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inflight with air niugini

VOL 1 2010



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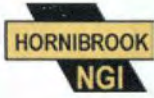


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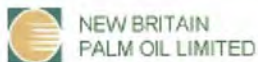
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# Chairman's Message



## WELCOME ABOARD.

Now that the holiday travel peak is over, the airline is focusing on a number of exciting projects in the next six months commencing with the introduction of a second service between Port Moresby and Narita on March 31, 2010.

With increasing Japanese investment in Papua New Guinea and continued tuna export to Japan, Air Niugini is also keen to offer the lucrative Japanese tourism market a four-five-day holiday packages.

With the PNG LNG project getting the approval to go ahead and in conjunction with our ongoing fleet modernisation programme, Air Niugini is acquiring two new generation Dash 8-Q400 series aircraft with the first to be in service by July and the second in September, to continue the improvements to schedule reliability and redundancy.

As our fleet size increases, the airline is also ensuring it has trained manpower to support its expanding operation. Air Niugini places high priority in the training of its human resources with staff at all levels undergoing skill enhancements and personal developments. One of the important areas is the training of pilots through the Air Niugini sponsored cadets scheme.

A notable success of the National Pilots Scheme is the large number of pilot cadets trained over the years with many attaining command positions on the B767 and B757 aircraft. We have recently sent six cadet pilots to start a 52-week intensive instructional and practical pilot training programme at the Professional Pilot Training College in Coffs Harbour in New South Wales, Australia.

Our travelling customers will be pleased to know that Air Niugini has recently appointed Dubai-based Mercator to provide the airline's loyalty and customer relationship management solution and manage its frequent flyer programme.

The loyalty programme known as "Destination" is an exciting initiative by the airline and enables you - our airline customers - to be rewarded for every kina you spend on your travels with us. Since the launch of the programme last year we have received overwhelming support through our customers joining up as members of "Destination."

While you are enjoying our inflight service, please take time to look through the Inflight Paradise World Boutique range of gifts and ask our friendly cabin crew to assist you.

Enjoy your flight.

Sir James N. Tjoeng, KBE  
**Chairman**



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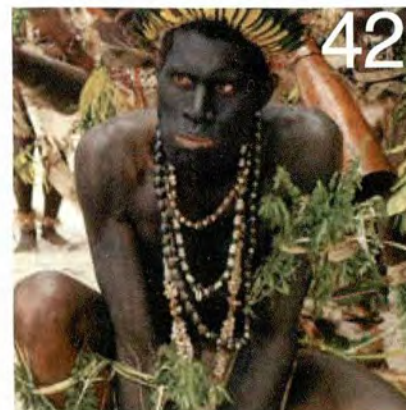
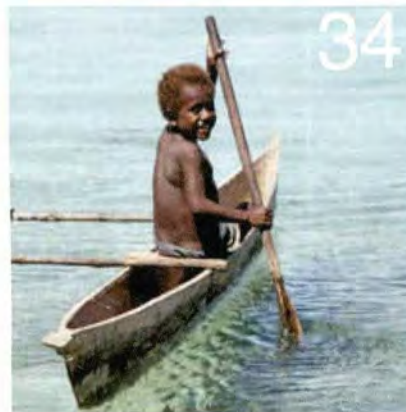
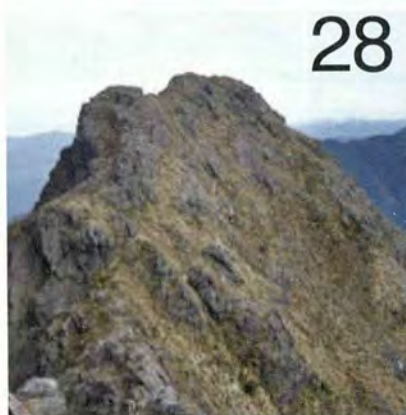
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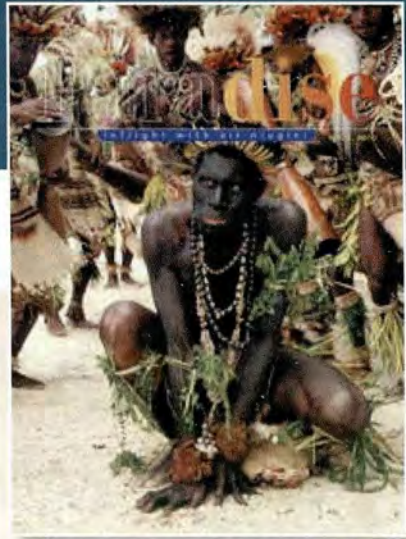
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*Roderick Eime*  
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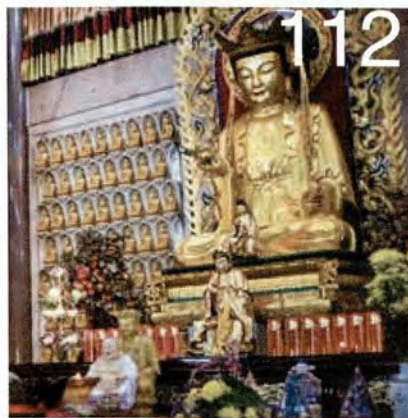
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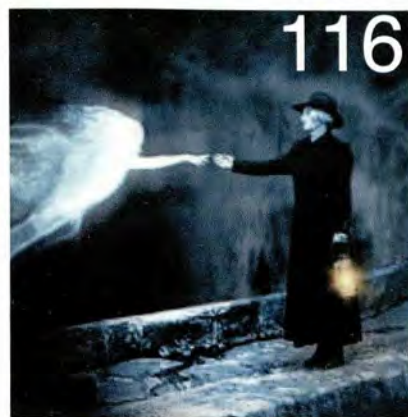
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Air Niugini has invested in state of the art information technology to enhance customer relationships through its innovative **Destinations** Loyalty Program. Air Niugini's **Destinations** Loyalty Program is powered by Mercator, the IT solutions arm of the highly successful Emirates Airlines.

While new to Papua New Guinea, the Loyalty Program is in fact built on an engine that has 40 person years of investment and over 10 years of loyalty

program experience. There is an additional 150 person years of investment over an 8 year period of development.

The system has been implemented by airlines all over the world and is available at more than 90 global offices with over 2,000 on-line users, with a support team of 50 highly skilled loyalty systems business and technical professionals.

Add to that a team of dedicated customer service and IT personnel at Air Niugini and it's easy to see why 2010 will be a significant landmark in the development of Papua New Guinea's national flag-carrier. We call it innovation... from the ground up!



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# WELCOME ABOARD



## We hope you enjoy our Bird of Paradise In-flight Service

### Please ask us

If there is anything our cabin crew can assist you with during your flight, please do not hesitate to ask them.

### Hand luggage

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

### 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.

### 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.

### Children and babies

The cabin crew will also be pleased to assist in preparing your baby's food and bottle. Baby food and diapers are also available. Please do not hesitate to ask our friendly cabin crew.

### Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

### Entertainment

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

### Pillows and blankets

On International flights, pillows and blankets are available on request from our cabin crew.

### Cuisine

Our in-flight meals have been specially prepared for your enjoyment. If you require a vegetarian meal or you are on a special diet, child or baby food, please inform us when making your reservation.

### In-flight Duty Free

During the flight take some time to look through our In-flight Duty Free brochure located in your seat pocket. Duty free purchases can be made after Meal Service. All major credit cards are accepted.

### Immigration and Customs Forms

During your flight, our cabin crew will distribute Immigration and Customs forms before each landing point. Ensure that you carefully read and complete these documents and have them ready for inspection with your passport at the Immigration and Customs arrival counters.

### Before you leave

Please check your seat pocket and overhead lockers before you disembark to ensure you have not left any items of value. We look forward to seeing you when you next fly with us on our Bird of Paradise Service.







# AIR NIUGINI FLEET

## B767-300ER



Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating Capacity	Range
B767-300ER	59.94m	47.57m	2 PW4000	857kph	11,000-12,000m	214 + bags	8100km

## F100



Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating Capacity	Range
F100	35.528m	28.076m	2 Rolls Roys Tay 650	780kph	11,000m	98 + bags	3000km

## DASH 8-Q315



Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating Capacity	Range
DASH 8-Q315	25.7m	24.4m	2 Pratt & Whitney PW123	440kph	7,500m	50 + Bags	1,800km

## 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	7,600m	36 + bags	1700km





# IN-FLIGHT EXERCISES

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 of sitting. They may be effective in increasing the body's circulation and massaging the muscles. We recommend you do these

exercises for three or 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.

**Ankle Circles**

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

**Knee Lifts**

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

**Shoulder Roll**

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

**Arm Curl**

Start with arms held at 90° angle - elbows down, hands out in front. Raise hands up to chest and back down alternating arms. Do these exercise in 30 second intervals.

**Foot Pumps**

1. Start with both heels on the floor and point feet upward as high as you can.

**Foot Pumps**

2. Put both feet flat on the floor.

**Foot Pumps**

3. Lift heels high, keeping balls of feet on floor. Continue these three stages with continuous motion in 30 second intervals.

**Knee to Chest**

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

**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 towards your ankles. Hold stretch for 15 seconds and slowly sit back up.

**Overhead Stretch**

Raise both arms straight up and over your head. With one hand grasp the wrist of the opposite hand and gently pull to one side. Hold stretch for 15 seconds. Repeat other side.

**Shoulder Stretch**

Reach right hand over left shoulder. Place left hand behind right elbow and gently press elbow toward shoulder. Hold stretch for 15 seconds. Repeat other side

**Neck Roll**

With shoulders relaxed, drop ear to shoulder and gently roll neck forward and to the other side, holding each position about 5 seconds. Repeat 5 times



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# 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 be 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.
- Follow our in-flight exercises programme

## Jetlag

The main cause of jetlag is traveling 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.

## Recommendations

- Get a good night's rest before your flight.
- Arrive at your destination a day or two early, to give your body a chance to become more acclimatised to the new time zone.
- Fly direct to minimise flight time. 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, adjust your meal and rest times to be closer to those of your destination.





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.

- 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.

- 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 or flu or hayfever, your sinuses could be impaired. Swollen membranes in your nose could block your eustachian tubes—the tiny channels between 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 traveling.
- To "clear" your ears try swallowing and/or yawning. These actions help open your eustachian tubes, equalizing 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 equalize 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:

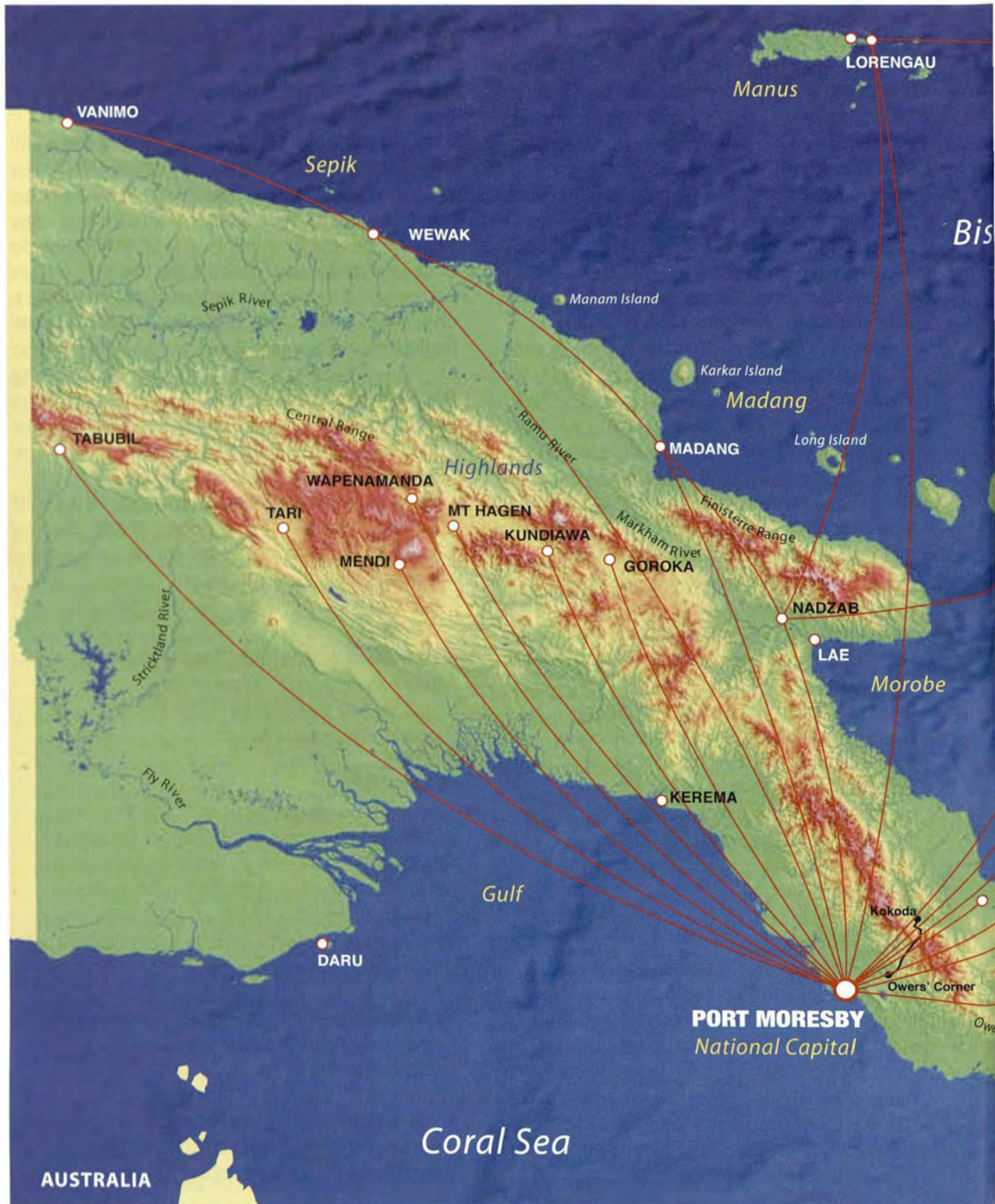
- When weather is clear and you can see the ground, sea or horizon, you are less susceptible to motion sickness.
- You can buy over the counter medications but we recommend that you consult your doctor about the appropriate medications.

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# HIGHER UP IN THE

What's next after Kokoda? Owen Stanleys?

**There is a lot more to the magnificent Owen Stanley Ranges than just the Kokoda Trail. Much of these fascinating mountain ranges are uninhabited and unexplored - they are some of the few places left in the world that you can say are genuinely pure and pristine, so say SOC & ROBYN KIENZLE.**



# SKY



*Summit Mt Victoria.*

**M**t Victoria is the highest peak in these ranges at 4047 metres or 13363 feet and it can be seen from many points along the trail and from Kokoda itself, its tip peeping up from behind Mt Huxley, or what is locally called The Thumb.

Mt Victoria was given its current name by Sir William Macgregor, a famous PNG administrator and pioneer in the late 1800s. Before he gave it its royal moniker, it had been called Togoro and Nada by the local people, The Great Mountain by those who saw it from afar in the early 1800s, then Mt D'Urville by Captain Owen Stanley himself, and Huxley Peaks by H O Forbes, from the relative comfort of his desk in 1885.

As Macgregor was the only one of these name-givers who scaled this craggy massif twice, it is fitting that we now use the name he chose, although one of the results of these many changes is that some of the local villagers sometimes get very confused as to which mountain it really is. They have been known to lead some intrepid trekkers "up the garden path" to the wrong summit from the south.

Over the last few years, several small groups of adventurous Aussies accompanied by nervous local villagers have taken on the mountain from the north-west face, attempting as best as they could to follow in the footsteps of Macgregor on his second trek in 1890. This method of approach starts at Kokoda and involves a huge 14-day climb along the ridges in a big horseshoe trail to the mountain, which



*Intrepid trekkers.*

is actually almost due west of Kokoda.

In May 2009, Soc Kienzle of Komplexe Kokoda, took the first commercial group on this challenging expedition. Soc was born in the Yodda Valley, near Kokoda, and spent many hours gazing at these majestic mountains. In 1970, he was dropped by helicopter on the high slopes of Mt Scratchley, looking for a crashed Aztec aircraft.

With him were three other European government employees, one of whom was Chris Abel, father of PNG's current Minister for Tourism, Charles Abel. Very quickly as it happens on the Owen Stanleys, the weather closed in - and stayed closed in.

The decision was made that they should start climbing down and 10 days later, they got back to Soc's family home at Mamba, after having survived on bush tucker and their wits.

Soc did a reconnaissance trip in 2008 with Peter Barrett, another old Territorian who had made two trips up the mountains before, one successful, one not, but each time, he had improved the route, mapped it on his GPS and increased the knowledge of local guide, Michael Lucas.

May 2009 saw Soc setting out with four

other brave adventurers: Caren Jenkins who did Kokoda with Soc and has done Kilimanjaro (she later commented that it was a 'walk in the park' compared to Mt Victoria); Jeremy Scriven, a surveyor; Randall Wynn, a geologist; and Paul McDonald, a cartographer - a great combination for such a difficult and unusual journey.

Their journey took them through all levels of vegetation - from jungle to alpine grasslands, past pristine glacial lakes, some of which had been given names by Macgregor, like Lake Omha and some they named themselves - like Lake Ranu (Water in Motu).

These lakes are at 12500 feet and by now the trekkers were suffering from altitude and extreme cold. At the peak, they experienced a temperature of 12°C, without accounting for the windchill factor, and had to spend one full day closeted in their tents as they had complete 'white out' and could not risk walking in such conditions.

The vegetation has to be seen to be believed. Fortunately, Jeremy had a great camera and he took detailed shots of flowers and shrubs that looked like they should be in an English garden, of fungi and moss that would make any botanist



*Rare plant life.*



*Flowering fungi.*



*Lake Ranu (water in Motu).*



*Ancient vegetation.*



*Wild Orchids*



Ice bouquets.



Large tree climbing kangaroo.

salivate, of ferns and cycads that are hundreds, even thousands of years old.

They passed intriguing geological formations the boys gave name like "Dead Man Screaming" and "King Kong" and they were fascinated by the frozen waterfalls and 'chandeliers' of ice covered shrubs.

Evidence of global warming is there for all to see as the jungle encroaches higher up the mountain. Large tree climbing kangaroos, wild pigs and Birds of Paradise, unafraid of

humans, were hard for the fresh-meat starved porters to resist!

This is not an expedition for the fainthearted - it is several levels of difficulty above the Kokoda Trail and there is no guarantee you will reach the summit - as Soc tells his clients - getting to the top is optional - coming down is mandatory!

The beauty of this journey, the views, the rare flora and fauna, the changing landscape will take the breath away of anyone who takes on the challenge. These treks take a huge amount of organisation and coordination and involve significant risk so maybe one trip every year or two might be fine - thus ensuring preservation of the pristine nature of the environment while maintaining the exclusivity of the experience.

