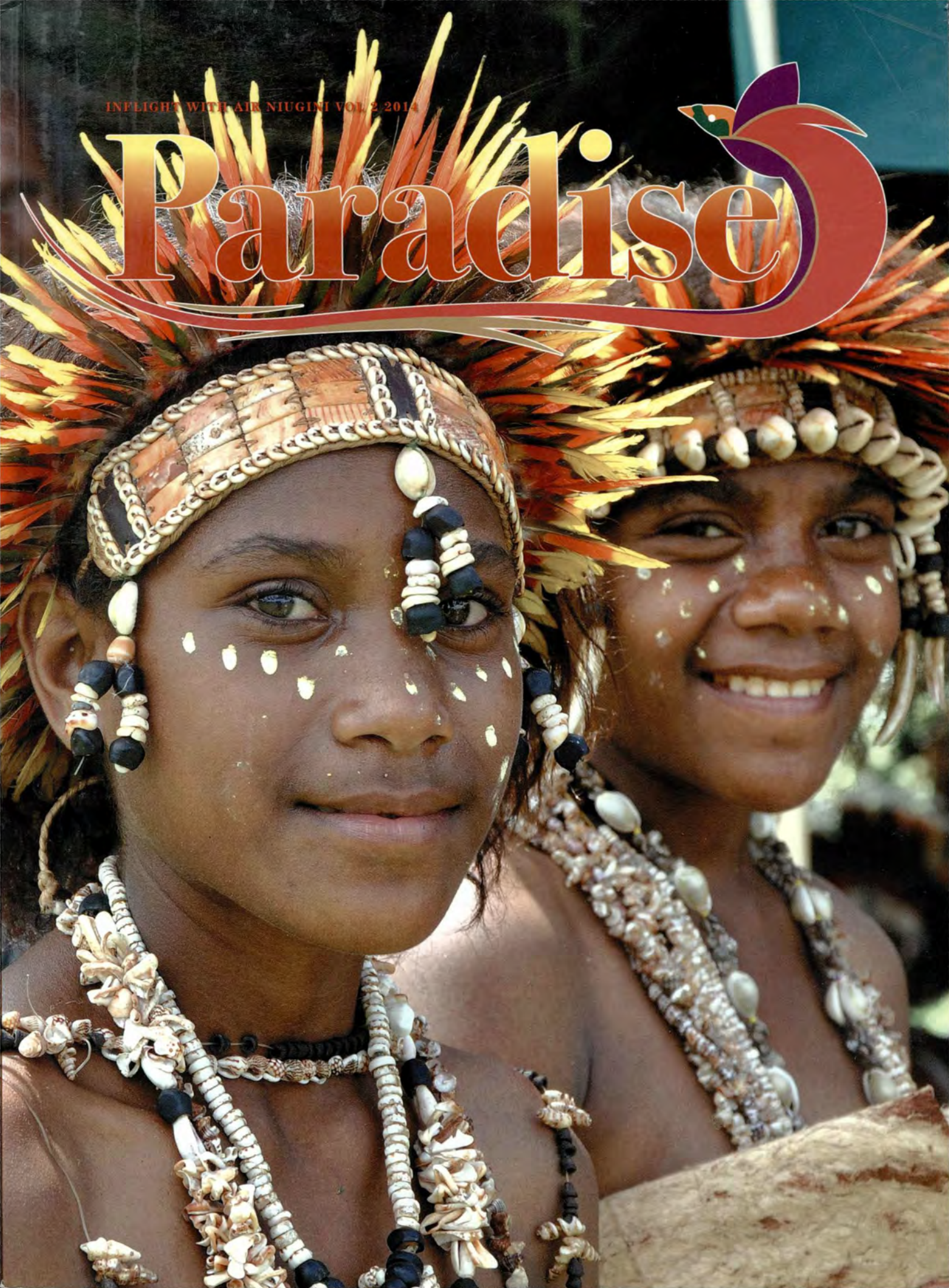


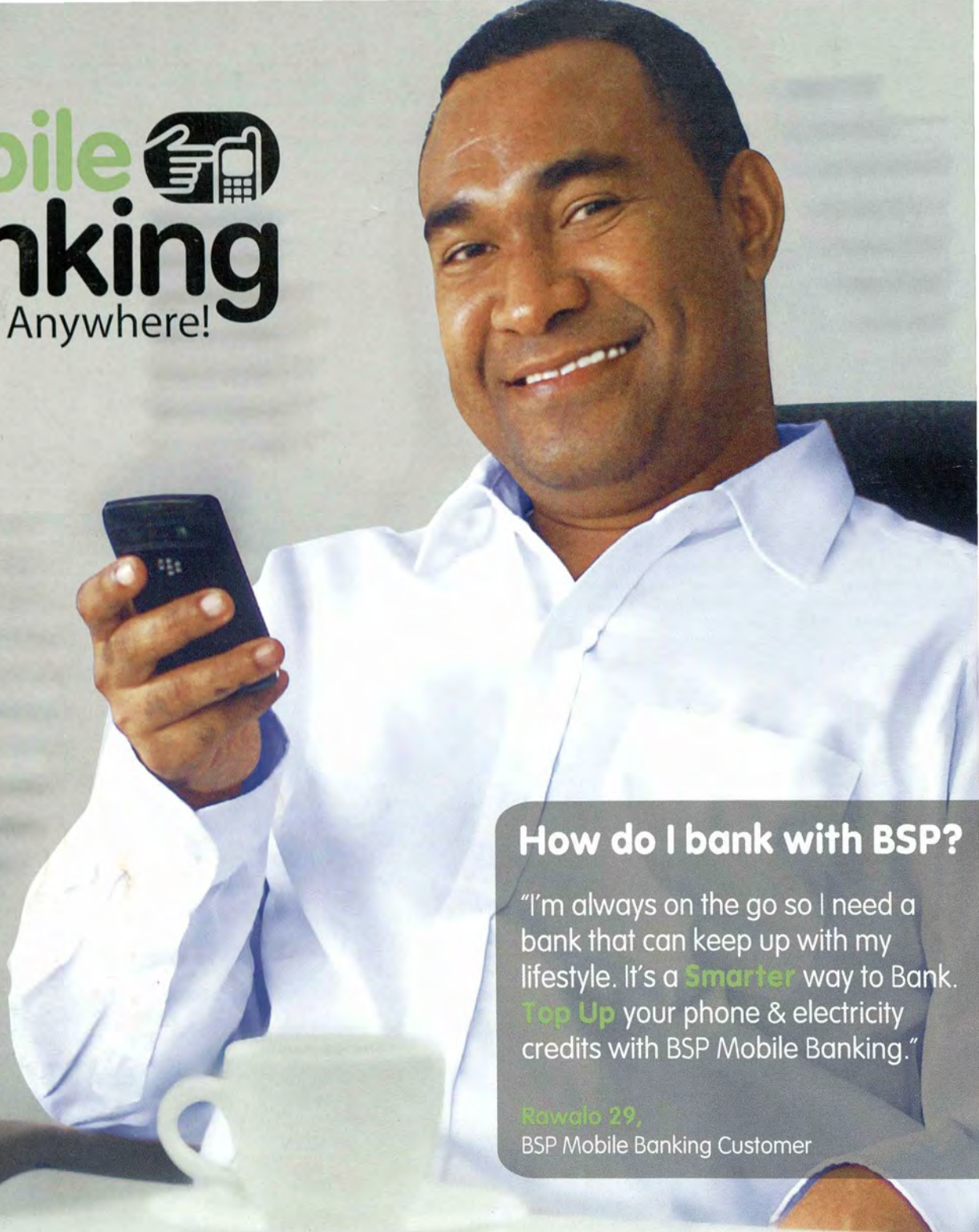
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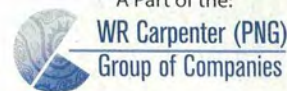


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PROJECT LOCATION MAP



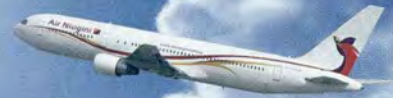
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Message from the Office of the Chief Executive Officer



Welcome Aboard

With Papua New Guinea experiencing continuing economic growth, Air Niugini is also ensuring its business plans are secured to support future expansions in its operations.

We have increased our service to Singapore to five flights per week with the commencement of a fifth service on April 1, 2014. As a regional carrier, Air Niugini will continue to cater for the growing traffic demand to and from Singapore and offer more options to our passengers with better connections to other parts of Asia and the world. Our flights to Singapore operate every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The recent opening of our Sales office in Arawa in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville is in support of the national Government's pledge for accelerated implementation of national services to the people of Central and South Bougainville. This move has been welcomed and the sales office staff have been busy with very happy customers. An announcement on flights to Aropa will be made after the recommissioning of the airport by the appropriate authorities.

The fleet modernisation programme involving Air Niugini's Boeing fleet is now complete with the arrival of the fifth and final aircraft this month. The retrofit programme which commenced last July with two Boeing 767s followed by three Boeing 737s has seen improvements to the aircraft interiors to offer a whole new travel experience to our customers. With the completion of the Boeing fleet retrofit, Air Niugini will also roll out the same programme across its domestic fleet. So far, one Fokker 100 and two Dash8 aircraft have had improvements made to their cabin interiors.

For more information on Air Niugini, please visit www.airniugini.com.pg.

Thank you for your continued patronage.

Enjoy your flight.

Simon Foo CBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Elvira Hahis - Flight Attendant.



Air Niugini 40
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Tapa & Tattoo Festival

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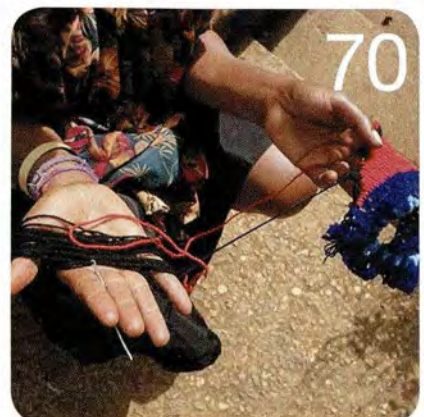
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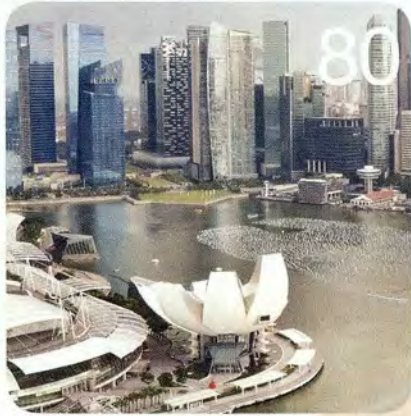
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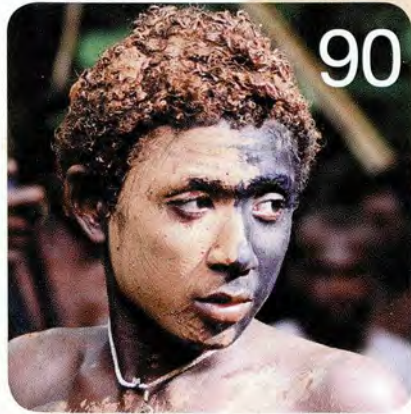
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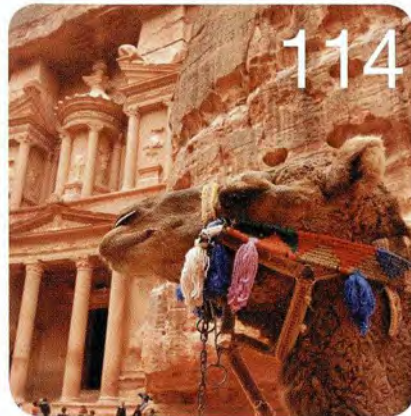
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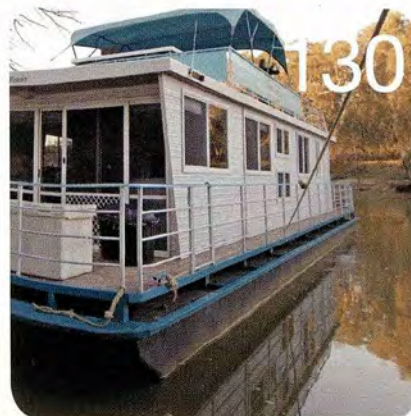
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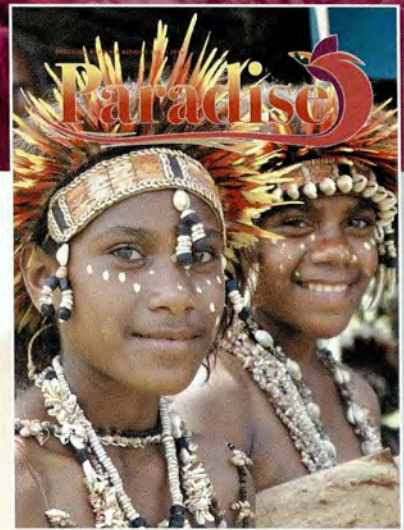
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by Euralia Paine

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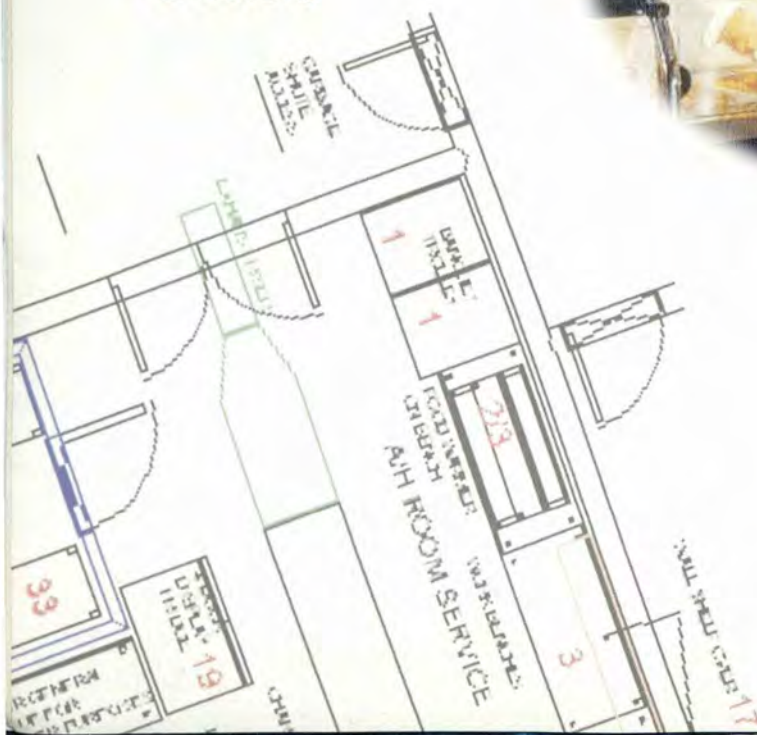
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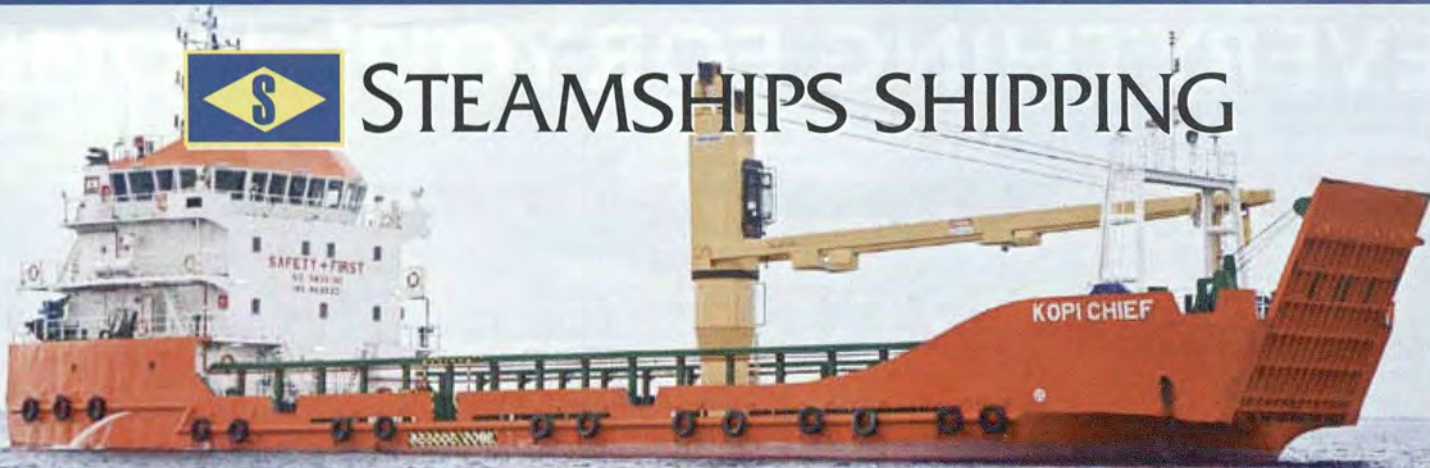
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- Reliable cargo liner services
- Fleet of geared, multipurpose vessels ranging from 500DWT to 6000DWT
- All vessels over 500GT are all IACS classed and comply with all international maritime regulations including SOLAS and MARPOL

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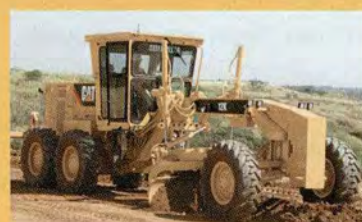
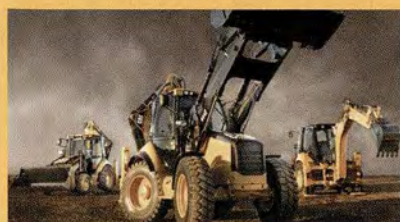


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If there is anything our cabin crew can assist you with during your flight, please do not hesitate to ask them.

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

Takeoff and landing

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

Safety first

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

Electronic equipment

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

Children and babies

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

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

Entertainment

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

Pillows and blankets

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

Cuisine

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

In-flight Duty Free

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

Immigration and Customs Forms

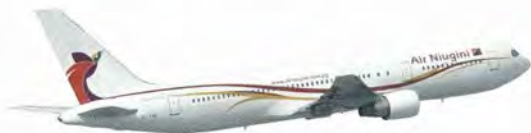
During your flight, our cabin crew will distribute Immigration and Custom forms before each landing point. Ensure that you carefully read and complete these documents and have them ready for inspection with your passport at the Immigration and Customs arrival counters.

Before you leave

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



Air Niugini fleet



B767-300ER - Boeing

Length: 59.94m	Power plant: 2 x PW4000
Wing span: 47.57m	Normal altitude: 11000 - 12000m
Range: 8100km	Standard seating capacity: 214
Cruising speed: 857kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 2



B737-800 - Boeing

Length: 39.5m	Power plant: 2 x CFM56 - 7B26
Wing span: 35.79m	Normal altitude: 11300m
Range: 8100km	Standard seating capacity: 158
Cruising speed: 857kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 2



B737-700 - Boeing

Length: 33.6m	Power plant: 2 x CFM56 - 7B22
Wing span: 35.79m	Normal altitude: 11300m
Range: 6370km	Standard seating capacity: 122
Cruising speed: 830kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 1



F100 - Fokker

Length: 35.528m	Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650
Wing span: 28.076m	Normal altitude: 11000m
Range: 3000km	Standard seating capacity: 98
Cruising speed: 780kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 7



DASH 8-Q400 NextGen - Bombardier

Length: 32.8m	Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW150A
Wing span: 28.4m	Normal altitude: 7500m
Range: 3000km	Standard seating capacity: 74
Cruising speed: 670kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 6



DASH 8-Q315 - Bombardier

Length: 25.7m	Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123E
Wing span: 24.4m	Normal altitude: 7500m
Range: 1700km	Standard seating capacity: 50
Cruising speed: 510kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 4



DHC-8-202 - Bombardier

Length: 22.25m	Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123D
Wing span: 25.89m	Normal altitude: 7600m
Range: 1800km	Standard seating capacity: 36
Cruising speed: 550kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 4



Falcon 900EX - Dassault

Length: 20.21m	Power plant: 3 x Honeywell TFE731
Wing span: 19.33m	Maximum altitude: 51000ft
Range: 4500nm	Standard seating capacity: 12
Cruising speed: 650mph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 1

Your wellbeing



These exercises are designed to encourage a safe way to enjoy movement and stretch certain muscle groups that can become stiff as a result of long periods of sitting. They may be effective in increasing the body's circulation and massaging the muscles. We recommend you do these exercises for three or

four minutes every hour and occasionally get out of your seat and walk down the aisles if conditions allow. Each exercise should be done with minimal disturbance to other passengers. None of the following should be performed if they cause pain or cannot be done with ease.



ANKLE CIRCLES

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

KNEE LIFTS

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

SHOULDER ROLL

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

ARM CURL

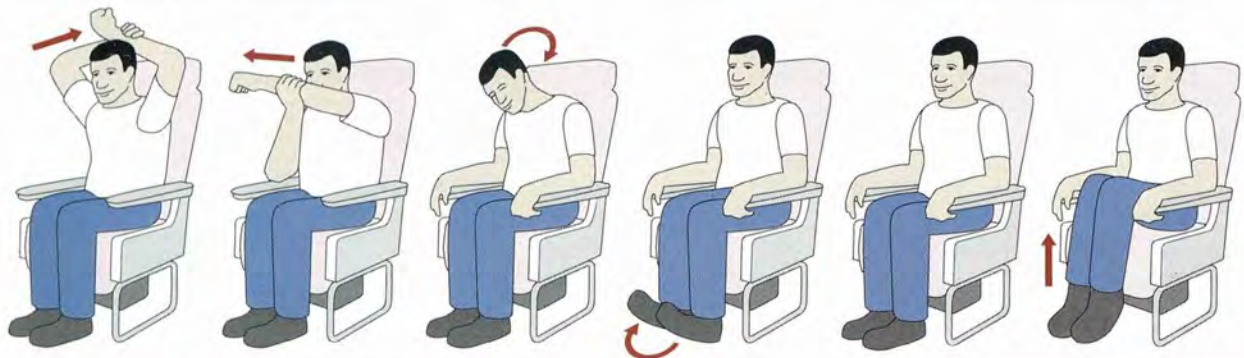
Start with arms held high at 90° angle - elbows down, hands out in front. Raise hands up to chest and back down alternating arms. Do these exercises in 30 second intervals.

KNEE TO CHEST

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

FORWARD FLEX

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



OVERHEAD STRETCH

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

SHOULDER STRETCH

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

NECK ROLL

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

FOOT PUMPS

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

2. Put both feet flat on the floor.

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



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Your health inflight

At Air Niugini we care about your comfort and safety. We have included the following information about your health in-flight that we hope you will find helpful and useful.

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

Blood Circulation/Muscle Relaxation

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

The central blood vessels in your legs can be compressed, making it more difficult for the blood to get back to your heart.

The long inactivity of your body muscles in this position can result in muscle tension, back aches or a feeling of excessive fatigue during, or even after, your flight.

A stationary position inhibits the normal body mechanism for returning fluid to your heart, and gravity can cause the fluid to collect in your feet. This results in swollen feet after a long flight.

Studies have concluded that prolonged immobility may be a risk factor in the formation of clots in the legs (DVT - deep vein thrombosis). Particular medication and medical conditions may increase the risk of formation of clots if associated with prolonged immobility.

