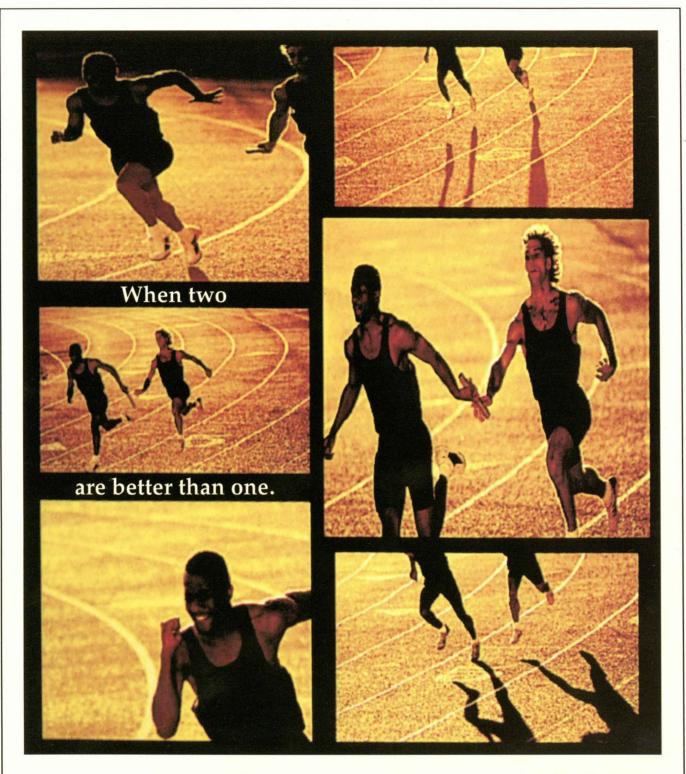


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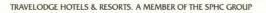
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Cover: Male Orchard Swallowtail feeding in the garden at Kamiali Guest House Photograph by Eric Lindgren

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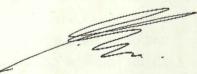
Welcome aboard

On behalf of the board and management of Air Niugini, I am delighted to welcome all our passengers aboard Air Niugini flights at the beginning of the new millennium. I also take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous and happy year for 2000.

It is still the holiday season, and this issue of Paradise once again gives you an array of activities to choose from, if you are fortunate enough to be on vacation.

We have articles about activities, people and places in all parts of the country — the national capital Port Moresby, the famous bewigged and face-painted Huli of the Tari basin, flower vendors of Daulo Pass in the Eastern Highlands, diving in Milne Bay, efforts to eradicate the beautiful but dangerous water hyacinth in the Sepik, wildlife management in Nassau Bay and, if you are fit and game, a Kokoda Trail trek.

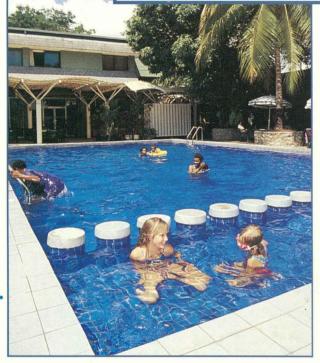
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Port Moresby for many visitors is just the entry and exit point through which they quickly travel to their business destinations or the

'real' tourist attractions elsewhere in Papua New Guinea.

Much of the country's rich colonial history revolved around Moresby as the centre of administration for the far-flung protectorate that was Australia's responsibility for many decades.

Despite the negative reputation given to Moresby by foreign media, and some of the things that do happen, which one can't deny, it is a picturesque and interesting place deserving more than a quick, reluctant overnight.

Port Moresby's new and very modern International and Domestic Air Terminals are a pleasure for visitors with memories of the fans lazily stirring the hot air in the old terminal!

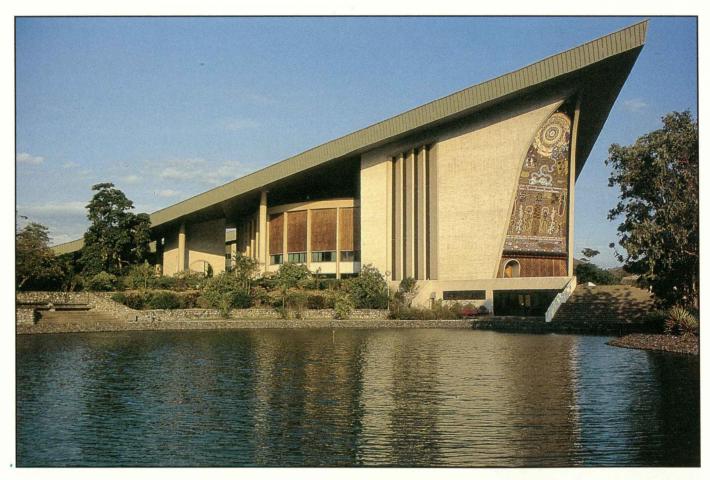


Left: National Capital Botanical Gardens



So Much To See

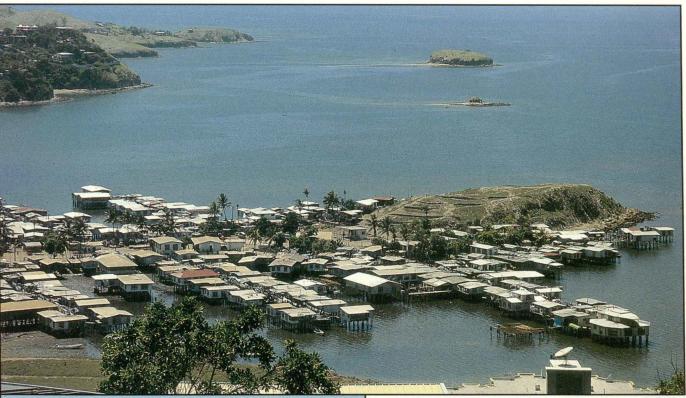
Story and photographs by Keith Briggs



Combining modern luxury accommodation with an easy going Melanesian atmosphere the recently extended Airways Hotel (*photos below*) overlooking the whole airport gives fine views of the rugged Owen Stanley Ranges to the north and island vistas to the south east.

Linking the airport with Port Moresby city is the newly built Poreporena Highway designed for swift transit between the two, via the Waigani Administrative area. The House of Parliament (*photo above*) is an impressive building featuring beautiful Papua New Guinean timbers and the craftsmanship of Papua New Guinean artisans and tradesmen who were engaged in its construction. In the same Waigani administration district are modern buildings including the eye-catching Waigani Post Office and Telikom Centre. Further out Waigani Drive are the University and delightful Botanic Gardens where flora from most of the country's range of climatic regions is grown.



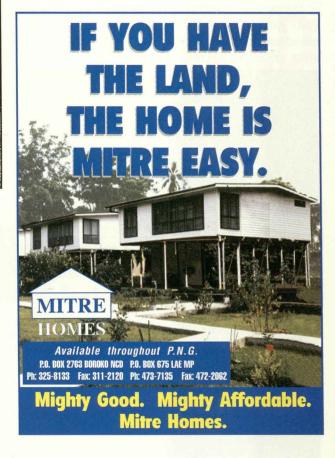


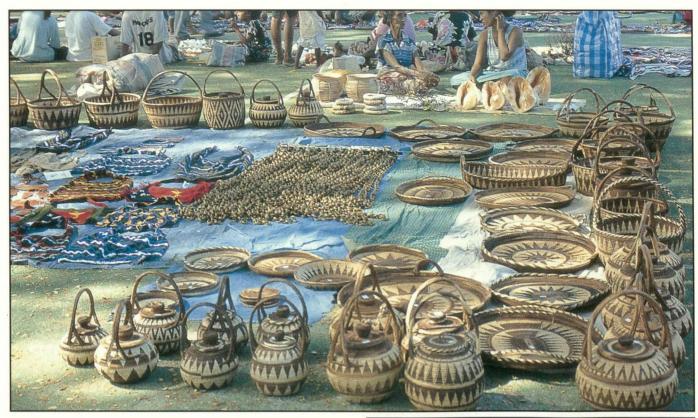


Port Moresby's shopping area and modern multi-storeyed business houses are built on an isthmus between Fairfax Harbour and Ela Beach (*photo above*). Champs Restaurant on the eleventh floor of Revenue House provides good inexpensive meals and a glorious view of the harbour. It is an attractive harbour with dry encircling hills and brilliant blue water. A large marina and new Yacht Club house will surprise visitors. Below Revenue House are container wharves and the coastal shipping vessels of one of Papua New Guinea's oldest and most influential businesses, Steamships Trading Company. Across the harbour can be seen the wreck of the ship *Macdui*, sunk by the Japanese in the attack on Port Moresby during World War II.

Ela Beach is a great place for families where children can bathe and play in safety. Paths, picnic tables and public amenities make it ideal for group outings with its cool sea breeze on a tropical evening.

Houses built over water at Koke. People bring produce in boats from the villages around the coast to sell in Koke market.





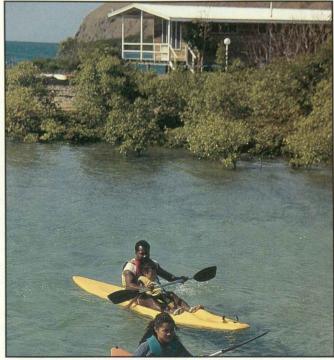
Ela Beach International School hosts a monthly craft market not to be missed by anyone keen to pick up some really beautiful and useful items offered for sale by vendors from many parts of Papua New Guinea (*photo above*). It is held on the last (fourth) Saturday of each month.

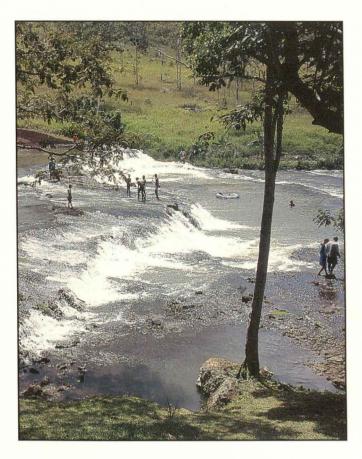
Distinctive, beautiful jewellery made from black coral, PNG gold and silver is available from a number of local manufacturers (*photo below*). If you have a few days in town, pieces can be custom-made for you.



Twenty minutes drive south-east down the coast lies peaceful, sheltered Bootless Bay with yachts at anchor and islands beckoning (*photo above right*). Attractive in itself, it is the boarding point for Loloata Island Resort (*photo on right*), only fifteen minutes away by outboard or larger catamaran. Overnight rates at Loloata are quite reasonable and a day trip, which includes an excellent lunch, should be part of your Moresby experience.







Driving north from Moresby along the Laloki Highway you pass fertile gardens and evidence of large-scale poultry production past and present. An abandoned copper mine is another memento of the colonial days. The road follows the winding Laloki River whose waters power the turbines that give Moresby its electricity.

Bomana War Cemetery stands as a beautifully kept but solemn reminder of the thousands of Australian soldiers who died on the famous Kokoda Trail, and the heroic Papua New Guineans who made victory possible. The Kokoda Trail begins on the Sogeri Plateau near the village of Karakadabu where stands a monument giving details of the terrain and campaigns fought during those momentous days in the early forties.

The pools and cascades of Crystal Rapids (*photo on left*) provide hours of fun for all, alongside a pleasant landscaped picnic and playing park in a bend of the Laloki River.

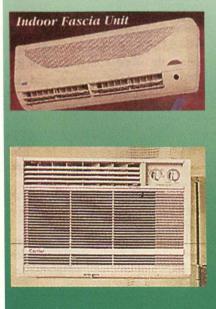
The Varirata National Park covering 1,063 hectares of the Sogeri Plateau is well-maintained, providing pleasant, peaceful surroundings for family or group picnics and barbecues, with firewood provided.

Of course, very much a part of all this are the happy faces of the friendly, welcoming people. Moresby is home to folk from almost all parts of the country and as you interact with them you can learn so much about other places you may only see on the map.

Port Moresby offers so much to see that you'll find even a week too short to appreciate it all.

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Bachelor Centres and Wigs

An Adventure with the Huli

Story and photographs by Sue Montgomery

The mushroom-shaped wig was as big as a sombrero and fancier than an Easter Parade hat. Dried yellow daisies, cuscus fur and vibrant orange bird of paradise feathers adorned it. Beneath this exotic creation, a Huli's dark eyes encircled with red and yellow paint stared at me.

My first encounter with the Huli wigmen, one of the most fascinating cultures left on earth, is not one I'll soon forget. It was awesome to see men wearing such beautiful and extravagant wigs. The sight of these exquisitely coiffured men with face paint is as normal in Papua New Guinea's Southern Highlands as helmets on a football field.

