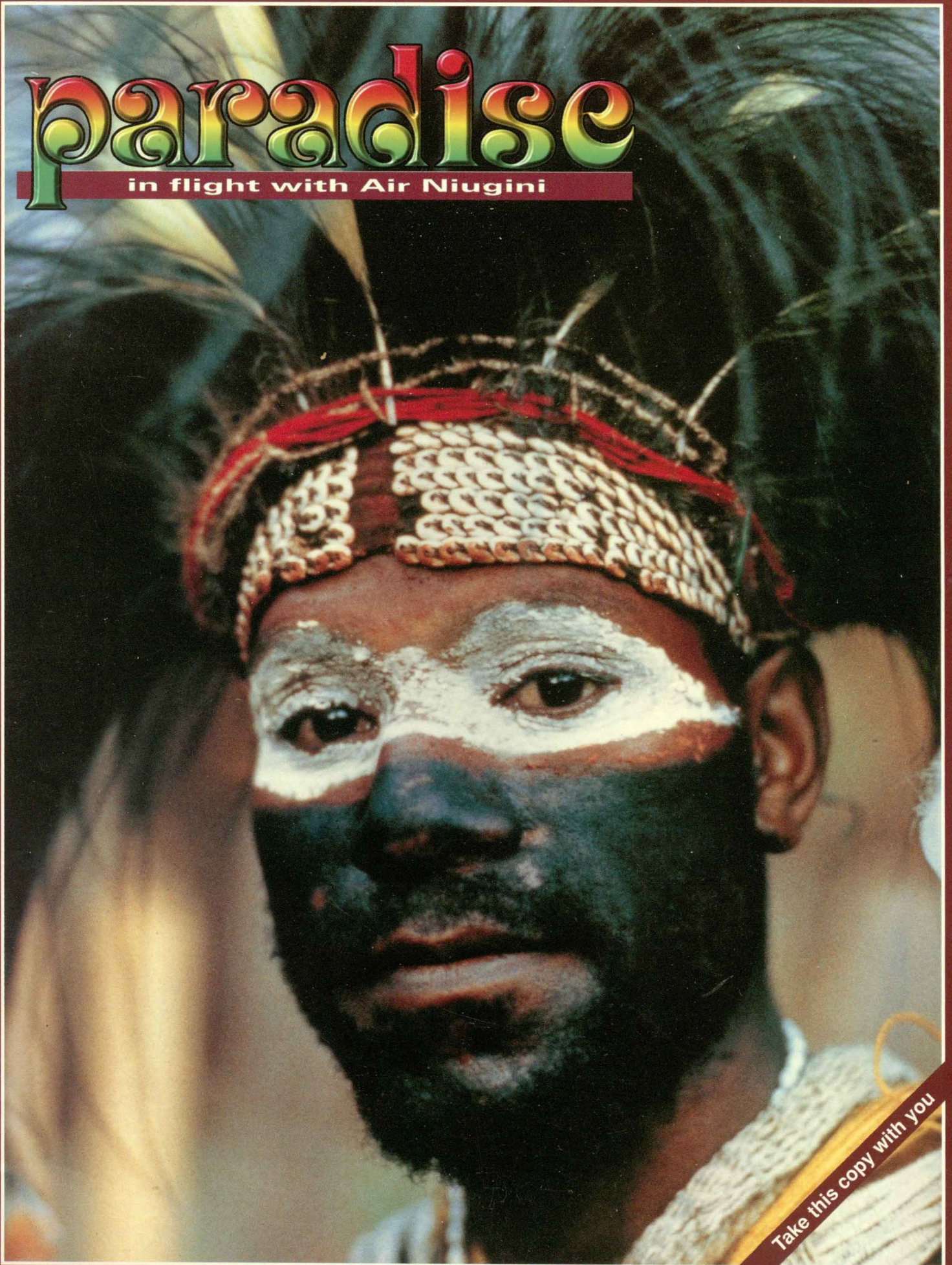


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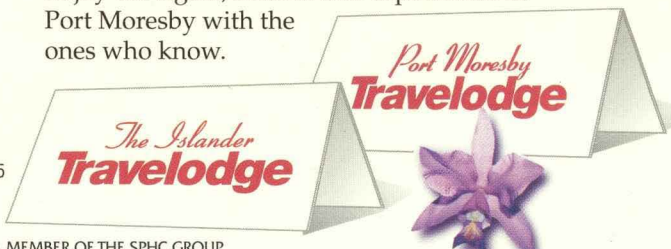
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Cover: *A dancer at the Didesa celebrations*
Photograph by John Brooksbank



Welcome aboard

This issue of Paradise will take us up to the Christmas festive season, the last of the twentieth century.

And so the issue features all kinds of holiday activities — diving, playing Santa Claus in the Eastern Highlands and holiday games for the village or office.

If you have time to try your hand in the kitchen, experiment with some of the innovative Franco-Papua New Guinean recipes.

Holiday destinations also feature — Mt Bosavi, Mt Wilhelm and the ever-popular foreign destination for Papua New Guineans, Cairns.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and holiday season, and look forward to your flying with us in 2000.

Andrew Ogil
Managing Director



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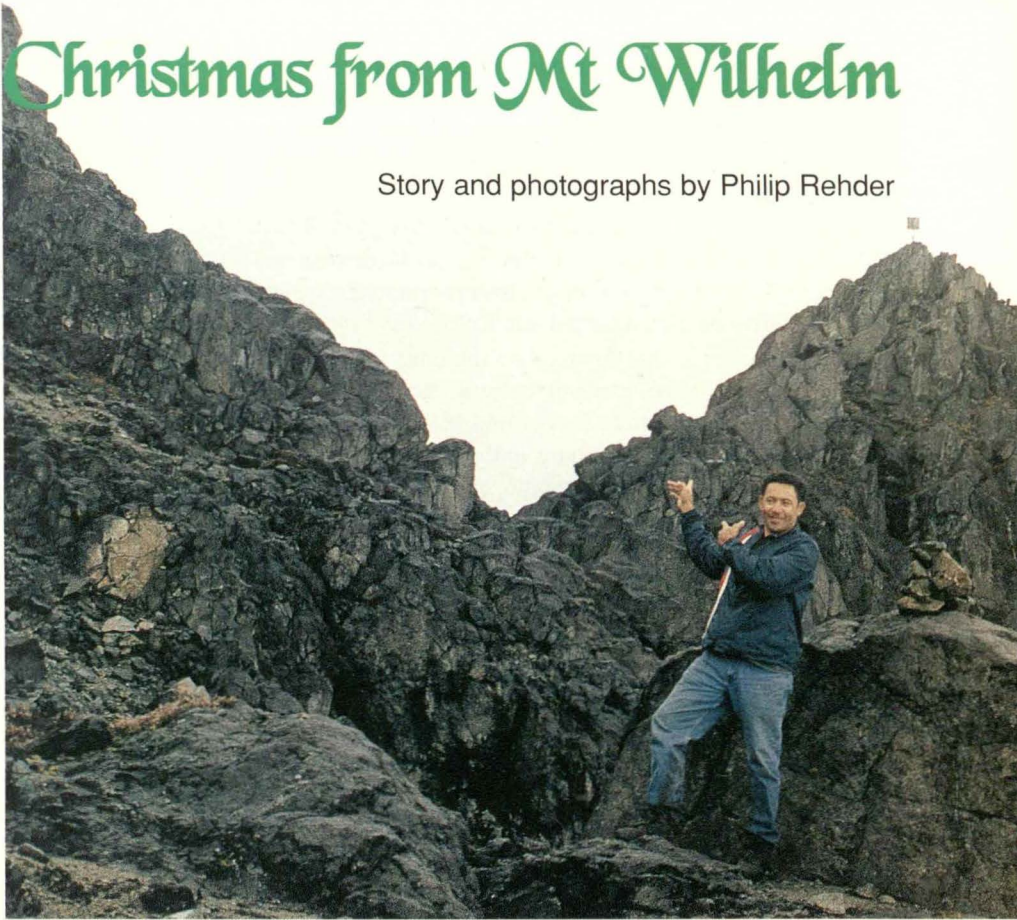
Merry Christmas from Mt Wilhelm

Story and photographs by Philip Rehder

December 25, 1998

Last Christmas, on the spur of the moment, I decided to climb Mt Wilhelm, Papua New Guinea's highest mountain. *(Photos on right — summit and lakes)*

The adventure started early Christmas Day from the industrial city of Lae. Catching a PMV has never been so much fun, as hundreds of other passengers hustled to get a ride home for the weekend. A Dyna truck finally rescued my two travelling companions and I and we settled in for the five-hour journey along the scenic Highlands Highway to Goroka. Transit time was swift at Goroka and soon we were riding the comfort of a Coaster bus to Kundiawa.

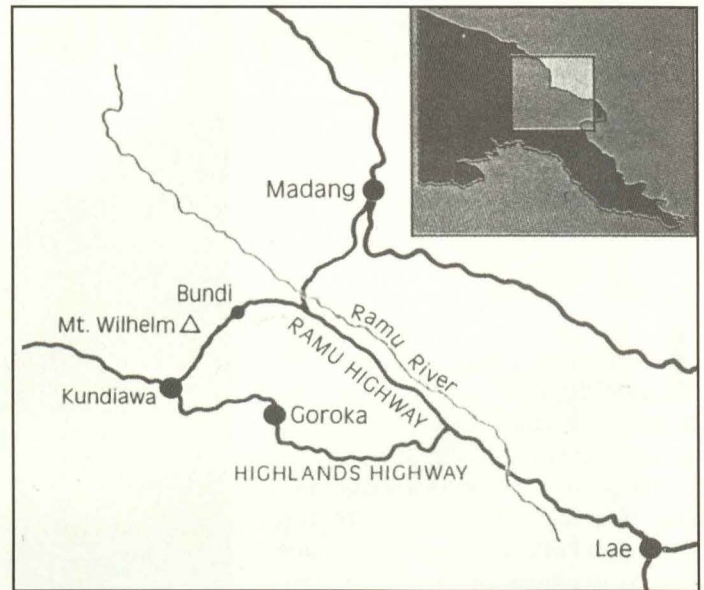


From the moderate mountain ranges connected by pockets of valleys and rolling hills of my home province, Eastern Highlands, the contrast of scenery is very evident as we climbed Daulo Pass and headed into the rugged mountain country of Simbu Province.

In Kundiawa we climbed aboard a classic PNG weathered 4WD ute to drive to Mt Wilhelm. The Highlands is renowned for its extreme terrain and breathtaking views, and this terrific drive on a road carved into a cliff face with drops hundreds of metres up and down offers stunning views of the Simbu heartland. The gradient became steeper and the mountains assumed gigantic proportions as we pressed on. Perhaps the most disturbing thing is the sense that you've been so taken away by the awesome spectacle of boulders overhanging above, that you might miss a spectacular drop into the gorge below. One's heart swings between terror and thrill. The land disappears only some feet away from the wheels of the vehicle and reappears as it meets the swirling Simbu River far below.

After ten hours we arrived at Keglsugl. Unfortunately, we only had three days to undertake this journey, and we therefore defied local advice to rest the night at one of the three guesthouses prior to the climb. We hired a few more torches plus two guides who then led us off into the cool night.

The first leg of the climb passes through intense rainforest. We couldn't see more than where the torches shone, but the concentration of the walk kept us focused. Each step was aligned with logs to avoid slipping into the cold mud. This was the wet season and although it didn't rain that night, the forest still held tonnes of water, keeping the track nice and slippery.



As we approached the halfway stage, the sound of human panting was broken by that of waterfalls drumming through the silhouette of the night forest. The thick white body of water was a magnificent sight as it appeared out of the dark and then crashed endlessly into the ravines.

We maintained a good pace and reached the cabins by the lakes at the halfway mark in three hours. The location, next to the lake's excellent natural shores, makes an attractive camping place.

Weighed down with mud-laden boots, we were greeted by two other local trekkers who happened to be staying overnight in one of the cabins (*photo below*). Their welcome was the only warm feeling we received. It was so cold we felt as if we were sleeping in a refrigerator.



After a few hours rest, an early start was essential to reach the summit before sunrise. I resumed the climb with one of the new guides, while the others opted for a quiet day by the lake.

After about 30 minutes climbing I realised that my thighs might give out before my lungs, as the light backpack suddenly tripled in weight. My inefficient preparation and nil training were going to be telling factors soon, but I was determined to complete this challenge and worry about the pains and aches once I returned home.

As day break started to unfold, I resigned myself to the fact that the spectacular views we had expected would not materialise. We were still some two hours away from the top as cloud cover came in thick and fast, allowing only seconds of viewing at a time. The beautiful deep blue water of the two lakes below shone brightly, surrounded by walls of honey-coloured countryside (*photo on right*).

The mountain itself was awash with small clumps of vegetation including red poppies and yellow cowslips, growing abundantly in the cracks and crevices of the countryside. Further on, we caught a glimpse of two more lakes which make up the thirteen bodies of water perched on the greater Mt Wilhelm. These are the source for the Simbu River and eventually the Ramu.

From a distance we could clearly see the Telikom beacon which indicated how much farther we had to go. As the crow flies, it didn't look far, but the track was circuitous and at times I wondered if we were progressing at all.

Finally, after more than four long hours from the Lake, we reached the base of the last ledge. Some vertical crawling then brought us atop Mt Wilhelm (*photo on right*). What an awesome feeling to be 5,000 metres on top of Papua New Guinea! Although cloud cover prevented a clear view, we witnessed another side of the magnificent sights offered from the summit — the rock wall drops disappearing into the clouds surrounding the summit. I could not help imagining the consequences of falling, but breathed a sigh of relief as I sat back and enjoyed the view of receding mountains becoming progressively darker grey, laced with delicate mists and cloud.



Photo above: A bare, rugged countryside above 4,000m





Although on a clear morning the coastline of Madang and the Ramu Valley are visible from this height, the wild untamed nature of Papua New Guinea is evident. Even as a highlander, I had never seen or imagined such beauty as these mountain ranges.

After an hour, we descended into clouds and I paused to think about what I would be doing if I was elsewhere today — perhaps watching the Boxing Day Cricket Test between the Poms and Aussies or the start of the great Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. But nothing could take away the satisfaction of this moment.

We passed the remains of an American fighter plane crashed during WWII (*photo on left*). Going down in daylight I was astonished at how we managed to balance ourselves along some of the wet cliff faces when coming up at night with mere torches.

My weary legs began to wonder which was harder — the climb up or down. The rain came down hard and fast as we reached the other trekkers at the guesthouse. After a short rest, we pushed on through the now very wet forest.



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We stayed overnight with the hospitable Joe Kamane and family at Mt Wilhelm High School. (*Photo above — Joe behind family*) There's nothing more welcoming than friendly local hosts. We stayed up in the long hours of the night sharing our varying experiences and my tired body refused to sleep as I learned some of the fascinating history of the mountain.

Before we knew it, it was time to get up and move, travelling in perfect sunshine. We headed off for the 72-hour vehicle hopping ride back to Lae, arriving in time for a fresh start at work after the short holiday break.

Philip Rehder who works for ANGCO Limited in Lae, uses every opportunity to travel around Papua New Guinea.



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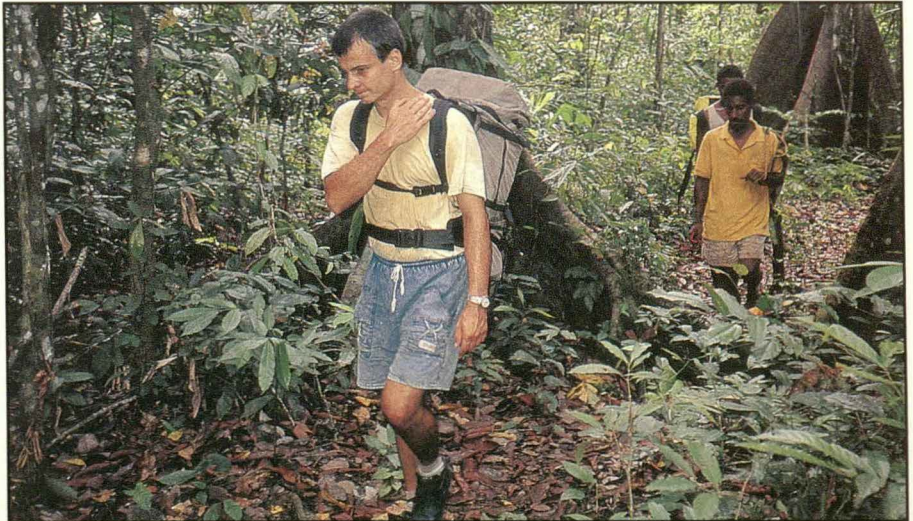
By Keith Briggs
and René Bredow

Many widely differing external influences and personalities have contributed to the shaping of present day Papua New Guinea. Some were men who came, invested as little as possible in the country and went away wealthy. Others as well paid expatriate Government Officers gave of themselves for the development of this land. Wise administration and expensive infrastructure contributed to the country's rapid development and progress as traditional population decimating practices were outlawed and offenders punished by the application of laws applying for the whole of the country.

