

INFLIGHT WITH AIR NIUGINI VOL 2 2018

# Paradise



40  
YEARS

Air Niugini celebrating 40 years of flying the flag for Papua New Guinea

# Our commitment to PNG is growing.

The BSP Group employs more than 4,000 people across PNG and the South Pacific and services more locations and provides more ways of convenient banking in PNG than any other bank.

-  285 ATMs
-  10,000 EFTPoS
-  41 Bank Branches
-  42 BSP Rural Locations
-  200 BSP Agencies

With millions invested in new facilities and technology to make banking easier, new improved services on the way and a growing network of conveniently located banking agencies, Express and Priority Banking and Premium Lounges, our commitment to PNG is stronger than ever.

And so is our interest in the future with our continued and growing investment in a diverse range of community projects and health and well being programmes designed to help others grow.



Helping PNG grow↑

[www.bsp.com.pg](http://www.bsp.com.pg)

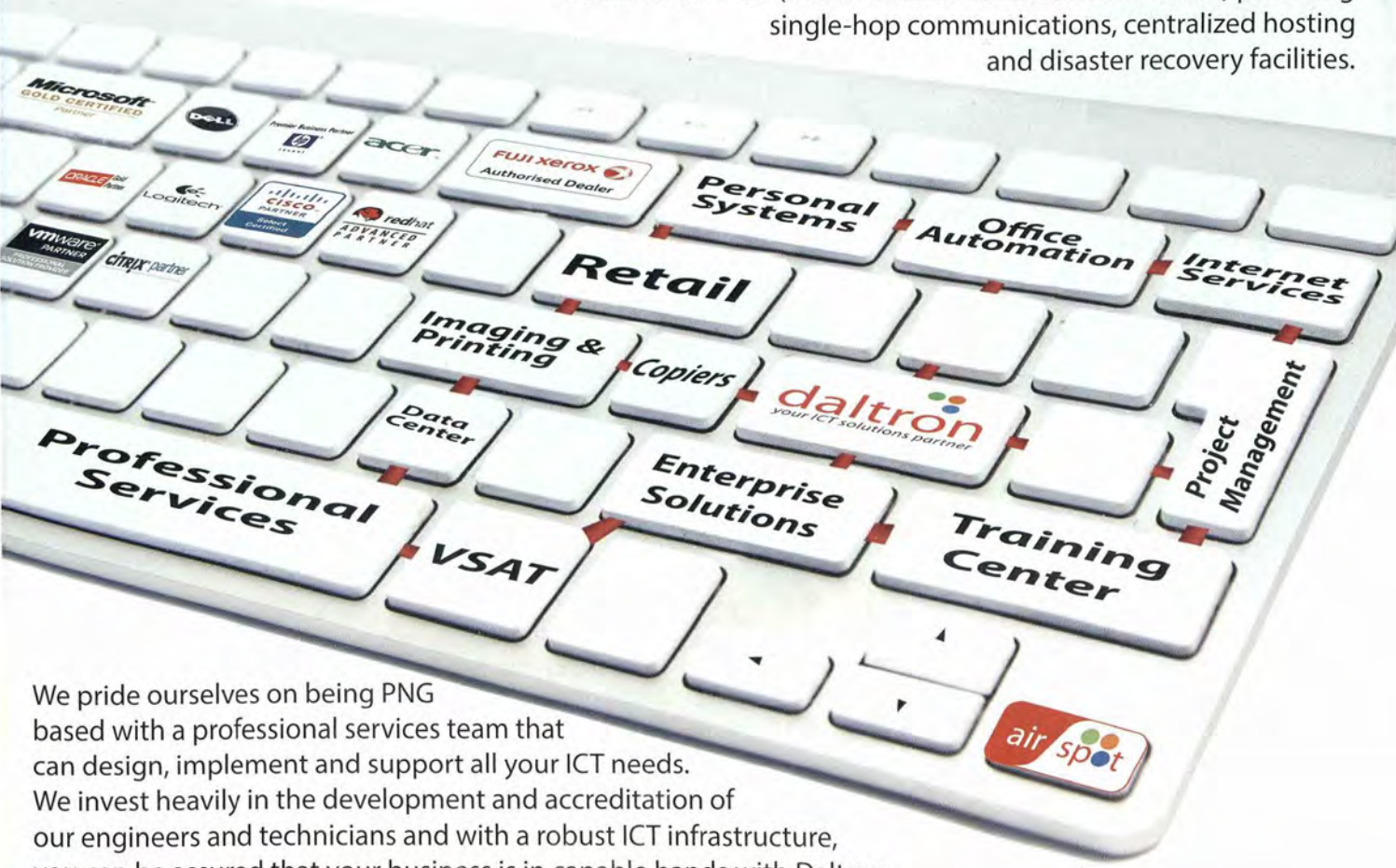


The Leading Bank of the South Pacific

'Our business is driven  
by Our people'



With over 280 dedicated staff throughout PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu, Daltron's staff are passionate about delivering customers the best technology and services. Our team leads the region with world-class certification for all leading ICT vendors. Our iDirect VSAT platform is the world's leading IP-based satellite solution. We have the best in-country C-Band VSAT Hub (DESS - Daltron Earth Satellite Station) providing single-hop communications, centralized hosting and disaster recovery facilities.



We pride ourselves on being PNG based with a professional services team that can design, implement and support all your ICT needs. We invest heavily in the development and accreditation of our engineers and technicians and with a robust ICT infrastructure, you can be assured that your business is in capable hands with Daltron.




# Proudly taking Papua New Guinea to Asia Pacific.



Do more than bank across Asia Pacific.  
Do business.

ANZ is in 28 markets across Asia Pacific and we're growing. That means we've now got more financial specialists who share your regional interests and who take the time to fully understand your needs. They have the experience and the network to put you in touch with the right products, the right opportunities and the right people to help you reach your goals. Because, in Asia Pacific, connections count.

For more information please visit your nearest branch or contact us on  321 1079.

[anz.com/papuanewguinea](http://anz.com/papuanewguinea)

We live in your world





# STEAMSHIPS TRADING COMPANY

is a Papua New Guinean success story. Today the company is a well established business conglomerate with diverse commercial interests and listings on both the Australian and Port Moresby Stock Exchanges.

The Group employs over 3,200 PNG citizens and non citizens in six diverse companies grouped under three operating divisions: Logistics, Property and Hotels, and Commercial.

It continues to uphold a company philosophy which aims to offer quality, competitive goods and services to all its customers; provide secure and challenging careers for its staff; maintain the highest business ethics at all times; protect the environment from harm; and earn superior returns for its shareholders.



# Tenix. Leading the way in resourcing tomorrow.

➤ Providing total solutions to resources companies in PNG for over a decade



➤ Tenix provides design, project management, fabrication, construction and maintenance to mining, oil and gas companies. We have a reputation for safety, quality and project controls and a proven ability to deliver.



➤ Tenix provides utility-type infrastructure for mining and resources projects, including power generation, power transmission & distribution and gas, water and wastewater treatment and transportation.

Tenix is a leading delivery partner to owners of gas, electricity, water, wastewater, heavy industrial and mining assets across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. We design, construct, operate, maintain and manage assets and systems to deliver optimal results for owners and their customers. Tenix has been active in PNG for over a decade and have the right people, equipment and systems in place and ready to go.

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# IN PARADISE ? IN SEAVIEW !

## FURNITURE & HOUSE APPLIANCE LIST

Space	Description
Entrance	Entrance Cabinet with Shoes Unit
Living Room	TV / TV Cabinet / Sofa Set with Table / Air Condition
Dining Room	Dining Table with Chairs / Sideboard / Wine Cabinet
Kitchen	Kitchen Cabinet / Oven / Dish Dryer / Range Hood / Gas Stove / Refrigerator / Electromagnetic Cooker / Coffee Maker / Auto Rice Cooker / Electric Jug / Active Water Restructuring Filter
Bathroom	Electric Water Heater / Vanity Unit / Shower Unit / Toilet / Hardware Fitting (Shower, Towel Rack, Shelf Rack, Mirror, Roll Holder)
Bedroom	TV/TV Cabinet / Bed with Mattress and 2 Bedside Drawers / System Wardrobe / Dressing Table / Sofa Set / Air Condition
Balcony or Laundry	Washing Machine / Clothes Dryer / Leisure Chair Set



## LEASE/SALES INFORMATION

### Phase I

24 Units Single Level Apartments of 2 or 3 Bdrm  
 12 Units Split Level Apartments of 4 or 5 Bdrm

### Phase II

32 Units Single Level Apartments of 2 or 3 Bdrm  
 12 Units Penthouses of 4 or 6 Bdrm  
 4 Units Split Level Apartments of 3 or 5 Bdrm  
 4 Units Townhouses of 3 Level, 5 Bdrm  
 4 Units Semi-detached villas of 3 Level, 5Bdrm

### Phase III

20 Units Single Level Apartments of 2 or 3 Bdrm  
 8 Units Penthouses of 4 or 6 Bdrm  
 1 Unit Business Club  
 1 Unit Day Care Center

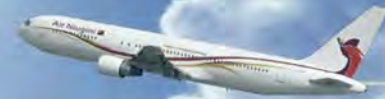


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# Message from the Chief Executive Officer



## Welcome Aboard

The Northern Summer schedule, which came into effect at the end of March, includes flight changes to Hong Kong, Cairns, Madang, Wewak, Rabaul, Buka and Lae offers better options for our customers and allows adequate time for passengers connecting to and from domestic Papua New Guinea ports.

The direct service from Madang to Port Moresby has been moved to Tuesday to allow for same day connection to Hong Kong. We are overnighing an aircraft in Mt Hagen on Sunday to enable an early morning departure on Monday with connections to other domestic ports, as well as ample time for the Brisbane and Singapore flights. The mid-morning flight to Lae has been reinstated with the introduction of twice weekly services on the B737 every Wednesday and Thursday.

The introduction of a service between Lae and Cairns via Port Moresby will enable the business community from both cities to have same day connection. Lae passengers can connect through Port Moresby to Cairns with two flights every Monday, Friday and Sunday and once daily on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The new schedule also offers a 6am departure from Cairns to Port Moresby with connections to Lae on PX102 which departs at 0900 from Monday to Friday. The other good news is that passengers travelling between Lae, Goroka, Mt Hagen, Rabaul and Cairns will now pay what is known as a through fare rather than pay a sector fare from their port of departure to Port Moresby and from Port Moresby to Cairns if they are connecting through on the same day. This also applies to passengers travelling from Cairns to these centers.

Air Niugini's Charter Terminal opened for business last month and is located at the Jackson's Airport plaza area between the international and domestic terminals.

As a national airline, Air Niugini is also committed to promoting the country's tourism attractions through stories that are featured in our inflight magazine **PARADISE**. We would like to share with you some of the highlights on the Cultural Calendar for 2013.

Papua New Guinea's diverse cultural heritage and its 800 tribes provides a showcase of festivals and special events that take place throughout the 22 provinces each year.

The spectacular Mt Hagen Show (July 6-7), the Warwagira Festival and the National Mask Festival in Kokopo (July 12-16), the equally famous Goroka Show (tentative dates September 14-15), the Hiri Moale Festival (dates to be confirmed for July) and the National Kenu and Kundu Festival (November 1-3) are among the events on the Cultural Calendar for 2013.

The festival in Alotau, Milne Bay Province, will celebrate its 10th anniversary this year and organisers are planning a range of activities culminating with the arrival of Carnival Australia cruise ship - one of the leaders in cruise tourism, with some 2,500 tourists on its maiden voyage to PNG. The quiet town of Alotau is buzzing with excitement and preparations for the impending visit are already underway.

Please see the Airline News section for the flight schedule changes and a full list of the Cultural Calendar of Events for 2013. You can also read the new flight schedules between Lae and Cairns. More information on Air Niugini can be found at [www.airniugini.com.pg](http://www.airniugini.com.pg)

Enjoy your flight with us today and if you are visiting our shores, enjoy beautiful Papua New Guinea.

Simon Foo, CBE

**Acting Chief Executive**



# **“A smile is the most important part of my job.”**

In my job, you've got to be ready for anything.  
For example, a passenger once asked if he could wind down his window to get some air.  
We have a 40-year tradition of great customer service and a perfect safety record.  
That's certainly something to smile about.

Elvira Hahis - Flight Attendant.



Flying the flag for Papua New Guinea.

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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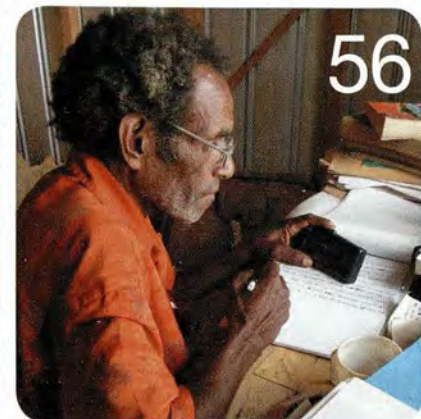


## The Sepik Magic

32



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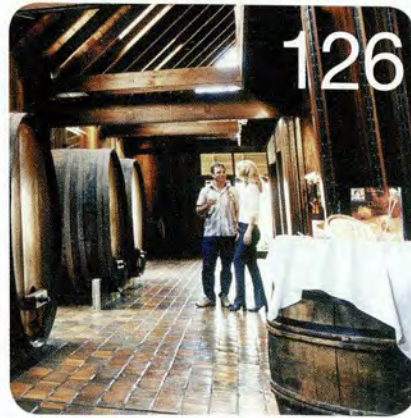
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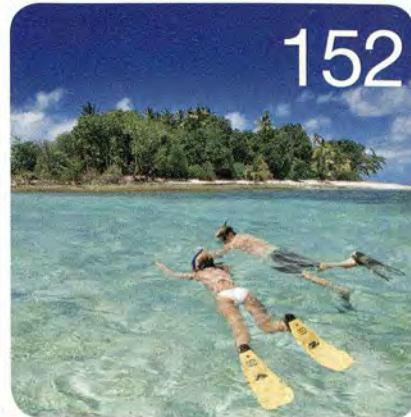
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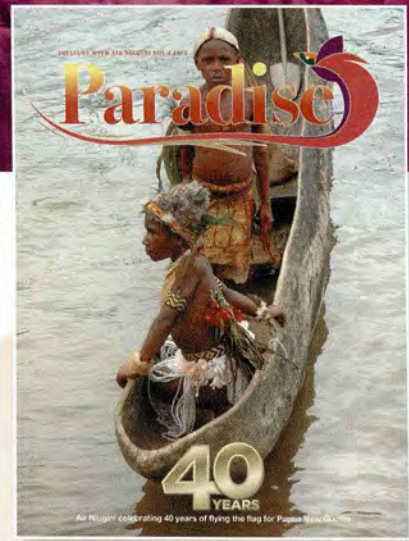
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Cover photo:  
Foe children  
in a canoe  
by John Brooksbank.

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life more special  
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Quality flatware makes your table even more inviting. An example is the Polywood line with its treated wooden handles. Polywood is impact and heat resistant as well as dishwasher safe. You can also count on our 5-year warranty against manufacturing defects.



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# Your Shipping Partner



## STEAMSHIPS SHIPPING

Steamships have been shipping in Papua New Guinea for over 90 years. We operate a fleet of coastal vessels and specialise in estuarine and river trades in the Gulf and Western Provinces. Steamships provides short and long term vessel charters, and reliable cargo liner services using geared, multipurpose vessels. The company can also develop, implement and support inter-modal logistics shipping solutions, linked to land based services such as road transport, cargo handling and storage.

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.

Steamships - our experience, capability and capacity make us the ideal shipping partner.

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# EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES.



**For Caterpillar® and Hastings Deering it's more than just words.** It's a way of doing business. It comes through every idea, every Cat product, every product support solution we can provide. Together we innovate, lead, move... FORWARD.

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## CALL 131 228

Hastings Deering





# Welcome aboard

## Enjoy our Bird of Paradise in-flight service

### Please ask us

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

### Hand luggage

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

### Takeoff and landing

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

### Safety first

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

### Electronic equipment

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

### Children and babies

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

### Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

### Entertainment

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

### Pillows and blankets

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

### Cuisine

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

### In-flight Duty Free

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

### Immigration and Customs Forms

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

### Before you leave

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



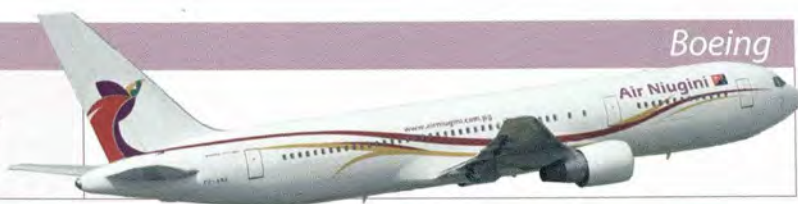


## Air Niugini fleet

### B767-300ER

Length: 59.94m  
 Wing span: 47.57m  
 Range: 8100km  
 Cruising speed: 857kph

Power plant: 2 x PW4000  
 Normal altitude: 11000 - 12000m  
 Standard seating capacity: 214  
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 3



Boeing

### B737-800

Length: 39.5m  
 Wing span: 35.79m  
 Range: 8100km  
 Cruising speed: 857kph

Power plant: 2 x CFM56 - 7B26  
 Normal altitude: 11300m  
 Standard seating capacity: 158  
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 1

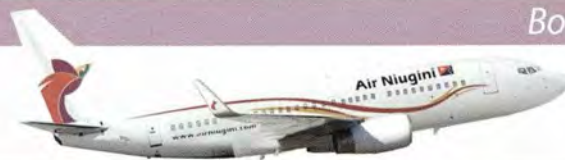


Boeing

### B737-700

Length: 33.6m  
 Wing span: 35.79m  
 Range: 6370km  
 Cruising speed: 830kph

Power plant: 2 x CFM56 - 7B22  
 Normal altitude: 11300m  
 Standard seating capacity: 122  
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 1



Boeing

### F100

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

Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650  
 Normal altitude: 11000 m  
 Standard seating capacity: 98  
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 6



Fokker

### DASH 8-Q400 NextGen

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

Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW150 A  
 Normal altitude: 7500m  
 Standard seating capacity: 74  
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 3



Bombardier

### DASH 8-Q315

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



Bombardier

### DHC-8-202

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: 4



Bombardier

### DHC-8-100

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



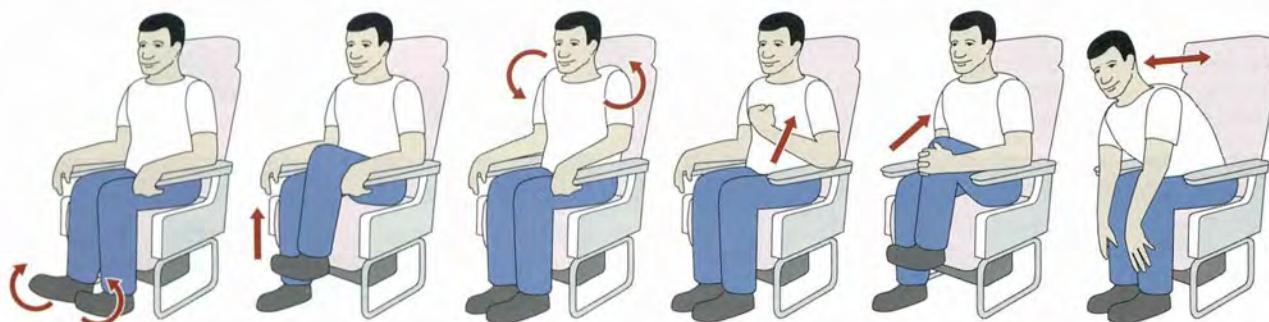
Bombardier

# 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.

**“This aircraft has 367,000 critical parts.  
367,001 if you count me.”**

It's part of my job to know every nut, bolt and screw on this Boeing 737 aircraft. If something needs repair, we're fully qualified to look after any maintenance issues. And I'm very proud of our 40-year safety record.

Benedict Oraka - Executive Manager, Maintenance Control.



**Air Niugini** **40**  
YEARS

Flying the flag for Papua New Guinea.

# 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

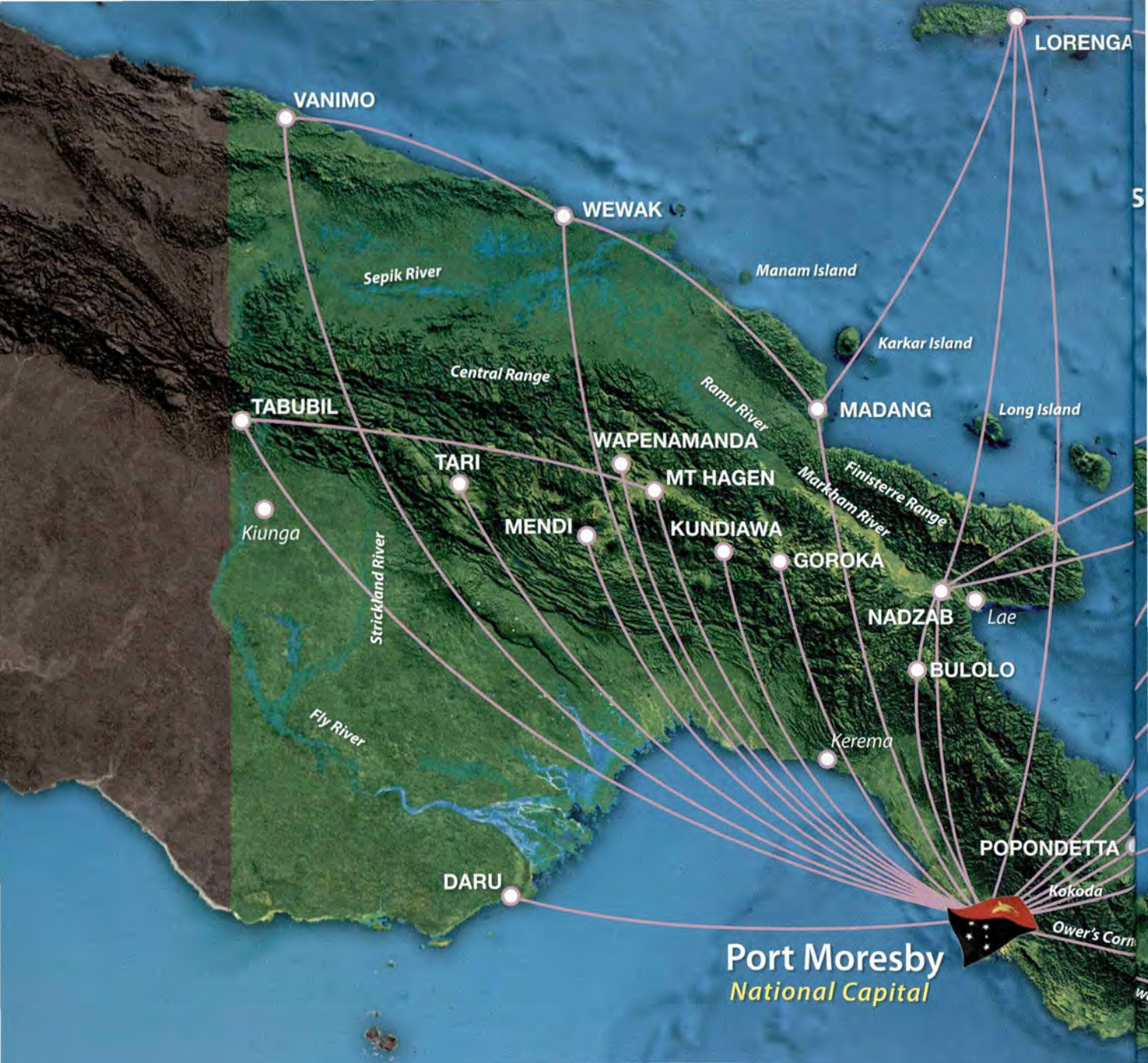
- ◆ If you have a pre-existing medical condition that warrants supplemental oxygen, you can order from us. Please give at least seven days notice before travelling.
- ◆ To "clear" your ears try swallowing and/or yawning. These actions help open your eustachian tubes, equalizing pressure between your 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

