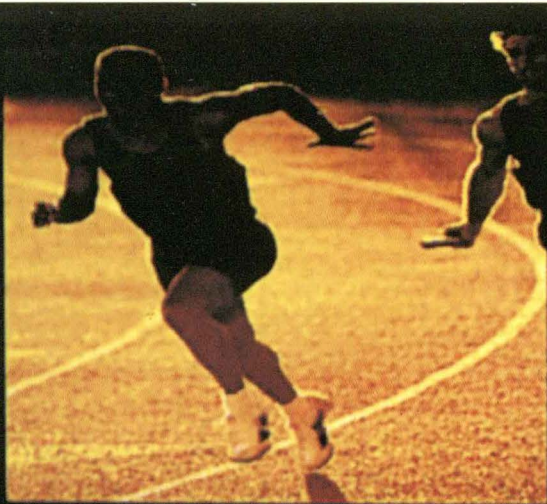


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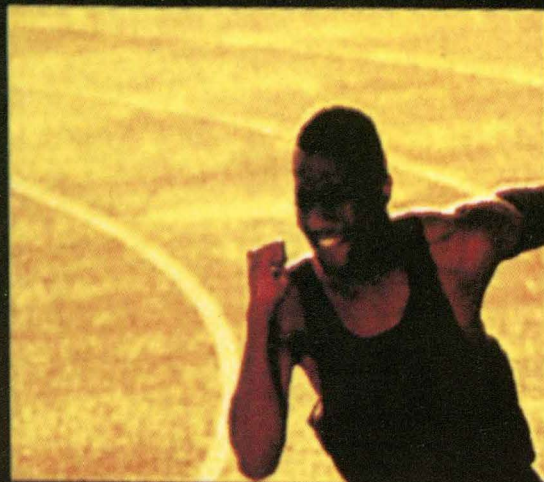
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Paradise Magazine
55 Cassowary Drive
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Australia
Tel/Fax: (61) 7 55 200101
Email: pixie@onthenet.com.au

Publisher: Sir Mekere Morauta
Editor: Roslyn Morauta
Production: Dianne McInnes
Editorial Board Members:
Eva Arni (Air Niugini)
Katherine Lepani

Contact the Port Moresby office for:
Subscriptions:
Marie Manumanua
Advertising in Papua New Guinea: La'a Aukopi

Offshore advertising:
Peter Wulff
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Tel/Fax: (07) 3806 2016

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Cover: *A juvenile batfish, which hides in the reef caves during the daytime, emerges to feed at night.*
Photograph by Bob Halstead



Welcome aboard

Cairns is no doubt the favourite overseas holiday destination for Papua New Guineans. Many Papua New Guineans in fact live there. Some even commute from there to Port Moresby to work. Many of us regard Cairns as another suburb of Port Moresby!
This issue features two articles on Cairns, one describing a host of tourist activities and the other the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. Air Niugini has recently introduced direct flights between Lae, Mt Hagen and Cairns. For tourists or business travellers keen on experiencing village life, take a trip from Lae to Siassi as our story on page 17 describes. For homemakers visit the JOB workshop in Lae to see the beautiful range of carved timber available.

This issue also features village life in the Western Province and the impact of modern commerce in Balimo.

For anyone wanting a weekend in the cool mountains, do visit Betty's Lodge and Trout Farm at Gembogl in Simbu — a culinary treat awaits you.

Andrew Ogil
Managing Director



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Commerce and Culture at Balimo

Story and photographs
by Keith Briggs

A man saw some big, tasty looking edible fungi (mushrooms) on a log in the bush and knelt down to pick them. As he pulled at them he found he could not let go and realised his hand was stuck to the log. He tried to pull it off with his other hand, but it too became firmly attached.

He felt trapped and began to panic. After some time he was relieved to hear the voices of his friends coming.

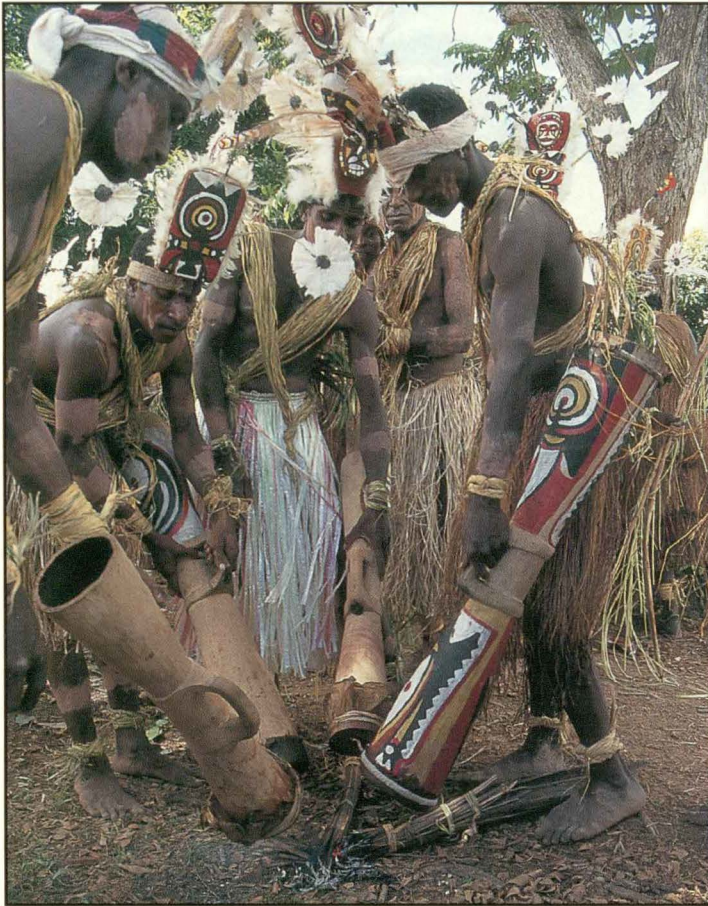
'Hey, there are some beautiful mushrooms here, come and pick some,' he called.

'Ho, ho,' they yodelled. 'What lovely plum ones, we will fill our bags with them.' They all crouched down beside the log to pick the mushrooms.



Above: *Monster Sanaka Sasaledge with frantic men unable to free themselves*
Below: *Traditional Kiwai dance at opening of the Supermarket*





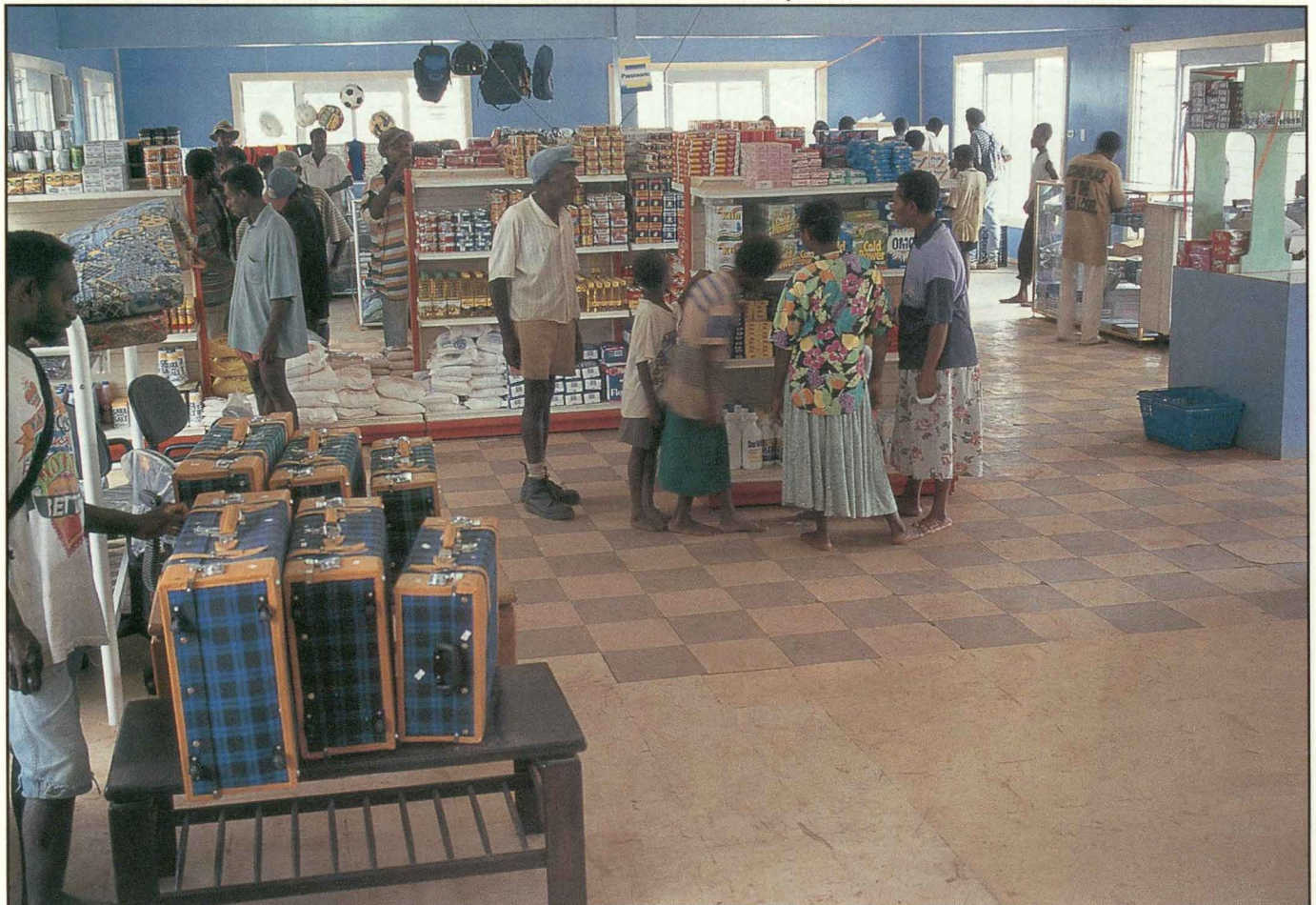
To their horror they found they too were stuck to the log and could not free themselves. They all began to wail and cry for help but could not break free.

As they screamed in terror, pulled and threw themselves about, they felt the log stirring and soon it rose and lumbered off through the bush like a huge crocodile. It was not an ordinary log but the monster Sanaka Sasalede — he dragged the howling men off through the dense jungle and drowned them in a hidden lagoon.

This colourful legend was enacted with a carved and painted monster studded with real mushrooms before a group of invited guests and hundreds of local people at the opening of Biyama Trading Company's new Supermarket at Balimo (*photo below*).

Early in the morning the rising sun had flashed on the glistening, oiled bodies of muscular men straining in rhythmic unison at their paddles in eleven brightly painted racing canoes bearing Gogodala clan designs (*photos on right*). Some are 30 metres long and powered by 50 paddlers. 'Woo, woo, woo,' tooted the conch shell to keep them in perfect time as they raced towards the finish line for the glory of their clan canoes and the honour of their mothers. Once over the finish line the flotilla of racing canoes returned to where the cheering crowds waited to greet the victors. As they drew near the women plunged into the water and clambered aboard in a frenzy of erotic excitement.

Left: Dancers tuning drums by heating and moving bees' wax lumps on skins





The Supermarket for which these traditional activities were performed, is just one aspect of the successful enterprise of a Balimo man, Roy Biyama, who has built up a thriving business in his home area. While attending Awaba High School further up river, young Roy enjoyed practical skills more than academic subjects. After leaving High School he made and sold ice blocks for two years in his home village of Balimo. He attended a Vocational School for a year and then for a year learned many mechanical and construction skills in the workshop of the Kamusie logging camp on the Wawio River.

Returning home in 1990 he realised there was a market for store goods in Balimo town despite there being a couple of other stores operating there. Roy opened a small trade store in the village, buying stock from a friend at distant Dogono near the river. Walking the almost two hours from Dogono he travelled constantly, carrying merchandise in two baskets suspended from a pole upon his shoulder.

As he slaved to build up that first humble trade store in 1991 he did not dream he would have a big, successful enterprise by 1998. Despite setbacks like landowners ejecting him, Roy Biyama has worked tirelessly to expand and improve his business. He pays his men well but drives them as hard as he drives himself, and they respond with amazing loyalty knowing Roy has come up through the school of hard knocks.



Above: Roy Biyama (holding calculator) and his assistant price items in the hardware section of the supermarket.

Below: New teacher's house being built by Biyama Trading Company carpenters.



When the Balimo Community School had a vision to build eighteen new teachers' houses they decided to encourage their local man rather than pursue the expensive alternative of getting distantly based companies to give quotes for their massive project. They consulted Roy who operates two portable sawmills. He and his tradesmen took on the challenge and by the end of the 1998 school year they had completed two large houses which were officially opened at the school breakup. Eight more were opened by the Governor of Western Province on 10 March 1999.

With sawmilling, building, wholesaling and retailing store goods, hardware, clothing and fuel, Biyama Trading has shown what can be achieved by hard work and shrewd management. The company is a major employer of local labour and supplier of rations and school supplies to the Awaba National High School, nearby Community Schools and the Balimo Hospital.

Keith Briggs and his wife Norma are serving as missionaries with the Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea.

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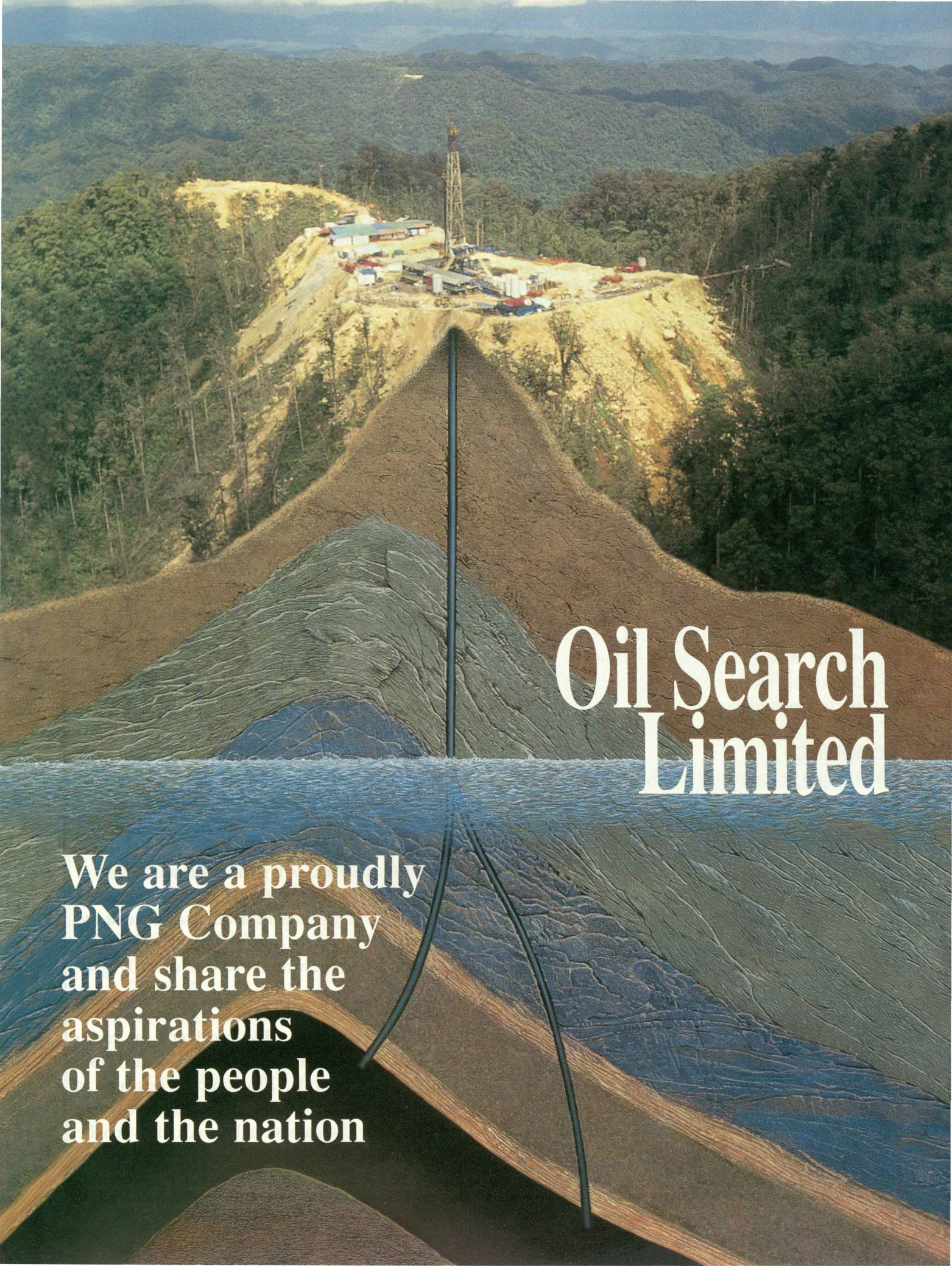
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Cairns

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Whether you need a break, or you're breaking into a new regional market, Cairns is Air Niugini's gateway to Australia. In forty-eight hours you can stay in a five star bungalow on a tropical isle, travel on the world's longest cableway, take one of the great train journeys and hang out on the 'Barbary Coast' with backpackers from all over the planet.

Fasten your seatbelt and make sure your fun meter is locked in the upright position!

If you need a break from the hectic pace of one of our regional capitals, Air Niugini can fly you from Singapore, Manila or Moresby into Cairns, for a holiday that can be anything you want it to be. Even if it's a weekend away or a couple of days break on your way to or from Australia's southern cities, you deserve to explore Cairns and its surroundings.