• If you are looking for a challenge or just an excuse to return to the beautiful Kokoda and the Owen Stanleys, check for details on [www.kompletekokoda.com.au](http://www.kompletekokoda.com.au)



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*Paddling a dugout canoe in Ulu in the Duke of York Islands, off Rabaul.*



*Entertaining visitors at Lambon Island, New Ireland.*

# Islands Beyond the ATM

## Stepping back in time

BY JOHN BORTHWICK

**“Welcome to Alotau, home of the last ATM you’ll see for a week,” says a crew member of our expedition ship.**

**It’s a sign of the times that a “frontier” today is somewhere ATMs have yet to arrive.**



*Going ashore at Yaneba village on the remote Egum Atoll in the Solomon Sea.*

W

e revel in a day ashore in Alotau, the regional capital of Papua New Guinea's far eastern Milne Bay Province. It's a town rich with markets, art and sites

of the first land defeat of the Japanese in 1942. We stock up on shell-inlaid woodcarvings before returning to our ship, the luxurious MV Orion and setting sail for the ATM-less islands of the Solomon Sea.

Next morning finds us off a small island called Nivani, which perhaps should be "Nirvani," so crystal-clear is its waters. All 71 passengers are soon ashore in Orion's fleet of Zodiacs, with the crew distributing masks and snorkels.

The white sand beach may be "postcard perfect", but the real thrill is 100 metres offshore where a World War Two Japanese Zero fighter lies in three metres of water. Time and tides have done their work over the decades and the plane, still relatively intact, is now a peaceful home to schools of Nemo-esque fish.

Passing volcanic islands and coral reefs, we move on to Egum, an island so remote that we could send no message of our arrival. No matter. Around 200 villagers who live in thatched huts on the beach welcome us. After showing us around their school and gardens, the children perform the PNG national anthem. Their singing touches us in the way no mega-concert ever could.

"It was like stepping back into the pages of



*Transporting food in a dugout canoe at Ulu Island.*



Handicrafts for sale at Kumwageya village, Kitava Island, in the Trobriands.

a 1960's National Geographic," comments one passenger. As well, there is world-class snorkelling just off the fringing reef. The shallow corals are thronged with parrotfish and surgeonfish, and then it all plummets to a deep abyss. "Swim over that drop-off and it's like you're suddenly flying," says one woman.

Between excursions, our shipboard life consists of plenty of options: stretch classes in the morning, lectures on PNG culture and customs, and exceptional dining overseen by executive chef Lothar Greiner. At Kitava in the legendary Trobriand Islands, they are indeed expecting us. The welcome is spectacular. Around 50 dancers of all ages, some in minimal attire, are bedecked with feathers, shells, boar tusks and even Christmas tinsel. They dance and sing so lustily, with the kids breaking up in laughter, that I think they enjoy the whole event even more than we do.

Our guide Justin Friend then leads us on a village walk where we meet the dancers again, now more modestly clothed, and see their gardens of taro, yam, banana and breadfruit. As he explains, "PNG has vivid, unique birdlife, animals and history but the very best thing is still the people." I agree.

Back on the beach, the people of Kitava have set up a market of Trobriand carvings, shell necklaces and beadwork. There's no ATM but, hullo, excess baggage, anyhow. Sailing north, we reach Lamassa Island in mountainous New Ireland Province on Palm Sunday. Here, we are treated to Easter hymns with a difference, as sung by villagers, some wearing elaborate grass headdresses.

Later we go ashore at English Cove, the site of a tragic scam in 1879. A French con-man, Marquis de Rays (Charles Marie Bonaventure du Breil), lured colonists here to a supposed paradise where, instead, they found nothing but jungles and despair. One hundred settlers died here until the remaining 240 were repatriated to Australia in 1882.

The dance performances keep getting bigger and better. At our next stop, Lambon Island, 100 costumed dancers entertain us for an hour, among them men wearing "smoke stacks," tall head-dresses topped by smouldering coals.

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*A man wearing a 'smoke stack' at  
Lambton Island.*



*Active Mt Tavorvur seen from Duke of York, off Rabaul.*



*Having fun...kids swimming at Duke of York Island.*

The counterpoint to all this extraordinary Melanesian culture is our tranquil shipboard life: top-deck spa pool, evening cocktails, lectures on reef life, pidgin and volcanos, and more sumptuous meals.

On Duke of York Island, off Rabaul in East New Britain Province, I meet a local man called Judas. Not such a comfortable name to wear, I speculate, especially during Easter. "It's no problem," explains my PNG friend, Roger. "Because it's a Bible name, it's OK."

Christianity is, of course, a veneer on the far older, deeper animist traditions of these islands. In fact, as we land at Molot village on Duke of York, each of us is daubed on the face with lime paint to protect us from evil spirits.

Here, we witness a rarely seen "fish-trap" ceremony danced by men in full traditional face-paint and dress. Then, enroute back to Orion, we stop to dive on two World War II Japanese tanks lying eerily in the shallow lagoon waters.

Among these untrammelled islands of song, dance, sunsets, big-hearted locals and no ATMs, every day seems more intense with unexpected events than the day before. So it's fitting that our trip ends spectacularly.

As we sail into Rabaul, from the deck of the Orion we watch the fuming, rumbling might of Mt Tavorvur welcome us in with its kilometre-high volcanic plume.



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*Close-up view of active volcano, Mt Tavurvur.*



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*Villagers at Tufi put on one of the most spectacular cultural performances.*

# Cruising Goes Wild for Melanesia

**Once the domain of fearless National Geographic photojournalists, headhunters and god-fearing missionaries, Papua New Guinea and its Melanesian cousins are re-emerging as ideal adventure cruise destinations. RODERICK EIME sails off to see why.**



**L**ike fleeting shadows in the undergrowth, they moved silently and stealthily, occasionally stopping, half-hidden, to check the progress of our canoes along the narrow, mangrove-lined creek. Smearing head-to-toe with the thick volcanic mud and just a tiara of mangrove leaves as camouflage, we were being stalked. Were they looking for an opportunity to ambush us or just satisfying their curiosity?

Our pursuers reveal themselves in spectacular fashion. Leaping out from behind huge trees, they bring our party to a halt with incomprehensible, blood-curdling cries. From hidden vantage points within the undergrowth, saplings are hurled at us, some bouncing menacingly off the side of the canoes. Gasps of alarm are clearly heard from several passengers and muffled chatter comes from others as we try to interpret their apparently hostile intentions.

The traditional challenge, thankfully, is all part of the show put on for us today by the Tufi villagers. Tufi is one of the most spectacular cultural experiences in the country.

Set amid stunning tropical fjords, Tufi is only accessible by air or sea and renowned for its diving, trekking and rare orchids.



*Villagers in action at Watam village, near the mouth of the Sepik River. The village is a firm favourite among cruise vessels.*

For the next hour we are feted like visiting royalty, shown the convoluted process of sago extraction, ritual tattooing and treated to local ballads performed by a tiny choir of children with the voices of angels.

To most westerners, Papua New Guinea is an untamed land with an equally wild reputation. Yet why am I here on one of the world's acclaimed expedition cruise ships, surrounded by worldly and wise travellers who could just as easily be sipping Pinot Noir somewhere in the south of France?

This land of magic and mysticism, exotic cultures, mind-boggling rituals and 700-something unique languages is just 100 miles north of Australia. Visitors will quickly find the true essence of the Melanesians along the coastal fringe between Alotua in Milne Bay all the way to the mouth of the mighty Sepik River and across to volcano-ravaged Rabaul on New Britain island. They find a handsome, fascinating people of warm, heart-felt generosity with a deep respect for custom and tradition.

Shore visits to villages and islands are by tenders launched from the vessels and ferry visitors ashore a dozen at a time to be met by noisy welcoming committees of children and families with broad grins, sometimes with the trademark betel nut stains.



*Passengers prepare to go ashore at Watam.*



Relatively new to the scene, Tamil Islanders have embraced visiting cruise ships with their own brand of song and dance.



Visitors transfixed as Mt Tavurvur erupts.

You might think all this opulence is foreign out here on the edge of civilisation, but a hot shower and crisp lager is just the ticket after a day on the baking sand or trekking in the steamy jungle.

Hardcore adventure purists and Kokoda-trekkers may want to bunk down with all the jungle has to offer, but expedition cruising passengers have the opportunity to experience the impossible and unheard of while retreating to five-star comfort at day's end.



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The famous Mudmen of Goroka perform for passengers. This excursion is an Orion custom air charter from Madang.

Papua New Guinea may be the centre of Melanesian expedition cruising, but the new wave of adventure vessels are finding that their many repeat cruisers are looking to extend their experience or even return for second helpings.

Now, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia are bolstering the destination menu with ideal locations for ecologically sensitive and responsible cruise operators.

Gizo, Roderick Bay, Nendo Island, Santa Ana and Mangalona Island are just some of the shore visits experienced by visiting ships in the Solomon Islands.


Traditional dancing, scuba diving and snorkelling, arts and crafts are just some of the experiences sampled by the growing number of well-healed travellers eager to take home authentic souvenirs and memories of these fascinating islands.

Fiji tends to operate on its own with dedicated cruise lines such as Blue Lagoon, Captain Cook Cruises and Tui Tai Expedition Cruises offering boutique itineraries away from the busy big ship haunts to islands like Rabi, Kioa, Drudrua and Kavewa, as well as among the idyllic Yasawa group.

Preserving and encouraging local tradition and culture is an important facet in expedition cruising and it plays a vital role in helping

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remote communities retain these practices for themselves and the modern expedition traveller who has little interest in fake and contrived experiences. The many islands and vibrant communities throughout Melanesia are perfect examples of these genuine and authentic cultural attractions and will continue to draw visitors for as long as they remain so.

After another jam-packed day of snorkelling, kayaking and swaying to jungle rhythms, I jealously clutch my trophy, a gorgeous ebony carved mask delicately inlaid with mother-of-pearl as I make my way slowly back to the landing, nodding and shaking the many hands held out to me. On the returning tender, the monotone hum of the outboard motor and the warm tropical sun lolls me into a pleasant daydream. I'm ready for that beer!



• *The writer has made numerous visits to PNG and Melanesia and wishes to thank the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority, Orion Expedition Cruises, Coral Princess Cruises and Air Niugini for their assistance over the years.*



*Schoolchildren from tiny Witu Islands (Bismarck Archipelago) rejoice in a sing-sing for Coral Princess passengers who were so moved they began a school fund on the spot.*

## Fact File

### DOING IT

■ The luxury 4000 GRT, 106-passenger MV Orion operates year-round itineraries throughout the region including Australia's Kimberley, Arnhem Land, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, SE Asia and the Antarctic.  
[www.orionexpeditions.com](http://www.orionexpeditions.com)

■ At 2000 GRT and carrying 72 passengers, the Cairns-based Oceanic Discoverer operated by Coral Princess Cruises, was one of the first of these new wave of purpose-built vessels to offer regular itineraries to PNG and Melanesia. She made her maiden international voyage from Cairns to Alotau in 2005 and has visited every year since.  
[www.coralprincess.com.au](http://www.coralprincess.com.au)

■ The multi-award winning True North, operated by Broome-based North Star Cruises, is certainly one of the more adventurous vessels. At just 740 GRT and carrying 36 passengers, True North is the only vessel to cruise with a full-time helicopter. Small and nimble, she will often get much closer to the action than her larger competitors.  
[www.northstarcruises.com.au](http://www.northstarcruises.com.au)

■ PNG itineraries typically depart either Cairns (AU) or Rabaul (PNG) and include Tufi, Tami Islands, Madang, Sepik River, Trobriand Islands, D'Entrecasteaux Islands, Milne Bay and Duke of York Islands. Extensions to wider Melanesia often travel via the Louisiade Archipelago, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu with disembarkation in Noumea or even Auckland.



*Captain Steffen Friedrich enjoys a joke on the bridge of Orion.*

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**Milne Bay province is well-known for many reasons. Situated at the southern-most tip of Papua New Guinea, its breathtaking seascape dotted with emerald islands makes it a natural magnet for marine sports lovers such as divers, fishermen and sailors.**

**The people are seasoned seafarers who traded in the traditional Kula expeditions, travelling miles in magnificent sailing canoes to barter for food items, clay pots and other necessities.**



# Canoe Festival Sails On In Alotau

BY EURALIA PAINE

**W**ith every gesture and act of friendship was born a link in the Kula ring. Shell money known as “bagi” and “mwali” were the legal tender in those days. A “bagi” or “mwali” was used to even buy land or a bride. The shell money continues to be used, albeit rarely, for certain exchanges particularly of cultural significance.

To commemorate the Kula voyages and to keep their customs alive, the Milne Bay Canoe Festival was born six years ago. And what better place to stage this annual festival than on the northern shore of Milne Bay in Alotau, the provincial capital!

From November 6 to 8 last year, the

township’s population of about 12,000 was boosted by people who flocked to the sleepy little town to witness and participate in an event that is gaining popularity every year.

The canoe festival is not just about canoes nor is it about racing. The need to weave the significance of the cultures of the Kula trading ring into the three-day event was obvious. Visitors were not disappointed to see traditional dance groups performing side by side with youth theatremee and string bands.

In the festival programme distributed to visitors, the organisers explained that: “The Milne Bay canoes were traditionally used for purposes other than racing and this has



Dancer from neighbouring Oro Province.



got to be reflected in this year's festival. "It is very important that we display and reflect not only an experience during this festival but also shed a bit of light on the way we live and do things when it comes to canoeing; because that in essence, is who we are."

A whole week was spent assembling canoes that sailed from the islands and various villages along the coast plus two from other provinces.

The Epepeoa (Epoi) from Esa-ala; decked Sailau from Dawson Island; non-decked Sailau from Samarai Island; Sailau from Paneati; Kukakuka from Wedau; Lopo from Alotau and the Nagega were amongst the notable canoes. Many of the participants lodged at the Festival Village which was built with thatched sago roof and timber near the Alotau market.

A total of 50 canoes and about 1000

participants registered for the festival including one canoe from Tufi in the Oro Province and another from Buka in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

A traditional welcome ceremony began in the early hours on Friday 6th November in accordance with the canoe culture of Milne Bay. Like other societies in PNG, Milne Bay province is steeped in rich ritual environment



Traditional dancers from Rabaraba.



*Sailing and warrior canoes participate in the Canoe Festival.*

bound by strict protocols. It is one of the few provinces that has a matrilineal society with land owned by women and passed down the generations through the female lineage. However, men lead the way during festivities, ritual and ceremonial practices.

The haunting sound of the conch shell beckoned the transportation of pigs from nearby Rabe village to Alotau. The pigs were presented as gifts by the host villagers on the mainland to the visitor canoes that travelled from afar to participate in the festival.

After that, the conch shells remained silent while the traditional Kula canoes were welcomed in the Kula way strictly under the Kula protocol and custom.

The other canoes followed suit and pig distribution as a gesture of appreciation was conducted by the Rabe dancers under their own protocol.

The highlight of the morning was the arrival of the dignitaries led by the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Grand Chief Sir Paulias Matane, on a Nagega canoe escorted by the Lopo (dugout war canoes) from Cameron club.

Highly animated dancers greeted the dignitaries at the Festival village with enthusiasm and spear throwing, daring the visitors to a challenge. The spear lodged itself in the thatched roof of the VIP hut proving that the rousing welcome had indeed left an indelible impression.

Speeches marked the official opening of the festival before the day's events unfolded. With the strong south-easterlies blowing onshore, sailors grappled with masts and skillfully dodged the white caps to announce their arrival. The long dugouts seemed equally as fierce as the charcoal-painted warriors who paddled them in rhythmic synchronicity to race to the shore.

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The significance of a canoe is recognised from the time a tree is selected, felled and dug out; to the way it performs on the ocean. The Panaeti islanders demonstrated this aptly in the "Waga Hilugwale", an initiation ritual done to christen a newly-built Sailau. Re-enactment of a war raid on a coastal village; exhibition of various paddling techniques; exhibition of loading procedures for a Kula voyage; laments and chants of the Kula voyage; and canoe races from Alotau to Gwalili village on the southern side of Milne Bay were also the order of the day.

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At K5.00, visitors could get a joy-ride on specified canoes. As is the custom of certain areas, women and children were not allowed within close proximity of some of the canoes.

On Saturday evening, those who were able to, attended the Canoe Festival Ball at the Alotau International Hotel to taste the local cuisine prepared in traditional claypots and served in coconut leaf baskets. Heavy rain didn't dampen the spirits of the party revellers who moved into the Conference Room from the hotel waterfront.

Meanwhile, back at the Festival Village, the Totem Night took place under the cover of thatched sago palm roofs. Every Milne Bay person belongs to a clan and every clan has a totem in the form of species of trees, birds, sea life or reptile.

Each totem is associated with rituals and taboos. During the totem Night, people were invited to meet and greet others who may share the same totem species such as a bird or tree.

The final festival day was dedicated to exchanging of gifts and food baskets between traditional Kula trading partners and between new found friends. The charm of such age-old traditions is quintessentially Milne Bay, and makes the Canoe Festival a must-see event.

Undoubtedly, it is also the genuine warmth and generous spirit of the people that make Milne Bay a magical place.