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

#### Recommendations

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



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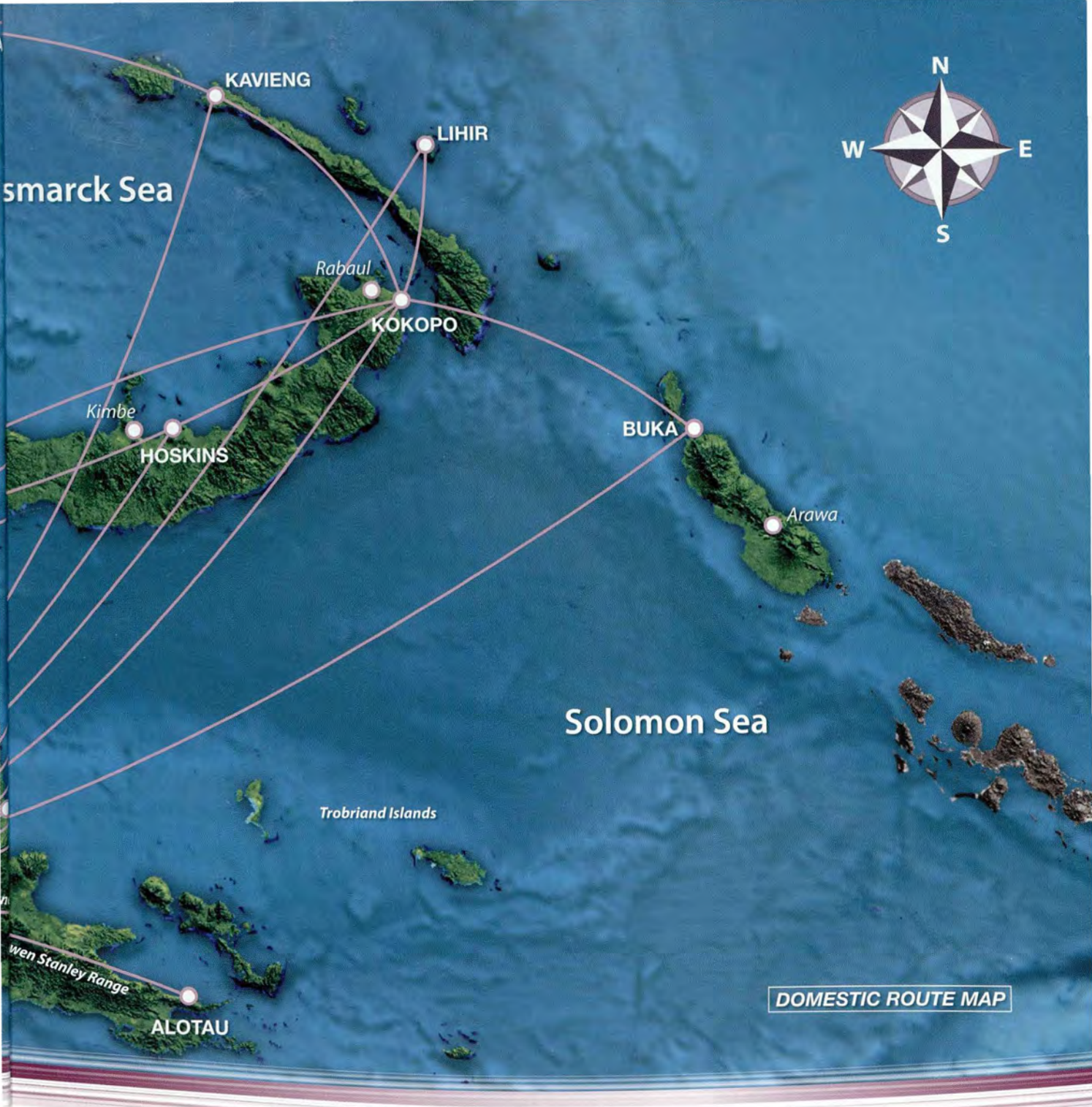
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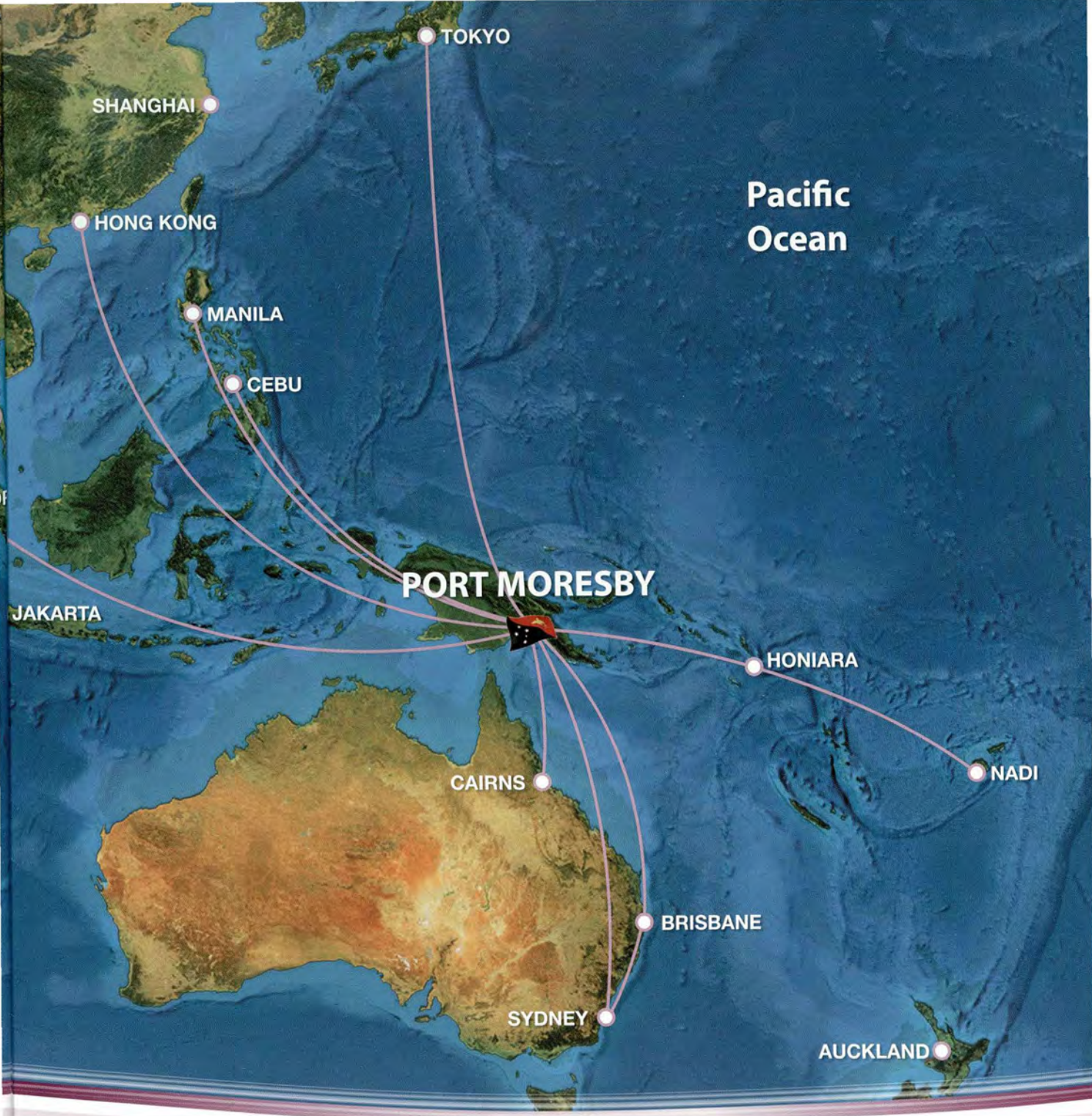
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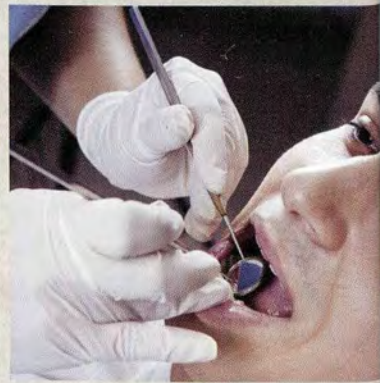
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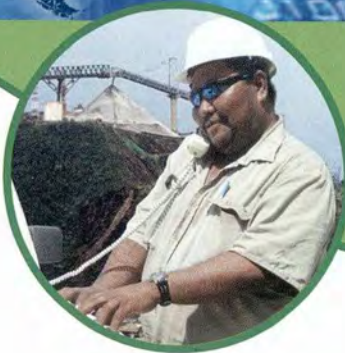
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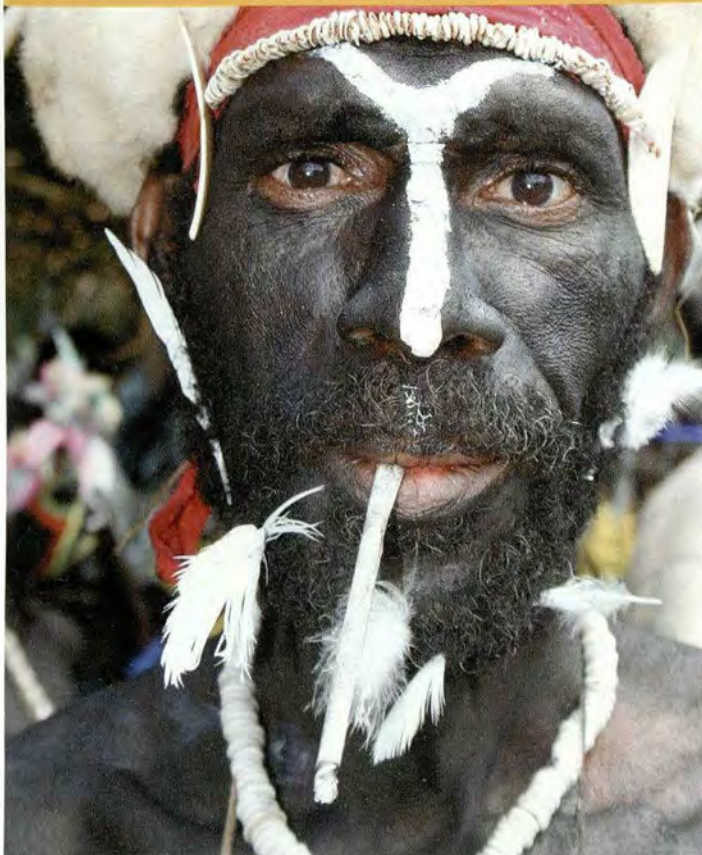
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# THE SEPIK MAGIC

By John Wright







**JUST AFTER SUNSET**, when the colours of the Sepik give way to the glow of village fires, you can sit on the balcony of a rustic lodge high above the Karawari River and marvel at how technology can change lives at the drop of a hat.

At first, your mind barely grasps it, for innovation can be a surprising intruder in secluded places of the world and the wild and little-visited Sepik, including this tributary, is as remote as it gets if you're looking for soft adventure in Papua New Guinea.

The lodge on the Karawari was built in the early 1970s. It is accessible from the outside world only by light aircraft using a jungle airstrip. It's comfortable but it's off-the-mass tourism track. Should you find your way there, you'll get the idea quickly: there is no internet connection, no TV, no commercial radio and no mobile telephone reception.

"Perfect," you think to yourself as you settle into Karawari Lodge's Spirit House bar to watch the sun go down over the eternity of rainforest below you. "This is just how I wanted the Sepik to be." Then among the darkening huts and scattered village

fires across the river comes a brilliant white flash, followed by more, one after another piercing the black tropical night. And it dawns on you. LEDs? Weren't there kerosene lanterns here a blink of an eye ago?

This is a place that has barely changed in generations. Villagers along the Karawari still ply dugout canoes - their only form of transport - they still harvest sago palms for their daily staple and they still make their homes and artefacts out of whatever the jungle gives them. But first appearances can be deceptive.



Inside those traditional thatched homes, people sleep near open fires under chemically impregnated mosquito nets if they can afford them; a few have outboard motors for their canoes; and now they're buying Double-D batteries instead of kerosene.

Karawari Lodge was designed, built and operated by an Australian, John Pasquarelli in the years before PNG's independence. It is now managed by Trans Niugini Tours. Australians don't come to this part of PNG in big numbers but I was one of a handful recently who took the 40-minute flight out of Mount Hagen in PNG's Western Highlands, to the lodge's tiny grass strip.

It is a tremendous journey, the plane on this occasion skirting low over the green, snaking course of the Yuat River along the fertile valleys of the Schrader Range before dropping into Karawari. A short jungle walk from the strip, a seat on a motorised punt and a slow climb in a battered 4WD to the top of the lodge's commanding ridge completed the journey, although in a very real sense, it had only just begun.

The 1126-km long Sepik, one of the world's great rivers, is something of a trophy destination for experienced travellers: the very name is alluring, conjuring images of dense jungle and pristine waters, romance and mystery, remoteness and adventure and a culture that was unknown to Europeans less than a century ago.

**The 1126-km long Sepik, one of the world's great rivers, is something of a trophy destination for experienced travellers: the very name is alluring, conjuring images of dense jungle and pristine waters, romance and mystery, remoteness and adventure and a culture that was unknown to Europeans less than a century ago.**

And, sitting in the lodge amid lush tropical gardens and grabbing a first day look at life on the river below, you know, somehow, that the Sepik is going to live up to its expectations.

On my first morning there, announced by a riot of exotic bird song, the cries of roosters from across the river and the nervous flitting of giant dragonflies under the eaves of the cabins, lodge manager Augus Kaiem sends me and other guests off on a punt to visit a traditional village, Yimas 2, on a tributary called the Arafundi.

On the previous afternoon, we'd been to a river village called Kundiman 2, an essay in tropical beauty where the cycle of growing sago for food, clothing and building materials, and catching paku ("vegetarian piranha") from the Karawari's swift waters is as endless as time.

There had been an impressive array of wooden, shell and other artefacts, laid out carefully by the villagers under ancient rain trees. No hard sell. No pleading. The dignity and reserve of the people of the Sepik are beyond that, and if you leave places like this without putting a few much needed dollars into the local economy, you will never forgive yourself.

Now, on my first morning, the punt arrives at Yimas 2 after plying through swirling river mists, and the magic continues. Through the haze and tropical heat, we make out villagers in traditional bush costume waiting with a dance, another array of artefacts and what seems to us like an enthusiastic welcome. And later, at nearby Yimas 1, there's an astonishing "Heart of Darkness" experience in which village women in dugout canoes move out of the jungle fringes, surround us in a silent greeting and then go about the daily routine of catching fish with hand-lines.

Experiences like this are routine on the Karawari and the lodge rotates village visits in the interests of fairness.

By the time you get back to the lodge for a shower and a sundowner and see those flashing lights across the river, you know you've seen something special, and seen it in comfort. But there's more than that to the Sepik and other ways of experiencing it.

Trans Niugini Tours also operates a live-aboard vessel, the Sepik Spirit, which plies the Middle Sepik, but budget travellers can access the main river out of Wewak, on the north coast, on combined land/river journeys offered by local operator Alois Mateos, of Sepik Adventure Tours.

These seasonal (April to October) trips up the Sepik proper to Mateos' home village, Ambunti, can be a rigorous undertaking - up to four hours by 4WD to the river at Pagwi and then up to two hours by motorised canoe. I've done it there and back in a day, and it's a challenging round trip.

But Mateos has been operating for more than 20 years and knows what his customers want. Ambunti is accessible by air and some travellers organise to leave Ambunti on a Missionary Aviation Fellowship flight or stay on the river for two or three days or more, putting up at a modest village lodge (run by Mateos) and exploring Sepik culture in more depth.





“They all look for village life, culture, art and nature, and the Sepik River is a major attraction in itself,” Mateos says. “The people in the villages are very friendly; we have a lot of satisfied customers.”

Even accounting for the challenging journey on my trip, which involved a pre-dawn departure from Wewak and a very late return, the sense of adventure and mystery was palpable. The river journey was superb, thatched villages and gardens of exquisite beauty punctuating the vast denseness of the great Sepik rainforest at regular intervals. And then, there were the crocodiles.

Ambunti, a sprawling collection of buildings set against a mountain backdrop, is a quiet township whose potential as a remote tourism hub is perhaps still being realised. In recent years, Ambunti has held an annual Sepik Crocodile Festival organised as part of a World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) sustainable development project. The WWF project has ended now, but the festival remains and is slated for August 6/7 this year.

The crocodile is both an important part of the cultural heritage of the Sepik people and an economic mainstay. In parts of the Sepik, boys are initiated into manhood with scarification rituals in which their backs are cut to leave ridged scars resembling the back of a crocodile. Visitors rarely witness these rituals, if ever, but a scarred back is a source of pride and sometimes income whenever a tourist is willing to pay for a photograph.

At the Ambunti festival, villagers in full sing-sing regalia bind and strap small crocs to their bodies as an extra decoration, and the effect is astonishing for visitors who have seen neither a traditional village celebration nor a crocodile at close quarters before. This is a major cultural event and Ambunti seems to go out of its way to make sure those who witness it are unlikely to forget it.

Sepik villagers also hunt and farm crocodiles for their skins and meat, but human pressure has forced wild crocs into even more remote areas. Nevertheless, visits to crocodile cult villages are often on

the agenda in this part of the Sepik. Other attractions include bird-watching, visits to the impressive Wagu Lakes and the chance to buy some of Sepik’s wonderful artefacts.

These artefacts have long been considered the best in Melanesia, although many are snapped up by savvy buyers with markets elsewhere in PNG or further afield.

Still, a typical array presented in most villages visited by tourists will often include beautifully crafted bilum (bush string) bags,

pigs’ tooth and snake skeleton necklaces and carved, two-dimensional “wanleg” or “cult hook” figures and other wooden carvings.

As cheap as many of these items are, they represent a vital part of a village’s cash income. They offer a chance, if you make it to the Sepik and start to marvel at the cultural wealth around you, to put something in the kitty for the next mosquito net or pair of Double-D batteries.





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# IT'S THE EEL THING

By Bob Halstead

Eels are not “slimy”. These wonderful animals have been totally misunderstood and often slandered. As usual though, as with any great deception, there is a germ of truth in the label, and it is the fault of fisherpersons.



One very large eel that I befriended at Horseshoe Reef near Port Moresby in the 1980s became so excited when I visited that it would rush out of the shipwreck that had become its home and greet me half-way down demanding cuddles and stokes.



1980s became so excited when I visited that it would rush out of the shipwreck that had become its home and greet me half-way down demanding cuddles and stokes.

The eel, we called it "Nessie", would sometimes grasp my naked arm in its mouth but never prick my skin, and would release if I tickled it under its chin or stroked its head. I introduced many divers to this amazing animal and changed their attitudes to the poor maligned beast. The eel was certainly well able to defend itself and a careless or aggressive diver could get badly bitten. But if treated with respect, it behaved gently. I'm just the same.

So I was fascinated to hear of a place where large freshwater eels were friendly to humans. I set out to meet them and see if I could get some photos. These are very different from Moray and Conger eels but I was going to test my theory that their skins would be silky smooth too.

My opportunity came when I stayed at the enchanting Lissenung Island Dive Resort, not far from Kavieng in New Ireland. I flew from Cairns with my dive model friend Kirtley Leigh, on Air Niugini of course, made a same day connection in Port

Moresby and arrived in Kavieng in time for a star-blessed boat ride to the island.

On the flight, I had the pleasure to chat with a Kavieng businesswoman called "Tiffany", a lovely lady who told me she knew the village where the eels lived and their guardian, Kathy Hiob.

Now it turns out that I knew Kathy Hiob from the very early days of Air Niugini. She was a friend of another Air Niugini flight attendant Pilu Rapila whom I knew well as a mate's girlfriend. Kathy, Pilu and 12 other lovely young ladies were the very first Air Niugini flight attendants when the airline was created from TAA/Ansett in the 1970s. They had trained with Qantas in Sydney. Those were the days! If I boarded an international Air Niugini flight, it was only seconds before I discovered a bottle of fine bubbly in front of me.

Kathy told me that my name was special to them. "BOB", as in "the Best On Board is sitting in seat 7B". Those girls! I still tell people the difference between other international airlines and Air Niugini is that when you get on an Air Niugini aircraft, the crew members are always nice to you.

If you assault an eel by hook or spear and drag it out of its natural environment, yes, it produces slime on its skin as it fights for its life. On occasions, freshwater eels wriggle across land to find a better waterhole and perhaps slime helps them move. But underwater, in their happy element, eels are sublimely smooth. They are wonderful to touch, soft, sleek and, yes, slicker than silk.

Moray eels live in the sea and are armed with truly fearsome teeth, but their personalities are such that they can be readily tamed and become affectionate and rather dopey.

One very large eel that I befriended at Horseshoe Reef near Port Moresby in the

The eels have a fantastic life story - they are born out in the deep ocean, migrate hundreds or even thousands of kilometres inland, live their lives in freshwater streams and lakes and finally, return to the sea to breed - and die.



Leigh with the eels. With her are Gregory (right) and photographer Bob Halstead.

Kathy worked for Air Niugini for many years, became a 'trainer' and eventually retired to her home village at Laribina, on the north coast of New Ireland.

We had to cancel an expedition with Tiffany to meet Kathy because of heavy rain, but Lissenung Island arranged a later trip for us. We cruised from Lissenung to Kavieng and drove 90 minutes along the lush Boluminski Highway, past extravagant village gardens with constant glimpses of the blue sea and fringing coral reef. We even visited a magnificent tree house built on a huge old Calophyllum on the beach.

On arrival, we drove right to the beach where it was joined by a small creek. A small number of village houses sat on a meticulously manicured yard. We were escorted to a large house with a busy kitchen in full swing and there was Kathy - exuberant and glowing, her face topped by a magnificent crop of white hair but eyes sparkling with joy and fun.

I introduced myself and Leigh, then Nozaki and Sandy from Lissenung Island. Great excitement ensued as she realised I was the Bob she knew in the 1970s. It was a wonderful reunion. She introduced her

mother, and her son Gregory who started befriending the eels. As with making friends anywhere, the method involves a meal invitation and Gregory had discovered that the eels liked to eat tinned "Mackerel Chunks In Oil".

Gregory took us to the shallow creek, opened the tins of Mackerel in an aluminium bucket with water and splashed some on the surface. Soon, several eels appeared ranging in size from one metre and more. They are pretty beasts with yellow to brown mottled tops and white bellies and are officially called the Long-finned Eel (*Anguilla reinhardtii*) - a common eel widespread in the tropics and down the east coast of Australia, but not commonly seen.

The eels have a fantastic life story - they are born out in the deep ocean, migrate hundreds or even thousands of kilometres inland, live their lives in freshwater streams and lakes and, finally, return to the sea to breed - and die. Eels that have become landlocked and cannot go back to the ocean can live for a very long time - well over the usual 50 years and grow to two metres or more in length. Their colour changes to mottled grey just before they leave to migrate, spawn and die.

Although the freshwater eel is snake-like and perhaps fearsome in appearance to some, they have no sharp teeth.

As I told Leigh just before she swam with them, "they are completely 'armless'. (No legs either, ha!)". But Leigh is fearless anyway. She was soon in her bathing costume surrounded by eels and I was shooting photographs.

There are about 20 eels in Laribina creek and half of these make an appearance for a feed. Gregory has names for individuals - Solomon, Nerfertiti, Paramatta - the last obvious to footy fans. He says they have different personalities. Some are more adventurous than others. You cannot identify the different sexes but evidently and unusually, sex is determined by environmental factors such as population density and competition, not genetics.

If you stay still, the eels approach closely and even rub against you. They will take food right out of your hand, but not your hand...up to five will come at one time then swim off and return later after they have had a break. And yes, they have the most wonderful skin to touch. Leigh and I found them charming, but others watching shrieked in horror as they came close - or should I say "squealed"? Gregory remarked that Leigh had the "gentle touch" as she was able to befriend the largest eel - the infamous old grey monster known as "Mr Big". "You can now be known as the 'Eel Whisperer'," Gregory remarked, delighting Leigh.

My father, a Londoner, was fond of eating Jellied Eels. The Dutch fancy their eels smoked and the Japanese grilled. But Gregory guards these eels fiercely and would never let them be caught. And that is good. I don't eat reef fish anymore because those fish are my friends. Now I do not eat eels. They are truly the "Real Thing". I'm so pleased we met.



Leigh, Bob Halstead and the eels guardian Kathy Hiob.

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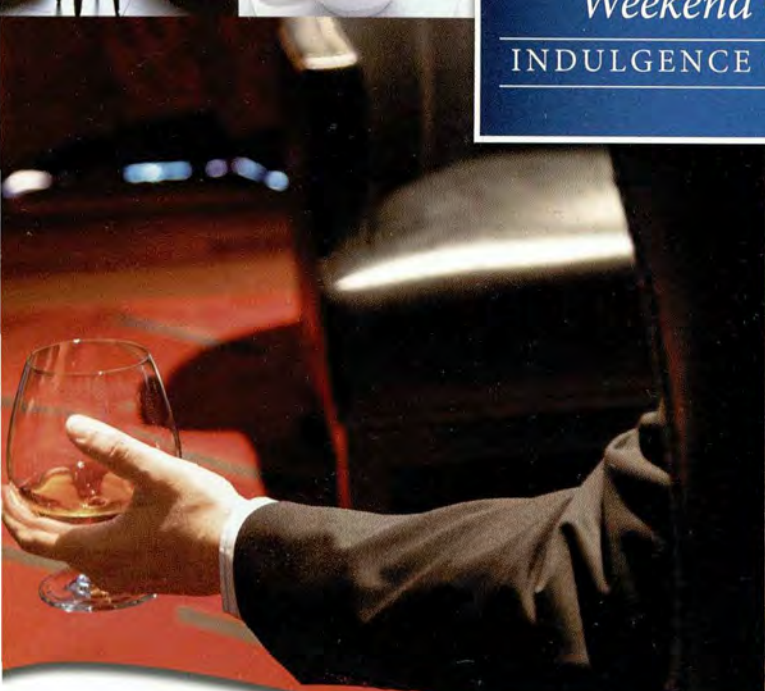
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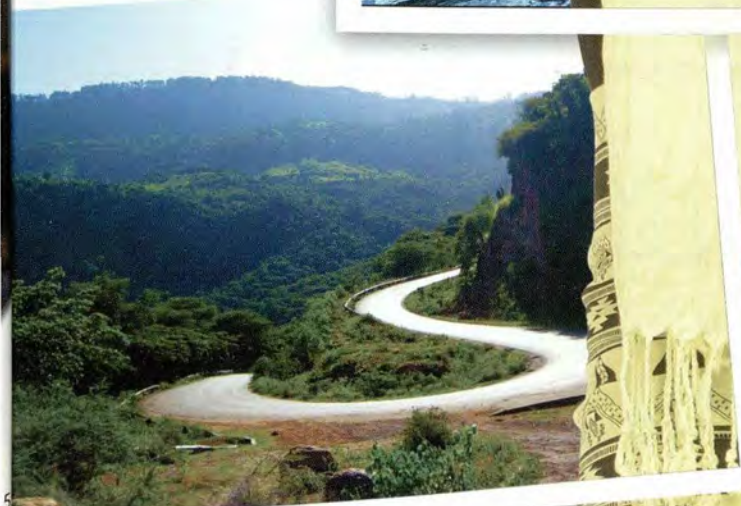
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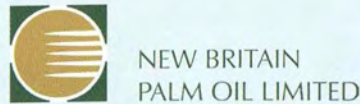
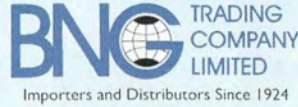


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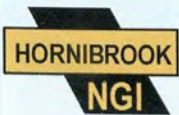
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# SLEEP LIKE A LOCAL IN PNG

By Rob Dunlop

**THE BEST TRAVEL ADVENTURES** invariably involve authentic local experiences and hospitality. And if you can immerse yourself into the local culture via accommodation options, then that's a bonus.