Story and photographs
by Phil Smith and Mal Lancaster

Cairns is Australia's top 'big nature' destination, where two world heritage wonders, the rainforest and the reef, meet at the coastline. Two and a half million passengers pass through Cairns international airport every year, and this charming tropical city has learnt to offer something for every one of them.

From your Air Niugini flight you could transfer at Cairns International to a helicopter or car and head for Double Island Retreat. Only a few minutes north of the airport is the exact spot where the rainforest cloaking the Great Dividing Range drops right onto the beach and the Great Barrier Reef begins — Buchan's Point. Waiting at the Palm Cove wharf is the Retreat's launch. Removed, but not remote, a smooth ten minute cruise brings you to Double Island. Part owner, Drew Kellahan sums it up, 'We provide the island experience, but being so close to the mainland provides the flexibility to relieve island claustrophobia. Every day tour goes through Palm Cove, so guests on this island, unlike any other, can jump on the launch to catch the various tours.'

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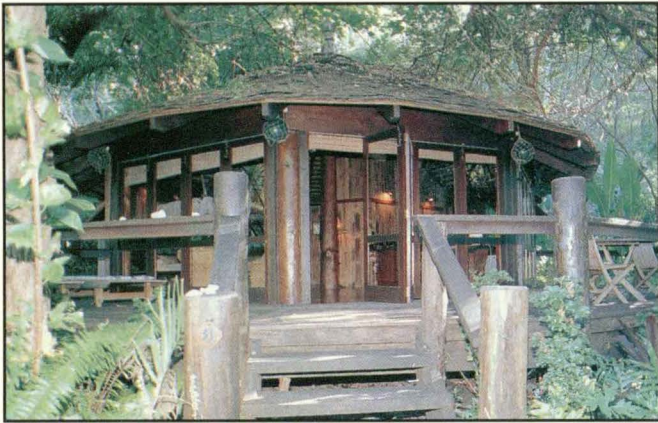


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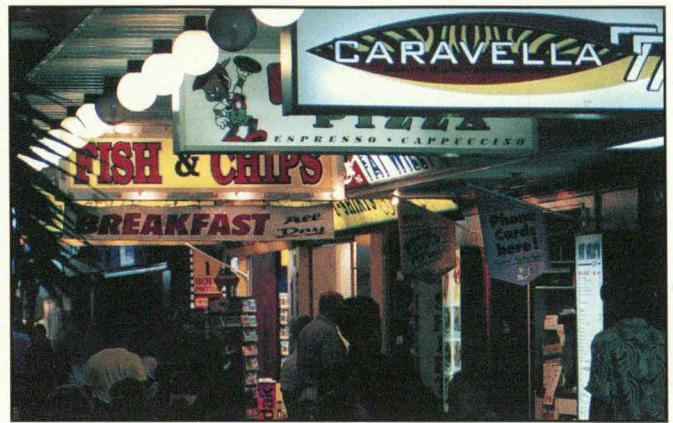
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Guests can play a round on the internationally acclaimed Paradise Palms Golf Course or shop at Port Douglas, and when you've shopped 'til you drop, retreat to Double Island. The retreat is about complete relaxation. Don't go there looking for jet skis and power boats. The fastest water toys are the catamarans available on the private beach, and the loudest noise are delightful screams from those who capsize. Bring a good book and the staff will deliver you, along with a hamper loaded with champagne and seafood, to one of a dozen totally secluded beaches.

The layout of the Retreat's accommodation is a pleasure in itself. From eco-lodges to two room villas (*photos above and below*), featuring private spas or plunge pools, every guest is assured of privacy. From the reception round-house near the wharf, there's no indication of what's waiting around the next bend in the path. The buildings and furnishings are Indonesian in style, nestled among the island's natural tropical vegetation. The eco-lodges provide a luxurious safari feel, with every bird song and wave murmur just outside the weather-proof canvas walls. Relaxing in the king-size bed with some vintage bubbly from the mini-bar is akin to camping in a Rolls Royce.



Cairns is the gateway to the world famous Great Barrier Reef, but do you want to stay on an island, there's so much to see and do on the mainland?

Ten minutes from the airport brings you to another choice. Where will you stay?

A short stroll along the esplanade, through the foreshore park, will take you from the five star luxury of the Casino, the Cairns International and the Hilton, to the charms of the backpacker district and some legendary hostels (*photo above*).

That Ninety's phrase 'quality time' springs to mind when looking for some relaxation during a short break in or around Cairns. The city is surrounded by a scenic mountain rim, with the cool beauty of the Atherton Tableland only a few kilometres from the beaches. For those with a day or two to enjoy the area, Kuranda, the village in the rainforest, is an absolute gem and getting there is half the fun.

Ahoy Kuranda! The village features some amazing sights. In keeping with its close ties to the environment, what looks like Noah's Ark is moored in the main street (*photo below*).

A spectacular scenic highway winds up the coast a little way north of Cairns and takes less than an hour. Switch on the WD40 air conditioning (Windows Down at Forty), and enjoy the lovely scents and sounds of the rainforest as you cruise around the curves.

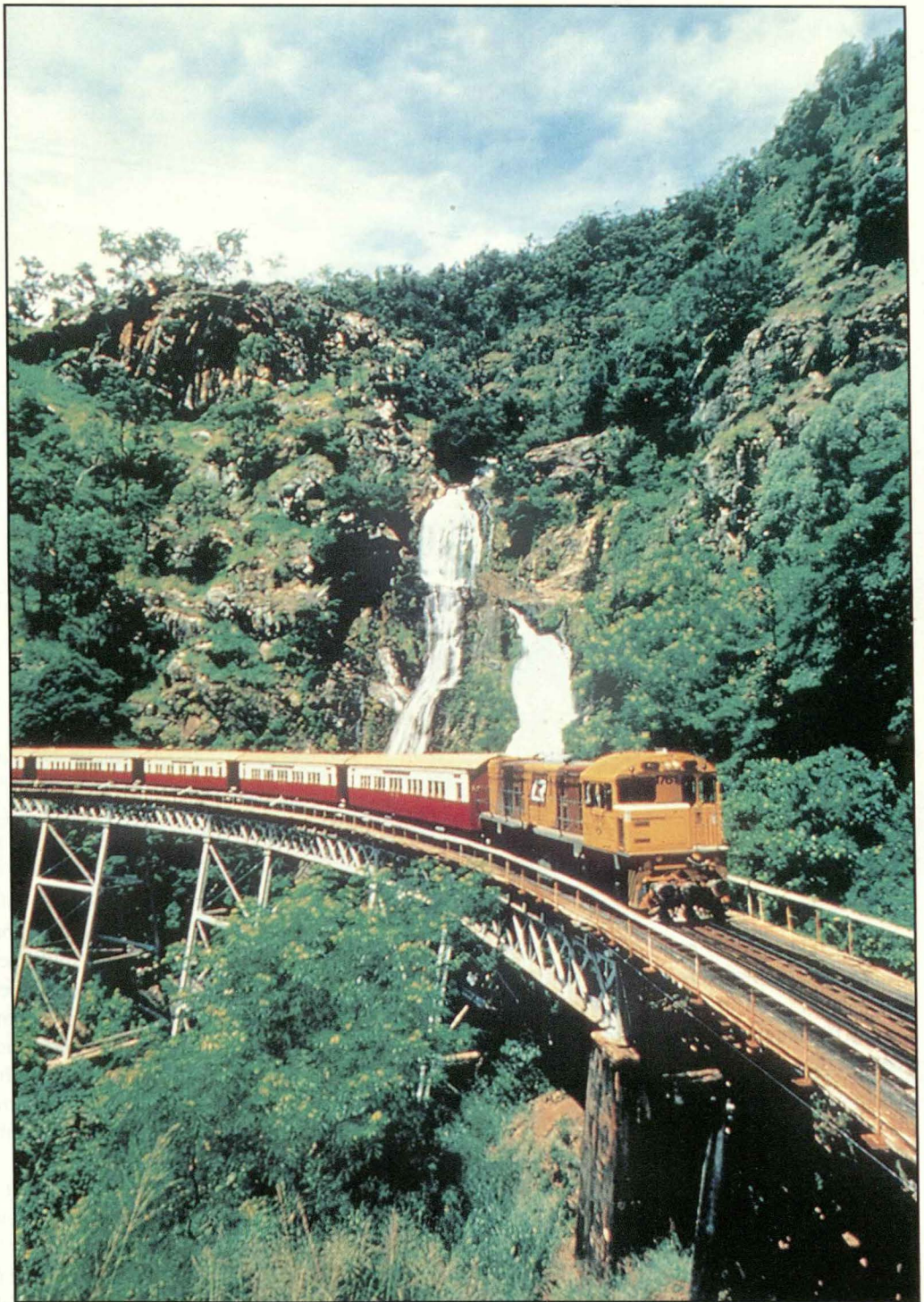


Don't drive, take one of the world's great train journeys. The Kuranda Scenic Railway dates back to the 1880s when 1,500 men equipped only with hand tools and explosives carved a track, 15 tunnels and built dozens of bridges to push the railroad up the awesome Barron Gorge to the rich tablelands. Ten towns sprang up alongside the track to keep them supplied. The jungle put up its defences and dozens of navvies died.

'Only two things went up in barrels,' according to Queensland Rail's Gary Young. 'There was rum and dynamite and both of them could blow a man's head off!'

Today a modern diesel electric locomotive hauls the tourist train easily up the historic 34-kilometre track (photo on right). But history comes alive in the lovingly restored timber carriages, dating back to the Sunshine Express of the 1930s.

The Kuranda train rolls past tumbling waterfalls and pushes through tunnels to reveal a rainforest that's lush and green, daubed with gold, purple, red and yellow flowering vines and bushes. There's no rush, and a well designed lookout-photo vantage point has enhanced a stop directly opposite the mighty Barron Falls.

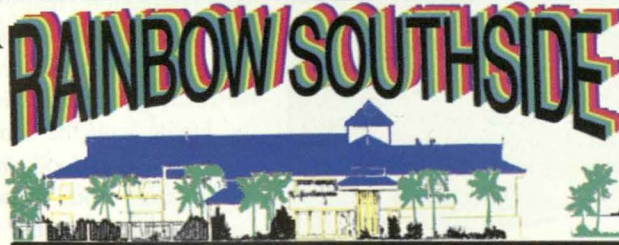


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Below: One reason to hurry back from Kuranda is to have a flutter at the Reef Hotel Casino, situated in the centre of Cairns, only a few minutes walk along the esplanade from most of the tourist accommodation.



The delightful old architecture remains at the Kuranda station (*photo above*), along with a tropical garden that spills across the platform in tubs and hanging baskets to perfume the cool mountain air. A two minute walk from the station is the village centre. Village 'Square' would not be appropriate for this village. Kuranda's heritage as a very groovy place during the 1970s remains with a wonderful array of artisans producing silver and other jewellery, timber carving and clothes. The main street keeps its cool under huge trees that arch almost all the way across. Spread along the wide footpaths are the sidewalk boutiques and cafes.

A stroll to the end of Coondoo Street seems to end at the rainforest, but there's another surprise in store. Well out of store, really!

The Rainforest Markets are set up in booths on either side of meandering forest paths. Only a few metres from the town, it seems you could be deep in the jungle with the sounds of wind chimes and the scent of Asian food wafting through the greenery. Kick back and relax, this is Tropical North Queensland and even if you only have a day to spare, it'll be a day to remember.

There's no reason to rush because you head back down the coast at your convenience on the world's longest cableway.

Imagine the effect of skimming a metre or two over the World Heritage listed rainforest, as in a helicopter, but with up to five friends in a quiet gondola with unimpeded all-round views. The smooth looking, smooth riding cable cars arrive at the Kuranda terminal and head down the seven and a half kilometres route via stations at Barron Falls and Red Peak (*photo on right*). It's simple to break your journey at each stop, and well worth the extra twenty minutes each. High tech interpretive displays explain something of the eco-system over which you're gliding. Well built walkways take you through the canopy for a close up glimpse of the falls, ferns and tall timbers. The last descent begins at the edge of Australia's Great Dividing Range, and swoops down towards the Coral Sea. Spread before you are the cane fields, the islands and the city of Cairns.

Even allowing for the two stops, you'll be stepping from your gondola at Smithfield, a few minutes bus drive north of Cairns, an hour and a half after leaving Kuranda.

The cableway and its towers were built to the strictest environmental standards, with the pylons lifted in by heavy-lift helicopters to avoid cutting access tracks through the forest. Add that obviously amazing engineering feat to the view when you cross the last ridge and you'll understand why the Skyrail Rainforest Cableway has won a fistful of tourism awards.

In one day it's quite possible to enjoy Australia's pristine wet tropical environment, experience some fabulous pioneering history aboard one of the world's great trains, relax in a cafe with a tasty coffee, and be back at your accommodation with ample time for a swim, a drink and the really tough decision for the day — which seafood delight should we choose for dinner ... or come to think of it, which restaurant? And you haven't even made a choice for the next day yet.

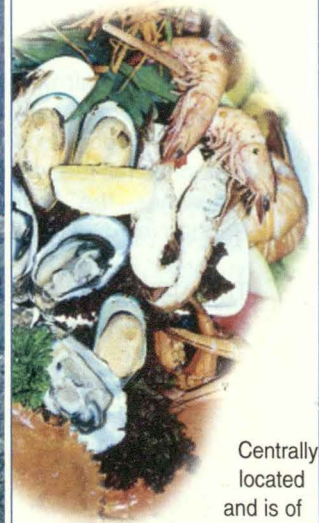
A short break in Cairns is anything but tough, and never long enough. ↻

Phil Smith and Mal Lancaster are from Spun Yarns & The Complete Picture in Brisbane.



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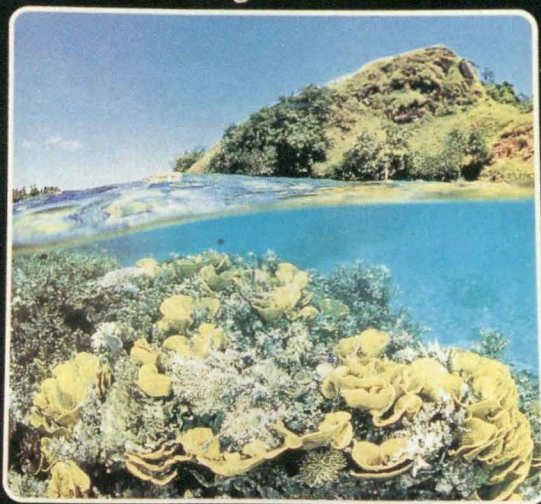
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BOOK REVIEW — The Coral Reefs

Review by Eric Lindgren

*Dinah and Bob Halstead
Sergio Sarta*



The Coral Reefs of Papua New Guinea

Back in 1977 I helped Bob Halstead with the layout and publication of his first book — ‘Tropical Diving Adventures’, named after his pioneering scuba diving business in Papua New Guinea. A modest book, with fifty of Bob’s and Dinah’s colour photographs, this was the first publication to deal with the ‘under-wonderland’ that surrounds our shores.

Since those days over twenty years ago, Bob and Dinah have gone on to build one of the world’s premier diving experiences. In 1986, they introduced the country’s first live-aboard dive boat. Telita Cruises, on the 20m MV *Telita* (named after their daughter) operated out of Milne Bay and cruised throughout Papua New Guinean waters. This boat was built in Milne Bay, under the supervision of a Master Boat Builder, Arthur Swinfield, resurrecting skills which were in danger of being forgotten, skills which he had taught the grandparents of *Telita*’s builders at Kwato long ago. Being meticulous in his approach to scuba teaching, Bob applied the same care to the supervision of the building and running of *Telita*. So much so that in 1992 it was voted the best Live-aboard Dive Boat in the World.

It has attracted the most famous names in oceanography, photography and diving from the world’s underwater fanatics. Although set up as a Sport Diving enterprise, and gaining its income mainly from this, many of the world’s top marine biologists have been accommodated on board and many new species of fish have been found. The results those photographers produced have added to the reputation of Papua New Guinea as the ‘Dive Capital of the World’.

The Coral Reefs of Papua New Guinea follows on from this proud heritage and presents a remarkable collection of marine photographs equal to any publication on the subject.

The book has two parts:

Part 1, by Bob and Dinah, takes up 150 pages.

Labelled *A Natural History*, it has 12 chapters covering the major coral reef habitats. From the ‘Classic Coral Reef’ to ‘Biodiversity’, these pages give a glimpse of the large variety of marine organisms which make divers so blasé about Papua New Guinean waters. Check the tiny Ghost Pipefish on pages 82-83 and 94-95 if you want to see masters of camouflage. Or the Eunice worm on page 105 (*photo below*), with its shimmering iridescent stripes up and down the body. These are not ordinary underwater photos; they reflect the skills developed through years of experience and the indomitable patience needed to capture sometimes shy creatures in an alien environment.



Among the photos are some surprises: the Saltwater Crocodile (p87), hanging languidly from the surface, presented a challenge to Bob and dive-buddy Stan Waterman, for this was a feared reptile encountered in its own environment. Recounting the story, Bob says the crocodile got the bigger fright in the encounter, when it saw the divers.

It sped off with a flick of its tail and no doubt relates the story to young hatchlings of the weird apparitions it saw one day when stalking a dog in a remote and peaceful lagoon.

Note also the mother Dugong with its calf (p17) swimming well away from their preferred sea-grass beds. Dugongs are protected throughout Papua New Guinea and stocks are better here than in other parts of its range. It is unusual to meet and photograph one, let alone mother and baby, in the wild.