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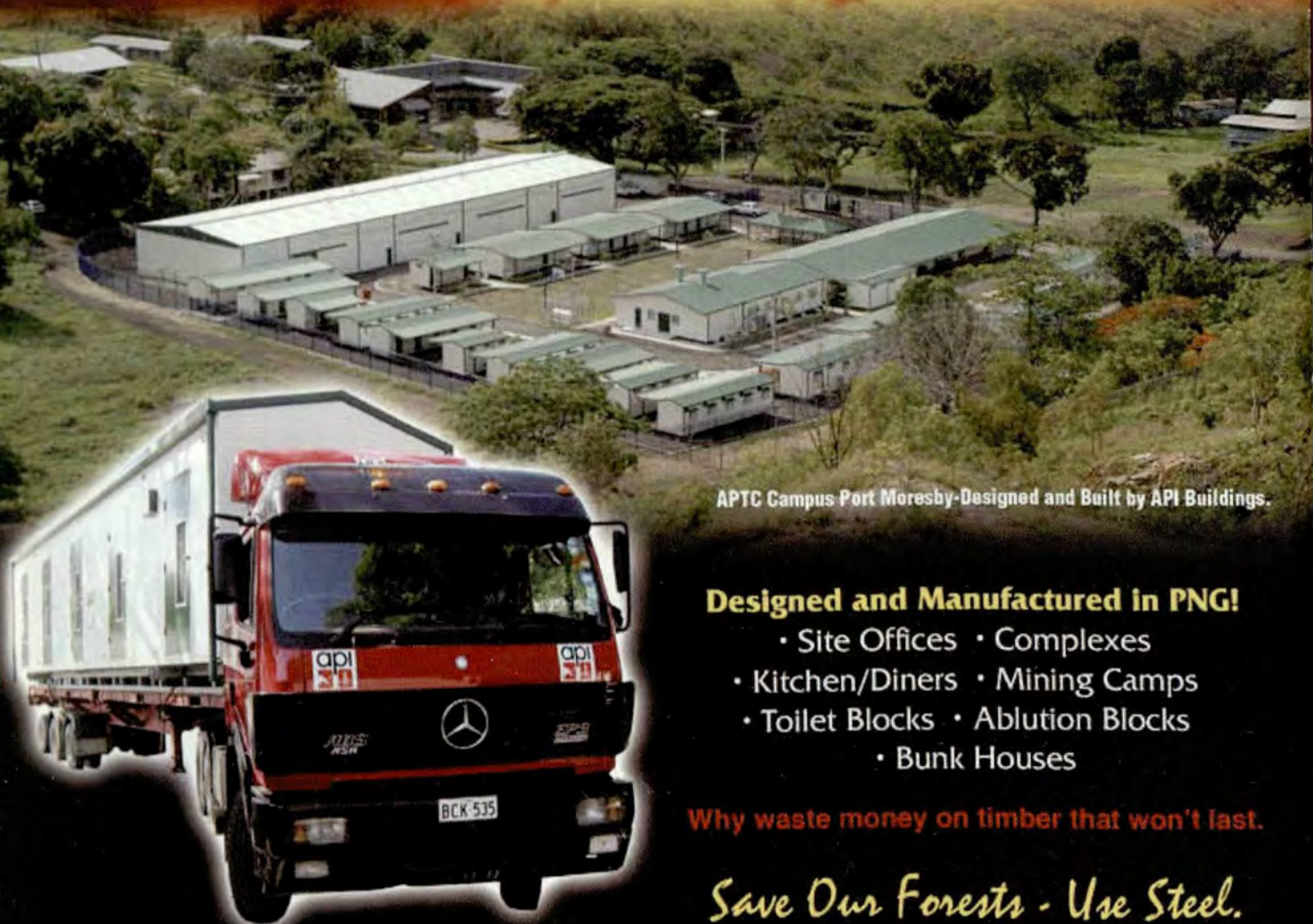
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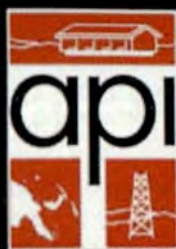
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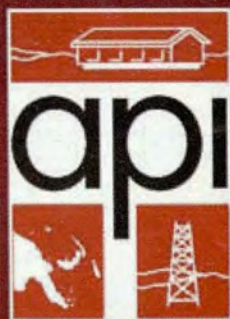


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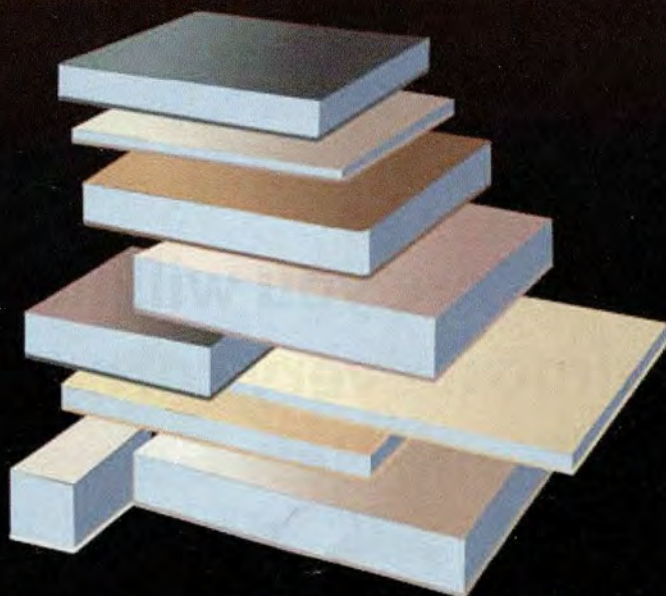
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# Island Life

**“Forget the underwater shots - make sure you get me a photo of the parrot,” Nina Joost of Diversion Dive Travel, Cairns, jokingly told BOB HALSTEAD after organising his trip to Lissenung Island at Kavieng.**



*Bob Halstead meets the parrot.*

One of the most annoying questions I get when I was captain of PNG's Telita dive boat - and usually in the middle of a tricky manoeuvre requiring all my concentration - was "how many kinds of parrots are there in this area?" This, along with "how high is that mountain over there?" and "what am I going to see on the next dive?", were eventually banned to preserve my declining sanity.

Memories from Monty Python imaged a stiff, "just resting", lifeless bird I'd have to prop up on my shoulder with wire and duct tape. Well, blow me down, I think I'm going to shoot fish and aircraft wrecks, not parrots! But what I actually say is, "Sure thing Nina, I'll email it to you".

At short notice, Nina had obtained a splendidly cheap Air Niugini fare departing Cairns late morning with a same day connecting flight to Kavieng, just two degrees south of the equator. The flight went via Rabaul so I had a thrilling chance to see the volcano that has been erupting since 1994.

Air Niugini was on time, accepted my extra 15-kilogramme free baggage for dive gear, and after a look-down at Osprey Reef in the Coral Sea, we were soon landing in Port Moresby. It is just an 80-minute flight. The



*All set to go? Angie Amon (white t-shirt)... checks the dive boat departure.*

PNG immigration and customs officers were their usual friendly, welcoming selves, and I was happy to be back in PNG.

On my domestic flight to Kavieng, Rabaul's volcano was shooting ash a thousand feet in the air and our Fokker 100 jet made a turn-around and the plume provided a magnificent view.

Graham from the island's resort greeted me and drove me to the dock. Peni, the legendary dive guide, skippered the boat to Lissening Island. We three had a pleasant banter as I dusted off my rusty Tok Pisin.

The Lissening Island Resort was built by Dietmar Amon, who came to PNG in 1996. His wife Ange greeted me on the beach and showed me to my ensuite cabin. I was expecting something humble, but the resort has upgraded to six charming ensuite duplex cabins, plus one budget cabin, and I was very comfortable.

They have 24-hour power, fan ventilation, insect screening, and blissful peaceful tropical nights. No screaming kids - there is a minimum age for guests unless the whole resort is booked.

The cabins are spread out in the tropical gardens and the pathways are laid in soft white sand that is raked daily. It is not necessary to wear shoes. Convenient washbowls



*Graham, Peni and Silas in the dive shop.*

are arranged to avoid bringing sand into the rooms. Life here is a setting straight out of a Somerset Maugham story. Dining is more than a meal. Tropical fare, often with fresh fish and a selection of wines, induce conversations with fellow travellers.

Characters with exotic pasts congregate in shared joviality. One guest always ducked if I raised my camera. Another whose home is in Europe was in remote wilderness out of reach of a searching wife. Yet another, well, my lips are sealed! All loved life and thirsted for adventure.

The staff members were extraordinarily attentive and made the island lifestyle special. When I draped a damp shirt over a low palm to dry in the sun and forgot about it until it started to rain, I did not need to rush to save it, a gardener had already sheltered it on my verandah.

Dive guides and boat handlers are enthusiastic, helpful and on time, and instructor Nozaki is full of fun - and she can cook too!

Dive sites were discussed in the evening and booked for the next day. I particularly wanted to dive two aircraft wrecks that I failed to discover when I was operating Telita in Kavieng waters.

"Deep Pete" is a Japanese biplane in 37 metres of clear water, and "Stubborn Hellion" is an American B25 in, shall we say, visibility challenged water near mangroves. I was able to dive both, plus old favourites - the fabulous Albatross Pass and Planet Channel - with several other good reefs - and the house reef.

Frankly, most "house reefs" are pretty ordinary and I was not expecting much, so, just to do my duty and check it out, I went for an afternoon snorkel. Oh boy! Within a few metres, I had bumped into schools of snapper, reefs spotting both hard and soft corals and sea fans, and plenty of interesting critters. The next day, even though the reef is shallow, 10 metres maximum, I got a tank and dived it properly. Visibility was clear enough and it was well worth the effort. It is a popular and easy night dive.

Amon has a fine diver's eye for critters and has discovered a new species of allied cowry at Lissening on a sea fan. It is proudly named *Archivolva lisseningensis*. He also discovered an olive shell that has



*Rooms in tropical garden setting.*



*Broken tail of 'Deep Pete'.*



'Deep Pete' propeller in sand

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House Reef at Lissening.



been named after him, Janaoliva amoni. Their dive map boasts 35 dive sites accessible from the island. Several fast boats are available and the drivers and dive guides load up all your gear stored (and washed) at the dive shop.

Recent news is that some exceptional dive sites are to be added to the itinerary. These include the wreck of the Sanko Maru - a midjet submarine discovered from Telita when we first dived here in 1987 - and the famous Chapman's Reef, another of our discoveries, with its ringed barracudas featured in the April 1988 issue of the National Geographic.

Lissening's large dive boat Andiamo can take 10 divers for the longer cruise to Three Islands Harbour with a stay at Clement's guesthouse "Islands Escapade". A two-night stay allows four dives at these extraordinary sites, previously only accessible by live-aboard.

Diving is the most popular activity at Lissening. But if you do not dive, you can learn or go fishing, or surfing, make village tours, have a romantic holiday, get married - or even photograph the parrot! He is just part of the menagerie, and confused. He is very much alive and beautiful - but the dogs do the singing. Chivas and Missy start a chorus every time a boat turns up, but unfortunately neither can hold a tune nor sing in harmony. Yes, they are pop music fans. Perhaps that is why the parrot is silent. Some parrot! It can't even chant "Pieces of Eight!"

• Bob and Dinah Halstead are pioneers of dive tourism in PNG - bob@halsteaddiving.com

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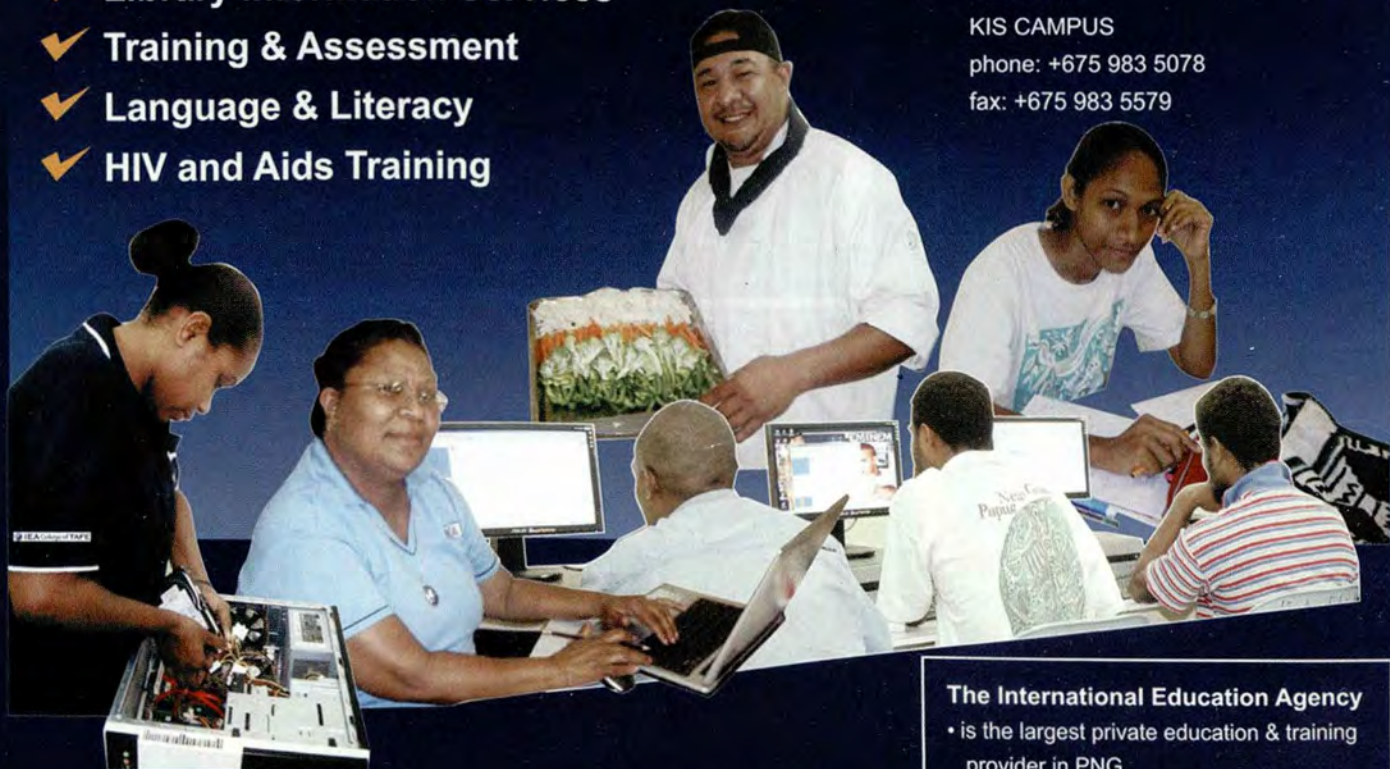
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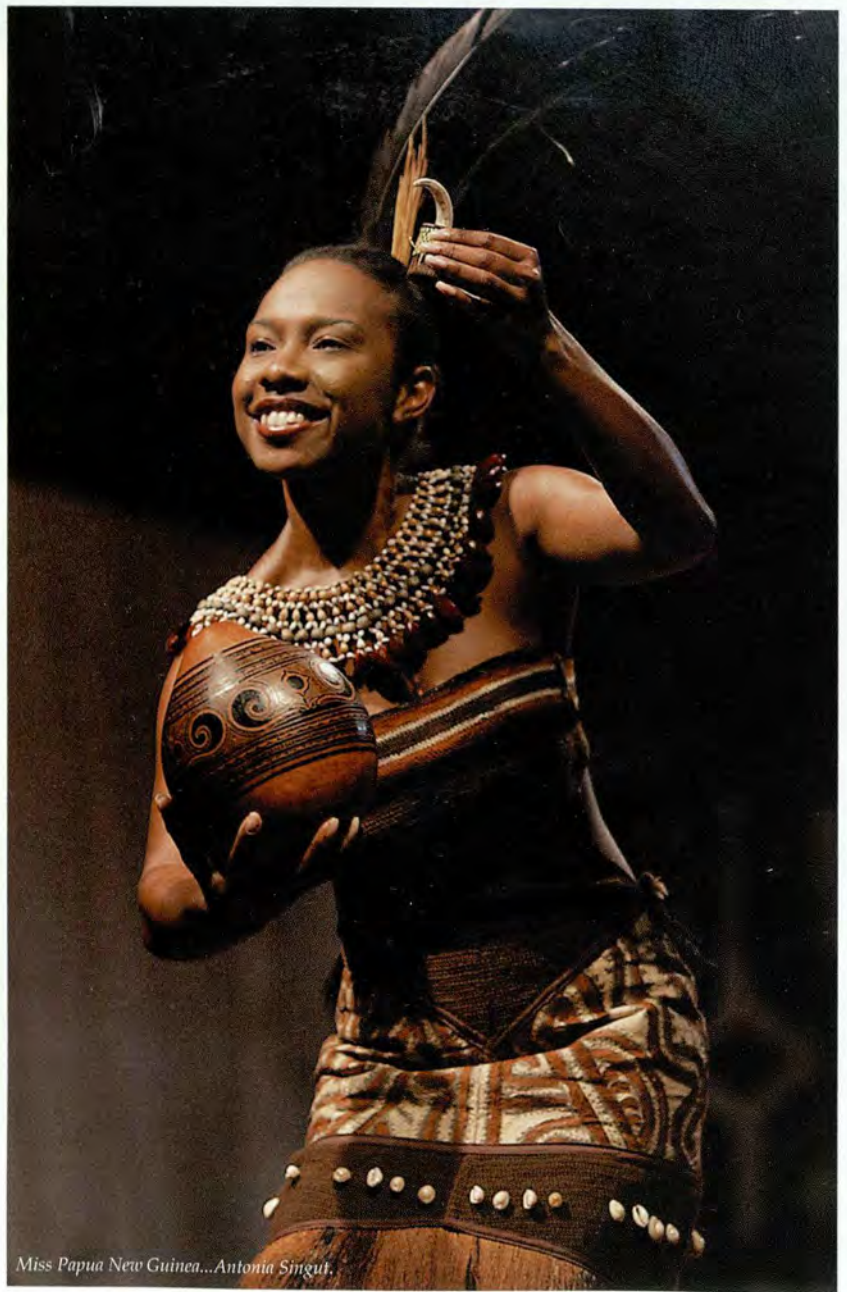
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*Fiji's Mere Nailatikau in traditional dress.*



*Crowning glory...Fiji's Mere Nailatikau crowned 2009 Miss South Pacific by the 2008 Miss South Pacific, Vanessa Marsh of Niue.*



*Miss Papua New Guinea...Antonia Singul.*

# PNG Hosts 2010 Miss South Pacific Pageant

**F**

or the first time in its 24-year history, Papua New Guinea will host the Miss South Pacific Pageant in November.

Founded in 1986 by the government of Samoa, the annual pageant has grown into a regional event that recognises and promotes the attributes, intelligence, talents, culture and tradition of young Pacific Islands women.

Further, it uniquely promotes the South

Pacific and its holiday traditions. This marks the second year that a Melanesian nation will host the event following Fiji's turn last November.

Reigning Miss South Pacific, Fiji's Merewalesi Nailatikau, is excited about visiting Papua New Guinea for the festivities. And it's not just to hand over the crown to the South Pacific's next ambassador. Until she was six, Nailatikau



Thank you for your support...the South Pacific beauties waving to the crowd. Photos: Isabelle Dina

grew up in a little Papuan New Guinea highland town called Sopas where her parents served as medical missionaries.

"I've never been back since then and have always wanted to return someday, so this would be a "homecoming" of sorts for me," she says.

As the reigning Miss South Pacific, Nailatikau's duties include putting in appearances at the Pacific Pavilion at the Shanghai 2010 World Expo in China.

But what she's most excited about is "returning" to Papua New Guinea to pass on the baton to her successor in November.

Twenty-five-year-old Nailatikau beat 11

other contestants from fellow Pacific Islands nations to be crowned the region's newest ambassador in the Fijian capital Suva last November.

She dedicated her win to the people of the South Pacific while simultaneously raising the issue of climate change.

"We must let the world know that a threat to one of us is a threat to the entire South Pacific.

"No matter your race or culture, if you call the South Pacific home, you love this place and you want to work hard to make it a better place, I dedicate this to you."

• For more information please contact [admin@misssouthpacificpng.com](mailto:admin@misssouthpacificpng.com)

Third runner-up...Millicent Barty of the Solomon Islands.



Some of the Pacific beauties (from left): Mere Nailatikau (Fiji), Paretaunu Tuhi Tuhi Randall (Aotearoa/New Zealand), Antonia Singut (Papua New Guinea), and Engara Gosselin (Cook Islands).



In May 1910, Westpac Bank PNG, then known as the Bank of New South Wales, opened the first commercial bank in Port Moresby. Six weeks later, another branch was opened at Samarai (pictured) in response to increasing shipping and trade through the China Strait.