As more and more village guesthouses, homestays and small lodges open up across Papua New Guinea - one of the most remote and culturally diverse places on Earth - exciting local sleepover experiences are becoming easier to find.

Yet, this type of accommodation hasn't always been so easy to find in PNG. While some lodges have been successful in getting the attention of international visitors through websites and listings, other more remote grassroots guesthouses simply don't have the know-how.

But things are changing, thanks to a new service - Village Huts ([www.villagehuts.com](http://www.villagehuts.com)) - which is helping small "operators" to get online and get noticed.

Chris Stevens, director of Village Huts, says the service not only gives travellers access to hundreds of guesthouses and lodges in PNG, but also provides support to local communities through tourism.

"Most of these locally-run guesthouses do not have the budgets or technology available to promote themselves online, so the new service enables them to have online visibility and to reach more travellers," Stevens said.

Each guesthouse is personally inspected and undertakes a quality assurance programme, as well.

Accommodation options are continually expanding. Over the next two years, Village Huts expects to have over 500 listings online - extending to idyllic islands, towns, cities, and, of course, those off-the-beaten tracks, which PNG is perfect for.

Here's a sampling of authentic sleepover experiences that will immerse you in PNG culture.



## MAIRA HOMESTAY

Accessible by boat only, Maira Homestay is on Doy Island in the East New Britain Province. The island region is known for its lush rainforests and mountain ranges, where trekking, caving and climbing are popular.

Maira Homestay is part of a traditional village, close to a beach. Local activities on offer include canoeing, snorkelling and sing-sing. Rooms have electricity, mosquito net, mattress and pillows - you need to bring your own sleeping gear.

General facilities include cold showers, pit toilet, dining room, communal kitchen, laundry services and an open fire. Meal options are available or you can self-cater, but bring your own food as there are no trade stores or shops on the island.

Prices are PGK70.00 per person per night. Meals cost PGK45.00 per person per day, and boat transfers are PGK400.00 return.

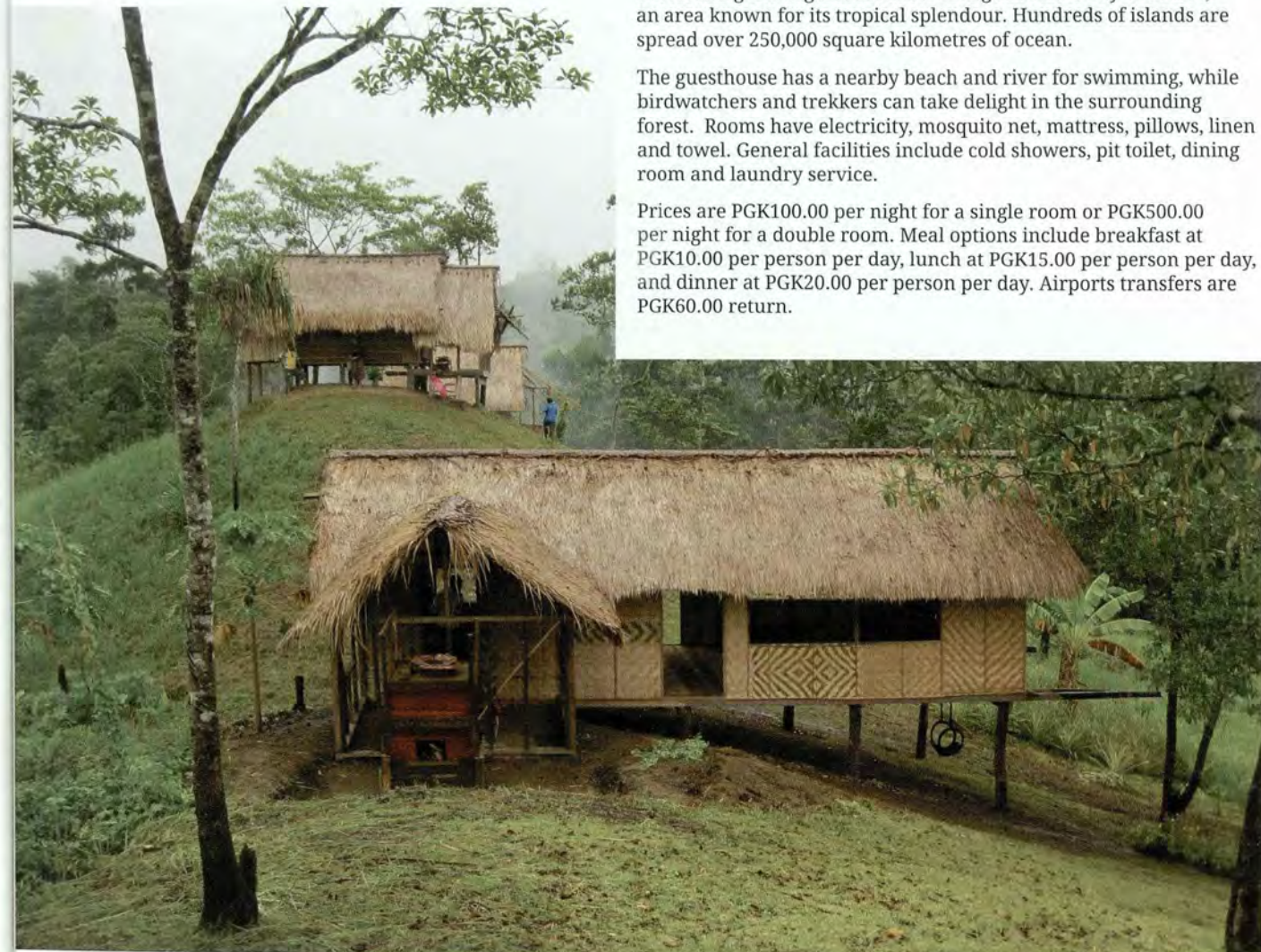


## HILL TOP GUESTHOUSE

The Hill Top Guesthouse in Siasia Village is perched on a hill overlooking the Sagarai mountain range in Milne Bay Province, an area known for its tropical splendour. Hundreds of islands are spread over 250,000 square kilometres of ocean.

The guesthouse has a nearby beach and river for swimming, while birdwatchers and trekkers can take delight in the surrounding forest. Rooms have electricity, mosquito net, mattress, pillows, linen and towel. General facilities include cold showers, pit toilet, dining room and laundry service.

Prices are PGK100.00 per night for a single room or PGK500.00 per night for a double room. Meal options include breakfast at PGK10.00 per person per day, lunch at PGK15.00 per person per day, and dinner at PGK20.00 per person per day. Airports transfers are PGK60.00 return.



## DALOM GUESTHOUSE

Dalom Guesthouse is located on a white sandy bay beside the Dalom River in the New Ireland Province, which boasts endless beaches and surfing.

Guests at Dalom can try surfing, trekking and traditional activities. The small village has about 100 people. Rooms have electricity, mosquito net, mattress and pillows. General facilities include septic toilet, communal kitchen and laundry service. Bathing is in the river.

Prices are PGK80.00 per person per night in a dorm style room, or PGK130.00 for a double room per night. Tent sites cost PGK30.00 per person per night. Meal options include breakfast at PGK25.00 per person per day, lunch at PGK20.00 per person per day, and dinner at PGK35.00 per person per day. Airports transfers are PGK80.00 return.





### BOL GUESTHOUSE

Bol Guesthouse is also located on the beach at Bol village, 115 kilometres from Kavieng, in the New Ireland Province.

The guesthouse has three large beachfront bungalows. Local activities include surfing and cycling, which is popular with visitors along the Boluminski Highway, where the guesthouse is conveniently located. Rooms have electricity, mosquito net, mattress and pillows. General facilities include cold showers, pit toilet, dining room, communal kitchen and an open fire.

Prices are PGK90.00 per person per night for a dorm-style room, PGK120.00 per room per night for a single room, PGK220.00 per room per night for a double room, and PGK200.00 per night for a twin room. Meals are included in the rates.





### NULI SAPI

Nuli Sapi Lodge, located on Logeia Island, is Milne Bay's newest edition to the accommodation scene. And a little bit more upmarket. The four waterside bungalows and lodge were built from local materials by local people. Guests are encouraged to take part in daily village life - clay pot cooking, fishing from canoes and hunting for crabs. Other activities on offer include island hopping, fishing on the outer reefs, bush walking and snorkelling with the manta rays.

Rooms have a queen size bed, bathroom with cold water shower, and a deck overlooking the China Strait. General facilities include a bar, lounge area, restaurant, and a share bathroom with a hot water shower. Room service is available and breakfast is included in the rate. Prices start from PGK262.000 per night.



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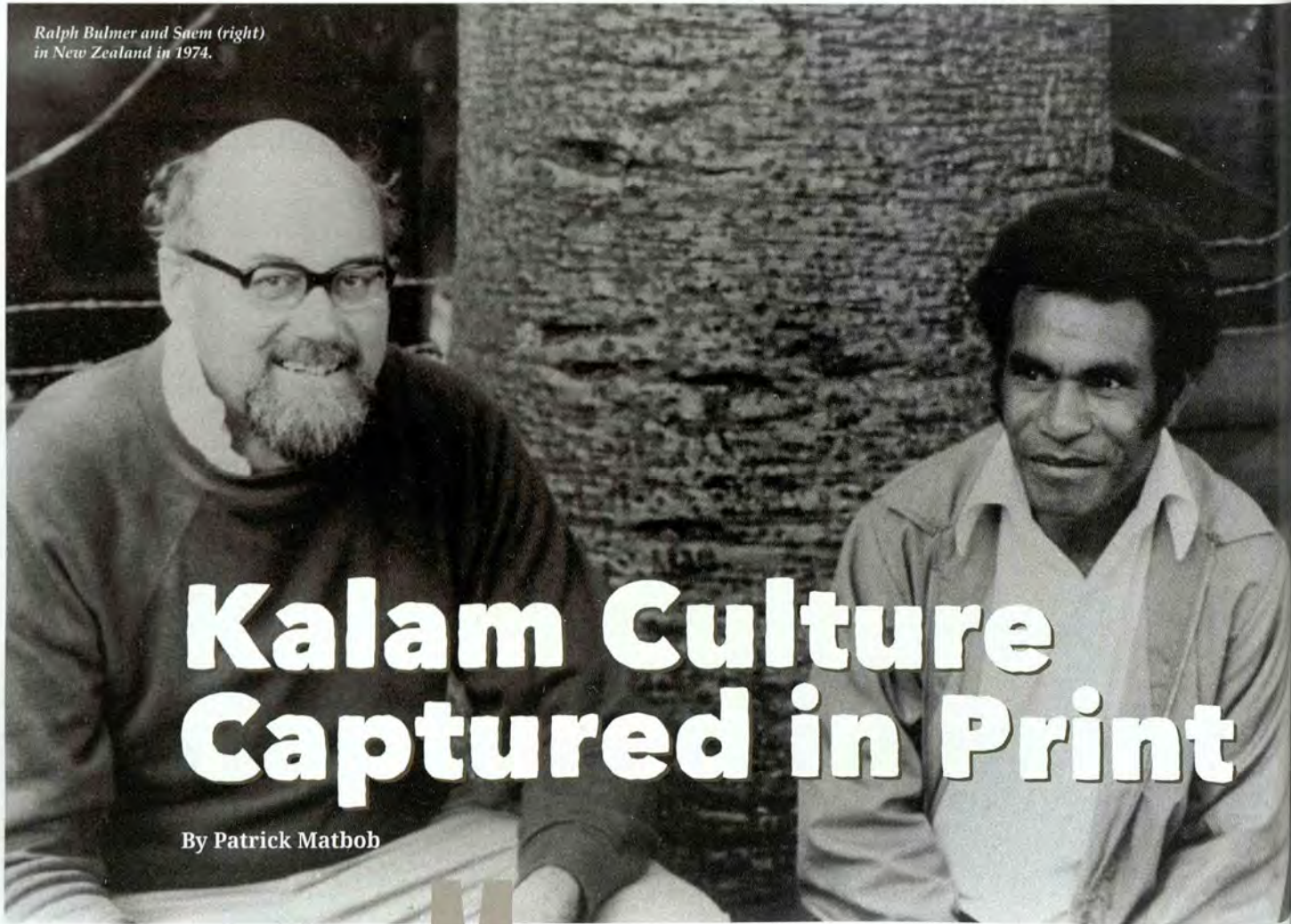
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Ralph Bulmer and Saem (right) in New Zealand in 1974.



# Kalam Culture Captured in Print

By Patrick Matboh



Governor Jim Kas (second from left) with Professor Andrew Pawley (next to Kas) discuss the books.

More than fifty years of collaboration between Western social scientists and a remote community in PNG have borne much fruit today.

The Kalam people of Simbai in the Middle Ramu District of Madang are proud that they have three books published about their birds, the animals their ancestors hunted for food and a dictionary of their language. Most importantly, the publications have secured their traditional knowledge about birds and animals and hunting methods, as well as their language that has changed a lot today.

The three books were officially launched in a colourful ceremony at the Divine Word University in November which was attended by Madang Governor Jim Kas who is a Kalam man, and the Kalam community in Madang town. Unfortunately, the length of time it took to produce the books meant that two of the three key authors and some of the Kalam collaborators had passed on. The ceremony was organised by linguist Andrew Pawley from Australian National University, who worked with the Kalam since 1963 and was the key figure in writing and completing the dictionary.

Work on the books started in 1960 when social anthropologist Ralph Bulmer and linguist Bruce Biggs arrived to live amongst the people in Upper Kaironk Valley in Simbai soon after the area was first opened up by the Australian colonial government.

Amongst those who met the visitors was a quiet young boy of about 11 whose name was Majnep - which meant 'just sweet potatoes'. His family named him so because when he was born, sweet potatoes were all they had to eat. His other name was Saem and when he was baptised at age 26, he took on the name Ian.

When Saem was about four years old, his father died and he was raised by his mother. His mother was an expert hunter and Saem recalls living in various sites in the forest above the valley where his mother hunted for food.

The hard life helped Saem to know the forest and the birds and animals well and to become a skilled hunter at an early age. Little did he know then that his knowledge of the forest and animals was going to make him famous one day.





Ralph Bulmer  
at one of the  
singsings in  
1963.



Saem at the age of 15.

Hun (1978) wrote: “(The book) is not only an account of the native viewpoint but also by a sophisticated native participant. Saem is truly a folk scientist, comparable as an observer to a Darwin or a Wallace”.

Bulmer visited Kaironk valley 14 times in 25 years, staying for a total time of almost three years. In 1963, Andrew Pawley joined Bulmer in his second visit to Kalam because Bruce Biggs could not travel.

When Saem was 15 years old, he joined the team of field assistants that Bulmer used when he went for long walks into the forests to collect and record specimens and asked endless questions about the plants, animals and birds he saw.

In his memoirs years later, Saem recalls his early contact with Bulmer.

“I started helping Ralph in 1963. When he asked [people] questions [about animals and plants], they often had difficulty giving him the information he wanted. Whereas when he asked me, I could give him ready answers and I think when he noticed this, he started to work regularly with me....”

When Bulmer moved to teach at the newly established University of Papua New Guinea in 1968 as the foundation professor

of anthropology and sociology, he arranged for Saem to join the department as a laboratory and field assistant. He worked in various parts of PNG and also learnt from zoologist Jim Menzies of the university’s biology department how to prepare birds, mammals and other animal specimen. In 1977, he returned to Kaironk Valley where got married and began to raise a family.

Bulmer, having published a series of well-received papers about Kalam ethnobiology and cosmology, decided to give more voice to his Kalam assistants. Their first jointly authored project was a little book of Kalam folk tales about birds by Simon Peter Gi, Saem Majnep and Bulmer in 1975. The main project, however, is where Saem actually co-authors the book “*Birds of my Kalam country*”.

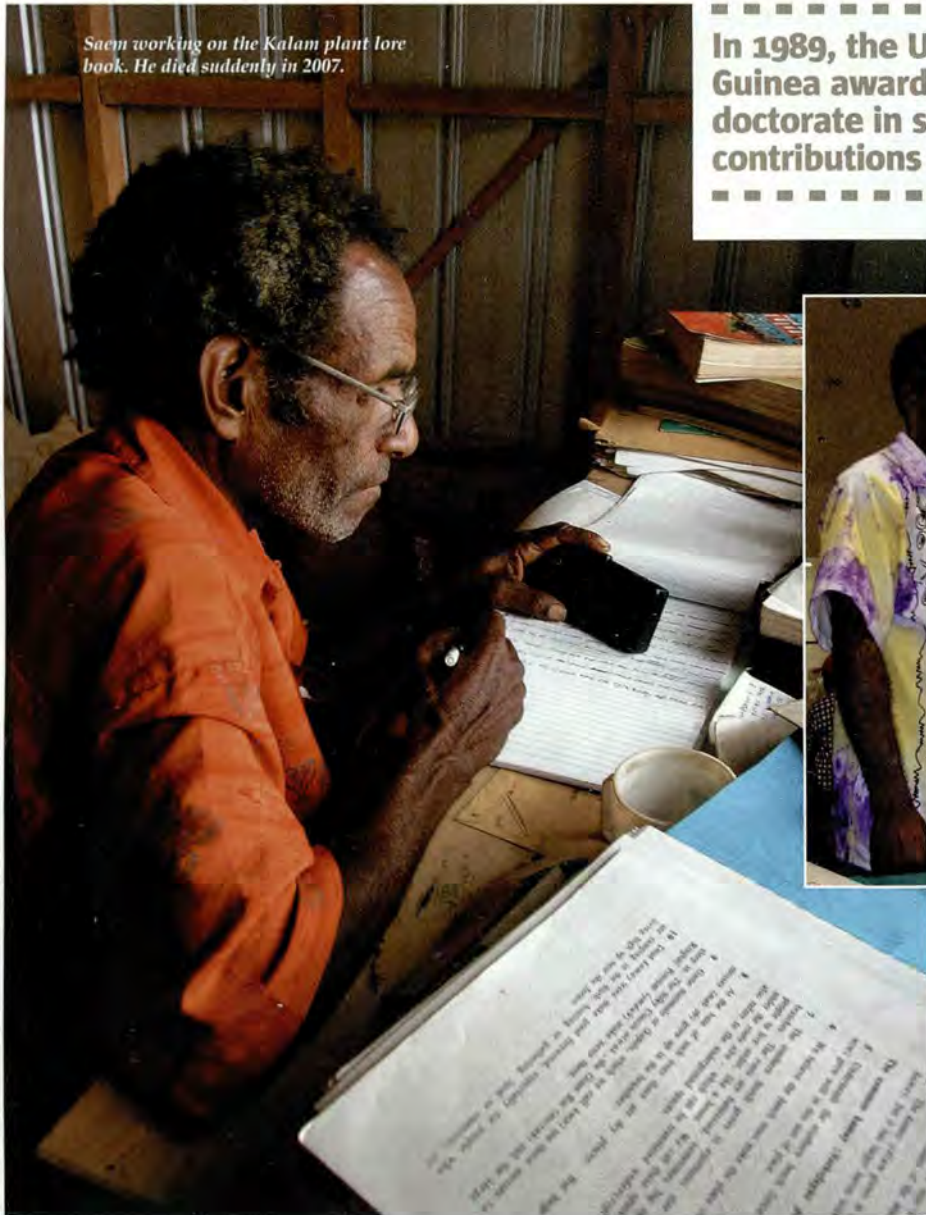
Saem went to Auckland where Bulmer interviewed him in mixture of Tok Pisin, Kalam and English and Saem made lengthy statements about most of the 180 or so bird species found in the Upper Kaironk

plus those found at lower altitudes. Saem’s statements as translated into English by Bulmer form the core of the book. They dealt with appearance, habits and habitats of each bird and class of birds, and their significance to and relations with people.

The first draft of *Birds of my Kalam country* was completed in just over two months. Bulmer added an extensive introductory material and Chris Healey, an Australian anthropologist was asked to draw black and white drawings of some of the birds. Saem commented:

The 200 pages *Birds* book was published by Oxford and Auckland University presses in 1977 and was received with high praise by reviewers. It was cited as one of the two most important books in the literature of ethnobiology. Reviewers were fascinated with the accounts given by Saem which resembled and differed from those of professional ornithologists. Hun (1978) wrote: “(The book) is not only an account of the native viewpoint but also by a sophisticated native participant. Saem is truly a folk scientist, comparable as an observer to a Darwin or a Wallace.”

Saem working on the Kalam plant lore book. He died suddenly in 2007.



In 1989, the University of Papua New Guinea awarded Saem an honorary doctorate in science in recognition of his contributions to ethnobiological research.



Saem and Bulmer's second book *Animals the Ancestors Hunted* was to prove a much stiffer challenge. Saem wanted the book to be about the game mammals that his people hunted. Then Bulmer surprised Saem by saying: "This time I want you to write the book by yourself, in Kalam". With some misgivings, he set out in 1976 to work on the book that was to become *Animals the Ancestors Hunted*: an account of the wild mammals of the Kalam area, Papua New Guinea.

"The Animals book was much more difficult to write than the Birds book. It was partly because Ralph did not know so much about kapuls as he knew about birds and about studying the lives of humans..."

"Transcribing the tapes, putting the words down on paper, was hard going. I had never done this kind of job before - writing in my own language...But eventually, I would come up with something".

Linguist Pawley said the translation was often an agonising task because Kalam concepts and ways of talking about events and situations have no one-to-one match with those of English.

Compromises have to be made, with accuracy of meaning usually the victim. The Animals book contains a moving dedication to Saem's mother as a nurturer: For my mother, who with such fortitude carried me when I slept under the trees and in the rock-shelters and under the leaking roofs of desolate houses, so that I survived and grew, I have not forgotten her.

In 1986, Bulmer began to prepare a bilingual edition for publication by the Department of Anthropology as a series of volumes or 'working papers', under the series title *Kalam Hunting Traditions* (KHT).

Fate would strike the cruelest of blows when in the middle of their work Bulmer

was diagnosed with lung cancer in January 1988. He died in July that year.

Before his death, he requested Pawley to complete the bilingual working papers.

In 1989, the University of Papua New Guinea awarded Saem an honorary doctorate in science in recognition of his contributions to ethnobiological research.

In 1997, Robin Hide and Pawley began the task of reworking the KHT materials into an English-language book of the sort that Bulmer had envisaged. It took several years to complete the task and the *Animals the Ancestors Hunted* went to the publisher in 2003. However, it was not published until January 2007. Like its predecessor, it received glowing reviews.

Saem also started a book on Kalam plant lore that is still unfinished. After Bulmer's death, Saem continued to work on the plants project in collaboration with others - mainly Rhys Gardner, a botanist from Auckland, and Pawley.

Saem had completed 90 percent of a first draft of the Kalam text for the Kalam plant lore when he died suddenly in September 2007. Pawley says the tasks of translating and editing this material for a volume comparable to the Animals book will take some years of work.

• Condensed from a paper by Professor Andrew Pawley, Australian National University.

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# BRINGING THE STORY OF KOKODA TO A NEW AUDIENCE

By David Howell

**DO YOU REMEMBER** the age of comics, the days before computer games and science-fiction television shows took kids away from playing back-yard cricket and running under the sprinkler to keep cool in summer?

These days kids seem more at home locked up inside an air-conditioned room staring into the abyss of a flat screen LCD.

Now imagine a new generation of teens experiencing the excitement of receiving a comic in the mail or for their birthday, imagine the anticipation as they tear open the wrapper, eager to discover what excitement and adventure is inside, imagine kids getting enthusiastic about reading!

Also imagine that instead of your classic fictional comic with lines like 'Quick their goes Jerry RAATTTTAAATATAT', the new age of comic is a factual graphic novel, still packed with all the same drama, action and suspense, but also packed full of real life characters in real life situations dealing with actual events.

Beach True Comics was the brainchild of Squadron Leader Hugh Dolan. Hugh is passionate about history and wants to inspire the next generation to be as enthusiastic as he is about history.

He wrote the best-selling non-fiction account of the ANZAC landing - "*36 Days: The untold story behind the ANZAC Landings, 25 April 1915*" (Pan Macmillan 2010). Hugh stumbled on to the role of spy whilst conducting research for his PhD at the UNSW.

He then expanded his research, finding that ANZAC headquarters had access to a wealth of information on the strength of Turkish defences. They used this military intelligence to plan a silent night-time assault on their designated landing beach - Z Beach. ANZAC Cove is in the centre of beach.

Hugh also used his research for the History Channel documentary 'Gallipoli from Above', a 60-minute documentary on ANZAC headquarters' use of aircraft in their amphibious assault on Z-Beach at Gallipoli.

Turning his attention to traditional comic format, Hugh developed Z-Beach True Comics, a comic book series dedicated to telling factual stories to a new audience including teenagers.

