

# Paradise

inflight with air niugini

VOL 1, 2007



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**daltron**  
BUSINESS

# Chairman's Message

Welcome Aboard.

Hepi Niu Yia! Niu Yia Namona! Happy New Year!

The New Year greetings in three official languages used in Papua New Guinea; Melanesian Pidgin which serves as the lingua franca; Motu which is spoken in the Papuan region; and English, spoken by 1% - 2% of the population and the official language used for communication. You might be interested also to know that there are 830 living languages in Papua New Guinea whilst 10 are extinct from a population of 5.4 million people.

A widespread of unique cultural shows and most colourful festivals will take place in various parts of the country throughout the year. These include the Tufi Cultural Show, the International Orchid Spectacular (Port Moresby), both taking place in June while an array of events such as the Milamala Yam Festival (Milne Bay Province), the mysterious Mask Festival and the Warwagira Festival will be held from July 9-14 in Rabaul, East New Britain Province. An event not to be missed is the spectacular Goroka Show scheduled for 28th-29th of August.

The famous Mt Hagen Cultural Show promises to be another display of brilliant costumes and traditional fineries on August 18 and 19 followed by a host of other festivals throughout the country in September to coincide with the Independence Day celebrations. The 4th Kundu and Canoe Festival in November will feature the rich boat building and sailing skills of the various islands in the Milne Bay Province. These are all unique showcases for Papua New Guinea's rich and diverse heritage.

Air Niugini will continue to play its role to open up this magnificent country for both visitors and residents to share the ancient traditions and unspoilt landscapes that continue to fascinate even the most intrepid traveller. Air Niugini is your access to the spectacular Highlands regions, the mighty Sepik River and coastal villages that remain untouched by modern times and virtually unexplored. We will take you to the most unsurpassed diving locations in the world, bring you closer to the Kokoda Trek and take you to climb the highest mountain in the country- Mt. Wilhelm.

Reflecting on 2006, I am pleased to say that the year was a successful one for Air Niugini with both its financial and operational performance. On the strength of last year's achievements, the national flag carrier is on a sound platform to meet future challenges. I am very pleased to say that Air Niugini is currently undergoing a complete review of its international and domestic fares with considerations to offer more travel discounts to our customers in early 2007.

Whether you travel for business or leisure this year, we look forward to your company on our Bird of Paradise services.

Enjoy your flight.

J.Tjoeng CBE  
Chairman



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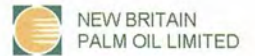
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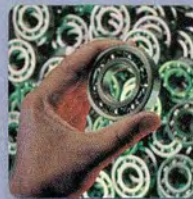
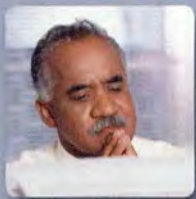


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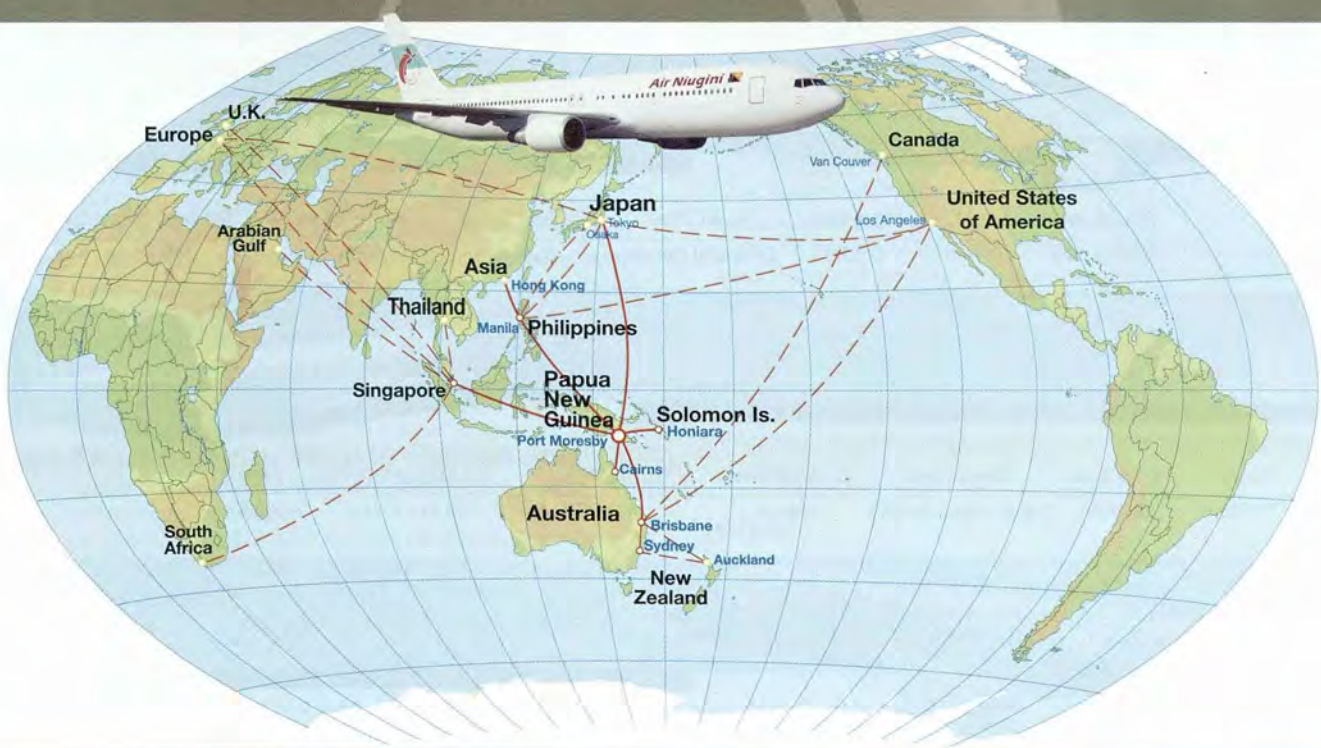
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**Air Niugini**

# Air Niugini Fleet

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Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating capacity	Range*
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**F100**



Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating capacity	Range*
F100	35.528m	28.076m	2 Rolls Royce Tay 650	780kph	11,000m	98 Pax + Bags	3000km



**F28-4000**

Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating capacity	Range*
F28-4000	29.61m	25.07m	2 Rolls Royce	750kph	9,000m	74 + bags	1600km

**DHC-8-202**



Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating capacity	Range*
DHC-8-202	22.25m	25.89m	2 Pratt & Whitney	550kph	7600m	36 Pax + Bags	1700km

## Welcome Aboard

We ask that you acquaint yourself with the following features of our service...

### Takeoff and landing

Ensure that your seat is in the upright position during takeoff and landing. Folding tables must be returned to their original position in the seat back or the armrest.

### Safety first

Your seatbelt must be securely fastened during takeoff and landing or whenever the seatbelt sign is on. When the seatbelt sign is off you may move about the cabin as necessary. However, while seated, keep your seatbelt fastened securely in case of unexpected turbulence.

### Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

### Before you leave

Please check your seat pocket before you disembark to ensure you have not left any items of value.

### Entertainment

A movie and a selection of music including classical, modern, country and local are available on international services. Programmes can be found in the inflight entertainment section of this magazine.

### Hand luggage

Please ensure that your luggage is placed in the overhead locker or under the seat in front of you.

### Pillows and blankets

On international flights, pillows and blankets are available on request from cabin attendants.

### Children and babies

Our flight attendants will provide a Paradise Kit that includes a colouring book and pencils, games and puzzles. The flight attendants will also be pleased to assist in preparing your baby's food and bottle. Baby food and diapers are available on international flights.

### Electronic equipment

Cellular telephones, TV receivers or radio controlled devices are not to be used at any time on board an aircraft. Electronic devices such as portable computers, compact discs or cassette players and video games can be used only when the seatbelt sign is switched off.



**Air Niugini**

# Medical information

## In Flight Health Tips and Exercises

### Your Health In-Flight

At Air Niugini we care about your comfort and safety. We have included the following information about your health in-flight that we hope you will find helpful and useful. When you are flying you can be seated and inactive for long periods of time. The environment can be low in humidity and pressurised up to an altitude of 2240 metres above sea level. Unlike other forms of transportation, air travel allows for rapid movement across many time zones, causing a disruption to the body's "biological clock". Although these unique factors do not pose a health or safety threat to most passengers, there are guidelines you can follow that will improve your comfort level, during and after a flight. We hope the following recommendations will help you have a more pleasant flight today and in the future.

### Blood Circulation/Muscle Relaxation

When you're sitting upright in a stationary position for a long period of time, several things can happen:

- The central blood vessels in your legs can be compressed, making it more difficult for the blood to get back to your heart.
- The long inactivity of your body muscles in this position can result in muscle tension, back aches or a feeling of excessive fatigue during, or even after, your flight.
- A stationary position inhibits the normal body mechanism for returning fluid to your heart, and gravity can cause the fluid to collect in your feet. This results in swollen feet after a long flight.
- Studies have concluded that prolonged immobility may be a risk factor in the formation of clots in the legs (DVT - deep vein thrombosis). Particular medication and medical conditions may increase the risk of formation of clots if associated with prolonged immobility. Medical research indicates that factors which may give you an increased risk of blood clots in the legs include:
  - Increasing age above 40 years
  - Pregnancy
  - Former or current malignant disease
  - Blood disorders leading to increased clotting tendency
  - Personal or family history of DVT
  - Recent major surgery or injury, especially to lower limbs or abdomen
  - Oestrogen hormone therapy, including oral contraceptives
  - Immobilisation for a day or more

- Dehydration
- Heart failure
- Trauma
- Varicose veins
- Obesity
- Tobacco smoking

#### Recommendations:

- If you fall into any of these categories or you have any concern about your health and flying, Air Niugini recommends you seek medical advice before travelling.
- While in flight, move your legs and feet for three to four minutes per hour while seated and move about the cabin occasionally, if conditions allow.
- Doing light exercises as depicted in the sketches below may be effective in increasing the body's blood circulation and massaging the muscles.

### Jetlag

The main cause of jetlag is travelling to different time zones without giving the body a chance to adjust to new night-day cycles. In general, the more time zones you cross during your flight, the more your biological clock is disturbed. The common symptoms are sleeplessness, tiredness, loss of appetite or appetite at odd hours.

#### We recommend that you:

- Get a good night's rest before your flight.
- Arrive at your destination a day or two early, if possible, to give your body a chance to become more acclimatised to the new time zone.
- Fly direct to minimise flight time, when possible. This allows you to relax more upon arrival.
- Leave your watch on home time if you're staying at your destination less than 48 hours. Also try to eat and sleep according to your home time.
- Change your watch to the local time if your stay is longer than 48 hours, and try to eat and sleep in accordance with the local time.

On longer stays, try to prepare in advance for your destination with its different time zone; adjust your meal and rest times to be closer to those of your destination.

## In Flight Workout

These exercises are designed to encourage a safe way to enjoy movement and stretch certain muscle groups that can become stiff as a result of long periods sitting. They may be effective in increasing the body's blood circulation and massaging the muscles. We recommend you do these exercises for three to four minutes every hour and occasionally get out of your seat and walk down the aisles if conditions allow. Each exercise should be done with minimal disturbance to other passengers. None of the following should be performed if they cause pain or cannot be done with ease.

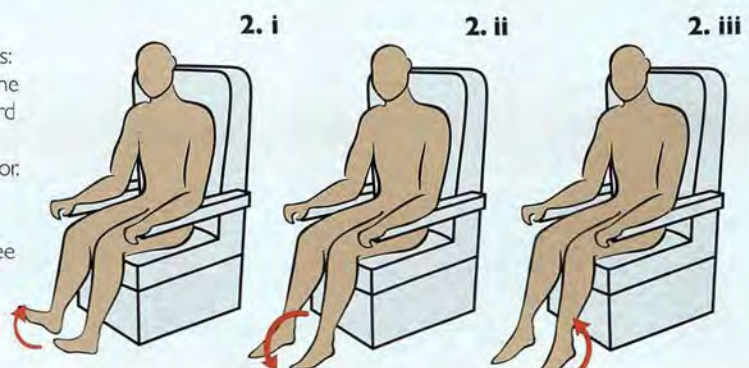
### 1. Ankle Circles

Lift feet off the floor. Draw a circle with the toes, simultaneously moving one foot clockwise and the other foot counter clockwise. Reverse circles. Do each direction for 15 seconds. Repeat if desired.



### 2. Foot Pumps

This exercise is in three stages:  
(i) Start with both heels on the floor and point feet upward as high as you can.  
(ii) Put both feet flat on the floor.  
(iii) Lift heels high, keeping balls of feet on the floor. Continue these three stages with continuous motion at 30-second intervals.



# Medical information

## *In Flight Health Tips and Exercises*

- Try some light exercise - go for a brisk walk, or do some reading if you can't sleep after arrival at your destination. It generally takes the body's biological clock approximately one day to adjust per time zone crossed.

### **Cabin Humidity/Dehydration**

Humidity levels of less than 25 percent are common in the cabin. This is due to the extremely low humidity levels of outside air supplied to the cabin. The low humidity can cause drying of the nose, throat, eyes and it can irritate contact lens wearers.