Medical research indicates that factors which may give you an increased risk of blood clots in the legs include:

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

- ✧ Increasing age above 40 years
- ✧ Pregnancy
- ✧ Recent major surgery or injury, especially to lower limbs or abdomen
- ✧ Oestrogen hormone therapy, including oral contraceptives
- ✧ Dehydration
- ✧ Heart failure
- ✧ Trauma
- ✧ Varicose veins
- ✧ Obesity
- ✧ Tobacco smoking

Recommendations

- ◆ If you fall into any of these categories or you have any concern about your health and flying, Air Niugini recommends you seek medical advice before travelling.
- ◆ Follow our in-flight exercises programme.

Jetlag

The main cause of jetlag is travelling to different time zones without giving the body a chance to adjust to new night-day cycles. In general, the more time zones you cross during your flight, the more your biological clock is disturbed.

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

Recommendations

- ◆ Get a good night's rest before your flight.
- ◆ Arrive at your destination a day or two early, to give your body a chance to become more acclimatised to the new time zone.
- ◆ Leave your watch on home time if you're staying at a destination less than 48 hours. Also try to eat and sleep according to your home time.



- ◆ Change your watch to the local time if your stay is longer than 48 hours, and try to eat and sleep in accordance with the local time.
- ◆ On longer stays, try to prepare in advance, adjust your meal and rest times to be closer to those of your destination.
- ◆ Try some light exercise - go for a brisk walk, or do some reading if you can't sleep after arrival at your destination. It generally takes the body's biological clock approximately one day to adjust per time zone crossed. Fly direct to minimise flight time. This allows you to relax more upon arrival.

Cabin Humidity/Dehydration

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

Recommendations

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

Eating and Drinking

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

Recommendations

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

Cabin Pressurisation

It is necessary to pressurise the outside air drawn into the cabin to a sufficient density for your comfort and health.

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

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

Recommendations

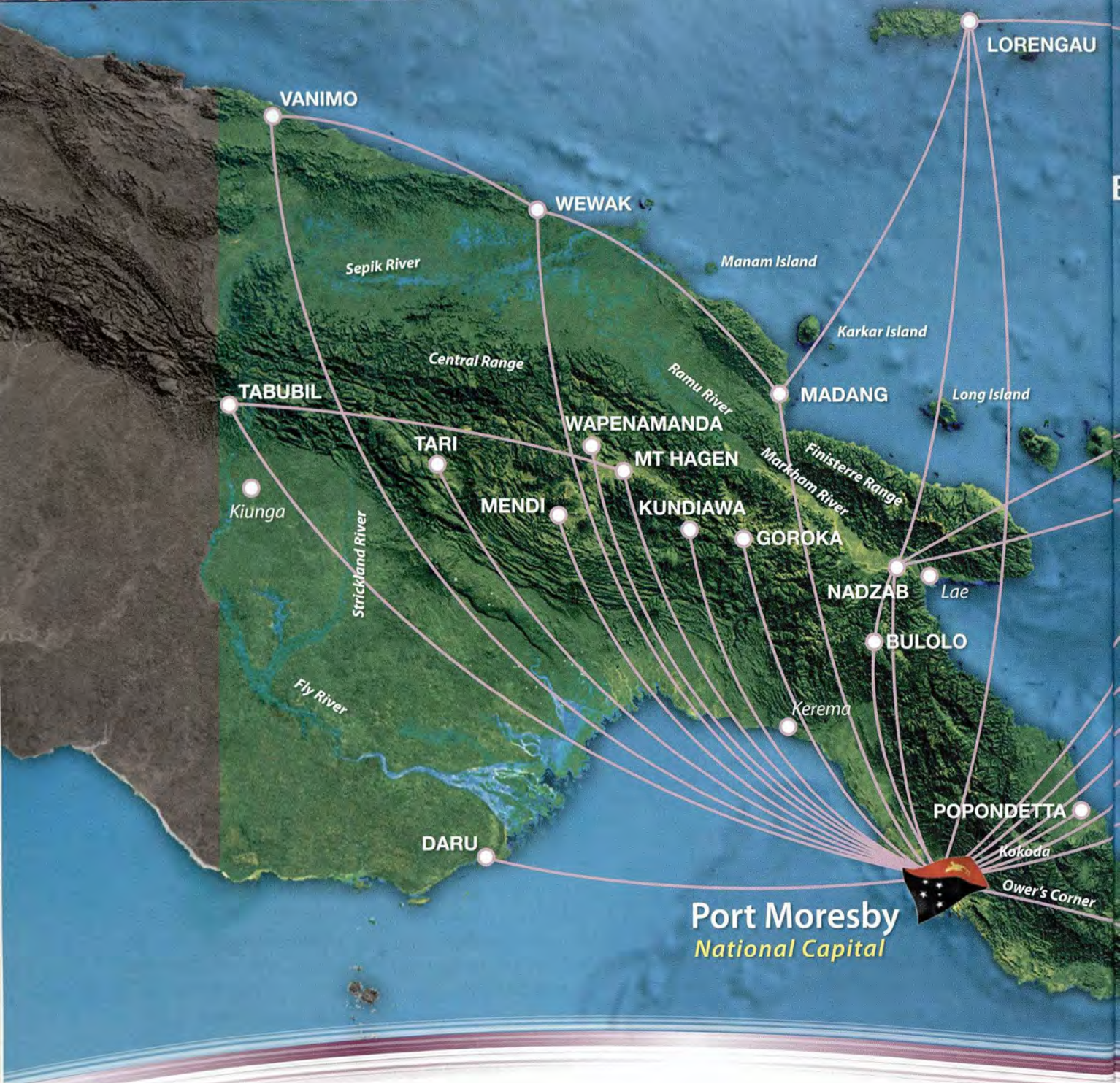
- ◆ If you have a pre-existing medical condition that warrants supplemental oxygen, you can order from us. Please give at least seven days notice before travelling.
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Recommendations

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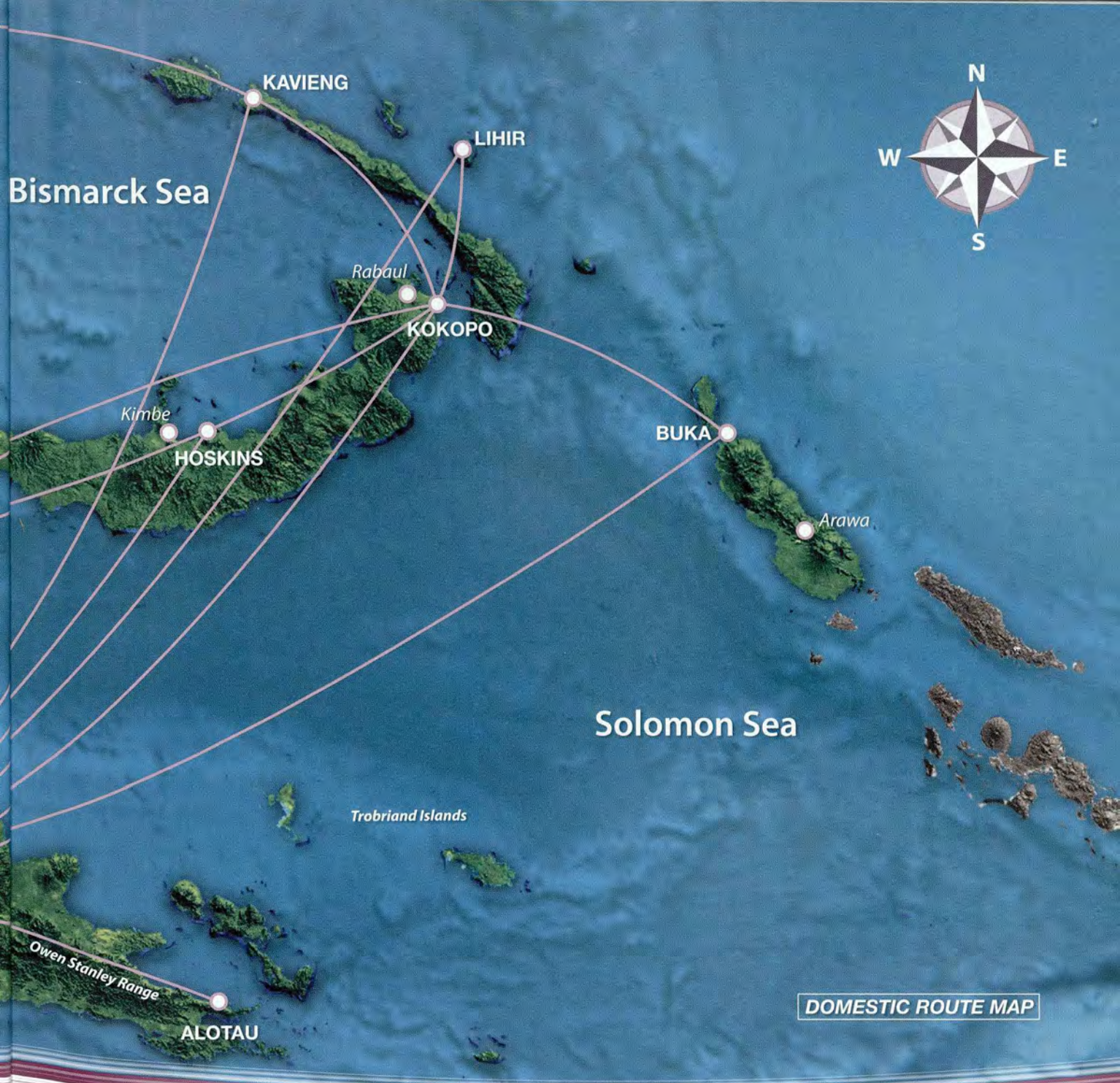
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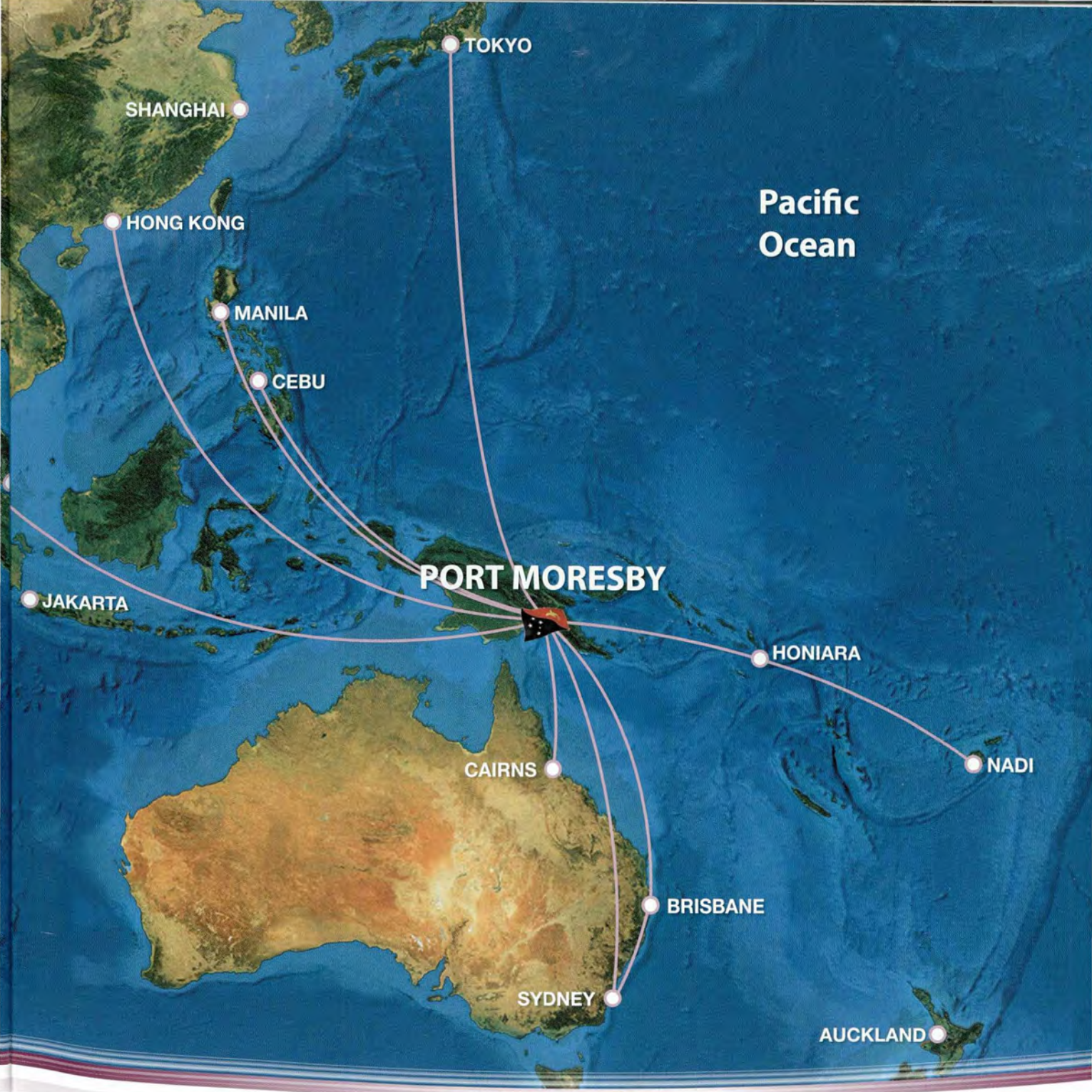
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TAPA & TATTOO FESTIVAL

A glimpse of the rich Oro culture

BY EURALIA PAINE



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At nightfall a silvery moon slithers its way across the starry sky and casts its glow over the ocean like diamonds on a sheet of glass. That's when the maidens come out to dance the *kere*.

Dressed in tapa cloth, coconut shell armbands and scented leaves, their bodies glisten in the moonlight. The maidens have gathered on the beach to serenade young men. Their seductive melodies waft through the night air accompanied by the swish-swish of the tapa. The *kere* beckons to young men to leave their fishing canoes, lay down their hunting spears and join the maidens on the beach for a playful rendezvous.



The Oro culture is steeped in stringent protocols, unwritten anywhere, but recollected and passed down through generations. The people believe that their culture is like a beacon of light that identifies who they are and denotes the character, the manners, the values, and practices that should be followed in their daily lives or during rituals and ceremonies. It is their proud heritage. It defines where they came from, their ancestry as well as their province.

The sharing of these common values and knowledge by people who live in Maisin near Milne Bay to Manau on the north coast, from Kira to Kokoda and Afore to Banderi in the hinterland, not only comprises of 21 Local Level Governments (LLGs) but the entire Oro society. These were the people who showcased their cultures at the inaugural Tapa and Tattoo festival. These are the people who are proud to welcome visitors to their home with cheers of *Oro, Oro*. The word *Oro* means welcome and is synonymous with tapa, tattoos, Tufi fjords, Queen Alexandras' Birdwing - the largest butterfly in the world - Kokoda Track and fierce fighting during World War 2. Such contrasts are what make Oro Province special.

In the Oro culture, women are the custodians of the intellectual property that encompasses tapa and tattoo designs. Walking through the tapa wear and finery stalls at the festival, one couldn't help but notice the arduous task involved in concealing modesty. Women showed how they beat the inner bark of paper mulberry with a baton-like stick until it is stretched to the shape they want. Large rectangular pieces are worn by women as wraparound skirts and cloaks, and smaller long pieces are worn as *sihi* (loin-cloth) by men.

Patterns are intricately painted using line and dot method onto the tapa cloth with natural dyes. Each design on the fabric identifies what clan or family the wearer comes from. In another stall, a demonstration on facial tattoos took place. There is a similarity between the design of the tattoos on a woman's face and the tapa she wears indicating that art comes in different forms but has its roots in past ancestry and lineage. In the past, tattoos were not only an icon of beauty but a reflection of the character and strength of a woman. It was not uncommon for male suitors to enquire about the extent of tattoos on a woman's body before asking her hand in marriage.

It is a dance I learnt as a school girl and it was performed by the mothers and daughters of Killerton Village at the inaugural Tapa and Tattoo Festival held in Popondetta, Oro Province on November 16 and 17 last year.

Officially opened with the national anthem sung magnificently in the Orokaiva language by school children, the festival stage was set for a truly unique experience. Oro Governor Gary Juffa did not mince words when he reminded the 4000 or so people who had gathered on the first morning that they were once proud warriors who should maintain their unique culture.



A wise old woman once told me: "If a girl had tattoos on her face, chest and thighs, she was regarded as a great beauty. It indicated that she had withstood pain and would endure whatever the future held for her."

The manifestations of human art forms have evolved, some slowly disappearing such as the tattoos on Oro women, particularly amongst those who have left the province. These days the display of tattoos usually occurs at festivals and celebrations.

Unlike tattoos, tapa cloth has gained enormous popularity and has become an item of commercial value due to increasing demand from visitors and fellow Papua New Guineans. From practical items like bags and t-shirts to fashion shows, tapa cloth and designs have taken pride of place here and overseas. This has prompted the people to look into how they can patent and protect their ceremonial sacred patterns and designs that appear on tapa cloth. However to tap into the commercial window of opportunity, they have developed contemporary designs for tapa that are sold in craft markets and artifact shops. In many other countries steps are being taken in order to preserve traditions and art forms. For example, the Andean Community in South America has introduced regional laws to protect traditional knowledge and genetic resources. The Oro people, particularly those who own the tapa designs, hope to go down this path.

Modernisation is rapidly changing society and cultural traditions are losing their significance. The way food is prepared defines a culture and in some parts of Oro province, women still prepare food in clay pots, especially during feasts. During the festival Orokaiva women were invited to cook food in clay pots which was served to VIPs for lunch. Women play a pivotal role during feasts or *bondo*. The men may set the dates but it is the women who will tend the gardens, organise the harvest and feed the crowds. They advise the men on who should be invited and who will bring clout to the occasion. Throughout the generations, successful Oro chiefs have been propelled by strong women.

Festivals such as the Tapa and Tattoo Festival provide an avenue for people, especially the young generation to appreciate and enjoy traditional art forms in their full colour and glory. The first day of the festival was dedicated predominantly to school children and youth. A Tapa Queen contest attracted four young girls who were part of the performing groups. They were required to explain their traditional attire and answer questions on culture. The youngest contestant was eight years old. The winner, Blanchley Gagari from Kokoda, won the hearts of judges with her poise, grace and beauty.

It was a delight to see large dance groups from Agenahambo, Sasembata and Kokoda that had more than 100 dancers in each group showcase their best finery. The bamboo dancers from Afore rattled our spirits and the caricatures from Kira had us in stitches. I may be biased in thinking the *tatao'on* dance performed by the Yaudari people of Sangara, was not just exceptional but also awe-inspiring. Line dancing Oro-style came in the form of a large group of Kokoda dancers who performed to the Papas string band. Topless women clad in tapa cloth twerked their way into the hearts of the crowd while their male counterparts did not miss a beat. The line dancing was

definitely something to behold and is sure to make a come-back at this year's festival.

Flamboyant headdresses and traditional heirloom jewellery topped off rhythmic dancing to the beat of kundu drums. As is customary for the Oro people, dramas, comedies and parodies were served as appetisers before serious dancing took place. Children and men led the way and women took centre stage. The dances conveyed creation stories, imitated birds and other animals and the songs and chants narrated stories of someone's life or sent hidden messages to loved ones afar. It was poetry in motion!





Culture also defines how one communicates in a particular society and it was interesting to learn that there are 25 languages in the Oro province which has an estimated 200,000 inhabitants. Children from the Higaturu Oil Palm International School had spent weeks researching languages before the festival. They had a stall in which they showed that some of the 25 languages are disappearing whilst new ones are being created. Many Oro people speak English as their second language, not Pidgin or Motu. Don't be surprised if an elderly woman or man strikes up a conversation with you in eloquent Queen's English. They would have most likely been taught in schools by early Anglican missionaries or teachers from Great Britain.



The two-day Tapa and Tattoo Festival attracted more than 10,000 people. With the construction of a new stadium at the Independence Oval, and the rebuilding of four main bridges that were destroyed by Cyclone Guba in 2007, the festival promises bigger and better things to come.

The festival is an opportunity to reconnect with the past and gives you a glimpse of the rich Oro culture. The experience is truly sublime. Diarise the dates – November 15 and 16 – in this year's calendar and make a trip to Popondetta. You will not be disappointed.

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Insects of Papua New Guinea

Backyard exploration

BY TIANA REIMANN





As I step outside the door of my house I wonder what insects I'll find on my hunt today. I don't have to look far, for here in my garden in Papua New Guinea is a whole new world of life and mystery. This rich garden allows me to connect my two passions in life – insects and photography.

West New Britain Province is home to 21 volcanoes, active and dormant, and therefore blessed with deep fertile soil. It is renowned as the Oil Palm province

as well as one of the world's best diving destinations. However, one thing that you will not find in the books is that it's also home to some of the world's most unique insects.

Travelling back home, I peer out of the windows of the Air Niugini flight to Hoskins. Most of the land appears as uniform blocks of oil palm, bordered with the dense jungle inhabited by undiscovered creatures. To me, Papua New Guinea will always be a country with abundant opportunities.

Photography has become my favourite hobby and here I am able to experience nature in its raw state, far away from the traffic and technology of urban Australia. Unlike the mainstream teenage lifestyle of today, I much prefer to be outdoors, exploring pristine untouched areas and wondering how all the small inhabitants of this world survive.

It was my mother's interest in underwater photography that inspired me to buy my first camera – a Canon digital, and an excellent choice it was too.



But no matter how good the camera is, you have to be fortunate enough to live in a place where there is no shortage of subjects to photograph and that's where my backyard comes in.

However, I found with increasing interest and expertise I longed for something with a little more sophistication, such as interchangeable lenses, that would allow me to incorporate different effects.

I found it with the Olympus EPM1. Interchangeable lenses, art filters, manual adjustments and 20 different lenses to choose from the M Zuiko range. The two lenses I use to photograph my insects are a 14-42mm and 40-150mm. In the end, though, the lens I use depends on how cooperative the creature is.



But no matter how good the camera is, you have to be fortunate enough to live in a place where there is no shortage of subjects to photograph and that's where my backyard comes in. The Papua New Guinea climate transforms my garden into a sanctuary for insects. Quite often I end up with an album of 20 or more different species after only a casual trip around the yard.

