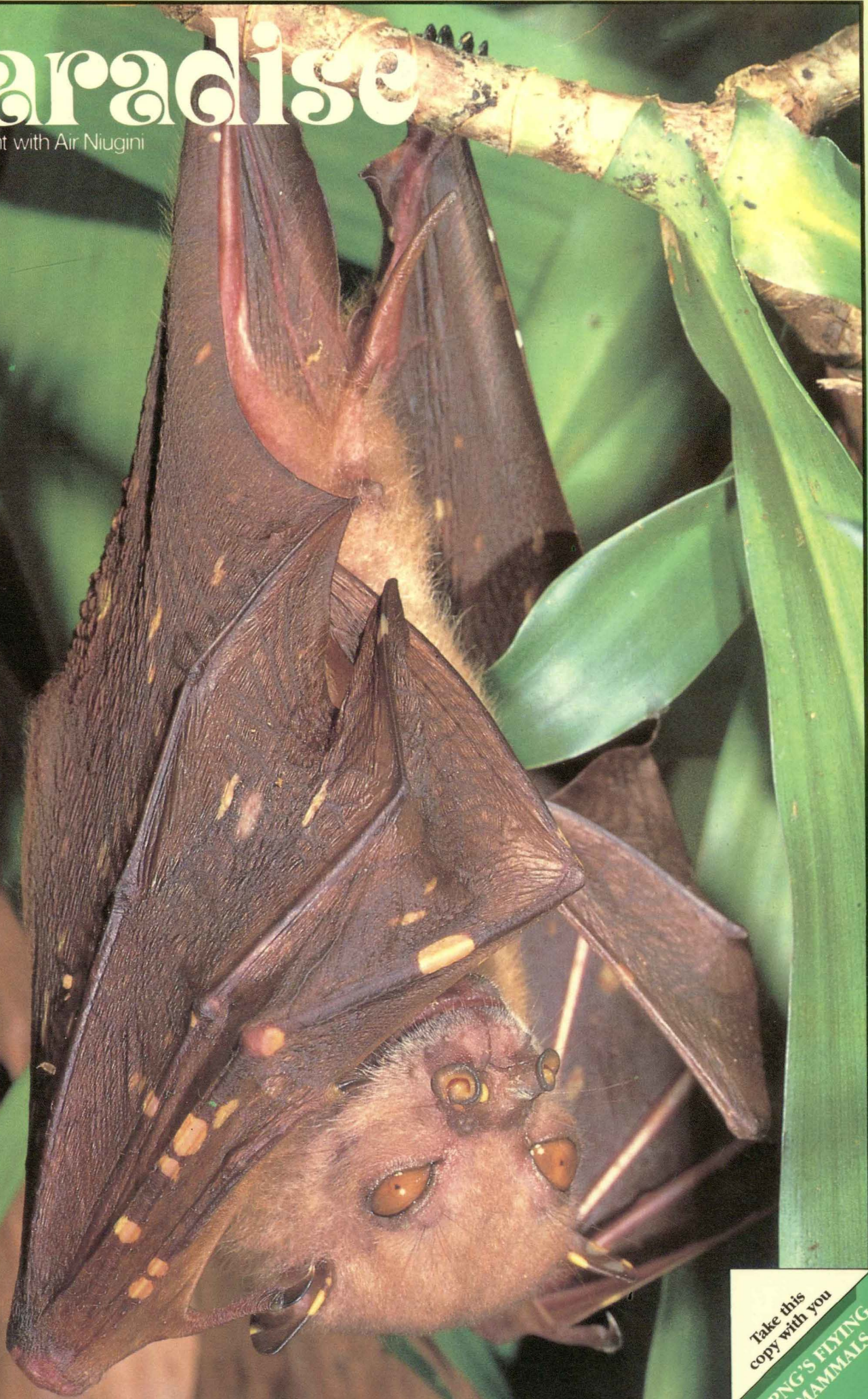


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# paradise

No 69 July - Aug 1988

Paradise is published bi-monthly by Air Niugini, PO Box 7186, Boroko, Papua New Guinea (telephone 273415; telex NE22225).

Welcome aboard,

In this issue we pay tribute to the memory of John Kilepak Kisokau, the Manus Islander who won international recognition as the main link between his people and the famous anthropologist Margaret Mead.

We look in on the scientists who are studying our many bat species; we visit former gold rush territory in the Bulolo Valley; and we head south to the booming international tourist resort of Cairns, Australia.

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**Cover:** The tube-nosed bat, one of PNG's abundant flying mammals (see page 21). Photograph courtesy of the Evolutionary Biology Unit, South Australian Museum.

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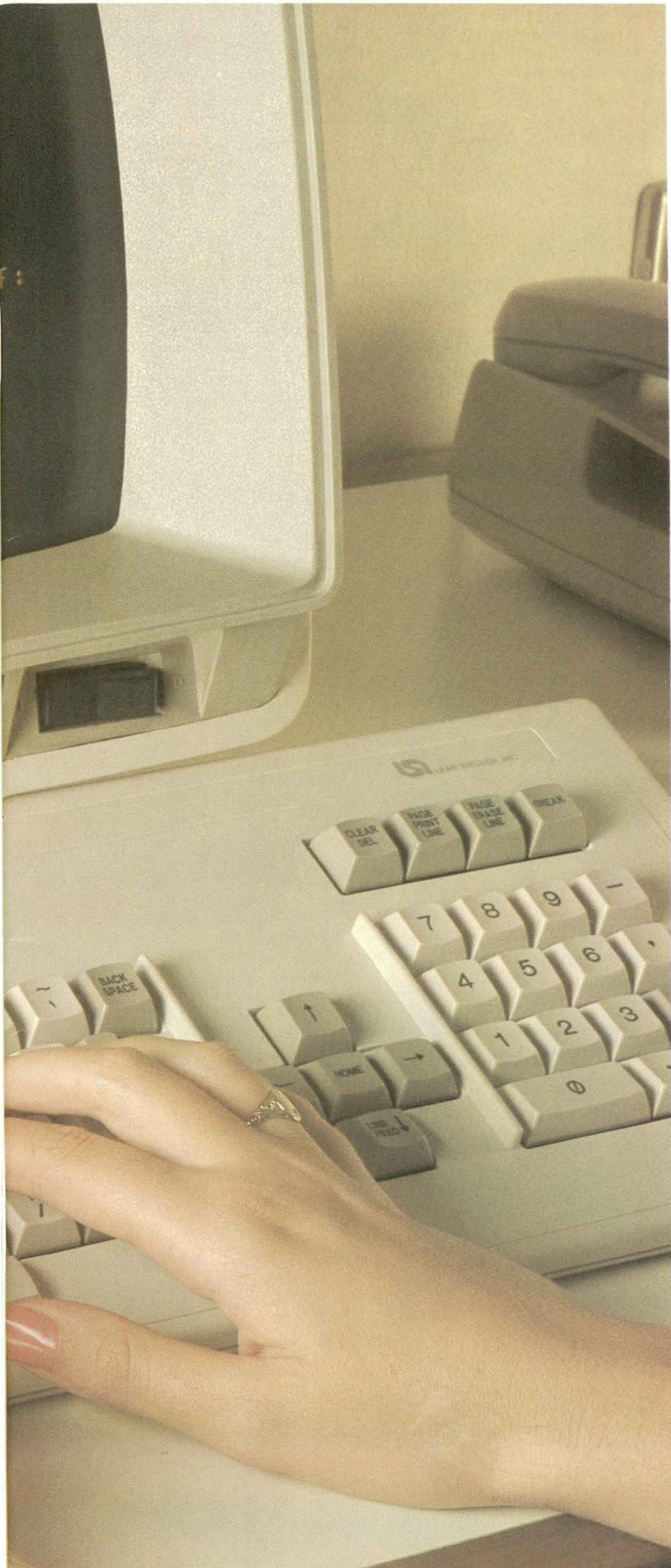
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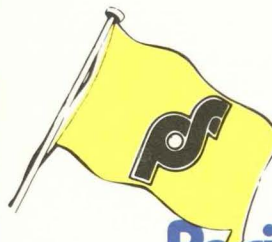
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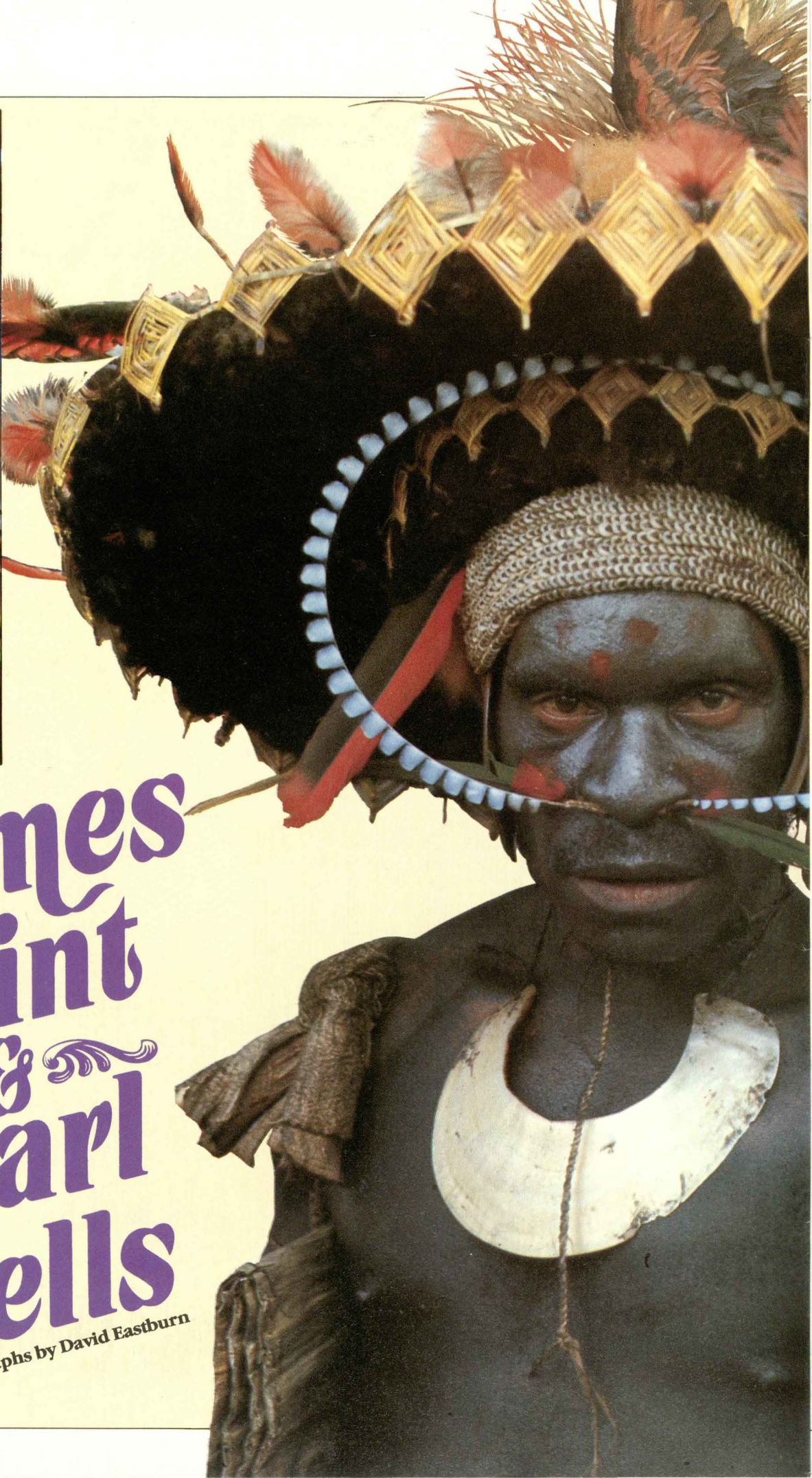
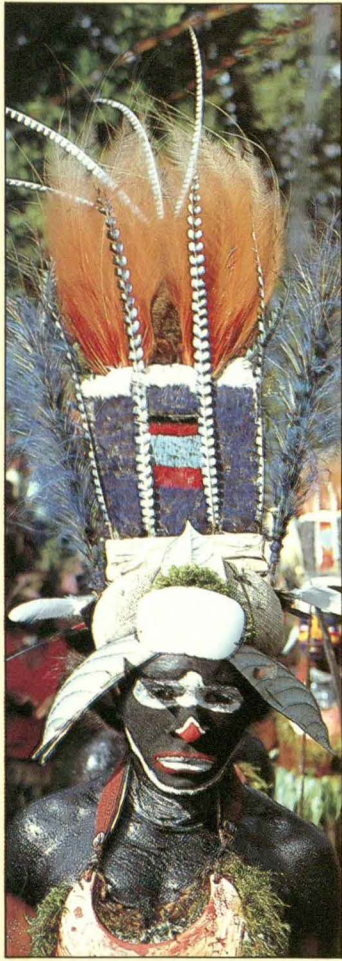
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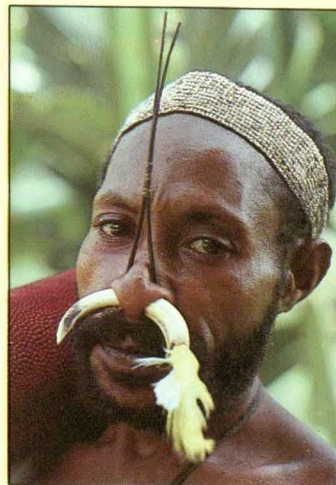
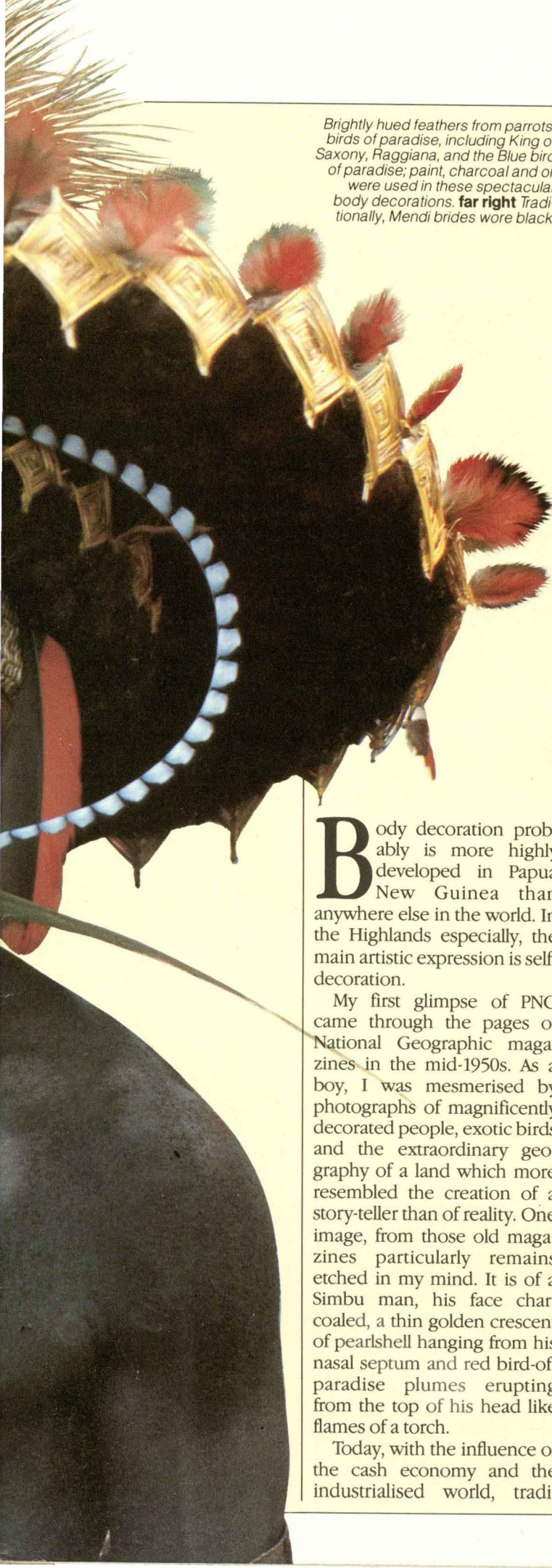
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# Plumes Paint & Pearl Shells

Story and photographs by David Eastburn

Brightly hued feathers from parrots, birds of paradise, including King of Saxony, Raggiana, and the Blue bird of paradise; paint, charcoal and oil were used in these spectacular body decorations. **far right** Traditionally, Mendi brides wore black.



