

A young girl with dark skin and hair is the central focus. She wears a large, vibrant pink flower on her head and a white bird perched on her shoulder. Her attire includes a red and orange patterned top and a fringed skirt. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a dense, green, natural setting.

Paradise

inflight with air niugini

VOL 2, 2010



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Office Building
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F+ 677 25114

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VANUATU
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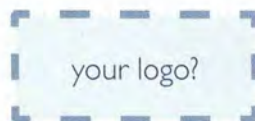
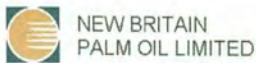
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Chairman's message



Welcome Aboard

With forecasts ahead of positive growth for the country and the multi billion kina liquefied natural gas project impacting on the various sectors we are expecting to see long term growth trends in the national economy.

To capitalise on potential business opportunities and developments within the country and in the region, Air Niugini is acquiring a second B767 to provide additional capacity and improved efficiency within its network. With a three international aircraft operation, we can envisage the ability to grow the network and improve both passenger and cargo capabilities.

Our northern summer schedule has commenced with a number of significant changes including the new B757 service on Monday morning between Port Moresby and Brisbane replacing the F100 afternoon, the triangular service between Port Moresby/Singapore/Kuala Lumpur on Thursday and the combined B767 Brisbane/Sydney service on Sunday with a direct return Sydney/Port Moresby flight on Monday.

On the domestic front, there are a number of schedule changes which we believe will meet the expectations of the travelling public.

For your inflight entertainment I hope you will enjoy the selection of movies and music onboard as well as a variety of destination stories In Paradise for some light reading during your flight.

A very warm welcome to our visitors from overseas who are visiting Papua New Guinea for the first time; I hope you will enjoy your stay in our fascinating country. To our frequent flyers, thank you for your continued patronage.

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Sir James N. Tjoeng, KBE
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Publisher/Managing Director
Godfrey Scoullar

Group Editor-in-Chief
Laisa Taga

Design
Stanley Prasad

Editorial Consultant
Eva Arni

Advertising & Marketing Manager
Sharron Stretton

Islands Business International
GPO Box 12718, Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel: +679 330 3108
Fax: +679 330 1423
E-mail: advert@ibi.com.fj

Correspondence to the airline to:
The Chief Executive Officer
Air Niugini
PO Box 7186
Boroko, NCD, Papua New Guinea
Tel: +675 327 3458
Fax: +675 327 3550

Editorial correspondence to:
Paradise Inflight Magazine
PO Box 12718, Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel: +679 3303 108
Fax: +679 3301 423
E-mail: editor@ibi.com.fj

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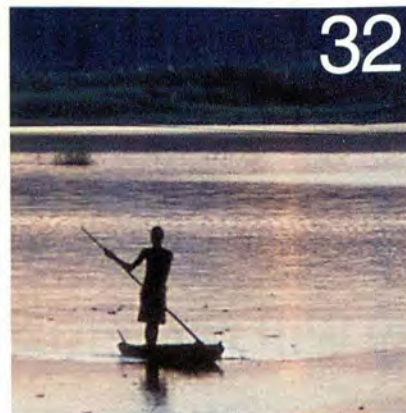
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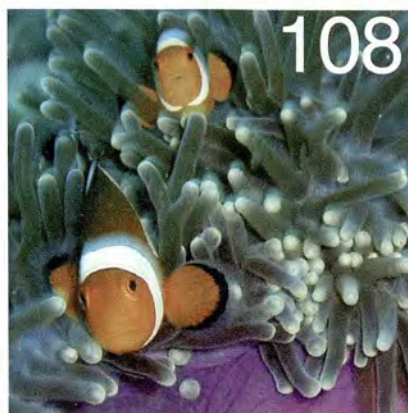
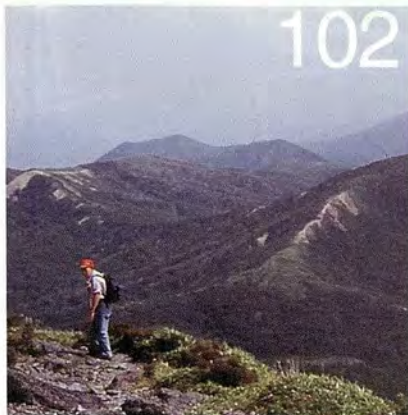
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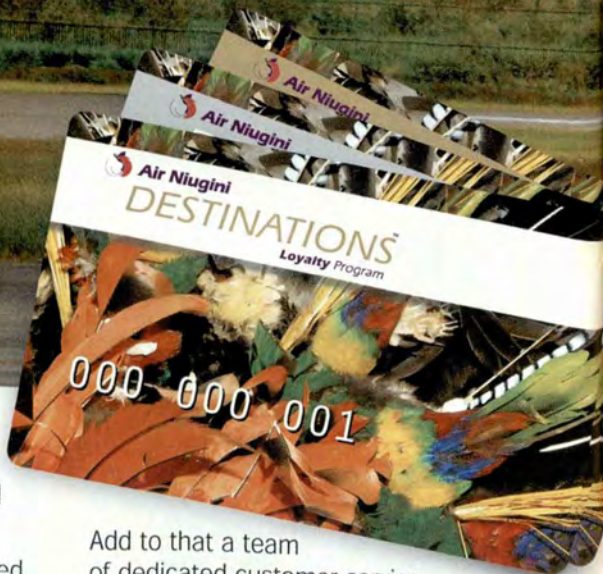


Air Niugini has invested in state of the art information technology to enhance customer relationships through its innovative **Destinations** Loyalty Program. Air Niugini's **Destinations** Loyalty Program is powered by Mercator, the IT solutions arm of the highly successful Emirates Airlines.

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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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 seat belt must be securely fastened during take off and landing or whenever the seat belt sign is on. When the seat belt sign is off you may move about the cabin as necessary. However while seated, keep your seat belt 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 seat belt 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 Custom 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.



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 Range: 4700km



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Fokker

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 Range: 3000km



DASH 8-Q315

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 Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123
 Cruising speed: 440kph
 Normal altitude: 7,500m
 Standard seating capacity: 50
 Range: 1800km



DHC-8-202

Bombardier

Length: 22.25m
 Wing span: 25.89m
 Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney
 Cruising speed: 550kph
 Normal altitude: 7,600m
 Standard seating capacity: 36
 Range: 1700km



Your wellbeing



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 high at 90° angle - elbows down, hands out in front. Raise hands up to chest and back down alternating arms. Do these exercises 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 to 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 towards 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.

FOOT PUMPS

Foot motion is in three stages.
1. Start with both heels on the floor and point feet upwards as high as you can.


2. Put both feet flat on the floor.

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

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Your health inflight

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:

- ✧ Former or current malignant disease
- ✧ Blood disorders leading to increased clotting tendency
- ✧ Personal or family history of DVT
- ✧ Immobilisation for a day or more

- ✧ Increasing age above 40 years
- ✧ Pregnancy
- ✧ Recent major surgery or injury, especially to lower limbs or abdomen
- ✧ Oestrogen hormone therapy, including oral contraceptives
- ✧ 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 travelling to different time zones without giving the body a chance to adjust to new night-day cycles. In general, the more time zones you cross during your flight, the more your biological clock is disturbed.

The common symptoms are sleeplessness, tiredness, loss of appetite or appetite at odd hours.

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.
- ◆ Leave your watch on home time if you're staying at a 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. Fly direct to minimise flight time. This allows you to relax more upon arrival.

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.

Recommendations

- ◆ 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.

Recommendations

- ◆ 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 hay fever 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 travelling.
- ◆ To "clear" your ears try swallowing and/or yawning. These actions help open your eustachian tubes, equalizing pressure between your 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 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.

Papua New Guinea





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MAKING it in the BIG WORLD

Isikeli Taureka: A global executive

BY ROWAN CALLICK*



*Isikeli Taureka...excelling
in global business.*

People from the Pacific have made their mark all over the world. They have mostly excelled in the world of sport - as rugby players, golfers, wrestlers.

Despite the obsession with politics in the region, few Pacific politicians have become known outside the region at all, or have made a mark beyond their own islands. The same can be said for business.

Even though business is now increasingly global, the region has developed too few stars - people who have truly excelled, either as entrepreneurs or as movers and shakers in big corporations.

This is the sphere, though, where the region's future lies - with the private sector that creates jobs and wealth.

Few have excelled in that world as gloriously as Isikeli Taureka - the son of a famous Papua New Guinean politician father, and of a much loved Fijian mother. He has become a business giant in the highly competitive energy world of China.

The future of the Pacific depends heavily on the region's capacity to build businesses and thus wealth that creates jobs rather than build government activities that just spend it.

Taureka is a wonderful model, an example of an islander who has reached a senior level in a highly competitive global industry, based on talent and hard work alone.

As Chevron's country manager for China, he has won a massive prize, winning a tender to



Isikeli Taureka is very interested in China and is building an awareness within Chevron of the possibilities of doing business there "across the value chain."

develop a 2,000 sq km gas field in mountainous Sichuan province in a US\$2 billion joint venture with local partner PetroChina, against a determined global competition.

There are Papua New Guineans in some surprising places around the world, including for instance Granger Narara, who was the chief training pilot for Emirates Airline and is now the vice-president for flight operations at Etihad Airways.

But Taureka is the first to have succeeded in such a high profile corporate position. "This is the big league," he said.

His father, Sir Reuben Taureka, is a doctor who trained in Fiji and met his mother there. Hence, his Fijian first name. They married and she came to live in PNG.

Sir Reuben later became a trade union leader and entered parliament with Sir Michael Somare's Pangu Party - claiming credit for introducing to PNG its new nationalist political uniform, the sulu, which he had seen worn so much in Fiji.

Isikeli - usually "Keli" - graduated in economics from the University of PNG in

1976, and joined the Bank of South Pacific, then owned by the National Australia Bank (NAB), working for some time with NAB in Melbourne, before becoming an accountant, then a manager of Port Moresby branches.

He worked with the bank for 12 years, including five as deputy managing director of the joint venture Resource Investment Finance Ltd - during which he helped finance the first airline owned by a PNG national, pilot Nat Koleala from Enga in the Highlands.

Then, he says, "I decided I had had enough of banking. The capital market wasn't very complex and it wasn't exciting any more".

His time-out which followed fishing and playing golf, was interrupted by a call from a staffer of the then Prime Minister, Sir Rabbie Namaliu.

He told his wife Joan - a close friend of Sir Rabbie's wife Margaret Nakikus, who later died tragically young - grabbed a tie, headed for the PM's office, and soon discovered his new challenge - taking over as managing director of the imploding state-owned monopoly telco, Post and Telecommunication Corp.

"I went into the office the next day. It was in chaos. We managed to stabilise it, then brought back in some of the experienced staff who had fled.

"Corporatisation was the flavour of the day, and we started that process with a lot of help from Telstra in Australia and from New Zealand Telecom.

"Telecommunications was among the country's crown jewels. I tried to slash costs, and introduce greater accountability, but the unions objected.

"The vision of enabling grassroots people to communicate was lost. The country couldn't progress while calls were costing more than a kina a minute."

But he is delighted that private competition has finally arrived, increasing access and choice, and slashing prices.

"Now, there's competition in the mobile market and it has turned the country upside down. But there are still no funds earmarked to provide cheap communications for villagers."

In those years before constitutional change



Chevron supplies liquefied natural gas to China out of Australia's North West Shelf.

held MPs to party loyalties, there was constant churning at the top. Sir Julius Chan reappointed Taureka when he returned to the prime ministership, and he served out the rest of his original contract and left.

His new life as a global executive was about to begin. It was 1995.

Chevron, which owned extensive oil fields and prospects in PNG's Highlands, took a strong interest in him and he was headhunted. When Taureka expressed concern that he knew nothing about the industry, the company said it would teach him.

"That was one of the luckiest breaks in my life - to be employed by a great company" - in fact the world's sixth biggest.

During his learning curve, he was placed in charge of finance, human resources, government relations and public affairs.

Chevron liked what it saw of him in PNG, and swiftly shifted him to San Ramon in northern California, its global HQ.

There, he became the planning manager for international exploration and production, and facilitated top management meetings.

The company viewed this as a "development assignment" for Taureka, he says. "It was a plunge into the real world of big business.

"I saw how companies are run, the processes and people and behaviour required to achieve outstanding results - things you don't get to see in PNG.

"Compared with my previous business experience, it was like night and day." He thought, during his two years there, that he would learn about the business more broadly, and then be assigned back to PNG for good.

"It didn't dawn on me that this would actually trigger an international career."

Taureka did return briefly to PNG, but also looked after Chevron's West Australian operations on Barrow Island.

In 2002 he became a Bangkok-based managing director, looking after operations in Thailand, Cambodia and Bangladesh - reorganising things to confront steep production declines.

In 2005 Chevron acquired fellow California-based Unocal, whose Thai assets were its most important - and Taureka smoothed their

transition into the Chevron fold. When the Chevron chief in China retired in mid-2006, Taureka replaced him.

He was able to hit the ground running, as he had been working for some time on regional strategy, formulated around gas and oil opportunities - a new direction for a vast country in which Chevron was not then an operator.

He says: "We were in a head-to-head bid for the acquisition of Unocal with China National Offshore Oil Corporation, with which we had two joint venture offshore oil operations, so I went to China with some trepidation. But I now enjoy close relations with my CNOOC counterparts."

Shortly after Taureka's arrival in China, he led the team that won the tender to develop, with PetroChina, the Chuandongbei "sour gas" fields in mountainous Sichuan in the south-west - the largest foreign involvement in the Chinese oil and gas industry.

The government had insisted on the introduction of a foreign operator after an uncontrolled release of sour gas resulted in 200 deaths and forced 5,000 people from their



Isikeli Taureka (fourth from left)...being a Papua New Guinean "provides a degree of comfort when I'm dealing with our Chinese counterparts, coming from this Asia-Pacific region".

homes.

"It's an amazing project for us. We developed a plan and won the tender in less than six months.

"That's almost the speed of light. Petrochina wanted to expedite it too, because of the strong pressure for increased energy supply in China."

Taureka was able to call on the best resources the company had to offer, from everywhere in the Chevron world, including the head office, and the company won the contract for 49 percent of the project, which covers 2,000 sq km and involves 5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Now, the wells have been drilled, reserves proven, funding arranged, and the project is in full construction mode.

"We did not think we could do anything in China," he says, because of the potential resentment over the withdrawal of CNOOC's bid for Unocal in the face of political opposition in the United States.

"But the Chinese are pretty practical people, and they appreciated our experience in

handling sour gas. We have had to prove ourselves, though. It's not just 'ganbei' (the Chinese toast at banquets). We have taken a very consultative approach. We hope to grow in China through opportunities where we can offer technical advantages, and also seek to work with our Chinese partners in the international arena."

Today, based in a massive office tower in the heart of Beijing's central business district, he heads a fast-growing operational business with about 200 staff there and in Tanggu, Shekou and Sichuan.

Taureka says being a Papua New Guinean "provides a degree of comfort when I'm dealing with our Chinese counterparts, coming from this Asia-Pacific region.

"When I walk in the door, they tend to think I'm South African or American. When I say I'm Papua New Guinean, things loosen up quickly. People in the resources industry know the country.

"Chevron also employs a number of Papua New Guineans working in other parts of the world, including in Lagos and Bangkok and Houston. The company helped Petrochina

drill its first well overseas, in Kikori in PNG, and such links go a long way. PetroChina's PNG manager then is now president of CNPC, PetroChina's parent company, and I recently took him to see our deep-water operations in the Gulf of Mexico. It's been quite an exciting ride," Taureka says.

He remains a PNG citizen. But he has become very interested in China and is building an awareness within Chevron of the possibilities of doing business there "across the value chain".

The company already supplies liquefied natural gas to China, out of Australia's North West Shelf.

Taureka loves the energy industry. "There's nothing like it. The numbers are much bigger than most other industries. It's strategic, it's political."

He has now recruited six top Chinese graduates, "building home-grown talent" as he was himself once groomed in PNG - where he still has aims of returning, one day, to contribute again.

• Rowan Callick is the Asia-Pacific editor of The Australian



Maliwai village along the Sepik.

Crocodile Clan

BY JOHN BORTHWICK

Below our Cessna, the Upper Sepik River glistens like a jade serpent, twisting and looping back on its own coils.

A tiny airstrip appears below, shaved into the dense jungle like a reverse Mohawk. We touch down and Alois Mateos from Ambunti Lodge is soon leading us to a 10-metre dugout canoe.

It resembles an oversized, hollow post with an outboard motor at the blunt end and six wicker chairs set down in the middle. We settle into these cane thrones and pour on enough sun block to emulate a solar eclipse.

As we chug upriver, white egrets rise from the banks like startled handkerchiefs. Mateos steers us off the main Sepik into a tributary lake and to Maliwai village, a settlement of several hundred people that seems suspended in the margins of time.

The wood and thatched houses face a grassy common on which children play anarchic



Tambanum village art.

Meets Nikon Clan

football. As we pull into the bank, crowds of kids and clouds of mosquitoes - natnats - greet us with equal enthusiasm.

On goes the insect repellent. The kids are taken by the sight of us applying our 'whiteness' from a tube as we make our way to the village haus tamburan, the spirit house.

Here is the sanctuary of men's business and clan totems - both the cassowary and crocodile. Beside a giant, crocodile-headed garamut drum, a bearded elder sits, enjoying an evening cheroot.

His reverie is soon banished by a blitzkrieg

of flashbulbs. Crocodile Clan meets Nikon Clan. Perhaps, he is recalling the old days when - according to Sepik custom - women intruders (there are three in our party) into a haus tamburan could have been put to death.

He takes a philosophical tug on his cheroot and gazes into the distance.

The people of Maliwai, as with almost everyone we meet on the Sepik, welcome our intrusion and are keen to market their carvings. Thus begins our collection of wooden Sepik objets d'art. Come dusk, we chug back downstream to Ambunti, with the

sky above us a cocktail of hues served on clouds stirred not shaken.

In the morning, we begin our 200-km downriver adventure. The Sepik, one of the largest rivers in the world in terms of water flow, starts its 1120-km journey in PNG's central mountains, then travels a long westerly loop before meandering eastwards to the Bismarck Sea.

In Korogo village, we visit a massive two-storey haus tamburan that's over 50 metres long and has an upper floor given over entirely to art works. Huge carved and painted faces, totemic figures, birds and ubiquitous wooden

pukpuks (crocodiles) through the gloom. The fertility carvings are lustily inventive, with most of the protuberances and crannies of the human body as inspiration to the graphic imaginations of the artists.

In one 'big house', we see but cannot photograph the 'orator's chair'. During a major dispute (the most common are over land and sorcery) antagonists must sit in this magical chair, which, according to belief, permits only the truth to be told by its occupant. A liar is soon reduced by the powers of the chair to a sweating, trembling mess - and is thus guilty as hell.

Sorcery and crocodiles are deeply woven into Sepik lore. A sorcerer, it is said, temporarily blinds his enemy, turns himself into a crocodile, eats his foe, and then returns to human form. Indeed, when a crocodile fatality occurred here in 1993 and sorcery was suspected, police were dispatched to arrest the crocodile.

The Middle Sepik is a waterworld of floating hyacinth islands, stilt villages and crocodile-prowed dugout canoes. We slip into the lush Chambri Lakes to put ashore at Aibom, noted for its baked clay pottery. The distinctive grinning faces on the decorated Aibom clay pots prove irresistible to our group. When these join the masks, pukpuks

and figurines we have already gathered, our canoe looks like a garage sale on Noah's Ark.