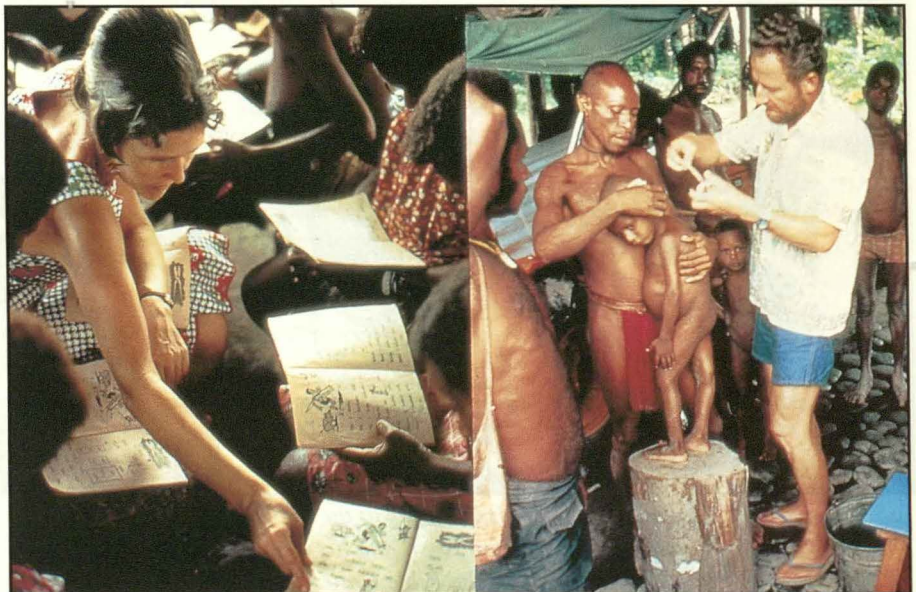
A third group, prepared to invest their very lives for little earthly reward, was the strongest force in Papua New Guinean development. From the earliest days of the expatriate involvement in the country, Christian missionaries were poised to enter newly 'de-restricted' areas as Government officers permitted. They learned local languages and generally had close relationships with village people.

Although their prime concern has been for man's spiritual state, all responsible missionaries have regarded the meeting of people's physical and educational needs as integral part of their work. Working in co-operation with the Government they established Schools, Literacy Programs, Hospitals and Aid Posts.

They set up Nurses' Training Colleges, High Schools, Teachers' Colleges, Bible Schools, Theological Training Colleges and many other institutions to train Papua New Guineans to be leaders and teachers of their own people.



Above: *From the very beginning until today, trekking is part of the mission enterprise.*



Above: *In the 1960s and 1970s LMI missionaries pioneered with the South Sea Evangelical Church in the Sepik. Missionary F Urschitz and his wife lived among the people on the April River.*

Below: *Literacy classes were commenced in the villages.*





Insert above: *The first two German missionaries in the Sepik were accompanied by national Christians from Rabaul — Here Husit and his family from Rabaul.*
 Above: *Maria Molnàr with students — the Bible College on Manus is named after this Hungarian missionary lady who was killed in 1943.*
 Below from right: *Missionaries who perished during WW2: (seated) Mr & Mrs Doepke, (standing) Mr & Mrs Gareis and Deaconess Maria Molnàr, and Deaconess Tina Goebel (who returned to Germany before the war).*



Innumerable folk have been trained by missionaries in mechanical, carpentry, boat building, electrical, plumbing and other practical skills. many who embraced this balance of physical, mental and spiritual development have risen to prominent positions of influence in the land.

Missions and churches have provided the major percentage of medical and educational services in Papua New Guinea, and because of their high standards and efficiency have been more than once asked if they would take over the management of health services nation wide!

The Liebenzell Mission of Germany was established in November 1899, so at the eve of a new millenium they celebrate 100 years of ministry. Today 230 missionaries work in 21 countries around the world.

In 1914 the first missionaries from Liebenzell in Germany arrived on Manus Island dedicating themselves to 'proclaiming God's word, the welfare of the people and the establishment of an independent National Church'.

During World War 2 Japanese forces deported all white and Chinese people who remained at their posts on Manus. Records testify that innocent men, women and children on the 'Akikaze' were strung up over the stern, shot and dropped into the sea between Kavieng and Rabaul. Among those murdered were six Liebenzell Missionaries, including a child. One of them was the pioneer Friedrich Doepke who had been a missionary on Manus for 29 years.

During the eighty-five years since arriving on Manus their aims have been realized. The Evangelical Church of Manus (ECOM) has grown out of Liebenzell to the self governing body it is today, with 56 churches and a number of congregations in and outside of Manus. As early as 1961 the church sent teachers and evangelists to help establish other churches within Papua New Guinea.



Teaching children in the Garden Hill Settlement where there are also adult literacy classes.

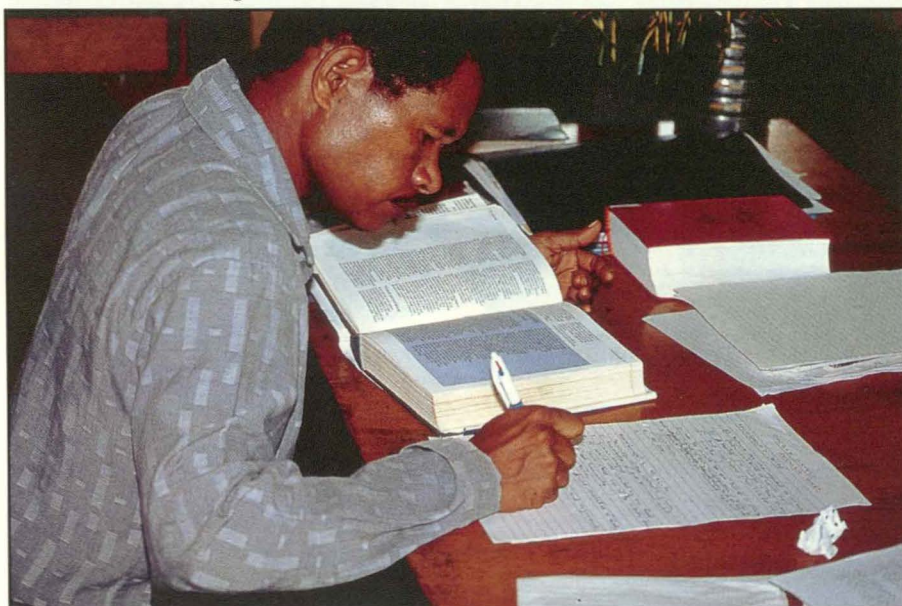
In the nineties two 'Manus' missionaries were sent to Micronesia working with the Evangelical Church of Yap.

Because of their continuous emphasis on education Liebenzell and ECOM personnel have established 15 Primary Schools and one High School on Manus, the latter catering for 360 students, most of whom are boarders. The Governor of Manus Province, Hon Stephen Pokawin, is the son of the first pastor who became ordained with ECOM in the early days. Hon Pokawin is a lay preacher with the church and was also the first chairman of the High School Committee.

Beside departments also established in other churches like Women's Work and Sunday school, they also have a Kindergarten Teachers school and four kindergartens. Their Bible Training Centre at Lugos (Manus) offers accredited Certificate and Diploma courses up to three years. Liebenzell Mission established a hospital at Lessau in the remote western part of Manus. It was handed over to ECOM and is now run by the church.

As a very practical part of the Bible School curriculum the students are involved in prison ministry where they see criminals changed through their acceptance of Christian principles. Since 1994 Liebenzell Missionaries and ECOM Pastors have worked alongside in the settlements of Port Moresby.

Bringing the people from PNG together — student from Milne Bay at the Maria Molnàr Bible Training Centre in Manus



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Above: People from the Aitape disaster area were trained to use chainsaws to rip timber for their needs. Felling huge trees with the chainsaw was the tricky part of the work.

Below: In 1992 a water project for the Subra village and community school in the Finisterre Range of Madang was initiated by volunteers associated with ECOM.

A unique feature of Liebenzell Mission is that they second their personnel to work with other missions and existing churches rather than setting up and duplicating existing infrastructure. In this way Liebenzell Missionaries pioneered along with missionaries from the South Sea Evangelical Mission in the East and West Sepik and West New Britain. Today they have people involved in two other Bible Schools outside of Manus Island.

After the disastrous tidal wave at Aitape in 1998 Liebenzell personnel were in the forefront with compassionate medical aid and practical help. Nurses helped in the immunization program. In a joint venture with other groups, tools, literature and Bibles were distributed among the survivors. A returned former LMI lady missionary conducted counselling, literacy and sewing classes in Wipom, a new village established after the disaster as part of rehabilitation. Five other former

missionaries returned on a temporary basis and helped build a new aid post in Pou and trained local men to use chainsaws to rip timber for new classrooms.

As Liebenzell Mission International celebrates one hundred years of work overall and in particular the eighty-five years they have served in Papua New Guinea, they are to be commended for their tremendous contribution to the development of this country and her people.

Keith Briggs and his wife Norma have served as missionaries with the Evangelical Church of PNG since 1965. René Bredow and his wife Elisabeth have served as missionaries with ECOM and Liebenzell Mission International since 1990.



CREATIVE WRITING - The Good Wife

By Jaive Smare

Rosa spent every morning for months hauling her husband's sweat-soaked bed sheets down to the nearby creek. She didn't know why he sweated so much at nights. He had no fever, no temperature, no headache nor persistent cough to warrant the night sweats. Yet his body drenched their bedding with bucket loads of sweat, leaving them both distressed and confused.

Her husband was also losing weight, though slowly, which aggravated her anxieties even more.



She insisted he visit the local Catholic aid post for a diagnosis, which he did, but he never told his wife the outcome. He had to go back three months later to confirm the result. Instead he lied to her that the doctors could not find anything wrong with him apart from malaria.

Ignorant, naive and too trusting, she took his word. She attended prayer groups where well-meaning people prayed for him and asked the good Lord to cure his affliction.

Then seven months later, as suddenly as they began, the night sweats stopped. Her relief was immense. Her eyes were overcome with tears as she knelt in the morning sun to say a prayer of thanks. But her relief was short-lived. His skin was still pale and he continued to lose weight.

One night her two brothers-in-law arrived at the house. After a long discussion with her husband, which lasted well into the night, they decided that a malignant spirit of decay lay in the family and was affecting her husband.

'Yes', they said. 'We as a family have a lot of problems, a lot of jealousies and petty animosities. We need to bury the hatchet, because if we don't this spirit will feed off our brother's life and will kill him.'

So a date was set.

The following week, on the designated day, all her husband's family members gathered together, bringing with them chicken, vegetables, bananas and sweet potatoes, and a *mumu* was prepared. As the *mumu* was roasting, the talk began.

It was opened by a prayer. A prayer of hope, forgiveness and understanding, that God may help them see what was wrong with her husband and lead to his being healed.

After long and emotional discussions, debates and angry exchanges mixed with tears, a thought so dark and forbidden placed its cold fingers on her brows, then tugged at her heart strings.

She tried to push it away, but it demanded to be heard, like an intruder beating at her door whilst she was alone.

When was it that the dark notion had exploded into her thoughts? Was it when her husband's sister accused him of having a problem with alcohol? Always out so many nights, causing trouble, which in the clear light of day always came back to haunt the other family members. Or was it how he avoided her eyes when it was his turn to speak, repeating the claim that the doctors said it was malaria? Or maybe that dark thought was already lurking in her head.

She knew what was wrong with him. An affliction for too much alcohol and other women. So many nights he had returned with the stink of sex all over his body and tell-tale stains on his jeans. Every time they made love, the thought hung like a bad odour in the corner of her mind.

But now as she sat looking at him, oblivious to everyone and isolated by a certain darkness, she felt as if she was in a tomb and this time there were no windows, only the dark, dark distaste of despair.

A week later, after much deliberation, she visited the local clinic. Three months later it was confirmed. She was HIV positive and also pregnant.

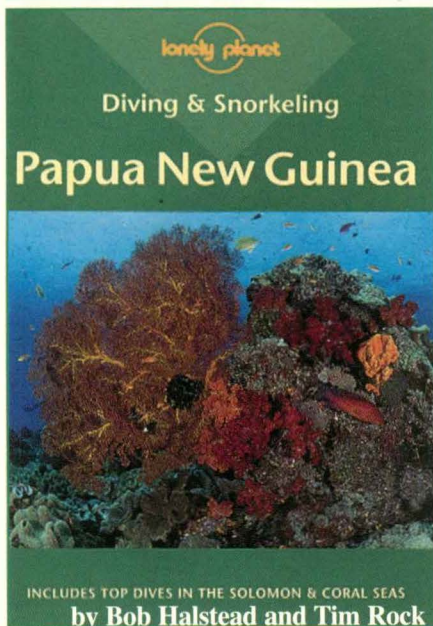
She had never slept with anyone except him and now her soul felt shrivelled and very cold. 'It happens to other people but it's not supposed to happen to me.' She cried as the Sisters tried to console her. 'It is not supposed to happen to me.'

She cried for a long time. Then with her left hand she picked up her bag and with her right cradling her stomach she went home, leaving the AIDS pamphlets given to her scattered on the clinic floor.

What could she do but stay the good wife.

Jaive Smare lives in Goroka.

REVIEW — Lonely Planet Books



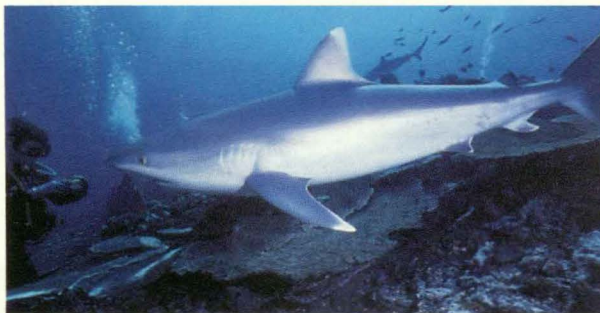
Review by Mike Ball

Lonely Planet travel guides have a world wide readership and reputation for accuracy and usefulness. So it is not surprising that Lonely Planet has turned to two of the Pacific's most experienced and knowledgeable diving authors to write their *Diving and Snorkeling Guide to Papua New Guinea*.

Bob Halstead is well known to *Paradise* readers having had stories published promoting Papua New Guinea's underwater paradise since 1976. He is also the author of several other PNG dive guides and the recently published *The Coral Reefs of Papua New Guinea*. Bob has made over 7,000 dives in Papua New Guinea and is a pioneer of PNG dive tourism.

Co-author Tim Rock is a professional dive journalist based in Guam and the author of several dive guides to Micronesian and Indonesian destinations. He is a regular visitor who rates Papua New Guinea diving as some of the very best he has ever experienced.

The guide describes the principal dive sites that are accessible through Papua New Guinean dive operators.



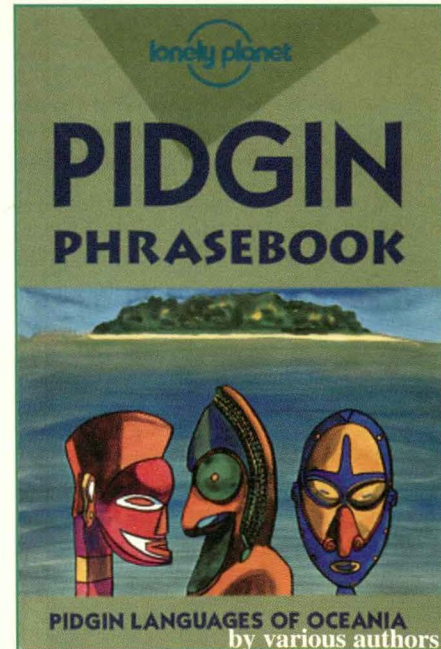
Sites are rated for snorkelers, novice, intermediate and advanced divers, and particular features and hazards noted. Positions of dive sites are indicated on clear maps, and names used for the sites are consistent with previous publications, an important feature since renaming of sites by later divers causes unnecessary confusion among visitors. No doubt this book will be a definitive reference for many years to come.

The book contains a wealth of information for the intending visitor including a complete and up to date directory of Papua New Guinean dive operators with contact information including latest email and web sites. Information about the country is accurate and concise and the text has an easy to read style.

A very useful marine life section identifies marine life common in Papua New Guinea — but not necessarily elsewhere — and some rare and hazardous creatures. The only fault I could find with the book was that a couple of small photographs have been printed upside down. However the photography is excellent, probably the best I have ever seen for this type of publication and, for the first time, photographs are matched to the dive site descriptions. For this reason the *Lonely Planet Guide to Snorkeling and Diving in Papua New Guinea* will also make a wonderful souvenir of Papua New Guinean diving.