**B**ody decoration probably is more highly developed in Papua New Guinea than anywhere else in the world. In the Highlands especially, the main artistic expression is self-decoration.

My first glimpse of PNG came through the pages of National Geographic magazines in the mid-1950s. As a boy, I was mesmerised by photographs of magnificently decorated people, exotic birds and the extraordinary geography of a land which more resembled the creation of a story-teller than of reality. One image, from those old magazines particularly remains etched in my mind. It is of a Simbu man, his face charcoaled, a thin golden crescent of pearlshell hanging from his nasal septum and red bird-of-paradise plumes erupting from the top of his head like flames of a torch.

Today, with the influence of the cash economy and the industrialised world, tradi-

tional dress for everyday wear is confined to relatively isolated areas. However, each of the 700 cultural groups in PNG can be identified by a unique "traditional dress": the flamboyant dress of Huli men from Tari in the Southern Highlands, with wigs decorated with everlasting daisies, or the elaborate ceremonial dress of the Mekeo of the Central Province.

Elaborate ceremonial decoration is largely a matter for men although in many areas young women are decorated also and participate in ceremonies. Within each group, people decorate themselves, for singsings and exchanges, traditional religious ceremonies, weddings, to be initiated, or to show sorrow.

Decoration can follow a rigid pattern such as in certain traditional religious ceremonies, when one feather out of place or smudged paint may be interpreted as an ill omen. Conversely decoration for personal satisfaction, frequently

incorporates non-traditional materials and often reflects a sense of humor as well as artistic flair. Not all self-decoration is to make the wearer look attractive. The widow and close female relatives of a deceased man in the Mendi area of the Southern Highlands show their sorrow by covering themselves in grey clay to make their skins look dry and unattractive.

The head is the main focus for decoration. Hair or wigs provide an excellent base for elaborate feather head-dresses. Frequently the nose and ears are also decorated. The nose often receives careful attention during face painting and frequently the nasal septum is pierced to receive a variety of plugs including cassowary quills, pig tusks, pieces of shell or lengths of bamboo.

Body decoration can be as simple as a few slaps on the face with a clay-covered hand combined with a garland of leaves. The most complex forms can consist of intricate

patterns of colors painted on the face and body, magnificent arrangements of feathers and leaves, nose and ear ornaments and shells. These are combined not only to create an extraordinary image but various parts of the 'costume' usually are constructed to move during a dance rhythm and transform the wearer into a living sculpture.

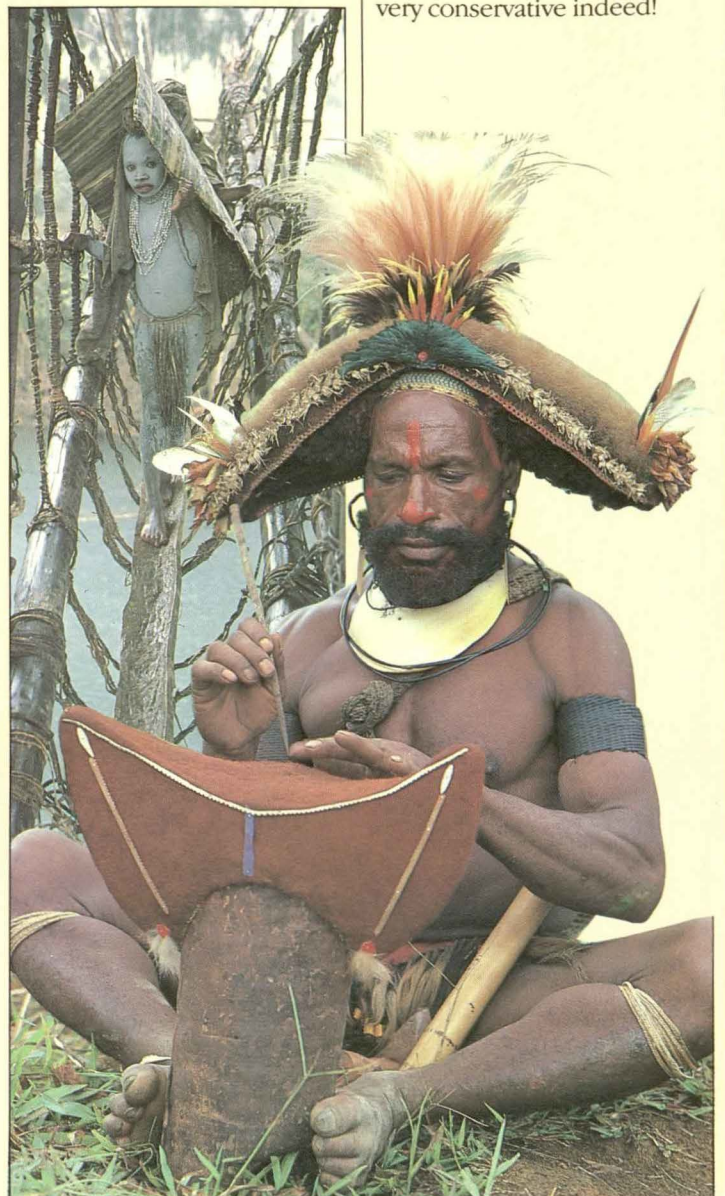
Preparation of participants for a ceremony often is as fascinating as the performance itself. In the dark interior of lowland longhouses, the flickering light of bamboo or resin torches gives tantalising previews of the final dress of performers. Tapa cloth bundles containing plumes, shells, fur and other articles of decoration are slowly, almost ceremoniously, opened to reveal their contents. Shivering performers are dressed by their relatives at dawn, often before the valley fog has lifted. Reddish tree-oil from gourd containers is rubbed on to the body and powder paint is applied to the face with a stick chewed to form a brush. Components of head-dresses are assembled and tested so they will wave, bob or flutter in just the right way. The atmosphere is electric with excitement and anticipation.

Personal decoration has changed over the years. Some forms, particularly those associated with initiation or traditional religion, have disappeared and others have been modified or are rarely used. Early photographs show fewer shell ornaments and feathers were worn than are today. Brighter colors of commercial singing powders are usually preferred now to traditional ochres and vegetable dyes. Tiny "trade" beads, cloth, keys, beer can ring-pulls, bright-colored paper and Christmas decorations often are cleverly incorporated into modern body decoration.

The imaginative hairstyles of many groups were among the first personal adornment casualties of contact with Western society. The short hair



*Feathers, fur, shells, flowers, ochres and vegetable dyes are the main ingredients of body decoration in spite of modern singing powders available in tins.*



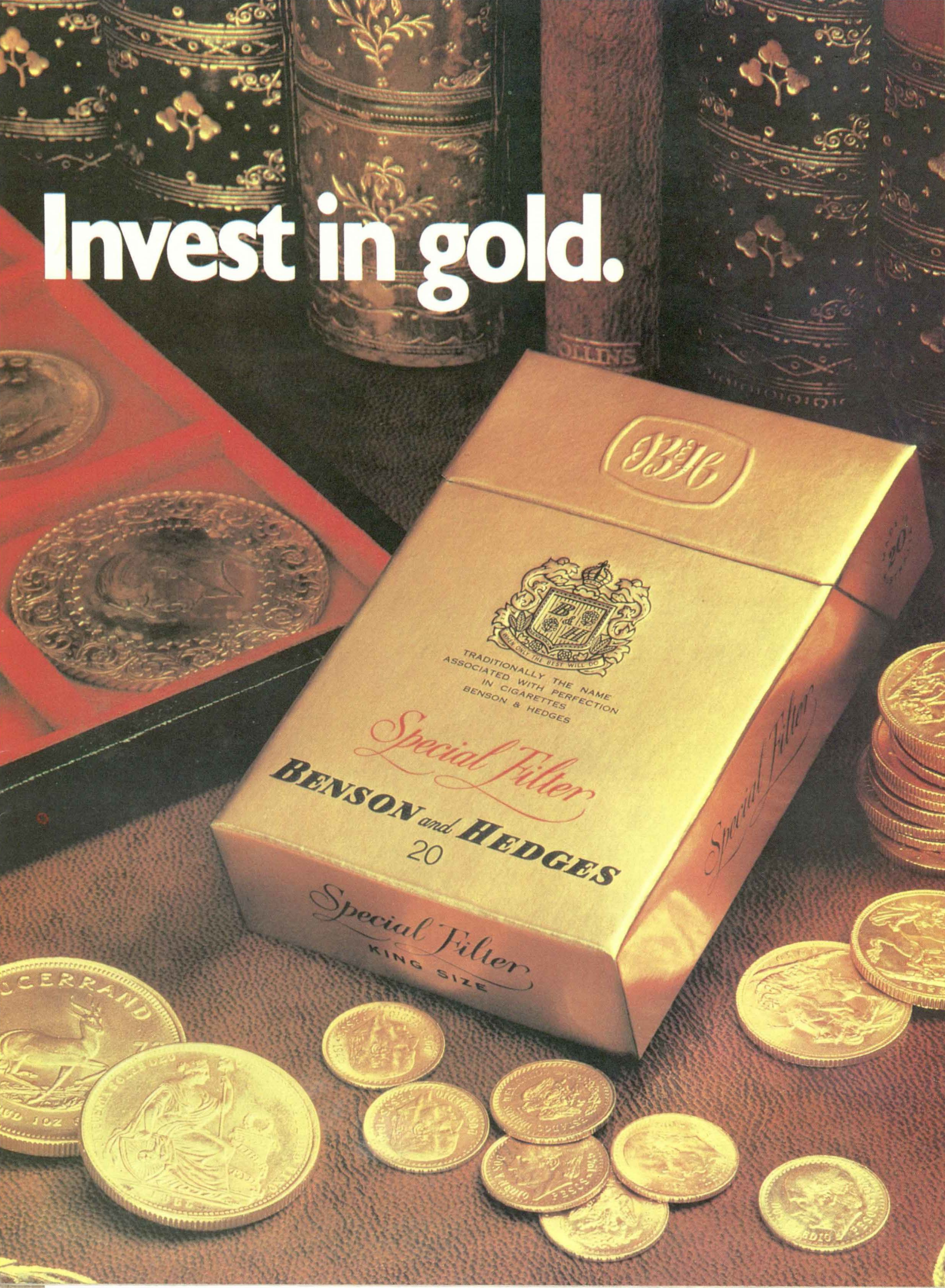
of the police who accompanied early patrols was considered to be modern and sophisticated. Short hair also was convenient and encouraged for health reasons.

The visitor to PNG is struck immediately by other strong contrasts with Western culture. Traditional colors are different. PNG brides wear black and widows wear white! The most magnificent decorations are worn on the back so that they can be admired from afar, rather than on the front as in the mirror-oriented Western society.

It seems almost impossible for Papua New Guineans not to decorate themselves and many of the forms explored make Western dress and personal adornment appear very conservative indeed!



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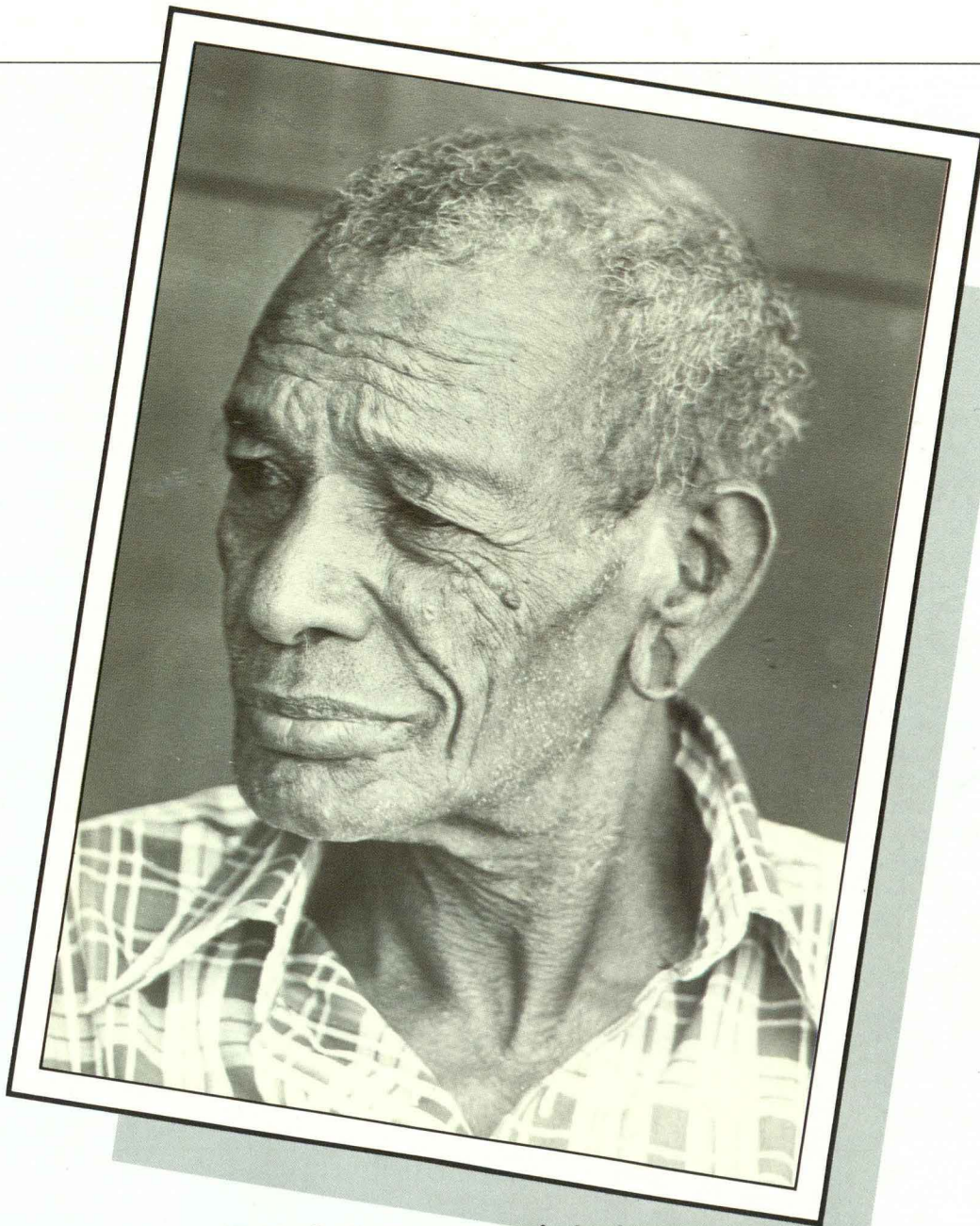


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## MAN OF TWO CULTURES

**J**ohn Kilepak Kisokau's reputation spread beyond the beaches of Manus. His association with the great US anthropologist, Margaret Mead, means his name will be remembered well into the future.

When he died in his little house over the lagoon in Pere Village on the south coast of Manus Island, on May 20, 1987, his people mourned him with

the traditional ceremonies reserved for great leaders.