The first issue in the Z-Beach True Comic Series was '*Gallipoli: The Landing*', which followed on from Hugh's book and documentary.

The second issue in the series is much closer to home - Papua New Guinea and the Kokoda Campaign. For this edition, Hugh teamed up with trek leader David Howell from Kokoda Historical to write '*Kokoda - That Bloody Track*'.

Howell is no stranger to PNG or to the history of the Kokoda and Northern Beachheads Campaign.



Beach True Comics...brainchild of Hugh Dolan.



Following the Japanese invasion of Papua, he was made a scout with the 39th Infantry Battalion, the first Australian unit to oppose Japanese forces in Papua.

Sanopa single-handedly helped a platoon of Aussie Diggers escape from the Japanese. Howell is friends with 39th Battalion's Veteran Ted Stuart who was among the party that Sanopa led to safety.

Stuart has never forgotten Sanopa's brave action that saved his life.

The story of Sam Templeton is also a passion of Howell's and he explores the question of what happened to 'Uncle Sam'. Uncle Sam disappeared during the early part of the campaign and his body was never found.

Later, the Australian Army received Japanese Intelligence Reports which stated that the Japanese had captured and interrogated an Australian Captain taken prisoner near Kokoda.

There is no doubt this was indeed Uncle Sam. The reports would also reveal that Captain Templeton gave the Japanese false information pertaining to the numbers of Australians the Japanese were up against.

This made the Japanese second guess the situation for a time which in turn bought the Australians some more time in order to re-group and reinforce.

The 'Kokoda: That Bloody Track' comic is a thrilling read and is now available in newsagents and bookstores. It is also available for purchase online through [theeducationshop.com.au](http://theeducationshop.com.au).

Howell can be contacted via email at [david@kokodahistorical.com](mailto:david@kokodahistorical.com) or via his website [www.kokodahistorical.com.au](http://www.kokodahistorical.com.au)

After fostering a keen interest in the subject while volunteering as a guide at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway in Concord, NSW, Howell walked the track and met his wantok Kila Jons.

That was in 2004 and a year later, he returned with a group of veterans on a pilgrimage and rekindled his friendship with Kila.

The two of them formed a trekking company called Kokoda Historical and since then Howell and Kila have been taking hundreds of Australians over the Kokoda Track and to the Northern Beachheads of Gona, Buna and Sanananda.

Every year Kokoda Historical takes the winners of the 39th Infantry Battalion Association's Harold Bould Competition, an essay competition open to school students, on their trek in memorial of Harold Bould.

Howell's sense of adventure, which is driven by his love of history, led him to meet Hugh at a presentation on Gallipoli at the Shrine of Remembrance, the National War Memorial of Victoria. Now Howell and Hugh have teamed up to introduce Australia's wartime history to a new audience.

'Kokoda: That Bloody Track' is a factual 'comic' telling the story of Kokoda through graphic art with a historically accurate narrative based on veterans' accounts. This campaign is placed within the wider context of the Second World War.

Eyewitness accounts and original diaries are included to add a personal perspective. Details inside the comic include conversations, actions and events witnessed by the soldiers.

For example, a ginger cat appears in the story, befriended by Doctor Vernon, at Kokoda Plateau. A hymn is sung gently to a dying brother evoking a sense of individual sacrifice and suffering.

With dignity Hugh and Howell have included the Japanese perspective; they also suffered in this titanic struggle over the most beautiful and inhospitable terrain imaginable.

Where possible, included are the languages spoken along the track: English, Japanese, Pidjin and Motu. The Motu was supplied by Soc Kienzle, son of the famous Bert Kienzle.

One of the true heroes of the comic is a Papuan - Lance Corporal Sanopa - who was a member of the Royal Papuan Constabulary (RPC).



David Howell...teaming up with Dolan to introduce Australia's wartime history to a new audience.



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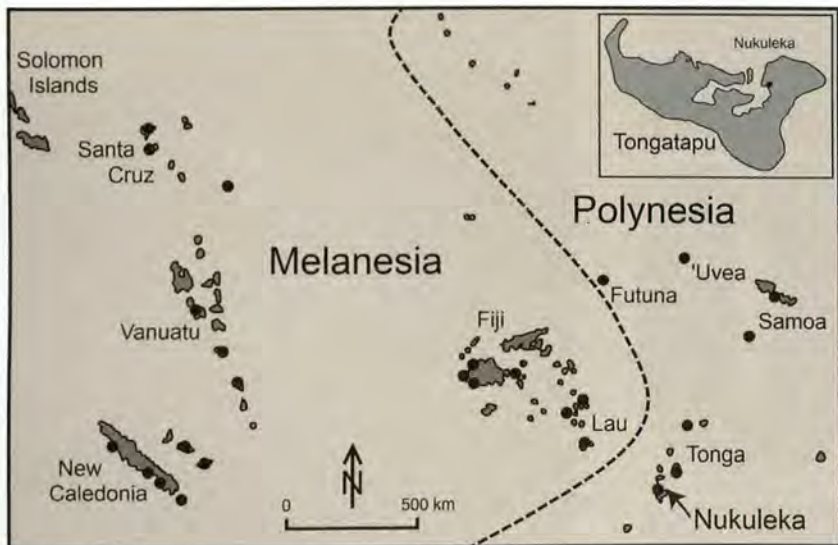
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# NEW LIGHT ON POLYNESIAN SETTLEMENT



By Davendra Sharma



Historians and archaeologists would choose to differ but a new Australian finding in Tonga has exposed that parts of Polynesia were the last place on earth to be inhabited - around 2838 years ago.

Pointing to a whole new chapter in Pacific islands' history, the latest findings are based on the most accurate detection method used by respected international archaeologists.

It sheds a new light on settlement in Polynesia - a triangular region which stretches from Hawaii, New Zealand, Easter Island, Fiji to Tonga and encompasses Samoa.

Settlement by the famous Lapita people - named after a distinct group of pottery creators - were detected by a precise method through discoveries of coral tools in Nukuleka, north-east of Tongatapu.

The village of Nukuleka was previously labelled 'Cradle of Polynesia' by Canadian archaeologists because of links it provides to the Polynesian past.

"We've been able to date the founding population of Polynesia to within a very narrow window of 16 years," says archaeologist Professor Marshall Weisler, of the University of Queensland, in a report published in PLoS ONE.

In a previous research based on radiocarbon findings focusing on Lapita descendants, Tonga was speculated to have been settled nearly 3000 years back. But the new Australian-led research focusing on the coral findings, using a method known as uranium/thorium dating, often used to study long-term changes in climate, proves that Polynesia must have been settled later than assumed.

Their research method - which Weisler describes as "very, very much more precise" - relies on the decayed products of uranium to calculate the age of the coral.

In their research excavations at Nukuleka, principal author David Burley of Simon Fraser University in Canada found some fingers of acropora coral, which theorists believe the Lapita ancestors used as files and rasps.

"They'd break living coral fingers off the reef and use these for abrading shell and wood for shaping and forming these raw materials into various tools and artefacts," Weisler noted.

The remarkable and authoritative research was funded by the Australian Research Council and backed by the University of Queensland's Professor Jian-xin Zhao from the Radiogenic Isotope Facility.

It suggests that the Lapita people arrived within a 16-year window between 2830 and 2846 years ago, contradicting previous theories. In 2004, discoveries of Lapita potteries in various Polynesian countries including Yadua in Fiji seem to confirm that Polynesian arrivals were dated back 3000 years ago.

That research compiled by the Suva-based University of South Pacific claimed that Fiji's Natadola Beach in Sigatoka was arguably the first place to be inhabited in Fiji.

The USP researchers then noted that the findings of Lapita pottery techniques - known as dentate stamping whereby lines are made from a series of small regular space dots - prove that the Polynesians quickly spread through the islands countries spread over a mass of over 4000 kilometres.





“This is a great opportunity to date the speed of Lapita colonisation which is the broadest migration of people anywhere in the world - across the widest expanse of ocean over the fastest period of time ever in human history.”

Researchers have over the last decade found more than 100 such archaeological Lapita sites in the vast Polynesian region from New Guinea to Western Polynesia.

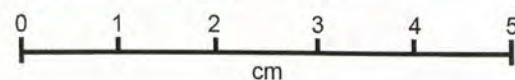
The Lapita art is attributed to a time-consuming technique to make such intricately-created pottery - used by the original Polynesian descendants, believed to be the source of what is modern-day Polynesia from New Zealand, Hawaii, Tonga, Samoa and Fiji.

With the new findings, the Australian researchers conclude that the ethnic Polynesians embarked on a speedy colonisation throughout the Pacific islands.

Weisler noted that the research “lays the way for more precise dating of human colonisation of the Pacific.

“This is a great opportunity to date the speed of Lapita colonisation which is the broadest migration of people anywhere in the world - across the widest expanse of ocean over the fastest period of time ever in human history.”

The study espouses that the pottery was the work of the Lapita people, a long-lost race that originated near modern-day Taiwan, then migrated to what is today’s Polynesian group of islands.





### PRECISE DATE

To ensure clarity and accuracy in their study, the researchers developed a special protocol that involved washing their coral findings with hydrogen peroxide and then only selecting the purist samples.

Weisler argues that his group took special consideration in cleaning the coral before testing them - knowing that pores of coral lying in the land mass for 3000 years could have been contaminated by dirt.

"When we cut off a centimetre-long sample, we'd crush it and process it and look at it under high magnification. We only pick out those very small pieces that were pristine, that hadn't been affected by any erosion processes," Weisler asserted.

In 2011, another specialist team of Pacific islands archaeologists established that Lapita culture developed on islands off the east coast of Papua New Guinea around 3500 years ago, and then 300 years later, the Lapita people headed east to become the first humans to settle the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji, migrating later to Samoa and Tonga.

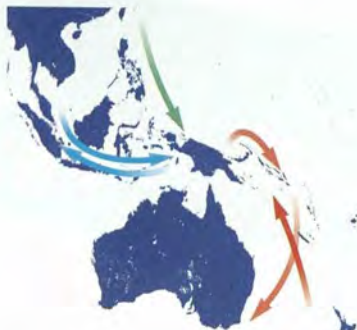


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It was beyond everyone's imagination as to how crafty Polynesians migrated over the vast Pacific islands region - said to be a third of the world's mass - in just about 1000 years.

### POLYNESIAN ROOTS FROM TAIWAN

Questions have been asked previously as to how skilful were the original Polynesians - were they just smart traders or outstanding seafarers as well to have migrated to so many islands in the region without much sailing means?

Earlier, Norwegian Thor Heyerdahl tried to depict in his Kontiki expedition that ancient Polynesians could have emanated from South America on balsa rafts.

His sensational book and a great film epic seemed to have convinced the world that Polynesians actually originated from South America. But new findings since the Kontiki days have linked this group of Pacific islanders to Taiwan.

It was beyond everyone's imagination as to how crafty Polynesians migrated over the vast Pacific islands region - said to be a third of the world's mass - in just about 1000 years.

Without nautical and conclusive scientific evidence, the Kontiki theory was replaced later with European research pointing out that Polynesians originated from Asia.



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Cars are in the headlines for all sorts of reasons. The fastest, the most efficient, the most glamorous or the most outrageous, let's face it, cars get our attention. We have scanned the news columns and found some head turners from around the world. Fancy one of these in your garage?

Compiled by Roderick Eime



## On the smell of an oily rag

You can bet you won't see this car for sale anywhere in the Middle East. With a combined fuel consumption rating of 261 mpg, the XL1 from Volkswagen is the most fuel-efficient production car in the world. Thanks to its plug-in hybrid system, this two-seat vehicle can also cover up to 32 miles with zero-emissions when running in all-electric mode.

The 1-litre XL1 uses aerodynamic efficiency and a plug-in hybrid system consisting of a 47-hp two-cylinder TDI® engine, a 27-hp electric motor, a seven-speed DSG® dual-clutch automatic transmission and a lithium-ion battery to achieve these astounding economy figures.

And this German marvel does not look like some orphaned concept either. It is built on pure sports car theory and with a drag co-efficient (Cd) of just 0.19, it is the most 'slippery' car ever built and will look every bit the modern sports car as it cruises to a top speed of just under 100mph.

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Over 820,000 Porsche 911s have been built, making it the most successful sports car in the world. For each of its seven generations, the engineers in Zuffenhausen and Weissach have reinvented it, time and time again demonstrating to the world the innovative power of the Porsche brand.

Like no other vehicle, the 911 reconciles apparent contradictions such as sportiness and everyday practicality, tradition and innovation, exclusivity and social acceptance, design and functionality. It is no wonder that each generation has written its own personal success story.

Ferry Porsche best described its unique qualities: "The 911 is the only car you could drive on an African safari or at Le Mans, to the theatre or through New York City traffic."

In addition to its classic lines, the Porsche 911 has always been distinguished by its advanced technology. Many of the ideas and technologies that made their debut in the Porsche 911 were conceived on the race track.

The 911 was committed to the performance principle from the start, and motor racing is its most important test lab. From the very beginning it has been at home on circuits all over the world, earning a reputation as a versatile and dependable winner. Indeed, a good two thirds of Porsche's 30,000 race victories to-date were notched up by the 911.

You'd be proud, Dr Porsche.



## Bend it Like Benz

The formerly restricted V8 Supercar formula in Australia will see Nissan and Mercedes Benz join the 5-litre grid at tracks around Australia and overseas this year.

The latest unveiling, the Erebus Motorsport Mercedes-Benz E63 AMG, is an astonishing race car sure to shake up the Holden and Ford fans so long the stalwart makes behind this saloon car class. The cars are powered by a specially engineered 5.0 litre version of the Mercedes-Benz M159 engine seen in the company's SLS GT3 race cars.

The team is already in fine form after winning February's lower specification Bathurst 12-hour endurance race in their Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3, seeing off challenges from Jaguar, Audi, Ferrari and Porsche.



*Erebus Motorsport unveiled their brand-new Mercedes-Benz E63 AMGs at a launch event in Sydney Olympic Park.*



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By Lauren Hill



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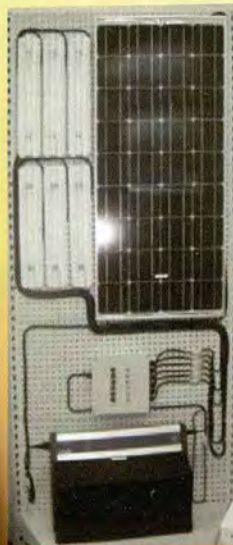


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# Solar World

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The main draw for many people visiting Savour is the opportunity to partake in a number of activities from tastings to demos and master-classes. This year, over 300 different activities have been scheduled for the event.

The space's Gourmet Village is an outdoor area in which you'll have the opportunity to try your choice of the 60 signature dishes presented by 18 different award-winning restaurants. Dishes from around the world will be featured to give you an international culinary tour of taste.

The Gourmet Market is a two-storey venue where visitors can take part in the activities and tastings, as well as sample the products by each exhibitor. To make it easier to find your way around the event, each area will be categorised by a specific theme – with wine and baking among them.

For the celebrity master-classes, make your way to the Gourmet Auditorium. In this 300-seated arena, among the impressive list of well-known chefs, you can watch Michelin star chefs Jason Atherton of Pollen Street Social in London and Alvin Leung of Bo Innovation in Hong Kong, Chef Emilio Macias of Astrid Y Gaston in Peru - #35 in the 'World's Top 100' restaurants and Chef Andre Chiang of Restaurant Andre in Singapore - #68 in the 'World's Top 100.'



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With so much on offer, it's hard to know where to even begin. With this in mind, the organisers have come up with itineraries that give your day a particular theme. One itinerary that could prove to be popular is the Italian journey.

This itinerary would take you to specific restaurants in the Gourmet Village, guide you to the right master-classes, give advice on which products to buy in the Gourmet Market and in this case, finish with a Moscato in one of the wine bars.

Nevertheless, those who enjoy the freedom to explore, can do so at their free will. With any extra time, the Savour-one-hour must-dos, lists ideas for any experiences that you might have missed.

Among the festival experiences is the opportunity to take part in wine tasting at the Wine Theatre.

As well as traditional wine tasting, expert Mike Back of Equatorial Wines, will be teaching his participants how to blend wine to find out what their base palate is and to discover the blend of wine they like the most.

'Beer-tastic' will appeal to connoisseurs of artisan beers, while others might prefer 'everything you need to know about cognac,' whisky tasting or wine and cheese pairing.

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At the Gourmet Market, you can make the most of the cheese tastings that include more advanced classes for those who want to learn about the texture and taste of cheese and how this changes throughout each season.

By joining the live demos and baking workshops, visitors can learn how to make pizza with the perfect crust, how to bake bread with Dean Brettschneider of Baker and Cook, as well as 'pies to impress' with the Gourmet Pie Company - while the classes 'Get Crackin Breakfast,' '10 carb lunches' and 'leftover lunches' might be what you need for fresh ideas in the kitchen at home.

This year, there will be the addition of some quirkier workshops, including how to make your cake resemble a life-size high-heel or Chanel handbag, DIY Sodas with Sodastream and Thai Fruit Carving with At Sunrice Academy.

Instead of keeping the kids in tow, you can let them participate in some activities themselves at the Kid's Corner by Nickelodeon. Or together, you can take part in 'Cooking with your Kids' by chef Jean Charles and decorate garden-themed cupcakes with Cake Over Heels.



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For aspiring food photographers, there will be a food photography 101 class by Samsung. This will cover the basics of lighting and styling food for your own foodie photo shoot at home.

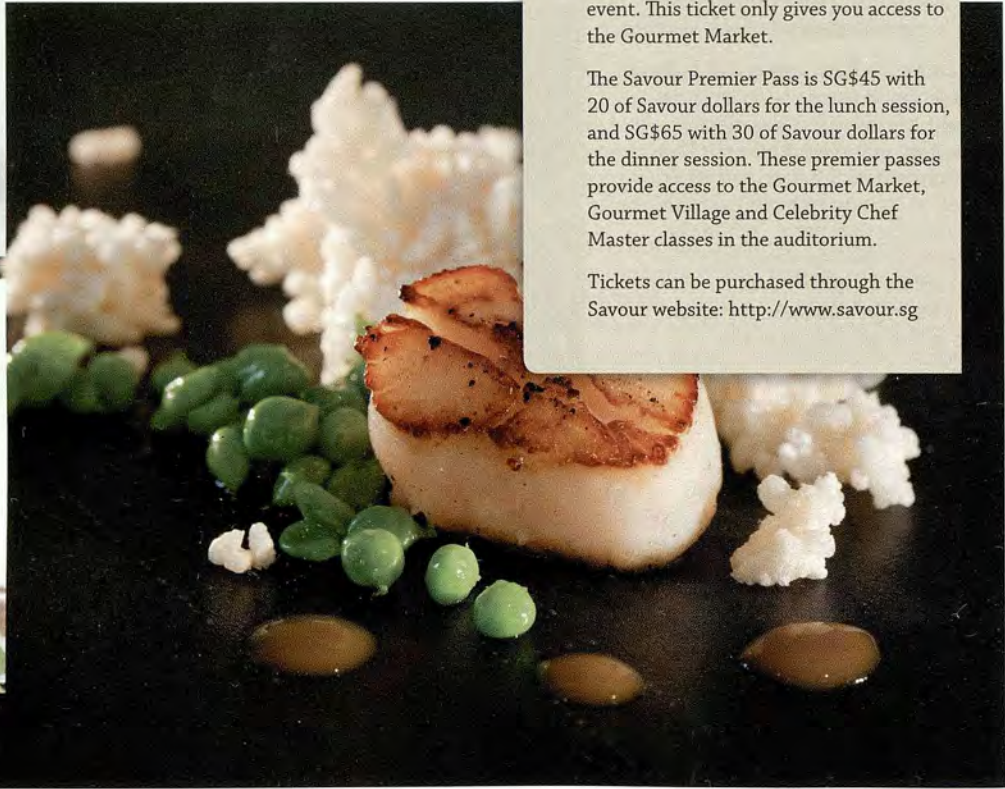


## SAVOUR PASSES

A Savour pass is SG\$35 and comes with 20 of Savour dollars to spend at the event. This ticket only gives you access to the Gourmet Market.

The Savour Premier Pass is SG\$45 with 20 of Savour dollars for the lunch session, and SG\$65 with 30 of Savour dollars for the dinner session. These premier passes provide access to the Gourmet Market, Gourmet Village and Celebrity Chef Master classes in the auditorium.

Tickets can be purchased through the Savour website: <http://www.savour.sg>

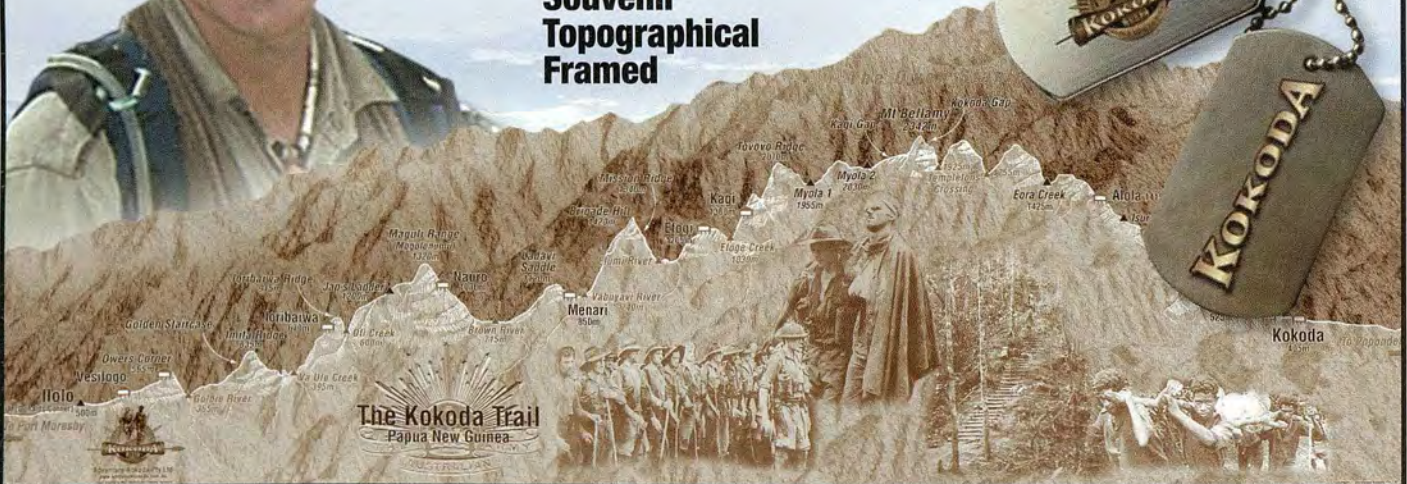
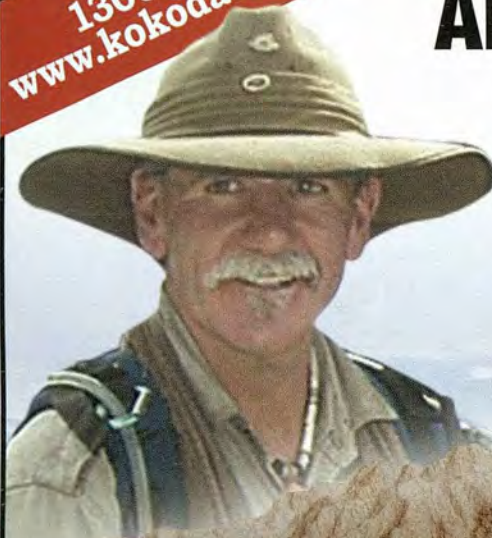