173 pages, 15 x 23 cm. Recommended retail price is A\$24.95. Available in good bookshops everywhere.

Mike Ball is the operator of Papua New Guinean's newest liveaboard dive boat the Paradise Sport.



Review by Eric Lindgren

The small size of this book does not reflect the effort which has gone into it! This helps it fit into your pocket for practical use while travelling.

Three major sections cover roughly 40 pages each, on the main Pidgin languages of the Oceania:

Bislama from Vanuatu,

Pijin from the Solomons, and

Tok Pisin from Papua New Guinea.

In addition there are shorter chapters on Kriol from the Northern Territory and Yumpla Tok from Torres Strait.

Their names reflect their idiosyncrasies — spelling is somewhat phonetic, but you need to be aware of the subtle differences to become fluent in these languages of convenience. Each section has its own 'Pronunciation' guide illustrating the local sound patterns.

This book is an excellent start for the novice traveller in Oceania and is highly recommended.

Pidgin Phrasebook, 2nd edition 1999. Balzer, Trevor and five other authors, Lonely Planet Publications, PO Box 617 Hawthorn, Vic 3122, Australia. ISBN 0 86442 587 2 176pp.

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SKYRAIL: *Four years 'down the track'*



Story and photographs
by Graham Simmons

Indeed, *Skyrail* has become one of only seven tourism operators in Australia to receive Advanced Eco-tourism Accreditation.

But I wanted to get an independent assessment. The CSIRO's Tropical Forest Research Centre, at Mareeba just north of Cairns, asked for time to investigate the matter. Their eventual reply was

illuminating: 'We don't know of any adverse effects from *Skyrail*. If anything had come to light, it would most assuredly be common knowledge by now.'

So, it was with a clear conscience that I boarded a *Skyrail* gondola at Smithfield Station, just out of Cairns! As our gondola climbed high above Caravonica Lakes, our host for the trip pointed out some of the features of the rainforest cableway. This sky-train, which passes through the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, is the world's longest gondola cableway, spanning over 7.5km and supported by 32 towers. From near sea-level at Caravonica Lakes, the *Skyrail* rises abruptly to Red Peak Station, the highest point on the cableway, at 545 metres above sea level (*photo above*).

They said it would ruin the rainforest. It would kill the wildlife, lay waste the vegetation, and ruin for all time the delicate ecological balance. But four years after its opening, the Cairns-Kuranda *Skyrail* has silenced its critics. This, the world's longest gondola cableway, has earned its reputation as a fully environmental-friendly introduction to the wonders of the great rainforest.

Back in 1993-94, eco-activist Manfred Stevens spent 202 days in a tree under the current *Skyrail* route. 'I'm going to stop this project at any cost!' he said. But stop it he didn't — and today, conservation groups and high-profile visitors, including the son of Jacques Cousteau, have lent their accolades to the new *Skyrail* service.



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From Red Peak, the cableway begins a gradual descent to Barron Falls Station. Here we alighted, to partake in the delights of the rainforest walkway — a spectacular track leading to the lookout over the Barron Falls. They say that the Falls are at their best after rain (ie from December to April) (*photo above*), but even at this time of year, during the build-up to the Wet, the Falls were still falling, with most impressive results.

The CSIRO's Rainforest Interpretive Centre, near Barron Falls Station, is a highlight of the Skyrail experience. Here, you start to get a feel for the startling diversity of wildlife in the rainforest, where only one per cent of the surface sunlight filters down to the forest floor. In this hothouse environment, over 300 plant species can be found in a typical hectare. See displays of rare forest animals, such as the leaf-tailed gecko and Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo — and thank your lucky stars that you're safely out of range of the super-stinging *Gympie-Gympie* tree!

With the addition of 67 new gondolas in June 1997, *Skyrail* now boasts 114 gondolas, each of which can carry up to six passengers. Theoretically, over 650 passengers could be airborne at any one time — and they haven't lost a passenger yet!

But by now we've crossed the Barron River, and our gondolier glides in for a smooth landing at Kuranda Station (*photo on right*). Just opposite, the famous Kuranda-Cairns train is waiting at the Kuranda railway station, its cabooses glistening like the carriages on an old steam-train from a Wild West movie.

The village of Kuranda amply rewards a stay of a few hours. Stroll the time-stopped streets. Take in the markets (on Wed, Thur, Fri and Sun), the craft galleries or the cafes — or grab a beer at the Kuranda Pub or the Fitzpatrick Tavern. Or check out some of Kuranda's newest attractions, including *Bird World*, the Butterfly Sanctuary (Australia's largest), *Rainforestation* Nature Park and the *Noctarium*, where the shy night creatures of the rainforest can be seen in their natural habitat.

Back again at the *Skyrail* base station on the shores of Caravonica Lakes, it's just a few metres to the unique Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park, home to the Tjapukai Theatre company, which had its genesis in Kuranda.



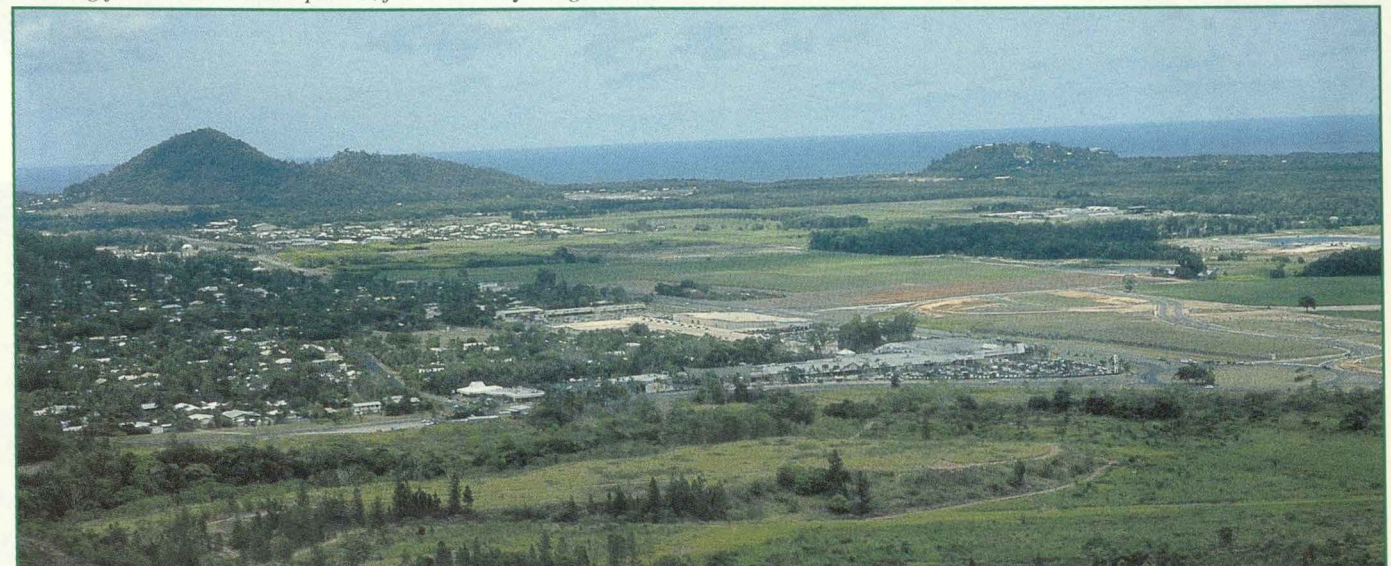


‘We don’t pull any punches here,’ says Judy Freeman, Tjapukai’s Marketing Manager. ‘The Tjapukai experience is inspirational, confrontational and memorable.’

I wouldn’t disagree. Just a few minutes in the Creation Theatre, with its amazing integration of sound, live acting and stunning holographic images, is enough to give the visitor an entirely new appreciation of Aboriginal culture. This performance relates the Dreamtime creation story, as told originally to the Djabugay and Yirrgandyi peoples, and is a masterful telling of a complex web of beliefs, bearing many parallels to the legends of other ancient cultures (*photo above*).

Other sections of this striking Park include the Magic Space, featuring murals by top Tjapukai artists, the Dance Theatre, set in a natural forest amphitheatre, and the ‘Tjapukai Camp’, where you can sample bush tucker, throw a boomerang, learn how to play the didgeridoo, or partake of the stylish daily buffet luncheon, featuring innovative uses of native ingredients.

Looking far down onto the plains, from the Skyrail gondola



The effect of the Tjapukai Cultural Park upon the local community has been remarkable. A decade ago, only two speakers of the Tjapukai language remained in the whole world. Now, the language is taught to both black and white children in three Cairns schools, older people have dug down into their own storehouses of memories, and a complete revitalisation of pride in Tjapukai culture has taken place.

It’s not only the Tjapukai people who display a new-found cultural awareness and pride. This attitude has rubbed off on the whole Cairns community. The result is a city that can stand proudly on its own feet — and as visitors, it’s we who are the winners.

Graham Simmons is a freelance travel photojournalist and a member of the Australian Society of Travel Writers.

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Destination Didesa

Cultural Show at a remote station
on the northern slopes of Mount Bosavi

Story and photographs
by John Brooksbank

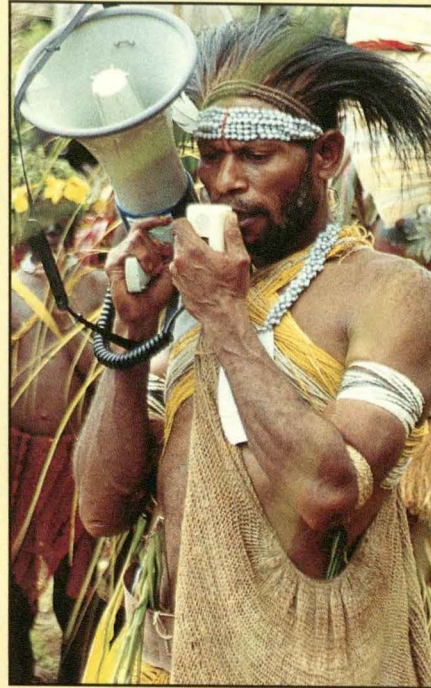
My most vivid memory of my last visit here in 1975 was having to castrate a very unwilling and vocal 'teenage' calf with a crudely sharpened and sterilised pocket knife. Not a lot has changed at Didesa. From one end of the airstrip you still cannot see the other because of the hill in the middle. But at least the strip is cut. That last time metre high grass brushed clean the wing struts and fuselage of our single-engine MAF Cessna as we landed!

This time we are here to attend the first Bosavi Cultural Show. More than two decades have not significantly changed the mission, just a few houses of locally sawn timber, painted with a black preservative, clustered like bees around the top of the airstrip.

The sound of the dancing and singing increases as we near Didesa village, perched defensively on a nearby ridge top. Hundreds of people are milling around as we approach the part of the village set aside for the show — bounded by a pig fence of sharpened stakes and guarded by traditionally dressed (and armed!) warriors. Soon we are carried along by the throng to the edge of a dusty clearing in front of the longhouse.

The show is a very special event for the people of the area, whose villages rest in the shadow of Mount Bosavi, an extinct volcano whose jagged peaks dominate the geography of the whole region. For many, it is the first time they have seen dances and heard songs that, until religiously suppressed in recent years, had been handed down through the generations. For others it is the culmination of months of hard work to get the people of the far flung villages to come together as a visual demonstration of co-operation in their first regional organisation — the Kosuo Orogo Resource Holders Association (KORA).

Originally named Mt Leonard Murray after a Papuan Administrator by Jack Hides, Mt Bosavi rises to 2,800m above a plain of rugged eroded limestone in a remote corner of the Southern Highlands Province. It is still untouched by the outside world.

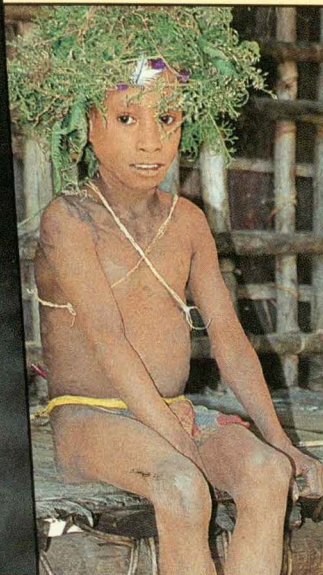
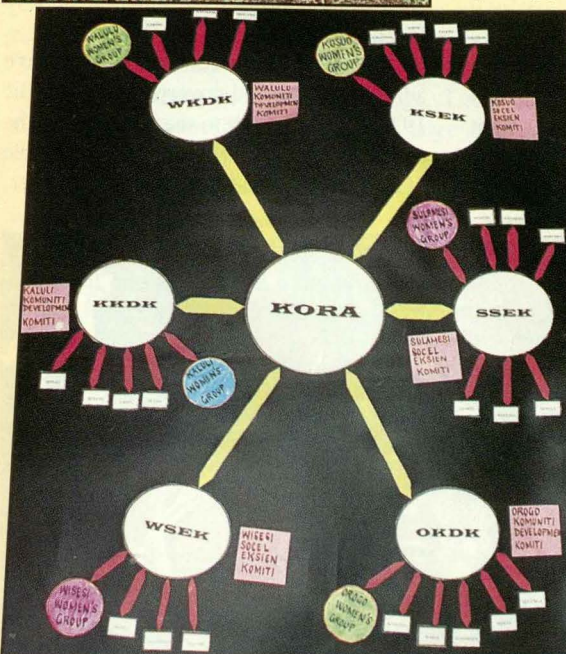


Above: The Master of Ceremonies takes advantage of the modern technology of a loudspeaker.

Left: A dance leader gets ready to perform.

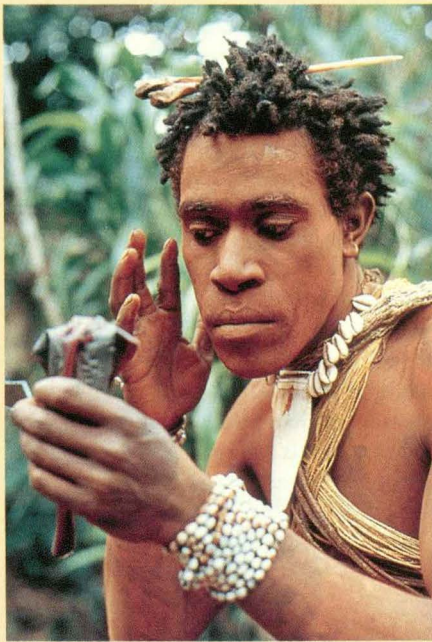
Below left: A display in the classroom demonstrates the diverse and widespread membership of KORA.

Below right: Young boy, looking slightly ghostly from the clay smeared on his body, awaits his turn at the front of the Didesa longhouse.





Above: *The Didesa longhouse and dance ground*
 Below: *Preparing for the celebration*



Noted from afar by Hides and O'Malley during their Strickland-Purari patrol, travelling to the north in 1935, Mount Bosavi was first examined closely from the air on 24 March 1936. Its unique form was studied by officers Ivan Champion and Bill Adamson through the windows of the strange shaped Fairchild Model 91 amphibian, with its propeller above the fuselage. These officers of the Papua Administration under the jurisdiction of Hubert Murray had taken off from Daru to reconnoitre the country that they would soon walk over.

The Champion and Adamson patrol was an incredible feat of organisation, stamina and courage — a journey of more than eight months over almost unknown country with few supplies, no back-up and no communication. Their route cut right across the top of Mount Bosavi, which they reached after two months in the field.

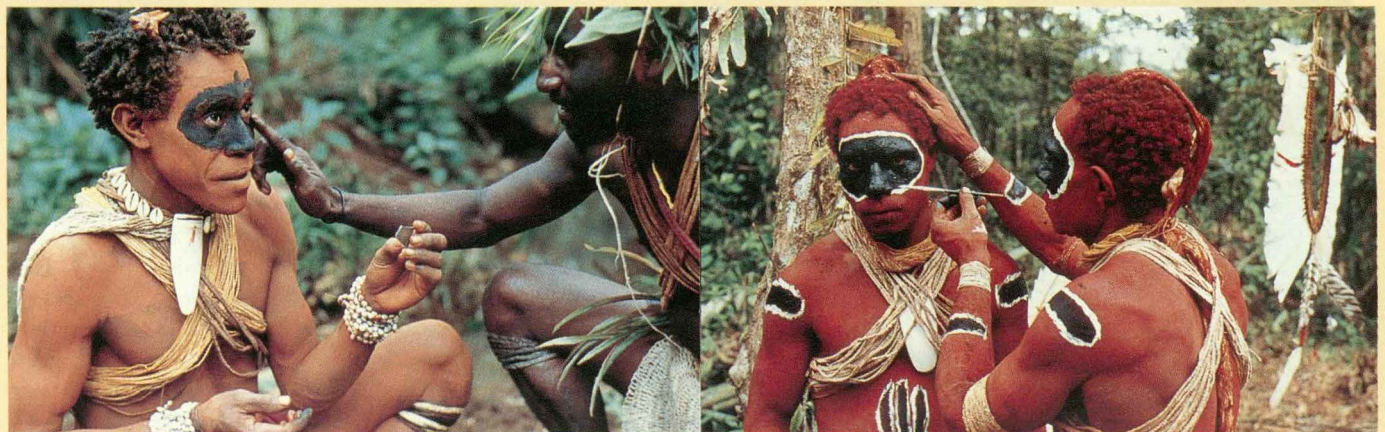
They stayed in the village longhouses that they encountered along the way, including Didesa, usually already vacated by their inhabitants in fear of the approaching strangers.