We recommend that you:

- Drink water or juices frequently during the flight
- Drink coffee, tea and alcohol in moderation. These drinks act as diuretics, increasing the body's dehydration.
- Remove contact lenses and wear glasses if your eyes are irritated.
- Use a skin moisturiser to refresh the skin.

### **Eating and Drinking**

Proper eating and drinking will enhance your comfort both during and after your flight.

We recommend that you:

- Avoid overeating just prior to and during the flight. It is difficult to digest too much food when the body is inactive.
- Drink coffee, tea and alcohol in moderation. These drinks act as diuretics, increasing the body's dehydration.

### **Cabin Pressurisation**

It is necessary to pressurise the outside air drawn into the cabin to a sufficient density for your comfort and health. Cabins are pressurised to a maximum cabin altitude of 2440 metres. It is the same air pressure as if you were at an elevation of 2440 metres above sea level. The cabin pressure and normal rates of change in cabin pressure during climb and descent do not pose a problem for most passengers. However, if you suffer from upper respiratory or sinus infections, obstructive pulmonary diseases, anaemias or certain cardiovascular conditions, you could experience discomfort. Children and infants might experience some discomfort because of pressure change during climb and descent.

If you are suffering from nasal congestion or allergies, use nasal sprays, decongestants and antihistamines 30 minutes prior to descent to help open up your ear and sinus passages. If you have a cold, flu or hayfever, your sinuses could be impaired. Swollen membranes in your nose could block your eustachian tubes - the tiny channels between your nasal passages and your middle ear chamber. This can cause discomfort during changes in cabin pressure, particularly during descent.

### **Recommendations:**

- If you have a pre-existing medical condition that warrants supplemental oxygen, you can order from us. Please give at least seven days notice before travelling.
- To "clear" your ears try swallowing and/or yawning. These actions help open your eustachian tubes, equalising pressure between your middle ear chamber and your throat.
- When flying with an infant, feed or give your baby a dummy during descent. Sucking and swallowing will help infants equalise the pressure in their ears.

### **Motion Sickness**

This ailment is caused by a conflict between the body's sense of vision and its sense of equilibrium. Air turbulence increases its likelihood because it can cause movement of the fluid in the vestibular apparatus of the inner ear. If you have good visual cues (keeping your eyes fixed on a non-moving object), motion sickness is less likely to occur.

### **Recommendations:**

- When weather is clear and you can see the ground, sea or horizon, you are less susceptible to motion sickness.
- You can buy over the counter medications but we recommend that you consult your doctor about the appropriate medications.

With thanks to Qantas and the Boeing Corporation for allowing us to reproduce this material.

#### **3. Knee Lifts**

Lift leg with knee bent while contracting your thigh muscle. Alternate legs. Repeat 20-30 times for each leg.



#### **4. Neck Roll**

With shoulders relaxed, drop ear to shoulder and gently roll neck forward and back holding each position about five seconds. Repeat five times.



#### **5. Knee to Chest**

Bend forward slightly. Clasp hands around the left knee and hug it to your chest. Hold stretch for 15 seconds. Keeping hands around the knee, slowly let it down. Alternate legs. Repeat 10 times.



#### **6. Forward Flex**

With both feet on the floor and stomach held in, slowly bend forward and walk your hands down the front of your legs toward your ankles. Hold stretch for 15 seconds and slowly sit back up.



#### **7. Shoulder Roll**

Hunch shoulders forward, then upward, then backward, then downward, using a gentle circular motion.



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# BILUM WEAR

## Weaving the fabric of PNG society

WORDS: EURALIA PAINE | PHOTOGRAPHY: ROCKY ROE



There is nothing more Papua New Guinean than a bilum. When I am overseas and I see someone carrying a bilum, something uncharacteristic happens. I stop in my tracks and check the person up and down.

It is the association with all things Papua New Guinean that stirs the familiar wistful feeling at the sight of a bilum on a stranger.

The ethnic origin of the word bilum is unclear even though it is thought to be a Melanesian word. It is defined

in 'The Jacaranda Dictionary and Grammar of Melanesian Pidgin' by Fr Frank Mihalic s.v.d as a carry-all by women throughout Papua New Guinea.

In some areas, the net or woven string is used as clothing thus the expression *Meri i pasim bilum*. Bilum is also defined as the womb, the placenta, or the pouch of a marsupial such as a wallaby.

In traditional societies, bilum is woven from animal fur, dried fibre extracted from tree bark, sisal or vine.



In urban areas, bilum is also woven from wool or twine purchased from trade stores. The versatility and practicality of a bilum is well renowned. It is still used for carrying garden produce or for moving goods from place to place. It is also used for carrying babies.

You can identify what province a bilum is from by the designs and style of the bilum. In recent times, bilum has become a much sought-after accessory item and an attractive souvenir object for tourists and visitors to Papua New Guinea. Very, very recently though, the bilum has become a fashionable attire to wear.

Many of you who watched the televised broadcast of the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony in Melbourne last year will remember the Papua New Guinea team in their brilliance.

The athletes were dressed in bilum wear and looked spectacular in the national colours of red, black and gold, woven by the women of Eastern Highlands under the auspices of Jaukae Bilum Products based in Goroka.

That was a very proud moment for Florence Jaukae, Managing Director and Principal Designer of Jaukae Bilum Products. She recalled the overwhelming emotion she felt as she sat watching the team flying the PNG colours past the grandstand. It was the biggest order Jaukae Bilum Products had just completed - 52 pieces in all, consisting of neckties for men and one and two-piece outfits for women.

Jaukae Bilum Products was set up in 2001 and generates income for 50 women and their families, predominantly from Kama village. The venture is a women's community project initiated by Florence, who saw the need to provide self-help activities to the local women, as well







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as utilise the unique talents of bilum weaving in the Highlands.

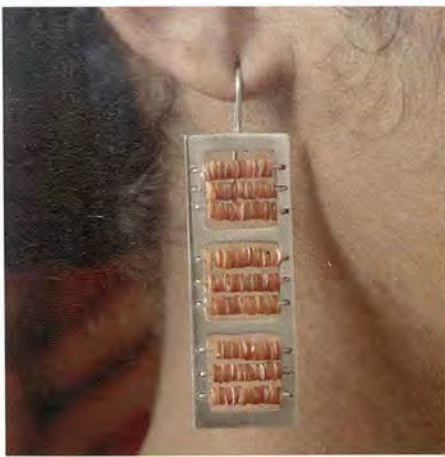
Florence is the local Ward Councillor and a women's leader. She has been working as a bookkeeper for Frameworks Architects in Goroka for 16 years.

The inspiration to begin the Jaukae

Bilum Products came about one day when she noticed the colours on a carpet snake and a Christmas beetle (popularly worn as part of a head-dress in the Highlands). The patterns and colours on the snake and the insect got her wondering what they would look like on a clothing item, particularly woven like a bilum. One thing led to another and before

she knew it a group of women had congregated, perhaps more out of curiosity than anything else.

Weaving bilum is second nature to the women of the Highlands and they did not need much coaching to get going. In fact, to the Highlands women - the brighter the colours of the bilum, the higher the price.



Nevertheless, the venture has been a learning curve for them. The women have modified the art of weaving a bilum.

In the case of a bilum for carrying goods, weaving begins at the bottom of the bag and ends at the mouth with the handle being the last bit to be completed. To make a clothing item such as a dress, weaving the main body piece begins at the neck and goes down to the hem. Sleeves are done separately and attached.

Jaukae Bilum Products operates from a community hall in Kama where the women and some young men are assigned to do customer orders daily. Florence is quick to add that the men's main task is to spin the fibre so that it is taut enough for the

women to weave. Up until now, they have been receiving small orders to make dresses, tops, skirts, neckties, beer coolers and patch-work. Patch-work is bits of bilum woven into jean trousers, jackets and skirts.

The clothing items are made from wool and tree bark fibre with added decorations such as chicken and cassowary feathers, cuscus fur, seeds, beads, shells and pigs tusks. Intricate as it is, washing or cleaning of bilum wear should be done with extreme care to avoid stretching, shrinkage and discolouring. Bilum wear made from tree bark fibre, sisal or vine is more delicate. It should only be aired.

An item of bilum wear takes six weeks minimum to make and is quite labour intensive. Prices range from

K200 for a top to K300 for a full-length dress. During the year-end graduation ceremonies, outfits were hired out for K30 an hour to assist parents who could not afford to buy the bilum wear. Two-thirds of the income goes to the women and the remainder goes towards the cost of materials and other expenses.

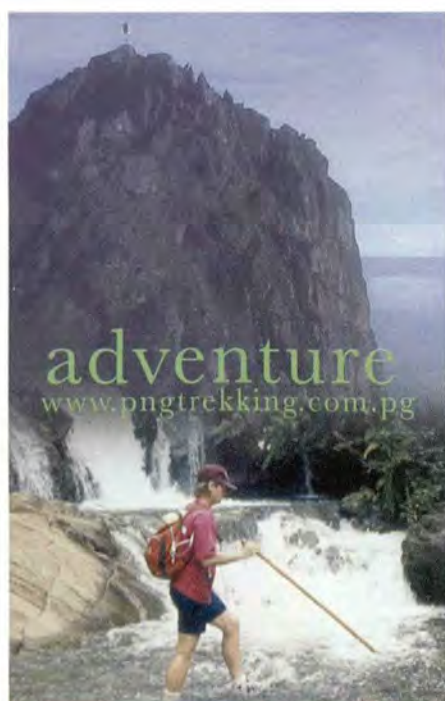
Florence acknowledges that the art of weaving a bilum is not unique to Eastern Highlands women.

"When a woman looks at a bilum that she has not seen before, she can go away and make one just as easily. We cannot stop that from happening. Our main problem is marketing our products," she said.

Jaukae Bilum Products can make



*Florence Jaukae...providing the inspiration.*



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anything according to customer demand and is open to suggestions from corporate organisations who want tailor-made products or unique branding.

With the recent exposure in Melbourne and a show in Brisbane, the women are hoping for orders from outside the country as well.

The women have been fortunate enough to attract the attention of government agency SBDC (Small Business Development Corporation), and OXFAM which have assisted them in training and skills development. Last year, Jaukae Bilum Products was one of 18 groups in the country that won the inaugural “PNG Tingim Youth” contest and received financial assistance from the World Bank.

The venture has now diversified with the establishment of a piggery farm and an elementary school. Jaukae

Bilum Products is not without its critics. Florence explained that in the beginning certain sectors of the community opposed the venture saying that the bilum was not meant for wearing. But this mother of nine (including 4 adopted children) has stood firm. She knows that something as unique as a bilum has the potential to create a niche market. She uses every opportunity to wear it as a walking advertisement.

When I interviewed Florence, she had just got off the plane from Goroka wearing a beautiful green and blue knee-length bilum dress and carried a matching bilum bag. The colours of her outfit were much like the colours of a Christmas beetle. She is determined to see the bilum transform into something bigger and better - hopefully to being the National Dress of Papua New Guinea. After all, to weave a bilum wear can be likened to weaving the fabric of PNG society.





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# CHIN HOI MEEN

## A STANDOUT SUCCESS

WORDS NOEL PASCOE

**C**hin Hoi Meen...a man who lived through racism, the depression and wartime terror to become a respected pillar of Papua New Guinea society.

Decades after his death in an Australian hospital, the diminutive son of a Chinese immigrant is still known to many in PNG as a kind and popular man.

His name lives on for the current and future generations through the firm he founded, the standout success in electrical retail trade and the music industry.

The heritage left by Chin Hoi Meen is carried on by his family through the company now known as CHM, in shops in Port Moresby, Lae and Kokopo.

Not bad for a man who had to go out to work at the age of 16, after his father died.

He was born in Rabaul on January 28, 1917, with World War I still raging in Europe. The Gazelle Peninsula saw action from that war with a brief but bloody battle for the Bitapaka radio station, taken by Australian soldiers from the besieged German troops and PNG police.

His father, Chin Ah Chee, migrated to Rabaul from Hannan, China, five years earlier.

It was customary for the Hannan people to enter into restaurant or hotel trade.

Ah Chee established the legendary Ah Chee Hotel in Casuarina Avenue in German Rabaul.

The hotel housed all manner of visitors, including the Australian who later became world-famous as heart-throb actor, Errol Flynn.

Many of Ah Chee's achievements are still celebrated by the people of Rabaul. One of the main streets in Rabaul is named after him, Ah Chee Avenue.

Rabaul was invaded by the Australians in 1914 and many of the resident Germans were put into internment camps.

Ah Chee visited the Germans regularly and helped them with food and medicine and to deliver letters back to their families and loved ones in Germany.



*Chin Hoi Meen.*

This was a trait of friendliness to be repeated during World War II by his son.

Ah Chee was later decorated by the German and Japanese governments for his selflessness, generosity and willingness to help people in need, especially the German civilians, who were interned in Rabaul.



*This is the main street subsequently called Ah Chee Street after the father of Chin Hoi Meen.*



*Ah Chee's car...outside Kokopo Hotel prior to the start of the war.*



*Ah Chee Hotel...on Casuarina Avenue, Rabaul.*



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Chin Hoi Meen's father died in 1933 when he was at the tender age of 16. The lad did various lowly-paid jobs until he joined the Department of Agriculture as a weather observer and clerk. Three years later, he married June Lan Wan in Rabaul, in 1936, at the age of 19.