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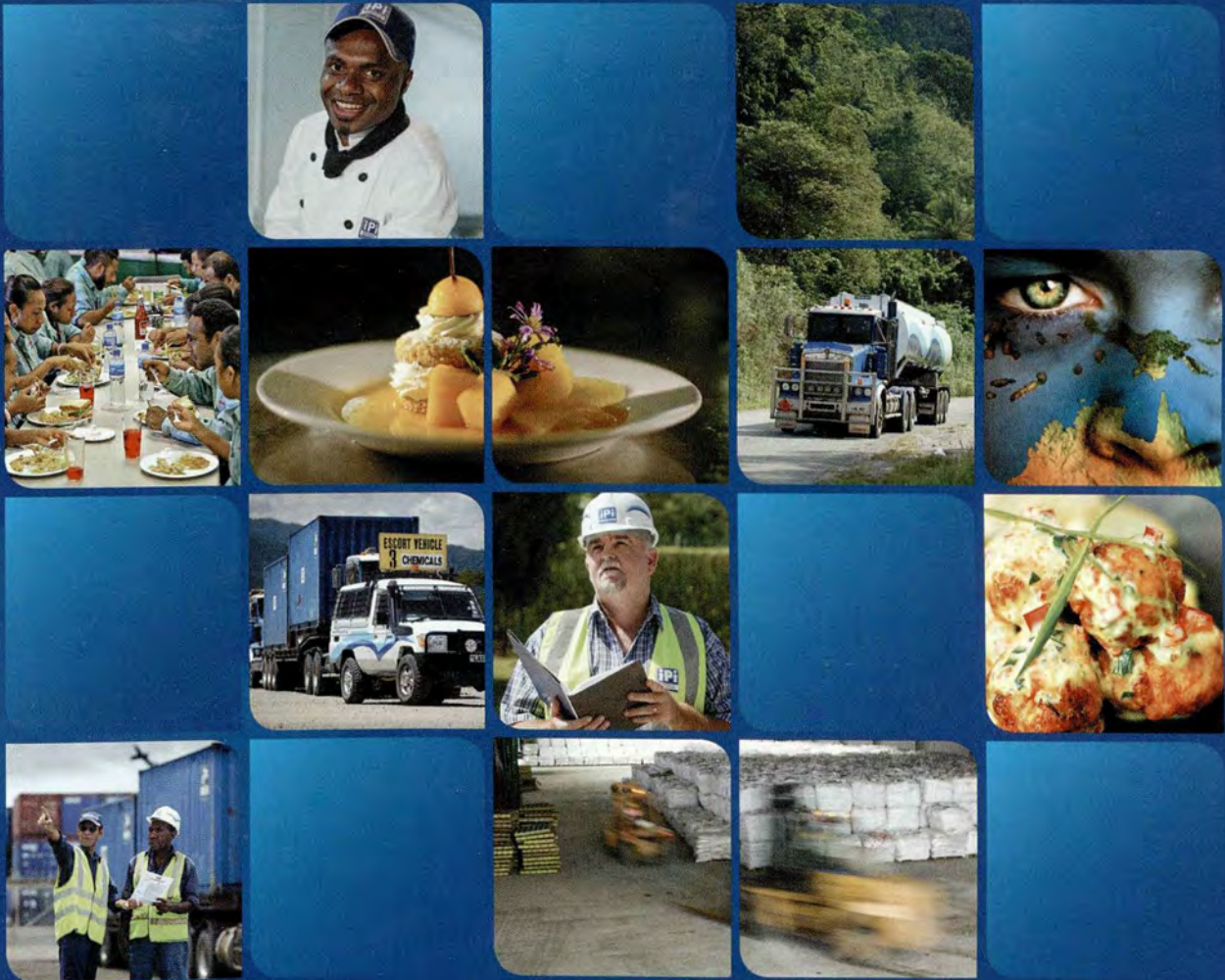
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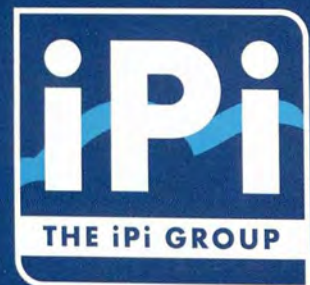
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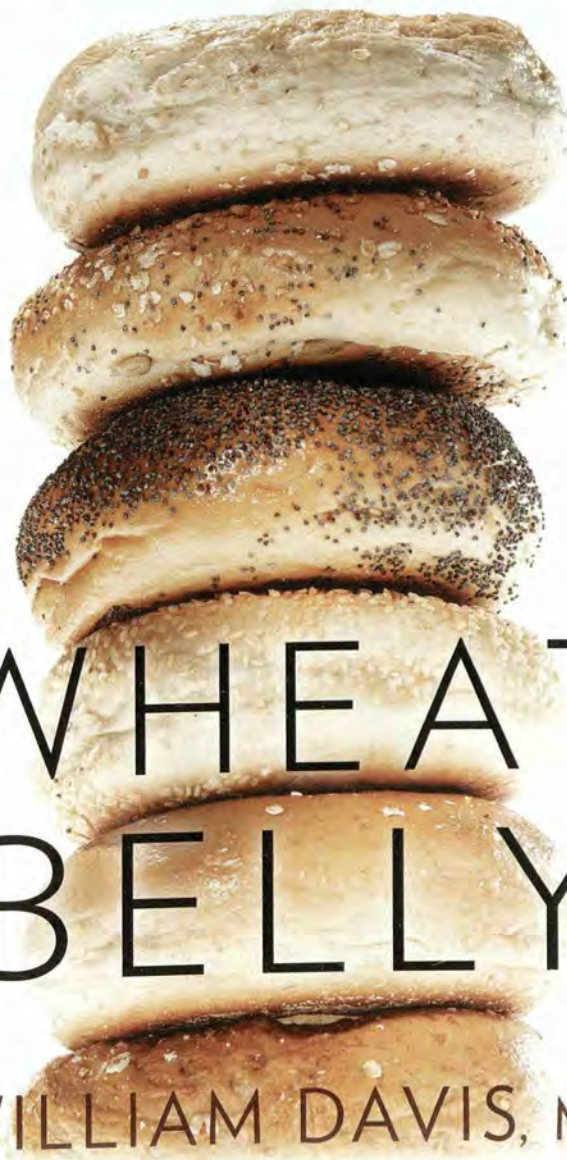
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# RENAISSANCE IN CULTURAL DINING

By Lance Seeto

LOSE THE WHEAT, LOSE THE WEIGHT,  
AND FIND YOUR PATH BACK TO HEALTH



# WHEAT BELLY

WILLIAM DAVIS, MD

*American cardiologist William Davis has caused a storm in dining by recommending the removal of wheat from the modern diet.*

Wherever Western civilisation's processed and genetically engineered food becomes ingrained in a developing nation's psyche and diet, its people get fatter and sick.

Before the arrival of cheap, imported processed foods, the native civilisations of Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the South Pacific enjoyed a primal diet of wild sea life, tubular roots, leafy green vegetables, herbal plants and raw fruit.

The people lived a long life without visual aids, a full set of teeth and little signs of the non-communicable diseases that have engulfed the planet in the past decades.

Unlike most Western culture's disconnect to the more healthy primal diet of their ancestors, the cultural diet of this region has been preserved and is primed to provide answers and forgotten flavours to an ignorant modern world.

Modern medicine and governments have few answers for the increase in NCDs, but global studies are beginning to unravel a more obvious cause that touches every person on the planet, every day. And there is not just one complex reason, but three simple ones; breakfast, lunch and dinner.

In the twenty first century, it is not only the three-digit artificial chemicals that we need to look out for, but also the hidden and more insidious manipulation of the grains and oils that dominate the modern diet.

The increase in genetic modification (GM) of corn, wheat and soy has seen a corresponding increase in diabetes, cancers, obesity and heart disease. The molecules in synthetic vegetable oils like canola wreak havoc on our bodies by binding to and suffocating the cells, starving them of oxygen and increasing the likelihood of becoming cancerous.

In his 2011 best selling book *Wheat Belly*, renowned New York cardiologist, Dr William Davis concludes that modified wheat, the wheat mainly eaten across the entire planet every day including Australia, PNG and the South Pacific, has become an addictive food that is the "root of all evil".

According to Davis, it is not the excess fat, gluttony, sloth, or too much butter that is the cause of NCDs; it is the whole grain cereals, wraps and bread we eat.

After witnessing over 2,000 patients regain their health after giving up wheat, Davis reaches the disturbing conclusion that wheat is the single largest contributor to the global NCD epidemic and its elimination is key to dramatic weight loss and improved health.

Modern wheat contains amylopectin starch that is super fattening. It contains a form of synthetic gluten that is super-inflammatory. And GM wheat contains gliadin proteins that bind to the opium receptors like a heroin addiction and makes you crave wheat and eat more food.

After witnessing over 2,000 patients regain their health after giving up wheat, Davis reaches the disturbing conclusion that wheat is the single largest contributor to the global NCD epidemic and its elimination is key to dramatic weight loss and improved health.

Bread and flour have become so ingrained in the modern diet that eliminating them from a Western diet is a Neolithic feat of willpower and self-determination like breaking any drug habit. From morning to night, we eat cereals, bread, cakes, pasta, pizza, pies and an endless list of delicious foods based on flour.



Clear herbal soups have had a renaissance due to their ability to awaken the senses and reinvigorate.

No longer valid? The food pyramid needs a re-think as we have changed the genetic structure of the base grains.





What is there left to eat? The answers lie in the traditional foods of the ancient civilisations still alive today. Herbal broths, coconut milk and oil, wild seafood, raw fruits and green vegetables are the super foods of the past. With not a stick of butter, cream, eggs, processed oils or flour to be found, the recipes of the past provide inspiration to create more healthy and naturally tasting foods for the future.

How ironic that despite all of Western civilisation's modern advancement in technology, medicines and processed cheap foods, it is the diet of the pre-modernised cultures that hold the key to reducing non-communicable diseases.

*Coconut poached fish, citrus foam and raw vegetables is inspired from the past.*





Across the globe, nutrition chefs, naturopaths and alternative health practitioners have turned to the past to find ancient foods, flavours and techniques that are leading a renaissance in adopting the age-old ancient Greek and Chinese philosophies of eating food as medicine.

The organic plant and lean protein diet of the native Austronesians who populated South East Asia, Australia, PNG, the South Pacific and Hawaii now hold the key to reversing the diseases of affluence introduced by Western civilisation.

In the process of embracing the past, we might also discover flavours that will awaken both our gustatory sensors and our common sense.



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• Lance Seeto is an award-winning international food writer, author, television presenter and chef born in Rabaul and now living in Fiji. Follow his culinary adventures on his Facebook page "Fijian Food Safari".



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# THE SECRET LIFE OF A GONDOLIER

Romantic hopefuls from around the world arrive in Venice to drool over its icons. So much has been painted, photographed and filmed that it is difficult for many to journey beyond the romantic representations.

By Rob Dunlop

When I arrived in Venice, I did so with a mission in mind: I wanted to keep some balance - to keep it real.

The 'magic' usually begins (and sometimes ends) with a gondola ride, so that's where I start.

I head down to Servizio Gondole, beside St Mark's Square, one of the many points along the Grand Canal where the gondoliers wait to ply their trade. Approaching a couple of lads in striped shirts, and without uttering a word, it takes only moments for the multi-lingual gondolier to work out what language I speak - English. The eldest introduces himself as Amaro.

I ask Amaro how he became a gondolier. He says that he is in the early stages of a long apprenticeship and estimates that in 10 years' time he may have a real license (along with a very big debt - well over €100,000).

And whenever possible, he'll steal time from the masters, spending at least two years perfecting the art of rowing.



He'll then be subjected to a series of exams, which will test his precise rowing techniques. Many students fail when they brush up against other vessels on the busy canals.

He'll also need to demonstrate multi-lingual capabilities - which I've already scored him for.

Then, there are the cultural studies: he must be able to impart knowledge of Venice's history and its monuments when quizzed by visitors. Oh yeah, and of course there's the navigation of the city's 177 islands linked by a network of 170 canals and 400 bridges!

Wow. As we weave along the canals, under bridges and past crumbling facades, it's hard not to be impressed. It's incredible.

He points across the Grand Canal to Venice's largest island, Giudecca, and I get lost in its story. Although Venice's largest island Giudecca is only 2km long and 300m wide, it has about 100 residents.

On weekends, the locals are outnumbered by other Venetians who head there for pretty waterside alfresco dining and leisurely walking.

The promenade with small restaurants and bars are perfectly placed to soak in one of the best views of Venice. The island is only hundreds of metres across the lagoon



from the entrance to the Grand Canal and the city's main attractions - Saint Mark's Square, Doge's Palace and Santa Maria della Salute church.

Well-heeled visitors arrive by boatload too. The island is flanked by two high end hotels.

The fabulously famous Hotel Cipriani, a private sprawling sanctuary with manicured gardens created in 1958 by one of Venice's favourite sons, Giuseppe Cipriani.

Giuseppe is the legend behind Harry's Bar in Venice and the Bellini cocktail.

The other end of the island marks more recent developments - the former 19th century flour mill and granary, Molino Stucky, once the largest pasta factory in Italy, was transformed in 2007 into the Hilton Molino Stucky hotel.

Boats are on hand, providing transport to other islands, while the dining terraces, rooftop bar and pool provide spectacular views across Giudecca Canal and the medieval skyline.

Other old warehouses on the island have been converted into luxury holiday apartments.

The dominating feature is the 16th century church, Il Redentore, which was designed by architect Andrea Palladio and built to thank god for the end of the plague in 1576, which killed around 50,000 Venetians.

The church is a prominent landmark when viewed across the lagoon from Saint Mark's Square, from where an annual ritual of thanks, which started in 1577 still takes place today.

Every year on the third Sunday of July, during the Redentore Festival, a 300-metre pontoon bridge is assembled (small boats lined lengthways used to provide the bridge) so a procession can walk across the water from the square to the church.

In the evening, fireworks light up the sky to illuminate the city and tradition.

The appreciation of Venice's magnificence

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and beauty is tireless. Thank you Amaro. Please accept an A+ from me.


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Amaro says: "It is the finest job in the city, if not all of Europe!"

How can one deny such passion and dedication? Despite my best intentions to stay grounded, I simply can't. I'm swept away - Venice is everything and more.



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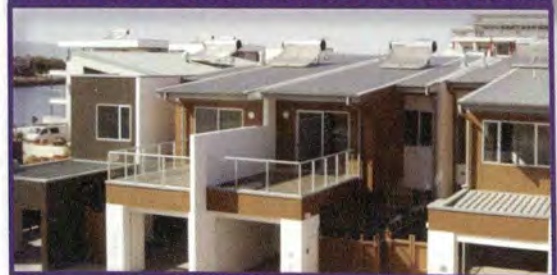
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**Hotel Cipriani** is an exclusive Orient-Express hotel with 79 suites. Located on the tip of Giudecca Island, the iconic hotel has unrivalled views of the lagoon and Doge's Palace. Interiors are steeped in Venetian style and decorated in exquisite local artefacts. Hotel features include three restaurants and bars, tennis court, swimming pool, fitness centre, and access to a golf course on another island. Visit [www.hotelcipriani.com](http://www.hotelcipriani.com).



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# *Cruising the Exotic Isles of Indonesia*

By John Borthwick

"I mightn't have seen Paris, but I have cuddled an orangutan!" says Pam, a delighted traveller, as she stands in the Borneo jungle cradling a young orang-utan that has just climbed into her arms.

Liquid-eyed and lolly-limbed, the baby ape rocks in the lap of his temporary mother-substitute.

The rufus little feller is an orphan, as are most of the 340 of its kind who are nurtured here and prepared for their eventual return to the wilderness in Tanjung Puting Nation Park.





We've travelled from our expedition ship, Orion II, in Zodiac boats far up the Sekonyer River in southern Kalimantan, Indonesia, to reach the extraordinary Camp Leakey rescue and research station. Established in 1971, it is still run by its equally extraordinary founder (and our guide), the American primatologist, Dr Birute Mary Galdikas.

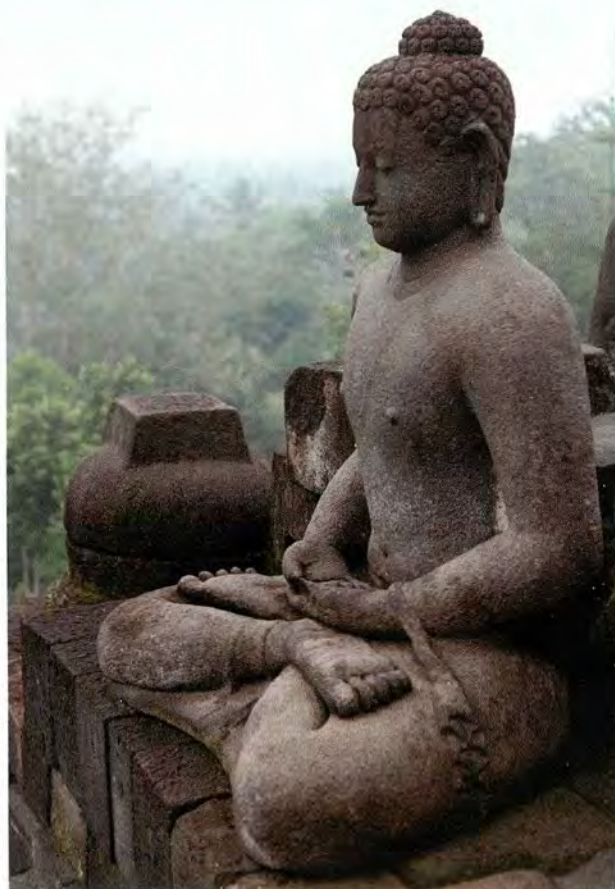
Here, we have the rare chance to meet our very close mates, these red apes with whom we share 97 percent of our DNA, and to witness the Orangutan Foundation International's heroic work in rescuing infants whose mothers have been captured or killed as a result of ever-increasing jungle clearance for oil palm plantations.

Being introduced by Dr Galdikas herself to this world of endangered orangutans, plus gibbon apes, proboscis monkeys, hornbills and other creatures adds immensely to our insights. Mind-and-heart-opening as our two-day excursion here is, it is but one of such experiences that Indonesia's remote and not-so-remote islands offer these days to travellers.

Islands like Sumba, Sulawesi, Flores and Maluku are now well serviced by air connections, as well as by cruise voyages. We started our journey by heading west from Bali to Semarang, and then negotiating central Java's intense traffic en route to the monumental twin temples of Borobudur and Prambunan near Yogyakarta. Both were constructed around the 9th century AD and, now restored, are World Heritage sites. The circular mound of Borobudur, the world's largest Buddhist temple, looms above the plain like a wondrous stone skyhook lifting to heaven. Meanwhile, it seems that Borobudur's Hindu neighbours of that era built their equally massive Prambanan temple as a "reply" to the Buddhists.

After seeing the historic Javanese temples, we sail East to Kalimantan, Borneo for our thrilling Camp Leakey encounters, and then on to Sulawesi - formerly the Celebes - home of the unique Tana Toraja culture.

From Pare Pare on the coast, we drive up to the Sulawesi highlands, passing the so-called "Erotic





Mountains” - which indeed do resemble parts of a madam and her Adam - to reach Rantapao, capital of Toraja, “Land of the Heavenly Kings”. All around are strange houses and granaries, known as “tongkonan”, whose high, saddle back roofs and upturned gables resemble a boat hull atop the house. We overnight here in a modern hotel, then set out to see the stone monoliths, cliff-face effigy galleries and “hanging coffins” - still central to Toraja’s funerary rituals. While Torajans are normally Christian (rather than Muslim), the roots of their culture lie deep in ancestor worship and animism.

We’re fortunate to be invited to a large traditional funeral, which turns out to be a surprisingly happy event. Torajans often bury their dead many months after the person has passed away. Until the funeral, they say the deceased person (who has been preserved) is not yet dead, just “sick”. By then, most of the grieving has taken place and the big send-off is a very convivial, albeit black-clad, gathering for friends and relatives from near and far.

Indonesia has 17,801 other islands that could take a lifetime to explore. Lombok, for instance, is still like “Bali unplugged,” with its pottery villages, empty beaches and jungled hills, plus quality accommodation at Senggigi and elsewhere. Or you can head to Lombok’s own little satellites, the couples-friendly Gili Islands where diving, snoozing and sunset cocktails set the agenda.

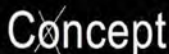
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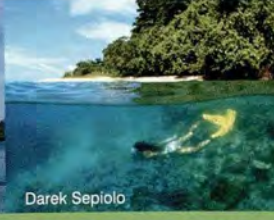
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Komodo Island, a World Heritage national park farther east along the Indonesian island chain, is famous for its namesake "dragons" - lumbering, 160-kg lizards that are a throwback to the dinosaur. After you've marvelled at these ominous skinks-on-steroids you can use nearby Flores Island as your base for plenty of excellent diving and snorkeling.

Sumba is sometimes known as the "cowboy island of the South Seas" because of its mounted warriors and their celebrated annual Pasola festival - a mock but still hazardous battle involving hundreds of horsemen. Add to this, the island's spectacular stone tomb carvings and Sumba is, according to anthropologist Dr Lawrence Blair, "a time capsule of our earliest beginnings." Sumba makes Bali seem like Manhattan, but beautiful Nihiwatu Resort on its southwest coast offers five-star creature comforts and perfect, uncrowded reef surf.

In the 17th century, Maluku's spices were so valuable that major European nations did furious battle to control these tiny, distant isles, the legendary "Spice Islands". Maluku - aka the Moluccas - is quieter these days. On Malukan islands, like languid Yamdena, where we visitors are welcomed ashore with spectacular dances, there's still a hint of cloves and nutmeg in the air, not to mention romance.



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# JAPAN — *Why Not Visit?*

By John Brooksbank

**SHE WALKED SLOWLY** down the pavement towards us - young and slim, spectacularly dressed in a bright orange mini skirt, matching top and a smile that would brighten up the darkest room - the prettiest street cleaner that I've ever seen!

Across the road, her two male associates were equally smart in white shirts and ties; they too were meticulously studying the ground and picking cigarette butts up with long-handled tongs - ensuring that this suburb of the city was free of any semblance of rubbish whatsoever.

On another day, an ageing shopkeeper was brushing up leaves that had only just fallen into the gutter outside his small retail outlet in the Tokyo suburb of Yoga.

These are just two examples that demonstrate the great civic pride that Japanese have in their urban environment, where people take time out to contribute to what should be a local government function.

Collecting cigarette butts is actually very

necessary in Japan, since it is a nation of heavy inhalers - smokers, smokers everywhere but rarely a butt to be seen!

For many, Japan might appear to be an expensive and somewhat alien holiday destination, but the reality is surprisingly different.

Apart from being a very clean place, it is a country steeped in history, having experienced over a thousand years of sometimes tumultuous rule by different Emperors and feudal shoguns that has resulted in a legacy of beautiful architecture and a tradition of honour in personal performance.

Tokyo and other cities have no shortage of shrines, temples and ancient wooden buildings to visit although in most places, these are counterpoised against multi-layer flyovers, criss-crossing subway lines, soaring tower blocks and acres of reclaimed land - such as the ever decreasing Tokyo Bay. Crossing this waterway on the arching Rainbow Bridge provides an excellent vista of the city.



In Tokyo, the Imperial Palace compound, other Royal guest houses and areas such as the parkland around the Meiji shrine offer tracts of greenery, fresh air and relative peace in the centre of the city.

At the Meiji Shrine for a mere 500 yen (about K8) one can purchase ready written prayer cards or write your very own votive offering in any language you like - anything to improve one's destiny! Reclaimed land that is gradually creeping into Tokyo Bay has also provided the opportunity to create beaches, esplanades and recreational areas for residents of the city.

For a start it is not an expensive country to visit. Although a bit more expensive than some of its South East Asian neighbours, prices are much the same, or even less than Australia for most items such as food, drink, accommodation and clothing.

For a nation with a reputation as an Asian powerhouse, life however never appears to be too frenetic anywhere in the city.

Traffic, even in downtown Tokyo is orderly with little noise or horn-blowing - unlike some other clamorous cities of the same size elsewhere in Asia - drivers, who all seem to have immaculately washed vehicles, are polite to other road users with no rage visible anywhere.

Taxis are invariably ageing Toyota Crowns or Nissan Cedrics, models revered for their strength and longevity, whose drivers often wear neat white gloves.

Even though it is a city of quite new buildings, the architecture is somewhat austere and constrained by small block sizes, often urban shops and residences are little more than one large room wide.

This makes for some quaint tall buildings and gives an almost Leggoland-like appearance to certain city suburbs.

Japanese people are always extremely polite, fanatically punctual and in almost any meeting one has to have a business card to be given in your direction. If lost just ask a passer-by; people are only too happy to help and perhaps practice their English skills.

Streets and public places are tidy but seem

to deliberately lack any form of seating; even on train stations seats are rarely seen - it's almost as if having people cluttering up the place spoils the image the architect had in his mind when designing the facility.

Greater Tokyo has a population of 32 million people, so being efficient is somewhat of a necessity for the city. Because of the high cost of inner-city accommodation most employees travel in from the outer suburbs every day, a journey of 1-2 hours each way.

Crime is never mentioned and is presumably low judging by the fact that local police posts, usually just a room at a local square or near a metro station, are often staffed with just one officer. Here, mobile police means the ones who get around on a bicycle!



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Japan is a country that puts great store in brand names, from the ubiquitous food outlets such as Subway, KFC, McDonalds and Baskin Robins to the up-market flagship designer stores such as Gucci, DKNY, Body Shop and Esprit that are found along the tree lined Omotesando Street, known locally as the Champs-Elysees of Tokyo. But who travels to a foreign country just to eat the food you can get at home or shop at stores that are the same as everywhere else?

There is no shortage of places to eat in Tokyo and other major cities in Japan. There are vending machines on almost every street corner so in fact you could survive on what comes out of these slot machines.

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There are also innumerable small local 'trade' stores such as Lawsons, Seven Eleven and Home Mart that sell all normal food and household requirements and many cheap coffee shop chains such as Doutour, Veloce and the inevitable Starbucks - the Japanese could be said to be masters of convenience.

However, if you want to actually sit down to eat, one is also spoilt for choice with a huge variety of Japanese and other restaurants.

At the swish end of town, there are places such as the Sky revolving restaurant on the 17th floor of the New Otani Hotel that provides a 360-degree panorama of the city, best viewed at night and at a slow civilised speed.

It is the dining area that moves, so that apart from the vista changing, the multiple cooking and serving areas also move relative to one's table, so you are never too far from the tremendous selection of dishes and gastronomic styles on offer.

Of course, when in Japan, one wants to eat as the Japanese do, but not everyone wants to sit cross-legged on the floor!

A compromise can be found in places such as Gonpachi in Nishi-Azabu which serves Japanese food but with a modern twist, served in a traditional Edo style setting.

Looking at the photos at the entrance the eatery has been graced by the presence of George Bush and Lady Gaga in previous years - not at the same time I'm sure!

The restaurant is tiered around a central 'pit' with sections that specialise in Kushiyaki grilled skewers, sobe and sushi where one can sit on normal chairs, whilst getting a

table on the first level gives an excellent view over the action on the floor below.

Getting around is a breeze - once you have mastered the subway and bus systems that is; at first these networks are rather confusing to say the least, but practice and a few mistakes makes perfect.

Tokyo's public transport system is fantastically efficient - it apparently carries more than 20 million people every day between 5 in the morning until 12 midnight.





Beware of rush hours during which you stand a good chance of being physically forced into metro carriages to stand like human sardines.

