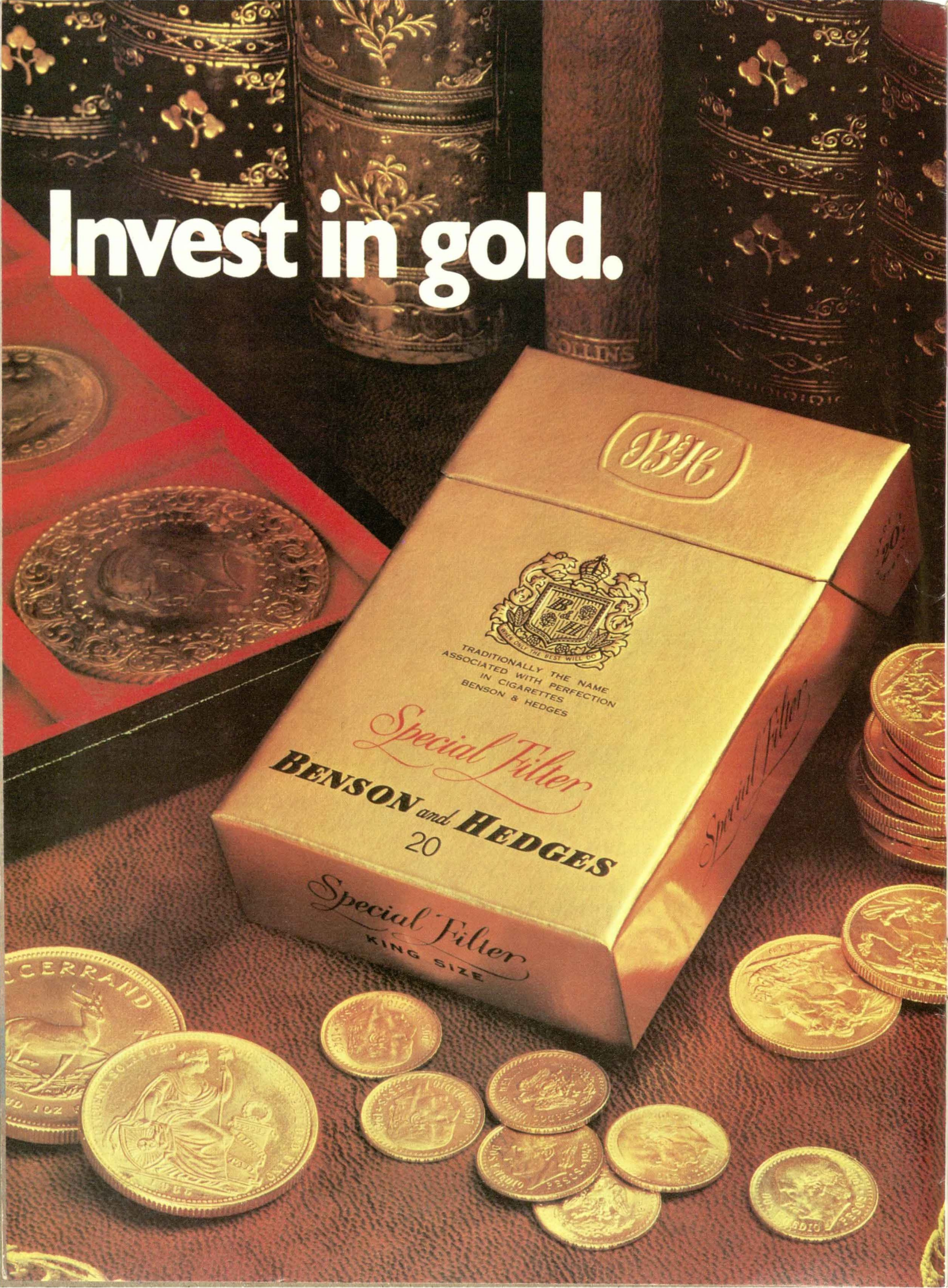
Annual subscription rates for six issues are: USA, Europe, UK and Africa Kina 23 (US\$28)
Australia, New Zealand, Asia and South Pacific K19 (US\$24, A\$25)
Papua New Guinea K13 payment by international bank draft.

Printed in Singapore by Times Publishing Group.

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.

Invest in gold.



B&H



TRADITIONALLY THE NAME
ASSOCIATED WITH PERFECTION
IN CIGARETTES
BENSON & HEDGES

Special Filter

BENSON and HEDGES
20

Special Filter
KING SIZE

Story and photographs by David Eastburn

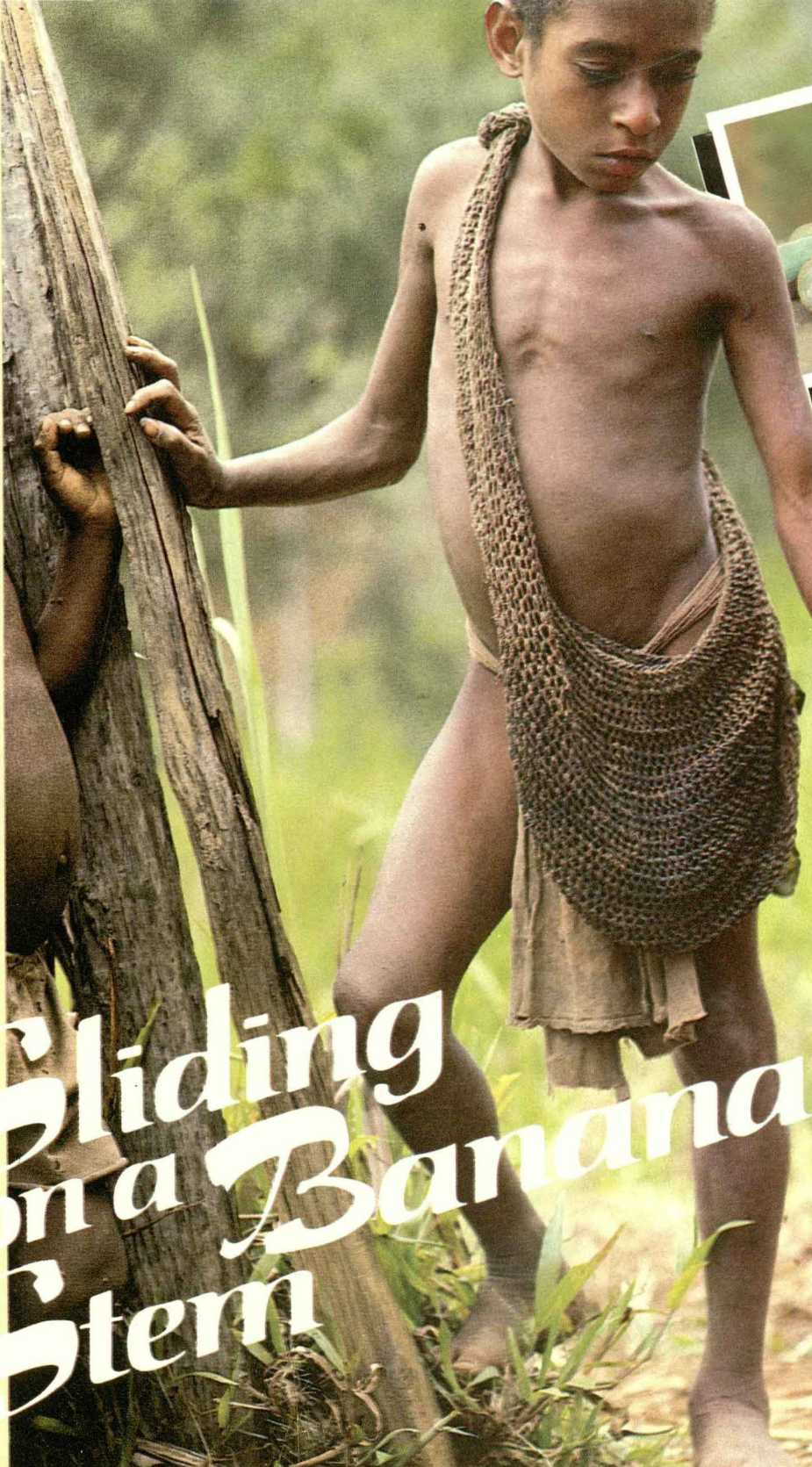
Sliding on a Banana Stem

S shrieks of delight, laughter and shouting betray the whereabouts of the small boys sliding down a steep, grassed slope on banana-stem and cardboard-carton toboggans. Children in Papua New Guinea miss few opportunities for play and their imagination and invention seems endless.

Mud and puddles which have

formed after a downpour will provide a slippery surface for a game of tag or sliding. At pig-kills, bladders will become "soccer balls" and a game is soon under way. The forests, rivers and sea also offer numerous amusements and provide many opportunities for practising adult skills.

Some games and toys occur throughout the nation, such as:



Wheeled toys are pushed at great speeds along winding paths. Inset This grand prix racer is made of fig fruit and a banana leaf.





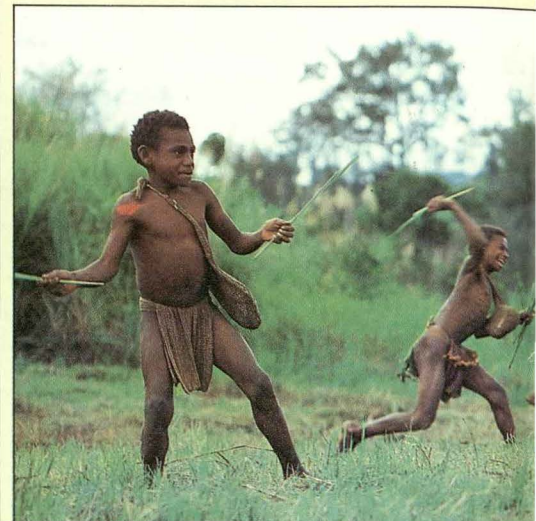
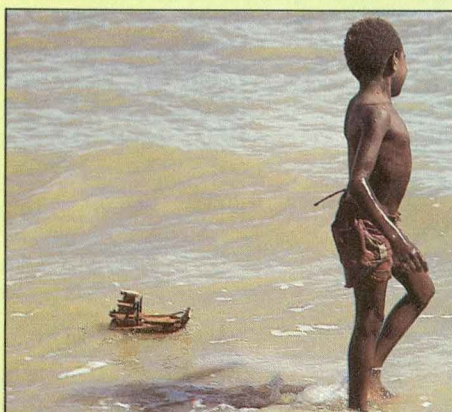
spinning-top games, wheeled toys, string-figure games, mock battles, and leaf-propeller whirligigs.

A wheel on a stick is probably the most popular and versatile toy. The variations are almost infinite; from cotton reels to truck tyres and from discs cut from pandanus stems to the most elaborate of pram wheels. Wilkas, as these wheeled cars are often called in pidgin, are pushed along paths, frequently accompanied by very realistic mimicry of a truck double-declutching and changing gears.

Another type of wheeled toy resembles a modern grand prix racer. It is made by attaching wild fig-fruit to the midrib of a banana leaf, using thin, stick axles. This model frequently has six or more fig-fruit wheels, and is pushed at great speed along winding paths. Steering is negotiated by using a length of pitpit canegrass, which fits

into a notch in the top. Some wheeled toys are pulled along with string but are far less common than those that are pushed.

Pitpit-leaf propellers on stick handles are also popular. I have had to step quickly aside on more than one occasion when an excited small boy has come rushing along a narrow path, trying to make his propeller spin as fast as possible.

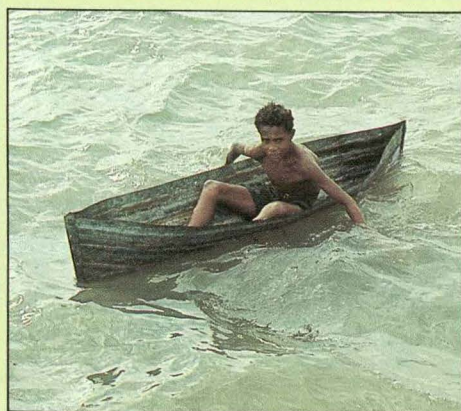
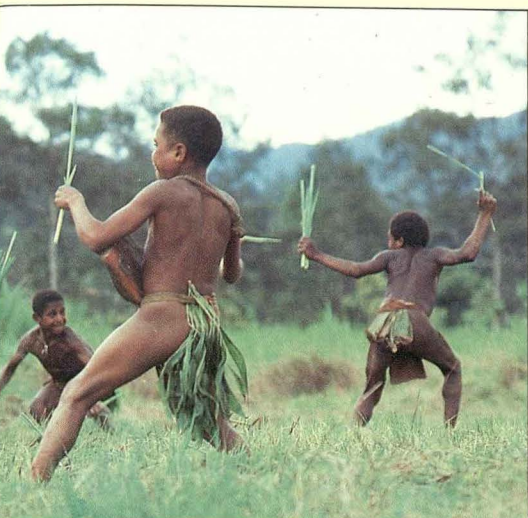


In coastal areas children enjoy playing with model boats or canoes. For example, beautifully-made sailing boats are raced by children from villages around Port Moresby. I have seen only one toy aeroplane. This was created from a piece of banana stem by a Biami boy from the Nomad River in the Western Province.