**I**t was 1910, and business was booming for Burns Philp, a successful company in Port Moresby and a customer of the Bank of New South Wales, now known as Westpac.


In the absence of a bank in Papua New Guinea, Burns Philp found themselves providing banking services. The catch was they were not bankers, and eager to concentrate on their core business, they were keen to hand over all banking responsibilities to the Bank of New South Wales.

As the story goes, two young men - Mr Pickering and Mr Sefton - were excited as they sailed into Port Moresby harbour to join the 300 Europeans living in Papua New Guinea at the time. Bringing banking to Papua New Guinea, they opened the Bank of New South Wales' first branch in Douglas Street, Port Moresby, on 10 May 1910.


Six weeks later, another branch was opened at Samarai in response to increasing shipping and trade through the China Strait, and so the growth continued with agencies and branches opening in Rabaul (1926), Kavieng (1927), Salamaua (1929), Wau (1933) Madang (1937)

# A Century of Banking

Nearly 100 years ago, two young men sailed into Port Moresby harbour to open the first commercial bank in Papua New Guinea. In doing so, they laid the foundations for a relationship that has weathered floods, volcanic eruptions, a world war, and has been an integral part of the country's move to independence.



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and Boroko (1955). As Papua New Guinea has grown, Westpac has always been there. They opened branches in Wau and Bulolo to support the early gold mining and a branch at Mt Hagen to service new agricultural industries. They were there when the volcanoes erupted not once but three times in Rabaul in 1937, 1945 and 1994, and they were there when the country was invaded.

### Along came the war

World War II brought an abrupt end to banking services in Papua New Guinea. The 29 Wales expatriate bankers who were in Papua New Guinea when the war broke out suddenly found themselves on the front line.

Some made their way to Australia bringing valuable banking records and cash, others enlisted with the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, a few were never seen again.

Wau Bank Manager Bob Byrne was granted special leave by the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles to accompany the bank records and about Stg 1900 in notes to Port Moresby and onto Australia.

The coins, which were too heavy to transport, were locked in the strong room. The plane "Faith of Australia" was hastily reassembled. There was no time for testing, but Byrne safely arrived in Port Moresby on 25 January 1942.

Despite his clearance to travel, Byrne was arrested by military police and escorted back to Wau, where he joined his colleagues in the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles. Before returning to Wau, Byrne arranged for the bank records and notes to be transferred to Brisbane, ensuring that customers who had evacuated from New Guinea were able to access their records and to continue their banking relationship.

In July 1942, Byrne received urgent instructions from the military to open the Wau strongroom as the silver was needed to pay the New Guinea carriers who supplied the cargo to the local commando unit.



*A customer of Westpac's Goroko Branch proudly displays his new Bank of New South Wales' Sesqui-Centenary pass book in April 1967.*

"We want to pay our carriers - the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels - but they won't take notes," said Major Fleay, commanding officer of the Kanga Force.

With no keys, the only solution was to break into the safe. Using an oxy-acetylene torch, it took five hours to break into the stronghold and the carriers were paid.

When the war ended, Westpac immediately returned to Papua New Guinea with their bank records and rebuilt their branches, many of which had been completely destroyed.

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Betty Higgins, winner of the Daltron Entrepreneur Award and overall winner of the 2009 Westpac Women in Business Awards (middle), proudly accepts her award from Jane Kittel, General Manager, Pacific Banking and Governor Poves Parkop (right) of the National Capital District, Port Moresby.

Since 1910 Westpac has provided banking services and financial training and education to thousands of people throughout the country.

Customers have moved from passbook accounts with "make your mark" signatures, where they signed with a X and had a photograph in their passbook as identification,

to using internet banking, credit cards and ATMs to access their accounts from around the country and across the globe.

Since Westpac opened its first branch, it has been more than just a bank, it's been part of the community. Taking an active role in the ongoing development of Papua New Guinea, Westpac has embedded community

involvement into their business model, so that it has become part of their business culture.

Westpac are proud run the annual Westpac Women in Business Awards, which highlight the outstanding contribution women make to the development of Papua New Guinea. Now in their third year, the Awards have lead to the development of a Women's Business Network to progress the vital role of women in business.

"Winning the Westpac Women in Business Award is a lifetime achievement. Living in a remote village, operating two businesses and knowing they are both sustainable, I always had hope.

"I had a vision that Papua New Guinea will develop and it will be people like me who lay the foundation for future generations," said Betty Higgins, winner of the Daltron Entrepreneur Award and overall winner of the 2009 Westpac Women in Business Awards.

"My message to other women is that it can be tough, hard and conditions can be bad, but do not give up. Always have hope. Remember, it is our country. Each and every one of us has to contribute to the development of the nation," Higgins concluded.

Today, there are nearly 380 Westpac Bank-PNG employees serving customers through Westpac's business operations and network of 16 branches across the country.



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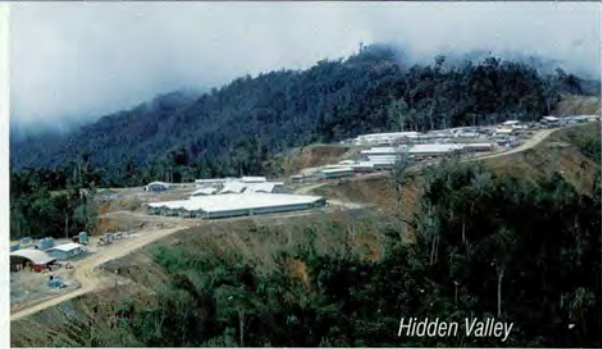
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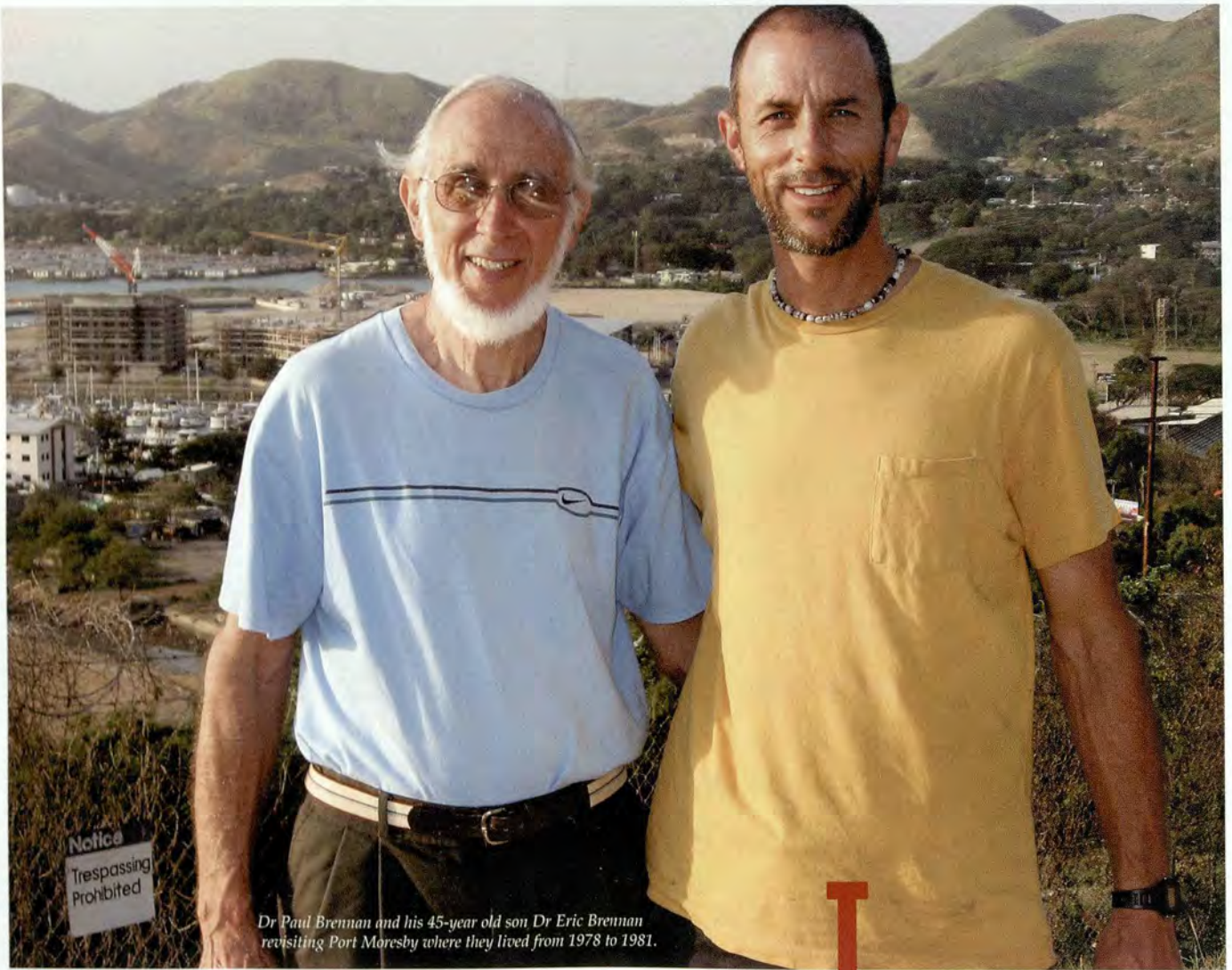
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*Dr Paul Brennan and his 45-year old son Dr Eric Brennan revisiting Port Moresby where they lived from 1978 to 1981.*

# On the Go

## PNG, 28 years later

**When one returns to a hallowed ground after a long absence, those first steps back are very important. It was therefore not a thoughtless process when my son and I returned to our adopted land after 28 years abroad.**

BY PAUL BRENNAN

**I**n 1981, our family departed Papua New Guinea after 13 years of rich memories and indelible impressions.

Then it was a farewell with tears of sadness. Now, it was a reunion with sheer joy as we descended the plane ramp...first the right foot, then pulling back, following with the left - a kind of respectful ritual that lets any observer know this is not mundane.

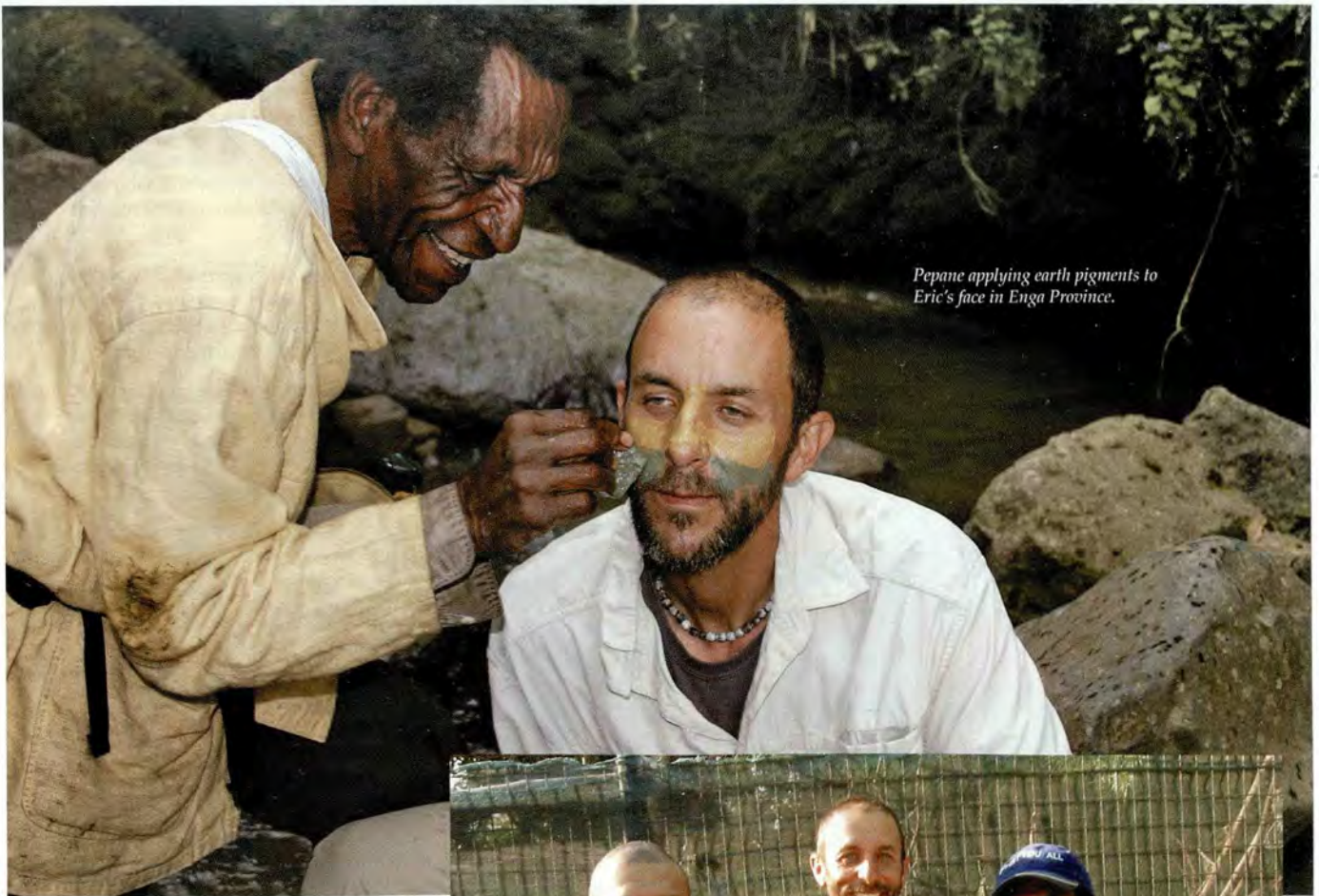
The assembled musicians serenaded us with voices and guitars - never mind that we couldn't understand Motu.

It was a welcoming party of the highest order, especially when they opened rank to let me blend my voice with theirs. We were back, and their smiles, music and body language all embraced our homecoming.

Our return in September was prompted especially by the invitation from the Enga Province for me to participate in the opening of the Enga Cultural Centre.

My son, now 45, couldn't miss such a golden opportunity to "tag along", so boarded Air Niugini's flight with me in Brisbane.

He was only four when we first arrived in 1968; then, in his childish exuberance after landing on the tarmac in Port Moresby, exclaimed



*Pepane applying earth pigments to Eric's face in Enga Province.*

while looking out the window, "O boy, black kids!"

So it was for the next 13 years, first in the Enga Province, and then the last three years in Port Moresby. Whom might we find? What might we see? What would our impressions be? The next two weeks would provide all the answers and more.

Anyone accustomed to traffic like we who live in America, is struck immediately upon arriving with the feet going in many directions. PNG is a nation on the move, and the pedestrian traffic provides the mobility.

Certainly, the cars, trucks and buses ply the major roadways, but it's the "wokabaut" that makes things move. The sealed roads are busier now than ever - most have been widened and impressive new routes have been added.

But it's the feet that carry the bulk of the cargo; from sun up to sun down, children are going to school, women are off to their gardens, men are in pursuit of jobs. Everyone seems to have a destination, though it's likely the unemployed are seeking whatever opportunity that might develop.

With all of this footwear shuffling back and forth, it's not surprising, then, that the shoe cobbler trade has, so to speak, taken off. These ambitious, hard-working men position themselves alongside the market places, and, while you wait, will repair your slippers,



*Eric with former swim club members Warwick Vele (left) and Bena Ork (right).*

shoes, sandals, boots, whatever you might be wearing.

They carry everything their trade demands - thread, needles, rubber inner tubing, glues and little stools for work benches. They don't tell you to come back in two weeks. But trust them, in an hour they'll be done...all for maybe three to five kina!

They aren't your typical shoeshine boys because in the tropics, shining is not primarily what you're looking for!

With all of the foot traffic going on, it's impressive to see as well, the friendly energy that extends to the face. Pleasant greetings and friendly banter accompany most encounters, even among total stranger - a

trait solidly intact in the context of widespread change.

On the sidewalks and in the market places, in public vehicles and stores, you are greeted warmly and your conversation is welcomed.

Like a hand in a soft glove, Papua New Guineans usually take the initiative to be hospitable and supportive. Many teeth may now be stained by betelnut, but their smiles reveal an openness and easy-going manner.

They are not put off by questions or picture-taking, but actually are complimented should you desire to so engage; after a few minutes of sharing - especially about family and children - rapport is quickly established, followed by a handshake or an embrace.



Dr Paul Brennan with sons of artist Kauage (now deceased).

Many were the offers to carry my bag, to keep me from falling, to let me sit in the place of honour, to give me the first opportunity to speak. Nowhere did we come across rudeness or even arrogance.

Among the Engans we were given gifts based on past and loyal friendships. Only in a few exceptional cases were ulterior motives attached to them.

Such was this behaviour inherited solidly from the past; we remembered it and were duly impressed that it had not succumbed to either further education or western influence.

If there are two words that remain firmly tied to traditional vocabulary, they are the words "go" and "come" - the two verbs that appear to have accompanied the combined actions of walking and friendliness.

Like a verbal couplet, they speak of "going" and "coming". In some languages (like Enga), they were the closest expression to a formal greeting like "hello" and "goodbye".

I was struck once again with how well preserved these handy labels are; everywhere we walked we heard them used.

"Where are you going?" or "where have you come from?" are not so much inquiries as they are greetings or conversation starters. They certainly are not intended to pry or intrude.



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Photo by Jason Pini

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*Kalibobo bamboo band performing in Port Moresby in 1978. The group sold more than 10,000 albums popularising this style of music.*

# Bamboo Bands Mark an Era in Madang Music

BY PATRICK MATBOB

**If you attend an important event or a social occasion in Madang province today, you may still be entertained by a bamboo band.**

**Bamboo band music was a major feature of the province in the 70s up until the mid 80s when this style of music faded into silence. At one stage, the province was identified with bamboo band music rivalling places like Bougainville and the Solomon Islands, where the style of music had its origins.**

**B**amboo music, however, is not foreign to Madang. The province is rich with abundant bamboo species that have numerous other uses apart from music. In the past, Madang had a variety of traditional bamboo music from some of its 164 language groups. Two distinct forms of traditional bamboo music are still found along the north coast and inland river areas and the hinterlands south of the province. The northern villagers used the large bamboo flutes in the sacred music associated with spirits while those in the south stamp hollowed bamboo trunks on the ground while dancing. Smaller v-notched bamboo flutes and the jaws harp are also popular bamboo music instruments used throughout the area.

The modern bamboo bands were introduced to the province by Bougainville students at the Madang Teachers College in the early 70s. The bands consisted of guitars, ukuleles and sets of bamboos that accompanied the singing. The villages nearest to the college were first to use bamboos in their string bands.

The recordings of the Madang Teacher College bamboo band were made popular by Radio Madang and it was not long before the style of music began spreading to outlying villages.