From discovering so many different insects, I have not only developed my photography skills but I have also become more knowledgeable about insects and their behaviour. A particular insect that fascinated me was an ant mimicking spider

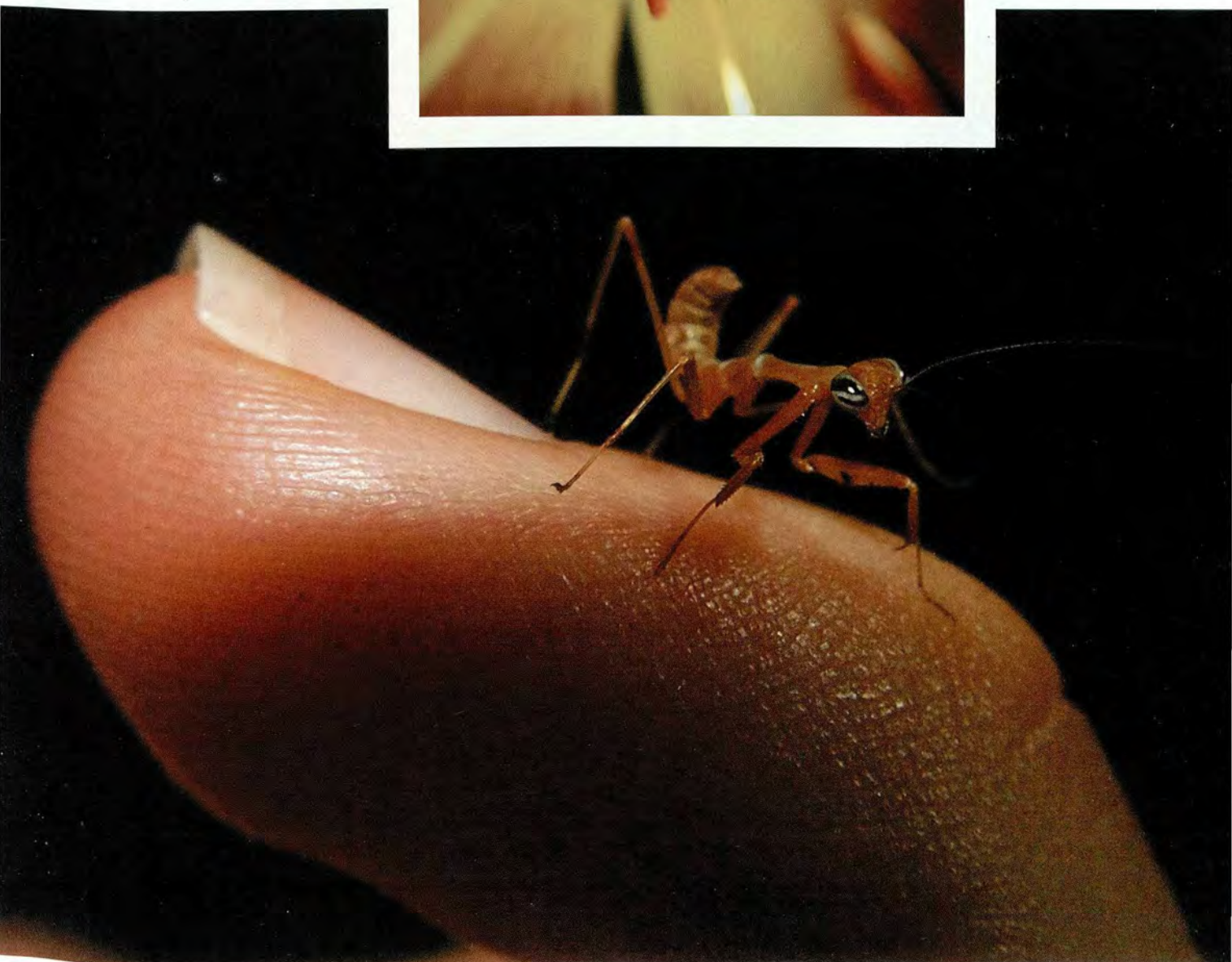
known as the *Myrmarachne platealeoides*, also called the Kerengga Ant-like Jumper.

At first glance I thought it was an ant, but as the flash exposed its web I realised it was a spider that mimics the Kerengga or weaver ant! In Papua New Guinea, this ant is known as *Karakung* (Ka-ra-kung).

The uniqueness of the fauna found in my backyard also applies to the flora. Papua New Guinea's climate is perfect for the tropical flowers. My backyard blooms with colour and diversity when it comes to these exotic beauties.

Orchids, birds of paradise, hibiscus, heliconias, frangipanis, are abundant and apart from their beautiful looks they also create homes for the insects. The vibrant colours which they display give a wide choice of photographs to take and the resulting prints decorate my home.

The uniqueness of the fauna found in my backyard also applies to the flora. Papua New Guinea's climate is perfect for the tropical flowers. My backyard blooms with colour and diversity when it comes to these exotic beauties.



With a torch, I roam around the garden searching for insects and often bumping into the arachnid I fear most ... the huntsman spider. Arachnophobia doesn't stop me though, especially when there's a camera between us.



I am always keen to venture outdoors, however often the humidity and heat wavers my excitement. It doesn't help either, when insects don't co-operate. Lying on the grass or messing about in the leaves is necessary to get the right shot. Sometimes I even have to hold my breath to ensure I get that perfect, crisp shot devoid of any blurs. It all seems worth it, though, when you've captured exactly what you've wanted and are pleased with the end result. The constant downpour of rain during the wet season, surprisingly, is actually one of the best times to photograph insects as they are much calmer and prefer to situate themselves under dry, leafy shelters.

Insect photography gives me many opportunities to discover more about my home. Apart from photographing during the day, searching for insects at night becomes even more interesting. This is because the nocturnal insects and their predators such as geckoes are actively tracking for their next meal. This gives a stark contrast between the day roamers I often come across.

With a torch, I roam around the garden searching for insects and often bumping into the arachnid I fear most ... the huntsman spider.

Arachnophobia doesn't stop me though, especially when there's a camera between us. Through the replicated image on my camera screen they appear to be very photogenic and harmless with their eight eyes surrounding their head.

Being afraid of spiders or creepy crawlies never stopped me from doing something I love. Like most teenagers I was consumed by my phone and social media, but eventually I found the great outdoors, even a mere backyard, had so much more to offer.



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This sudden change in interests has guided me to publish an article for the 'Escape with ET' magazine which encourages amateur photographers to simply get out and explore. The ultimate goal, however, is to work for National Geographic, capturing animals and exploring places even greater than the backyard.

I really encourage everyone to find a hobby that's enjoyable and creative like photography. In order to do so, create time for yourself, get out there and discover what your passion is and try to learn about it as much as you can.

If you are interested in searching for more photos, please visit my Facebook page at Tiana Reimann Photography. 

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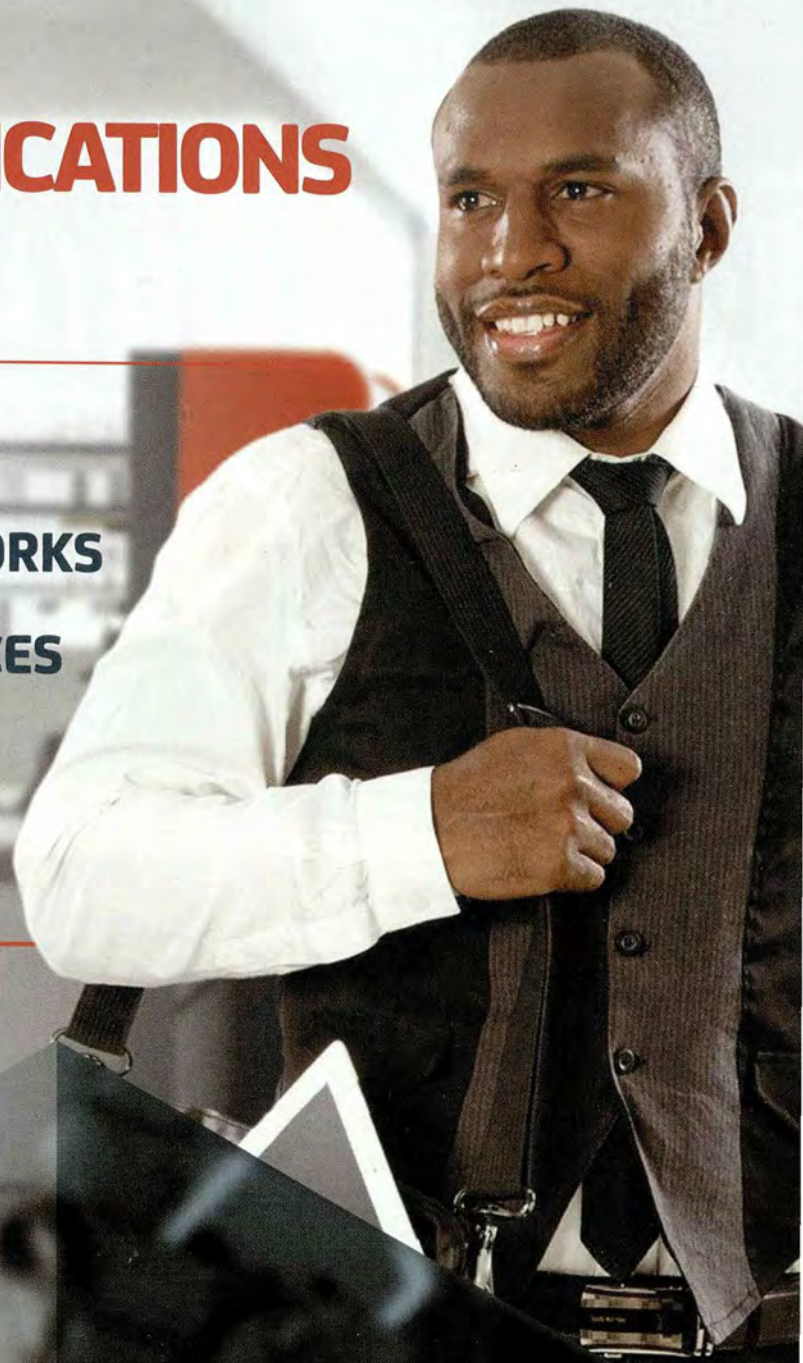
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Members of the ANMEF embark for Rabaul.

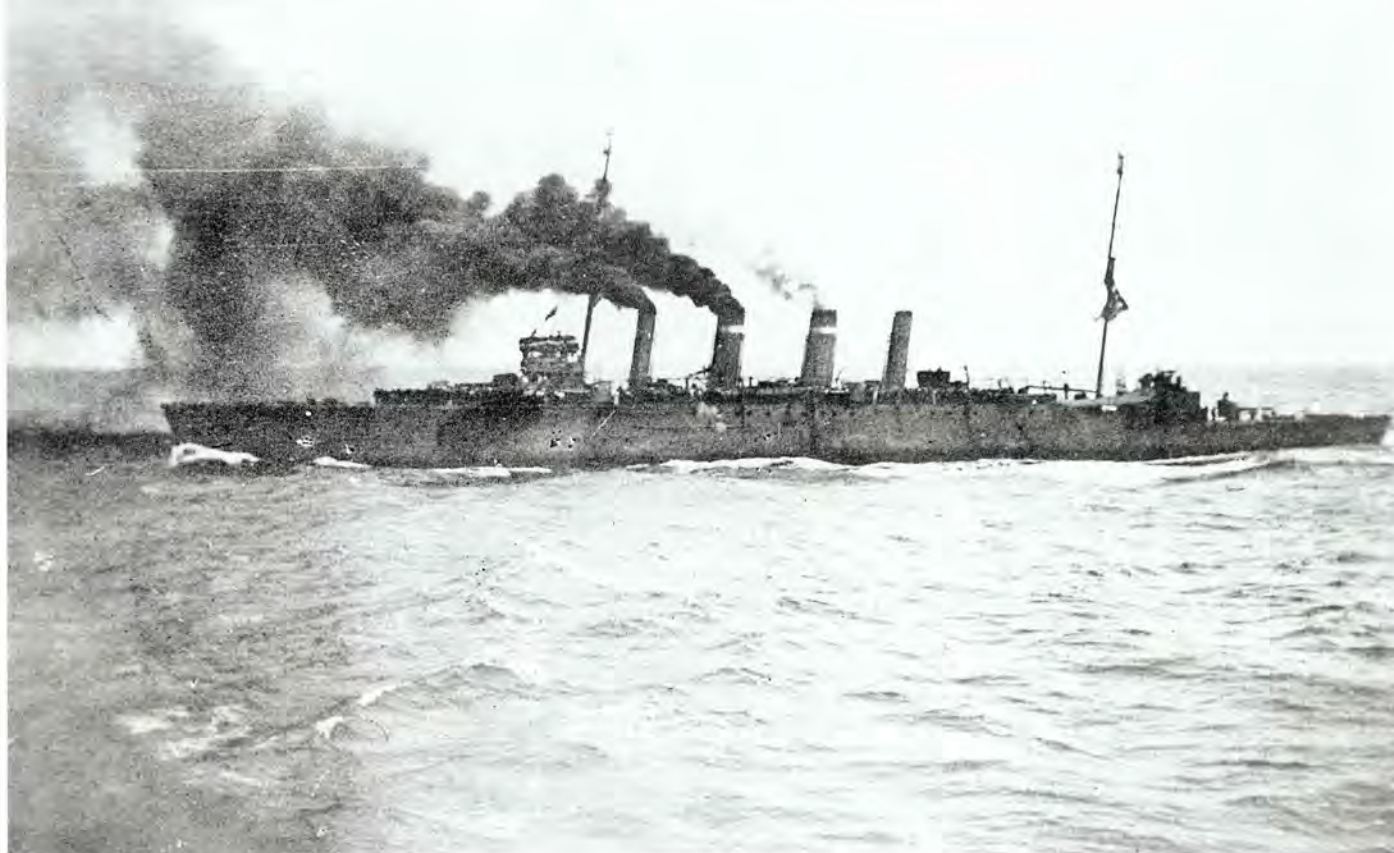
BY DAVID HOWELL & ADRIAN THRELFALL

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the declaration of the First World War. While many Australians will observe this, most are waiting with great anticipation for 2015 and the centenary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli, for it is often said that this was the place where Australia first fought as a country and where the Australian Nation was born. However, a mere five weeks after the declaration of war, Australians would shed their blood much closer to home, here in Papua New Guinea.

Today the exploits of the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) are little known, but the curious tale of the two Victorian sailors who participated in the first jungle warfare action in Australian military history, illuminates the larger story of more than 400,000 Australians who enlisted during the Great War.

Straining at their oars, the 25 naval troops from the cruiser HMAS Sydney rowed towards their landing place of Herbertshohe, south-east of the port of Rabaul on the island of New Britain. Under the command of Sub-Lieutenant Charles Webber, Royal Australian Navy Reserve (RANR), a 24-year-old bookkeeper from Albert Park, Melbourne, their mission was to seize the German wireless stations that were believed to be operating on high ground several miles inland.

East of Webber's small force, Lieutenant Rowland Bowen RAN, born in the Victorian town of Acheron, was leading the second party, which had disembarked from the destroyers Warrego and Yarra. It was 6am on 11 September 1914 and the first Australian military operation of the Great War had begun.



Great Britain's request to seize German New Guinea had only been received a few weeks earlier and therefore it is little wonder that one writer has described the force as 'hastily kitted and rudimentarily trained'. Even the Official History admits that one of the contingents was:

'Unfit for tropical campaigning. Supplies of clothing and boots were non-existent or unsuitable, food supplies were deficient, there were no tents, no mosquito nets, no hammocks, and the shipboard accommodation was hopelessly inadequate'

Perhaps surprisingly, Webber and his comrades had received some infantry training in terrain that bore a vague resemblance to the jungles of New Britain, when the convoy had paused for several days at Palm Island, north of Townsville. The force, as the Official History rather optimistically argues:

'Were taken ashore nearly every day, across a shingle beach to rocky ground and bush – a terrain ill-suited to manoeuvres; but it taught them how to maintain touch in thickly-wooded country, and the lesson afterwards proved invaluable in the dense jungles of New Britain.'

Thankfully, so brief would be the period of combat that their inadequate preparations would not have major repercussions. After landing at Herbertshohe, Sub-Lieutenant Webber and his party advanced south-west along the Toma Road, towards the supposed location of the wireless

station. To their disappointment the patrol would encounter no German opposition.

Landing at Kakabaul, east of Webber's landing place, the force under Lieutenant Bowen would be far busier. A main road ran inland towards the wireless station at Bita Paka but it was sure to be covered by the Germans. Bowen therefore ordered his men into the jungle that crowded in on either side of the road. They were instantly hidden from view but had to struggle painfully – and slowly – through the tangled and unfamiliar tropical undergrowth. Muttered curses punctuated their travails. The scouts found it impossible to keep on course and had to repeatedly make their way back to the Bita Paka road, find a break in the jungle, re-enter it and continue.

Bowen soon decided that this was impractical and his force 'kept to the fringe of the road, as it was impossible to maintain any formation in the tangle of tropical vegetation'. While this decision enabled the main body to advance more easily, his scouting parties were still floundering through the jungle. Two men became separated from one of these parties and suddenly found themselves face to face with the enemy. Petty Officer Palmer was quickest off the mark and his rifle bullet shattered the hand of the German patrol commander, whose local troops scattered into the jungle and began to return fire. If the enemy had not been fully alerted by the landing, they were now.



The Bitapaka Road, 1914.

Bowen called for reinforcements from the ships offshore and continued the advance. Resistance grew and the challenges peculiar to warfare in jungle terrain quickly became apparent, as highlighted by the Official History:

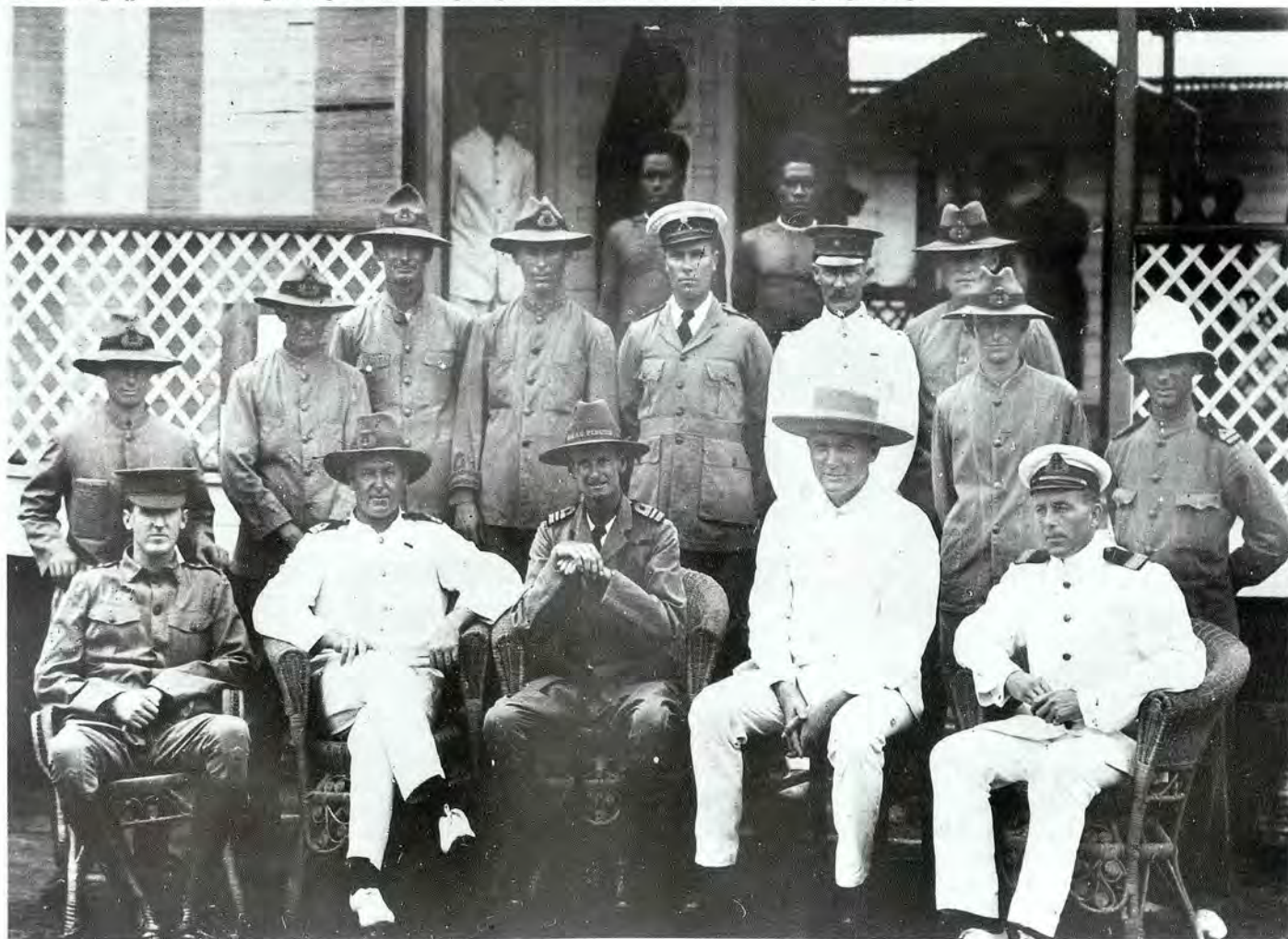
'Bowen had pushed on, his party being fired upon at frequent intervals. His men returned the fire, but in such country ... the German forces were almost entirely concealed, and the effect of the Australian shooting could not be seen. The fighting was becoming acute, but the enemy's fire was badly directed, and Bowen's main party, for the most part creeping low through the undergrowth, had so far escaped misfortune. But the luck did not hold'.

As the Germans and their indigenous troops fought to prevent the Australians from seizing the wireless station the first men were hit. Most of them did not see where the fatal shot had come from. Eventually Bowen was also hit, receiving a serious head wound. The German resistance was to no avail however and by early afternoon the fighting was over. Australian casualties were deemed to be light, with six dead and four wounded. The high ratio of killed to wounded would become a feature of combat in the jungle; 'evidence to the closeness of the fighting' as the Official History stated. The ratio in a 'normal' combat environment was one killed to three wounded. In the jungle, unseen rifle and machine-gun fire exploded at ranges of feet or metres, causing devastating wounds that killed men instantly. Nearly 30 years later, young Australian soldiers would have to learn the lessons of jungle warfare in Malaya and Papua and New Guinea.

For the men of the ANMEF, however, the dangers of close quarters combat in the jungle were over. Soon they would leave the tropics, returning with their commander, Colonel William Holmes, to Australia. Many of these men transferred to the 1st AIF with Holmes, upon his appointment as commander of the 5th Brigade. After training in Australia they would land at Gallipoli in August 1915. For the men of Tropical Force, the occupation contingent that would follow the ANMEF, more insidious and painful killers – malaria and dengue fever – would claim dozens of their comrades as they garrisoned the German colonies.

For the two Victorians who had led the landing parties, the remainder of the Great War would take widely divergent paths. For his gallant role in the advance on the wireless station at Bitapaka, Lieutenant Rowland Griffiths Bowen would be Mentioned in Dispatches and promoted acting Lieutenant-Commander. After recovering from his wound, he returned to duty in April 1915 on the Melbourne naval staff. In '1916 he became first state President of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia'. The following year he was posted to Perth and in 1919 he was promoted to Commander and made District

Group portrait of Australian Navy and Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) Officers at German New Guinea. Back row (in background), left to right: Gunner Young RAN; unidentified local; unidentified local. Middle row (standing): Midshipman William, Royal Australian Naval Reserve (RANR); Midshipman Cocks, RANR; Signal Boatswain Hunter RAN; Sub-Lieutenant Webber RANR; Lieutenant Marsden CMF; Lt Godby, CMF; Sub Lt Buller RANR; Midshipman Sage RANR; Lt Read RANR. Front row (sitting): Captain Flood, Australian Army Medical Corps; Lt Gillam RANR; Lieutenant Commander L. S. Bracegirdle DSO, RAN, Commanding Officer (HMAS Penguin tally band); Dr Runge; Paymaster Lieutenant Commander Livesay, Royal Navy.



Naval Officer in Tasmania. His longest posting was to Western Australia from 1923-35 where he was also DNO. The following year he would retire from the Navy, settling in Sydney where his service to the community continued in his senior role with the St John's Ambulance Association.