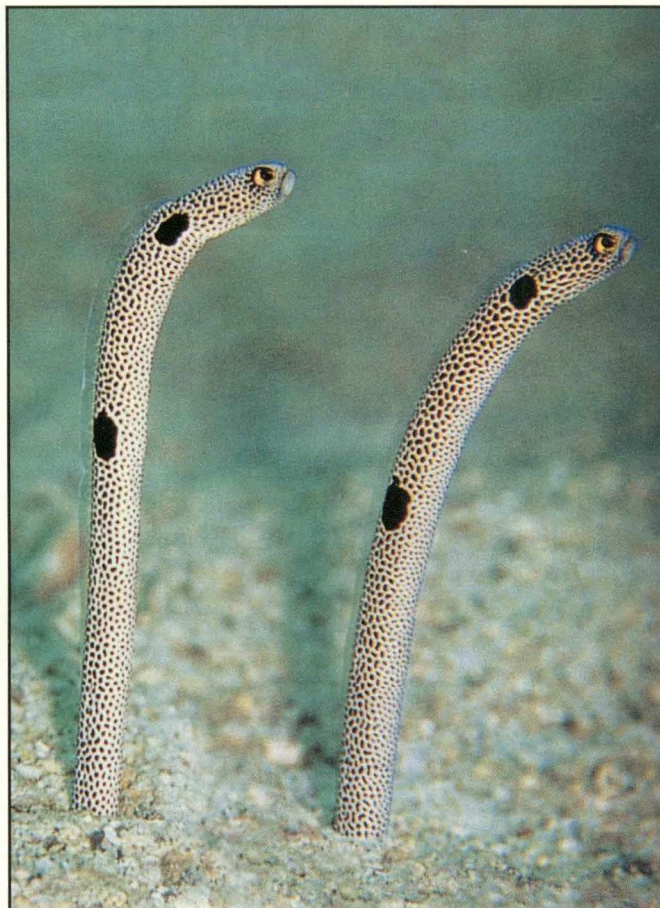
Chapter 11, on 'Destruction and Recovery', covers some of the things which can affect the health of the reefs. Humans, dynamiting and over-fishing are mentioned, as is the threat of Global Warming. Corals are very sensitive to water temperature and act as a good indicator species of the health of the world's oceans.

Part 2, by Sergio Sarta, takes up 50 pages.

Labelled *In the Sea of Wonders*, this has five chapters, each devoted to a specific location: Eastern Fields, Milne Bay, Kimbe Bay, Kavieng and Hermit Islands.

Once again the photos are brilliant, as may be expected for Sarta has won numerous photographic awards world-wide, and has dived in Papua New Guinea since 1992. He believes that Papua New Guinean oceans have more diversity and interesting and varied underwater life than anywhere else on our planet. His first book *Portfolio*, included 250 photos, half of which were taken in Papua New Guinea.

How I wish I could have captured pictures like his Garden Eels (p180-181) (*photo on right*) during my diving days in PNG! Extremely shy, these delicate eels live in burrows in the sand and protrude the front third of their body out when feeding.



Living in colonies, they give the impression of a host of flowers waving gently in the current. But as the photographer approaches the bodies disappear into the burrow, only to reappear after he has passed by. As Sergio says, 'patience and slow, quiet breathing are the saving grace'.

The book was originally published in Italian and very occasional lapses in spelling and translation reflect this. Generally there is only one photograph per page, each with a border and paragraph of text. As the book is aimed at educating Papua New Guineans, the language is simplified to make it a source of background information related to environmental awareness. The concept of inter-relationships of all creatures — the 'Web of Life' — is emphasised.

This book and the Halsteads' three recent publications (1995, 1996, 1996) present a wonderful introduction to the world beneath the waves in the 'Land of the Unexpected'. It (in fact, all) can be recommended.

'Coral Reefs of Papua New Guinea' by Dinah & Bob Halstead, and Sergio Sarta. Published by Adventures S.r.l, Via E Morosini 27/A, 20135 Milan, Italy. On behalf of the European Union Islands Regional and Community Development Program.

208 pages, full colour. This book is available from Theodist in Port Moresby. In the USA, the book is available through Sea Challengers Natural History Books, 35 Versailles Court, Danville, CA 94506 US\$55.

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A blend of time and place

Siassi Images

Story and photographs by Nancy Sullivan

The Siassi Islands are a blend of time and place, and yet so different from anywhere else in Papua New Guinea. They lie in the clear blue waters of the Vitiaz Straits, a watershed of cultures and people in the region.

Like so many other coastal and island people in the country, the faces of the Siassi bear the stamp of their own history: of distant migrations, recent out-marriages and the relative isolation of this place. Their oldest ancestors probably followed the sea-going migration that populated the mainland about 40,000 years ago, as part of a second wave of migrants who, according to archeological evidence, arrived about 5,000 years later and quickly settled New Britain and New Ireland.

About 5,000 years ago, all these north coast and Massam islands were visited regularly by Malaysian-Chinese traders, whose fine features and beautiful eyes have survived throughout the region. The most silent evidence of these visits are the high-pitch and extended beams of the thatch roofs which, particularly on Aromot Island, resemble so many South Asian temples.

The people themselves look like a perfect blend of their West New Britain and Morobe neighbours, with dark skin, long limbs and a reddish tint to their hair, suggesting more recent or continuous inter-marriage. But what's most interesting are the signs of cultural borrowing and exchange. The ceremonial headdresses of the Siassi, the large flat sail-like sago-palm

boards, clearly come from West New Britain, and are not unlike headdresses seen along the Morobe up through the Rai Coast. There are even headdresses in the Sepik Region that look something like these, which may or may not be related, but which complicate the picture and suggest that culture is always fluid, and in many places is as much subject to trade and exchange as are shells, fish, sago and other goods.

Malai Island has a peaceful village along its white sandy shoreline, sheltered by a low mountain ridge, with small well-kept gardens beside its double row of homes. Between these homes is a wide, well-swept clearing where ceremonial dancers and other public events are staged.

Boys from Aromot



Following this clearing to the far end of the village, it narrows into a footpath running through the bush along the shore. About a half kilometre away, on a slight peninsula surrounded by clear blue-green water and bounded by tall palms, is the Malai Community School. It would be hard to find a prettier school in all of Papua New Guinea, with its brilliant gardens, basketball court and, best of all, the wonderful big blue dinosaur on one of its outside walls.

Malsu is another Siassi idyll. The homes are scattered over a patch of flat ground, portraying an exposed and fragile feeling. One can imagine storms ripping through here, leaving homes barely standing, people clinging to the base of palm trees and coconut cannonballs whizzing every which way. There are no gardens on Malsu, but there are plenty of canoes, as fishing is the main pastime. The tiny population is warm and cheerful, happy to show visitors the bones of a huge whale hanging from a tree, and the rafters of a new house going up.

Aromot Island is the most unusual of them all. It's sometimes called the Hong Kong of the South Pacific. So crowded is this tiny island with people, pigs and churches that it seems almost like a floating ark, set adrift in the Vitiaz Straits. Some of the homes are even two-storey, with the lovely upturned gables that give the visitor the impression of having sailed out of Melanesia and into Malaysia. The Aromot people live here in their traditional home and commute, so to speak, to their gardens on the main island of Umboi, which adds to the oddly metropolitan feeling of the place.

To reach the Siassi Islands, take a boat from Lae or Madang. 🌀

Crowded Aromot



Above: *Malai dancer, Siassi Islands*

Below: *Malai woman, Siassi Islands*



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CREATIVE WRITING - Beyond the Waves

By Alfred Faiteli

*This story is imaginary, but arose from reflecting on the episode experienced in Aitape on that fatal day, 17 July 1998. The story tells of a child and the physical and emotional turmoil he goes through as he sets his mind on rebuilding his life from the ruins of the tsunami. Payment for this article is dedicated to the children of Aitape suffering as a result of this disaster. Take heart and courage to face the world. Look and live **beyond the waves**.*

I grew up beside the sea. For me, the sea was everything — my life and existence. Remember those childhood days, swimming, sailing our coconut-husk boats, collecting shells, fishing, playing, splashing, diving and wading in the cool waters under the tropical sun. How wonderful those days were. Never to come again. Only memories can retell.

Remember those lovely moonlit nights running barefoot on the white sandy shores chasing our serene shadows. Those were our joyous moments, don't you think? Young and carefree. Squatting in the sand and laughing loudly as our voices drifted in the wind. Our dreams carried by waves to outer islands far beyond the horizon.

We told wonderful island stories. Those that teased our little minds and kindled our imaginative spirits as we sat on fallen coconut trees, gazing over the tranquil silvery waters. The reflective waters transmitting messages in twinkles and sparkles under the heavenly moon. These were magnificent moments. Moments of our childhood days.

In our hands coconut flesh, baked breadfruit and smoked fish. This was the succulent taste of our favourite island menu. We ate happily and smiled with satisfaction. Under our feet, gentle-rolling waves unfolding on the shore while high above in the dark skies, a string of bats returning to their caves, noisily flapping their wings.

Tokeli's fingers strummed wonderful island melodies on his ukelele as we sang island songs through those still moonlit nights. Songs we grew to love and cherish for the rest of our lives. Even away from home these songs meant a lot. To me they made me realise my identity and brought a sense of belongingness to my own heritage. This was my island. The land I grew to love as a child.

There are memorable landmarks my mind still firmly holds onto. The old *kwakwamo*¹ tree where we usually played *kenokeno-mugu*² and the *gawam*³ trees where we swung from branch to branch like monkeys still remain intact.

We avoided the *niu*⁴ tree near *bubu-Sinabada's*⁵ house during our play times at nights. You know Silimo, uncle Nikile's son, he told us he had seen a *kalawe*⁶ there.

This *niu* tree meant a lot to us. We regarded it as the tallest in the world because Tami my cousin brother who attended a *dimdim*⁷ school far away from our island said it was the tallest tree in the world.

This particular young man, everything he said we believed. His words had power and vision. His appearance *palapa*⁸ was class. His clothes were clean and smelt nice. You see mine, this tapa and piece of calico from mother's Sunday dress, it only covers my little testicles. His shirt and trousers, honest, that one like the colour of lime powder. White. *Palapa* pure white.

Further along the shore towards the mangrove-covered point stood a large oval-shaped *vekutau*⁹. It was a warning mark. To us, this rock was significant because it was the place where we heard calls of our ancestors speaking to us. Later in life we learnt that indeed they were actually cries of dugongs which our parents told us to never harm or kill. The common belief was these mammals were once human beings that turned into dugongs because of men's ill treatment.

All these remain landmarks in my memory. As I strolled on this beach thirty years later, I began to recall these memories and deep within I could feel a sense of attachment to this place I once called home.

Legends and stories of the sea and great seafaring heroes in *tumbuna*¹⁰

times were our favourite bedtime stories. Around the warm open fire we would gather while bubu Taubala told us those great stories which stirred our imaginations and calmly put us to a good night's sleep.

It happened many years ago on a tiny atoll in the Pacific Ocean. It was probably the worst natural disaster that has come upon the shores of my island home. It was on this fatal day, cold, dull and windy the tidal waves washed away the generations of my forefathers.

Sssh...Sssh...Sssh... the sound of splashy water and torrid winds. It became louder and louder as it approached our island. People were taken by surprise by this unique sound. It prompted curious villagers to rush to the beach to see the unexpected occurrence for themselves.

Far away in the open something was approaching. Like rolling gush of mist in violent rage, it made its way towards our direction. It was thick and splashy-white and almost reaching the sky. The sound was somewhat strange and frightening. It was very loud and sounded unusual to our ears. It sounded like the engine of a jumbo jet at take off. *Run! Run! Big wave!* Someone in the crowd of onlookers screamed in panic.

The sound became louder and louder. *Run! Run!* Terrifying cries filled the air as mothers, fathers and children rushed in shock and confusion. *Run! Run! Big wave! Big wave!* Within minutes — BANG! The impact. It was a devastating tidal wave.

I was caught dumbfounded and shocked. I tried with all my might to run as quickly as I could to higher ground but I was too late. The impact of the wave flung me into mid air and I felt a lot of water forced through my throat and nostrils. I could not control myself. My head was spinning and my face was bleeding from a collision. I cannot recall what it was.

Suddenly from beneath me, I felt a surge. Something was forcing its way to the surface of the water. My nerves rose. Could this be the end of me? Was it a saltwater crocodile or a hungry shark out to devour my flesh? Slowly I touched it. It was solid and felt woody. Thank God it was not any of what I was thinking of. It was a branch of a tree. Wearily and with great relief I threw myself on it and firmly gripped its branches. I held on as the water carried me towards the ocean by the reverse flow of the tidal wave.

Sssh...Sssh...Sssh... I looked up. Just before my very own eyes I saw it. *Oh my God!* I thought to myself. Another wave. *Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. I am with thee,* a small voice kept whispering in my ears. *Help! Tamagu¹¹! Help! Sinagu!¹²* I cried in fright and panic as the wave tossed me violently from side to side then threw me high into the air.

The second wave was much bigger and more devastating than the first. It came thundering down in rushing rage demolishing everything in its path. I could see logs and people and clothes and animals and trees all broken and torn in pieces, scattered in all directions. There was no hope for me. I was going to die.

I was flung high into the air amongst rapid rushing waves. Without knowing how, I landed on solid surface. I held tightly onto something and waited with my eyes closed until all had passed. There was too much happening all at once that my small mind could not absorb everything in a short time.

I was terrified. All I could see and hear were screams of people, the raging sea exposing the evils of nature. Plants uprooted and buildings crushed and thrown in all directions. I could not believe what I was seeing, hearing and feeling. It was all so unexpected and happening here and now. Right before my very own eyes.

Moments passed. I straightened myself up and slowly examined the surrounding. I realised I was high up in a coconut tree weary, worn and alone.

An hour passed and the seas subsided, the winds cooled off, the rushing waters calmed down and the sun began to shed its last evening light.

I descended from the coconut tree and found a floating piece of wood. I floated on it until I came to a rock on which I sat and prayed earnestly for help to arrive.

Suddenly I realised something. This rock on which I was sitting. It was oval shaped and looked quite familiar. I looked at it carefully but my mind then was too weak to think clearly. There! Can you hear it? The terrifying sound again.

Sssh...Sssh...Sssh. I dare not hear this sound again for as long as I live. But here it was right behind me. *Oh no! Not another wave. I will definitely be washed ashore dead,* I thought. Sssh...Sssh...Sssh. I turned and looked toward the direction of the sound. I could see a figure. *Veku, Veku,* someone called. *Hold on.* I was still in a state of confusion and did not feel any other emotion other than that of the waves. *Hold onto the rock and wait for me. Kosa, Etina. I am coming to pick you up.* Thank God there are people still alive. Quietly sobbing, I waited as the man in the canoe paddled to me.

I gazed at the setting sun and the calm waves gently rolling past. My emotions were rising like the tidal waves and scattered everywhere. The reality of the devastation of the waves finally dawned on me. Tamagu and Sinagu and all my other close relatives were washed away. For now I could only wait and find out whether they were still alive or dead. There was nothing I could do. I looked into the rolling waves and cried my heart out. It seemed I had no eyes to guide me through, no hands to hold on to, no feet on whose footsteps I could tread, no heart to love me all my life. I was heartbroken and felt my future torn apart.

Tonight as I looked up into the open sky strolling on the beach of Madawala, I could feel a sense of inward loss. It has been a long and hard thirty years after the disaster but I have managed to put all the pieces of my life together.

As memories flash through my mind, there are some I can still hardly erase. The tallest coconut tree I could not see. The *kwakwamo* tree nowhere in sight. All that reminded me of their existence was only partial. The roots of the *kwakwamo* tree buried by the shifting sand. The tallest *niu* tree


nowhere in sight; rather in its place a young coconut tree ready to bear its first nuts. I could not work out the locations of certain things until memory retold itself to me.

The oval-shaped *vekutau* at the point of the island I could not see but guessed by now its size was reduced from continuous erosion of wave and wind action. I could hear children laughing joyfully, their sweet voices carried across the air by the cool December breeze. How I long to see these children. I could hear sweet voices of singing accompanied with joyous laughter. I could understand the lyrics. They were about the moonlight and swaying palm trees and the silvery placid waters. Wonderful. So wonderful.

Tears rolled down my face as I recalled life on my island before the disaster. Happiness and joy was most of what I experienced as a child. I am only here as a visitor, a foreigner to the place where I was born.

It is only now as I begin to put things together like a jigsaw of time and change do I realise and appreciate the beauty of nature. In fact, nature was not totally against my people and me. The spirits of my ancestors guided me to safer shores. The *niu* tree, the tallest in the village held me up high, the *kwakwamo* tree its branch on which I safely rested, and the *vekutau* on which I stood to find help were nature's refuge in my time of despair.

Today, nature stills remains my best companion but I know there are times one needs to adjust to changes. I will keep looking on to reach the destiny beyond the waves for it is there and then, my life will find its prosperity.

I smiled and gazed far into the horizon — Beyond the Waves. 