During the mid-1930s to the early 1940s, many Chinese in PNG wanted to join the Australian Army but could not do so as they had no citizenship rights.

In 1941, a group of courageous Chinese men decided to form their own unit called the Auxiliary Ambulance Detachment to help play a part in the defence of Rabaul. Chin Hoi Meen joined the ambulance detachment of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles in 1941 and was one of their leading organisers.

The Japanese Army invaded Rabaul on January 23, 1942. The invasion caused widespread panic in the community. So sudden was the military takeover that the members of the ambulance detachment didn't have a chance to group together. Some were still able to help wounded Australian soldiers at Vunakanau, south of Rabaul.

This marked the start of World War II in New Guinea and the battle between the Australians and Japanese had begun.

The Australian Government sent a rescue ship and took out all the white civilians. The PNG Chinese community members were left behind enemy lines, a sign of the administration's attitudes at the time.

Chin Hoi Meen recalled having to send his wife, then pregnant with their second child, and his three-



*Chin Hoi Meen*

*European officers and Chinese members of the Medical Detail attached to the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, Rabaul 1940.*

year-old son Larry, to Adler Bay to seek refuge with his mother and other families fleeing the Japanese invasion.

There were few illusions among the Chinese about the attitudes of the Japanese, following reports of terrible slaughters and brutality with the 1930's invasion of China by troops from Japan.

Chin Hoi Meen chose to remain in Rabaul. The Japanese took him prisoner along with many other Chinese to perform manual labour such as loading ships and digging waterholes.

He recalled how the Japanese beheaded 10 Chinese men and later captured several more leaders of the Rabaul Chinese community who were subsequently shot in cold blood near the Wunawutung Hotel on the north coast of Rabaul. Sonia, his first daughter, was born three months after the fall of Rabaul. Shirley, his third child, was also born during the tumultuous war period.

Chin Hoi Meen applied for permission from the Japanese to go to Sum Sum plantation at Adler Bay, 70 miles from Rabaul, to join his wife and family.

A permit was issued to him and

two friends, enabling them to pass through several checkpoints from Rabaul to the Warangoi River, which was a long way from their destination.

One of his friends drowned while crossing a river. Beyond the river was "no man's land" but the young man persevered and walked four days to



HONOURS AND AWARDS.

THE KING'S MEDAL FOR COURAGE IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

CHIN, HOI MEEN.

CITATION.

Hoi Meen CHIN was formerly an employee of the Administration of the Territory of NEW GUINEA in RABAU. When the Japanese occupied NEW BRITAIN he moved to SUMSUM, on the east coast of the GAZELLE peninsular where he was interned with a small group of Chinese. He contacted Lieutenant H. M. WRIGHT, R.A.N.V.R., of Allied Intelligence Bureau and commenced secretly accumulating intelligence. In 1943, at great personal risk, he sent detailed written intelligence together with maps, by native runner to Major BATES, A.I.B., and in 1944 to Major FAIRFAX-ROSS, A.I.B.,. The information and maps enabled successful air attacks to be subsequently carried out.

His work for the A.I.B. was voluntary and always at the risk of his own life, and those of his family and the remainder of the Chinese at SUMSUM. Being in an enemy encampment necessitated his sending written intelligence through enemy lines at the risk of detection by the enemy and pro-enemy natives.

In addition, he assisted in the hiding of two U.S. airmen at SUMSUM at great personal risk and arranged for guides to take them to an A.I.B. camp, from whence they were evacuated safely.



*Chin Hoi Meen receives the King's Medal at a ceremony at Namanula Hill, Rabaul in 1947.*

network within Rabaul. He made several detailed maps and sketches of Japanese positions. He also detailed all they could find, from weapons to ammunition dumps, ships and planes.

All the information was handed over to the Allied Command, where it was assessed and used later to attack key Japanese positions in Rabaul.

Chin Hoi Meen contacted Major Charles Bates of the Australian Intelligence Bureau (AIB) and began to accumulate counter intelligence during 1943.

He sent this information plus maps and intelligence to the AIB units operating in East New Britain. His work for the AIB was voluntary and always at the risk of his own life and those of his family members.

He helped rescue two American airmen who had been shot down by the Japanese, not far from Sum Sum. He sent medicine, food and clothing and arranged for two New Guinea guides who were loyal to him to take them to the Australians' hideout. They were then spirited on to an

reach the plantation.

There was a contingent of Japanese soldiers camped near the plantation. The young Chinese family lived with the daily fear of knowing that they could be killed any time as they lived in the midst of their enemies as refugees.

American war planes would fly overhead nearly every day, and the refugees always ran for cover in case of an attack. One day, Chin Hoi Meen and his family were caught by surprise and fired upon by the American aircraft, whose crew thought they were Japanese. During this attack, two Chinese men and a woman were killed and a baby girl

wounded. One day in 1943, two New Guinea soldiers crept past the Japanese guards and entered Chin Hoi Meen's house. They showed him a note from Australian spies who were hiding nearby. The spies were known as The Coastwatchers. Their main task was to monitor the Japanese movements and send radio messages to Australian headquarters in Port Moresby.

The Coastwatchers were desperate to know what was happening inside Rabaul and asked him to spy on the Japanese and send vital information back to the Australians. Chin Hoi Meen did not hesitate.

He began to form an extensive

Allied submarine and safety.

There was always a risk that somebody would inform on Chin Hoi Meen to the Japanese. He remembers one day when an Australian soldier in full uniform presented himself to Chin Hoi Meen at his settlement.

The soldier had walked several miles on the main road where he could be easily seen. He had asked Chin Hoi Meen if he could meet him again in a couple of days on a secret beach so Chin Hoi Meen could pass on vital information to him.

Chin Hoi Meen feared this was a plot by the Japanese to trick him and other Chinese so they were prepared to ambush and kill the Australian on the beach.

By pure good fortune though, they were able to confirm the soldier's identity and spared him. Not long afterwards, another soldier visited a different Chinese man in another plantation. This man, with two of his brothers and their wives and children, were massacred after the local villagers reported their meeting with an Allied soldier to the Japanese.

By 1944, the Japanese were clearly losing the war. Chin Hoi Meen and his family were moved to a prison camp with other Chinese at Bitapaka, not far from current-day Kokopo.

They were held there until the Japanese surrendered in August 1945. The hotelier's son was given official recognition for his wartime bravery in 1949 when he was awarded the King's Medal for courage and service in the cause of freedom. This medal is intended to acknowledge those who perform "acts of courage entailing risk of life or for service entailing dangerous work in hazardous circumstances in furtherance of the Allied cause during the war".

In 1954, Chin Hoi Meen was presented to the Queen as a war hero in Australia for his services to the Allied Forces and for risking his life to rescue two American pilots who



Cairns 1954 - Chin Hoi Meen meets her Majesty Queen Elizabeth & the Duke of Edinburgh.

were shot down.

Half a century later, Mrs Ann Gilmore, one of the daughters of John Gilmore (DCM), visited Chin Hoi Meen's youngest son, Raymond, in Port Moresby because it was her



NAME	<b>MEEN, Chin Hoi</b>		
<b>KING'S MEDAL FOR COURAGE IN THE CAUSE</b>			
Award OF FREEDOM	Reg.No.	Rank	Service
	-	-	<b>CHINESE CIVILIAN</b>
Recommended by Governor-General on		26/2/46.	} G. H. File O/C 7 Civil.
Promulgated in <i>London Gazette</i> on		-	
Promulgated in <i>Commonwealth of Australia Gazette</i> on		10/10/46.	
Citation (G. H. File O/C 7 Civil)	<b>Meritorious service engaged secret intelligence.</b>		
Insignia received from London	6/1/49.	PN LONDON.	9/9/49.
Insignia presented by	<b>His Excellency The Governor-General</b>		G. H. File L/176.
At <b>District Officer's Residence</b>	On	6/8/49.	G. H. File
Address of recipient on presentation date	<b>RABAUL, N. GUINEA</b>		N/A

Remarks **The Ribbon of this Medal was received from S.O.S. on 20/11/46. The Ribbon was presented by The Commandant, 8th Military District at Kuo Tang Hall, RABAUL on the 31/1/47. Notification of the presentation of the ribbon was made to S.O.S. on 3/3/47. File L/176.**

Other Awards

2270.



*Raymond Chin & Mrs Ann Gilmore exchanging stories about their soldier fathers.*

desire to meet someone from the Chin family before she retired and left PNG. Mrs Gilmore swapped stories with Raymond and said her father spoke often about Chin Hoi Meen with admiration.

Her father was with the M special unit as an Australian Coastwatcher. He was able to avoid capture by the Japanese because Chin Hoi Meen was able to pass him information,

warning of the Japanese heading towards them. They also received other very important information from him which they were able to radio through to Australia. John Gilmore said he was impressed and honoured to be his friend.

“It took a special man, who was abandoned by the government and the powers that be to risk his and his family’s lives by helping Australians



*Chin Hoi Meen with camera. After the war, he pursued his interest in photography.*

fight the Japanese,” he said. Both men were decorated with their medals on the same day. After the war, Chin Hoi Meen continued to pursue higher education through correspondence and became a high achiever in everything he did. He acted as an interpreter for the Chinese community and helped re-organise and rebuild the war-torn town of Rabaul.

He was a leader for the Chinese community and a councillor for the Rabaul Methodist Church. He was also a keen sportsman and set up one of the most successful weightlifting clubs in Rabaul at the back of his home for the youth of Rabaul. Men who trained there went on to win many gold medals in the South Pacific Games.

He also took an interest in professional baseball and encouraged young people to play the sport. He was also a regular correspondent before and after the war.

He travelled the world and touched many people’s lives. He started his own business as a general merchant in Rabaul and expanded into professional photography business.

His reputation as a professional photographer in Rabaul soared and he was always chosen as the sole photographer for almost every event in the bustling town.

His photography won him many awards overseas and he worked closely with the government and police. Many of his photos were used and acknowledged by the publishers of the South Pacific Post and its successor, the Post Courier.

He moved to Port Moresby in 1966 and expanded his business with both sons, Larry and Raymond.

The companies that he established, Oceania (PNG) Limited and Chin Hoi

Meen, are still operating and are major players in the consumer goods industry. Chin Hoi Meen is now known as CHM and Sons Ltd.

Today, both companies are agents for some of the biggest brand names in consumer electronics and they continue Chin Hoi Meen's passion for photography. These two companies provide the country with the best and biggest photo processing service chain, as well as professional photography equipment to other companies.



Top right is Chin Hoi Meen. Middle Row: June Lan Chin (spouse of Chin Hoi Meen) holding Lily Chin, Children seated in front - Larry Chin, Shirley Chin Sonia Chin.

CHM and Sons Ltd today employs more than 250 Papua New Guineans and is a successful enterprise.

Managing director Raymond Chin,

a third generation Chin, born and raised in PNG, and the youngest of the children of Chin Hoi Meen and June Wan, which included Larry, Sonia, Shirley and Lily, together with his wife Grace, has expanded and diversified the business.

The business includes the country's pioneer music record label, which was established during the late 1970s. It is now the biggest record label in PNG and the South Pacific.

Raymond was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) on May 8, 2003, by the Queen for his contribution to the PNG music industry for more than 25 years, making him the third generation to win high honours.

Raymond and his family are

Raymond Chin receiving his MBE from then PNG Governor-General Sir Silas Atopare on May 8, 2003.

now the third and fourth generations to continue the legacy left behind by Chin Hoi Meen in PNG.

They continue to expand the business which began in 1949. It traces back 94 years to his grandfather's generation from 1912.

Chin Hoi Meen passed away on March 31, 1982, at the age of 65, at the Holy Spirit Hospital in Brisbane, Australia. He was a "people person" who loved PNG and its people and touched people's lives everywhere he went with his camera and his love for photography.

- Sources for the details in the Chin Hoi Meen life story: The New Guinea Volunteer Rifles NGVR 1939-43, a history written by Ian Downs; Hostages to Freedom, The Fall of Rabaul 1941-45 written by Peter Stores; Papua New Guinea History through Stories, written by Eric Johns.