As mentioned earlier, Charles Webber and his patrol had encountered no opposition. He would eventually see more than enough action however, ending the war as a Major with the 10th Field Artillery Brigade after extensive service on the Western Front. Upon his return to Australia in early 1915 he transferred to the AIF, completed Officers Training School in Broadmeadows, Victoria and was appointed as a Lieutenant in A Company, 30th Battalion. On 9 November 1915 he departed Sydney on HMAT 'Beltana', arriving in England in December. In early 1916 he would transfer to 5th

Division Artillery, serving in artillery units for the remainder of the war. In February 1917 he was gassed and spent time in hospital, while in October during Third Ypres – known even since as Passchendaele – he would be wounded again. Like Bowen, Webber would be Mentioned in Dispatches, in his case for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while commanding the 38th Battery ... during the period 25th September 1918 to 5th November 1918'. At the time his unit was supporting attacks by the American 27th Division on the Hindenburg Line. In July 1919 he would return to Australia aboard the transport City of Exeter. In post war years he would return to life as an accountant in Albert Park.

Thus two Victorians, both members of the Royal Australia Navy, one a regular and the other a reservist, would serve in the first jungle campaigns undertaken by the Australian military.

Chance would see one of them seriously wounded during a hectic engagement, while the other did not encounter the enemy. Upon their return to Australia they continued to serve their nation. One followed a relatively straightforward and distinguished naval career, while the life of the second took a completely different turn, as he left the navy and saw action during some of the most costly battles of the Great War. The stories of Webber and Bowen therefore add to the incredibly broad picture of the hundreds of thousands of Australians who enlisted during the Great War.

This September Kokoda Historical in conjunction with the Rabaul Hotel is hosting a special 5-day tour to commemorate the anniversary of the ANMEF action. For further information visit: www.kokodahistorical.com.au/ ANMEF or call David Howell on +61 405 007 700.



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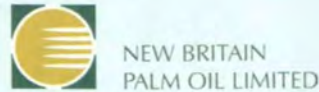
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PLUMES & PEARLSHELLS

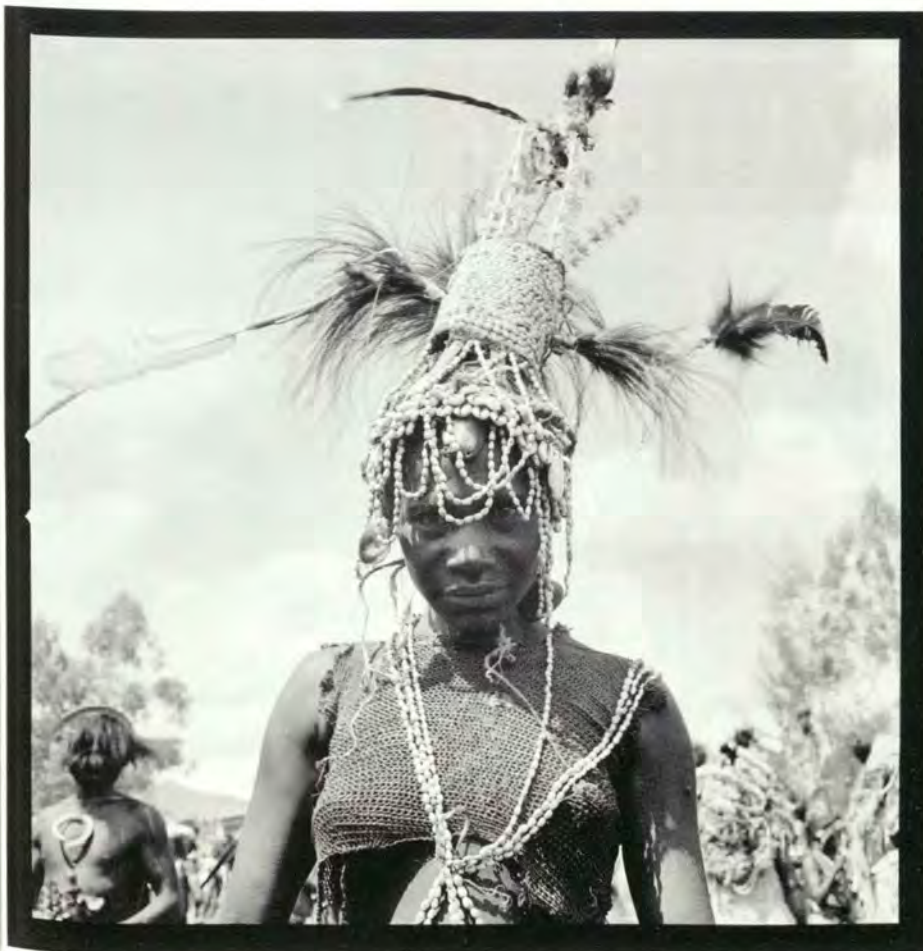
Art of the New Guinea highlands



The spectacular highlands interior of the island of New Guinea – with its high mountains, roaring rivers, kunai grasslands, fertile valleys and forests ringing with the striking songs of the bird of paradise – is home to more than one million people who settled in the region around 50,000 years ago. With the introduction of the fast-growing *kaukau*, or sweet potato, in the 17th Century, populations swelled dramatically and subsequently moved across the entire region. Geographical barriers and warfare created isolation between groups, but also resulted in the incredible multiplicity of cultures and languages that can be found across the PNG highlands today. The extraordinary myriad of art forms which arose from this cultural diversity will be the focus of an exhibition to be held at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney from May, *Plumes and Pearlsells: Art of the New Guinea Highlands*.

When Australian prospectors trekked into the Goroka Valley in 1930 in search of gold they revealed, to the world's astonishment, vast populations of previously unknown peoples. By the outbreak of WWII, colonial government officials, missionaries and anthropologists, had established posts across the highlands, from Goroka to Mount Hagen. In 1956 – just 26 years after 'first contact' – Goroka was a bustling township with a well-established population of mostly Australian settlers, who operated coffee plantations and cattle stations, and ran small businesses.





In a bid to curb fighting between warring tribes, as well as between highlanders and colonial officials, the idea of uniting these groups through the time-honoured British tradition of the agricultural fair emerged and in 1956 the Goroka Show was born.



However, in many parts of the highlands warfare was still endemic. In a bid to curb fighting between warring tribes, as well as between highlanders and colonial officials, the idea of uniting these groups through the time-honoured British tradition of the agricultural fair emerged and in 1956 the Goroka Show was born.

It was not the first festival of its kind to be held in PNG. Singings, to which various districts were invited by colonial administrators to perform dances and songs wearing traditional adornments, have their origins in the late 1880s and were frequently organised for the benefit of dignitaries. The vibrant display of traditional finery and ceremonial dance attire by divergent groups would become a distinguishing feature of highlands shows of the 20th Century. The shows that developed in Goroka and Mount Hagen were a fusion of traditional agricultural shows, the ambitious 19th-century World Fairs, and the dazzling large-scale ceremonies that were themselves a significant feature of many highlands cultures.

The Goroka Show became an annual event, growing in size and popularity every year. The introduction of the 'tribal finery contest' in 1957, in which highlanders were invited to perform

customary songs and dances adorned in their finest body decoration or *bilas*, became the main event for all future shows; and legends were born. At the 1957 Goroka Show today's celebrated Asaro Mudmen appeared for the first time, terrorising show-goers with their mud-caked bodies and grotesque masks. By the time the inaugural Mount Hagen Show appeared in 1961 the fame of these spectacular events had reached the shores of Australia.

Since his early teenage years Stanley (Stan) Gordon Moriarty had been an admirer of the art of the Pacific. It wasn't until 1961, however, at the age of 55, that the Sydney businessman decided to see first hand the cultures that had captured his imagination. Sailing from Sydney to Port Moresby, Moriarty flew up to Goroka where he experienced the first of many highlands shows he was to attend (and later judge) in the following 12 years, and began assembling his world-renowned collection of highlands art. Some of this superb collection was donated to the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery in Port Moresby during the 1960s, however, the majority was acquired by the Art Gallery of New South Wales through donation by Moriarty.



Moriarty was amiable and endowed with a spirit of adventure, a sense of humour, and respect for the life and customs of the highlanders whose hospitality he sought. He camped out on patrol with *kiaps* (patrol officers) and lived for extended periods in villages, all of which he captured on film.



Travelling around the highlands in the 1960s required patience, resourcefulness and good relations with government administrators and settlers across the region. Moriarty was amiable and endowed with a spirit of adventure, a sense of humour, and respect for the life and customs of the highlanders whose hospitality he sought. He camped out on patrol with *kiaps* (patrol officers) and lived for extended periods in villages, all of which he captured on film. Nothing escaped his attention: the majestic highlands landscape; the quiet beauty of simple domestic chores; the thrill of the charge of 100,000 feather-adorned highlanders as they surged across the showground at the 1963 Mount Hagen show, and the overwhelming sight of hundreds of pigs and pearlshells laid out as gifts at the many ceremonies he was invited to attend.

Gleaming, iridescent gold-lipped pearlshells (*Pinctada maxima*) were once the most prestigious objects highlanders could possess, together with a large and healthy stock of pigs.

Pearlshells were objects of enormous rarity and important items of wealth across the highlands, traded up from southern coastal communities through complex systems of exchange.

They held religious and ceremonial significance through complex belief systems centered around cycles of growth, fertility and procreation. Many of the objects which Moriarty collected – headbands, necklaces, aprons and girdles, and even bows used for warfare – and which are featured in *Plumes and Pearlshells*, contain elements of these precious treasures from the sea.

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A vast array of materials from the natural world are employed in creative and meaningful ways in all of the works displayed in this exhibition, and reflect the highlanders' understanding of and reverence for their environment. Wood, bone, stone, animal fur, pigs' tails and tusks, and plant fibres of every kind are woven, coiled, carved and transformed into objects of incredible complexity and remarkable inventiveness. Perhaps the most spectacular of all the flora and fauna transfigured by the highlanders into objects of astonishing beauty and power are the plumes of the hundreds of species of birds which populate the highlands, in particular the revered bird of paradise. Feathers are integral components of headbands and headdresses, and used to enhance dance banners, masks, human hair wigs, shields and bows and arrows.

Dolly

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Simply OFFL!

BY DIANA McMANUS

In April this year a TV network from Australia will be filming a PNG documentary about the charitable works of an organisation named Operation Food For Life (OFFL) for global viewing. Its acronym closely resembles the word 'offal', a collective noun for refuse, waste stuff, scraps, garbage. This is a powerful acronym for an organisation whose original focus was to bring some quality of life to the impoverished community living on Barundi rubbish dump on the outskirts of Port Moresby.

The urban drift during the last few decades has seen many settlements arise on the outskirts of Port Moresby with no sanitation or clean water supply. Shacks have been built from whatever the people can scrounge, particularly used timber, iron and cardboard which have been discarded at the dumps.

Not even the air is clean. Here the acrid

smoke and stench from the burning garbage infuses clothes, hair and skin. There are no schools or health facilities and children run around in the garbage often resulting in open cut wounds and sores.

In general, few people from the settlements are able to find work. Crime and domestic violence is rife. Despair reigns over hope as these poor families are marginalised by society and often regarded with contempt and suspicion.

Enter OFFL, whose mission is 'to provide physical, emotional and spiritual support, bringing dignity and hope to the forgotten and disadvantaged'. It is the brainchild of President and Co-founder Dennis Perry, with fellow Adventist David Woolley. Both men, from Sydney, are now retirees. In fact they are Australian pensioners with a passion to make a difference in the lives of the poor in Port Moresby.



In 1994 Mr Perry was on a business trip to Port Moresby for the company he worked for in Tonga, Sanitarium Health and Well Being. He was filled with compassion when he saw families living near and on the garbage dump in the nation's capital, foraging for food and competing with pigs and dogs for the scraps, and felt a strong calling from his faith to help these people.

A Christian-based organisation, it takes its cue from the words of Jesus found in Matthew 25:35 & 36. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

Dennis and his colleague David began feeding the community and the initiative was enthusiastically supported by his company. When he and David retired from the company they decided to make Operation Food for Life their retirement project. Operation Food For Life was accredited as a charity in 2011 and all of its personnel are volunteers.

What OFFL does is quite remarkable considering the relatively short time it has been operating. Although it began feeding, clothing and providing spiritual support to a community of more than 2000 people living on or near the Baruni Dump, it has progressively expanded its projects.

Other settlements are now visited with programmes that include music and stories to encourage the communities. These are



very popular with the children. Of course, the food on offer is a big hit. Often clothing is given to the poor and destitute living here.

In 2012, OFFL added a school to its major projects. It was called the Samuel Major and has been run voluntarily for more than three years by a Christian woman, Ogesta Daniel, with very few resources. When possible, she even fed the 35-plus children from the settlement. It is now called the Rob and Jan Patterson Literacy School.

The Rob and Jan Patterson School was named in honour of an Australian husband and wife, who, while both having critically poor health issues, felt a strong empathy for the ethos of Operation Food For Life and its mission. Financial donations from this special couple have been responsible for the building of the school. Other donors

were inspired to partner OFFL and support its work, including the Sanitarium Health and Well Being Company.

Unfortunately, due to their failing health, both Mr and Mrs Patterson passed away in 2013. Their children, Tracey and Andrew, continue to enthusiastically support the school, thus ensuring that the legacy left by their parents will continue to help poor and disadvantaged children at this school for many more generations.

Since May 2013, the village of Wildfire now has a school with three classrooms and enrolment has increased to 146 children from poor and disadvantaged backgrounds. OFFL continues support with resources and food for the children. The school was built and is run completely by volunteers.

In early December a special day was set aside to celebrate the achievements of 11 very happy children who had attained, from the Rob and Jan Patterson Literacy School, a level of literacy that will now enable them to attend primary school. Smiling and holding up their achievement certificates, they were congratulated by the OFFL PNG Director of Operations, Phillip Vaki, and the school Principal Ogasta Daniel.

In a country where HIV/Aids is rife, there is a huge amount of prejudice against victims from all quarters of society. Many people become stigmatised and ostracised by their families and communities, sometimes from fear and other times from moral high handedness. OFFL helps out by providing food for patients dying of HIV/Aids in hospital and offering spiritual support to them.

OFFL also regularly visits various institutions for the physically and mentally challenged, and hearing impaired, where it offers support through its feeding programs and spiritual ministrations. The Cheshire Disability Centre is one of these institutions where more than 20 severely disabled patients reside. This institution relies on the goodwill of the public and other compassionate organisations such as OFFL for funding or other contributions to keep it viable.

OFFL regularly provides food for them and a highlight last year was the presentation of much needed wheelchairs to help with mobility issues.

The prison at Bomana has more than 1000 inmates of both sexes. OFFL visits regularly, bringing food and spiritual encouragement. A special breakfast for all inmates and staff members is held annually.

All these good works have not gone unnoticed and Operation Food For Life has the patronage of some high profile dignitaries both in Papua New Guinea and in Australia. The charity is honoured by the patronage of PNG Governor General, His Excellency, Grand Chief Sir Michael Ogio GCL, DCMG, KSTJ. In April His Excellency will be the guest of honour at a Thanksgiving Day to celebrate the opening of extensions to the Literacy School.

The Honourable Mr Philip Ruddock, Chief Government Whip for the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia, has also bestowed his patronage, and in a letter to Mr Perry he said, "I am delighted to serve as your patron and look forward to helping you raise your profile, advocate for your programs and support you in any way possible". When he sent out the call for donations of wheelchairs and other mobility enhancing devices from his office, the response was overwhelming. A container was

despatched from Australia, topped up with bags of clothing, school equipment and medical supplies, to name just a few of the items. A second one was unloaded at Port Moresby in February.

"We are also very appreciative of the Pacific Adventist University and Paradise Foods who have been such wonderful friends to our charity through the practical help they provide," said Mr Perry.

Towards the end of April, a documentary on the work of Operation Food For Life will be made by the HOPE Christian Channel, which has a global reach. It will be fully funded by the network, who approached the co-founders for their permission. Hopefully it will encourage more support for the fledgling charity, which, like so many other selfless organisations and people seeks to bring dignity and hope to people through its practical approach to basic survival challenges, and just as importantly, emotional and spiritual support. It truly does practice what it preaches.

So keep your eyes and ears open for the good works that Operation Food For Life is involved in. The circumstances of so many people's lives in PNG, if you say it as Americans might, is "simply OFFL". If you'd like to help out with a donation, or find out more about the organisation, visit its website at www.offl.org.au or email to info@offl.org.au



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Bilum Weaving

PNG's flourishing ancient handcraft

BY SIVA KIMA

Upon arrival in PNG, newcomers are likely to notice the unique woven bags toted by PNG women. These are indigenous hand-crafted bags known as 'bilums'. More than just a bag, the craft of bilum weaving has been handed down from generation to generation since time immemorial. In the highlands region, bilum weaving has produced an essential item affecting the livelihood of the people in the whole area.



Bilum Weaving in the Past

Traditionally in the highlands, cords for weaving were made using the bark of a certain tree known locally as *laali*. After the bark was stripped off it was left to dry in the sun and then the dried fibres were combed out. The fibres were twisted together to make lengthy, steady cords that were then used for weaving. The wing bones of bats were used as needles to weave.

To colour the bilum, dyes were made naturally using plant parts producing earth tones such as orange, reds and browns. Methods of dyeing the fibre varied from one place to another; for example in some parts of the highlands, such as in Hogave (Lufa District, Eastern Highlands Province) the colour red is achieved by collecting pinkish-red leaves of a native shrub (*piretanni*), heating it over an open fire and rubbing it onto a length of stretched cord. A yellow tone is made using the roots of a certain plant (*lamana*) that bears bulbs like the household ginger. These roots are baked in the ashes of a fire to soften before extracting the ochre yellow colour. Purple colouring can be made from a fruit that grows abundantly in the forest. The fruit is broken and rubbed into the twisted cords to the amount of purple colouring the weaver wants.

Other sources of fibre suitable for bilum weaving are extracted from vines or shrubs. The weaving technique is made up of a series of mechanical looping and drawing of the spun wool with twists and links, which produce organised rows and patterns. It is not woven on a loom but held up with one hand and woven with the other. This technique also gives the bilum a certain elasticity allowing all manner of goods to fit comfortably inside.



Uses of Bilums

In the past the uses of the bilum included carrying food, garden materials and cradling infants. Bilums were also used as clothing to cover parts of the body and women used them as shawls in cold weather. Traditional costumes in both the highlands and some coastal areas still proudly incorporate the bilum as part and parcel of the dress.

With modernisation the various uses of bilums have slightly changed. More than anything, it is used as a ladies handbag or carry-bag and that's where it has been commercialised. It is by far the single most marketable traditional handicraft sold in the highlands region and provides an income to many women who are not formally employed. In the highlands, bilums are also used as part of the bridegroom's dowry to the bride and her people. The larger ones are still used for loading food and carrying infants.



The needles are fashioned from old umbrella frames. A short length of plastic package strapping is also used in starting some styles of bilum. With these simple materials a bilum is made.



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In recent years bilums in the form of women's dresses have had a fresh reincarnation. These dresses are hand-crafted using the bilum weaving technique. Not to be left out the men in the cold highland regions are frequently to be seen wearing colourful woven bilum hats.

Bilum Weaving Today

In the highlands region of PNG, weaving the most basic pattern of a bilum is common knowledge, and with greater mobility and wider influences around the country the younger generation of women are weaving more complicated and intricate designs.

Today factory-made wool is bought cheaply in stores and it comes in a variety of colours giving weavers more options. Lengths are separated from a roll of wool, broken off and then, using the thigh, it is spun into a thin sturdy cord. After a sizable length of wool is spun, the bilum is then woven using a needle of about 5cm. The needles are fashioned from old umbrella frames. A short length of plastic package strapping is also used in starting some styles of bilum. With these simple materials a bilum is made.

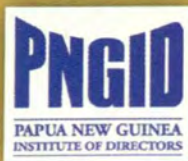
A conference room with a large table and chairs, featuring a sign that reads "PNG'S MOST ACCOMMODATING CONFERENCE VENUE. NO DOUBT." and the Grand Papua Hotel logo. The room has large windows overlooking a view of the ocean. The table is set with papers, pens, and glasses of water. The sign is mounted on a black background and is the central focus of the image. The Grand Papua Hotel logo is at the bottom center, with the text "GRAND PAPUA HOTEL" below it. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is contact information: "Bookings +675 304 0000 | gph_conference@grandpapuahotel.com.pg | grandpapuahotel.com.pg".

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Basically the same method of weaving as in traditional days is used, but a wider range of materials is now more readily available. The skill and creativity of ardent weavers has certainly increased with new patterns, designs and colours to be seen in the marketplace.

Weavers are able to identify various designs or patterns by their nicknames. These names are given or chosen when the bilum portrays a design that resembles an object in everyday life. For example one is known as the 'diamond bilum' as the design shows big diamond shapes. Another is known as the 'Razor-blade bilum' as the design forms squares and lines that look like razor blades. Some bilums are known from the region they originated from such as the 'Madang Bilum.'

Other bilums portray trademarks, writings or emblems such as the PNG flag - a popular design. Once in a while you come across bilums that are made with cuscus fur or cassowary feathers. With cuscus fur bilums, the fur is spun together with factory made wool and then woven, creating a velvety luxe-soft material for the final product.

Handbags are of course synonymous with femininity so it always makes a great gift for ladies.



For fashionistas, if you are a bag lady (and proud of it), or confessed bag-aholic, a bilum is a must-have. While it does not come with a signature label, it is luxuriously authentic and in PNG always in-season.

Bilums are a common accessory in Papua New Guinea. It is a popular gift to give to guests or visitors as it is valued as something that is truly Papua New Guinean and a traditional handicraft that can actually be used everyday. Bilums will always be a material part of PNG and its people.