It is amazing to think that the village has probably not altered a lot in more than sixty years. The country has not changed either. Patrol Officer Jack Hides noted in 1935 that, 'There is probably no other part of Papua so full of game as this huge tract of undulating forest lands'. It is a similar concern for the land and environment of the Mt Bosavi region and the threat that logging poses to its unique ecosystems that is the driving force behind KORA.

Since the late 1980s, various Asian logging companies, awarded permits over vast tracts of country, have clear cut swathes through the coastal plains of the Kikori, Turama, Wawoi and Bamu Rivers. Their attention had started to be drawn north towards the untouched forests surrounding Mt Bosavi, the catchment for many of the great rivers that flow into the Gulf of Papua. Visits had been made to certain villages and incentives apparently offered for co-operation with the loggers.

Associated with the petroleum developments in the Southern Highlands the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) established their Integrated Conservation & Development Project (ICDP) area, stretching from Tari to the Papuan coast. Awareness campaigns carried out by WWF field staff in villages throughout the area also gave village level impetus and support for KORA. The efforts of WWF, KORA and the fortuitous downturn in Asian economies have granted a reprieve for the Bosavi forests.

Virtually ignored by successive administrations and governments from the 1930s right through to the present day the principal outside influence on the people of Bosavi has been that of the missionaries.





Above: *The Show organising committee stand in judgement*

Right: *Bird of Paradise plumes brighten up a headdress*

Without doubt the evangelists of the Asian Pacific Christian Mission brought some lifestyle improvements through basic health and education services. However, traditional beliefs, customs, songs, dances and ceremonies were suppressed to the point that, as stated by some of the older community members, people were made to feel ashamed of them.

Many practices of the remote longhouse communities related in some way to conservation through living in harmony and balance with the environment. Evangelistic teaching however tended to paint the bush as the abode of dark and evil spirits to be countered only through strict adherence to Christian practice. Times have now thankfully changed and the mission, absorbed into the Evangelical Church of Papua, is more tolerant of other beliefs.

Beliefs are however difficult to change. Decades of missionary influence have required a large dramatic event such as the Bosavi Cultural Show to stimulate today's upsurge of activity and interest. KORA has, with virtually no external financial support, brought together the people of 26 Bosavi area villages from all points of the compass. Some dancing groups have walked more than two weeks from the headwaters of the Strickland and Bamu Rivers in Western Province, others have travelled from Gulf Province and nearer Southern Highlands communities.

The dancers are persuasively loud and rhythmic. The 'home team' dancers start their stomping steps inside the longhouse, whose numerous, somewhat spindly, floor posts transmit the vibrations to the ground beneath our feet. When a visiting dance troupe approach the welcoming dancers' chants rise to a thundering crescendo before they pour out of the small door and down the longhouse steps.

As the male dancers perform for the visiting villagers the women folk, almost overflowing the narrow longhouse verandah, start their own wailing song. The ladies' distinctive grass skirts of dried sago leaves sway in time with their frenetic beat, adding to the aura of organised chaos that permeates the proceedings.

Dances continue into the night and through two more days of the Show as more village groups arrive, have to be welcomed and in turn, welcome the next arrivals. It is a true mutual affirmation of culture. Later in the event the regional groups that constitute KORA, representing a total of 91 clans, announce that they are setting aside five large areas to be formally registered with the Government as Wildlife Management Areas, subject to a very strict regime of conservation.

Bosavi still cloaks many of its mysterious secrets. The recent discovery of ancient petroglyphs also focussed the attention nationally, internationally and locally on the Bosavi area, its culture and conservation values. The petroglyphs, which could be more than 10,000 years old were 'discovered'



on the walls of two rock shelters to the south of the mountain. Revealed to an anthropologist who had worked in the region for some time, these artistic artefacts of a bygone age apparently also occur elsewhere in the region.

Probably the most important thing to result from the show is the realisation, and demonstration by the local Bosavi area people themselves, that it is possible to achieve conservation through culture. In this remote area of the Southern Highlands Province at least, culture and tradition have shown to be stronger than any economic motivation. The Bosavi Cultural Show is therefore representative of the people's new found pride in the stewardship over their cultural and physical environment.

KORA is the agency that will represent the views and aspirations of the Bosavi people in all provincial, national and possibly international forums — ensuring that their voice is heard by governments and other development agencies.

Developmental change started for the Bosavi people in the early 1930s with the appearance of a few worn steel axe heads in the complex web of trade and trade goods that has from time immemorial linked the Bosavi people with their neighbours — signs of European contact with coastal Papuan populations. Now, through their own home grown energy and will, it looks as if the people of Bosavi will maintain control of their environment within the context of the legislation of an independent Papua New Guinea.

Later, the usual downpour of rain washes away the heat of the day. However, this deluge does not stop the dancers who continue through the night in the Didesa longhouse. A highlight of the night dancing is the Gisalo dance — men sit for hours to mentally prepare for this very serious event. Eyes downcast and starkly outlined in black ochre the Gisalo performers are intensely focussed as they sing sad, ritualistic and mournful tales of times, places and people who have gone before. These deeply moving chants drive members of the audience to tears and who, in order to appease the spirits who bring about such calamities, poke the dancers with sticks tipped with burning tree resin.

Definitely not a dance recommended for tourist participation!

John Brooksbank has lived and worked in Papua New Guinea for many years and returns at every possible opportunity.



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Secret Friend

Story and photographs
by Javemo Hanemo

Socialisation is one of the four aspects of the life cycle, as far as happy and healthy living is concerned. When the festive or holiday season is just around the corner, especially Christmas, most people are expecting or looking for something special to do or organise.

The most exciting social activity that I can think of is 'secret friend'. This activity is simply picking a friend's name from a barrel and keeping it secret until you prepare a gift for him or her. I have been involved in this activity a couple of times with friends and I enjoyed it very much.

It is truly fun, especially when children and old folks are involved. 'Secret friend' is a laughter medicine entertainment that really fits any lifestyle — young and old, around cities, towns and villages.

Above left: *When everybody helps prepare the food, there is plenty to eat.*
Above right: *A big smile from secret friends*
Below: *Children are great entertainers.*





Above and below: *The office is a suitable environment for 'Secret friend' activity.*



It can be held among work mates, church groups, sports groups, at school, or just among families.

Back at the village, elderly people say that 'it is truly a game of expect the unexpected', while the youth say it is a 'game of love and give'. You know why because all the excitement, laughter, exchanging of gifts and eating are entertaining.

If you are interested in organising a special gathering or entertainment for your social group, workmates or families I suggest you arrange for everyone to have a 'secret friend'.

The following simple steps and rules will help you to prepare a 'secret friend' fun day.

- (a) Ask if people are interested.
- (b) Choose a particular date for the fun day, giving everyone plenty of time to prepare.
- (c) Write each person's name on a piece of paper.
- (d) Fold each piece of paper and put them all in a container.
- (e) Each person picks a name, but they must keep it secret until the date of the fun day.
- (f) Everybody prepares their gift or present in advance.

Presents can be anything — a dress, jeans, artefacts, souvenirs, garden crops or animals.

To improve friendship in an office or a community, another way to play this game is to choose a name, not make a present, but be especially helpful to your 'secret friend' for one week.



Exchanging gifts with secret friends

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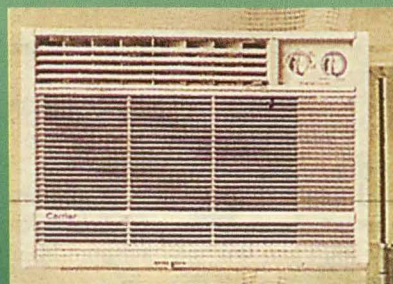
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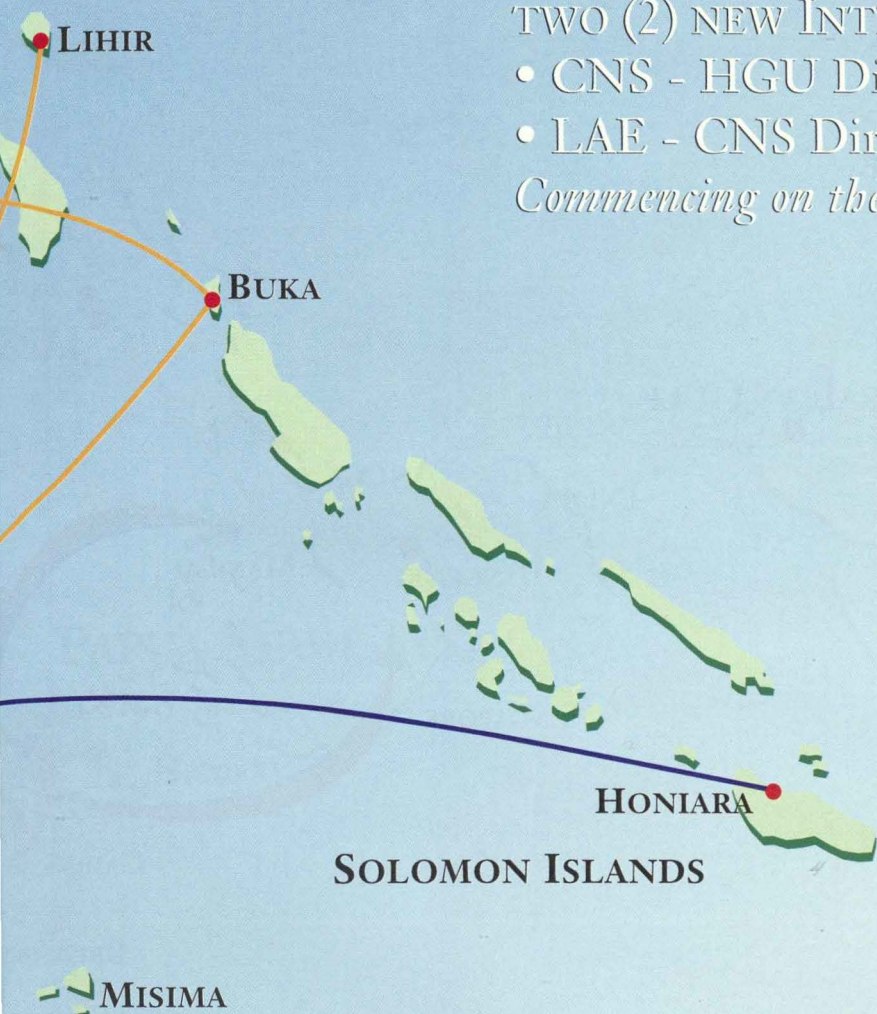
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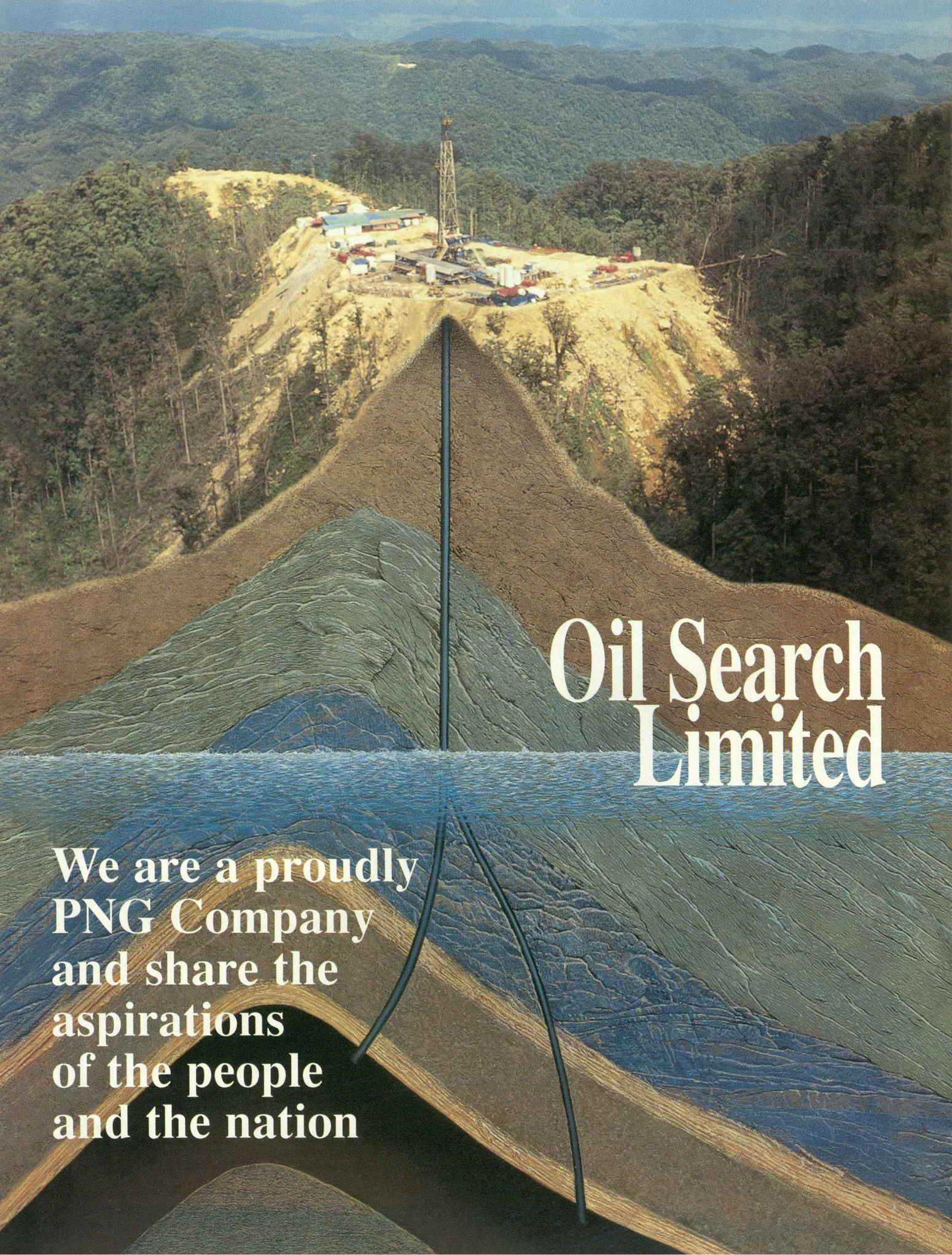
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Christina Sape — winner of the Photograph Competition
Police Constable with his dog in Goroka



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CHRISTMAS AT SIOMOROMORO

Story and photographs
by Nancy Sullivan



The church at Siomoromoro

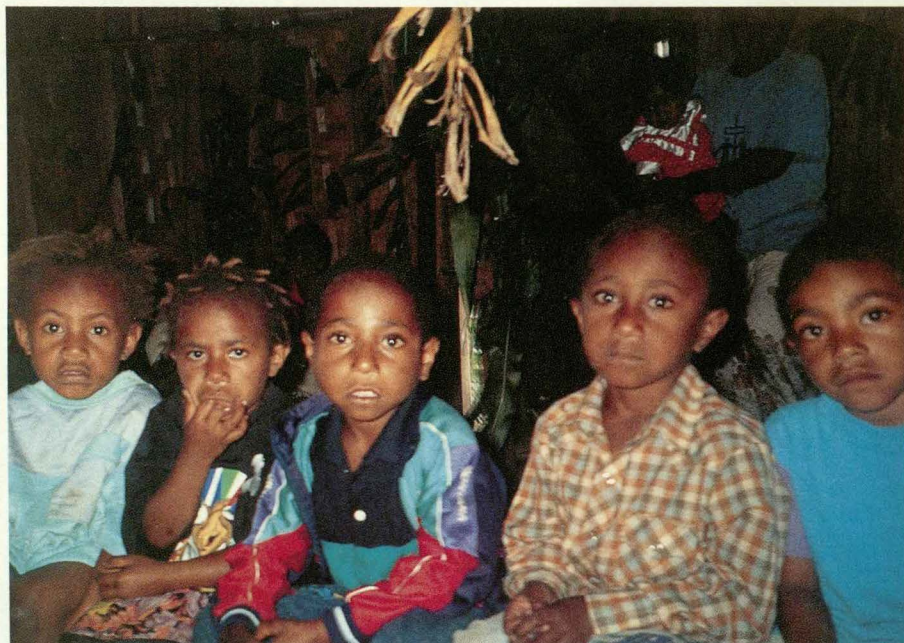
There is a beautiful little Anglican church in Siomoromoro, just outside Goroka. I attended a special Mass there last Christmas, given by Father Graham Bradshaw. A village of maybe one hundred people, there are something like forty kids in Siomoromoro, and for each one of them, Father Graham had brought a Christmas toy. Ukelele, soccer ball, plastic car, Barbie purse, teddy bear, puzzle, book, doll, coloured pens, paddleball. Each child received something, thanks to Father Graham and his former parishioners in England.