Huli men are a spectacle as they parade the rugged paths of the Tari Basin, which they call home. When I finally managed to take my eyes from their amazing growth of hair, I realised the rest of their attire, though scant, was just as intriguing. Black necklaces made of stiff cassowary quills, pig tusks and crescent kina shells, shining with mother-of-pearl opalescence, encircle their necks. A *bilum* (string bag) is slung over a shoulder and a woven string apron hangs from their waist in front. Fresh cordyline leaves sprout from behind like a bird's tail feathers. They often carry bows and arrows or an axe, but a black umbrella hooked on the arm is just as common. The umbrella protects the Huli and their abundant wigs against the frequent rain, as well as the blistering sun.

To me, the Huli man's way of life seemed to parallel the rare Raggiana bird of paradise, which is the official national bird. Of the 40 species of birds of paradise 37 of them are found in Papua New Guinea. The courting Raggiana, with its flaming reddishbrown tail, iridescent green throat, bright yellow head and blue beak, struts and performs on a tree branch or the forest floor for hours, enticing the drab females who sit and watch. The Huli men are just as colourful. Warring still exists between clans. For tourists, the Huli re-enact their trench fighting of earlier days or dance together with their oil-slicked bodies and Raggiana-like adornments. As a general rule, the women stay on the sidelines, observing.

Huli men take as many wives as they can attract and afford. Patrik, our guide, had been married for only a week. *How much did you pay for her?* we asked.

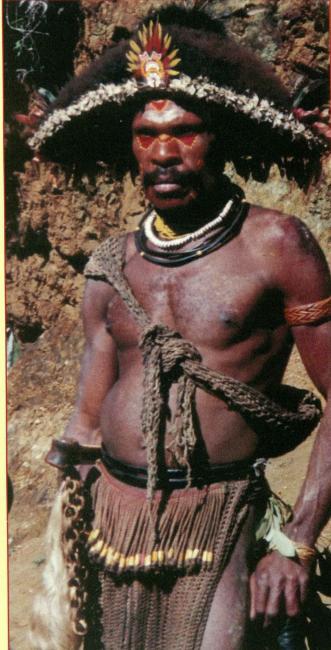
Twenty pigs and 500 kina, he replied proudly.

We asked how many wives he wanted.

I'll only take one, he vowed.

Was his vow of monogamy because the Christian missionaries had converted him or because the bride price was too high, we asked?





Catherine, a liberated older member of our group, was aghast, both at Patrik for leaving his new wife and at the thought that the bride was at that very moment tilling the garden. Our leader, Rob tried to explain to Catherine that for Huli women, life is hard work.

Just like the female Raggiana bird that mates, builds a nest, and tends her young alone, Huli women take a back seat to their flamboyant spouses, living in separate houses, tending the *kaukau* (sweet potatoes), and caring for and sheltering, along with their children, the valuable pigs.

Women mourn a male death in the family with the ritual of covering their bodies with greyish blue mud, and weighing down their necks with multitudinous necklaces of seeds called Job's tears — a strand of which is removed daily. Sometimes, it takes up to nine months before the last one is gone. Then the clay is washed off and the widow is available to remarry.

Boys in their early teens are sometimes sent to an open-air school, called a Bachelor Centre (wigman school). Here they learn to grow wigs and deepen their knowledge in manly ways and traditional beliefs. Today, only three schools, which are likened to monasteries, remain. The teachers never marry; the students are not allowed to talk to or look at women or anyone else outside the school, including family. Until recently, the Bachelor Centre was a totally private world. Now, select groups are being allowed through the monastic gates. I was with one such group.

Walking up a narrow stone path into a dense jungle, ducking through two child-sized gates, we entered a clearing into the Kara Bachelor Centre at Kepia Village. We were greeted by Kobari, a venerable teacher, head and hair frosted with the snows of age, legs knotted and mapped with varicose veins. Spartanly dressed, he wore only a woven cloth around his waist and a bilum on his shoulder. A novice, Peter (most Huli have Christian names), stood beside him.

Kobari began to pick Peter's hair with a large wooden pick, demonstrating the first stage of wig growing. *Fluffing the hair up to twenty times a day in this manner facilitates growth*, said Patrik, interpreting Kobari's words for us. Several months later, or whenever Kobari decides Peter's hair has reached a proper size, he will move to the next stage.

The second level of the school was in a small clearing. A haze of sunlight filtered down through lush foliage behind three Huli boys sitting on a log in front of a pond with yellow-green water. Filigree shadows cast by dense ferns overhead played on their faces and hair, in various sizes of mushroom growth.



Kobari stood at one end of the log. At the other end stood a second teacher, cassowary quill through his septum, double pig tusk necklace hanging from his neck, a bright orange band decorated with cuscus pompoms and shells at his waist, wearing a highly-decorate wig. Both teachers dipped fronds into the water, and then shook them over the boys' hair, distributing the water evenly. The recipients chanted in unison. It is important that the hair is continually groomed and never allowed to dry out. Whether bleached by sunlight, the fronds, the pool water, or a combination, by the time this phase is ended the hair will be bleached to a light brown.

Now it is time for the body to be groomed while the hair continues to grow. In this stage, water is drunk from long rods of bamboo that are filled from a clear spring. This 'magic water' strengthens the skin, making it shine. It is believed to keep the men young.

When the hair is fully grown, the mushroom-shaped wig is removed in one piece. We did not witness this marvel, but were shown the underside, where a piece of bamboo attached to the edges seemed to shape it (*photo below left*). The complete wiggrowing process normally takes 18 months, producing what is known as a day wig.

After the day wig is grown, most decide to grow another for ceremonial events. This is merely another wig, the same size, with the same 18-month process repeated. The day wig remains light brown. The ceremonial wig is dyed red and turned upside down and worn on top of the daily one. Both wigs are highly decorated.

I have a wig at home, Patrik whispered to me, as we approached the thatched-roof hut where the Bachelor Centre boys keep theirs along with extravagant adornments. The hut's interior is off limits, but on display out in front were rainbowhued feathers, even a bird of paradise head, fur decorations, the humped beak of a hornbill and dog-teeth necklaces (both very rare). An initiate wearing an undecorated day wig went inside, emerging with fluffy orange and green feathers stuck in the top of his hair. Standing by were three Huli warriors in their ceremonial finery, wearing fancy red wigs and painted faces.

A teacher gave a pan flute concert, which is normally played for the owner's ears only. We strained to hear the faint, breathy notes issuing from the instrument as his lips blew across the top of the reeds. The tones were hypnotising, conjuring up the picture of a lone Huli in a jungle grotto playing whispering sounds and meditating in the sunlight.

Back near the entrance, a mumu awaited. Sweet potatoes, yams, squash, pumpkin, corn on the cob, a fern and pitpit (looking like a leek, but with the taste similar to asparagus) were offered on large banana leaves laid at our feet. We savoured the banquet, and an elder entertained us with his smoking, drawing on one end of a wide 3cm length of bamboo as a cigarette holder. The cigarette was inserted into a small hole made on the bamboo's topside, near the end furtherest from the mouth. Another elder's fingers busily wove a bilum. Only certain designated Huli are allowed to weave these ivory-stringed *bilums*, which are finer than those seen anywhere.

And then our visit was over. We ducked back through the two small gates and walked down the narrow stone path through the jungle, out into the bright outer world, grateful for this brief, but intimate glimpse into the Huli's mysterious world.

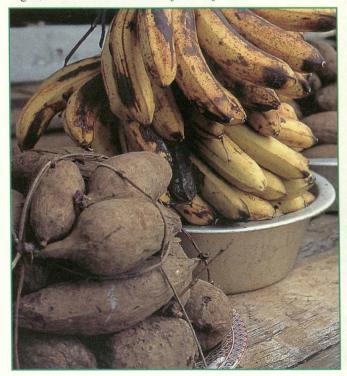
Food, Glorious Food

Story and photographs by Liz Thompson

Food isn't the first thing people think of when they think of Papua New Guinea. Sure it's a land of diversity. But that diversity is usually associated with the many languages spoken or the enormously varied styles of body adornment, worn by the hundreds of clan groups who inhabit a landscape that traverses volcanic islands, swamps, rivers, plains, bushlands, mountains and rainforest. In fact you could be forgiven for thinking that a slaughtered pig and some root vegetables or tinned fish and rice was pretty much it on the food front.

Well, you'd be wrong. Whilst certain staples are common fare — taro, kaukau and sago — there are many other food sources. And although the use of herbs and spices is almost non-existent, I have sampled much wonderful and varied local cuisine during my travels in Papua New Guinea: crayfish in the Trobriand Islands of Milne Bay Province; sweet potatoes baked in a traditional earth oven in the Highlands; *binatang* (small locust-like insects) fried in a sago pancake in a village on the Sepik River; fresh barramundi at Bensbach in Western Province, to name but a few.

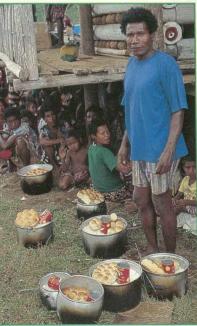
Yams are treated with great respect in the Trobriand Islands. After the harvest they are stored in giant yam houses. The fuller the yam house, the more successful the owner is seen to be. Yams and bananas sit here as part of an offering during a sagali, a traditional Trobriand funeral feast.





Fruit is abundant: bananas, pawpaw, pineapple, mango, starfruit, coconuts, jamalacs, muli and limes are often available. A group of children on Kiriwina Island in the Trobriands share a ripe pawpaw.





Above: *Pancakes made from taro for a* sagali

Left: Imported foods are increasingly popular. Because less time is spent in the gardens, tinned fish or tinned meat (bully beef) and rice often form the basis of diet. Here tinned fish, rice and white bread are part of a traditional feast in the Trobriands.



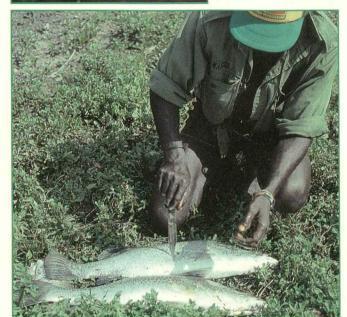
Above: Taro is quite sticky when cooked. Two young children in Mwadawosi village (Trobriands) hold the leaves of a taro plant and the vegetable they have cut for the evening meal.

Right: Fish are abundant in the coastal waters and rivers of Papua New Guinea. The Bensbach River in Western Province is renowned for its barramundi and visited by fishing enthusiasts from all over the world.

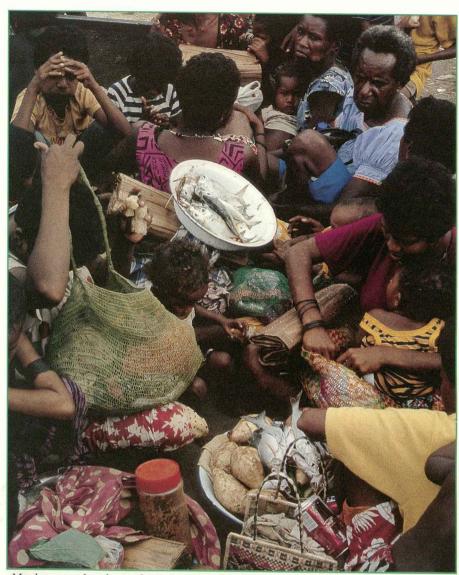
Below: Women peel taro in preparation for taro pancakes. The vegetable is boiled, smashed into a pulp with the flat of the hand, shaped into circles and cooked over an open fire in clay pans.



Many and varied green leafy vegetables are cooked in a variety of ways, sometimes boiled, sometimes steamed or, for a dish with more flavour, they are prepared with coconut milk squeezed from fresh grated coconut, or baked with fish.







Markets are the place where most people sell produce from their gardens or fishing expeditions. In Losuia (Trobriands) women return home from the markets with bowls of fish and yams.



Every day fishermen in outrigger canoes leave early in the morning carrying nets and lines. When they return to the jetty close to Losuia Market they are invariably carrying a variety of fish. As they pull their boats up to the shore villagers eager to purchase the catch immediately surround them.



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Leafy green vegetables for sale at Wewak Market, East Sepik Province.



These women carry enormous bilums of vegetables from their gardens in the Schouten Islands off the East Sepik Coast. They handed them to wantoks who took the produce to Wewak to sell for them.



Ginger sits in 10 and 20 toea bundles at Wewak Market.



One delicacy I refrained from sampling was the sago grubs I was offered at Pagwi Market on the Sepik River. The young boy who was selling them popped one in his mouth just to convince me they were in fact edible, but I politely declined.



With intense heat and no refrigeration, drying, smoking and salting are various ways of preserving food. Fish is often placed on large wire racks and smoked over open fires, so it can then be kept for long periods of time. Children at Pagwi Market on the Sepik River sell dried and smoked fish.



All produce at the markets is laid out in perfectly measured piles, whether pyramids of bright red tomatoes, small mountains of carrots, limes, ginger or peanuts. Everything is in order, just like these bundles of spring onions freshly picked from the garden.