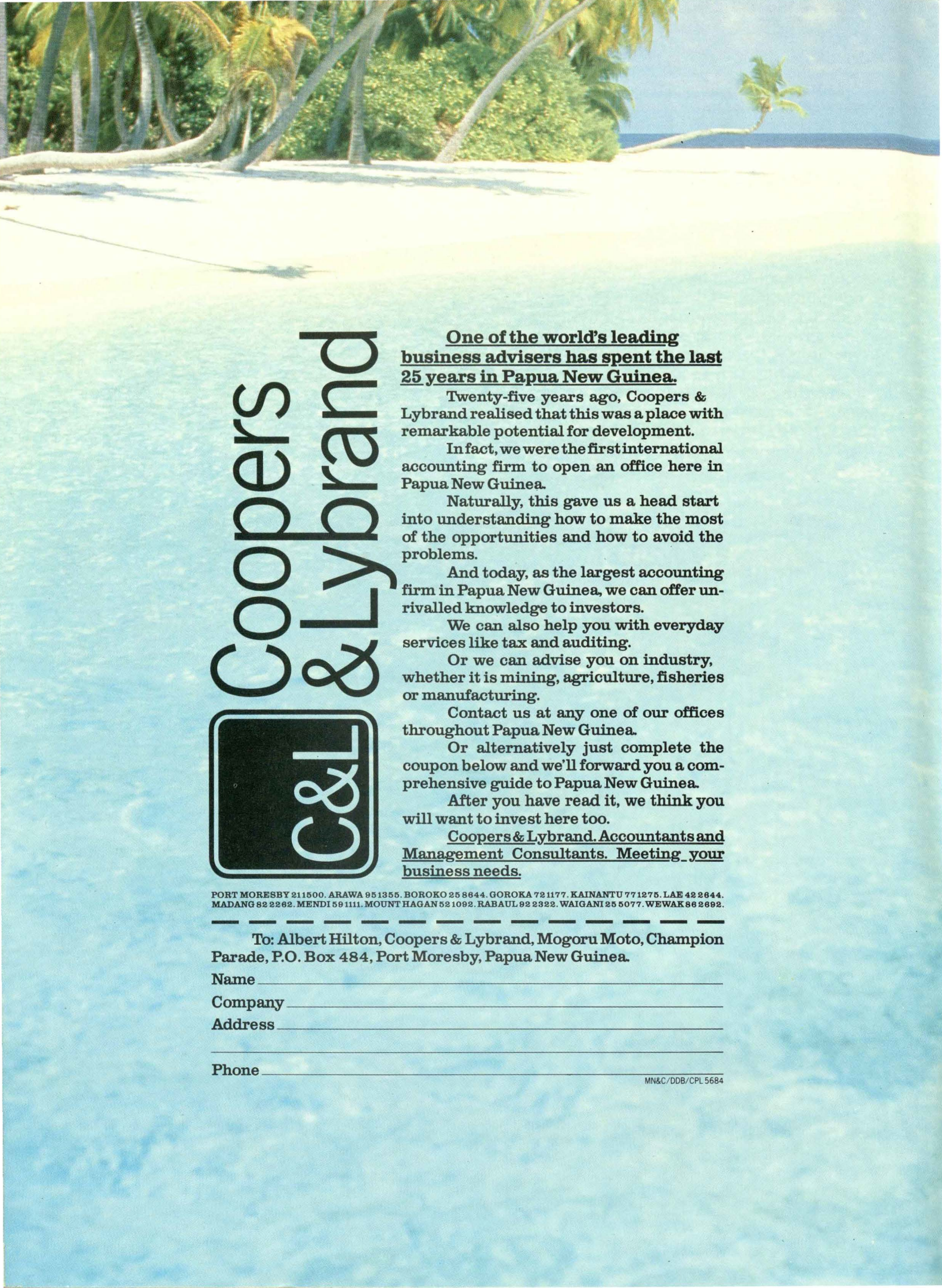
Girls do not have as many opportunities to play as boys. At an early age their energy is channelled into useful work such as looking after younger brothers and sisters or piglets, and helping their mothers. As tiny girls they are likely to play with miniature digging sticks. But it is not all work. Women and girls frequently entertain themselves in their limited leisure times with an

almost endless number of string-figure patterns. Many of these cat's cradles are complex and often are accompanied by stories which develop along with the figure.

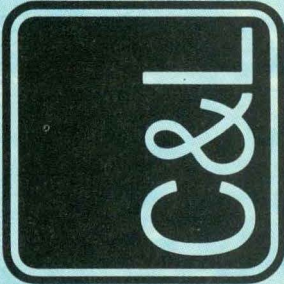
Traditional boys' games also develop skills which may be required in adulthood. In many parts of the country, a common game of skill involves hitting a rolling section of banana stem, or hoop, with a pitpit dart. Hunting small birds and animals, initially



Top playing fiddle heads in the Southern Highlands needs great concentration to break an opponent's fern frond. Ingenuity is endless, **from left** carved boats at Daru in South PNG; wheels on a stick, probably the most popular toy in PNG; mock battles with pitpit canegrass; and a tin canoe near Port Moresby.



Coopers & Lybrand



One of the world's leading business advisers has spent the last 25 years in Papua New Guinea.

Twenty-five years ago, Coopers & Lybrand realised that this was a place with remarkable potential for development.

In fact, we were the first international accounting firm to open an office here in Papua New Guinea.

Naturally, this gave us a head start into understanding how to make the most of the opportunities and how to avoid the problems.

And today, as the largest accounting firm in Papua New Guinea, we can offer unrivalled knowledge to investors.

We can also help you with everyday services like tax and auditing.

Or we can advise you on industry, whether it is mining, agriculture, fisheries or manufacturing.

Contact us at any one of our offices throughout Papua New Guinea.

Or alternatively just complete the coupon below and we'll forward you a comprehensive guide to Papua New Guinea.

After you have read it, we think you will want to invest here too.

Coopers & Lybrand. Accountants and Management Consultants. Meeting your business needs.

PORT MORESBY 211500. ARAWA 951355. BOROKE 258844. GOROKA 721177. KAINANTU 771275. LAE 422844. MADANG 822282. MENDI 591111. MOUNT HAGAN 521092. RABAUL 922322. WAIGANI 255077. WEWAK 882892.

To: Albert Hilton, Coopers & Lybrand, Mogoru Moto, Champion Parade, P.O. Box 484, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

Phone _____

MN&C/DDB/CPL 5684



above inset A corned beef tin is transformed into a car. A card game is played on the verandah of a trade store right.

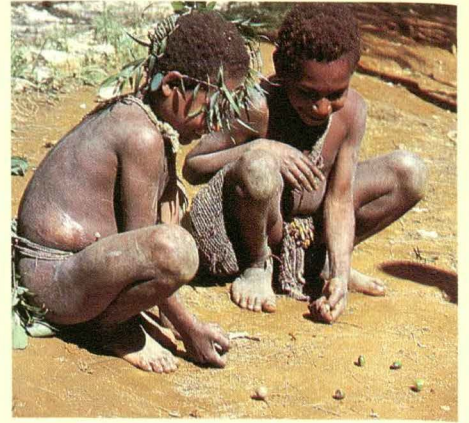
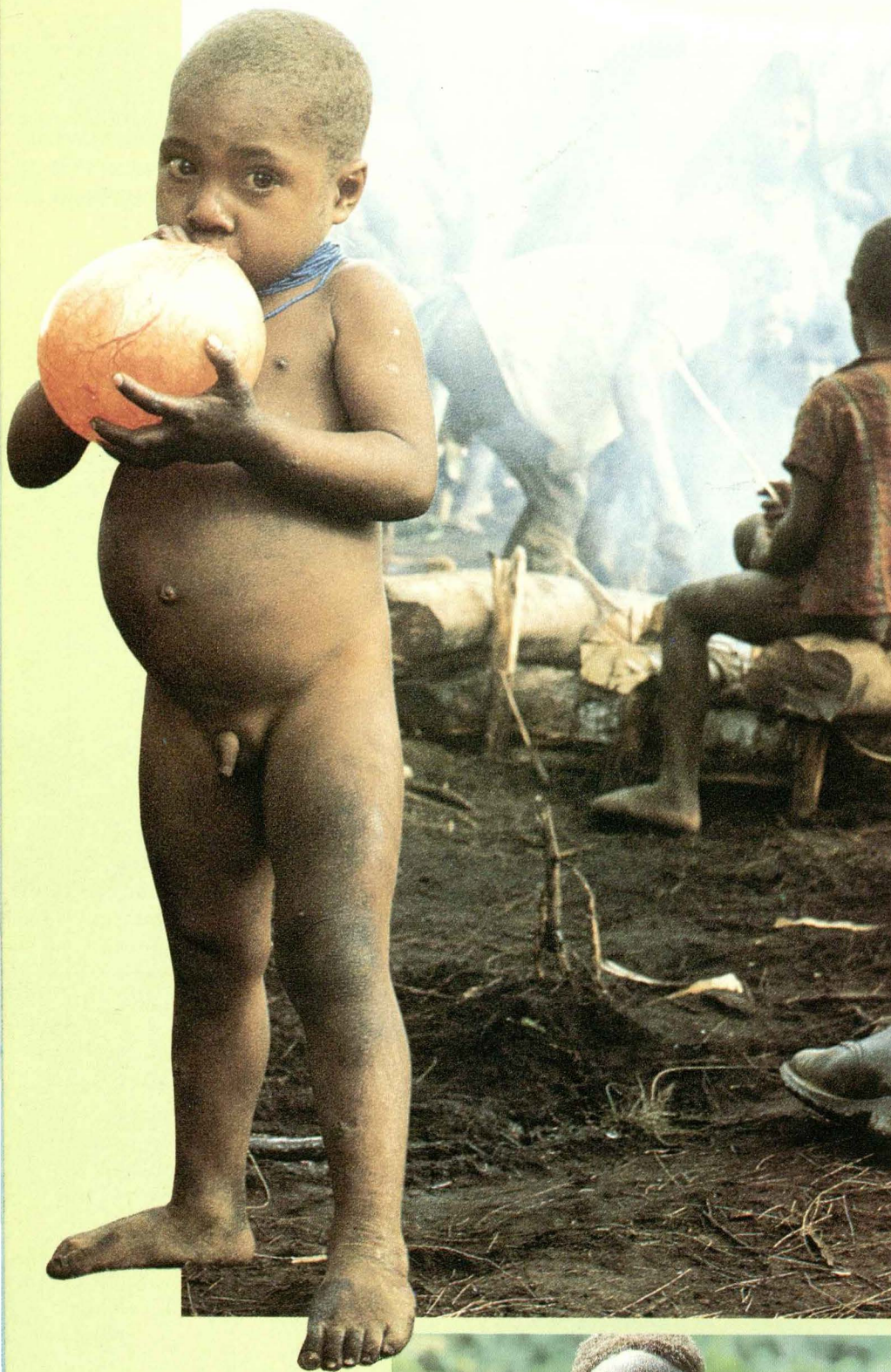


with equally small bows and arrows, is also popular. In the past, mock battles using pitpit canegrass tops as darts were common. This game developed quick reflexes as well as the dodging and weaving skills needed in a real battle. Today, this game is usually discouraged because of the risk of eye injury.

Not all traditional games are boisterous or active. A popular game among Duna children in the Southern Highlands is one of concentration. An equal number of unopened fern fronds or "fiddle heads" are collected. Two children sit opposite each other, hook the coiled fronds together and slowly pull them apart until one breaks. This is repeated, with great concentration, until one child has no unbroken "fiddle heads" left.

For a few weeks each year, ritual spinning-top games are played by men and boys. In the Highlands this game is usually associated with encouraging the growth of pandanus fruit; in the Sepik, a similar game is played to stimulate yam growth. The Highlands game is played by two teams of four or five men who face each other about six metres apart. Each man in the team takes his turn to spin and throw his top at one of four sticks pushed into the ground in front of his opponents. Each stick is removed after it has been hit. The team which removes all of its opponents' sticks wins. Magic words were traditionally uttered with each spin, to encourage the crop to grow.





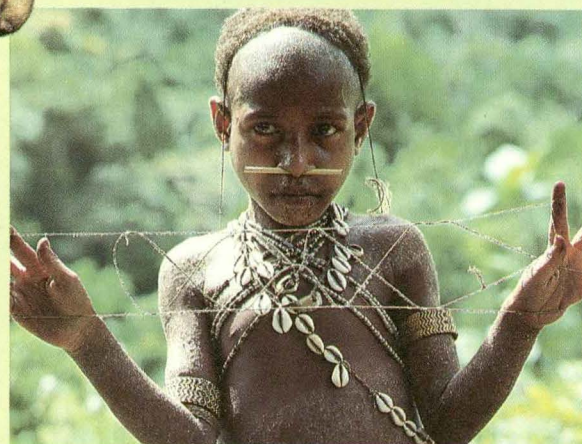
Today, the words often have been forgotten and the game is played for fun.

At non-traditional gatherings, such as Independence Day celebrations or school open-days, greasy-pole competitions are very popular. Young men usually form teams to get one of their members to the top of the pole and thus collect the prizes. Greasy-pole climbing is a great spectator sport and always gathers a large crowd. The prizes attached to the top of the pole include money, cooking utensils, pieces of cloth and tools. In the past some unfortunate accidents occurred when the winner threw his prizes to friends below. Now, dangerous items, such as axes, bush-knives and spades, are represented by cardboard cutouts which are taken to the organisers and redeemed for the real object.

Western games also have made an important contribution to play in PNG. Local versions of games such as cards, marbles, basketball, soccer and volleyball are enjoyed in villages throughout the country. Some of these games, such as Trobriand cricket, have become truly Papua New Guinean and now bear little resemblance to the original.

Trobriand cricket is played by teams of 60 or 70 using a carved bat, similar to a baseball bat flattened on one side, and a small wooden ball. Scores are kept by tearing leaves from coconut fronds. Round robin competitions usually take place after the yam harvest and are accompanied by feasting and dancing.

Above small boys will create soccer balls using inflated pig bladders or turn acorns into marbles **top right**. **Right** cat's cradles are complex and often are accompanied by stories.



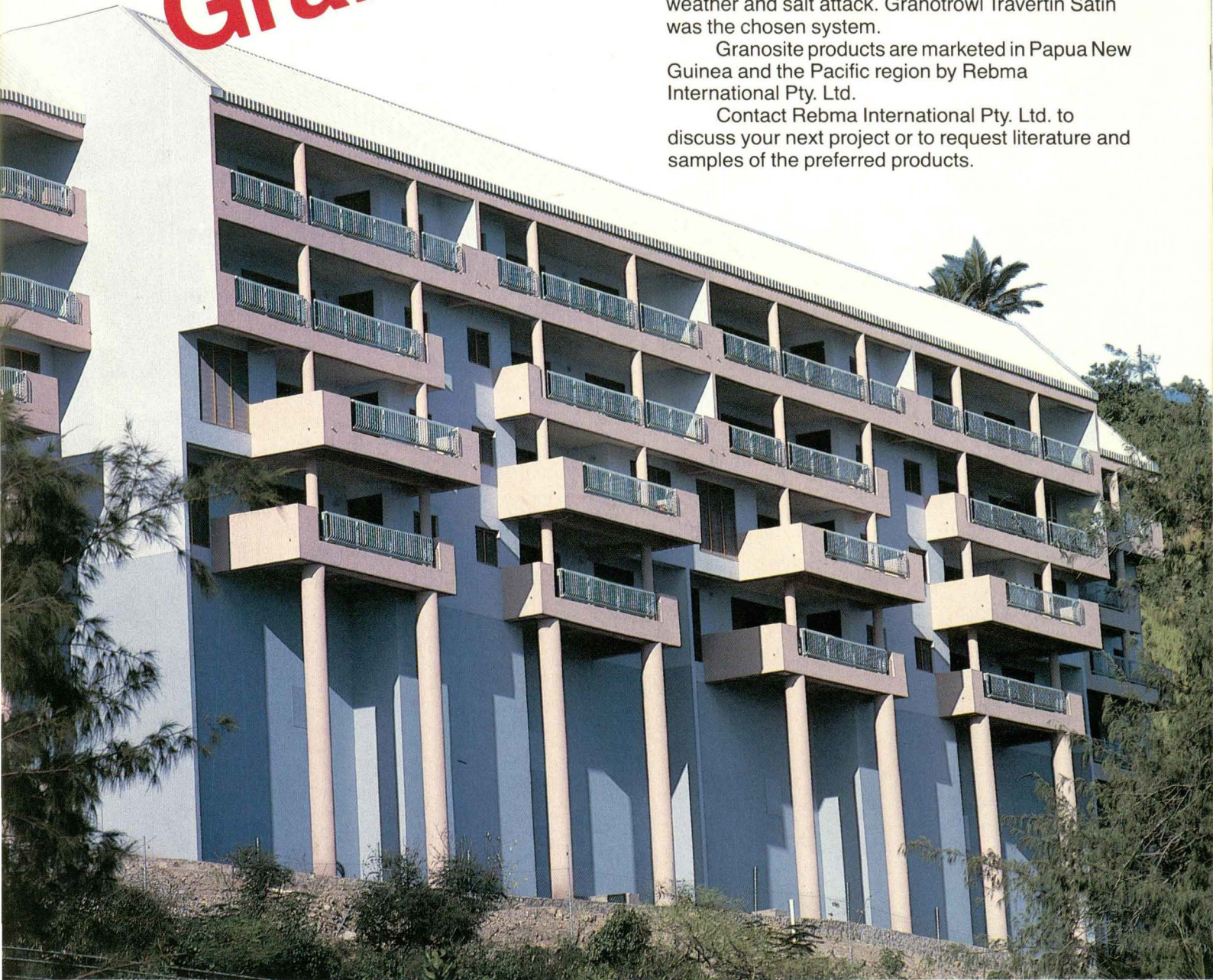
Imagine where you can use Granosite

Granosite Coatings have a thousand uses. You only have to think of where! Architects, builders, engineers and developers are continually faced with the problem of choosing a finish which is right for the job. Whether it is an aggregate coating, a bold or smooth texture, a matt, satin or gloss finish the decision's made easy with Granosite coating systems. No-nonsense finishes which look good and, allow Granosite's thirty years of architectural coating experience to provide the long life.