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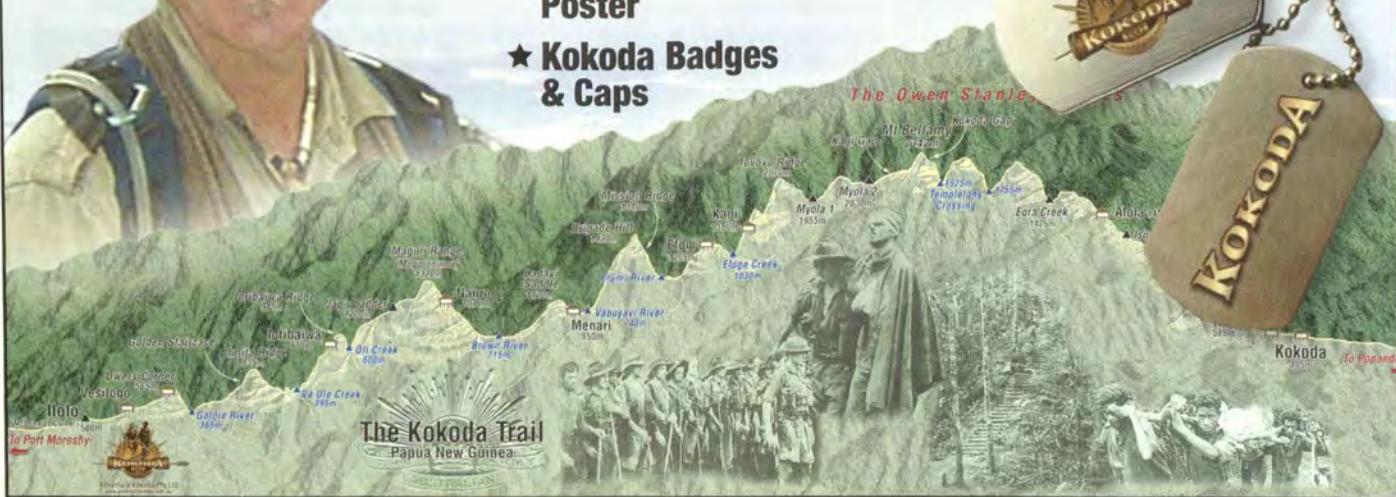
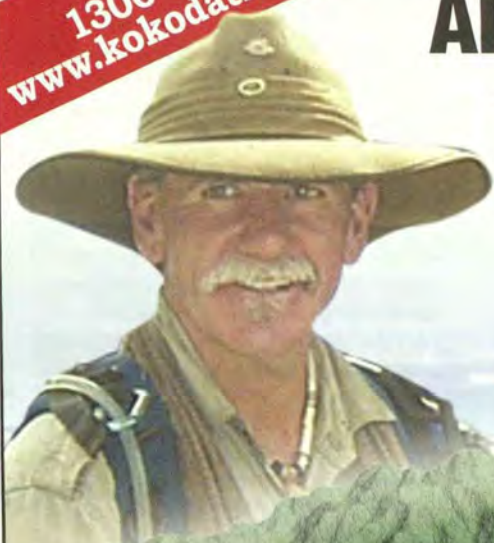
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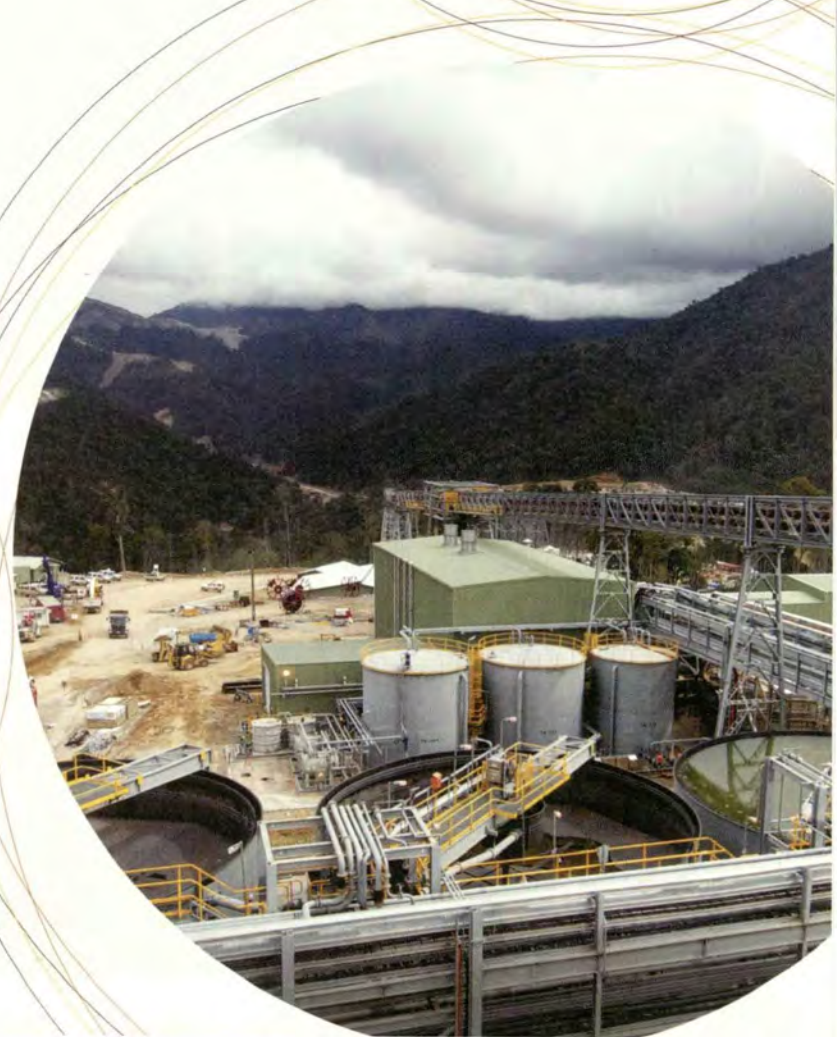
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SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE

OLD AND NEW

BY JOHN BROOKSBANK



City growing on reclaimed land.



It's easy to forget, especially after a beer or two at the Raffles Long Bar perhaps, that the reason why the street outside this colonial edifice - Beach Road - is so named. When Stamford Raffles first built the cottage that eventually morphed into the now iconic Singapore hotel it was just across the road from the waters' edge.

The Raffles Hotel complex today occupies almost a whole city block, seemingly in the heart of Singapore's CBD. Obviously a lot has happened since the once swampy island with a fishing village or two started being developed to eventually become a financial and trading hub of South East Asia. This is a city that is constantly renewing or reinventing itself and an essential part of

Inside Clifford Pier today.

this process involves land reclamation; from having an area in the 1960s of 581 square kilometres, the islands that make up the country now cover 710 square kilometres.

The expansion of the city in terms of importance, trade, business and people during the 20th Century required a corresponding increase in infrastructure to support this growth. Thankfully this was not done totally through a bulldozing of the old to make way for the new and careful study of a city map can reveal where the shoreline used to be from the location of the older historic buildings. Large chunks of the city utilise this 'new' land, such as the high-rise studded business district that sits where thousands of bumboats once tied up at the dock area.

Clifford Pier for example, home of the harbour master for many decades, used to project out from the southern shore of the island and be surrounded by an ever-changing parade of incoming & outgoing vessels. Today this historic building, restored as part of a hotel, is on the inner shore of Marina Bay and is almost two kilometres from the open sea. Across from the pier is the unmistakable Marina Bay Sands hotel, casino and shopping complex whilst beyond that is more than 100 hectares of Gardens by the Bay – all sitting on reclaimed land.

Typical of the colonial past of this trading city are the Chinese shophouses and riverside warehouses – a design that allowed proprietors to live above their business

operations. In many areas these buildings remain and have been colourfully restored to their former glory with a palette of contrasting hues. The colonial post office and police station buildings still stand solidly proud, although today used as a hotel and office space that maintain a façade of coloured colonial style shuttered windows.

Until just a few decades ago the island was characterised by festoons of bumboats, often 5 or 6 deep, tied up along the Singapore foreshore and along the riverbanks. These small flat-bottomed boats plied between large ocean-going vessels anchored offshore and the island transferring cargo that would be carried to riverside warehouses a sack at a time on the backs of coolie labourers.

Marina Bay and business district.



Restored shophouses in Chinatown.



Max Lee, now a senior printing executive, remembers his teenage years when he and his friends could jump into the river at Robertson Quay, grab ropes trailing behind a bumboat and get a free ride down to the sea, picking up another boat to get a tow back to where they started!

These same bumboats are still in use and travelling similar routes during the day or night, though they now carry camera-toting tourists who are picked up at ticket booths at stops like Robertson Quay, Clarke Quay, Boat Quay and Merlion Park.

The exponential growth of the city has always been guided by a strong Government hand that has control over many aspects of life to ensure that everyone has a job, a place to live and the ability to travel to work with ease. The population has risen from about 2 million in 1970 to almost 5.5 million people today with 25 per cent of these being non-Singaporean. Many of these more than one million people are guest workers from elsewhere in South East Asia. There is an aggressive public housing programme to ensure that on the island, which is only 42 kilometres wide and 25



kilometres long, everyone has a home, whilst still allowing for large public spaces and water reservoirs. This results in a very high density of people per square kilometre who enjoy more than 3300 kilometres of roads to travel on using public transport, or alternatively use the sophisticated above ground light rail transport (LRT) or underground (MRT) systems that spiderweb ever-outwards to the suburbs.

Owning a car in Singapore is an expensive luxury. A licence to own a sedan for 10 years can cost about \$80,000 with applicants drawn in a monthly lottery, needed before one can even contemplate buying a car, which is not allowed on the road once it is 10 years old. A cap on all categories of motor vehicles combined with expansion of the public transport network of buses and trains assists the Government achieve an intention that by 2025 no Singaporean will be more than 10 minutes from such transportation services.

The reclaimed land near Marina Bay Sands is also home to one of the world's newest Formula 1 racing tracks – since 2008 the Singapore Grand Prix has been held in

These same bumboats are still in use and travelling similar routes during the day or night, though they now carry camera-toting tourists who are picked up at ticket booths at stops like Robertson Quay, Clarke Quay, Boat Quay and Merlion Park.

September every year, and is the only one on the international race calendar held at night. A thrilling spectacle and a great fillip to the local economy.

Being a country geographically squashed between the Malaysian state of Johor Bahru to the north, to which it is joined by two causeways, and Indonesia, visible to the south, has bred a fierce independence in Singaporeans. With no resources other than people they have forged a dynamic nation where no one appears to be out of work, someone is always doing something even if it is just keeping the streets and public areas scrupulously clean. The Government has an ongoing programme of water containment construction with the objective of being independent in water supply by 2050 so that Singapore will not have to continue purchasing water from neighbouring Malaysia.

OUR WORLD

In Singapore, the saying that "the only thing that is constant is change" rings so very true. New buildings will continue to rise from reclaimed ground, older buildings will find new uses, the population will grow and the lifeblood of commerce that keeps the city alive will keep pumping, all in a very organised manner.

Chinatown after dark.



Old and new sit comfortably side by side here, sometimes transforming with the times. Across the road from Raffles Hotel is a historic complex of buildings of different styles and periods that for 132 years from 1849 operated as the Catholic Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus, well known for having a hatchway to the road at which unmarried mothers could leave their unwanted babies. Deconsecrated in the 1980s the buildings have been restored as a dining, shopping and entertainment centre. Sport is also important to Singaporeans and a huge stadium with a retractable roof is being constructed, predictably, again on reclaimed land. In an example of innovation there is also a floating soccer pitch in the Marina Reservoir, which is on occasion used for other functions such as outdoor concerts.

Tourism is an important contributor to the local economy with an average of more than 10 million people visiting Singapore every year – to gamble at the casino, to shop, to bird watch during avian migrations or just

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to take holidays somewhere nicely warm and tropical. Air Niugini flies here of course – so the city is just a plane ride away and with no requirement for a visa in advance, this could even be a last-minute decision.

In Singapore, the saying that “the only thing that is constant is change” rings so very true. New buildings will continue to rise from reclaimed ground, older buildings will find new uses, the population will grow and the lifeblood of commerce that keeps the city alive will keep pumping, all in a very organised manner. Stamford Raffles would be proud!



Air Niugini now operates five flights a week to Singapore on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.



Marina Bay Sands Hotel.



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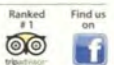
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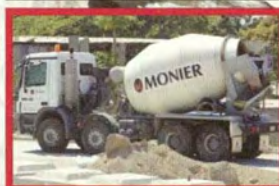
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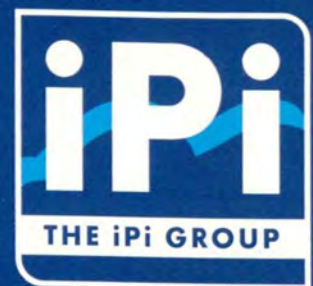
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OUR WORLD

SANTA CATALINA



Wogosia

Spear Fighting Festival

Celebrate the tribal New Year by hurling a spear at your nemesis.

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY JENNY METZLAFF

As dawn breaks over a remote beach, warriors scream 'waaaahhoooo', beckoning their foes to face them. Two long lines of men, decorated in palm fronds, mud and charcoal, race towards each other and stop just metres apart. On one side the Amuea Tribe stands, on the other, the Ataua Tribe. As the air fills with adrenaline they face off, everyone itching for the fight to begin and an opportunity to spear a man who has wronged him over the past year. Then five minutes of chaos erupts...



On the tiny, peaceful island of Santa Catalina in the Makira Province of the Solomon Islands, the annual Wogosia Spear Fighting Festival celebrates the end of the tribal calendar, and calls upon the spirits to bring a fine crop in the coming year.

Children dress as spear fighters. Feasts are held. Young women have the opportunity to throw a stone at the boy of their choosing while provided with the anonymity of a 'banana leaf burka'.

But for the men of the island the festival is an opportunity to resolve disputes that have lain dormant over the past year, through two spear fights that are the highlight of the event. My host, Richard Alaha, tells me: "My cousin-in-law and I have had some land disputes over the last year. I will throw my spears hard and on target this year."

When British colonial rule came in the late

1800s, Christian faiths helped 'tame' the people. Some 69 of the 73 known indigenous languages of the Solomon Islands remain today, yet many of the customs and culture that evolved alongside these languages have been forgotten.

In many rural areas of the Solomon Islands, fast cash brought by logging, supplies of two-minute noodles and canned tuna, and the wide consumption of beer and locally brewed 'quaso' has resulted in a marked decline in the power of the chief and the role of tradition in even the most remote communities.

But on Santa Catalina, these changes are not so marked. Their customs, and the Wogosia, continue.

Wogosia begins on the last day of their custom year, when women walk to Faraina, the highest point of the island, where their root harvest is grown and stored in leaf huts.



Before dawn, the men collect the washed conch shells and parade up the beach. After placing the shells at Nama'a, the beach where the dawn spear fight will be held, no one must touch the seawater until the fighters face off later that morning.

They return to the village with ingredients for making traditional pudding (*toatoa* in the local Owa Riki dialect) in preparation for the final feasting.

Men and boys gather their conch shells and take them to the beach to be washed. From then on, the sounds of chanting and conch shells being blown can be heard almost non-stop. This tradition is said to ward off bad spirits and beckon a good crop.

Women gather coconut leaf keel and place them in the village for the first big event. Shortly after midnight, the keels are used to beat the ground, in what is known as the cleansing of the land. When the chief gives the call, a mob of young men, boys and girls run through the village, smacking the ground with the stems.

The screaming, laughter and slapping of the stems echo through the village as they race through, while older women stand beside their huts flinging burning embers, rancid coconut cream and water full of rotting fish guts into the crowd.

When the group make it back to the beach, the night of chanting and shell music continue. Before dawn, the men collect the washed conch shells and parade up the beach. After placing the shells at Nama'a, the beach where the dawn spear fight will be held, no one must touch the seawater until the fighters face off later that morning. Doing so will bring bad luck to the festival and to the coming year's harvest.





During the night we get heavy rain, which comes and goes throughout the Wogosia, and rumours abound; “some boys moved the conch shells when they were not supposed to be touched”, or “someone went into the water after the shells were placed at the beach”, or “maybe someone had sex”, (which is forbidden during Wogosia).

The tropical rain and clapping thunder is proof that someone did not follow custom, and a warning to those who would disobey the word of the chiefs.

Nautilus Minerals: Solwara 1 Project Equipment update

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As the clouds begin to part and the sun rises, the entire village gathers at Nama'a to watch the first spear fight. When the sun reaches the correct height, giving the fighters enough light to spot their target and block hurtling spears, the chiefs give the nod and five minutes of outright war break loose.

Cousin vs. cousin, brother vs. uncle, tribe vs. tribe, the 1.7-metre spears are hurtled across a distance of less than 10 metres.

A few elderly women patrol the lines, supposedly using sacred chants to redirect a dangerous spear off target or even snap a spear mid-flight. Most of the spears are blocked by the small shields or dodged gracefully, but those that find their mark result in numerous cuts and bruises.

Fortunately for those who are the recipient of a direct hit, the spears are blunted to avoid serious injury. Chief Gordon tells us that traditionally the spears were sharpened, which made the annual spear fights a matter of life and death.

Now, the tradition is used to materialise those disagreements that might otherwise fester into something more serious. And at the end of the five minutes of madness, all the men come together amongst laughs and hugs. Disputes resolved ... for now.

Back at our hut, Richard debriefs us on the battle against his cousin.

"He is a big strong guy who throws his spears with great accuracy and power.



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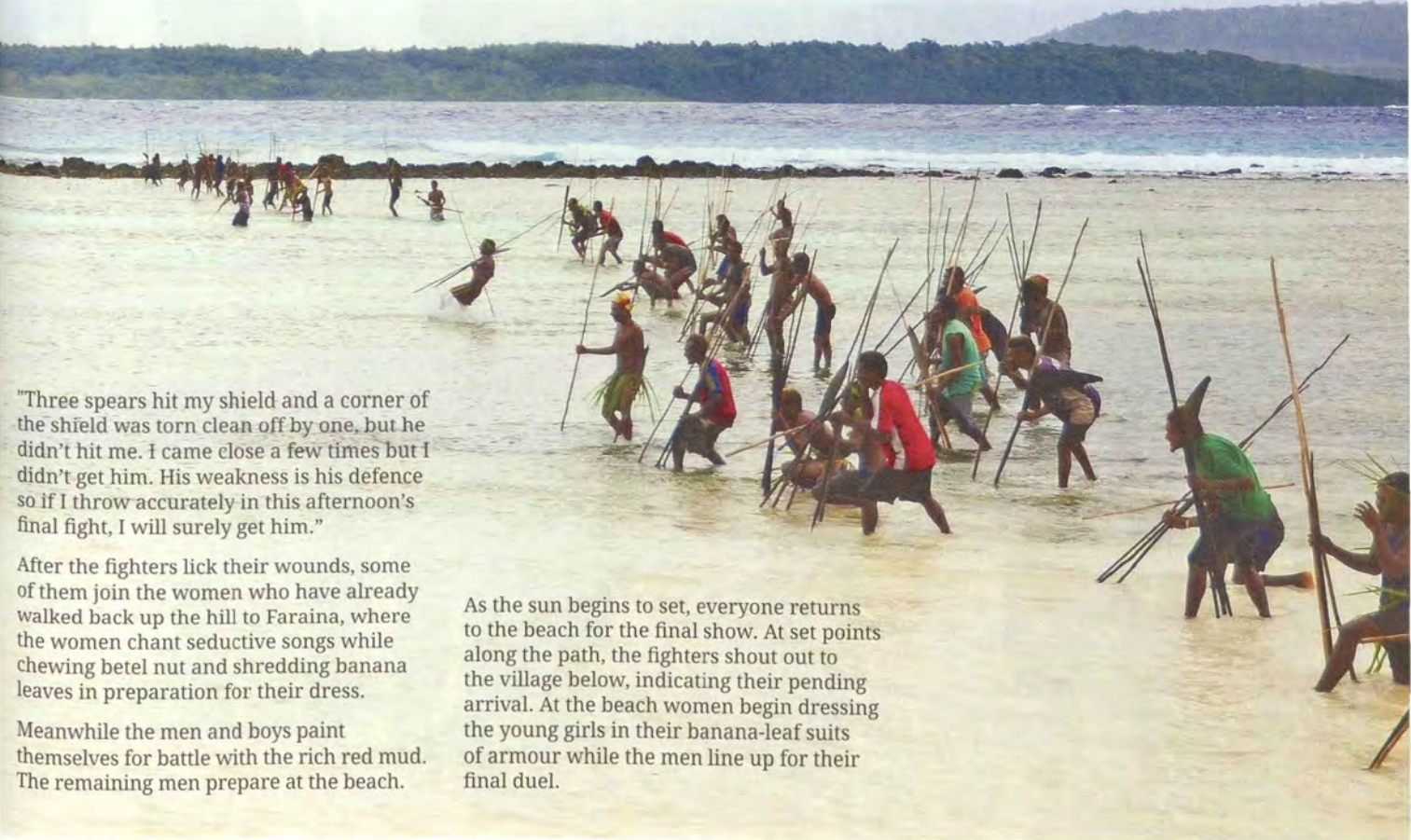
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"Three spears hit my shield and a corner of the shield was torn clean off by one, but he didn't hit me. I came close a few times but I didn't get him. His weakness is his defence so if I throw accurately in this afternoon's final fight, I will surely get him."

After the fighters lick their wounds, some of them join the women who have already walked back up the hill to Faraina, where the women chant seductive songs while chewing betel nut and shredding banana leaves in preparation for their dress.

Meanwhile the men and boys paint themselves for battle with the rich red mud. The remaining men prepare at the beach.

As the sun begins to set, everyone returns to the beach for the final show. At set points along the path, the fighters shout out to the village below, indicating their pending arrival. At the beach women begin dressing the young girls in their banana-leaf suits of armour while the men line up for their final duel.

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OUR WORLD

Impatiently waiting to avenge the morning's fight, and with their last chance to make right the wrongs of last year, the warriors wait for the nod of the chief.

The village is focussed on a rivalry between two men in particular, one of whom got the other's wife pregnant, that will probably result in an epic battle.

When the sun is in the exact place in the sky, the fighting breaks loose with even greater ferocity than the morning's duel. Spears sail through the sky like a medieval raid, splashing around fighters waist-deep in the ocean, and skimming into the crowd standing behind the big men on the beach.

After less than five minutes, it's called to a halt. But with scores not yet settled, it takes a chief another few minutes to wade down the middle of the firing line waving a large stick to finally get the last of the spears to stop flying, and for the smiles and hugging to begin.

As the men make their way back to the village, unmarried boys group together and await the girls who enter the village single file, dressed head to toe in banana leaf, carrying a stone to be thrown at the boy of their choosing before they race off into the ocean, leaving a trail of costume in their wake.

After washing off the mud and sweat accumulated during the festival, everyone returns to the village for *tama*, a shared feast of motu fish and the pudding made that day.

The conch shells are hidden away, not to be touched until the next Wogosia.



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After dinner, Richard again laments his cousin's agility, but is proud to show that he had not been hit during the final fight.

"It doesn't matter that we didn't spear each other, what matters is that we came together and, in our own way, resolved our differences," he said.

"There is sure to be more tension in the coming year, but there will also be another Wogosa in which to resolve it."



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OUR WORLD

For outsiders privileged enough to join in the festivities (foreigners are encouraged to participate in all of the events except for the spear fights) it shows us custom, tradition and the role of the chief, even today, is something that should be respected and upheld, and that resolving your grievances is an important part of any society ... though I'm not sure my brother-in-law would quite understand if I hurled a spear at him the next time we have a disagreement.



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FACT FILE

When and Where

Wogosia happens every year in late May/early June depending on the correct alignment of the sun and the moon. Santa Catalina Island is located off the eastern tip of Makira Island, Solomon Islands.

How to Get There from Honiara

Tours can be arranged through the Solomon Islands Visitor Bureau. Upon arrival, guests are adopted into the family belonging to their hosts and are housed in traditional huts within the villages. All food and drink are provided by the villages. Be sure to bring extra spending money for the markets put on after the festival. Some very beautiful and unique carvings can be found there. www.visitsolomons.com.sb



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Fort Fantastic

"Hurry up!" the bus driver barks at us.

With a look of impatience, he shoves our backpacks towards us, and we stumble off the bus.

We stand by the side of the road looking at each other in disbelief as the bus roars off, kicking up a cloud of dust and rousing a dog sleeping by the road.

Our rude disembarkation follows a crazy bus ride that has seen our driver overtake cars, buses, tuk-tuks and trucks despite oncoming traffic, all the while with loud music playing from a DVD player at the front of the bus.

This bus ride is a sharp contrast to our first days in Sri Lanka.

BY REBECCA ARNOLD

104 PARADISE April-May 2014

My boyfriend and I have come from Galle, two hours south of the capital Colombo, where we slowly wandered cobblestoned streets, munched on mango dusted with chilli powder while the sun set, and lazed in the sun watching boisterous cricket games. A far cry from our white-knuckled bus ride from hell.

Gala means rock in Sinhalese, one of the official languages of Sri Lanka, and it is from this word that the town is believed to have derived its name. The town is divided into two parts: the old town, called Fort – surrounded by the fort walls – and the new town which has built up outside the fort. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site due to its historical, archaeological and architectural value, there are only a few hundred families who live in Fort itself.