Above: There are many varieties of banana in Papua New Guinea, either eaten raw as fruit or cooked as a vegetable. In the Sepik, sago pancakes are wrapped around bananas and baked on a grill across an open fire. In New Ireland I had bananas cooked in an earth oven along with vegetables and greens. I've also sampled banana chips fried in oil, baked under a grill and roasted in palm leaves. Left: Squares of pork wrapped in leaves displayed at Goroka Market, Eastern Highlands Province.

Below: Coconuts are extremely versatile. They provide a refreshing drink when the fruit is picked young and broken open to release the clear, sweet coconut water. The coconut flesh itself is a great snack food and often scraped out and eaten or grated on a small wooden chair to which a serrated blade is attached. This shredded coconut can be mixed with water, squeezed and wrung out to produce a rich white milk in which fish and vegetables are cooked.



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I may wander off to foreign lands, But still I am home. My soul rests on this wonderful island. The valleys and gullies of green pastures, the mountains and plateaus, That host millions of unique species.

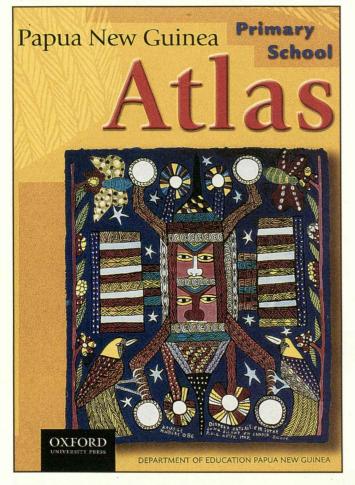
In barren deserts, I feel no thirst. Crystal springs of the Highlands cool my throat afresh. Nor hunger shall halt my stride, For there are the bully-nuts from the warm lowlands for food. When I am lonely, The exotic Bird of Paradise is company. When I am out of breath in my long run to catch up with the west, The renowned flora of Owen Stanley is my lung full of new air. More than a loving mother, Papua New Guinea, She who has borne and nurtured millions of souls for generations.

> This motherly land! Children, let not her perish but mould her. Let not her beauties vanish but repaint her. Don't let her collapse but rebuild her.

This island of pleasant features, Of florid natural colours, With its manifold of rich cultures, It is the land of the unexpected! Thank God for the gift of this beautiful island ... To us, 'Papua New Guinea'.

> This poem was written by Aisop Moi Haopanol from Mendi, who attended St Augustine's College in Cairns.

BOOK REVIEW — Papua New Guinea Atlas



Reaching out beyond your own environment and discovering new worlds — it's a great way to develop a completely new perspective on life.

Recently, I found the perfect tool to help readers young and old find out a wealth of information about Papua New Guinea and the rest of the world. It's a brand new atlas published by Oxford University Press and the PNG Department of Education.

Ask yourself a simple question: 'What do I want from an atlas?'

First, good organisation of material so information is easy to find, then, clear and uncluttered maps that have enough detail to find towns, rivers, mountains and lakes. Good pictures plus clear, informative graphs are always a help in an atlas.

The new *PNG Primary School Atlas* meets all those requirements with ease and offers a great deal more. In fact, while intended for primary level students, it is comprehensive enough to keep adults well and truly occupied, with quality full colour presentation and a stunning range of photographs, satellite images and illustrations.

It carries a powerful environmental impact through the text. Papua New Guinea's protected wildlife species are copiously illustrated and listed, and there is an excellent section on managing the environment.

By lan Boden

Problems such as the disposal of sewage, the irreplaceable nature of virgin rainforests, and dealing with by-products of mining are examined, and a variety of possible solutions to each problem is suggested.

There are references to air quality and the effects of fossil fuels and the burning of grasslands, and pages covering the management of forests and the management of drought.

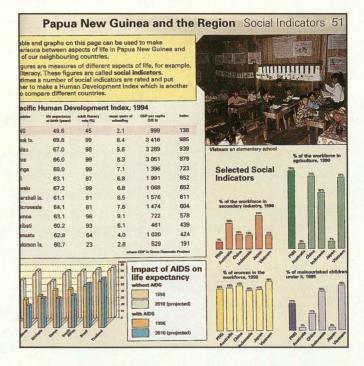
For most students, and many adults, the coverage of these topics will create a new perspective of the environment in which we live in Papua New Guinea.

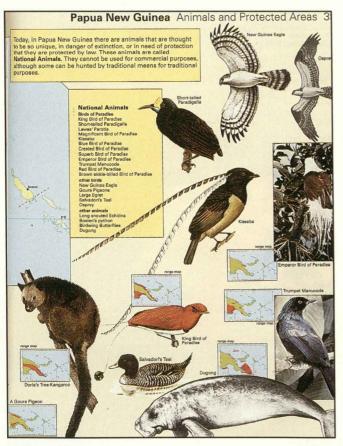
That's a valuable new approach to learning in this country, and co-editors John Hughes and Paul Duffey from the Education Department and Oxford's Kate Duetron deserve high praise for the initiative.

A further innovation is a section called 'Understanding Maps' which shows how maps should be used, and what kind of information maps can supply. The examples chosen could hardly be bettered — Rabaul before and after the eruption, Wanigela village, and the Sissano Lagoon tsunami.

The before and after aerial pictures of Rabaul, taken from almost exactly the same spot, are particularly striking, because they starkly illustrate the enormous destructive power of the volcanic eruption.

Coverage of Papua New Guinea accounts for 55 of the 96 pages — by far the most comprehensive student atlas so far. The balance of the atlas deals with the rest of the world, and includes some interesting historical maps showing the Middle East during biblical times. There are sections on world cities, with photographic comparisons of cities in different parts of the world in the same months of the year, illustrating contrasting climates, population, vegetation and river networks.





But as befits a PNG Atlas, it is the PNG pages that are the eye-opener, particularly with graphs covering social indicators — life expectancy, annual incomes and other less usual charts.

For example, the atlas offers a graph illustrating the effect of AIDS on life expectancy throughout the Asia Pacific Region. Again, this carries a strong social message and broadens the impact of the atlas. There are graphs illustrating literacy percentages, the percentage of people engaged in agriculture, and the number of people per doctor or telephone in half a dozen regional countries. These graphs are supported with uniformly excellent full colour pictures that have been most carefully and appropriately selected.

There are twin indexes in the atlas — an excellent concept. One is for Papua New Guinea and the other for elsewhere. This makes the process of consultation quick and relatively painless.

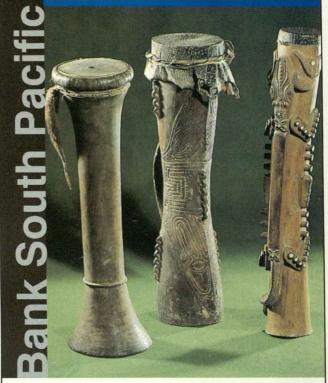
A grid code has been used for Papua New Guinea, with the option of the grid plus latitude and longitude for the rest of the world. Even on the matter of how to use latitude and longitude, the atlas takes the trouble to explain the system and explain it clearly.

The presentation of the atlas is impeccable, with a delightful cover provided by distinguished artist Mathias Kauage, showing his very new millennium view of a satellite in full colour.

This excellent and timely publication is strongly recommended. It would make an excellent gift for an older child or curious adult overseas.

The Papua New Guinea Primary School Atlas is published by the PNG Department of Education and Oxford University Press: ISBN 0 19 551022 4. Available from local booksellers.

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Dive Papua New Guinea An unspoiled frontier

If you have ever dreamed of going to the moon and you think you may be too old to pass the physical, try scuba diving. Moonwalking and scuba diving have weightlessness in common; a gentle flick of the fins sends one drifting effortlessly metres up the side of an underwater mountain. Now that surely must be akin to the buzz Neil Armstrong got when he took 'a small leap for mankind' on the moon, way back in the 1960s.

Where better to indulge your weightlessness experience than beneath the tropical waters in Papua New Guinea? There's a crowded, fascinating, pristine alien world just waiting to be discovered. Here you dive in warm tropical waters year round amongst a profusion of sea life — reef sharks big and small, clouds of exotic coloured fish, both poisonous and benign, varied and bizarre forms of coral, huge amphora sponges and unusual crustacea, tiny creatures of all sizes and shapes, turtles, mantra rays, sea snakes, squid, cuttle fish — the list is endless.

Above the water there are comfortable live-aboard dive boats to relax on. I chose Mike Ball Dive Expeditions' *Paradise Sport (photo above right)*, which sails out of Milne Bay for half the year and Kavieng the other half. The water in both locations is a warm 26 degree Celsius with 50-metre clarity and teems with fish life, a lot of which is only found in Papua New Guinea.



Story and photographs by Sherry Stumm

Immediately I climbed on board this beautiful, big, sturdy catamaran in Milne Bay, I knew I'd hit lucky. There's one crew member to every two guests, comfortable, roomy ensuite bedrooms and the service on board is superb.

The crew smiled as I came on board and kept smiling despite hours of hard work to keep the wheels turning smoothly day and night. On all the dives there were always many strong willing hands reaching out to help with sodden diving gear and facilitate the transition from graceful weightlessness back onto dry land. Two nifty Zodiacs were on standby for a split-second pick-up for anyone surfacing away from the boat. Air bottles were refilled immediately after a dive and gear was stored in a personal basket, so everything was ready and in perfect condition for the next dive. It really was a divers' paradise, like being in the Garden of Eden and wondering what luscious fruit to eat next!





Speaking of food, my first meal was a delicious breakfast of croissants, pawpaw and coffee. From then on, every meal was plentiful and imaginative. Divers tend to build big appetites with all that sun and salt water, so a smorgasbord of barbecued meats and a variety of tempting salads, washed down with glasses of complimentary Australian wine, was a fine way to end each busy dive day.

Diving, particularly in tropical waters, brings out a wonderment many of us have thought had vanished with childhood. Seeing these creatures so beautifully suited to their environment and being able to share a part of it with them, contributed to the innocent delight that accompanied every one of my dive experiences.

And if you are a woman contemplating travelling alone, like I was, then this is the trip for you. Such was the camaraderie on board that it was easy to quickly bond with my companions. Indeed, so strong was this feeling which developed during my weeklong dive, that I think I invited everyone I met to visit me 'at home' in Australia.

Papua New Guinea, for me, was an unspoilt frontier. Thick forests dress the mountainous slopes, waving palms grace the white sandy foreshores and the waters of Milne Bay are calm with little underwater current that is comforting for inexperienced divers.

Everyone we met was extremely friendly and even in remote villages people spoke English. Divers are wise to take lots of small dominations of the local currency so they can shop for varied and unusual local crafts from the many outrigger canoes that come visiting the boat daily.

A week's holiday in Papua New Guinea, cut off from the world, surrounded by so much beauty above and below the water, makes it tempting to think that life would only be complete with many more perfect dive experiences like this.



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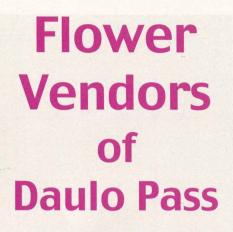
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Story and photographs by Dilu Deck

S elling flowers and earning a little pocket money daily is a livelihood for the children at Daulo Pass, on the mountain ridge situated between Asaro-Manto and Watabung areas in the Eastern Highlands Province.

Daulo Pass peak is located about 14 kilometres northwest of Goroka, the capital of the Eastern Highlands Province. It is a remarkable place and is well known to drivers, PMV operators, passengers and the general public travelling up and down the Okuk Highway, the longest road in Papua New Guinea. The top ridge of Daulo Pass is 2478m above sea level.

Daulo Pass has become popular because of its flower vendors – young children and a few interested adults who sell orchid plants and decorative rings of flowers, seven days a week. Children who attend school sell during their holidays and weekends, while those who aren't at school are active nearly every day. They rest only when they can't find the flowers.

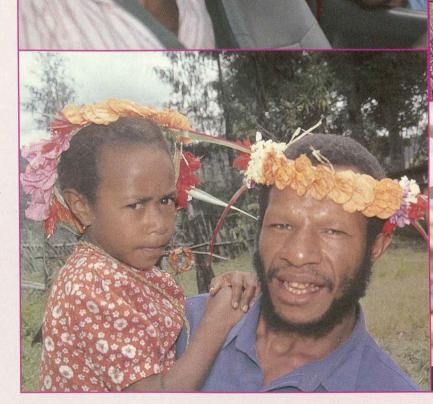
The flower business has been going on for many years now. The vendors receive cash income necessary to purchase their daily essential needs.

