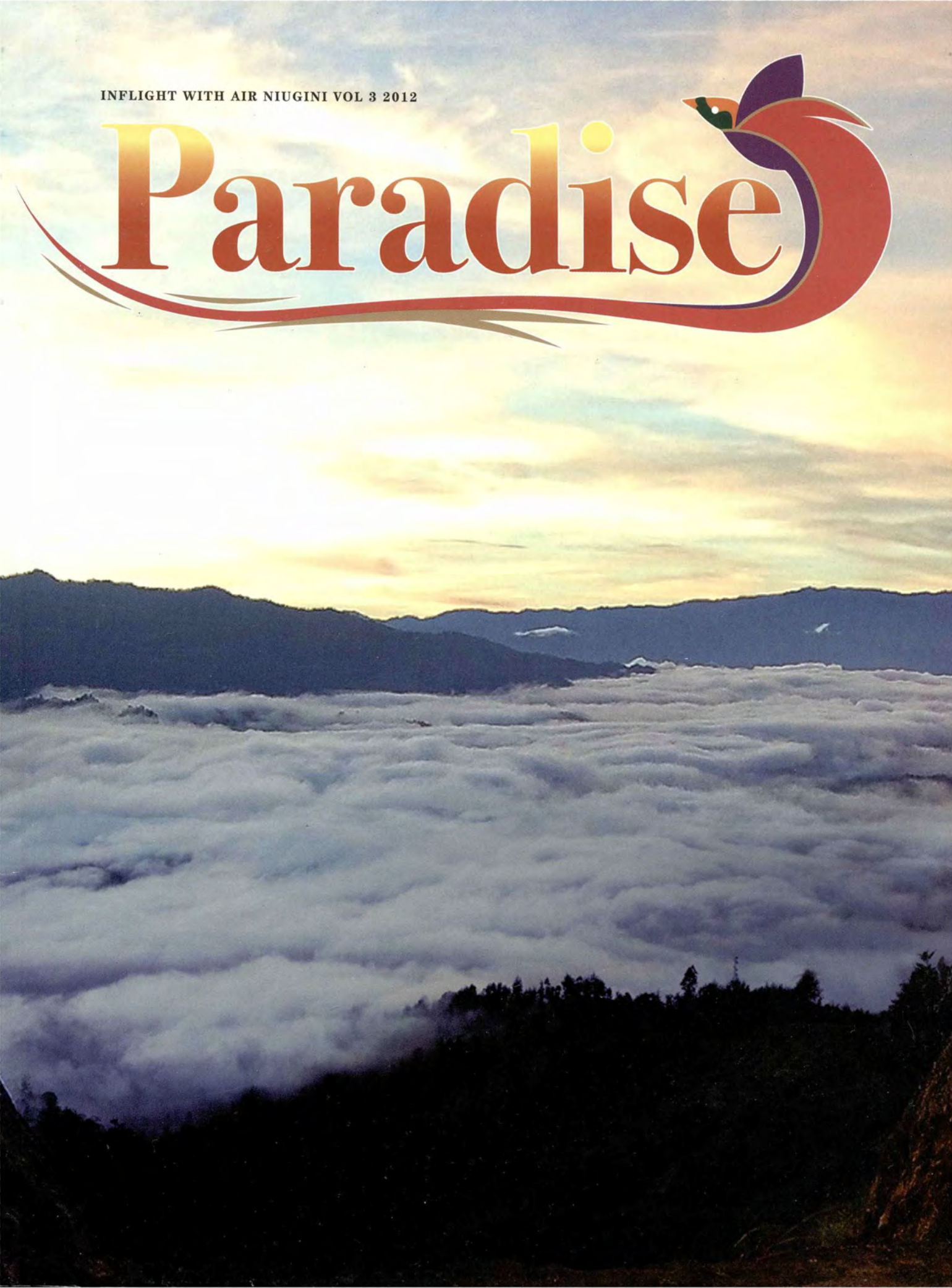
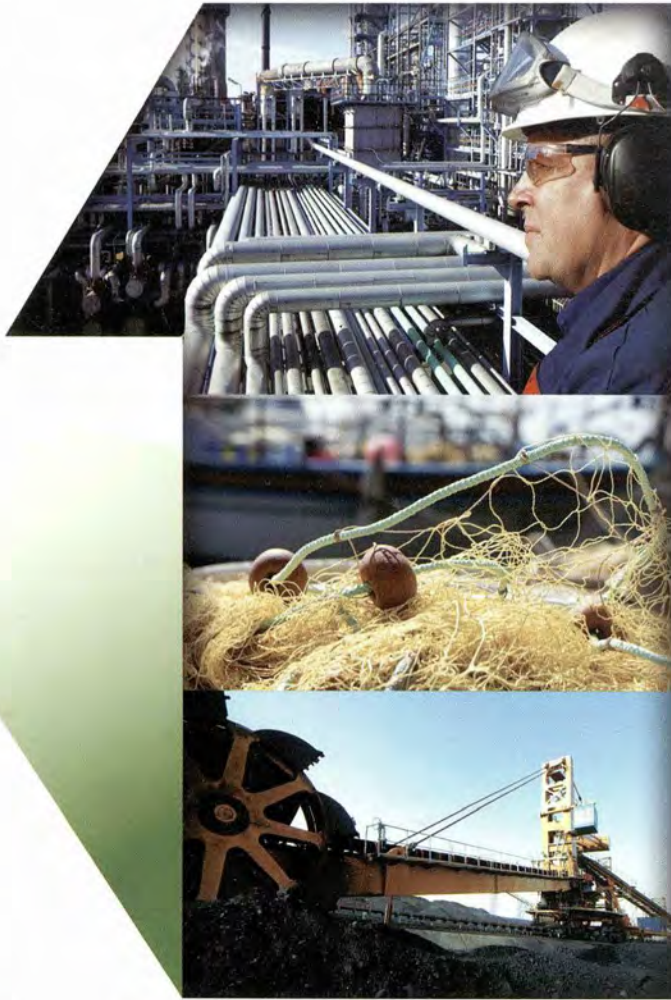