On our first morning in Galle we're lucky to join a tour with Juliet Coombe, a renowned British war journalist who first came to Sri Lanka to cover the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. She stayed, married a Sri Lankan man, reported on the country's decades-long civil war that ended in 2009, and has written numerous books about the country. She's also set up a small publishing company and owns a restaurant and tour company called Sri Serendipity. Since her business has grown she has passed the mantle of tour leader on to her staff, so it truly is serendipitous that today we've wandered in when she's decided to take this morning's group.

Mangoes dusted with chilli powder make for a refreshingly spicy snack.



The Fort clock tower.



She leads us around the streets of Fort, streets so narrow that two cars can barely squeeze past each other. We head up to the fort walls. These are the walls that protected the town from the rage of the ocean in 2004, with no damage or injuries in Fort. The people living outside the old town were not so lucky; many people in and around the new town bus station were killed. The Fort basically became a hospital after the tsunami, with hotels opening their doors to those injured.

It is believed that students at the Arab College, who still study navigation by the stars, predicted the tsunami but didn't have a word to describe it, so their forecasts went unheard.

Built by the Portuguese in the 16th Century, 90 per cent of the fort walls are made from coral harvested from the waters surrounding the town.

In the 17th Century the Dutch drove the Portuguese out of Sri Lanka, taking Galle Fort in the process. They made extensive fortifications and it became Sri Lanka's major port. Later, the British occupied Sri Lanka, and the importance of Galle Fort diminished as attention turned to Colombo.

Shipwrecks litter the waters around Fort, showing that the Chinese and Arabs were trading in this area long before the Portuguese accidentally discovered the harbour.



The view from the Fort walls.



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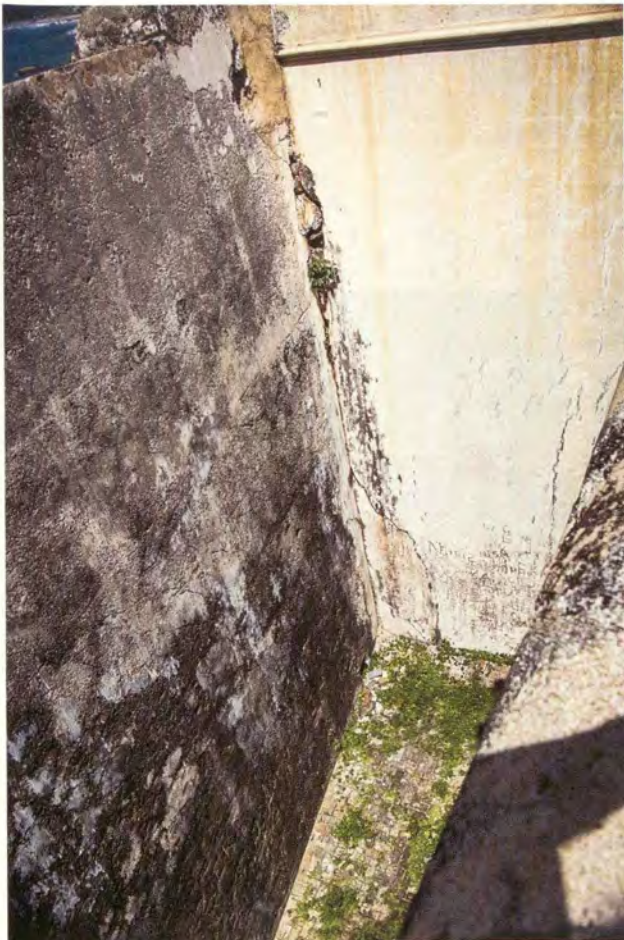
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One of the slave pits where slaves were cruelly held each night.

We visit the slave pits that housed the imported African slaves that built the fort walls. Each night, slaves descended into their cramped depths by ladders, which were pulled up afterwards. Stories abound of cannibalism amongst them, and the Dutch reportedly wired their mouths shut during the night.



Sunsets at Galle Fort are a stunning sight.

When the slaves were freed by the British they remained in the area, and entire families lived in the caves and tunnels that snake through the fort walls.

It takes us only a few hours to traverse the walls of Fort, stopping along the way to sample king coconuts expertly cracked open by the man selling them from a bicycle, taste the delicious local ice cream and marvel at the wares of the many jewellers.

The historic old town continues to transform and is now a haven for many artists, writers, boutique shops, jewellers and cafés. The Dutch buildings remain, along with art deco style houses, many under renovation.

Later that day we head to the lighthouse to watch the sun set. Under the orange glow of the sky, families wander together and play in the waters around the fort walls.

A seller expertly opens up a king coconut.



One of the many jewellers that create beautiful works of art.



OUR WORLD



Boys play in the water at sunset.

In a place as charming and historical as this, I expect to be surrounded by tourists and touts, but this view is largely undisturbed, and we get a sense of everyday Sri Lankan life as people relax in the evening.

The lighthouse that guards the Fort walls.



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Multiple games of cricket are played simultaneously as the sun goes down.




Protected by the reefs that surround the area, the waters are calm, the sun reflected in its softly rippled surface. We watch boys jump off Flag Rock, their shadows silhouetted in the slowly sinking sun, and cheer on the multiple games of cricket: in the space of only a couple of hundred square metres, three cricket games are being played simultaneously.

In a place as charming and historical as this, I expect to be surrounded by tourists and touts, but this view is largely undisturbed, and we get a sense of everyday Sri Lankan life as people relax in the evening.

On our last morning, the call to prayer from the mosque at the end of our street wakes us early, and we take a final opportunity to explore the streets, savouring the early morning calm.

Now, to catch that bus on to our next destination...



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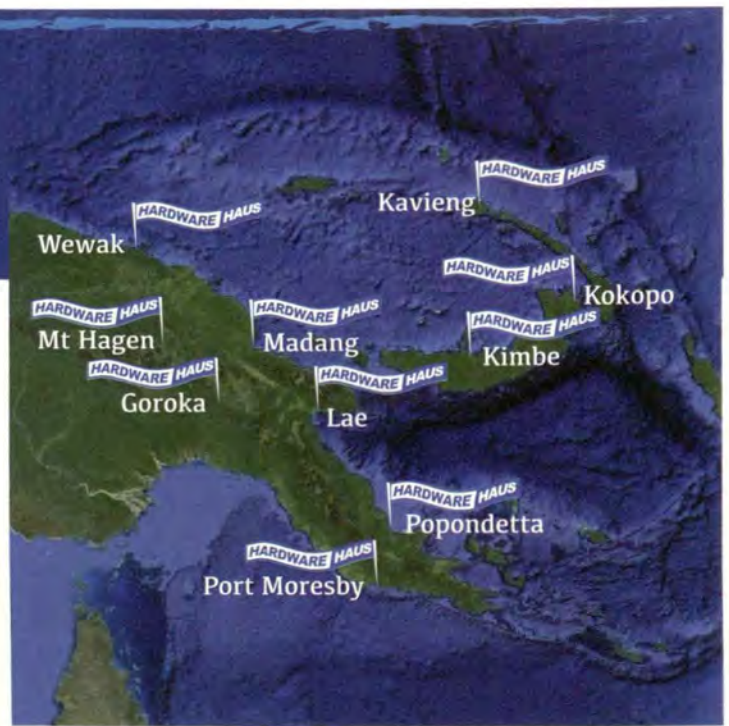
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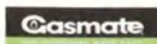
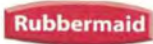
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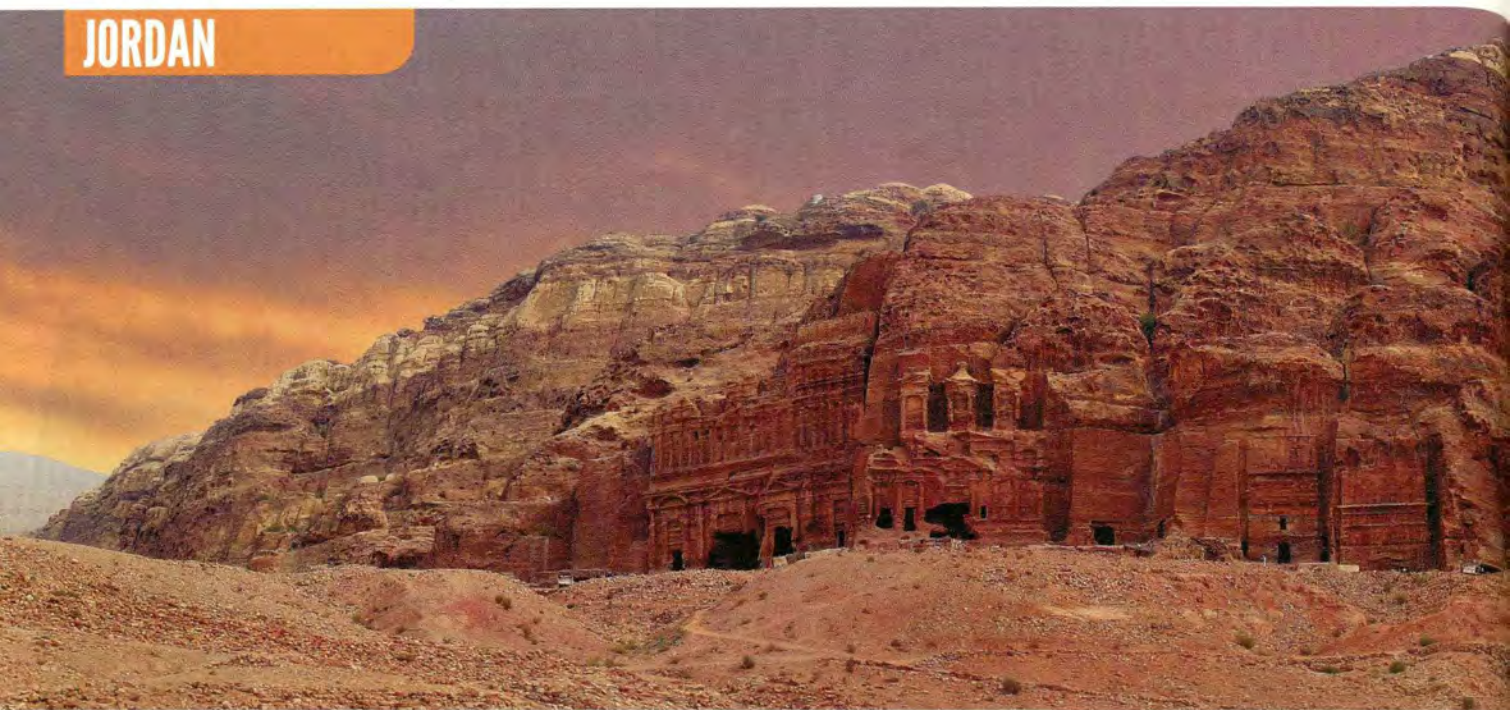
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*Petra at sunset.*

Petra

Jordan's Holy Grail

BY RODERICK EIME

Described by a famous poet as “a rose-red city half as old as time”, Jordan’s Petra continues to beguile all who visit. But for how much longer?

Massive sheer rock faces, weathered by time and formed into a smooth, labyrinthine passage, lead us more than a kilometre along this ancient trading route. Two thousand years ago, traders bringing luxury goods such as incense, silk, spices and perfumes would pass through here, paying a toll to the resident Nabataeans who controlled the area.

Our caravan consists of backpack and camera-toting voyeurs, some on camels and others transported by precarious carts pulled by runaway horses. The delirious cries of over-excited tourists echo from the far reaches of the ravine, while above, some uninhibited teenager tries to perform a one-footed yoga tree on an overhanging ledge 50 metres above us. He wobbles alarmingly and the horrified crowd gasps and points in disbelief as he gathers himself up, just.

Twenty years ago, it was movie goers on the edge of their seats as Indiana Jones and his posse clip-clopped, mouths agape, into the ravine that opens up at the end of the ravine. In a surrealistic revelation the famous Al Khazneh (aka The Treasury) comes into view as we amble agog into the sunlight again.



FACT FILE

The name 'Treasury' was coined from the misguided belief that the structure contained a pharaoh's treasure. Bullet-ridden sculptures bear testament to locals' attempts to break open the mythical cache.

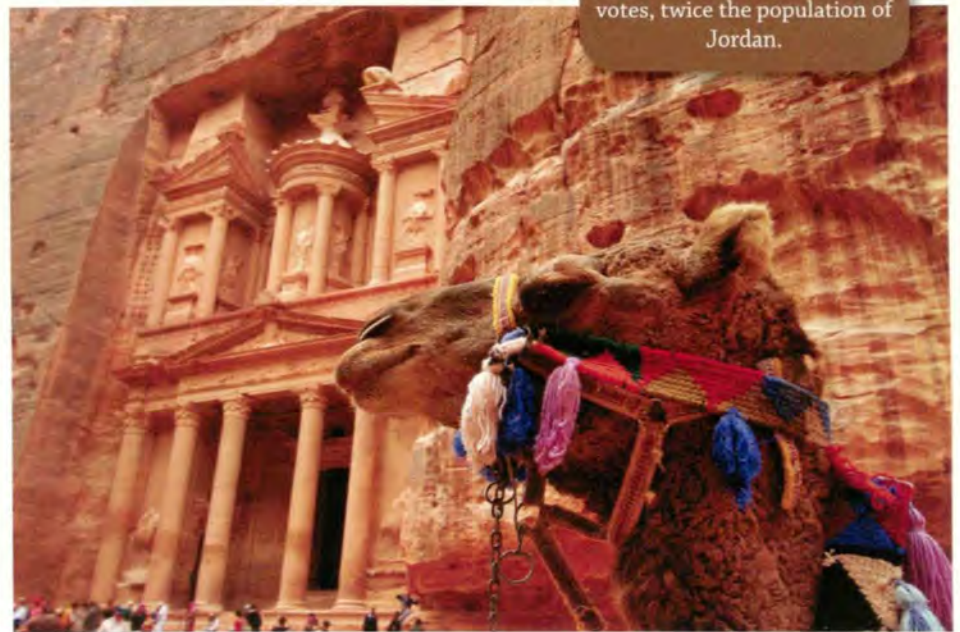
In 2007, Petra was voted into the controversial New Seven Wonders of the World along with the Taj Mahal and Colosseum. Petra received a reported 14 million internet votes, twice the population of Jordan.

This superb edifice is the trademark structure of Petra, impossibly ornate and painstakingly carved out of the sheer sandstone rock face. Amid a throng of indolent camels and jostling tour bus hordes, we stand and gaze up at this magnificent sight. In spite of the crowd, Al Khazneh appears unfazed more than 40m above the milling crowd. We sit for a moment with a cup of tea bought from a ramshackle kiosk and drink in the scene, distracted only by the fragrant steaming aroma of our tea.

Amazingly, this stone metropolis sat for centuries almost undisturbed until rediscovered by Swiss adventurer, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, in 1812. Burckhardt disguised himself as a Bedouin to infiltrate the off-limits region and stealthily made notes and sketches.

Apart from Harrison Ford in 1989's *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, T E Lawrence (of Arabia) (1914), President Barack Obama (2013), Queen Elizabeth II (1984) and King Baldwin of Jerusalem (12th Century) are among the notables to gaze on the spectacle of Petra. Pope Francis may also visit in May this year.

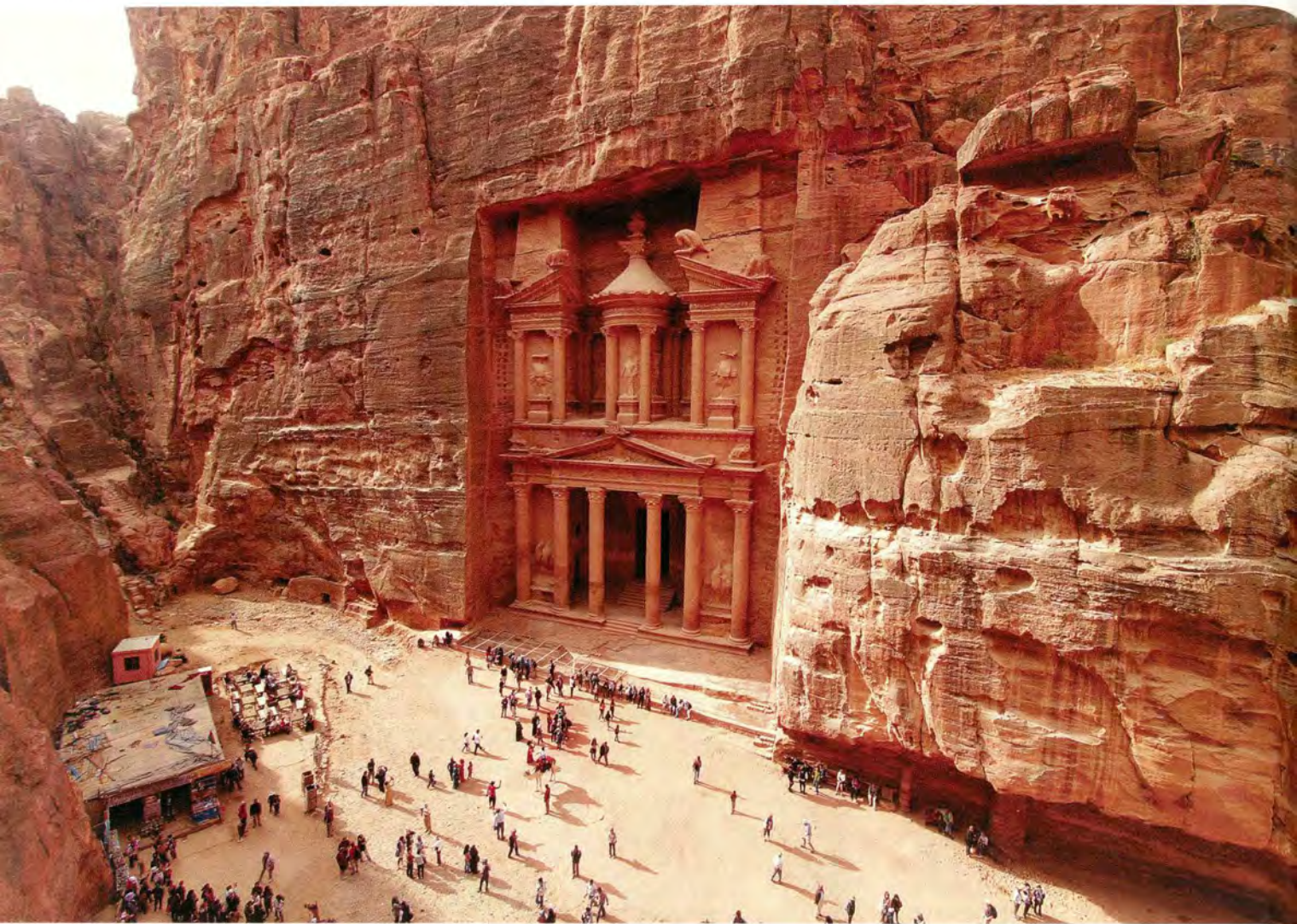
A UNESCO World Heritage site since 1985, Petra is in fact a sprawling outdoor archaeological museum of almost 70,000 hectares, of which only 20 per cent has been excavated. At its tourism peak, Petra would host as many as 8000 visitors every day, but the combined effects of the global economic downturn and the so-called 'Arab Spring' bring anecdotal reports of a tourism drop-off of as much as 75 per cent.



The famous so-called Treasury, a feature of the Indiana Jones movie.

But this slowdown in tourism could be just what the beleaguered site needs. For several years, there have been concerns about whether the already eroded and crumbling facades can withstand much more attention. It could be a chance to install reinforced pathways and fencing to protect the delicate masonry from further damage. As *60 Minutes* reporter, Tara Brown, declared: "Petra is being loved to death."

After Petra's appearance in the Indiana Jones movie, visitor numbers soared, some say by as much as 10 times. Those numbers will surely approach again as the Middle East returns to more obviously peaceful times. And if human interference wasn't enough, the entire region is a hotspot for earthquakes, and many monuments have suffered the wrath of nature as well as that of man.



“There’s a balance between economic and cultural value that needs to be struck,” Jordanian royal and custodian of Petra, Her Royal Highness, Princess Dana Firas, told *60 Minutes*, “Jordan needs to preserve this priceless heritage as much as we need the tourism dollars.”

Unlike her bountiful neighbours, Jordan has no oil and apart from tourism, relies on meagre export dollars from agricultural produce and minerals.

Apart from Petra, Jordan hosts numerous other ancient natural and manmade formations like Wadi Rum, the otherworldly landscape that was the setting for the 1962 epic “*Lawrence of Arabia*” and described by the Welsh-born army officer as “vast, echoing and god-like”. Today, visitors can camp in the desolate valleys, embark on Bedouin camel treks and even take a dawn flight in a hot air balloon.

Camel riding at Wadi Rum.



Then there’s the Dead Sea, less than 50 kilometres from the capital Amman and the lowest point on the surface of the Earth at 400m below sea level.

The fabled inland body of water is also facing its own threats as its source, the Jordan River, has been diverted by Israel. Millions of tonnes of minerals such as potash and bromine are extracted from the water annually by both Israel and Jordan, and the water level is falling rapidly. While the going remains good, thousands of visitors stay at such plush resorts as the 5-star Kempinski Hotel Ishtar and enjoy the therapeutic and healing qualities of the Dead Sea water and mud. The remarkable properties of both have been known as far back as Aristotle (c.350 BC).

1000 steps up to the Monastery in Petra.



INFO FILE

Petra is located 262 km south of Jordan's capital, Amman. Park entrance fee is 90JD (AU\$140) for visitors not overnighing in the town. www.visitpetra.jo

Best time to visit is spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November).