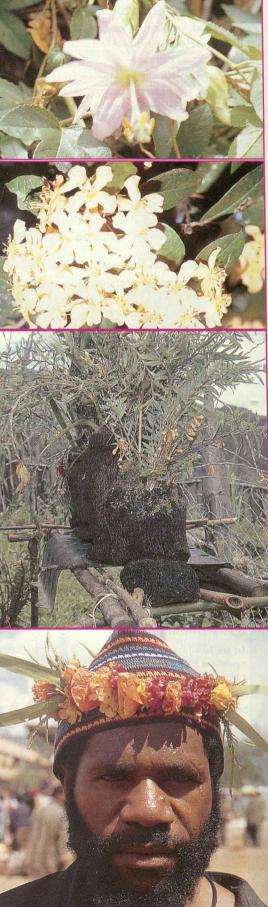
Beautiful fresh flowers are harvested each day by many different individuals, who make the head decorations and sell them in many locations along the road. Flowers of varying colours, both wild and cultivated, are used.



Each morning, flowers are carefully picked from their respective gardens or collected from nearby bushes. The circular human-head size frame of pitpit stems with a circumference of 20-65cm and diameter of 20-25cm wide is tied with string to make it unshakeable before tying the flowers on firmly with bush ropes. Flower stalks and sepals are tied tightly against the frame. When all the frames are adorned with colourful flowers, the vendors take them to their usual selling point at the verge of the road and display them for sale. The price of finished produce is determined by the petal attractiveness. Prices are very reasonable. There is an abundant supply of flowers in the bush — orchids, rhododendrons, grass and cordyline leaves. Some of the cultivated flowers are marigold, hibiscus, impatiens or balsam.

People in other towns in the Highlands, many hundreds of kilometres away from Daulo Pass, easily identify the flowers from the Pass, even though they haven't been to the place. By seeing the flower ring on someone's head or on the car or bus, they tell the origin of the craft. These people have seen or heard about the flowers from Daulo Pass for many years.





Besides selling flowers, there are people alongside the road running other small businesses. They sell cooked food, garden produce and drinks. There is a small hut selling artefacts with a sign on the door indicating its existence — one kilometre from the peak on the way to Watabung station.

From the top ridge, standing near the sign, you can view the scenic Asaro-Goroka valley (*photo on right*). Cool breezes blow because of the high altitude. Because it is cold, the inhabitants' houses are built with grass thatch roofs and thick walls in a round or oval shape (*photo below*). Stop, take photographs, drink cool, fresh water from the mountain streams and relax after a long journey.

Daulo Pass is the gateway to Simbu, Western Highlands, Enga and the Southern Highlands Provinces and thus the doorway to Goroka, Kainantu, Yonki, Ramu, Lae or Madang.



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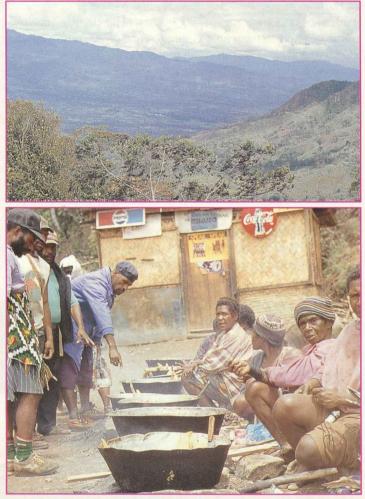
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Above: Cooked food vendors operating their daily service some hundred metres before reaching the peak.

Below: Near Daulo Pass, men entertain themselves with a dart game that has drinks for prizes.



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Dilu Deck lives in Kundiawa and is a regular contributor to Paradise magazine.

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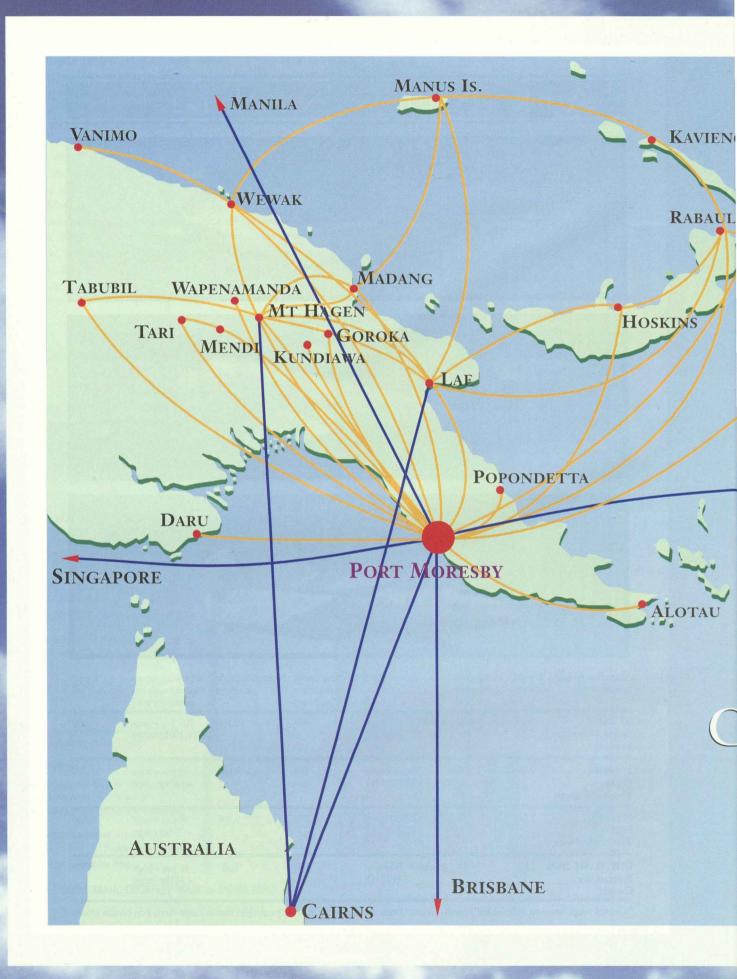






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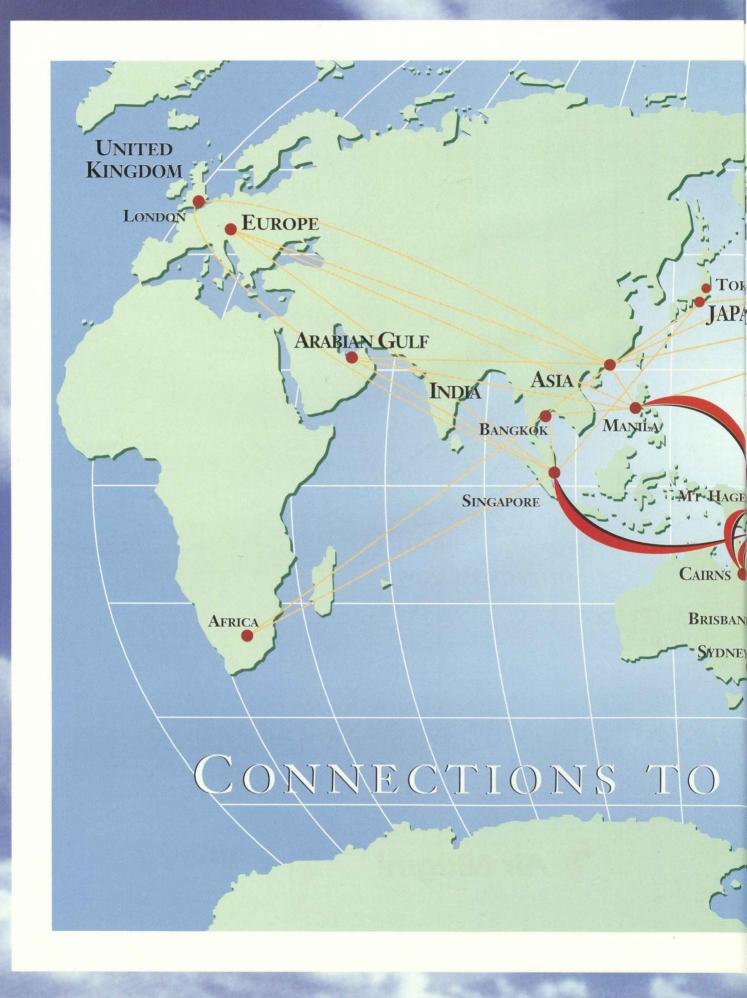
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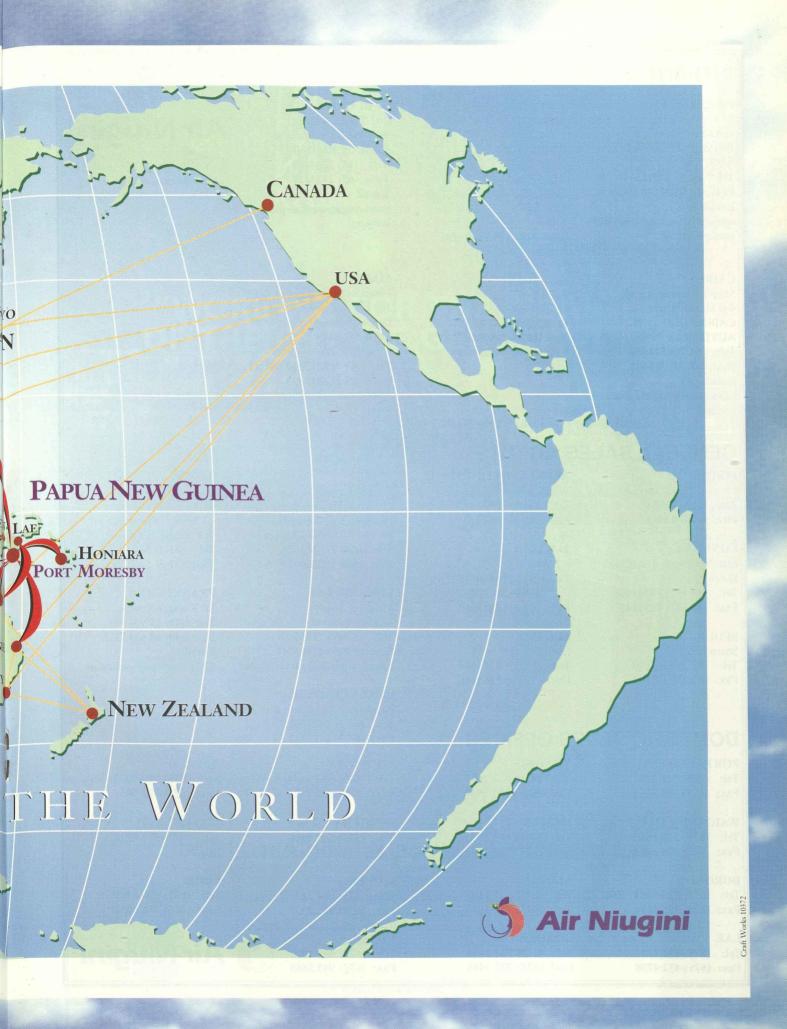
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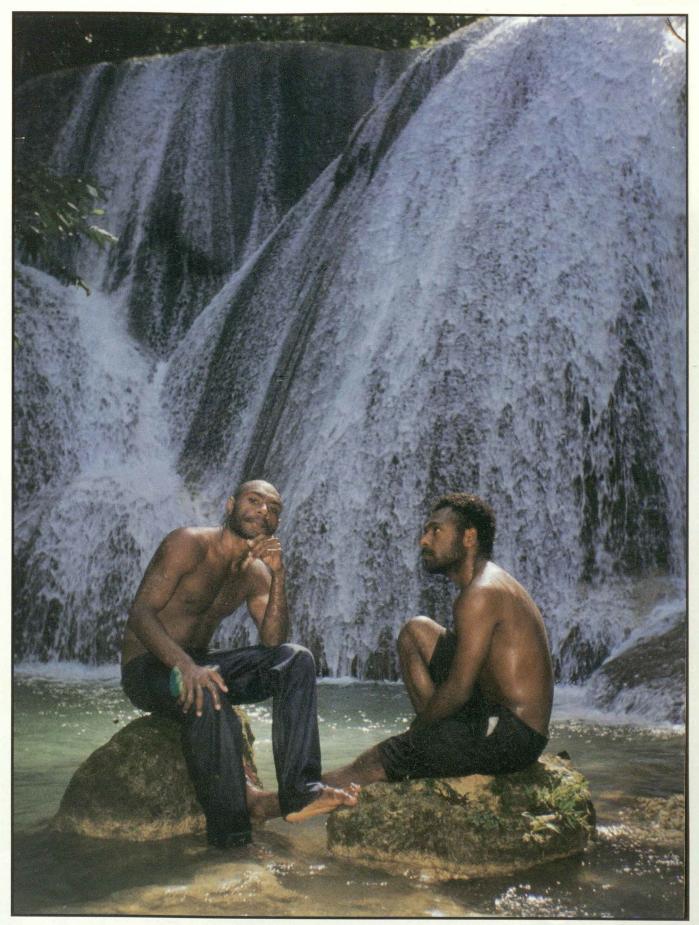
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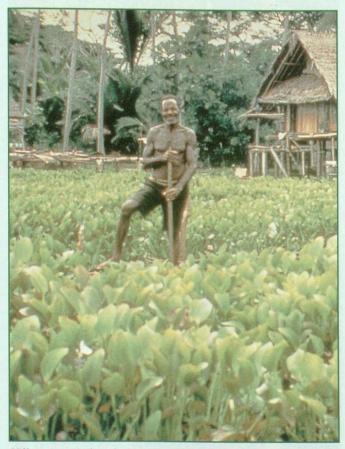
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Scientists Saving the Sepik



Villager on Imbando Lagoon of the Sepik River surveys the infestation around the village.