One recent building, the Seapark Units at Paga Hill in Port Moresby used the right Granosite surface coating. Designed by W.M. Phillips Pty. Ltd., built by Fletcher Morobe Constructions Pty. Ltd. and applied by L. & A. Bricklayers Pty. Ltd., this exposed position demanded a top-quality finish to protect it from weather and salt attack. Granotrowl Travertin Satin was the chosen system.

Granosite products are marketed in Papua New Guinea and the Pacific region by Rebma International Pty. Ltd.

Contact Rebma International Pty. Ltd. to discuss your next project or to request literature and samples of the preferred products.



GRANO 11/58

Rebma

REBMA INTERNATIONAL PTY. LTD.

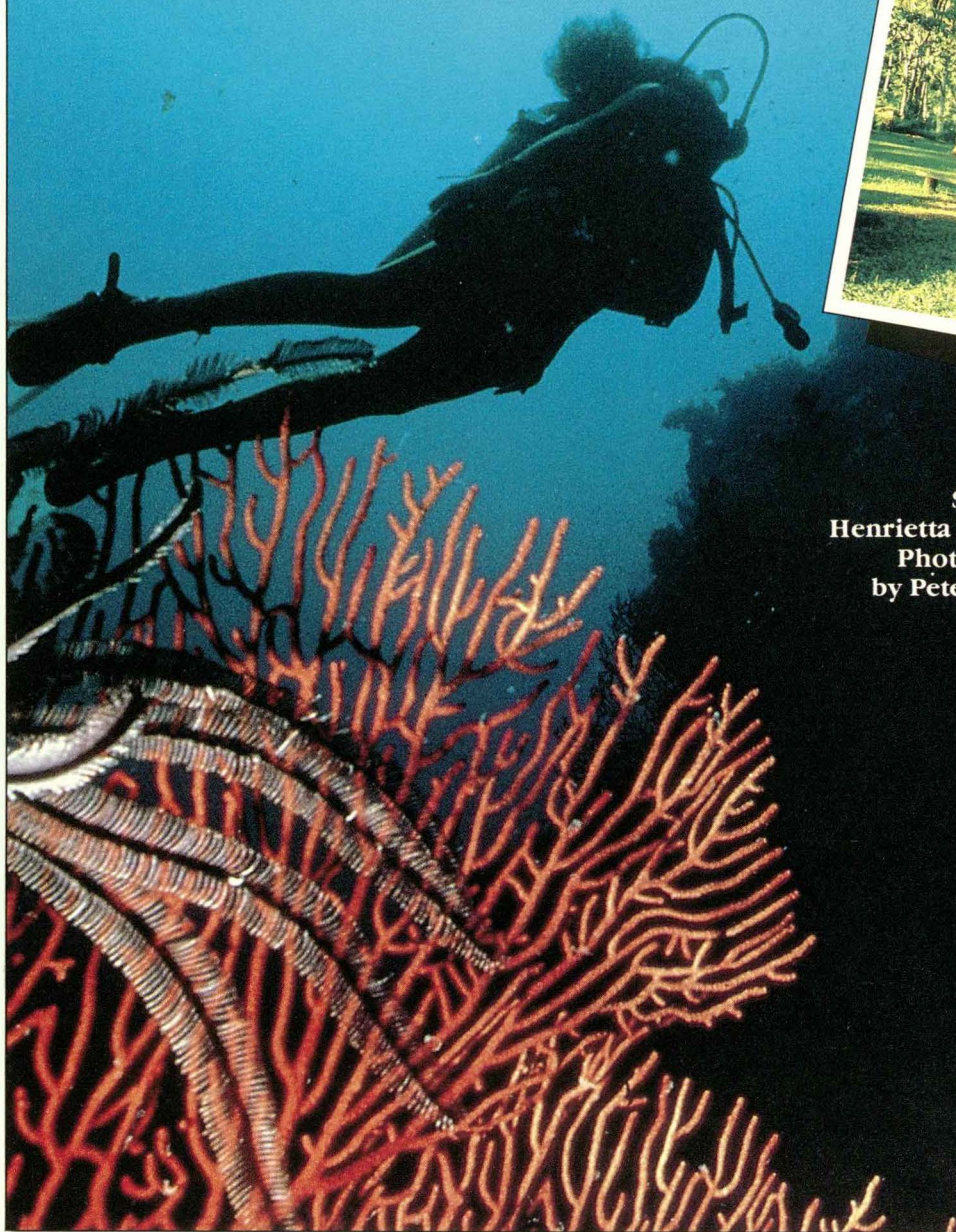
(INCORPORATED IN NSW)

P.O. Box 912, Parramatta, N.S.W. 2150 Australia.

Telephone: (02) 6744511 (3 lines) Telex: AA25292 REBMA Fax: (02) 6746085

CONSULTANTS AND EXPORTERS OF INDUSTRIAL COATINGS, CHEMICALS AND CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS

Wonderful Walindi



Story by
Henrietta Kikuchi
Photographs
by Peter Miller

It may seem like a busman's holiday, but after 12 months of almost exclusive wreck diving as residents of Rabaul, we were delighted to accept an invitation from Max Benjamin, proprietor of Walindi Diving, to spend Christmas diving at his plantation resort.

Following a 30-minute flight from Rabaul to Hoskins with Air Niugini, Max drove us past numerous palm-oil plantations, and through the coastal town of Kimbe before arriving at the beautiful, tranquil setting of Walindi Resort.

Our room was in the main house, which encircles the inviting swimming pool and offers a large dining and entertainment area. Other guests were already comfortably settled in traditional-styled, self-

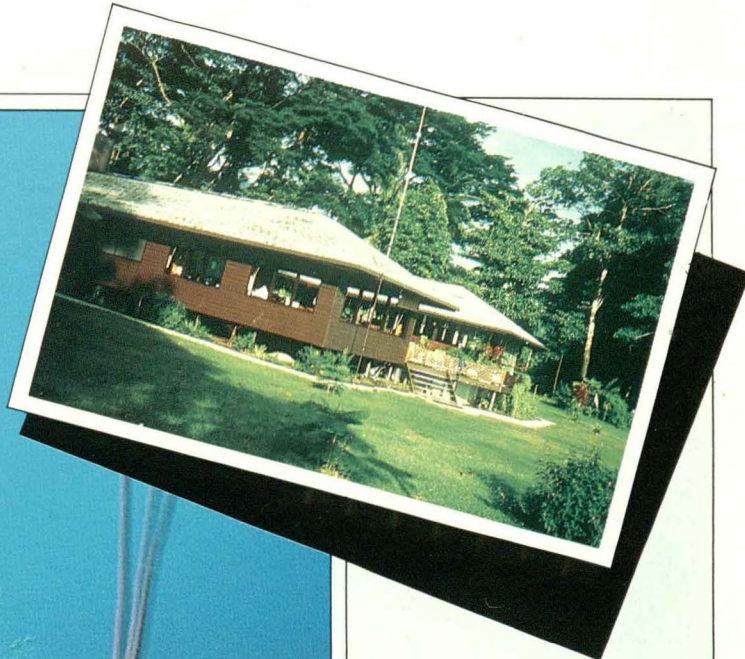
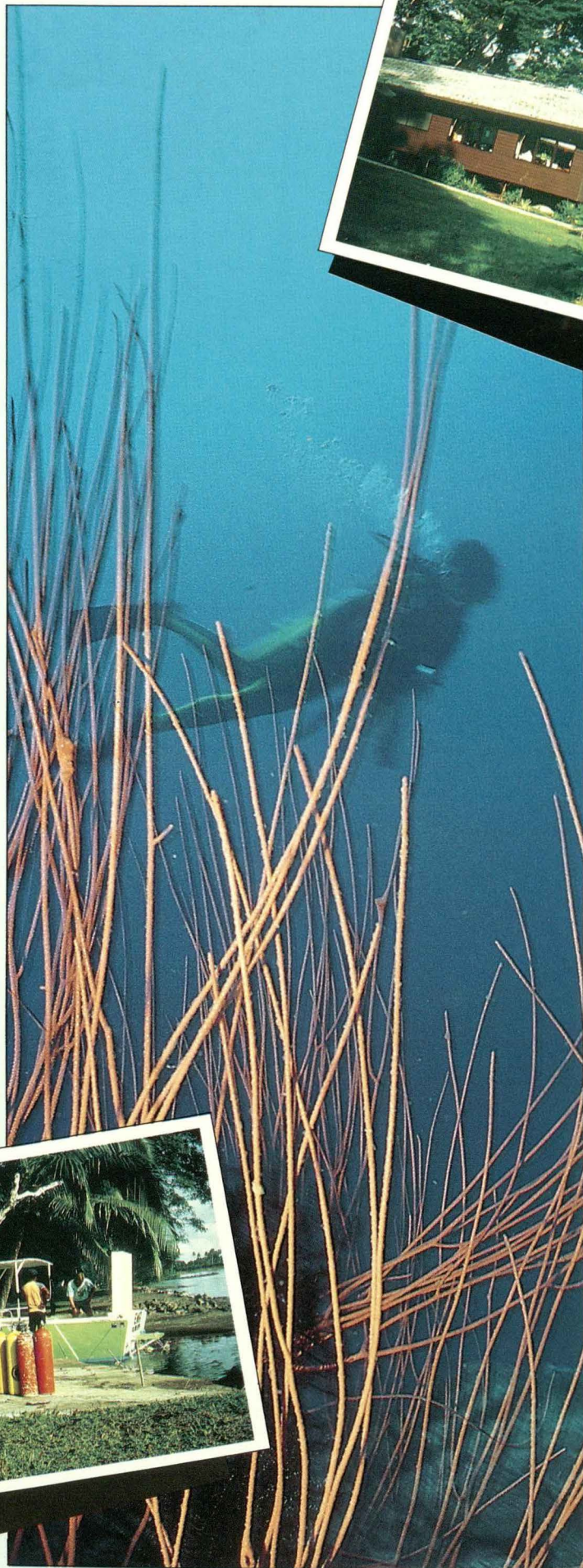
contained bungalows, fringed by gardens and palm trees. Most were loafing on verandahs, admiring the panoramic view of the calm waters where we were to enjoy a week of exciting diving.

At Walindi Resort the emphasis is on 'relax' and 'enjoy'. The atmosphere is so conducive to taking it easy that, in true Melanesian style, from mid afternoon until dinner, I slept contentedly in a hammock suspended between coconut palms. What a lifestyle!

Early next morning we cruised in the 7.5 metre foot dive boat "Emma" to Lemu Reef. It was to be typical of Walindi dive sites. The boat was secured on a reef that rose from the depths to within a metre of the surface. Body checks were completed and we dropped overboard to descend through crystal clear, blue water. The view down the reef ledge seemed to go forever.

No matter how often a diver repeats this experience, each dive causes the adrenalin to flow fast and the heart to thump in expectation of the unknown. I paused in my descent to check my escalated breathing rate. I use a small air cylinder and did not want to be forced to end what promised to be a superb dive by using too much air too quickly.

The colors and sizes of the corals clinging to that dramatic reef were amazing. We settled at 2.5 metres on a sandy bottom. I was so enthralled by the corals and sea whips that I forgot



about my dive buddy who was trying to get me to pose beside a spectacular gorgonian fan coral he wanted to photograph. We re-established communication and together drifted along the coral ledge, becoming increasingly aware of a constant parade of passing reef sharks and large fish. Barracuda, Spanish mackerel, trevally and tuna were not only common on these reefs but of a large dimension that I had not encountered before.

I fell in love with Lemu Reef but during the week had to try very hard to convince Max to repeat this dive. He had so many other sites he wanted to show off! Kimbe Bay is a vast area of reef-filled waters and the potential for locating new dive sites is virtually unlimited. My favorites included Lemu, Emma, Cape Huesna and Vanessa's reefs. A night dive on The Caves directly in front of the Resort was both pleasant and convenient.

I had thought that I was "dived out" when I left Rabaul, but in Walindi I was always last back on the boat for the enthusiastic post-dive raves about sharks, manta rays, hand-fed batfish and giant sponges.

We were joined by dolphins everywhere we cruised. All of

Far left and above Author Henrietta Kukuchi explores Lemu Reef wall. At Walindi Resort, **far left** the guest bungalow, **top** the plantation's main house and **below** "Emma" being prepared for the day's diving.



us tried holding onto a drag-line behind "Emma" for a close view of these incredible, fun-loving creatures. Max told me that he had had similar encounters with killer whales!

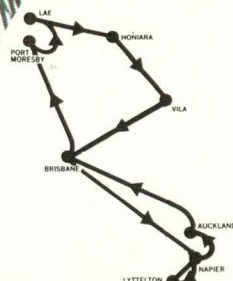
Not only was the diving impressive, but the hospitality at the Resort was first class. The friendly ambience of guests and staff at sumptuous dinner settings ("Bring on the coral trout!") and the now traditional Walindi Christmas feast and New Year's pool party left us hoping very much for a return invitation.

This was a memorable experience among genuine people in an enviable setting. "Lukim yu samtaim, Walindi."



Top left Soft corals thrive on Vanessa's Reef as do bat fish such as Scarface which can be hand-fed **bottom. Above** Author Henrietta Kikuchi is an assistant instructor with the National Association of Underwater Instructors and has dived extensively throughout PNG. She was born in Rabaul where she is now co-proprietress of Rabaul Dive & Tour Services.