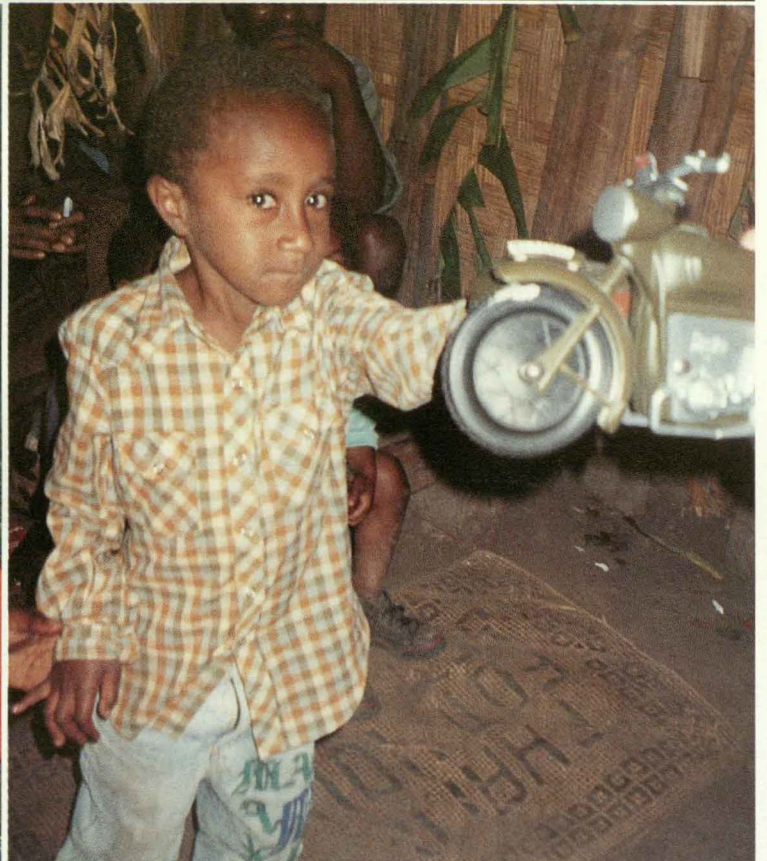
Months ago, Father Graham had asked his previous parish to hold their normal Christmas toy drive early this year. This time the parish sent their toys to Father Graham at St. Francis' Anglican Church in Goroka, where they arrived in late November. Father Graham then sorted through the hundreds of toys, each one donated by some child in England for a child in Goroka. He assembled a pile of toys for each of his Siane village churches, matching one toy to a name, according to age and sex, by the lists his parishioners had provided.

To the credit of David, the prominent Siomoromoro man who had provided the list for his village, no one was left out on Christmas morning. When the Father finished his service he turned to the kids crowding the front pews in this tiny church and informed them that he was about to share with them a Christmas custom from his place.



*Above: Father Graham explains that the toys were donated by children in England.
Below: Children in the front pew wait for their gifts from Father Graham.*





Reading from David's list, he called out, 'Simon?' A young lad of five or six stood up from the front row and, eyes bulging, shuffled forward. He must have thought he was being called to religious service until Father Graham pulled from a box a large green army tank tagged with Simon's name, and handed it to him. Dumbfounded, he immediately fled with his gift to the bright noonday sun.

And so it went. Each child more and more eagerly wringing hands and squeezing each other's shoulders before bounding forward for his or her gift. If the older ones understood their good luck, the little ones remained slightly dazed throughout. Certainly none had ever had a toy before. Little boys embraced their football or fire engine tentatively, embarrassed by its size, before spinning on their heels and dashing out to examine it. Little girls stood calm and awestruck as Father Graham lay the strap of a bright vinyl bag across their shoulder, or handed them a furry monkey almost half their size.

One six or seven year old boy beamed politely as he received his gift, saying, 'Thank you Father, thank you, thank you,' as if on behalf of them all. Helping hand out the toys, I laughed along with Father Graham and some of the parishioners as the kids one by one dashed up, heads bent, sometimes forgetting to smile in their haste to get out and see what they'd gotten. The whole church grew giddy with the event.

These toys were all of different sizes, differing value and appeal — but not one child balked at his or her bounty, asking for another or for what their friend may have received. If they weren't all as gracious as the one boy, they were obviously, speechlessly, thrilled. Afterwards, delighted parents tested the wheels, pulled strings and rotated limbs before handing them back to the kids, although a few taking possession of the infant rattles and music boxes.

But most kids were still clutching their gifts an hour after the service, as we walked through the village and looked over its drought-stricken gardens.

One little boy had been given four matchbox cars in a manila envelope, which he might have had to have pried from his fist later on. Another stood in the doorway of his house admiring his foot-long silver police car with adjustable doors and mirrors. 'Subim!' we called out. 'Putim long graun na subim!'

He shook his head, appalled at the suggestion. 'Nogat! Bai dirti!'

Eventually we headed back up the dirt track and onto the Kama road back to town. This road passes through gently rolling hills and scattered villages, providing one of the most beautiful views of the mountains southwest of Goroka. Father Graham had had the forethought to bring an extra box of toys for the trip. Whenever he spotted two or three kids by the roadside, he'd stop the vehicle, call them over, and with a grin suppressing laughter, he'd drop a small plane, a few rubber balls or a doll into their hands. 'Merry Christmas!' he'd bellow.

The kids would yell, 'Thank you Father!' in his wake.

Not far from Goroka, we were down to two or three toys in the box. A young girl, maybe twelve years old, was walking along the road in the opposite direction. Father Graham stopped the vehicle as she approached, and reached into the box for a brightly coloured toy cell phone. He leaned out the window and pretended to be answering its ring as the girl walked by. 'Scuse!' he called out. 'Nem bilong yu wanem?'

'Nem bilong mi Marta,' she answered politely.

Father Graham spoke into the phone, 'Em nau, emi stap,' he said, then turned to the lass, saying 'Imas telepon call bilong yu Marta!' and he reached out and handed her the phone.

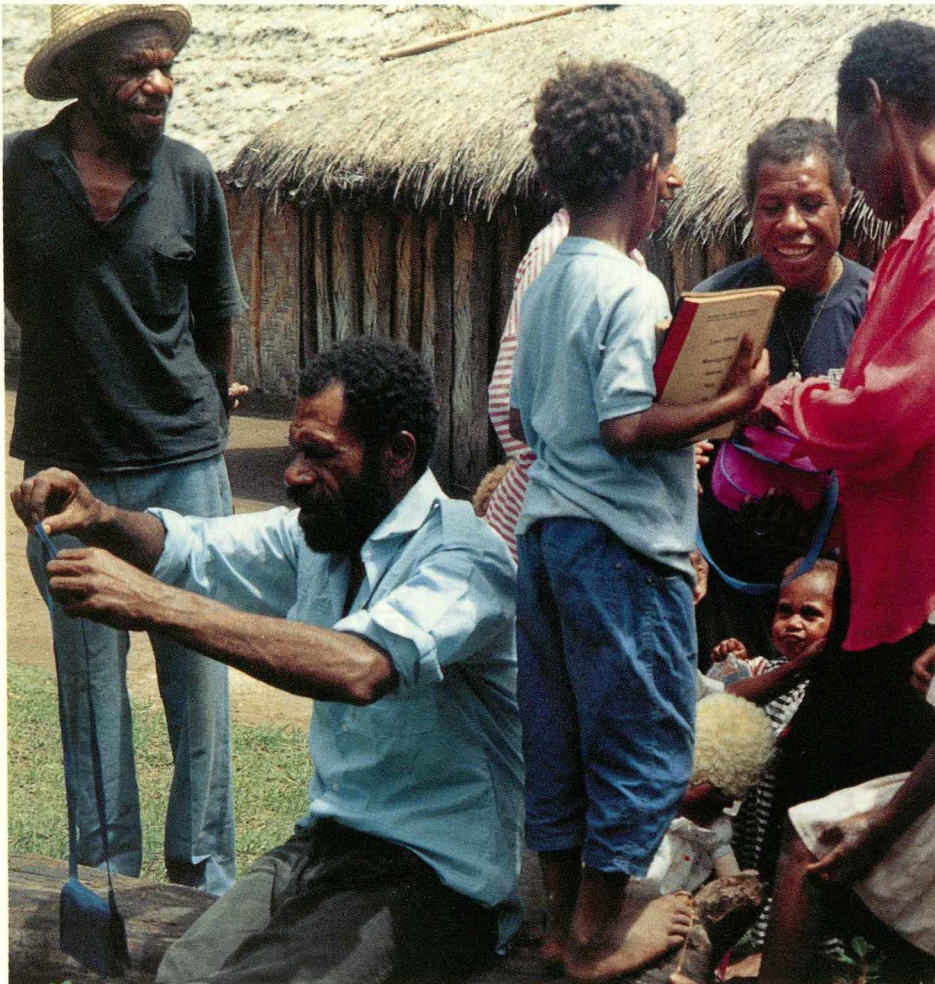
'Helo?' she asked, playing along.

'Merry Christmas Marta!' we both sang out.

She laughed back, saying 'Tenkyu Father'.

We waved and pulled away, both of us feeling like Father and Mrs Claus in our battered four-wheel drive sled. 🐾

Nancy Sullivan lives in Goroka.



Taekwon-Do Women Make Their Mark

Story and photographs by Trish and Rocky Rounthwaite

Taekwon-Do Master Reneé Sereff (7th dan), the first (and only) female International Taekwon-Do Federation Master Instructor in the world, landed at Mt Hagen airport as part of a goodwill tour of Papua New Guinea. Master Sereff had little time to unpack her camera before being greeted by Taekwon-do students in *bilas* (traditional dress), and uniformed senior Taekwon-Do members. Soon after she was off to the gym for the first of two Taekwon-Do seminars held at Kimininga Police barracks gymnasium.

Escorted by Australian Instructor Trish Rounthwaite (3rd dan), for 4 years a resident of Mt Hagen, the sights, sounds and customs of the 'Land of the Unexpected' were soon explained to Master Sereff. These included the occasional practice of polygamy, chewing of betelnut, payback, tribal fighting (with bushknives, spears, and bows and arrows), village courts and compensation claims.

Training with more than 80 students from as far away as Goroka, the visiting Master kicked and punched to the delight of students and spectators alike. Food and hospitality followed in the home of local instructor and international schoolteacher, Bruce and Keriene Imatana.

The next day's events included a drive through the shopping centre, a visit to the market, and an international school tour that included the first of two Taekwon-Do demonstrations. The day was highlighted by a visit to the village of local instructor Simon Kama (3rd dan), greeted by *meris* dressed in *bilas* who danced and sang to the beat of kundu drums.

Cameras never stopped clicking. Appreciating this style of greeting by villagers was normally reserved for dignitaries, Master Sereff was in her element, dancing alongside her hosts who had taken some three hours to dress for the occasion.

Over 200 villagers welcomed the world's first female Taekwon-Do Master. The setting of traditional *kunai* (grass) huts, pigs, coffee bushes, vegetable gardens and excited children was a fitting one for the occasion.

Greetings included the exchange of heart felt appreciation for the event in Tok Ples and Tok Pisin before village elder Elias Koim passed positive comments on the value that Taekwon-Do was to his people. 'Though I never fully appreciated the work that Simon (Kama) was doing in Taekwon-Do amongst our people, the visit to our village of Master Sereff shows me that Taekwon-Do truly is an international art', he said. 'I see only good in what you are doing and believe all our people, especially the youth should be involved in it. You have my support in your efforts.'

Taekwon-Do instructors with Trish Rounthwaite (4th from left) and Master Reneé Sereff (3rd from right) at Polumrus village



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Accompanied by ITFPNG executive officer, Goroka based Police Inspector Nelson Gihigupa (1st dan), Mt Hagen Police club instructor Canute Gutok (1st dan), Madang instructor Andrew Natera, and escort Trish Rounthwaite (3rd dan), Master Sereff performed her second demonstration in Papua New Guinea, her first ever in a village.

Treated to a 'bakery' lunch, Master Sereff then accompanied local pilot and Taekwon-Do supporter, Captain Raphael Koipa, who treated her and Mrs Rounthwaite to a bird's eye view of Mt Hagen and surrounds in his company helicopter.

Early evening saw the visiting Master royally treated as a guest at testings run by International Instructor Mr Rocky Rounthwaite, President of ITFPNG. The occasion was highlighted by the 2nd only female black belt in the Bai Rui Taekwon-Do Schools in Papua New Guinea, Regina Lowfan, successfully testing in front of Master Sereff for her 1st degree black belt.

'Encouraging women in the art was the key purpose of this visit', said Master Sereff. 'The first Bai Rui Taekwon-Do woman black belt in Papua New Guinea was Goroka based Rebecca Namora. I would like to mark this occasion and testing of the 2nd female black belt by announcing a Wayne Schofield Scholarship in honour of our recently departed Taekwon-Do friend Wayne Schofield (5th dan) from the United States Taekwon-Do Federation. Mr Schofield, known personally to a number of ITFPNG members, died earlier this year after a long illness. He had served in Papua New Guinea during the Second World War and had fond memories of his visit to the country and its people.'

Fittingly, local instructors indicated a woman would be the recipient of the scholarship which includes airfares, camp fees, and incidentals whilst attending Camp Colorado, USA, in the year 2000.

Master Sereff then presented clothing brought from Mr Schofield's estate.

'These will have a special place in the hearts and minds of those who knew Mr Schofield', said local instructor Bruce Imatana.

Following a well-attended function in honour of Master Sereff and Mrs Rounthwaite (a pioneer of TKD in Papua New Guinea), it was back to the hotel for a well-earned rest and preparation for the next day's return flight to Brisbane.

A 3-hour stopover in Port Moresby allowed a quick visit to PNG Arts — a huge warehouse with thousands of artefacts — a hasty look at Parliament House, and a peek at a cuscus before lunching at an hotel overlooking the airport. Bai Rui Directors Margie and Charles Birch hosted the farewell lunch to complete the whirlwind 3-day tour.

'I thank all Papua New Guineans who took the time to visit, my hosts and instructors without whom the comaraderie of Taekwon-Do would not exist', said Master Sereff as she departed.



Not Another Pretty Face

Coral reefs: these two words evoke images of the corals themselves which build the reefs, and the creatures with splendid colours and shapes which inhabit the reefs. We think of anemones, gorgonian sea fans, bright coloured striped clownfish and dense schools of purple basslets. We think of fancy shrimp and crabs, featherstars and barrel sponges.