Story by Miranda Free and Mic Julien Photographs by Mic Julien and Andrew White

lush and beautiful country, Papua New Guinea has its fair share of environmental disasters, such as the tsunami that struck the coast west of Aitape in 1998. In recent years a more insidious environmental problem has appeared, one that affects vital transport and communication networks — the country's waterways.

A beautiful aquatic weed, water hyacinth has choked these waterways, on which many people depend for their livelihoods. Scientists have been working to rid the country of this dangerous invader.

Water hyacinth is native to South America and has very attractive large pale blue to mauve flowers with a yellow and purple spot on the petals. Its leaves are round and shiny, held on either short bulbous or long slender stems. Known as 'the world's worst aquatic weed', it takes over the surface of still or slow moving water as well as growing in wet soil. Plant numbers can double in several weeks by the production of new offshoot plants. The showy flowers last for a day, turn their heads downwards and deposit many small seeds into the water where they are dispersed. Seeds that end up in the muddy bottom or banks of the rivers can survive for over 10 years.

Rapid growth forms a thick blanket over the water surface which blocks sunlight and reduces the amount of oxygen in the water. Water quality suffers and fish numbers decline. The mats of weed prevent water birds from landing or hunting for fish, smother native plants and provide an ideal habitat for disease-bearing mosquitoes. During the late 1800s and early 1900s water hyacinth was taken from its natural home in South America as a curiosity to many tropical and subtropical countries. Unfortunately it is still spread unwittingly by people who are attracted to its beauty but unaware of its dangers.

Papua New Guinea first reported water hyacinth in 1962 at Bulolo, Morobe Province. It spread to Wau, Lae and Madang, reaching Wewak and the Sepik River in 1984. It was successfully removed from Wewak but, following its transportation, probably as an ornamental, from Madang into the Sepik River floodplain, it quickly spread. The Sepik River forms many lagoons as it winds its way through the countryside and serves the inhabitants of the Middle and Lower Sepik River as a transport and communication network. By 1991, 11 lagoons in the Angoram area were infested. At its worst, in mid 1994, 27 square kilometres in 15 lagoons were covered. The weed continues to move upstream and has now been found in 37 lagoons including the extensive and pristine Chambri Lakes.

Disruption to the lifestyle of the villagers of the Sepik floodplain has been immense. With lagoons covered in weed, villages have become isolated from the river, fishing grounds have been rendered useless and access to gardens, schools and hospitals has been made difficult or prevented. Several deaths in the area have been blamed on the water hyacinth infestations when snake bite victims and other emergency cases have been unable to reach Angoram hospital. Community health has also suffered due to reduced water quality, greater numbers of disease-carrying insects, fatigue resulting from the increased effort required to carry out daily activities, and poorer nutrition resulting from reduced access to food gardens, markets and the staple protein source, fish.

Outbreaks of the weed have been reported and confirmed in all nineteen provinces, many in small isolated situations. It is feared that it will spread into the ponds, lagoons and waterways that support the lives of many people.

In the search for solutions the Papua New Guinea Government sought help from Australia's aid agency AusAID, which approached scientists at CSIRO Entomology in Brisbane. The CSIRO scientists have considerable experience in researching water hyacinth control methods and managing biological control programs in Australia, south-east Asia and Africa.

Small infestations can be controlled by physical removal, drying and burning, mechanical removal or herbicidal methods. However, to be effective, these methods all need to be repeated often as any plants germinating from seeds in the mud may flower within six weeks.

These control methods are often unsuitable because many infestations are huge, inaccessible or hidden and the need for repeated applications makes them very expensive. Herbicidal methods may also affect the ecology and be harmful to people.

Biological control is the only long-term sustainable and environmentally responsible method. The insect control agents (weevils and moths) only attack water hyacinth, so the environment and food crops are safe. These agents provide the most effective control measure for large infestations in slow moving or still waterways.



Above: Xubida (Acigona) infusella larva feeding on water hyacinth.

Below: *The moth* Sameodes albiguttalis, *another biological control agent which has been used successfully in Australia, but did not establish in PNG.*





Above: Neochetina bruchi (left) & Neochetina eichhorniae (right) Left: Damage caused by weevils to the stem and root area of water hyacinth plants.



The photographs before (left) and after (right) of Warasol Lagoon, Sepik River show the difference in infestation approximately five years after release of weevils.

A successful biological control project commenced in 1993 with funding provided by AusAid and with staff from the PNG Department of Agriculture and Livestock. The project is now based within the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) at Lae.

CSIRO has provided expertise and insects and has facilitated the vital transfer of technology and skills to Papua New Guinean staff. The project is managed from the CSIRO Entomology's Long Pocket Laboratories in Brisbane in collaboration with NARI. There are two operational centres in Papua New Guinea — the project headquarters in Lae and a regional base at Angoram on the Sepik River.

Warea Orapa, Weeds Officer NARI, coordinates the project in Papua New Guinea where staff initially conducted extensive surveys to locate the outbreaks of the weed and developed networks for sending insects for later release. The surveys revealed that water hyacinth was much more widely spread than previously thought with well over 200 outbreaks recorded. Staff are now involved in the release of the insect control agents.

'When we began this project we knew of 15 water hyacinth infestations including the Sepik River and had reports of the weed at 15 other locations', says Mr Orapa. 'We quickly realised the extent of the problem was much greater and within a year it had been found in every province in PNG.'

Project team members have also conducted a public awareness campaign that educates the local population about the existence, significance and dangers of the weed. The need to educate the population was clearly demonstrated to Information Officer, Cathy Atip, when she first began displaying information and plants.

'When I displayed water hyacinth at the Mount Hagen show for the first time in 1996 people wanted to buy it as an ornamental plant to take home', Ms Atip explains. 'Now we are getting the message across and people recognise it as a serious weed.' The biological control agents that have been most widely used are two small weevils (beetles with long snouts) that spend their entire life on the water hyacinth plants. Adults feed on the leaves, eggs are laid in the leaf and stem tissue, larvae feed inside by burrowing through the plant tissue and pupation occurs underwater amongst the roots in a cocoon spun from fine root hairs.

Over the six years of the project dramatic reductions of the weed have been achieved where the weevils have been established and built up large populations. Lagoons and lakes that had been substantially covered are now almost cleared.

The arsenal of control agents is not just restricted to the two weevils. Two moths have also been released as part of the project. One, known as the Water Hyacinth moth, has been effective in Australia though it has yet to become established in Papua New Guinea. The second and more recently released moth appears to be established in the field, but it is too early to determine if it will help control the weed. This moth lays eggs in the crevices of the leaf surface and the larvae tunnel into the plant causing considerable internal damage.

Different control agents tend to prefer plants that differ. For this reason, to gain the best control it is important to use a range of biological control agents if they are available.

The most effective strategies for controlling water hyacinth problems will also integrate biological control with other techniques appropriate to the location. Although manual removal of small and isolated infestations has been undertaken in Papua New Guinea to complement the biological control, mechanical and herbicidal methods were considered undesirable, unlikely to provide long term control and too expensive.

The outcome of this collaborative project has been dramatic — water hyacinth infestations in the Sepik River and locations in Central Province have been greatly reduced. Local populations are returning to the lifestyles they enjoyed in the past. With time, as weevils and moths become established in other problem areas, further infestations will also come under control.

Puzzles

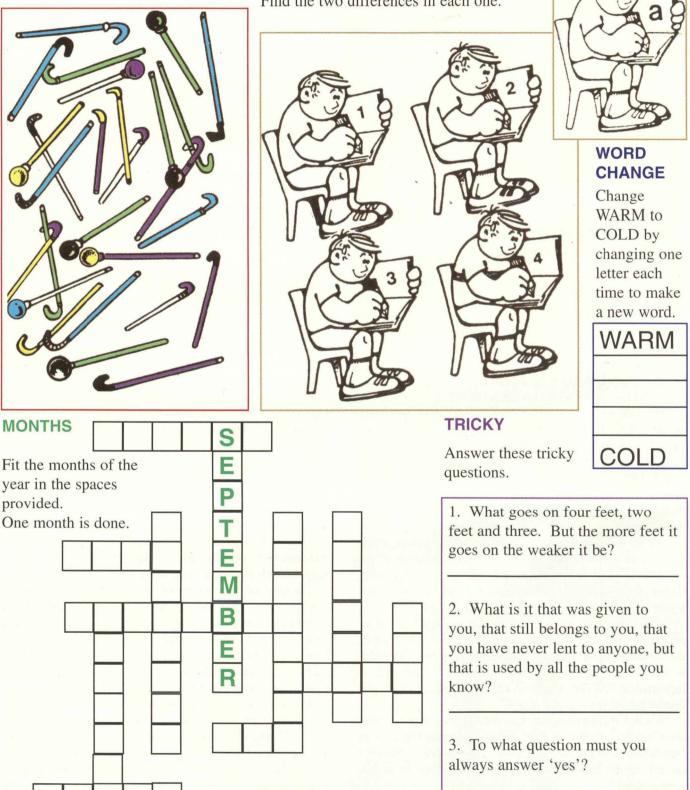
Answers on page 48

WALKING STICKS

Draw three straight lines to touch all the walking sticks.

STUDENTS

The students numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 are each different in two ways from student A. Find the two differences in each one.



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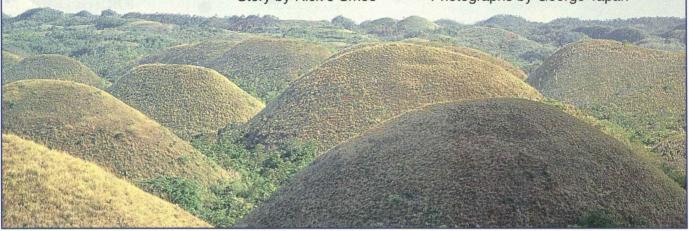
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DESTINATION — Bohol Isle of Tranquillity

Story by Rick J Smee

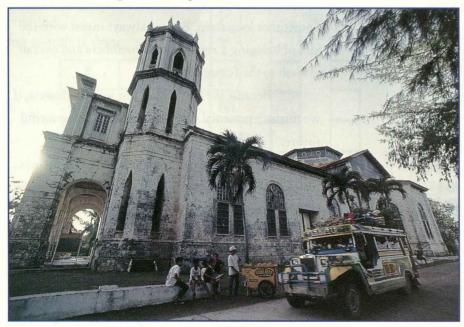
Photographs by George Tapan



Chocolate Hills



Above: Tagbilaran, Bohol Plaza Below: Landmark of Blood Compact



The flight south from Manila to Bohol is one of those rare scenic excursions that delight the eye and elevate the soul. Like the Philippine Eagle soaring across the azure sky, one sees the archipelago unfurl all of its impossible beauty. These are isles of ancient legend. There is one that tells of a giant who strode through these turquoise waters, flinging pearls into the sea as he passed. The legend explains that the seven thousand, one hundred and seven pearls have evolved through the ages to become the Philippine Archipelago.

During the crossing from Cebu one begins to realise that this part of the world challenges our concept of beauty. The ocean stretches to the southern horizon like a sheet of glazed satin, shimmering like emeralds set in gold. Tiny isles dot the turquoise waters. Occasionally a white banca may be seen resting on a palm-fringed shore as fishermen mend their nets.

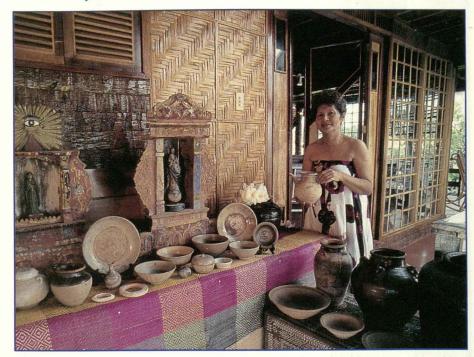
Inbound visitors for Tagbilaran Airport should imagine something befitting an Indiana Jones or Humphrey Bogart movie. At Tagbilaran, just one arrival and one departure a day ensures plenty of time for rest. However when the plane does land it is like turning on a magical switch and vendors, touts and hawkers wake with remarkable alacrity. Should one be in the market for a limousine ride, hotel room, fruit juice, island tour, silly hat or any known species of livestock, all are readily available at never to be repeated prices. Air-conditioned limos can be hired merely by raising an eyebrow. Providing the dental equipment is in reasonable order, one should not forgo the romance of a rock-n-roll ride onboard an unsprung, beat-up jeepney. Bouncing, lurching, shaking and gyrating along the highways and byways of Tagbilaran are not something to be forgotten in a hurry and we soon came to realise that on these flaking canvas tired, rust-buckets, everything makes a noise except, of course, the horn.