We overnight in a comfortable community-owned guest lodge at Tambaran, which, with a population of around one thousand, is one of the largest villages on the Middle Sepik. Celebrated anthropologist Margaret Mead once lingered for months in Tambaran. It's easy to understand why as I watch the giant graffiti of stars scrawled across the Sepik night sky.

The lodge-keeper tells me that in recent decades no young men have been initiated here, 'Because our haus tamburan, where the initiation ceremonies take place, has fallen down. Another one can't be built.' I ask why not? He hesitates, then explains frankly. The village cannot build a new spirit house because, according to former headhunting tradition, each corner post should have a human skull buried beneath it, and in modern PNG thou shalt



Korogo Haus Tambaran.





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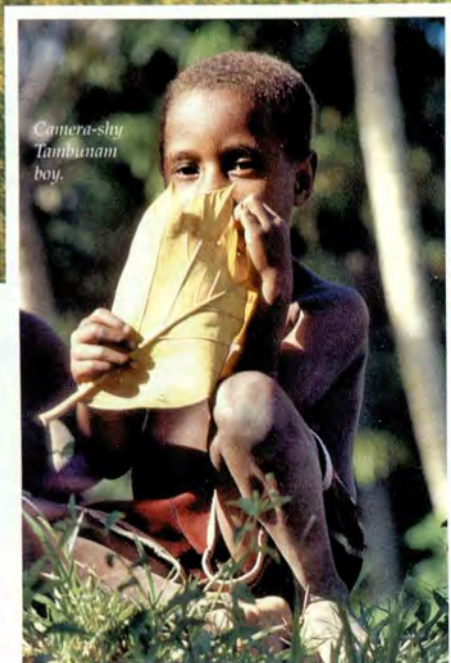
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Camera-shy
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Tambunan family on their way home.

not confiscate thy neighbour's head. We stroll through the village, noted for its fine carvings. As we approach each house, a little menagerie appears of carved wooden crocodiles, cockerels and masks. Too dignified to thrust their wares at visitors, the people of the Tambanum let their art sell itself. And it does. There is no room left now in our dugout, so collectively we must swear off any further art acquisitions.

In such villages the culture now incorporates totems, sorcery and clan systems, along

with Christianity, satellite TV and rugby league, making them simultaneously pre- and post-modern like few other places on earth. We climb back into our canoe for the final three-hour ride down to Angoram town.

The wind is high, rippling the river's glittering surface. Stilt villages drift by. Then I see in the distance an alien creature - a car. Overhead, a plane. Too soon, a church steeple pokes above the jungle canopy. We fall silent, with the river mirroring our dugout thoughts.



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Tribesman from Mt Hagen.



New Colonials at the Mt Hagen Show

BY GRAHAM SIMMONS

The sun was beating down even at eight o'clock in the morning at the Mount Hagen Show in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. I needed sunscreen, and fast. But none was to be found.

Then, an elderly lady, her body and limbs glistening in the sunlight, came to my rescue. "Try this," she said, offering me a generous dollop of pig fat. And sure enough, it worked like a charm - except for the number of dogs that seemed to start taking an unusual interest in me.

But it's not just pig fat that adorns the performers at the Mount Hagen Show. Bird-of-paradise feathers, bright body paints, cowrie shells, tangget leaves and variegated bead-strings form a riot of costume and colour. When I express some concern about the number of birds killed for their feathers, I learn that the plumages are family heirlooms, carefully preserved and passed down from one generation to the next.

Nearly 50 years after an enlightened colonial administrator came up with the idea of bringing warring Papua New Guinea tribes together in a mega-culture-fest, the Mount Hagen Show has gained iconic status. The show was first intended to signal a new era of peace in the Highlands, after a long history of



A Morobe tribesman gets ready.



Dancer from Kundiawa village in the Chimbu province.

conflict documented in the classic movie trilogy *First Contact*, *Joe Leahy's Neighbours* and *Black Harvest* by Bob Connolly and Robin Anderson. The first event, billed as the Mount Hagen Agri-Cultural Show, took place in 1961 and by 1971, the show was attracting over 60,000 performers every year.

But by 1978, newspapers were reporting: "That mammoth PNG spectacular, the Mount Hagen Show, looks like being no more. High coffee prices and a changing social climate have led to a growing lack of interest among the local people in donning their bird-of-paradise plumes and war paint. From now on, it will be a low-key event - a sort of fun day intended mainly for local consumption." (*Melbourne Age*, 6 March 1978)

How wrong can you get? History shows that coffee prices subsequently plummeted. What had been a profitable export suddenly became a burden to the producers (as graphically depicted in *Black Harvest*). Tourism came to be



A young Huli wigmán from Turi in the Southern Highlands.



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seen as an alternative revenue-raiser, and so the Mount Hagen Cultural Show survived and thrived, despite a downturn in foreign visitor numbers this year due to the global economic re-adjustment.

And what a show it is! There are troupes from all over the Western Highlands, from the brand-new provinces of Jiwaka and Chimbu, and from Finschhafen, down on the coast. The Flying Fox group from the Southern Highlands looks suitably gruesome in their fruit-bat

outfits. The Asaro Mudmen are like ghostly apparitions, wearing what appear to be space helmets and smeared with white volcanic ash.

The day starts early, with Pat Siwi and his band shattering the ether with hard rock music. Meanwhile, the performers are getting ready - carefully applying their war-paints and other adornments, the men wielding spears and bows-and-arrows or, less fearsomely, playing jaw-harps and drums. When the body-ornamentations are complete, the performers

file into the main stadium, where a giant "singing" gets underway.

But in a display of neo-colonialism gone crazy, there are now virtually two Mount Hagen shows - one for the privileged few "gated guests" and an outer enclosure for the general masses. The tourists taken by buses to the inner compound, secreted behind screen-wire, carrying bottled water and packed lunches from their hotels, hermetically sealed against the graphically real Papua New Guinea, as





The Asaro Mudmen.



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though the latter is somehow a threat to their health. I step out of the gated enclosure into the general-admission showgrounds, where all the fun of the fair is in full swing.

Young ladies try their hands at throwing quoits over Coke bottles (bizarrely appropriate, as Coca-Cola is now one of the major sponsors of the show).

Shooting galleries and lottery stands do a roaring trade. Kebabs of pork-and-vegetables, fresh off the grill, are sold for about 50 cents.

Not only do I feel no threatening vibes whatsoever; I even encounter the only "reverse beggar" I've ever met - a little kid who comes up and wants to give me money!

Back in the main arena, Western Highlands governor Tom Olga, the youngest member of the Papua New Guinea parliament, gives a stirring speech.

He says that, for the first time, the local provincial government will be financially supporting the Mount Hagen Show from 2010 onwards.

And the verdict on the Mount Hagen Cultural Show? It's a spectacle without peer, but more interaction with the performers would be great. Maybe representatives of the different cultural groups could address the crowd, talking about their own tribe's unique customs and ways of life.

Finally, those thinking of visiting the Mount Hagen Show should think about foregoing the costly "privileges" of the gated enclosure and instead join the general crowd, who get probably a better view of the proceedings from a hillock overlooking the main arena. OK, so there may now be virtually two Mount Hagen shows - the "inner" and the "outer" - but have a guess as to which one is more fun!



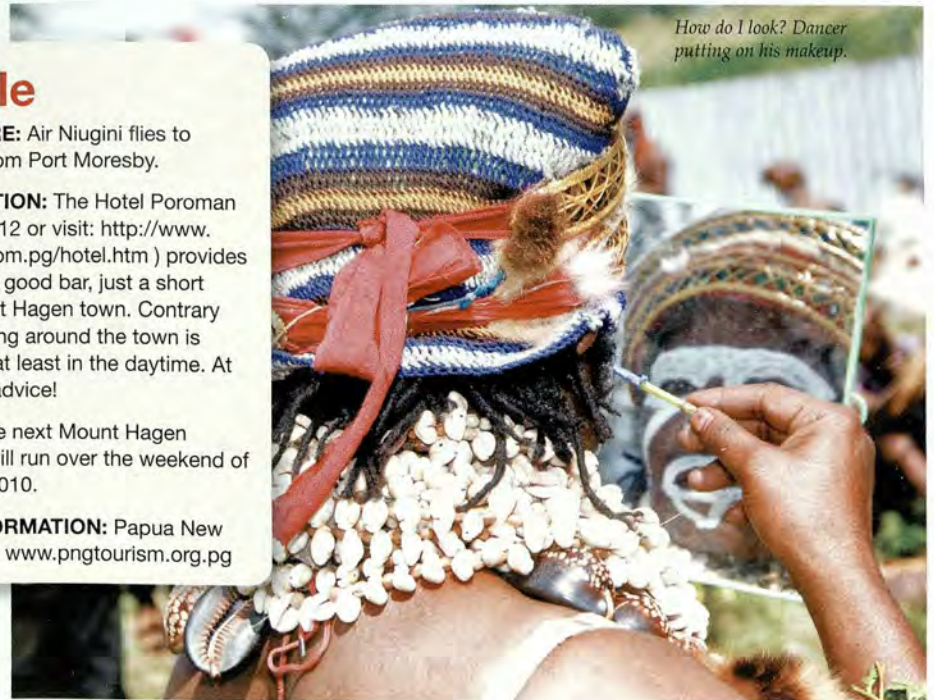
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GETTING THERE: Air Niugini flies to Mount Hagen from Port Moresby.

ACCOMMODATION: The Hotel Poroman (tel +675 542 3312 or visit: <http://www.hausporoman.com.pg/hotel.htm>) provides great digs and a good bar, just a short stroll from Mount Hagen town. Contrary to rumour, walking around the town is perfectly safe - at least in the daytime. At night, get local advice!

THE SHOW: The next Mount Hagen Cultural Show will run over the weekend of 14-15 August, 2010.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Papua New Guinea Tourism: www.pngtourism.org.pg



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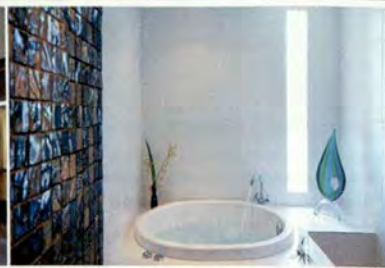
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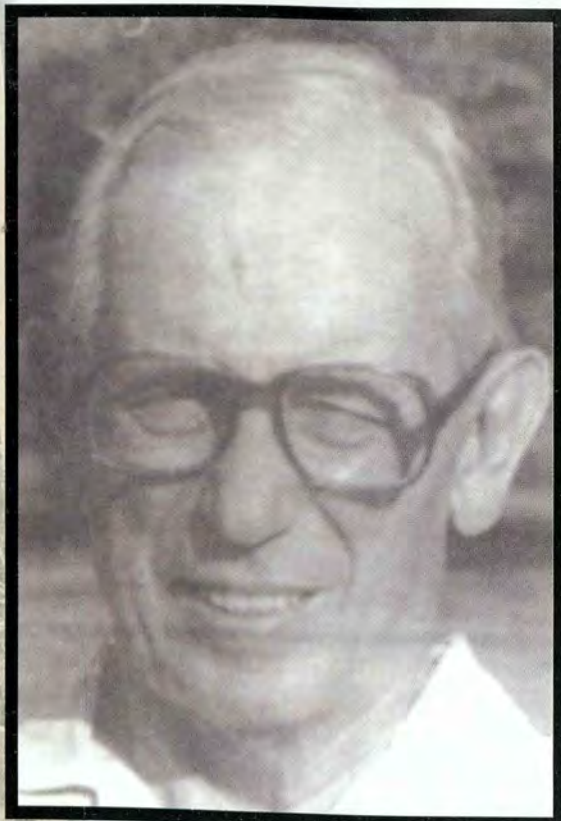
FRANK MIHALIC: A True Wantok of PNG

BY PATRICK MATBOB



Cover page of the first issue of Wantok.

On August 5, 2009, PNG's popular Tok Pisin newspaper WANTOK celebrated its 40 years. One person who wasn't around for the celebration was the paper's founder, the late Fr Frank Mihalic.



Fr Frank Mihalic.

In 1967, Mihalic, an American Catholic priest of the Order of Divine Word Missionaries (SVD) was tasked by the Catholic Bishops Conference of PNG to start a pidgin language paper. The first issue rolled off the press on August 5, 1970, in Wirui, East Sepik Province - only 11 months after Papua New Guinea's oldest newspaper - the Post Courier - was launched.

The paper was one of a number of valuable contributions Mihalic had made to Papua New Guinea. These included his services as a priest and pastor, a health worker, an author of 30 books, publisher of the first dictionary of Melanesian Pidgin and Grammar, and 51 years as a religious teacher and journalism lecturer and mentor.

The first edition of WANTOK that Mihalic produced was nothing like the tabloid-sized paper one sees today. It was a smaller-sized paper with an intricately designed masthead and a logo depicting a handshake. WANTOK



Launch of the Wantok newspaper in Wirui, Sepik.

literally means "one language" and the word is used to describe a person from the same language group, province or region, etc.

WANTOK is, however, not the first pidgin language newspaper in PNG. The first paper was Nu Gini Toktok, which was often regarded as the most smoked newspaper in the world! WANTOK would later claim that title. Nu Gini Toktok was edited and produced in the 1950s by a Papua New Guinean, Muttu Gware of Morobe Province. Muttu was then working for a newspaper called the Times Courier in Lae.

Mihalic can, however, claim to be the first to produce a newspaper in the standardised version of the pidgin language which is now known as Tok Pisin.

He arrived in the country in 1948, soon after his ordination to priesthood. He was the son of a Pennsylvania railway man and was born on November 24, 1916. He was named after his father who was Croatian and had a flair for languages. His mother was Slovakian.

Mihalic's training included philosophy, theology, Greek and Latin and he also found time for medical studies at the Chicago College of Medical Technology.

His first place after arrival was the Divine Word Catholic Mission Headquarters at Alexishafen in Madang, which had been reduced to rubble

during the war. He wrote: "Our homes are like our Lord's tomb: close to the ground. They are ramshackle lean-tos of termite infested timber holding aloft a tin roof - for the time being. We have gunny sack walls and rainwater for drinking and washing. The work most of us priests did here over the past weeks was anything clerical; overhauling jeeps, servicing diesel boat motors, hauling supplies by air and sea, setting up leftover army machinery and building."

After some weeks, he received his first posting as the parish priest at Marienberg in East Sepik. Here, one of his parishioners was a young boy named Michael Somare, who later became the first prime minister of Papua New Guinea. Mihalic was sent later to Kairuru Island, off the coast of Wewak, to rebuild the Catechist school there.

He was fluent in Tok Pisin which was the language used for teaching at the time and developed his own teaching materials. He also obtained a licence as a medical assistant and helped to provide health services to the people affected by numerous illnesses, particularly tuberculosis. He soon caught the disease himself in 1954 and was sent to a sanitarium in California, where he was bedridden for 22 months.

Following his recovery, he spent some time

learning to walk again. It was during his time in hospital that he turned to linguistics and first began translating the New Testament into Tok Pisin. However, he abandoned the project when he learnt that the Lutheran Church had already started its own translation. Instead, he began collecting a Tok Pisin lexicon which was to grow into his famous Tok Pisin dictionary and grammar.

After he recovered from his illness, he worked for sometime as hospital chaplain and in 1957, took the Norman Oklahoma Summer Institute of Linguistic course for a formal training in linguistics. He also enrolled in the University of Michigan Graduate School and was given a teaching assistantship. In the meantime, he published his dictionary and started work on his thesis for a master's degree programme.

He left his studies unfinished when he was suddenly recalled to PNG. He moved to Enga as a parish priest until he was called to Rome in 1959, where he worked for the next eight years. In mid-1967, the Bishops Conference in PNG asked him to return to PNG to start a pidgin newspaper. He began in 1969 with no focus, no printing equipment and no media experience. He gained all three within a year. The offices were set up in Wewak and he trained the staff for the first issue himself.

He explained, "WANTOK is a typical Pidgin

The Jacaranda Dictionary and Grammar of Melanesian Pidgin

F. Mihalic S.V.D.

word which literally means someone speaking the same language. The word also implies being a friend, a chum, a confidant. We want the paper to be all those things to its readers."

He added, "One of the things we are going to have to settle before we even start printing is the "smokeability" of the paper we are using. That will help sell the papers. People here have the custom of rolling their home-grown tobacco into cigarettes with newsprint.

"They don't like the usual thin tissue paper for roll-yours. It burns too fast. They like newsprint but not every kind - it must burn a certain way and produce a white ash. So we want to make sure that we have the best smoking paper in the country. Then we can advertise it that way. And we'll have to print a warning on the front page, stating: PLEASE READ THIS PAPER BEFORE YOU SMOKE IT. May be someday we'll get into the Guinness Book of Records as the most smoked newspaper in the world."

When WANTOK moved to Port Moresby in 1976, it had become a weekly newspaper with a circulation of 9,000. Today, it has a circulation of 30,000 and a readership of 200,000. In 1979, Mihalic resigned as editor and spent the next few years travelling around Papua New Guinea as a roving reporter writing feature articles for WANTOK. In the meantime, he revised his grammar and dictionary for the new Jacaranda publication which appeared in 1971 and was reprinted many times until 1983. He found time to translate the PNG Constitution into Tok Pisin. In 1981, he was awarded an MBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for "services rendered to Pidgin in Papua New Guinea".

Recognition also came from the University of Papua



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tuned professors for my department so I yielded to them." With his vast journalism experience in PNG, he was still needed and returned to Divine Word University; finally giving his last lesson on August 7, 1997. He told his journalism students: "This is where my teaching career ends."

In 1994, Mihalic was in a reflective mood when he wrote modestly about his many achievements. He wrote; "Playing second fiddle, doing ancillary or supportive work has been the story of my life. It has meant being a stop-gap to fill some temporary need, or being a spare part that either helps to start something or keeps it going. The euphoria of being continually needed could easily have inflated my ego had I not luckily chanced upon a very sobering biblical text.

"One day I looked up the word "need" in my concordance and was shocked to find out that only once in the entire New Testament had the Lord ever said that he had need of anything. It was the time he was going up to Jerusalem. He said he had need of a jackass!

"I took the hint. And ever since, Luke 19:34 has become my text. You will find it on my desk, scrawled across a snapshot of a genuine donkey patiently standing at the Damascus Gate."

In 1999, Mihalic left Papua New Guinea for the last time and in Port Moresby was farewelled by a large group of his former journalism students. He passed away in the United States aged 85 on December 8, 2001.