In 1928 the teenage John Kilepak Kisokau (widely known as JK, from Margaret's diary shorthand), was the son and heir of the luluai of Pere clan and the organiser of the five young men who helped to run the house for Margaret Mead and her husband Reo Fortune.

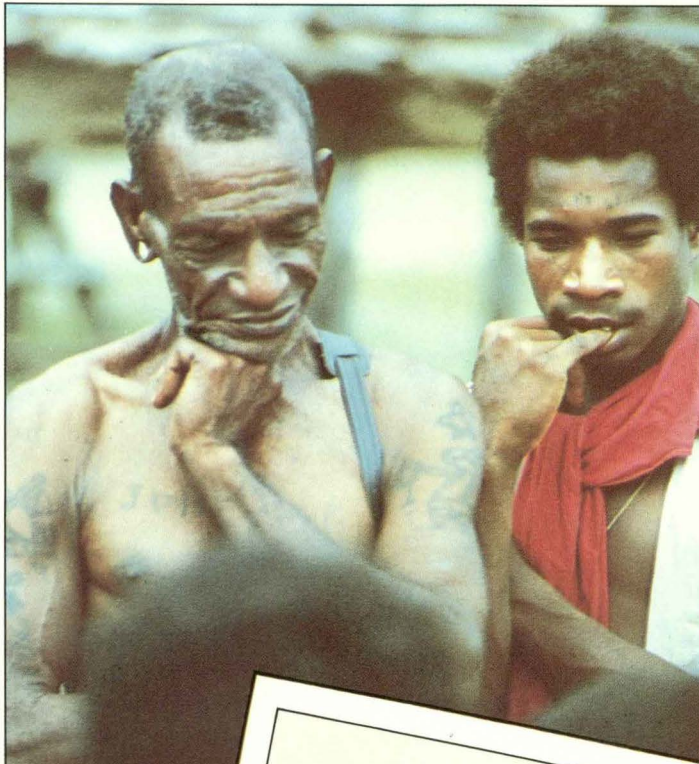
Margaret, 26, saw JK as

**Story and photographs by Fred and Barbara Roll**

“quick as a flash”, the son of the ruling family, a genius at organisation, a natural leader of men. After her return to Pere in 1953, she wrote in “New Lives for Old: Cultural Transformation - Manus” that JK had “now grown to be tall, gauntly handsome, but still gay, curious and delightful”. She found him caught between the old and new ways, always magnificently responsive to crises, but aloof from involvement in the new bureaucracy. She observed: “He had, in flashes, the gentle sure touch of the man who saw clearly and cared most for the conduct of life in Pere . . . a man who abhorred violence and loved virtue, who passionately wanted the New Way . . .”

During her seven visits to Manus, the last before Independence in 1975, JK was her head houseboy, canoe captain, chief informant, confidant and loyal friend. He was a prominent figure in her books “New Lives for Old”, and

**Top and centre** JK in Pere Village towards the end of his life. **bottom left** His association with Margaret Mead began in 1928 when he was 14 (second from left in group and fishing with bow and arrow). **bottom centre** Margaret Mead with the same five 24 years later (JK at far right).



“Letters from the Field” and in the films “Margaret Mead’s New Guinea Journal” (1967) and the recent British “Strangers Abroad” series, which was premiered at the 1986 Margaret Mead Film Festival at the American Museum of Natural History.

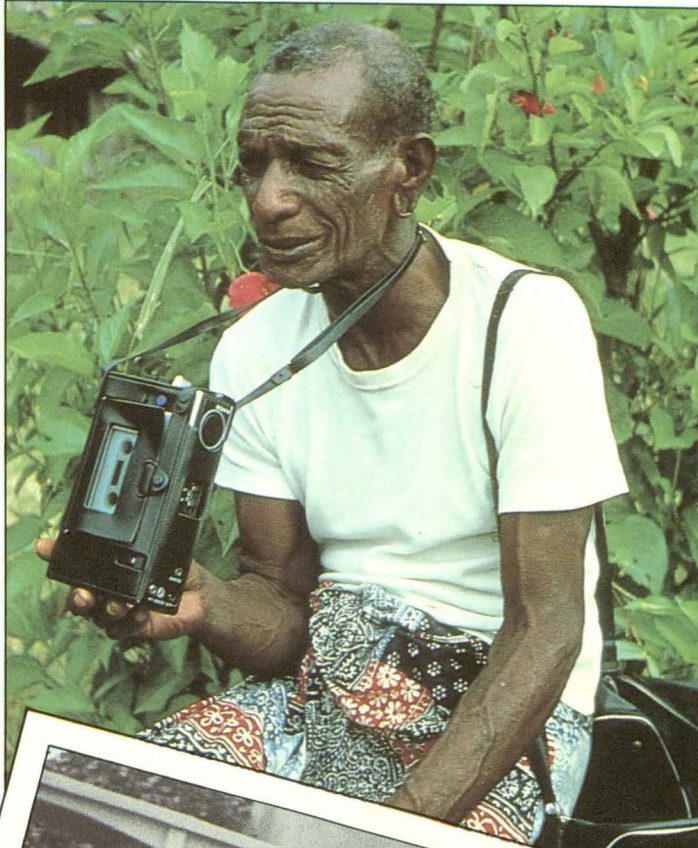
JK never tired of asking Margaret about America – and never stopped asking her to take him there for a visit. He also confronted Barbara Roll and her late husband Scott Heath saying simply: “Mi laik go long Amerika nau!” It seemed an irresistible idea. So in 1969 he was the first man from Manus to visit the United States – an ambassador without portfolio who spoke in Melanesian Pidgin with such grace and eloquence that all understood him. Margaret was pleased that at last JK had realised his dream, in a house sited on three acres, in Carmel’s temperate California climate with the ocean a mere mile away.

JK was interviewed by the local press and local television news on the day he arrived in Carmel. That evening he saw himself on the screen – his first encounter with television. He



introduced "Margarit Mit" in Melanesian Pidgin before her commencement speech at Monterey Peninsula College. He took part in an anthropology symposium at the University of California-Berkeley and cheered "Ooray! Margarit! Ooray! Margarit!" when she received an honorary degree. He took part in his hostess's anthropology class. He watched the televised saga of the first man walking on the moon, which he reported in vivid detail in a long letter in Pidgin to his cross-cousin and best friend, Petrus Pomat, in the village. He was lionised at dinner parties and cocktail parties. He was a lively participant in family picnics at the beach and daytime excursions to Big Sur. He went to Yosemite Park with the Heaths and the president of Monterey Peninsula College and his family. He was the best man at the wedding of two college student friends of the Heaths.

After his six month sojourn, JK eagerly returned to Manus, where he enjoyed the added distinction of having been the only Pere world traveller. For the rest of his life he regaled the village with tales of his adventures. He reported to his



avid listeners that the house in Carmel belonged to him too, because he was the Heath's "brata tru".

JK, the man who "passionately wanted the New Way", retained his traditional belief in the importance of appropriate ceremonies for the dead. When Scott Heath died in 1974, Barbara took some of his ashes to Pere. JK fulfilled his brotherly role and organised a funeral ceremony for formal burial of the ashes, across the village square from "Margarit's house". He also arranged for a cement marker inscribed: Scott A. Heath, M.D. B. 1-1-21 D. 20-7-74

When Margaret Mead died in November 1978 Theodore Schwartz, Professor of Anthropology at University of California, San Diego, and the authors went to Pere to share in the "ndrin" (mourning ceremony) in which JK was the chief mourner. The people

**Top** JK with family 1971. **centre** Dictating a tape for Margaret Mead in 1975. **below** JK with Margaret Mead and Barbara Roll on his first visit to USA in 1969.



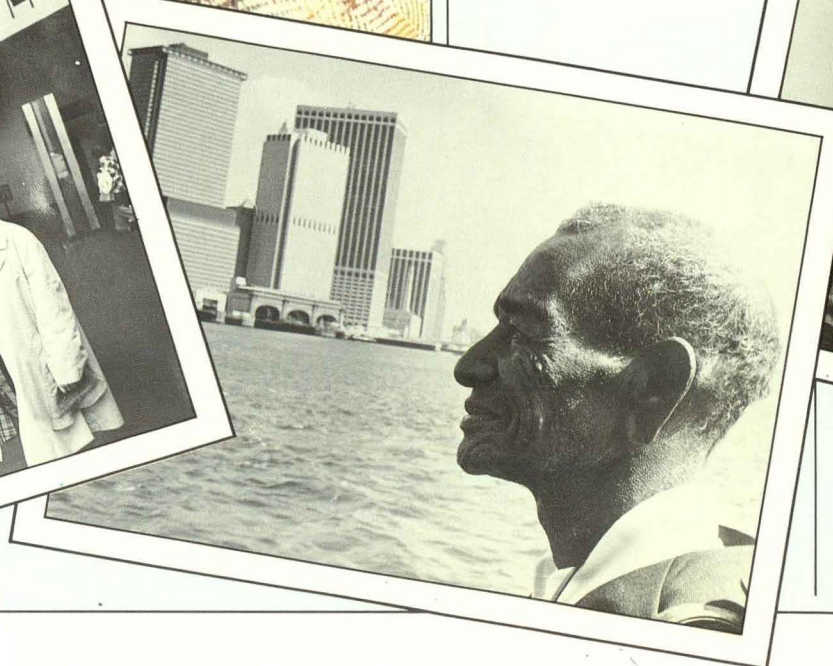


of Pere accorded Margaret the ceremonies reserved for their ancestral leaders. They now think of her as one of their ancestors. In her memory the village dignitaries planted two palm trees on the far side of the square, and named their incomplete community centre after her.

JK returned to Carmel to visit us in 1979. He particularly wanted to visit New York City, the American Museum of Natural History and the office in the tower, where Margaret worked for 50 years. During the Margaret Mead Film Festival, he addressed an audience of more than 600 in Melanesian Pidgin as a tribute to his lifelong friend, "Margarit". On behalf of the people of Pere, he presented to the American Museum of Natural History a string of 60 kina. At the Museum of the



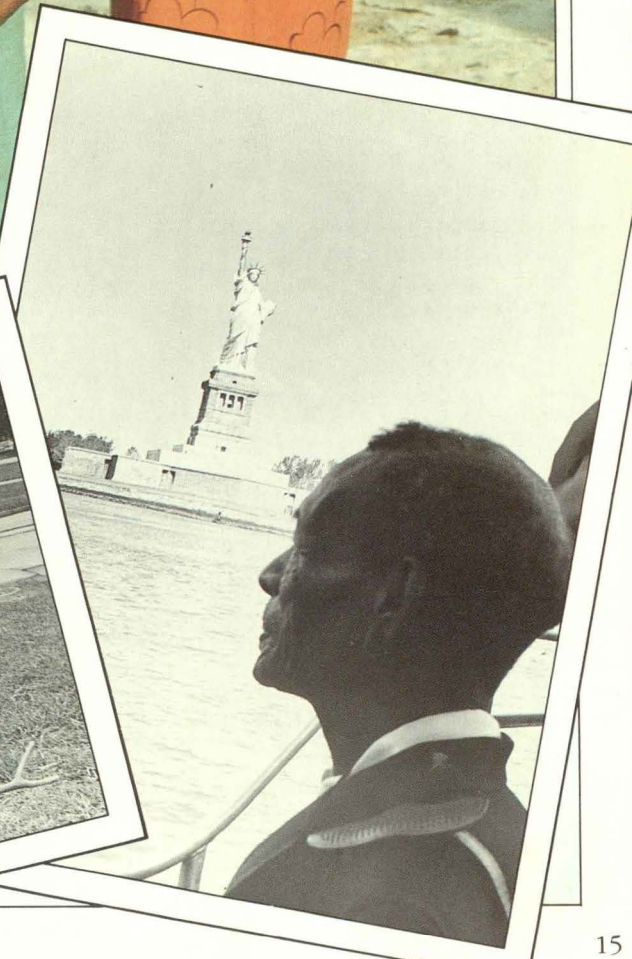
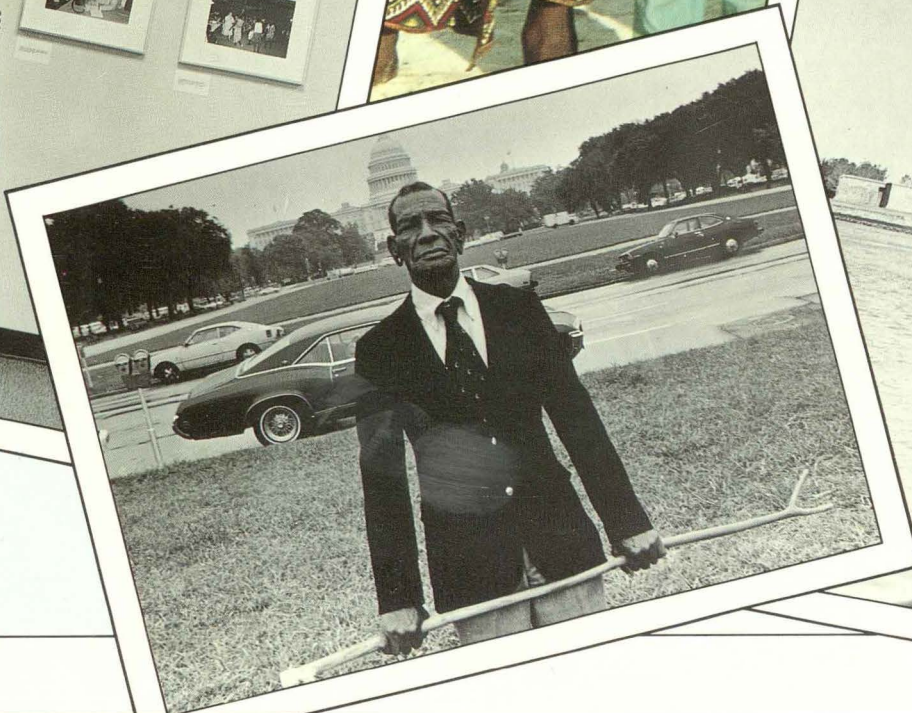
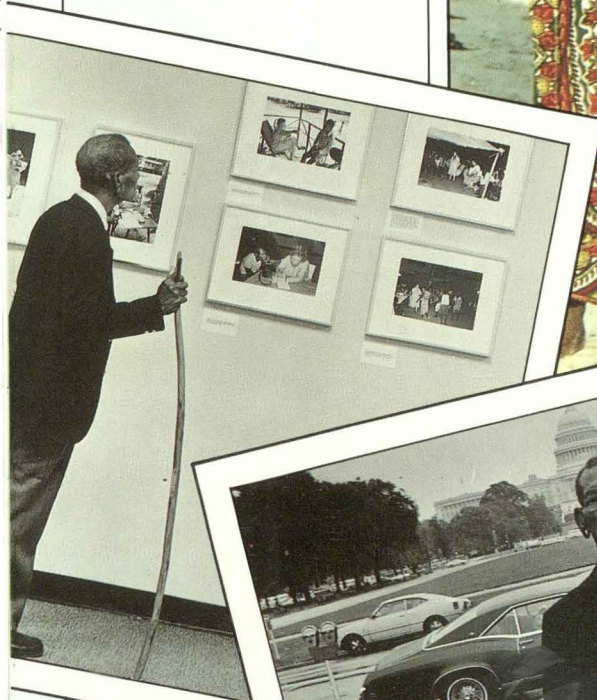
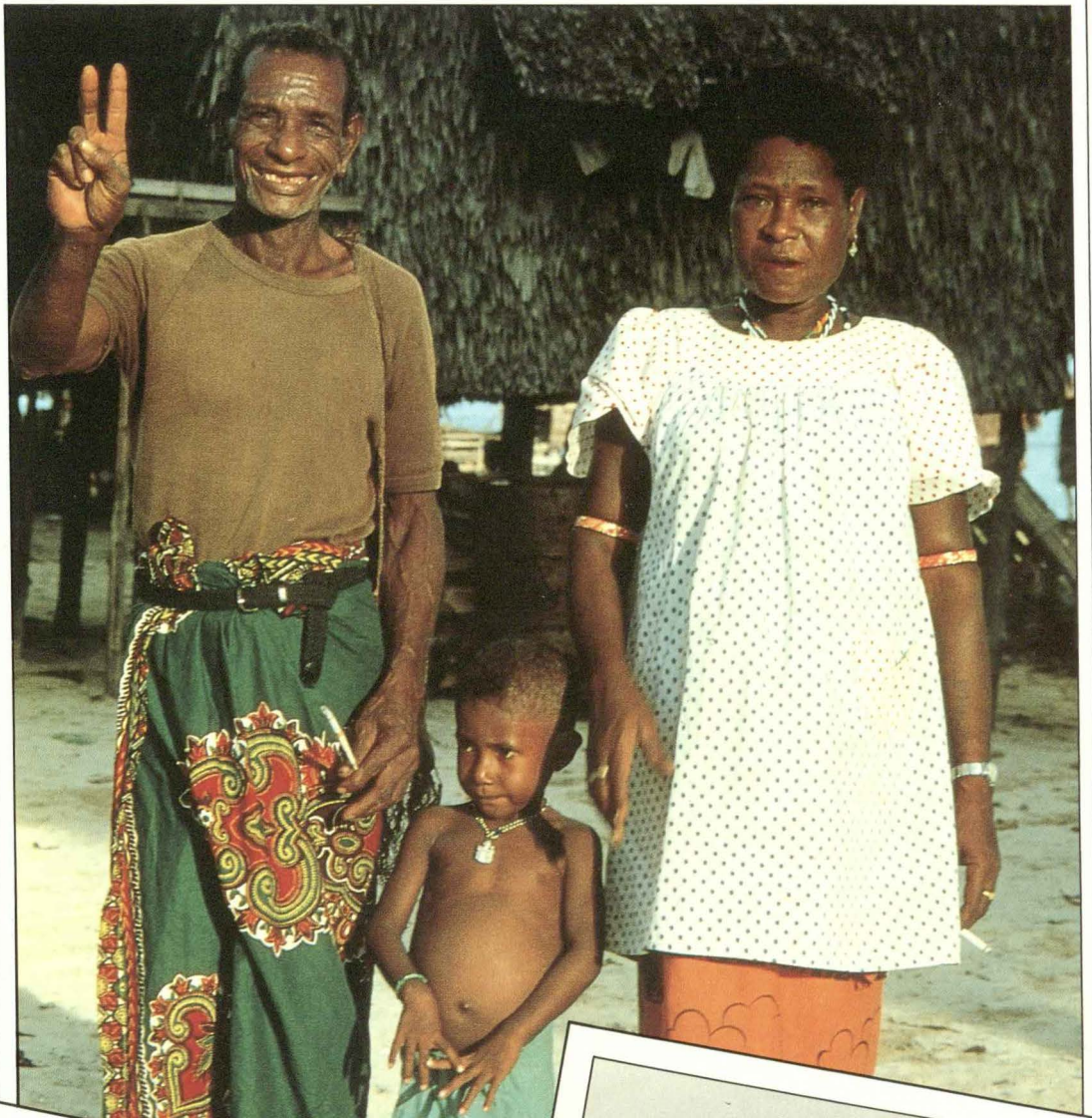
*JK was equally at home in two cultures; captaining a canoe voyage, greeting visitors to Pere Village, or taking in the sights of American museums and cities. **top right** JK with his wife Siska and adopted son Poiyo.*