As we passed the city centre, another revelation dawned. The tricycle drivers of Tagbilaran are like no other and one should not be deceived by the religious message each displays at the rear or the vehicle. I have often paid good money to attend speedways and racetracks in order to obtain my weekly adrenalin rush, but it soon became apparent that I had wasted my dollars. Here in this bustling little city, thrill seekers were providing their own unique brand of hair-raising entertainment for free.

Everything seemed peaceful as we halted at a crossing in accordance with the traffic cops direction. Suddenly with a squeal of brakes and an ear-splitting roar, a tricycle came swerving and backfiring at breakneck speed through the stationary traffic. It rocketed across the intersection to the accompaniment of a chorus of screeching brakes, honking horns and derisive cheers. As the traffic cop regained his equilibrium and dusted himself off, the tricycle bounded away into the distance. The message displayed at the rear of that vehicle heralded an unmistakable warning to all, 'God is on my side'!



Above: Punta Cruz, Spanish Watchtower Below: Antique Collector Items







Fisherman with catch

Tagbilaran is not a large metropolis and before long our jeepney was rattling across the causeway that joins Bohol to the picture perfect isle of Pangalao. Coconut palms crowded the road and occasionally we would pass a bougainvillea-covered hut where rusty Coca-Cola and San Miguel signs invited the thirsty traveller to imbibe.

Later as I strolled around the shady gardens of Bohol Beach Club and listened to the uproar of the sleeping ants, it became evident that this was not only one of the most beautiful places on earth, it was also one of the most peaceful.

Our driver arrived bright and early the next morning, and soon we were sweeping through rows of cornfields and coconut plantations. Beaming children wandered along the roadside towards school and an old man pushed a bicycle laden with firewood. A young lady wearing a T-shirt with 'Go for It!' emblazoned across the front strolled languidly by. Occasionally a beat-up jalopy full of huge smiles would emerge from a billowing dust cloud. The gleaming air-conditioned Toyota was a huge improvement on our previous mode of locomotion so we sat back in sumptuous comfort and enjoyed the view.



Selling shells

After passing the tree-lined plaza in Tagbilaran, we headed off into the countryside. Our first stop was Baclayon church, the oldest church in Bohol. Erected in 1595, it is said that some of the town's former priests rest within its massive walls. Nearby is the famous 'Blood Compact' site where Boholano Chieftain Sikatuna signed a treaty in blood with Miguel Lopez de Legaspi in 1565 ceding control of the territory to Spain.

The rhythmic clang of hammers brought us to a forge where weapons and bolos are still made in the traditional way. Furniture makers laboured beneath nipa awnings at Loboc, as they created exquisite household items for native mahogany, using just mallet and chisel. In the shade of rustic huts, women wove all manner of goods from baskets to bags, mats and hats. Everywhere in the picturesque rural setting there seemed to be some form of unhurried activity taking place.

Tarsier



A short time later we arrived at the Chocolate Hills where more than one thousand hillocks rise from the surrounding fields and paddies. The bone of fierce geological contention for decades, the Chocolate Hills rise to 130 metres and get their name from some romantic galoot who visited during the dry season and thought their browned stubble gave them the appearance of huge chocolate drops. For my part, I thought they looked like a series of hillocks that marched towards the blue horizon.

The next part of our journey consisted of a cruise down the meandering Loboc River — more delightful food and music, magnificent scenery, more idyllic serenity.

We floated past nipa huts shrouded in an exuberance of palms, orchids and flowering hibiscus. Along the bank, women washed, children played and men tendered their tiny outriggers. Across the river, a half-submerged bamboo raft carried its owner and a jerry can of fresh water precariously towards the distant shore. There were obvious hardships for those who lived in this region and yet to one just passing by, it still looked like a tropical paradise.

The driver was waiting when we came ashore at the seaside town of Laoy and so we continued our sojourn through the ever-changing beauty of Bohol. As the radio wasn't working, our driver launched into a tremulous version of 'Staying Alive', which I thought fairly appropriate as we rocketed down the highway, and narrowly missed a water buffalo. Although we had seen just a small portion of this wonderful island province, we could not have hoped for a more enjoyable and edifying day in rural Bohol.

AUDIO ENTERTAINMENT

CLASSICAL Channel: 5

Pavane pour une infante defunte (Ravel) Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Conductor: Jorge Mester ABC

L'Oiseau du feu (The Fire Bird) (Stravinsky) London Symphony Orchestra Conductor: Claudio Abbado DGG

La plus que lente (Debussy) Balazs Szokolay: piano NAXOS

Port Arthur: In Memoriam (Sculthorpe) Mark Skillington: trumpet Barbara Jame Gilby: violin Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra Conductor: David Porcelijn DG

Orpheus in the Underworld: Overture (Offenbach) Philharmonia Orchestra Conductor: Herbert von Karajan EMI

Chorale Prelude 'Komm, Gott, Schopfer, Heiliger Geist'. BWV631 (Bach/Schoenberg) Sydney Symphony Orchestra Conducted by Edo de Waart DG

Prelude, Op 23, No 2 in B flat (Rachmaninoff) Evgeny Kissin: piano RCA VICTOR

Music For Strings, Percussion And Celeste 4th Movement (Bartok) Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra Conducted by Mariss Jansons EMI

Humoresque (Dvorak) Budapest Clarinet Quintet NAXOS

POP Channel: 6

Hey Leonardo Blessed Union Of Souls PUSH RECORDS

Heartbreaker Mariah Carey COLUMBIA

Higher Creed EPIC

Glory Of The 80's Tori Amos ATLANTIC

The Dolphin's City Live RADIOACTIVE

It's About You Not About Me Tracie CAPITOL

Mambo No 5 Lou Bega BMG BERLIN

Jupiter Jewel ATLANTIC

Around The World Red Hot Chili Peppers WARNER

So Many Ways Ellie Campbell JIVE

Burn To Shine Ben Harper VIRGIN

Bills Bills Bills Destiny's Child COLUMBIA

I Do (Cherish You) 98 Degrees MUSIC NETWORK

Everything I Do (I Do For You) Brandy ATLANTIC

Possibilities Michael Hutchence V2

EASY LISTENING Channel: 7

Broken Wings Mary Black DARA RECORDS

Real Love Speech MUSHROOM

A Little Bit Of What You Fancy Emma Pask MORRISON RECORDS

Matchbox Cars and Marbles Bernie Hayes HALF A COW

Crystal Blue Persuasion Morcheeba SIRE

Forever Love Julio Iglesias Jr SONY

I've Dreamed Of You Barbera Streisand COLUMBIA

Light My Fire Jose Feliciano ARISTA

Getting By Norman Brown WARNER

Moondance Van Morrison WB

Wonderland Sam McNally SONG FIRST

Nature Boy John Pizzarelli NOVUS

Let Him Fly Dixie Chicks MONUMENT

It's Probably Me (Live) Sting Decca

COMEDY Channel: 9

Dr Kronkite And His Only Living Patient Smith & Dale RHINO

America Jasper Carrott CHRYSALIS

My Father Confused Me Bill Cosby CAPITOL

Doctors Anonymous The Two Ronnies BBC

Gun Control/Fondue/ Dueling Brandos Saturday Night Live ARISTA

7's And Museums Steven Wright WARNER BROS

Beekeeping Rowan Atkinson and John Cleese ISLAND

The Phone Company/ The Steve Allen Show Lenny Bruce FANTASY

Telegram Alan Bennett CASTLE

The Retirement Party Bob Newhart PICKWICK

The Housewarming From 'You Don't Have To Be Jewish' RHINO

We Knew What She Meant The Two Ronnies BBC



COUNTRY Channel: 10

This Woman Needs Shedaisy FESTIVAL

I'll Go Crazy Andy Griggs RCA

I Love You Martina McBride RCA RECORDS

It's A Love Thing Kieth Urban NFS

My Heart Is Still Beating The Kinleys SONY

It Don't Matter To The Sun Garth Brooks as Chris Gaines NFS

Let Him Fly Dixie Chicks MONUMENT COUNTRY Channel: 10

What Do You Say Reba McEntire NFS

A Little Bitty Crack In Her Heart Randy Travis DREAMWORKS

Juanita Sheryl Crow with Emmylou Harris FESTIVAL

Take Me Lari White FESTIVAL

Come From The Heart Adam Brand FESTIVAL

Come On Over Shania Twain MERCURY

Dixie Chicks



I'm In Love With Her Sawyer Brown SONY

You Go First Jessica Andrews DREAMWORKS

Mine To Lose Wade Hayes SONY

I Love You Too Mindy McCready BNA RECORDS

This Time Shana Petrone SONY

Barlight Charlie Robinson SONY

CHILDREN'S Channel: 11

Mr Chatterbox Narrator from Mr Men FESTIVAL KIDS

Never Smile at a Crocodile From 'Peter Pan' PICKWICK

Horton Hatches The Egg Dr Seuss RCA

From The Diary Of A Fly Narrator: Peter Schickele UNIFEM

Clink, Clank Bert and Ernie from Sesame Street ABC

I Am Not Afraid of Snakes Madeline ABC

Baby Face The Muppets ASTOR

I Taut I Taw A Puddy Cat Mel Blanc CAPITOL

CHILDREN'S Channel: 11

The Bare Necessities From 'The Jungle Book' PICKWICK

Nicky Nacky Nocky Noo The Wiggles ABC

The Princess And The Pea Arlo Guthrie LIGHTYEAR

Henny Penny Don Spencer & Friends ABC

High Hopes Frank Sinatra CAPITOL

A Monologue Fozzie Bear from The Muppets ASTOR

Rumpelstiltskin Paul Wing RCA CAMDEN

... The Adventure Begins Monica Trapaga BMG



Cord Cold NOVE	Puzzle Answers		
Warm Word Cord Cold NOVE C M	S Making On Start		
TRICKY 1. A man — he crawls on all fours as a child, walks on E	E P E E A M B N MBER U J E U A U R A PR I L		

FEATURE FILMS

JANUARY

International flights: from Port Moresby

to Port Moresby

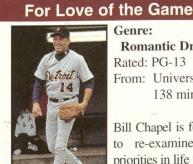
Double Jeopardy



Genre: Drama/ Thriller Rated: R From: Paramount 106 mins

Wife and mother Libby is framed for the murder of her slimy husband after he mysteriously disappears from a cruise ship during their vacation. While in prison her best friend takes care of her son, but when she also turns up missing and Libby's son is kidnapped, Libby suspects her susposedly dead husband. Upon her release she tracks down her husband, gets revenge and reunites with her child.

Featuring: Ashley Judd, Tommy Lee Jones, Bruce Greenwood **Director: Bruce Beresford**



Genre: **Romantic Drama** Rated: PG-13 From: Universal 138 mins

Bill Chapel is forced to re-examine his priorities in life when

he is confronted with unexpected circumstances — not only is he being traded after 20 years with the Detroit Tigers, but Jane Aubrey, the love of his life, is leaving him. The veteran ballplayer realises that he has some serious decisions to make, that will determine his future as an athlete and a man.

Featuring: Kevin Costner, Kelly Preston, John C. Reilly **Director: Sam Raimi**

Chill Factor



Genre: Action/ Comedy Rated: R From: E-Source 102 mins

18 August, Horn Island: The peace and quiet of a tiny tropical atoll in the South Pacific is shattered when a covert scientific-military research operation, code name 'Elvis', goes terribly wrong. Eighteen servicemen are killed, leaving alive only the scientist with the formula. Ten years later, two men are in the wrong place at the wrong time and are entrusted with the highly volatile and frozen chemical substance that could kill every living thing within hundreds of miles if it melts and activates.

Featuring: Cuba Gooding Jr. Skeet Ulrich, Peter Firth, David Paymer **Director: Hugh Johnson**



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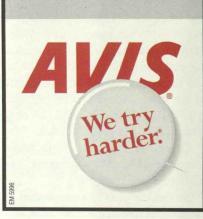


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Channels 1 and 2

FEBRUARY Mickey Blue Eyes



Comedy Rated: **PG-13** From: E-Source 101 mins

Genre:

Michael Felgate, an elegant, debonair Englishman runs an auction house in New York. After only three months of dating, he proposes marriage to Gina. But, Gina declares that, though she loves Michael very much, she can never marry him. Michael pursues Gina to her father Frank's restaurant in Little Italy, where he realises that by marrying Gina, he may not just become a member of her family - he may become a member of The Family.