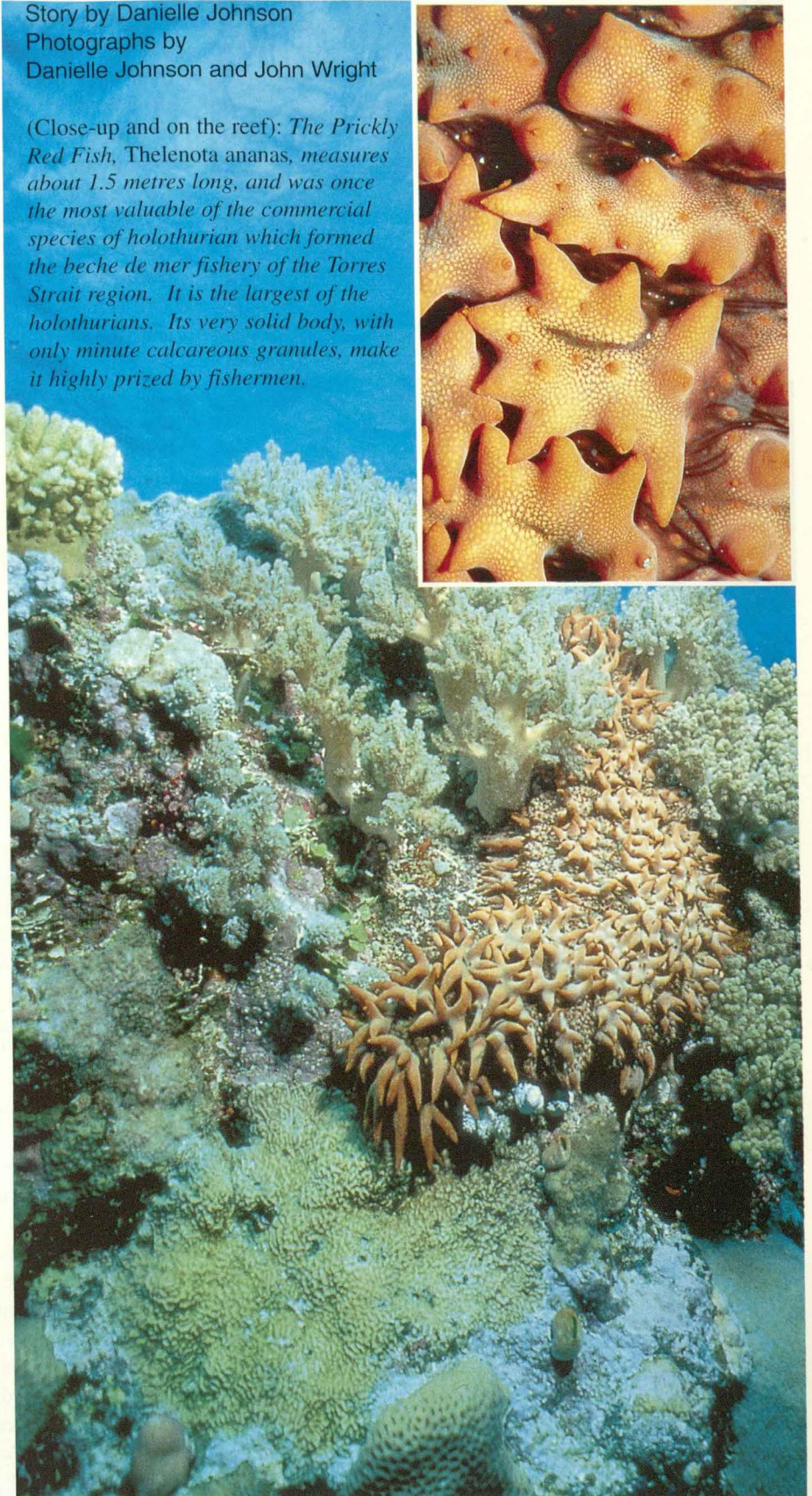
Rarely is the lumpy sea cucumber, oozing its way around the rubble on the seafloor, one of the first reef creatures to come to mind. And yet, the holothurians — their more dignified name — have a crucial role in their habitat. They also have unique biological features within their group, and an important place in human history.

Sea cucumbers range from a few centimetres to over a metre long and come in red, pink, black, brown, yellow, orange and striped. Despite the variety of size, colour and texture, they are fairly restricted when it comes to shape. They are all a basic sausage shape, some fatter or thinner, others longer or shorter, with slight variations in appendages and texture. The Prickly Red Fish is studded, solid, tough and quite leathery to touch. *Synapta maculata* is sticky, which is caused by calcium carbonate grains embedded in the skin, and can extend to a flaccid 2 metres when picked up.

The holothurians are members of the echinoderm group, which also includes sea lilies, featherstars, starfish, brittlestars and sea urchins. The echinoderms are distinguished by their radial symmetry, with five divisions of the body around a central region which contains the mouth. This is obvious in animals such as starfish, but not so obvious with the slug-shaped holothurians. They are so elongated that they actually lie on one side, with the mouth at the 'front end' and the anus at the other. The circular symmetry is more obvious when looking at a sea cucumber as though through a tunnel. Choose carefully which end you look through.

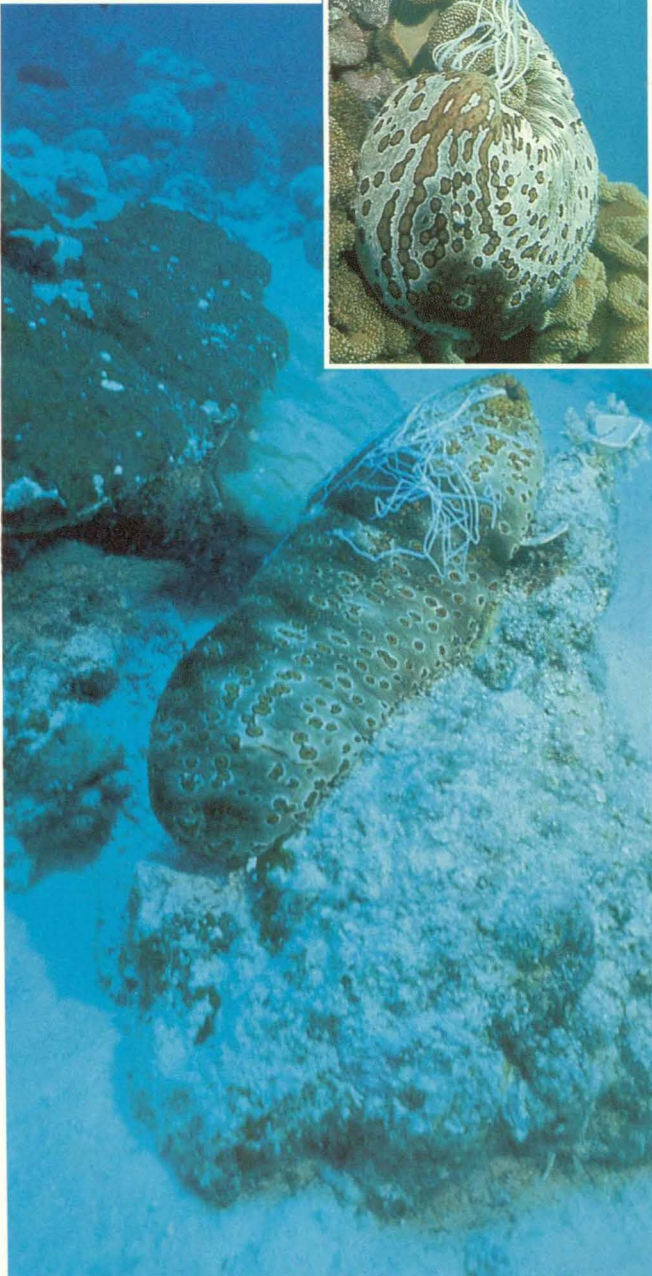
Story by Danielle Johnson
Photographs by
Danielle Johnson and John Wright

(Close-up and on the reef): *The Prickly Red Fish*, *Thelenota ananas*, measures about 1.5 metres long, and was once the most valuable of the commercial species of holothurian which formed the beche de mer fishery of the Torres Strait region. It is the largest of the holothurians. Its very solid body, with only minute calcareous granules, make it highly prized by fishermen.





(Close-up and on the reef):
Holothuria argus (also known as *Bohadschia argus*) is easily identified by its conspicuous markings. It ejects its very sticky Cuvierian organs when it is irritated, a defense mechanism which traps any aggressor.



This elongation of the body has enabled the sea cucumbers to move with the flow of evolution much more than their echinoderm cousins. Over aeons of time, an upper and lower surface has developed. As in most echinoderms, there are five rows of 'tube feet', but again, the sea cucumbers have adapted their bodies to suit themselves. The tube feet are thin-walled cylinders, and some holothurians have them studded all over their bodies, while others have none at all except for around the mouth.

The three rows of suckered tube feet generally found along the lower surface serve for attachment and locomotion. In some species these have condensed, and the animal oozes forward on a smooth 'sole'. The two rows of tube feet along the upper surface act surprisingly enough as respiratory organs.

It is the operation of the tube feet which is one of the most amazing systems among the invertebrates. Within the body of all echinoderms there is a water vascular system which consists of a ring-shaped canal encircling the mouth region, and from it five radial canals lead into the five sectors of the body. Water is sucked into the body, and piped through the canals to the tube feet which then stretch. When fully extended, the sucker grips the rock. When the feet muscles contract, the water is driven back into the central canal, and the tube feet shorten pulling the whole animal forward. Many tube feet working in sequence act like a series of small legs. The original hydraulic-pressure system.

A crown of 10-30 tentacles, also part of the water vascular system, surrounds the mouth. The tentacles operate on the same hydraulic-pressure mechanism. The detrital feeders slowly creep along the bottom and extend their tentacles to pick up organic particles, forming a meshwork when fully expanded into the water. The food-laden tentacles are then thrust into the mouth to be wiped clean.

Appearing rather moribund, holothurians in fact have a crucial role in their habitat. They are both vacuum cleaners and cultivators of the reef, turning over a remarkable amount of the substrate as they eat their muddy way across the seafloor. The efforts of the sea cucumbers prevent layering and compacting of the sand, and literally tonnes of sand may pass through their guts.

Lying around like a lump in full view of predators, with neither spines nor armour for protection, would generally be a risky business. But sea cucumbers have a concealed arsenal. When handled or disturbed, many species will eject great masses of white, orange or red exceedingly sticky threads, called tubules of Cuvier. These strings will entangle such as a crab, or a diver's hand, which will then require skill and patience to remove. The threads are part of the animal's gut, and will regenerate over the next 4-6 months. Some species practically eviscerate themselves, throwing off many of their internal organs, which also will regenerate over time.

Other species contain toxic substances in their skin. Pacific Islanders have used this feature as a fishing tool by chopping up the sea cucumber and throwing the pieces into a coral pond. The poisoned fish come to the surface but the edibility of the fish is not affected.

Some species of the holothurian were so abundant in the 1700-1800s that they were commercially fished in the Papua New Guinean waters. Regarded as a delicacy in soups by Chinese gourmets, they were known as 'Trepang' to Asiatic fishermen, and 'Beche-de-mer' by the French who adopted the cuisine.

Lieutenant Jukes, aboard the survey ship HMAS Fly in 1862, published an account of Malays fishing:

'... they cut open each animal longitudinally, clean out the inside and plunge it into boiling water for a short time. Having thus prepared it they boil the whole in iron pans in salt water together with pieces of new mangrove bark. ... It is boiled in this way for eight to ten hours and then removed to the shed. There it is spread out in a single layer of the platform of split bamboo and the fire lighted below. It is then dried and smoked until ready to be packed away. Each piece is then much shrivelled and of a reddish hue and is ready to be stowed away for the homeward voyage.'

The very valuable beche-de-mer fishery began to decline around 1920. The Prickly Red Fish, with large body and small spicules, one of the most valuable species was practically exterminated in some areas.

Valuable to the reefs where it lives and to the people who eat it, all too often, the humble sea cucumber remains overlooked by divers. You can't judge a book by its cover!!!

Danielle Johnson, a former research scientist in molecular evolution, now works as a photo-journalist.

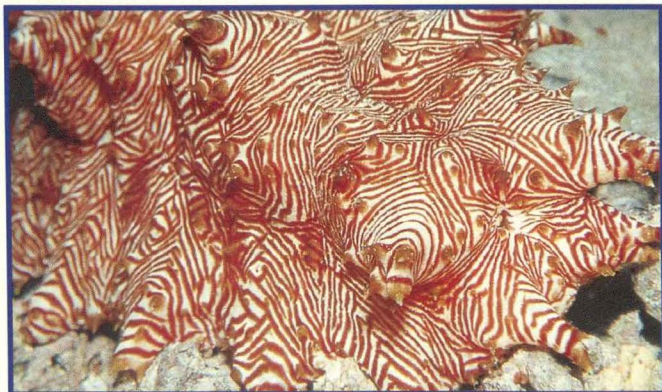


A commercial shrimp feeds on parasites and debris on the skin of Bohadschia argus.



Above: The mouth of holothurians is surrounded by a crown of suckered tube feet.

Below: Patterns on an unidentified species of sea cucumber



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NAXOS

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WEA

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Doris Day
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Lionel Richie
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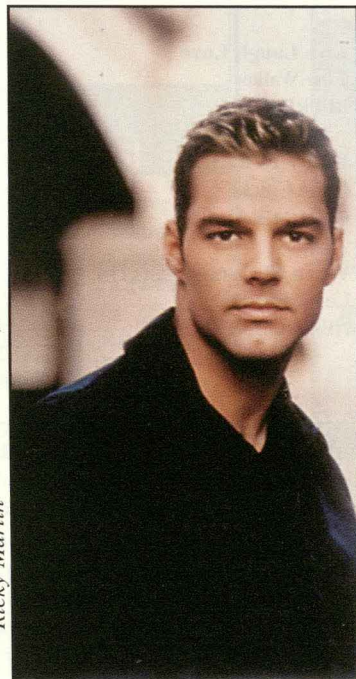
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Sherrie Austin
ARISTA

Start Over Georgia
Collin Raye
EPIC

Amazed
Lonestar
NFS PUBLICITY

The Girls Of Summer
Neal McCoy
ATLANTIC

Something Like That
Tim McGraw
CURB RECORDS

**CHILDREN'S
Channel: 11**

Crocodile Hunt
Noni from Playschool
ABC MUSIC

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious
Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke,
Pat O'Malley
WALT DISNEY

The Hare And The Turtle
Arlo Guthrie
LIGHTYEAR

**There's A Hole In The Bottom
Of The Sea**
Grover & Friends
from Sesame Street
ABC

Orinoco Runs Away
The Wombles
BBC

**I'm In Love With
A Big Blue Frog**
The Muppets
ASTOR

**Star Wars - Episode 1:
The Phantom Menace**
Cast of Star Wars
KID RHINO

The Ugly Duckling
Paul Wing
RCA

I Just Adore '4'
Big Bird from Sesame Street
ABC

The Tale Of Two Bad Mice
Wendy Craig
EMI

Bunyip Groove
The Bunyips
ABC MUSIC

Green Eggs And Ham
Dr Seuss
RCA

Baby Elephant Walk
Henry Mancini
RCA VICTOR

PUZZLE ANSWERS

STOCKING



ZOO

Joe — Black, China, Deer
Tau — Red, Africa, Lion
Kua — Green, Borneo, Parrot
John — Yellow, India, Monkey
La'a — Blue, Brazilian, Snake

ADJECTIVE

quaint

MAZE



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NOVEMBER

Runaway Bride



Genre: Romantic Comedy **Rated:** PG-13
From: Buena Vista 121 minutes

In this charming romantic comedy, Ike Graham is a misogynistic New York columnist writing a story about a young woman who keeps getting engaged but jilts her would-be grooms just before saying 'I do'. He finally meets Maggie, the 'runaway' bride, while covering her latest attempt at matrimony, and discovers she's much different from what he expected. Before long, the reporter finds himself hoping she'll leave this fiance at the altar — giving him a chance to woo her himself.

Featuring: Julia Roberts, Richard Gere, Joan Cusack, Hector Elizondo, Rita Wilson
Director: Garry Marshall



Genre: Drama **Rated:** R
From: EIM 119 minutes

High-school teacher Kieran Johnson is haunted, wondering who he is and where he came from, when he discovers old photos of his mother's native Ireland. He decides to take his nephew Jack on a trip to the Emerald Isle for the adventure of a lifetime. Once there, Johnson encounters Seamus and his elderly mother Mrs Kearney who knew Johnson's mother Fiona when she was a girl. She tells Johnson a tale that changes his outlook on life forever.

Featuring: Aidan Quinn, James Caan, Stephen Rea, John Cusack
Director: Paul Quinn

DECEMBER

A Midsummer Night's Dream



Genre: Comedy

Rated: PG-13

From: Fox 121 minutes

This enchanting version of Shakespeare's most magical comedy comes to life in a unique and unexpected place and time: Tuscany at the turn of the 19th century. Amidst a sensuous and charming world of terraced hillsides and succulent culinary delights, Shakespeare's characters get a new comic lease on life as they explore their world on the new-fangled invention of the bicycle. Flying into the woods on two wheels, Tuscan nobles, actors and lovers, find themselves at the mercy of mischievous spirits who rule the natural world.

Featuring: Rupert Everett, Calista Flockhart, Kevin Kline, Michelle Pfeiffer, Stanley Tucci
Director: Michael Hoffman



Genre: Action /Comedy /Adventure

Rated: PG-13

From: Warner 106 minutes

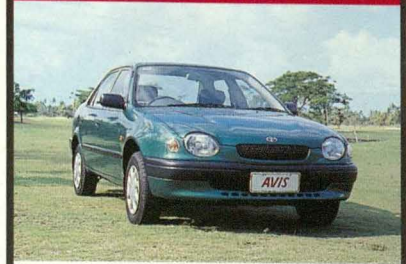
Special government agents James West, long on charm and wit, and Artemus Gordon, a master of disguise and a brilliant inventor of gadgets, are each sent to track down the diabolical genius Dr Arliss Loveless who is plotting to assassinate the US President with the aid of his monstrously huge walking weapon-transport vehicle called 'The Tarantula'. West and Gordon begin as competitors but soon pool their talents to become a wily team of operatives who trust each other ... most of the time.