The original bands were simple using limited bamboos in single sets and the player struck the bamboos with rubber thongs accompanying the guitars. In Madang, it was mainly the Bel language villages that



*Riwto bamboo band performing for visitors to the village.*



*Siar village bamboo band musicians show that they still have it.*

produced most of the bamboo band music. Groups from villages like Siar, Riwo, Malmal and Bilia did recordings with Radio Madang and the emerging commercial music studios. Other music groups in the outlying districts began adding bamboos to their string bands and soon the style of music became popular throughout the province.

The 1970s was also the decade of independence and there were many occasions of celebrations which helped to promote bamboo bands. There were string band competitions and independence song contests, as well as celebrations of important political and social events. Two bamboo band groups from Madang stood out significantly during that period. The Melanesian Bamboo Band was the popular resident band of the Madang Resort and it had wide exposure performing at the resort or on the resort's tour vessels.

The other group was actually formed out of the province in 1978 by Madang students attending Sogeri National High School. The Kalibobo bamboo band was formed as part of the cultural curriculum promoted at the school and entertained at various venues in Port Moresby. Kalibobo is the popular local name for the coast watchers' memorial in Madang. The band did a recording with NBC studios in Port Moresby in 1979 which sold more than 10,000 copies earning the group a golden award.

Two songs made popular by the bamboo bands were September 16 which was a song

about independence and Wanpela Liklik Meri which was a light-hearted tale about a girl who enjoyed the bamboo band music so much on a PMV bus that she missed getting home. These groups did a lot to promote bamboo band music in Madang and thus the province began to be identified with this style of music.

As the years progressed, variations of the bamboo rhythms began to emerge as more bamboos were added to the bamboo sets and the numbers of sets were increased. The rhythms were based on the variations of the popular rock and blues bass runs and it seemed the bamboo bands were set to develop further. However, Madang did not progress down the same path like the bamboo bands in the Solomon Islands and on Bougainville.

In the early eighties another style of music began to hit the airwaves of PNG. These were the electric bands, commonly known in the country as pawa ben (power band), mostly playing cover versions of popular rock and country music. The pawa bens had existed well before the eighties in many parts of the country however, only few of the groups did any recordings. The early recordings were done on vinyl records and were not widely available throughout the country. But as technology developed, cassette tapes and portable tape recorders came on the market and that also helped recording studios to flourish in the country.

In Madang interest in pawa ben music

began to grow following similar trends nationwide. Groups such as the YC and Tusbab High school bands, Kanagioi Brothers, Minofrets, Kool Figures and Idmon came on the scene. The Tumbuna Track studio was also established in the town and began concentrating on recording the pawa bens which were becoming popular. Tumbuna Track also promoted locally composed songs as opposed to cover versions of popular western songs. Early recordings of groups like Old Dog and The Offbeats, Kales and later Wali Hits which had major hit songs on radio shifted the interest to the pawa bands. Of course, the CHM Supersound programme on EMTV that promoted popular PNG music also played a role in developing an interest in pawa bens. Musicians also saw there was money to be made in this form of music through the sales of their recordings.

In the meantime, the bamboo bands fell silent as the aging musicians of the 70s and 80s stopped performing and settled down. There are still a few places such as the Madang Resort where the Melanesian bamboo band remains a popular feature, providing the long established tradition for the guests.

Today, the bamboo band musicians of the past still live in the villages and occasionally get requests to perform. When they regroup, they simply identify themselves as the 'golden oldies' and entertain with the music of an era that marked the end of colonialism and the beginning of a new future.





# The Wonders of Wine Tasting

## Swill, sniff, sip, spit

BY SUSAN EAMES

**Swill, sniff, sip, spit. A professional wine taster follows this sequence when tasting, checking and blending the vintages. However, I quickly discovered that for any visitor on a wine tasting tour: swill, sniff, sip, swallow is allowed!**

**F**rench wine is renowned throughout the world and wine tours have always been popular with visitors to the country. France is said to be the highest producer of wines, averaging 7 to 8 billion bottles every year. Wine regions are scattered around the country and some date back as far as 600 BC.

On 3rd September 1907, a decree in France declared their legal definition of wine as the "alcoholic fermentation of fresh grapes or of fresh grape juice".

With strong motivation to maintain their reputation against competition from other European countries and new world producers



*Ripened grapes ready for harvest.*



The city's strategic position on the Dordogne River was of great benefit. Barrels were shipped down river by freight carrying "Gabarres" - flat bottomed river barges. In Bergerac today reproduction Gabarres run river trips on the Dordogne.

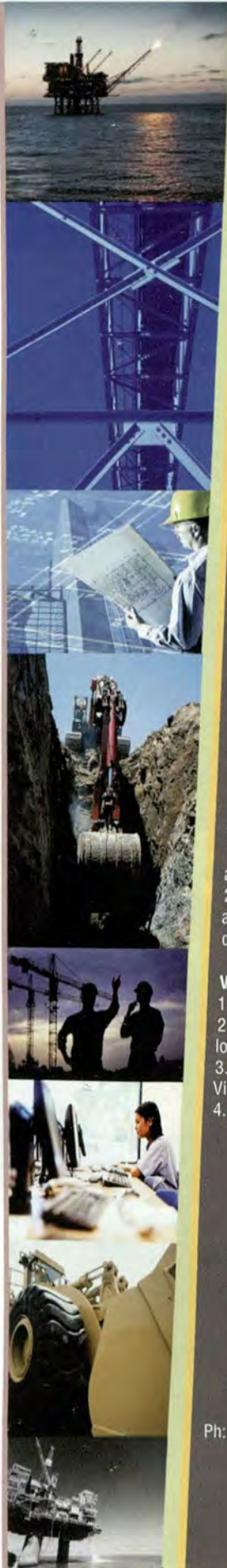
I joined a trip which leaves from the Port de Cadouin in Bergerac; the site of an eleventh century castle. A huge flood in 1615 which saw the Dordogne rise by 14 metres (about 45 feet) devastated the castle and it was demolished a few years later. The castle was flanked by two ports and the old slipways are still in evidence. The present Port of Cadouin was constructed in 1848.

like California, Australia and South America, French winemakers have had to adapt to new technologies. Protective of their origins, the use of specific terms such as Burgundy, Bordeaux and Champagne, now only apply to wines from those specific areas.

I explored the wine industry in Bergerac - an area just east of Bordeaux. Although not as well-known for its wines as its famous neighbour, I swiftly discovered that Bergerac can hold its own when it comes to producing quality wine.

The Bergerac area has been producing wines since the thirteenth century. In 1254, Henry III of England gave special dispensation to the Bergerac wine producers which allowed them to sell their vintages toll and tax free at the ports of Libourne and Bordeaux, and tax free in England. The result of these privileges was an increase in the wine trade that greatly boosted the economy of Bergerac.





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*Grapes begin to ripen.*

From the river aspect, the town of Bergerac displays some beautiful old buildings, including the slate covered towers which surmount the former residence of the Kings of France and the former cloister of Recollets which now houses the CIVRB: the Interprofessional Council for the Wines of the Region of Bergerac.

The region produces 650,000 hectolitres of wine. Some 1,200 wine growers cultivate 12,300 hectares of land. Of these, 45 percent are independent growers and rest belong to a co-operative.

Wine tours are a popular pastime for visitors to Bergerac. The chance to explore the glorious French countryside, visit some of the fabulous chateaus and indulge in a little wine tasting is irresistible to many.

*Gabarres run river trips on the Dordogne.*





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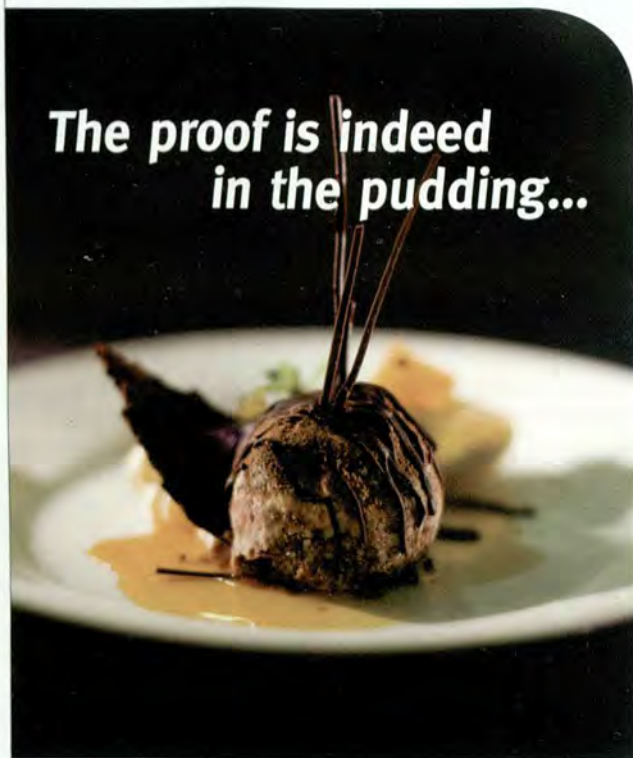


The Chateau de Monbazillac...perched on a hillside with sweeping views across miles of countryside.

I visited the picture-postcard sixteenth century Chateau de Monbazillac, perched on a hillside with sweeping views across miles of countryside. The Chateau has changed ownership more than ten times over the centuries. It was purchased by the Co-operative of Monbazillac in 1960.

Before I got involved in the wine tasting, I toured the Chateau. I found salons furnished with seventeenth century furniture, finely decorated ceilings, ornate fireplaces and collections of old books. The Hall of Craftsmen displayed the artefacts of the trades of the Cooper, Wheelright, Rope-maker and Clog-Maker because all these

trades owed their existence to the cultivation of vineyards. The cooper constructed the oak casks to hold the wine, the rope-maker made huge ropes out of hemp to pull the barges, the wheelright built the carts which transported the casks to the barges, and the clogs were used to tread down the clay soil in the vineyards.



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I found the cellars the most interesting of all. In The Hall of Bottles, a display cabinet showed a collection of the bottles used over time in Monbazillac. The Chateau Kitchen with huge fireplace, bread oven and larder dating back to the thirteenth century was fascinating. The Wine Museum displayed implements used

in vine cultivation and information about the specific characteristics of the Monbazillac wines.

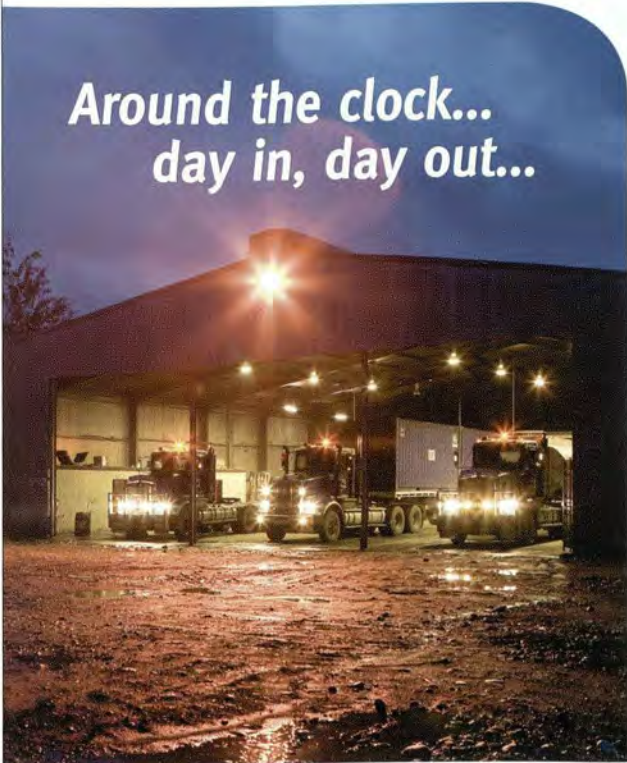
It was time to indulge in a little wine tasting. The white Monbazillac wines are very sweet. This is due to a fungus - botrytis cinerea - the origin of the "noble rot" which increases the

concentration of sugar in the grapes and gives the wines their distinctive sweet bouquet. I'm not a great lover of sweet, dessert wines so I tried the least sweet vintages.

Swill, sniff, sip, swallow. Swill, sniff, sip, swallow. Delicious. And how pleased I was that I didn't have to spit any out!



*View of Bergerac from a gabarre.*



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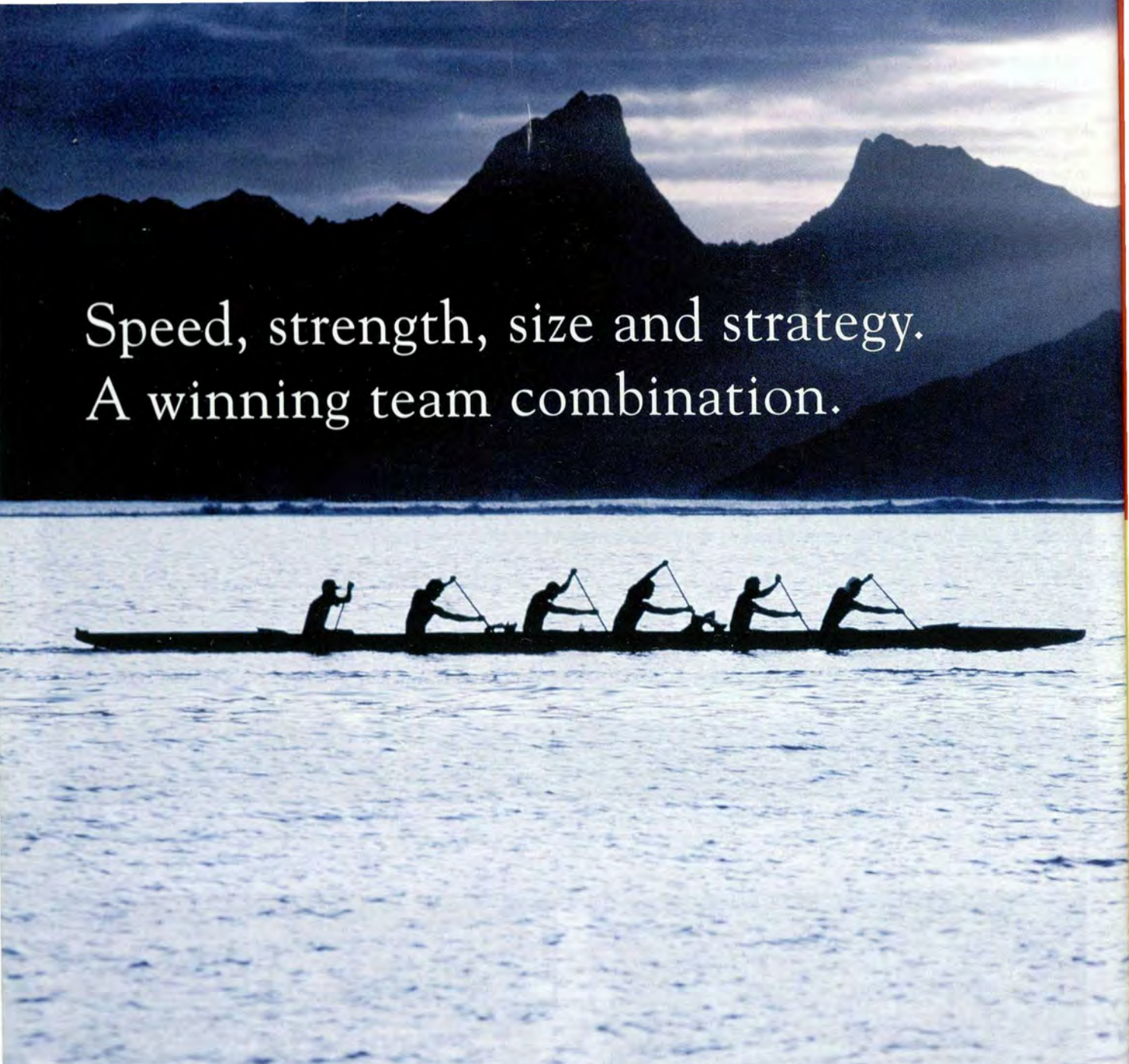
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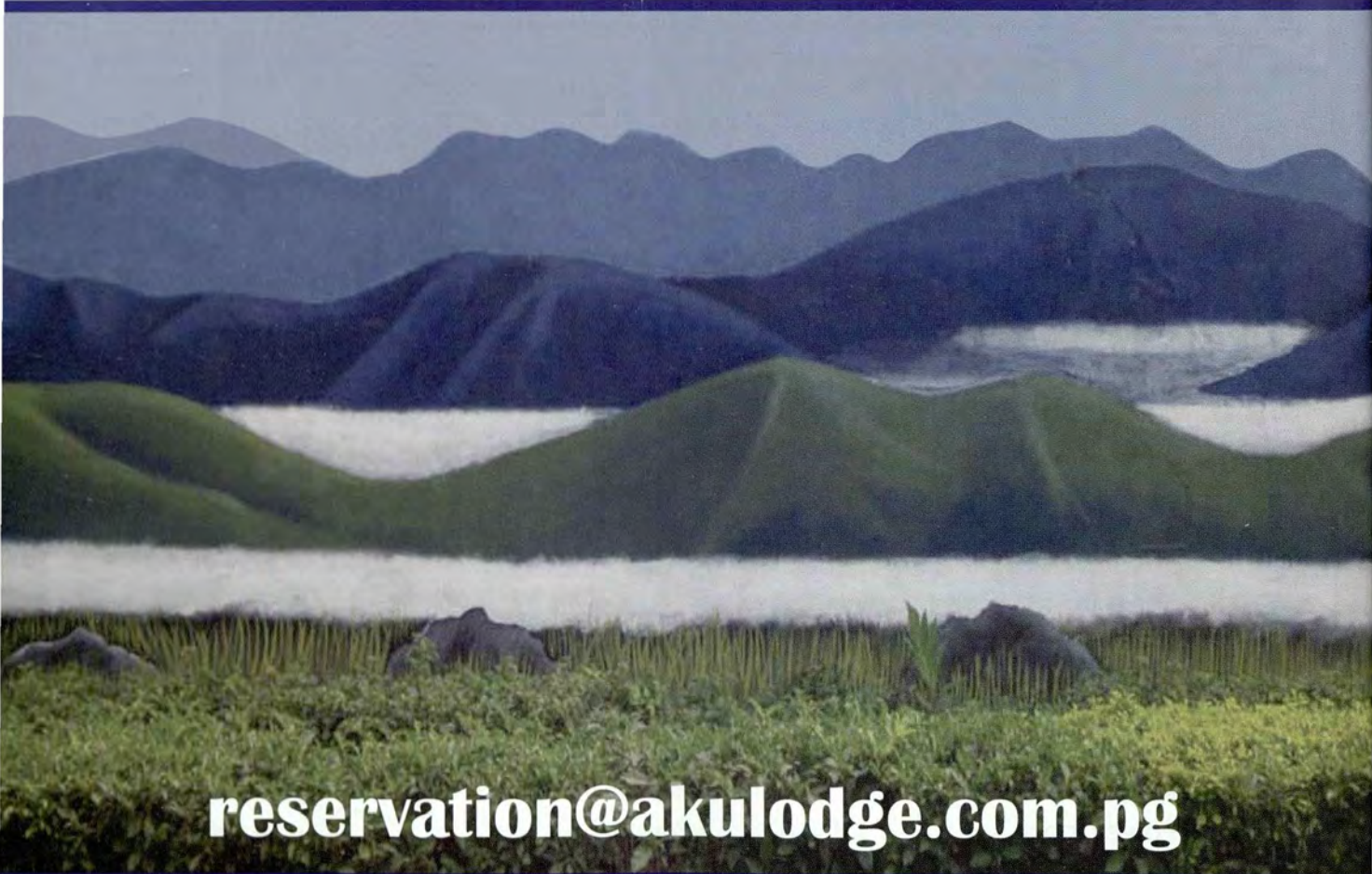
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# Singapore's Melting Pot

BY ROB DUNLOP



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Singapore is an exciting melting pot of food and culture, and proudly boasts some of the world's best food experiences.

