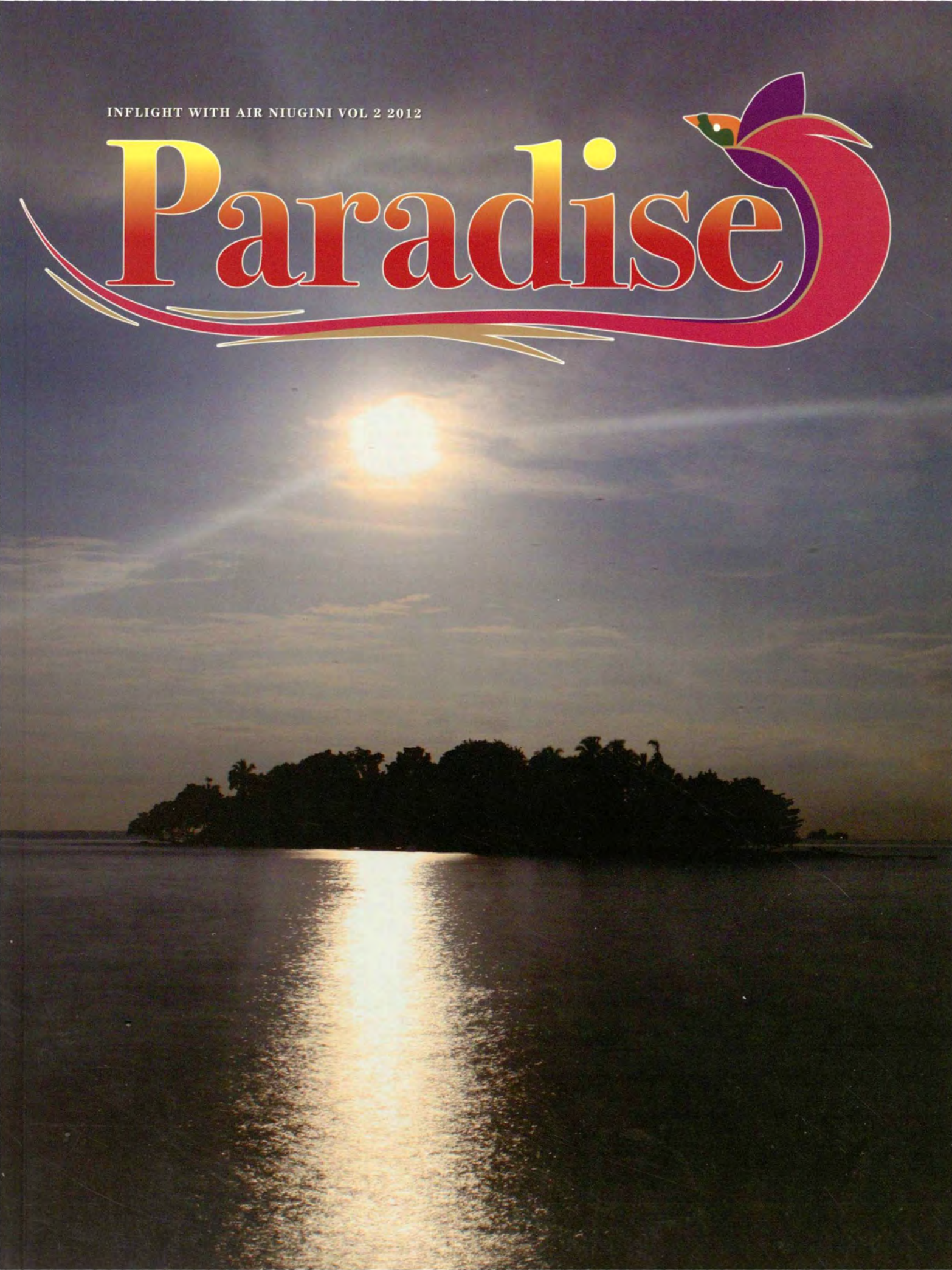
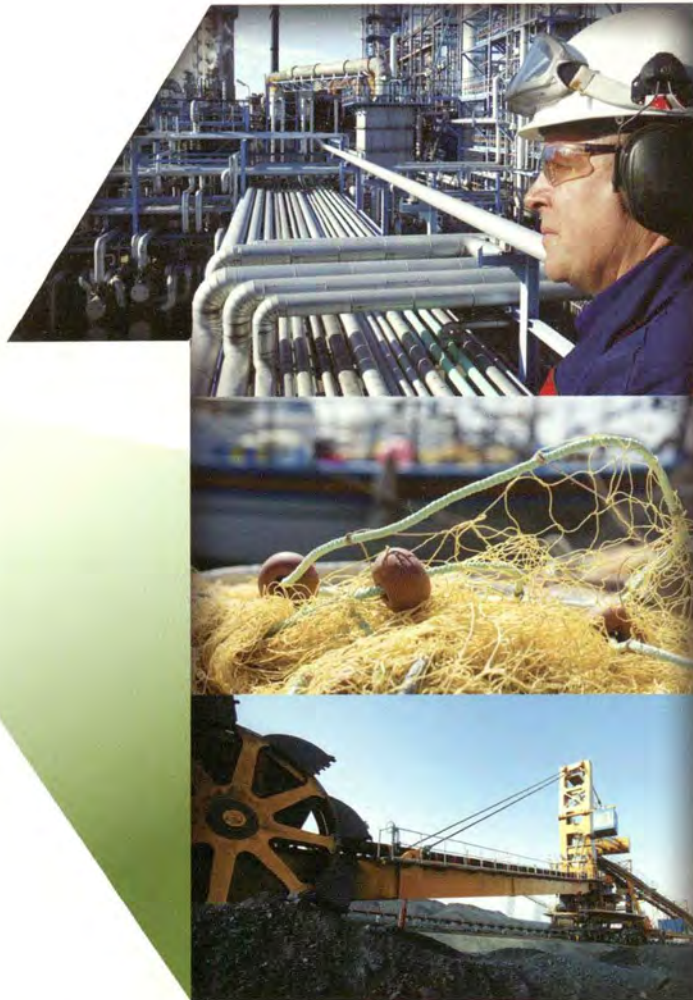


INFLIGHT WITH AIR NIUGINI VOL 2 2012

Paradise





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We live in your world



Our Commitment to Sustainable Development



Steamships Trading Company has been conducting business operations across Papua New Guinea for almost a century. It is one of the nation's major employers, and is a significant contributor to the national economy.

Steamships has long been aware of the need to protect the environment, and this principle underlies all of its activities. It is company policy that its businesses meet or exceed all legal and regulatory requirements for environmental best practice. To ensure this, Steamships has put in place formal systems to monitor impacts on the environment, and over time as data is accumulated the findings will be used to design and implement new policies to help manage and reduce adverse effects and encourage sustainability.

The Company is deeply involved in climate change and environmental impact monitoring projects in PNG, and in particular on the effects of deforestation on the absorption of greenhouse gases. Steamships is working with various NGO's to further our understanding of long-term sustainability, and its effects on climate and land use.

In the long term, such initiatives not only make good business sense, but will also help to preserve and protect the future of the great nation of Papua New Guinea, on which we all depend.

The Company's new Grand Papua Hotel in Port Moresby is a reflection of Steamships' part in the history of the country, as the new hotel is built on the site of the famous old Papua Hotel, of glorious memory.

The Grand Papua sets a new industry benchmark for sustainable and efficient construction and operation in a luxury environment. Its lightings, air-conditioning and elevators are designed and sensor controlled to minimize energy use, and reduce the carbon footprint of the hotel.

Steamships is indeed proud to make this commitment to the future of Papua New Guinea.



The Grand Papua Hotel is specifically designed to offer you a variety of luxury. The 161 luxury bedroom suites include an executive club lounge, conference rooms, gymnasium, health spa and beauty salon, all with opulent décor and furnishings.



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Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Welcome Aboard

Air Niugini's passenger uplift recorded for 2011 was over one million with Australia, Asia, Honiara/Nadi and domestic traffic all registering increases in passenger numbers. Last year's performance was exceptional despite the delay in the LNG traffic, continuing fuel increase and other international and internal extenuating circumstances. The airline is undertaking some exciting projects to enhance our operation including the upgrading of business class cabin seats in our Boeing 767 aircraft and the installation of new in-seat videos.

Air Niugini has commenced the introduction of the Jupiter Project, a new suite of products which is a hosted solution provided by Mercator - the IT business arm of Emirates Airlines - that will achieve a fully integrated solution from point of sale through to departure. The Jupiter Project is the implementation of Air Niugini's new reservations, online bookings, staff travel and departure control system.

Joining the fleet in June will be a B737-700 aircraft to operate on a number of international routes. At this stage, the B737 is planned to operate to Manila; Brisbane on Thursday afternoon; the combined Sydney-Brisbane flight on Sunday; and the Honiara-Nadi services on Friday and Sunday. We are confident the introduction of the B737 will add significant positive changes to the bottom line in 2012.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign in Papua New Guinea, Air Niugini will have the fuselage of the B737 painted with the Kokoda livery: www.kokoda70.org. The airline will also commemorate the 70th anniversary of Kokoda throughout 2012 with other planned activities, including the sponsorship of Australia's well known singer John Williamson to perform at the dinner on April 28, 2012 at the State Dining Room, National Parliament, in honour of the diggers who fought along the Kokoda Trail. A separate story features this singer in this issue.

Amongst other changes is the conversion of an Air Niugini office to that of a General Sales Agent for its operations in Tokyo, which took effect on March 2, 2012. AICONET CORPORATION, as the newly appointed GSA, will be responsible for all passenger matters in Japan, its territory of responsibility.

With back to back scheduled maintenance checks being carried out on two Boeing 767 aircraft in the next few months, we have wet leased a B757 to operate on international routes to cover this period.

As you enjoy our inflight service during your flight with us today, please browse through the **PARADISE WORLD BOUTIQUE** - the inflight duty free catalogue - and see the wide range of wonderful gifts on sale.

We thank you for your continued patronage and wish you a pleasant flight.

Wasantha Kumarasiri OBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Paradise is the complimentary inflight magazine of Air Niugini, Papua New Guinea's international airline. It is published six times a year by Islands Business International.

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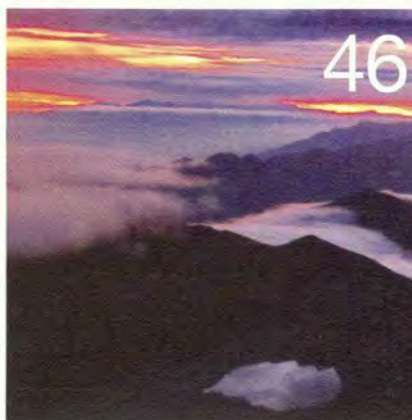
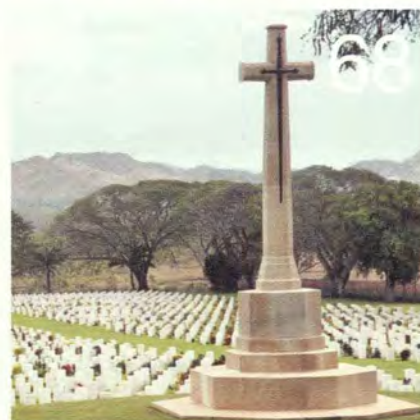
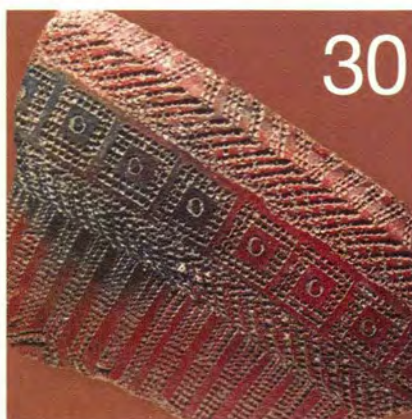
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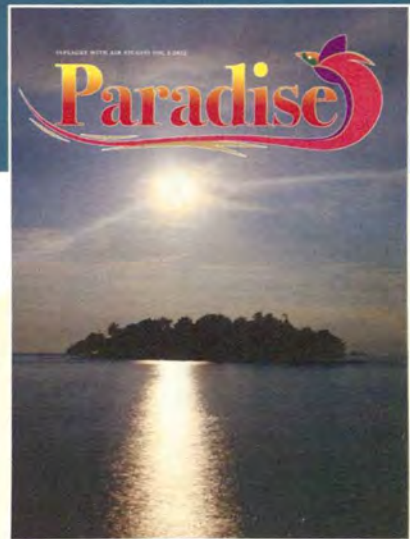
Printing
Craft Inprint Pty Limited
Cnr Bilsen & Zillmere Roads
Boondall, Queensland, 4034
Australia

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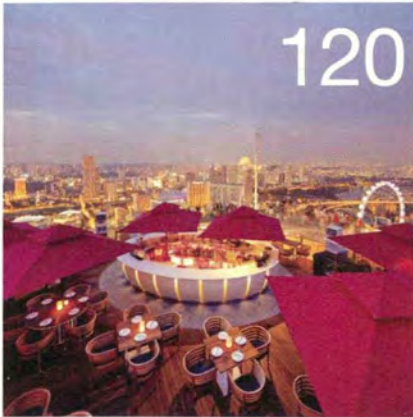
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Cover photo: Moonlight over Jais Aben, Madang, by Scott Waide

Photo first appeared in PNG in Pictures, a Facebook group (pnginpics@groups.facebook.com) keen on promoting the beauty of PNG.



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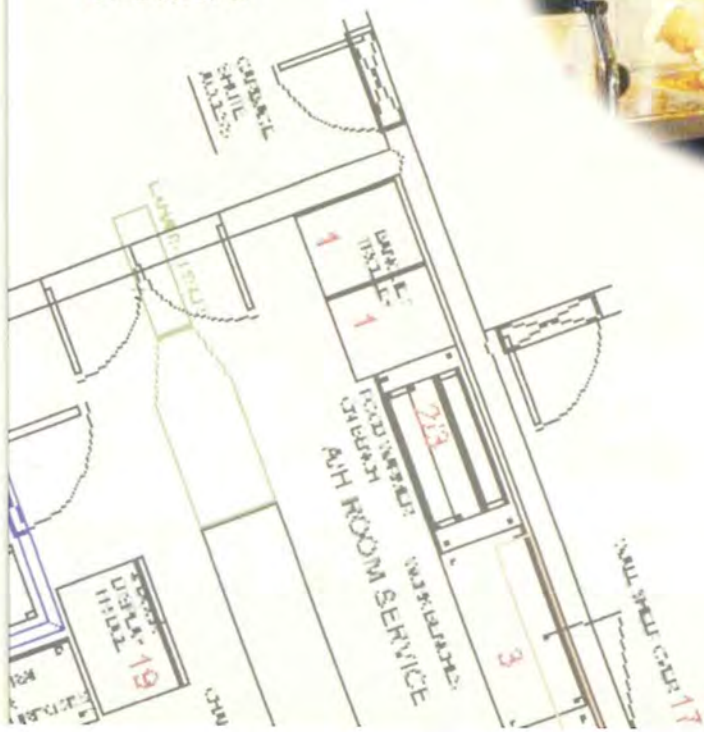
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In addition to owning vessels and providing domestic coastal shipping services, Steamships is a shareholder and manager of stevedoring companies at seven of the country's ports, where it also operates the largest shipping agency business. As Swire Shipping's in-country representative, Steamships can offer a range of international shipping services to and from North and South East Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands with the network extending to Europe and the west coast of North America. All services are provided by flexible, multipurpose ships offering hold configurations and cranes designed specifically to carry a range of commodities, containerised, break bulk and project cargoes.

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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

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Wing span: 47.57m
Range: 8100km
Cruising speed: 857kph

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Normal altitude: 11000 - 12000m
Standard seating capacity: 214
Number of aircraft in fleet: 3



F100

Fokker

Length: 35.528m
Wing span: 28.076m
Range: 3000km
Cruising speed: 780kph

Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650
Normal altitude: 11,000 m
Standard seating capacity: 98
Number of aircraft in fleet: 6



DASH 8-Q400 NextGen

Bombardier

Length: 32.8m
Wing span: 28.4m
Range: 3000km
Cruising speed: 670kph

Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW150A
Normal altitude: 7500m
Standard seating capacity: 74
Number of aircraft in fleet: 3



DASH 8-Q315

Bombardier

Length: 25.7m
Wing span: 24.4m
Range: 1700km
Cruising speed: 510kph

Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123E
Normal altitude: 7500m
Standard seating capacity: 50
Number of aircraft in fleet: 3



DHC-8-202

Bombardier

Length: 22.25m
Wing span: 25.89m
Range: 1800km
Cruising speed: 550kph

Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123D
Normal altitude: 7600m
Standard seating capacity: 36
Number of aircraft in fleet: 3



DHC-8-100

Bombardier

Length: 22.25m
Wing span: 25.89m
Range: 1800km
Cruising speed: 500kph

Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW121
Normal altitude: 7600m
Standard seating capacity: 36
Number of aircraft in fleet: 2



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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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.

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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 contraceptive
- ✧ 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

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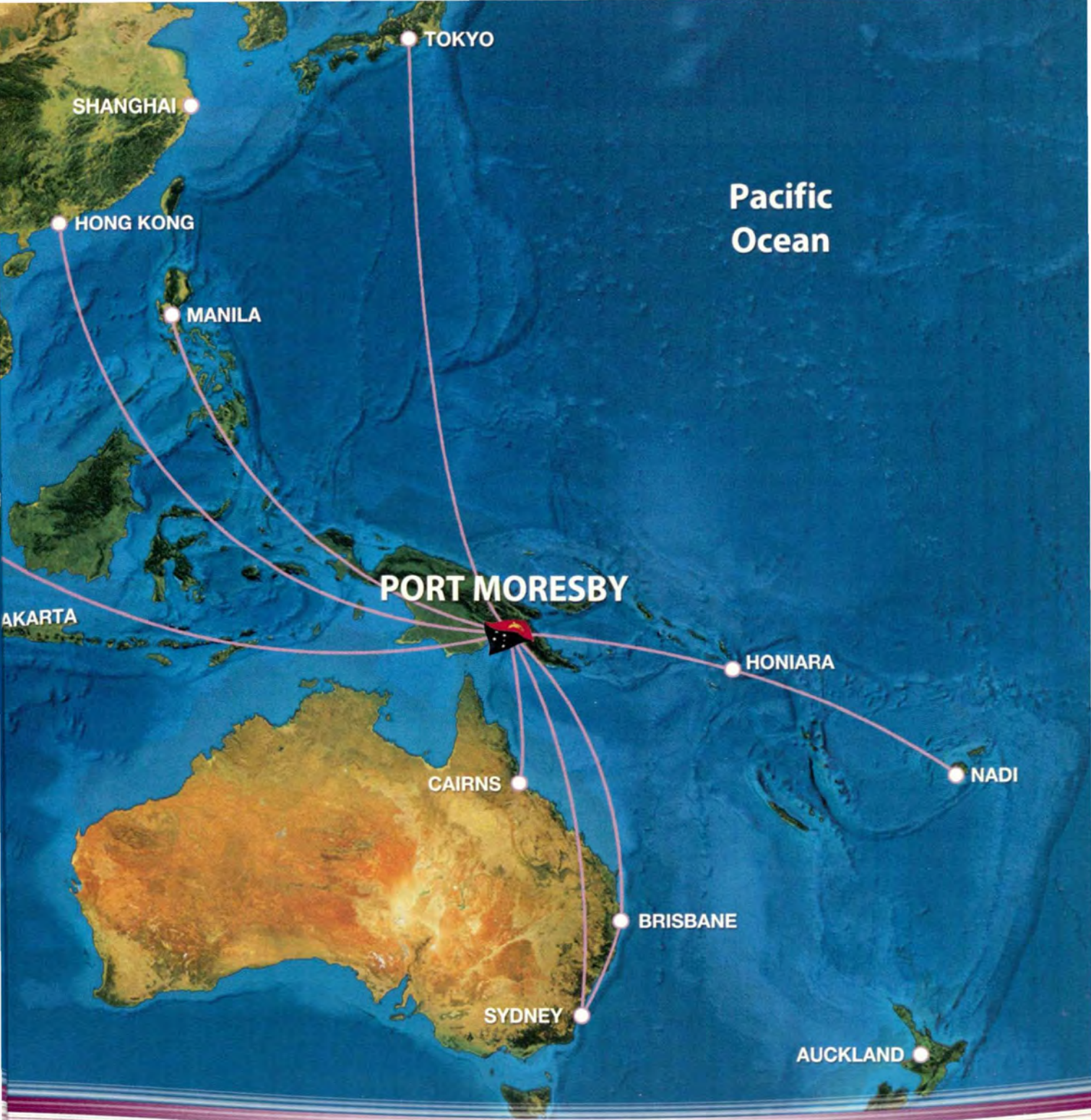
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- Affordable rates
- More surf time



*Dentate stamped
Lapita pottery from
Anir, New Ireland.*



THE LAPITA TRAIL UNRAVELLING PNG'S PAST

BY GLENN SUMMERHAYES



The local inhabitants never made pottery and there were no stories about them. As he found many deep inside the ground, he knew they were old – but how old? He just did not know.

Later in the 1920s, Stanley, a geologist, thought the Watom pots came from a lost civilisation from South America. The mystery only unfolded with the finding of identical pot sherds from areas further afield hundreds of kilometres away in Tonga, Fiji and New Caledonia.

In 1952, two American archaeologists - Gifford and Shutler - found many more of these intricately designed sherds from the Foue Peninsula, located on the west coast of New Caledonia, and named the pottery from a nearby village - Lapita.

What's more, they were able to-date charcoal found with the pottery using a new technique only discovered a few years before - radiocarbon dating. The Lapita occupation was dated to a remarkable 3,000 years ago!