INFLIGHT WITH AIR NIUGINI VOL 3 2012

Paradise





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We live in your world



Our Commitment to Sustainable Development



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

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

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

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

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

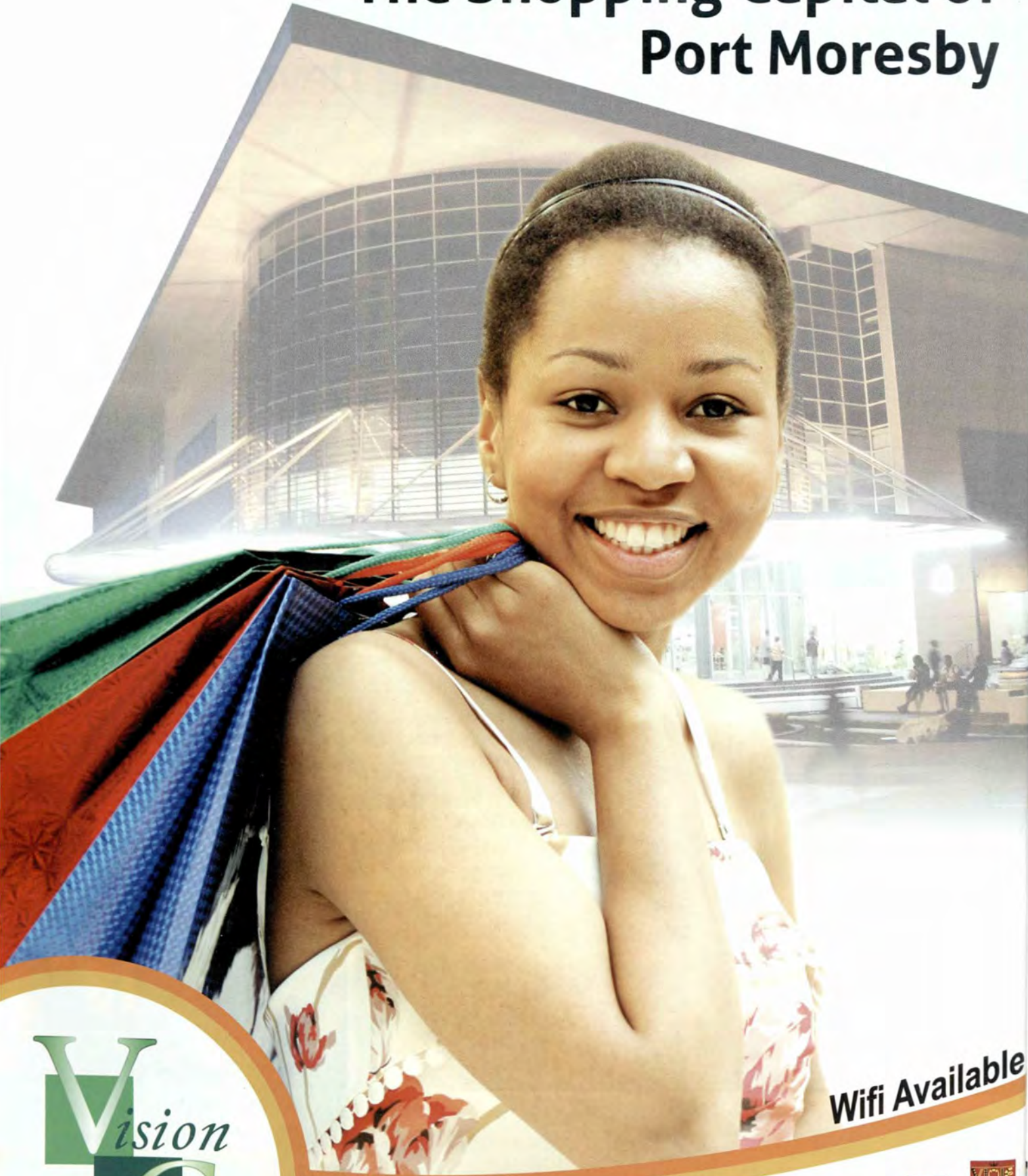
The Grand Papua sets a new industry benchmark for sustainable and efficient construction and operation in a luxury environment. Its lightings, air-conditioning and elevators are designed and sensor controlled to minimize energy use, and reduce the carbon footprint of the hotel.