Featuring: Hugh Grant,

Jeanne Tripplehorn, James Caan **Director: Kelly Makin**

Rendezvous at Nassau Bay Part 2: 1999 Story and photographs

by Eric Lindgren

On the night of 29-30 June 1943, 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. — VX57226, 1943. The story of this rendezvous appeared in Paradise 136.

In 1999 I visited the area, languishing quietly in the last years of the millennium, and renewed friendships made during my two decades working in wildlife conservation for the PNG Government.

My personal rendezvous was complete. — EL, 1999.

photograph in Part 1 of this story (Paradise 136) showed a group of American soldiers soon after their June 1943 landing at Nassau Bay, just down the coast from Salamaua. Smiling faces, jungle greens, giggle hats, chinos, MaeWests, camouflage suits, steel helmets these were men who had just endured an eight-hour journey in unsteady, uncovered landing craft only to meet a four-metre swell and waves crashing on the beach at their destination. The first group of landing craft were tossed and turned but the men managed to get off safely and dig themselves in, under cover of the strand vegetation. When morning came more troops arrived, and the trek towards the high mountains began.

I gazed at the photo and wondered what it was like in those dark days, with the ever-present fear of being fired upon by the enemy. Many troops were raw recruits who had probably never left their home towns before and now found themselves in this alien landscape of New Guinea. What was Nassau Bay like now?

A phone call from the *Village Development Trust in Lae broke into my thoughts. 'Eric, this is KK, your old boss! We have a new Wildlife Management Area near Salamaua and we want someone to check out the birds and mammals and World War 2 history of the area. Would you be interested? It's called Kamiali, and it covers Nassau Bay and points south.'

Of course I would! Talk about a serendipity! My thoughts were translated into reality!

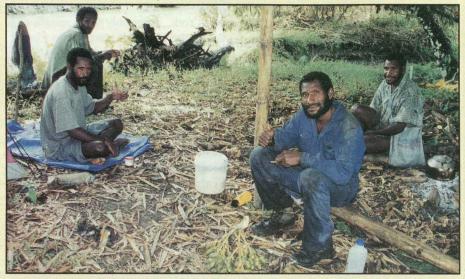
So rendezvous '99 commenced.



Above: The training area (left) and dining room (right) at Kamiali Guest House & Training Centre

*The Village Development Trust is a nationally run organisation which assists villagers to improve their lives. Assistance is given in practical ways. The VDT has a number of projects throughout the country, with the Kamiali Guest House and Training Centre perhaps the most advanced. Once management skills are established and the local people can run their projects without assistance, the VDT withdraws to commence similar work elsewhere.

Below: Guides - Levi (left back), Enoch (left front) and Tanni (third from left) with friend at Bamboo Camp, Rambei.



Kamiali Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is 49km² of largely untouched coast and forest, 60km south of Lae. Unlike other parts of the Kela-speaking coast, the people of the main village, Lababia, decided not to allow logging in their area, but instead sought assistance from the Papua New Guinea Government to have it declared as a conservation area. It now protects roughly 18,000ha of ocean and islands, as well as 16,500ha of upland and cloud forest. The remainder is typical lowland Papua New Guinean swamp forest, mangroves, garden land and a small area (500ha) of village land, mainly along the coastal strip.

PX 004 took me to Port Moresby, PX108 to Lae and banana boat to Kamiali Guest House. The first day was spent in the banana boat checking out the boundaries of the WMA, from the Saia River in the south to Lababia Island and the Bitoi River in the north. We spent most of the time on the water, with interludes chasing tuna and skipjack. Saia River is incredibly clear and Mangrove Jack could be seen swimming five metres beneath the surface.

At Cape Roon we climbed aboard a WW2 aircraft which had ditched on the reef. It has been badly fragmented by the waves over the years. However the unusual corrugated inner surface of the wing and the double row of pistons on the radial engines gave clues to its identity. My guides told me the six men aboard were picked up by canoes and taken to Lababia Village — five soon moved on to safety while the sixth remained in the village until his broken leg healed.

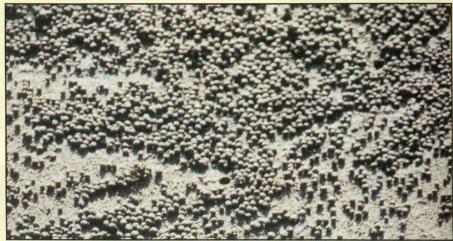
Seabirds were strangely absent. Tunaboils usually attract hordes of terns, frigate-birds, boobies, etc after baitfish, but only the occasional Crested Tern was seen. In comparison my guides, Levi, Tanni and Enoch told me that while in the dry season (my visit) few seabirds are present; during the wet season there are plenty. This is the time when the northern species — Common, Sooty and Bridled Terns, two noddies, skuas, shearwaters and phalaropes, plus a host of shorebirds — visit from their northern summer breeding grounds.



Above: Mangrove Jack in the clear waters of the Saia River Below: Twin-engine plane wreck at Cape Roon



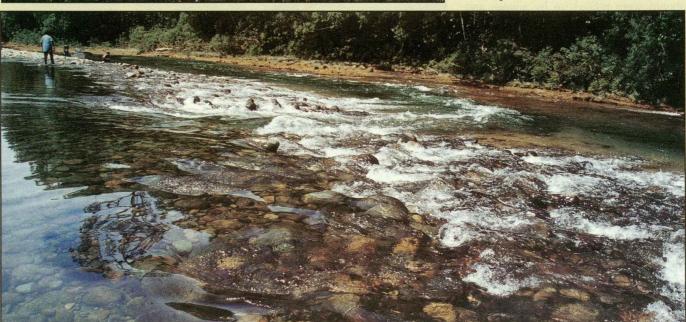
Below: Sand crab holes and the sand they have shifted.





It was in the forest that I was to find the opposite. Here, were plenty of Australian migrants. Where previous surveys had found few of these, I now found Rainbow Bee-eaters, Sacred Kingfishers, Fan-tailed and Brush Cuckoos and other visitors from their Australian breeding grounds. It was strange to hear their familiar calls intermingled with such typical New Guinea species as the Black Berrypecker, Raggiana Bird of Paradise, Papuan Hornbill and Pinon Pigeon. One welcome bird was the Wompoo Pigeon (photo on left), so common in the Brisbane Forest Park near my home. To date the brief surveys have identified over 100 species of birds in KWMA, and this is without any work being done in the mid-mountain forests and higher.

Mammals were a disappointment. The only species seen were bats — a small insectivorous bat catching insects around the lights of the Guest House and the immense colony of blak bokis sleeping on Basali Island during the daytime. These individuals assemble in huge congregations at their preferred daytime roost, and spread out over hundreds of kilometres at night foraging for the forest fruits they love. El Nino over the past few years has decimated the forest and the bokis now hang upside-down on bare branches for all the world to see (photo on left). Animal tracks were seen at Bamboo Camp, near the South Bitoi River, possibly of the Swamp Rat or White-tailed Rat.



However, using Tim Flannery's excellent guide book *Mammals of New Guinea*, my guides showed me the species they had seen while hunting and taught me their Kela names. Being mainly nocturnal, New Guinea land mammals are a speciality best left to the museum collectors and scientists with the correct equipment. The few expeditions have to date found over forty species, including the uncommon Long-beaked Echidna and two species of Tree Kangaroo.

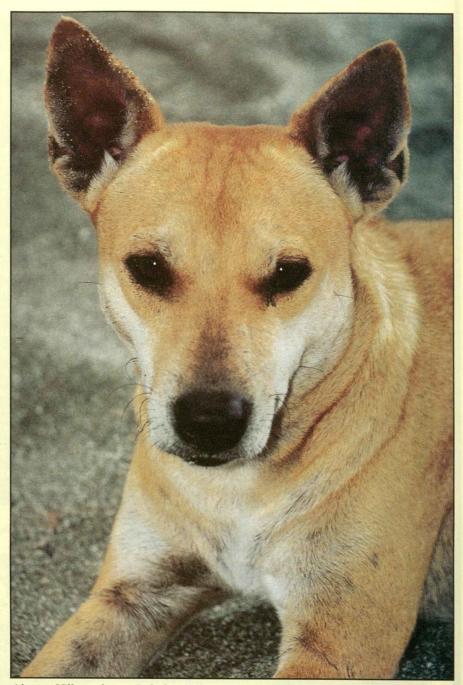
Remnants of World War 2 are to be found scattered throughout the area. At Rambei, near the Bamboo Camp, foxholes and dugouts are still recognisable. One even had the thick logs used as a roof still covering it! Levi told me that eighteen months ago, when the El Nino drought and bushfires had bared the forest floor, there were hand grenades and ammunition and other permanent reminders of the battles to be found at Rambei.

In Lababia Village itself was a halfburied bulldozer and some diesel engines, while on the beach were two weed-encrusted engines, the final remnants of the landing barges abandoned by the US Army way back in 1943. I had that 1943 photo with me and my guides helped me locate the spot it was taken. Maybe some ghosts were looking over our shoulders?

Leaving the area after two weeks in the field, I came to appreciate how rich and precious Papua New Guinea is to the world. It is, indeed, one of the great biodiversity areas on our planet. People, culture, wildlife — there are few regions so rich in aura and character as this land. It is, perhaps, in the words of the Jesuit philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, the place of the 'Divine Milieu'.

My rendezvous at Nassau Bay was memorable — I had met old friends from the 1970s and 80s both human and wildlife; I had made new friends in a pleasant Papua New Guinean coastal village; and I had stirred the ghosts of the 1940s when the world was a different place. I shall return.

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



Above: Village dog at Lababia Village, Kamiali Wildlife Management Area Below: Spike the dog from Buson Village, south of KWMA



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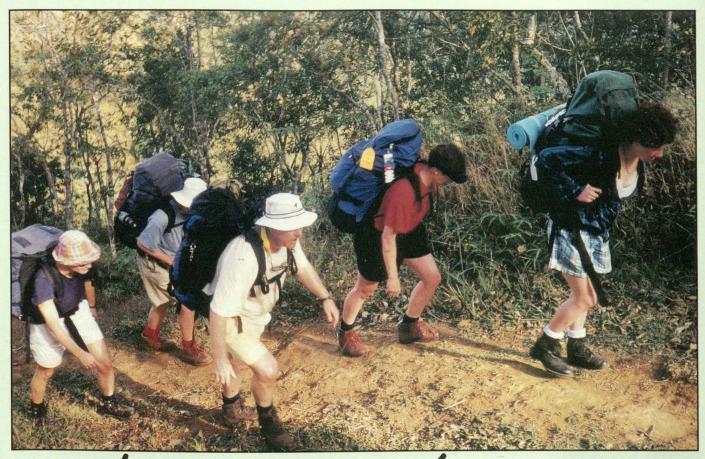
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A Walk along the Kokoda Trail

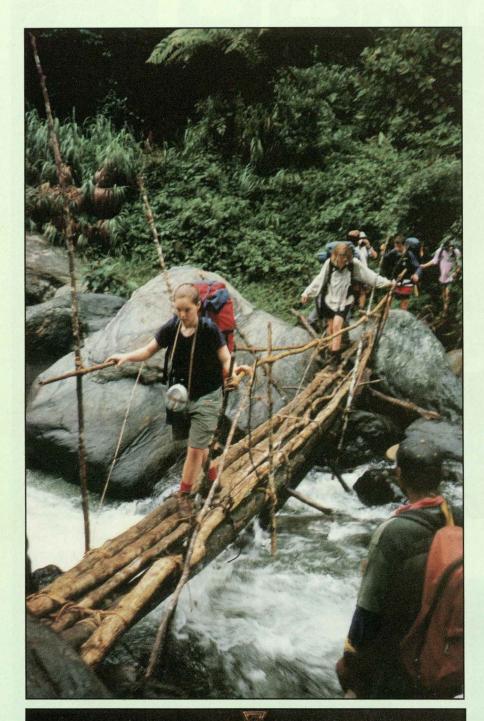
Story by Matthew Fisher Photographs by Roger Williams

n 1998, as a Year Eleven student I walked the Kokoda Trail. The Trail was a battlefield for Australian and Japanese soldiers during the Second World War and many stories of heroism and determination have emerged from this moment in history. My grandfather served in New Guinea during the Second World War and he was thrilled to find that I would be following in the footsteps of so many great Australians.

I travelled to Papua New Guinea with 35 students from around Victoria, a Reverend and several other teachers. Accompanying us on the trail were ten local guides aged between 13 and 35. What follows is a diary account of my experiences.



Guides for trip — Today's Angels



IN PROUD MEMORY OF PTE. BRUCE STEEL KINGSBURY, V.C. 2/14 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION. WHO, WITH GREAT PERSONAL COURAGE AND AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE, WON THE VICTORIA CROSS AT ISURAVA BY COUNTER-ATTACKING & CLEARING A PATH THROUGH THE ENEMY POSITION.