The radiocarbon dating of Lapita in New Caledonia revolutionised our understanding of the Pacific's past. We know now that Lapita

The origins of Lapita lie towards the west in the major islands of the Bismarck Archipelago, PNG. It was here in these islands that Lapita developed out of a mixture of genes...

pottery is the archaeological signature for the three thousand year-old colonisation for the first time of remote Oceania, the vast area to the east of the Solomon Islands.

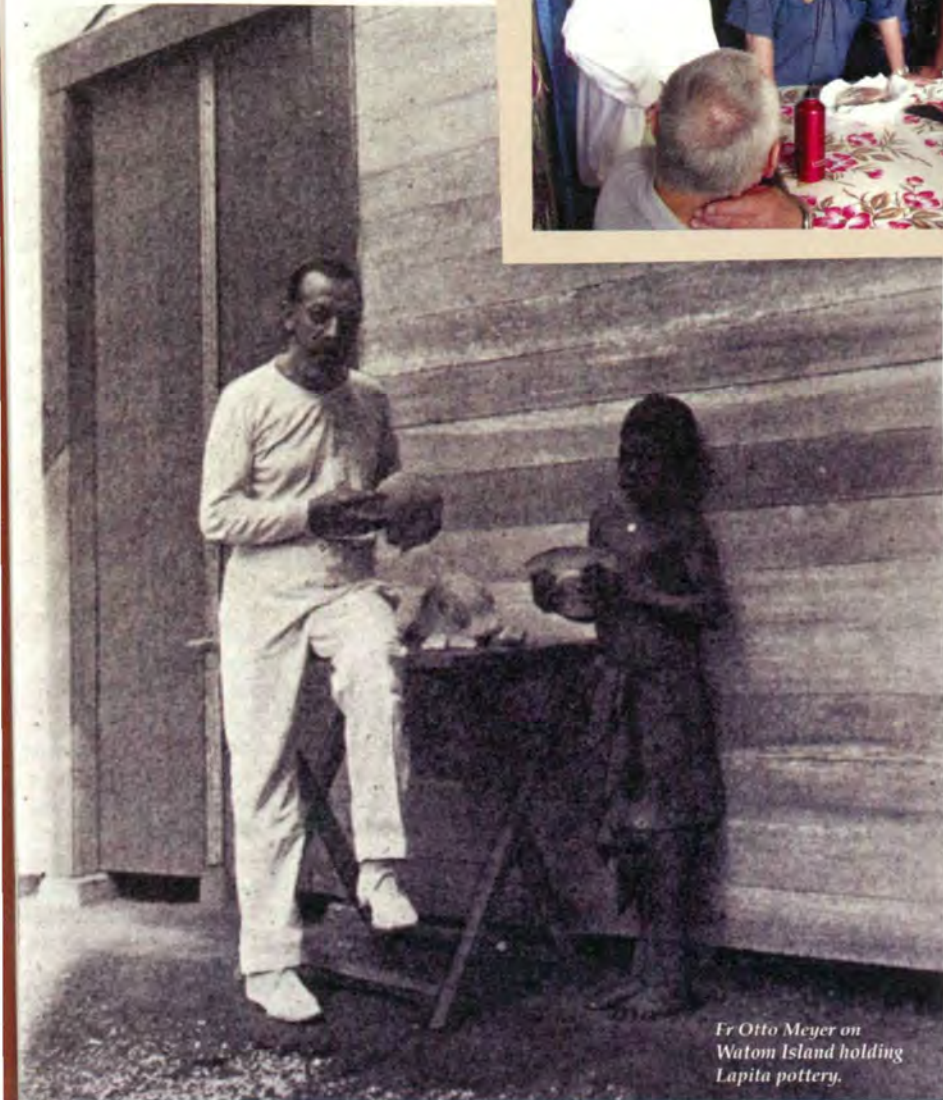
The origins of Lapita lie towards the west in the major islands of the Bismarck Archipelago, PNG. It was here in these islands that Lapita developed out of a mixture of genes and imported domesticated animals from Asia and local indigenous people who have lived there for over 40,000 years.

Unravelling this history has taken many decades of hard work by only a handful of scholars. Pioneers in PNG Lapita studies include the father of Pacific archaeology, Professor Jack Golson, now well into his eighties.

When he first arrived in the new fledgling Australian National University, located in Canberra in the early 60s, he accumulated a group of young scholars eager to work on unravelling PNG's past.



Discovering new and wonderful Lapita pottery from Emirau.



Fr Otto Meyer on Watom Island holding Lapita pottery.

One scholar was Jim Specht who came straight from England. Specht returned to Watom in 1966 to follow in the footsteps of Fr Meyer. He opened up larger areas to dig and confirmed that Lapita at Watom was thousands of years old.

During the 1960s and 70s, Lapita was found in other areas of New Ireland - on Ambitle Island by the late planter Graham Carson; on Mussau by Brian Egloff (then at the National PNG Museum); and at Lessu, on New Ireland, by Dr Peter White (Sydney University).

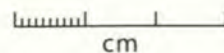
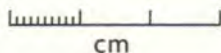
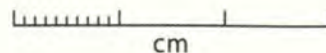
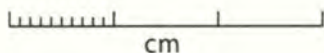
Yet by the 1980s, our knowledge of Lapita in PNG was still patchy. This was in stark contrast with areas to the east such as New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

To redress this imbalance, some strong leadership and vision was needed - and this was found in Professor Jim Allen who went on to occupy the Foundation Chair of Archaeology at La Trobe University.

Allen had previously taught at the University of Papua New Guinea during the late 1960s and early 70s and his students in archaeology went on to become some of PNG's leaders (Ms Nahau Rooney, Bart Philemon) including a Prime Minister (Sir Rabbie Namaliu).



Lapita pottery from Emirau.



Allen had a vision of a number of teams made up of leading archaeologists focussing on key areas of the Bismarck Archipelago. He was later joined by Chris Gosden, who managed the project.

Teams led by Pat Kirch (now at Berkeley) returned to Mussau. Other teams also worked on large rock shelters of New Ireland, pushing evidence of humanity in this corner of the world to over 30,000 years ago.

Specht went on to undertake more work in West New Britain, finding Lapita at Talasea on the north coast, and Kandrian on the south coast. Over the years, he was joined by Professor Gosden (now at Oxford) who found extensive Lapita sites on Arawe Islands, south-west of New Britain, and Dr Robin

Torrence (Australian Museum), who worked on Garua Island and the southern area of the Willaumez Peninsula.

I was lucky enough to have been introduced to New Guinea archaeology by Specht in the early 1980s. I later undertook my first PNG fieldwork with both Specht and Gosden in 1989, working in a number of areas including the Arawe Islands, Kandrian, Talasea and Hoskins areas of West New Britain.

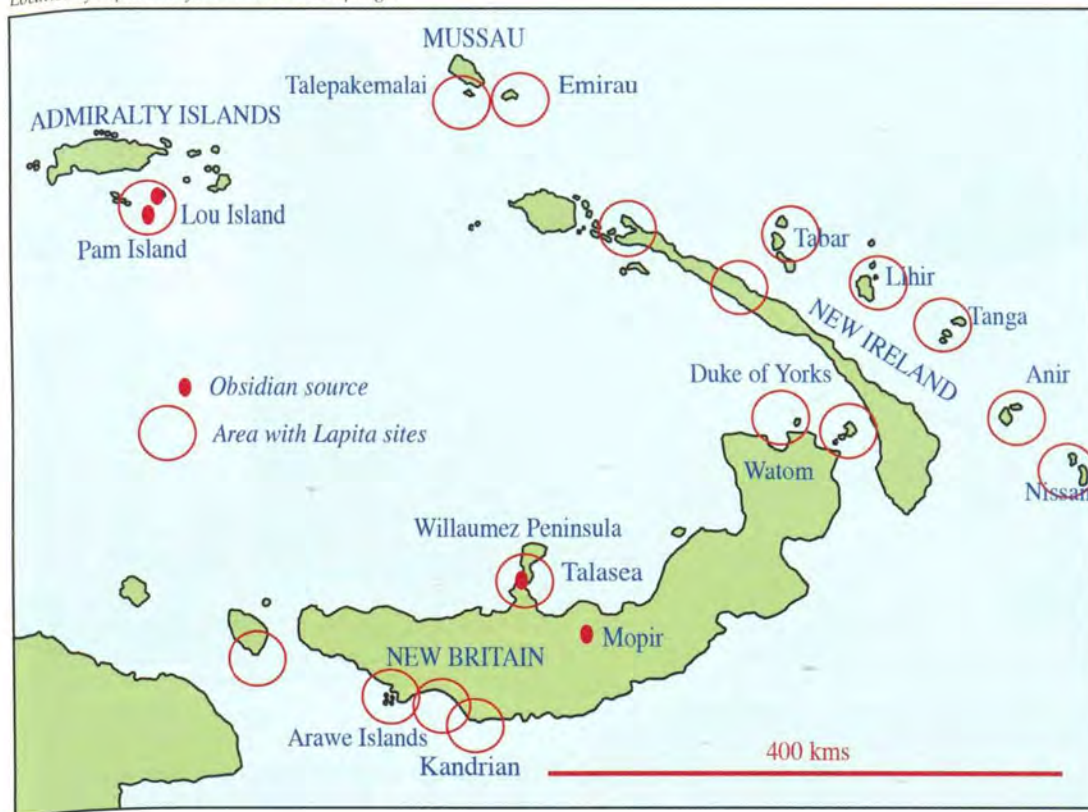
Over the last 20 years, more Lapita projects started up in the Talasea region by Torrence, and on Anir and Emirau by myself.

With such a potted history behind us, what can be said about Lapita in New Guinea? We now have over 100 Lapita sites recorded

from all points of the Bismarck Archipelago. The oldest Lapita occupation occurs in the Bismarck Archipelago at 3350 years ago. It is only after a hundred years or so that the descendants of these people moved and went on to colonise areas to the east, becoming the founder populations of the Pacific. These people spoke Austronesian, a language family with origins to the west in Asia. Asian influences are also seen with the introduction of dog, chicken and pig - all domesticates originating from Asia.

Lapita occupation lasts nearly a thousand years in the Bismarcks with major changes evident. The earliest settlers were highly mobile, moving over the oceans keeping in touch from the Arawe Islands to Anir to

Location of Lapita sites from Bismarck Archipelago.



The oldest Lapita occupation occurs in the Bismarck Archipelago at 3350 years ago. It is only after a hundred years or so that descendants of these people moved and went on to colonise areas to the east, becoming the founder populations of the Pacific.

Mussau. This is evident by the near identical nature of pottery from all areas in New Ireland and New Britain, and in the production of pottery using basic ingredients of clay and minerals from a number of diverse locations.

Later occupation, on the other hand, was more sedentary with fewer movements of people between settlements.

Note that all Lapita sites were coastally located, with many of the earliest villages being composed of stilt houses, located over shallow reef flats. This is seen in the ancient stilt villages of the Arawe Islands, Mussau, Emirau and the Anir Island of Babase. Over time, these shallow reefs filled in with sand and/or soil caused by a number of factors including the lowering of the sea levels caused by slight increases in the planet's temperature, and the changing dynamics of the beach caused by the presence of these wooden structures and the resultant garbage thrown into the shallow lagoons. At the same time, lagoons were filled by erosion coming from higher grounds after forests were cut for agriculture. These early Lapita sites are rich in artefactual material as nearly everything that was dropped into the water was preserved. Later occupation was over dry land, resulting in less artefactual material being preserved.

Common in these Lapita settlements is obsidian, that black volcanic glass which originated from natural flows from both Manus and Talasea. Indeed, obsidian from New Britain and Manus was found as far away



Professor Summerhayes examining chemistry of Lapita pottery using an electron microprobe.

as Fiji in the east and Borneo in the west. Being rare and also particularly sharp, it was treasured for cutting and scraping vegetable matter and skin, and was widely traded.

New Lapita sites are always difficult to find. Archaeologists need to work close with local schools and communities. One example of community leadership comes from the island of Emirau, located 25 kilometres east of Mussau, and 125 kilometres northwest of Kavieng.

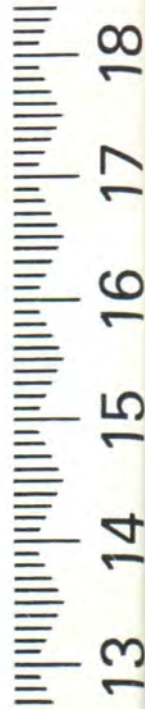
While chasing pigs away from a garden, local community leaders Boi Boi and Kenneth Amanga found broken bits of pottery coming out from the ground. A teacher from the island, Kenneth Vito Thomas, had the local school undertake a research exercise and found more pottery. They then contacted local Kavieng historian, Jim Ridges, who contacted me. I visited Emirau Island with Professor Lisa Matisoo-Smith and a team from Otago, UPNG and the National Museum and Art Gallery and excavated the site finding an important and early Lapita site.



The local community helping to sieve for Lapita.



Jadeite found on Emirau.



Professor Summerhayes photographing the finds.

With support of the local Emirau community, we made a contribution to our knowledge of the region's past! The Emirau community helped prepare the site before we arrived, even constructing a tent for us to use as a laboratory. They also participated in helping to photograph and sieve the finds. Under a metre of sand, we found hundreds of pieces of Lapita pottery, along with obsidian, shell tools and ornaments and bones of fish that were eaten and then thrown into the water where they rested on corals and covered by sand for three thousand and three hundred years. Also found was a green jadeite gouge which with the help of some of the world's leading jade experts, we have now sourced it to some 1000 kilometres away, behind Lake Sentani in West Papua. This is the only jadeite tool ever found in a Lapita context.

There is a lot more to learn about Lapita in Papua New Guinea. Just a couple of years ago, a major new Lapita site was found on the south coast of Papua New Guinea, just to the west of Port Moresby at Caution Bay. This arose out of archaeological digs conducted by Monash University as part of a survey of a large depot for the LNG project.

Who knows what is to be found in the future? That future however, must include the students of archaeology at the University of Papua New Guinea as it is their history after all.

Under a metre of sand, we found hundreds of pieces of Lapita pottery, along with obsidian, shell tools and ornaments and bones of fish that were eaten and then thrown into the water where they rested upon the corals and have sat covered by sand for three thousand and three hundred years.

• Glenn Summerhayes, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Otago, would like to thank all the communities that he has worked with over the last 25 years. He also extends his appreciation to the staff of the National Museum and Art Gallery with whom he has been affiliated with, and to Jim Robins from the National Research Institute. The laws covering archaeological research in Papua New Guinea are strong, and everything recovered belongs to the people of PNG and all future generations. The National Museum and Art Gallery of PNG strictly manages archaeological research.



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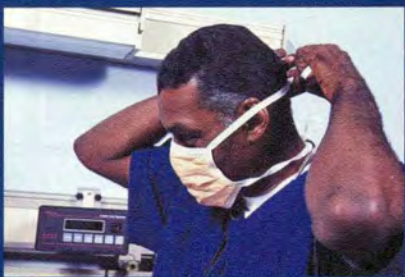
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A PIECE OF PNG IN HAWAII

2500 artifacts in world-famous Bishop Museum

STORY & PHOTOGRAPHS: FLOYD K. TAKEUCHI



A mask from New Ireland. It was acquired by the Bishop Museum in 1901.

It isn't the spines from the white, dried puffer fish skin atop half of the mask that first gets your attention. It isn't even the pointed teeth, or the scary painted design on the face of the mask.

Rather, it is the eyes - piercing improbably blue eyes - that seem alive in the intricately carved and colourfully painted face. Whoever made this mask, which includes calico cloth along with the spikes on its crown, had a fertile imagination and remarkably gifted hands.



Dr Roger Rose with shields from PNG, stored in the collections vault of the Bishop Museum.



Closeup of a dance mask from Kinomere village in the Papuan Gulf region.

The mask I'm staring at was made in Papua New Guinea's New Ireland Province sometime in the late 19th Century or perhaps the early 20th Century. The exact date isn't clear. But what is known is that this stunning artifact was acquired by the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1901. It was purchased from the private collection of its founder, Charles Reed Bishop.

It is one of over 2,500 artifacts from Papua New Guinea, albeit one of the most unusual, that are part of the Bishop Museum's world-famous collection of Oceanic cultural implements.

Dr Roger Rose, who earned his Ph.D. in anthropology at Harvard University studying under the renowned Pacific specialist Dr. Douglas Oliver, says the Bishop Museum's collection of PNG artifacts is the fourth largest of any collection in a museum in the United States.

That says a lot for a museum best known for its expertise in Polynesia, in particular Hawaii and French Polynesia. But Dr Rose should know. He's a former curator of the Bishop Museum's collection, now an Honorary Associate in Cultural Studies with the institution. And Dr Rose is intimately connected to the Bishop Museum's "jewel in the crown" of its PNG materials, the Ruth E. and Wallace M Ruff Collection.



Face pot from Wosera, southern Abelam. This is an evolved design for the commercial market based on a ceremonial yam soup pot for male initiates. Two hornbill beaks flank a face of red and yellow ochre, white lime and black charcoal.

Dance mask from Nagosap village in Middle Sepik.



You could say the term "collection" is an understatement. The Ruff collection, which was a gift to Bishop Museum in 1989 by the Ruffs, is comprised of 1,550 artifacts from Papua New Guinea. Wallace and Ruth Ruff, who were a dynamic duo when working together in the field (he was better known as "Mac"), amassed most of their PNG collection between 1960 and 1987.

Mr Ruff was a professor of architecture at the University of Oregon in the United States. His specialty was landscape architecture, but he had an abiding interest in the Pacific's traditional cultures. That interest was sparked during his U.S. Navy service in the New Hebrides during World War II. Dr. Rose says Mr Ruff was assigned to collect New Hebridean artifacts for a planned Navy museum in the United States. Mr Ruff led a team that collected an array of cultural items, though Dr Rose says none of them appear to have made it to the states.

Mr Ruff had the collecting bug,

however. And when he and his family had a chance to visit Papua New Guinea in 1960, at the end of a sabbatical in New Zealand, the Ruffs began to collect artifacts in earnest. While he wasn't trained in anthropology, Mr Ruff had a remarkably good eye for quality carvings, weavings and the like. And, as Dr Rose notes, Mr Ruff would buy in quantity; if he saw a couple of interesting masks, for instance, he'd negotiate to buy the lot.

Subsequent sabbatical-related visits to Papua New Guinea in 1967 and 1974 increased the size of the Ruff collection. Then in 1977, the family moved to Papua New Guinea, where Mr Ruff took a position as a professor of architecture at the PNG University of Technology at Lae. The family lived in Lae until 1980, while Mr Ruff taught and worked on a groundbreaking study of traditional village architecture. Much of that research helped to catalog traditional building styles and methods that were quickly giving way to contemporary construction practices.

"By showing an interest in the (traditional) building materials and techniques, it showed the native peoples that what they had was of value," Dr. Rose says of Mr. Ruff's village architecture work.

Mr and Mrs Ruff first inquired if the Bishop Museum would be interested in their collection in 1987. The request followed a private tour of the heart of the museum - its collection storage area, row after row of masks, mats, carvings, pottery, shields and the like from every corner of the Pacific.

The museum was curious, and sent Dr. Rose to Oregon to get a first-hand look at the Ruff collection. Dr Rose recalls that he was stunned by what he saw at the Ruff compound. He saw immediately that the collection was huge and most of the pieces were of high quality. Shortly after that visit, Bishop Museum began serious talks with the Ruffs about accepting the collection. Mrs Ruff's death in late 1987 led to an extended period of mourning, and the negotiations to move the collection to

Honolulu were completed in 1989.

Like Mr and Mrs Ruff in 1987, I've been given special access to the Bishop Museum's vault-like collections storage area to view some of its PNG artifacts.

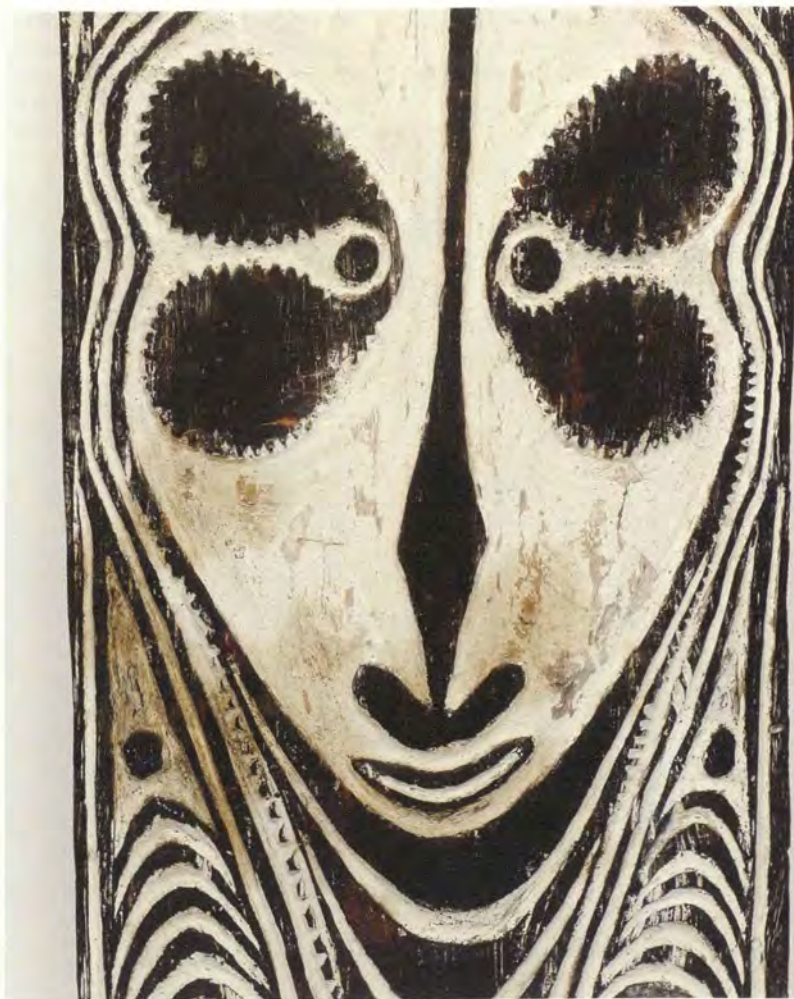
Dr Rose and Betty Lou Kam, the museum's vice president of cultural resources, walk me down aisles featuring everything from monumental-sized masks to the most delicate of pottery. Most of the pieces, no matter their materials, look like they were



Dance mask from Kinomere village in the Papua Gulf.