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



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

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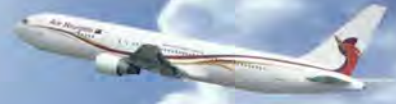
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Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Welcome Aboard

The 28th Australia/Papua New Guinea Business Forum meeting held from 13 to 15 May 2012 in Brisbane, Australia, with the theme "*Today's Opportunity: Tomorrow's Prosperity*," was well attended by representatives from the corporate and government sectors, including speakers who addressed the Forum on various bilateral issues affecting trade and business between Papua New Guinea and Australia.

The continued growth in all sectors of the country's economy is providing increased demand for business and leisure travel within the country, as well as to and from PNG. As part of Air Niugini's business plan, we have also envisaged the importance of being prepared to meet the business opportunities through fleet expansion and ongoing improvements in our operations and the delivery of services to our customers.

Air Niugini recently took delivery of a fourth Dash 8-200 aircraft on May 31, 2012 to service the domestic routes. In mid-June this year, we will welcome the arrival of our first B737-700. As I mentioned in my last message (**PARADISE** April/May issue), the B737-700 will be utilised on the high demand domestic routes, as well as on a number of our international routes. We have also committed to three additional Dash 8 -Q400s to arrive within the next two months; bringing the total to fifteen aircraft in the Dash 8 fleet. One of the Dash 8-Q400s will be utilised as a freighter to better service our freight clients, while two of the aircraft will operate scheduled flights. In the latter part of the year, we will add a B737-800 to our growing fleet.

To better cater for the increasing demand to service our corporate customers, we have opened a second Corporate Sales office, located in the Defense House, for our key corporate business in downtown Port Moresby. Our other Corporate Sales office is located within the Waigani Sales office.

In line with Air Niugini's vision to advance and provide better customer service, we recently implemented a new Airport Check-in and Boarding Pass system on May 8, 2012 - commencing with the Port Moresby Domestic Airport. The new system called MAC is an integrated check-in and advance load planning system for airport and airline operations. It is hosted by Mercator, a leading provider of technology solutions for the aviation industry, and is based in Dubai.

The system has easy-check-in features and enables the check-in agents to focus on the customer and service provided, and not on the system. Effectively it will speed up the check-in process for our customers. Our Loyalty Program customers will benefit once both the Airport and Sales Systems are implemented - with up-to-date profile and points details and Redemptions available at the Sales Offices.

Continuing with our positive stories, I am also pleased to say that performance in passenger numbers has shown positive growth with year to-date figures showing increase on all domestic routes particularly with routes to and from the highlands region. The international routes are also showing improvements, compared to the same period last year. Indications are that this upward trend on the domestic routes will continue in the coming months with the onset of the national elections in the country and the LNG and other resource projects.