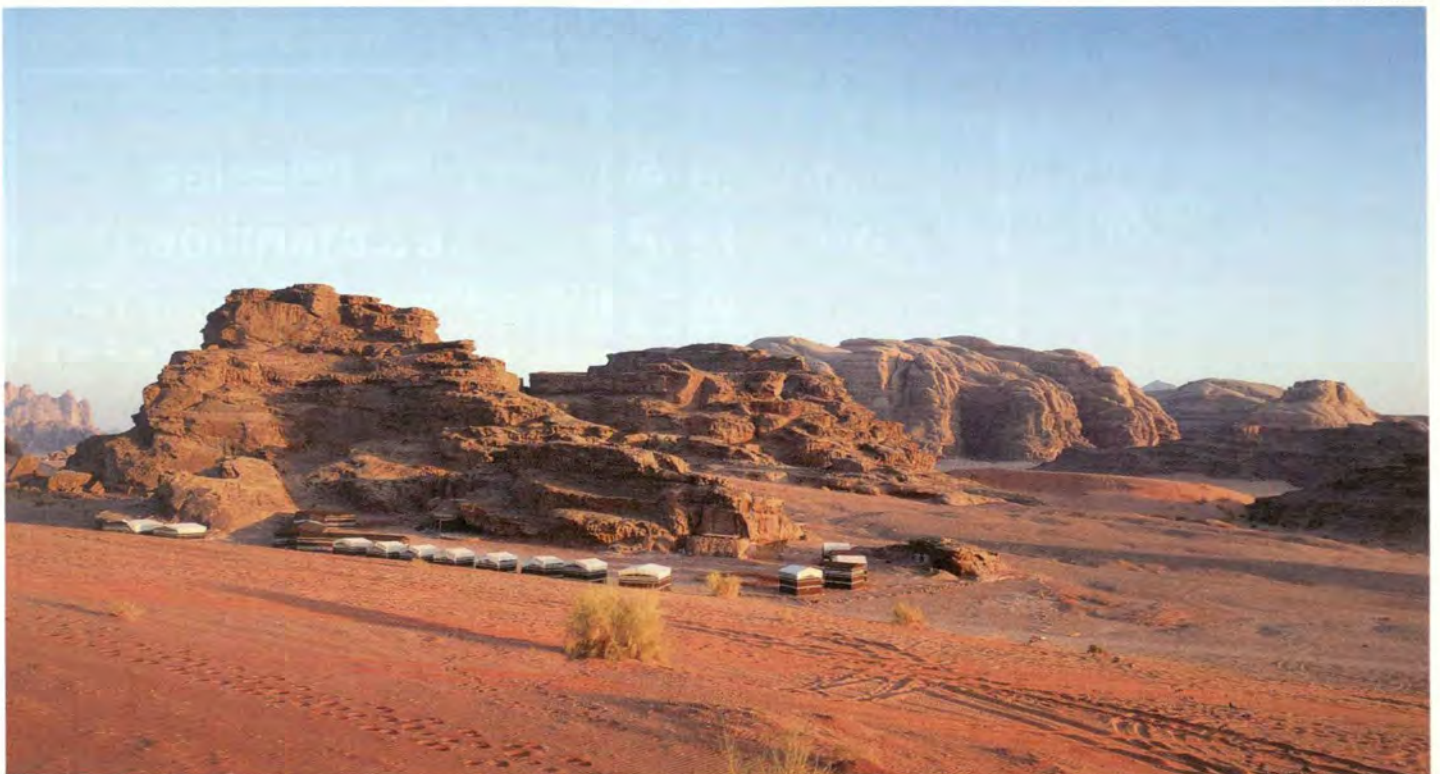
STAY: Mövenpick Resort Petra is located opposite the entrance to the park. www.moevenpick-hotels.com

EAT: Classes in Jordanian cuisine at Petra Kitchen www.petrakitchen.com

For more information on travel to Jordan, see www.visitjordan.com

The writer was a guest of Jordan Tourism Board

Wadi Rum.



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But the ornate, parched and abandoned realm of the ancient Nabataeans remains the struggling kingdom's major drawcard. While most visitors spend less than a day within the confines of The Petra Archaeological Park, a comprehensive exploration would take several more.

Climb 1000 stairs to reach the fabulous 'monastery', at least double the size of the 'treasury' and something of a discovery in itself. Then there's the amphitheatre, the museum, the royal tombs, the great temple and the staggering Byzantine Church with its intricate mosaics.

The poet whose "rose-red city" began this article, John William Burgon, a 19th Century clergyman, concluded his verse with the lines:


*It seems no work of Man's creative hand,
by labour wrought as wavering fancy
planned;
But from the rock as if by magic grown,
eternal, silent, beautiful, alone!*

Silent and beautiful certainly, but while these hand-hewn rocks of ages still stand, it's the modern swashbuckler, Indiana Jones, who has set the tone for Jordan's Holy Grail.

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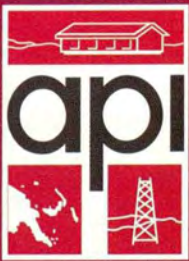
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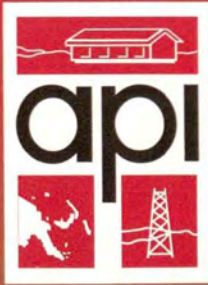
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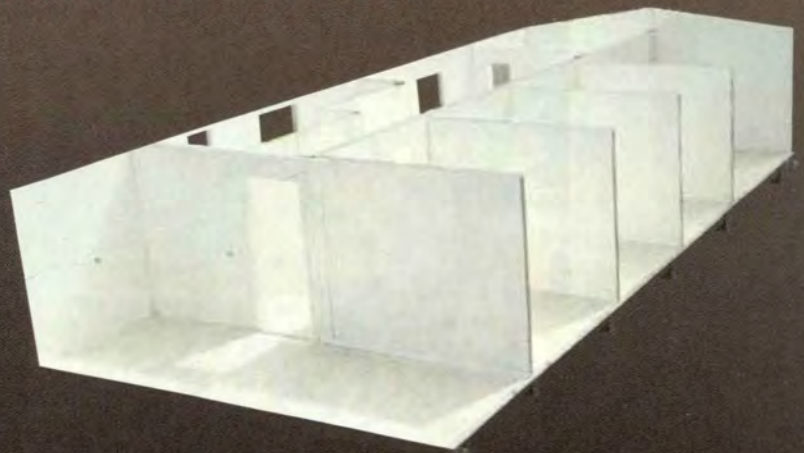
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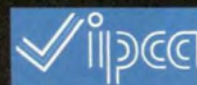
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Asian Salads

BY LANCE SEETO

Teriyaki chicken and cucumber salad.



Have you ever wondered why most Asian people who live on their traditional diet are quite thin and slender? Have you ever wondered why the only Chinese you seem to see at the medical centre and hospitals are the doctors, and not so often the patients?

Genes play their part in helping to keep one of the oldest civilisations healthy, but take a close look at the diet of all Asian cultures and you will find they have one thing in common – they drink more water.

Water is the essence of life for every living creature and plant, but the Chinese have long known that water plays a crucial role in flushing as well as nourishment. Our tendency to eat more than we nutritionally need has led to gluttony and obesity in many modern cultures compared to days gone by. Insects and birds need minimal water to survive but are unlikely to be seen pigging out on a nice big green leaf or nut until they can't walk or fly.



Asian chicken salad with almonds.

Over-eating is a very human trait - we eat for enjoyment. Our love of food goes beyond instinct and nutrition, and so our diet and exercise regime must be adjusted to counter our over-indulgence or that tummy will become a permanent fixture. For men, it's called a roof over the shed.

The Chinese have had many tens of thousands of years to fine tune an optimum way of consuming more liquids by eating more fruits and vegetables with every meal. Fruits and vegetables are made up mostly of water, so eating more of them means you are actually ingesting more water.

Most Asian stir fry dishes and salads have more vegetables than meat for a nutritional balance. So if you thought your local Chinese restaurant was just adding more vegetables to make more money,

another reason may well be more symbolic of healthy eating (although some do put in too many onions!) The next time you see an Asian family eat, take notice of the proportion of meats to vegetables.

And do you know why the Chinese and Japanese drink hot, unsweetened, no-milk tea during their meal? It is to help flush excess oils and bacteria-causing food particles down the gastrointestinal tract and out of the body.

In traditional Asian foods, a side portion of garden salad of lettuce, cucumber and tomato is rarely seen. Salads play a different role in Asian cuisine. Asian salads are built around layers and layers of flavour and a combination of textures and colours. The colours are like a rainbow and the ingredients seem lively and contrasting.



Add shredded chicken to this spicy apple salad.

The Chinese have had many tens of thousands of years to fine tune an optimum way of consuming more liquids by eating more fruits and vegetables with every meal. Fruits and vegetables are made up mostly of water, so eating more of them means you are actually ingesting more water.

Ancient Chinese doctors believed that the five elements of energy - wood, fire, earth, metal and water - can be directly related to the five taste sensors of sour, bitter, sweet, spicy and salty. Many Asian dressings are based on this same principle. If you get all five balanced correctly, you will have created an amazing dressing to match the salad ingredients.



Chilli chicken salad with mandarin and almonds.

Salads are often designed to provide a contrast or balance with other dishes, since the harmonious blending of textures, colours, and flavours is one of the hallmarks of Asian cooking. The crunchy texture of lightly blanched or raw vegetables may balance grilled meats, and like a sorbet in European cuisine, a salad may be used to clear the palate after a particularly spicy dish.

Asian salads are often sweeter than western salads, but balanced out with aromatic fresh herbs like mint and basil, making them perfect for the sweeter palates of many South Pacific nations. Asian salads often don't contain refined white salt, drawing their subtle saltiness instead from small amounts of fermented sauces like fish and soy, which is another reason Asian salads are a better health alternative.

The most common salad dressings known to the Pacific region can probably

be limited to 1000-island dressing, Italian, French and balsamic with olive oil, a legacy of the Colonial and Australian influences of days past.

But Asian salad dressings are slightly more complex and adopt the principle of harmony and balance with the five elements theory of Chinese culture.

Ancient Chinese doctors believed that the five elements of energy - wood, fire, earth, metal and water - can be directly related to the five taste sensors of sour, bitter, sweet, spicy and salty. Many Asian dressings are based on this same principle. If you get all five balanced correctly, you will have created an amazing dressing to match the salad ingredients.

Rice vinegar is the Japanese answer to balsamic vinegar. Rice vinegar is much less acidic than other vinegars, with a slight saltiness. It has a gentle flavour that is unlikely to overpower a dressing and is a great addition to your kitchen pantry.

Orange, ginger and shrimp salad.

THE FIVE ELEMENTS OF ASIAN COOKING

Element	Taste	Dressing Ingredients
Wood	Sour	Vinegar, Lime, Rice Vinegar
Fire	Bitter	Citrus Zest, Fresh Herbs
Earth	Sweet	Honey, Sugar, Fruits, Mirin
Metal	Spicy	Chilli, Peppercorns
Water	Salty	Soy, Salt, Fish Sauce

What I love about Asian salads is the addition of crunchy components. They add texture to the dish, complementing the softness of other salad components.

You can use toasted nuts, fried shallots, fried noodles, legumes such as chick peas or kidney beans, or simply raw crunchy vegetables like carrot, celery or cabbage. They also provide fibre to help sweep and broom your intestines to remove food particles that should be pushed out of the gastrointestinal tract, and not left inside the body to potentially rot.



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Getting the family to eat more healthy Asian-inspired salads is a step towards changing the way the family eats for health and quality, not quantity.

Many Asian salads are served warm by adding grilled meats and seafood.



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In most Pacific Island homes, a salad is something you serve on the side and not as a main meal. The typical salad in villages is usually lettuce with few slices of cucumber or tomato, or maybe a cold coleslaw or potato salad. But not all salads have to be cold, with many Asian salads served warm by adding grilled meats, seafood or cooked vegetables. They are often bulked out with carbs like rice, noodles, and even root vegetables such as taro, cassava or sweet potato.

Getting the family to eat more healthy Asian-inspired salads is a step towards changing the way the family eats for health and quality, not quantity.

And the sweet and sour dressings, strange texture and contrast make eating raw vegetables easier for everyone.

We can learn a lot about the way ancient civilizations used to eat from mainly the land and sea to live a healthier life. In the modern diet, salads can be so much more than just raw fruits and vegetables.



Braised pork belly salad.



* Lance Seeto is an award-winning Chinese Australian chef, international food writer, and television host of "Taste of Paradise". Follow his culinary adventures on his Facebook page or www.lanceseeto.com



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Living on the River!

A three-hour drive north of Melbourne brings tourists and locals alike to Echuca, a port town on Australia's largest river, the Murray River.

Meandering like a massive snake through the landscape, this river is the lifeblood of inland Australia, as well as forming the border between the states of Victoria and New South Wales.

On hot days it serves as a magnet for people from far and wide to cool off in its running waters, and many are now coming to spend a few days or more living on the river itself.

Houseboats in numbers are plying the waters of the Murray, and are as popular as ever. From basic models to massive luxurious units, they move up and down the river like the motel rooms on pontoons that they are.

The Emmylou is one of the larger paddle-steamers on this section of the river.



Splashes of colour exist everywhere here: you just need to know where to look!



The Pride of the Murray steams past: several paddle-steamers travel the river, taking tourists into the river's past as they roll along.

The Port of Echuca is well worth a visit before setting out up the river. Built in 1865, the massive wharf was central to the shipbuilding and timber industries that made Echuca a thriving town. At one stage around 240 paddle steamers were made here per year.



Most cater for between eight and 12 people. They have a toilet, shower, separate bedrooms, a living-kitchen area incorporating the steering wheel, and a shaded sitting area on top. Everything you need for a few days of doing as little or as much as you like.

Echuca is a large town, with everything that you would need within easy reach. From supermarkets to fishing tackle shops, newsagencies to restaurants and cafes, everything is here.

The Port of Echuca is well worth a visit before setting out up the river. Built in 1865, the massive wharf was central to the shipbuilding and timber industries that made Echuca a thriving town. At one stage around 240 paddle steamers were made here per year. The surviving wharf is part of a structure that once stretched for nearly 500 metres downriver. Here redgum timber, wheat, wool and livestock were unloaded onto the wharf and repacked onto trains to be taken to Melbourne. This made Echuca the largest inland port in Australia, with more than 100 hotels at its peak.

OUR WORLD

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After boarding the houseboat and becoming familiar with its operation during a half-hour lesson, the decision has to be made about which way to go. Sometimes this is made for you by the level of the water flowing down the river. At just over 2500km long, there is a lot of Murray River to explore!

With 30 hours of travelling to the west before we run into a lock, we decide to take that direction. A few nerves surface as we pass our first paddle steamer (they look massive when you're driving a houseboat the other way!), and with a close watch on the faster speedboats as they effortlessly move around us, we began our journey down the river.

Before exiting the Echuca boundary we pass the mouth of Victoria's largest river, the Campaspe. The Murray officially belongs to New South Wales at this juncture, passing to South Australia some 1000 river kilometres downstream. The border between Victoria and NSW is at the top of the river bank on the Victorian side.

A short cruise sees us alone on the river, with few houses and fewer people. Picking a clear spot on the river bank, we manoeuvred as we had been taught, and quickly managed to tie up securely to some of the large gums on the bank.



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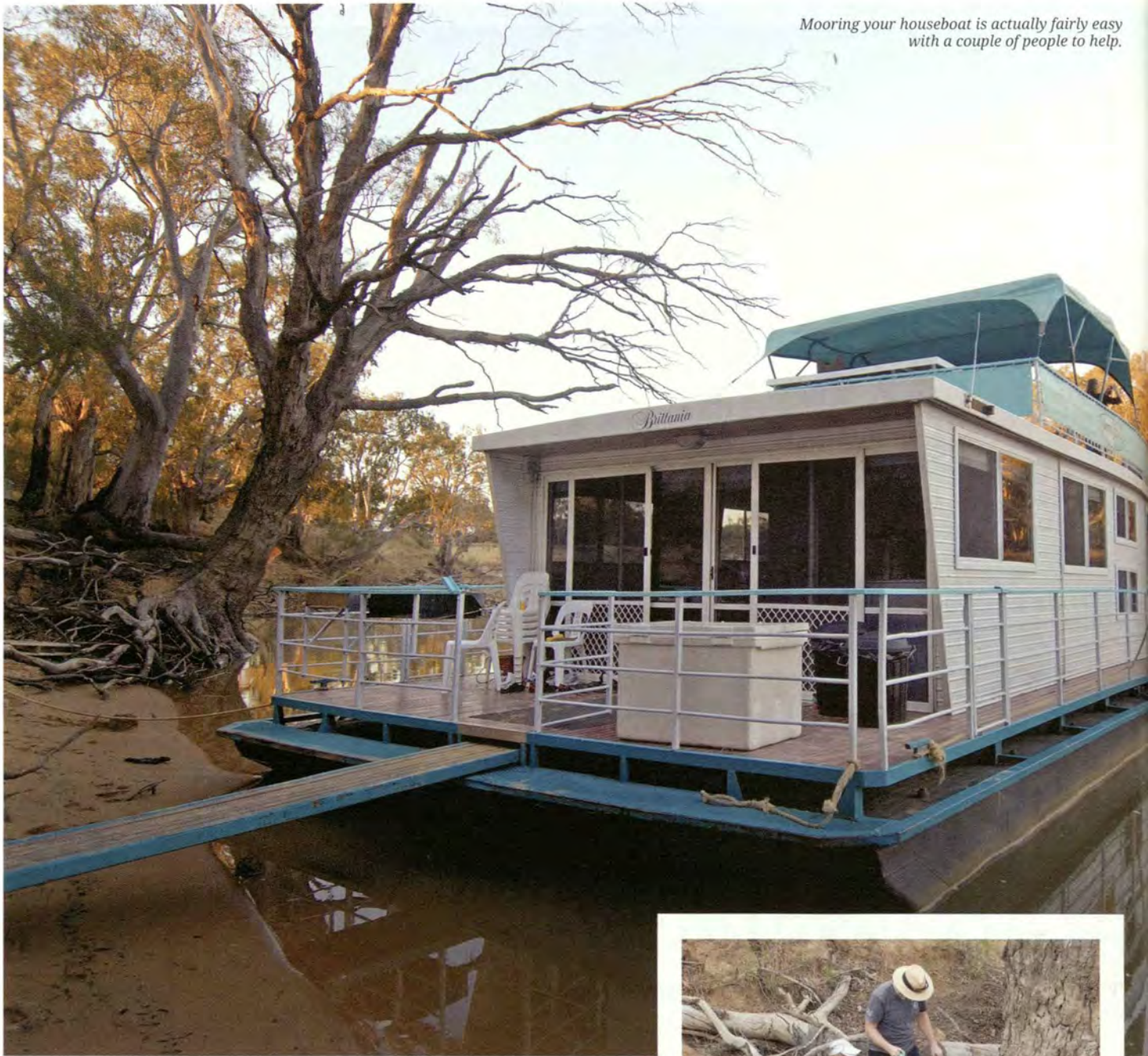
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Mooring your houseboat is actually fairly easy with a couple of people to help.



Great times on the Murray are to be had by all.



Fishing is a rewarding activity for all ages.




Ensuring that no large branches were directly overhead, we could relax, catch up with news, explore our new backyard, and watch the river go by. The on-board generator supplied us with power for cooking, TV, and all of the electronic devices that we can no longer seem to live without. It wasn't long before the peaceful call of the river began to take hold.

The Murray is full of bird life, with herons, corellas, galahs and kingfishers being constant companions wherever we pulled up. Kookaburras were our alarms in the morning, and the days passed far too quickly. With a new vista each afternoon, there was never a dull moment. Fishing took up much of the kid's time, with mixed success, and the occasional yabby trapping or shrimp baiting sessions were much enjoyed.

For each hour we travelled down the river, it took us two to return once we turned eastward, so we had to be aware of the distances involved to get back to Echuca on time to depart the boat. This proved to be the hardest thing of all. Nobody really wanted to leave.

There is a lot to explore on the river banks.



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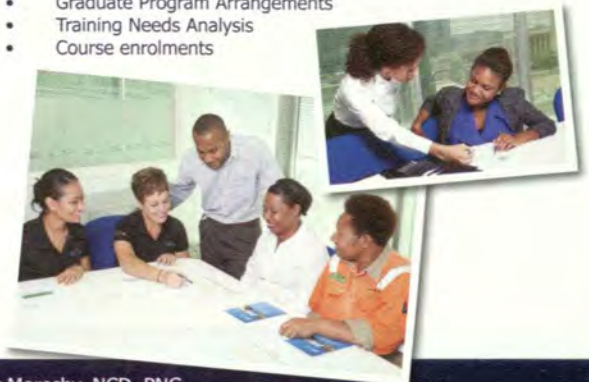
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PORT LINCOLN

THE WHITE STUFF

BY KEN HOPPEN



Great white sharks have been in the news lately. Western Australia's Government introduced a shark culling program after seven people were killed by sharks in that state over the past four years.

Let's not beat around the bush. Great whites are large, fearsomely toothy predators. At the top of the food chain, adult sharks have little to worry about during their day-to-day life. They are certainly dangerous creatures that I hope I never have to come face-to-face with in open confrontation.

Actually, I could also say the same thing about saltwater crocodiles, lions, tigers, hippopotamus, polar bears, and more, any of which kill more people each year than all of the world's shark species combined. Can you imagine the world's outcry if one of these species were culled indiscriminately?

In South Australia there are companies that take a different view of the great white shark, and take people out to view them safely in their natural environment.



Port Lincoln is a fishing and wheat town located on the southern end of the Eyre Peninsula, on the tranquil waters of Boston Bay.

The Calypso Star III is large and modern, taking day visitors out to the Neptune Islands.



Out of sight, out of mind, the fact that people can demystify these sharks by viewing them in safety is a massive help to the continuance of this endangered species.

Travelling to Port Lincoln, on the southern end of the Eyre Peninsula west of Adelaide, we board the large day boat Calypso Star III at dawn to head out to the Neptune Islands, about 50km south in the middle of the Southern Ocean, a two-hour trip.

Nothing lies south of here until you hit Antarctica. The islands are home to thousands of New Zealand fur seals, and a few of the rarer Australian sea lions. The waters are teeming with dolphin and southern bluefin tuna, which makes this an ideal place to see the number one predator of all these species, the great white shark.

The day boat takes up to 42 people to these islands, and lowers the large cage into the water the moment they arrive. Burley is used to attract the sharks, and the first makes its appearance just under 10 minutes from when the anchor hits the water.

You do not need to be a certified scuba diver to be allowed in the cage; a short instruction with everyone together in a group, and then the first group of six starts to gear up and get in the cage.

The adrenalin starts to rush as the passengers realise that their face-to-face encounter is only moments away. Awe follows as they see the shark glide past the cage. Eyes widen as the great fish accelerates to try and take the tuna bait that is dangled from the back of the boat.



Tuna boats prepare to leave at dawn.

Tuna is a way of life here, and are often caught while guests troll on the way to the Neptune.



Common dolphin often race to join the boat on the voyages to and from port.



The great white sharks are very focused on the baits that are in the water, only occasionally stopping to peruse what is happening in the cage.



Much of the Hollywood mystique of this shark is stripped away during the time in the cage. The heart rate drops, the irrational fear subsides, and you are face-to-face with a magnificent predator. Fearsome certainly, but now without some of the make-believe we have associated with sharks.

This is a reverse zoo: the observers are in the cage with the creatures looking in.

The blank looks on the faces of those coming out of the cage indicate that they are still coming to grips with their close up and personal encounter. A few minutes later a smile begins to break, and enthusiasm for another experience begins.

Port Lincoln is a fishing town with much of its economy tied up in the large tuna fishing fleet that uses this small town as a base. Wheat is shipped from here too, and the port is the centre of most of the commercial activity that goes on over the Peninsula.

This is not the only adventure to be had in the waters around Port Lincoln. Another day trip takes you out to snorkel with Australian sea lions at Hopkins Island. This is a considerable distance away from the sharks at the Neptune, and the shallow water leading up to the haul-out beach makes for a safe environment to interact with these golden-hued mammals.



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At Port Lincoln sometimes the wildlife comes to you – a seal rests at the boat ramp near where we depart for the trip.


Sea lions in the water are gregarious, loving company and play to the maximum. They scoot around the snorkelling group like dogs welcoming home their master, and only lose enthusiasm when the snorkellers return to the boat.

Closer to home again, a tuna net has been set up, containing around 60 southern bluefin. Trips of around three hours' duration see passengers snorkel with the tuna, meet southern water species in large touch tanks, and cruise the calm waters of Boston Bay.

Nearby Coffin Bay and Port Lincoln National Parks offer spectacular scenery, and the seafood at the local restaurants is as fresh as anywhere in the country.

But when it comes to memories it is the sight of that massive great white shark as it nears the cage that will stay with you for life!