A shield from the Chambri Lake region. It is similar to the one collected by Dr Margaret Mead in the 1930s.



made in the past few days.

I'm shown a dance mask, about 1.5 meters tall, from Nagosap, a Sawos village in the Middle Sepik. A tag with handwriting attached to the piece, one of the last collected by Mr Ruff, says the mask was made by Matha Keven, and was purchased for 15 Kina on July 28, 1987.

A companion mask, a tad taller, is also from Nagosap Village. Its tag indicates it was made by a Henry Scin (although it is difficult to make out the writing), and like the other large mask was purchased on July 28, 1987 for 15 Kina. Henry wrote proudly on the piece of torn paper that serves as a tag: "I made this!"

Ms Kam brings out another large mask, this one some 1.7 meters tall, but with an entirely different look. There are two holes for arms toward the bottom of this unusual mask, and there are "sleeves" to cover the arms. It appears to be perpetually smiling, its arms widespread, as if about to embrace a friend. You get the feeling that the artisan who crafted this woven mask - the tag says it was made in Kinomere Village on the Papuan Gulf - was a happy person, indeed.

Two more masks are brought out for me to see. Both are from New Ireland, one the earlier mentioned "blue eyed" mask with the puffer fish skin on its crown, the other described as "Kepong" from the west coast of New Ireland with a mop of light coloured hair, hair implements made of a tapa-like material that look like butterfly wings, and a face that you swear is alive it is so real looking. This mask was acquired 10 years earlier than its companion, in 1891. But both masks retain their vibrant colours and their materials are well preserved. The result is that they appear to have been made in recent times.

As the Bishop Museum staffer who was most closely tied to the Ruff Collection, Dr. Rose knew Mr Ruff well. In fact, they travelled together on an expedition in 1991 to survey many of the areas where Mr. Ruff had collected his artifacts. Much of their travels were along the Sepik River.

Dr Rose prepared for the trip by photographing the pieces in the collection. As they travelled from village to village, some of it by canoe, Dr Rose remembers, he would show artisans pictures of pieces to confirm that they were from that region. In some cases, he was able to get the

Two more masks are brought out for me to see. Both are from New Ireland, one the earlier mentioned "blue eyed" mask with the puffer fish skin on its crown, the other described as "Kepong" from the west coast of New Ireland with a mop of light coloured hair, hair implements made of a tapa-like material that look like butterfly wings, and a face that you swear is alive it is so real looking.



Malagan Mask "Kepong" from the west coast of New Ireland. It was acquired by the Bishop Museum in 1891.

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The Ruth E. and Wallace M. Ruff Collection is unique, a remarkable window on a critical period in the history of Papua New Guinea, one that can never be replicated with the same quality...

Two dance masks from Nagosap, Middle Sepik.



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name of the person who made the piece. In other cases, the artisans identified a piece that they had made decades before. In many cases, Dr Rose says, the village people remembered Mr Ruff and welcomed him back like a long-lost relative.

"He got along quite well with the people of Papua New Guinea. Ruff liked living in the villages. He liked to stay in the men's houses," remembers Dr. Rose.

Tragically, Mr Ruff was killed in Papua New Guinea in 1999. Mr Ruff died as a result of an altercation with a member of his household staff. He was 87 years old.

This year will mark the 100th anniversary of Mr Ruff's birth in the state of Florida in the United States. He may be gone, but his Pacific legacy continues, both through his stunning collection of Melanesian artifacts housed at the Bishop Museum, as well as his former architecture students at the University of Technology at Lae.

I asked Dr Rose if it would be possible to still amass a collection of cultural artifacts similar to what Wallace and Ruth Ruff did so many years ago. Dr Rose said it would be, but of course the pieces would be contemporary, just as they were for Mr and Mrs Ruff in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

So in that sense, the Ruth E. and Wallace M Ruff Collection is unique, a remarkable window on a critical period in the history of Papua New Guinea, one that can never be replicated with the same quality or quantity of cultural artifacts of that time.

Mudman's mask from the Asaro Valley. It was collected in 1980 at a Highlands singsing.



• *Floyd K. Takeuchi is a writer-photographer who is based in Honolulu, Hawaii. He has published four books based on his work in the Pacific. For more information, visit www.floydtakeuchi.com*

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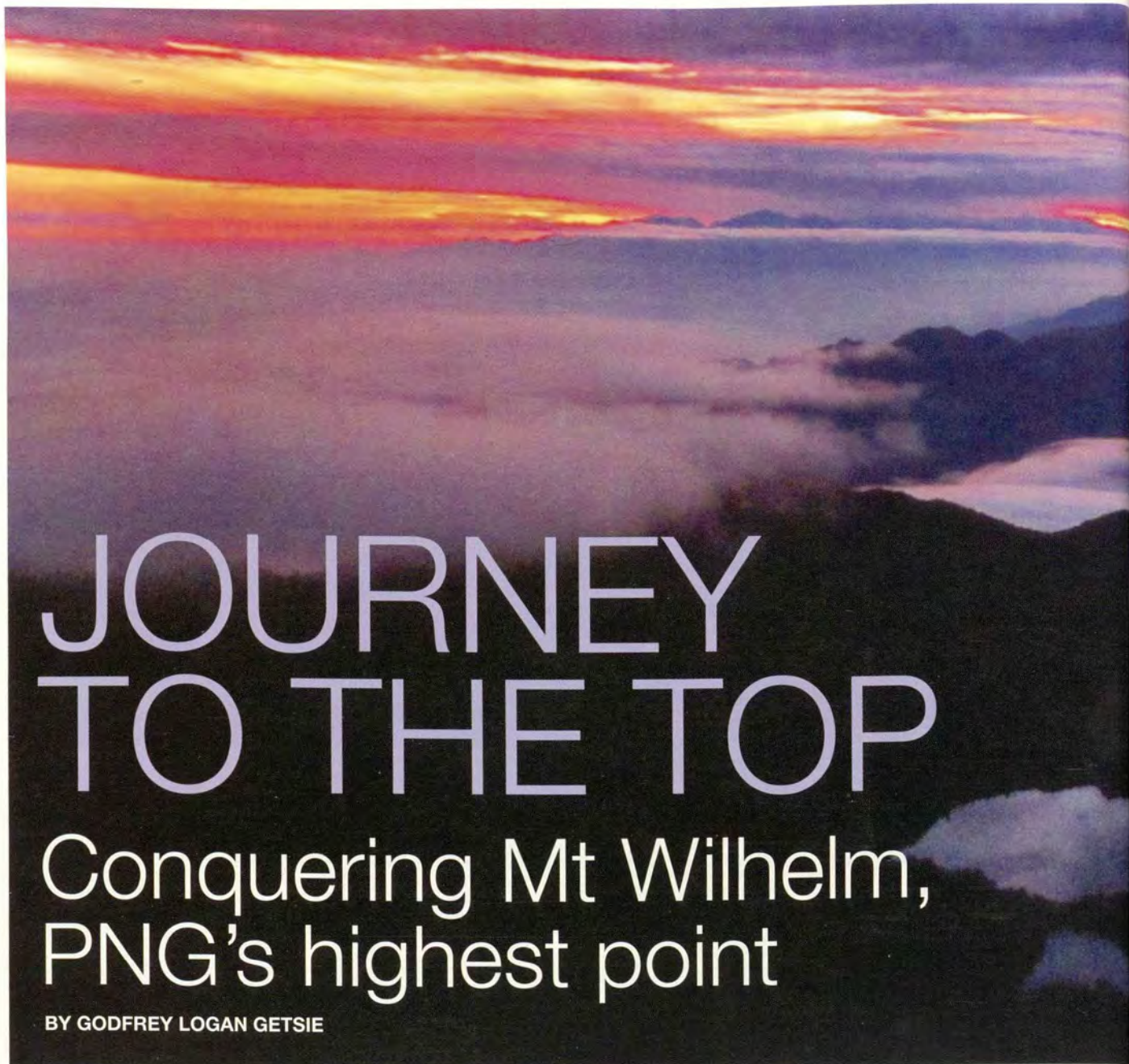
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JOURNEY TO THE TOP

Conquering Mt Wilhelm, PNG's highest point

BY GODFREY LOGAN GETSIE

Papua New Guinea is a place for adventures and one of the adventures you can embark on is hiking up to the highest point in the country.

At 4509 metres (14793 feet), Mt Wilhelm is located in Simbu Province. If you have experienced trekking on the Kokoda Trail, you will find Mt Wilhelm breathtaking and very challenging.

Three days before the end of 2011, a group of close friends and final year students at the University of Papua New Guinea stepped on the highest point in Papua New Guinea, making the trip the highlight of 2011

I have visited the province a couple of times and have regretted not taking this adventure that tourists from all over the world travel so far to come and experience.

December 27, 2011 was D-Day. After collecting necessary bits and pieces and doing last-minute things in Kundiawa town, we headed for the Kundiawa-Gembogl road, a bumpy, unsealed stretch of road along the Simbu River gorge.

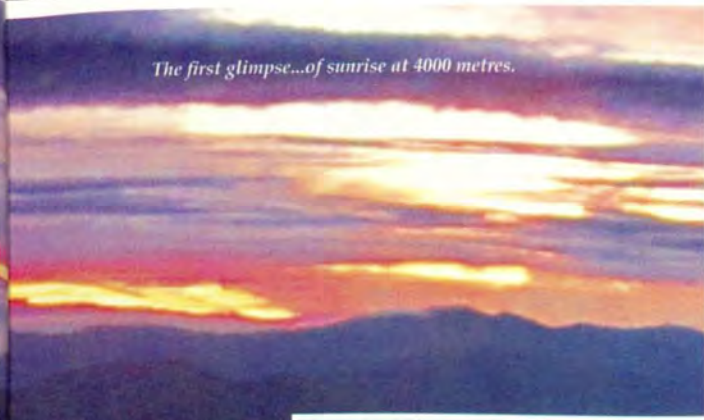
It is quite a breathtaking drive meant for 4WD vehicles and a driver with a heart-of-stone!

The drive from Kundiawa town took us approximately three hours to the start of the Mt Wilhelm track at Kegla, passing Gembogl Station, Denglagu Catholic Mission, Keglsugl (pronounced Kegebugo) and Mount Wilhelm High School.

Apart from getting bogged down on a stretch of road at Keglsugl to Kegla and the approaching rain, everyone was looking forward to the climb.

After changing into our hiking gears, we headed out at about 3pm with the weather against us; rain at this altitude made the drops feel like freezing water on our skin. We trekked through three ecosystems - tropical, temperate forest and alpine. We saw amazing wild orchids and trekked through savannah grassland known locally as "Cambridge

The first glimpse...of sunrise at 4000 metres.



After dinner we were advised by the guides that we will start our hike about 2am (December 28, 2011), so we would reach the summit before sunrise. I was already feeling uneasy and suspected it was to do with the cold and high altitude.



On the summit.

Country", which is on an old glazier path.

There are three resting places between the start of the track and the base camp at Lake Aunde. The walk took about three hours; already the walk indicated the energy our bodies would require for our actual climb.

The weather was not looking at all good when we arrived at the base camp just after 6pm. It was raining and the temperature had dropped dramatically. Even the firewood took so long to light up and we had to get a little help by using kerosene to get our fire going, so we could warm our already numbed fingers and feet.

The hut contained the basics - mattresses, sheets and pillows which we doubled up with our own blankets and sleeping bags. Our supply contained canned food, rice, noodles and vegetables. Carrying anything heavier would have been an arduous task up the track.

After dinner, we were advised by the guides that our hike will start about 2am (December 28, 2011), so we would reach the summit before sunrise. I was already feeling uneasy and suspected it was to do with



the cold and high altitude. We left the base camp just after 0200hrs in pitch darkness and the cold was really unbearable for us.

In fact, the temperature was probably minus 2 degrees. It's even worse when you don't know where you are going as it's so dark and all we could hear was the sound of the water from streams flowing from Lake Piunde to Lake Aunde. We walked with the help of our torches and tried our best to keep up with our guides. It was getting even more difficult

as we ascended higher into thin air. We were gasping for air and taking frequent stops to rest. This first three hours of the climb was a real good test for my fitness. I felt my strength was beginning to weaken. I was afraid my legs would give way and disappear into the dark ravines below.

Around 5am, we stopped for a rest. In the distance, we could see the lights of Ramu township to the east, and to the north, the lights of Madang town.

At 4000 metres, the first glimpse of the sun rays painting the partially lit sky with the perfect blend from an artist's pallet was truly an amazing sight. And when the sun bursts through the clouds in all its glory, the beauty of everything around us was breathtaking.

This has to be one of the spectacular parts of the country. This is where the oldest rocks in the country can be found. During our climb, we crossed diverse and beautiful terrain with open grassland.

*On the banks of Lake Piunde (male - left)
and Lake Aunde (female - right)*



At 4000 metres, the first glimpse of the sun's rays painting the partially lit sky with the perfect blend from an artist's pallet was truly an amazing sight. And when the sun bursts through the clouds in all its glory, the beauty of everything around us was breathtaking.

The guides showed us the route we took during the pre-dawn climb. We realised then that the path we came up actually cuts through mountain ridges and on the edge of steep cliffs. Our journey to the summit of Mt Wilhelm was to take another two hours but the excitement that we were going to achieve our goal was evident in all of us.

My companions joked and laughed about how weak I had been earlier. It was sheer adrenalin that drove us to reach the top of Papua New Guinea's highest mountain. Standing at 4509 metres high was an unbelievable feat. The view from the summit towards the lakes and surrounding mountains and valleys was breathtaking.

The excitement was however interrupted by the guides who advised us that the clear weather we were enjoying at the summit would not last long and we had to start our descent before the thick clouds rolled in.

Our journey back to the base camp at Lake Aunde was at a more relaxed pace. But the descent was beginning to take its toll on my knees and ankles. I hadn't counted on how tough it would be climbing down.

Arriving back at Lake Aunde Guesthouse was a welcome sight and our friends who remained behind were waiting for us, eager to hear about our experience.

After a small meal, we packed our bags and continued to Keglsugle Guesthouse for the evening. We were all tired, weary and absolutely starving.





Taking a rest on the way to Lake Aunde Guesthouse.

On the flight back from Goroka on December 31, 2011, I looked out of my window to the mountains below and remembered the arduous two-day hike we made four days earlier. It was New Year's Eve and what a great time to recollect on the past...

After a welcoming dinner of fresh trout, rice, potatoes, vegetables, fresh strawberries and a hot cup of coffee, we sat around recalling the long day's experience we had just gone through and pleased that we had achieved our goal.

It was a gruelling walk recalled Jonah Gilmai from Kebai village, Sinesine-Yongomugl District, Simbu...he had never walked such an altitude before. He said it was one of the best moments of his life.

For Peter Kama, who comes from Mata village, Sinesine-Yongomugl, the trip was personally satisfying and he believes his friends, Jonah Gilmai, Benhie Wahl, Henry Direkore and Logan (writer) would cherish the experience.

On the flight back from Goroka on December 31, 2011, I looked out of my window to the mountains below and remembered the arduous two-day hike we made four days earlier. It was New Year's Eve and what a great time to recollect on the past and look forward to what 2012 would bring.



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Close-up view of active volcano, Mt Tauruvur.

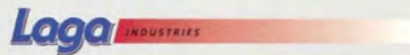
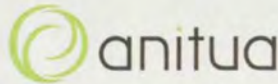
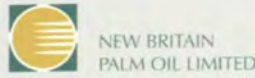


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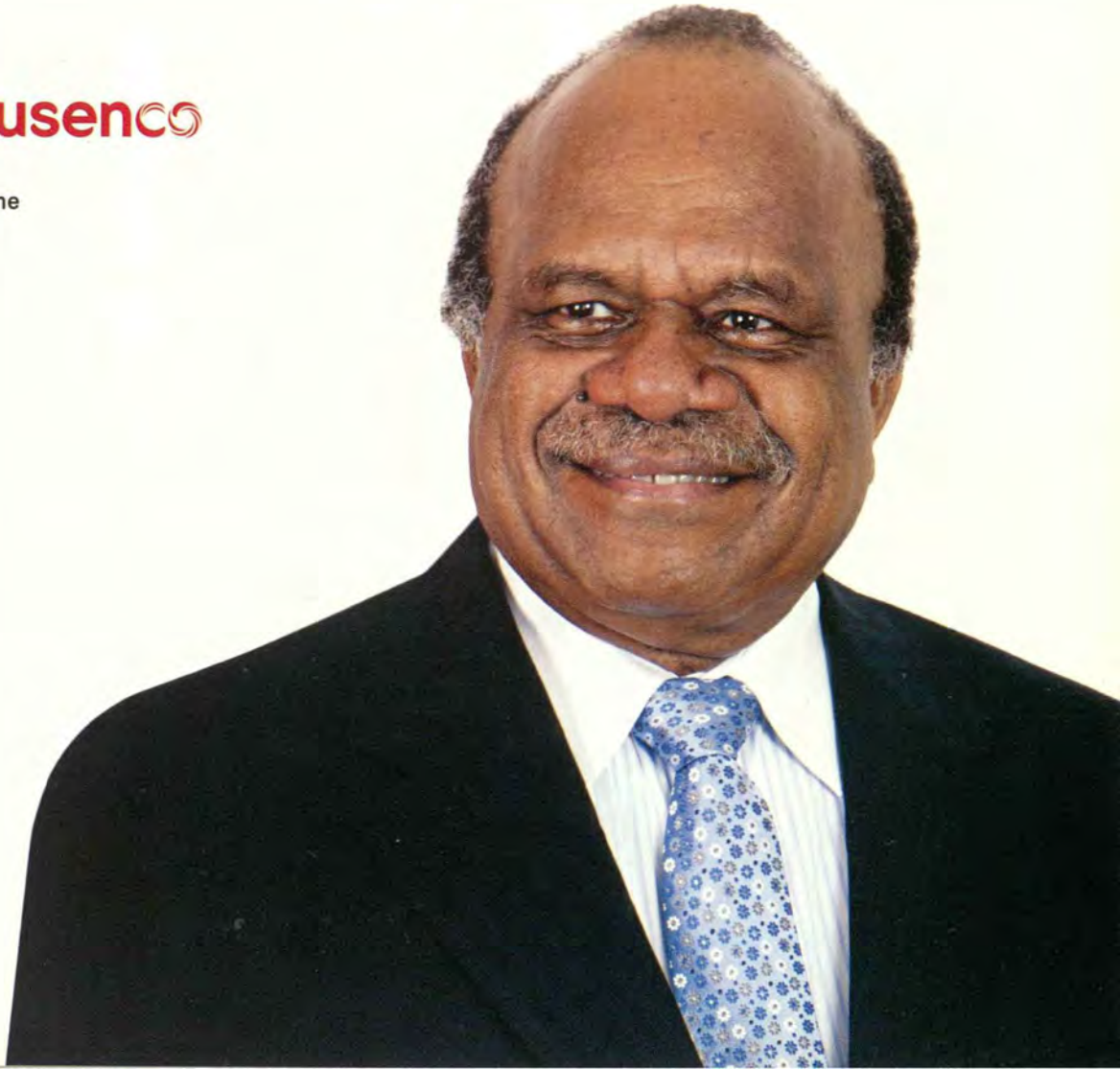
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MANY TRIBES, ONE CELEBRATION

PNG pays homage as the
Morobe Show turns 50

WORDS: RENEE CLUFF | PHOTOGRAPHS: LUCILLE NEETHLING

The Morobe Show Sing Sing has always been famous for its diversity. Year after year, the traditional dancing is an extravaganza, a spectacle, a show-stopper.

So when the show's 50th anniversary rolled around in 2011, it was always going to be something special.



In fact, 71 troupes descended on the showground arena from as far afield as Bougainville, Sandaun and the Sepik region, creating a rich tapestry of interwoven cultures unified in celebration.

For a country in which tribal warfare is prevalent, this was quite a feat. For the audience, it was quite a privilege to witness such a crescendo of colour, noise and cultural pride.

The 3,000-odd performers were dancing to different beats, yet it appeared as though they were in unison. Each group's song had its own meaning and own language, and yet somehow they were all in harmony.

Instruments ranged from kundu drums to carved wooden shakers to bamboo logs whacked with rubber thongs - sounds that successfully blended, albeit arbitrarily.

And then there were the adornments. Massive head-dresses of feather, fur and shells. Bundles of necklaces covering every inch of skin from chin to bellybutton.

Pig's tusks threaded through lips, cheeks and

septums. Swaying grass skirts in all shades of ochre, and massive warrior's shields doubling as shade to ward off the hot sun.

Sing Sing councillor Karen Quinn says the show's reputation for staging the country's finest and largest sing sing is a credit to the groups involved.

"They looked and sounded absolutely spectacular. All of them went to enormous trouble and no small expense to dress up in their traditional local finery."

The headdresses of one particular Chimbu group contained the entire bodies of lorikeets - about ten of the birds had been sacrificed for each headpiece.

Another group from Aitape had painted their entire bodies in black paint and wore white shells on their eyes that looked like glasses without lenses, creating quite an alien effect.