During your flight with us today, let our friendly cabin crew look after you with that special Air Niugini inflight hospitality that is synonymous with our Melanesian culture. Enjoy the wonderful range of inflight duty free products from the **PARADISE** World Boutique catalogue at very affordable prices.

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Wasantha Kumarasiri OBE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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Please contact us or visit our website for further information. www.bismark.com.pg

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Publisher/Managing Director
Godfrey Scoullar

Group Editor-in-Chief
Laisa Taga

Design
Stanley Prasad
Dick Lee

Editorial Consultant
Eva Arni

Advertising & Marketing Manager
Sharron Stretton

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

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

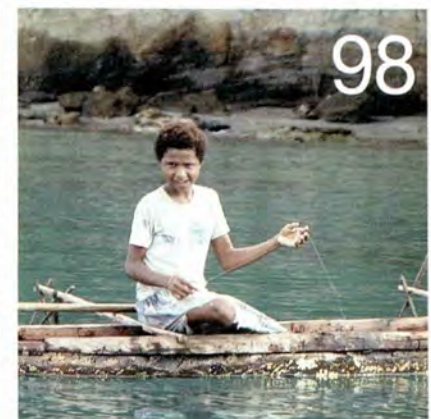
Editorial correspondence to:
Paradise Inflight Magazine
PO Box 12718, Suva, Fiji Islands
Tel: +679 3303 108
Fax: +679 3301 423
E-mail: editor@ibi.com.fj

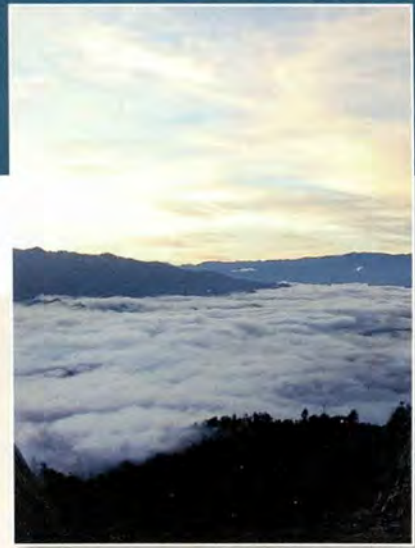
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Steamships have been shipping in Papua New Guinea for over 90 years. We operate a fleet of coastal vessels and specialise in estuarine and river trades in the Gulf and Western Provinces. Steamships provides short and long term vessel charters, and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

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

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Welcome aboard

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Please ask us

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

Hand luggage

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

Takeoff and landing

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

Safety first

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

Electronic equipment

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

Children and babies

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

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

Entertainment

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

Pillows and blankets

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

Cuisine

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

In-flight Duty Free

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

Immigration and Customs Forms

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

Before you leave

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



Air Niugini fleet

B767-300ER

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

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

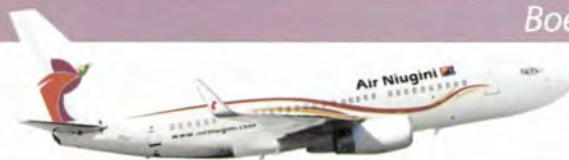


Boeing

B737-700

Length: 33.6m
 Wing span: 34.3m
 Range: 6370km
 Cruising speed: 830kph

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



Boeing

F100

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

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



Fokker

DASH 8-Q400 NextGen

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

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



Bombardier

DASH 8-Q315

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

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



Bombardier

DHC-8-202

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

Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123D
 Normal altitude: 7600m
 Standard seating capacity: 36
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 4



Bombardier

DHC-8-100

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

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



Bombardier

Your wellbeing



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

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



ANKLE CIRCLES

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

KNEE LIFTS

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

SHOULDER ROLL

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

ARM CURL

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

KNEE TO CHEST

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

FORWARD FLEX

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



OVERHEAD STRETCH

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

SHOULDER STRETCH

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

NECK ROLL

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

FOOT PUMPS

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

2. Put both feet flat on the floor.

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

Innovation. From the ground up.



Air Niugini has invested in state of the art information technology to enhance customer relationships through its innovative **Destinations** Loyalty Program.

Air Niugini's **Destinations** Loyalty Program is powered by Mercator, the IT solutions arm of the highly successful Emirates Airlines. While new to Papua New Guinea, the Loyalty Program is in fact built on an engine that has 40 person years of investment and over 10 years of loyalty program experience.