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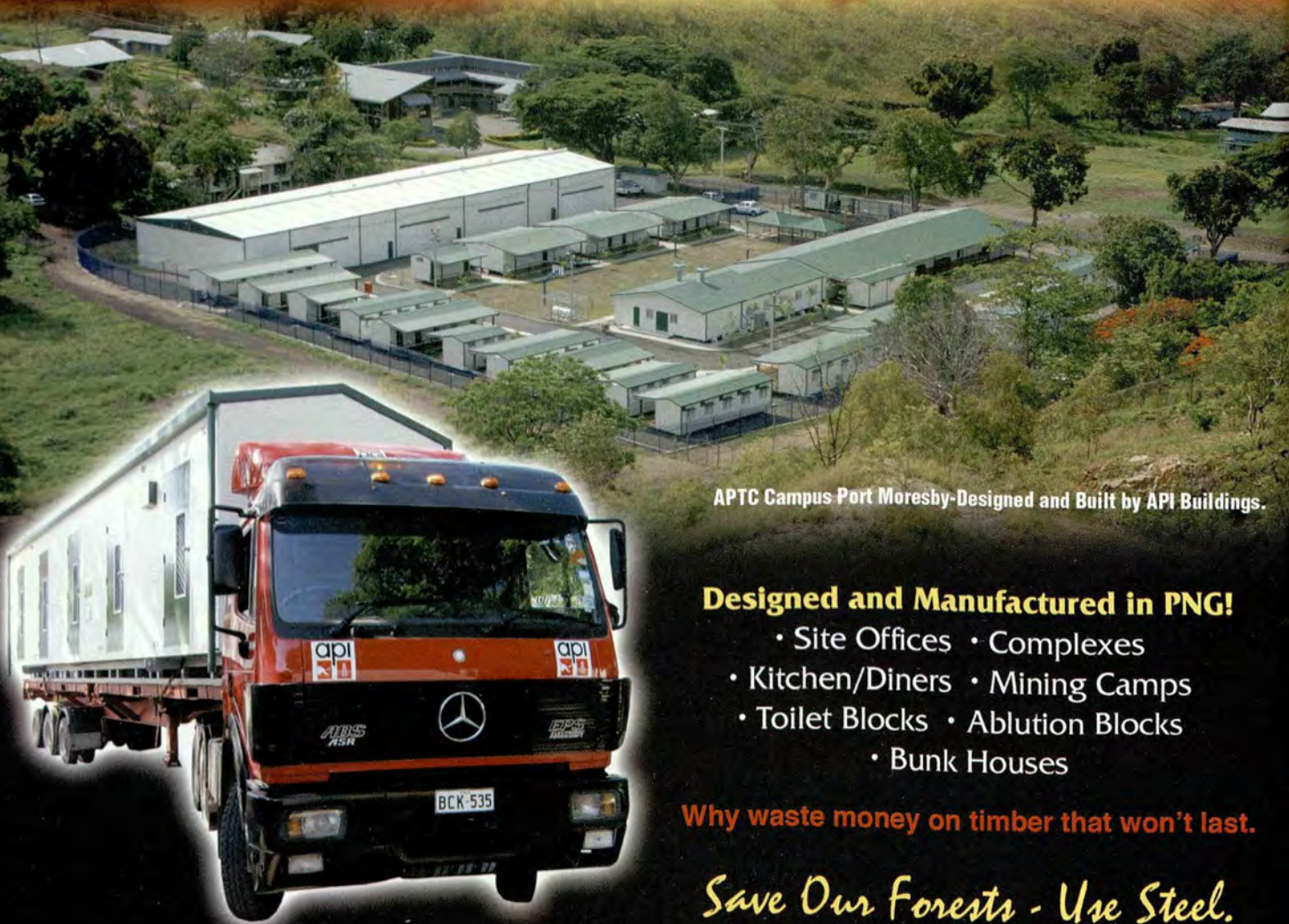
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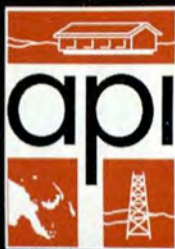
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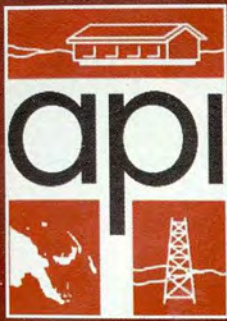
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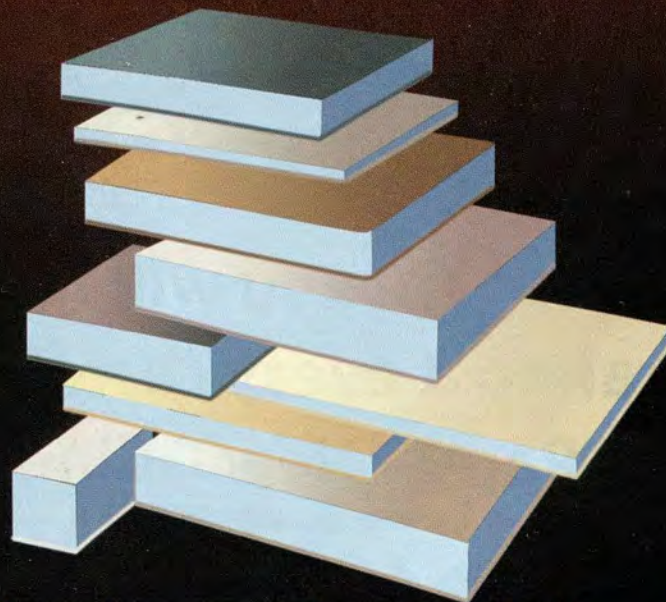
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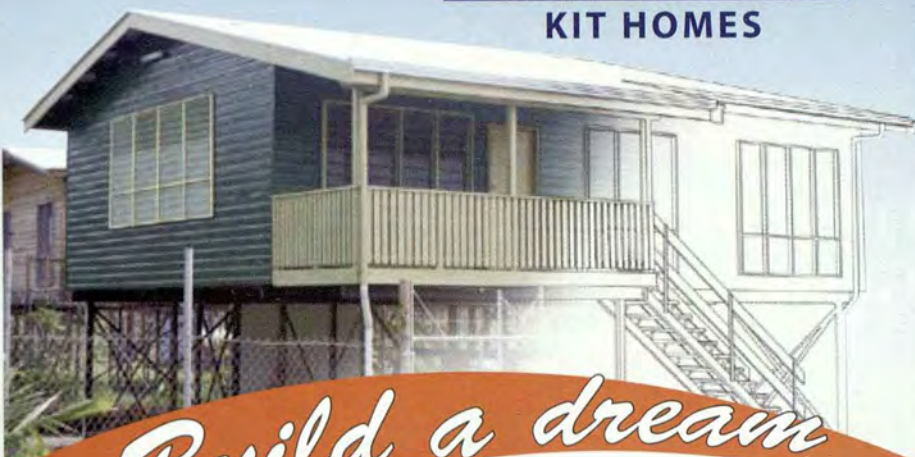
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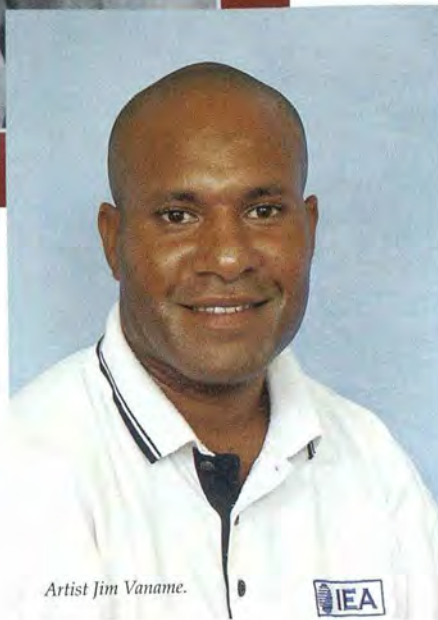
Infectious Drawings

Portrait of an artist

BY DIANA MCMANUS

Bold swirls and fine strokes of lead, subtle shades of grey, and most of all, life and energy, characterise the drawings of Port Moresby artist Jim Vaname, whose name is finally getting recognition.

His lead pencil portraits of Papua New Guineans and their lifestyle are amongst the finest drawings you will find anywhere.



Artist Jim Vaname.

The mood of Vaname's drawings is totally infectious. You only have to take one look at "The Smiling Girl" and you immediately feel the joy and simplicity of this Western Highland girl who has clearly encountered something of interest.

You can almost feel the invisible bond between mother and child in 'Mama na pikinin'. He faithfully captures expressions of challenge, such as on the face of the woman in 'Oro Oro' or on 'Rone's Bubum'. And it's the eyes that say it all, particularly in the intense look of the 'Ples man'.

It's not easy to break into the serious art world with graphite portraits. Patrons generally prefer mediums which involve colour and texture. So it was a thrill for Vaname recently, to have two of his portraits selected to be hung at the annual prestigious Luk Save Art Show, held each year at the Royal Papua Yacht Club.

Anyone who has seen Vaname's work would not be surprised that his pieces were rapidly snaffled up, and by none other than Noreo Beangke, Chairman of the BSP Board of Directors. He bought both Mother and Child 1 and Mother and Child 2.

The road to commercial success and recognition has been a long but steady climb for Vaname.

He was born in Mt Hagen, on the cusp of Independence. His father worked as a pay clerk for the Minj District Administration Office.

In fact, Vaname's grandfather, Joe Kumo, was one of the early pioneers of Minj, helping the "kiaps" to develop the town during the colonial era.

Vaname recalls that in his youth Minj was an extremely popular destination for expats who flew in for weekends, just to play golf and stay at the nice Minj Hotel.

Although his very early years were spent in Mt Hagen, the family, which included his three brothers, eventually moved to Minj where Vaname attended Bosco Primary School.

Even back in Grade 2 at Bosco, everyone recognised his talent. He simply loved to draw. In the rural primary schools, then, resources were rather short, and Vaname's main artistic outlet was drawing with pencils which were readily available at the local store.

His talent continued to be recognised by his teachers as he progressed through years 7 and 8 at Minj High School.

Three particular people inspired him during these years. The earliest influence would have to be his uncle, Mau Teke, whose little drawings copied from popular comics of the time, would entertain him as a child. In the eyes of that child the Phantom, Superman and countless army figures came to life. Another was his "wantok", or clansman, Wii Tumun, who would paint signs and murals on village shops in the Minj and Jiwaka area, and he continues to do this in his maturity, in the Port Moresby area.

Vaname's major inspiration however, was a close family friend, George Siwi, who now owns a recording studio in Goroka. He was excellent at drawing and painting and always had a portfolio of his artistic work for the young lad to flip through and admire.

Even today Vaname has a selection of George's work which he shows to his students to inspire them.

Sadly, his parents eventually separated, and his mother took the boys to live in Lae where Vaname then completed Years 9 and 10 at Lae Provincial High School, known today as Lae Secondary School. By this time he was producing amazing, quality drawings. He had dreams of studying architecture at UNITECH but at that time was unable to get into one of the four existing National High Schools (Sogeri, Passam, Keravat and Ayura).



Lapun Man.



Mother and Child.

His Expressive Arts teacher was so impressed with Vaname's drawings he wrote references to UPNG (University of Papua New Guinea) to help him with his application to be admitted for a Certificate in Visual Arts from the Creative Arts faculty.

His undoubted talent earned him a scholarship and he was fast-tracked to university without completing Years 11 and 12. In fact, he studied for his matriculation concurrently with his Certificate in Visual Arts.

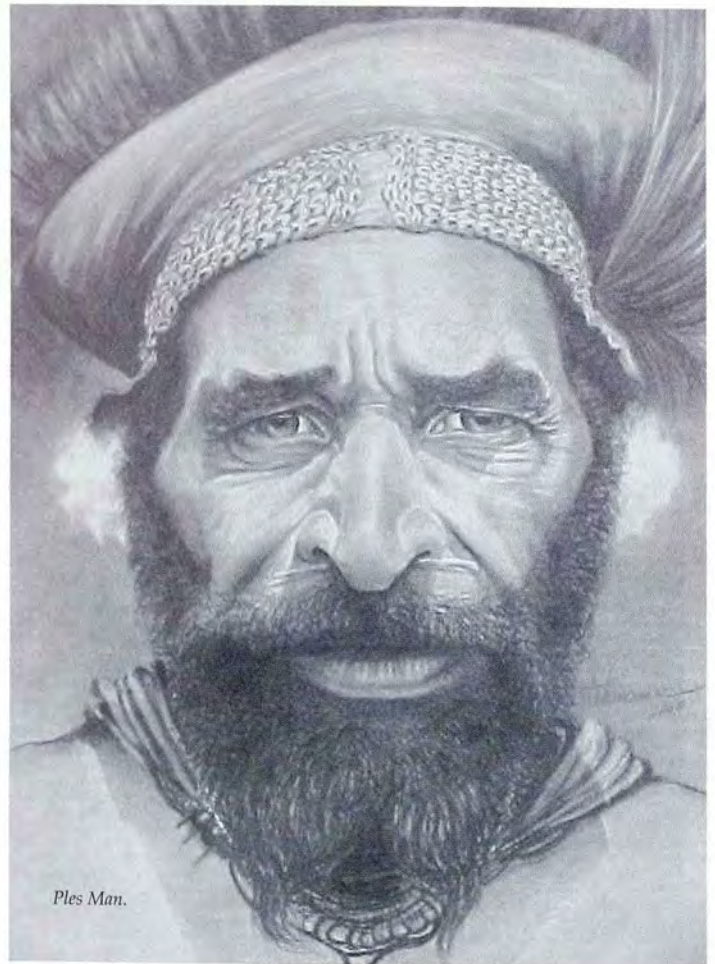
His resounding success in a variety of mediums, which he took to avidly, led to further scholarships to complete a Diploma in Graphic Design at UPNG. During these years his major inspiration was his lecturer, Bob Brown, creator of the definitive Papua New Guinea cartoon character, Grass Roots.

In fact only recently Vaname met Bob at a UPNG art exhibition for final students and he invited Vaname to send him an electronic portfolio of his work to show him his progress.

"There was a standard of excellence about them which excited me as I looked at them," Bob replied by email... "As your former teacher, I am delighted at what you have done."

After graduation, Vaname was ready to launch himself into the real world and obtained a job with VisAd (Visual Advertising), a part of Pacific View productions. Seven days into the job, he was astounded to learn that the government had rescinded its four-year

Mama n Pikinin.



Ples Man.

scholarship quota in his case, because of his impressive transcripts.

He was awarded a scholarship for a fifth year and went off to Goroka University to get a Diploma in Expressive Arts. Throughout all these years of study from high school onwards, Vaname was especially helped out financially by his brother Justin, to whom he feels greatly indebted.

Finally, it was time to stand on his own two feet. Out in the world of reality he had to earn a living, so he became an art teacher at Malala Catholic Secondary School in the Bogia District of Madang Province where he remained for three years.

He found this very interesting being able to teach his craft as well as to create new works himself which he exhibited at the annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition in Madang, and at an exhibition at Divine Word University.

From these exhibitions, Vaname met several people who commissioned drawings from him, in particular, the Cassell family, owners of Madang Lodge. It was through the interest of these patrons that he recognised his potential to earn a living through

Peles Bilas.



selling his art. He took up a position at Madang Technical College for a couple of years teaching painting and signwriting and continued to produce drawings for his fans and for sale.

Finally, he saw an advertisement in the Post Courier and National newspapers for a teacher in Art and Design at Port Moresby International School (PMIS) and jumped at the chance to move to Port Moresby, and successfully applied for the position, where he remains to this day. Students of Port Moresby International School are lucky to have him as their Art teacher.

They had a chance to appreciate his talent which was on show at a public Art exhibition arranged by PMIS called Artists of Tomorrow, except that Vaname is clearly an artist of today! Ironically, Bob Browne's son is now a student at PMIS!

His quest for a new lifestyle and artistic opportunities has presented exciting challenges and pathways since coming to Port Moresby. Many of his drawings have been bought by expats and adorn the walls of offices and homes in Australia, England, Ireland and elsewhere in the world.

At 35 years old, this young man, originally from the Minj District in the Western Highlands, is well on the way towards achieving his dream which is to establish his own Art and Design printing business where he can devote more time to his own creations.

• If you would like to view Vaname's works privately, he may be contacted on 7293 1933 or emailed at jvaname@yahoo.com



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Mal Meninga...
chief guest at
Pacific Storms
exhibition.



I t has been a struggle, but Pacific artists are now stamping their mark in the Australian art scene and creating awareness of the potential they possess.

With the opening of the Pacific Storm Contemporary Art Exhibition, the first of its kind, more than 30 artists from the Pacific are now showcasing their work for the Australian public to appreciate.

Officially opened on December 16 last year at the Waterfront Place Foyer in Brisbane, the exhibition is featuring a selection of art from 10 Pacific countries with over 30 Pacific artists.

The 60 works of art stood out boldly in their vibrant colours and most were an emotional reflection of the current social and environmental issues affecting the islands of the Pacific.

The exhibition was first launched at the Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery in June 2009 and in six weeks of showing, it was visited by over 3000 people.

Pacific Storm

Local artists storm the Oz art scene

BY ISABELLE DINA





Climate Change Relocation by PNG's Winnie Weoa.

The Bundaberg region has a long and rich history with the Pacific nations, with many of the Pacific countries forming the diverse labour force that established Bundaberg and the surrounding Queensland east coast in the 1860s.

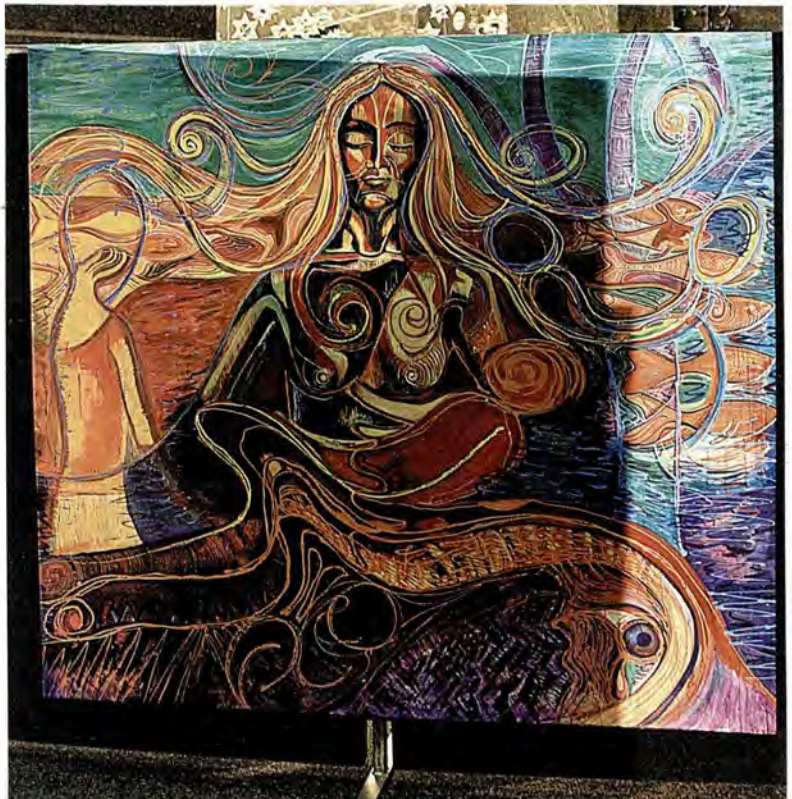
"Australia's sugar industry was founded on the sweat of men and women, some kidnapped and all enticed from more than 80 Melanesian islands. Pacific Storms aims to re-unite these communities with their wantoks (relatives and friends) through a collaborative community engagement using art as an expression of who they are and how they feel about their societies," said co-curator Joycelin Leahy.

I first met Joycelin in October 2009 in Brisbane. A passionate Papua New Guinea-born Australian artist, she shared how Pacific Storms came about and the challenges of bringing such an exhibition together.

"Pacific Storms was an idea that developed after the PIMA Oceanic Art Symposium and was supported largely by Pacific Art Alliance members. The name "Pacific Storms" was chosen to represent contemporary Pacific challenges in the region and create awareness for the Australian audience of what is happening in the Pacific.