There were the Huli Wigmen, resplendent in yellow and red face paint, lined up in military style, kundu drums in hand as they chanted.

Much quieter and more eerie, were the

mudmen of the Asaro district, and their terrifyingly distorted clay masks.

Another troupe from Popondetta was shrouded in tapas cloth and sucking on what at first appeared to be baby's pacifiers - closer inspection revealed they were round shells. Most of the women's highland groups featured ochre-painted, rotund bodies and pendulous breasts, partly concealed by massive kina shells, while the Kundaks from Mt Hagen sported metre-long penis gourds that bounced up and down as they walked, producing smiles and giggles throughout the audience.

Among the spectators in 2011, was Sir Michael Ogio, then unrivalled Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, who had the honour of officially opening the 50th show. He was reportedly extremely impressed by the traditional dancing display.

Perhaps the only event to rival the traditional dress of the sing sing performers were the contestants in the Lae Biscuit Show Queen competition, which is aimed at fostering women's pride in their customs and in passing on their knowledge of their heritage.



“We had double the number of entries this year and the standard was really high. I was so proud of the children involved. They were a credit to their provinces and villages.”



The 2011 top prize of K1,000 went to 21 year-old Daphaney Ulam of East New Britain, whose face was painted in green moss.

The popularity of the show pikinini competition also increased considerably in 2011, according to the coordinator of both the show queen and pikinini events, Deborah Diezmann.

“We had double the number of entries this year and the standard was really high. I was so proud of the children involved. They were a credit to their provinces and villages.”

Another massive crowd pleaser was the DHL/Maggi freestyle motocross act. Joel Balchin, Robbie Marshall and Leigh Harriman of FMX Kaos flew from Australia to wow show goers with a whole arsenal of aerobatics, including back flips and superman seat grabs, which sent the spectators into a frenzy.

Also skyward was the show's new remote controlled motorised blimp, which floated across the showgrounds for the entire weekend.

It must not be forgotten that the Morobe Show is first and foremost an agricultural show – in fact, it's the only agricultural show remaining in Papua New Guinea. The committee must be congratulated for staying committed to its roots since the first show was held in 1959, a time when agriculture in Morobe Province, particularly in the fertile Markham Valley, was beginning to boom.

You've probably done your maths by now and realised that there are actually 53 years between 1959 and 2011. The 50th anniversary show was celebrated in 2011 because since 1959, three shows have had to be cancelled.

The first cancellation was in 1983. Show Society President Mike Quinn says it was caused by the incessant 'rainy Lae' wet weather.

“1100 millimeters of the wet stuff fell in the month leading up to the show, which flooded the creeks and rivers surrounding Lae.”

“The bridge approaches were washed out at Yalu, Markham and Bumbu, effectively cutting Lae off.”

It was unknown how long it would take to repair the road and bridge infrastructure so it was decided to cancel the show that year.

The second year that the show was cancelled was 1991 when, as a result of law and order issues at the time a State of Emergency was declared in Lae and a 6.00pm to 6.00am curfew was introduced. Again, it was impossible to determine how long the curfew would be in place and so the show was called off.

The most recent cancellation was in 2009 when Lae and other parts of Morobe Province had been experiencing a cholera and dysentery outbreak.

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There have been many amusing incidents over the years but one that stands out for many was when the local fire brigade put on an exhibition in the main arena.

They built a two-storey structure, clad it with hessian, doused it with diesel, and put one of their people on top.



The authorities appeared to be bringing the epidemic under control and the show was still going ahead, until there was a spike in the number of cases three weeks out from the show. It had to be cancelled with just over a week to spare.

"We had already paid our bills to stage the 2009 show, but the cancellation meant we didn't make any revenue to recoup those costs, so there was nothing left in the kitty," explains Mr Quinn.

"To make the 2010 show happen we had to get support and sponsorship from wherever we could. Without the financial donations we received from local business houses, the Morobe Provincial government and the community as a whole, the Morobe Show would have ended there and then, so we will be forever grateful."



It certainly would have been a shame to see such an entertaining and colourful event fizzle out. There have been many amusing incidents over the years but one that stands out for many was when the local fire brigade put on an exhibition in the main arena.

They built a two-storey structure, clad it with hessian, doused it with diesel, and put one of their people on top. They then lit the building and the fire engine came rushing onto the oval to put out the fire.

"Unfortunately for the guy on top, the fire engine broke down before it reached him and he had to jump from the building, which was by now well and truly going up in flames," Quinn quips.

He was taken to hospital with a broken leg as the fire engine was towed off the oval by the show society's tractor, using the fire hose as a tow rope.

Another happening which has gone down in show folklore occurred during the second show in 1960, which was held with much fanfare, after the committee managed to secure the then Governor-General of Australia as the official guest.

The affair had the social set of Lae maneuvering to get an invitation to the official luncheon.

The tables being used were technical school tables, with bench seats joined to the main frame. It was decided that the tables would be arranged in a "U" shape and everyone would sit on the outside benches, facing the Governor General, who would be seated in the middle. According to protocol at the time, it was considered extremely rude for any guests to sit with their backs to the guest of honour.

So, the assembled company politely stood waiting for the Governor-General to be seated, upon which they also sat down. Of course, with all the weight on one side, the tables capsized.

Quinn says food and drinks were sent flying.

"So here they were, everyone who was anyone in Lae at the time, all dressed in their finest, hair and make-up picture perfect - landing on their rear ends on the floor, covered in gravy and red wine. Quite a welcome for the Australian Governor-General."

The show most likely hit its peak as far as agricultural exhibits are concerned in the early 1970s, when there were some 38 expat cattle producers in Morobe, all competing for the livestock prizes. This resulted in there being two rings of led cattle and horses in the grand parade.

In the late 1990s, a cow actually broke the gate to the member's grandstand and proceeded to run around terrorising people.

At the time, a string band was playing in the back of the grandstand and much like the musicians on the sinking Titanic, they kept on playing, even as the cow ran circles around them!

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The Battle of the Bands event had created plenty of security concerns in the past. So, it was ditched in 2011 to make way for the Coca Cola Family Arena, with showbags and bouncy castles for the children.



Today, Trukai Industries and Ramu Agri-Industries are the largest cattle exhibitors. They also enter horses and riders in the equestrian events, which include show jumping and mounted games. Competition is fierce.

The district agriculture exhibitions are also cut-throat, with village reputations on the line when the displays of fruit and vegetables are judged.

Quinn says the mix of agriculture, horticulture, commercial, cultural, health, educational and general entertainment activities makes the show unique.

He adds that while many aspects of the show that were introduced during the colonial era have now fizzled out because they were foreign and inappropriate, much of the European pageantry still remains.

The opening ceremony, which is always staged on the final day of the show, generally features bag pipes, a brass band, a mock battle from the defence force and marching school students. 2011 saw the participation of the youngest marching group ever from St Martins Primary School but it was Tent City school which took out Trukai's first prize for their outstanding drills and formations.

For the 50th show, the Royal PNG Constabulary police band was in full splendour during the opening ceremony and its standard of music, movement, uniforms and protocol was first-class. It should be noted that the police band also played at the first Lae show in 1959.

The Battle of the Bands event had created plenty of security concerns in the past. So, it was ditched in 2011 to make way for the Coca Cola Family Arena, with showbags and bouncy castles for the children.

Personalities from EMTV's Haus & Garden, Happy Gardener and Top Soil programmes made appearances, while there were cooking demonstrations from Coral Seas Hotel chefs. The Snax Tigers cheer leaders were also a big hit.

Quinn says coupled with new fencing funded by Morobe Mining Joint Ventures, security concerns were largely addressed.

"The new fencing was fantastic and the inaugural Family Arena really created a lovely atmosphere and lit up the faces of the children. The mothers also really got a lot out of the cook-ups and the Happy Gardener charmed everyone."

Happy Gardener Justin Tchatchenko also had green thumbs converging on the horticulture shed, where the number of exhibitors increased by a third in 2011. Displays from Morobe Province's floriculture industry were among the most popular.

The Colgate Health Expo is one of the more recent additions to the show and provides educational talks, displays and assistance in all manner of health-related issues.

Each year, the show comes to an end with the Interoil traditional archery competition, in which bows and arrows made just as they were hundreds of years ago, are used.


Then, all eyes are to the sky, for a 15-minute firecracker display.

Mr Quinn says the continued success of the show is owing to a group of dedicated and hardworking volunteers.

“You wouldn’t believe the show is organised and run purely by volunteers. They do it for the people of Morobe Province, and to showcase PNG to the rest of the world.”

In 2011, the committee had an extra event to organise when, after a hiatus of more than a decade, the Markham ball was revived as part of the 50th anniversary commemorations. It was a case of back to the future when patrons of the black tie event were addressed by Lady Barbara Jephcott, who was involved in the very first Lae Show.

The PNG Police band also lit up the floor at the 2011 Markham Ball, half a century after performing at the inaugural ball.

The 2012 Morobe Show is scheduled for 27th and 28th October. 

“You wouldn’t believe the show is organised and run purely by volunteers. They do it for the people of Morobe Province, and to showcase PNG to the rest of the world.”



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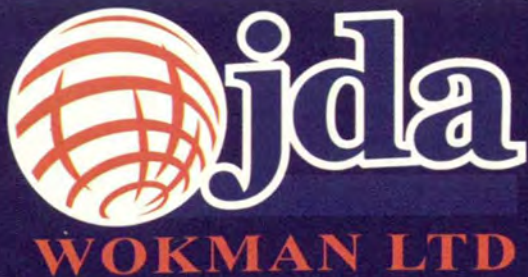
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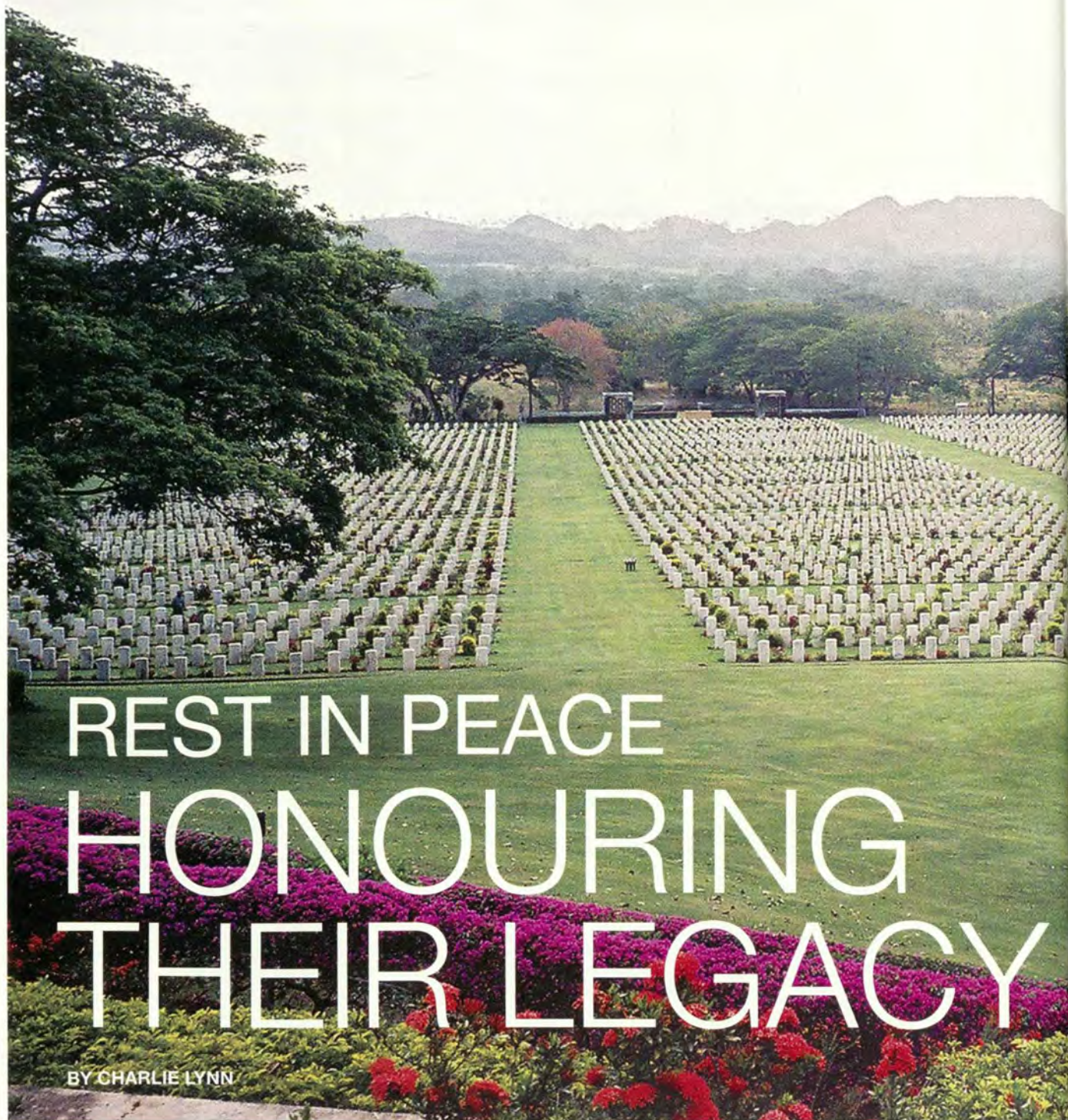
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Bomana War Cemetery in Port Moresby.

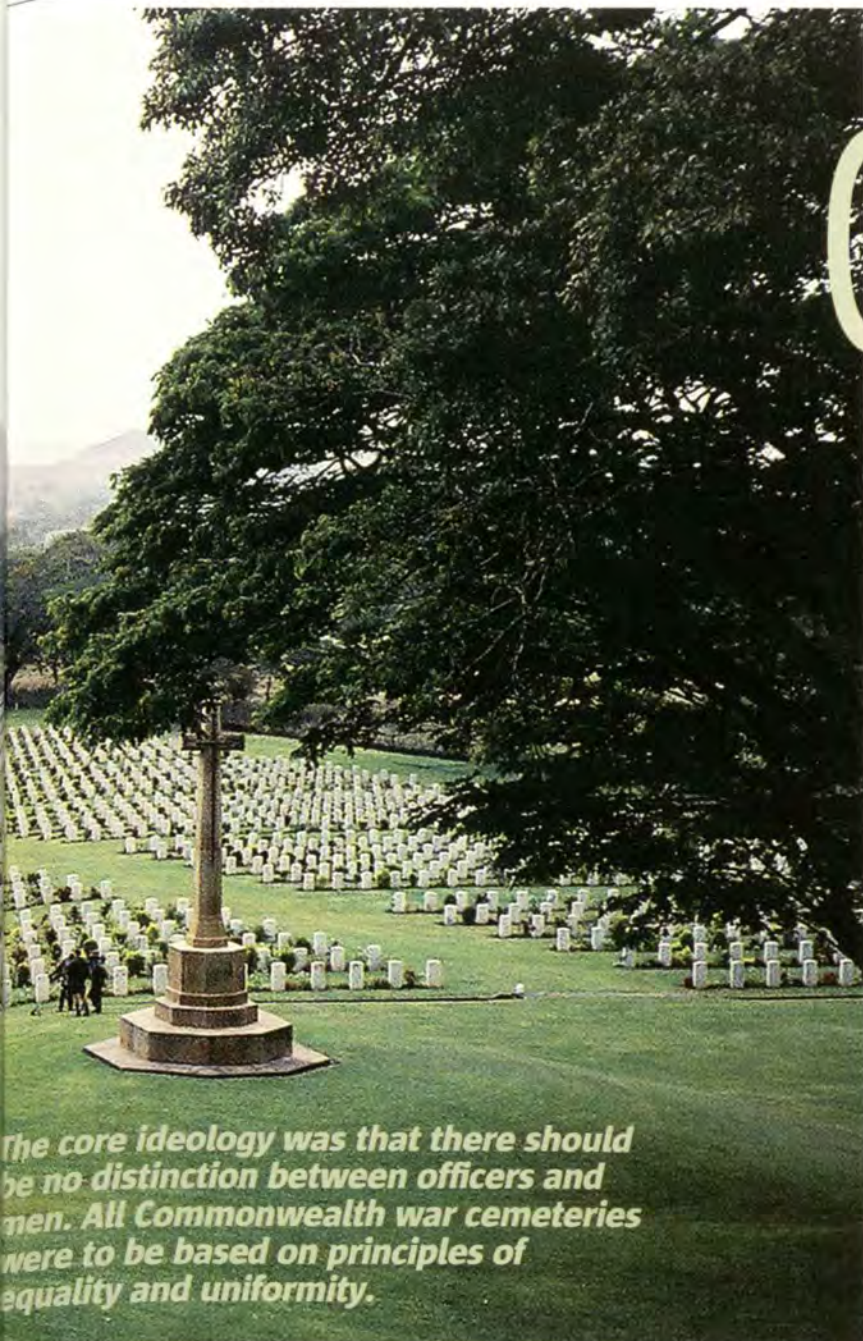


REST IN PEACE HONOURING THEIR LEGACY

BY CHARLIE LYNN

It was often said that our diggers feared the jungles of Papua and New Guinea more than they feared the enemy. It was a hell of a place to die.

There were times when badly wounded men were given morphine and a gun and left to the mercy of the enemy. "Goodbye cobber, may God bless you," whispered their departing mates as they desperately try to cheat death for a few extra minutes to cover their escape.



The core ideology was that there should be no distinction between officers and men. All Commonwealth war cemeteries were to be based on principles of equality and uniformity.



Others had to be left where they fell. When time and circumstances permitted, they were given a burial service and the site was recorded on crude sketch maps for recovery at a later time. Many were never to be found.

"I have seen the time when you dig a number of holes in the ground and bury your dead," wrote Laurie Howson of the 39th Battalion. "Nothing would be said, but you think 'maybe it will be my turn next.'"

An army medic recalled: "My saddest sight at Butcher's Hill was that of a 23-year old former golf professional. He had a ghastly, gaping wound on the throat, and although my eyes could only see darkness and death, his saw light and hope. They were asking me something with all the mute urgency that eyes can convey. Eyes, the windows of the soul, show every facet of the inner feelings - love, joy, hope, fear, guilt, pity, hatred, - and even bodily sickness or health. Looking as dispassionately as possible at that man's throat, I hoped he couldn't sense the lump in mine. Emotion clouds calm clinical judgement, but the hardest thing is not to flinch from the gaze of the man you know is going to die."

One wartime journalist wrote: "I was convinced for all time of the dignity and nobility of common men. I was convinced for all time that common men have a pure and shining courage when they fight for what they believe to be a just and shining cause."

Seventy years on, our veterans of the war in Papua and New Guinea are at rest. Some lie in graves known only to remote villagers who have embraced their spirit and faithfully guard their remains as their own.

But most are at rest in three beautifully manicured cemeteries in Port Moresby (Bomana), Rabaul (Bita Paka) and Lae. These are proudly cared for by the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby, on behalf of the Office of Australian War Graves.

The architectural design of these sacred places has its origin in the principle of commemoration in perpetuity which was adopted by the Imperial War Graves Commission in 1917.

The core ideology was that there should be no distinction between officers and men. All Commonwealth war cemeteries were to be based on principles of equality and uniformity.

There is no distinction in style of commemoration of headstones, plaques or memorials made on the basis of military rank, civil rank or wealth of the veteran or his family.

A Cross of Sacrifice is a feature in war cemeteries with 50 or more burials. It is a tall, carefully proportioned, sandstone Latin cross, usually standing on an octagonal base with a downward pointing bronze sword attached to its face.



Together, the sword and cross embody the military and spiritual nature of the cemetery. The cross was intended to represent the faith of the majority of the dead it overlooked.

Together, the sword and cross embody the military and spiritual nature of the cemetery. The cross was intended to represent the faith of the majority of the dead it overlooked.

A Stone of Remembrance denotes a war cemetery with over 1,000 burials. It is featured to capture one of the key purposes of commemoration - to forever remember our war dead.

A Stone of Remembrance is a simply-edged slab suggestive of a sarcophagus, set at the top of three steps.

Non-denominational and universal in its design, it is a monument to represent those of all faiths and of none. Its design was based on complex geometry from the Parthenon.

All Stones of Remembrance are 3.5 metres long and 1.5 metres high. 'Their name liveth forevermore' was chosen by Rudyard Kipling from the Book of Ecclesiasticus in the Bible.

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White marble headstones and bronze plaques are set in orderly rows within war cemeteries and designed to be uniform and permanent.

A Memorial to the Missing was first inspired by the words of Field Marshall Lord Plummer at the unveiling of the Menin Gate Memorial in 1927. 'He is not missing. He is here.'

Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery

The Port Moresby (Bomana) War Cemetery lies in a serene tropical garden 19 kilometres north of Port Moresby, off Pilgrims' Way.

The cemetery was begun by the army in 1942 and formally dedicated by the Governor-General of Australia, Field Marshall Sir William Slim, on 19 October 1953. Those who died fighting in Papua and Bougainville are buried here.

The Cross of Sacrifice, Memorial to the Missing and the Stone of Remembrance are built of particularly beautiful golden-coloured sandstone. The graves of 3,823 servicemen are marked with polished marble headstones and dressed in uniform rows on sloping lawns between the Stone of Remembrance and the Cross of Sacrifice.

On a rise at the rear of the cemetery is the



Port Moresby Memorial to the Missing which consists of a rotunda of cylindrical pillars enclosing a circle of square pillars with bronze panels engraved with the names of 703 Australians, as well as Papua and New Guinea local forces, listed as missing-in-action.

The names of the battlefields on which the men died are carved on the entablature above the pillars. In the centre, is a topograph with a bronze compass showing the direction and distance of the battlefields.

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LOCAL DESTINATIONS

In this place are recorded the names of officers and men of the British Commonwealth of Nations who died during the 1939-1945 war in the New Britain area, on land, at sea and in the air, but to whom the fortunes of war denied the known and honoured burial given to the comrades in death.