Featuring: Will Smith, Kevin Kline, Kenneth Branagh, Salma Hayek
Director: Barry Sonnenfeld

Channels 1 and 2

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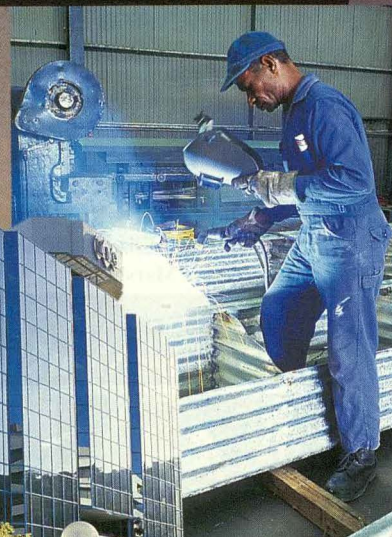
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The Investment Corporation was established in 1971 by an Act of Parliament to provide for local equity participation in investment projects where sufficient local equity was not readily available.

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Hides 4 Gas Exploration in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea

Story and photographs by John Hamau

Australian Patrol Officer Jack Gordon Hides

The Hides Gas Project, situated in the Tari District of the Southern Highlands is named after Australian pioneer cadet patrol officer Jack Gordon Hides, who led the first colonial government contact party into the Pori-Komo area in 1933. The Hiwa, Pina and the Keremu people of the Tari District had only been in contact with the outside world for 55 years before BP Exploration discovered the gas resources in the area in the late 1980s. Today these people are experiencing through the Hides Gas project the impact of 20th century technology.

Access to Hides 4

Hides 4 is the only rig site accessible by road to the project headquarters at Nogoli and to the Highlands Highway through Tari. Access to Hides 1, 2 and 3 is only by helicopter. The Hagen-based company Hevi Lift makes regular daily flights to fly-in and fly-out project staff between Hagen and Nogoli. Helicopters are based on the three different sites of the Hides Project providing the main means of transportation within the Hides Project area, to other petroleum projects like the Kutubu Oil Project, Gobe, Moran, Angore and to other parts of the Southern Highlands.

Supplies and material for the Hides gas project are transported by road along the Highlands Highway from Lae and Mount Hagen through the Mendi-Tari part of the highway to the Kubalu Hides project supply campsite and the Nogoli base.

The Gas Plant

After the discovery of the gas resources in Hides 1, 2, & 3 the then operator of the Hides Project, BP Exploration built a gas plant and power station near Nogoli in the Tagari Valley near Tari. The gas plant and power station are magnificent, state-of-the-art modern technology facilities set up in the middle of nowhere. The plant and power station operate efficiently and safely, utilising gas from Hides 1 and Hides 2, to produce electricity for the Porgera gold mine. The electricity supply is guaranteed for the life of the mine and is transmitted through 70 km of power lines from Tari in the Southern Highlands to Porgera in Enga.

It took BP Exploration more than three years from the time of discovery of the gas to build the pipelines, the plant and the power station. The gas processing plant not only converts the gas into electricity but also produces oil and fuel. Some of the diesel fuel and oil produced at Hides is used as back-up fuel for the Porgera power plant and the rest is transported by local oil freighters to tea plantations in Mount Hagen, Mendi and Tari.

The land at the Hides 1, 2 and 3 area is owned by the Hiwa Koma clan. Two other clans that own land within the Petroleum Development Licence area and share land boundaries with the Hiwa clan are the Pina and Keremu clans. These clans provide support to the developers of the Project and agreements are in place for the clans to share financial benefits from the Hides gas development.

The Hides 4 Rig



To establish the extent of the gas reserve reservoir underground in the Hides project, drilling work at Hides 4 commenced in December 1997. At the end of 1998, test results from Hides 4 indicated that there is a large gas reserve in the Hides area that has potential for the development of a huge commercial gas project.

Fascinating technology and communication at Hides 4

The equipment and communication technology used in the make-shift container-size field laboratory, by South Australian Petroleum geological consultants Morgan Palaeo Associates, to analyse test results from the Hides 4 rig, are fascinating. Deep in the forest of the outback of Tari, watching scientific analysis done inside the small fully air-conditioned field laboratory is like observing a fully operational science lab in Sydney. The whole world is virtually within the finger tips of the petroleum geological scientists through computers, telephones, faxes and satellite monitors. The geologists can access information from anywhere in the world from the network within the Hides 4 rig site.

Landowners of Hides 4

The land in the new Hides 4 rig is owned by a number of landowner groups. Many of the local men work at the rig, and once a month the landowner representatives meet in a specially built meeting house at Nogoli to discuss details about lease, compensation and work contracts with the developers.

Contracting Companies at Hides 4 Rig

Resource exploration work normally requires many contracting companies. In the drilling work at the Hides 4 rig at least eight different contract companies were contracted. The majority of the contract companies are Australian-based. The exception is the Gigira Development Co-operation, which is the Hides landowners incorporated company. GDC was responsible for the recruitment of local resident workers from the Hides community to work on the Hides 4 operation.

Oil Search takeover of Hides

In July 1998 Oil Search took over the Hides Project from the British company, BP Exploration. Oil Search is a partner with Chevron Niugini in the Kutubu Oil and Gas Project. If the Government, Chevron, Oil Search and their partners take a 'whole basin' approach to developing the gas reserves, as

proven by the discoveries of the natural gas reserves in the Papua New Guinean Highlands basin, there is potential for a huge sustainable gas industry.

Papua New Guinea — Queensland Gas Project

The Papua New Guinea to Queensland Gas project will see Australia supplied with gas from Papua New Guinea. The gas project is estimated to cost more than 3 billion US dollars and is being planned and developed by a consortium led by the Kutubu Oil and Gas developer, Chevron Niugini.

Papua New Guinean gas — a major export to Australia

The gas will be piped through a 2,500 km pipeline from the Southern Highlands through the Torres Strait waters to north and

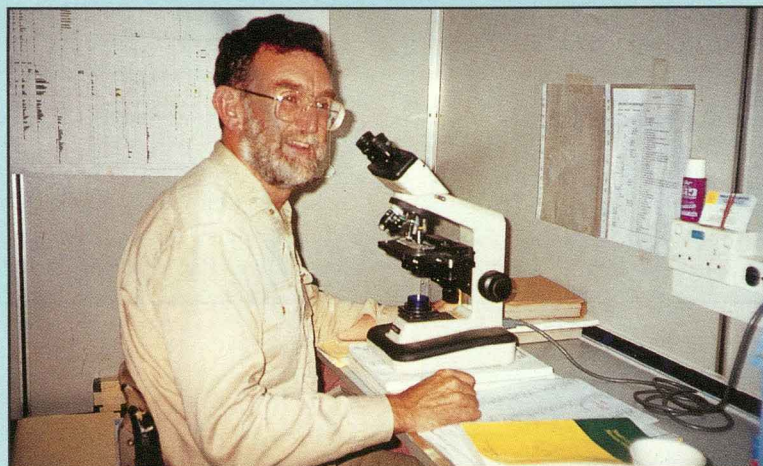
central Queensland. While the gas supply is targeted for power for Queensland, it might be possible for Chevron to negotiate the extension of the pipeline to New South Wales. This could make the Papua New Guinean gas supply a major export commodity to Australia well into the next century.

Liquefied Natural Gas

Liquefied natural gas produces little pollution and the gas plant can be easily built closer to metropolitan demand areas. Gas plants are cheaper to construct and operate compared to, for example, coal-fired plants. There is a growing market demand for gas in Asia, particularly in Japan, China and South Korea. Some of these countries buy Papua New Guinea's mineral products and we hope that these countries together with Northern Australia, will welcome Papua New Guinea's gas as a new export product.



Above: Dick Murray, Hides 4 Manager and Wayne McLeod of Morgan Palaeo Associates communicating direct with London from Hides 4 Rig. Below: A scientist examines a sample from 3,000 metres underground in the Hides 4 Gas reserve.



John Hamau is at the Macquarie University in Sydney.

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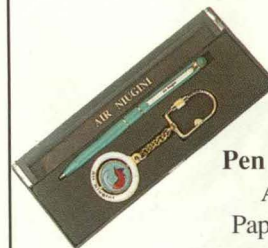
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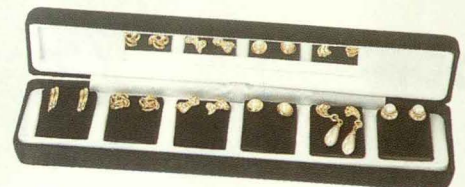
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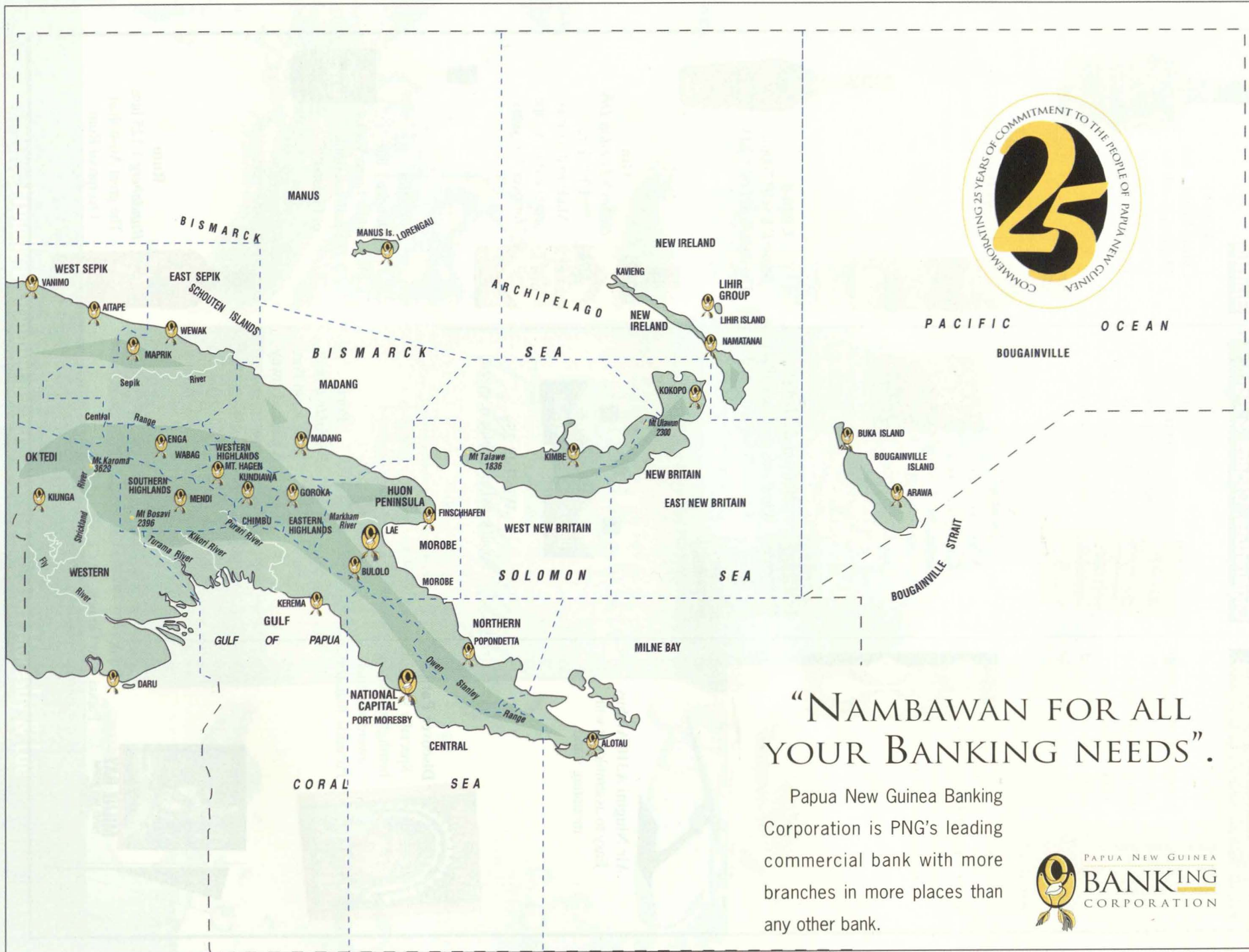


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Rendezvous at Nassau Bay

Part 1: 1943

NOTE: This piece was written by an Australian soldier in 1943, describing the link-up between the Australian 17th Brigade and the US 162nd Regiment at Nassau Bay, Morobe Province, during World War 2. This gave the allies an unbroken line from the south to the north coasts of New Guinea, isolating the Japanese forces remaining on the south-east of the island. It was the essential groundwork for the capture of Salamaua and Lae, and for the island-hopping campaigns which bypassed many Japanese strongholds in a strategy of containment. It is condensed by Eric Lindgren from Khaki and Green, the Australian Army's Annual for the year 1943.

Created by an enlisted man from Victoria 'VX57226'.

On the night of June 29-30 Australian troops from Mubo made contact with an American landing force at Nassau Bay, thus bringing under Allied control all the area from Mubo to the coast.

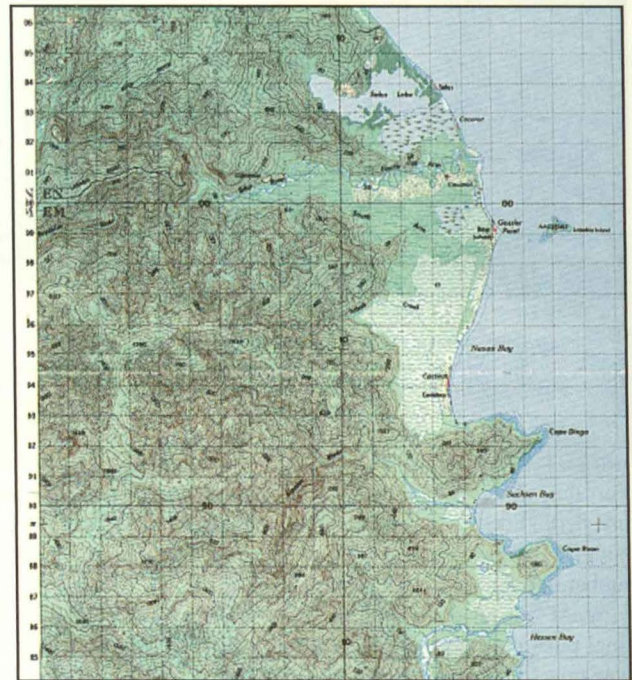
The plan was that we should move down towards evening, striking this beach midway between the Japanese positions at Duali* and Bassis* (see map on right). There, after nightfall, we were to dig in noiselessly and await the time when three men, with the rest of us ready to ward off enemy interference, would move down to the water's edge. Then, at zero hour (2345 hours), the signal would be given, conjuring out of the void dozens of landing barges laden with hundreds of Americans — we hoped. Anyhow that was the plan.

... At 1630 we waded the creek and moved out. A mere 2,000 yards lay between us and the beach, but most of it was bad swamp which we had to cross before dark. Bad swamp! (photo below) It was an incredibly evil swamp; the hellish climax to all we had endured in New Guinea, and that's saying a good deal. At first it looked innocent enough, though a little soggy underfoot. But suddenly the leading man let out an awful curse as he sank up to his thighs in slime. It was like that all the way — a few steps ankle deep in the stuff, then down you'd go, with that foul porridge sucking and tugging at your loins, and stinking gases bubbling up between your legs. Was there any solid bottom to it? I don't know. You might have struck it had you gone down far enough, though you certainly would never have returned from your subterranean reconnaissance. As it was, you hastily slapped your rifle down cross-wise on the surrounding reeds until you gained enough purchase to drag your hindquarters out of the bog.

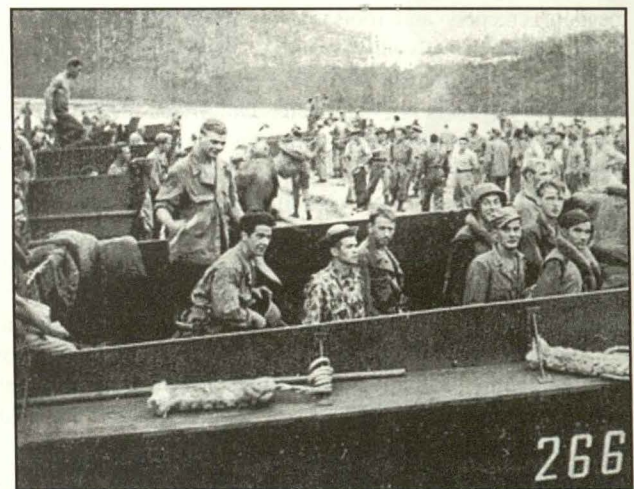
... This is so often the way of it in New Guinea: a track which will easily support the quick-stepping prehensile feet of a villager, will give way and finally disintegrate under the tread of heavily-built, heavily-booted Australians carrying packs and equipment. But we beat it somehow, at the rate of a thousands yards in two hours, and staggered out on to firmer ground just at dusk.