"The challenge was to draw away from mainstream society categories and a stereotype of what is Pacific art and who Pacific people are, and to explore new aesthetics," Leahy said.

On the opening night in Brisbane, the guest of honour, Australian Rugby League legend, who is also of Pacific



Rehu by Fiji's Letila Mitchell.



ancestry, Mal Meninga, further highlighted the challenges for Pacific art and his belief that Pacific islanders should be given recognition in today's Australian society.

"The exhibition also represents developments in contemporary Pacific arts which are far better accepted and appreciated in New Zealand, the United States and many European countries than in Australia.

"Pacific arts are still struggling to find a place in Australia and Pacific Storms is part of giving Pacific arts a more prominent place in an Australian arts environment."

Papua New Guinea was well represented with works from various artists including Daniel Waswas (Shifting of the mindset), Laben Sakale (Wife beating), Winnie Weoa (Climate change relocation) and Jeffrey Freeger (Transition)

Fiji was represented by artists such as Micah Fursetafa, Irami Buli, Lambert Ho, Cresantia Frances Koya, Abraham Lagi, Jeki Lagi, Letila Mitchell, Anare Somumu, Lingikoni Vaka'uta and Mason Lee, who showcased his "Ultra Summer" painting which won the hearts of many.

"Ultra Summer", an oil enamel on a canvas piece, has the symbolism of the unseen world that Mason is so fond of. But in this instance, his cherished red palettes are replaced by forest deep greens and sunshine yellows, thus revealing his call to support and preserve the environment in the Pacific.





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Darwin-based Sunameke dancers who performed at the opening of Pacific Storms.

Many other issues were explored through the works of art from globalisation, civil and political unrest, HIV/AIDS, identity, motherhood, domestic violence, global warming and culture in a powerful and often bloody cry to listen to the pleas of Pacific Islanders and their struggles to preserve their land, ancestral heritage and beliefs while transiting into a modern society, coming to terms with its changing world.

As stated by the Hon Duncan Kerr, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Islands Affairs: "A sense of pride in Pacific ancestry permeates the exhibition with a quiet insistence that their voices must be heard and listened to".

On the night, dance was also represented as a Pacific art with a main performance from Papua New Guinea born and Darwin based dancers, Julia and Yola of the Sunameke Group, together with Kat and Sam Sonter. They told of the Chauka, a guardian bird of the Manus islands, which used to warn the Manus people of danger. Sunameke is sending out the Chauka to warn of the dangers of rising sea levels in the Pacific.

Pacific Storms will carry on its journey of awareness at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra in 2010, while other states in Australia, Papua New Guinea and other Pacific countries have already shown interest.

However, at this stage, funding remains the main obstacle to spreading as widely as possible the Pacific Islanders message of hope and resilience.

The Brisbane exhibition ended on January 2, 2010 and attracted more than 10,000 visitors. Half of the works were sold with many buyers interested in acquiring more artworks from the Pacific region.



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Soge Dilambe...leading the campaign to revive the Festival of Feathers.

Reviving the Festival of Feathers

BY PATRICK MATBOB

You would have walked past Soge Dilambe on the streets of Madang and not taken a second glance at him. Barefooted and slender built, he blends in with the crowd as he moves around with his small backpack doing business for his Dugu Ruts Resources Cooperative Society.

It is only when you ask him about his business that you realise how passionate and determined this Umboldi villager is about what he is doing. His eyes light up as he tells you about his projects which include the Rai Coast Kanggal Festival, the cultural museum and the new orchid farm he is building in his area.

Like many Papua New Guineans today, Dilambe and his people are reviving and practicing aspects of their traditional cultures in the hope of preserving them.

Having a visible 'traditional' culture is important in PNG, especially when

ethnic groups want to maintain their history and identity in a nation of diversity.

There are obvious economic benefits to be gained by this. However, many people also have noble intentions.

They realise the importance of the values and wisdom that had been part of their cultures for thousands of years which had ensured the survival of their people. These cultural practices of old were important and helped to maintain social order, ensured sufficient food production, protected the environment and resources that supported their livelihood, and protected the people from external threats.

Umboldi is one of the areas along the coast of Rai Coast in Madang that has lost much of its traditional cultural practices. However, efforts are being made today by Dilambe and his people to revive some of the practices associated with initiation ceremonies.



Enjoying themselves...all the way from Iceland.

As the director of the three-year-old Rai Coast Kangkal Festival, Dilambe is rallying his people and motivating them to revive the rich cultural practices that have almost died out.

Kangkal is the word for feather in many of Madang's 164 languages and can also refer to a headdress made of feathers.

"My culture is dying away and I have to do something," he said in an interview wrecently. He blames the Pentecostal churches who he says are responsible for banning the cultural practices and destroying the artifacts.

He says the Lutherans and the Catholics who came earlier were more tolerant and did not indiscriminately ban all their cultural practices.


The early churches had recognised the value in keeping the cultural practices in order to maintain social order in the society that was being destabilised by western influences.

Dilambe says the Kangkal ceremonies were related to the initiation of the youth in his area.

"While the coastal villagers practised circumcision in their initiation, we who lived in the inland areas initiated the youths by giving them the emblem of their clans".

He says the kangal which has several emblems is part of the initiation and before the initiated exited from their ceremonial huts, their hair is groomed so that they can wear the kangals and dance. Unfortunately, the practice has died out and the festival is trying to revive it.

The Kangkal Festival is also part of a bigger project



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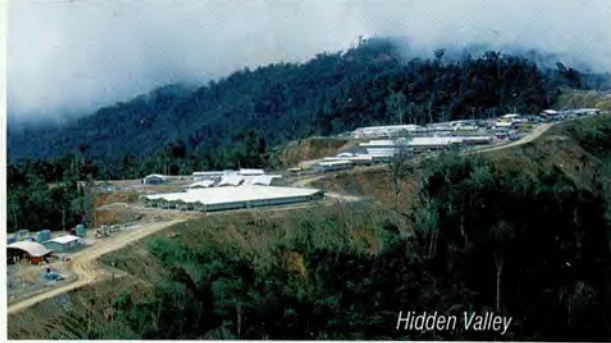
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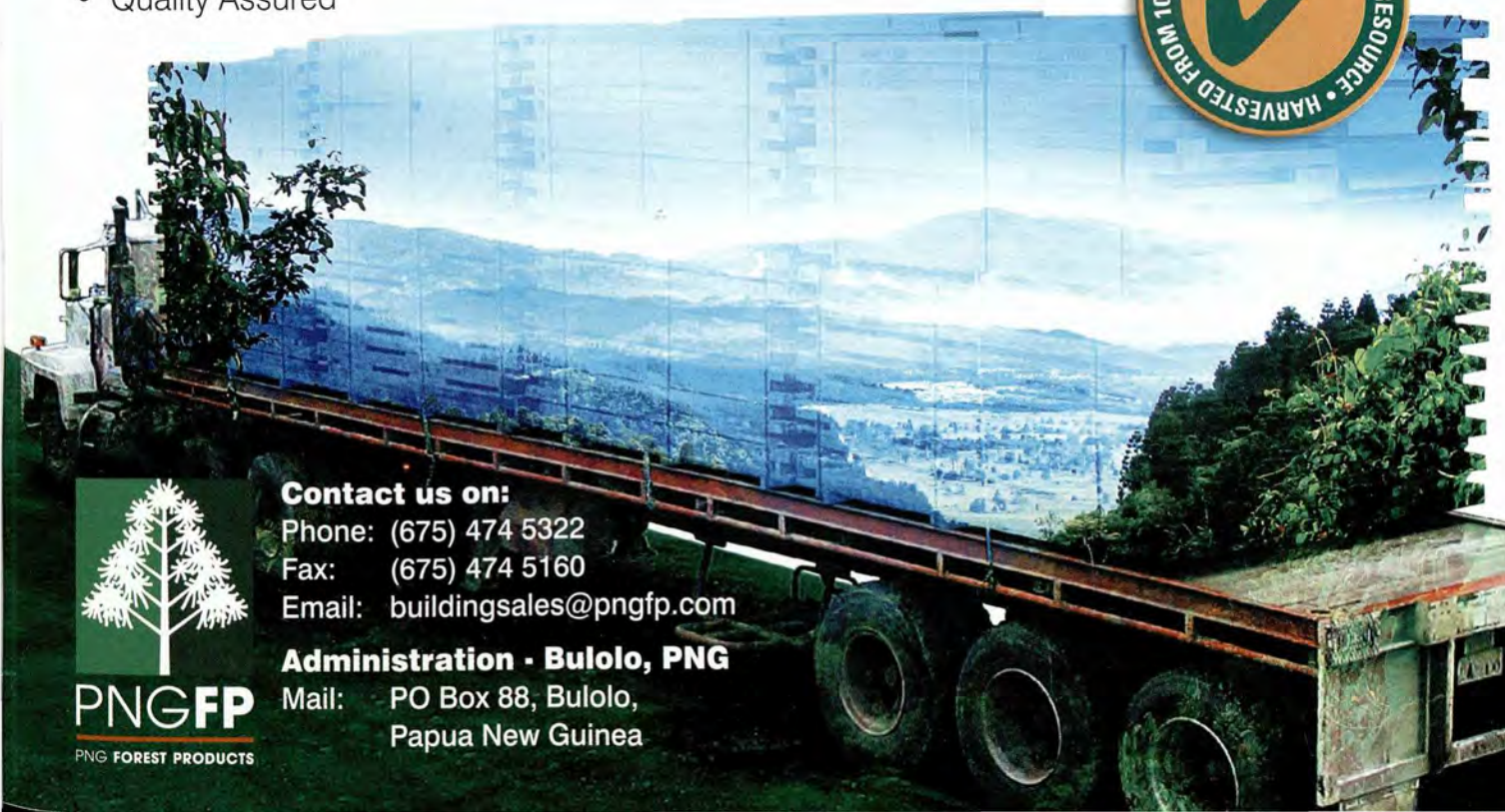
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Feathers woven in a striking circular design.

which involves the conservation of our forest areas under the country's Environment and Conservation Act.

With the continuing destruction of forests in parts of Madang, the Umboldi people want to protect their natural environment and control the clearing of forests for subsistence and commercial farming.

Dilambe explains there are generally three types of Kangkal dances, one for the day and two for the night time. The singsing during the day is also associated with the practice of piercing of the nose and its kangals are shorter. The feathers are fixed to a comb which is thrust into the dancer's hair. The style of song and dance is also different.

At midnight, the people dance the kongkap

and dancers paint their legs black. This is the moment when the magnificent kangal which is intricately woven into a circular shape with radiating colours of red, black and white is displayed.

The large kangal is usually fixed to a pole that is carried on the back of the dancer. Only special people wear the kangal and have to prepare themselves by observing certain taboos.

The dances are also performed to celebrate new harvest from gardens and modern festive occasions such as Christmas. Those organising the ceremonies must kill a pig for the dancers and visitors as is the custom.

He said the initiation ceremony in his area is for both boys and girls who are taught by their elders the cultural norms and values and

practices of marriage and community life.

One of the main values taught traditionally is humility which, he said, was sadly missing today in young people.

The Kangkal Festival was officially launched in 2008 by the director of the National Cultural Council, Dr Jacob Simet.

Last year, Madang Governor Sir Arnold Amet and his party visited the festival. Amet commended the people for their initiative and supported the festival with a contribution of K10,000.

The festival was also attended by a tourist family who came all the way from Iceland. They had arrived in Port Moresby on their yacht and flew over to Madang.

Dilambe said the family members were overwhelmed with the experience of observing both the day and night dances. Other local tourists from Madang town also attended after a two-hour boat ride to the village.

The latest development in the Dugu Ruts project is an orchid farm. The native orchids of the area are being cultivated on a farm and will be part of the attraction for visitors in a few years' time.

Again Dilambe's eyes light up as he says that they are growing a specimen of orchid which the local people believe 'sings' in the forest. He hopes visitors can come from all over the world to view these 'jewels' of the forest.

A cultural museum has also been built which today houses cultural artifacts such as the bird of paradise head-dresses, the unique giant kundu drums made in the area that use wallaby skins and other rare artifacts.

The next Kangkal Festival is scheduled for May this year and those wishing to attend can contact the Madang Visitors and Cultural Bureau for more information.





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The Chieftain of Paiokona

BY GRAHAM SIMMONS

Chief Terema of Paiokona village, in the Melpa-speaking region of Papua New Guinea's Western Highlands province, is an imposing figure.

With a spear over his right shoulder, a ground-length bamboo-strip necklace and feather plumage, he certainly stands out above the crowd. But later, he reveals a gentler side of his character, picking up a flute and playing a melody that seems to reverberate off his ample paunch.



Chief Terema of Paiokona village.



Such a persona amply befits a man with five wives and 25 children. "He can have as many wives as he wishes," says a spokesman for the chief. "Each of them comes with a dowry - pigs, houses and so on."

Later, I learn that giving of gifts is THE most important ritual in Melpa society. Known as 'moka', this involves reciprocal giving of bigger and better gifts. You give me a pig, I give you two pigs, or a house, or a four-wheel drive vehicle. The aim is to gain prestige by making the largest gifts and thereby becoming a "big man" in Melpa society.

It is even said that one of the main duties of a Melpa bride is to manage the household's pigs, which will later be given as gifts.

"Marriage creates roads along which wealth will travel," goes a well-known Melpa saying. And is there ever any jealousy between Chief Terema's wives?

"Sometimes,!" says the chief's spokesman most diplomatically, leaving unsaid what maybe ought not to be said at all. But with 18 daughters and seven sons, Chief Terema will presumably need plenty of wealth to pay out his own dowries. One thing is for sure - he will certainly have plenty of dotting grandchildren on hand to keep him entertained.

Chief Terema's residence is palatial by local standards. Surrounded by lush gardens, his compound even includes a heliport, where



View over Tumbul River Valley, Western Highlands.

VIPs can land in semi-regal style. There's even a toilet with a right-regal raised thunderbox, a real luxury in this part of the world.

I also paid a visit to the Chief's spirit house, a thatch-roofed house containing ceremonial shields, skulls and other clan heirlooms. I wasn't able to tell whether or not the skulls originated from headhunting raids, but wasn't going to wait around to see if I was on that night's menu. But given the plentiful supply of pig-meat in the local diet, I'm sure the villagers would not stoop to such inferior fare.

Paiakona and other villages stretching as far as the border with Enga province belong to the Melpa language group. The Melpa people are said to have migrated from Asia to New Guinea some 40,000 years ago, later moving up to the highlands. Starting off as hunters and gatherers, they eventually became amongst the world's first farmers - but it wasn't until as late as the 1950s that cash cropping really took off.

We reach Melpa territory from Mount Hagen, heading southwest. Turning right onto the Mendi-Wabag road at a T-junction, we head northeast towards Wabag. Paiakona village is the first major village encountered, with Melpawakti village further down the road, near the border with Enga province

Just northeast of Melpawakti village, locals have set up a supremely relaxing hideaway known as Magic Mountain Lodge. Here, guests can enjoy top creature comforts, superb mountain views and a refreshingly bracing climate.



Magic Mountain Lodge...a relaxing hideaway.

"Magic Mountain" (Mt Kuguminga) is said to get the tag "magic" from the fact that it's the same shape on both sides. I wasn't able to verify this assertion, but there's no doubt the mountain does have a certain mystique. The lush gardens surrounding the cottages in the grounds of the lodge are a riot of flowers and Tangget leaves, which are used to make costumes in singing ceremonies.

Later, we visit Malcolm and Josephine Kewa, in Melpawaktil village. I've brought with me a T-shirt as a little present, and am embarrassed to be showered with more lavish gifts in return.

Being unaware at the time of the custom of 'moka', I then give another insignificant gift, not knowing that this will create yet an obligation on their part. The gift is indeed more than amply matched. But by then, I've run out of presents to give in return.

OK - so I'm happy to let Malcolm Kewa be the "big man". He might not be quite as "big" as Chief Terema or Bill Gates, but I feel privileged to have visited a region where generosity is so highly honoured. If there were more people like the Melpa, the world might be a better place.

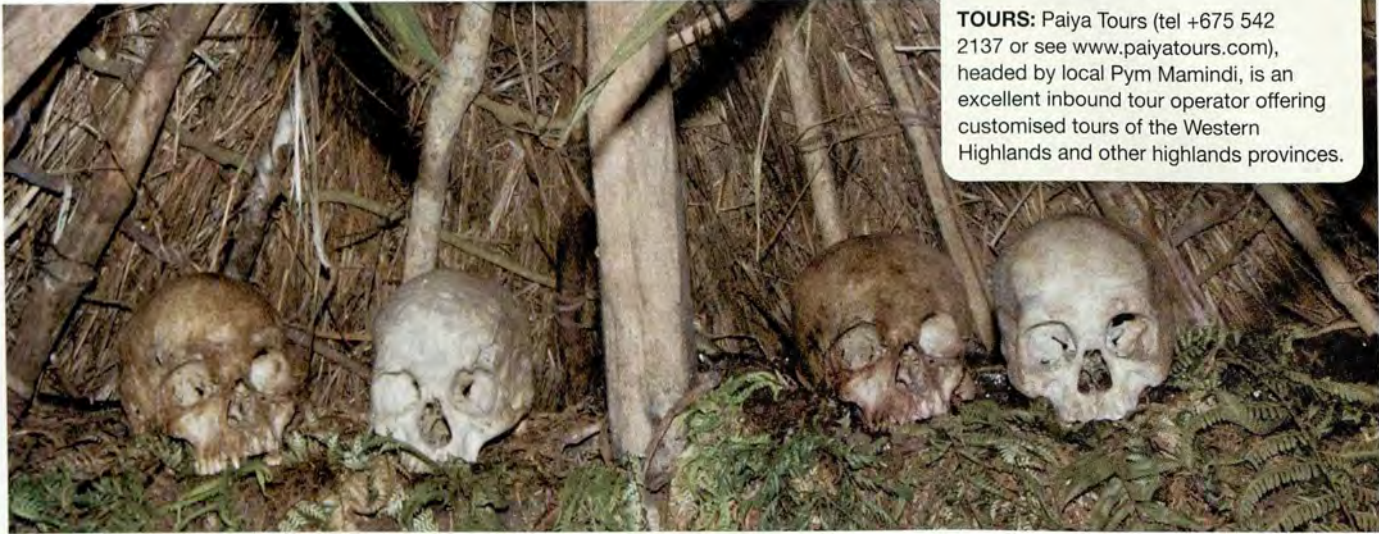
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Skulls in Chief Terema's spirit house.