In 2009, the city hosted the prestigious annual World Gourmet Summit, attracting well-known Michelin-starred chefs and Masterchefs to create one of the city's tastiest events ever.

And, of course, there is the annual Singapore Food Festival, which takes place every July, and enjoys international regard.

Singaporeans have long been known for their obsession with cooking and eating out. And now more and more





Private dining room at the Raffles Culinary Academy.

visitors want a piece of the action too - immersing themselves into the mix by attending local cooking classes, to learn from revered locals and world-renowned resident chefs.

Cooking schools and academies have sprung up all over the city to cater to the growing demand, providing half-day lessons to diploma level courses. Here are some of Singapore's tastiest schools.

### Coriander Leaf Cooking Studio

The Coriander Leaf specialises in fusion food. Think Singaporean meets Burmese, Indian, Lebanese, Mediterranean, Moroccan, Pakistani, Persian, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese. Phew.

And it all tastes a treat. The focus is on casual home style cooking which you can easily replicate at home.

The three and a half hour-hands-on Moroccan Feast includes Moroccan pumpkin soup scented with cumin, Pastilla - pastry layered with herbed chicken and almonds, Tagine Barragot - tagine of lamb with prunes, spicy Moroccan prawns, herbed couscous, and Kunefe, which is kataifi pastry with baked cheese filling and sugar syrup. Yum.

The Coriander Leaf Cooking Studio is located at 3A Merchant Court #02-03, River Valley Road, Clarke Quay, Singapore. Classes run three times a week.

Prices range from \$S120 to \$S130 for feasting sessions.

Phone +65 6732 3354 or visit [www.corianderleaf.com](http://www.corianderleaf.com)

### Raffles Culinary Academy

It makes perfect sense that one of the city's best cooking schools be located in one of the world's best hotels, Raffles. The prestigious Raffles Culinary Academy offers a variety of cooking and specialty classes with topics as varied as wine, home dining and oyster and foie gras appreciation.

The 4 hour hands-on Seafood Favorites feast, helped along by a respected hotel chef, culminates in the devouring of a spread consisting of sautéed squid with lemongrass chilli garlic sauce, baked seawater prawns with scallion ginger, and pan-seared seabass fillet with spicy Thai curry. The private dining room, spiced up with flamingo-pink, is equally divine.

The Raffles Culinary Academy is located at 1 Beach Road, Singapore. Classes run almost daily.

Prices for feasting sessions range from \$S120 to \$S140.

Phone +65 6412 1256 or visit [www.raffleshotel.com](http://www.raffleshotel.com)



Singapore - a foodies delight.

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If you like the idea of cooking in someone's friendly kitchen rather than a swish affair, then Cookery Magic is for you.

Ruqhana runs classes in her home where she teaches the secrets of Asian cooking in a friendly atmosphere, with class sizes no larger than eight people.

Her specialties include Malay, Indian and vegetarian. The classes vary from 3-hour hands-on cooking and feasting sessions to 3-hour demonstration cooking, where you eat the food too. Visits to local markets and spice shops can also be arranged.

The Malay class includes the devouring of turmeric rice, grilled fish in banana leaves and one of Singapore's most popular dishes, sambal kangkong - a delicious concoction of vegetables, prawns and chillies.

Address is given at time of booking. Courses run daily.

The demonstration cooking costs between \$S65-\$S85 per person and the hands-on classes cost \$S110.

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Singapore's cooking personality, Shermay Lee, is the name behind this successful cooking school and retail experience.

The award winning author runs courses in her state-of-art kitchen stainless steel kitchen. While she focuses on her traditional Singaporean cuisine, she enlists the help of guest chefs, including three starred Michelin chefs, to present new and interesting takes on Asian and Western foods.

The sessions, which change monthly, can include British pub food, cupcake and chocolate workshops, and pastry making.

The European brunch demonstration and food tasting treat includes leek and pear soup, dill scones with smoked salmon and caviar, roast poussins, couscous with preserved lemons, and young chickens seasoned with Mediterranean flavours. Finishing with a light chiffon-style lemon cake.

Shermay's Cooking School is located at Chip Bee Gardens (Holland Village), Blk 43 Jalan Merah Saga #03-64, Singapore. Classes usually run Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons.

The demonstration and food tasting classes run for 2-4 hours and costs between \$S89-\$S159 per person. Hands-on workshop, which includes a box of goodies to take home, costs \$S119-\$S159.

Phone +65 6479 8442 or visit [www.shermay.com](http://www.shermay.com)



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One of the experiences is an exploration of the beautiful sCpice garden where you hand-pick spices (the fresh basil is intoxicating) for the pounding and creation of a spice paste in the kitchen, followed by a delicious morning tea.

The hands-on cooking session includes the creation of three dishes in a variety of cuisines taught by the academy's chefs - who are Chinese, Indian, Malay, Singaporean and Thai - spicing it up on all levels.

At-Sunrice is located at Fort Canning Centre, Fort Canning Park, Singapore. Courses run on demand.

Prices range from \$S40 for the 2.5 hour Spice Garden Walk and Tea Reception to \$S107 for the four-hour hands-on cooking and lunch.

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**Singapore Food Festival**

And don't forget the Singapore Food Festival, which is a showcase of the city's culinary delights. Every style and tastebud is catered for, including traditional hawker fare, seafood banquets and elegant high-end dining.

Beautiful tropical fruit arrangements are on display, along with live seafood in large purpose built tanks. Cooking workshops spring up all over the city. And look out for free food tastings.

The festival is chance to indulge in the multiculturalism of Singapore via its mouth-watering flavours.

Mix up the famous Singapore Chili Crab with ethnic cuisine from Chinatown, Little India and the Muslim quarter, Kampong Glam, for Malay dishes. Aromas and taste sensations don't come much better than this.

At night, colourful street celebrations rule. And along Singapore River Market, the restaurants, cafes and bars are abuzz with constant gastronomical partying. Happy eating! The festival takes place every July for two weeks.

Visit [www.singaporefoodfestival.com](http://www.singaporefoodfestival.com)



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# *Powerless Or Powerful* **Pacific Nations can make a difference**

*Dear Traveler between the Islands (and beyond),*

We welcome you to our first 2010 edition, in the first year of a new decade which we wish to see as the decade when we travelers of the world follow our conscience in the knowledge that "think-tanks" of Corporate or Governmental Organisations can only present us with options and choices over the broadest basis of interests and activities.

Never clearer has this realisation been demonstrated than during the all consuming debate on our still painfully real Global Financial Crisis and its Twin - the Global Warming scenario.

All overnight, values and believes in technologies which were the platform for a more livable and indeed healthier life in many parts of our World, became the focus of all evil and needed to be re-placed with scientifically proven technologies which are more efficient, more effective and much better for our Life. Really? Allow us to add another acronym into the debate, then.

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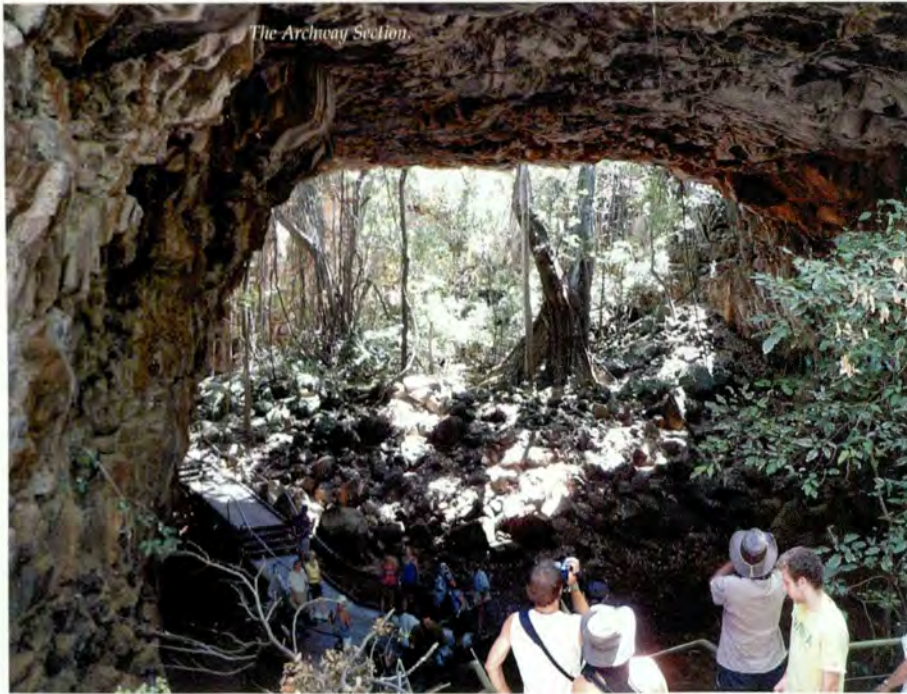
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*The Archway Section.*

# Unforgettable Undara

BY RHODA BENNETT

**Unless you are a geologist like me, you probably don't think a lot about what lies below the surface of the landscape.**

**Looking at a view is one of my favourite things to do. And recently, I visited a place where not only is there a stunning view above ground, but also a fascinating one underneath - they call it the Undara experience.**

**F**rom Cairns, it takes about half a day to drive to Undara. The drive is an easy one, up from the coast at Innisfail to Ravenshoe, the highest town in Queensland, and on down the Savannah Way to the thermal area of Innot Hot Springs and Mt Garnet.

Passing through the 40-mile Scrub National Park, I take note of the beautiful bottle trees along the sides of the road. The turn off to Undara is 38km before Mt Surprise.

The Undara Volcanic National Park lies 2500ft above sea level on the Great Dividing Range. To get a 360-degree view of the volcanic plateau we climb up to the rim of the Kilkani crater.

A myriad of volcanic cones punctuate the ocean of gum trees. The Undara volcano lies about 20km away, and is not particularly impressive.

But what strikes me are the obvious darker strips of foliage which provide the clue of what lies beneath. Creeping out from Undara is a meandering dotted line of darker bush that runs for 160km north west to the sea. These patches of semi-evergreen vine thicket (or dry rainforest) indicate the ancient lava tubes beneath.

As sections of the lava tube have collapsed from erosion and earthquakes, the dry rain forest has grown up in the cavities which are much cooler and moister than the land above.

It is 35 degrees as we start the short walk down into the tubes. Gradually the air becomes cooler, dropping at least 10 degrees by the time we enter the first cave - it's like air-conditioning!



*The Savannah Way.*



*Bottle Tree.**Tube roof.*

Our guide tells us that the Undara region is regarded as the traditional country of the Ewamian Aboriginal people. It is likely that they passed through during the dry season and used these caves as temporary accommodation (perhaps as a way to escape the scorching temperatures above). The evidence of ancient Aboriginal occupation includes stone artefacts.

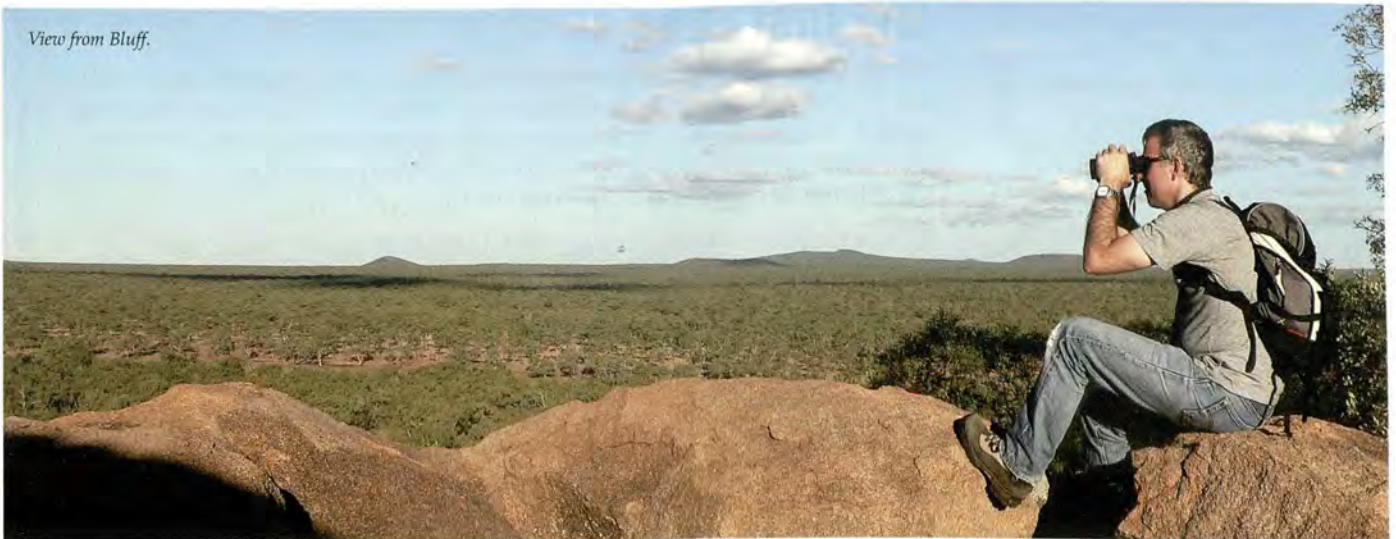
In the wet season, the collapsed sections of the tube act like huge drain holes for

the savannah, filling with water. The tube is round, but mud and silt has filled the bottom so it appears to have a flat floor. The highest accessible tunnel section is 19 metres high. So far, researchers have not been able to determine how deep the tube is below this 'floor'.

Lava tubes exist in other places in Australia and in other countries, but Undara is the longest lava flow from a single volcano. They estimate that the volume of lava which

flowed from the Undara eruption was 23 cubic kilometres, or enough to fill Sydney harbour three times over. The lava tubes were formed by a river of molten rock snaking its way gradually downward.

While the surface cooled and formed a crust the lava river beneath kept flowing reaching further from the crater. Finally, when the eruption stopped, the lava flowed out from the far end of the tubes leaving hollow tunnels hidden beneath the burnt land.

*View from Bluff.*



Wallaroos and frogs...found in the national park.

In contrast to the dry eucalypt woodland above, the caves feature moss-covered rocks, fig tree trunks, ferns and tangled vines. Some of the cavities and depressions are also home to unique plant and animal life including insects and bats, due to their isolation and the habitat.

In particular the caves environment has high levels of carbon dioxide, stagnant air and high relative humidity. The tube walls are formed from huge chunks of basalt interlocked like a three dimensional jigsaw puzzle with the inherent strength of an arch.

The thickness of the tunnel 'roof' varies considerably, ranging from half a metre to 8 metres deep. Minerals have coloured the rocks green and pink in places and there are ragged scars on the walls which indicate changes in lava flows.

Above ground, huge granite outcrops punctuate the landscape. Climbing to the top of one, I wonder about the processes that formed this incredible landscape, and contemplate the peacefulness of the endless sea of green. In the cooler late afternoon we explore one of the many self-guided walks in the national park. There is plenty of wildlife around, including kangaroos, wallaroos, lizards, birds and



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butterflies. At night we look for frogs, and even in the dry season we find five different species.

There are 69 entrances to the tubes, but only 8 of these are visited by the public. For conservation and safety reasons, you must visit the lava tubes with a guide. A two hour introductory tour runs twice daily in

the wet season and 4 times daily in the dry season from April to October. For the more adventurous, a half day or full day tour provides the opportunity to visit more sections of the lava tube. Accessing the tubes is easy on boardwalks with staircases down into the caves.



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In April, the 'Outback Country, Rock and Blues' event provides entertainment over three days, while in October, 'Opera in the Outback' involves two evening concerts. These popular events are booked out up to a year in advance.

- The Undara Volcanic National Park is 275km south west of Cairns. Tour bus day trips are available from Cairns or you can self-drive. For more information, see the following links: [www.undara.com.au](http://www.undara.com.au); [www.innohotspringspark.com](http://www.innohotspringspark.com); [www.bedrockvillage.com.au](http://www.bedrockvillage.com.au)

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# 'ALLO, 'ALLO - Penang Style

A must-see... Khek Lok Si Temple, combining Chinese, Thai and Burmese architecture.



BY SALLY HAMMOND

PHOTOGRAPHY: GORDON HAMMOND

**“'Allo'? 'Allo'! What you want pay? I give you very good price!”**

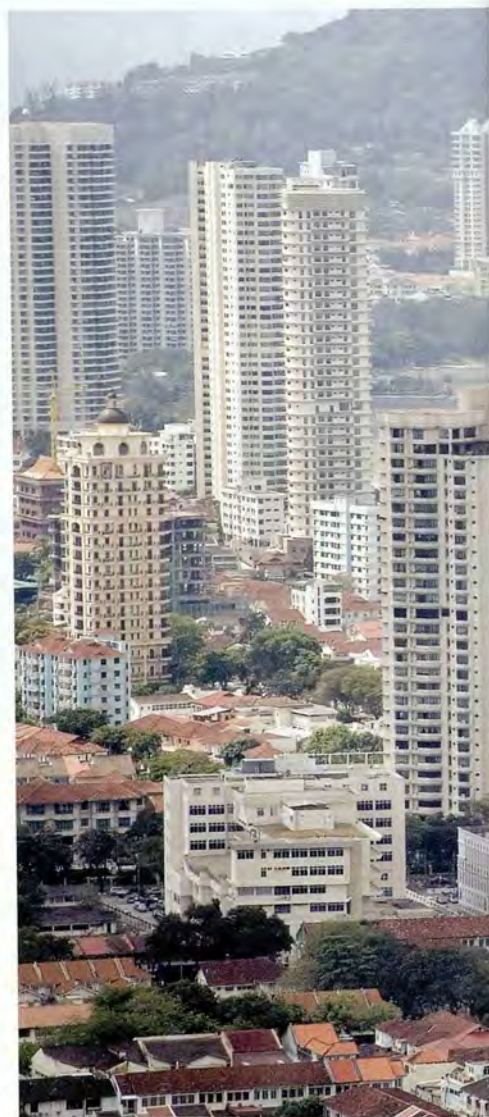
**Their voices chase me as I slowly climb the steps towards Kek Lok Si, the largest Buddhist temple complex in Malaysia, and whenever I pause, they shout again, “'Allo'? Five dollar? OK!”**

There are hundreds of steps leading to this most ornate of temples combining Chinese, Thai and Burmese architecture. At the end of the climb is the magnificent temple of the 10,000 Buddhas, and a tortoise pond where dozens of the creatures plod around in a swampy soup, tussling each other for strands of water weed. Crowned by a thirty-metre, seven-tier pagoda - Ban Po Thar - every Penang visitor writes this place on their must-see list.