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

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



Now *Destinations* members can earn more points when they make valid transactions with *Destinations* Loyalty Program partners.



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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 acts as diuretics, increasing the body's dehydration.
- ◆ Remove contact lenses and wear glasses if your eyes are irritated.
- ◆ Use a skin moisturiser to refresh the skin.

Eating and Drinking

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

Recommendations

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

Cabin Pressurisation

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

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

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

Recommendations

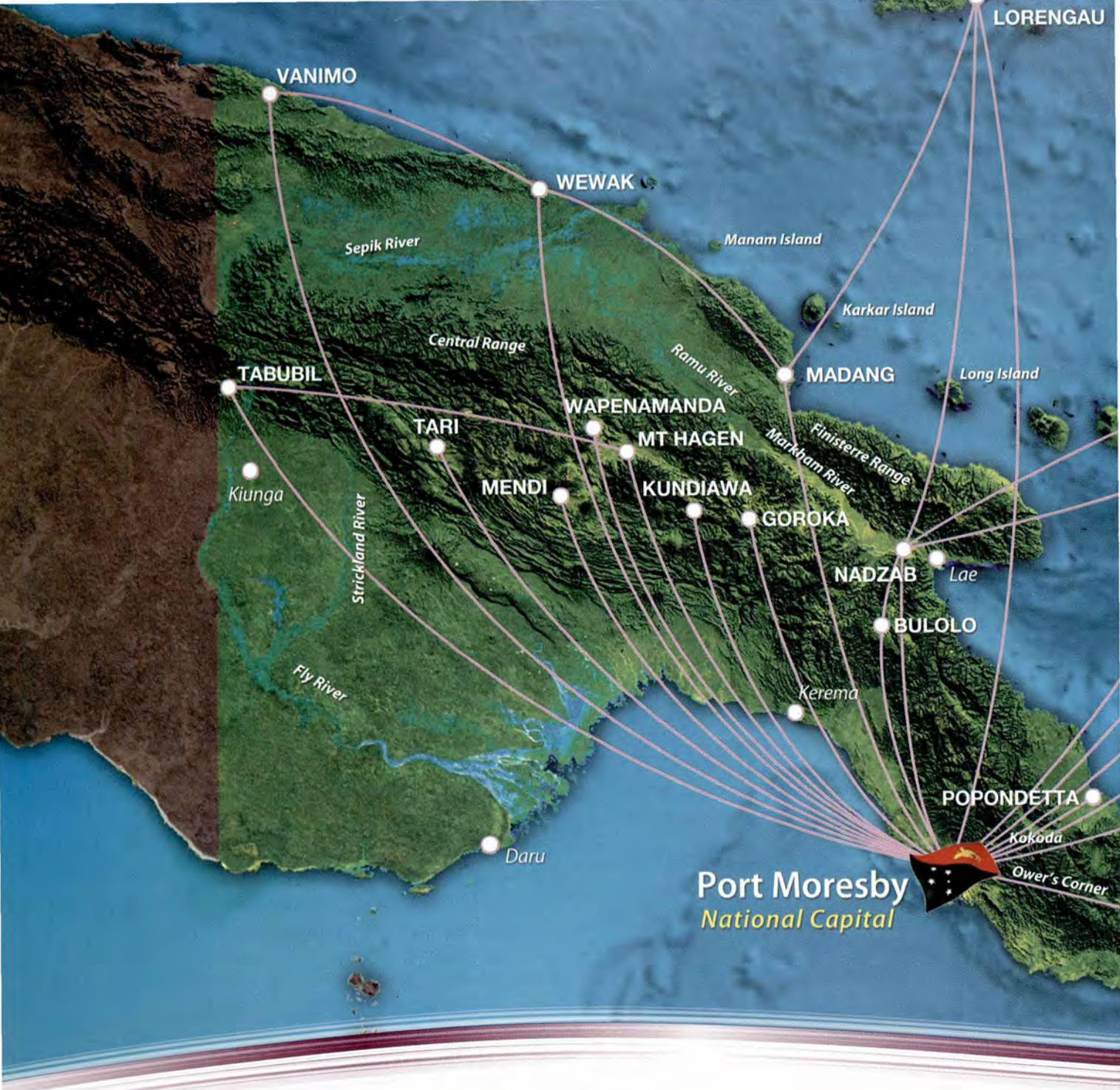
- ◆ If you have a pre-existing medical condition that warrants supplemental oxygen, you can order from us. Please give at least seven days notice before travelling.
- ◆ To "clear" your ears try swallowing and/or yawning. These actions help open your eustachian tubes, equalizing pressure between your ear chamber and your throat.
- ◆ When flying with an infant, feed or give your baby a dummy during descent. Sucking and swallowing will help infants equalize the pressure in their ears.