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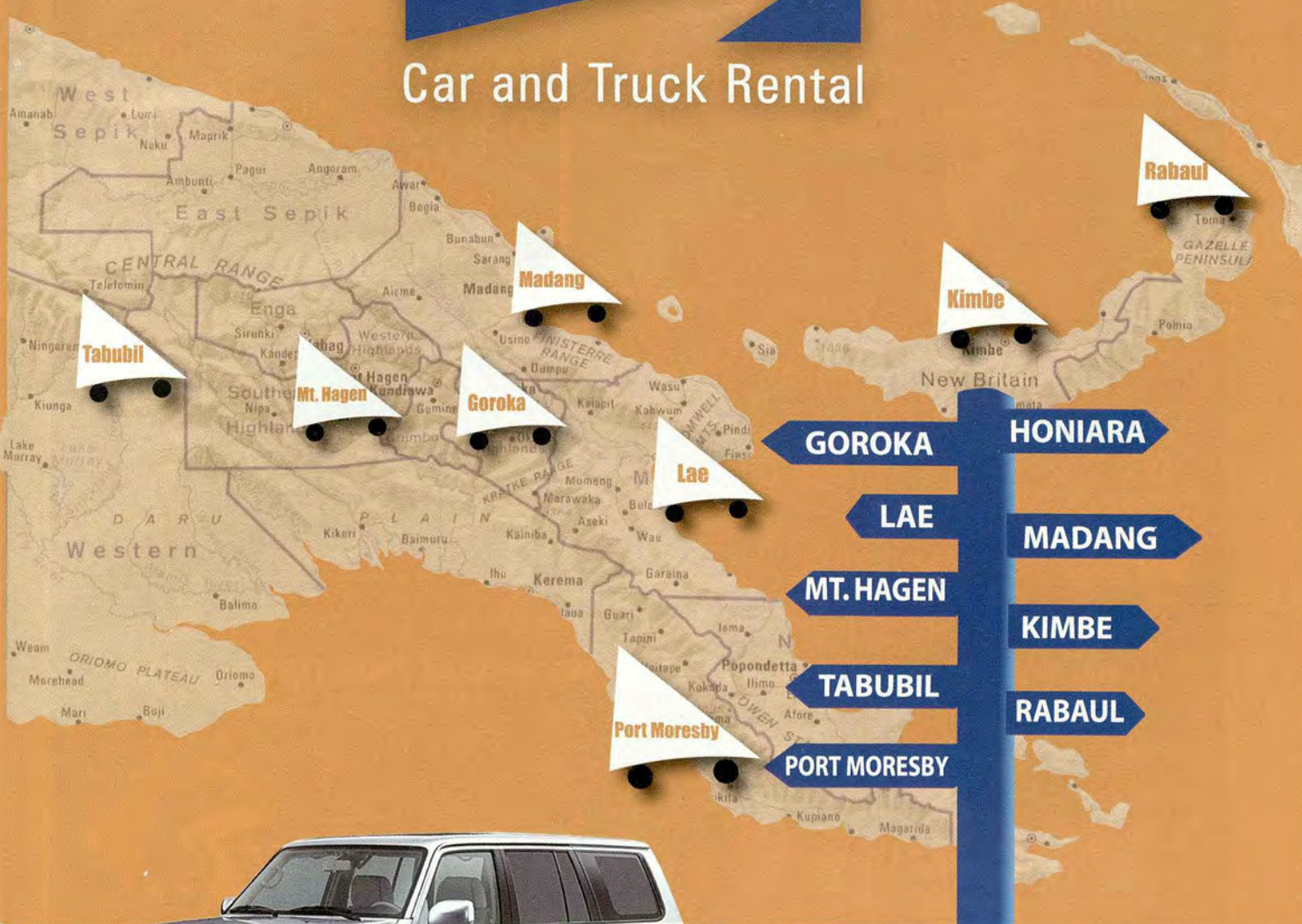
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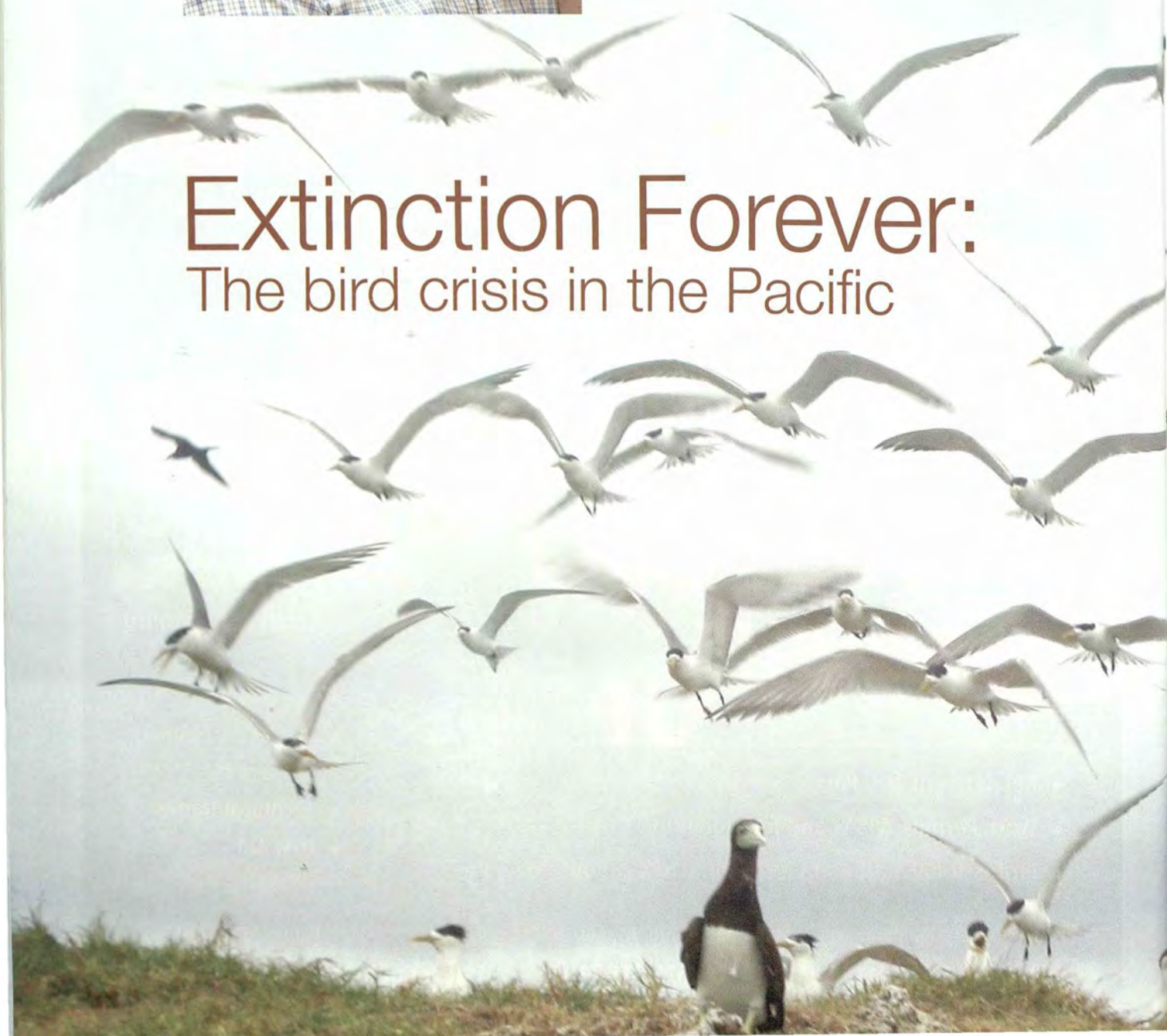
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Birds are not only creatures that flit from tree-to-tree, sing from branches, skim across the waves, or give us eggs and chicken nuggets; they are the most widespread and visible indicators of the state of our environment and we ignore what they are telling us at our peril. In this International Year of Biodiversity, long-time Pacific conservationist, Don Stewart, explains why birds are so important to biodiversity and to our future.

Extinction Forever:

The bird crisis in the Pacific



W

What is it about birds that, from mankind's earliest known origins, so informs and symbolises our mythologies and beliefs?

From the ancient Egyptians, to whose god, Thoth, with the head of a Ibis, was attributed the invention of writing; to Persia and Greece, where the mythical, winged Phoenix represented the resurrection of mortals born again from ashes; to Imperial Rome, where the eagle was a symbol of power and strength - as it remains today in the United States; - to the Crane which represented long life and immortality in ancient China; to the early Polynesian explorers and settlers of widely-dispersed oceanic islands who considered birds to be sacred, using their plumage for religious and ceremonial purposes.

Since these ancient times, birds have been regarded as the link between heaven and earth because of their connection to the sky. They are one of the few creatures that by moving

their wings can lift themselves aloft to survey their environment from above. They have successfully colonised every habitat on the globe, from underwater to mountain peaks, from the tropics to the Antarctic.

Today some of the earlier symbolism remains: the Dove represents peace, the Owl wisdom, the unfortunate Albatross an encumbrance thanks to Coleridge. Some fly high, some can't fly at all, others swim like fish. Save the largely hidden insect world, there are no other creatures on this planet that can match their ubiquity or adaptability. They are unique and they are everywhere. They are represented more widely than any other species in our art, our literature and our music regardless of our origin, race, creed or culture.

In the Pacific, for instance, consider the customary importance of the ceremonial ornamentation of highlanders in Papua New Guinea and the traditional head-dresses of the Cook Islands and Tahiti - both derived from the bright plumages of birds.

Birds once had their more prosaic uses, too. During the industrial 19th century, it was the practice of coal miners in Europe, whenever they descended to the pits, to take caged canaries with them as part of their equipment.

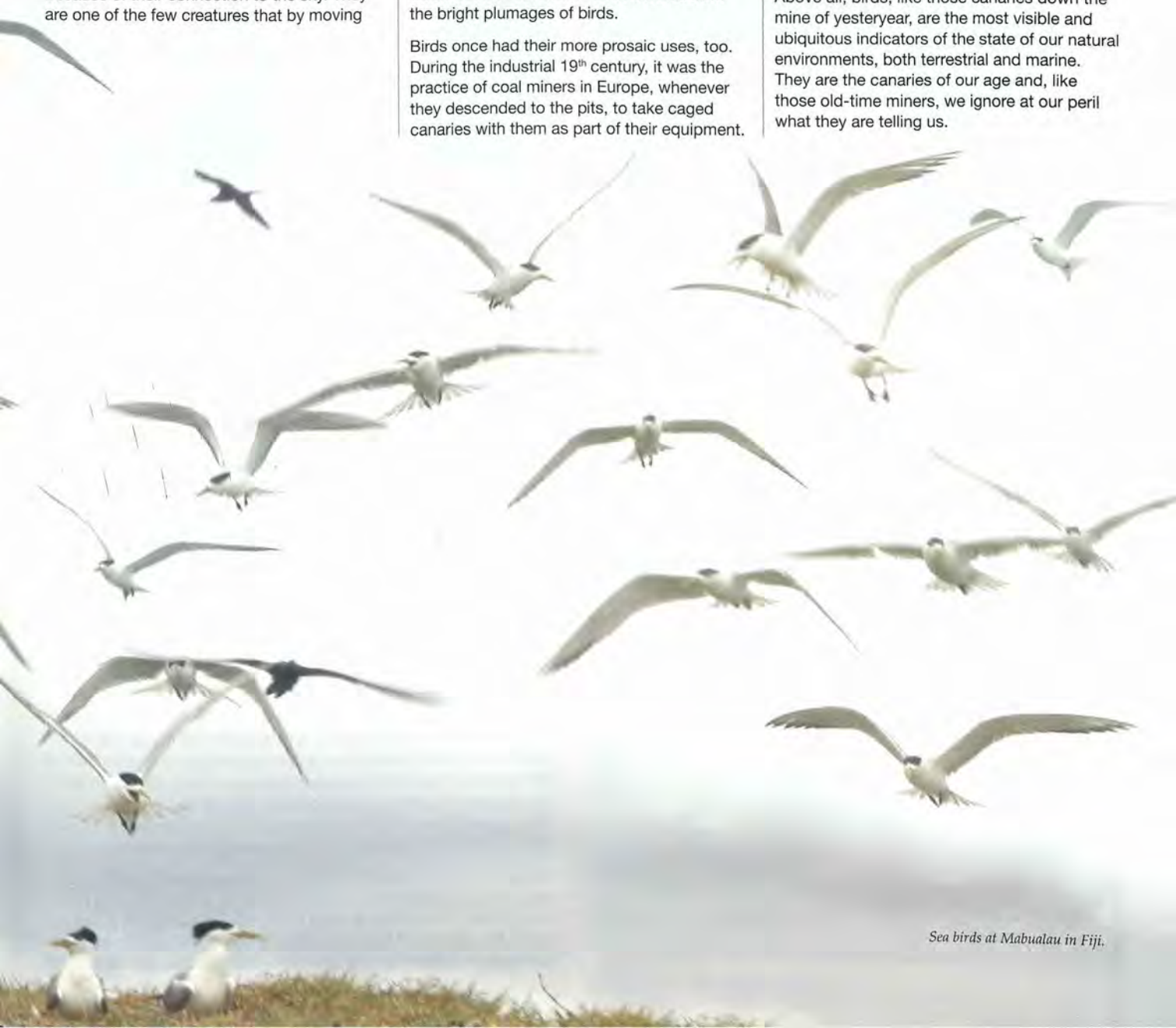
The reason for this was elementary: these tiny, elegant creatures were much more sensitive to changes in the environment they shared with the miners than were the miners themselves.

Canaries could sense the presence of combustible gases before those gases had a chance to cause an explosion. If your canary dropped off its perch, you knew to get out of the mine fast until - if ever - it was safe for you to go back.

Today, the analogy of those canaries to birds in the Pacific region, and everywhere else for that matter, is as obvious as it should be startling.

The Pacific's endemic bird species are more than just bright and beautiful creatures, ornamental, ceremonial, inspirational, ingrained in the cultures of all of us, representing prophesy, birth, love, peace, religion, togetherness and many more of our positive and admirable attributes and virtues.

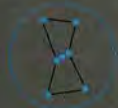
Above all, birds, like those canaries down the mine of yesteryear, are the most visible and ubiquitous indicators of the state of our natural environments, both terrestrial and marine. They are the canaries of our age and, like those old-time miners, we ignore at our peril what they are telling us.



Sea birds at Mabualau in Fiji.



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Kagus...in danger?

Here are some quick figures: During the 17th century, fewer than 100 years after it was first recorded, the last remaining survivor of the largest species of pigeon ever to share our planet vanished from the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius because its habitat was destroyed by man and by the invasive species he brought with him. Since that time, 133 more bird species have followed the unfortunate and innocent Dodo, whose very name is now a metaphor for extinction, to its fate. That's right: 133 separate species of birds have been wiped out in the past 350 years or so, virtually all of them because of the actions of humans and the animals they bring with them. They are lost forever. Never to be seen again.

Of the surviving 9,865 species of birds currently to be found on our planet, 1,227, or 12.4%, are classified as Globally Threatened. Three hundred and sixty two of these are classified as Endangered and an additional 192 as Critically Endangered, which means they are but one step away from extinction. I repeat: right now, as you read this, almost 200 species of birds are facing imminent extinction. And extinction is forever.

The data are worst in the Pacific, for it is an appalling fact that this region holds the dubious distinction of recording the greatest number of bird extinctions of any part of the world. Sixty five of those 133 bird extinctions recorded globally since 1500 - an incredible 50% - are known to have occurred in the Pacific region.

Sixty seven of the endemic birds to be found in this region are classified as Endangered - 19% of the world's total. In addition, 44 are Critically Endangered, that is teetering on the brink of extinction and if nothing is done actively to save them, they will go the same way as the Dodo and its unfortunate followers. What a terrible record! What an awful state of affairs! We should all be ashamed of ourselves.

The reasons for this dreadful situation have been well known for years. There is no mystery about them. Our birds face what the Dodo encountered. All endemic species on our islands evolved in isolation and in the absence of predators. What is now devastating them are the twin, human-induced threats of invasive alien species and habitat loss.



Fiji Petrel. Photo: Nature Fiji

Rats, in particular, but other pests as well, (like the mongoose, which is responsible for the disappearance of all ground-nesting birds on Viti Levu), are destroying the entire, defenceless species of birds before our very eyes, while we continue to help these predators in their successfully destructive efforts by cutting down the last of our terrestrial birds' forest habitats in the cause of unsustainable logging and equally unsustainable agricultural practices.

At the same time, we are devastating marine bird species by the use of intensive and destructive fishing techniques. We are actively and willingly destroying the places where our birds have lived peacefully since time immemorial and they now have nowhere else to go. How can we do this? How can we allow it to go on?

We know what is happening. We know what must be done. All the evidence is there. The need now is to do something, to implement conservation actions on the ground across the region before it's too late for the very survival of the 44 Critically Endangered bird species in this region that are on the brink of extinction.

To do that, BirdLife International, through its participating NGO Partners in the region, is working on a three-pronged survival strategy.

First, we have researched and published data on Important Bird Areas, or IBAs, in the Pacific. These are sites of global significance not just to birds but to biodiversity conservation more broadly because, as I've said, birds are the best-known, and most widely studied and distributed, species on our planet and tell us much about the state of our environment.

So far, more than 400 such sites have been identified and the research is continuing to find more, particularly with regards to seabirds, about which little is known in the region.

Community-based efforts are now under way in many of these IBAs to actively conserve these vital habitats and the birds whose survival depend on them.

Second, we are dealing with the threat posed by invasive alien species,

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Tahiti Monarch.

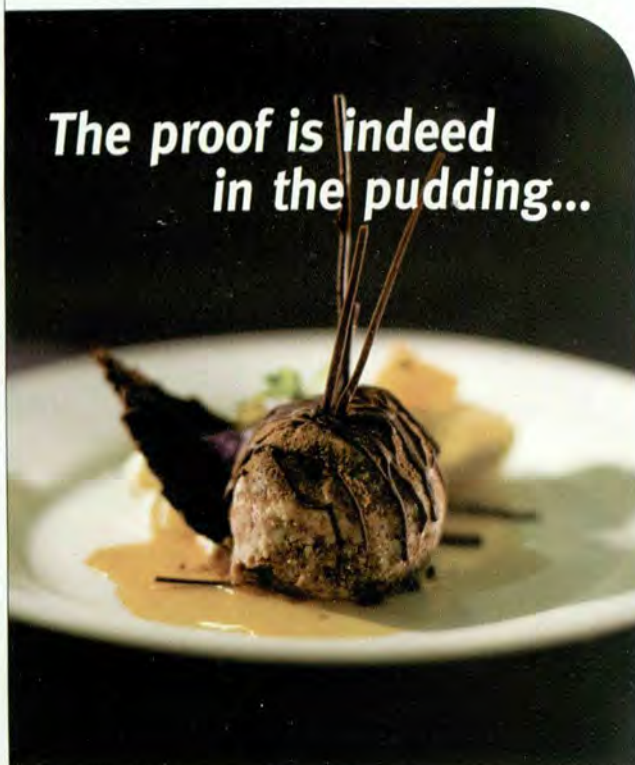
especially rats which were introduced to our islands by men in ships.

Originally foreign to our shores, rats have now reached endemic and pestilential proportions in most places and pose serious public health problems as well as directly threatening the very survival of many of our endemic bird species. In the past three years, BirdLife and its NGO Partners have successfully carried out rat eradication projects on 17 islands important for breeding seabirds in a vast area spreading from French Polynesia in the east, Fiji and New Caledonia in the west and Palau in the north.

This work is continuing as we conduct more research into which islands are vital for the future of our wonderful seabirds.

Third, BirdLife International has launched its Preventing Extinctions Programme which aims to take immediate conservation actions to save the world's 192 Critically Endangered bird species before, just like the Dodo, they disappear forever. In the Pacific, we have so far raised funds and resources to assist our Partners in taking emergency actions to save the Fiji Petrel, Tahiti Monarch, Polynesian Ground Dove, Fatu Hiva Monarch, Tuamotu Kingfisher, Crow Honeyeater, Pohnpei Starling, White-chested White-eye and Makira Moorhen, all of which are trembling on the brink of extinction. Other species that require urgent conservation action include the Kagu, Marquesan Kingfisher, Faichuk White-eye, Rarotonga Monarch and Micronesian Megapode, - all of which are also in danger of vanishing altogether and in the very near future, if we don't act now.