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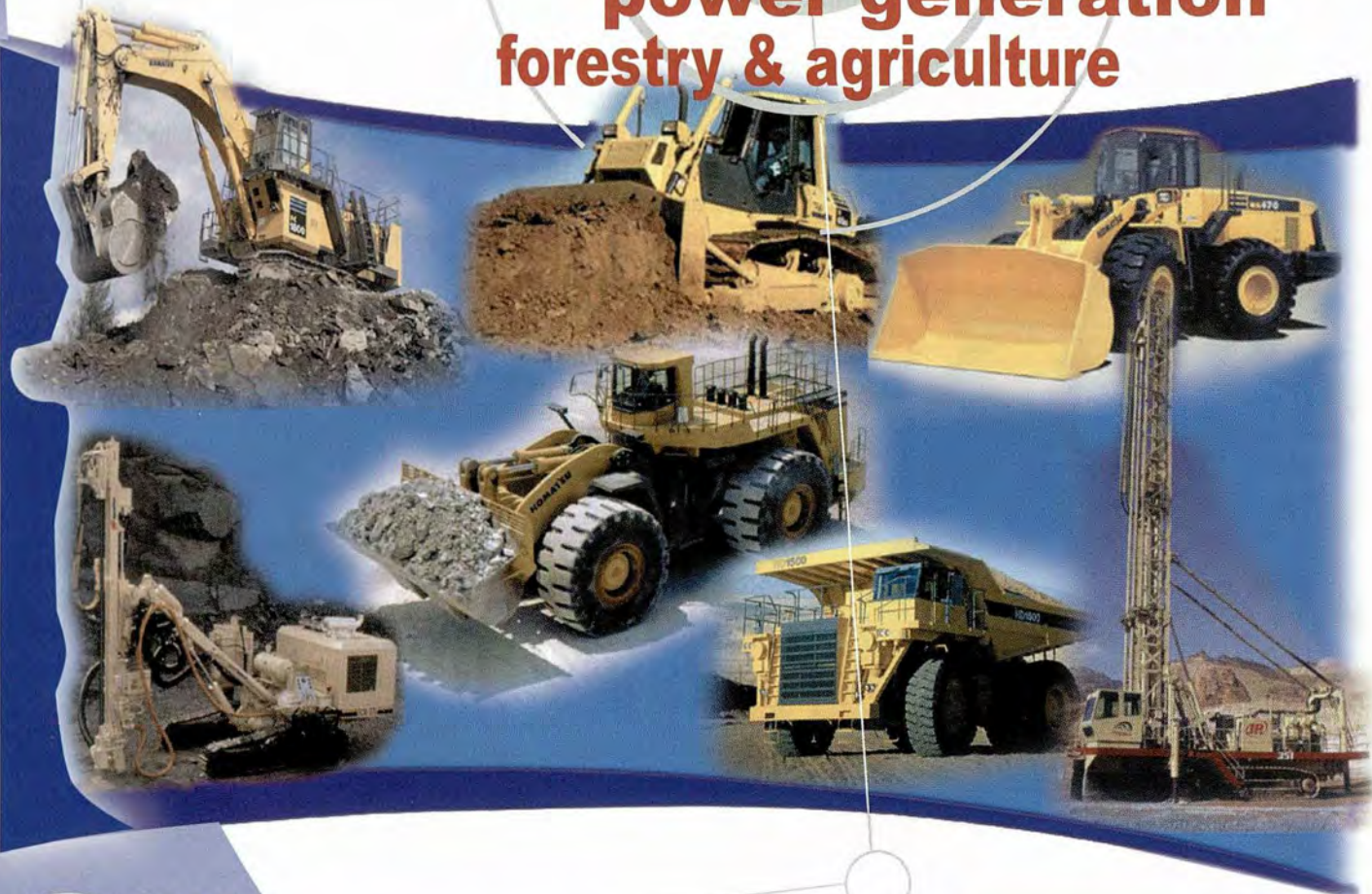
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# A TASTE OF INDIA

## Dining at Taj Mahal

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY: DIANA McMANUS

**T**ucked in a corner of the Shady Rest Hotel in Boroko, Port Moresby, is a little taste of India which goes by the name of the Taj Mahal Restaurant.

With a friendly and helpful staff, relaxing ambience, good food and secure parking, it's a must for diners looking for something exotic and different.

Manager Myra Suplac says, "The previous managers ran it as "The Curry Club" which only operated at weekends. However, on October 4, 2006, a new management took over and decided to turn The Curry Club premises into a full-time licensed Indian restaurant."

Gaily decorated doors and an 'Indian' doorman greets you on arrival. Vanessa, Belinda or Hari, beautifully dressed in Indian garb, ushers you to a table. Inside, the décor is tastefully subdued.

White-painted tongue in groove timber panelling lines the walls to a height of about three feet, above which the walls glow a gentle, deep apricot adorned with maroon soft furnishings and Indian embroideries. Pleasant, subdued music from India plays unobtrusively in the background, while aromatic incense wafts gently above the patrons and their conversations at the tables. All table settings, servings and eating implements are authentically Indian, as is the chef!

Chef Pawan P. Paranjape, from Mumbai, has only been in PNG for nine months. His a la carte menu offers the usual lineup of dishes one



Manager Myra Suplac.



Welcome. The entrance of the Taj Mahal.



Chef Pawan Paranjape.



Chef Pawan gives me a mini tour of the Taj Mahal kitchen.

would expect. Entrees include scrumptious samosas, tantalising pakoras, delectable Indian-style bruschetta, tandoori chicken prepared in PNG's only Tandoor oven or, alternatively, an array of savoury soups.

Pawan took me on a mini tour of the spotless, stainless steel kitchen, where colourful curries simmered cheerfully and trays of turmeric coloured nibblies waited to be whisked out to the diners.

Main courses offer juicy, hot, beef vindaloos, tender lamb kormas, chicken biryani and a host of delicious vegetable, chicken, fish and prawn curries in various styles, and all at very reasonable prices.

The most expensive items on the menu are an extra large serve of either Jheenga Malwani (hot prawns!) or Goan Fish Curry at K39.50. This menu is very affordable with enough delicious dilemmas to keep you coming back.

Of course you could go for the weekend buffet! For K49.50 you are spared the agonies of choice and can help yourself to a bit of everything. Way to go!

The buffet menu features all of the above, along with tasty little accompaniments and breads. Lunch and dinner specials are a miniature version of these selections,



Yummy starters.



Lamb Korma Thali.



Rainbow selection.

but a choice of mains needs to be made. Your choice then gets presented at the table in a traditional Indian 'thali' or compartmentalised tray.

"Make your selection from a rainbow of sumptuous curries and accompaniments," the menu reads, and that's exactly what it is! The Taj Mahal is open for lunch and dinner every day of the week. Lunch specials are K19.95 and dinner specials come in at K29.95.

With ethnic restaurants, one of the best recommendations, of course, is that it is heavily patronised by ethnics themselves. If that is anything to go by, the Taj Mahal must be pretty good, because the night I dropped in it was filled with happy Indian families celebrating a young

couple's fourth wedding anniversary.

This was supposed to be a private function, but I was kindly welcomed. It was also a Tuesday, which Myra tells me has been recently declared vegetarian night. I think that means there are more vegetarian dishes available, because I had no trouble ordering my lamb korma 'thali' and a glass of chardonnay.

So, if you're in Port Moresby for a while and you enjoy exotic food, why not drop in and sample some of the culinary delights of the Taj Mahal. This is no monument to a beloved queen, but it's certainly a monument to Indian cuisine. Just call (675) 323-0000 for your reservations.



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• Scoop	5	●
• Beat the Drum	6	●
• The Illusionist	8	●
• Flicka	8	●
• Stormbreaker	8	●
• Step Up	8	●

### ECONOMY CLASS

	CHANNEL	
• The Illusionist (English)	1	●
• The Illusionist (Japanese)	2	●
• Flicka (English)	1	●
• Flicka (Japanese)	2	●
• Stormbreaker (English)	1	●
• Stormbreaker (Japanese)	2	●
• Step Up (English)	1	●
• Step Up (Japanese)	2	●

- Shown on all flights
- Shown on flights to Port Moresby
- Shown on flights from Port Moresby

NB - Japanese is available in Business Class by pressing the desired channel button plus pressing the language button.



Denotes movies shown in Business Class



Denotes movies shown in Economy Class

Movies available on International flights.

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### THE ILLUSIONIST



Nothing is what it seems....Eisenheim is a stage magician who amazes the audiences of turn-of-the century Vienna. In his youth, he had fallen in love but was forcefully separated from aristocrat Sophie. She is now engaged to the powerful, ruthless Crown Prince Leopold. When the Prince and his fiancée attend Eisenheim's performance, a dormant love affair is rekindled between Eisenheim and Sophie. As the clandestine and very dangerous romance continues, Chief Inspector Uhl is charged by Leopold to expose Eisenheim, and the magician prepares to execute his greatest illusion yet.

*Drama/Romance*  
 Rated: PG-13  
 Duration: 109 mins  
 Cast: Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti, Jessica Bell, Rufus Sewell



January

### STEP UP



Tyler Gage is a street smart rebel from the wrong side of the Baltimore tracks. Gage's out of control streaks of delinquent behaviour finally lands him in trouble with the law after he and his friends trash the auditorium at the elite Maryland School of Arts. Sentenced to do community service at the school, Gage is an angry outsider until his street dancing talent draws the attention of Nora, a beautiful and privileged ballet dancer. Now, as sparks between them soar both on and off stage, Gage has only one performance to prove: that he can Step Up to a life far greater than he ever dreamed possible.

*Drama/Music/Romance*  
 Rated: PG-13  
 Duration: 98 minutes  
 Cast: Channing Tatum, Jenna Dewan



February

### FLICKA



Young Katie claims a wild horse as her own – an effort to prove to her father that she is capable of one day taking over the family ranch.

*Family Drama*  
 Rated: PG  
 Duration: 95 mins  
 Cast: Alison Lohman, Tim McGraw, Daniel Pino, Dallas Roberts, Maria Bello, Ryan Kwanten, Dey Young, Wade Williams, John O'Brien



January

### STORMBREAKER



Alex Rider is a normal teenager who lives with his uncle, a boring bank manager...Or so it seems until Ian Rider dies in mysterious circumstances. Alex discovers his uncle was in fact a spy and has been murdered by one of the most dangerous assassins in the world. Recruited into M16, the schoolboy is thrust into the world of espionage. Linguist, scuba diver, mountaineer, crack shot and marital arts experts, Alex has all the attributes required to make the perfect teenage superspy. Armed with his own set of special gadgets he embarks on his first mission.

*Action/Adventure/Family*  
 Rated: PG  
 Duration: 93 mins  
 Cast: Ales Pettyfer, Ewan McGregor, Mickey Rourke, Robbie Coltrane, Alicia Silverstone



February

## THE GUARDIAN




Cocky young swim champion enlists in the Coast Guard, where he meets legendary rescue swimmer Ben Randall, who is still recovering from the loss of this team during an accident. During training, Randall helps mould Jake's character, combining the recruit's raw talent with the heart and dedication required of a rescue swimmer.

*Action/Drama*

*Rated: PG-13*

*Duration: 128 mins*

*Cast: Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher, Neal McDonough, Clancy Brown, Melissa Sagemiller, Brian Geraghty, Sela Ward*

 **January/February**

## SCOOP




The late U.K. journalist Joe Strombel is being mourned by his colleagues – even as, stuck in limbo, Joe remains committed to pursuing a hot tip on the identity of “the Tarot Card Killer” at large in London. But how can his legwork get done now? Via the very much alive Sondra Pransky. Sondra is an American journalism student visiting friends in London. During a stage performance by a magician, Sondra is shocked to find herself able to see and hear Joe. From beyond, he gives her the scoop of a lifetime and urges her to pursue it. Sondra starts chasing the big story and finds it leads right to a handsome British aristocrat Peter Lyman. Soon, she finds that the romance of her life may well be the dangerous scoop she's looking for.

*Drama*

*Rated: PG-13*

*Duration: 96 mins*

*Cast: Woody Allen, Hugh Jackson, Scarlett Johansson, Ian McShane.*

 **January/February**

## GRIDIRON GANG




Based on a true story, Gridiron Gang tells the gritty and powerfully emotional story of a juvenile detention camp probation officer, Sean Porter, who, along with another detention officer, Malcolm Moore, turns a group of hardcore teenage felons into a high school football team in four weeks. Confronted with gang rivalries and bitter hatred between his teammates, Porter teaches some hard lessons as the kids gain a sense of self-respect and responsibility.

*Drama*

*Rated PG-13*

*Duration: 126 mins*

*Cast: Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Xzibit, Kevin Dunn, Ade Yorker, Trevor O'Brien, Brandon Mychal Smith, Mo, David Thomas, Setu Tasse, James Earl III, Jamal Mixon*

 **January/February**

## LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE



To fulfill their little girl's deepest wish, a family is determined to get their young daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant by taking a cross-country trip in their less than reliable VW bus.

*Drama*

*Rated: R*

*Duration: 103 mins*

*Cast: Alan Arkin, Abigail Breslin, Steve Carell, Toni Collette, Paul Dano, Greg Kinnear*

 **January/February**

## ALL THE KING'S MEN




Absolute power corrupts absolutely. All the King's Men charts the spectacular rise and fall of a charismatic Southern politician, “Boss” Willie Stark. While Stark begins his political career as a humble idealist, he soon surrounds himself with strongmen to enforce his good-intentioned but iron rule. Stark's tortured sidekick, Jack Burden was born to an aristocrat family but betrays his roots to become Stark's closest aide-de-camp. When Jack is asked to meddle in the private affairs of the esteemed judge Irwin, he uncovers deeply disturbing secrets from his past.

*Drama*

*Rated: PG-13*

*Duration: 125 mins*

*Cast: Sean Penn, Jude Law, Kate Winslet, Patricia Clarkson, James Gandolfini, Mark Ruffalo, Anthony Hopkins*

 **January/February**

## BEAT THE DRUM




Musa is an 11 year old South African boy who is orphaned after a mysterious illness strikes his village. To help his grandmother Musa sets out for Johannesburg in search of work and his uncle. The journey confronts him with the stark realities of urban life where his safety and survival is tested daily. But his indomitable spirit never wavers and he returns with a truth and understanding his elders failed to grasp.