Delivering 165 containers of general cargo, 59 of refrigerated cargo, 67 of foodstuffs, 3 units of break-bulk and 1 container each of horses and explosives is just part of our normal service.



Sounds a lot and it sounds complicated doesn't it?

Not to us. It's just part of our normal service.

We have versatile ships, we have the capacity and we run the Pacific regularly. Our rates are highly competitive, our services are second to none, and we deliver your goods in good condition on time.

Our vessels are modern and efficient with roll-on roll-off, lift-on lift-off facilities, with flexible refrigeration systems and tanks for carrying bulk liquid commodities.

So, no matter what your freight, if your market is in the Central or South Pacific Islands, the only answer is Pacific Forum Line.



Pacific Forum Line
We run the Pacific, regularly.

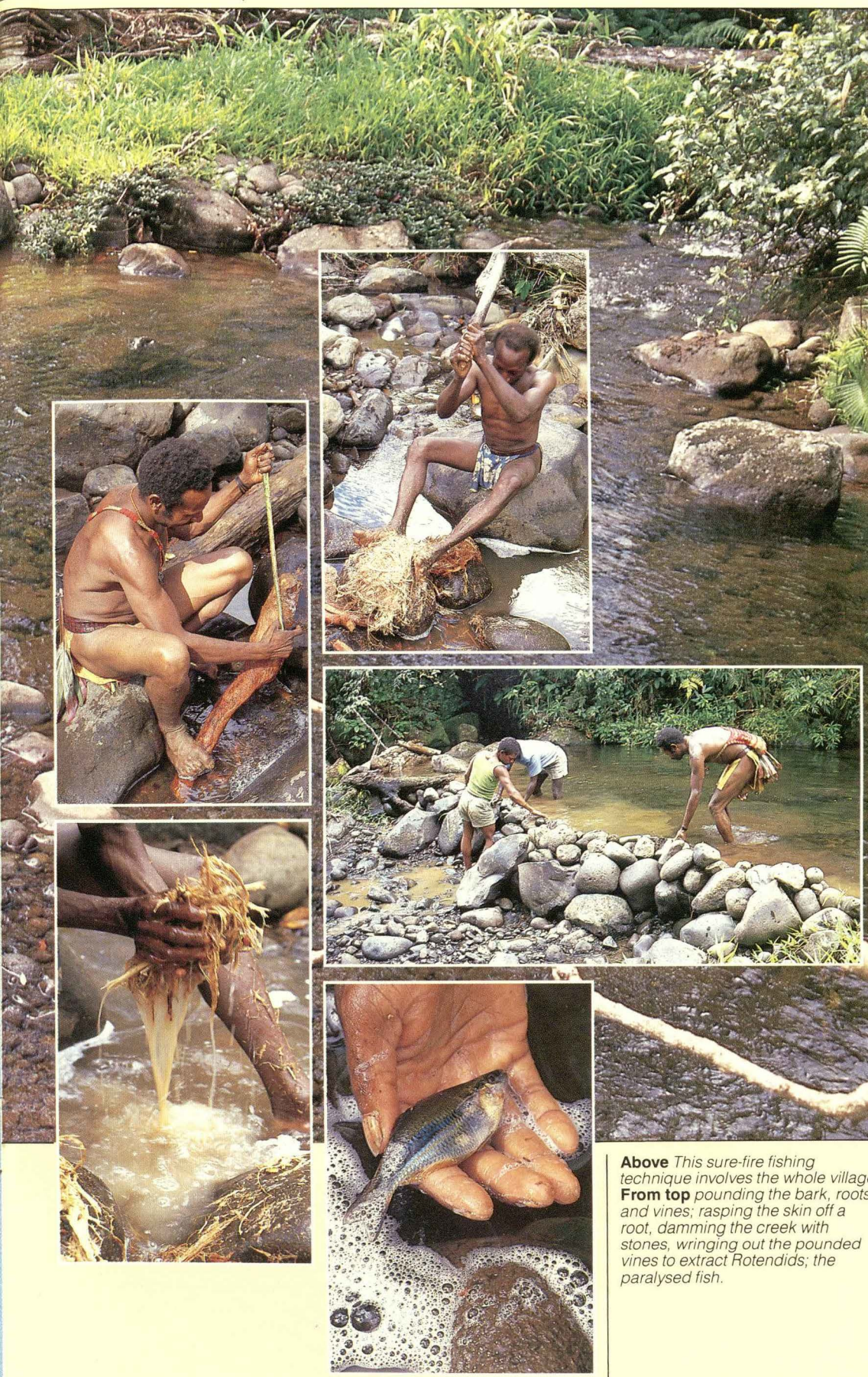


TA 2780



The Ones That Don't Get Away

Story and photographs by Keith Briggs



Every season has something to offer the people of Papua New Guinea but in places where swift rocky creeks tumble along each gully, the people rejoice when a dry time arrives. A dry spell will cause the level and volume of river water to greatly diminish and then they can look forward to good fishing.

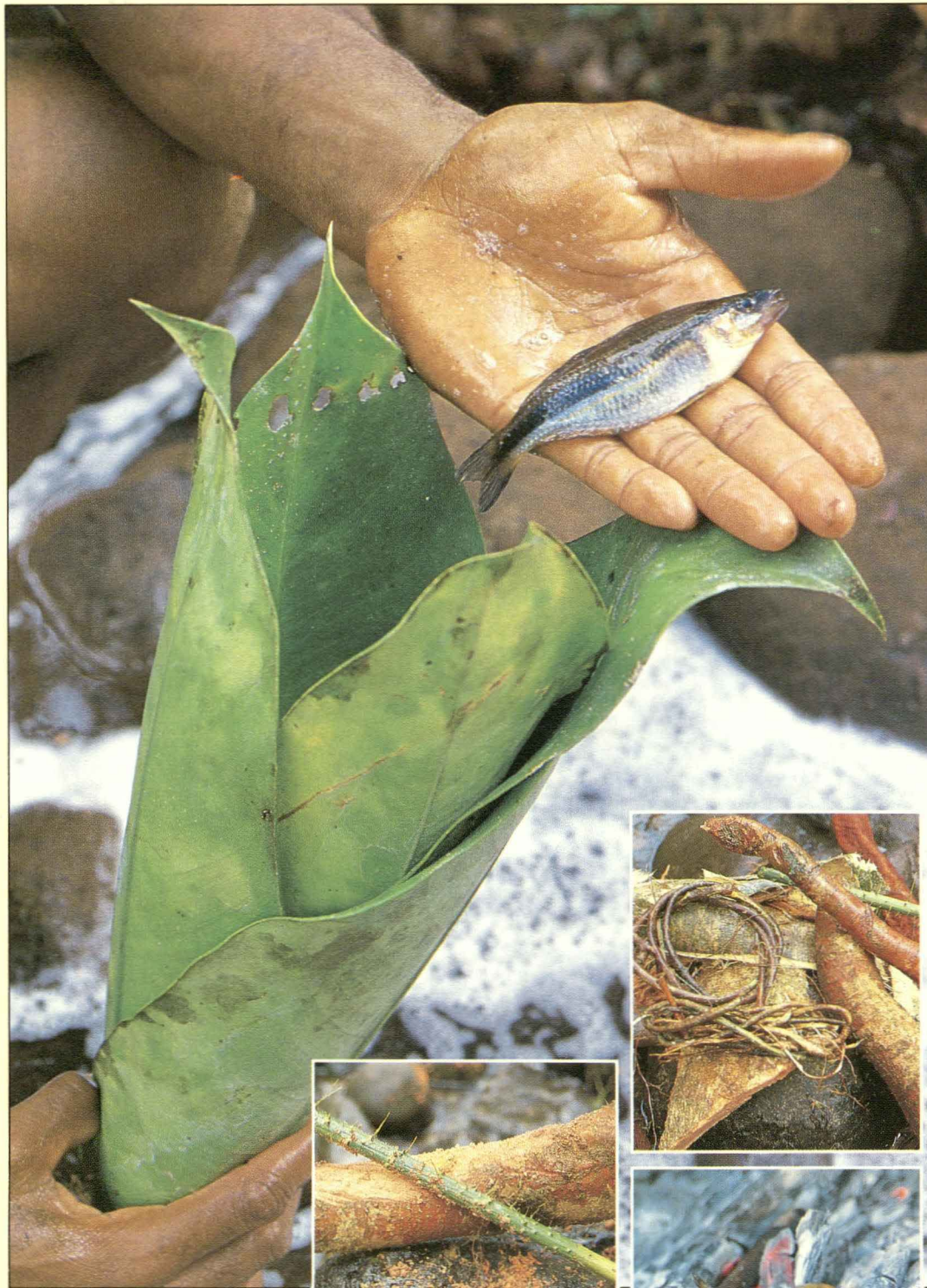
When the streams are sufficiently low, the village people head into the jungle to secure the ingredients for an unusual, but very successful, method of catching fish.

With their bush knives and axes, the men peel bark from certain trees, fossick for vine and tree roots or cut lengths of special creepers. These plants, belonging to the Derris family, contain the substance Rotenoids which, when properly prepared, paralyses the respiratory system of fish.

People break into groups and disperse to predetermined and previously used sites along the creek. They build dams with stones, plugging any leaks with mud and clay. During seasons when the flow is still fairly strong, saplings, stout forked sticks and sheets of bark are used to erect very clever dams as high as 1.2 metres. Whatever type of dam is used, it is constructed at a point where the dammed water can be diverted into a bypass gully or drain, carrying the main body of water through the dam wall to re-join the creek maybe 1.5 kilometres downstream. Enough water is allowed to find its way through the dam wall to maintain a trickle between the pools along the creek bed.

Below the dam, or dams, and at points on the affected creek, groups of local people set up day camps where they will work. Babies asleep in their bilums are hung from low branches while adults and older children get on with the job. The aim of the exercise is to extract poison from the vines, bark and roots which will permeate the reduced volume of water and stun the fish, to catch them.

Above This sure-fire fishing technique involves the whole village. **From top** pounding the bark, roots and vines; rasping the skin off a root, damming the creek with stones, wringing out the pounded vines to extract Rotenoids; the paralysed fish.



Above Caught fish are stunned and offer little resistance. **From top** plant matter from which the poison is extracted; the spiky cane used as a rasp on larger roots; fish popped on the coals for a quick snack.

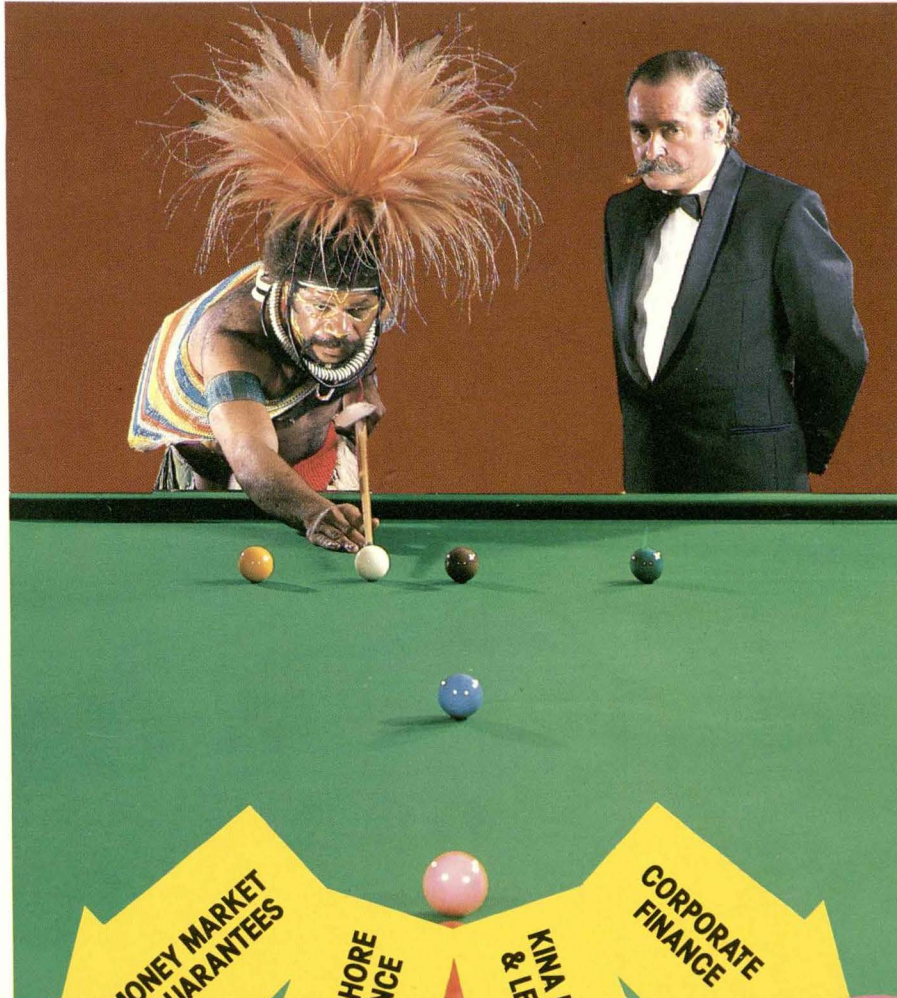
One or two people pound and pulverise the plants with waddies on flat rocks until the fibres are separated. This mass is rinsed and wrung till no more white stain can be coaxed from it. Others use a spiky cane as a very effective round file to rasp the soft skin from the larger roots. This red sawdust instantly clouds the water which becomes milky. A thick, sudsy froth forms, particularly around stones where there is turbulence. Mud is liberally thrown in as well, to make the fish even more keen to surface. Downstream, where the effectiveness of the first poisoning seems to diminish, more pounders and rasps will boost the milkiess of the water. This may be repeated at four or five more stations down the stream.

As soon as froth appears, other members of the group make funnel-shaped containers from leaves, ready to receive the haul. All fish are stunned and offer little resistance; stones are turned and every pool and corner systematically searched. From time to time during the day, some of the catch will be popped onto the coals to sizzle for quick snacks, munched with great delight, bones and all.

Fish not caught seem to survive and when the water clears, they go their way again.

Creeks of this nature on the Great Papuan Plateau area seldom yield many large fish. The ones pictured here need about 60 to reach the kilogram! Even so, everyone goes home with something. It is a day with a picnic atmosphere that everybody enjoys.

Merchant Banking is our game.



You require all the correct angles and the right breaks for your financial requirements in a young and growing nation. Resources & Investment Finance Limited is the first merchant bank in Papua New Guinea offering to businesses the experience and resources of its shareholders: the Papua New Guinea Banking Corporation and Commonwealth Bank of Australia

who have on a combined basis 1550 points of representation throughout the world. When you need professional advice on Kina Loans, Foreign Currency Loans, Money Markets, Guarantees, Share Issues, Underwriting, Leasing or Investment Deposits, contact RIFL...after all, merchant banking is our game.