Even with these three initiatives, there is a lot more to be done. For instance, we have yet to scratch the surface of our neighbours in Western Melanesia - Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. IBA and other data do not exist yet for these countries. But we do know, for



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example, from satellite imagery, the extent of deforestation on islands like New Britain which indicates that many more bird species are threatened with extinction than previously feared. An eighth of lowland forest on this island - a stronghold for a number of birds found nowhere else on Earth - disappeared between 1989 and 2000, largely driven by a rapid and uncontrolled expansion in global demand for palm oil. Dr Stuart Butchart, a world authority and BirdLife's Global Species Programme Coordinator, has noted that "New Britain's endemic birds are being driven to extinction by our thirst for palm oil, which is widely used in foodstuffs and industry. After wiping out the lowland forests of Malaysia and Indonesia, companies are now moving eastwards, to Papua New Guinea and Melanesia, where they now threaten a whole new suite of species", concluding "there is clearly a pressing need to survey these areas to confirm they are refuges for New Britain's endemic fauna and to ensure their immediate and effective protection". A similar situation exists on other Melanesian islands and it is to be hoped that funding for necessary and urgent surveys will be forthcoming so that conservation actions can be planned and implemented before it is too late for the unfortunate and innocent bird species of Melanesia.



Micronesian Megapode...in danger of vanishing.

our threatened endemic bird species - and our wider biodiversity - by supporting urgent conservation actions? Actions to combat invasive alien species, unsustainable and destructive logging, forestry, agricultural, urban development and fishing policies and practices need to be supported by you, the reader, and by everyone else, and by governments and NGOs. If you don't do this, our region will lose forever those 44 Critically Endangered species I have mentioned well before this century is over.

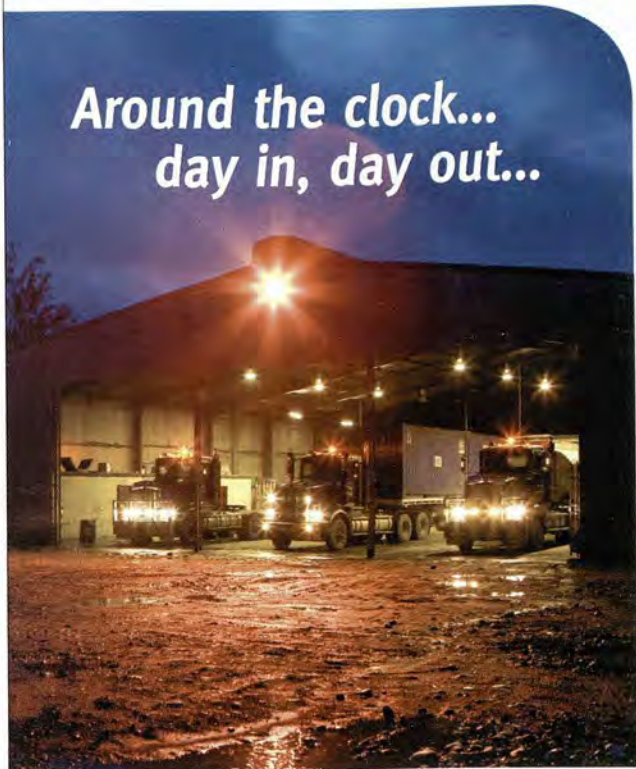
I have a dream and it should I hope, be yours, too. That is for my grandchildren

and their children to be able to regard with wonder and awe the remarkable and unique species of wonderful birds with which this region has been blessed. I also have a nightmare, and I hope it is yours, too; that is my grandchildren and their children growing up to ask, accusingly, why didn't this present generation do something about it when it had the chance?

Dodos or canaries? Dreams or nightmares? The choice is ours and our time is running out fast. The birds are telling us something and that something is not good. The time to act is now!



Our fast-moving, web-based cultures are reducing the once-widespread and remarkable symbolism of birds to tweets on Twitter. So why not repay the birds by using Twitter and the web to help ensure the very survival of



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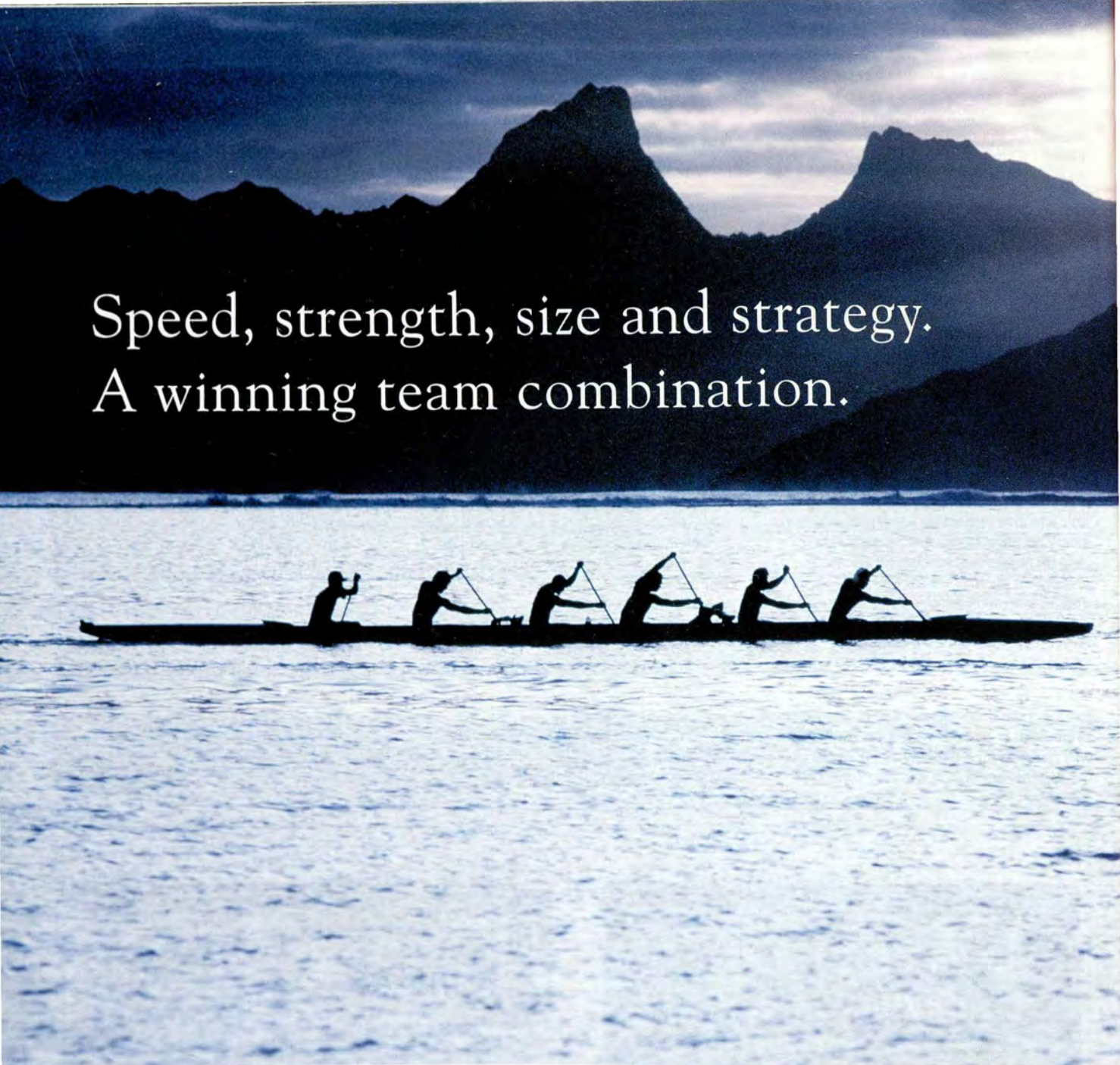
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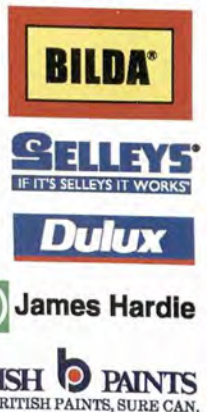
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Cairns on a Budget

What you can see and do

BY ISABELLE DINA

When I last visited Cairns 20 years ago, it was mainly a laid-back little town with a hippy heart and a final frontier feel about it.

Bordered by a tidal mudflat swamp, it was mainly a port exporting sugar, timber and beef and where the locals would meet at the Marlin Wharf to discuss their latest bluefin tuna catch.

Being a hippy traveller as I was then, Cairns was the perfect place to find sailors for a hitch to the Great Barrier Reef.

Today, Cairns is a modern tropical city driven by tourism and bearing all the riches a modern society can provide.

Located 1757 kilometres north of Brisbane and in the heart of Northern Queensland, Cairns has a comfortable blend of traditional Queensland style and contemporary designs, shopping malls, art galleries, designer boutiques, alfresco and cosmopolitan restaurants, nightclubs and dozens of sophisticated hotels and apartments.

Its Esplanade, once a huge grassy park, is now transformed into a world-class facility incorporating an amphitheatre, a 4800 sq metres saltwater swimming lagoon and sandy

beaches, grassy picnic areas, walking tracks, free public barbecues, shops and cafes that draw tourists and locals alike for a meal, a stroll or some entertainment.

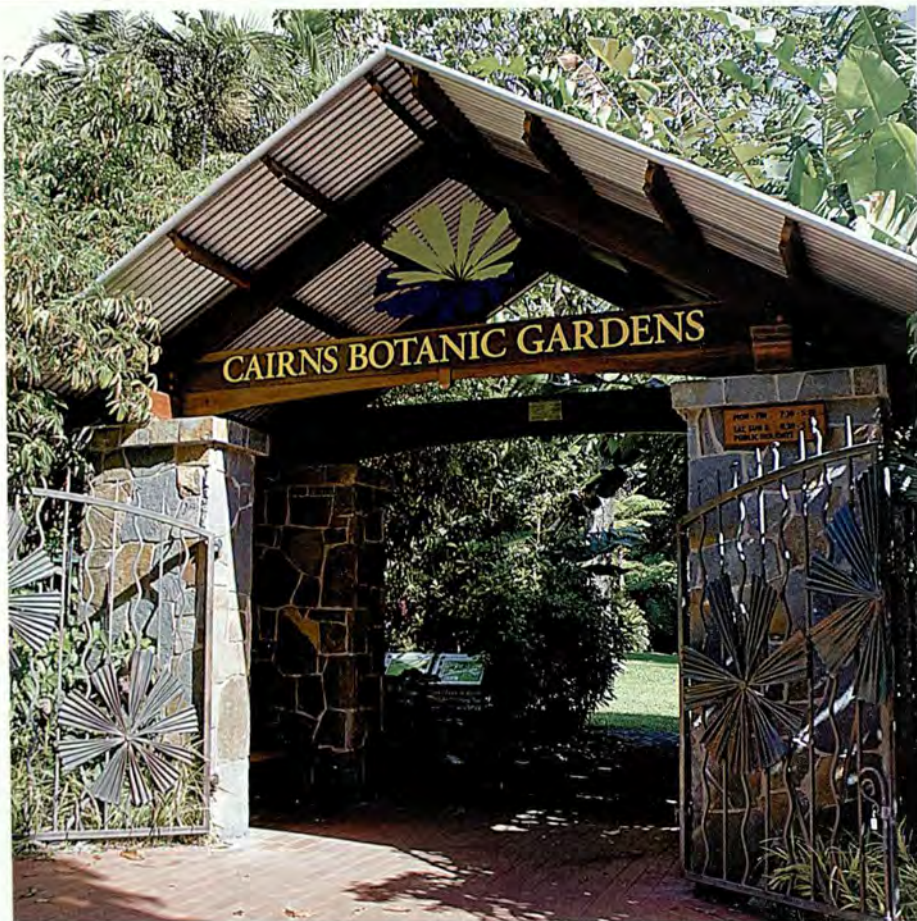
Cairns like many cities in Australia is promoting green tourism and is the primary gateway to the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef, Wet Tropical Rainforest and the Outback, a few names that instantly conjure up images of exhilarating dive sites, dramatic rainforest vistas, adrenaline pumping activities and expensive tours.

It took me a couple of days to rediscover the place and realise that Cairns still had a lot to offer when travelling on a strict budget.

The Lagoon Pool at the Esplanade.







Just a few tips when deciding to spend a couple of days in Cairns that will not cost you a lot of money:

There are enough of the old buildings left in Cairns to imagine what the city was once like. The wide verandahs and awnings extending over the footpaths together with the two to three storey structures have retained the architectural charms of colonial times with balconies fitted with elaborate iron lace facings.

The old School of Arts building (1907) on the corner of Shields and Lake Streets is a good example. It now houses the Cairns Historical Museum that offers an interesting display of the development of Cairns from the Aboriginal local history to modern day Cairns (Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm, entry fee AU\$5).

At the corner of Abbott and Shields Streets, is Cairns Regional Gallery presenting stimulating exhibitions of fine arts from Major Australian and international collections, covering historical and contemporary art including the works of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists (Monday to Saturday, 10.00am to 5.00pm; Sunday 1.00pm to 5.00pm - entry fee A\$5).

With the tropical heat, swimming easily becomes a daily must in Cairns. During the summer months, the ocean can be dangerous due to stingers and waterholes with swimming pools being the safest option.

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Crystals Cascades is one of the best kept secret. About 30 minutes away from the city center, you will find a secluded freshwater swimming hole in the middle of the tropical forest where a series of small waterfalls flow into larger pools, surrounded by boulders.

Access is free and while not serviced by public transport, spending a night at the Northern Greenhouse backpacker at Grafton Street (best budget accommodation in town at A\$20 a night) will allow you to book a half-day trip with no extra cost.

Many tourists and locals alike complain about not having beaches in Cairns. While the city was heavily promoting the Great Barrier Reef with its pristine waters, Cairns only had a muddy swamp.

It all changed in 2003 with the refurbishing of the Esplanade and the opening of the Lagoon swimming pool.

This pool is capable of accommodating 1000 swimmers with a depth ranging from 80 centimetres to 1.6 metres and furnished with underwater benches.

The pool is open daily from 6am to 10pm, free of charge with lifeguards on patrol. At sunset, the pool is lit and casts a surreal aqua glow all along the Esplanade.

Just five minutes drive from downtown Cairns is the Cairns Botanical Gardens with 38



Crystal Cascades...where a series of waterfalls flow into the larger pools.

 An advertisement for SP Gold beer. The central focus is a bottle of beer with a label that reads "SP GOLD" and "SOUTH PACIFIC". The bottle is surrounded by a large, circular splash of golden beer that forms a ring around it. The background is a dark green color. The text "Unwind your day" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the splash. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo that says "ENJOY RESPONSIBLY" with a thumbs-up icon.

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Kangaroo...hand fed.

hectares of tropical plants species.

I am amazed at how it is being maintained as an informal rainforest. Of particular interest is the aboriginal plants section which consists of plants used by local Aborigines for medicine, food, weapons and shelter. There are numerous places to sit quietly and take in the tropical environment and even be surprised by stripe possums, water dragons or green tree frogs.

Entry is free and the gardens are open from 7.30am-5.30pm Monday to Friday and from 8.30am-5.30pm on weekends.

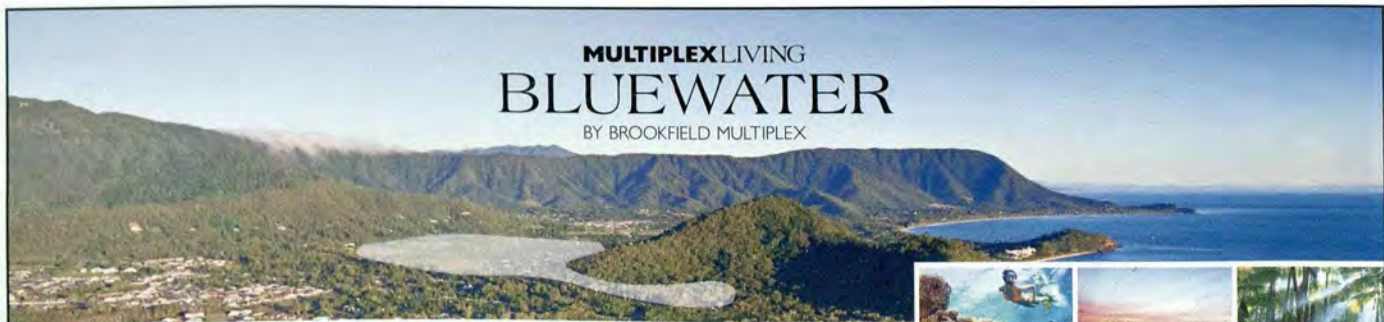
For a full day of wildlife experience, head to the award winning Cairns Zoo, about 20 minutes north of Cairns City.

Activities include kangaroo feeding and cozy encounters with these animals, a free flight bird show, and informative talks on wombats, koalas, crocodiles and snakes.

The enclosures around the crocodiles allow close and safe observation of these spectacular reptiles. Be sure not to miss Sarge's feeding time, a five-metre specimen weighing 300 kilogrammes.

Entry fee to the zoo is A\$32 for adults and A\$16 for children. Buses known as sunbuses are available from Lake Street in City place for A\$10.

Gastronomy in the north of Australia has a wild twist and for a price you can dine on crocodile,



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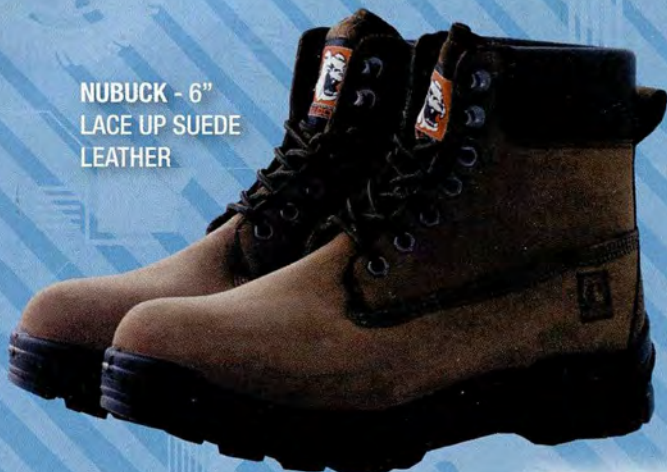
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kangaroo and emus meats. As Cairns is right on the Great Barrier Reef, there are also ample fresh reef fish available such as the famous Barramundi. At 75 Esplanade and for a budget meal, I would recommend Cairns Night Market which opens every night from 5pm.

This is home to over 70 outlets selling a wide range of gifts, Australian produce, clothes, local and indigenous artworks, and has an international food court offering meals at

around A\$12. The Cocoa Amour, located at 91 Esplanade, is a spacious and upmarket café which is colourfully bold with a very tempting selection of French pastries and creative savoury options. I must admit their croissants and chocolate puff pastries are similar to what you would find in Paris. Breakfast, lunch and dinner prices range from A\$5 to A\$20.

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Summertime in Miyazaki

BY LOUISE SOUTHERDEN



The spectacular mountains of Kirishima National Park.

There's the Japan most of us know: the Blade Runner streetscape of cities made dark by skyscrapers and lit up again with neon, speeding bullet trains, high-tech gadgetry and fast-paced lives lived in shoebox-sized apartments. Then there's the 'other' Japan...