¹ Large tree with round pods that grows near the beach

² Hide-and-seek game ³ Okari-nut

⁴ Coconut tree

⁵ Grandmother

⁶ Witch

⁷ Whitemen's or of European origin

⁸ Expressing admiration and praise

⁹ Rock or boulder

¹⁰ Ancient or something of the past

¹¹ Father

¹² Mother



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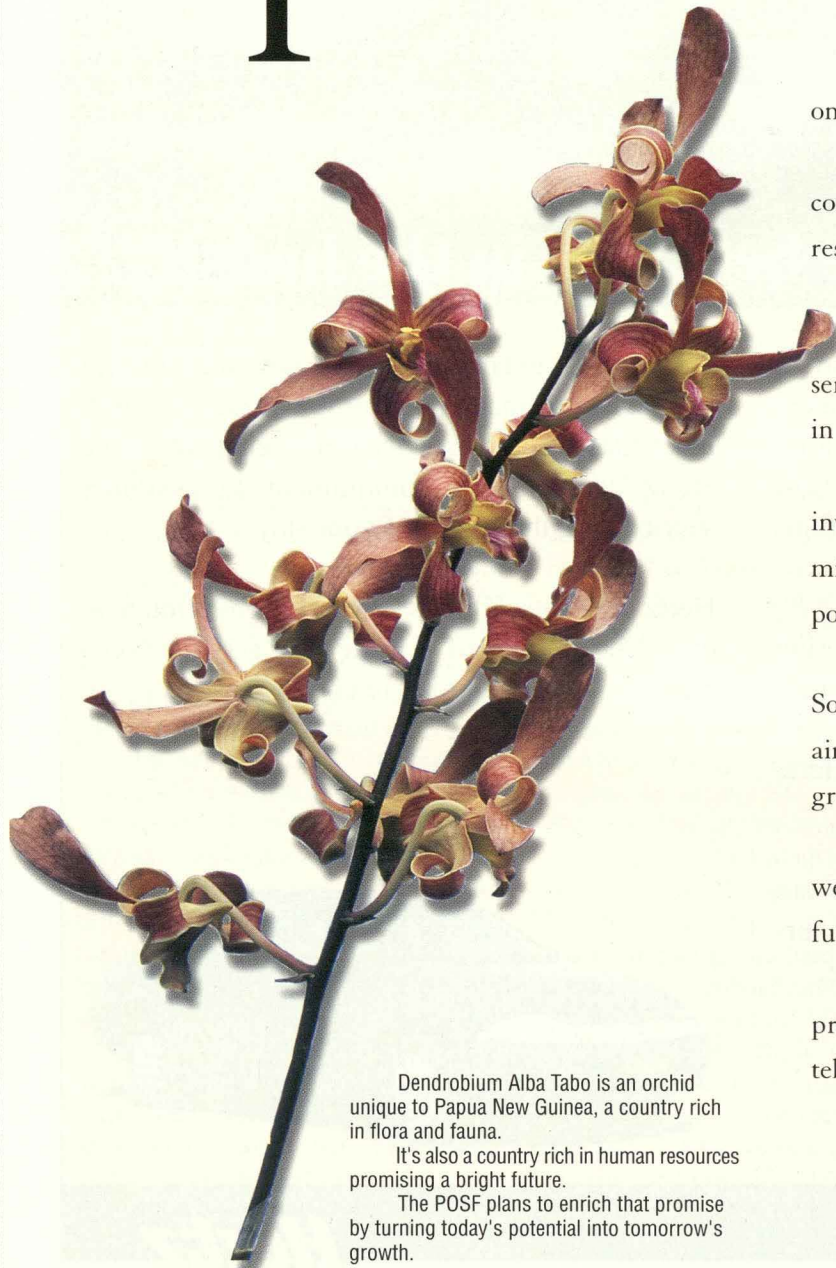
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Carving out a future!

Story by Margaret Stevenson
Photographs by David Cross

Tucked away in the back streets of Omili in Lae, is a firm called 'J.O.B. Builders'. The casual visitor is unlikely to come across it by chance, but to those 'in the know' it is the home of some of Papua New Guinea's most sought after carved furniture.

J.O.B. stands for St Joseph's Old Boys and the company was founded in 1972 by Father Hubert Hofmans, a Catholic priest from Holland, and a class of twelve boys who were leaving St Joseph's Technical School in that year. Each of the boys leaving the school was given a toolbox and each of them bought a one kina share in the new company.





Above: *Father Hubert Hofmans with Anton Momi, putting the finishing touches to a coffee table top*



The company is still locally owned and continues to fulfil the purpose for which it was created all those years ago: to promote local business and craftsmen. Father Hubert is still there and four of the original 'boys' are still working shareholders. Others have left, and some have started their own joinery businesses in Lae and Madang.

When J.O.B. Builders first started, it had no premises. All work was done on construction sites. In the early days the boys agreed that they would be paid for five days work and work Saturdays on a voluntary basis, with the extra money generated being reinvested in the company. It is this sort of attitude which has enabled the company to grow to a work force of over sixty employees supplying furniture to both stores and individuals, and taking on some large construction projects for schools and churches.

While a third of the work force are occupied with construction work, the rest are occupied in the workshops, making a full range of items — anything from roll top desks to storyboards, from beds to dining room tables.

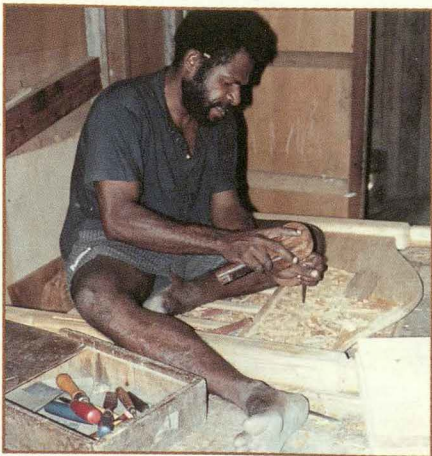
J.O.B. Builders is best known, though, for its beautiful, hand carved furniture which graces the homes of former Lae residents all over the world. Dining room chairs, bed heads, coffee tables can all be carved to order with individually selected designs. For people who want to preserve their memories of Papua New Guinea, what better way than a set of six hand carved rosewood dining chairs or a carved walnut coffee table?

Below: *John Kauke from Madang — one of the original 'boys' and today still a shareholder and company director.*



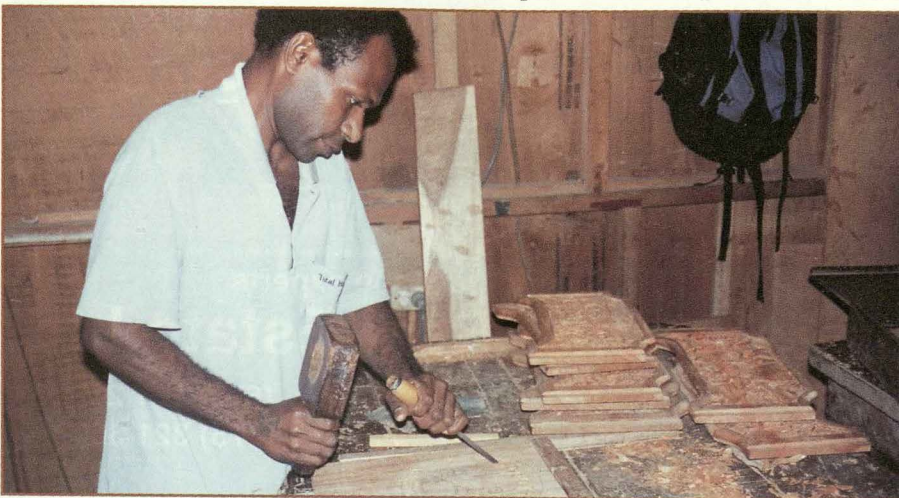
There are three full time carvers employed at the company and more than enough work to keep them busy. The carving on an average size coffee table takes about two and a half weeks, a chair back at least two days. The largest carving the company has produced so far was for the church doors of St Francis Church in West Taraka, which took over two months to complete. The finished doors have twelve panels — ten of which depict Biblical scenes and two of which feature St Francis.

On a more modest scale the carvers produce large numbers of storyboards and religious plaques. Storyboards, which originated from the Sepik area, are now popular artefacts throughout Papua New Guinea. A fairly recent development at J.O.B. Builders has been the introduction of three dimensional storyboards which, quite literally, add another dimension to the original flatter style of carving.



Above: Philip Wolmu working on a head board for a bed

Below: Wilson Dambui starting work on a logo for a local business



The different woods used include rosewood, kwila, walnut, pencil cedar, beech and calophyllum, though the later is rarely used because of its scarcity locally. With buyers it is the rosewood furniture which is the most popular, although some prefer furniture made out of the heavy kwila. This wood is certainly the least popular with the carvers themselves for it is extremely hard making it very difficult to work with when it is mature. A fresh source of timber in the reasonably near future will be the thousands of African teak trees which were imported by the Ministry of Agriculture in the 1960s and planted on the mountain side behind St Joseph's Technical School.

The benefits of the company spread far wider than the sixty employees and the hundreds of satisfied customers. Its effects are felt in many local villages, for Father Hubert buys the company's wood from villagers using walkabout saw mills. Transportation can pose problems for the villagers, but compared with the per cubic metre price they might receive for an unprocessed tree elsewhere, it is clearly worth their time and effort.

The company does all its own upholstery and has recently branched out into screen printing, making items such as church vestments. It is also in the process of buying extra land so that it can expand. Hopefully then the company will be able to build a large kiln to speed up the drying process, enabling its workers to cope even more quickly with the continual stream of orders which the company's high quality of work over the last twenty years has created.

Margaret Stevenson is a teacher in Lae.



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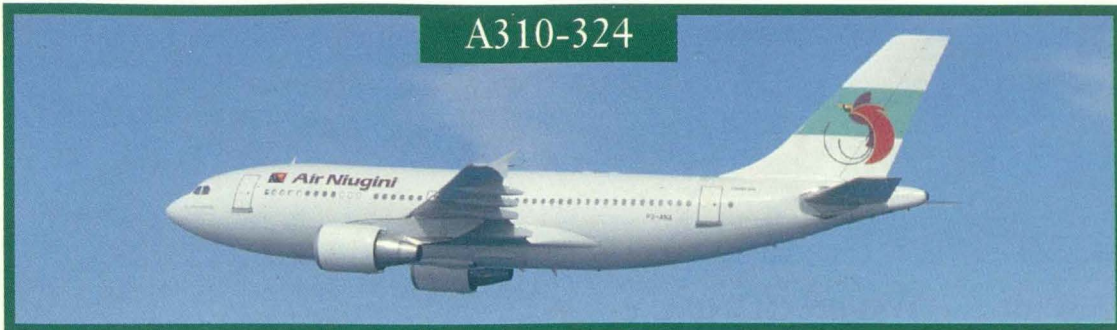
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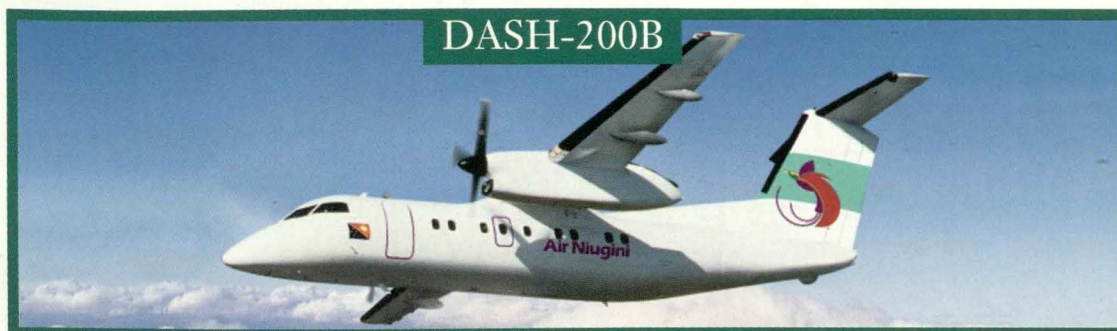
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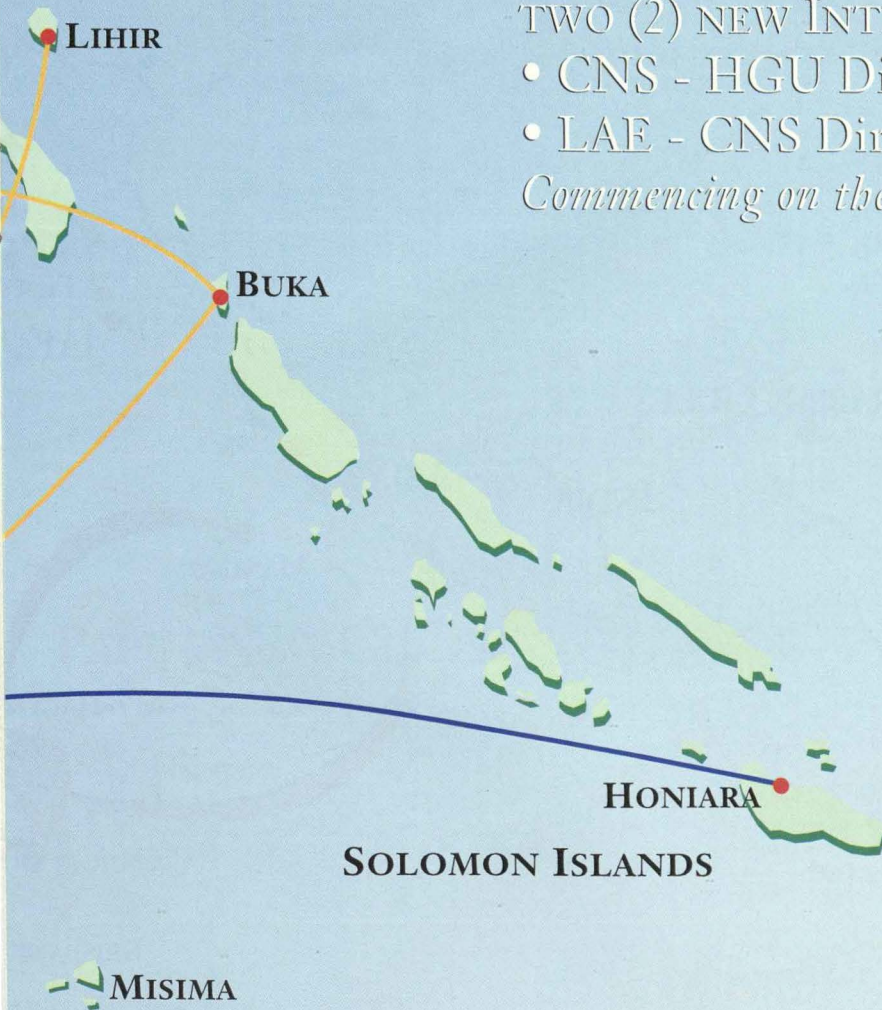
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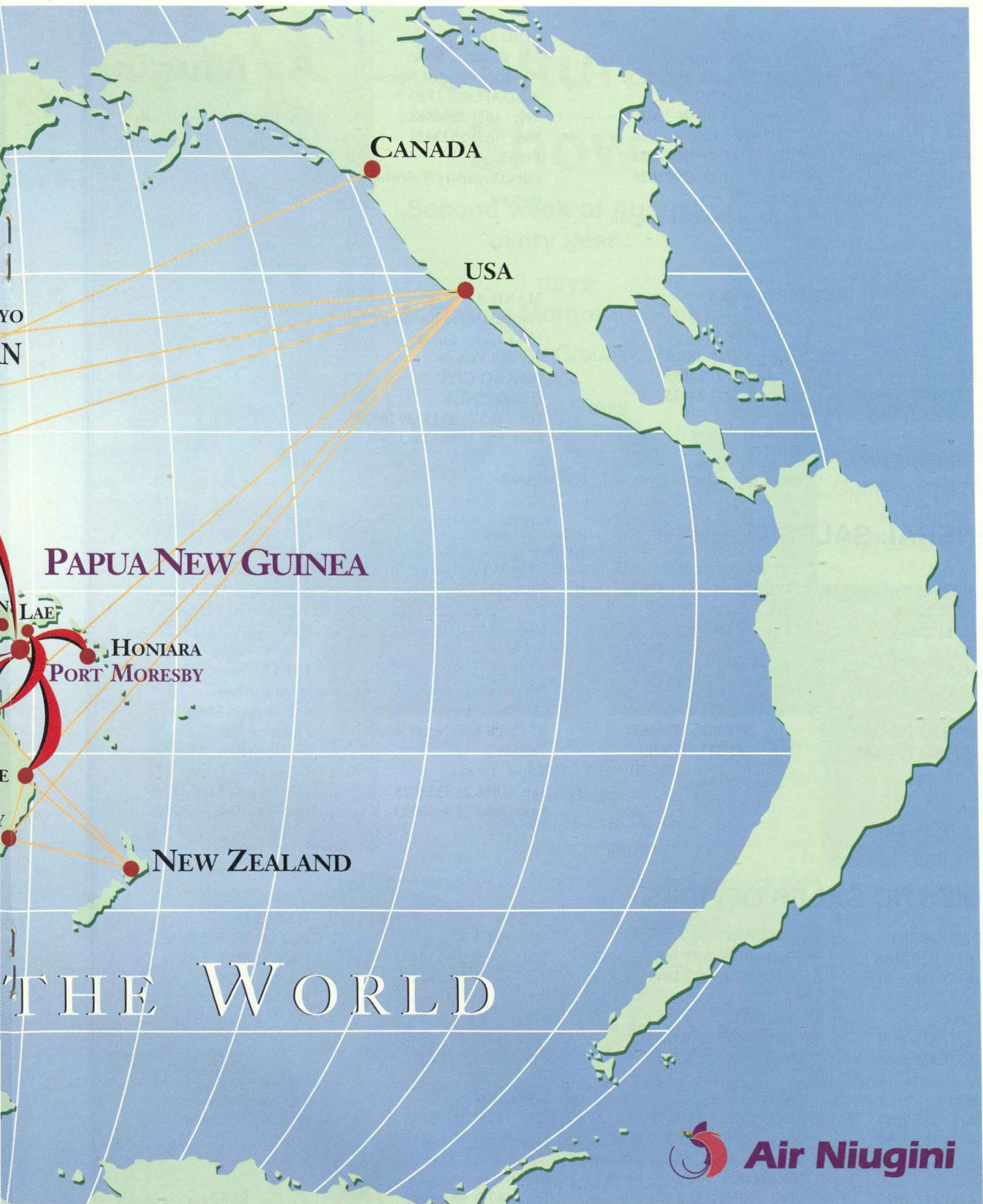
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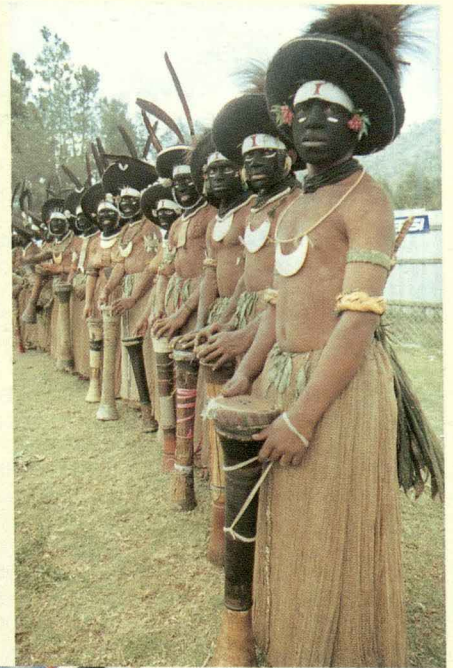