Rabaul (Bitu Paka) War Cemetery

Bitu Paka War Cemetery is near the site of the German wireless station captured by the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force on 11 September 1914 during the first Australian action of World War 1 to seize New Britain.

Five naval personnel who died in the operation at Rabaul are buried here. A sandstone memorial in the lawn approach to the cemetery bears testimony to this event. The cemetery was established by the Army Graves Service in 1945 and taken over by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in October 1947.

It is the smallest of the three war cemeteries in Papua New Guinea and contains the graves of 1,114 servicemen who lost their lives in New Britain and New Ireland, or who died in the area while being prisoners of war.

A large number of Indian prisoners of war from Malaya and Hong Kong were liberated from the Japanese by the Australian Army during the 1945 campaign in New Britain, New Ireland and Bougainville.

A total of 619 casualties of the old Indian Army are buried at Bitu Paka.

An avenue of bronze panelled stone pylons leading from the entrance building of the cemetery to the Cross of Sacrifice forms the



Bomana War Cemetery lies in a serene tropical garden 19 kilometres north of Port Moresby, off Pilgrims' Way.

Rabaul Memorial to the Missing with 1,224 names of those who died in New Britain and New Ireland, and who have no known graves. This includes 1,216 Australians.

A central stone lectern at the commencement of the avenue carries a bronze plate with the following dedicatory inscription: 'Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam'.

In this place are recorded the names of officers and men of the British Commonwealth of Nations who died during the 1939-1945 war in the New Britain area, on land, at sea and in the air, but to whom the fortunes of war denied the known and honoured burial given to the comrades in death.

Bitu Paka War Cemetery also contains First World War graves brought in from Rabaul Cemetery in 1950 and from Kokopo Old German Cemetery in 1961.

Special memorials commemorate three casualties who were buried in the Rabaul Old Civil Cemetery, but whose graves could not be traced following damage to the cemetery during the Japanese occupation.

In all, 32 First World War servicemen are now buried or commemorated in the cemetery.



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"For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes. Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores, there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven not on stone or brass, but on the living hearts of humanity."



Private Bruce Kingsbury's headstone.

Lae War Cemetery

Lae is a town and port at the mouth of the Markham River on the Huon Gulf.

Lae War Cemetery is located within the township adjacent to the Botanical Gardens. It was commenced in 1944 by the Australian Army Graves Service and handed over to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1947.

The cemetery has an impressive entrance of stone pillars joined by stone lattice work.

Within the entrance is a grassed forecourt with raintrees and a surround of colourful shrubs.

Rising from the forecourt is a wide flight of steps leading to a flat-topped colonnade. The central span of the colonnade frames a view of the Cross of Sacrifice, which stands on a wide expanse of lawn studded with bronze plaques that mark the gravesites.

The war cemetery contains 2,818 graves including those of 426 Indian soldiers who were taken as prisoners in Malaya and Hong Kong and who were brought to New Guinea by the Japanese. It also

includes two soldiers from United Kingdom - one was attached to 2/9th Australian Infantry Battalion and the other a member of the Hong Kong-Singapore Royal Artillery. The Lae Memorial to the Missing is situated in the centre of the cemetery and contains the names of 348 men listed as missing-in-action.

Over two thousand years ago, Pericles wrote of his fallen Greek soldiers:

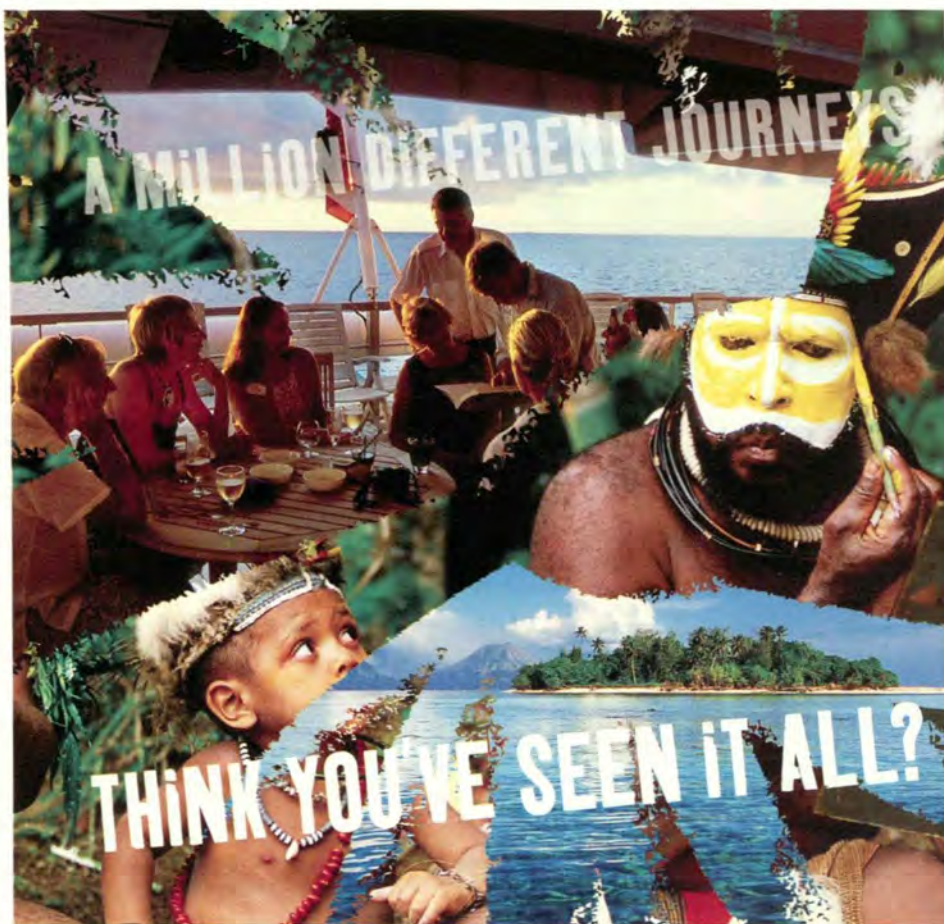
'Each has won a glorious grave - not that sepulchre of earth wherein they lie, but the living tomb of everlasting remembrance wherein their glory is enshrined.

"For the whole earth is the sepulchre of heroes. Monuments may rise and tablets be set up to them in their own land, but on far-off shores, there is an abiding memorial that no pen or chisel has traced; it is graven not on stone or brass, but on the living hearts of humanity.

"Take these men for your example. Like them, remember that prosperity can be only for the free, that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it."

He could well have been writing of our diggers in the Papua and New Guinea campaigns.

"We, the pilgrims to Isurava, should always remember the future that in the words of Shakespeare in 'All's well that ends well', he wrote, "Such a man might be a copy to these younger times. His good remembrance sirs lies richer in your thoughts than on his tomb".



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Aussie John Williamson sings at Kokoda 70th anniversary dinner



firmly cemented in Australia's musical culture, John Williamson's impressive career spans more than 40 years.

Williamson has survived and soared in the often cut-throat entertainment industry. His unofficial anthems, tributes to legends and unsung heroes and tender ballads have captured the spirit of Australia in songs unlike any other.

His honest and passionate songs are synonymous with the country that inspires

him and connects him with his countrymen, regardless of age, sex or creed.

Add to this, is his ability to deliver unforgettable live concert experiences that combine the perfect blend of humour, romance and campfire stories woven together by his music. You can understand why he is one of the most in-demand live performers in Australia.

Along his journey, he has been inducted into the prestigious ARIA Hall of Fame, secured 3 ARIA Awards, 24 Golden Guitars, MO Awards, APRA Awards, Platinum and Gold albums and over 4 million album sales to name just some of the recognition he has earned.

It all started when he penned that classic 'Old Man Emu' back in 1970. From this 'silly' song (as he often refers to it) that went to Number One for five weeks, he has continued to create hits including 'True Blue', 'Cootamundra Wattle', 'Rip Rip Woodchip', 'Raining On The Rock', 'Winter Green', 'Salisbury Street', 'Hawkesbury River Lovin' and 'Galleries Of Pink Galahs' to name but a few of the 400+ songs written by the multi-award winning songwriter.

His resume and catalogue would make any

songwriter envious; not bad for a kid from Quambatook in Victoria's Mallee country.

In January 2012, John added to his catalogue a new album *The Big Red* - his first all-original release in almost four years. With the material already tried, tested and proven on John's live audiences, there remains little doubt the new album will resonate with Australians all over and continue to showcase his ability to capture the land, characters and spirit in song.

He continues to be at the forefront of significant events in Australia, presenting the voice of Australia when it is needed most - from the 2011 Rugby League Grand Final through to the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Steve Irwin's memorial, the Bledisloe Cup, Sir Donald Bradman's Memorial, the Rugby World Cup, the first Bali Bombings memorial service, and the list goes on. He is ingrained in Australia's history as much as its future.

So when the organisers of the Kokoda 70th anniversary dinner were seeking a voice that would capture the essence of the occasion, John's was the first that came to mind.

John will perform at the dinner to be held at the State Dining Room, National Parliament, on April 28 in honour of the diggers who fought along the Kokoda Trail. The occasion is made even more special by the fact that this is John's first ever appearance in Papua New Guinea.

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Genia, Wilshere revitalise junior football in PNG

WORDS: PETER MASI
PHOTOGRAPHY: SEAN CONDON

Fresh Water held its official brand launch in conjunction with the launch of the brand's first corporate social responsibility project, the Grassroots Footy Foundation. Instead of a glitzy party, the brand stayed true to its commitment to healthy living and healthy lifestyle by hosting the first ever Grassroots Footy Clinic, conducted by Fresh Water spokespersons Will Genia and John Wilshere.

With all the hype of Wallabies' halfback Genia and former Kumuls captain Wilshere hosting the event, what red blooded Papua New Guinean footy fanatic wouldn't want to attend and meet these home grown-heroes? Friday 13th of January - sounds like a bad omen - right - wrong, the day was a ripping success!

Nothing was going to stop these kids getting their much-needed fix of footy fever, not even the afternoon cloud cover. Participating children were between the ages of 12 and 16 and the event was held at Port Moresby International School (POMIS).

It was off-season, so when an invitation arrived in my inbox my interest was immediately peaked. 2011 was definitely the international rugby union year of Genia - and even a children's footy clinic would suffice my footy addiction.

The Grassroots Footy Foundation is an initiative of Fresh Water, Genia and Wilshere. Its purpose is to develop youth football in ALL codes at grassroots level through events like the footy clinic.

In a recent interview with PNG daily The National, Genia said "Sport of any kind teaches commitment, it teaches teamwork and it teaches children to believe in their own abilities." Will's words strike a chord. Team sports are a great way to immerse future generations of Papua New Guineans in a culture of discipline, respect, hard work and camaraderie.

Back at POMIS, these kids seemed more excited than a bunch of high school girls at a Justin Bieber concert to meet their home-grown football stars.



Wilshere as well as leading the national league side has played for the Melbourne Storms, St George Illawarra Dragons and more recently, the Salford City Reds in the Super League (England). He is now retired and living in Port Moresby.

For those of you that have been living under a rock - Genia currently plays halfback for the Queensland Reds and the Australian Wallabies. Last year, he was named the Super Rugby Player of the Year. The award has been won by the likes of union greats such as John Eales, Stephen Larkham and Stirling Mortlock.

Genia played a pivotal role in the Queensland Reds' first ever Super Rugby title, after making a 65-metre dash to score the try that sealed their victory.

Personally, such recollections make me proud to be a Papua New Guinean - and the feeling is magnified ten-fold when rugby union commentators mention his PNG heritage - PNG born Will Genia!

The day begins with master of ceremonies Tasman Samuel welcoming the kids, their parents, corporate supporters and the ever increasing spectator populous who crowd around the fence to catch a glimpse of their footy heroes.

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It is encouraging to see a brand of water promoting healthy lifestyle and living, instead of pumping megabucks into flash advertising campaigns to build a brand.



The beauty and the footy stars...Sarah Karo with John Wilshere (left) and Will Genia (right)

Children from the local settlement lined the entrance to the school hoping to see part of the action.

Wilshere officially launched the Fresh Water brand of bottled water and Genia the Grassroots Footy Foundation.

It is the foundation that will organise the clinics all over PNG for children from all walks of life. Kids are then organised into two groups with Genia taking the seniors (15-16) and Wilshere instructing the juniors (12-14).

It was surprising and yet wonderful to see two girls getting involved in the clinic. Miss South Pacific PNG, Sarah Karo also took the field to help out on the day. The other girl had travelled with her two older brothers all the way from Gaire village, Central Province, to attend the clinic.

One thing I noticed about the footy clinic was that it promotes one of the keystones of team sport. That is team sport crosses class and ethnic boundaries and makes us all one - it is the great equaliser.

If children who go to school at some of the best schools in Australia can practice drills and play touch football with kids from village community schools here in PNG, then we are bridging the gap in a socially responsible atmosphere and teaching our children important life lessons on the football field.

Healthy living promoted by our modern-day gladiators makes these kids see the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. At the end of the clinic, one mother expressed the difficulty of getting her sons to drink water or even consider eating healthy food.

After the clinic, it was evident the impact this programme had on the kids as they left clutching their Fresh Water bottles - which had perhaps evolved in their little minds to become PNG's very own version of Popeye's spinach.

Genia further asserts the positives of the Grassroots Footy Foundation in his interview with **PARADISE**, stating that "The Foundation hopes to encourage healthy lifestyles and help young footy enthusiasts around PNG develop their skills in a series of clinics that will be organised throughout country."

The programme is not affiliated with either PNGNRL or the PNGRFU as its focus is on developing basics skills for both codes. Its purpose is towards the social development of younger Papua New Guineans - to be able to instill in young children a belief in themselves at an early age.

Genia and Wilshere are revved up and keen to head out to rural PNG to promote the Foundation's goals. The two have contributed immensely to PNG at international level and both feel a need to give back to the country at the grassroots level.

The Grassroots Footy Foundation is designed to be a vehicle for change, and both stars believe their efforts are well utilised in partnership with Fresh Water.

It is encouraging to see a brand of water promoting healthy lifestyle and living, instead of pumping megabucks into flash advertising campaigns to build a brand, Fresh Water has invested in the wellbeing of future generations of PNG.

The Grassroots Footy Foundation is a community initiative that needs more partners to be involved. If your organisation is interested, please contact the Fresh Team on launch@freshwaterpng.com.



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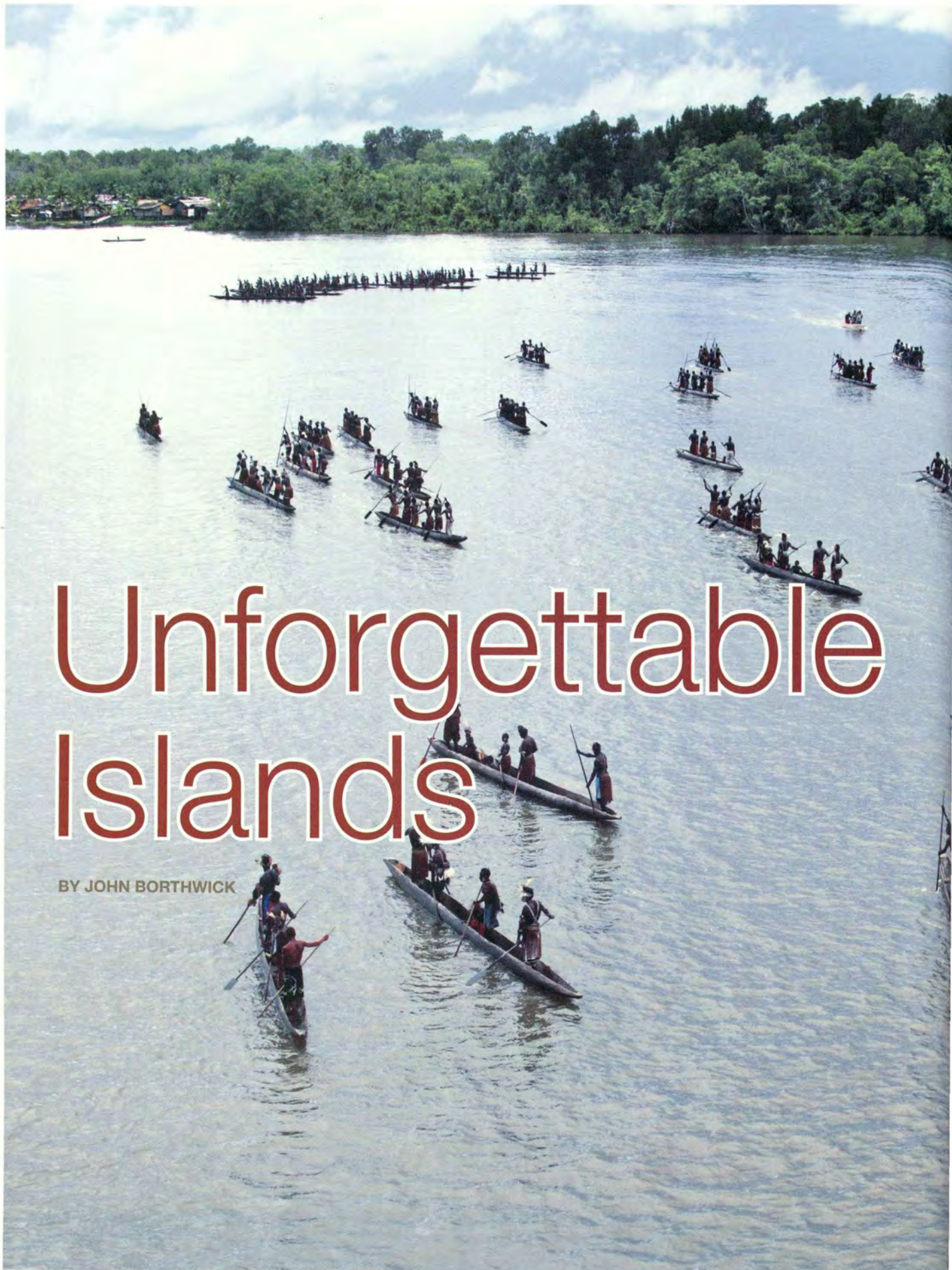
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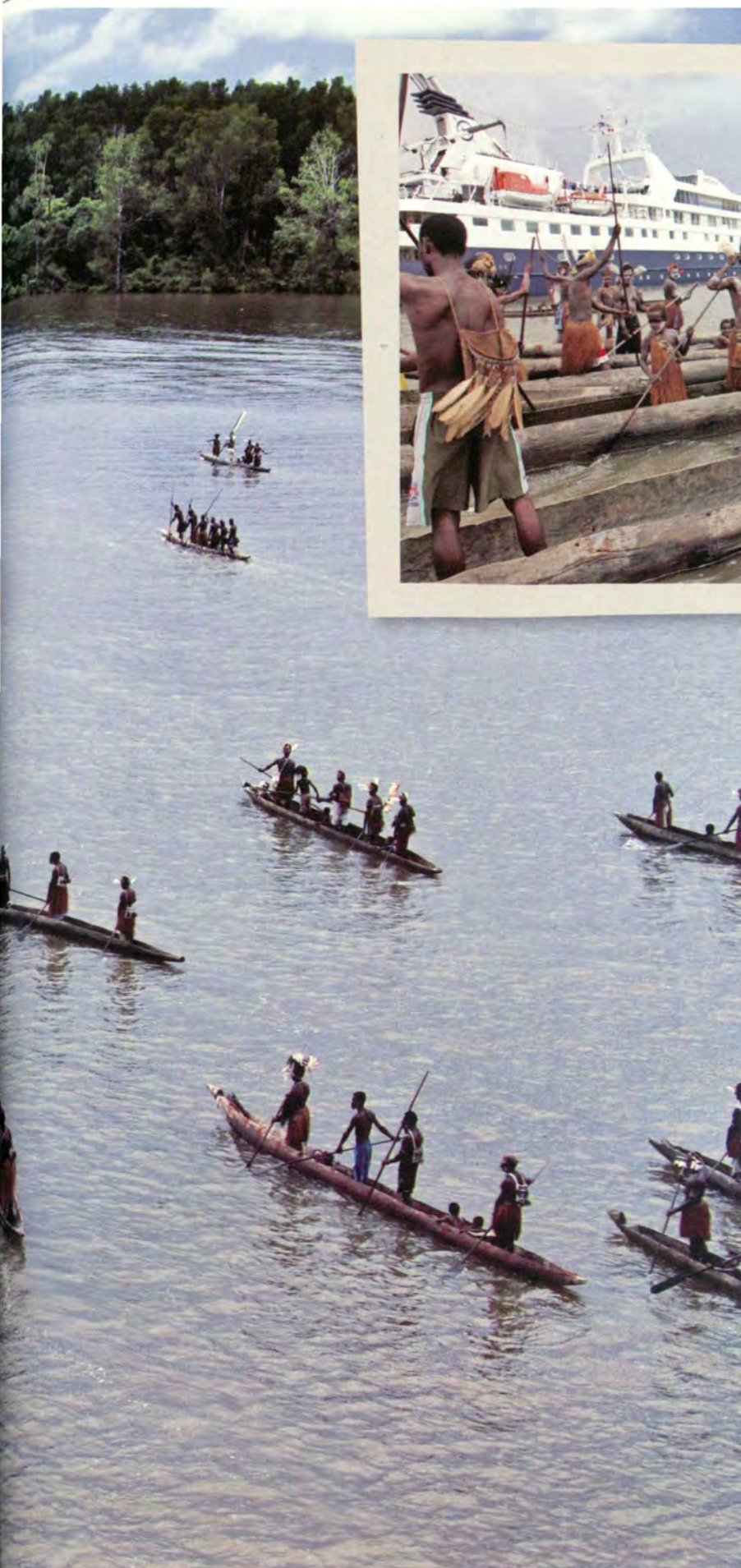
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Unforgettable Islands

BY JOHN BORTHWICK



“Yes, our people ate Rockefeller,” some villagers in south-western Papua like to tell shocked visitors. They’re referring to Michael C. Rockefeller, son of American millionaire and New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, who disappeared without trace off Papua’s Asmat coast in November 1961.