It's a little known fact (outside Japan anyway) that this island nation has some of the most beautiful and pristine natural environments in the world. Because most of the country is so mountainous, the bulk of Japan's population is confined to the habitable river plains around Tokyo and Osaka - which means there are plenty of places for locals and visitors alike to escape the crush of the cities. Places like Hokkaido, the wilderness island in the far north; and the predominantly rural Shikoku, just south of the main island of Honshu. There are even coastal idylls like Miyazaki.

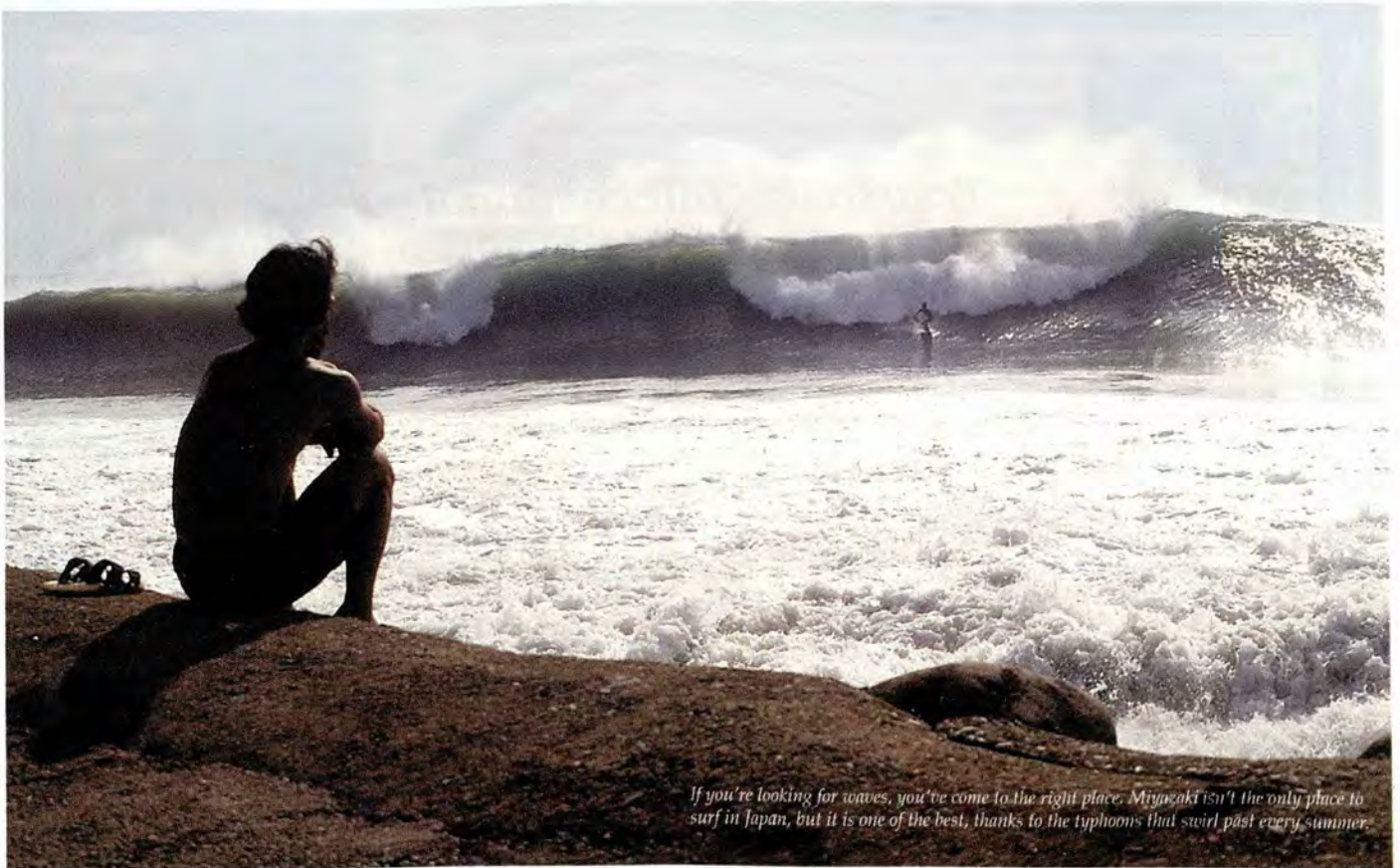
Perched on the edge of the Pacific-facing coast of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands, Miyazaki is one of Japan's best kept secrets. At its heart it's a rural region - when I lived there, I used to ride my bike to the beach past rickety farmhouses and shimmering rice paddies - but either side of the farming belt, Miyazaki is blessed with natural wonders.

Its coastline is etched with white sandy beaches, coral reefs and wild, forested hillsides, while just inland lie the spectacular mountains of Kirishima National Park.

Japan's first national park is criss-crossed with hiking trails that lead through a dramatic landscape of more than 20 volcanoes, 10 crater lakes and more natural hot spring baths than you can poke your walking stick at - great for soaking tired muscles after a day's hiking.

Even Miyazaki city is a pleasant surprise. With a population of around 305,000, it's the largest city on Kyushu's southeast coast but a small one by Japanese standards - especially considering that Tokyo's population is a whopping 8.1 million. And in summer, when the palm trees fringing the main street catch the sea breeze, daytime temperatures barely dip below 35 degrees C, and the nearest surf beach (Kisakihama) is just 15 minutes away, it doesn't even feel like a city at all.

If you're looking for waves, you've come to the right place. Miyazaki isn't the only place to surf in Japan but it is one of the best, thanks to the typhoons that swirl past every summer. Between July and October, typhoon-generated swells transform the many beaches, reefs and river mouths along Miyazaki's coastline into world-class surf breaks. There's a thriving surf scene, complete with surf shops and local surfing contests (Miyazaki has even



If you're looking for waves, you've come to the right place. Miyazaki isn't the only place to surf in Japan, but it is one of the best, thanks to the typhoons that swirl past every summer.



Udo Shrine, a Shinto shrine deep inside a natural cave that is as big as cathedral.

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hosted several events on the world pro surfing circuit), and Japanese surfers are some of the friendliest on the planet - a welcome change from the aggressive vibe at some of the world's better known surf destinations.

Ironically, in a place renowned for good surf, Miyazaki is also home to the Ocean Dome, part of the Sheraton Seagaia Resort, where you'll find one of the world's largest indoor wave pools. Sure, it's only 300 metres from the glittering Pacific Ocean, and the admission fee is a bit steep (around \$US50 per person) but a visit to the Ocean Dome is a must (especially on rainy days and in winter).

Where else in the world could you find a vast 'natural' world - including beaches, islands, rivers and an active volcano, water slides and rides, all arranged around a massive heated swimming pool (the water temp is 28 degrees year round) that generates waves every hour on the hour - inside a dome the size of a football stadium? Best of all, everything is tailor-made for maximum comfort: no sunburn, no stinging bluebottles, no sand in your swimsuit, no dangerous currents and it's summer every day of the year!

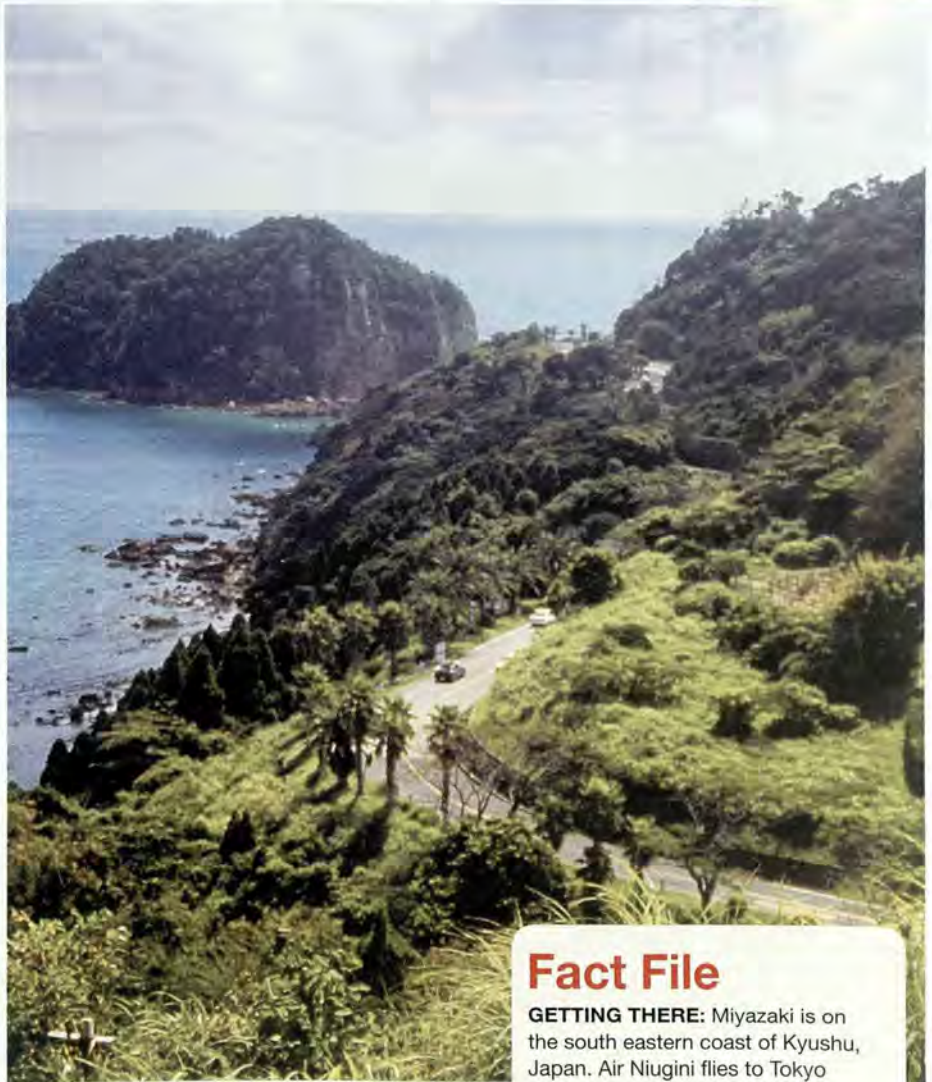
The Ocean Dome might offer a taste of Miyazaki beach culture but for the real thing, head south of Miyazaki city, along the coast road: Route 220.

If you only do one thing in Miyazaki, this 100-km coastal drive should be it. Winding its way scenically from Miyazaki city to Cape Toi (Miyazaki prefecture's southernmost point), Route 220 wraps around aqua-coloured bays and threads its way through tiny fishing villages, giving you a glimpse of the Japan that still exists beyond the bright lights of the big cities.

Non-stop, the journey south takes about two hours, but if you want to savour it, there are plenty of reasons to stop along the way. Have a swim or go surfing at one of the pretty beaches; pick up a takeaway bento (boxed lunch) and picnic on a rocky headland overlooking the sea. And don't worry about missing out on the 'real' Japan: there's plenty of culture on this drive too.

At Aoshima (literally 'blue island'), cross the footbridge to the tiny island fringed with Miyazaki's trademark 'washboard' rock platform, follow the sandy track to the centre of the island and you'll find a tiny red shrine, surrounded by tangles of subtropical vegetation. It's the perfect place to de-stress and commune with nature.

Nature and culture come together again a little further south at one of my favourite places in Miyazaki: Udo Shrine, a Shinto shrine deep inside a natural cave that's as big as a cathedral. Leaning on the red railing that leads down to the torii (traditional shrine gate) at the mouth of the cave, with the Pacific Ocean stretched out before you, it's hard to imagine a more peaceful setting.




The 100-km coastal drive...that gives you a glimpse of Japan that still exists beyond the bright lights of the big cities.

Keep driving and you'll come to Nango, a scuba diving mecca renowned for its multi-layered 'table coral'. Then there's KoVanamea Island, which is inhabited by hundreds of wild monkeys. It's not unusual to see monkeys in Japan, but KoVanamea's are more sophisticated than most: they swim at the island's beaches and season their food with seawater. For a small donation, one of the island's researchers takes would-be David Attenboroughs out to the island by boat so you can wander among them.

Finally, the coast road climbs above sea level and weaves its way through pine forests to your final destination: the lighthouse at Cape Toi. You might spot the odd monkey here, but the main residents of this windswept point are more than 100 wild horses that graze on the lush rolling pastures, raising their heads occasionally to take in one of the best views in Miyazaki: back along the coast you've just travelled along and beyond that, back to the 'other' Japan.

• Louise Southerden spent 18 months living and working in Miyazaki and is the author of *Japan: A Working Holiday Guide* (Global Exchange, 2001).

 Air Niugini flies to Japan twice a week.

Fact File

GETTING THERE: Miyazaki is on the south eastern coast of Kyushu, Japan. Air Niugini flies to Tokyo two times a week. From Tokyo, you can fly direct to Miyazaki (90 minutes). For a more scenic route, take a train from Tokyo to Miyazaki, a combination of bullet trains and local lines that takes about nine and a half hours.

WHEN TO GO: July to October for summertime temps and good waves. Avoid June (the rainy season) and the main public holidays: Golden Week in late April/early May, and O-bon in mid-August.

GETTING AROUND: There are train lines and bus routes all over Miyazaki but for more independence bring your own bike and cycle the coast road, hire or buy a 50cc motorscooter, or hire a car. Driving in Japan isn't the nightmare it's reputed to be, particularly outside the major cities. Japanese drive on the left, and all major road signs are in English (although it's a good idea to buy a bilingual road atlas before you go).

FOR MORE INFO: Japan National Tourist Organisation (JNTO) website at www.jnto.go.jp

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Sipadan Magic

BY SUSAN EAMES

The sign in the undersea cave entrance had a skull and crossbones painted on it and read 'Caution - Extreme Danger'.

We swam a short way inside to look around the vaulted cavern. As our eyes adjusted to the gloom, we could see that the rock was covered in algae. Otherwise, there was little sign of life.



The cave system conceals the skeletal remains of turtles that have lost their way in the tunnels and drowned. It is aptly named The Turtle Tomb. The caves are large enough for divers to penetrate, but if you don't want to become a statistic, an experienced guide is essential.

The Turtle Tomb is one of Malaysia's world renowned Sipadan dive sites. Sipadan is a small island an hour's boat ride off the coast of Sabah.

Jacques Cousteau showcased Sipadan in his 1989 film: *The Ghost of the Sea Turtles*. During the 1990's the island flourished with five resorts catering to divers and snorkellers.

However, problems arose. Signs of damage to the corals caused by careless diving were reported and severe coral bleaching in 1998 when water temperatures rose exacerbated the problem.

Then in 2000 a raid by Abu Sayaff guerrillas resulted in 21 dive tourists and resort staff being kidnapped. Divers stayed away until a Malaysian army and navy presence restored confidence.

But the tiny island's surrounding waters that made Sipadan so special was under increasing pressure by visitors and the resort facilities on the island were closed in 2004 in a bid to halt the degeneration.

Today, a permit system allows a maximum of 120 divers a day to visit the island. We stayed on the mainland in the town of Semporna and went out on day trips to Sipadan.

Visitors are only allowed in allocated areas on the island and a discreet military presence still keeps watch. There is no longer much in the way of facilities and the resort buildings that I saw are suffering from neglect. However the pure white sand beach was magnificent and we were here to dive, not sight-see on the island.

In addition to The Turtle Tomb there are several signature dive sites and we quickly discovered why Sipadan is a Mecca for divers.



Sipadan's stunning white beach.

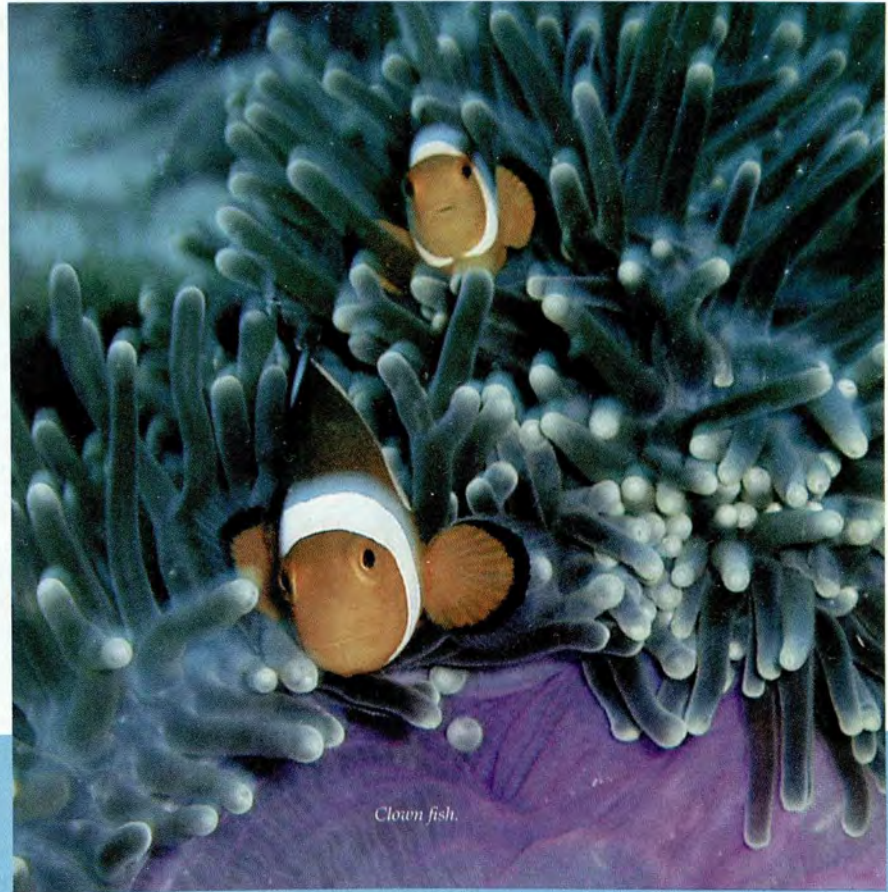
We began our adventures with a dive at South Point. As we slowly descended to the reef we could see white tip reef sharks. We watched these placid sharks cruising and manoeuvring. They took little notice of us.

At a deeper level a hammerhead shark made a brief appearance, scattering the white tips and perking up the divers. After this spurt of adrenalin the white tips relaxed back into their leisurely meanders.