Whilst public transport is excellent many Japanese get around perfectly adequately on bicycles, which are made to suit the lady of the house, able carry one or two toddlers and have a pannier for shopping as well.

Based on the early layout of the city some suburbs specialise in certain activities. If, for example, your interest is the latest mobile phone, computer or other gadget, everyone will tell you to go to Akihabara, the so-called electronics capital of Japan.

Here one is bombarded with a forest of multi-storey neon, hassled by street spruikers but you can find almost anything at a competitive price. Then there are those quirky things that make a country unique and in Japan it would have to be the toilets, driven by the national sense of cleanliness.

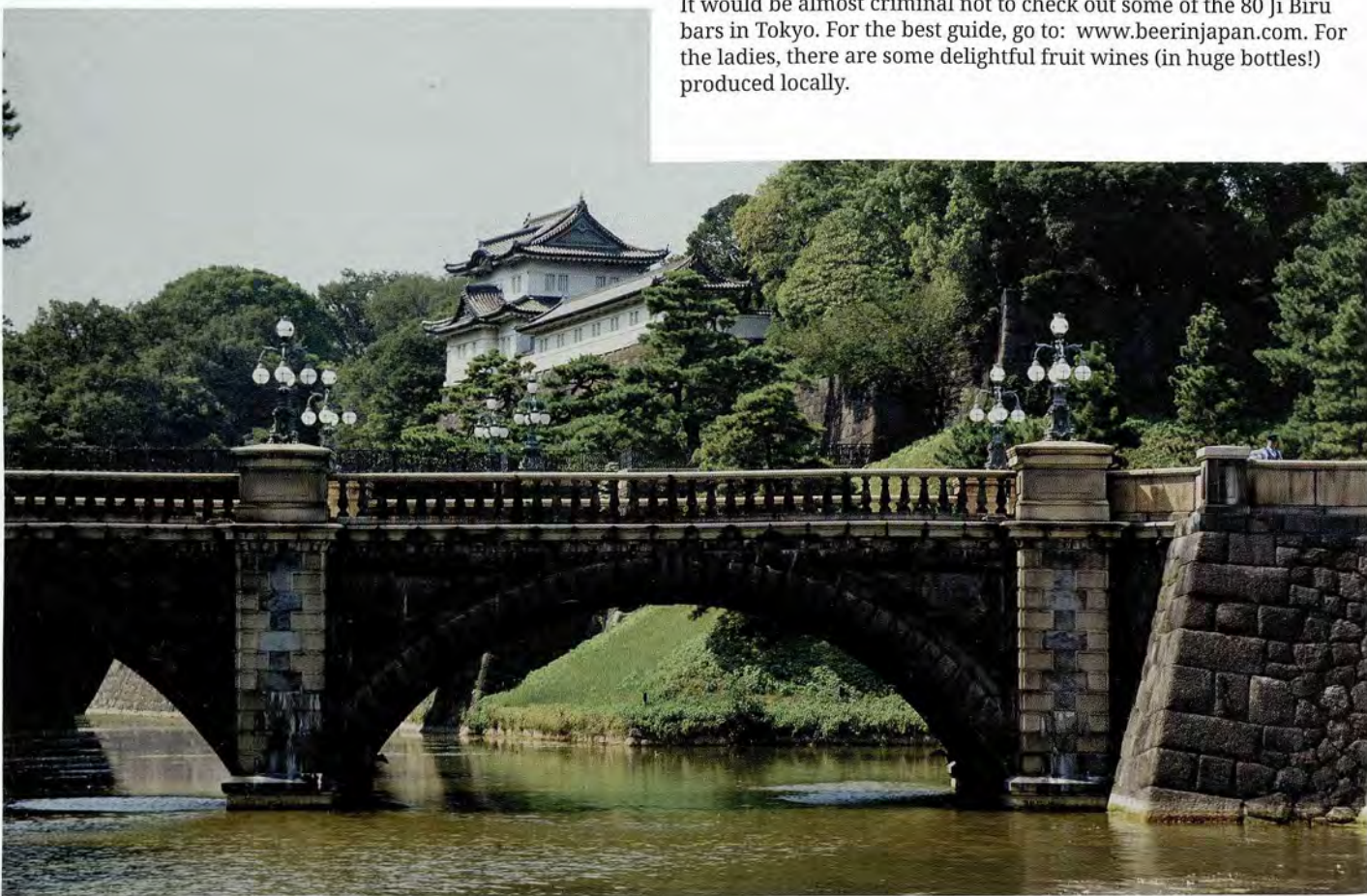
A perfectly natural bodily function is made rather complicated with a whole range of devices, all utilising technology in some form – finding out how to make things flush could be a challenge.

It is not just a land of sake either, although there are many varieties of this invigorating stimulant along with many excellent Japanese whiskies.

There are a range of mainstream beers such as Asahi, Kirin, Sapporo and Suntory, brewing having been introduced by the Dutch in the seventeenth century - cans of these are available in almost every vending machine in the city.

A more recent appearance is a bevy of boutique or craft beers brewed in small local establishments known as Ji Biru. There are now more than 200 micro-breweries in the country, but being small, these craft breweries serve just their immediate areas; even so they are well known to a Ji Biru otaku, or fanatic; they include Baird Beer's Rising Sun Pale Ale from Numazu and Bayern Meister Brewing's Edelweiss from Fujinomiya.

It would be almost criminal not to check out some of the 80 Ji Biru bars in Tokyo. For the best guide, go to: [www.beerinjapan.com](http://www.beerinjapan.com). For the ladies, there are some delightful fruit wines (in huge bottles!) produced locally.






The Japanese like to eat whilst drinking so there appears to be a few pure drinking bars, except at the major hotels, but there are many small establishments, some holding only a dozen or so people, that serve both drinks and food.

In such a large city, there are many sporting venues with baseball being played regularly but to get more of a local feel, Sumo wrestling competitions are held three times a year in the capital - in January, May and September - at the Kokugikan Stadium in Ryogoku.



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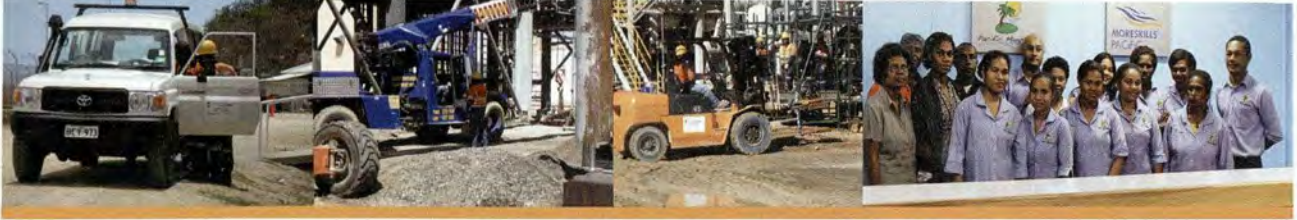


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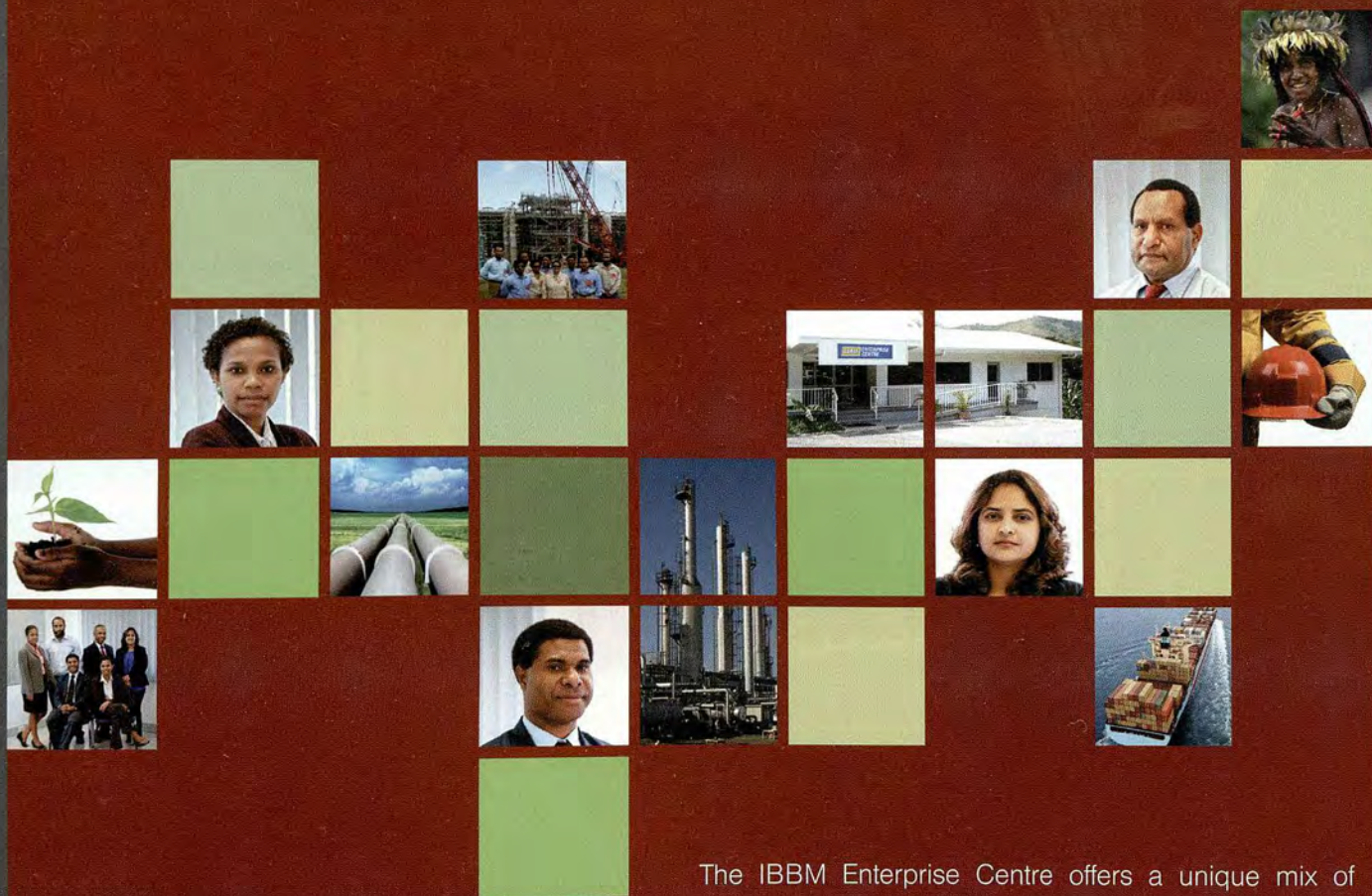
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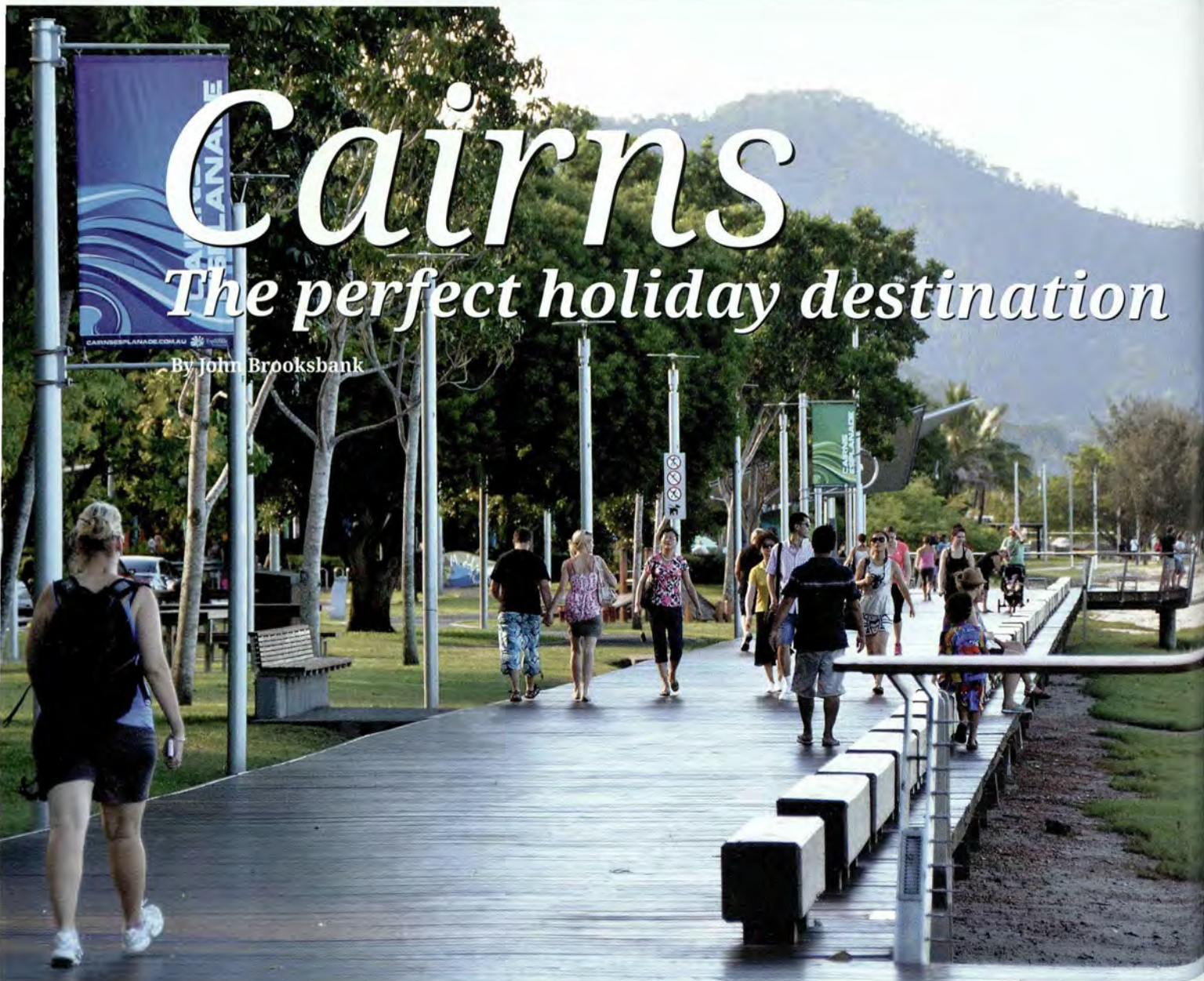
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# Cairns

## *The perfect holiday destination*

By John Brooksbank



It has a beautiful tropical weather almost all-year-round and tends to be a bit damp in the few months of the wet season. But otherwise, Cairns is the perfect holiday destination.

**THE LAST BIG CYCLONE** to affect Cairns directly was Yasi, a Category 5 storm which in fact just missed the city in 2011, so why not visit? You would have to be really unlucky to be here when the next one comes in from the Coral Sea.

Consisting principally of river and creek deltas and mangrove swamps infested with crocodiles and malaria-bearing mosquitoes, it was once a place that even the traditional Aboriginal inhabitants of the area shunned as being too unhealthy to reside permanently. The Yidinji and Yirrganydji speaking people, sensibly, lived on the hill slopes and only came to the low-lying foreshore to go fishing.

Premier building blocks are still to be found on the hills, but Cairns has come a long way since those days of the late 1870s when Europeans first started looking for a port to service a track to the Hodgkinson goldfields

- about 120 kilometres inland from the coast. At the time, its rival was the recently established Port Douglas, busy servicing the Palmer River goldfields.

The Esplanade, once just a path along the mud flats foreshore, has now been developed to cater for all manner of visitors. It has a solid, wide wooden boardwalk stretching from the main cargo and cruise ship terminal on Trinity Wharf, past the marina and Shangri La Hotel, the Lagoon and then along past the RSL and Base Hospital to where the mangroves start at Lily Street; a good half-an-hour stroll.

The walkway is decorated with a series of large sculptures, exercise machine locations, Muddy's cafe, informative notice boards, a children's playground, a skate park, beach volleyball courts and water fountains catering to both two and four-legged walkers, such is the political correctness.



On most days, the grass near the Lagoon is littered with a shoal of somewhat pale European bodies sunbathing, or perhaps sleeping off the effects of the night before.

The mud flats still remain a drawcard for 'twitchers' who get ecstatic about seeing a juvenile Double-eyed Fig Parrot or a Yellow-breasted Boatbill. Such enthusiastic and committed ornithologists congregate in small flocks at certain spots along the Esplanade armed to the teeth with binoculars, long lenses and cameras to capture their visual sightings of some of the more than 216 bird species recorded here. Most Esplanade users, however, are walkers, joggers, runners, skate boarders and those who just want to promenade with a salty wind blowing the hair and sun warming their faces.

Today, the bustling city of approximately 150,000 people is home to a fishing fleet. It is also a regular port of call for visiting cruise ships and its economy relies heavily on tourism dollars.

Its main claim to fame is as a gateway to the Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef that sits just a few kilometres offshore - one can go by cruise catamaran, yacht, glass bottom boat, helicopter or even a float plane.

With access to a range of small islands, cays or pontoons permanently moored

above colourful reefs and cays, there are many operators offering visitors day-trips, snorkelling or diving experiences.

For the more staid, there are day-time and sunset dinner cruises around the twisting channels of the Trinity Inlet mangroves on the M.V Crocodile Explorer. En route one passes HMAS Cairns - the Royal Australian Navy patrol boat base, a multitude of moored private vessels, numerous slip yards and marine workshops and home of the Cairns Cruising Yacht Squadron.





Cairns has an extremely casual laid-back feel to it and is replete with almost innumerable bars and coffee shops, with hardly a suit or tie to be seen anywhere - one is much more likely to see folk in a range of undress such as swimmers and bikinis!

Whilst such sedentary occupations have their attractions, the city also has a plethora of alternative and slightly more vigorous activities on offer.

The city is a fantastic base for a range of activities sufficient to amuse almost anyone. Even in the few winter months, the city doesn't get really cold, rarely experiencing temperatures of less than

10 degrees. There is something to do in almost every direction, one doesn't have to necessarily head east and go out to, on or under the sea. You could also go up and sky dive back to the beach.

Just a few hours to the west, after travelling through the Atherton Tablelands, the fruit and vegetable 'breadbasket' of the region, are the unique Undarra lava tubes and spectacular caves near Chillagoe, found underneath what are now expansive, but usually quite unexciting, beef cattle properties.

The Tablelands are probably best viewed from one of the hot air balloons that offer visitors early morning vistas over

smallholder properties growing mangoes, citrus fruits, bananas, sugar cane and other market garden produce, some irrigated from the 407,000 mega-litre Lake Tinaroo, which also offers lakeside resorts and amusements such as boating and fishing.

Constructed in the 1950s the lake formed after damming the Barron River and through a system of channels it irrigates more than 800 farms covering 9000 hectares of land that previously was unproductive due to intermittent rainfall.

The Tablelands also hosts a number of quaint small towns such as Yungaburra and Herberton - try and go on one of their market days - as well as some very pretty waterfalls and crater lakes.

To the north, are many, many sandy beaches, a tropical zoo, Paradise Palms golf course and Country Club, and probably the nicest of the beach suburbs, Palm Cove.

Travelling further north, up-market Port Douglas is less than an hour away along a scenic coast road where the rainforest quite literally meets the ocean, whilst the ancient Daintree rainforest and iconic Cooktown are just a few hours further on once one crosses the Daintree River ferry. There are various places to stay in Cape Tribulation to use as a base to go horse riding in the





rainforest, jungle surfing on a super flying-fox or even kayaking offshore.

To the south, amongst the many acres of cane and bananas is a crocodile farm, features such as Josephine Falls and Mt Bartle Frere - the highest point in Queensland at 1622 metres - and the whimsical Paronella Park if you're feeling more romantic and "Mills & Boon" like.

Wherever one is in the city, and in fact anywhere in the region, you can't miss the surrounding ring of low, green tree covered hills brooding over the city, its northern and southern suburbs that spread along the coast and the almost endless fields of sugar cane that now occupy lowlands once covered in mangroves.



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In the middle of the city is a remnant of this - Cairns Central Swamp - and if you need to get a feel for the original state of the area, in all senses, there are walkways through the mangroves accessible along the road to Cairns airport and near the Cairns Botanical Gardens.

So what were the main factors that drove the conversion of this unhealthy, quite unprepossessing place into what many consider to be the capital of Far North Queensland [although Townsville would no doubt question this moniker.]?

The region had first come to the attention of Lieutenant James Cook in his epic voyage up the east coast of Australia; he named Trinity Bay between Cape Grafton and Cape Tribulation after the Sunday it was discovered on in 1770.

He, with naturalist Joseph Banks, in fact went ashore for a short while to a spot near the present day township of Yarrabah. This inaugural visit was followed by Lieutenant Phillip Parker King charting the Australian coast in the 1820s, during which he visited Fitzroy Island, about 22 kilometres from Cairns. For many years, beche-de-mer fishermen also used Green Island, off Trinity Bay, as a base for their operations.

In June 1848, Captain Owen Stanley undertook a hydrographic survey of the Trinity Bay region. His official map listed "Native Huts" at the present-day beach Palm Cove, showing that once again the



Aboriginal inhabitants had an eye for real estate - today, this is the most prestigious of the city's beach suburbs!

The future site of Cairns CBD was indicated as "shoal" and "mangroves" - not a brilliant start to cityhood.

Rough tracks were cut from the capital of the Hodgkinson goldfields - Thornborough - to the coast in 1876 and whilst these were suitable for pack horses, the inclines from

the Barron River floodplain were almost too steep for loaded bullock carts.

At this stage, Cairns was a shanty town, consisting of just a row of wooden huts on a low sand ridge surrounded by foetid mangroves that were inundated at high tide. Initially, Port Douglas found more favour, as did the township of Smithfield on the banks of the Barron, until it was swept away in cyclone induced floods in 1878 and 1879.



The spark from which the city grew was the decision to use Cairns, named after the then Governor of Queensland, William Wellington Cairns, as the port terminus for construction of a railway to the inland gold fields in 1886.

Over the following decades the railway was built to the Tablelands and gradually, with drainage, clearing and filling of the mangroves, Cairns literally rose out of the swamps to become a port for fishermen and export of timber and the sugar that was planted across the rich alluvial and now drained floodplains that surrounded the city.

Over 7,400 acres of land around the Barron Falls was declared as a national park in 1900, whilst Chinese horticulturalists established large farms in the fertile coastal strip.

Cairns was officially declared as a town in 1903 and the Cairns Post newspaper had its first print run in 1909. Interestingly, in 1936 the inner-city red-light district of Sachs Street, a name regarded as an embarrassing coincidence to respectable Cairns citizens, had its name changed to Grafton Street.

The city was an important base for Allied forces during World War 2, including the

famous Z Force; becoming a seaplane base when it became too dangerous for Catalina flying boats to be based at Port Moresby.

Post-war it reverted to a quiet far north Queensland town catering for fishermen and cane cockies, Cairns didn't even boast traffic lights till the 1970s. In 1975, local identity, Emrys "Rusty" Rees, took over a loosely-structured 'hippie' market and founded Rusty's Markets on the previous site of Chinese produce markets operated in the 1800s. The markets are still very active and the place to buy almost anything edible on Friday and Saturday every week, including taro and betelnut!

The international airport was opened in 1984, James Cook University established a campus in 1995 and the Cairns Convention Centre was ready for business in 1996 - such infrastructure increasing the international profile of the city and resulting in more visitors.

Air Niugini was one of the first international airlines to fly into Cairns whilst the latest, commencing services in October 2012, is China Eastern Airlines. It flies directly to Shanghai.

The railway track is still used for the scenic railway that winds its way up to the

picturesque village of Kuranda and if one returns via a Skyrail gondola the full vista of the area surrounding the city can be seen as one leaves Red Peak and descends to the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park and neighbouring water park on the lowlands.

These multiple attractions result in approximately 2 million domestic and international tourists visiting the city every year. There are a variety of hotels, motels and backpacker hostels supplying places to sleep; the Reef Casino is there for those more inclined towards gambling and there are a number of shopping malls to service this transient populace.

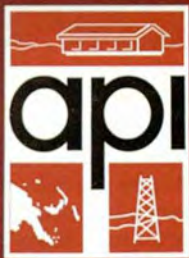
For many though, Cairns' relaxed lifestyle makes it a nice place to live a quiet, easy going existence. In beach suburbs, just a few minutes from town, one can fish off the shore or along mangrove-clad creek banks and feel as if you are miles from any city anywhere in the world.

So whether you want to be active or simply do nothing for a break, Cairns is the place to visit!



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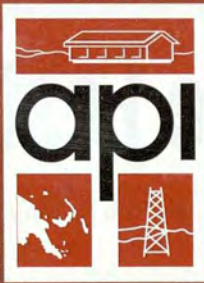
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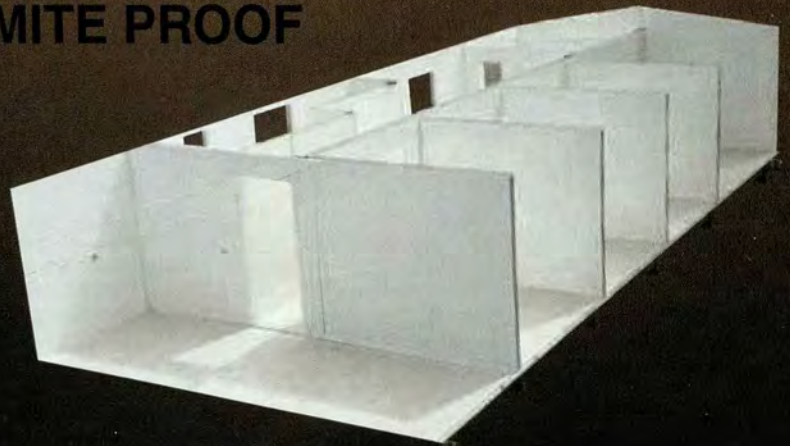
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# Australia's Best Food & Wine Festivals



By Rob Dunlop

Should you be visiting Australia during the autumn months of April and May, you will certainly encounter celebrations of food and wine.