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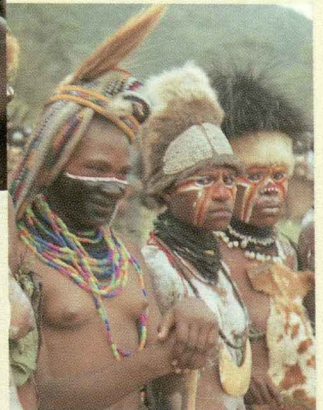
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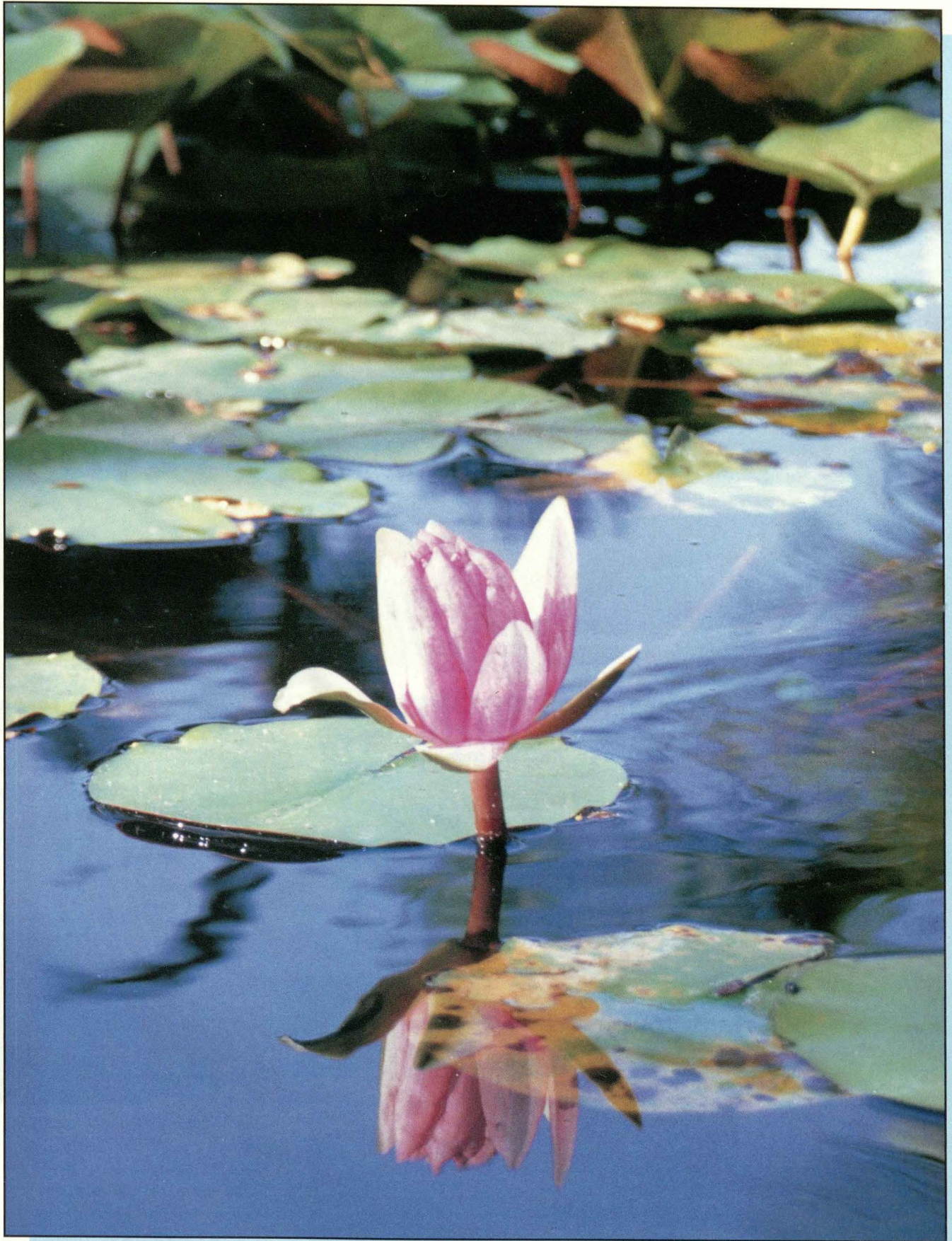
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Laben Sakale John — winner of the Photograph Competition
Water lily

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Golfers respond to the sound of the kundu!

Story by David Conn

Photographs by Graeme Sharp

Kundu in Papua New Guinea pidgin means drum and can be used to call people to an important event. In late March each year the sound of the *kundu* summons over 160 keen amateur golfers with some linkage to Papua New Guinea to the Palm Meadows Golf Club on Queensland's Gold Coast for the annual Air Nuigini sponsored Kundu Cup.

Players come from as far away as New Zealand, United States and Papua New Guinea. The event was the brain child of former Papua New Guinean residents, John and Jay Fong, and a group of PNG 'expats' who see the event as an excuse to bring together players from many different backgrounds not only for the golf, but as a chance to stay in touch with Papua New Guinea and meet old friends.



Top: Early morning, Palm Meadows Golf Course
Above: Large field warms up on the putting green.



A boisterous contingent of sixteen players from Port Moresby (*photo above*) travelled via Brisbane and was accommodated at the luxurious Radisson Palm Meadows Hotel overlooking the superbly manicured resort course near Carrara on the Gold Coast.

Below: Tournament winners with the innovative kundu-shaped trophies and organisers above the 9th green at the luxurious Palm Meadows Golf Course. (Left to right back) Jay Fong, Godfrey Fong, Pauline Pidcock, Robert Asanuma, James MacDonagh, Alan Wong (Left to right front) Eunice Sowden, Willie Seeto, John Fong



For many the golf is almost the side-show as they catch up with old friends and acquaintances, a large number of whom now live in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Robert Asanuma and Jay Fong, who were both born in Papua New Guinea, hatched the idea two years ago and have watched as the event has grown into an important date in the social calendar of Papua New Guinea residents and 'expats' alike.

An important facet of the event is to raise funds for charity. This year several thousand dollars were donated to children's Cancer Research at the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane. Hospital representative, Trish Tritton acknowledged the support with a certificate and assured organisers the money would be used to help the 1,500 children with cancer on their lists. Queensland has one of the highest rates of children's cancer in the world.

Another organiser and former Papua New Guinean Rugby lock, now a Queensland policeman, Hans Tuckerman, amused the audience at a sumptuous presentation lunch at the Radisson explaining how the event came about and their plans for future events.

Although many come to the Kundu Cup for the chance to meet up with old friends and catch up on the latest gossip in Papua New Guinea, there have to be winners and losers in the golf event.

Eventual Nett Winner was Queensland businessman, James MacDonagh, who stunned the field with Gross 89 and nett 62 scores on both days. Obviously James will not be claiming the maximum handicap next year. Pauline Piddock, a Tolai now living in Australia, took out the Ladies Event and Port Moresby's James Wu the Senior Event.

All those Papua New Guinean golfers, those who still call the country home or those who simply want a chance to catch up with old friends should put the last weekend in March 2000 at the fabulous Palm Meadows Course in their diary. See you there, wantok.

David Conn operates a business in Port Moresby and is an active charity fund-raiser. Graeme Sharp (ex-PNG expat) has Sharp Photo Services in Fortitude Valley.



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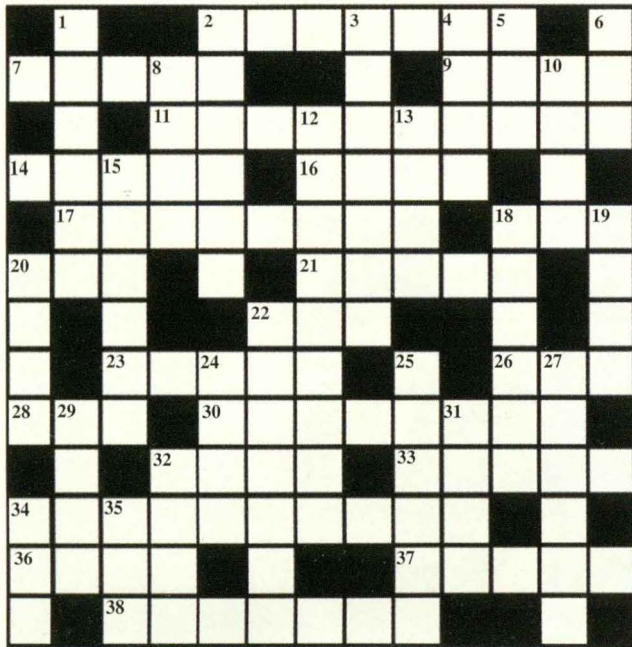
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Puzzles

CROSSWORD



Across

2. Model of excellence
7. Beneath
9. Invalid
11. Confused
14. Employs
16. Fit of anger
17. Faithless to principles
18. Part of a circle or curve
20. Precious stone
21. School furniture
22. Short for Edward
23. Rends
26. Moisture
28. Donkey
30. Memorandum
32. Deceive
33. Progress upwards
34. Tailed amphibian
36. Date of death
37. Schools of opinion
38. Meal course

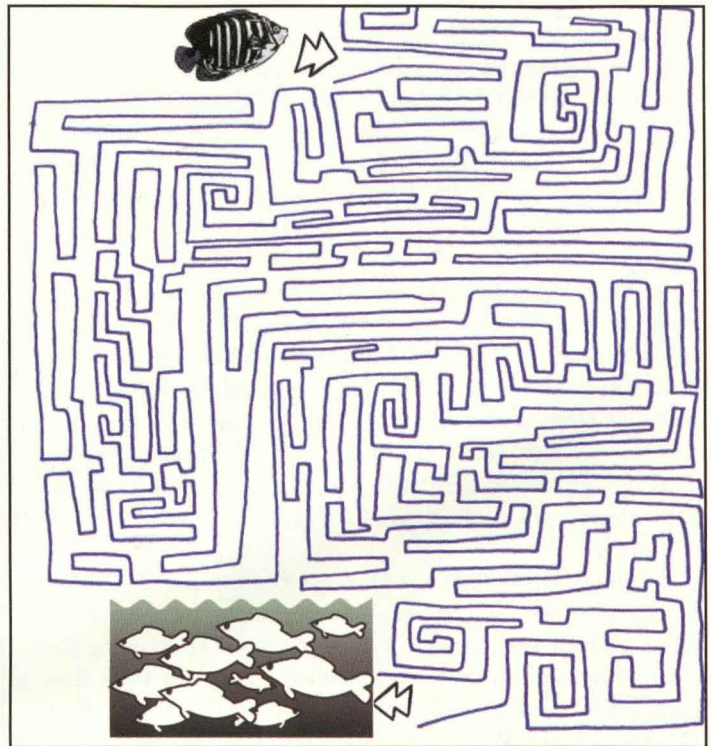
Down

1. Whole
2. Levered
3. Worn down
4. Single occasion
5. Fastener on end of bolt
6. Of advanced years
8. Paradise
10. Lecherous look
12. Merchants
13. Matures
15. Pardons
18. Indirect efforts
19. Large black bird
20. Fete
22. Surgeons' saws
24. Tall decorative lily
25. Disquiet
27. Builds
29. Slice of stone
31. Dreadful
32. Fruit of the palm
34. Weep
35. Saucepan cover

Answers are on page 48.

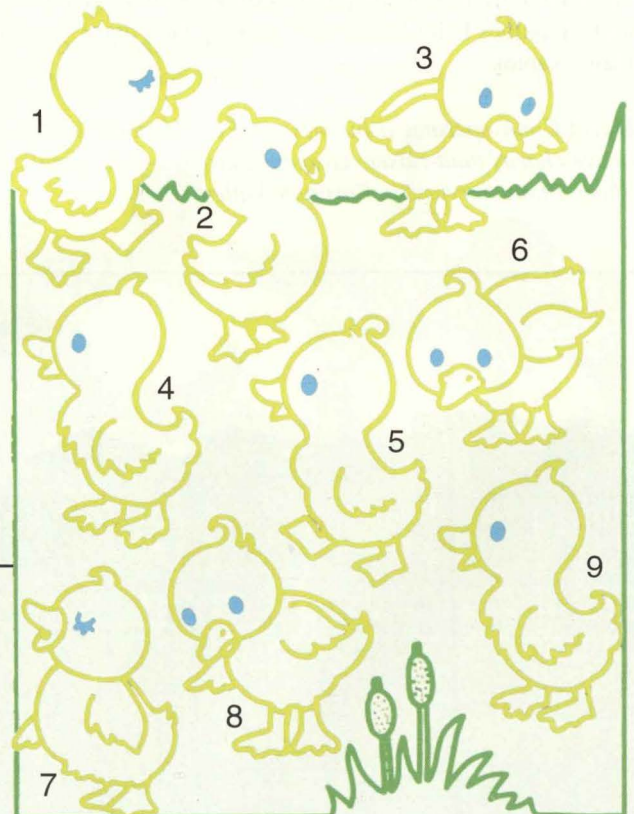
MAZE

Take the little fish through the maze to school.



DUCKS

Can you find two ducklings that look exactly alike?



MUSIC QUIZ

1. Which of these instruments is not a wind instrument: trombone, clarinet, flute, cello, bassoon, whistle? _____
2. What is the name given to a group of singers in a church? _____
3. What is the name of the stick used by a conductor? _____
4. What instrument leads an orchestra? _____
5. Which country do bagpipes come from? _____

A unique mountain stop

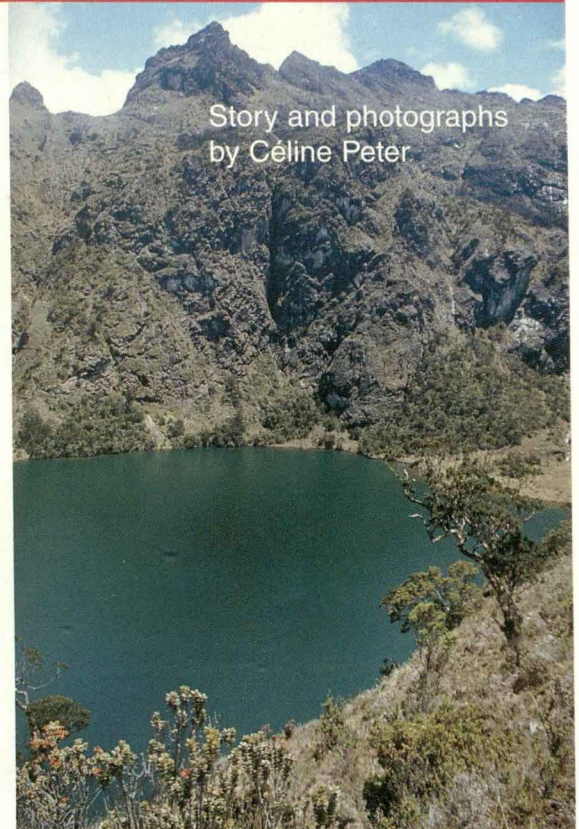
Home to rainbow trout

Nestled at the foot of Mt Wilhelm, on the forested slope that closes the Kegsugl-Gembogl Gorge, lies a cool and friendly property with a name so difficult to pronounce that everybody calls it by the name of the hostess — Betty's. Most travellers who face the two-hour drive up the steep and narrow gorge, have only one idea in mind. They come all the way to Kegsugl to spend a night at the lodge before starting the strenuous and breathtaking climb to the highest summit in Papua New Guinea — Mt Wilhelm, which hides itself in a thick blanket of clouds most of the time.

Our group was no different from others — people from Papua New Guinea, France, Italy, Germany, Malaysia and Australia. We intended to reach the top of Mt Wilhelm to plant the flag of the United Nations. Unfortunately, some did not make it to the top and had to turn back. Those who reached the top after hours and hours of climbing could not see much because the clouds had gathered quickly that morning. After this experience the team was looking forward to going back to the warm and comfortable lodge, having a hot shower and a good dinner. This day had been very long. We had started our climb to the summit at 3am, but we all ran back to Betty's before dark.