University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, he reminisced to an academic audience about his association and friendship with Margaret. He also participated in a memorial symposium at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

In the course of his visits to the United States JK became a respected, admired and important figure among Margaret's peers in anthropology. Hearing of JK's death, Professor Francis Johnston sent this telex to the Council and people of Pere on behalf of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania: "Please accept our condolences at the death of John Kilepak Kosokau. His role in anthropology was an important one, and, along with many other members of Pere Village, he made your community one which will always be known throughout the world. We know that you will miss JK and we join you in mourning the loss of this great man."

The people of Pere regard



John Kilepak as the last of the great men of the culture Margaret Mead encountered in 1928. He is remembered as the man who built an enduring bridge to the Western culture with grace, insight and appreciation, while retaining an unwavering loyalty to his own people and their traditions. One of his nephews, Joe Lokes, described JK as a second father, from whom he learned about his own cultural heritage and about Margaret Mead's world. He said JK's interpretation to Margaret of life in Pere and on Manus was "true and realistic" and that, when he visited America, he demonstrated in person what he had communicated to her: "He brought Pere and Manus to the rest of the world". Joe said JK was "a very respected figure in the village, a village leader and spokesman in any ceremonies that observed ancient customs. Those of us who were closely related to him will miss him forever."

A man, a generation younger than JK, wrote to us that the village had lost "a man who has helped to plan our future lives and the lives of the new generation. With his courage he has done a great deal for us."

There has been a general outpouring of appreciation for JK's rare gift for linking the past and future through his love and respect for traditional ceremonies and values and his lifelong interest in the world beyond Manus and PNG.

John Kilepak Kisokau was a



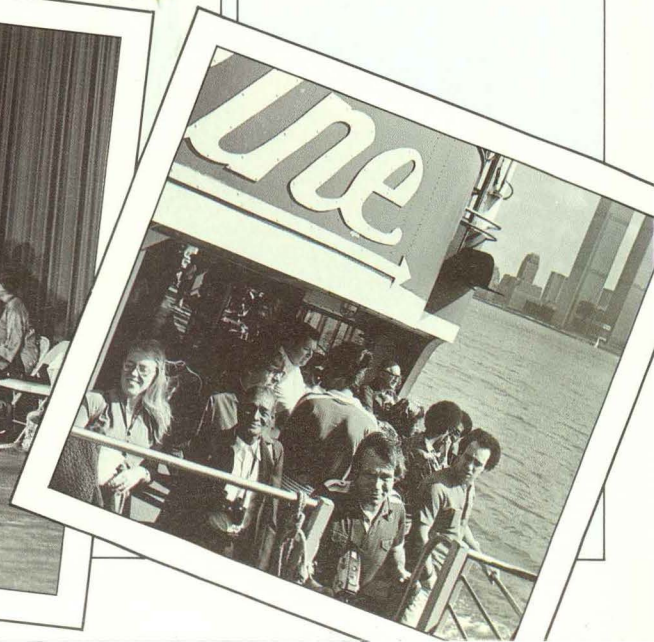
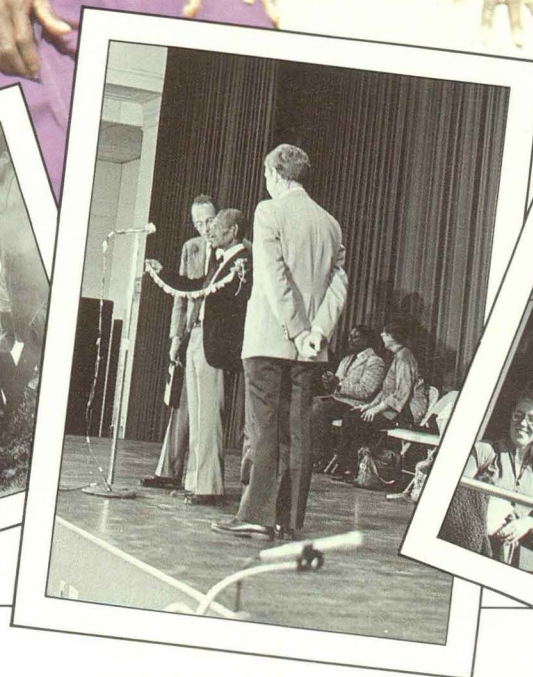
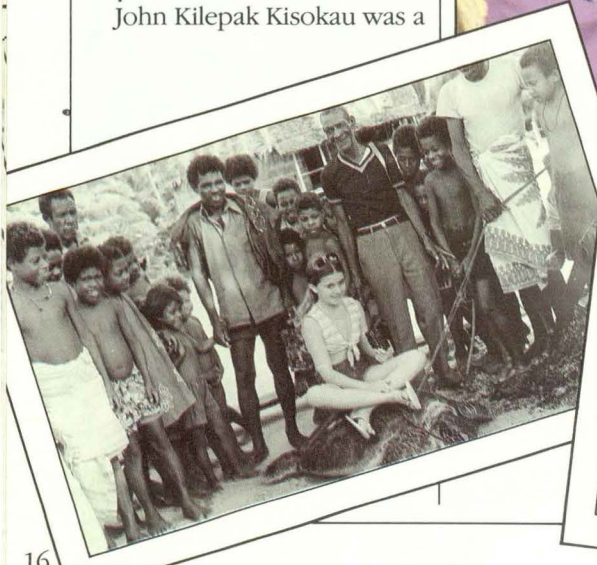
gifted man of exceptional charm. He was a charismatic presence as a public speaker in his own Titan language and in Melanesian Pidgin. His American audiences never doubted that they understood him clearly.

We, who knew him well, mourn our "brata tru". When we left Manus on May 10, 1987 we knew we were saying goodbye to our beloved brother. We felt he had somehow clung to life for this farewell. His nephew, Captain Pwendrilei Polum, stationed in Sydney, telephoned us on May 20 to tell us that JK had died that day.

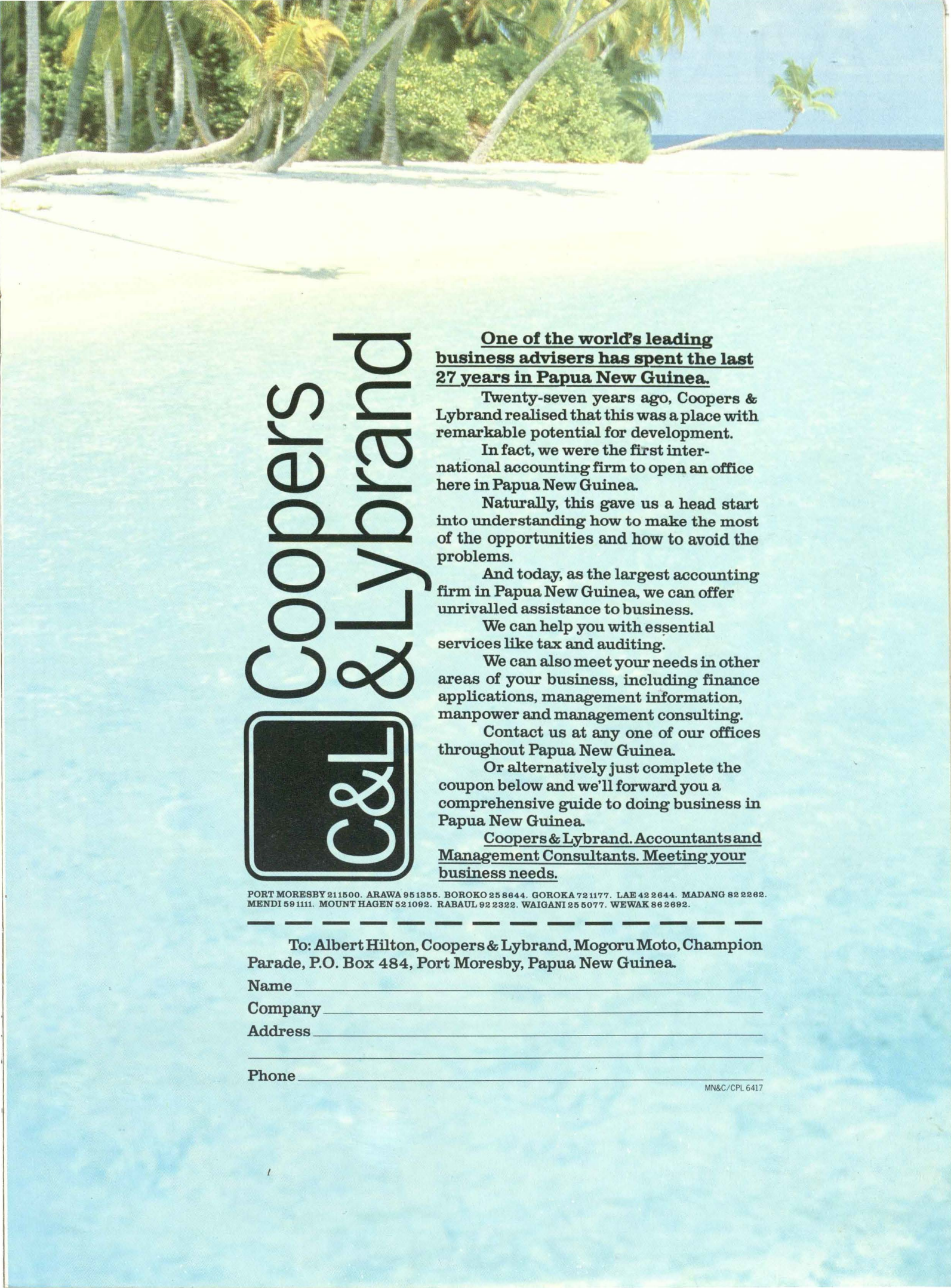
Theodore Schwartz, Professor of Anthropology at University of California, San Diego, who first went to Pere with Margaret Mead in 1953 and often returned for long visits, took part in JK's "ndrin" to represent us who loved him.

The Rolls have returned to visit Manus and Pere Village annually since 1975, the year they accompanied Margaret Mead on her seventh and last visit there.

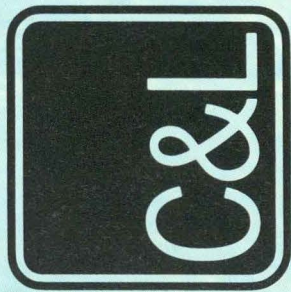
**Top** JK with his daughter Rosa in 1984. **bottom from left** With Margaret Mead's granddaughter in Pere, addressing the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, touring Manhattan.







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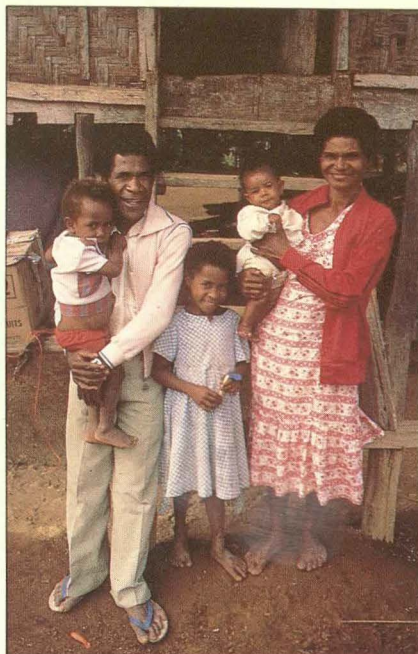
a gift

# VILLAGE PASTOR

Story and photographs by Clive Baker



Top Kagi village nestles peacefully on a hilltop in the Owen Stanley Ranges. centre Trekkers resting on the way. bottom Pastor Ray Sanana with his family.



High in the Owen Stanley Ranges, among the tall forest and intermittent mists, is Kagi – one of the most delightful villages, inhabited by some of the friendliest people I have met in Papua New Guinea.

The first time I met Kagi's pastor, Ray Sanana, a group of us had just arrived exhausted at the village rest house, after gruelling days walking the Kokoda Trail.

While we sat relaxing on the relative comfort of the floor, a small child walked in and placed a large bowl of cooked food at our feet. Without a word she was gone, leaving us wondering at the identity of the mysterious benefactor. After the dehydrated food diet of the previous days, these fresh vegetables were eaten with gusto.