*Drama*

*Rated: PG-13*

*Duration: 114 mins*

*Cast: Clive Scott, Owen Sejake, Junior Singo*

 **January/February**

**CLASSICAL  
Channel 5**



**OVERTURE - EGMONT, OP. 84**  
BEETHOVEN  
MUNCHNER PHILHARMONIKER  
CONDUCTOR: RUDOLF KEMPE

**CONCERTI GROSSI, OP. 6, NO. 3  
IN C MINOR**  
CORELLI  
GUILDHALL STRING ENSEMBLE  
LEADER/DIRECTOR: ROBERT  
SALTER

**WARM AIR**  
BATT  
VANESSA-MAE NICHOLSON:  
VIOLIN

**HUNGARIAN RHAPSODY  
NO. 2**  
LISZT  
HUNGARIAN STATE ORCHESTRA  
CONDUCTOR: MATYAS ANTAL

**DIE ZAUBERFLOTE: "ACH, ICH  
FUHL'S"**  
MOZART  
SUMI JO: SOPRANO  
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA  
CONDUCTOR: KENNETH  
MONTGOMERY

**SYMPHONY NO. 3 IN F MAJOR,  
OP. 90 - ANDANTE**  
BRAHMS  
BERLINER PHILHARMONIKER  
CONDUCTOR: HERBERT VON  
KARAJAN

**SONATA, OP. 65 - LARGO**  
CHOPIN  
FREDERIC LODEON: CELLO  
FRANCOIS-RENE DUCHABLE:  
PIANO

**HORN CONCERTO IN D MAJOR,  
K412**  
MOZART  
DAVID PYATT: HORN  
ACADEMY OF ST.  
MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS  
CONDUCTOR: SIR NEVILLE  
MARRINER

**SICILIENNE FROM PELLEAS ET  
MELISANDE**  
FAURE  
PATRICK GALLOIS: FLUTE  
ORCHESTRE DE  
RADIO-TELE-LUXEMBOURG  
CONDUCTOR: JACQUES MERCIER

**POP  
Channel 6**

**SNOW (HEY OH)**  
RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

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BEATING**  
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**AQUIESCE & THE MASTER PLAN**  
OASIS



**ELEVATOR LOVE**  
GUY SEBASTIAN

**RIP IT UP**  
JET

**BE YOURSELF AND 5 OTHER  
CLICHES**  
ROCKSTAR SUPERNOVA

**LOVE YOU LATELY**  
DANIEL POWTER

**LDN**  
LILY ALLEN

**LOVELIGHT**  
ROBBIE WILLIAMS

**YOU ARE MY MIRACLE**  
VITTORIO GRIGOLO FT. NICOLE  
SCHERZINGER

**HAPPENING ALL OVER AGAIN**  
YOUNG DIVAS

**SAVE ROOM**  
JOHN LEGEND

**HEAVEN/WHERE TRUE LOVE  
GOES**  
YUSUF ISLAM

**TOO LITTLE TOO LATE**  
JOJO

**IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME  
NOW**  
MEAT LOAF

**EASY LISTENING  
Channel 7**

**ALL I WANNA DO**  
SHERYL CROW

**CHIKUITITA**  
SINEAD O'CONNOR



**SWAY**  
BIC RUNGA

**WASN'T IT GOOD**  
TINA ARENA

**SAY YOU, SAY ME**  
LIONEL RICHIE

**SAVE THE BEST FOR LAST**  
VANESSA WILLIAMS

**WORLD FILLED WITH LOVE**  
CRAIG DAVID

**TIME AFTER TIME**  
CYNDI LAUPER

**HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY**  
ROD STEWART

**DON'T KNOW MUCH**  
LINDA RONSTADT & AARON  
NEVILLE

**FORGET HER**  
JEFF BUCKLEY

**OUT OF THE BLUE**  
DELTA GOODREM

**KISS FROM A ROSE**  
SEAL

**FROM A DISTANCE**  
BETTE MIDLER

**LOVE IS ALL AROUND**  
WET WET WET

**PAPUA NEW  
GUINEA  
Channel 8**

**Wan Kantri**  
Bemu Kidu & John Wong

**Pukari**  
Geru Puana

**Paitau**  
Haveva

**Hey Love**  
Asaban

**D-Love**  
Martin Rawali

**Psalm 23**  
Rainbow Tribes

**Tahiti Nui**  
Moqai

**Pae Pae**  
Haveva

**Aka Aukule**  
Viugolo

**Tiko**  
O'shen

**Smile**  
Nokondi Nama

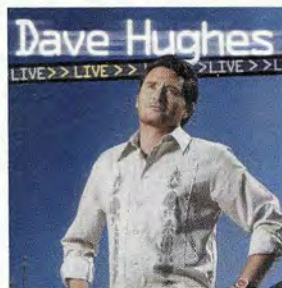
**Iwalingoto**  
Jnr Insects

**Confused Lewa**  
Jnr Kopex

**Nawa**  
Murphy Buana

**Dzimpa**  
Titipu Floats

**COMEDY  
Channel 9**



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM  
MELBOURNE  
INTERNATIONAL COMEDY  
FESTIVAL**  
DAVE HUGHES

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM IRISH  
COMEDY LAUGHTER  
UNPLUGGED**  
CONAL GALLEN

**PARTY PREPARATIONS**  
PHIL HARRIS & ALICE FAYE

**GOLDBLOCKS AND THE  
THREE BEARS**  
STEVE ALLEN

**AMIGOS PARA SIEMPRE**  
NORMAN GUNSTON & EFFIE

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM "STILL  
THE TWELFTH MAN"**  
THE TWELFTH MAN

**ELEMENTARY STUDIES**  
YES, WHAT?

**JANINE (LISA STANSFIELD)**  
FAST SHOW

**DATSUN HOMER VAN**  
THE SANDMAN

**COUNTRY  
Channel 10**

**COME A LITTLE CLOSER**  
DIERKS BENTLEY



**DON'T TALK BACK**  
KASEY CHAMBERS

**MY LITTLE GIRL**  
TIM MCGRAW

**RING**  
GARY ALLAN

**DOWN IN MISSISSIPPI**  
SUGARLAND

**FEELS LIKE TODAY**  
RASCAL FLATS

**BEFORE HE CHEATS**  
CARRIE UNDERWOOD

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME**  
KEITH URBAN

**SWING**  
TRACE ADKINS

**THE LONG WAY AROUND**  
DIXIE CHICKS

**THAT DON'T IMPRESS ME**  
MUCH  
SHANIA TWAIN

**IN A REAL LOVE**  
PHIL VASSAR

**HILLBILLY DELUXE**  
BROOKS & DUNN

**MISSISSIPPI GIRL**  
FAITH HILL

**EASY MONEY**  
BRAD PAISLEY

**DOWN TO MY LAST  
TEARDROP**  
TANYA TUCKER

**CHILDRENS  
Channel 11**

**I'M POPEYE THE SAILOR  
MAN**  
BILLY COSTELLO

**CLOUDS**  
TELETUBBIES

**ELMO TELLS HIS  
GROUCHLAND STORY**  
ELMO

**I WANNA BE LIKE YOU II**  
KING LOUIE, KAA, COL.  
HATHI, & BALOO



**STRAWBERRY KISSES**  
NIKKI WEBSTER

**THE OLD PACIFIC SEA**  
BARRY HUMPHRIES

**CIRCLE OF LIFE**  
ELTON JOHN

**CHESTER, THE CHEERFUL  
CHIPMUNK**  
RACHEL SUMNER

**TALK OF THE TOWN**  
JACK JOHNSON AND  
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Audio Entertainment



*Capt Mike Rossier, Capt Samiu Taufa & Capt Tony Seymour from Air Niugini with Steve Kenworthy (Simulator instructor) pilots from Air Bagan and Derrick de Silva (General Manager, Alteon Simulator, Singapore).*



*Capt Samiu Taufa cutting the ribbon at the opening of the Alteon Training Center in Singapore.*

## Air Niugini pilots go on simulator training

Air Niugini had the honour of being one of the launch customers of the newly opened Alteon Training Center in Singapore on October 3, 2006 with Fokker 100 pilots Captain Mike Rossier, Captain Samiu Taufa and Captain Tony Seymour.

Air Niugini joined other airlines from Australia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Taiwan as the first airline customers to use the comprehensive training services of this brand new facility, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Boeing company.

Located near Singapore's Changi International Airport and offering a space of approximately 7000 square metres, the three storey-state-of-the-art facility houses seven full flight simulator bays and a cabin emergency evacuation trainer. It will also host other advanced-technology training devices such as flat-panel trainers.



## Air Niugini Domestic Transfers

For those passengers who require to transfer to an Air Niugini domestic flight, firstly clear customs and then call at our transfer counter in the Concourse area, alongside the international check-in counters. Our courteous staff will check in

your baggage and issue you with your domestic boarding pass.

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# Introducing the most modern turbo prop aircraft in Papua New Guinea - The Dash 8-Q300 - The Quiet One

The latest addition to the Air Niugini fleet - the Dash 8-Q300 - was launched on 12th December by Honourable Arthur Somare, Minister for Public Enterprises, Information and Development Co-operation, in a ceremony witnessed by the Air Niugini Board of Directors, Management, representatives of stakeholders, regulatory agencies and the airline's corporate clients.

Chairman Mr Jim Tjoeng said the aircraft acquisition through a five-year lease is the latest in Air Niugini's refueling project, which since July 2006 has seen two Fokker 100 jets added to its fleet.

"The Dash 8-Q300 is owned by the Bank South Pacific and leased to Air Niugini," said Mr Tjoeng.

Chief Executive of Air Niugini, Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri said the Dash 8-Q300 has an outstanding take-off and landing capacity, making it

an ideal aircraft for its short-haul domestic operations in the country.

"The airline is delighted that the Dash 8-Q300 has been selected to meet the airline's domestic requirements," said Mr Kumarasiri.

Mr Kumarasiri said the Dash 8-Q300 is the most modern turboprop aircraft in PNG and Air Niugini is proud to introduce the aircraft to its fleet, adding that it is the most comfortable and cost effective aircraft in the 50-seat class. The aircraft's cabin is spacious and provides comfortable four abreast seating for its passengers.

"I am confident Air Niugini will see very positive results and passenger satisfaction from its operations," said Air Niugini's CEO.

"This aircraft is a sophisticated, modern aircraft offering the ideal combination of economy, efficiency,

performance and passenger appeal and our passengers will find a very quiet cabin which has been made possible by the superlative Noise and Vibration Suppression (NVS) system," said Mr Kumarasiri.

The Dash 8-Q300 is powered by two powerful Pratt and Whitney PW123E engines that turn out 2500 horsepower, has a maximum take-off weight of 18,640kg and a cruising speed of 286kt at 25,000 feet.

Mr Tjoeng and Mr Kumarasiri thanked the Civil Aviation Authority, the Department of Transport, the Internal Revenue Commission and other relevant agencies for their regulatory assistance.

They also acknowledged Bank South Pacific for the confidence shown in the airline's board and management through the funding of the lease arrangement.



1 Hon. Arthur Somare, (Minister for Public Enterprises, Information and Development Co-operation) cutting the ribbon with Mr Jim Tjoeng (Chairman Air Niugini Board) and Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri (Chief Executive Air Niugini).

2 Left to Right: Mr Robyn Flemming (General Manager-Credit and Risk, Bank of South Pacific), Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri (CEO, Air Niugini), Mr Vere Arava (Director), Capt. Dave Wiltshire (Director), Mr Jim Tjoeng CBE (Chairman, Air Niugini Board), Hon. Arthur Somare (Minister for Public Enterprises, Information and Development Co-operation), Sir Hugo Berghusser (Director), Mr Joshua Kalinoe (Director), Mr Simon Foo (Deputy Chairman), and Sir Fredrick Reiher (Director).

3 Trying out the seats of the Dash 8-Q300 are Mr Joshua Kalinoe ( Secretary, Prime Minister's Department and Director of Air Niugini Limited Board), Hon. Arthur Somare (Minister for Public Enterprises, Information and Development Co-operation), Mr Sumasi Singin (Chairman, Independent Public Business Corporation Board), and Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri (Chief Executive Officer of Air Niugini).

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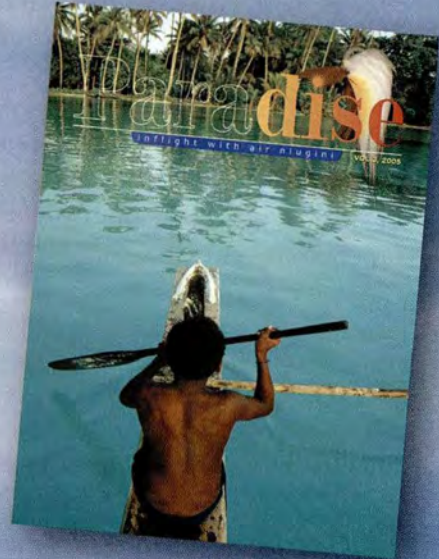
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Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_

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Y/Class \_\_\_\_\_

J/Class \_\_\_\_\_

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*Em ples bilong mi!*



# HOW McCARTHY EARNED A PLACE IN PNG'S HISTORY

WORDS: PATRICK MATBOB



Warrant Officer A. L. Robinson, DCM (left), one of the survivors of the Tol Massacre in New Britain, and John McCarthy, then a major, at Manus in 1944.