We settled in the kitchen with Betty and Kent, and told them about our adventures in the wind and cold of the mountain. But we had not yet discovered all the wonders of Kegsugl. The most interesting discoveries and exploration of our trip would begin the next morning.

Right: *Lake Pindi Yaundo, a site on the walk to Mt Wilhelm, feeds the farm with cold, clean water.* Below: *Fish ponds look like natural pools.*





Above: Reservoir and earth pond for angling

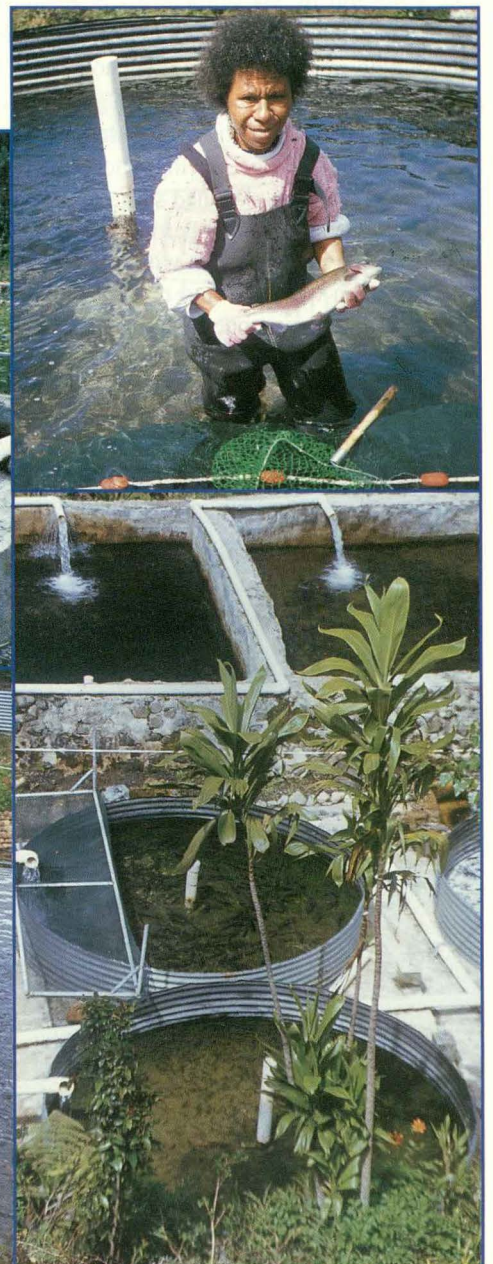
Below: Putting in separating net for sorting fish

Bottom left: Betty and Ruth feed the hungry trout.

Bottom right: More fish ponds — a big investment was needed to build the farm.

Early morning, I woke up to the sweet aroma of freshly cooked pancakes from the kitchen and hurried there to find all the other friends already having a breakfast party. When we had first arrived, before starting the journey to the Mt Wilhelm, we were fed with food all grown and produced within the farm, in the main being the fresh trout, and vegetables. After breakfast and coffee on the verandah of the lodge, which is located in a perfect site to overlook the valley towards Simbu and the farm, Betty took us on a tour of the farm and more importantly to learn about trout farming.

Below: Betty checks which fish are spawning





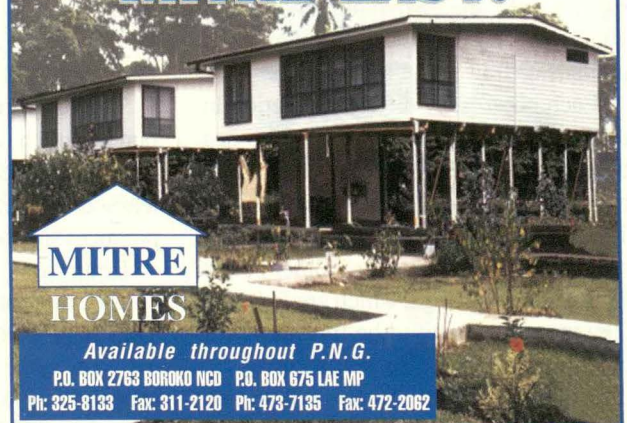
Betty and some of her family and friends who live and work on the farm.

The property is divided into plots where different food and vegetables are grown. I was amazed to see vegetables that grow in the cold climate of Europe growing very well at the foot of Mt Wilhelm. These included English potatoes, strawberries, leeks, English cabbage, parsley, cauliflower, broccoli, asparagus, carrots and peas. The other distinguishable feature of the farm is the neatly arranged flower gardens planted on the property to create a colourful environment around the lodge, as well as around the very many fish ponds of the trout farm.

The vegetable gardens truly reflect an organic farm of the European Alps amidst a colony of carrots, cabbage, broccoli, parsley, and ... strawberries, crawling here and there all around the slopes. What else do you need in life? Just a little bit of fresh cream to put on top of the strawberries. There are also pigs, rabbits and chickens.

Betty's Trout Farm is a successful small inland freshwater fish farm. When the trout farm was first established, she got most of her fingerlings from the breeding station in Kainantu, Eastern Highlands Province. Later she was sponsored by the Department of Fisheries to undertake a short course in Japan and this training gave her the capacity and 'know-how' to breed her own fingerlings. Now she does her own breeding and farms her own trout.

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Locals buying fresh trout at the farm

With help from family members whom she has hired to work on the trout farm, she has managed to increase production. We were able to witness this community and family support.

Farming of fresh water trout, especially rainbow trout requires constant crystal-clear and fresh, running water at a given temperature. Betty has found this ideal condition. The stream that flows along the property comes all the way from Lake Pindi. A small dam was built to divert some of the water to run off into the fish tanks and ponds which are aesthetically nestled in a gardens of flowers and vegetables.

Each pond has a different function in the stages of trout farming, from fish egg breeding, artificial insemination, hatchery, fingerling, to feeding of fish. The breeders, male and female, are kept separate in two large tanks. Other ponds are full of fingerlings, which are fed until they are old enough to be transferred to other ponds. Betty also sells some of the fingerlings to local farmers, whom she has encouraged to do trout farming too. Betty is trying to assist the local community to be able to supplement protein intake with fish.

Other ponds are alive with young trout, some with medium-sized ones, and others with much bigger fish. The trout are fed twice a day. The time of feeding is both fun and enjoyable, especially seeing the trout jumping, twisting and fighting to get the food. Many times when they jump up they splash water onto the people feeding them. The trout feed on fishmeal imported from Australia.

Gradually, Betty's fresh rainbow trout are becoming known in the country. She has managed to establish market links with businesses in Madang (Madang Resort Hotel) and Goroka (Bird of Paradise Hotel) to supply fresh trout.

The Government assisted Betty in purchasing a machine to smoke trout. With technical assistance from JICA, she learned to smoke trout, so now she produces smoked trout for market as well.

Betty and her husband Kent are considering starting a trout cannery. They have done some pilot canning and we saw some samples, which looked appealing. It would be interesting to see canned trout alongside the other major sea-water canned fish like Besta and 777 on the supermarket shelves if their intention becomes commercially viable.

During our three days at the lodge, we were fed with local produce from the farm, fresh and smoked rainbow trout plus a few additional requirements purchased in Kundiawa (sugar, tea, coffee etc). Before we left, we bought some smoked trout as well as some fresh vegetables to take home.

A few weeks after I left the farm, I received some fresh and smoked rainbow trout from Betty's farm. Because I love cooking myself, I have decided to share with you some trout recipes in the local gourmet food section on page 63 of this issue.

Trout (both fresh and smoked) can be ordered from the farm and shipped by air on request.

*For more details contact Betty Higgins,
Lake Pindi Yaundo Trout Farm,
PO Box 224, Kundiawa
Simbu Province
Phone: (61) 145 112037
Fax: (61) 145 212037
(From PNG phone 0561 ...)*

Céline Peter is a resident of Port Moresby, with a keen interest in food and travel.

AUDIO ENTERTAINMENT

CLASSICAL Channel: 5

Meditation from 'Thais'
(Massenet)
Takako Nishizaki: violin
Jeno Jando: piano
NAXOS

Toccatina in D Minor, BWV 565
(Bach)
Leopold Stokowski Symphony
Orchestra
Conductor: Leopold Stokowski
EMI

Flute Quartet in D, K 285
(Mozart)
James Galway: flute
Tokyo String Quartet
RCA

Wiegenlied, Op 49, No 4
(Brahms)
Victoria de los Angeles: soprano
Sinfonia of London
Conductor: Rafael Fruhbeck de
Burgos
EMI

Lute Concerto in D Major
(Vivaldi)
G Sarkoezi: lute
Dall'Arco Chamber Orchestra
NAXOS

**Adagio From Symphony No
80 in D Minor (Haydn)**
Australian Chamber Orchestra
Conductor Sir Charles Mackerras
CONIFER

Pastels (Shanahan)
Roslyn Dunlop: clarinet
JADE

Recuerdos de la Alhambra
(Memories of the Alhambra)
(Tarrega)
Christopher Parkening: guitar
EMI

**'Ode To Joy' from Symphony
No 9 (Beehoven)**
Westminster Choir, The
Philadelphia Orchestra
Conductor: Riccardo Muti
EMI

Waltz No 7, Op 64 No 2
(Chopin)
Rudolf Buchbinder
EMI

POP Channel: 6

Sometimes
Britney Spears
JIVE

Unpretty
TLC
LAFACE

Lost My Faith
Seal
WB

Beautiful Stranger
Madonna
PRO CD

American Woman
Lenny Kravitz
VIRGIN

Don't Cry
Human Nature
COLUMBIA

Kiss Me
Sixpence None The Richer
COLUMBIA

Scar Tissue
Red Hot Chili Peppers
WB

Look At Me
Geri Halliwell
EMI

Erase/Rewind
The Cardigans
POLYDOR

If You Had My Love
Jennifer Lopez
COLUMBIA

All Star
Smash Mouth
INTERSCOPE

Word Up
Melanie G
VIRGIN

I Want It That Way
Backstreet Boys
JIVE

Have A Look
Vanessa Amorosi
TRANSISTOR

Everything Is Everything
Laurn Hill
COLUMBIA

EASY LISTENING Channel: 7

Holding Back The Years
Simply Red
EAST WEST

Truly
Lionel Richie
MOTOWN

**You Are The Sunshine
Of My Life**
Stevie Wonder
MOTOWN

If You Asked Me To
Celine Dion
Epic

EASY LISTENING Channel: 7

**It Shouldn't Happen
To A Dream**
Sarah Vaughan
VERVE

Fields Of Gold
Sting
A & M

Vincent
Emporio Players
EMPORIO

The Best Is Yet To Come
Diane Schuur
GRP

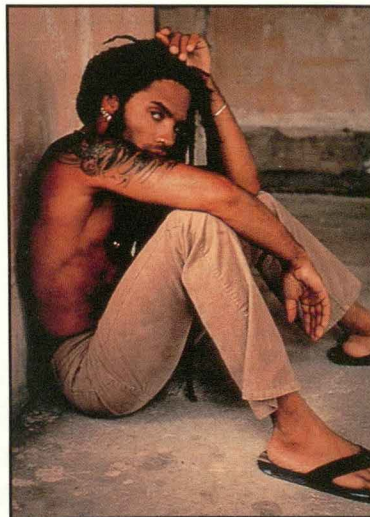
I've Got You Under My Skin
Frank Sinatra
CAPITOL

Better Be Home Soon
Crowded House
CAPITOL

I Remember
Boyz II Men
MOTOWN

Nobody Does It Better
Billy Andrusco Orchestra
SILVER EAGLE

Lenny Kravitz



So Beautiful
Chris De Burgh
A & M

Woman's Gotta Have It
Wendy Matthews
ROOART

Wicked Game
Chris Isaak
REPRISE

Midnight Cowboy
Henry Mancini Orchestra
RCA

Hellos & Goodbyes
Tommy Emmanuel
COLUMBIA



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**COMEDY
Channel: 9**

Dial-A-Curse
National Lampoon
WEA

Fat Man's Prayer
Victor Buono
DORE RECORDS

The Doctor
I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again
BBC

Excerpts From Sean's Tape
Sean Hughes
LAUGHING STOCK

Foreign News (Channel 9)
The Fast Show
BBC

George is A Frustrated Singer
George Burns & Gracie Allen
DELTA

Insomnia No 2
The Bickersons
DELTA MUSIC

Stupid Things
Ellen DeGeneres
ATLANTIC

Plane Sequence
Get Smart
RAVEN

Dangerous Sports
Jasper Carrott
EMI

The Dentist
Shelley Berman
BBC

Eye Witness News
Steve Allen & Friends
VARESE SARABANDE

Excerpts from Monty Python's Previous Record
Monty Python
VIRGIN

Monologue
Saturday Night Live
ARISTA

Steel Marbles
Jerry Clower
MCA

Identikit Gal
Bill Oddie
EMI

**COUNTRY
Channel: 10**

Unsung Hero
Terri Clark
MERCURY

She's In Love
Mark Wills
MERCURY

**My Kind Of Woman/
My Kind Of Man**
Vince Gill with Patty Loveless
MCA

Almost Home
Mary Chapin Carpenter
COLUMBIA

Little Man
Alan Jackson
ARISTA

Maybe Not Tonight
Lorrie Morgan
with Sammy Kershaw
BNA

Please Remember Me
Tim McGraw
CURB

Hat Town
Lee Kernaghan
ABC

**(Now You See Me)
Now You Don't**
Lee Ann Womack
MCA

**COUNTRY
Channel: 10**

Write This Down
George Strait
MCA

You've Got A Way
Shania Twain
MERCURY

The Gambler
Kenny Rogers
WARNER

The Secret Of Life
Faith Hill
WB

Just When I Needed You Most
Dolly Parton with Alison Krauss
MCA

I'll Still Love You More
Trisha Yearwood
MCA

**CHILDREN'S
Channel: 11**

A Very, Very Special Letter
Big Bird from Sesame Street
ABC

The Wizard Of Oz
Snagglepuss
EMI

Dee, Dee, Dee
Ernie from Sesame Street
ABC

Jack And The Beanstalk
Paul Wing
RCA

Being Green
Kermit The Frog
from the Muppets
ASTOR

Show Business
Bananas In Pyjamas
ABC

**If I Knew You Were Coming
I'd've Baked A Cake**
Cookie Monster & The Count
from Sesame Street
ABC

Dragon Song
Noni Hazelhurst & Friends
ABC

Yertle The Turtle
Dr Seuss
CAMDEN

V-E-G-E-T-A-B-L-E-S
Colin Buchanan
ABC

The Hippo Song
Alister Smart & Friends
ABC

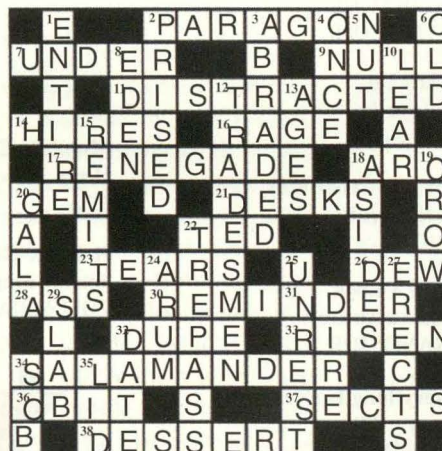


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1. Cello — a string instrument
2. A choir
3. A baton
4. A violin
5. Scotland

The Tale Of Jemima

Puddle-Duck
Wendy Craig
EMI

Nothing To Be Scared Of
Rugrats
INTERSCOPE

Do-in' The Pigeon
Bert from Sesame Street
ABC

The Gingerbread Boy
Glenn Riggs
RCA CAMDEN

Macarena
Alvin & The Chipmunks
EPIC

FEATURE FILMS

International flights:

from Port Moresby

to Port Moresby

SEPTEMBER

The Spy Who Shagged Me



Genre: Comedy
Rated: PG-13
From: Warner
95 minutes

In 1999 Austin Powers is honeymooning with the smashing Vanessa Kensington when he receives an 'explosive' surprise that returns him to single swinging status. To make matters worse, Dr Evil has returned to Earth from the frozen recesses of space and is hatching a new diabolical scheme to annihilate the world. Dr Evil uses a time machine to travel back to 1969. Luckily, British Intelligence has developed a unique time machine of their own — a psychedelic Volkswagen Beetle.

Featuring: Mike Myers, Michael York, Heather Graham, Robert Wagner
Director: Jay Roach

Entrapment



Genre: Drama/Adventure
Rated: PG-13
From: Fox
113 minutes

An insurance investigator convinces her boss that only she can set the trap to catch legendary gentleman thief Robert MacDougal, by posing as a master thief herself. As their mutual attraction, and distrust, they plan a breathtaking heist on the eve of the millennium.

Featuring: Sean Connery, Will Patton, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Maury Chaykin
Director: Jon Amiel

OCTOBER

Notting Hill



Genre: Romantic Comedy
Rated: PG-13
From: E-Source
124 minutes

Anna Scott is the world's most famous movie star. Her picture has been plastered on the cover of every magazine, and every time she makes a move, the entire world knows about it. William Thacker owns a travel bookstore. His business is stagnant, he has the roommate from hell, and since his divorce, his love life is completely non-existent. For both, something, or someone, seems to be missing. When Anna's and William's paths unexpectedly cross in the eclectic neighbourhood of Notting Hill, romance is the last thing on their minds.