Resources & Investment Finance Limited,

Corner Hunter Street and Champion Parade,
P.O. Box 652, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
Telephone: (675)21 4866
Facsimile: (675)21 4814 Telex: NE 23006 RAIFL

BENSBACH RIVER

Daru FLY RIVER

Kiunga

Ok Tedi Mine

Tari PORT MORESBY Mendi

Mt Hagen

Kundiawa Vanimo

Goroka Kainantu

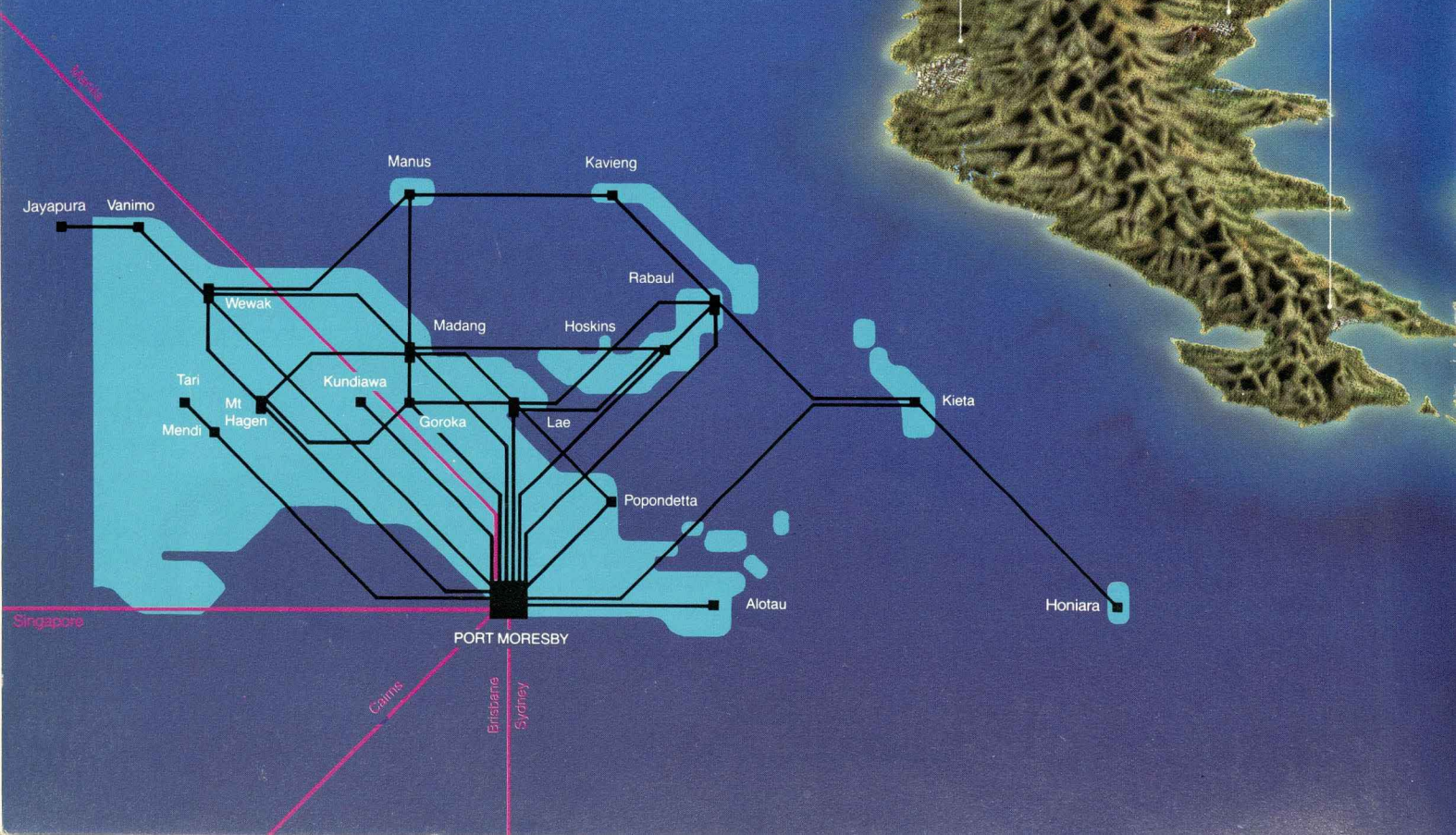
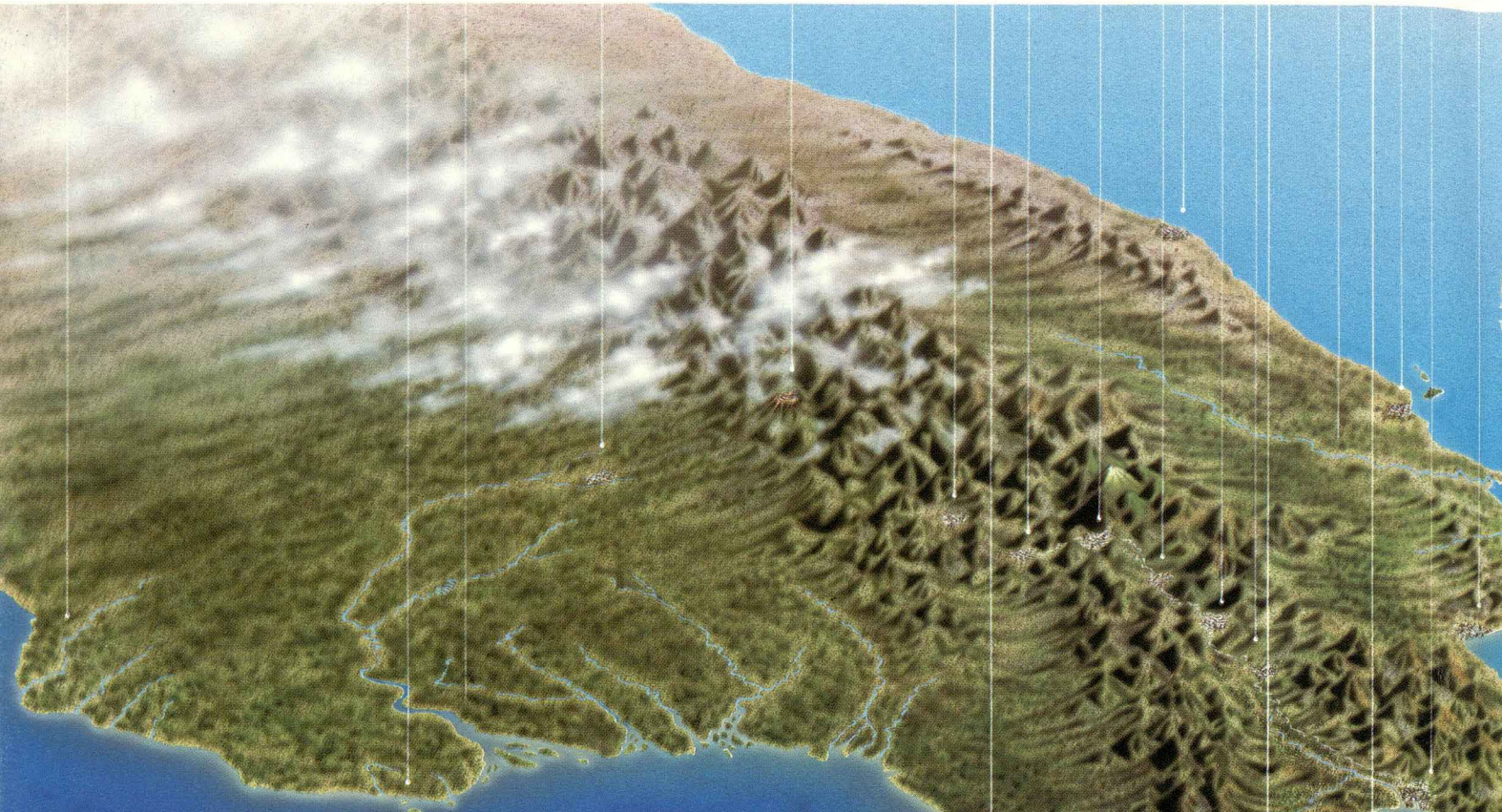
Popondetta

SEPIK RIVER

Alotau Wewak

Lae

Madang



Jayapura Vanimo

Manus

Kavieng

Wewak

Madang

Hoskins

Rabaul

Tari

Kundiawa

Goroka

Lae

Kieta

Mendi

Mt Hagen

Popondetta

Alotau

Honiara

PORT MORESBY

Singapore

Gambs

Brisbane

Sydney

ang

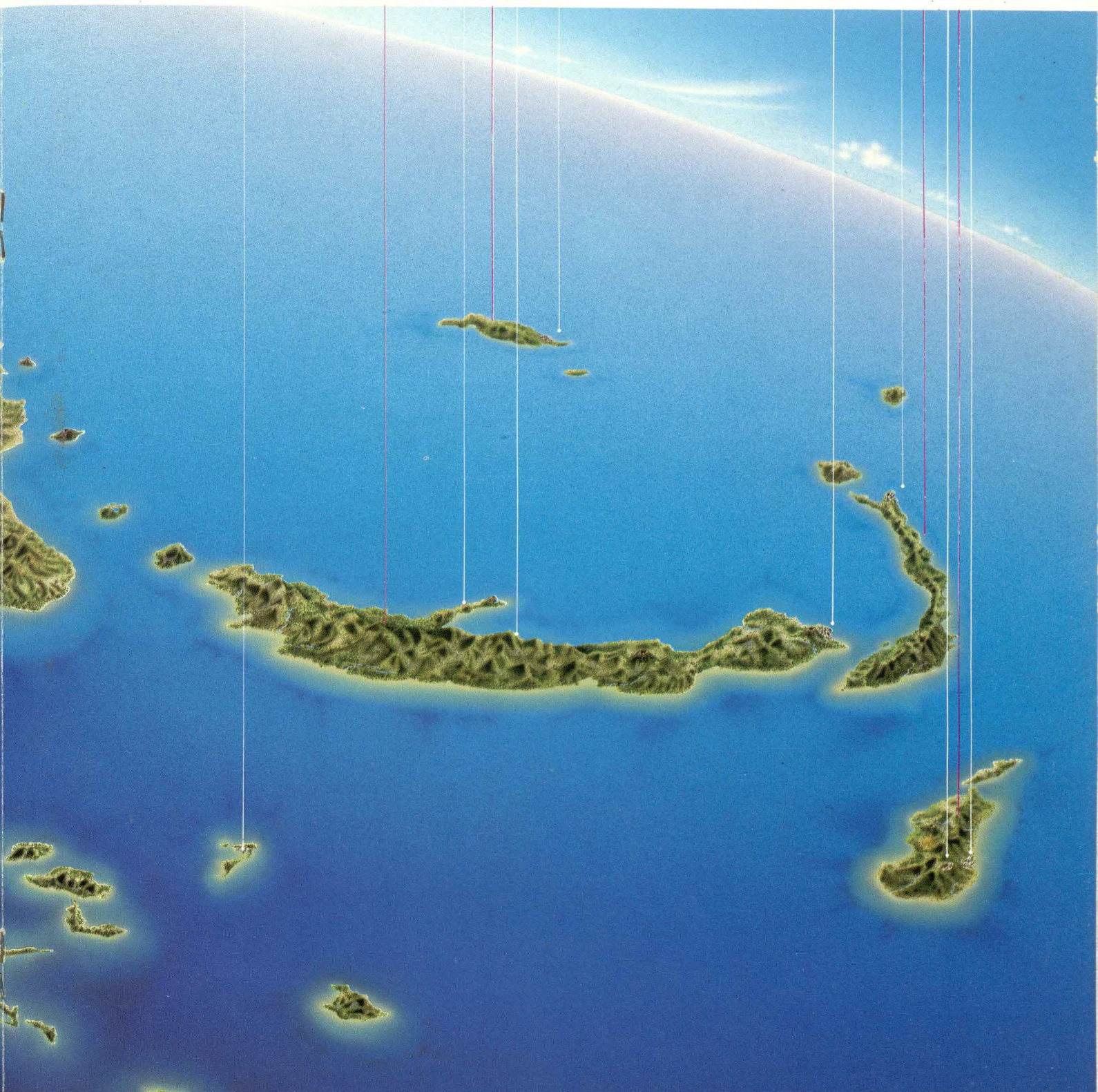
Losuia

NEW BRITAIN

Kimbe
MANUS ISLAND
Hoskins
Lorengau

Rabaul

Kavieng
NEW IRELAND
Panguna
NORTH SOLOMONS
Kieta



Papua New Guinea
Air Niugini Route Network

HINO RELIABILITY

ZC 6x6 LOGGING JINKERS

Renowned for superior strength and top performance in rugged conditions, Hino ZC Logging Jinkers are working 24 hours per day in all types of terrain around Papua New Guinea, trucking valuable logs for export overseas.



EM2241

★ ★ ★ **ELA MOTORS** *Hino*

KING OF THE ROAD

PORT MORESBY 217036 • LAE 422322 • RABAUL 921988 • MADANG 822188 • GOROKA 721844 • MT HAGEN 521888 •
WEWAK 862255 • POPONDETTA 297240 • KAVIENG 942132 • KIETA 956083 • KIMBE 935155 • TABUBIL 589060 • VANIMO 871254

A MEMBER OF THE BURNS PHILP GROUP

BIRDWATCHING



Beautiful but elusive, the sickle-crested bird of paradise lives at the highest altitudes.

It is a common sight in many countries to see groups of men and women, boys and girls, outfitted with binoculars, telescopes and guidebooks, watching birds. For many people this is a relaxing, entertaining and educational recreation. For others it is a serious occupation.

Story by Roy Mackay

Photographs by Roy Mackay and Bruce Beehler

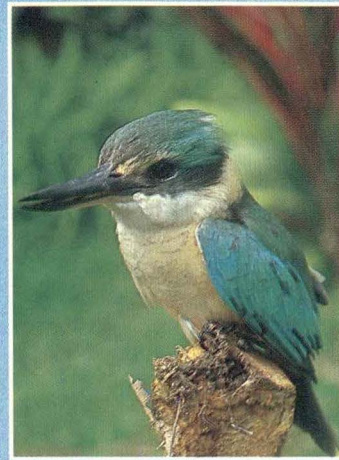
For village people in Papua New Guinea, it is still strange to see people walking along the trails looking at each of the birds which pass or feed in the trees. The villagers accept this behavior much more than the townspeople, who cannot see the benefits of birdwatching in their spare time.

What is the use of bird-

watching anyway? One basic reason behind the actions of birdwatchers is to be able to identify all the species in an area. Another answer is that birdwatchers want to find out over a long period if the birds in one area are increasing, stabilising or decreasing in numbers. This is important to conservationists and land-use planners.

The gathering of such information on birds supports the work of conservation.

In PNG the concept of conservation means different things to different people. Gradually through school education and publications of the Department of Environment and Conservation, the public is learning that over-



exploiting our natural resources will soon leave nothing for the future or for the country's children.