Hours later, at the end of his long day's work, Ray Sanana was able to join us and we finally found who to thank. He refused payment, telling us that we were village guests. The food was his gift to us, so we made a donation to his Seventh Day Adventist Church Fund. His wife was given small gifts to repay her kindness and good cooking.

Over the years since that day, Ray has greeted us like long-lost relatives, when we have returned to Kagi.

An invitation to dinner in his kunai house is one of the highlights of any trip. There is usually a gathering of village elders, all keen to question visitors about their homelands, occupations and families.

Ray's children will not go to bed while strangers occupy their house. They stand in the

doorway, following every word and action.

At these meals our camping snacks are shared around. Elders and children try Australian coffee, muesli bars and chocolate.

Although he is the village pastor, Ray still tends his own gardens to grow enough food to keep his family. Time is always found for the daily church service and at sunrise the sound of his bell can be heard ringing across the valley. This bell is an old metal gas bottle. When struck, its piercing clang can be heard by even the most distant of the faithful.

Kagi played its part in the 1942 Kokoda Campaign of World War II. Many of its old men were carriers for the Australian soldiers and, from the vantage point of this hilltop village, observers kept watch over many kilometres of the surrounding wild countryside.

On the edge of the same hill today, Ray's kunai grass church sits beside a beautiful lookout. Through open windows, worshippers can see almost to Port Moresby.

Unfortunately, trekking timetables allow only fleeting contact with Ray Sanana and his family, but, over a long period, strong friendships have been forged with them and their fellow villagers.

Trekkers who pass through Kagi and other villages, never taking the trouble to meet the people, deprive themselves of a warming and memorable encounter with the Kagi pastor and the hospitable people of the Kokoda Trail.

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A section of the Rouna 3 water pipeline near Port Moresby. External surfaces treated with Amerlock 400 high build epoxy mastic applied in two coats to 250 micron dry film thickness.



# PNG'S FLYING MAMMALS

Story and photographs by Terry Reardon and Steve Donellan

**M**illions of bats take to the sky over Papua New Guinea every night yet their lives have remained mysterious and elusive. Zoologists know little of each species' life

history, ecology, distribution and status and surprisingly, are not yet certain of which species occur in PNG. Recent scientific expeditions conducted by teams from the South Australian Museum, the Australian

Museum, University of New South Wales, the Western Australian Museum and the Wildlife Division of PNG have collected specimens for identification by biologists.

Bats are fascinating mammals. The great 18th Century naturalist Linnaeus, in his original classification system of the Animal Kingdom, grouped bats with primates (man and monkeys) on the basis of intelligence. Bats were placed in their own group by later biologists but mounting evidence suggests bats are indeed closely related to primates. Biologists now classify bats in the order Chiroptera which means "hard wing" reflecting the manner in which the bones of each hand support the wing membranes.

Western culture has a general abhorrence of bats that grew from myths of vampires and witches' brews and from a common view that these small creatures are dirty and carry diseases. This prejudice is not universal - as the use of a bat logo on the Bacardi Rum bottle label would indicate. In China the bat is considered a symbol of good luck.

More than 900 species of bats are distributed throughout the world. These are divided into two major groups: the Megachiroptera in to which large fruit bats and small blossom bats belong, and the Microchiroptera containing the insect-eating bats. To date, 90 bat species have been recognised in PNG, making them the largest group of the terrestrial mammals in the country, overshadowing the 50 marsupial and 60 rodent species. Both groups of bats are represented in PNG and the diversity of form and habit is striking.

There are two main reasons why so little is known about PNG bats. Firstly, bats are not easy to capture and some species are particularly difficult.

Two common methods for catching bats are mist nets and harp traps. Mist nets, which resemble super-fine fish nets, are stretched across creeks or rivers, roads or gaps in forest vegetation. With ingenuity, they can be hoisted high into the forest canopy or across entrances to caves. Bats, following their usual

flight paths, will fly unsuspecting into these nets, becoming entangled.

Harp traps are two-metre-square frames with light nylon fishing lines stretched vertically between horizontal bars. Traps are placed in similar places to the mist nets so bats are stopped in mid flight and slide down the nylon line into a plastic lined canvas bag suspended underneath. The bag is constructed so that the bat cannot escape.

Both methods ensure bats are caught but not injured. Measurements and observations are made, then the bats are promptly released although a small proportion of specimens are retained for laboratory examination.

Most bat species which fly within the forest canopy are caught easily by either of these two methods. Others, however, hunt their prey above the forest - sometimes up to two kilometres high. Other species can be caught in traps but not nets. In fact some species today may be considered rare solely because they are difficult to catch and study.

The second reason for our current poor state of knowledge about the bats of PNG is because most nocturnal mammals are difficult to observe in the wild. Ones that fly are that much more so.

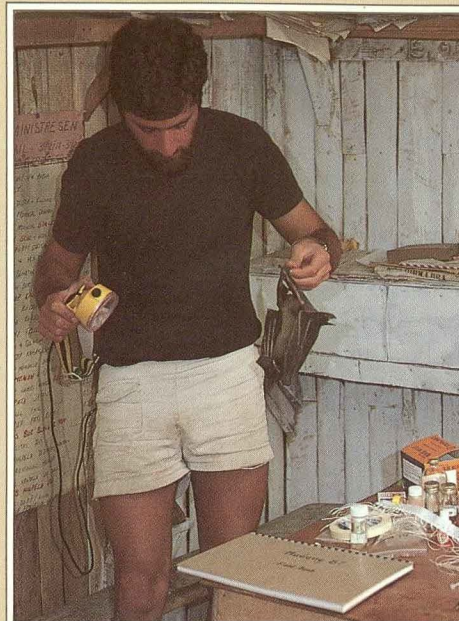
Perhaps the most conspicuous of Papua New Guinean bats are the large 'blak boks' (flying foxes). Some species reach a wing span of 1.5 metres. Principally fruit and blossom feeders, they are often sought by man for food. Many species are colonial, some totalling more than 100,000 individuals, such as that living in the tall she-oaks in the centre of Madang.

Although flying foxes sleep for most of the day, colonies are characterised by raucous screeches from quarrelsome individuals who are in dispute over places to roost in the trees. In the evening, the colony leaves its day roosts to fly to favored food haunts. The continuous stream of black silhouettes outlined against the twilight sky, is an unforgettable experience.

Closely related to the flying foxes and also members of the Megachiroptera, small nectar-



**Previous page** Bare-backed fruit bat. **top** Southern blossom bat feeding on nectar. **bottom** Steve Donellan in makeshift laboratory, Tep Tep.



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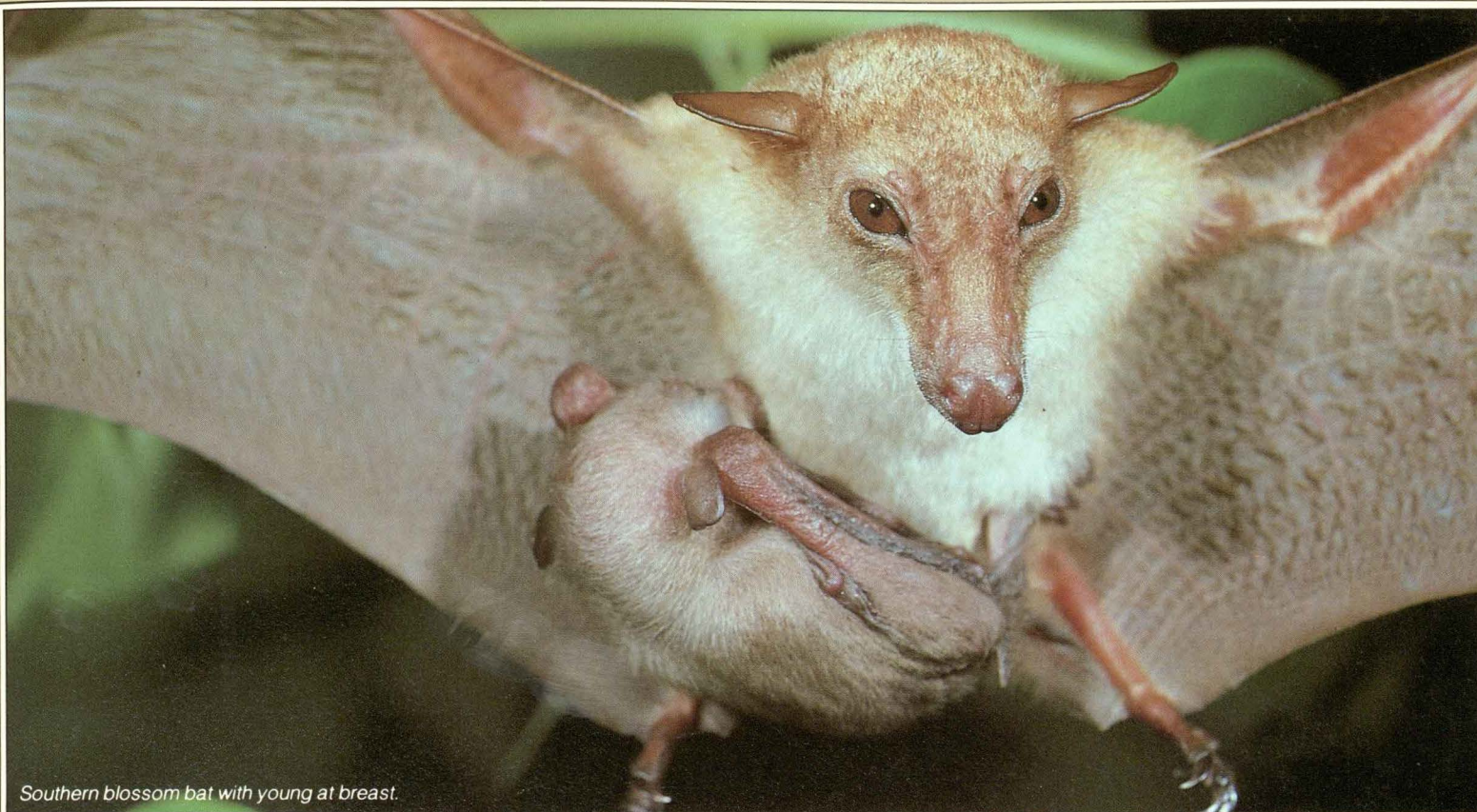
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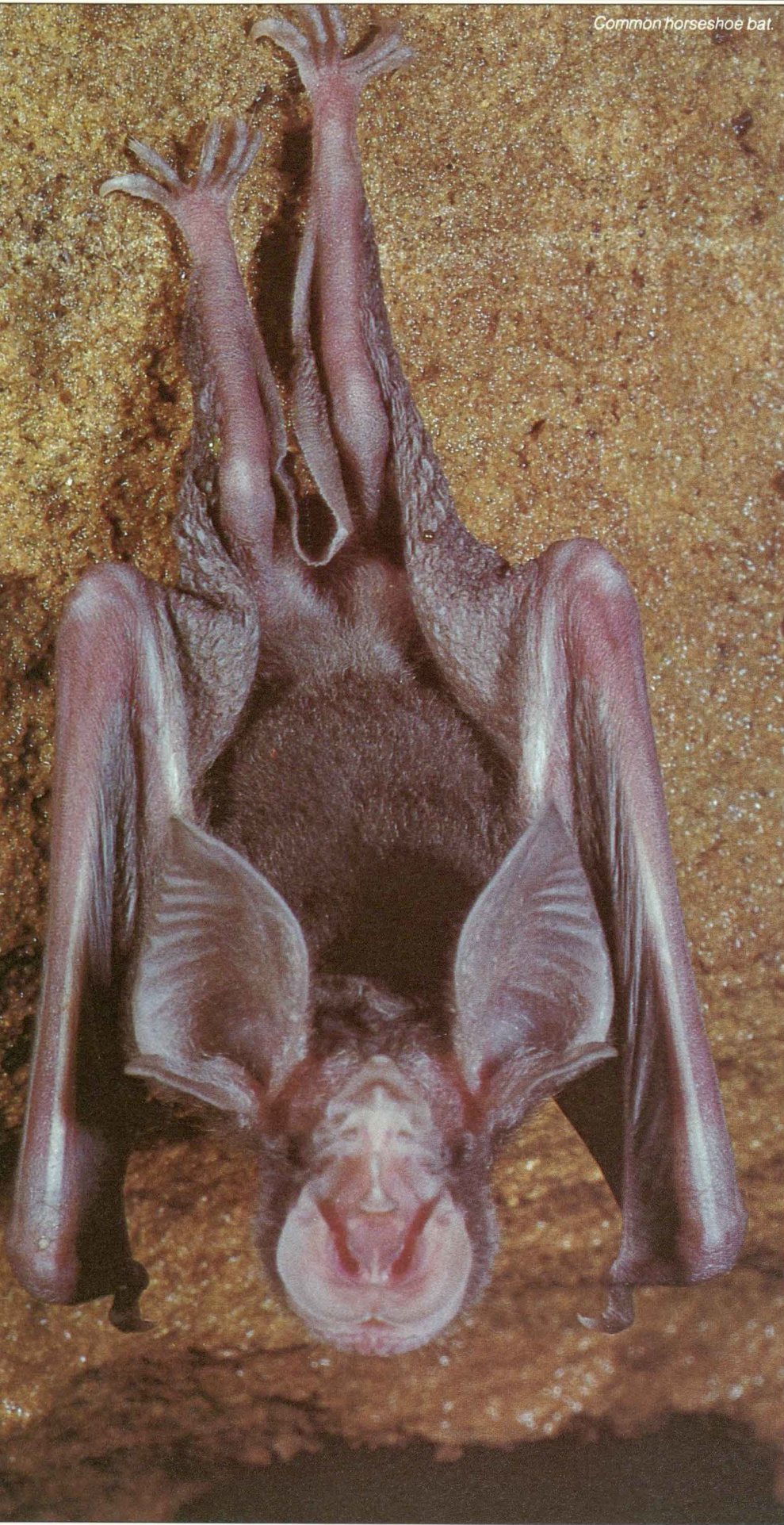


*Common horseshoe bats roosting in a cave.*



*Southern blossom bat with young at breast.*

*Common horseshoe bat.*



feeding bats are among the most abundant in Papua New Guinean forests. Yet the most elusive for observers, Blossom feeders, have long narrow snouts with high protruding tongues that have stiff bristles on the upper surface. These bats alight on a flower and lick out the nectar. Many plants in PNG have flowers which open only at night – undoubtedly adapted for pollination by the blossom bats.

Among the more attractive of the Megachiropteran species are the tube-nosed bats which are distinguished by their long tube-shaped nostrils. Patches of yellow and white on exposed skin and dark fur stripes render them attractive. As species usually roost in open foliage by day, colored skin markings make ideal camouflage.

The most bizarre forms of bats occur in the insectivorous Microchiropteran bats of which there are five families in PNG. Many are cave-dwelling, while others roost in hollow trees or man-made dwellings. These bats use echolocation or sonar for navigation in the dense forests and to detect flying insects.

In a rough estimate, PNG bats consume about 70 tonnes of insects per night and so play a vital role in the local ecosystem. They especially are important in human ecology as disease-bearing mosquitoes are among their major food items.

The 'evening bat' family is the most typical insectivorous species. They are without the elaboration of form that occurs in other families and are usually quite small (around the size of a mouse or less). Colonies of several thousand congregate in caves and up to eight species may inhabit the same area. One member of this family, the large-footed bat, best exemplifies the resolving power of bat sonar. This species preys not only on insects, but also on small fish, detected by the ripples on the water surface. While flying low, the bat rakes the water surface with the claws on its large feet and snatches the fish from the water.