Regions across Australia down tool to toast the grape harvest season with gourmet food and wine tasting events.

But don't worry if you miss an autumn festival - Aussies actually celebrate food and wine all year! (Psst - some wine regions don't even harvest in autumn.)

Here is a guide to the country's best food and wine festivals to get you through the year.

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**AUSSIE WINE MONTH**

**When:** 1 - 30 April 2013

**Where:** Australia-wide

While not strictly a single festival event, this is worth bringing to your attention. Every year, April is declared Aussie Wine Month. Events spring up all around the country - some very small and some not so.

The idea is to showcase Australia's 60 wine regions via tastings and feasts at vineyards, cellar doors, restaurants and other special locations.

There is much cause for celebration - Australia is one of the top five wine producers in the world and regularly scoops gold medals at international wine shows. So, even if you're not at an event, bottoms up in April.

**NOOSA INTERNATIONAL FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL**

**When:** 16 - 19 May 2013

**Where:** Noosa, Queensland

Noosa is the sophisticated beachside darling of Queensland. The main drag of Hastings Street is known for chic fashion boutiques, restaurants and beautiful people. Visitors from all around Australia, especially sun-deprived Melbourneans, flock here to get a tan and check out the latest in fashions.



This year marks the 10th anniversary of this regional event, which attracts leading international and national chefs. Spread over four days, the Noosa International Food & Wine Festival is all about indulging in glorious food and wine in a relaxed atmosphere. The stunning natural setting is just another treat to savour. For more information, visit [www.noosafoodandwine.com.au](http://www.noosafoodandwine.com.au).

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### CRAVE SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

**When:** 1 - 31 October 2013

**Where:** Sydney, New South Wales

Sydney enjoys a reputation as one of the most exciting food and wine destinations in the world. On its doorstep is the famed Hunter Valley, which produces Australia's finest Semillon wines. Some would even argue that they are the finest in the world. The Hunter does have a lot of experience though - grape vines were first planted in the picturesque surrounds in 1788.

And just to be fair, Semillon wine doesn't hog the Crave limelight - Sydney's vibrant food scene does instead. During the month long festival, restaurants and bars are abuzz, food stalls pop up around the city, and bands sound off while the world's leading chefs cook up a mighty storm. Crazy mass breakfasts are laid on at such places as the Sydney harbour bridge and the sands of Bondi beach. Sydney loves a party. For more information, visit [www.cravesydney.com](http://www.cravesydney.com).



### MARGARET RIVER GOURMET ESCAPE

**When:** 22 - 24 November 2013

**Where:** Margaret River, Western Australia

Only a baby on the foodie scene, the Margaret River Gourmet Escape debuted to great acclaim in 2012, and is now set for a triumphant return in 2013.

Master classes, tastings and feastings take place around the Margaret River vineyards as well around the famed local beaches. The area is known for both great swells and great swirls - Cabernet that is.

During the festival, pop-up restaurants and cooking demonstrations are the flavour, as are lively discussions, where dozens of well-known food and wine experts discuss and debate trends. Live music provides the soundtrack. For more information, visit [www.gourmetescape.com.au](http://www.gourmetescape.com.au).



**THE TASTE FESTIVAL**

**When:** 28 December - 3 January 2014  
**Where:** Hobart, Tasmania

The spectacular Taste Festival coincides with the finish of the gruelling Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. Held every summer around the Hobart waterfront, where tired sailors recuperate, the event showcases the country's finest Pinot Noir - from Tasmania of course - along with other Tasmanian specialties.

The week-long festival showcases what Tassie does best - seafood, cheeses, cherries, whiskies, boutique beers and again those cool climate wines. Stalls line the harbour offering gourmet goodies and tastings. Eating, drinking and entertainment are the mainstays of The Taste Festival. For more information, visit [www.tastefestival.com.au](http://www.tastefestival.com.au).



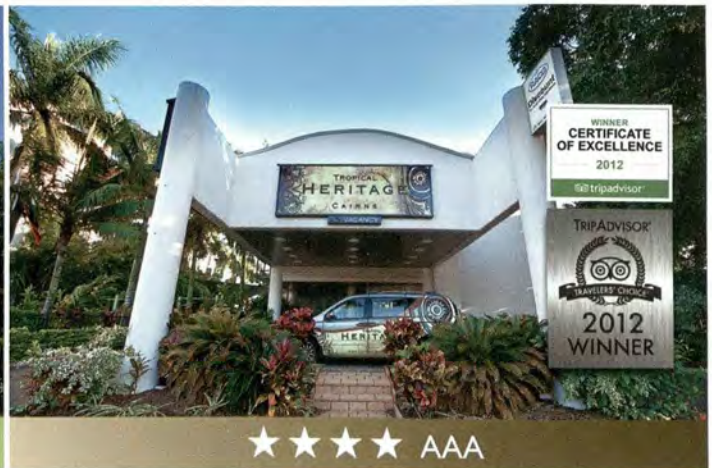
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**CELLAR DOOR WINE FESTIVAL**

**When:** 21 - 23 February 2014  
**Where:** Adelaide, South Australia

South Australia produces the lion's share of Australian wine, so it's no surprise the state is home to the country's best-known heavy-hitters such as Penfolds and Jacob's Creek. The diversity of the wines are astounding too, ranging from cool climate wines in the Adelaide Hills to blockbuster Shiraz in the Barossa Valley, over to Rieslings in the Clare Valley, which even the Germans enjoy.

The Cellar Door Wine Festival is also a chance to indulge South Australians gourmet food offerings, which all comes together at a single locations in the state's capital, Adelaide. For more information, visit [www.cellardoorwinefestivaladelaide.com.au](http://www.cellardoorwinefestivaladelaide.com.au).

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**MELBOURNE FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL**


**When:** Early March 2014  
**Where:** Melbourne and regional Victoria

Melbourne is Australia's undisputed food and wine capital. And what a wild ride the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival is!

The city's laneways, cafes, bars, restaurants, rooftops and squares all play host to food and wine celebrations. Regional areas also get a look in, including Milawa and the nearby Yarra Valley vineyards, home to Australia's best Chardonnay.

Celebrated chefs demonstrate their skills and debate culinary trends in front of large exuberant audiences. The World's Longest Lunch is a popular indulgent feature of the festival, which usually runs for around two weeks. This is Melbourne at its cultural best. For more information, visit [www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au](http://www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au).



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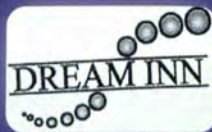
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# Broome's South Sea Pearls

By Rick J Smee



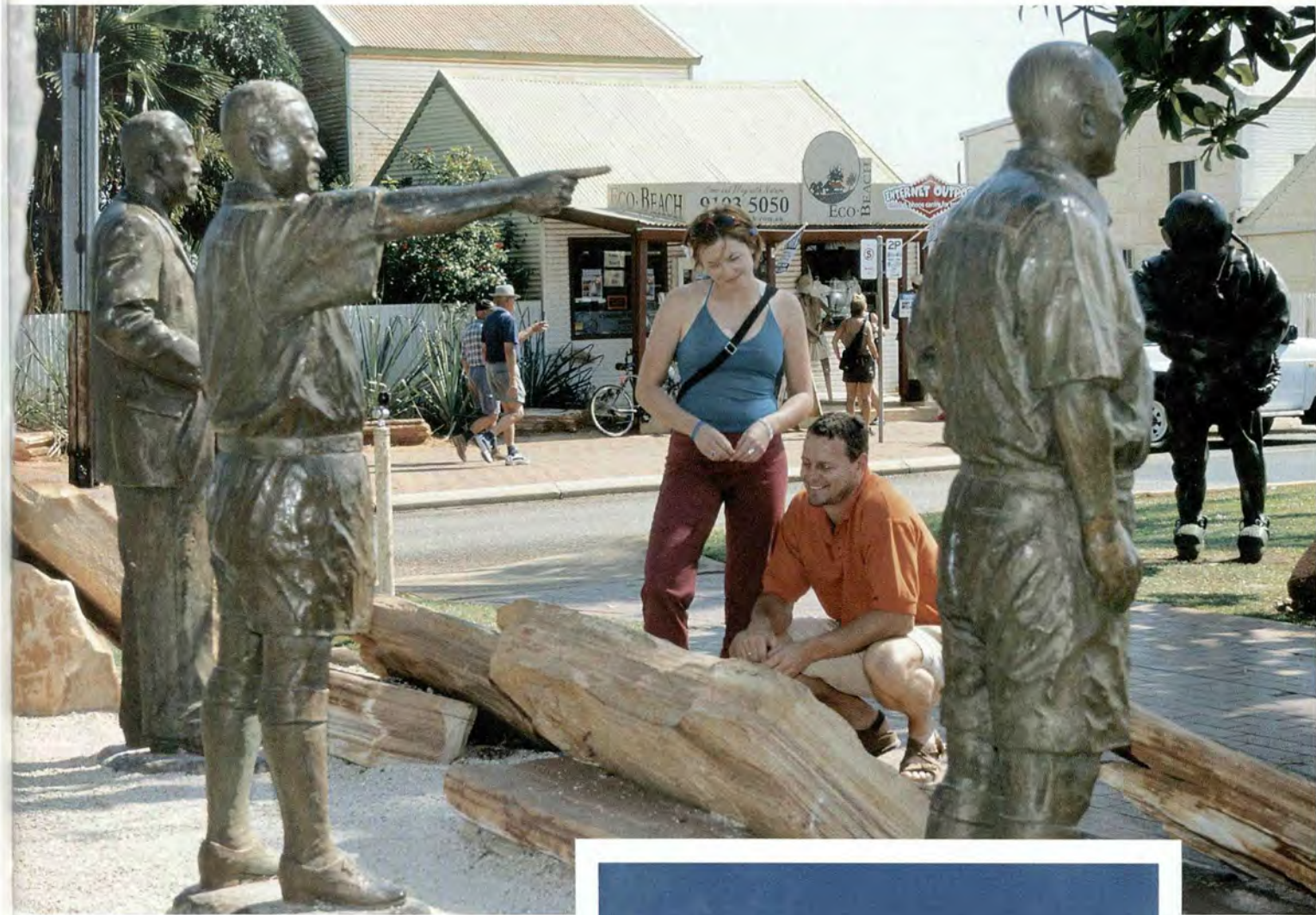
Russet's sails flapped languidly as the lugger turned toward the open sea. A freshening gust of wind caught the little boat and sent her skimming across the glassy ocean. A dusky, sarong clad mariner stood on the bowsprit and listened as the wind thrummed through the rigging and slapped the tall canvas with impatience.

In the distance, Eighty-mile beach quickly became just a smudge on the horizon. Sitting on the gunwale in a vulcanised diving suit, the diver waited as the domed helmet was lowered over his head and secured in place on the copper corslet. Soon, he was sinking toward the murky bottom as his 14lb. lead weighted boots sped his descent.

On deck, the diminutive Malay grasped the air pipe and briefly shook his head. The darkening cloudbank had not gone unobserved, but as lay-up season approached, desperate skippers still rolled the dice in a desperate search for shell and hopefully a life changing pearl.







The rolling sea grew leaden and flecked with spitting white-caps. Before long, the tiny lugger was engulfed in a wild, dark and vicious maelstrom as the storm rushed and screamed toward the coast. Waves pounded and surged across the deck as the Malay held tight to the life-line trying to ensure that far below his diver would be secure and not have the air-pipe and lifeline torn from his helmet.

Prior to World War One, around 400 luggers and 3,500 individuals were employed in the Mother-of-pearl shell industry of Broome Western Australia. These were the days before motor-driven luggers, radios and air-compressors. Many divers lost their lives to the unpredictable cyclones which swept the Indian Ocean at these latitudes.

Four huge storms caught the pearling fleet at sea between 1908 and 1935, sinking more than 100 boats, wreaking tremendous damage and claiming about 300 lives. Apart from such vagaries of the weather intrepid divers and their crews had to contend with equipment failure, sharks, whales and the notorious 'Bends'. The pearl diver of those early days had to be among many things a fatalist.

With the introduction of the diving suit and domed helmet, men flocked to the Western Australia coastal town of Broome from all over the Orient. Men from Japan, Malaya, the Philippines, Indonesia and many other places soon poured into the narrow, dusty streets of Australia's El Dorado.





Broome is the gateway to the Kimberley region. One of the most remote and breathtakingly beautiful places on earth, it is one of our planet's oldest land masses, stamped with dinosaur footprints estimated to be more than 130 million years old.

devours all colours until the restless ocean becomes part of the purple night.

Today, the blazing sunsets still stun the visitor but things are very different and many of the world's leading pearl companies base their offices and showrooms in Broome. Paspaley Pearls, Kailis, Linneys and Willie Creek pearls have exquisite showrooms in Broome.

The most important way to determine the quality of a pearl is to assess its nacre. The South Sea Pearl of North Western Australia possesses thicker, stronger more lustrous nacre than any other and does not require bleaching, tinting, dyeing or skinning.

Harvested by hand, these pearls are simply cleansed of sea salt and organic residue before being graded for marketing. The South Sea Pearl which comes from the *Pinctada Maxima* oyster is a rare and sensitive creature which ranges in 'size' from around 8mm to 18mm; making it the world's largest.


In the words of Nicholas Paspaley of the South Sea Pearl Consortium, 'Pearls are like people, shaped by the resistances of life, they grow strong and fragile all at once. Each one is precious and astoundingly unique and like this land, Australia, they embody something that simply cannot be controlled.'

Initially, Caucasian men did the diving but soon it was found that many other races enjoyed an immunity from Otitis (Inflammation of the ears), Otorrhagia (Bleeding from the ears) and Epistaxis (Bleeding from the nose). Along with the indigenous and Caucasian populations, Broome became home to many who existed in a simmering hotbed of mistrust, envy and tenuous camaraderie. Asia town was a ramshackle collection of boarding houses, saloons, shops, brothels, eateries and cafes.


As the sun sets and the whole world becomes a blended palette of brilliant gold and crimson, the dark velvet sky soon

Broome is the gateway to the Kimberley region. One of the most remote and breathtakingly beautiful places on earth, it is one of our planet's oldest land masses, stamped with dinosaur footprints estimated to be more than 130 million years old.

Since the recent opening of its international airport, Broome now attracts visitors from all over the globe. There are luxury hotels and resorts and fabulous cruises along a truly amazing coastline.

Those not acquainted with the Kimberley should be prepared for the world as they know it, to pale into insignificance before this enigmatic and majestic landscape. But finally, a word of advice; newcomers are advised to lock up their return tickets securely as reports of visitors tearing them up are not infrequent. 



 *Air Niugini flies to Cairns and Brisbane daily and to Sydney on Friday and Sunday.*

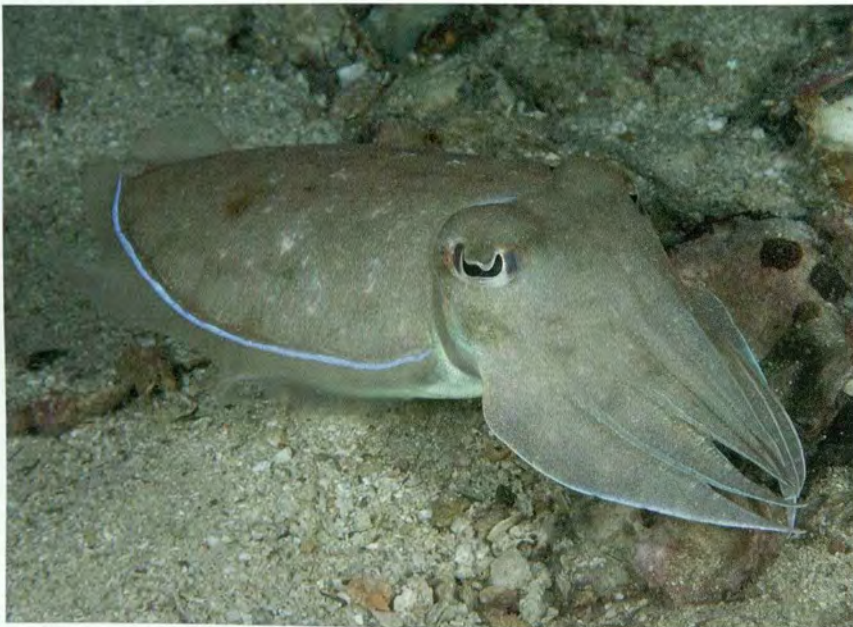


*The elongated upper caudal lobe of thresher sharks is used like a whip to stun small prey.*



# Swimming with THRESHER SHARKS

By Ken Hoppen



*Cuttlefish are often found on the Malapascua dive sites.*

There is only one place in the world where you know you will dive with a thresher shark, and that is at Malapascua Island in the central Philippines.

These oceanic sharks spend the night hunting squid and small fish in the ocean depths, but as the sun begins to rise they come into the comparative shallows of Monad Shoal to be cleaned by the wrasse that live there.

Divers daily rise before dawn, and enter the water as the sun pokes its head above the horizon.

Descending to the top of the shoal at about 20 metres deep, the divers edge over the lip of the reef into 200 metres plus water, and wait patiently for the sharks to calmly cruise by.

These amazing fish have a top tail lobe as long as their body, and they use this like a whip, snapping it around to stun their much smaller prey. Shaped like a muscular torpedo, these amazing sharks can grow to around 6m in length (half of which is tail) and have a very small mouth. They are not considered dangerous to people.

Hammerheads, manta rays, and sicklefin devilrays (a small manta species) are often encountered here as well.



*A school of striped catfish feed over the sand.*



*A pair of white-eyed morays peer out at the passing fish.*



*False clown anemonefish are common in this area.*

The thresher calmly cruise the reef above and below the divers, cruising closer to those that are still, and providing memories that will never fade.

The devilrays are impressive too, cavorting in small groups, their manoeuvrability simply amazing to behold. These are both spectacular fish.

Malapascua Island is located north of Cebu Island, in the central Philippines. Many international flights including Air Niugini fly direct to Cebu City, second only to the capital Manila in size, or domestic flights regularly leave from Manila itself. It is a three-hour car ride north from the airport to get to the ferry pickup, and a half-hour banca boat ride to the island.

The sharks are the main focus here, but not the only one! The waters around Malapascua teem with life. From black and white sea kraits to ghost pipefish, anglerfish, cuttlefish and crabs, there is simply a lot to see.

Bantigi and Ka Osting are two adjacent dives in shallow water. This is where divers explore small bommies and sand patches, looking for small colourful and unusual creatures.



*Robust ghost pipefish are quite large, growing to over 20 centimetres in length. They mimic a drifting piece of sea grass.*



There are many accommodation options on the island, one to suit every budget.

Ghost pipefish abound here, and tiny zebra crabs can be found on the toxic sea urchins here. Definitely look but don't touch, as the painful sting of these innocuous looking urchins can ruin a holiday!

There is not much to worry about here though, as the dive guides not only look after you well, but show you a lot of things that you just would not find for yourself.

Bugtong Bato is a large pinnacle that lies near the island. Rising out of forty metres, this large circular reef is home to such diverse critters as pygmy seahorse, schooling squid, an amazing variety of tropical fish, and about four different species of anemonefish. In fact, the top of the reef is literally covered in anemones and life.

Gato Island is about a forty-five minute boat ride from Malapascua, and is in itself

There is not much to worry about here though - the dive guides not only look after you well, they also show you a lot of things that you just would not find for yourself.




As in most of the Philippines, diving is done from banca's, sturdy wooden boats that are very stable in the water.

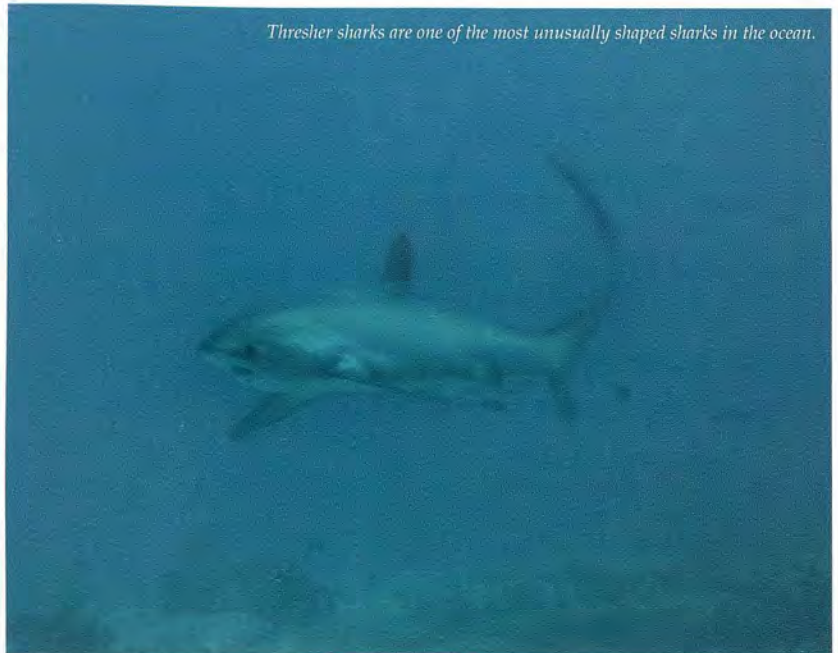
a popular dive site. It has a shallow tunnel running through the island, which is home to a resident population of white-tip reef sharks, usually has juvenile brown banded bamboo sharks, and sometimes catsharks as well.

Aside from the diving, there is still a lot to do on this small island. There are many bars and restaurants to try, there are beautiful swimming beaches and pools, and people to meet from all over the world. This is a place to come back to.

- For more information, contact: Thresher Shark Divers [www.malapascua-diving.com](http://www.malapascua-diving.com)

 Air Niugini flies to Cebu on Tuesday and to Manila on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Thresher sharks are one of the most unusually shaped sharks in the ocean.





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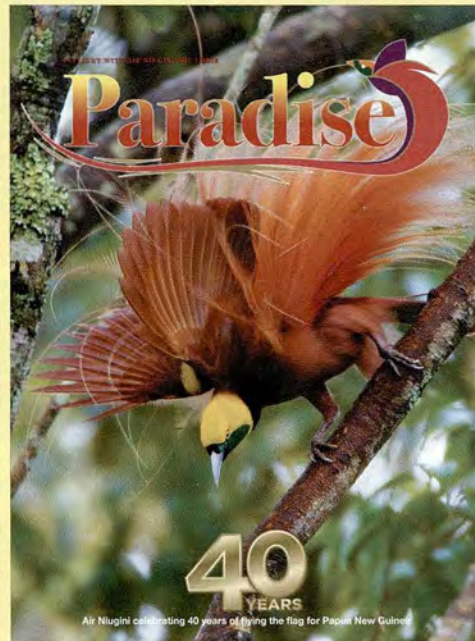
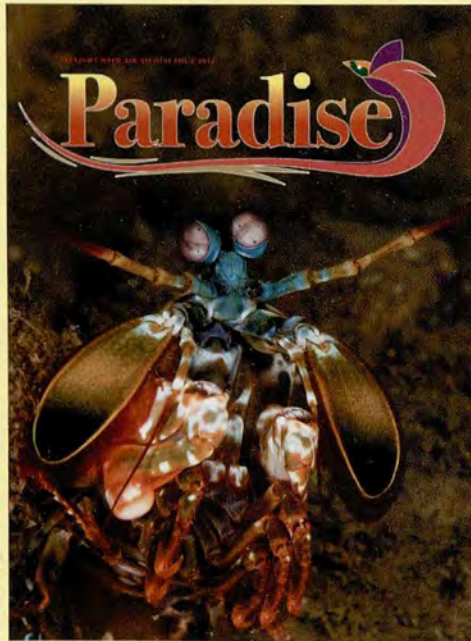
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# Cebu: Jewel of the Visayas

By Rick J Smee

**LIKE THE MIGHTY PHILIPPINES** Sea Eagle, our jet plane swept skyward and I watched as a magnificent panorama unfolded below me. En route to Cebu some years before, I had caught the notorious 'Red Eye Special' which departed Manila around 4am. Every recollection of the yawning morning has faded with time - except for the memory of the most spectacular sunrise I have ever seen.

Now a little older and (imperceptibly) wiser, I had opted for a 10am departure. Congratulations for this Napoleonic piece of forward planning seemed in order - but its significance was lost on my brother,

Charlie, who snored and snorted and made unpleasant noises throughout the whole journey.

We flew over to Taal Volcano, which is, in fact, a volcano in a lake in a volcano. Although only small as volcanoes go, Taal exists in an area of significant seismic activity. A few puffs of smoke drifting lazily from the shallow crater remind the locals that somewhere deep in the abyss, a giant sleeps. Soon, we were passing over the eastern coast of Mindoro Island. A sultry mandarin sun had burnished the island-strewn Sibuyan Sea with an immaculate lustre.



After touching down in Mactan Airport, we were whisked down the palm fringed streets toward Tambuli Beach Resort. Mactan Island was the scene of one of the most notable events in Philippines' history, and every year in late April, a re-enactment of the Battle of Mactan is staged there. After sailing halfway around the world in search of spices, silk and new colonies, Ferdinand Magellan arrived at the central Visayan island of Cebu on March 28, 1521. Magellan was so incensed by what he took to be insolence from Chief Lapu-Lapu that he decided to launch a punitive raid against

the warrior-king who dared to snub the might of Spain.