So birdwatching can help the government and scientists assess whether there is a need to reserve lands for the conservation of birds, animals and plants.

Many birds are useful to man. For instance, bird-of-paradise plumes are still an important commodity in traditional trade cycles, ceremony, debt payment, bride-price payment and exchange. Before white man came with guns, plumes were hard to obtain so the birdskins were highly prized. Also, not every male bird-of-paradise

would be shot from the display trees; nowadays, a man with a gun will shoot all the birds at a display tree so he can sell the plumes for cash.

The importance of the bird-of-paradise plumes is affecting the bird's population in a disastrous way. In the last 20 years the human population of PNG has increased by 50 per cent. As more people take part in 'sing-sings', more plumes are needed. More people also means more gardens and so more forest habitat is destroyed.

Similar factors affect the populations of all birds, animals and plants. By recording the species in a particular region, especially if this includes an estimate of how common or rare each species is in the area, birdwatchers are helping conservation authorities to assess the effects of development. Authorities then advise the government of any need to conserve birds in particular areas and prevent their extinc-

tion. Birds are not valued just because they are pretty. They are important in spreading seeds of forest trees and other plants; they help in pollinating flowers; they also help to control the numbers of insects in the forest.

Through the Department of Environment and Conservation, information is distributed to schools and other government departments. At the same time, the department gathers information on birds, fauna and flora from its own field staff,

amateur and professional birdwatchers and visiting scientists.

The visiting birdwatcher can contribute a great deal to the knowledge of our birdlife besides enjoying himself seeing new birds, especially the most beautiful birds in the world — the birds of paradise.

PNG has about 740 species of birds (about the same number as in Australia, a country ten times PNG's size) and at least 50 per cent of the land birds are only found in the country. Birdwatchers from around the world come to see our marvellous birds.

Recently I accompanied a tour group of 15 birdwatchers from America. In two weeks,

Far left The noisy and boisterous Belford's honeyeater is found in mountain forest; **left** the paradise kingfisher inhabits the lowlands forest and **below** the sacred kingfisher is an Australian visitor between March and October

Below A whistling kite, soars above the treetops, searching for prey. Raggiana bird of paradise is easy to see at its display tree **right**.

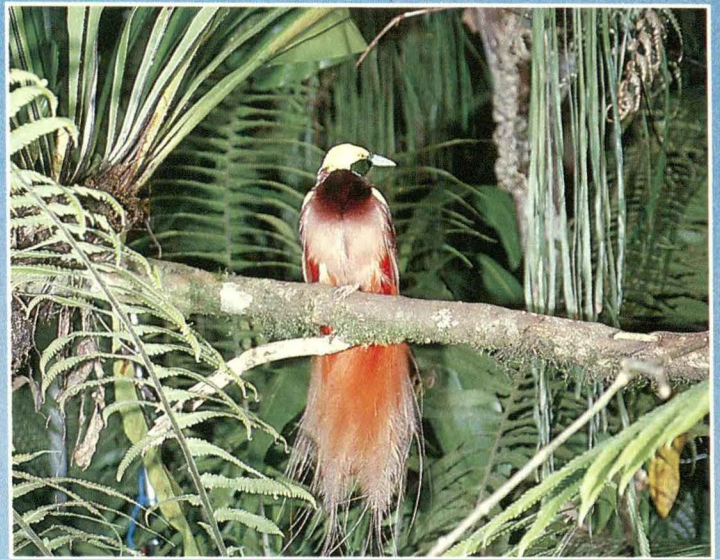


we saw about 170 species of birds, including 12 species of birds of paradise. Not all such groups are as successful, for the weather affects the activity of the birds. Another factor to consider is the accessibility of natural rainforest in which to see the indigenous species. If you stay in the main towns, Port Moresby, Lae, Goroka, Mt Hagen or Rabaul, you will not see many of our endemic species. Fortunately, there are several places now where you can get accommodation right in real bird country.

So, when you arrive in Port

Moresby, contact the PNG Bird Society who will be able to advise you on the best areas to see birds. Your informant can advise you on transport needs such as how to get to places like Brown River, Veimauri, Aroa Lagoon, Lake Iragumi, Varirata National Park and Musgrave River.

You can catch an Air Niugini plane to several main centres where you can take a small



plane, helicopter or PMV (passenger motor vehicle) to the more remote birding areas.

For instance, fly to Mt Hagen and either hire a car or take a PMV to the Baiyer River Sanctuary, an hour's drive north. Here is 740 hectares of rainforest where the lesser bird of paradise has a display tree. Each fine morning or late afternoon from April to November, the birds gather in this one tree. The males will display their yellow and white filamentous plumes in the hope of attracting females to mate. Up to 18 males have been seen in the tree at one time but the usual number is about eight. The magnificent bird of paradise displays near ground level. There are several display grounds of this species in the sanctuary, which can

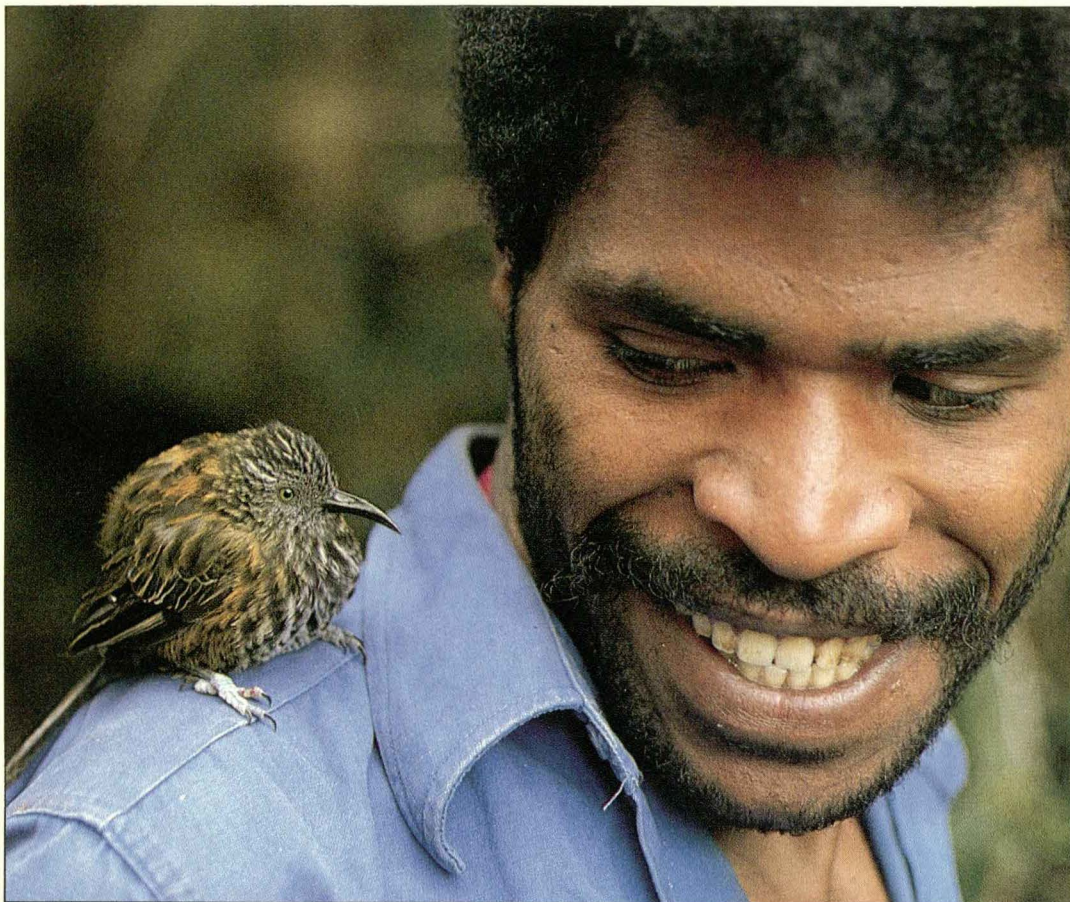
provide a list of the species found there and in the nearby hills.

If you have your own transport, you can birdwatch along the road to the Jimi Ridge and down to the Jimi Valley. This would give you a wider range of species to see as the floor of the valley is only 500 metres above sea level and the birds are lowland forest species. In PNG, birds and other fauna and flora are largely distributed into four or five altitudinal zones. Roughly these are lowland, lower montane, mid montane, upper montane and subalpine.

Jimi Ridge is 1800 metres above sea level and has lower montane forest species, while the Baiyer River Sanctuary is at 1200 metres and has a mixture of both. The sanctuary has its own self-service lodge.

Also from Mt Hagen you can drive to very high country at 2000 to 2800 metres above sea level where moss-forest and subalpine grasslands will offer another range of species.

Other places to consider in-



Above A friendly streaked honeyeater sits on the shoulder of a field assistant. Two common sights in PNG, the singing starling **top right** and a black duck **below**.

clude the Bensbach Plains in the Western Province, part of a vast region of 518 square kilometres known as the Tonda Wildlife Management Area.

There is an excellent lodge with very comfortable facilities, serving wonderful food including the famous barramundi. This is a region of grasslands, swamps, lagoons and winding rivers with myriads of waterbirds: pelicans, pied herons, brolgas, pied geese and others.

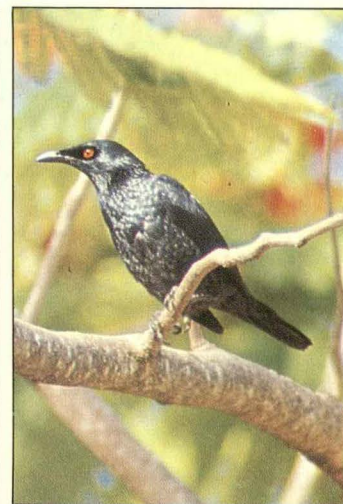
The Karawari River on the edge of the mighty Sepik Basin,



one of the largest areas of swamplands in the world, is a haven for waterbirds, landbirds and birds of prey. The fabulous Karawari Lodge is rated one of the best 300 hotels in the world. It is built in the style of the traditional 'haus tambaran' or spirit house of the Sepik people. So after a busy day bird-watching on Lake Ymas or the

Karawari River, you can come back to comfort, a swim in the pool and good food.

The birdwatchers' retreat, Ubaigubi, is on the northern slopes of Crater Mountain, about 20-minute flight south of Goroka and set in rainforest, second growth and village garden land. There is a comfortable lodge built from bush materials at about 1800 metres, a cool mid-mountain area with a wide range of birds to see, in-



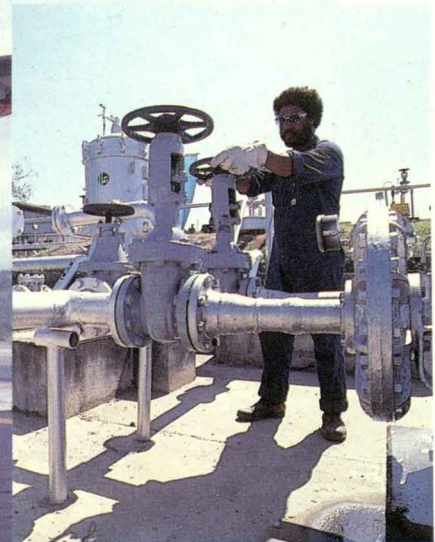
cluding about 12 species of birds of paradise. It is one of the few places where you have a good chance to see the rare blue bird of paradise.

There are several other places to visit, such as Tari Gap, Mt Bosavi, Mt Gahavisuka, Wasu to Kabwum, but they are for the more intrepid and self-reliant birdwatcher. A new lodge is under construction near Tari Gap.

Now, if you see a group of people in all sorts of weird bush clothes and a strange assortment of hats, looking up into the trees with binoculars or with an arsenal of cameras with long focal-length lenses, trained on a little bird at the top of a tree, laugh if you want. But, although we may look strange sometimes, we are doing serious work, too.

For information, contact Air Niugini Offices; Trans Niugini Tours, Box 173, Mt Hagen; Pacific Helicopters, Box 342, Goroka; Baiyer River Sanctuary, Box 490, Mt Hagen; PNG Bird Society, Box 1598, Port Moresby; and Bensbach Lodge, via Daru, Western Province.

AVIATION SAFETY



A SAFETY RECORD THE ENVY OF ALL

Aviation Safety is of paramount importance to Shell, and each Shell employee takes pride in the fact that for the past 1100 days, there have been no lost hours due to accident. The prior record was an amazing 1500 days.

The Shell staff have been trained with safety in mind and the Shell



products used, be they fuel, oils or greases are only of the highest Shell quality — not surprising that Air Niugini's safety record matches that of Shell.

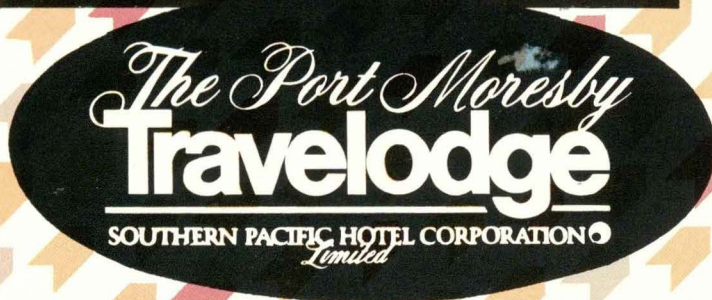


Shell

We're Close To Everything In Port Moresby.



Port Moresby is the capital city of Papua New Guinea. We are located in the heart of the city, close to the mainstream of both business and recreation areas. We maintain the highest of international standards for both your business or holiday stay in our hotel. The city centre is a one minute stroll away and the airport a twenty minute drive. Along with our friendly efficient service we offer all the facilities you would expect...swimming pool, great food, colour TV in every room, airconditioning & more. When you stay in Port Moresby, stay with us...at the Travelodge.



For Business...



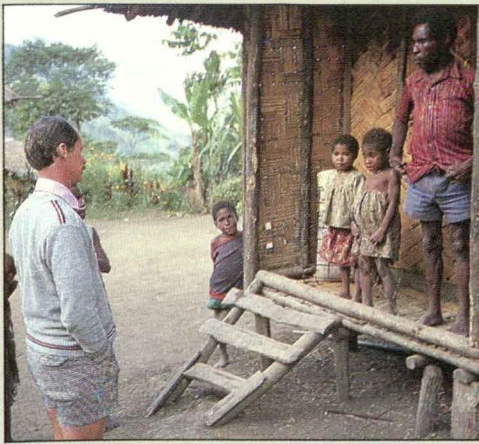
Or Pleasure.



Welcome

There's always something happening at the Travelodge.

Phone 212266



Creating Bark Cloth



Story and photographs by Kirk Franklin

The bark slid off the tree, its outside moss-covered and its inside oozing with sap. It was hard to compare this with the beautiful bark cloth that I had seen being used. We were a half-hour's trek from Akwanja village in the interior of the Morobe Province of Papua New Guinea. David Manoku, a master bark-cloth maker, was our guide. I was accompanying linguist-translator Carl Whitehead who lives at Akwanja; he and wife Pat are studying the Menye language and helping with a translation of the New Testament.