(Picture from *Patrol Into Yesterday*).

McCarthy has been described as one of the most forward-looking and perceptive of Australian officials to work in the territory.

Reading *Patrol Into Yesterday*, it becomes obvious that he loved the country and

dedicated much of his life to working in the territory.

He was also open-minded and willing to learn from his peers as well as the 'indigenous' he came into contact with. He was generous and humane and ready to speak out and act against injustices he saw committed against the natives by his peers.

There was no doubt that McCarthy had an adventurous spirit. New Guinea, which he sailed to in 1927, was nothing like his Melbourne home where he was born in 1905.

Educated at the Christian Brothers College, his early work included jackerooing in New South Wales and cutting cane in Queensland.

He was definitely an optimist for he described his new home-to-be as a 'potentially rich country' while many others including his father had a less flattering view.

"For God's sake, son, don't get eaten by the natives," was his father's advice as he was leaving to join the department of native affairs at Kokopo, Rabaul.

But his dad did not need to worry. His son was destined to earn a place in the history of a country he was to help shape.

After his initial 'familiarisation stay' at Rabaul, he was posted to West New Britain where he was stationed at Malutu among the Nakanai people. Amongst his early experiences there, he recalled the indigenous peoples' fear of evil spirits or masalai, which 'existed in every stone, water hole or bushes'. He was to encounter these beliefs very often throughout his work and showed



A Sepik head-hunter with his lime pot used in the chewing of betel nut. Each tuft of feathers on the notched stick signifies a head taken.

(Picture from *Patrol Into Yesterday*).

The lack of economic independence in the territory of Papua and New Guinea was an issue that worried the territory's early administrators during the years leading up to self-rule.

One of those officers was John Keith McCarthy (1905-1976), who came to the territory as a kiap (patrol officer) in 1927 and rose through the ranks to become deputy speaker in the House of Legislature at the time of self-government.

In his 1963 book *Patrol Into Yesterday*, McCarthy asked: "Why advance a people to political independence when you know very well they can't afford it?"

McCarthy's concern still remains a reality today as PNG's dependence on economic aid from Australia alone has totalled A\$14 billion since independence. It is currently around A\$300 million a year.

considerable patience and respect in dealing with the locals and their cultures.

McCarthy's appreciation of the locals and their culture was helped a lot by the fact that for most part of his work, he had no European company.

From West New Britain, he was posted to the Sepik in 1930 and served at Ambunti and Marienberg.

"Outwardly, the Sepik people were not cheerful and their particular customs did not make for gaiety," he wrote.

"But then the river country was a hard one and to be born there meant a lifetime of danger and discomfort." One of his main tasks was to enforce government laws especially against head-hunting which was a common custom of the middle-river Sepik people.

A man could not marry or dress as a man unless he's killed an enemy and brought back his head. He observed that there was little bravery in that custom because sex and age of the enemy mattered little and a head of a baby boy or girl would serve as well as that of a fully-grown man.

Being a skilful artist himself, McCarthy admired the art of the Sepik. He described them as the 'greatest sculptors of wood in New Guinea'.

The haus tambaran, rising to a peak of 60 feet and 200 to 300 feet in length, was a monument of art and showed the ingenuity of the Sepik people.

McCarthy's next posting to Kavieng as Assistant District Officer is worth mentioning, because his stay there was brief due largely to what he had accomplished - which was appreciated by the locals but not the European population there.

For a long time, white traders and their Chinese associates had a monopoly on the copra industry on the island. Native copra growers were only allowed to sell fresh coconuts to trade stores located along the Buluminski Highway for a pittance. Six coconuts would earn the seller 12 sheets of old newspaper for smoking and another six nuts would get a stick of tobacco. Despite the high copra prices, the locals made very little money while the traders benefitted immensely.

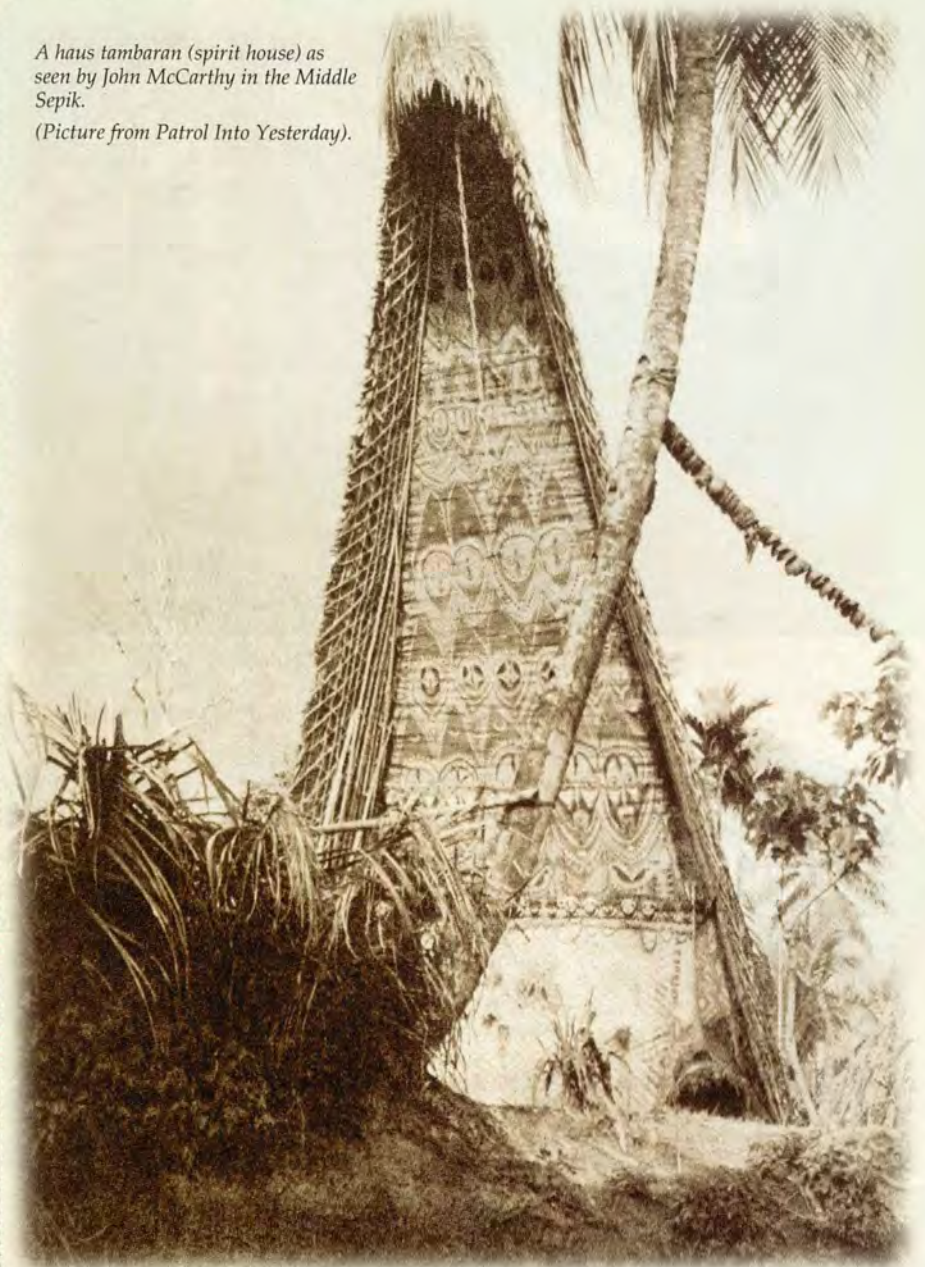
McCarthy, knowing that the people would get better prices if they dried their copra, helped them build the first copra drier. Soon copra driers sprang up everywhere and demand

for dried copra shot up with buyers coming from Kavieng offering much better and higher prices.

This broke the traders' monopoly and it wasn't long before their complaints to the administration had McCarthy demoted and transferred to Morobe for special duties!

Amongst McCarthy's most memorable tasks in New Guinea would have been his patrols into the Kukukuku country. The word Kukukuku comes from kokokoko which is the Motuan name for the cassowary, the big flightless bird of the jungle.

*A haus tambaran (spirit house) as seen by John McCarthy in the Middle Sepik.  
(Picture from Patrol Into Yesterday).*





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Today, the word Kukukuku is considered derogatory and is no longer used.

At the time, McCarthy described the Kukukuku tribes as having a deserved reputation as the most blood-thirsty and vicious in New Guinea.

Inhabiting a vast and one of the most rugged countries that bordered the territories of Papua and New Guinea, the wild and ferocious people were feared by their neighbours and their name alone was sufficient to strike terror into the hearts of the strongest warriors.

McCarthy's attempts to make friends with the Kukukuku were unsuccessful and he could not convince them that his patrol was on a peaceful mission.

The patrol was continuously followed and harassed and attempts made on several occasions to attack them. After two months in the bush,

the patrol was returning to Otibanda station when it came upon a site where two white prospectors and their carriers had been ambushed and killed.

Despite the hostility of the Kukukuku, the ever-dedicated McCarthy decided to arrest some of the men he thought were responsible to face the law. A village was surrounded and after some struggle, eight prisoners were taken and the march began to head back to Otibanda.

On the way, the patrol was attacked by the Kukukuku and McCarthy and several of his policemen were shot with arrows and injured. The injured party however, managed to make it back. But one of the policemen died from his wounds.

Recovering, McCarthy again led another patrol into the Kukukuku country and this time established a settlement and built an airstrip at



*Smoked and painted bright red with ochre, the corpse, one of four in the ledge cave on top of the mountains, was propped up in a sitting position with arrows.*

*(Picture by Collin Simpson from Plumes and Arrows).*

Menyamyaya.

However, the territory budget could not support the cost of expanding

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*Handcuffed Kukukukus arrested for killing miner Helmuth Baum.  
(Picture from Patrol Into Yesterday).*

government services and the station was soon closed.

In 1935, McCarthy returned to Aitape and there he joined McNicoll, the new administrator of New Guinea, to explore the Sepik River. They travelled the length of the river right up beyond the PNG/Indonesia border. They were the first Europeans to enter this remote area that even today remains largely isolated. A notable experience was the meeting with the Wagu who built their homes in the tree-tops.

In 1937, McCarthy married Jean and took her to Rabaul but their happy stay there was cut short a week later when one of the volcanoes, Vulcan, erupted. The couple joined thousands of people who fled the eruption that killed an estimated 450 people.

It was not long after that the war came to the territories and McCarthy who was at Talasea was again invaluable in assisting in the war efforts because of his local knowledge of New Britain Island. With the help of some planters and missionaries and other government officers, he directed some 200 survivors of the war south and west by foot, canoe and small boat, then commandeered the Burns Philp vessel Lakatoi, and sailed with refugees to Cairns in Queensland. Many of those he assisted were Australian soldiers garrisoned in Rabaul to fight the Japanese invasion.

Unfortunately, none of the soldiers were ever trained on how to survive in the jungles of New Guinea. When they fled the Japanese, they became lost and many were sick and starving. McCarthy found a group of them along the Bainings coast on the verge of starvation and all the time they were staying in a native food garden!

For his bravery and enterprise he was awarded an MBE in 1943. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and returned to the territory where he served with the Australian New Guinea Administrative Unit (A.N.G.A.U.) and fought behind the enemy lines with the Allied Intelligence Bureau 'M' and 'Z' Special Units.

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Commanding an A.N.G.A.U. and native police detachment, he landed on Lost Negros and Manus islands with a squadron of the 5th United States Cavalry Regiment in February 1944 and was included in the award of a Presidential Unit Citation for the action.

After the war, McCarthy was appointed District Officer in Madang to oversee the reconstruction of the war damage. He was also involved

in redirecting the Yali Cargo Cult movement.

He was later appointed district commissioner at Rabaul and in 1955 became the executive officer in the Department of Administrator. In 1960, he became director of Native Affairs.

He was a member of the Legislative Council in 1951 and served as deputy-speaker until 1968.

He was honoured with a CBE in 1965. In 1968, he contested the seat of Port Moresby in the national election but was unsuccessful.

He left Papua New Guinea three years later for Victoria where he died in 1976. He was one of the few officials who made the difficult transition from the adventure of exploratory patrols, to departmental head, to the willing devolution of power.



Carvings of the Sepik River people, who are PNG's great artists. (Picture from *Patrol Into Yesterday*).



Kukukuku village. (Photograph by Beatrice Blackwood in *Plumes and Arrow*).

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# SIMBAI

## A WILDERNESS HOTSPOT

WORDS: STEVEN MAGO | PICTURES: KEVIN MURRAY

**W**e left Madang Airport at 8:10am aboard an Island Airways' Cessna 206 bound for Simbai, the heart of the highlands of Madang.

On board the one-engine aircraft were the pilot and four passengers including myself and Tabah Silau, executive director of Madang Visitors & Cultural Bureau.