Members of the 'horseshoe bat' family are perhaps the most distinctive. Their faces are adorned



**Top** Large footed bat, which is an occasional fish catcher. **bottom** Hare-lipped blossom bat.



by ornate fleshy appendages called nose-leaves and each species has its own unique design. The noseleaf is thought to be part of the species' echo-location signal. These bats are often small and delicate and do not survive long in captivity. "Busy" creatures, their heads move to and fro and their ears constantly twitch. As well as exotic forms of the noseleaf, this family includes some of the most spectacularly colored of all PNG bats.

Scientific study in the bats is at two levels. The first is to establish which species exist in PNG and this knowledge will form the basis for further studies in ecology and management practices for conservation.

The second objective is to determine the evolutionary relationships among the bats so as to answer the vexing question of whether the Megachiroptera and the Microchiroptera have a common ancestor, or whether flight in mammals has twice evolved independently.

Such events in evolution are not without parallel. In their long evolutionary history mammals have twice taken to the sea. The immediate ancestors of seals are the canine family, which include lions and dogs, while whale and dolphins have evolved from the ungulates, hooved mammals like gazelle and deer.

Genetic techniques have developed that can provide unequivocal answers to these studies. If these techniques indicate the two bat groups are independently evolved, the fruit bats of PNG will be of particular interest, because biogeographers suggest that modern fruit-bats first arose in this region.

Terry Reardon and Steve Donellan are scientists at the Evolutionary Biology Unit, South Australian Museum.

Their expedition in 1988 which studied bats in Madang Province was supported by Air Niugini and the Christensen Research Institute.

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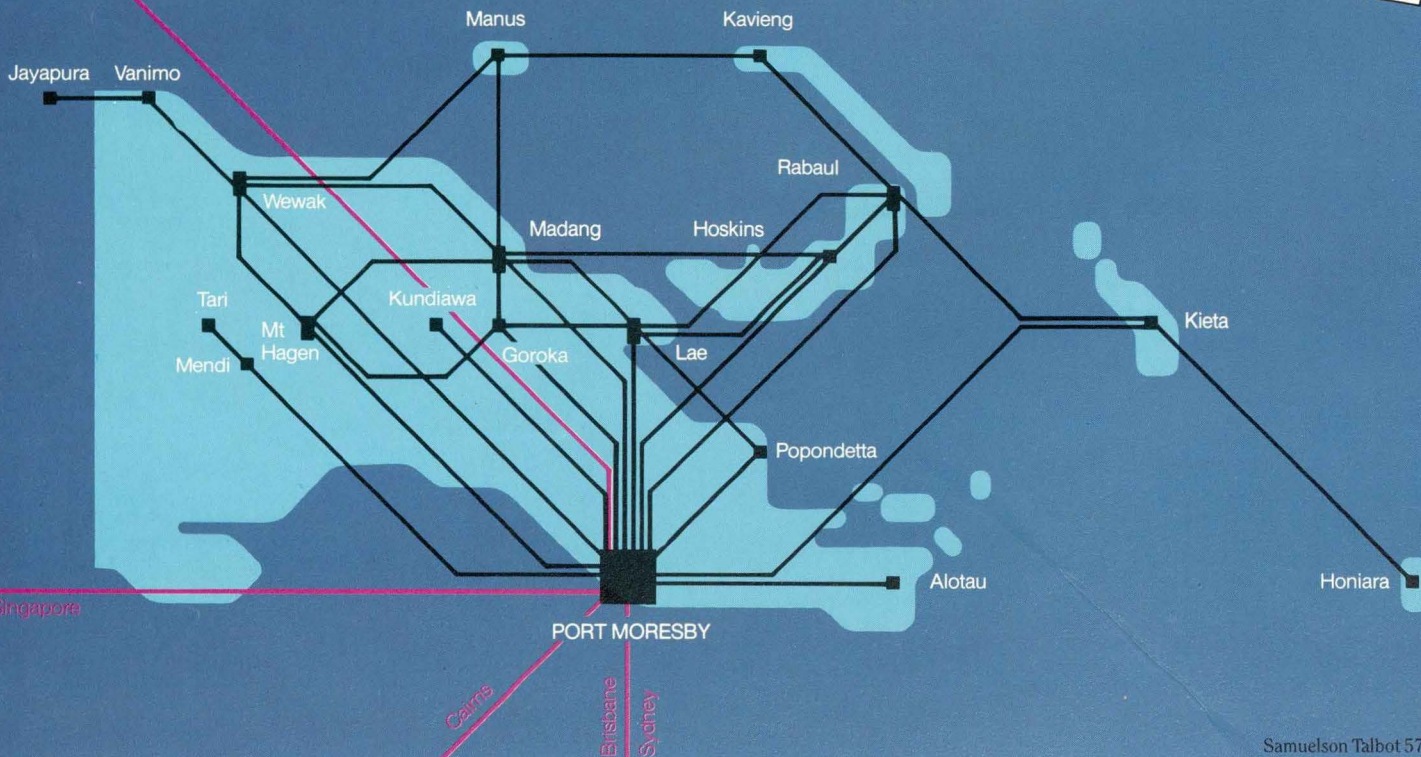
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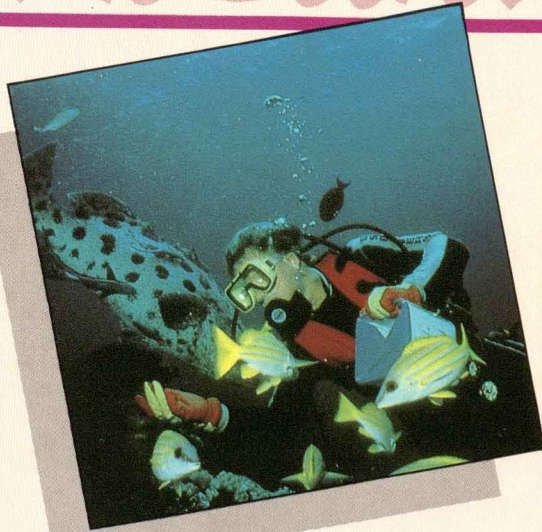
# CAIRNS

## *the secret is out*

Story by Desmond Zwar

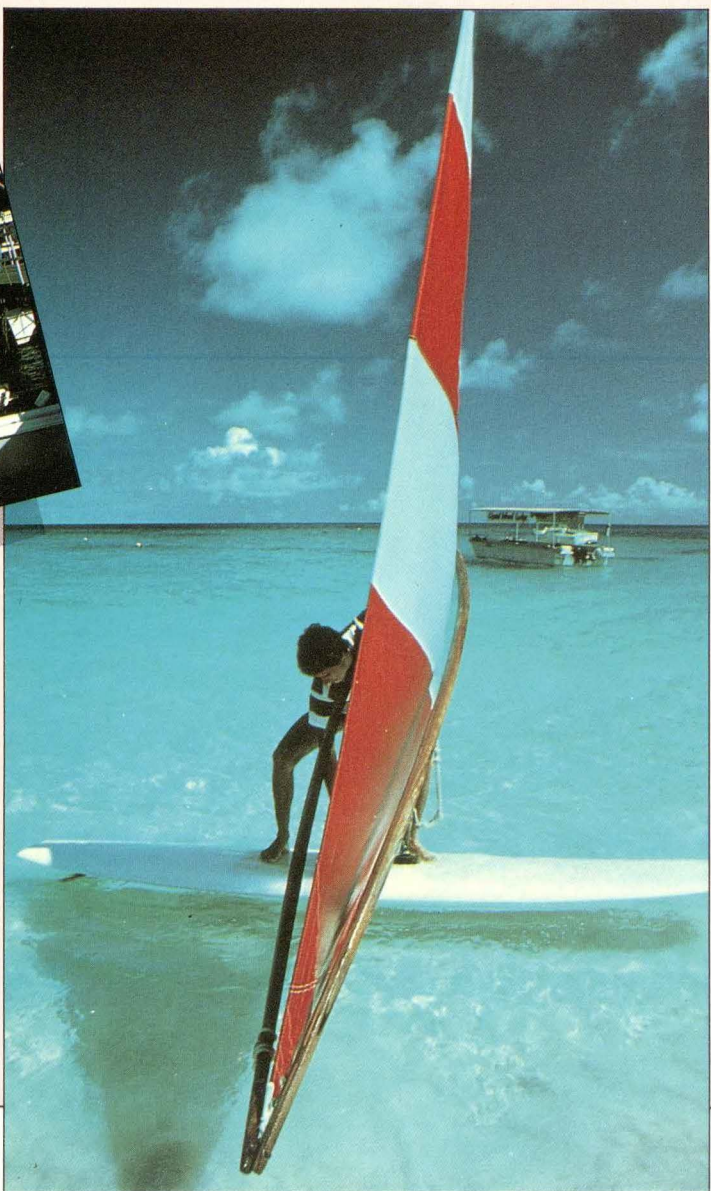
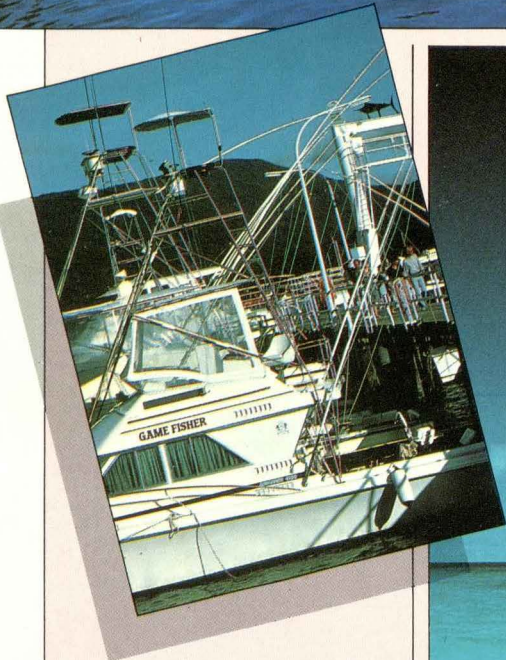
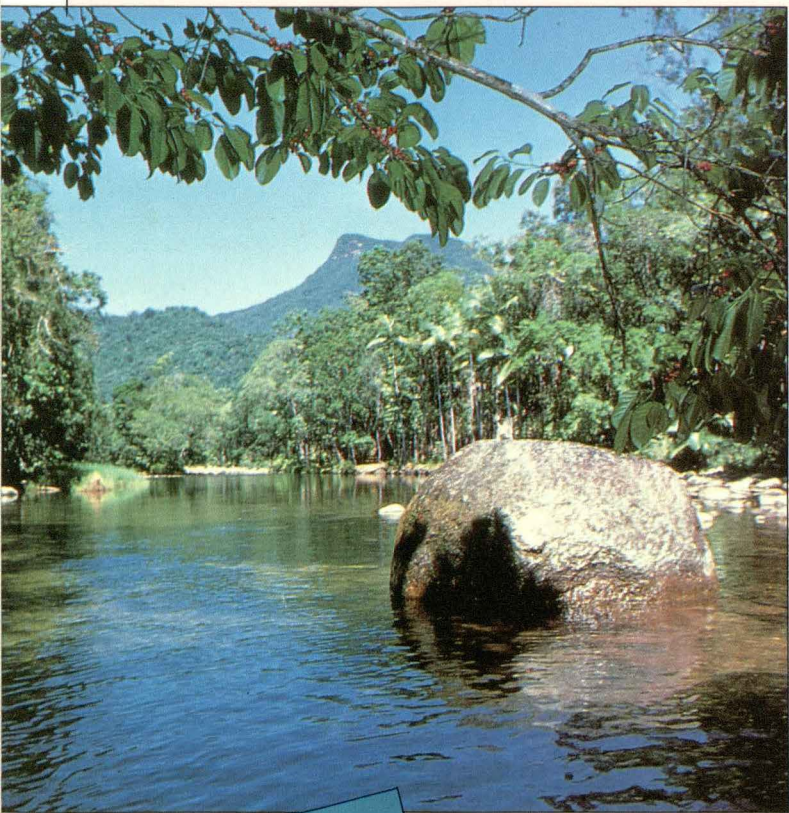
Since the upgrading of Cairns Airport to international status in 1984, overseas and Australian visitors have flocked to the city, seeking the delights of its beautiful weather and fascinating scenery.

Tourism associations in the Far North in conjunction with forward thinking entrepreneurs, have drawn on past experience to develop one of



**Inset** Cairns' fluorescent sea life. **below** Hides Hotel in the city centre.



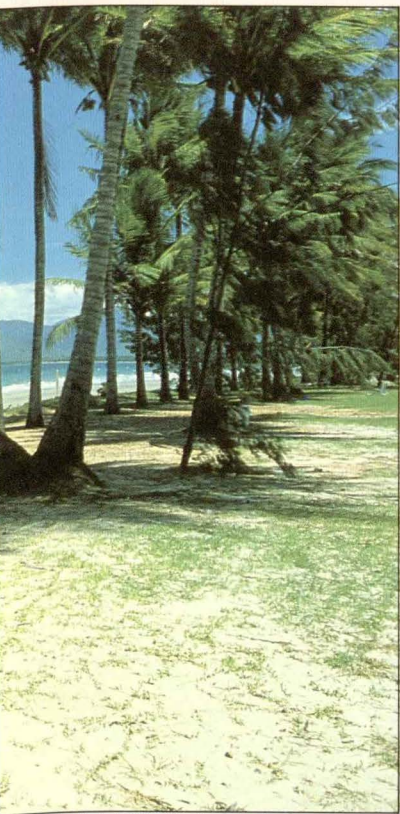


Plenty to see and plenty to do in beautiful tropical surrounds have made Cairns and Far North Queensland a popular tourist destination. **inset, far right** An artist's drawing of the new Cairns Parkroyal hotel.

the best-planned tourism destinations in Australia. The result is \$135 million worth of projects under construction and \$200 million worth committed, each designed to cater for the influx of tourists.

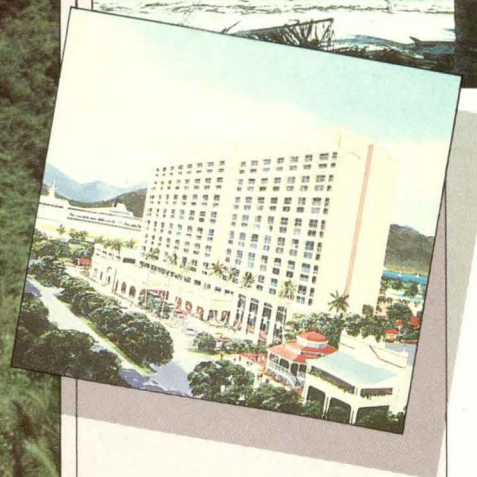
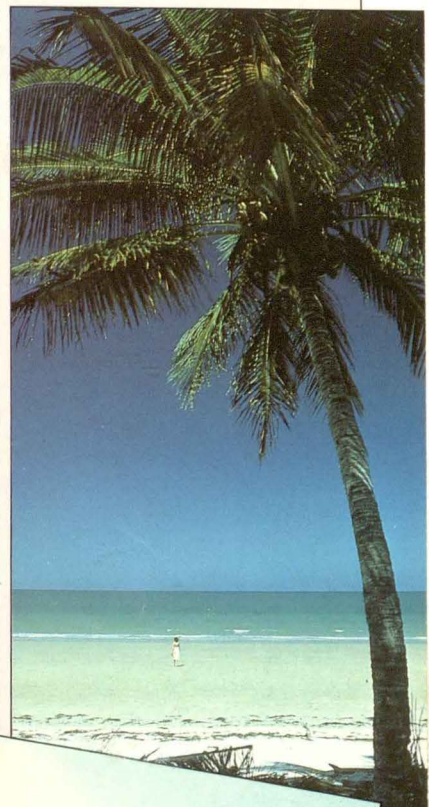
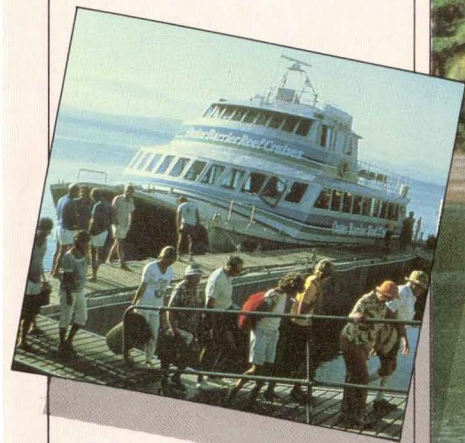
Town and country councillors, who only a few years ago agonised over the wisdom of a three-storey beachside house worth \$60,000, are meeting with developers talking in terms of spending \$250 million. As if to illustrate the change to our lives this interest has brought, I was crossing Abbott Street in the city one recent night and was motioned across by the driver of a white Mercedes stretch limousine, who had stopped in front of a green Rolls-Royce, followed by a pretty girl pedalling her passenger in a pedi-cab. They were on their way to our new Hilton Hotel.