"LEST WE FORGET"

Day: Sunday Date: 20/9/98 Place: Port Moresby and Efogi Weather: Fine and sunny

We left Port Moresby on a small aircraft bound for the start of our Kokoda journey. During the twenty minute flight to Efogi the group was enthusiastic and eager to get going. The landing at Efogi was an experience to say the least. A grass strip on the side of a mountain was our place to land. After slipping and sliding along the wet runway the plane came to a stop in front of many people. As the doors were opened the noise and excitement from the villagers was welcoming. What hit me as I stepped off the plane were the humidity and the realisation I was in a tropical jungle in the middle of the Owen Stanley Ranges. As we walked through the village wearing our expensive boots and shiny new packs, we may have looked out of place. However, with a convoy of smiling, excited children for the first twenty minutes of our journey, we felt privileged that people spent the time to see us off and welcome us to the Kokoda Trail.

The enthusiasm and fast pace were apparent at the start of the walk. However, after an hour walking, we were soon aware of the hard grind that lay ahead. The first part of the walk was uphill and we were exhausted. Nobody had expected nor prepared for such a hard beginning. What was I doing here in the middle of nowhere, carrying a 15kg pack up a hill in the scorching heat? Our lunch stop was overdue. As we all trudged in and collapsed, everybody had one thing on their mind — make the stop last. For lunch, we had salami and mountain bread. After a revitalising swim we once again started off, this time at a slower pace than earlier in the day. The next part of the trail was uphill and harder than before. As we dispersed into groups of the same speed, we tried to put the thought of the hard walk in the back of our minds.

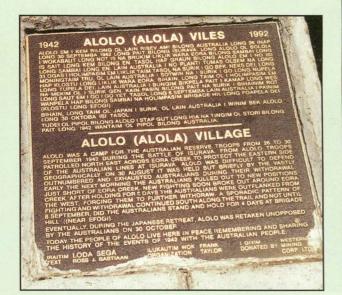
When we arrived in Kagi village excited village children once again greeted us. Their kindness and trust in people that they had never met before was pleasantly surprising to me. I could not imagine people in Australia being so kind to foreign tourists they had never met. We slept in a wooden hut that was raised about one metre off the ground. Day: Monday Date: 21/9/98 Place: Kagi village onwards Weather: Fine with rain later in the day

Today we thought it couldn't get any harder. It did. We started the day with a moderate uphill section. After this we were warned of what lay ahead. The next section was the hardest. To call it a walk was an understatement — a climb would be a better description. After managing a steep section, we were rewarded with a small section of flat until we again faced the daunting task of a steep uphill. This was the pattern of the morning.

After lunch we continued up the mountain. As we climbed higher, the vegetation and climate changed. Up the top of the mountain it was wet, misty

and a bit chilly. We were encountering conditions different from the previous stages of the walk. As we slipped and slid down the mountain in the wet and muddy conditions, we thought how hard it must have been for Australian soldiers in 1942. To fight under these conditions, they truly were heroes.

In these tricky conditions our guides, despite wearing inappropriate footwear and sometimes carrying two packs (one on the front and the other in the normal position), managed to keep their feet while running up and down the hills to direct us on our descent. The helpful guides were happy to carry the pack of an exhausted hiker. The guides that accompanied us were invaluable to our safe expedition just as the 'fuzzy wuzzy angels' were for the Australian heroes in 1942.



HERBERT KIENZLE MEMORIAL MUSEUM

ON THIS SITE ONCE STOOD THE ÖRIGINAL KOKODA MEMORIAL MUSEUM. THAT MUSEUM AND ITS ASSOCIATED COLLECTION WERE MADE POSSIBLE IN 1972 THROUGH THE VISION AND GENEROSITY OF MR AND MRS H T KIENZLE OWNERS OF MAMBA ESTATE IN THE NEARBY YODDA VALLEY. DURING THE NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN 1942/43 CAPTAIN BERT KIENZLE, AN OFFICER OF THE AUSTRALIAN NEW GUINEA ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT (ANGAU) WAS SINGULARLY INSTRUMENTAL IN MARSHALLING THE FORCE OF PAPUAN CARRIERS AND IN DEVELOPING SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS THAT. TOGETHER, PROVED DECISIVE IN ENABLING THE AUSTRALIAN FORCES TO WITHSTAND AND ULTIMATELY DEPEAT THE JAPANESE ADVANCE ACROSS THE OWEN STANLEY RANGE.

A STRONG AND ENDURING BOND OF FRIENDSHIP AND AFFECTION EXISTS BETWEEN THE KIENZLE FAMILY AND THE PEOPLE OF ORO PROVINCE.

IT WAS THE EXPRESSED WISH OF THE PEOPLE OF KOKODA AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS THAT THE NEW WAR MUSEUM THAT IS NOW PART OF THE KOKODA MEMORIAL PROJECT. SPONSORED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND AUSTRALIA. SHOULD BE NAMED IN HONOUR OF HERBERT KIENZLE AND HIS FAMILY.

BERT AND MERYL KIENZLE NOW LIE AT REST IN ALLAMBE GARDEN OF MEMORIES, QUEENSLAND, BUT THEIR SPIRITS LIVE ON AT KOKODA AND ARE HONOURED HERE

THIS MUSEUM WAS DESIGNED BY GRENFELL. FRASER AND ASSOCIATES OF GOSFORD, AUSTRALIA AND WAS BUILT BY THE COMBINED ENDEAVOUR OF ROTARIANS AND THE PEOPLE OF ORO PROVINCE. THE CENTRAL DISPLAY WAS CREATED BY THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, AND THE SCULPTURE OF THE CARRIER AND WOUNDED SOLDIER IS THE WAR MEMORIAL, AND THE SCULPTURE OF THE CARRIER AND WOUNDED SOLDIER IS THE WORK OF PETER CORLETT OF MELBOURNE. THE KOKODA MEMORIAL PROJECT WAS WORK OF PETER CORLETT OF MELBOURNE. THE KOKODA MEMORIAL PROJECT WAS MANAGED BY THE OFFICE OF AUSTRALIAN WAR GRAVES AND ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE LIMITED.

THE HERBERT KIENZLE MEMORIAL MUSEUM WAS OPENED ON 16 SEPTEMBER 1995 BY THE HON. SIR JULIUS CHAN. PRIME MINISTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE HONOURABLE PAUL KEATING. MP. PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA.



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Above: Guides making a stretcher to carry wounded walker. Below: 'We've made it' — the Group at Kokoda



Day: Tuesday Date: 22/9/98

Place: Night stop on Kokoda Trail Weather: Fine with rain later in the day

After getting up at 5.30am, we went for a swim and wash in the coldest river ever. Again today we walked uphill, downhill and in the mud. One of the lady teachers hurt her ankle and was unable to walk. The guides made a stretcher out of branches and vines and proceeded to carry the woman uphill, downhill and in the mud. The guides were truly amazing and showed their commitment to our enjoyment of the trip by carrying this lady over some very difficult terrain.

We then stopped for lunch. The weather was fantastic so we went for a swim. After lunch we walked again and again the guides carried the injured lady.

The night was horrible. It was wet, cold and I was sleeping on a hill. However, the Reverend remained cheerful; he bonded us together to get through this tough situation. It was moments like this that our past was forgotten and the true personality of each person came through.

Day: Wednesday

Date: 23/9/98

Place: Kokoda Trail

Weather: Fine with rain later in the day

After an awful night with little sleep, we started the day in muddy conditions. The injuries and strain of walking the trail were setting in. Despite many minor ankle injuries and muscle soreness, we kept going. Our lunch stop was a lovely village, which was the home of the little boy who came to Australia with *A Current Affair* to have an operation so that he could walk.

We were refreshed in the freezing springs. After a lunch prepared by the women in the village, we continued on our way. Our night stop was in a village.

Day: Thursday Date: 24/9/98 Place: Kokoda Trail and Kokoda Weather: Hot and sunny

Finally our last day, we were nearly there. The day started off downhill in fairly open terrain until we reached the flat section leading into the town of Kokoda. The hot conditions made the flat walk challenging. The day seemed to linger on as we were all keen to reach our destination. When we finally reached Kokoda at about 4pm, we were exhausted to say the least.

We had made it. We had followed in the footsteps of great Australian soldiers, the difference being we were not fighting in a war and were walking under far better conditions. Although our trip was hard, we had it easy compared to the diggers in 1942.

LOCAL CUISINE — Pawpaw



awpaw is a common fruit found throughout Papua New Guinea and is often eaten raw when ripe. It is rare for people not to like pawpaw, but my husband was one. Until one morning, we had breakfast with very distinguished hosts and they served us ripe pawpaw with lime juice. Although brought up in the Sepik with pawpaw gardens, my husband always declined when offering pawpaw. That time, he had no choice but to eat. After all, it was the Prime Minister who served him! Encouraged by his smile, saying that 'It was not that bad', I took the challenge to buy pawpaw so that we can enjoy it at home. Here are a few recipes. Have a nice meal!



Samoan Pawpaw Soup (Supoesi) A ripe pawpaw cut in cubes 3 tbsp cornflour 3 cups water 1 cup coconut milk 1 egg Boil 3 cups of water in a pan. Add the pawpaw and cook until mushy. Mash the pawpaw until smooth. Mix cornflour in a bowl with a few tablespoons of soup and stir until smooth. Add to the pan of soup and stir constantly. Cover pot and let it cook for 5 to 10 minutes over medium heat. Add one cup of coconut milk and simmer for 5 minutes, occasionally stirring. Do not cook any longer than this or the coconut milk will curdle.

When cooked, beat the egg in a large serving bowl and pour the soup slowly over the egg. Stir well and serve.



Fruit Curry

2 onions

- $\frac{1}{2}$ small pawpaw
- $\frac{1}{2}$ fresh pineapple
- 2 bananas
- 1 cup coconut milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sultanas
- 1 tsp oil
- 2 tbsp curry powder
- 1 green apple, peeled and chopped
- 3 tbsp brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt

Cut onion into pieces. Chop pineapple and pawpaw into 2.5cm pieces. Heat oil in a large pan. Cook onion until soft. Add curry powder, stir 30 seconds. Add the apple and pineapple. Cook stirring gently for 5 minutes. Add pawpaw, bananas, coconut milk and sultanas. Simmer over low heat for 5-10 minutes or until the fruit is tender and the sauce has thickened slightly. Add the sugar and salt and stir. Serve with steamed rice.



Chicken Stew with Pawpaw

clove garlic, crushed
 chicken pieces
 tomato diced
 cups green pawpaw, diced
 cups water
 onion finely chopped
 tbsp minced fresh ginger
 salt, pepper, oil

By Célene Peter

Cook garlic in oil, add chicken pieces and cook until brown. Add onion, tomato, ginger, salt, pepper and water. Cook until chicken is nearly done.

Add green pawpaw, cover and simmer until pawpaw is tender.

Serve with plain rice or coconut turmeric rice.



Baked Pawpaw & Banana with Cream

- 1 large ripe pawpaw, cut into cubes
- 3 large bananas, ripe, cut into chunks
- ¹/₈ tsp salt
- ¹/₂ tsp butter
- ¹/₄ tsp lemon juice
- ¹/₄ tsp sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp nutmeg, ground
- cream: $\frac{1}{2}$ litre milk
- 5 tbsp cornflour
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 3 tbsp sultanas (optional)

Place the pawpaw and bananas in an oven dish. Mix salt, butter, lemon juice, sugar and nutmeg and pour over fruit cubes. Bake at 200°C for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. If you don't have an oven, fry the fruit on low heat in a pan with butter. The result will be the same.

Meanwhile prepare the cream.

Mix cornflour and sugar in a bowl. Add milk and stir until smooth. Boil gently for 3 to 5 minutes over medium heat. Add sultanas and boil for another minute. Pour in a bowl for serving.

You can serve the cream hot or cold, as you like, with the baked fruit. The cream can be done in advance and kept refrigerated for up to one day.

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.

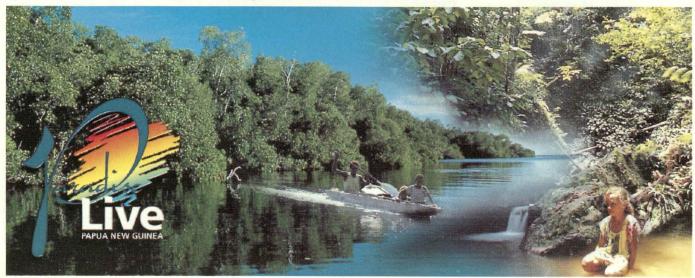
Shopping: Large stores and artifact shops offer a variety of goods for sale. Saturday is a half day for most shops and nearly all are closed on Sunday. Artisans sell their craft beside the roads or in markets. All markets sell a wide range of fruits and vegetables.

Cultural Events: Celebrations of traditional culture include:

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

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 Divison of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Tourism Promotion Authority, PO Box 1291, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea Phone: 320 0211 Fax: 320 0223 Email: tourismpng@dg.com.pg







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