Other villagers have a different angle: “No, we didn’t eat him - but our crocodile did.”

Indeed, in the museum in Agats, the Asmat regional capital, I find a huge, six-metre crocodile - stuffed - that locals claim to be the one that dispatched the unfortunate 23-year old art collector.

Naturally, the museum is known by locals as the Rockefeller Museum.

Asmat, a wild and isolated shore of dense mangrove swamps, stretches along the south-west coast of Indonesian Papua (formerly Irian Jaya). Its Melanesian people see few foreign visitors, so when our expedition ship MV Orion anchors off our first Asmat port, the village of Syuru, we receive an astonishing welcome.



Fifty dugout canoes glide out to meet us, each one holding four or five men standing in full traditional finery of headdresses, body paint and spears.

Chanting, they surround our Zodiac boats as we shuttle ashore. Think of the spectacular “native welcome” scenes in movies like *Apocalypse Now* and *Mutiny on the Bounty*.

Our arrival coincides with a major canoe-launching ceremony. Two large new dugouts have been hidden behind palm fronds in front of the village longhouse. With much chanting and drumming, the fronds are cast aside; the dugouts are “magically” revealed and then hoisted to the bare shoulders of scores of men. With two painted warriors dancing atop them, the new canoes are carried in noisy procession to the water.

“It’s like reliving my National Geographic magazine childhood,” says Geoff, a passenger from Sydney. We are welcomed into the Syuru men’s longhouse, a vast, adumbral wood and thatch building that women usually cannot enter.



Naturally, everyone wants to know what happened to Michael Rockefeller who disappeared while attempting to swim to shore from his capsized boat. The answer is a case of “choose your culprit” - blame shark, tides, cannibals, a crocodile or all of the above.

However, tourists are something else - another culture, almost another species - and 100 of us are soon inside. We sit facing finely decorated Melanesian men.

The language barrier cracks when the chief makes a welcome speech and one of our on board lecturers, Kim Saunders, responds also in Bahasa Indonesia.

There are grins and handshakes all around and then everyone gets down to the real business, art.

We move on to the boardwalks that are a vital feature of an Asmat village since they keep daily life high and dry above the mangroves.

The Syuru has come alive with the artworks that Asmat is famous for: carved figures, ancestral poles, spears, baskets, totems and soul ships. Wallets spring open. Bargains are struck. More grins and handshakes.

Come late afternoon when we return to our ship, Orion's bar soon resembles an ethnographic museum as guests display their exotic trophies.

We're on an 11-day "Forgotten Islands and Asmat Art" cruise from Darwin to Cairns, via Indonesia's Moluku Islands, Papua's Asmat coast and Australia's Thursday and Lizard islands.

Between shore excursions, there are expert talks on local art, wildlife and history.



Naturally, everyone wants to know what happened to Michael Rockefeller who disappeared while attempting to swim to shore from his capsized boat.

The answer is a case of "choose your culprit" - blame the shark, tides, cannibals, a crocodile, or all of the above.

Travellers were long advised not to land along the Casuarina Coast, as Asmat was

known, but with Dutch and then Indonesian colonial rule, plus Christian missionaries, and the outlawing of head-hunting, visitors these days are assured of departing intact, except for serious, art-inspired damage to their bank accounts. At the capital, Agats, a town of some 7000 people, we wander raised causeways that are home to markets, schools, clinics, churches and even a large football field.

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I ask how long since the last cruise visitors came ashore? Six years, comes the answer. Owus has a school and clinic, sturdy boardwalks and healthy children but it is almost untouched by the world beyond.

The regional museum is crammed with exceptional works, including the infamous "Rockefeller croc" with its massive jaws agape.

Agats is positively cosmopolitan compared to Owus village, our next stop. We travel in the Zodiacs for an hour up a nameless river that's flanked by towering mangrove forests. Rounding a bend, suddenly we find ourselves amid an even more flamboyant canoe greeting. Hundreds of men adorned as warriors paddle forward in their dugouts to surround us. *Apocalypse Now* meets *Mutiny on the Bounty*, plus *The Mission*. Welcome to Owus.

Following our landing, the villagers play out two traditional performances. Firstly, the men paddle ashore in their canoes to be met by furious resistance from their womenfolk.

I can't understand the plot but, full of sound and fury, it clearly signifies, "Don't mess with the women of Owus."

In the next ritual, a large, masked "devil" from the forest is noisily pursued then symbolically banished by wild, stick-wielding villagers.

We adjourn to the men's house, again to be greeted by the chief. Meanwhile, outside, villagers set up their artworks for sale, ensuring that when we return to the Orion hours later, the Zodiacs are laden again with fantastic artifacts.

I ask how long since the last cruise visitors came ashore? Six years, comes the answer. Owus has a school and clinic, sturdy boardwalks and healthy children but is almost untouched by the world beyond.

There are no Indonesian Malay traders, as found in many other coastal villages, and consequently, with few consumer goods available, there is no trash littering the village.

Our luxurious little gin palace weighs anchor and we head east across the Arafura Sea. We weave through the island maze of Torres Strait, stopping for a tour and a beer at Australia's literally "top" pub on Thursday Island.

A pilot guides us through the shoals of the Great Barrier Reef to Lizard Island where some of us huff and puff to the 395-metre summit Cooks Look from where James Cook in 1770 plotted his way back out through the reef and to safety.

Gin and tonic and sunset make a fine recipe for reflection. Under their influence as we set sail, I changed part of the name of this cruise from "Forgotten Islands" to "Unforgettable Islands."

• *The writer travelled courtesy of Orion Expedition Cruises. For more information on MV Orion expeditions, check out www.orionexpeditions.com*

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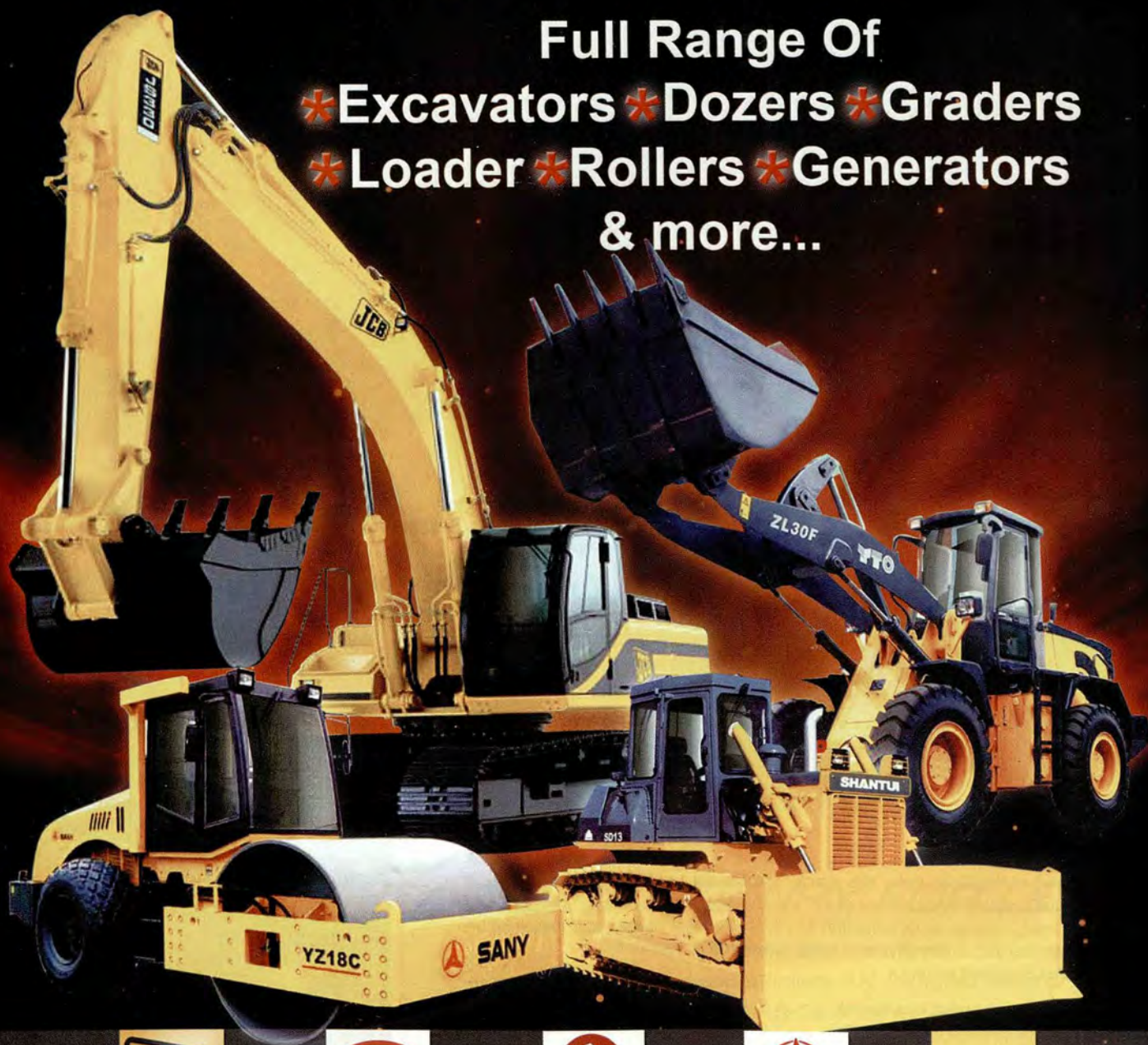


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ITALY: A Date with David



The violinist sat on a tiny stool near the street corner. He wore a suit, a white cap and highly polished shoes. He was playing Puccini.

As we listened to him I couldn't help but smile. How apt to find a smartly dressed busker playing Puccini in Florence, the birthplace of modern opera.

The city of Florence in Italy is also the source of the Renaissance in Europe. Renaissance is the French word for rebirth.

The phrase was coined to describe the significant changes that occurred in Europe between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, from economic and political to scientific and artistic.

As a teenager, I saw a photograph of Michelangelo's remarkable sculpture of David. The image haunted me over the years. I arrived in Florence filled with anticipation that I was finally going to see the original.

Our ambitiously priced hotel was a disappointment and breakfast was beyond horrible. I didn't care: I was in Florence and I had a date with a sculpture. But I decided to visit some of the other attractions first and save David until last.

Florence is jam-packed with museums, galleries and churches in tribute to its

Renaissance legacy. It is also jam-packed with tourists.

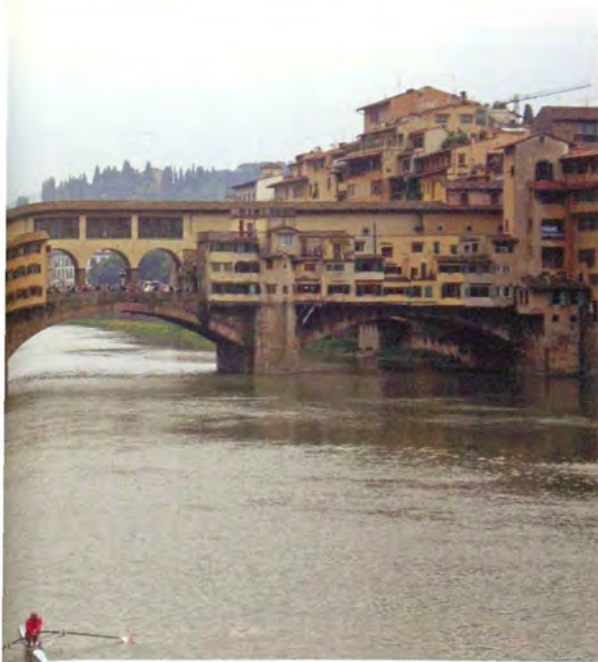
The Uffizi is a famous museum, described as one of the best in Italy. If you arrive without a ticket, the queues are formidable. We bought tickets timed for entry later that morning and went to explore the Ponte Vecchio around the corner. Ponte Vecchio means Old Bridge. The bridge spans the River Arno at its widest point. It dates back to Roman times and has been rebuilt several times. The current bridge was reconstructed in 1345 after a flood.

Adorned with rows of shops, by the sixteenth century, the bridge shops had become the street of hog butchers. Fernando I de' Medici allegedly evicted the butchers and replaced them with goldsmiths because he couldn't bear the smell.

A bust of Florence's most renowned goldsmith, Benvenuto Cellini, stands in the centre of the bridge.

After an enjoyable wander along the bridge to investigate the dazzling jewellery on display in the shop windows it was time to return to the Uffizi.

Built in 1581 under the orders of Granduca Francisco de' Medici, the Uffizi is adjacent to the Medici Palace. The building was originally intended for offices and meeting rooms for



magistrates before it became a gallery.

The paintings in the museum are arranged in chronological order, beginning with the thirteenth century altarpieces. We explored room after room of religious and mythological art. All the great artists of the Renaissance are represented here with paintings by Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, Botticelli,

Bellini, Rubens and Titian, to name a few. However, I have to confess that I found there were only so many Madonna and Child paintings I could view without glazing over and it was a relief when we found a sprinkling of Rembrandts to break the theme.

I found the Bargello Museum more to my

taste. The museum building has gone through various incarnations, including even a prison. Today, with its spectacular collection of Renaissance sculpture, the Bargello should not be missed on any Florence itinerary.

In addition to sculptures, the Bargello houses collections of ivory, ceramics, jewellery, Islamic art, Turkish carpets and exquisite enamelware.

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The oldest building in Florence is The Baptistry, believed to date from the sixth or seventh century. The truth about The Baptistry's origins is not clear, but in the Middle Ages, the Florentines thought it had been built as a Roman Temple to the god, Mars.

The Baptistry subsequently gained its name because communal baptisms were performed every 21st March on children born in Florence during the preceding twelve months. Perhaps one of the most interesting things about this ancient, octagonal building is its splendid gilded bronze doors of Old Testament scenes, designed by Lorenzo Ghiberti in the fifteenth century.

Just across the way from The Baptistry is the Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore or The Duomo. Florence's cathedral with its massive dome dominates the city's skyline.

The thirteenth century cathedral was eventually completed in the fifteenth century when Filippo Brunelleschi's dome was built. It's one of the largest churches in Italy and the dome is said to be the largest brick dome in the world.

We walked around the exterior of the basilica, marvelling at its green, pink and white marble panels patterned with rectangles and flowers. Then we arrived at the exuberant main entrance. The façade was designed in the nineteenth century by Emilio De Fabris and is extraordinarily elaborate.

It was our final day in Florence after a hectic schedule. I left my husband to relax and made my way to the Accademia Museum.

The Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo created the Accademia in 1784 when he united the drawing schools in Florence into one academy and founded a gallery of paintings for the pupils to study.

Today, the gallery contains many striking exhibits, but I was only interested in one. Ticketless, I joined a depressingly long queue. Every half an hour, the queue shuffled forward as batch after batch of visitors entered the museum.

Eventually my turn arrived. The Accademia is large and I wondered how I was going to find David. As I anxiously cast about for a layout plan of the building, I turned a corner and found myself gazing down a long,



narrow corridor flanked by sculptures. At the end of the corridor, David stood on a plinth, beautifully lit under a domed ceiling. I was transfixed. The City Council of Florence asked Michelangelo to carve David from a nineteen-foot block of damaged marble.

He began in 1501. It took him three years. The result was stunning. Michelangelo insisted that

the sculpture be erected in the Piazza Signoria as a symbol of the Republic. It was eventually moved in 1873 from its outdoor site to protect it from the elements.

According to Michelangelo's diary entry, David was: "A civic hero, he was a warning.... Eyes watchful...the neck of a bull...hands of a killer...the body, a reservoir of energy.

He stands poised to strike." According to me, he is simply breathtaking, worth every bit of discomfort negotiating the tourist hordes in Florence. As I stared up at him, I swear I could hear a violin playing.



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WORDS AND PICTURES BY ALEXANDRA KALINOE

Glorious sunset tinged with red and purple, so perfect that you might think an invisible hand had mixed these incredible colours on a palette and in a unique masterpiece layered them onto the sky's canvas to create such breathtaking beauty.

One has to stop amidst such majestic beauty, the type that demands your attention.

This is Samoa and it is incredible at every turn.

Flanked by pale blue waters dazzling in their brilliance, the drive from the airport to the capital, Apia, stuns you with her simple and innocent beauty from the moment the plane lands.

Samoa has never been a top South Pacific tourist destination. Life is simple. Local bars close at 12am.

Unlike Fiji, there are no seven star private island resorts, or bars and nightclubs that open into the early hours of the morning. If you want to play golf at a different resort every day, this is not the place for you.

When I told some friends that I would be travelling to Samoa, the immediate response

Entertainers at Aggie Grey's Hotel.



was, 'there's nothing there'. Um – wrong! Samoa is amazing, it gets under your skin, and its bewitching beauty dissipates all thoughts of home.

Hotels in Apia are generally good. I stayed at the local landmark Aggie Grey's for a few nights. The poolside bar does a fantastic mint mojito and the Wednesday night fia fia (traditional dancing) show is a must see, and comes with a buffet that features local delicacies, such as sea urchins. However, unlike other travellers, I not only stayed in a hotel, but also with friends. **BIG DIFFERENCE.**

The beauty of this place is not only in its spectacular beaches, waterfalls and rainforests, it is without doubt its people. South Pacific hospitality, commercialised in places like Hawaii, is still genuine in a place like this.

High-end boutiques like Mena in Apia provide tourists and locals alike with distinctly Samoan prints on traditional puletasi, and modern clothing and accessories with strong traditional Samoan inspirations.

If this is not quite to your taste and you're after something distinctly local in feel, then take a



Samoa has all the ingredients to be a tourist mecca; it's safe, there is stable political leadership and a decent roading network rings the island. Self-drive holidays are easy enough.



Relaxing at Samoa Hideaway Beach Resort.

walk across the road from the boutique to the markets, where clothing, basket ware and souvenirs abound.

Samoa has all the ingredients to be a tourist mecca; it's safe, there is stable political leadership and a decent roading network rings the island. Self-drive holidays are easy enough.

Travelling the southern coast of the island, it is impossible not to think of the many lives that were lost in 2009 as a massive tsunami brought mass destruction. One hundred and forty nine Samoans perished. Today, the local communities are slowly rebuilding and the tourists have returned to the beachfront fales.

For less than K80 a night, visitors are treated to white sand beaches, clear blue waters, dramatic sunsets and a complete escape from the daily grind of big city living.

Samoa Hideaway Beach is located approximately 40 minutes drive from Apia on the southern coast of the island.

It is a newly constructed family style resort that caters for locals and tourists alike. I was invited there for a family picnic to celebrate a 10th birthday.

Only at a picnic like this can you witness

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Bar at Sinalei Resort...overlooking the lagoon.

the evolution of Samoan culture. Everyone speaks Samoan and English, and there were three generations of one family present.

The family members were a fusion of Chinese, German, and Samoan ancestry. The highlight for me? Definitely the oka - raw fish marinated in lime juice and coconut milk - divine.

If you prefer to relax in luxurious surroundings, the Sinalei Resort is boutique luxury at its best. Located on the southern coast of Upolu Island, the resort welcomes adults and children 12 years and over.

Guests can enjoy a massage overlooking the ocean in the resort's spa, or relax on the white sandy beach, play a round of golf on

the nine-hole course, or just do nothing at all.

The bar opens to a hilltop pool, featuring a waterfall. Lava rocks and lush green foliage ring the pool. Another bar and restaurant are located on the pier that overlooks the lagoon, perfect for sipping sundowners while watching the sun set.

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To Sua Ocean Trench appears, at first glance, to be one of the most hazardous tourist attractions to visit, however, the steep climb down on a ladder is well worth it.

Once you hit the water, the fear evaporates and only a sense of tranquility remains.

You can feel the gentle current of the ocean as it moves back and forth. Serenity is a fleeting sensation for many these days, but floating to the gentle rhythm of the ocean utterly captures the sensation. And for only a few tala entry fee, serenity comes at a bargain price. Be sure to bring plenty of water and snacks however, because there are limited supplies available on site.

Samoans are proud of their culture and of their traditions and this pride is experiencing a rebirth. During my visit I witnessed a traditional tattoo exhibition in Apia, and the girl that was being tattooed was the fiancé of my host's great nephew.

Eira Elisara is in her twenties, works for the Samoa Tourism Authority, and was always interested in getting a malu - the female specific tattoo that covers the legs from just below the knee to the upper thighs.

I became quite emotional watching the process, because over the span of four hours, her fiancé Tyson and her parents held her hands and consoled her throughout the process.



To Sua Ocean Trench...a tourist attraction

VULCAN

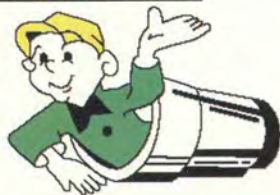
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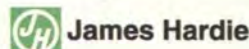
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The tears streaming down her mother's cheeks spoke volumes of the mixture of emotions that she felt as she watched her only child undergo the process.

Afterwards, I asked Eira about the pain, and she said, it was painful, but it was a sweet pain. The malu and the pe'a, the equivalent tattoo for males, are visible signs of Samoan pride in modern times.


The beauty of it all is not in the exquisite patterns of the master tattooist, but the need by this generation to maintain their tradition and in so doing, preserve their identity.

The beauty of this place is in its small size and its refusal to conform to suit the global traveller. If you need broadband or to be constantly contactable, then Samoa will be a frustrating experience.