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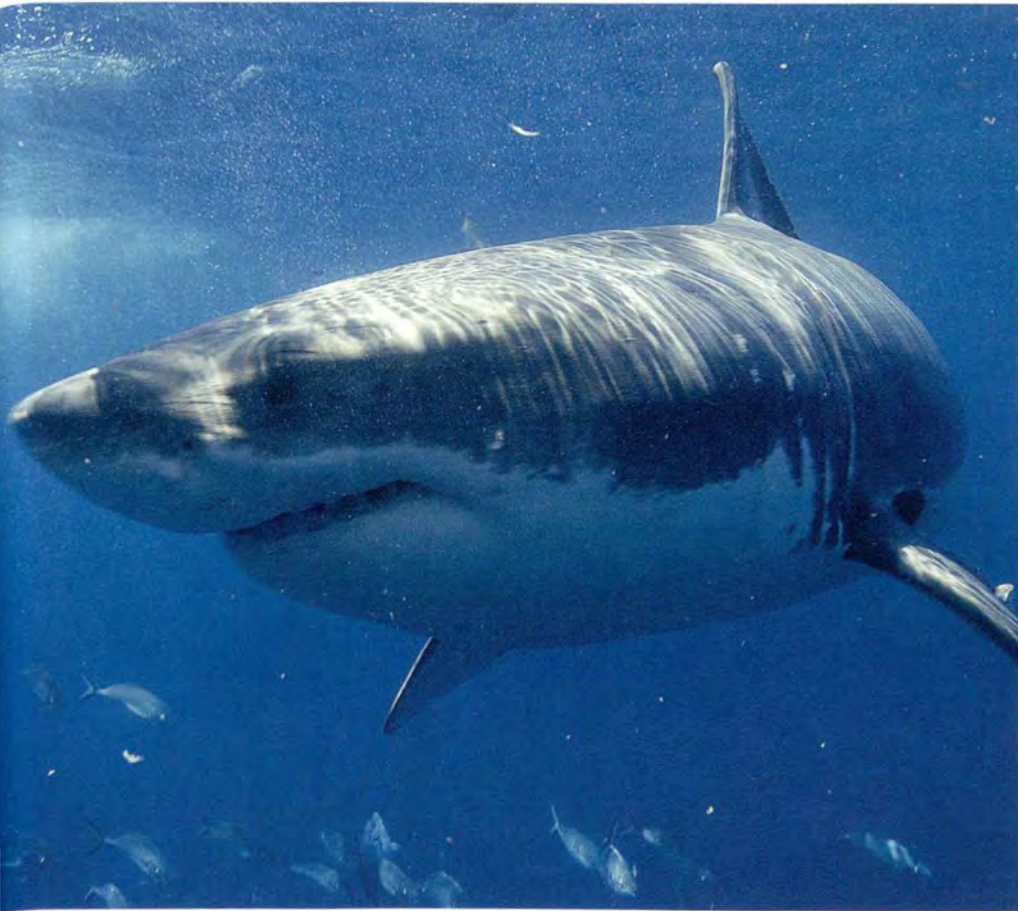


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The contestants of the World Supermodel Pageant for 2013.

World Supermodels

BY GRACE MARIBU

Papua New Guineans and friends of PNG would be proud to know that our own resort in Fiji, The Pearl South Pacific Resort and Spa, continues to be the choice location for international events.

The Resort and Spa, bought in 2012 by Mineral Resources Development Authority (MRDC), has been the location for the World Supermodel Pageant two years in a row, and last year it was again chosen to be the pageant's venue.

This precedes big expansion plans by the hotel, which recently witnessed the opening of its new marina, and will soon add 132 rooms along with new eating outlets.

Manager Natalie Marletta said the pageant had brought "fantastic exposure not only for the resort but Fiji as a whole".

"The marketing has given us a high profile so we are very excited and grateful for the opportunity," she said.

Nineteen young women from all over the world converged on Fiji's "Adventure Capital" Pacific Harbour, and spent several days going through the rituals of pageantry – personal interviews, fashion displays, photo shoots and judging, which eventually culminated in the showdown on the catwalk on the evening of November 23.

The Pearl, by now used to occasions of pomp and ceremony with its wedding services and other such events, rose splendidly to the occasion - sprucing up its outdoor swimming pool area into a whimsical stage for the pageant. A catwalk was placed across the pool for the show, fresh frangipanis scattered upon the water below, and multi-coloured ambient lighting set strategically to illuminate the contestants.



For the guests, alfresco dining with a sumptuous meal around the pool and under the South Pacific coconuts was the prelude to the show.

The pageant opened with casual wear, and just as the sun was setting, contestants came out in their beach wear, giving a truly South Pacific feel to the show. Next was the parade showcasing fashion by leading Fiji designers, which led into the evening wear category.

Countries and categories represented were: United Kingdom, Teen United Kingdom, England, Teen England, Belgium, Nigeria, Teen Nigeria, South Africa, Teen South Africa, Brazil, Japan, Australia, Teen Australia, Fiji, Australasia, Teen Australasia, South Pacific, Teen South Pacific, Oceania, Teen Oceania. Although the contestants were grouped according to their ages depending on the below 20 and above 20 age groups, it was not indicated openly during the show so the contestants could be judged as fairly as possible.



The pageant opened with casual wear, and just as the sun was setting, contestants came out in their beach wear, giving a truly South Pacific feel to the show. Next was the parade showcasing fashion by leading Fiji designers, which led into the evening wear category.



Miss Brazil Marina Teixeira - Supermodel 2013 winner and most outstanding evening gown.



1st runner up Miss Australia Jyselle.



2nd runner up Miss Australasia Alia.

"This choreographed show reveals the world's latest fashions and leading designers from each delegate whilst showcasing and promoting their country's culture and lifestyle to the rest of the world in an honest and fair competition," the pageant website says.

Then as waiters whisked the dessert plates off and brought the appreciative audience their after-dinner drinks, the show moved into its customised entertainment phase where Fijian dancers thronged onstage in a contemporary dance that merged Fijian culture with that of the West.

The traditional 'random question' category brought up the tail end of the show. Judges conferred and after some pause, the semi-finalists were selected. After parading onstage, their number was narrowed down to the final 10. Making it into the finals were United Kingdom, Australasia, Teen Australasia, Brazil, Australia, South Pacific, Nigeria, Teen Australasia, Fiji and Oceania. Soon after, the top three titles were awarded in reverse order and as it eventually turned out Miss Brazil Marina Teixeira was announced the Miss World Supermodel 2013 winner. She also won the category for the most outstanding evening

gown. First runner-up prize went to Miss Australia and Second Runner-up Miss Australasia. Miss Teen World Supermodel title was awarded to Jessica from Australia who had earlier shown great grace and poise during her parade. She also received the Best Swimsuit award. Miss Congeniality went to Supermodel Japan, Mayumi, the only representative from Asia. Fireworks burst into the night sky and celebratory music peaked as the young women joyously paraded back on stage for their recognitions.

Miss Congeniality went to Miss Japan Mayumi.

The Miss Teen World Supermodel and Best Swimsuit Award went to Jessica of Australia.





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OUR WORLD

Ms Marletta said more similar projects would be planned to keep The Pearl South Pacific Resort and Spa in the forefront of Fijian tourism, something the hotel's shareholders in PNG will be pleased to hear.

The supermodels opened the show in casual wear.




South Pacific flavour on set.



Hotel manager Ms Marletta, who was one of the judges for the evening, expressed her gratitude to all for the work that had gone into preparing for the show, mentioning again the publicity the pageant would carry far and wide for the hotel.

She said more similar projects would be planned to keep The Pearl South Pacific Resort and Spa in the forefront of Fijian tourism, something the hotel's shareholders in PNG will be pleased to hear.



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Winners of the World Supermodel Pageant.

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SUVA



A young Fijian 'warrior' dressed specially to put on a show and be photographed.



The idyllic Fijian getaway under a bure-themed gazebo.



Fiji Experience

BY GRACE MARIBU

Papua New Guineans looking for something extra special in their holiday package should begin looking east to Fiji.

Just over five hours flight from Port Moresby via Honiara, it is a world-renowned tourist mecca. As a fellow Melanesian country with a longer political history and tried socio-political systems, Fiji offers great learning experiences for those looking for something to return home with to adopt or use to influence developmental change within their own communities.

As a leisure and travel destination, Fiji is a complete 'one-stop-shop' for non-Melanesians out to experience local culture besides the usual leisure and recreation in a tropical setting. I was on a weeklong travel assignment to Fiji recently.

My assignment was to see the place,

observe local culture, experience the Fijian lifestyle and write about them for *Paradise* magazine.

Preparations for my trip were very easy. Unlike visiting Australia, for example, where visa requirements - and often the subsequent red tape that accompany them - take time to process, trips to Fiji are normally breezy because of its 'visa on arrival' policy. This diplomatic arrangement is part of the free trade agreement reached among all members of the Melanesian group of countries to increase trade, diplomacy and friendship within the group.

Coupled with the recent introduction of direct flights by Air Niugini into Fiji, visiting this Melanesian neighbour is worth the holiday money as one comes away with more than just the holiday experience.

As the largest income earner, tourism has made its mark on the national economy and has proved to be Fiji's fastest-growing industry in providing jobs and foreign exchange earnings.



The spacious lobby and lounge area of Novotel Hotel on Lami Bay.



Novotel's restaurant and bar area over the water at sundown.

Departing Port Moresby at 10am we arrived at Nadi, Fiji about 5.30pm (Fiji time) after a brief stop over at Honiara. At the Nadi International Airport, work was winding down for the day but one could tell how busy it must get by looking at the arrivals board showing flights from Sydney, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Honolulu and Incheon (South Korea). Nadi is situated on the western side of Viti Levu Island, 187km from Suva. We found a van and it took more than four hours of driving before the delegation that I was accompanying and I arrived at our lodging at Novotel Hotel on Lami Bay.

As with most hotels in Fiji, Novotel is a lovely place. Situated on the waterfront of Lami Bay (the Bay of Islands) with a dreamy sun-basking bar-restaurant area over the water and looking into the many islands for which Lami is known, Novotel offers just over a 100 rooms, conference

facilities that cater to 800 delegates, diving, snorkelling, sailing and spa services, and boasts in its bartending a selection of gins from around the world. The food and service are also wonderful while the rooms are spacious with choices of garden or sea views. Room rates are from about FJ\$100 and an average main course dish at about FJ\$40. The place, I noticed, was teeming with Australian and Asian tourists.

Over the course of the week, life in Fiji - particularly Suva - began to unfold.

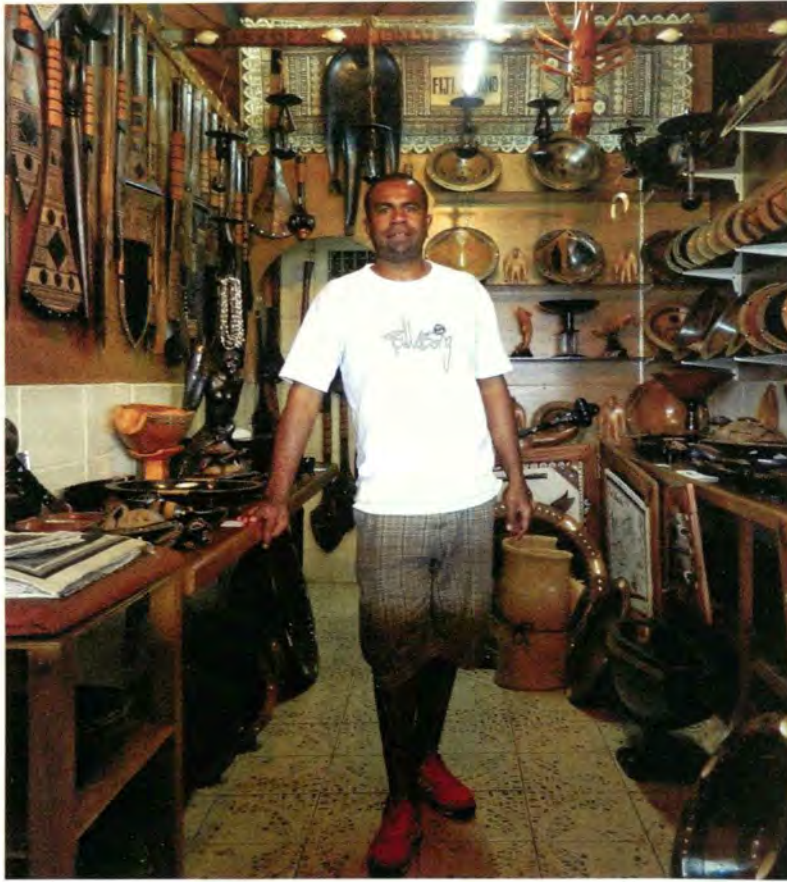
The first thing you notice is tourism. And then you realise how much of an impact this has had on attitudes, on businesses, and on the economy. Tourism in the Fiji Islands is massive, compared to PNG. As the largest income earner, tourism has made its mark on the national economy and has proved to be Fiji's fastest-growing industry in providing jobs and foreign

exchange earnings. It is reported, for example, that in 2012 more than 660,000 visitors came to Fiji.

The country's prime attractions are its white sandy beaches and picturesque islands with all-year-round tropical weather. The more popular areas are Nadi, Denarau Island, the Coral Coast and Mamanuca Islands. On offer are both world-class five-star hotels as well as budget resorts in the more remote areas.

The Fijian attitude to tourism is almost inborn, a second nature. It is apparent in their friendly approach to visitors, yet their treatment exudes an air of open curiosity like in some parts of Papua New Guinea where visits by outsiders are rare. *Bula!* the general greeting, which literally means 'life', is called out for hello while *vinaka* is said almost everywhere in 'thanks'.

At the Suva Handicraft Centre.



About the third day of my Fijian stay, I was oriented enough to venture out on my own. Leaving the group and our hired vehicle, I caught a public bus from Lami into Suva, then went sightseeing on my own by foot, walking the main streets of Suva as far as the Thurston Gardens to visit the Fiji museum. By the middle of the week, I was bold enough to take a ride on one of their inter-city buses – or “country” bus, as they call them – for a 45-minute ride to Pacific Harbour and was prepared to catch a cab back to Lami Bay in the night by myself. Safety and security are of no real concerns, although just like anywhere else in the world, it does pay to take care.

Suva is an old city - approved as the capital of Fiji in 1877 and officially moved from Levuka in 1882. For those like me delighting in the arts, Suva's colonial buildings with their 18th Century English architecture should add to the experience. This is a legacy left behind by Britain, which colonised Fiji for almost 100 years. Most of these buildings have been restored and are now in use, retaining their respective stories and place in the Fijian history. Modern and traditional Fijian architecture also adds to this rather eclectic mix. The Fijian Parliament, for example, proudly resembles a *bure* – the local Fijian cottage – but the national courthouse of Fiji rises splendidly to the sky in true English style, complete with its own tower and clock.

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Getting the value out of the Papua New Guinea Kina in Fiji is not too bad, like it seems to be in Australia, where the exchange rate is well below half, making Papua New Guineans sometimes feel like they've lost half their money when K100 turns into less than AUD\$50. Although the Fijian dollar is just slightly stronger than the PNG Kina, competition effected by the tourism industry has forced goods and service prices down by big margins compared to the same in PNG.

Transport was a good example of this. A 15-minute ride on a public bus from Lami to Suva is F\$1.15; another ride on the 'country' coach from Lami to Pacific Harbour, an hour away, is F\$4.85; and transportation from Suva to Nadi is F\$18. Buses run from early morning until as late as 11pm while taxis can be taken anywhere, anytime, even hired at around F\$150 to make the airport run from Suva to Nadi.

Shopping is good. For example, for the larger-sized Papua New Guinean (or anyone for that matter) who cannot find clothes their size where they are, this is where the plus sizes are.

I ignored the main shopping centre, choosing instead the side shops and the Suva Flea Market next to the wharf for bargains, Fijian-themed clothes and knick-knacks. Merchants at the market also take orders for custom tailoring, and given time, one can come away with something suited to your own liking. For handicrafts, I visited the Suva Handicraft Centre in the middle of the CBD on the waterfront where I bought myself a souvenir mahogany kava bowl known locally as a *tanoa* which, back home, now awaits the completion of a mantelpiece so it can take its place there.

For some bargains, visit the Suva Flea Market next to the wharf.



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The MHCC shopping complex in Suva.



Using one of the many BSP ATMs in Suva.

Dining and meals in Fiji is not a problem. In Suva, an all-night open BBQ area serves meals for as cheap as FJD\$5, while FJD\$10 gets you a nice lunch in one of the eateries in a shopping complex. At hotel kitchens, chefs try to outdo each other. Such is the effect tourism has on competition.

Being a fellow Melanesian neighbouring country sharing economic initiatives with PNG also has advantages. Just as Fiji invests in PNG, so PNG has begun placing a foot there in return. PNG is now growing its interest in hotels while its bank, Bank South Pacific, is now among the leading banks in Fiji. So if you are a BSP customer with international transacting capabilities (credit/debit cards), there is nothing stopping you from using one of these ATMs at your own bank anywhere in Fiji. ANZ and Westpac are also in operation.

The women in my delegation made good use of their BSP debit cards, shopping at the shops and withdrawing money from the ATMs in the middle of Suva. Except for the meanderings at the Suva Flea Market and the stopover at the handicraft centre, I wasn't greatly interested in shopping. I had heard prior to my visit Fiji's socio-political set-up had become something of an interest among PNG's government study teams with a number of local level government leaders

visiting the islands in recent years. Their intention, I had heard, was to study the local level government mode of operation and emulate these or adapt these to their PNG setting. I decided I would visit a Fijian village to also educate myself on the rural Fijian way of life. I made arrangements to visit a village just outside of Nausori, the town next to Suva. Unfortunately the trip had to be cancelled due to a death in the family of my tour guide.

By the time my one week was up, I had learned a good number of things about this Melanesian neighbour to help me draw some comparisons with my own country: – tourism is a major player in the national economy and impacts development in so many positive ways; security and safety – is good; prices of goods and services are relatively low; the indigenous Fijians are parochial about their land and traditional ways of life, going to great lengths to protect these; and a lot of their systems – such as transport – are surer and more reliable.

Fiji is not only holiday destination; to a Melanesian, it is a fantastic learning experience.



 Air Niugini flies twice weekly to Fiji.

OUR WEEKEND



OUR BEER



ENJOY RESPONSIBLY

Air Niugini employee wins IFA Scholarship

CEO of Air Niugini, Mr Simon Foo congratulates Allan Kira (Centre) with Jan Heritrenggi - Design Services Engineer.



A SECOND STAFF MEMBER from Air Niugini's Engineering Department has won the prestigious International Federation of Airworthiness (IFA) scholarship for training.

Allan Tira, from Kokopo, East New Britain, a Structure and Systems engineer, was privileged to be chosen by IFA for the scholarship. The first Air Niugini staff who won the same scholarship was Geoffrey Atiken in 1989.

Under the scholarship, Allan will undergo the 3-day course in May on Aircraft Corrosion, Prevention and Control at the Boeing Seattle Campus in Renton, Washington, USA.

The CEO of Air Niugini, Mr Simon Foo, in congratulating Allan, said that it is important that skills and knowledge gained be shared amongst colleagues at the workplace so that the airline can benefit in the long term.

Topics to be covered during the course include contributing causes, forms and indications of corrosion,

inspection methods for corrosion, corrective actions, and preventative maintenance, amongst others topics.

The course satisfies Air Transport Association (ATA) 104 level IV objectives and upon completion, participants will be able to explain the basics of corrosion on aircraft, identify indications of corrosion, and inspection methods to detect and evaluate the size of corrosion damage. They can also describe corrective actions to correctly remove corrosion found on aircraft structure, repair the damage and identify preventive process and maintenance actions to eliminate or minimise corrosion.

The International Federation of Airworthiness (IFA) established this scholarship to offer IFA members the opportunity to nominate individuals within their organisation to receive airworthiness training, so they can improve their understanding of safety-related issues in commercial aviation. Air Niugini is a member of IFA.

AIR NIUGINI OPENS SALES OFFICE IN ARAWA

Air Niugini opened its new sales office in Arawa in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville on March 7, 2014.

The airline's Chief Executive, Mr Simon Foo, said Air Niugini's presence in Arawa supports the national Government's pledge for accelerated implementation of national services to the people of central and south Bougainville.

Mr Foo said the opening of the sales office has been greatly welcomed, adding that the airline is now providing reservations and ticket purchase services to the people of Arawa and neighbouring areas of central and south Bougainville.

"People have been very receptive to having the new sales office open in Arawa," said Mr Foo.

He added that having the sales office in Arawa offers cost savings to the people as they can now book and buy their tickets before travelling to Buka to catch their flight. He said previously customers would have to travel for four hours by road to catch their boat ride across to Buka and incur additional costs for accommodation while waiting to make their bookings and then catch their flight.

The Air Niugini Sales office is located in the Post PNG office and since its opening staff have been busy with reservations and ticket purchases.

Air Niugini signs cadet pilot MoU with provincial government



Signing of the MoU between CEO, Air Niugini Simon Foo and Governor, Central Provincial Government Hon. Kila Haoda.

FOLLOWING THE SIGNING of an MoU between Air Niugini CEO, Mr Simon Foo, and Governor for Central Province, Kila Haoda on March 19, 2014, the national airline will accept cadets from the Central Province Government's cadet pilot program who meet Air Niugini's direct entry requirement for employment purposes.

The signing now paves way for the airline to select top cadets from the initial five females who have been selected recently under

the provincial government's initiative to undergo pilot training at the Nelson Aviation College in New Zealand. Air Niugini will only consider the cadets that meet the airline's pilot recruitment criteria to join the airline after their initial pilot training.

Air Niugini CEO Simon Foo said: "As the national flag carrier, Air Niugini is here to serve the people of Papua New Guinea. We are pleased to be able to support this excellent initiative by partnering with the

Central Provincial Government to build capacity of PNG pilots."

He added that the MoU may now allow for both parties to possibly enter into an agreement allowing Air Niugini to work together with the Central Province Government on its pilot recruitment program.

Air Niugini has 25 years of cadet recruitment experience in seeking the best candidates for the cadet pilot training scheme, as had been demonstrated with the airline's own successful cadet program.

Mr Foo said: "We hope in the future, we can support the Central Provincial Government right from the initial stages of recruitment."

The Central Provincial Government cadet pilot program initiative is in line with its vision to provide opportunity for young people of Central Province to develop flying careers. The scholarships have been initially given to ensure gender equality in a male-dominated field.

Air Niugini already has seven female cadet pilots currently operating different aircraft type. Two are first officers, each on Fokker 100 and Q400, one is on the Dash 8s and two are still at the flying school in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales.



CEO Air Niugini, Simon Foo with Governor of Central Provincial Government, Hon. Kila Haoda with new pilot recruits (centre) and flanked by two Air Niugini female pilots.



AIR NIUGINI INCREASES FLIGHTS TO SINGAPORE



Singapore's Marina Bay Gardens.



THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF AIR NIUGINI, Mr Simon Foo, has announced the airline will increase its service to Singapore to five flights per week.

The fifth service will operate on Tuesday and commences on April 1, 2014.

Mr Foo said that as a regional carrier, Air Niugini will continue to facilitate growth to cater for the growing traffic demand.

He said: "Like Australia, Singapore is a high-demand route and in order to cater for the demand, we must increase the frequencies of services to and from Singapore".

"Passengers travelling from Singapore to other international destinations will have enough transit time to make their connections to other parts of Asia and the world as our flight arrives at 6.45pm," Mr Foo said.

The fifth Singapore service will depart Port Moresby at 4.25pm, arriving into Singapore at 6.45pm (local time).

Air Niugini operates to Singapore every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday with the latest inclusion of Tuesday effective from April 1.



Aerial walkways.





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