Featuring: Julia Roberts, Hugh Grant, Hugh Bonneville, Emma Chambers
Director: Roger Michell

The Mummy



Genre: Adventure/Thriller
Rated: PG-13
From: Universal
123 minutes

In 1923, dashing legionnaire Rick O'Connell and Beni, his weasel of a companion, stumble upon the hidden ruins of Hamunaptra, where Imhotep suffered his fate worse than death. Several years later, as O'Connell languishes in prison awaiting certain execution, he finds that his knowledge of the exact location of Hamunaptra becomes a bargaining tool for his life. The legendary riches buried beneath the sands have become an obsession with both treasure hunters and archaeologists.

Featuring: Brendon Fraser, Rachel Weis, John Hannah
Director: Stephen Sommers

Channels 1 and 2

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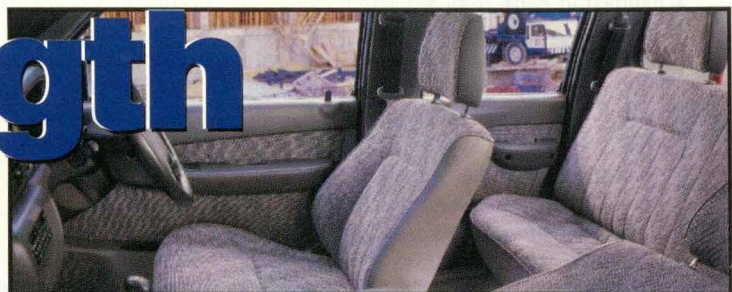


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Cairns, Gateway to the Great Barrier Reef



After 25 years of diving the fantastic waters of Papua New Guinea, arguably the best in the world, I was not overly enthusiastic about diving the Great Barrier Reef. I had first dived the Great Barrier Reef in 1973 before moving up to Papua New Guinea. The few dive boats were small, slow and made a lot of exploratory dives searching for the best dive sites. Divers knew little about the marine life and fish were either edible, pretty or dangerous.

But I recently returned to live in Cairns and found some big changes. The best sites are now well established and protected by moorings which also limit the number of boats on a site at any one time (usually just one). Fast comfortable dive boats visit these sites on an almost daily basis and the reef fish have become fearless towards divers. Some areas have been declared *Green* by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and all fishing and collecting are prohibited. On some sites, such as the famous Cod Hole (*photos above*) where Potato Cod, Giant Maori Wrasse and other fish are regularly fed, they have become not just tame but demanding of attention. At most sites there is no feeding and yet the fish have learned that divers are harmless and approach very closely. Boats have an on-board marine life specialist and teach divers identification and fascinating details of the life styles of local marine creatures.



Story and photographs by Bob Halstead

Choosing a good operator to get you to the best sites is important. I chose Mike Ball Dive Expeditions, one of the most highly respected dive operators on the Great Barrier Reef. Mike operates two live-aboard dive boats out of Townsville, *Spoilsport* and *Watersport*, and another, the *Supersport*, out of Cairns.

In 1996 Mike started operating in Papua New Guinea and in 1998 introduced the magnificent *Paradise Sport*, a brand new custom built live-aboard dive boat that is based in Alotau. I recently joined *Supersport* on a four day cruise from Cairns to Lizard Island and, for the first time in my photographic life, ran out of film!



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Above & left: *Minke whales can be seen near Cairns.*
Below: *Mike Ball's 'Paradise Sport' in Milne Bay*



Fish that I had struggled for years to photograph in the wilds of Papua New Guinea swam up and posed in front of my camera lens. In just four days I had a fabulous collection of fish pictures, then had to book a return trip to get shots of the reef and the other critters. As an added bonus we flew back from Lizard Island on a special high wing, low altitude flight that gave unsurpassed views of the reef.

Although it is possible to dive deep, by far the best part of the Great Barrier Reef is in the shallows. There are many exquisite coral gardens with a bounty of nudibranchs and other invertebrates, and the shallow depths enable divers to make multiple dives and stack up considerable bottom time. Most dive sites are in sheltered water, protected by the outer barrier reef which actually dries in many areas at low tide. Snorkelling is enormously popular. In fact most visitors to the Reef see it snorkelling rather than scuba diving. Diving groups are usually small and do not overload the sites. I was impressed by the health of the lush corals.

Night dives can be particularly rewarding for macro photographers, and are a good reason to take a live-aboard trip, even for just a couple of nights, rather than only day trips. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the few places in the world where the spawning of corals can be reliably predicted. The night time orgy of spawning after the full moon in November each year attracts a pilgrimage of divers to witness this wondrous event, and world record numbers of night dives are logged. If live-aboards do not appeal, then an option is to stay at one of the several island resorts right on the Great Barrier Reef. Green Island is just a one hour fast boat ride from the Cairns marina.

Beautiful reefs and a multitude of fish would be more than enough for most divers, but when I surfaced after one early morning dive the Supersport crew pointed out that we had Minke Whales around the boat. I reloaded cameras and returned immediately to the water with my trusty snorkel to hang on a line conveniently trailing from the back of the boat. Minke Whales are common from Cairns to Lizard Island from about May through September, with July being the month of choice. They are remarkably friendly and will approach a drifting or anchored dive boat. Divers are advised not to chase the whales and the best encounters are had by staying still and allowing the whales to swim right up to you. Humpback whales are also seen. In 1998 a sensational and rare albino Humpback swam around the reefs for a month.

You will hear the word 'Bommie' used a lot in Australia. Derived from an Aboriginal term it refers to an isolated coral head and can be quite small like an individual brain coral, or a complete coral tower such as Steve's Bommie. Steve's and other bommies such as Pixie Pinnacle are spectacular dives, rising from deep water to just a few feet from the surface. The best dive plan is to go to a comfortable depth then spiral round the bommie making a gradual ascent. Reef passages such as the one at the Cod Hole provide big fish action since they are affected by tidal currents. However these are predictable and dive operators are skilled at avoiding the times of maximum flow.



Coral spawning in November

At other sites coral labyrinths on top of the reef are particularly scenic with many channels, swim-throughs and overhangs. This is beautiful relaxing diving with a multitude of interesting creatures to satisfy both beginning and experienced divers. Dive guides are available for those who want them, but experienced divers are not required to use a guide.

Mike Ball Dive Expeditions can be contacted on
 Email resv@mikeball.com or at the Cairns office
 Tel: 07 40315484

Bob and Dinah Halstead were pioneers of tourist diving in Papua New Guinea. They now live in Cairns, promoting PNG diving and writing about their experiences.



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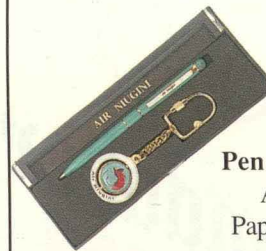
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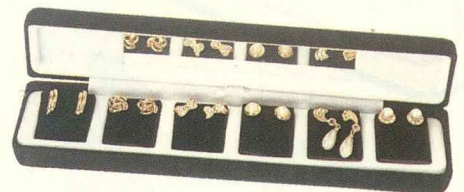
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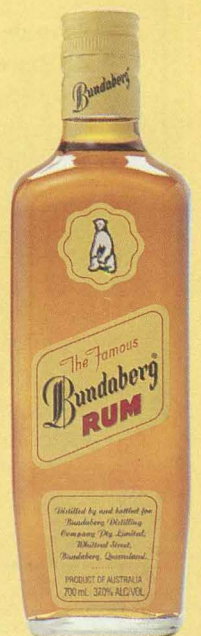
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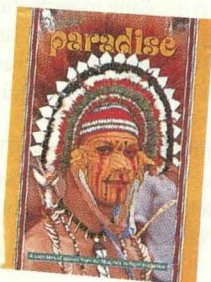


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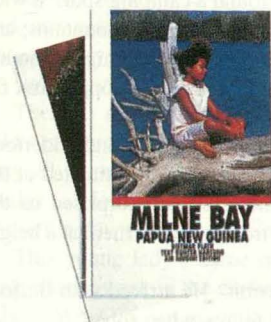
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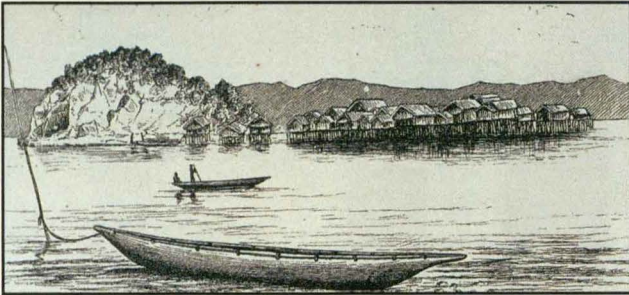


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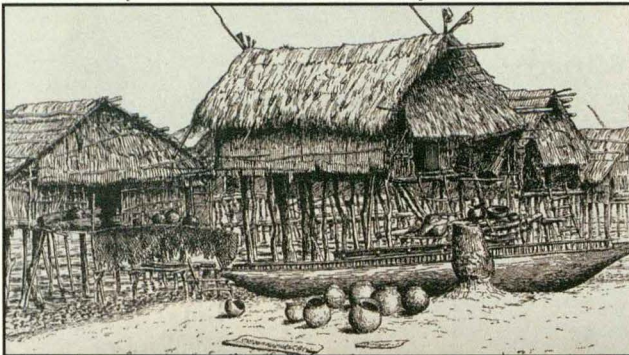


A Collector's Rambles

by Eric Lindgren



Above: Part of the village of Bura-Bura (now Hanuabada) near Port Moresby, 1882
Below: Chief's house, Bura-Bura



Above: Mount Owen Stanley, as seen from Port Moresby, 1882
Below: The village of Narinuma near Port Moresby, 1882



The nineteenth Century was a time of adventure for many of the world's great naturalists. New Guinea was the last unknown — South America, Africa, the Himalayas, China and other corners of the world had long attracted collectors for the great natural history museums of Europe and North America. They had been explored and sampled since the early navigators with their doctor/naturalists on board discovered new lands and sought to describe their contents. Europe was a hotbed of curiosity about these new worlds. Their numerous scientific societies could hardly wait for news from abroad.

The United States of America was late in joining these endeavours, particularly in New Guinea and the southwest Pacific. Their time was to come in the twentieth century. However one man, Sherman F Denton, Artist to the US Fish Commission in Washington DC was the exception. He visited Port Moresby and wrote a book about his experiences.

Denton came from a family accustomed to nature in the US, as shown in his book's dedication: 'To the memory of my dear father, WILLIAM DENTON, who lost his life in the pursuit of knowledge for the benefit of his fellow men, this little work is affectionately dedicated. I have undertaken this task, with the hope that what I relate here may prove of interest to those who love to rub against Nature.'

When a letter from his father arrived at their Boston home on 5 December 1881 asking Sherman to join him in Australia, he accepted, detouring through New Zealand on the way and encountering many adventures with his brother, Shelley, in that 'Land of the Long White Cloud'.

But it was New Guinea that drew them on. On 3 July 1882, after a brief stay on Thursday Island, they boarded the schooner *C Walker* for Port Moresby. On board was Mr Armit, correspondent for the Melbourne Argus newspaper, 'a thin, wiry man, sanguine as to hair and mustache'. Also aboard were J Loftus Irving, 'a slim English dude, possessing to perfection the art of bragging ...', Robert Hunter, a resident of Port Moresby, and George Belford, a big, brawny half-caste; plus the captain and crew. Anyone familiar with Papua New Guinean colonial history will recognise some of these well known names.

Towards the evening of the 9 July they approached Port Moresby. 'The harbour was almost enclosed by high hills, covered with long, dry grass, with here and there a garden. ... To the right, stretching for a quarter of a mile, the native town of Bura-Bura was supported on piles ...'

The trio soon settled in camp on a ridge overlooking the harbour and commenced planning their first trip. In the late afternoon they set out for Lapidoma, about fifteen miles inland. They found a camping spot: 'a wide plain, extending to the base of the forest-covered Astralabe Mountains; and beyond and above them, towering into the clouds, was the mighty mount, Owen Stanley'. That night was spent sleeping on a bed of long grass, for 'a refreshing sleep'.

Two local men, of the Coyara tribe were hunting nearby and undertook to lead the party to Lapidoma. 'This was a strange village, situated at the base of the Astralabe Mountains. What interested and surprised us the most, however, was the number of houses in trees; some of them at a height of sixty feet.'

The Dentons camped here and awaited Armit. He arrived with Belford and Robert Hunter, 'who was a pretty good fellow when sober'.

This group resolved that they would move on to Narinuma. Their camp was near Hombrom Bluff: 'Narinuma is near the Lalloki River, on a rocky mountain overlooking the deep valley. This almost perpendicular rock, more than one thousand feet high, is nearly flat on the top ...'

Armit, Belford and Hunter left a few days later to penetrate farther inland. The Dentons based themselves at Narinuma and commenced collecting specimens for their American museums. 'Some of the fruit pigeons were as large as ducks They were of many kinds and colors: some, green, with pink spots on their wings; some, slate-blue; others, brown and coppery-green; and one kind had a green back and purple breast.' Students of ornithology may like to speculate on the current names of these birds.

Birds of Paradise displayed nearby and were added to the collections. Then, 'One evening, just at sunset, we were surprised to hear several shots fired, ... and half an hour afterward George Belford appeared. ... He had left the party at Shugary, and was on his way to the coast, ... to get provisions and ammunition ...' William, who had gone on to Shugary, had written to say he was in good health and doing nicely. Shelley and Sherman accompanied Belford back to the coast.

In further adventures the pair collected again at Narinuma, and along the Lalloki River. After wounding a cassowary and following its blood-spotted track Sherman made an interesting discovery, 'We came upon a burial cave ... This cave was a natural one in the side of a hill ... used for many years ... accumulation of skeletons. There were hundreds of them, and skulls with their empty sockets stared at us from every side. Many of the bodies were in sacks or nets, and some were quite fresh, and could not have been placed there many days before our arrival. ... a dead baby in a net hung by a branch of a tree nearby. ... I left, feeling sick and heavy of heart.'

One night there was a commotion in the village; a child's crying awoke everyone, including Sherman. 'The mother was very patient, and I heard her say 'Bidica, bidica! Coyara arta yargima, lass. De avier kikini de yaba yaba momonarty. Negato de ellegim vany momo. Negato de aneane momo. Yaba yaba lass'. (Which he translated as 'Goodness gracious! Coyara men cannot sleep. You are a small child, but you cry very loud. Tomorrow, you will see the sun. Tomorrow, you will have plenty to eat. Don't cry.')

'Collecting proceeded well at Narinuma, particularly when the village people assisted. There was a little boy at Narinuma named Waboota, who was a born naturalist. ... One day he brought us a monstrous beetle, two and a half inches long (P), for which we gave him a few beads. ... He said he obtained it in bamboo.'

The stay was not without sexual temptations. Lohier, the chief, was curious about America and set about asking Sherman what it was like: 'Are the birds, trees and flowers as nice where you live?'

No.

Are the white people any happier than the Coyaries?

Perhaps not so happy. Their land is not so productive, and they have to work very hard.

Do you have any sweethearts?

No, we have had, but they are all married.

How do you like the Coyara girls?

Some of them are very handsome and pleasing.

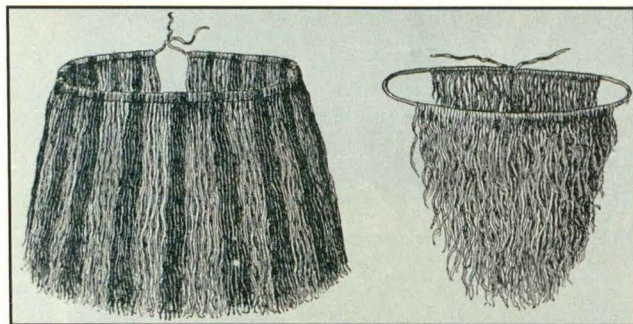
Would you marry any you have seen?

Hardly. You see, Lohier, we came a long distance to get to Narinuma; and, as we are rich and very good-looking (!), we ought to have the best your country affords.'

Lohier jumped up and was not seen for several days.

Then '... As we were preparing our dinner ... we beheld Lohier in the midst of a group of girls, some fifteen or twenty in number. ... In their hair, they all wore flowers, and bands of green leaves adorned their arms and ankles. ... He hoped we would each select one that pleased us, marry her, and settle down among the Coyaries.'

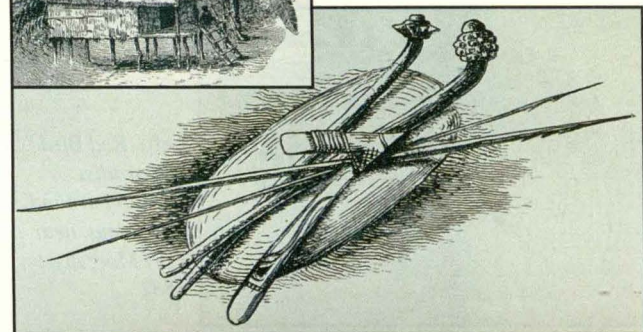
This young lady's name is Mime. Her home is Gidiaruma. She can sing, dance, work in the garden, cook kangaroo, and is good tempered and tidy. ... What do you say to her?