Samoa is the island paradise that didn't get the globalisation memo. It is a country steeped in tradition, culture and Christian values.

She is the Mona Lisa of the South Pacific with eyes that hint at a secret, in a mocking manner, but gives nothing away. You have to lose yourself in her charms to get the best experience from your visit.



 Air Niugini has same day connections from Port Moresby to Samoa via Nadi (on Air Pacific).

The beauty of it all is not in the exquisite patterns of the master tattooist, but the need by this generation to maintain their tradition and in so doing, preserve their identity.



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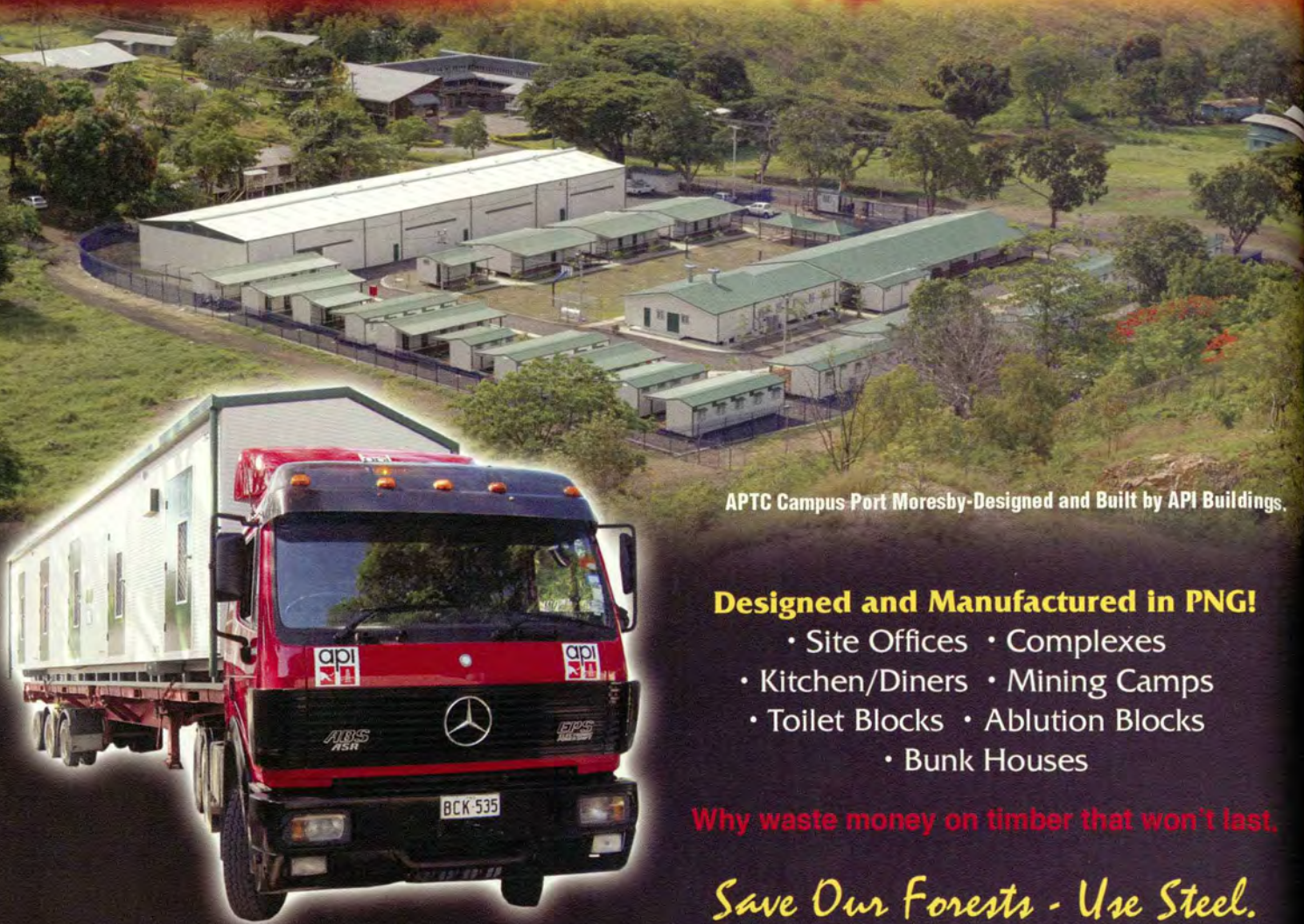
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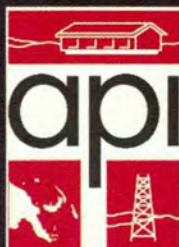
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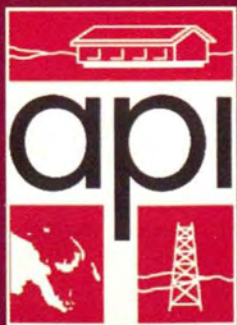


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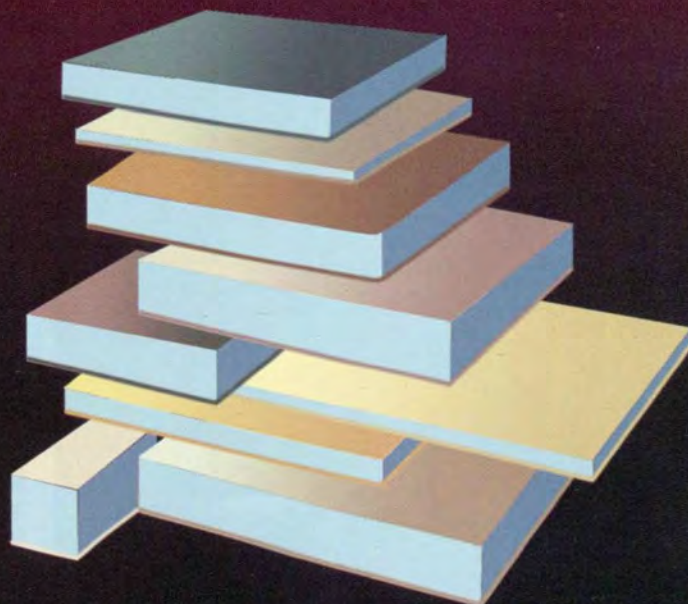
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TOKYO'S BEST NIGHT-LIFE DISTRICTS

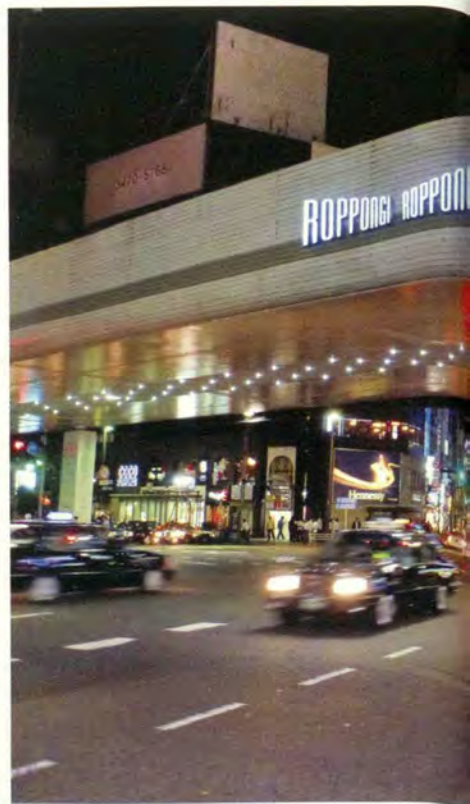
BY ROB DUNLOP

It's no surprise that the world's largest metropolis of 12 million people also has some of the world's most diverse entertainment experiences. It's totally huge!

And while every suburb and district has its own share of bars, restaurants and entertainment venues, there are a few concentrated areas that are certainly worth checking out. Here's a cheat sheet of Tokyo's best night-life.



Shinjuku is the epicentre of Tokyo entertainment.



Shinjuku

Shinjuku is the epicentre of Tokyo entertainment. And it's where you'll encounter a majority of Tokyoites - 3.5 million of them pass through the gateway - the station - every day. And a great many of them have one thing on their minds - having a good time.

Shinjuku district is where you'll find loads of bars, night clubs, theatres, games parlours (pachinkos), hostess clubs, love hotels and strip clubs. Phew. And of course there are plenty of other regular entertainment options too, such as traditional izakayas - those fun, Japanese restaurant bars.

The Kabukicho area, in particular, is home to wild and wide-eyed shenanigans. Kabukicho is not only Japan's largest amusement area, it is also the country's largest red light district.

Yet, it's quite safe to walk around the streets and alleys to experience the bright, loud and energetic vibe without being dragged into its seedy side. Expect touts outside of venues with varying invitation styles, though.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Omoide Yokocho - To regenerate from Shinjuku's modern frenetics, head to Omoide Yokocho, an historic street running beside the railway station, which is full of traditional izakayas.



Roppongi entertainment hub for expats.

Roppongi

A long-time favourite hangout for naughty expats (and not so naughty), Roppongi is home to foreign embassies and their legion of workers, officials and visiting friends.

Roppongi enduringly occupies legendary party status across Japan and the world - offering up bars, nightclubs and restaurants. The area overflows with choices catering to a wide variety of budgets and styles. For instance, one German bar serves up authentic German beer, big screen TV sports and matching kitschy music.

Along brightly lit streets and down dimly lit alleys, crazy multi-level nightclubs thump alongside smaller discreet bars and clubs. Roppongi is where you can catch restaurant cabaret shows featuring transsexual showgirls and get amongst raucous karaoke singing.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Roppongi Kingyo - Roppongi's most infamous club features a drag show cabaret restaurant. Visit www.kingyo.co.jp.

Gaspanic - Crazy nights are guaranteed at this multi-level party spot. Visit www.gaspanic.co.jp

Karaokekan - Sing your heart out at this karaoke and party room joint. Visit www.karaokekan.jp



Colourful Roppongi nightlife.

Ginza

Ginza is Tokyo's prestigious district, home to luxury end department stores, restaurants and bars.

The Western style shopping district, which sprang to life in the 1870s, has firmly established itself as high-end destination for fashion, food and drink.

While the elegant main street Chuo-dori is where cashed up Tokyoites flit from store to store buying outfits for 'entertainment', they also hit the nearby back streets frocked up for glamorous restaurant and bar action.

Tokyo enjoys the status of having the highest concentration of Michelin starred restaurants in the world, yet its upscale bar scene is equally good, and makes for great people-watching action too.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Bar Aurum Ginza - This swanky bar, positioned on the 11th floor, literally sparkles with gold and crystals. Visit www.anlg.jp.

Il Pinolo - A refined restaurant, perched on the 9th floor, overlooks the streets of Ginza. Visit www.il-pinolo.com/il-pinolo/ginza.

Yurakucho

Yurakucho may be Ginza's poorer neighbour, but it offers a wealth of down to earth and affordable entertainment options.

Stumble into this area and you could quite literally find yourself stumbling right out again too - having visited many of its izakayas and yakitori restaurants.

Yurakucho is where ordinary Japanese workers head to after work for a drink and a feed. And it feels real. The busy strip running

alongside and underneath the train lines is where ramshackled chaos abound in the form of food, booze and good times. In this neighbourhood, beer, sake and skewered chicken rule.

Worth checking out

Yakitori Alley - Head here for all manner of chicken parts - skin, livers and hearts - that are skewered and served in either dry salt and pepper style or juicy teriyaki sauce.



Yakitori Alley for chicken parts.

Shibuya

Shibuya is quintessential Tokyo for loud, bright, youth-oriented action, which immediately starts when you exit the subway station to cross the world's busiest intersection. Simultaneously, five pedestrian crossings of people are unleashed under a whirl of shiny towers, video screens, speakers, and other bombardments on the senses.

The streets and narrow alleys carry small shops, boutiques, gaming arcades, music stores and of course bars and night clubs, unashamedly targeting the young.

Shibuya caters to all musical tastes, whether that is trance, hip-hop, R&B, rave, or plain old vanilla house. Most clubs are open to the wee hours and attract both locals and foreigners.

While walking around the area can be dazzling enough, be adventurous and get down with the local kids in a foreigner-friendly nightclub.

WORTH CHECKING OUT

Club Atom - A multilevel club that mixes up genres. Visit www.clubatom.com.

Club Harlem - The name says it all. Hip hop rules. Visit www.harlem.co.jp.

Womb - With its multiple bars, dance floors and lounges, Womb is internationally recognised as one cool party spot. Visit www.womb.co.jp.

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Japanese out to play on the streets of Kabukicho.



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Hidden among the palm trees that sway over the white sandy beaches that edge the beautiful Fijian islands, local villagers are turning their gardens into hot international commodities.

Pure Fiji is a local business using raw ingredients that grow naturally in Fiji and is making huge waves on the international stage.

Founder Gaetane Austin, now a grandmother, and with her daughter Andree, began making soaps in their Suva kitchen in 1996 with virgin coconut oil.

Back then, they couldn't imagine that they'd employ 100 people in a factory and support 500 more in villages across the islands.

Together they have put Fiji on the map for more than just blissful holidays in the sun. I mean, where else in the world can you step outside your back door, pick coconuts, passionflower or sugar cane, and make them into beauty products that are sought after from the United States to the Czech Republic?

The business has received numerous awards, including Fiji Exporter of the Year several times, Excellence in Tourism and also awards for her company's eco packaging.

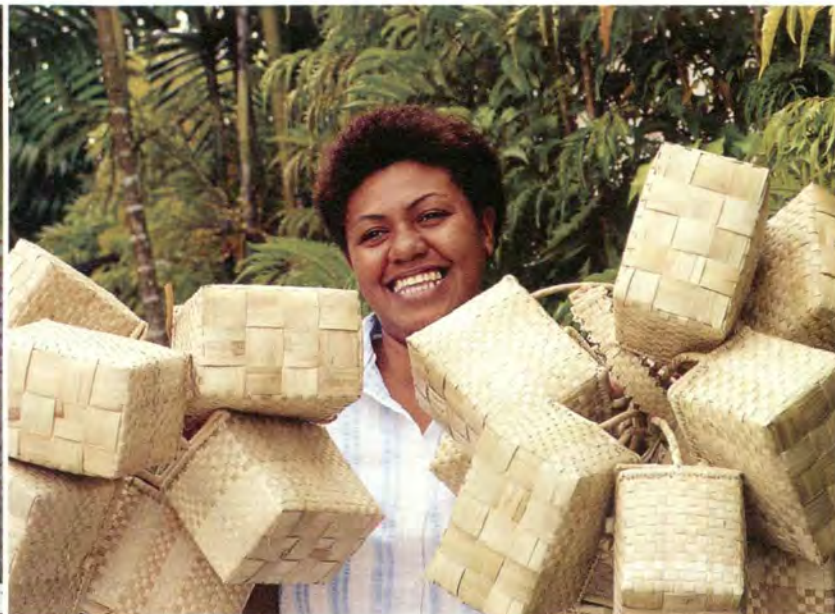
The thing about Pure Fiji is that it's not just a factory churning out beauty products, the sustainable processes and support for the local communities is just as important to this family-run business as generating an income.

THE MAGIC OF PURE FIJI

Making waves on the international stage

BY MEGAN SINGLETON





The meke is a traditional Fijian foot ritual that only takes six minutes - but it is worth coming to Suva for! I was quite unprepared for what was about to occur when I sat in a chair with my feet beside a copper bowl filled with warm water.

The meke is a traditional Fijian foot ritual that only takes six minutes - but it is worth coming to Suva for! I was quite unprepared for what was about to occur when I sat in a chair with my feet beside a copper bowl filled with warm water.

Seven villages supply Pure Fiji with its raw ingredients and each village provides a different need. Some cold press the oils, and without the need for electricity, as they are done using hand presses, this can be done without any major investment from the village.

Some hand make the paper used for packaging, another provides woven baskets.

This business model has enabled local communities to purchase water tanks, generators, set up a village shop and provide secondary education. In fact, for some communities, Pure Fiji's business is their main income.

Andree recalls their kitchen table laden with soap and laughs when she looks around at the state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in their 30,000 square feet factory today.

The factory in Suva also has a day spa for massages, exotic foot rituals and is where they train therapists in Pure Fiji's signature treatments.

So while the lotions, and potions were being blended in vats and workers were folding boxes amid the fragrance of orange blossom, and coconut milk and honey soap, I was outside in the landscaped water garden experiencing the meke.

This is a rhythmical treatment punctuated by whoops, synchronised clapping and peals of laughter from the therapists as well as those playing the music.

Before my feet were in the bowl, coconut milk was added, then colourful petals swished through - with much hilarious whooping and shouting. My feet went in and my legs were washed with the milky water and my calves deliciously massaged with a sugar cane scrub. They were then painted with coco butter and wrapped in towels to marinate for a few moments before being wiped down and suddenly it was all over. I'd fly here specially to do this again!





Pure Fiji's founder Ga-etane Austin (middle) with Fiji's President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and his wife Adi Koila Nailatikau.

But more than just entertainment value, the exotic fruits, flowers and nuts that grow so plentifully here have been used for centuries by Pacific Islanders for their ability to cleanse, soften and protect the skin and hair and also to heal the body.

Pure Fiji uses simple ingredients like sugar

cane, pineapple, papaya, passionflower and green coconut, freshly harvested and processed within hours to preserve their nutrients. Drift nuts that washed ashore many millennia ago and are now flourishing all over the islands are revered for their medicinal qualities and ability to nourish the skin, while deepsea plants contain

anti-ageing and wonderful hydration properties.

The secrets to Pure Fiji's success are many - their sustainable practices, community support and exquisite quality products. But the way they blend their exotic nut oils (virgin coconut oil, dilo, sekeci and macadamia nut oils) makes them unique.

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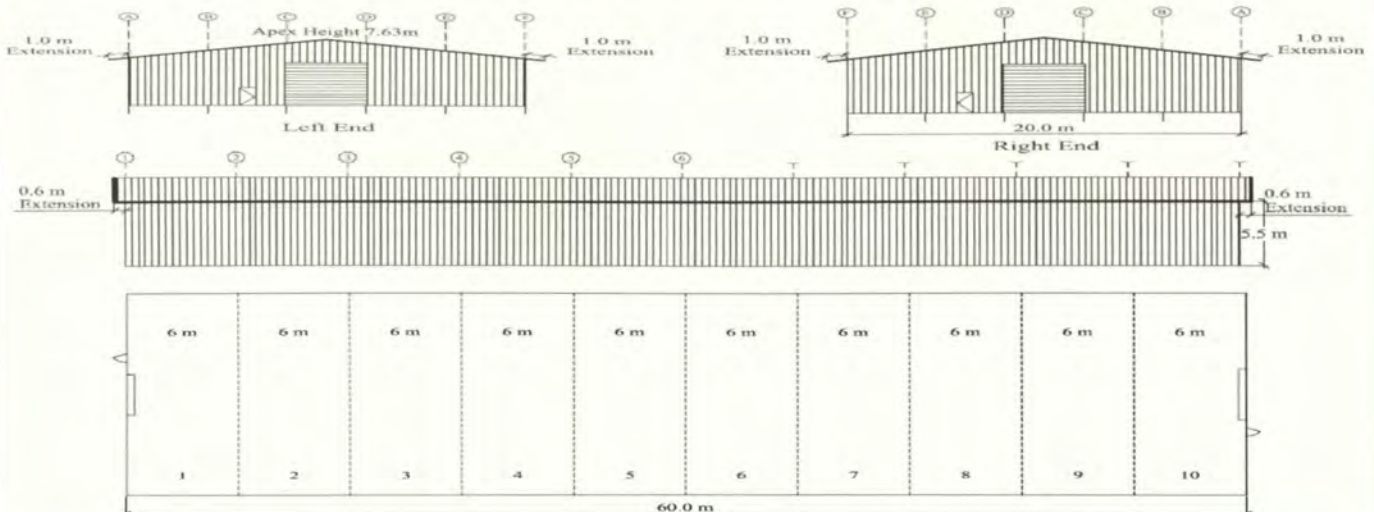
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The sacred dilo tree, for example, is known as 'the tree of a thousand virtues' and Fiji is blessed with them in abundance. The dilo nut oil has an amazing ability to soothe skin irritations like sunburn, windburn, dermatitis, insect bites, acne, eczema and shaving irritation. But many five-star spas around the world use Pure Fiji's dilo products after clients have had microdermabrasion treatments. It is also fantastic for those undergoing radiation or chemotherapy.


But not content with producing more products and increasing their global distribution, Andree and Gaetane have just had a gymnasium built on a site next door to the factory where they hold zumba and yoga classes. It proved to be an instant hit with the locals and expat community, and without any advertising, the classes are full. But who wouldn't want to come when at the end of your yoga session you cool down with a Pure Fiji inhalation.

Employees say they feel like part of a family here. Many have been here since the company started and Gaetane makes sure they are well looked after. She is a stickler for great holistic health and each day provides them with vitamins and tries to talk them out of yet another meal of noodles.

It's true that a healthy body and a healthy

mind make for a happy life, and you just need to pop the tops of some of the thousands of bottles waiting to be shipped overseas, inhale deeply and the saying is true.

• For more details, visit www.purefiji.com 

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10

Must-do Activities
in Singapore

BY MARIANNE ROGERSON

**1. Explore the Ethnic Enclaves**

When Sir Stamford Raffles developed his town plan of 1822, little did he know that the ethnic enclaves he created - Chinatown, Little India and the Arab Quarter - would provide ideally compact areas for visitors of the future to explore.

Here, the preserved heritage buildings and narrow streets give a glimpse into the city's past, while the many varied places of worship provide an insight into the culture of today's population.

Chinatown is the most popular locale with tourists, its pedestrianised streets teeming with souvenir stalls, but visitors shouldn't miss out on a visit to buzzing Little India or the more laid back Arab Quarter.

2. Have Dinner at a Hawker Centre

A visit to Singapore wouldn't be complete without a meal at a hawker centre, the city's version of 'street food'.