At dawn on April 27, 1721, sixty steel-clad conquistadors waded ashore from 80 boats crammed with a thousand waiting mercenaries. In what was a classic piece of military strategy, Chief Lapu-Lapu and his warriors engaged the invaders while the latter were still in the water. Restricted and weighed down by their armour, Magellan and his men were slaughtered while the mercenaries fled in panic. Each year, the events of that bloody morning nearly

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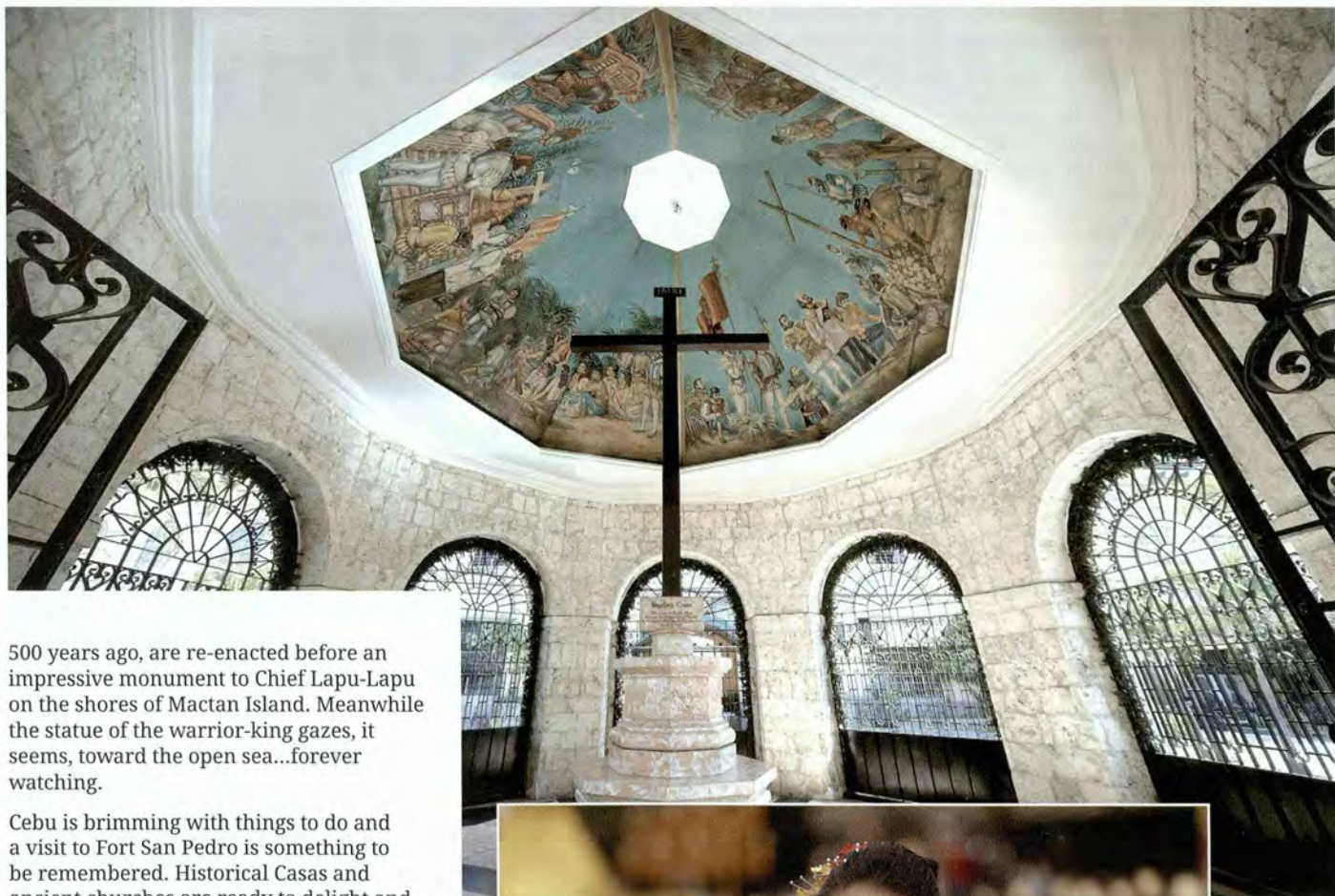
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500 years ago, are re-enacted before an impressive monument to Chief Lapu-Lapu on the shores of Mactan Island. Meanwhile the statue of the warrior-king gazes, it seems, toward the open sea...forever watching.

Cebu is brimming with things to do and a visit to Fort San Pedro is something to be remembered. Historical Casas and ancient churches are ready to delight and amaze. There are wonderful panoramic views from the high mountains. Here peace and serenity reign supreme but waiting below is bustling Cebu City with its diverse shopping, nightclubs and exquisite markets which seem to resemble a Filipino 'Aladdin's Cave'.

Cebu is home to the largest, noisiest and most exuberant fiesta in all the Philippines. Thousands of people gather around grand floats and colourful dancers to show their devotion to the infant Jesus. The Sinulog Festival runs from January 18 and the FILIPINOS love of a good celebration is evident everywhere, expect hospitality as you have never known it.





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During the War against the Americans (1899 to 1905), Filipino troops went into battle with a band playing. Once the fighting was over for the day, the Filipino troops got together for a jolly good party, and, of course, a party is not a party in the Philippines unless it is accompanied by much noise and hilarity.

The effect this had on the Americans was most likely, a rather negative one and some started to wonder how they could possibly defeat a people who found so much joy

in a life full of difficulties. The traditional Filipino spirit is still alive and well to this very day, as any visitor to these beautiful islands will tell you.



 Air Niugini flies direct to Cebu once a week.



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# THE LALATI MAGIC

By Rita Faye

In the middle of the ocean - that's where we were headed. Our destination was but a bump on the horizon. Even though it was a mere 25-minute boat ride from Fiji's main landmass, we were heading to an island that looked to be floating on the sea.





**OUR QUEST TO VISIT FIJI** had to satisfy both our whims. On previous Fiji vacations, my husband and I did a variety of resort stays - main island hotels with all the goodies to suit my tastes, as well as "eco-friendly with limited electricity" hideaways that tempted my husband, Jon, with their promises of great adventures ahead. But this time, we needed to find something that would tick both our boxes. Which was, in effect, a dichotomy.

My husband, Jon, loves the idea of the "grass hut by the sea" style of minimalist travel. I loved it too - in theory though, not in practice. Romance! Right on the beach! Thatched Bungalows! But, if I am to be totally honest with both myself and Jon, the simple fact is I need my amenities. All of my amenities. If I'm on vacation, the last thing I want to do is look like something the cat dragged in. I want my husband to look around him and think that his surroundings are almost as beautiful as his wife.

We found Lalati Resort & Spa, a small boutique-style resort on Beqa Island, famous for its firewalkers. I was not 100% sold, though it seemed the closest to fitting the bill for us both. Away from it all, which made me a bit nervous, yet close enough that I gave it a weak thumbs up. Small

**No longer was my main worry that the hairdryers in the villas would be powerful enough to tame my wildly curly locks (they were). Instead, I had a feeling of giving myself completely over to the magic of my surroundings.**

(10 rooms) which would make Jon happy, yet with a bit of the luxury I craved... hairdryers and coffee makers in the rooms, 24-hour electricity, room service, turn down service, laundry service...well, service in general. I don't mean to sound like a princess, but if this was to be my one big getaway for the year, it had to be a good one.

So, in the middle of the ocean we cruised. Across the open seas, we watched in fascination as flying fish zoomed alongside us. A pod of dolphins played in our wake. We rounded a corner and Lalati revealed herself - a bit shy and hidden into the green, green hillsides, peeking through palms and tropical gardens. "Ok," I thought. "I can do this."

Lalati Resort is not what you expect. As I sat in the airy main building, laden with tropical flowers around my neck, my feet soaking in a fragrant mix of coconut

milk and floral scented oils, I could feel a general easing of my soul. No longer was my main worry that the hairdryers in the villas would be powerful enough to tame my wildly curly locks (they were). Instead, I had a feeling of giving myself completely over to the magic of my surroundings.

Lalati is both raw and refined at the same time. Raw in that it's cut out of a swath in the rainforest, fronted by the mouth of a bay that leads to Beqa Lagoon, a 200 square mile lagoon encapsulated by a 100-mile stretch of gorgeous reef that's renowned for diving, snorkelling and surfing. While the gardens are carefully tended, there's something wild just beneath the surface. As if to tell you that, given enough time, they'd easily take over in a riotous display of purples and magentas, and reds and greens - covering everything not mobile. Yet refined in the gentle peoples who make it their mission to ensure your holiday is everything you want it to be.





I gazed out, feeling a calmness that was reflected by Malumu Bay. "Oh My God" I mouthed to Jon. "I have to go in. Like, right now." Zara, one-half of the resort's dive management duo, was nearby and overheard my almost desperate plea. Smiling, she said, "Come with me, I have just what you need." Within 15 minutes I was fitted with fins and mask, and slipping in the embryonic and embracing warmth of South Pacific waters.

Underneath the seas was an untamed world, and the "house reef" was just what I needed. Many juvenile fish clustered together in coral reef heads. Bright, brilliant blue fish darted in and out, and a lionfish finned its way around the end of the jetty. There were literally hundreds of fish that Fijians called "Police Fish" because there were so many of them (an understatement) and if you were very quiet, and very patient, I'm told you could catch sight of sea horses that live amongst the grasses of the shallows.

I popped my head to the surface and yelled to Jon, who was on the dock watching. "We have to do this - every day." He grinned, getting ready to don dive gear and join a group of 6 for an afternoon dive on the outer reefs of the



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like floating in the pool, or the ocean, or swinging in our hammock on our decks reading novels, it was all "alright." So we mixed it up - a tropical massage and lazy day, followed by a day of kayaking deep into the depths of Malumu Bay, where we paddled through peaceful yet jungle-like mangrove tunnels.

The snorkeling safari revealed the largest tiger cowry ever seen, and we watched the hawksbill turtles rising up to the surface for a quick breath of air before heading back down to the sea. The colours of both hard and soft corals in Beqa Lagoon took our breath away.

We paddled to a white sand beach, just minutes from the resort, where we didn't find the "usual suspects" - miles of beach chairs and oiled bodies and smells of Coppertone. We hiked to a waterfall, and I spent the day in the resorts spa, under capable and loving hands, until my muscles turned to butter. We watched staff climb tall coconut trees, explaining what every bit of the coconut was used for, then turning it into a participation sport by teaching and letting us weave our own baskets out of the stiff fronds.

lagoon. General Manager Kirsti Deacon-Smith summed it up best - "Some people go on vacation feeling pressured either to relax or to cram stuff in every minute of every day. Here there isn't any pressure. It is your vacation, and anything is alright."

Nobody made us feel compelled to participate in the many activities offered. If we felt



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In the mornings we'd make a pot of French Press coffee from our room, and sit on our spacious villa deck, watching the show unfold. The sunrises over Lalati's cove were mesmerizing. At night, with a bottle of excellent Australian cab, we'd gather in the main building, watching spellbound as the moon rose over the bay.

On our last day, Jon and I looked at each other and knew - we had done it. We had feasted on fine cuisine - coconut crusted mahimahi, fresh tuna, lamb with rosemary sauce - worthy of the most discriminating American palate (mine, of course!). We dove into adventure, let ourselves unwind, found our spirits, and fed our souls. We slept to the sounds of the waves on the shore, the sleep of the truly fulfilled. We fell in love - with ourselves, with a staff of the most accommodating individuals on the planet, and with the calm, serene and stunningly beautiful surroundings.



• Rita Faye is a West Coast travel writer. This is her 5<sup>th</sup> (and not final!) trip to the Fiji Islands

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# FORMER AIR NIUGINI CEO HEADS IPBC



## Foo's Acting CEO for Air Niugini

FORMER AIR NIUGINI executive and board director, Mr Simon Foo (pictured) is the acting Chief Executive Officer of the national flag carrier pending a permanent appointment.

Mr Foo's appointment was made by the Board of Air Niugini Limited in February this year following the resignation of Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri. Mr Foo is not new to the airline industry having worked with Air Niugini previously in various senior management roles and also served on the airline board since 2002.



Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri being farewelled by Air Niugini's flight attendants.

MR WASANTHA KUMARASIRI, former Chief Executive Officer of the country's national airline, is the new head of IPBC (the Independent Public Business Corporation), which oversees PNG's state-owned assets such as Air Niugini.

Whilst taking up his new appointment, Mr Kumarasiri said he was honoured by the opportunity to head such an organisation which manages the government's assets that are directly contributing to the development of the country through their respective delivery of services.

Air Niugini chairman, Mr Garth McIlwain in his acknowledgment said Mr Kumarasiri's contribution to Air Niugini during his tenure was "outstanding" towards the growth and expansion of the airline. The number of aircraft in the fleet "had increased" from 12 to 27 while the annual passenger uplift for last year "had reached" about 1.5 million.

The IPBC portfolio includes Eda Ranu, Motor Vehicle Insurance Ltd, National Development Bank, Ports Corporation, PNG Power, PNG Waterboard, Post PNG, Telikom PNG and Air Niugini.

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MONDAY			
PX101	07:00	LAE - POM	07:45
PX090	09:00	POM - CNS	10:25
PX105	14:10	LAE - POM	15:00
PX098	16:45	POM - CNS	18:25
TUESDAY			
PX105	14:10	LAE - POM	15:00
PX098	16:45	POM - CNS	18:25
WEDNESDAY			
PX105	14:10	LAE - POM	14:55
PX098	16:45	POM - CNS	18:10
THURSDAY			
PX105	14:10	LAE - POM	15:00
PX098	16:45	POM - CNS	18:25
FRIDAY			
PX101	07:00	LAE - POM	07:45
PX090	09:00	POM - CNS	10:25
PX105	14:10	LAE - POM	14:55
PX098	16:45	POM - CNS	18:10
SATURDAY			
PX101	07:00	LAE - POM	07:45
PX090	09:00	POM - CNS	10:25
SUNDAY			
PX101	07:00	LAE - POM	07:45
PX090	09:00	POM - CNS	10:40
PX105	14:10	LAE - POM	14:55
PX098	16:45	POM - CNS	18:10

## BETTER CONNECTIONS NOW AVAILABLE BETWEEN LAE & CAIRNS

### TO LAE from Cairns via POM

MONDAY			
PX091	06:00	CNS - POM	07:25
PX102	09:00	POM - LAE	09:45
TUESDAY			
PX091	06:00	CNS - POM	07:40
PX102	09:00	POM - LAE	09:45
WEDNESDAY			
PX091	06:00	CNS - POM	07:40
PX102	09:00	POM - LAE	09:45
THURSDAY			
PX091	06:00	CNS - POM	07:25
PX102	09:00	POM - LAE	09:45
FRIDAY			
PX091	06:00	CNS - POM	07:45
PX102	09:00	POM - LAE	09:45

Schedules effective  
March 31, 2013



# AIRLINE HOLDS CONFERENCE FOR CARGO STAFF



Cargo staff at work.



Cargo staff who attended the two-day conference in Port Moresby.

**A** two-day cargo conference was held at the end of February in Port Moresby by Air Niugini's Cargo Department for its staff. This is to discuss the department's 2013 revenue goals and strategies and ways to further improve its daily operations.

Staff from all Air Niugini domestic and international ports of Brisbane, Cairns, Sydney, including the airline's General Sales Agents (GSAs) from the United States, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, India, Japan, Korea and the Philippines attended the conference.

Air Niugini's acting Chief Executive Officer Mr Simon Foo said "networking and team building were important and dissemination of information at such meetings was imperative to better inform and steer the staff to work towards their goals and

objectives; all for the betterment of their department and Air Niugini."

Discussions were also held on issues relating to security and compliance, actions to navigate emerging threats and protecting share markets, networking and team building, and general information on Air Niugini for the newer staff.

During the conference, General Manager for Commercial, Mr Dominic Kaumu took the opportunity to launch Air Niugini's cargo website [www.airniugini.com.pg/cargo](http://www.airniugini.com.pg/cargo).

The new website aims to provide information on Air Niugini's cargo facilities in Port Moresby, cargo department's goals and objectives, various freighters used and latest data on Air Niugini cargo.

Air Niugini opened an additional cargo terminal in Port Moresby which allows ease of delivery and acceptance of cargo from clients. Located within the close proximity to the older cargo terminal, the new terminal will be used for overseas freight whilst the original terminal will be used for domestic cargo.

Mr Foo said: "As we expand our operations, we are also making continuous improvements to our facilities and services to offer more to our customers - in the public and business sectors. It is also part of our effort to ensure we deliver enhanced customer service to our valued customers.

The chiller rooms at the terminals are being refurbished further with automating functions being carried out at the cargo department to make services easier for customers to access.

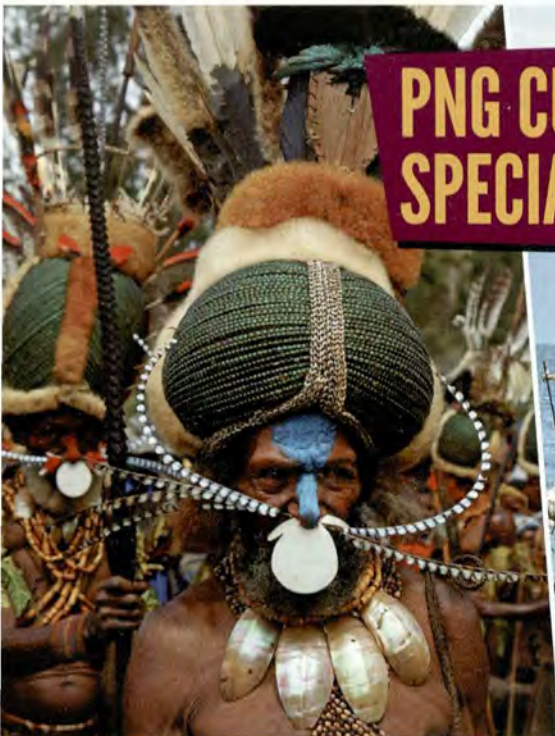
## OTHER SCHEDULE CHANGES

The mid-day POM/Madang/Wewak/Madang/POM service on Tuesday and Thursday is replaced with POM/Wewak/Madang/POM (Tuesday) and POM/Madang/Wewak/POM (Thursday).

The direct Rabaul and Buka flights on Thursday is combined and operate as a Port Moresby/Buka/Rabaul/Port Moresby sector.

Mt Hagen has an aircraft overnighting on Sunday and operates an early departure on Monday to Port Moresby.

# PNG CULTURAL FESTIVALS & SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR 2013



DATES	EVENTS/FESTIVAL	LOCATION	INFORMATION SOURCE
<b>JUNE</b>			
26th - 28th	Kontu/Tembin Shark Calling Festival	New Ireland	New Ireland Tourism Bureau, Mr. Samuel Apisai, P.O. Box 419, New Ireland, Ph: +675 9842 441, email: nitb@global.com.pg
<b>JULY</b>			
TBC	Ugwabwena Yam Festival	Trobriand Island	Milne Bay Tourism Bureau, P.O. Box 337, Alotau, Ph: +675 6411 503, Fax: +675 6410 132, email: intotourism@milnebay.gov.pg
23rd	Rememberance Day	Alotau	Milne Bay Tourism Bureau, P.O. Box 337, Alotau Ph: +675 6411 503, Fax: +675 6410 132, email: intotourism@milnebay.gov.pg
TBC	Hiri Moale Festival (R)	Port Moresby	MotuKoita Assembly Office, P.O. Box 532, Port Moresby, Ph: +675 3217 132. Contact person: Willie Tamarau
12th - 16th	Warwagira Festival	Kokopo, East New Britain	East New Britain Tourism Bureau, P.O. Box 2800 Ph: +675 9828 857, Fax: +675 9828 697, email: enbtourism@global.com.pg
17th - 20th	Canoe Racing and Music Festival	Kokopo, East New Britain	East New Britain Tourism Bureau, P.O. Box 2800. Ph: +675 9828 857, Fax: +675 9828 697, email: enbtourism@global.com.pg
19th - 22nd	Yamut Cultural Festival and New Ireland Day	New Ireland	New Ireland Tourism Bureau, Mr. Samuel Apisai, P.O. Box 419, New Ireland, Ph: 9842 441, email: nitb@global.con.pg
TBC	National Mask Festival	Kimbe	National Cultural Commission, Ph: +675 3235 111 Fax: +675 3235 119, email: culture@ncc.gov.pg  East New Britain Tourism Bureau, P.O. Box 2800, Ph: +675 9828 857, Fax: +675 9828 697, email: enbtourism@global.com.pg
<b>AUGUST</b>			
6th - 7th	Sepik River Crocodile Festival	Ambunti District	Hennik Anskar, Chairperson for the Sepik River Crocodile Festival Committee, Mobile Ph Contact: +675 7223 8253
9th - 11th	Enga Cultural Show	Enga	Margaret Potane, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, email: mpotane@gmail.com
17th - 18th	Mt. Hagen Show (R)	Mt. Hagen	Western Highlands Tourism Bureau, Mr. Samuel Angimb, P.O. Box 390, Mt. Hagen, Western Highlands, Ph: +675 5422 971 / 7320 7518





DATES	EVENTS/FESTIVAL	LOCATION	INFORMATION SOURCE
<b>AUGUST</b>			
25th	Milne Bay Day Dawn Service 71st Battle of Milne Bay	Alotau	Milne Bay Tourism Bureau, P.O. Box 337, Alotau Ph: +675 6411 503, Fax: +675 6410 132, email: intotourism@milnebay.gov.pg
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
14th - 15th (Tentative Date)	Goroka Show (R)	Eastern Highlands	Mr. Tom Soles, Event Committee Chairman
16th	Independence Day Celebration and Tanga Yam Festival	New Ireland	New Ireland Tourism Bureau, Mr. Samuel Apisai, P.O. Box 419, New Ireland, Ph: +675 9842 441, email: nitb@global.con.pg
19th - 20th	Kalam Festival	Simbai, Madang Province	Contact person: Dickson Kangi, Ph: +675 7135 7801 or 4334 146
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
TBC	Louisiade Yacht Rally & Misima Island Cultural Show	Louisiade Islands and Misima Island	Milne Bay Tourism Bureau, P.O. Box 337, Alotau, Ph: +675 6411 503, Fax: +675 6410 132, email: intotourism@milnebay.gov.pg
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
1st - 3rd	National Kenu and Kundu Festival (R)	Alotau	Milne Bay Tourism Bureau, P.O. Box 337, Alotau, Ph: +675 6411 503, Fax: +675 6410 132, email: intotourism@milnebay.gov.pg
TBC	Kiriwina Cultural Show	Losuia	Milne Bay Tourism Bureau, P.O. Box 337, Alotau, Ph: +675 6411 503, Fax: +675 6410 132, email: intotourism@milnebay.gov.pg
<b>DECEMBER</b>			

- - Confirmed dates
- TBC - To be confirmed by organisers
- (R) - Recommended or is the major annual show

**NOTE:** Contact National Cultural Commission Ph: +675 3235 120 or +675 3235 117 to confirm dates of festivals from time to time. The compilation of this calendar is the initiative of the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority. Dates for other events are yet to be confirmed by the organisers.



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The incredibly rugged terrain of Papua New Guinea makes it almost impossible to move cargo by road. They say that over the last 40 years, this amazing country has been built using our cargo aircraft and I'd say that's about right.

James Tira - Executive Manager, Cargo.



**Air Niugini 40**  
YEARS

Flying the flag for Papua New Guinea.

[www.airniugini.com.pg/cargo](http://www.airniugini.com.pg/cargo)

# helping sally grow<sup>↑</sup>

Sally, Business owner of Blooming Flowers.  
She is a BSP customer - for over 7 years.

## Sally's Story

As a woman in business, Sally says BSP has really encouraged and supported her. Through her business she has helped 25 village women, who have successfully started up their own businesses in areas across PNG including Goroka, Lae and the Highlands.

BSP makes it possible for Sally to bank money directly into their accounts - quickly and cheaply. She says BSP is like a partner and is interested in assisting her to grow her business further.

We didn't  
choose Sally.

She chose us.



These are  
real people  
with real stories.

We have a million stories -  
and this is just one of them.  
Share your story.  
[Onemillionstories@bsp.com.pg](mailto:Onemillionstories@bsp.com.pg)



Helping PNG  
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[www.bsp.com.pg](http://www.bsp.com.pg)



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- Genuine Parts Backup
- Quality Service Support
- Panel & Spray Painting
- Yamalube Products
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### 16 DEALERSHIPS NATIONWIDE

ALOTAU - PH 641 0100 FAX 641 0102    KIMBE - PH 983 5155 FAX 983 5119    MADANG - PH 422 2188 FAX 422 3010    PORGERA - PH 547 9367 FAX 547 9348  
BUKA - PH 973 9915 FAX 973 9916    KOKOPO - PH 982 9100 FAX 982 9101    MT. HAGEN - PH 542 1888 FAX 542 1937    TABUBIL - PH 649 9060 FAX 649 9294  
GORDKA - PH 532 1844 FAX 532 2426    LAE - PH 478 1800 FAX 472 2463    POM - BADILI - PH 322 9400 FAX 321 7268    VANIMO - PH 457 1254 FAX 457 1226  
KAVIENG - PH 984 2788 FAX 984 2251    LIHIR - PH 986 4099 FAX 986 4097    POM - WAIGANI - PH 325 7388 FAX 325 1252    WEWAK - PH 456 2255 FAX 456 2252

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