* Duali was near mouth of the south arm of the Bitoi River.

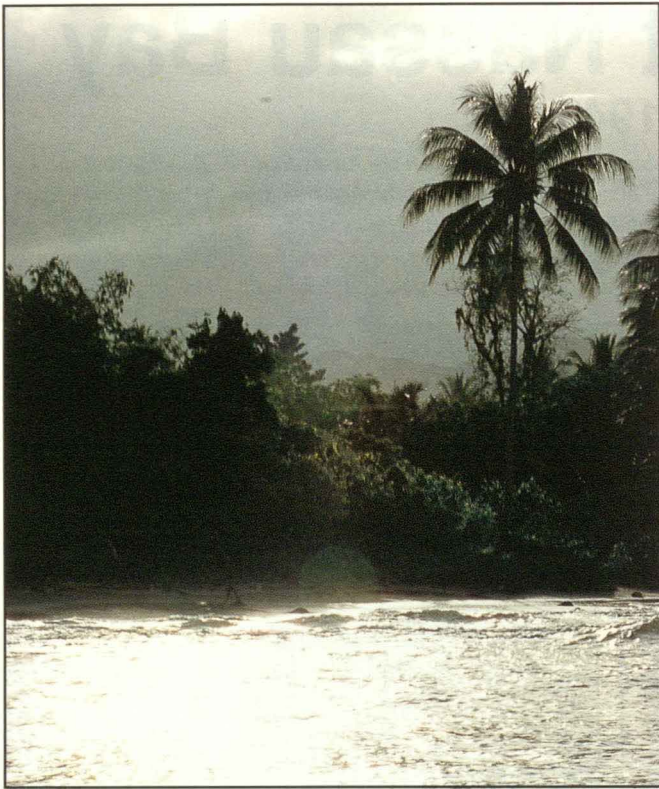
*Bassis was at the mouth of the Tabali River.



Troops of the US 162nd Regiment landing at Nassau Bay 29 June 1943.



As we dropped down to rest, the last of the daylight slipped wanly away from the high ridges, the abrupt blurring-out of shape and colour indicating to a legion of unseen birds and beasts that they might now hail oncoming night with their chorus of squeaks, coughs, hoots, yodels, croaks and hiccups. We rather hoped that the familiar jungle clamour would smother up a certain rhythmic wheeze and whistle, and that any prowling Jap, if he did hear it, would take it for just another weird creature of the night. Actually it was the sound of our little boat being inflated.



For the waters of Tabali (*photo above*), deep and crocodile infested, glided between us and the beach. It took more than an hour for us to cross it, twenty-six men, two at a time, in that flimsy rubber doughnut.

... At last all were over the sombre Tabali and ready for the final push through the 500 yards of tangled scrub remaining. It was now 2000 hours — by 2100 we hoped to be at Nassau Bay (*photo top right*) digging our beach-head defences. We hoped!

... But night in the New Guinea coastal scrub with its dank mesh of creepers and roots, lawyer vine and sago palms, is another thing (*photo middle right*). For the leader, with his carefully shaded lantern, it is bad enough, but for those who struggle to follow, it is a nightmare. Out of that horrid blackness come writhing at you with claws and tentacles, tough lianas fettering elbows and knees, throttling you, snatching your rifle from your shoulder, lawyer vines ripping hand and cheek and ear with vicious back-turned teeth. You wriggle free, only to be jerked back by the man following. He swears at you. The man in front swears too, and drags you on. A log leaps up from somewhere and butts you in the stomach; you trip over a root and are dragged by the leaders like a sack of potatoes, headlong through the mud, till you end up embracing a prickly sago palm (*photo bottom right*). You stop swearing. You can't swear any more. Perhaps you'd like to weep.

... It became evident we were moving in a circle. We all stopped and listened — the croaking of frogs, the sullen drum-drum of the rain on our shoulders and always — the rumble of invisible breakers. Smithy had a machete. It may have inspired him at this moment to take charge of the situation. Going to the front, he started hacking like fury at the black tangle, thrusting a way towards the sound of the sea.

... Nassau Bay must be almost due East, so I held the compass on bearing and endeavoured to keep the leaders in line with the flickering needle. 'To your left a bit! Hold it! Go ahead! More to the right! Steady!'

... It was 2315 hours and half an hour to zero time, and it was better for the seven men to move fast and win through. So we forgot the Japs and concentrated on that, using our torches freely and breaking bush without caution. Then, Smithy gave a loud cry, the scrub relinquished us and slipped quietly out of the game and, as we topped a low sand-dune, the ocean opened up with a million-horsepowered roar and swallowed us and the whole world in the noise of it!

... A paling snapped and someone's foot twanged on a signal wire. We cut the latter and plodded out on to the beach. Undoubtedly we had struck the shore too far south. Instead of being midway between Duali and Bassis, at least a mile from each, we seemed little more than half a mile from Bassis and the dim promontory forming the right arm of Nassau Bay loomed up much too close. So we stumbled along through sand and weed and spray for four or five hundred yards northwards, before the Boss halted and said, 'One signal here!'

Jock, Bluey and Gordon crouched down on the sand. The rest went on for another two or three hundred yards, while the Boss and I stopped, waiting until Lloyd and Smithy covered the distance to the other limit of our beach-head. It seemed an age before their signal came back. It was 2355 hours, we gave the signal to the invisible Americans. We paused and listened.



Nothing but the thunder and crash of the tremendous surf! Again we signalled. I glanced out to the left at the silhouette of Lababia Island and out to the right at the Bassis promontory.

... We were already three-quarters of an hour late, and the Yanks must have gone away again. Perhaps they had never come. Even if they did come, how could they ever get through such a surf?

'Try again!' said the Boss, and once more I saw his face, white and tense, framed in glistening leaves. I admired him then, and sympathised with him at the same time. It's not done in the Army to sympathise with officers, but I could sense, almost poignantly, the feelings of the big fellow. This was his job, the job he had planned for weeks back. Failure at this point would be heartbreaking! ...

'Better give up, sir,' I said. 'Give the boys a chance to get away, you know!' (Not to mention myself, of course.)

'Just once more,' he answered, and for the last time we gave the signal. For the last time we peered and listened. 'Righto, Steve.' His voice was quiet. 'Get the boys in.'

I whistled 'Bless 'Em All' in lieu of a password and called out. Back we went towards the Boss. Lloyd and Smithy were already there. 'All here? Right, let's go!'

'Look out!' bawled Lloyd. 'They're coming up the beach!' We looked at them just once, those figures advancing sinister and dark against the pale sand, and dived into the bushes. I found myself with Smithy. Twenty yards through the tangle we struggled, then went to ground and listened. Someone was breaking bush not far away. A queer sensation. Your heart bumped, but you weren't frightened. You simply felt that it couldn't be you, that you weren't even there, and that after all, the whole situation wasn't real.

Smithy said: 'Let's call out, Lloyd, and if they don't answer we'll shoot.'

'For gorsake shut up, you fool!' I replied. The idea didn't appeal to me a bit, but Smithy was like that. Sort of chap who could stroll cheerfully about in the open, under fire, while you belly-wriggled through the undergrowth, and wished to hell that that Jap tree-sniper would go away and stop clipping twigs off just above your backside. Then we heard it — a strange snoring and groaning, swelling and dying and swelling again, like the noise of sea monsters wrestling!

'Thank God! Thank God!' I yelled hysterically. 'They're here! The Yanks are here!' The next instant we were struggling through the creepers again, out on to the beach, and down into the surf itself, towards the roaring landing-barges and the American voices, plangent yet wonderfully sweet. Like a rabble of rescued castaways we ran to them, we and the rest of the platoon, whose wary advance had scared us into the scrub. We grabbed their hands and only stopped short of embracing them.



1999 — remains of the bulldozer used in WW2 road-building around Lababia village

Quietly, the helmeted Americans returned our greeting, then went about the important business of disembarkation. A difficult business it was too, in those 12-foot breakers, which hurtled the big square-snouted barges into the beach like so many match-boxes, sideways, and backwards and almost upside down. But they got through, those Americans, in spite of the terrible seas. Sick and shaken as they must have been from eight hours of tossing about in the barges, they sorted themselves out calmly and quickly.

... More men were wading waist deep into shore, staggering as the spray lashed their eyes. Miraculously, a bulldozer snorted its way out of a barge through the flurry up on to firm land. All this time no enemy had showed up to interrupt this tumult of men and motors, though undoubtedly they were back there beyond the edge of darkness, taking it all in.

... An Australian voice came out of the gloom. 'Got any cigarettes, buddy?' The rain was falling again. I had lost my tin hat in the scrub, my shirt and pants clung chill to my skin, my socks had shrunk to infinity, my boots were sodden and painful with grit. I was very happy.

... Someone gave an order. A company of Americans moved off quietly to either flank, there to dig in and await whatever the dawn might bring.

The next issue of Paradise Magazine will include Rendezvous at Nassau Bay, Part 2: 1999.

Dr Eric Lindgren is a freelance photo-journalist based in Brisbane. He spent 25 years in PNG and specialises in wildlife, history and World War 2 in the south-west Pacific.

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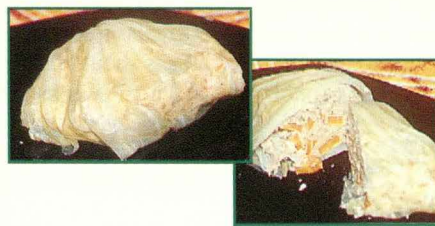
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LOCAL GOURMET FOOD — Cabbage

By Céline Peter



Cabbage is cultivated in many parts of the world under various climatic conditions. It



grows well in Papua New Guinea and markets are filled with many varieties: English cabbage, red cabbage, Chinese flowering cabbage or *choy sum* and Chinese cabbage which is also known as *wong buk*. Decorating varieties flower in gardens in the Highlands. Each culture has developed its own style of cooking cabbage. Below are four different ways of preparing cabbage: raw in salad, marinated, fried or steamed. Bon appétit!



Greek Salata (serves 4)

$\frac{1}{2}$ small red cabbage, shredded
1 cup cooked beetroot cut in julienne strips
1 cup cooked green beans
1 tablespoon capers
1 tablespoon chopped black olives

Place prepared cabbage, beetroot and beans in a salad bowl. Sprinkle capers and olives over salad.

Dressing

3 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon wine vinegar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon mustard
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
freshly grounded black pepper
1 tablespoon chopped fresh herbs (parsley, chives), optional

Whisk mustard, vinegar and salt until smoothly combined. Add the oil, pepper and herbs.

Pour dressing over salad and chill for at least 30 minutes. Serve chilled with cold or barbecued meat.

Stuffed Cabbage (serves 6)

1 small white cabbage
400g minced pork meat
4 eggs 3 carrots
2 spring onions, chopped
3 teaspoons of cornflour
one handful of parsley, finely chopped
salt freshly ground black pepper
aluminium foil

Peel and chop carrots into tiny cubes. Boil in lightly salted water for 2 minutes. Plunge into cold water to cool. Drain.

Select 6 leaves of cabbage. Shred the remaining cabbage.

In a big bowl, mix together meat and beaten eggs. Add shredded cabbage, spring onion, carrots, parsley, salt and pepper. Add corn flour and mix well.

Divide the mixture into appropriate proportions for the number of cabbage leaves. Place a little filling in each leaf and roll up. Place the rolls on aluminium foil. Add 3 tablespoons of water and tightly close the aluminium foil. Steam the rolls in a big saucepan or pot, for about 45 minutes to one hour. Serve warm.



Chicken and Noodles with Fried Vegetables (serves 4)

250g noodles 2 teaspoons oil
1 medium onion, sliced
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 small piece of fresh ginger, chopped
400g skinless chicken breast, cut into strips (or chicken already cooked)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ white cabbage, cut into pieces
4 carrots, chopped
1 tablespoon soy sauce
2 tablespoons cornflour

Cook noodles in a large saucepan of boiling water for about 3 minutes. Drain.

Heat oil and stir-fry onion, garlic, ginger and chicken until chicken is brown. Add chopped carrots and shredded cabbage. Stir-fry until cabbage turns transparent (few minutes). Add noodles. Cook for 2 minutes. Blend cornflour with soy sauce (add a little water if necessary) and add to pan, stirring until thickened.



Marinated Cabbage Rolls (serves 4)

1 head of young cabbage
2 tablespoon salt
3 asparagus spears cut into 3cm lengths (or tinned asparagus well drained)
5 radishes finely shredded
 $\frac{1}{2}$ onion, finely chopped
1 small piece of ginger, finely chopped

Sweet vinegar

$\frac{1}{2}$ cups rice vinegar (or white wine vinegar)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups water 3 tablespoon sugar
1 tablespoon salt

Blend all the ingredients for the Sweet vinegar.

Separate cabbage leaves. Pare down any thick veins so each leaf is of even thickness. Sprinkle leaves with salt. Stack the leaves and put a weight on top (perhaps a dinner plate), and let stand about 30 minutes, until soft yet crisp.

If you use fresh asparagus, blanch in lightly salted water. Plunge into cold water to cool.

Spread each cabbage leaf to the extent possible. Divide vegetables (radish, asparagus, onion, ginger) into appropriate proportions for number of cabbage leaves. Place a portion of this filling in each leaf and roll up. In a flat-bottomed, round container, tightly pack the cabbage rolls.

Pour on the sweet vinegar. Cover with a drop-lid, weight with $\frac{1}{2}$ kilogram, and place in a cool, dark place for 2-3 days, protected by plastic wrap (or in the refrigerator). Rolls will keep 5 days refrigerated in marinade, about 1 day when removed from marinade.

Serve chilled as a side dish with cold meat or steamed fish.



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.

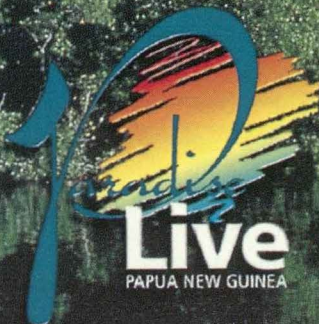
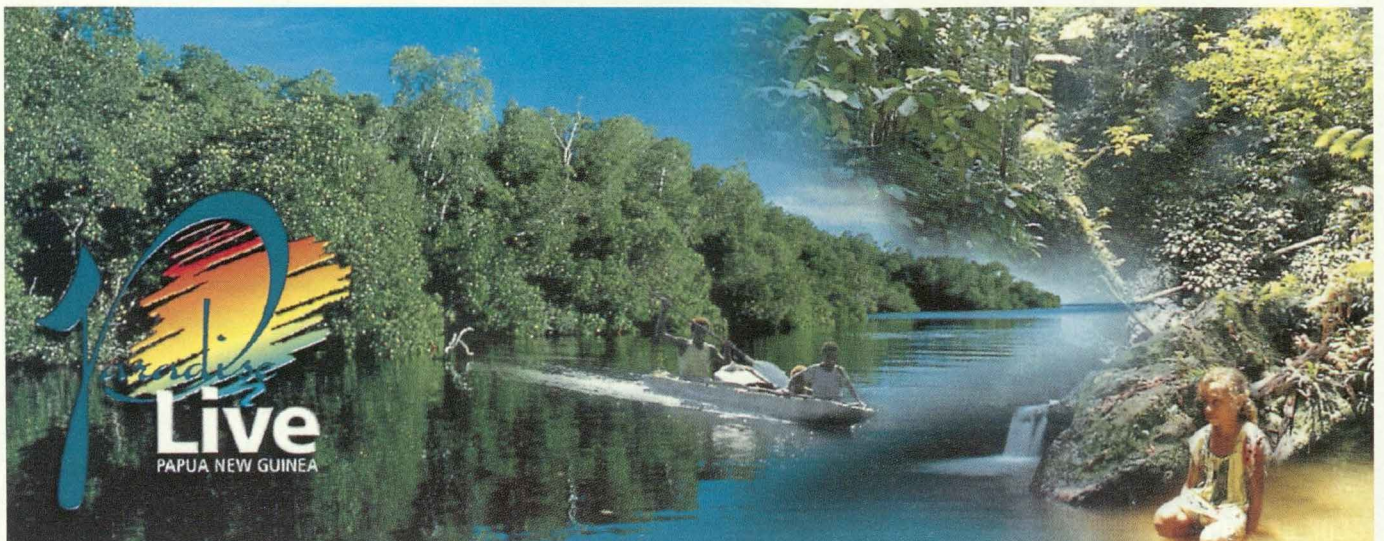
Shopping: Large stores and artifact shops offer a variety of goods for sale. Saturday is a half day for most shops and nearly all are closed on Sunday. Artisans sell their craft beside the roads or in markets. All markets sell a wide range of fruits and vegetables.

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.

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