When I arrived in Cairns 16 years ago, the choice of accommodation was Hides Hotel, in the centre of the city, or a couple of those "new-fangled" places you could drive your car into: motels. Now Cairns has a Hilton (with talk of a casino), a Sheraton and the Four Seasons Barrier



Reef Resort, offshore between Cairns and Townsville, to name a few of the top-class accommodation facilities.

Before I arrived in Cairns, a friend advised: "When you come, bring your cheque book. Now is the time to buy." I spent \$32,000 on a house with 0.3 hectares of trees, lawns and a pool high on a hill. Four years later a British friend confided that he'd spent a colossal \$41,000 on a cane farm. Everybody said he was suffering from the heat. The cane farmer who had unloaded this property, face wreathed in smiles, settled on the other side of the road and spent



some of his bonanza on a red-brick cottage. His smile disappeared recently when the Englishman sold his cane farm to a Japanese buyer for \$19 million.

The population of Cairns and its surrounding Mulgrave shire has increased 25 per cent in the past five years. What is it like living in this rapidly expanding city of 85,000-100,000 people (depending on the time of year you choose)? Robin Price, who owns one of the leading real estate businesses, said: "There is nothing more relaxing after work than sitting on the beach with a glass of wine in hand as the sun goes down behind the purple mountains. Here we have peace, and I wouldn't change it for anywhere else in

the world. What we have here is unspoiled and unique, with local councils who care about architecture and the environment."

Two of the biggest and most eye-catching changes to the northern skyline lately have been the Hilton, with its graceful, curved elegance overlooking the Cairns waterfront, and the Ramada Reef Resort at Palm Cove, 26 kms away. The owners of the 2.5 hectares Ramada site had bought a piece of beachfront land crowded with lovely trees, including some huge melaleucas nearly 700 years old. Peter Jans, a Cairns solicitor and managing director of the resort, informed applicant architects and builders: "Not a tree is to be touched." Men used to the magic of a bulldozer blade were astonished, particularly when Jans informed them he had put a \$10,000 'fine' on any tree or sapling that was damaged from day one to handover. The 200-room resort went up, inside the copse of trees, and the swamp - life-blood for thirsty trees - was retained and kept viable with an intricate system of pumps.

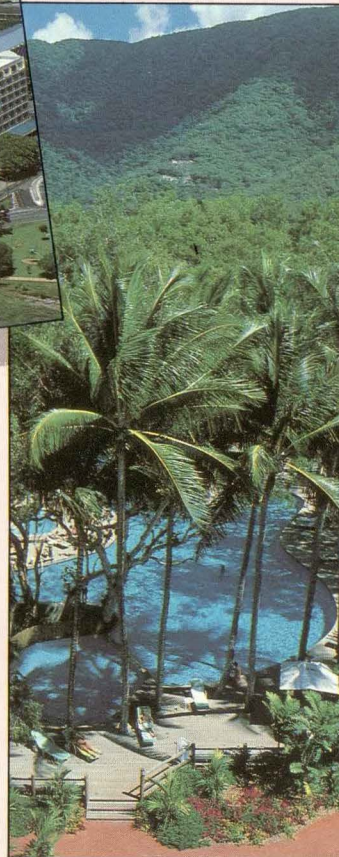
This attitude is reflected in Cairns' new architecture: lattice-work is being used almost as a theme and its breezy simplicity works. Streets are being paved and shopping centres are being built in the colonial style of yesteryear.

Despite its new development, Cairns remains a relaxed and informal city. Accommodation ranges from luxury resort hotels to economical family units for the budget conscious. Cosmopolitan Cairns also has a wide selection of quality restaurants with fresh seafood as a specialty of the region. Shopping centres have world-class facilities and one, Trinity Wharf, has Cairns' first escalator.

West of Cairns is the expansive Atherton Tableland with its rainforest and lush cultivated fields, commercial flower gardens and deep



*Tourists see cane fields being burned off, beautiful wildlife and scenery while enjoying top accommodation in modern hotels.*



crater lakes. Tinaroo Dam, the Millaa Millaa Falls and the Nerada tea plantation are popular spots for visitors.

Visitors to the region also can see the wonderful colors of the Great Barrier Reef, the beautiful coastline and true virgin rainforest.

The region has some of the world's most idyllic island hideaways and coral cays - Lizard, Dunk, Fitzroy, Green and Bedarra, each with fine white sandy beaches and crystal-clear, turquoise waters. It is home to the tallest peak in Queensland, Mt Bartle Frere, and has a dozen national parks as well as flora and fauna reserves.

Tourist facilities have grown in response to the interest of our visitors. If a traveller wants to lie in the sun on a sun baked beach, that is fine. If another wants a fun-packed, activity-filled holiday, there are loads of places to see and things to do. Cairns and its surrounding area can cater for every interest.

Locals like myself are eager that our many visitors enjoy their stay and come back time and time again, but we are equally vigilant that the friendly laid back atmosphere which attracted me to Cairns 16 years ago remains unchanged.

Photographs supplied by the Far North Queensland Promotion Bureau.

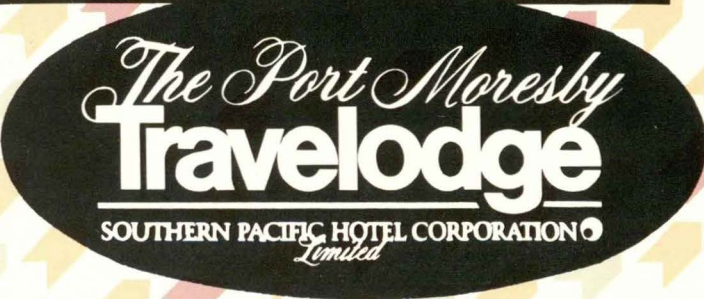
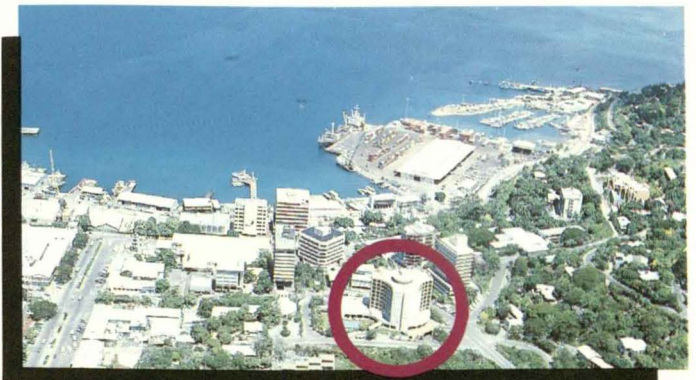
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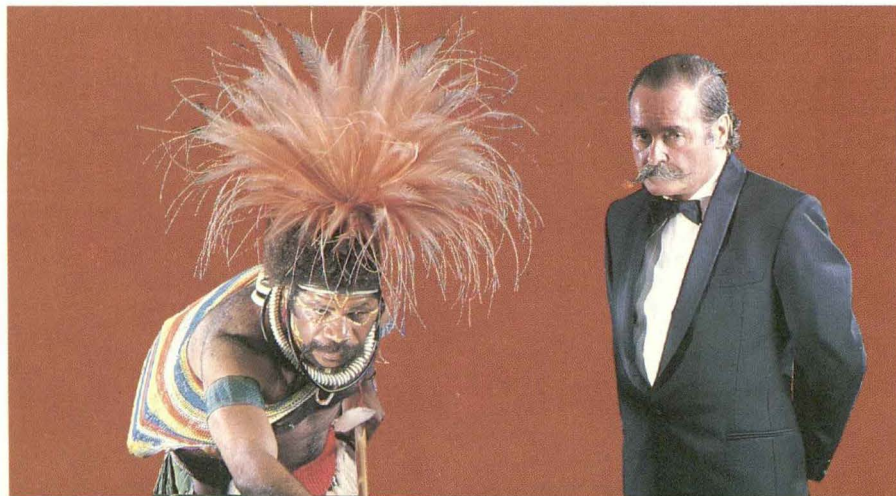


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Right Snake River Valley. below left  
Guavas for sale, Bulolo market.  
below right Aseti family.

# Striking it rich in Bulolo

Story by Michael Gebicki

Bulolo, which once attracted eager travelers in search of gold, has struck it rich again with a new source of temptation for those wanting a life of comfort. Although open since the 1950s, Pine Lodge bears little resemblance to its former self. The same company that busily dredged the Bulolo Valley for gold also built Pine Lodge but allowed it to deteriorate badly after dredging ended in the mid-sixties. When manager, Brian Riches arrived four years ago, the garden shade had run riot,



Photographs by Michael Gebicki and Wendy Stone



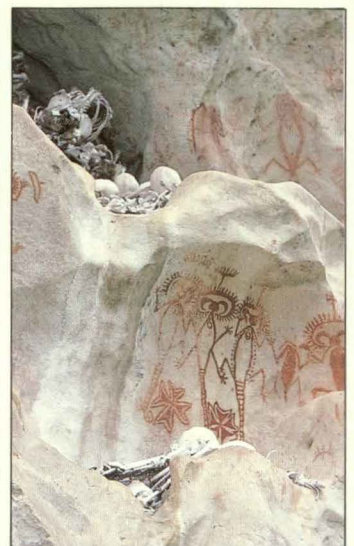
roofs leaked and the dining room fly-wire was peeling from the window frames. Brian remembers one night when a guest's bed fell through the rotted floorboards.

Recently the lodge was bought by Melanesian Tourist Services who wrought many changes.

Set on a ridge above the township of Bulolo, Pine Lodge now has two rows of neat green wooden bungalows, each divided into two units, separated by an avenue of flame-of-the-forest trees. It is probably the only hotel in the world with an aviary outside each room, filled with colorful eclectus parrots or fabulous birds of paradise.

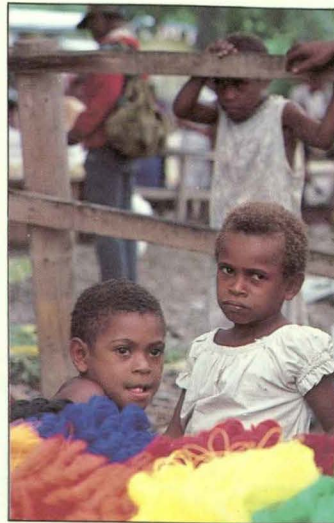
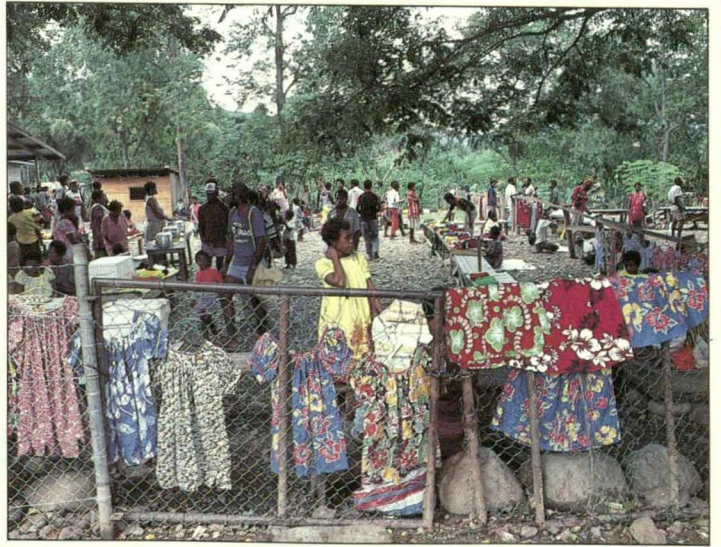
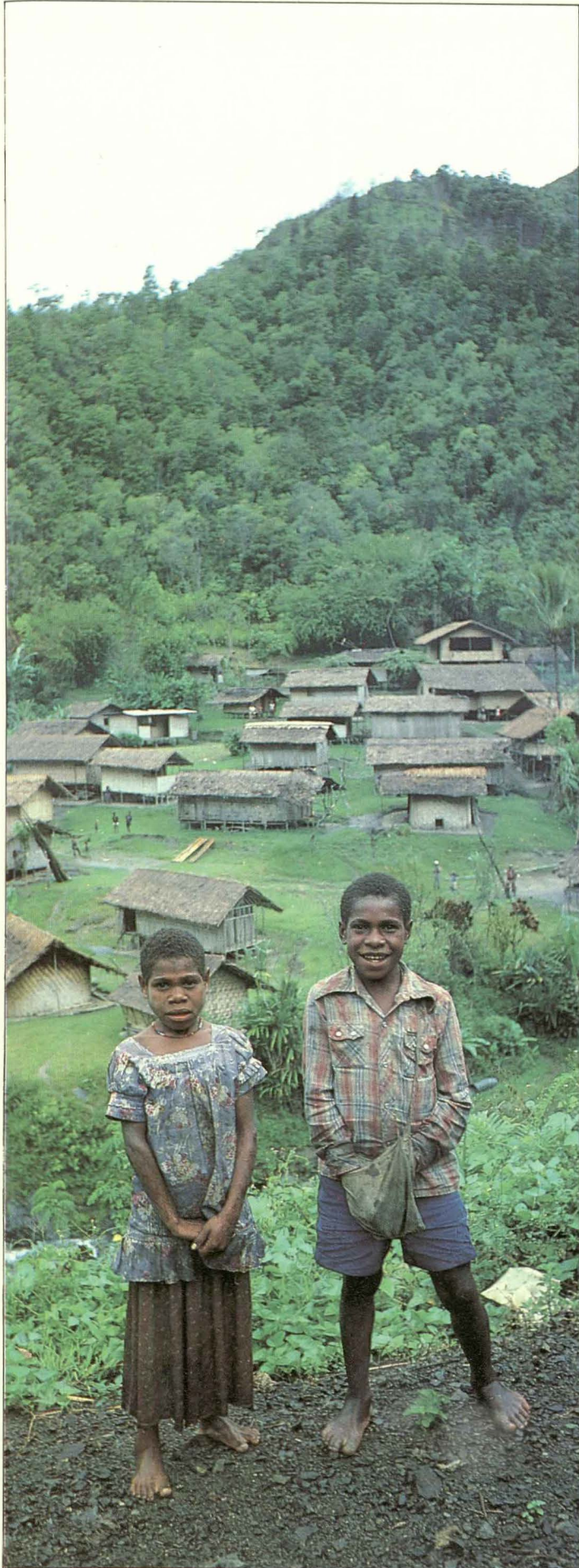
Each of Pine Lodge's 14 spacious units is comfortably furnished with a single as well as queen sized bed, an ensuite bathroom, refrigerator, tea and coffee-making facilities and overhead fan. A sliding picture window opens on a large balcony with views across the cool, moist landscape of the Bulolo Valley. At almost 1,000 metres, the air is a welcome relief from the clammy heat of the coast - invigorating but still warm enough for an early morning dip in the lodge's pool.