Every bit as fascinating as the glittering red and gold and blue edifice at the top are the steps lined with dozens of trader's stalls selling every possible temptation - copywatches, fake designer clothes, ersatz French perfume, makeup, shoes, fans, shell jewellery, souvenirs. You could (and I did) buy all your take-home presents right here and spend little more than a couple of hundred ringgit.

You must understand the process: touch something and the eagle-eyed attendants will notice instantly and assume you are hot to buy it.

“You li-i-ike?” they will croon. And then it is



on. Name a price. A ridiculous price. A third of what you would be prepared to pay. They'll roll their eyes, look hurt and surprised at your lack of discernment, and treble your offer. The game has begun.

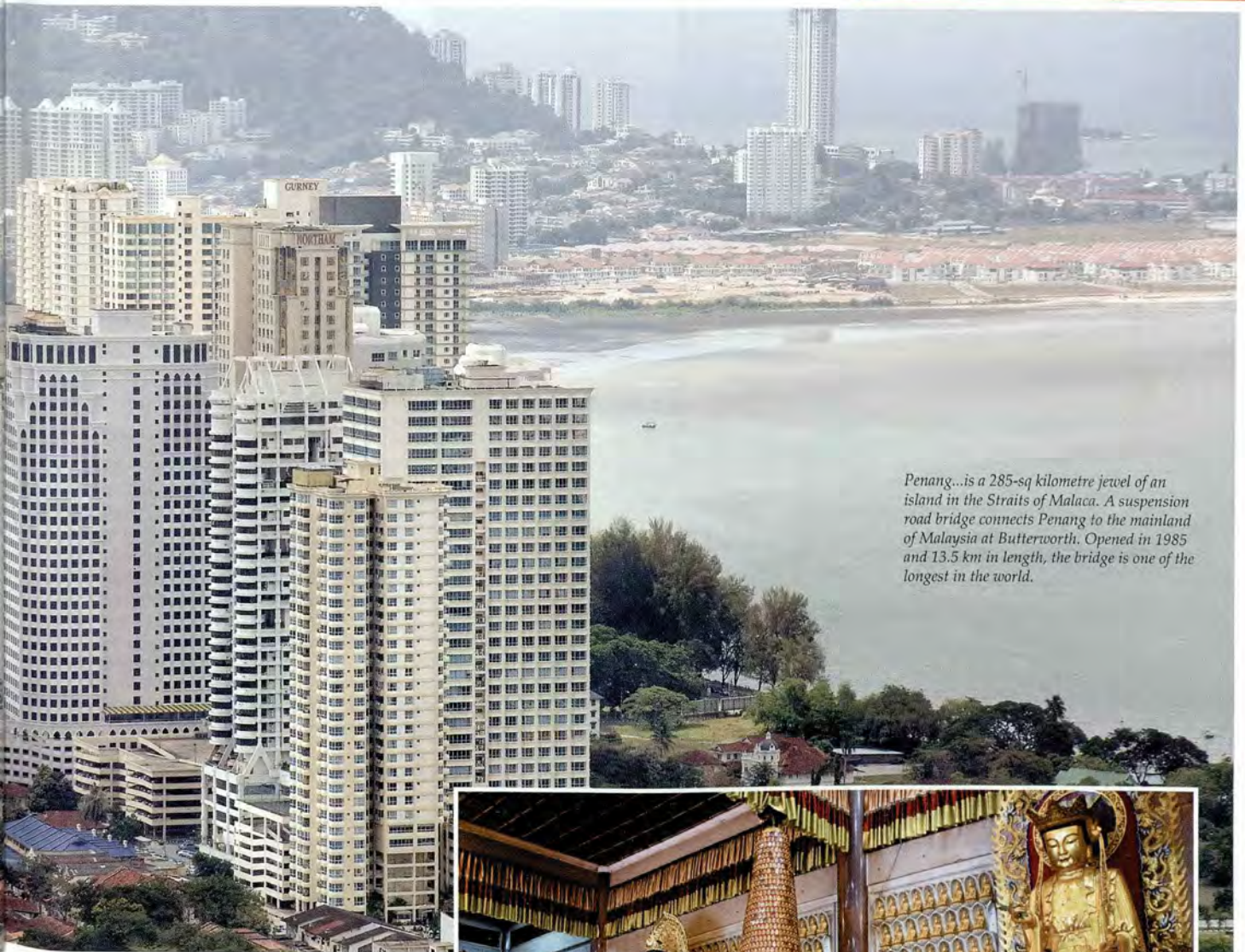
If you really want that seed pearl necklace or leather sandals, play on. Even if you pretend to walk off sadly shaking your head, muttering 'too much, too much', they will follow you halfway to the temple - “'Allo'? 'Allo...” And they know they can catch you on the way down again too.

Penang is a 285 square-kilometre jewel of an island in the Straits of Malacca, pinned just off the northwest lapel of peninsular Malaysia. The name means 'Island of Betel Nut'. There are many of these palms on Penang and sometimes you will see the reddened teeth of confirmed betel nut chewers.

Here, in 1786, the first British trading post in the Far East was established. Even today, commerce and trade feature at all levels right to our friends on the temple steps.

Like the rest of Malaysia, Penang's climate is tropical and often stormy, with most days





*Penang...is a 285-sq kilometre jewel of an island in the Straits of Malacca. A suspension road bridge connects Penang to the mainland of Malaysia at Butterworth. Opened in 1985 and 13.5 km in length, the bridge is one of the longest in the world.*

punctuated by a downpour that clears the air and cools everything temporarily, but leaves the narrow and winding roads steaming.

Georgetown, the capital, is a modern swarming city, with a British Colonial accent. Here the streets are jammed with pedestrians and bikes, bicycle-propelled trishaws and leftover lorries from another era. While you'll find department stores as classy as any in Singapore, with hours extending till 10pm each night, the smaller street-level traders with names as colourful as their wares are the places to browse.

While the central 'heritage' part of Georgetown is now UNESCO-protected, unable to be changed, the rest of the capital and much of the eastern side of the island is punching upwards with high rise apartments and shopping centres.

Surprises are everywhere. One day, rounding a corner we almost fell onto an ornate stage, brilliant with gold lettering and scrolls, red hangings and intricate decoration. A moment later the music began, and we hot-footed to a respectable distance from the clashing gongs and cymbals.



*One of the many beautiful shrines of the Khek Lok Si Temple, Penang.*

Because of the long period of British rule in Malaysia, many people speak English, and there are regular English newspapers, TV programmes and signs. Bahasa Malay, the language of Malaysia, has similarities that make understanding them much easier too.

However, food is a language, we all understand. And Penang is perhaps the best place to taste the cuisine which is a perfect blend of the ethnic mix of Malaysia - Malay, Chinese and

Indian - at the crossroads of trade and travel.

Here you can dawdle at hawkers' stalls rich with pungent mysterious flavours. Look for these in laneways such as Lorong Bahrui and try Penang laksa, mee rebus, Hokkien noodles, fresh fish grilled before your eyes, or collect some friends and grab a round formica table right on the footpath and stoop over a steam boat, dipping skewers of meat and vegetables into the broth.



Food vendor in Penang.



The fruit is mainly grown for research, but sufficient is reserved for visitors to sample from trays of freshly picked samples.

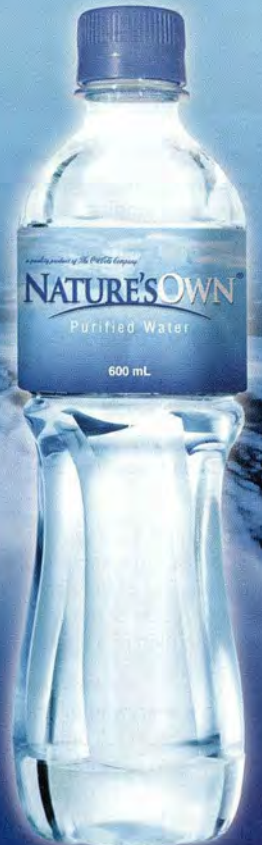
Fruit is everywhere. In season there are mangosteens, pearl-white inside their purple shells, hairy red or yellow rambutans with flesh like lychees, pomelo, jackfruit, and fresh coconuts, chopped open and served with a spoon for the slippery soft flesh, and a straw for the cooling water. Best of all is the 'king of fruits', the much-maligned durian. Get past its supposedly offensive odour, and savour its wondrous creamy golden flesh.

Penang, just 35 minutes flying time from Kuala Lumpur, and not much more from Singapore, is virtually on the doorstep of any Asian stopover. We usually pick up a rental car and travel independently. A round-the-island drive takes only a couple of hours and there is much to see. South of Georgetown, is the famous Snake Temple

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where venomous reptiles, dopey with incense, coil around anyone or anything.

On the western side you will see fruit plantations, nutmeg and clove trees, roadside stalls and native kampungs (villages). In the north you can explore a fishing village, the world's first tropical butterfly park, the dazzling beaches of Batu Ferringhi, and the 33-metre reclining Buddha in a temple with a name almost as long: Wat Chayamankalarum.

Poking into the clouds in Penang's centre, is the 821-metre Penang Hill, made accessible by a funicular railway. The half-hour almost vertical ascent yields fabulous views if you're game to look, and the air at the top is many degrees cooler than sweltering Georgetown spread below.


Whatever you do, don't leave Penang without a trip, however brief, to the Botanical Gardens, thirty hectares of flowers, jungle, and monkeys.

I can resist those baby monkeys. I can hold out against the bargains; and I can, in time, even forgo a sample of yet another new food in Penang. But, for me, the hardest thing to resist is the urge to return.

'Allo is so much easier than Goodbye.



*One of the many pretty bays on the island of Penang - Tanjung Bungah (Cape of Flowers).*

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# Sydney's Ghastly and Ghostly Past

BY ROB DUNLOP



*Ghost Tour starts at Cadman Cottage.*

*Sydney Ghost Tour in action.*



Sydney often ranks as one of the world's most livable cities. But did you know that it was once ranked one of the world's most dangerous cities?

Sydney's harbourside suburb, The Rocks, Australia's oldest European settlement, is where early settlers and convicts set up camp on the rocky ridges in 1788. It's also where Sydney's dangerous past lurks.

In the late 18th century The Rocks was further developed. Immigrant families from England, Ireland and Scandinavia arrived and the area soon became densely populated.

But the area also gained a reputation as a slum. Houses were poorly maintained, and water and sewerage systems fell into disrepair.

Up until 1910, the streets were still lit by lamps that burnt whale oil. And little wonder there was despair amongst the people. Crime was rife and murders were common. Violent gangs ruled.

One of the scariest ways to learn of the history (which includes murder, suicide and hangings) is to take a night ghost tour.

With lanterns in hand, you are led towards dark nooks and crannies, down narrow cobblestone lanes and alleyways, and across to Observatory Hill to learn of Sydney's gruesome history. And to places where ghosts prevail.

The spooky tour takes in Reynold's Cottage, the second oldest building in The Rocks,



*Harbour view: Sydney Harbour YHA's rooftop with people.*

which was once a brothel, but more recently a café. Norma, the proprietor, is often inexplicably overwhelmed by sadness when she is in the stock room, once an old bedroom.

Recently, an American couple asked Norma about the girl sitting on the steps dressed in Victorian costume. There was no girl, Norma explained. It was the ghost of a 10-year-old girl who died of Tuberculosis. Disease also ran rife in The Rocks.

In 1901 when the Bubonic plague arrived, large areas of The Rocks was condemned to demolition in an attempt to curb the spread of the deadly disease.

Oddly enough, Sydney's newest accommodation offering, Sydney Harbour YHA, is also a great way to experience the interesting and gruesome history of The Rocks.

The hostel is sensitively perched over an important archeological site, visible from all angles. The corridors of the three storey hostel look down over the exposed dig, which is only 500 metres from where the First Fleet of Europeans originally landed in 1788.

The archeological remains underneath the hostel date from



*Digs under Sydney Harbour YHA.*



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*Expect the unexpected during the Ghost Tour.*



1795. By the late 1800s, more than 300 people lived on the site, which also included hotels, a bakery, an abattoir and an illegal distillery.

One of the hotel's cellars doubled as a morgue. Dead bodies were dragged from the stifling summer heat down to the cool sandstone dungeon.

When the bubonic plague broke out, the houses were demolished and the site later cleared. From the 1950s the area was covered with concrete paving and used for parking and storage.

Archaeological excavations began in 1994. To date more than 1 million artefacts have been recovered. Many of them are on display around the hotel, including urns, crockery, toys and bottles. You can spend hours wandering around the site reading the informational panels. A free 30 minute guided tour is also available.

The excavations have also revealed interesting stories. Ross Lardner, Manager of Sydney Harbour YHA, knows quite a few now.

"George Legg was a First Fleet convict who lived on the site with his wife Ann Armsden (from the Second Fleet). He was fishing in Botany



Bay when his canoe capsized and the weight of his wet coat dragged him under water to his death.

Several days later his hand was found in the stomach of a shark caught in the Bay. His body was then found drifting in the reed beds of the bay and he was retrieved and buried at the town cemetery, now under Town Hall.


Bizarrely, almost 200 years later, archaeologists found in his wife's house the skeletal remains of a shark - did she keep the shark that ate her husband's hand? "

With butchers, running blood, agonising plague deaths, and ferried dead bodies, can we expect the hostel to be haunted?

"There are probably more than enough likely candidates from the past but we haven't seen anything spooky so far," Lardner says.

"Whether the hostel is haunted, that will remain to be seen!"



 Air Niugini flies direct to Sydney.

## Fact File

### GHOST TOUR

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The Sydney Harbour YHA

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*Classy ride...cows in a tricycle side car.*



*Gloria...on her way to the market.*

# Meeting the Locals

BY SUSAN EAMES

**“Where are you from?”  
The lady addressing me was dressed in slightly raggedy clothes and carried a basket.**

**I welcomed the interruption to my stroll along the beach. Gloria and I chatted for a few minutes before we went our separate ways.**

One of the most enjoyable and interesting aspects of visiting other countries is meeting local people. The experience is especially rich when the fascination and interest is mutual.

We were on the island of Negros in the Visayas region of the Philippines. Although our primary activity was scuba diving we found time in between our underwater excursions to observe and even participate briefly with the everyday lives of the locals.

About 20 kilometres along the coast from the town of Dumaguete is Malatapay Market. The market is held every Wednesday. It is unusual in that the buyers and sellers still use a traditional barter system; although I did see money changing hands too.

Farmers, fishermen and housewives from surrounding villages and the interior of Negros flock to Malatapay every week to do business and socialise.

The livestock section was not for the faint hearted. As we approached the enclosure a

strong smell of dung assailed us. We paid a few pesos to enter.

Water buffalo, goats, pigs, horses and cows were tethered to fences or vehicles. We picked our way through dung and slick mud to a cacophony of lowing, bleating, and squealing, human shouts and belching vehicles.

Pigs were being carted off - sometimes in sacks - squealing and struggling. A hefty pig was showing great determination not to be loaded into a tricycle's sidecar. He was pulling away so strongly, the men holding his ropes were sliding in the mud in a fierce Tug-of-War contest. We moved back from the action in case the pig won.

A big sow lay comatose and I thought she must be sick or dying. However she suddenly sat up with a shake that splattered mud in all directions and looked around perkily - she'd just been enjoying a wallow and snooze.

After a short wander we realised we were getting in the way of the serious traders. It was time to explore the rest of the market.



Cock fighter at the Malatapay market.

People were carrying bundles of chickens by their feet. The birds dangled quietly, seemingly philosophical about their fate. We saw tricycles with cows, pigs or goats loaded into their sidecars. A particularly large pig was lying upside down on the back of a tricycle with his hooves lashed together. He was totally calm and relaxed.

Along with stalls selling tools, clothes, fruit and vegetables, we found dozens selling seafood, from fresh trevally to tiny dried sprats. There were tubs of what looked like mashed up shrimps in a gloopy, slimy liquid - I didn't investigate too closely.

Cock fighting is popular in the Philippines. We came upon a group of men. Some were stroking flamboyantly beautiful cockerels. As part of their trading technique the men faced their birds up against each other for a brief scuffle to demonstrate the birds' feistiness. I noticed that the men kept a firm hold of their charges to prevent full blown fights.

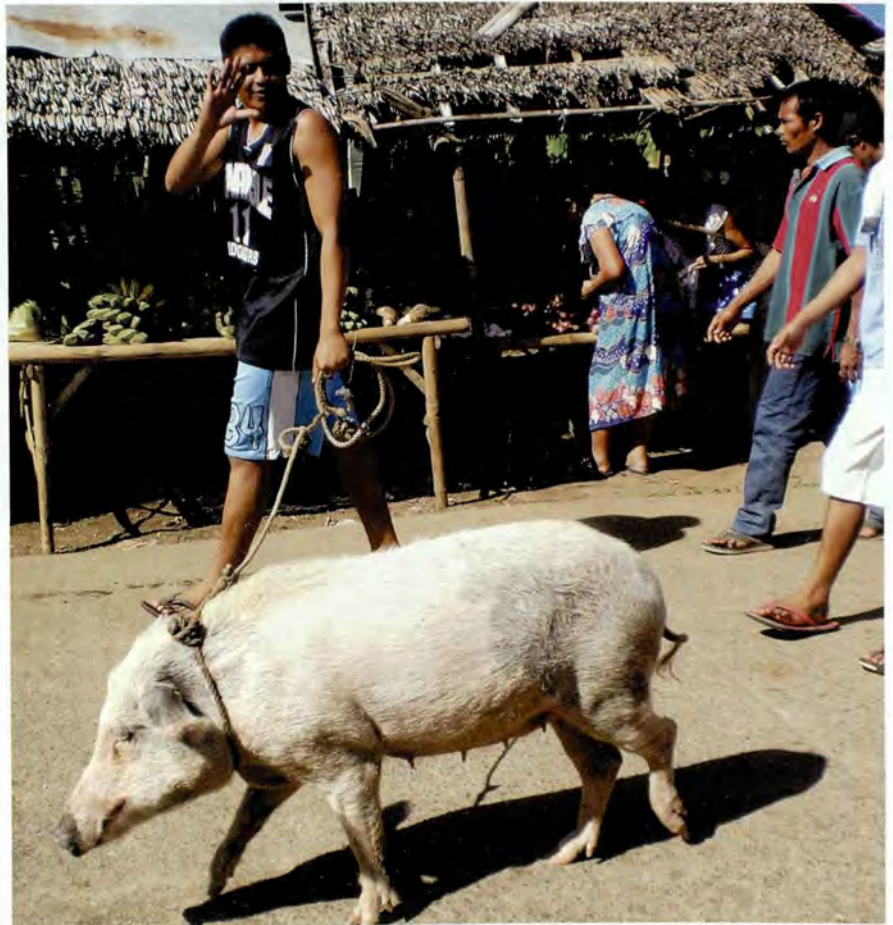
As we ambled back we stopped to buy freshly fried banana fritters, generously sprinkled with sugar and served on banana leaves. We risked scalding our mouths as we bit into the delicious sweet, crunchy batter.