After 35 minutes of flying westwards over the Adelbert Range, Sogeram and Ramu Rivers and with a commanding view of the cloud-shrouded Finisterre Range to the south and Bismarck Range to the south east, we landed at Aiome, the district headquarters of Middle Ramu District, to wait out a low cloud cover over Simbai Valley, which prevented our scheduled landing.

Another 10 minutes in the air over Mt Aiome, we were approaching to land at Simbai, one place I have heard so much about.

Simbai is not connected to Madang or nearby Mt Hagen by road. The only way in is by air on Island Airways or Mt Hagen-based Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

Our one-way approach into Simbai was through a gorge surrounded by hills and wooded mountain slopes.

Peering out the window, I thought this could have been anywhere in the Highlands; perhaps Karimui in Simbu Province, Kompian or Paiela in Enga Province, or Maimafu outside Goroka.

With a population of about 30,000, Simbai is a remote forgotten backwaters of PNG. It is still very much untouched and unexplored, but has a special place in PNG's history.

It was this very place among others in the Highlands that supplied the labour force that built cocoa and copra plantations on the coast and contributed to the economic growth of these regions, but no one has ever thanked them for their hard work.

History aside, Simbai is a magic place. It's pristine; the air is crisp and the people are friendly and hospitable.

With little in the way of comfort, Simbais are a united,

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industrious, happy, respectful and dignified people, comfortable in their own environment and sharing a cultural bond that is as rich and diverse as their fertile mountainsides.

As soon as I stepped off the plane and walked 20 minutes to the newly-built Kalam Guest House, I kept reminding myself that this is one of the last few remaining natural and pristine hotspots of PNG waiting to be launched into the tourism and travel market.

We arrived on Wednesday November 4 but the purpose

of our trip was the inaugural Kalam Cultural Festival which in fact had started five days earlier.

I had been part of many major and mini cultural festivals but this event was different. It was neither rehearsed, packaged nor presented for tourists the way the Goroka and Mt Hagen shows are staged.

This was an authentic, living and breathing showcase of Kalam culture, staged for no one but themselves. Their ancestors would definitely have turned in their graves in pride and joy.



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Tabah Silau likened it to a living amphitheatre and I agreed. Nugunt village was the stage; the actors and actresses were the people of Simbai and their props were the traditional houses, mumu pits, pigs, colourful and elaborate head-dresses, kundu drums and tons and tons of garden produce. This was unique and not seen anywhere else.

Kalam describes the people, language and culture of this part of the highlands of Madang, but they are culturally and linguistically connected to the Jimi Valley dwellers of Western Highlands Province.

Apart from an historical line that was drawn a long time ago on a map, there is no other resemblance to Madang's other groups of people.

The Simbais stand out - their short, almost pygmy-like stature, culture and lifestyle - are similar to the Highlanders.

The Simbais are the most distinctive group of people in Madang and five "tokples" (native languages) are spoken in the area with Kalam being the most dominant and widely spoken of all the languages.

The word unique is best used in Simbai. They have a unique initiation

ceremony called "sutim nus" in tok Pisin, which translates to nose piercing.

It involves young boys between the ages of 8-17 years, going into a "haus boi" (men's house) to learn initiation rites from village elders and get their noses pierced.

When they are in the haus boi, they are not allowed to eat food cooked on an open fire except those that are cooked in a "mumu" (earth oven). While there, they are also not allowed to drink water and sugar cane to test their strength. They can eat and drink anything after coming out.





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Traditionally, this initiation ceremony is held over four (4) stages; hence the week-long festival. It is slotted in concurrence with bride price payments, settlements of personal, family and community debts, pig killings, and culminates in feasting and all-night dancing and chanting extravaganzas.

The men, women and some children wear huge and unique head-dresses, which are adorned with shiny green beetle-heads.

The crown of the head-dresses are decorated with bird feathers comprising those of the Cockatoo, Parrots, Lorikeets, and Birds of Paradise species including Stephanie's Astrapia, Afark Astrapia, Blue Bird of Paradise, and their popular cousins, the Emperor, Lesser and Greater Birds of Paradise.

Small, round kina shells are hooked on to and hang suspended from the hole in the nose, while others insert King of Saxony Birds of Paradise feathers. There is no other place in PNG that has such unique head-dresses.

When it comes to body decorations, their bodies are heavily donned with "bilas" (body ornaments) such as large kina shells, hornbill (kokomo) beak necklaces, cuscus fur, wild

garden flowers and arm bands. Pig fat provides the final shine.

Simbai is perched nearly 2000 metres above sea level and while the surrounding mountain sides are steep, the valleys are now interspersed with grassland and secondary forests as a result of many years of extraction for house and building materials and food gardens.

But these hillsides and mountain slopes have not lost their fertile nutrients, judging from the fresh garden produce such as English and Chinese cabbage, carrots, potatoes, kaukau, broccoli, cauliflower, spring onions, corn, passion fruit and avocado. The quality is as good as any anywhere in the highlands.

During the day, the temperature can reach the high twenties, but it can be cooler in the evening as the thermometer drops to as low as 8 degrees.

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The "sutim nus" initiation ceremony, which has been incorporated into the Kalam Cultural Festival for tourism development purposes, will now become an annual event.

Traditionally, a major initiation ceremony using over 100 pigs, is held every three to six years, depending on the rearing of pigs, preparation and planting of kaukau, taro, and sugar cane gardens.

The cultural festival is the biggest community, self-help project ever undertaken by the locals and is connected to the nearby Kalam Guest House and traditional museum. This accommodation facility has 9 rooms - 4 twin share and 5 double - and guests live and eat the way locals do.

Facilities include a self-catering kitchen where you can learn how to cook local food, well-kept pit toilets and a shower that uses fresh

mountain water that flows on bamboo pipes from a water hole. You can boil water if you like but most guests drink straight from bamboo pipes. This is ecotourism at its best.

After being immersed in this unique cultural phenomenon and feasting for days on pig meat for breakfast, lunch and dinner and making many

local friends, we were ready to leave and by them I had developed an emotional attachment to Simbai, its culture and people.

As the plane took off over the Simbai Valley on that crispy, clear Saturday morning heading for Madang, I had one regret - I did not stay long enough!



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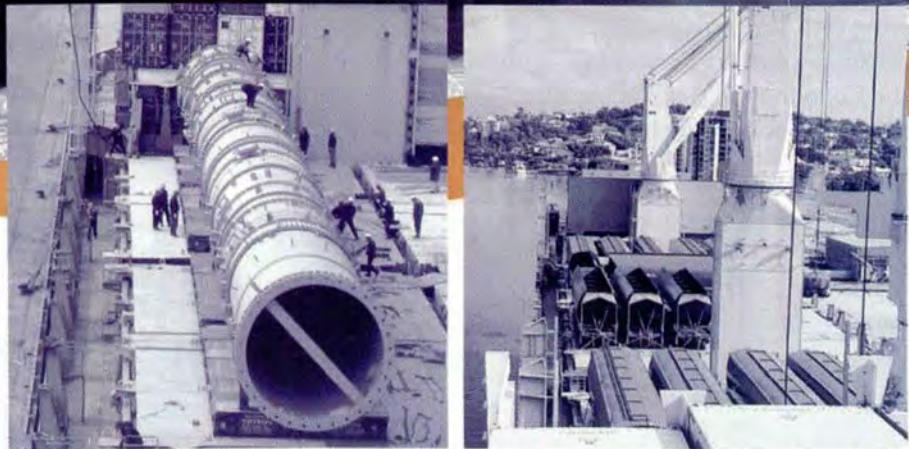
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# LAND OF THE UNEXPECTED

Adventures waiting to be discovered

WORDS: KAREN HOLLAND & ARABELLA KOLIWOM

To most, lesson time in high school means mountains of textbooks, teachers speaking in a language you don't feel you understand and boring, tedious schoolwork.

To us, the Outdoor Education students of Port Moresby International School (PMIS), lesson time means ADVENTURE!

Outdoor Education is a course offered by PMIS designed to provide senior students with the opportunity to experience a wide variety of outdoor activities. As we near the end of this course we will have completed a scuba diving certificate, paddled the Vanapa River in Central Province, walked the Kokoda Trail, 1st Aid course, climbed Mount Wilhelm,

bushwalked around the Port Moresby area, been wakeboarding and canoeing in Fairfax Harbour, and so much more.

Our many and varied adventures have taken us to some beautiful parts of the country, made us new friends and imparted on us many valuable life's lessons that simply cannot be taught in the classroom.

The beginning of the course was predominantly oriented towards water sports, for which Papua New Guinea has an ideal climate. We spent many a happy afternoon down at the Port Moresby Yacht Club marina carrying out capsizes drills and racing the outrigger canoes in Fairfax Harbour. We had prepared for our first open-water dive for weeks! We'd



Practising capsizes drills at the RPYC.

read the diver's manual, vigilantly attended our weekly lessons at The Dive Center Airways and practised every skill under the watchful eyes of our instructors (our very own Mr Lucas included). But all that preparation didn't quite steel us for the bizarreness of the first daunting descent. Beneath the surface of the water, there exists a completely alien world with strange creatures both beautiful and frighteningly ugly.

Of all the dives, the best was at the wreck of Pai II where we saw loads of little fish including a Two Toea (Fire) fish.

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The next major challenge was the infamous Kokoda Trail. Famed for being a treacherous walk that involves traversing extremely rugged terrain, it was certainly not an undertaking we approached lightly. In order to ready ourselves for the trip, we endured several bush walks around the Port Moresby area.

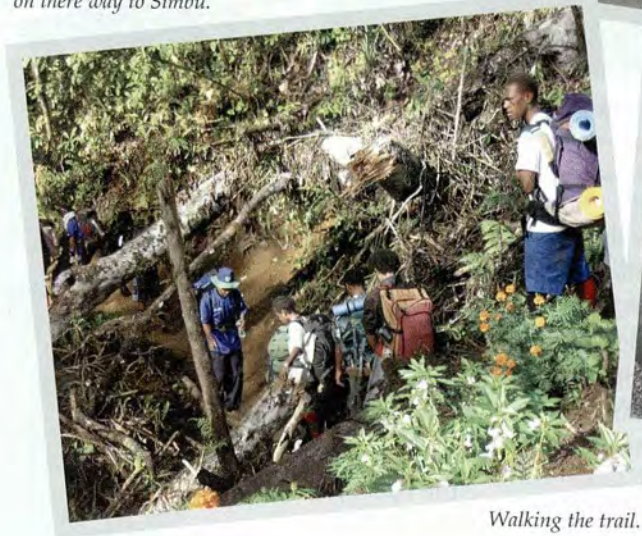
The walks range from the very difficult at Hombrom's Bluff to the marginally easy at Variarata National Park.

Though the intention of the bush walks was to prepare us for Kokoda it seemed that similar to diving, conquering Kokoda was an adventure simply impossible to prepare ourselves for.

The suffering we endured during our eight days of walking for up to 10 hours on some days could not take away the magnificence of the track. The Kokoda Trail winds through some beautiful tropical rainforest disturbed only by icy creeks and



*Esa, Rhodz, Phila and Darren... on there way to Simbu.*



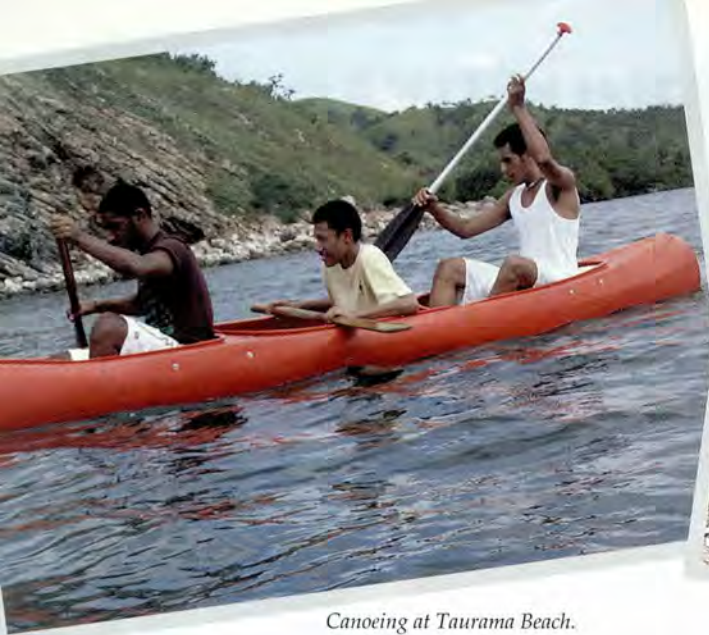
*Walking the trail.*



*Our teacher Mr David Lucas at Isurava.*



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Canoeing at Taurama Beach.



Scary bridges on the way to Betty's Lodge.

small villages.

There in the jungle where the history of the track surrounds you, there is absolute serenity; there, as you walk amongst every conceivable shade of green, it is not difficult to imagine that you and your companions are the only people in existence.

The Kokoda Trail was our last big adventure for 2005 and though it is certainly not an undertaking for the fainthearted, it is definitely worth it!

Last year, we welcomed some new faces and said goodbye to others. There were those who remained to do it all over again. Last year's Outdoor Education we had the opportunity to try out new activities, revisit the old and do more of the unthinkable. The activities included wakeboarding, canoeing, bush walking, climbing Mt Wilhelm and rock climbing; each a different and exhilarating experience.