Days at Pine Lodge are spent in four-wheel-drive vehicles, in the care of knowledgeable local guides, exploring the misty mountain valleys and secluded villages of the area. This is not the Papua



Wendy Stone

Wendy Stone



New Guinea of plumed tribesmen and full-blooded singsings, but the diversity of its tribal cultures, scenery, history, bird and insect life makes a visit to Bulolo an important part of any traveller's itinerary.

Bulolo is located in Morobe Province, one of the last areas of PNG to be opened to the outside world. The upland valleys of this region were the home of the fierce Kukukuku tribesmen, the short, stocky warriors whose lightning raids spread terror through the lowland villages. It was only when gold was discovered along the Bulolo and the Upper Watut Valleys in the 1920s that the first white men came, followed by government patrol officers bringing semblance of order.

The first prospectors to arrive and survive the arrows of the Kukukuku made

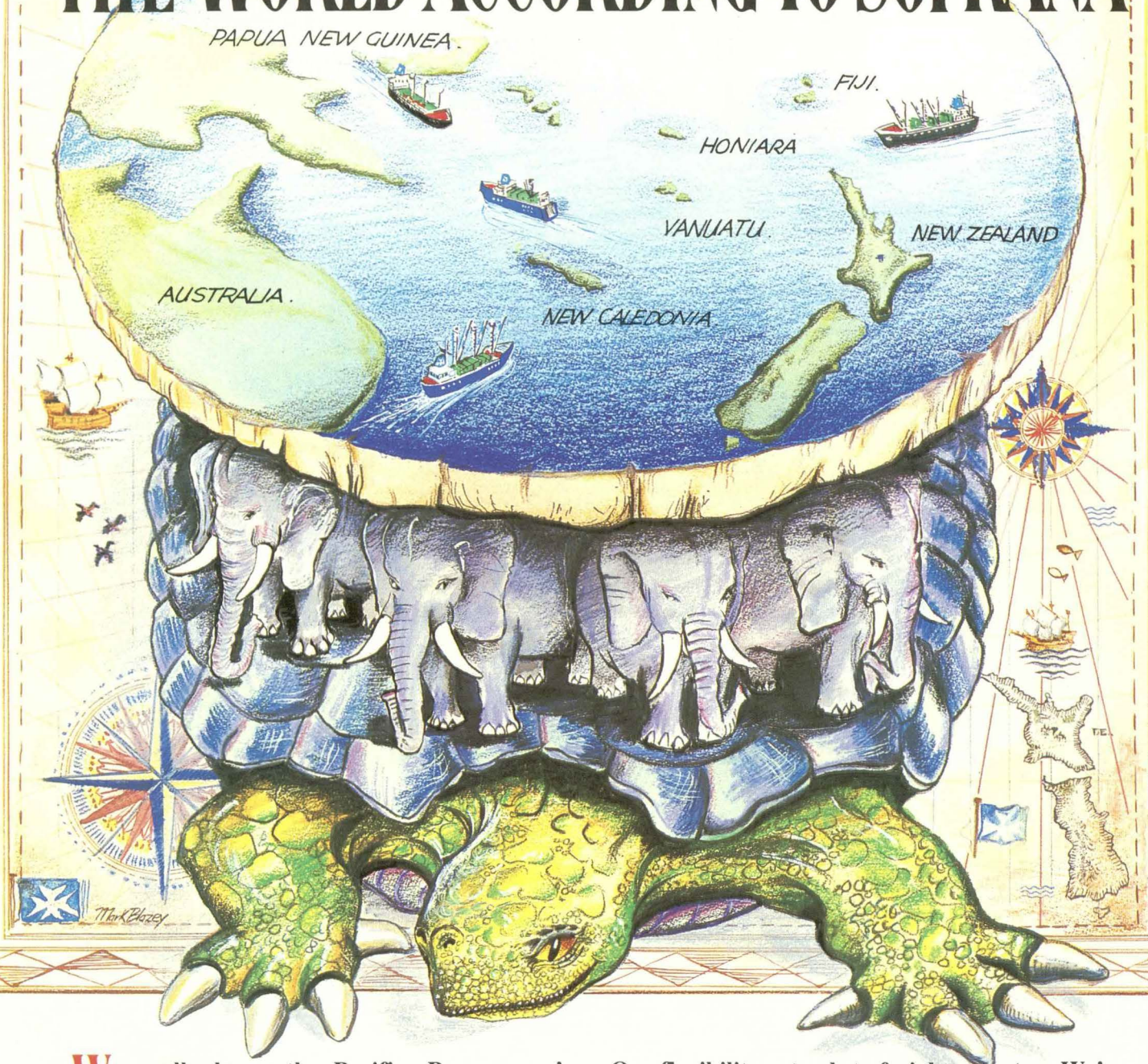
legendary fortunes. Along some parts of Edie Creek, a cubic yard of river gravel yielded 50 ounces of gold – worth about 15,000 kina at today's prices. But the greatest fortune was extracted by the gold dredges, the clanking mechanical juggernauts that scooped the gold from 20 metres below the surface. By 1939 there were eight 2,000-tonne dredges at work around Bulolo, every part air-lifted into the area and assembled, in one of the most imaginative feats of engineering.

The dredges finished their work 20 years ago. Two are located a short distance from Pine Lodge. These giant rusting dinosaurs are being slowly reclaimed by the jungle. Gold is still mined upstream from Bulolo, along the road to Wau, mostly by simple sluices and panning. Anyone can try their hand with a borrowed pan, although the proceeds cannot be kept.

Even if they don't strike it rich, visitors can hardly fail to enjoy the scenery. Early one morning we followed the Bulolo River downstream

**Facing page** Open air cemeteries contain ancient smoked bodies and skeletal remains. **This page, left** Children from a Watut Valley village. **above** Bulolo market scenes.

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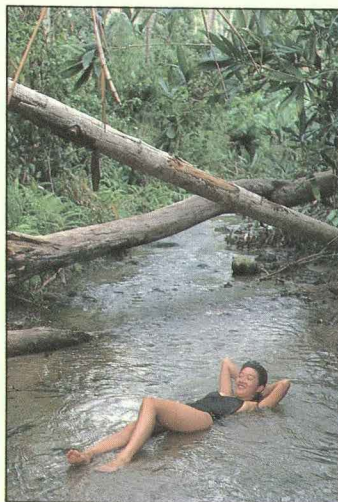
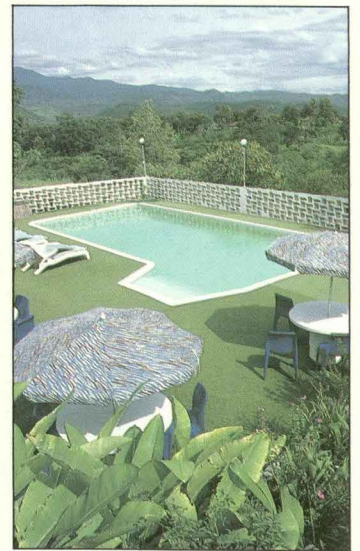
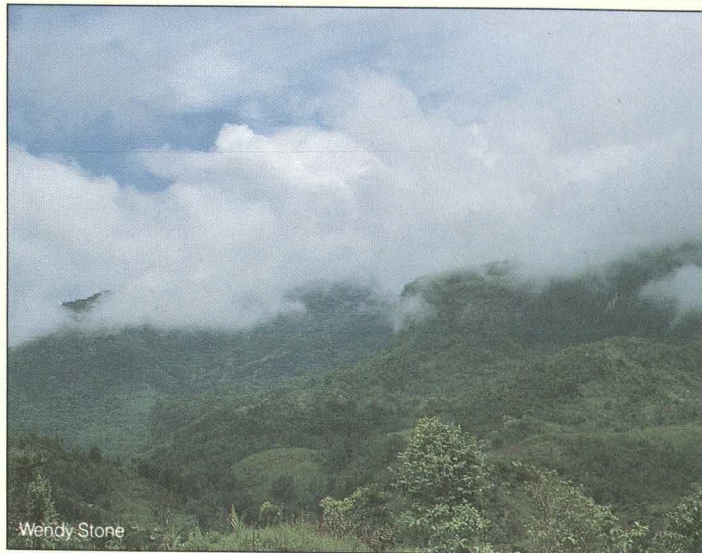
Sofrana Unilines.  
P.O. Box 3614.  
Auckland, New Zealand.  
Telephone 773-279.  
Telex NZ2313.  
Fax 393874.

toward Lae, then turned off where the Snake River cuts through the hills. For almost an hour we travelled along its banks, on a rocky road winding through the bottom of a spectacularly steep valley glazed with the deep green velvet of kunai grass, past silver waterfalls that fell in a glistening arc from the high slopes. Eventually the river narrowed and we surged across and on to a rutted track that led to the village of Mapos.

In the company of a village elder and a dozen excited children, we worked our way for 20 minutes down the hillside and fell into the cool, rushing water at the bottom. The cliffs along this section of the river are pitted with deep limestone caves, some of which were once used as local burial grounds. Open air burials are now a thing of the past, but skeletal remains can still be seen clearly on rock ledges above the river. The adjacent cliffs have been daubed with ochre stick figures that bear a curious resemblance to the rock paintings of the Australian Aborigines.

These Highlands river valleys are home to one of the largest and most exotic insect populations on earth: butterflies. They are everywhere – dancing through the undergrowth on iridescent blue wings, fluttering along the shaded riverbanks, even dive bombing the swimming pool at Pine Lodge. Bulolo is the site of the Insect Farm and Trading Agency, a government organisation that links butterfly collectors and farmers in PNG with buyers around the world. Many butterflies are found only here, such as the king of the butterfly world, *Ornithoptera alexandrae*. A visit to the agency's headquarters is worthwhile, to see where the butterflies are hatched and exhibited under glass as well as prepared for export.

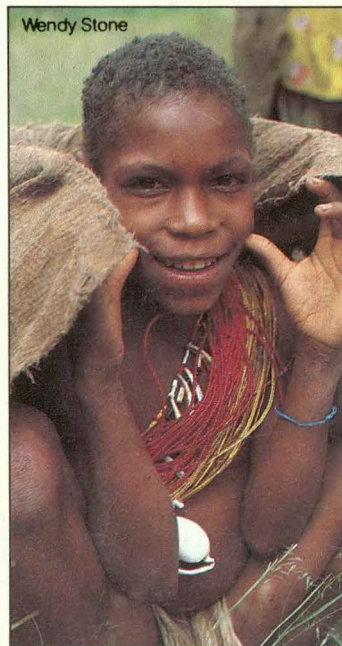
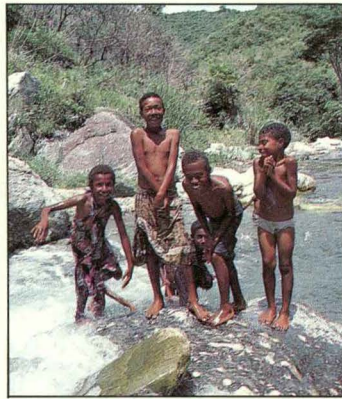
No trip to Pine Lodge is complete without a visit to Kukukuku country. The tribes



in this region now refer to themselves by other names – Watut or Menye, for example – but they still live much as they always have, farming sweet potatoes and hunting birds with the powerful black palm bows that once sent shivers down their neighbors' spines.

The dirt road from Bulolo to Menyamaya, the main town of Kukukuku country, was carved out of the rainforests almost a decade ago. The long, tortuous drive crosses the green slopes of the Watut valley and climbs into the clouds. For almost

**Top** Pine Lodge bungalow. **centre left** Watut Valley. **centre right** Pine Lodge swimming pool. **bottom** Shallow but delightful hot springs, Bulolo.



three hours we bumped along the road, charging across rivers on wooden bridges and squeezing past the landslides that nearly blocked our passage. Rain fell constantly in a fine spray that sparkled in tiny jewelled droplets on the moss that covered everything. Now and again we passed thatched houses huddled together in a clearing where the village children shouted and waved to us. Sometimes we saw a family walking along the road and sheltered by hooded bark capes.

At Aseki, almost 100 kilometres from Bulolo, we stopped at a trail leading up to a steep hillside. Slipping and sliding on the muddy track, we climbed through dripping ferns, clambering over the roots of giant pandanus palms that blocked out the light, to arrive at the shelter of a steep cliff face to see a row of six ochre colored bodies, frighteningly well-preserved. Traditionally the people of this area smoked the bodies of their dead, a method which allowed them to keep watch over their former territory. The old burial sites are still maintained.

It was late afternoon when we emerged from the clouds and into the clear, sunny skies around Bulolo. As a final treat to finish off a hard day, Ken, our guide and driver from Pine Lodge, took us to a hot water creek where we soaked in the warm, soothing water, listening to the forest birds singing their evening operetta, with the sunlight spilling through the bamboo stalks in long, molten shafts.

No more gold in the Bulolo Valley? Don't you believe it.

Wendy Stone

Wendy Stone

**Top** Gold dredge near Bulolo. **centre left** Kukukuku man in traditional dress. **centre right** Fun in the Snake River. **bottom** Young villager rugs up against the cool mountain mist.



Air Niugini operates daily services linking Lae with Port Moresby and other centres.

Bulolo can be reached by road or light aircraft from Lae.



# The New Islander Hotel

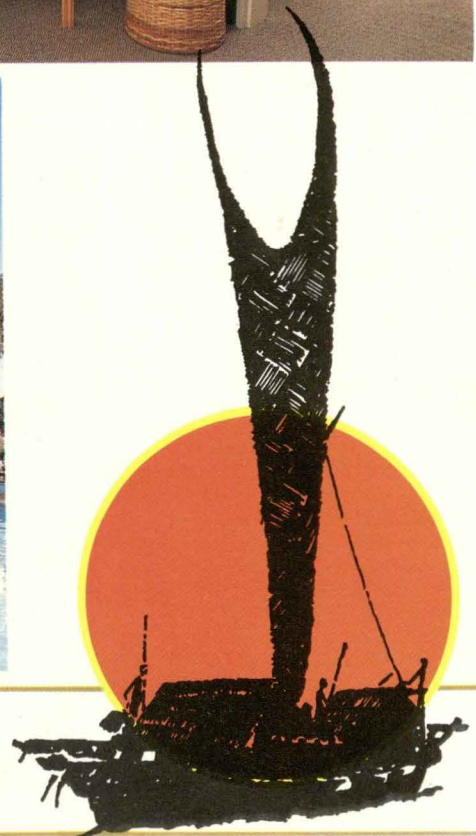
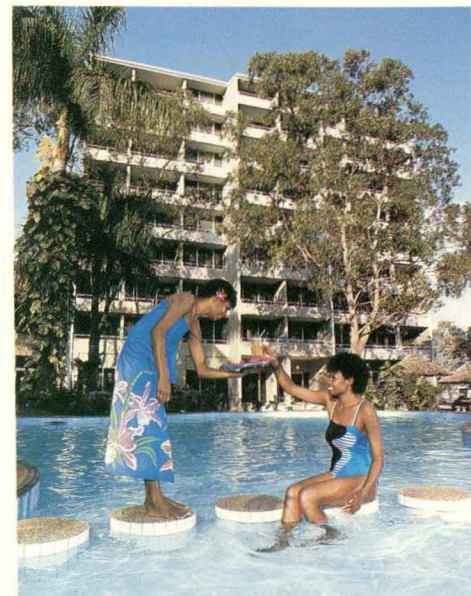
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