Here you'll find several food stalls housed under one roof, each specialising in a particular cuisine - so take your pick from noodle soups, satays, curries, or barbecued seafood all going for as little as \$4 a dish.

The open-air Makansutra Gluttons Bay next to the Esplanade Theatre is a pleasant spot to indulge in the local cuisine, while Lau Pa Sat in the Financial District offers one of the biggest choices and is easily accessible to tourists.

3. Ride the Singapore Flyer

The Singapore Flyer is currently the world's largest observation wheel, at 165m tall - the height of a 42-storey building, or 31 male giraffes stacked on top of one another! The leisurely 30-minute journey on board the spacious capsules offers 360° views over the city. As well as nearby landmarks such as Merlion Park, Marina Bay Sands and the Singapore River, you will also be able to spot Changi Airport, Sentosa Island and even as far as Malaysia and the neighbouring Indonesian islands. On a clear day it is possible to see 45km away from the top of the wheel, which is 3km more than the entire length of Singapore.



Hawker Centre.

Casino at Resorts World Sentosa.

4. Chance your luck in the Casino

2010 saw the arrival of legal gambling in Singapore with the opening of the casinos within the two enormous integrated resorts - Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World Sentosa. A wide variety of popular table games, including roulette, blackjack, baccarat and sic bo, have people flocking from around Asia to chance their luck, while slot machines feature the latest games such as video poker and electronic roulette. With over 600 gaming tables and more than 1,500 slot machines at the Marina Bay Sands casino alone, you won't be spoiled for choice! The dress code for entry is smart casual and entrance is strictly for Over-21s only.

One of the many orchids at the National Orchid Garden.

5. Enjoy Drinks at a Roof-top Bar

With so many buildings crammed into a small island, it is no surprise that roof bars are the latest trend in Singapore. The illuminated skybar of Ku De Ta atop the magnificent Marina Bay Sands hotel is the current see-and-be-seen hotspot, while 1-Altitude boasts the accolade of being the tallest al-fresco bar in the world, standing at a staggering 282 metres. The hip and trendy crowd who are flocking to these vertiginous hotspots are as interested in the view of each other as they are in the view from the bar, so be sure to look out your designer gear before you head out.

6. Admire the Orchids

The National Orchid Garden boasts the largest display of tropical orchids in the world, with over 1,000 species and 2,000 hybrids. Experiments in orchid breeding and hybridisation have been taking place here since the 1920s, with more vibrant and enduring hybrids added to their collection every year. In 1957 the Singapore Government began to honour state visitors and other VIPs by naming selected orchid hybrids after them, and there are now over 100 VIP orchids to admire. This prized collection is a visitor favourite, so be sure to seek out the Margaret Thatcher, Princess Diana and Nelson Mandela orchids.

*Ku de Ta sky bar. (Photo: Marina Bay Sands)*



Cruising along the Singapore River.

7. Take a Leisurely River Cruise

The Singapore River was once the lifeline of the nation, serving as the major artery for cargo boats unloading from the ships in the port. Today, the banks of the river have become a leisure destination, with alfresco bars, restaurants and shops lining Boat Quay, Clarke Quay and Robertson Quay. The Singapore of yesterday is still evident in the colonial and heritage buildings that surround the river and the most pleasant way to take in the sights and architectural variety is to jump aboard a bumboat for a leisurely cruise. Tours leave from nine different jetties along the river and take 30 minutes.

8. Tuck into some Chilli Crab

Chilli crab is the nation's unofficial national dish and is a 'must-do' for visitors. Fresh Sri Lankan crabs are dished up in a tangy, spicy chilli sauce which are best enjoyed by getting stuck in with your fingers and a nutcracker to crack open the shells and suck out the flesh. The best place to head for an al-fresco, breezy atmosphere is the East Coast Seafood Centre, which makes a handy stop to or from the airport. Here you'll find a cluster of open-air seafood restaurants facing out to sea, dishing up some of the best seafood in town.



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9. Visit the War Museums


World War II was an extremely significant chapter in Singapore's history, with the country being the focus of the greatest and most humiliating defeat in British history. The two years that followed saw the country suffering bitterly under Japanese occupation, in what was one of the darkest periods of Singapore's past. The war museums not only commemorate the country's war efforts but celebrate the resilience, bravery and entrepreneurship displayed by the survivors. Fort Siloso on Sentosa, The Battle Box at Fort Canning and the Changi Museum should all be on your list.



10. Explore the Night Safari

The Night Safari is the world's first night-time wildlife park and is one of Singapore's most popular visitor attractions, with over 11 million visitors since it opened in 1994. The park is set within 40 hectares of lush secondary rainforest, and provides visitors with the unique experience of exploring wildlife in a tropical jungle at night.

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THE STANLEY MARKET

Shopping in Hong Kong

You might not meet Dr Livingston, but wandering along the popular waterfront here you are sure to encounter a multitude of people from many different places, including Africa of course; making the background babble of conversation truly multinational.

Stanley, named not after Henry, that famous investigative reporter for the New York Herald but Lord Stanley, the Secretary of State for War & the Colonies in 1842 when the island was ceded by China to Great Britain under the

Treaty of Nanking after the first Opium War, was probably one of the first settlements on Hong Kong island.

The village, nestled around a small sheltered bay in the leeward side of a short peninsula on the south-east corner of the island, was called Chek Chue in Chinese, either meaning 'red pillar' in the Hakka language, referring to the red flowering cotton trees common in the area, or in Cantonese 'Bandit's Post'. The village was noted in the records of the Chinese Ming Dynasty (1573-1620) and in 1767 the

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Stanley Esplanade.



Blake Pier...settings for elegant and lavish wedding photographs.

community and/or local pirate Cheung Po Tsai funded the construction of the Tin Hau temple, which ever since has remained the religious hub of the district. When the British took over Hong Kong island, Stanley was home or at least an anchorage for more than 2000 fishermen and their families.

For many years, the main attraction of Stanley for visitors and residents alike was

the opportunity to wander around its famous markets - small stalls and shops crowded along tiny alleys and laneways leading down to the sea, that sell almost anything one might wish for and all from 'brand name' manufacturers, of course.

Although local fishermen no longer sell their catch along the small streets, the markets still exist and are suitably thronged with

people looking for clothes, bags, jewellery, clothing, suits, T-shirts, leather goods, food, Chinese curios and even massages. An effort has been made in recent years to develop Stanley, so it is able to provide a wider experience for visitors who want more than just a quirky shopping venue - whether from overseas or just day tripping from elsewhere in Hong Kong.

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Murray House...one of the oldest European military buildings on Hong Kong.



Junk off Stanley.

Following the seemingly unstoppable Hong Kong tradition of land reclamation, the development and beautification of Stanley involved filling in the foreshore to create an esplanade and enough flat space to rebuild Murray House, one of the oldest European military buildings on Hong Kong, after its removal, literally block by numbered block from its original location in Central on the other side of the island where it was constructed in

1846. This historic stone building now houses the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, from where one can walk down to the equally historic Blake Pier.

This pier was also relocated in 2007 as part of the Stanley waterfront development. It too was originally located in Central, where in the early 1900s it was known as Pedder Wharf; it had to be moved as the Hong Kong island shoreline moved inexorably northwards towards Kowloon

with ongoing land reclamation. Its classic colonial style cast iron roof trusses once oversaw the landings of British Governors and other visiting dignitaries to the colony, but which today are more likely to be witness to settings for elegant and lavish wedding photographs. The pier still functions as such and is the terminus of a tourist Chinese junk trip to and from the offshore Po Toi island, as well as being a handy place for locals to fish from.



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Tin Hau Temple.

Between the markets and Blake Pier is an esplanade where one can choose to sleep or observe local windsurfers and local sailing vessels and generally take the air at one of the many bars, cafes and restaurants that line the front - including the interestingly named Pickled Pelican, Smugglers Inn and Main Street USA. A very pleasant and relaxing way to dissolve an afternoon.

Tin Hau was apparently born in Putien, Fukien in 960, before dying at aged 27 after a life of great holiness and many miracles. She was canonised and recognised by the Chinese Emperor who awarded her the title Empress of Heaven - Tin Hau. She was originally a sea goddess and protector of fisherfolk, but also revered by land dwellers, because of her ability to rescue those in danger. This power was apparently demonstrated during World War 2 when two Japanese bombs which dropped on the temple failed to explode, miraculously saving those who had sheltered inside. Although she has temples built elsewhere in Asia in her honour, this is the oldest temple on Hong Kong island and was once right on the foreshore. It sits on a highly propitious feng shui



This power was apparently demonstrated during World War Two when two Japanese bombs which dropped on the temple failed to explode, miraculously saving those who had sheltered inside.

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Pickled Pelican...one of the many watering holes at Stanley.

site facing the sea so, despite all the building developments going on around it, this aspect of the temple has been retained as a sign of respect for the deity and fear of the consequences of doing otherwise, no doubt.

Inside the temple it is interesting to note that although Tin Hau is the central deity, she is surrounded by a number of other gods, arranged on either side of her image, and all facing out towards the sea. The temple site is also reputed to have been one of the bases of notorious pirate Cheung Po Tsai when he captured Hong Kong island in 1767, and a

bell and drum now preserved in the temple originally belonged to him.

As the site of the first British garrison, Stanley has a plethora of colonial era buildings, cemeteries and museums containing artefacts of this era, including the first police station built in 1859. The commercial centre of Hong Kong developed around suburbs such as Wanchai and Central (then known as Victoria) on the north side of the island and Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon which, combined with continued threats from pirates, resulted in the importance of Stanley gradually fading.

Stanley's main street.



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Stanley Market...sells almost anything one might wish for and all from 'brand name' manufacturers.

A large prison was built at Stanley in 1937 - just in time for it to be used, along with the nearby St. Stephen's College, by the occupying Japanese forces in 1941 to house Allied civilian and military prisoners!. The prison is still in use today to incarcerate the most hardened criminals of Hong Kong. Stanley Fort, the former British barracks has since the change in sovereignty in 1997 been occupied by soldiers of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.


There are beaches on either side of the Stanley peninsula; the larger of the two on the east is

popular with windsurfers and is best known as the venue for the annual Dragon Boat races held in June each year to celebrate the Tuen Ng Festival. The western beach, called St. Stephens is also fitted out with a perimeter net to protect against sharks and so is safe to swim at.

For anyone visiting this relatively quiet spot with its fresh sea breezes, nautical feel and with just a few low rise apartment blocks, away from the hustle, bustle and intense activity of other more intensively built up parts of Hong Kong, there are plenty of things for the whole family to do.

So if you hanker for some retail therapy, or perhaps just a relaxing afternoon beside the sea at a watering hole such as the Pickled Pelican on the waterfront whilst your other half does the shopping, why not head down to Stanley - just a few Hong Kong dollars on bus number 6, 6A, 6X, 66 or 260 from Central.



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FOOD & FANTASY ON THE GOLD COAST

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY: DIANA MCMANUS

The Gold Coast has finally 'come of age', and although it has come to be synonymous with beaches, nightclubs shops and cafes of Surfers' Paradise, it is so much more.

Stretching for many kilometres the Gold Coast was once a string of small holiday coastal towns interspersed with pretty waterways and the bigger Tweed, Nerang and Coomera Rivers.

High-rise development really began at Surfers' with its naturally beautiful beach and plethora of little islands such as Mackintosh, Paradise, Chevron and the Isle of Capri. Jupiter's Casino, in fact, occupies its own little island at Broadbeach, created by Little Tallebudgera Creek which flows into the Nerang.

Today, this Queensland tourist mecca has

something to offer everyone; landlubbers, seafarers, city folks and country lovers, culture vultures and earthbound action folk. The Gold Coast has it all. It's a place where you can feast and fantasize to your heart's content.

You could do worse than lunch at the Southport Yacht Club, with its very nice menu and venue at the head of the beautiful Broadwater, and a mere stone's throw from the Surf Life Saving Club at Main Beach; especially when events like the Round the World Clipper Race bring the big yachts to town to open their doors (hatches?) to the public.

The Broadwater is a long, enclosed stretch of water formed by the Nerang River where it bends seeking an outlet to the sea.



A long, wide sand spit, home to great beaches, Fisherman's Wharf and the Mariner's Cove tourist activities, shops and restaurants, and fantasy land Sea World, divides it from the ocean.

If you fancy cooking your own seafood, you can buy it fresh from the boats at the Trawler base on The Spit. And if you want to catch it yourself, join the fishermen who line the groyne at the tip of The Spit where a narrow channel divides it from South Stradbroke Island (known affectionately by locals as Straddy!).

Sheltered waterways, stands of mangroves and sandy islands stretching all the way to Brisbane make this an anglers' paradise. Launch your tinny at Jacob's Well, not far from Yatala, and you'll soon know what I mean.

A delicious seafood lunch at the Lazy Lobster Restaurant, right on the Broadwater at Labrador, gives you a good appreciation of what makes the Gold Coast tick. Ocean going vessels and pleasure craft come and go through the channel.

In the foreground, kayakers and kite or surf boarders skim the shallows and families picnic along the calm water beaches and parks. In between, pelicans cluster on sand spits keeping an eagle eye (pelican eye?) on the fishermen for a free feed perhaps. And in the background looms the impressive skyline of Surfers'.

A great food venue is George's Paragon Seafood Restaurant at Southport or better still its counterpart at Sanctuary Cove Marine Village, which has expanded phenomenally over the past couple of years due to its popularity.



Surfers Paradise skyline across the Nerang River.



Sanctuary Cove.



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Views of the waterways and expensive boats and buildings will keep you salivating, as well as the fine food. But, quite frankly, good seafood can be had at any of the Surf Life Saving Clubs which stretch from Main Beach down to Rainbow Bay at Coolangatta. And they all afford sweeping views up and down the long sandy beaches to keep you in that holiday mood.

Jupiters Casino at Broadbeach is a pretty self-contained venue with bars, bistros and restaurants to suit most tastes, and if it doesn't suit yours, take the little monorail which crosses the highway and deposits you on the coastal strip with plenty of other shops and eating alternatives nearby. A casual favourite is Lola's beside the Bowls Club on Old Burleigh Road, a hundred metres from the surf, where you can enjoy sidewalk dining and nicely priced gourmet food.

If you like shopping, Pacific Fair is the place for you. On the banks of Little Tallebudgera Creek at Broadbeach, this site was custom built in the 1970's as a dedicated 'retail therapy' village with streets upon streets of shops ranging from Target to Myers, interspersed with adventure diversions for the kids. It also has a big cinema complex. If you're kidless and feel like winding down (or up!) Jupiter's casino is virtually across the road.

Maybe you'd like some cultural diversions. You could go along to the Gold Coast Arts Centre, behind Chevron Island with its nice little shopping centre and an easy walk from downtown Surfers'.

Here you'll find large and intimate live theatre, dance or musical performances in both the main theatre or the Basement, a couple of Cinemas screening good movies which aren't necessarily box office hits, and a gallery showcasing the static arts.



Aquatic tricks at Sea World.



Surfers at Rainbow.

why people come to the Coast, and it's not surprising given the kilometers of long, sandy beaches all the way from Southport to Coolangatta. You can also swim in the Nerang River, and freshwater sites such as Budd's Beach and Evandale Park are popular, especially as they come with barbecue facilities in their own little waterside parks.

In the early '70's a wave of sun seekers and retired investors from the south headed for the Gold Coast and soon the rivers, islands and low lying plains were converted into canal estates, world class golf courses and suburbs which stretched back to the foothills of the nearby mountain ranges. These also offer beautiful day trips.

Perhaps go to Mt Tambourine and follow the Food and Wineries Trail up through the quaint mountain villages with their antique shops, art galleries, delis, restaurants and spectacular inland or coastal views. The circuit will take you through Canungra, for years the home of Australia's army jungle training camp. This little town has an appeal all of its own, and a great pub.

A few steep kilometers away is O' Reilly's, a cool, 1930's mountain getaway for Brisbanites now converted to a pleasant resort with long ranging views, bush trails and a canopy walk. It's worth a day in itself. As is Binna Burra, another nice mountain resort with bushwalking tracks. This road continues to Springbrook and offers splendid views of the Gold Coast as well as beautiful sights such as the Natural Arch with its pretty pool.

Further afield at Broadbeach is the huge Convention Centre dedicated to popular touring shows and individuals. And with the Airtrain running regularly to Brisbane and its airport, the Coast also affords visitors the option of a day out in the big smoke and all that a big, metropolitan city has to offer.

If you'd like to indulge the children or that child inside yourself, there are lots of other theme parks and fun parks aside from Sea World. You can slide yourself silly at Helensvale's Wet 'n Wild. Beware of those wedgies! Next door is the fascinating Movie World and the Outback Spectacular. And a little further away at Coomera, you can scare yourself to death on the Tower of Terror and riding the coal trucks through the Mines (of Mouria?) at Dreamworld.

Further south there is Fleahy's Wildlife park at Burleigh and at Currumbin you have the delightful Bird Sanctuary. And while you're down there, why not visit the Twin Towns Club at Coolangatta and Tweed Heads which span the lovely Tweed River, the border between Queensland and New South Wales. But keep an eye on your watch, since each State has its own time zone.

Swimming and surfing is a major reason





Rainbow Bay.


It's all the beautiful and fun things in this region, including the great weather, which makes the place a terrific holiday destination and a desirable place to live.

With such a lot to offer it's no wonder it has increasingly become the venue for a huge range of National and International sporting events; surfing and Iron Man titles, the Gold Coast Marathon; the Indy (Formula car racing), a port of call for the maxi round-the-world yacht races and, in 2018, the Commonwealth Games!

Last, but not least, are the beaches; fifty-five kilometers of white sand and blue Pacific rollers. At the centre of the strip is Surfers' Paradise itself. With that long, gorgeous surfing beach, a recently revamped multi-purpose Esplanade, and the lovely shops,

cafes and nightclubs of Cavill, Staghorn and Elkhorn Avenues, it's an ideal holiday place for families or singles. And the gold clad metre maids are still there and drop dead gorgeous.

However, long after you leave you'll realise that, for all its reputation, Surfers' Paradise is not the be all and end all of the Gold Coast. It's all the beautiful and fun things in this region, including the great weather, which makes the place a terrific holiday destination and a desirable place to live; food for fantasy and fantasy with food!

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From left: Tony Kirk (PX Brisbane), Lynda English (Kids Helpline), Leah Nicol (Project Manager Kids Helpline), Charles Morley (Manager Air Niugini Brisbane) and Laudia Moore (PX Brisbane).

HELPING KIDS HELPLINE

AIR NIUGINI RECENTLY DONATED two return tickets to PNG as part of a major prize for a fundraising campaign for Kids Helpline.

Kids Helpline Project Manager Leah Nicol is trekking Kokoda in May as part of a paid group to help raise awareness for Kids Helpline. For more details, check out www.khappeals.com.au/leah_nicol

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The team is led by Mrs Catherine Taukuro as Portfolio Manager with three project managers - Trevor Michie, Craig Mulherin and Ranjan Naidu.





NEW APPOINTMENTS FOR AIR NIUGINI

MR JAMIE DAY is the new Ground Operations Manager responsible for the management of operations at Jacksons Airport. Jamie joins Air Niugini from Etihad Airways where he worked as Manager Network Baggage Services Manager - Operations, Quality Performance and Support. Jamie has also had extensive ground services and cargo work experience with Menzies Aviation Australia and Qantas Cargo agent.



MRS MICHELLE BUZA is the new Deputy Executive Manager Human Resources. Michelle has worked in human resources at Coca Cola and MMJV. She joined Air Niugini from Mainland Holdings where she was Human Resources Manager.

MR KEVIN EVANS joined Air Niugini in January as the Executive Manager Corporate Quality & Safety. He had worked with Heavy Lift PNG Ltd prior to his appointment with the airline. Kevin holds a Bachelor in Aviation Studies and has come on board through Engineering as a Licensed Aircraft Maintenance Engineer.



Radio Competition Winner!

CAROL AND GEORGE MCLEISH have every reason to be happy. They are the lucky winners of a recent Air Niugini and 4QK Radio

competition. Their prize? An eight-night return trip to Hong Kong, courtesy of Air Niugini, 4 KQ and the Harbour Plaza Metropolis

Hotel. They were presented their tickets by representatives from 4QK Radio and Air Niugini.



Happy to get their tickets: From left: Nick Michaels (4QK), Carol and George McLeish (prize winners), and Charles Morley (Air Niugini).

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AIR NIUGINI APPOINTS GSA FOR TOKYO



Signing the deal...Mr Takeshi Yoshimi (right) and Air Niugini's CEO Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri (middle) with Air Niugini's deputy General Manager Marketing Dominic Kaumu.

AIR NIUGINI has appointed ALCONET CORPORATION as its passenger General Sales Agents (GSA) in Tokyo, Japan, effective March 2, 2012.

ALCONET will be responsible for all passenger matters in Japan as their territory of responsibility.

ALCONET was appointed after a selection process carried out by the airline which considered their experience in passenger handling and management, ability to

provide infrastructure, financial strength and immediate availability of experienced staff with excellent relations with the Japanese travel industry.

The sales office is located at YOSHIMI BLD 3F, 1-22-1 HAMAMATSU-CHO, TOKYO 104-0013 JAPAN.

Air Niugini Limited Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri thanked Mr Takeshi Yoshimi, CEO of Yoshime Trading Inc, the parent company of ALCONET, for accepting

the appointment as its GSA in Japan and the commitment given to Air Niugini to work towards exceeding its expectations.

In turn, Mr Yoshimi has also thanked Air Niugini for selecting ALCONET as Air Niugini's partner in Japan and for the airline's confidence.

Mr Yoshimi urged ALCONET to meet or exceed the expectation of Air Niugini's valuable customers, including maintaining high levels of service.



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