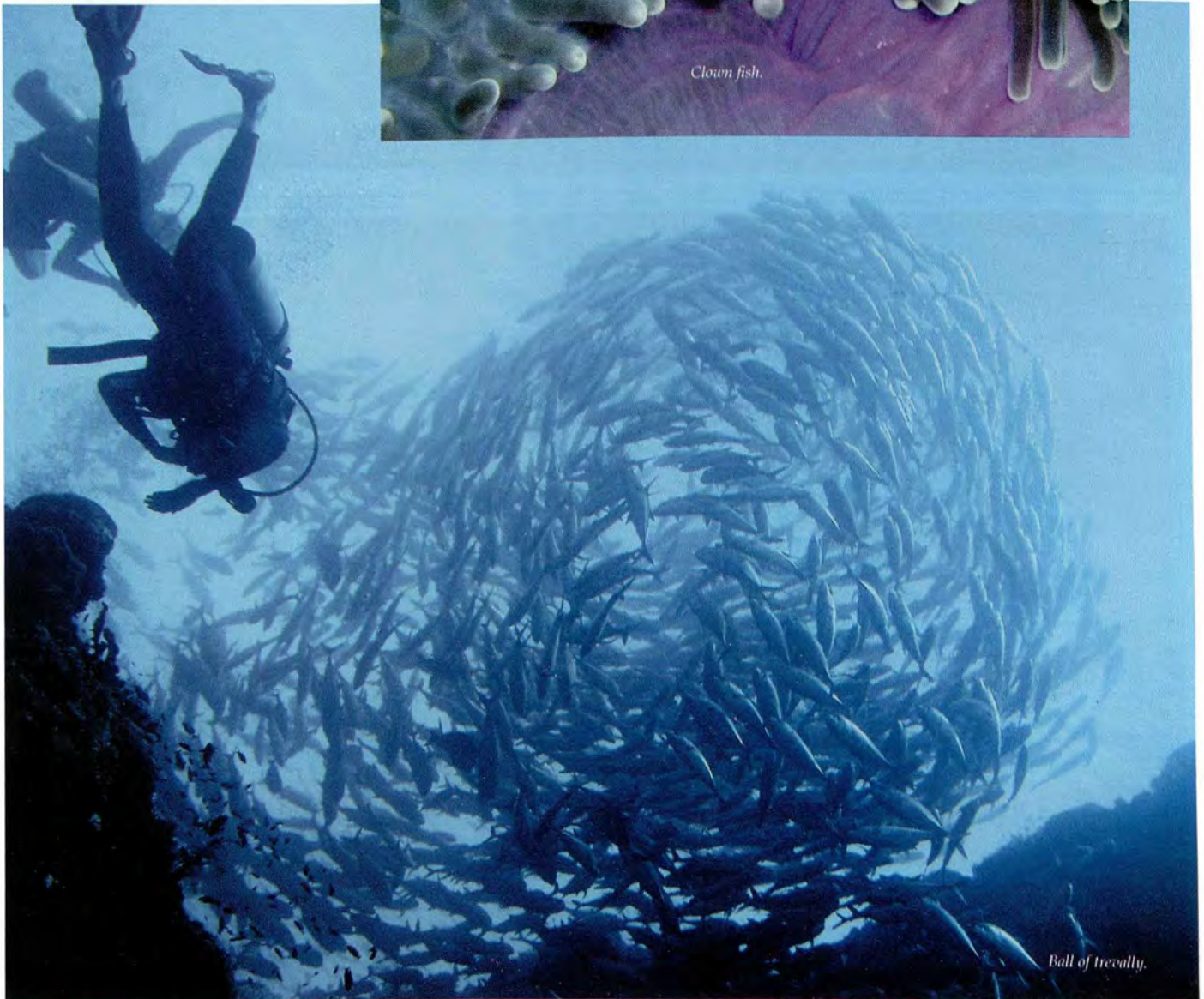
At Turtle Patch we drifted with the current, exploring the reef. Moray eels peered out of their hidey holes and lionfish hovered; delicate and deadly.

Just when I was beginning to wonder why this dive site was so named, turtles began to appear in their droves. I rapidly lost count.

The dive site named Barracuda Point began tamely enough. Unfortunately we'd lost the bright sunshine so the water visibility had turned slightly murky.



Clown fish.



Ball of trevally.



A school of Chevron barracuda.



We poodled along the wall, concentrating on the small reef dwellers. A glance upwards, and directly above our heads was a large school of trevally - or jacks.

In amongst them some monster-sized giant trevally dwarfed the smaller species. While we watched the trevally, several turtles, a white tip and a school of batfish entered the frame.

Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, we hit a huge school of circling chevron barracuda. The underwater world at Sipadan was showing off.

We returned to Semporna on a high. Full of anticipation we dived South Point again the following day. My husband and I had decided to go deep at the start of our dive to look for hammerheads. We descended the sloping reef, drifting past snoozing white tip reef sharks. The reef cut away and we dropped further still.

Down, down to 40 metres and the hammerheads still didn't oblige so we settled for a graceful eagle ray instead.

Back up on the main reef, dazzling slashes of yellow, black and white coalesced into thousands of pyramid butterflyfish and schooling bannerfish.

Barracuda Point enthralled us again. Bluefin, trevally, dog-tooth tuna and a kaleidoscope of reef fish kept us entertained. High above our heads, a school of bumphead parrotfish as big as armchairs was foraging.



Curious batfish.

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Turtles gazed or slept at the Turtle Tomb.



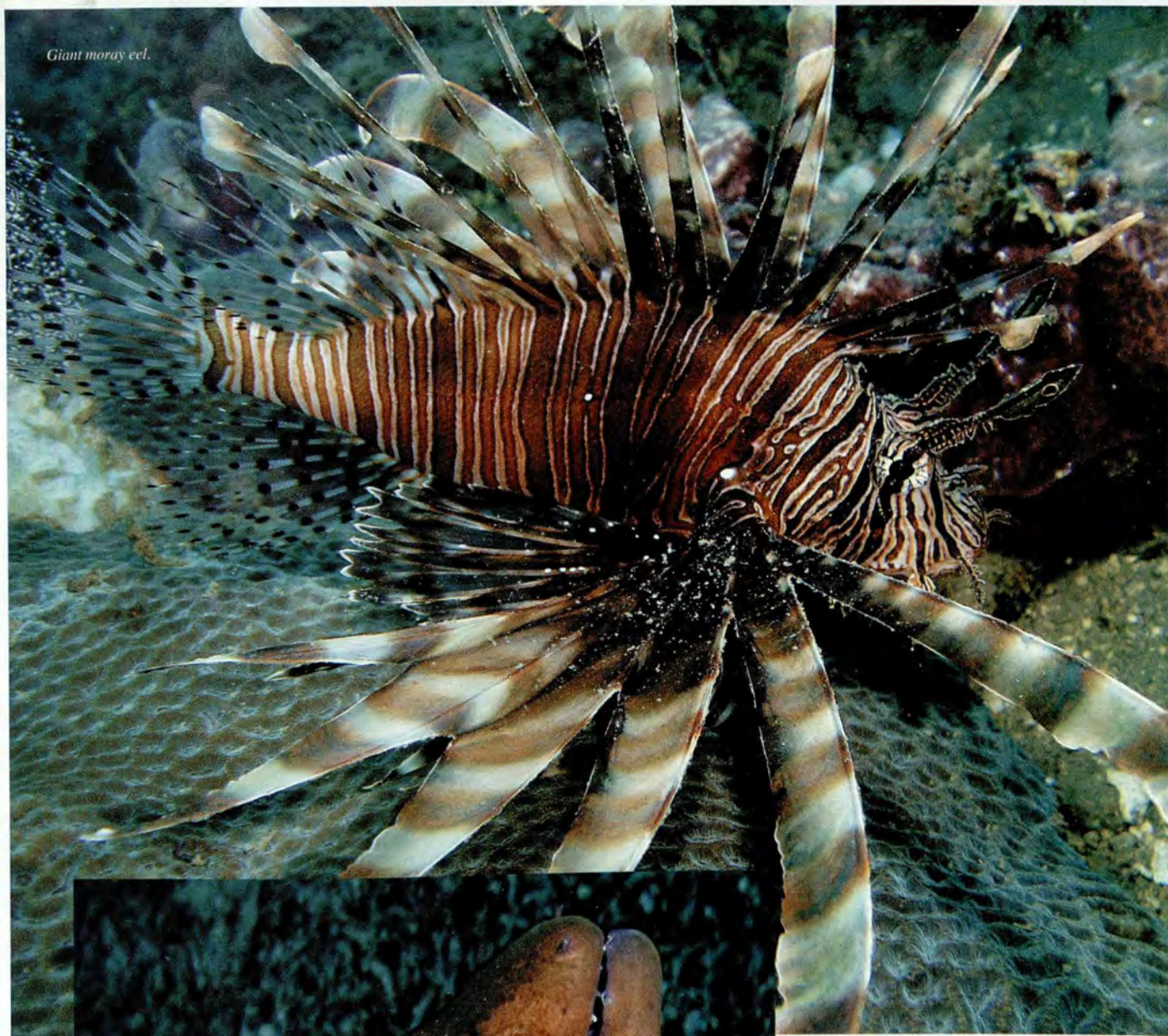
Out in the blue, a grey reef shark cruised by. Next, a leopard shark appeared, sleek and beautiful. And the school of chevron barracuda that gives this site its name was so dense you couldn't see through it.

Our final dive at Sipadan was named The Drop Off and we knew we would pass in front of The Turtle Tomb entrance.

Other divers had talked about the notorious Turtle Tomb. It's not a dive for novices. Nor is it a dive for people who have poor breath control for once you're in the cave system, there's no fast exit if you run out of air.

Although we are experienced divers, I don't like enclosed spaces - especially underwater - so we had decided against this dive.


The Drop Off is barely 20 metres off Sipadan island's sandy beach. It's quite astonishing the way the beach abruptly ends and plunges into a vertical wall that vanishes into the abyss.

*Giant moray eel.**Giant moray eel.*

We swam alongside the wall keeping a vigilant eye on our depth gauges. The Turtle Tomb entrance was unmistakable. We read the warning sign and explored the entrance. The atmosphere was eerie yet held a compelling beauty. I regretted not arranging to do this dive.

But The Drop Off had plenty of magic besides The Turtle Tomb. Another massive ball of trevally spun dizzily, silver bodies glinting in shafts of sunlight. Live turtles galore swam, grazed or slept. Some used the sea fans to balance themselves while they napped. They looked sweetly comical draped over the fans, bobbing in the gentle swell. And I hoped they would continue to use the sea fans, rather than enter The Turtle Tomb in their quest to find a comfy place to have a snooze.



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Spotting the Giant Creature

The whale shark
of Donsol Bay


BY JOHN BORTHWICK



**I'm looking for the largest fish in the ocean.
And end up almost standing on it. I dive off our
outrigger boat and start swimming towards where
the giant creature should be.**

**Suddenly my Filipino guide Alan grabs my arm and
gestures downwards.**

**A metre below my flippers is a massive, mottled
creature, so long that its head and tail - I'm between
them - disappear into the distance.**




As large as a reef (which is what I first take the object to be), it is only when I see the dorsal fin and tail that I get it. I am indeed swimming with the largest fish in the ocean, *Rhincodon typus*, the whale shark.

The giant cruises slowly through these turbid waters of Donsol Bay, off southeast Luzon. We snorkel alongside it. The monster lets us track it for five minutes and then, probably bored by us, descends. I surface, whooping, and Alan gives me a high five, saying, "That was a good one for your first sighting. A nice long interaction."

"Butanding Interaction" is the official Philippines' term for swimming with whale sharks, butanding being the Bicol dialect word for "blind shark," which is how locals once thought, incorrectly, of these creatures.

These giant fish have congregated for eons in this plankton - and krill-rich bay in Sorsogon Province, but it was only a decade ago that they came to public attention.

When whale sharks were sighted here in January 1998, local tourism authorities declared Donsol's butanding a visitor attraction. Donsol folk still tell of dramatic confrontations with hunters from neighbouring Pilar province who had tethered two live whale sharks by their tails to trees, pending their slaughter. In one account, a Donsol man slashed the ropes, freeing the creatures, both of which still swim here, trailing the remnants of their bonds. The national government quickly protected whale sharks throughout Philippine waters.



Swimming with a whale shark.



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The highest concentration of whale sharks anywhere in the world is thought to be at Donsol, where they linger for almost half the year. Flying into Legazpi City, south of Manila, I team up with adventure travel specialist Richard Paraguya of Royal Quest Tours.

A 90-minute drive south brings us to Donsol's Butanding Visitor Center. I register, pay 300 pesos and am briefed on whale shark etiquette. Swim three metres away from the big critter, and four metres from its tail. Don't touch it.

A maximum of seven swimmers per whale shark. Only one boat may follow the shark at a time. No scuba gear allowed.

Our chase boat is a Philippine banka, a slender, 10-metre vessel with mantis-like outriggers. Perched atop it is a gimlet-eyed spotter. Butanding rarely break the surface but are easily seen by expert eyes. With a maximum of 30 boats permitted on the huge bay at any one time, the bankas trawl, widely separated.

I'm on the gunwale, geared-up, flippers on, mask ready. The spotter finds a whale shark and the skipper guns us towards it. "Go! Go!" yells Alan and we drop into the water. Yes, but go where? He points straight down. And there it is, a living reef, bathed in sunlight, mottled with



white pigment, slowly pulsing along, siphoning plankton into its metre and a half wide mouth, ignoring the homo allegedly sapiens who are inefficiently thrashing along beside it.

This grand denizen of the depths eventually out-distances us. We clamber aboard the banka, babbling. Most interactions are like this, lasting only a few minutes. We search again, soon spotting another one, then another. Before I know it, we've been on the water for over two hours and have had five dives with the sharks.

The whale shark is not a whale, but is indeed a shark. Most are between six and 12 metres in length, with the largest measured one, caught off Pakistan in 1947, being 12.65 metres long, seven metres in girth and weighing a massive 21.5 tonnes. Even though it has an enormously wide mouth, the whale shark is a filter feeder and has no record of biting humans.

Donsol's whale shark "industry" is a textbook example of eco-tourism success. The "discovery" of the butanding, the influx of tourists and the close regulation of their interaction were virtually concurrent. Local fishermen quickly saw the creatures were worth far more alive than dead. With over 12,000 visitors a year, many Donsol families have

Searching for whale sharks.



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found work in the industry and the small resorts that have sprung up along their shore, now billed as "Whale Shark Capital of the World."

The next day we set out early. Already there are seven bankas prowling the bay. Suddenly it's all "Go! Go! Go!" again, and we're in the water, swimming beside a younger whale shark of "only" four metres length. It takes off after just a few minutes. There will be plenty more.

On our final dive, we drop overboard to find a solitary giant who's unperturbed by our presence. Moving majestically and accompanied by a squadron of remora feeder fish, plus we four flailing snorkellers, it cruises just metres below the surface, allowing us to dive and swim level with it. I find myself tracking eye-to-beady eye with the it. Unimpressed perhaps by this unrequited intimacy, it flicks on a burst of speed and instantly I find myself back near its tail.

I catch up again and continue my inspection of its broad, flat head, then the unique pigment stipples that distinguish one shark from another. I eyeball it again. Tiring of the scrutiny, and being able to dive to 700 metres compared to my measly seven, the leviathan commences a graceful glide to the sanctuary of Donsol's unseen depths.

I surface to see Richard checking his watch and hollering, "Wow! Almost a record! We had seventeen minutes with it." It had felt like five. 

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CULTURAL EVENTS FOR 2010 FROM THE NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMISSION

MOMASE REGION		
Date	Event Description	Town/Province
4th June – 7th June 30th Oct – 31st Oct	Madang Festival Morobe Agricultural Cultural Show Festival	Madang
3rd Sept – 4th September 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
SOUTHERN REGION		
Date	Event Description	TownProvince
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 - West Coast New Ireland
30th July – 2nd Aug	Kontu/Tembin Shark Calling Show	Kontu Village - West Coast New Ireland
5th Aug-8th Aug	5th Namatanai Mask Festival	Namatanai Town – New Ireland
12th Aug – 14th Aug	Mona Festival	Autonomous Region Of 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's New Singapore Office



To increase market awareness in Singapore, Air Niugini opened its new office under the umbrella of Deks Air as its General Sales Agent.

The airline is confident Deks Air will provide a professional representation and greater capacity to service the travel community with their integrated facility.



Airline News

Air Niugini has operated into Singapore since 1976, and is considered to be a very significant hub and number one Asian destination for the airline's operation.

There are two flights a week to Singapore - Mondays and Thursdays - with return flights to Port Moresby which offer same day connections to Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney in Australia, Honiara in the Solomon Islands, and Nadi, Fiji.



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Air Niugini Opens S.O.E Travel Center



Cutting the ribbon to signify the opening of the S.O.E Travel Center is Air Niugini's CEO Wasantha Kumarasiri. On his left is Gereia Aopi, Chairman, IPBC.

Air Niugini recently opened a new facility to provide travel service for State Owned Enterprises. The S.O.E. Travel Center is staffed 24-hour/7 days a week by highly trained travel consultants and are supported by a further group of professionals who will manage the travel center out of hours through its integrated reservation system; all aimed at delivering a high quality product to the airline's clients.

The new travel center is fully accessible and is also opened to corporate clients .



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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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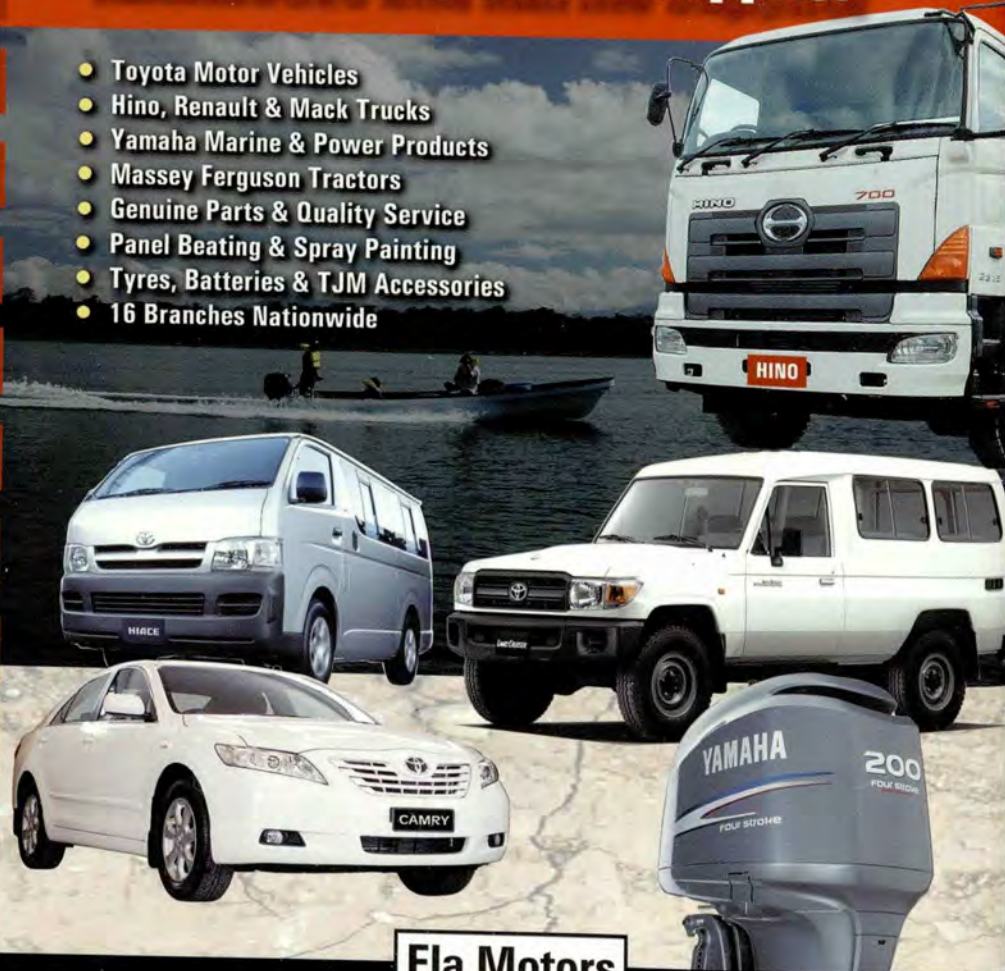
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