We started the year off with wakeboarding. For some of us, this was a new activity but there were those who were already accustomed to the concepts of the activity.

The first time is always the hardest, but then you get used to the pulling, board and even the slamming! Our lessons were once a week within Fairfax Harbour.

Next was canoeing, a continuation from 2005. We went on numerous canoeing trips to Taurama Beach to practise our skills. On one occasion the bus driver forgot to pick us up so we ended up being stranded for three



Group photo at Betty's Lodge.

hours.

This was all in preparation for our canoeing trip down Vanapa River, just outside Port Moresby. We started off with a long road trip down the Hiritano Highway to the river.

We met up with our guides and went off the main road and on to a dusty track that led us to the riverbank.

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At first my stomach turned and my heart stopped beating at the sight of the river; it was fast flowing and murky brown. We either paired off or went in threes in a canoe, some of us wearing life jackets just in case.

We ended up being carried down the river without paddling, except when we had to steer our canoes away from branches and rocks sticking out of the water. We stopped for a break and a swim for lunch further down. It was tranquil and scenic passing small villages along the river. After lunch, we continued down to our final destination; the bridge where our voyage had come to an end.

The day, however, didn't end there; one person had the bright idea of jumping off the bridge, something our parents would have said was dangerous and stupid. We all ended up jumping off the bridge, all except one! Some of us even went for a second time. Then there were those who had such a huge adrenalin

rush they went five times. The day wouldn't have ended without the long road trip back to school.

Our major trip for 2006 was an attempt at PNG's highest peak, Mount Wilhelm. Our journey to the roof of Papua New Guinea was a long and drawn out affair. But as always in Outdoor Education, the enjoyment was there in abundance.

This five-day expedition began with a flight to Mount Hagen, then a drive to Kegsugl in Simbu Province. It was a long drive. We arrived in Mt Hagen in the middle of the morning and only after several hours, two flat tyres, quite a few dodgy bridges, and several kilometres of rugged, narrow and winding road before we arrived at Betty's Lodge.

For many of us, this was our first visit to the Highlands and we were definitely not accustomed to the cold. Exhausted and shivering we had an early night, but not before a delicious

dinner of trout, fresh from the fish farm.

The next day we trekked to Base Camp. It was quite a strenuous walk and we stopped frequently to try and counter the effects of the increasing altitude. At base camp it was even chillier than it had been at the Lodge. Our toes became numb in our boots and getting warm was a struggle.

Two members of our class seemed not to notice the cold because they jumped into the icy cold water of the lake at Base Camp. They obviously weren't too worried about the chill or maybe the air at that altitude was so thin they temporarily lost their minds!

We spent the next day acclimatising, and then it was time to make the attempt. We started at midnight, the full moon providing ample light for the walk. We all reacted differently to the altitude and unfortunately not all of us made it to the summit. Mount



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**HELPS US FIND YOU IN AN EMERGENCY.** Registration helps us to find you in an emergency – whether it is a natural disaster, civil disturbance or a family emergency. It may also be used to pass other relevant information such as Travel Advisories and notice of elections.

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**IS NOT AUTOMATIC.** Registration must be self-motivated. There is no automatic registration when you get a passport, a visa or a job in PNG.

**NEEDS TO BE MAINTAINED.** Registration needs to be maintained. Long term residents should regularly check to see if their registration is current or to update their details if their personal circumstances have changed.

**HOW DO I REGISTER?** To register, please call the High Commission on **325 9333 extension 240** or send an e-mail to [ahcpmsb\\_consular@dfat.gov.au](mailto:ahcpmsb_consular@dfat.gov.au).



*Tyson, the conqueror,  
at the summit of  
Mount Wilhelm.*

Wilhelm was definitely the most difficult adventure we have ever had.

Rock climbing's a new unit and an experience for all of us who've never done anything quite like it before. It was an activity that tested both our physical and mental stamina.

In rock climbing, the challenge begins on the ground with putting on all the equipment and calming yourself before you went insane. For some students the most difficult part of

the whole activity was getting over their fear of heights. Yes, we did look daggy in all the gear, but that's beside the point, we all tried and at first hesitated to go again. As the lessons wore on, we adapted and the rest as they say is history.

Climbing the wall is pretty intense; your palms get sweaty, the heart beats faster and even though you're told not to look down; it's hard to resist the urge. The most important rule is trust; trust the rope and the person belaying, this wasn't the case for some of the guys. On the 10th of September we got a chance to rock climb on a real rock face. The day was a blast. We started off by abseiling to the bottom of the wall before setting up to climb it up. At first we were tense but soon after the abseiling we had all loosened up

and were ready to climb the rock face. There ends our chronicle of the adventures of the 2005/2006 Outdoor Education class. It has been two years of amazing life experiences; so much has been learnt through these experiences. Papua New Guinea is truly the land of the unexpected where adventure lurks in every corner of the country. There is a wealth of new adventures out there waiting for you, all it takes is for you to break the mould and find them.



*View from the summit of  
Mount Wilhelm.*



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# NEW ZEALAND'S TRUE BREW

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY: JULIE IHLE

On a lonely stretch of road on the west coast of New Zealand's North Island appears a sign - "Brewery: 1200 Litres Ahead". A minute or so later the sign says "Real Ale 200 Litres Ahead". Then it is a short drive down a fern-lined driveway and you are at White Cliffs Brewery.



Signs to White Cliffs Brewery.



The factory and beer tasting room.

Once you have arrived, there are more surprises. There are half a dozen peacocks roaming around showing off their plumes, there are two teepees in the garden (props from *The Last Samurai* movie we later discover), and an 1880's schoolhouse reconverted to a function centre with views that stretch over rolling hills to the inky blue Tasman Sea.

Once you've admired the view it's time for a beer. The

beer tasting area is a one-room shed which also doubles up as the factory.

According to Steve Ekdahl, owner and Master Brewer, "people get a shock sometimes when they come in here and see everything happens in the shed - they feel they can almost touch the beer being made".

Steve Ekdahl, a carpenter, and his partner Sharon Cottam, a paediatrics nurse, both grew up in the area. After a stint overseas and a chance encounter with a Master Guinness Brewer, they decided to return to New Zealand and make the most of New Zealand's natural resources and clean, green reputation.

They bought White Cliffs Brewery which had been established in 1989. They have lifted its reputation and added another beer to the mix. They are also a tourist attraction in their own right.

On weekends they receive up to 50 visitors a day - not bad for a reasonably isolated stretch of road on the

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solitary west coast. Currently they produce two beers: Mike's Mild Ale, their signature beer, and Mountain Lager, their latest addition.

Mike's Mild Ale is lightly hopped but has a full malt taste with barley tones. Mountain Lager, on the other hand, is a full strength German-style Lager with a soft citrus flavour and a clean white head. Both beers are fully certified organic and GE free.

Steve and Sharon get their hops from the south of New Zealand and organic malts from Germany, they use pure North Island water and a traditional ale yeast. There is no added sugar or preservatives, no pasteurisation and no filtering. "It's a true brew," says Steve.

Steve is proud of the fact that it is a hand-crafted product, despite the hard work. It takes eight hours to label, package and bottle 1800 bottles of beer and most of the process is

done by hand.

However, the hard work has paid off. The brewery has experienced 25 percent growth per year every year since Steve and Sharon took it over.

Mike's Mild Ale won the Silver Medal in the 'Dark Beer' category at the 2004 Brew NZ Awards and they are hoping to achieve similar success with the new Mountain Lager brand.

Outside the shed the air is a pleasant smell of fragrant hops, sea spray and sometimes the delicious smell of cooking. Steve and Sharon run functions on weekends in the reconverted schoolhouse. They cook good old-fashioned Kiwi tucker-whitebait fritters, a regional specialty



Props from The Last Samurai movie scattered around the grounds.

and mussels in Green Ginger Wine, washed down with some of their ales.

The schoolroom is dotted with eclectic props from The Last Samurai movie, like wooden barrels with Japanese script and oversized Hessian rice bags. Most of the filming was done up the road from the brewery and from all accounts the production crew spent quite a bit of time between takes



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An 1880's schoolhouse...reconverted to a function centre.

sampling Mike's Mild Ale.

Outside there are some tee-pees from the film and an American Indian wooden carving. It makes a great place for kids to play while their parents relax in the picnic area enjoying a brew.

Steve and Sharon don't have much time to sit down for a brew. They



Mt Taranaki towers over the region.

have plans for a Russian Imperial Stout and are working on the brew in their spare time. They are currently negotiating to export the product to the lucrative Asian market, in addition to Australia where they already export. The success of the brewery has meant that they keep striving to win more awards and increase exports so that the world can enjoy New Zealand's fine organic produce.



### Fact File

White Cliffs Brewery  
 State Highway 3  
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 Ph: + 64 6 752 3676  
 Email: info@organicbeer.co.nz  
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 Open 7 days 10.00am to 6.00pm



## Kokoda Trail Map – Poster Size (800 x 300mm)

This impressive wall map of the Kokoda Trail was developed from wartime sketches held by the Australian War Memorial, data from army survey maps, satellite images and GPS readings. The Australian Army rising sun badge and an image of the Isurava War Memorial are embedded in the mountains. The words etched in the granite pillars of the memorial: "Courage – Mateship – Sacrifice – Endurance" are watermarked in the sky as a solemn reminder of the qualities displayed by our diggers and the "fuzzy-wuzzy" angels during the Kokoda campaign in 1942.

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To order: [www.adventurekokoda.com.au](http://www.adventurekokoda.com.au) (click on Kokoda Map) or send a cheque to Adventure Kokoda, P.O. Box 303, Camden, NSW, 2570



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# CHI

TEXT & PICTURES: TAN HOO CHWOON

The origins of the word 'Chingay' is cloaked in mystery. Nobody knows what it exactly means but, in a pure and simple sense, it must once have alluded to a time for Chinese to feel happy and an occasion to celebrate.

The mystifying background aside, Singapore's Chingay had its birth in 1973 and is said to be a compensation to the Chinese community for the government's banning of fire crackers, the quintessential act which most conspicuously heightens the spirit of the Chinese New Year festivities.

And since its launch as a modest procession, made up of a small motley cast of stilt walkers and patchwork floats which sallied through the streets of Chinatown,



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# NGGAY

where the Chinese made their homes in Singapore, it has, over the decades, metamorphosed into a kaleidoscopic parade that celebrates not only Chinese New Year, but also the harmony of colour and creed in multiracial Singapore.

Despite 41 years of nation-building, among each ethnic group, there are distinct differences in lifestyles, outlook and beliefs.

And yet at Chingay, you will most definitely witness the unspoken



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connectivity and interdependency for survival and a manifest display of a common vision, which has enabled Singaporeans of all races and from all walks of life to maintain an equilibrium in the ever turning circle of life.

And lately, the Chingay celebrations have been broadened to embrace an international cast that mirrors Singapore's cosmopolitan composition and welcoming character.

Chingay is held on the first or second Saturday evening after Chinese New

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Year. This year's Chingay, which marks the 34th anniversary of the event, will be celebrated at 7:00 pm on 24 February with a Preview (an abbreviated full-dress rehearsal) held at 7:30 pm on 23 February. Both events will be held along Singapore's hottest tourist belt - Orchard Road - starting at The Paragon and Ngee Ann City and ending at the Orchard Plaza at the junction of Killiney Road.

During the sensory-overload procession, pugilists will prance in lion and dragon dances to the thunderous beat of gongs and drums, acrobats will traipse on stilts, flag bearers will swirl their colourful standards, musicians in their cultural costumes will play their own familiar favourites and lorries dressed with lights will sortie through the streets as floats, closely watched by spectators that line the pavements. There will be a vivid flash of images and colours and a medley mix of sights and sounds.

Revellers styled in rich, extravagant and fancy raiment will cavort and caper about in ferocious colours to display their prowess and artistes coming from a wide band of age will roller-skate and roller-blade into the parade, singing, dancing and gyrating to the evergreen tunes

of spring, each in his own frenzied expression of hope for a better year ahead.

The interplay of myriad colours, psychedelic lights and rousing music will be nothing less than mesmerising.





All told, some thirty local performing groups and another ten foreign troupes making an entourage of some 4,000 participants will parade their chosen skills at Chingay in a sea of colours. You may now hear a Brazilian samba beat, now hear the chants of 'Arirang', now titillated by the refrains of 'Sakura' and now soothed by the tinkling melody of gamelan. Pinch yourself. You are not dreaming. You are still in Singapore under the tropical moon.

In essence, Chingay is the culmination of the Chinese New Year celebrations which has evolved to become the island-nation's most

colourful street carnival.

So no matter what your country of origin and no matter what your cast or conviction may be, if you are lucky enough to squeeze yourself into the sweaty crowd at Chingay, do put your hand out to whoever is standing or sitting next to you and wish him, 'Happy New Year'. You will invariably be caught up in that carnival spirit - of celebrating the grandest Chinese New Year party in Singapore.

May you have a most enjoyable evening!



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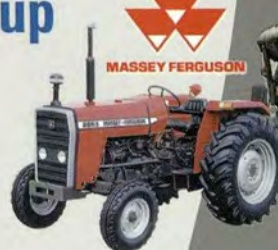
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