On a stroll along the beach one evening we came upon a fishing party. Just offshore a large net was cast from a boat in a wide semi-circle. The net barely settled when the people on the shoreline formed two lines and began to pull it in. It looked like the whole village was lending a hand to pull - from tiny tots to elderly women. My husband joined in, to gales of laughter and banter.

Eventually the catch was landed: a mere bucketful of sprats. There were no exclamations of disappointment and they pragmatically loaded the net back onto the boat.

"Is that it?" I asked a lady.

"Yes." She shrugged and smiled.



To market...a pig being led to the market to be sold.

We went on day trips to Apo Island to scuba dive. Apo is a small island with a resident fishing community. It also hosts two simple resorts. The coral reefs around the island were gorgeous with a superb diversity of reef life.

When we moored near the island for our lunch break several ladies paddled over in tiny outrigger canoes with bundles of t-shirts, sarongs and dresses for sale. They

clambered aboard and embarked on their well practised, good natured and effective selling techniques! After answering the usual questions about where I was from, they told me they had lived on Apo all their lives and wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

The enjoyable day trips whetted our appetites to see more. We booked a Dive Safari to island hop and explore the diving hotspots in the Visayas.

Community involvement...a fishing net is pulled by villagers.





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A heavily-loaded jeepney arrives at Malatapay.

The safari boat was a simple affair. Our cabin was claustrophobic and the bathroom facility - euphemistically called the Comfort Room - was barely adequate. However the crew were a terrific bunch. Our pocket-sized cook, Juri, produced remarkable meals on a two ring gas burner. And much of the diving was worth the discomfort.

At uninhabited Pescador Island near Cebu we encountered a massive school of sardines sheltering near the reefs. I had never seen anything like this beyond wildlife documentaries.

The school swirled into view like a single entity. The ebb and flow of the densely packed fish was dramatic to watch as predators lunged in and out, picking off the unlucky ones.


Juri bought a bucket of sardines from one of the fishermen. Cleaning

and gutting the little fish was fiddly work. The crew members including even the Captain joined in to help him. Juri gave us some raw sardines doused in vinegar, garlic, ginger and lime juice to sample. They tasted fantastic.

We ended our safari with a final dive back at Apo Island. The ladies from the island arrived again with their wares.

They said they remembered me and excitedly asked where I'd been. My doubts about whether they really did recognise me vanished when one lady fixed her eye on me and said, "I saw you at Malatapay Market. You were eating banana fritters."

The Philippines truly is a country where meeting the locals is of mutual enjoyment and interest.

 Air Niugini flies to Manila, Philippines.





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# CULTURAL EVENTS FOR 2010 (FROM THE NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMISSION)

<b>MOMASE REGION</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Description</b>	<b>Town/Province</b>
4th June – 7th June 30th Oct – 31st Oct	Madang Festival Morobe Agricultural Cultural Show Festival	Madang
3rd Sept – 4th Sep 8th September 10th Sept – 11th Sept	9th National Garamut & Mambu Festival 4th Garamut & Mask Festival 2nd Middle Sepik Festival	Lae Wewak Rofudogmu Village Paliambe Village
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Description</b>	<b>Town/Province</b>
15th Apr – 18th Apr 5th May – 7th May 11th June-12th June 23rd July 10th Sept- 15th Sept 5th Nov-7th Nov	National Arts & Craft Exhibition 8th Gogodala Canoe Festival 6th Gulf Mask Festival New Ireland Cultural Day Hiri Moale Festival 7th National Canoe Festival	Port Moresby Balimom Town Toare Village Port Moresby Port Moresby Alotau



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## NEW GUINEA ISLANDS REGION

Date	Event Description	Town/Province
8th July – 14th July	Warwagira Festival	Kokopo (Rabaul)
15th July-18th July	16th National Mask Festival	Kokopo (Rabaul)
20th July-22nd July	Tavur Cultural Show	Kimbe (West New Britain)
22nd – 24th July	Kavieng District Cultural Show	Kavieng
27th July-29th July	Kono Wokisok Festival	Kono Village - New Ireland
30th July – 2nd Aug	Kontu/Tembin Shark Calling Show	Kontu Village - New Ireland
5th Aug-8th Aug	5th Namatanai Mask Festival	Namatanai Town - New Ireland
12th Aug – 14th Aug	Mona Festival	Bougainville
10th Sept- 13th Sept	Choral Festival Show	Kokopo
14th Sept- 15th Sept	Kokopo District Cultural Show	Kokopo
16th Sept-19th Sept	Music Festival	Kokopo

## HIGHLANDS REGION

Date	Event Description	Town/Province
TBA	Enga Cultural Show	Wabag
14th Aug-15th Aug	Hagen Show	Mt Hagen
13th Sept-15th Sept	6th Bilasim Skin Festival	Goroka
17th Sept-19th Sept	Goroka Show	Goroka
TBA	Coffee Festival	Goroka

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## Air Niugini welcomes the Falcon 900EX

The Falcon receiving the traditional hosing down.



**T**he arrival of the Falcon 900EX aircraft on November 23, 2008 was met with a traditional water cannon spray to salute the aircraft's arrival as it taxied into Jackson's Airport to an awaiting audience.

The welcome party included the then Acting Prime Minister, Sir Dr Puka Temu, cabinet ministers, heads of government departments, CAA officials, corporate guests, Air Niugini Board and Management as well as other stakeholders.

In his welcome address, Air Niugini Board Chairman, Sir James Tjoeng, thanked the National Government for the confidence in selecting Air Niugini to partner in the commercial arrangement of the Falcon.

"Such an arrangement is the first for this

country. This is important at a time when Papua New Guinea is going through a resource boom. It is a great opportunity for Air Niugini and we will do our best to serve and provide exemplary service that you expect."

Sir James said that whilst the Falcon will provide service for the government as a major customer, the aircraft will also provide charter and be used for hire purposes on availability basis or during times when it is not being used by the government.

The then Acting Prime Minister, Sir Dr Puka Temu in his welcome address said with the LNG Project and other new developments coming on stream shortly, the Falcon has a great potential to provide services required by the large corporate companies and stakeholders who are interested in chartering

the aircraft.

The Falcon 900EX is a business jet designed and manufactured by Dassault Aviation of France.

The aircraft is powered by Honeywell TFE31-60 turbo fan engines and has the capacity to carry 12 passengers in a standard configuration.

The aircraft is the finest in its class; with its classic tri-jet engines design. It can land at smaller airports and fly at high altitudes and fly 4,500 nautical miles non-stop.

With its versatility, the aircraft has a significant safety feature, given its ability to fly slower on approach than its twinjet competitors.

The Falcon will be operated by Air Niugini's pilots and cabin crew.



Official ribbon cutting to welcome the Falcon 900EX by then Acting Prime Minister Sir Dr Puka Temu (center) with Treasury Minister, Hon. Patrick Pruaitch (left) and Air Niugini Board Chairman, Sir James Tjoeng (right).



The Falcon 900EX.



## Universal Access Cards

**A**ir Niugini and another State-Owned Enterprise, Telikom PNG have continued to carry out joint promotions.

The latest was the Kumul Universal Access Card; a phone card that ensures customers enjoy universal access to any fixed phone outside PNG.

The cards will be on sale at all Air Niugini Sales Office for customers to buy.

## Singut Flies Air Niugini



Deputy General Manager-Marketing, Mr Dominic Kaumu presents Miss PNG, Miss Antonia Singut with her e Ticket.

**A**ir Niugini provided five return tickets to Miss PNG Miss Antonia Singut and her quest organising committee to attend the Miss South Pacific Pageant held in Suva, Fiji.

Miss PNG Antonia Singut preparing to leave for the Miss South Pacific Pageant aboard Air Niugini's flight. Air Niugini sponsored the travel for Miss Singut and four others to attend the pageant in Suva, Fiji.

Deputy General Manager-Marketing, Mr Dominic Kaumu presented the tickets to Miss PNG and her team and told the group that Air Niugini was pleased to support PNG's participation through Miss Singut.

## Pacific Storms gets Air Niugini's support

(From left to right) Mal Meninga - rugby league great, Charles Morley - Air Niugini, Paul Nerau - Consul General PNG, Laudia Moore - Air Niugini, Cathy Taukuro - Air Niugini, Joycelin Leahy - Pacific Storms curator and artist.

**A**ir Niugini is a proud sponsor of Pacific Storms, an art exhibition, currently showing in Brisbane.

The exhibition displays artwork from up and coming artists from around the Pacific region with a strong representation from Papua New Guinea.

Air Niugini donated two return tickets between Brisbane and PNG which were raffled on the night. The winner was Mr Paul Byrne from Brisbane who is already planning a fishing trip to PNG.

Guest speaker was rugby league great, Mal Meninga and the event was attended by various people in the art world and the wider Brisbane community.



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# Mercator to provide expertise in PNG

**A**ir Niugini has selected Dubai-based Mercator to provide its loyalty and customer relationship management solution, CRIS (Customer Relationship Information System), to create and manage its frequent flyer programme.

"Destinations" is Papua New Guinea's first ever frequent flyer programme and offers Air Niugini passengers the opportunity to earn points for every kina spent on travel with the national airline.

Air Niugini selected Mercator's CRIS programme following an extensive and detailed evaluation.

The decision to go with Mercator's programme was based on the product's state-of-the-art functionality, technical capability and Mercator's renowned round-the-clock support.

CRIS, created and developed by Mercator's specialised team in Dubai has been designed to effectively manage both a customer relationship and a frequent flier programme within one single integrated system.

The loyalty solution is versatile and flexible and can also be used for non-aviation businesses. Recently, the solution was implemented for Mercator's Dubai-based customer Etisalat, UAE's largest telecommunications provider.

Duncan Alexander, Mercator's Vice President, Sales and Market Development, said "this partnership is very significant for us. We now have customers for CRIS worldwide - in Africa, the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific - managing millions of frequent flier accounts and allowing our airline customers to add value to both cus-



Air Niugini's Chief Executive Officer, Wasantha Kumarasiri (right) with Deputy Prime Minister Sir Dr. Puka Temu at the arrival of the Falcon 900EX.

tomers service and help bring about commercial success."

Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri, said: "We recognised the value of having our own loyalty programme to reward our customers.

"Our market, valuable passengers and staff are excited with this new initiative and keen to make it a success.

"Our valuable customers will now see that their loyalty is rewarded. We selected Mercator because of their superior capabilities and proven results. I am confident this partnership will grow in the years to come."



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# Welcome to Papua New Guinea

## General Information

Lying entirely within the tropics, barely south of the Equator and just north of the Australian continent is Papua New Guinea, the second largest island in the world. With a total land mass of 473,189sq.km it is the last of a string of Islands spilling down from South East Asia into the Pacific.

Apart from the mainland, Papua New Guinea comprises a remarkable collection of islands, atolls and coral reefs scattered around its coastline. The mainland is divided by the Owen Stanley Range-a rugged central spine with peaks over 4,000 metres high. Great rivers begin their journey to the sea from these mountains-among them, Fly and Sepik waterways. Below the mountain chain, fertile coastal plains, flooded delta regions and mangrove swamps exist alongside broad sandy beaches, sheltered bays and dense rain forests.

The coastal regions are tropical however in generally the climate is warm to hot and humid all year round. Temperatures on the coast vary between 25-30 degrees throughout the year. The Highlands regions enjoy a temperate climate, ranging from 20 degrees during day to as low as 10 degrees during the evenings. Rainy season varies from province to province, however generally the country is driest from May to December.

Fully independent since September 16, 1975, the country has a freely elected democratic government. PNG became the 142nd member of the United Nations on October 10, 1975 and is also a member of the British Commonwealth.

The population is just over 5 million with over a third in the Highlands region of the country. The people are Melanesian though in appearance they are quite varied.

There are more than 800 distinct "live" languages with Melanesian pidgin and Hiri Motu being the two most widely used. English is the official language in education, business and government circles.

Papua New Guinea has a vibrant and multifaceted economy with two distinct systems operating side by side.

The vast majority of the people live a traditional, non-monetary barter economy that existed long before European colonization began. Co-existing with this is the modern economic system based on mining, petroleum, fishing, forestry and agriculture.

The main exports are gold, copper, oil, coffee, tea, copra, oil palm and forest products.

## What to See and Do



### Ideal Cruising Experience

The wonders of Papua New Guinea never cease to impress even the most intrepid traveller. Offering a multitude of ideal experiences, the visitors will find a country rich in culture, ethnic diversity and where little has changed over centuries. Cruising Papua New Guinea is relaxing since island life is slow-paced and informal. Rich in cultural and ethnic diversity PNG promises to reward cruise enthusiasts with unforgettable sights and sounds.

### Diving

This is home to some of the world's most spectacular diving, dubbed as 'underwater photographer's paradise.' It is said to have twice as many species as the waters of the Red Sea, and up to five times as many as the Caribbean. The waters are a wonderland of elegant reefs, sunken wrecks, brilliantly coloured coral and marine life. The immense diversity of dive sites includes barrier reefs, coral walls (drop-offs), coral gardens, patch reef, fringing reefs, sea grass beds and coral atolls.

### Trekking the rugged terrains

Trekking in Papua New Guinea is a challenge which portrays the real meaning of adventure in paradise. An extensive network of walking

tracks covers most mountain areas, and experience bush walkers are well catered for. The most popular is the Kokoda Track which continues to provide challenges and experiences beyond men's imagination. Others include Mt. Wilhelm, Bulolo, Wau and Madang. The Kokoda Trail, so significant to World War II continues to grow in popularity amongst serious trekkers.

### Excellent Fishing

The country's reputation for excellent fishing localities and choices of catch is fully boosted by the wonderful climate.

### Surfing the waves

Experience an unforgettable wave-riding adventure in the country's wave-breaking shores. From the breath-taking coastline of Vanimo that stretches down Madang, to the sandy beaches of New Ireland Province, where premiere breakpoints and scenic surfing sites are located.

### Bird Watching

Bird watching does not only require dead silence, it provides the opportunity for watchers to take in nature's most eerie surroundings and eternal spring whether up in the Highlands or in a typical tropical weather in the coastal areas. Over 700 species of feathered fliers flutter across our island including 38 of the 43

known species of the exotic Bird of Paradise. Not all the colours of the rainbow have been reserved for our feathered friends as there is an unlimited range of hues and shades to be seen in our 2000 orchids and countless magnificent butterflies including the world's largest, the Queen Alexandra Birdwing.

### World War II Relics

Relics of World War II battles are found in most parts of Papua New Guinea's land, underwater, caves and tunnels.

### Astounding Volcanoes

Located along the "Pacific Ring of Fire, Papua New Guinea offers distinct views of active volcanoes that captivates a land of tranquility. There exists a number of volcanoes in certain provinces, including the latest 'basaltic statovolcano on Manam Island, Madang Province. Other recent volcanic location include Rabaul's two volcanic cones-Vulcan and Tavurvur-and West New Britain's Mt Pago.

Visitors to our country are guests and hospitality is an honour in our Melanesian culture. Tipping is neither expected nor encouraged.

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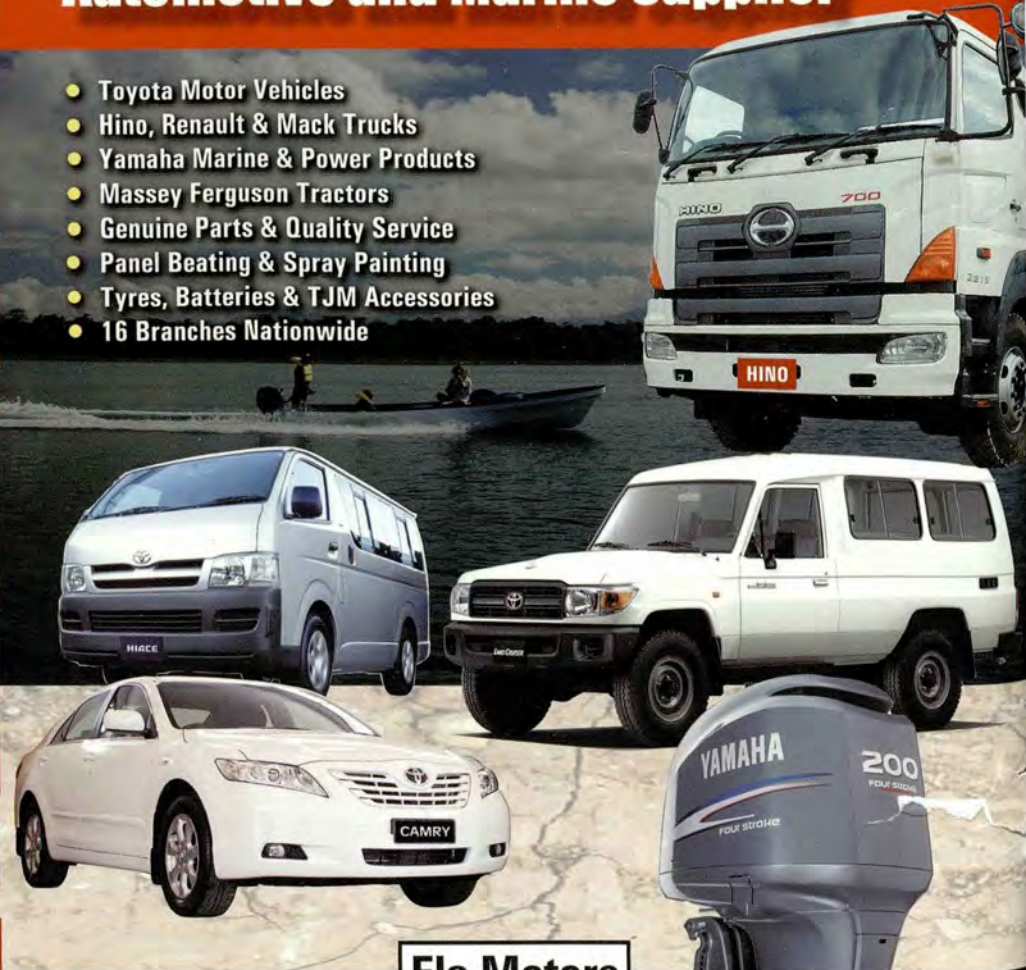
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