The trail we followed meandered along the side of a mountain, through several sweet potato gardens, and through kunai grass as tall as David. We 'broke bush' into

dense rainforest until David spotted a cluster of four yua trees. He said they belonged to a friend who had given him permission to cut one of the trees. In PNG's natural forests, every tree has an owner and cutting it without permission has serious consequences.

Skilfully, David scored the bark around the tree base with his worn bush knife, then made another cut about a metre from the first. An incision from the top cut to the bottom followed and, with a thin piece of bamboo, he prised the bark off.

I was poised with my camera to capture the event but

Top left Linguist-translator Carl Whitehead with master bark cloth maker David Manoku and family; a Menye villager **centre** and a finished bark cape. David Manoku prises off the bark from a Yua tree **left**.



Above Akwanja children play jump rope. **Right** David carries his bark from the forest and then prepares it for beating **below**.

without warning, my glasses fell off into the tall grass. I kept shooting, hoping my lens was still focused. When I picked up my glasses I discovered a tiny screw, holding the left arm, had fallen into the dense underbrush, lost forever. I continued with the shooting, focusing my camera in one hand while holding my glasses on with the other.

David then rolled up the white sap and green moss-covered piece of bark and threw it onto his shoulder. With a feast of 'buai' (betelnut) in his mouth, we were again on our way. David soon noticed I was having trouble seeing. After a few minutes of scrounging around the bush, David handed me a long thin thorn. A piece of this became the new screw for my glasses — jungle technology at work! Months later, the 'screw' is still holding my glasses together.

After about 20 minutes of hiking, we were back at Akwanja. At Carl's house, David began the arduous job of cutting off the outer layer of the bark with his bush knife. It took 30 minutes and when he had finished, the moss and lichen also were gone. David then started scraping the sticky inner layer of sap. This took another 30 minutes.

I touched the bark; it was very wet. According to David, the beating of the bark can only be done when there is the right moisture content. He sometimes has to wait a day for some of the moisture to evaporate. At other times he soaks the bark in water because it is too dry. Only the craftsman knows when the bark is ready.

The bark was partially wrapped over a round log as David began beating it with a stone. It was lunch time but David kept beating. It looked simple but special knowledge is involved to understand how much beating is needed. The stone, too, was special; it was long and smooth and had been shaped by David's grandfather. It looked like a meat cleaver with horizontal and vertical cuts made by a flint stone. Nowadays a hacksaw blade is used.

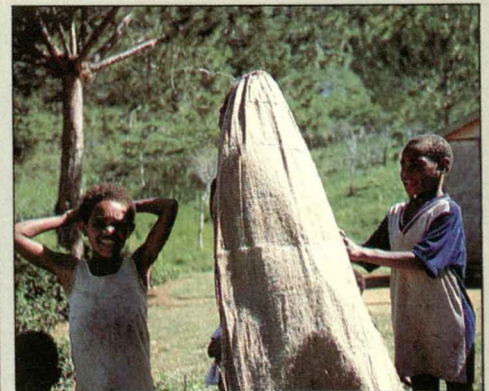
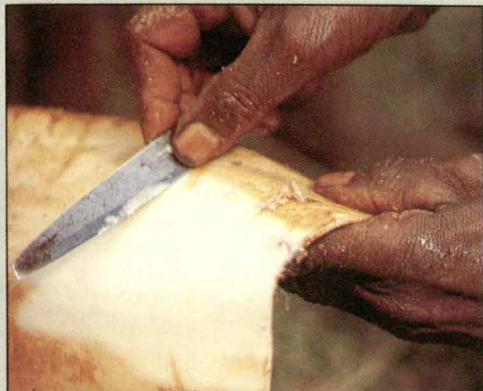
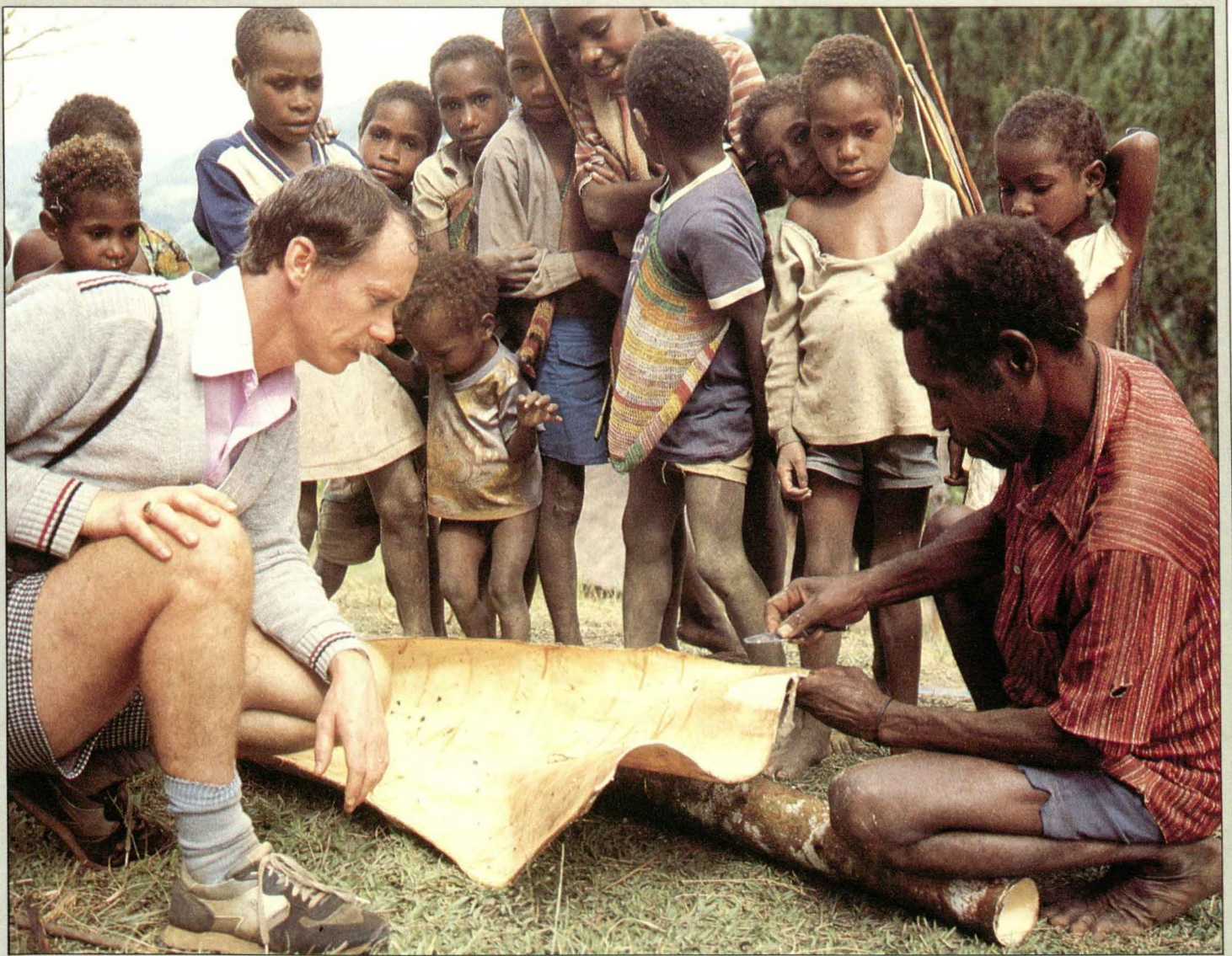
David pounded the bark for what seemed like hours. Over and over, front and back, up and down. The bark stretched nearly double width. It became thin and flexible.

At the day's end, David took his bark home to hang above the fire-pit in his house so it could dry. In a week it would be ready to sell. David said his prospective client was a policeman at the government station of Menyamyama who wanted it as a mattress covering. David's selling price was five kina — a bargain for nearly a day's work!

Bark cloth manufacturing is mostly done by David's Menye people. A few people in language groups in the same Angan linguistic family also make cloth to trade to other neighboring groups for traditional salt and money.

The people in the Angal family were famously known as the Kukukukus. Prior to the early 1960s, they were the





fiercest fighters in the three corners of the Eastern Highlands, Morobe and Gulf Provinces.

Traditionally, bark clothes were all the Menye people wore. Bark was used for umbrellas, windbreakers, jackets, blankets, mattresses and prob-

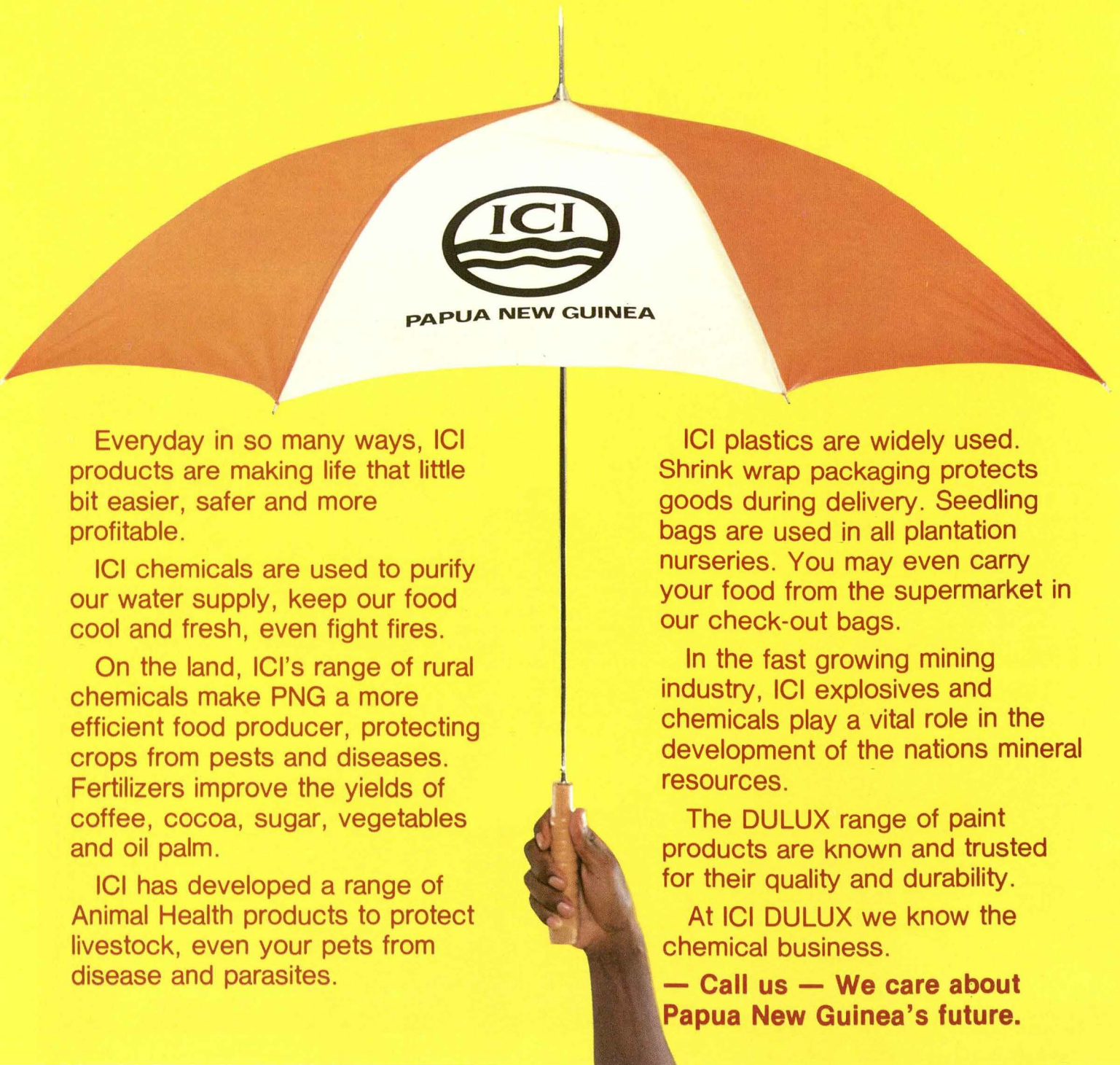
ably a lot more. The Akwanja villagers wear Western clothing now. The younger generation apparently has lost interest in making bark cloth. It is easier to buy clothes at the local trade store with money earned from coffee.

As the Menye people try to

keep pace with their changing country, one of their keys to survival will be language and culture. These are important parts of their self identity and bark clothes play a role in this. It is an identity and heritage onto which they can hold and be proud.

Top Carl Whitehead watches David's handiwork; **above** the inside of the bark is scraped, a stone is used for beating, and a finished bark cloth cape.

We Cover It All.



Everyday in so many ways, ICI products are making life that little bit easier, safer and more profitable.

ICI chemicals are used to purify our water supply, keep our food cool and fresh, even fight fires.

On the land, ICI's range of rural chemicals make PNG a more efficient food producer, protecting crops from pests and diseases. Fertilizers improve the yields of coffee, cocoa, sugar, vegetables and oil palm.

ICI has developed a range of Animal Health products to protect livestock, even your pets from disease and parasites.

ICI plastics are widely used. Shrink wrap packaging protects goods during delivery. Seedling bags are used in all plantation nurseries. You may even carry your food from the supermarket in our check-out bags.

In the fast growing mining industry, ICI explosives and chemicals play a vital role in the development of the nations mineral resources.

The DULUX range of paint products are known and trusted for their quality and durability.