Above: Papuan dresses or grass skirts, as worn by the women of Bura Bura, 1882



Left: A Papuan house belonging to the Coyara (Koiari) people near Port Moresby, 1882

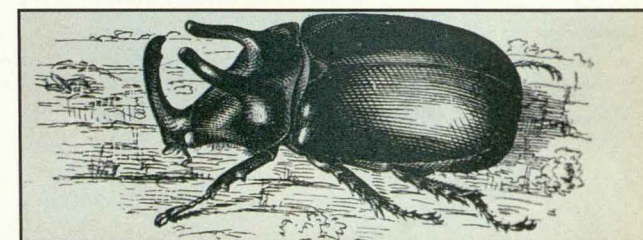


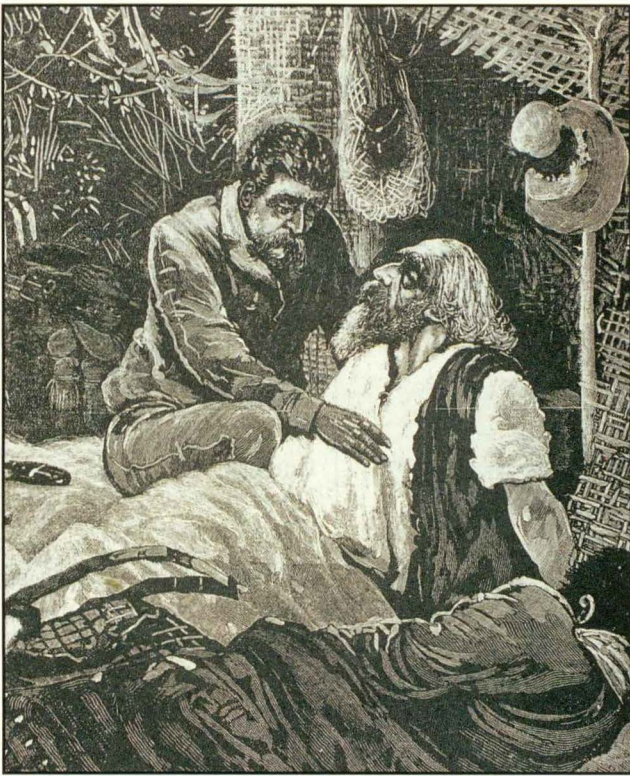
Below: Papuan weapons — a shield, adze, two clubs and two spears — from Port Moresby, 1882



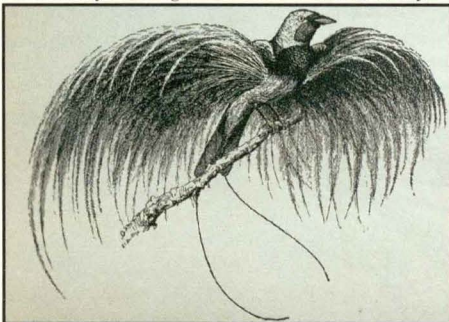
Above: Scene on the Lalloki River, 1882

Below: Bamboo (Rhinceros) beetle collected near Port Moresby, 1882

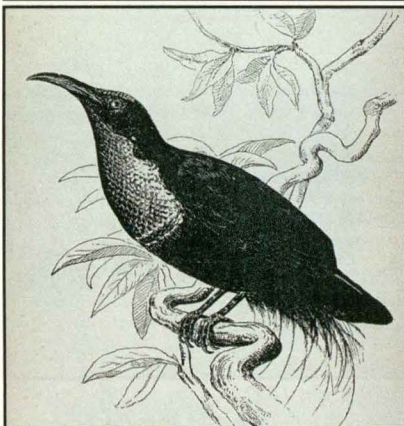




Above: William Denton, death from malaria on Sunday 26 Aug 1883 near Port Moresby

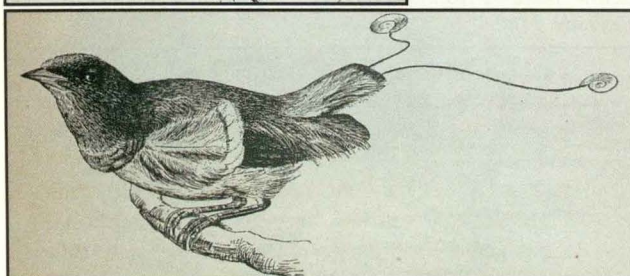


Left: Red Bird of Paradise, common around Narinuma, near Port Moresby, 1882



Left: Magnificent Rifle-bird, as seen by Denton near Narinuma, 1882

Below: King Bird of Paradise, common near Narinuma, 1882



What about the next? we asked.'

And so the charms of each girl were described: Bimema of Rapitora, who was very shapely; Kioto from Sana Sanagi who raised the best bananas; Lucena, of supple form, who had skin as smooth as a young banana leaf, hair as soft as a spider's web, and eyes as bright as the morning dew. As they paraded by, the collectors were told how much they would cost: Bimema, two axes; Kioto, enough cloth to make a petticoat; Lucena, an axe, a knife, a piece of calico, and a string of beads.

'My brother and I have homes a long way off ... and we are only making a short stay among you, to shoot birds and learn all we can about you, to tell our countrymen how you live. We will tell them about your lovely country ... and, above all, your handsome women, so many of whom we have seen to-day. We thank you for so good an entertainment, and now we will make you a few presents ... and so, with gayly-colored handkerchiefs, pins, brass rings and brass buttons, a sticky situation was avoided. The village was a scene of much merrymaking and laughter that afternoon, and towards evening they bid us goodbye ...'

The collectors ranged far and wide in the country about Narinuma. Their specimens were eventually returned to museums in the USA.

Finally it was time to leave, and with it came bad news. A messenger arrived from Armit's inland camp with the news: 'O, Sherman, cried Shelley in a wild and strange voice Father is dead!

The news almost stunned me. My heart seemed to stop beating, everything grew dark about me, and I nearly fell to the ground.'

Armit's party had started back for the coast with William Denton and George Belford on stretchers. Both had malaria. 'They finally reached a small town named Berrigabadi, where father died at seven o'clock in the evening, Sunday, August 26, 1883. The very day he died, we were at Shugari, only fifteen miles away, and could have seen him alive had we known where he was,' wrote Sheldon in the closing paragraphs of his book.

They buried William on a mountainside near Berrigabadi, but Sherman and Shelley never saw the grave. 'A recent traveller said that the place is well remembered by the natives, and they have built a fence about it.'

POSTSCRIPT:

There is some controversy about the Denton expedition. Assuming the title 'Professor', William may or may not have been a charlatan; more likely it was an affectionate title deferring to his knowledge of the natural world. Sherman was renowned for his psychic travelling, and purported to have visited New Guinea before during an astral experience. Nevertheless, his collecting and descriptions of the countryside ring true and the journal must be seen as one more part of the fascinating early history of Papua New Guinea when times and values were different from those of today.

Berrigabadi, Narinuma, and Lapidoma no longer exist; Bura Bura village is Hanuabada; Lalloki River is now spelled Laloki; Shugari is now Sogeri; today's Koiari people are the Coyara tribe; 'numa' is a location suffix on the Sogeri plateau; Nari(numa) may have been near present-day Narirogi Creek which winds through Varirata National Park.

Incidents of a Collector's Rambles in Australia, New Zealand, and New Guinea was written and illustrated with woodcuts by Sherman F Denton and published in 1889 by Lee and Shepard, Publishers, of 10 Milk Street next 'The Old South Meeting House', Boston, USA.

Dr Eric Lindgren is a photo-journalist based in Brisbane. He lived for 26 years in Papua New Guinea and developed a deep interest in the southwest Pacific, its people and wildlife.

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LOCAL GOURMET FOOD — Tasty Trout

By Céline Peter

The Highlands of Papua New Guinea are blessed with cool fast-running rivers that are the ideal breeding beds for rainbow trout. A few business men and women have developed commercial trout farms. Increasing number of villagers are also breeding trout for their own consumption. On the coast, one can find local coral trout in the markets and rainbow trout that has been air-freighted from the Highlands.

Trout can be barbecued, steamed, deep-fried, grilled, marinated or smoked. Below are a few of my favourite 'Frenchie' recipes that illustrate the delicate taste of trout. They do not need much flavour or sauce. Just add a few herbs and vegetables to enhance the flavour but not hide it. The ultimate success of cooking fish is to have extremely fresh fish, serve it immediately it is cooked, and do not overcook it. The backbone of the trout should be a little bit rosy when you serve it.



Truite meunière

Fried trout with almonds (serves 4)

4 trout (180g to 200g each)
2 tbsp oil 4 tbsp butter
3 tbsp flour 100g flaked almonds
1 lemon, salt, pepper

Heat oil and 2 tbsp butter in a pan. Wipe fish dry. Season with salt and pepper, then dip both sides in flour. Tap to remove excess flour. Lay the fish in the hot fat. Cook over a gentle heat for about 4 minutes on each side, until a golden colour.

Remove fish and keep hot on a dish.

If the fish has been properly cooked, the small amount of butter remaining in the pan will be pale gold in colour. Increase the heat, add rest of butter and almonds. Squeeze in juice of lemon, which will make the butter froth up, and immediately pour the sauce over the fish.



Trout en papillote with dill and lemon

(serves 4)

4 trout (180g to 200g each)
2 tsp olive oil 1 chopped shallot
1 sliced lemon, pith and peel removed
4 branches of dill or fresh fennel
salt, pepper
4 sheets of aluminium foil
Preheat oven to 230°C.

Season the inside of trout with salt and pepper. Stuff with dill or fennel.

Lay trout in aluminium foil. Sprinkle with chopped shallot and olive oil. Cover with lemon slices.

Pleat the foil over the top to enclose fish, pinching it together carefully. Put these *papillottes* (little parcels) on an ovenproof dish. Cook in hot oven for about ten minutes.

Smoked trout and lentil salad (serves 8)

Dressing ingredients:

150ml olive oil
90ml (6 tbsp) white vinegar
1 tsp ground coriander
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp caster sugar
2 tsp mustard salt and pepper

Salad:

2 medium onions, skinned
350g green lentils 1 tsp salt
700g smoked trout fillet
1 bunch watercress, trimmed



Whisk together all the dressing ingredients and set aside. Cut onions into thin rings.

Rinse the lentils. Place in saucepan. Cover with cold water and salt. Bring to boil, cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes or until the lentils are tender. Drain well. Put in bowl. Stir in dressing and onion rings.

Cover and leave in a cool place over night.

To serve:

Roughly flake the smoked trout. Spoon a small mould of lentils onto eight individual serving plates. Top with pieces of smoked trout. Roughly chop the watercress and sprinkle over the top to serve.



Trout à la Fontenay (serves 4)

3 carrots
2 sticks of celery
1 leek or 3 spring onions
2 tbsp butter
4 trout (180g to 200g each)
salt, pepper

Cut a fillet from each side of the back bone of the fish.

Peel and slice the carrots, celery and leek into 2mm wide and 4cm long pieces.

In a saucepan coated with butter, cook the vegetables on a low heat for about 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, then cover pan and stew for another 5 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool.



Preheat oven to 230°C.

Season inside of trout with salt and pepper, then stuff with vegetables. Lay trout on aluminium foil and wrap in similar way to *papillottes*. Cook for about 10 minutes. Serve immediately.

Welcome!

Getting Around: At Jackson's Airport, which is 11km from the centre of Port Moresby, there are rental car counters, a bank and duty free shops. Major hotels have a courtesy bus to and from the airport. Taxis have meters. Within the city, PMVs (public motor vehicles) cost 50 toea per journey.

Elsewhere, PMVs, taxis and hire cars are available.

Useful Port Moresby Numbers: Air Niugini Information 3273480; Reservations & Confirmation 3273555 (Domestic) and 3273444 (International); Police 000; Ambulance 3256822.

Currency: Papua New Guinea's unit of currency is the Kina which is divided into 100 toea. Exchange your money at Jackson's Airport or in banks which are open from 8.45am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday and until 4pm on Friday. Credit cards are accepted in leading hotels and shops.

Customs and Quarantine: Adults over 18 have a general allowance of new goods to the value of K250 and are allowed duty free:

- 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250grams of tobacco
- One litre of alcohol
- A reasonable amount of perfume

Drugs, pornographic literature or video tapes, firearms and weapons are prohibited. Food items, seeds, spices, live or dry plants, animals, animal products and biological specimens such as cultures and blood need special import approval.

Languages: Although over 800 languages are spoken in Papua New Guinea, English is the language of education and commerce. Tok Pisin is widely spoken and Hiri Motu is common in Papua.

Time: Papua New Guinea is 10 hours ahead of GMT, in the same time zone as Eastern Australia. There is no daylight saving.

Communication: ISD, STD and facsimile services are available in most areas. Large towns have public telephones. Phone cards can be used in some. Many rural areas have radio phones.

Driving: Drivers' licences issued in other countries are valid for 3 months after arrival. Vehicles travel on the left side of the road; speed limits are 60kph in built-up areas and 80kph out of town.

Electricity: Electricity supply is 240 volts AC 50 Hz. Some hotels have 110 volt outlets for shavers and hair dryers.

Health: Water quality is within WHO standards in most towns. Bottled water is available. In rural areas it is advisable to boil water. As malaria continues to be a health risk in the country, anti-malaria tablets should be taken two weeks before arrival, during your stay and for 4 weeks after departure. Use insect repellent and wear long-sleeved shirts, trousers and shoes in the evening. Dentists, doctors and hospitals are in all major centres. Rural areas have health centres and aid posts staffed by trained health workers.

Dress: For most occasions, dress is informal. Thongs and shorts are not allowed in some bars and restaurants. Lightweight clothing is suitable for coastal areas but a sweater or jacket will be needed in the highlands.

Restaurants: Western cuisine is available in hotels, restaurants, guest houses and lodges. Port Moresby has several Asian restaurants. Some hotels especially in the provinces serve local food such as roast pork, chicken or fish with sweet potato, taro, yam, pumpkin, banana and greens cooked in coconut milk.

Tips: Tips are neither expected nor encouraged.

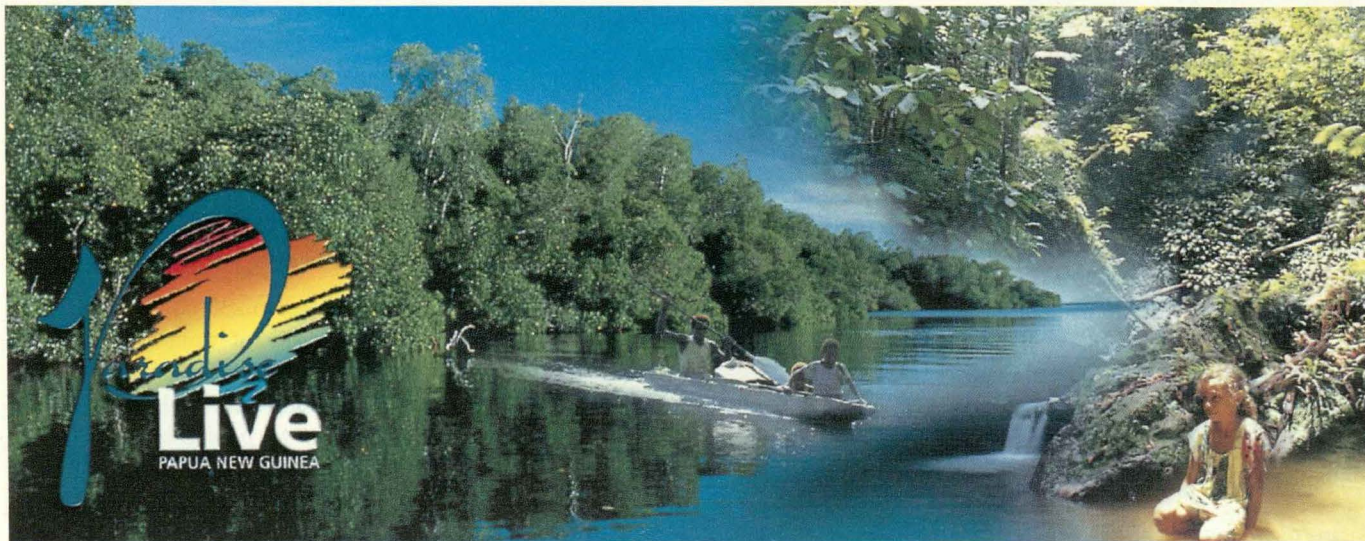
Shopping: Large stores and artifact shops offer a variety of goods for sale. Saturday is a half day for most shops and nearly all are closed on Sunday. Artisans sell their craft beside the roads or in markets. All markets sell a wide range of fruits and vegetables.

Cultural Events: Celebrations of traditional culture include:

June	<i>Port Moresby Show</i>
August	<i>Mt Hagen Show</i>
September	<i>Hiri Moale Festival Port Moresby; Goroka Show</i>
October	<i>Maborasa Festival Madang; Morobe Show</i>

Export Rules: Many artifacts, historical and cultural objects are prohibited exports. Others require a permit from the National Museum. Export permits for wildlife and animal products are issued by the Nature Conservation Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

**Tourism Promotion Authority,
PO Box 1291, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
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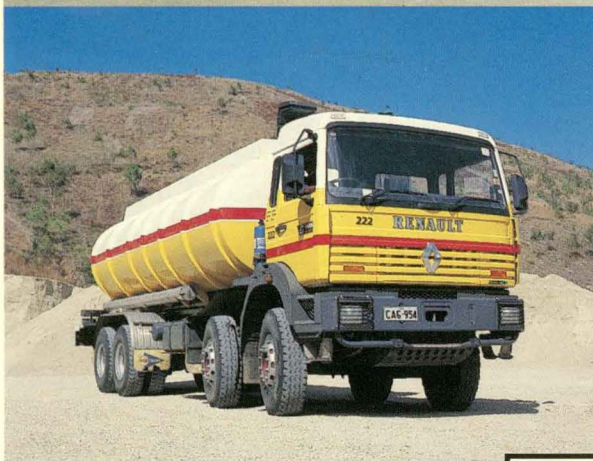
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