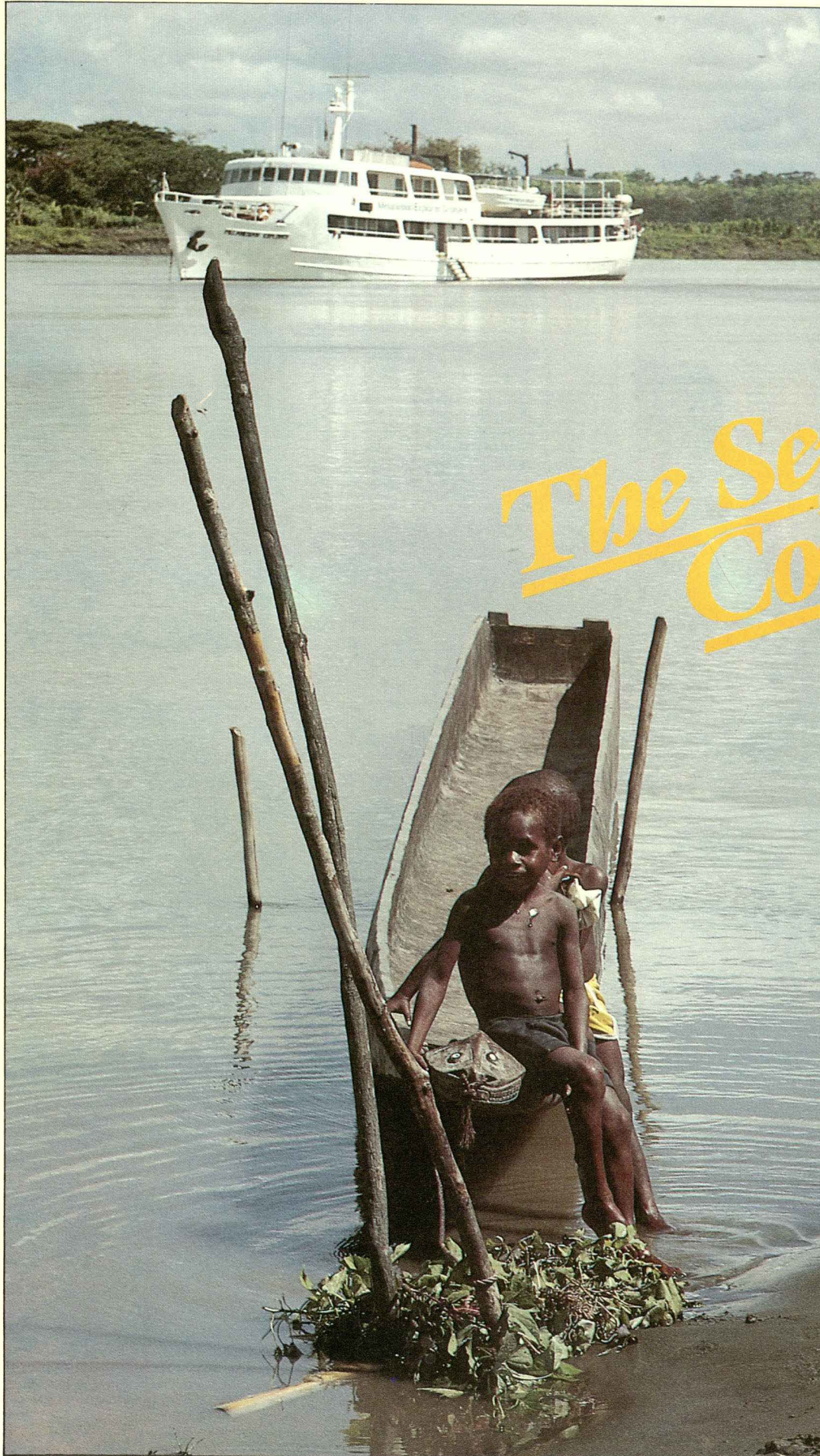
At ICI DULUX we know the chemical business.

— Call us — We care about Papua New Guinea's future.



ICI DULUX PAPUA NEW GUINEA PTY LTD.

Story by Margery Smith
Photographs by
Michael Gebicki



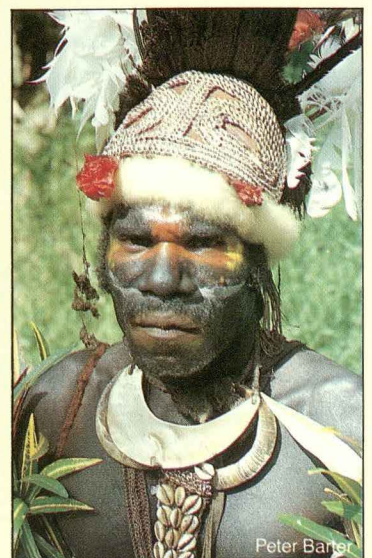
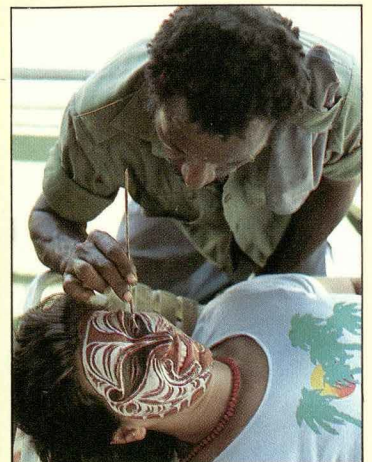
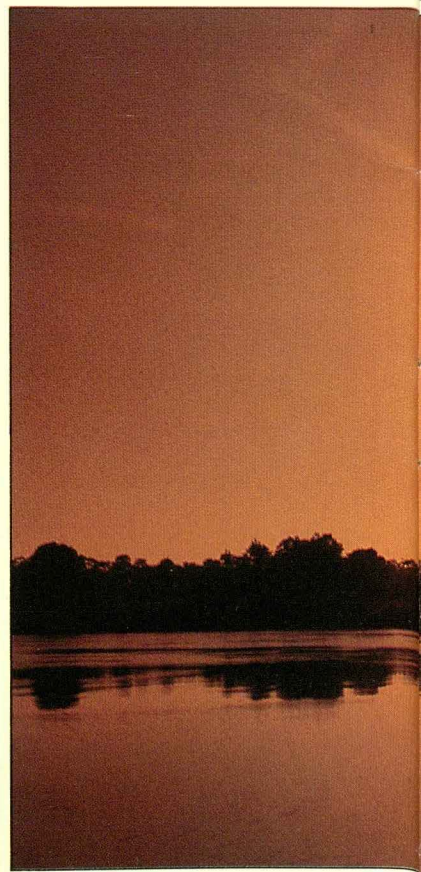
The Sepik in Comfort



Exploring the Sepik River from a dugout canoe would have no appeal to me as I don't consider myself an adventurous type. But when an opportunity arose to visit Papua New Guinea and sail on the 273-tonne, air-conditioned "Melanesian Explorer", that was a different proposition.

"Melanesian Explorer" is an expeditionary vessel operated by Melanesian Tourist Services at Madang, the departure point for cruises to the Sepik and the Trobriand Islands. Itineraries

Moored off Tambanum, the "Melanesian Explorer" travels the Sepik, the most artistic waterway in the world. A carving from Tambanum above.



Peter Barber



Ships and Trips

Sepik 'haus tamburam' or spirit house, left. Sunset top over the middle Sepik; Tambanum face painters at work on the Explorer above left a buffet meal on the top deck above and Upper Sepik villages left.



and duration of journeys vary during the year but the river cruise on which I sailed was a round trip from Madang, taking five days.

The ship was comfortable without being luxurious with small cabins accommodating 30 passengers. Most were "down below" but I was lucky to have one of the two cabins on the upper deck. There were two bunks, a hanging cupboard, shelves, mirror, hand basin with hot and cold water and a window to view the passing scene. Shower and toilet are shared between the two cabins. This arrangement needs in-

telligent and thoughtful cooperation between share-mates. I lived in fear and trembling that the two handsome Frenchmen in the other cabin would forget to unclic my door-lock. I didn't want to discover in the middle of the night that I had no bathroom facilities — a virtual lock out!

An attractive saloon with comfortable seating was the venue for social gatherings and briefings for each day's activities by Sandy McBeth, the bright and cheery American cruise director. We watched videos of documentaries and were free to borrow any of the 200 books in the library.

All passengers could eat in the dining room at the one time. We had breakfast and dinner there but buffet lunches were usually served on the top deck, shaded by tarpaulin. Casual clothes were in order: cotton trousers and long sleeved shirts to beat the heat, and insects. Comfortable rubber-soled shoes or sandals, a shady hat and insect repellent were also "musts".

Three speed-boats are carried on board for shore visits.

There are no docking facilities so the small boats nudge their way into the banks of the river, canals (barats) or lakes to visit a number of villages.

The Sepik River (about 1,125 kilometres in length) is acknowledged as the world's most artistic waterway, a great centre of primitive art. Each village we visited had a different character and unique carvings, pottery and handicrafts.

The most memorable village for me was Kambaramba situated off the main river (30 minutes in the speed-boat) where there is no land. The houses are built on stilts over the water and children learn to swim before they walk. On our approach, a flotilla of canoes manned by small children (the captains must have been no older than 10) met the boat to escort us to their village. The water was covered in white lotus flowers and the children picked some for us. They took willing passengers for rides in the canoes for a small coin. The peace was broken by loud thuds, made by the women crushing the starchy pith of the sago trunk with a large piece of



TRYING HARDER



**THE
WE TRY HARDER
RENT A CAR COMPANY**



HEB 3383

For Reservations, contact your nearest Avis Office. In PNG Phone: 25 8299

AVIS IS NATIONWIDE IN PNG

wood. Life continues as it has done for centuries.

I also enjoyed Palembang on the sunny morning we paid a visit. We pulled into the river bank at 8am and walked for half an hour along a flat, grassy path beside a canal with deep pink lotus flowers. Only the sounds of birds broke the stillness. This village has two most attractive haus tambarans (spirit houses) set in a village green, surrounded by palms and flowering trees. A third haus tambaran had been destroyed in World War II.

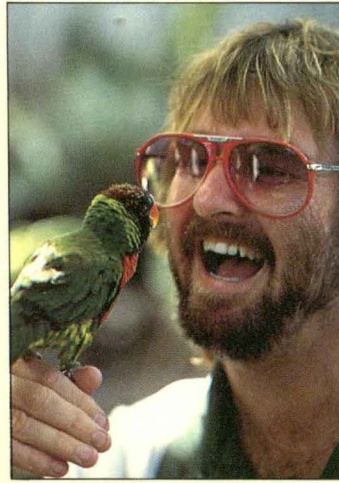
I found the steep bamboo steps leading to the upper floor of the haus tambarans rather daunting and soon learned to walk on the crossbeams of the floor even though I was assured the sago-palm floor was perfectly safe. Bilum bags (woven string bags with a shoulder strap) were here in quality and quantity. I was told they had such strength, you could carry a car refrigerator in one.

Mendam on Murik Lake was a longer speed-boat ride down a narrow barat, disturbing the egrets and herons. Someone

commented it was better than the jungle ride at Disneyland! Then we crossed serene Murik Lake to the most southern village. The children were especially friendly; visitors are rare and very welcome. Set on mangrove swamps, the land is filled with palm fronds, mussel shells and wood chips, making it rather "squishy" to walk upon. Carvings of spirit heads adorn the prow of the canoes and I was tempted to buy an intricately carved wooden walking-stick for my old age.

We visited other villages: Angoram is the most commercialised settlement, boasting a small hotel and an airstrip. The haus tambaran is like a gallery supermarket, selling artifacts from the surrounding villages. From Kambot I bought a storyboard, a transportable version of the carved uprights of the haus tambaran. It was worth a ricked neck to gaze upwards at the painted bark ceiling.

Tambanum is the second largest village on the river, where each family builds a large and attractive house with masks woven into the gable.



Left A visitor to the Sepik meets a local inhabitant, crossing the bridge at Yentchen below and Palembang performer at a sing-sing bottom.



Melanesian Discoverer

In May 1988, the "Melanesian Explorer's" new sister ship the "Melanesian Discoverer", will begin scheduled cruises to destinations such as Sepik River, Upper Sepik, Trobriand Islands, Madang Islands, and the Bismarck Sea plus combinations of these.

The "Melanesian Discoverer" will accommodate 42 passengers in twin or double berth cabins (no bunks). All cabins have private bathrooms, ISD telephones, color TV monitors, PA/music systems and are tastefully furnished.

Cabins also feature large panoramic windows (not portholes) and are air conditioned. The public areas of the "Discoverer" include a restaurant providing a-la-carte and buffet meals, an intimate formal lounge, plus a large observation saloon on the bridge deck, complete with grand piano and cocktail bar opening onto an open deck and spa.

Because the "Melanesian Discoverer" is an expeditionary vessel, a 40-passenger aluminium jet boat, complete with toilets/galley, is carried to provide exciting excursions to remote waterways, rivers and lakes that are inaccessible to the larger vessel. A further two Zodiacs are carried on the forward deck.



Peter Barter



Every kilometre reveals a different Sepik face, **top** friendly villagers and **above** cruising on the Chambri Lakes.



Anthropologist, Margaret Mead spent time here studying the people. I was impressed with the village's tidiness and was told that community work was carried out once a week to maintain this appearance.

Kanganaman has a haus tambaran classified as National Cultural Property and earmarked for repair. The carved

poles are a fine example, but I wasn't able to climb to the upper story as it was unsafe due to age and earthquake damage.

Other villages visited were Aibom and Wombun on Chambri Lakes, famous for pottery and stone carvings; Timbukke, where I wasn't courageous enough to cross the suspension bridge; and Bin, where the school children charmed us with their singing.

I appreciated the happy and friendly people we met and the opportunity to buy arts and crafts of a high standard from normally inaccessible areas of the country.

Air Niugini operates daily flights to Madang. For more information on "Melanesian Explorer", contact Melanesian Tourist Services, PO Box 707, Madang, Papua New Guinea; telephone: 82 2766, telex: NE82707.

The New Islander Hotel

papua new guinea's first truly international hotel

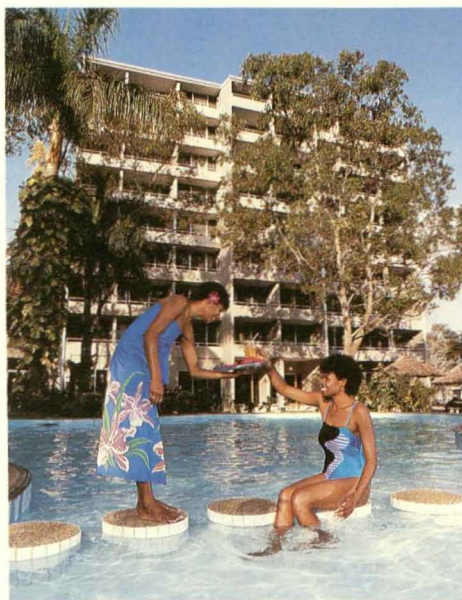
Set in ten acres of tropical gardens, the Islander is located midway between the airport and the city centre, within 5 minutes drive of Central Government Offices, Parliament House and the National Museum.

Facilities include:

- 186 deluxe rooms and suites
- Direct-dial telephones with computer modems
- Colour TV and in-house video
- Complete secretarial services
- Conference and banqueting facilities for up to 500 people
- Travel agency
- Florist
- Hire car service
- Hairdressing salon
- Boutique
- News agency
- Coffee shop
- Restaurant
- Cocktail bar
- Night club
- 4 glass backed squash courts
- 2 synthetic grass tennis courts
- Fully equipped gymnasium
- Swimming pool
- Complimentary airport transfers

The location is only one reason you will choose the Islander. The luxurious accommodations together with the superb cuisine, whether it be from our Kofi Haus Coffee Shop, from the elegant Sanamarie A La Carte restaurant, or from our 24 hour room service, and the professional service from our courteous staff are all reasons why the Islander is Papua New Guinea's only truly International Hotel.

The Pacific has great hotels... the Islander is the great hotel of the Pacific.



The Islander Hotel
PO Box 1981, Boroko, Papua New Guinea.
Telephone: 25 5955, Telex: NE22288, Cables: Islander

A member of the Davara group of hotels.

New

Dunhill De Luxe 25's

Always in
good taste



Also available in 15's

Created by our blenders
from tobaccos of exceptional quality

dunhill