Motion Sickness

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

Recommendations

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



Port Moresby
National Capital

Air Niugini Domestic offices

Port Moresby
PO Box 7186 Boroko
Sales Domestic & International
Tel: 327 3444 Fax: 327 3308
Reconfirmation Domestic & International
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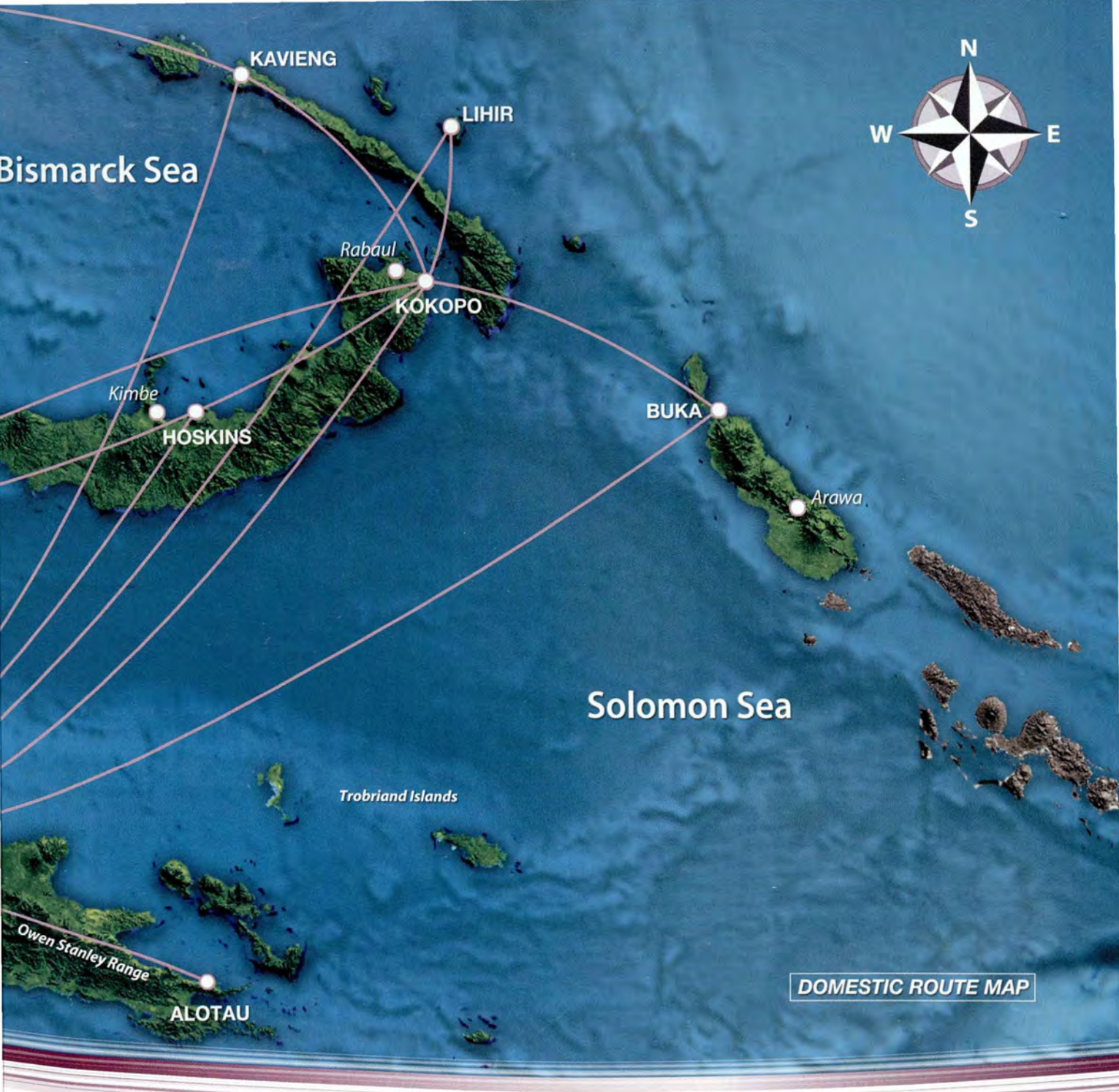
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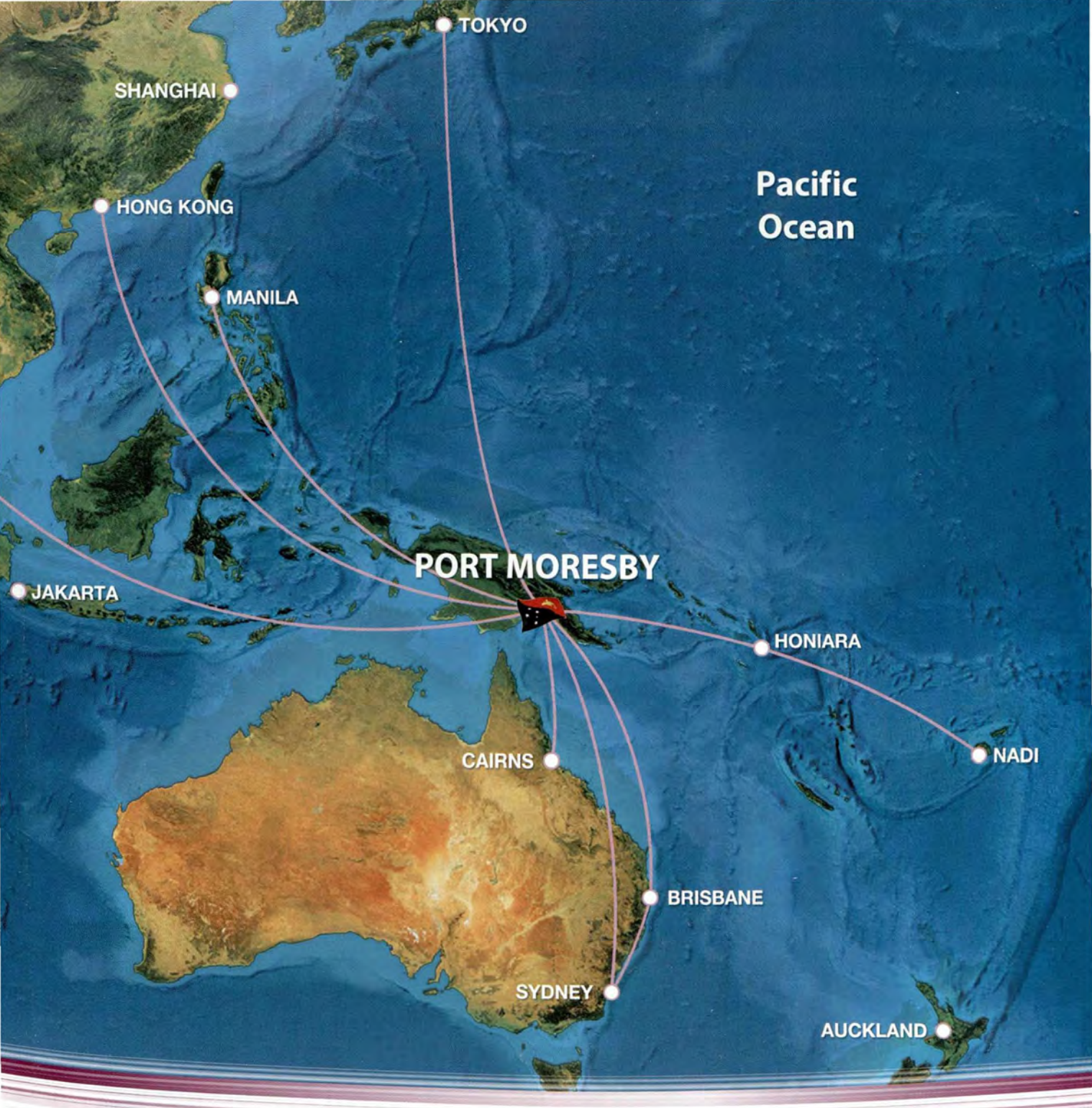
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A photograph of two women, likely of Pacific descent, smiling warmly. They are wearing white shirts with red patterned scarves. The woman in the foreground is looking slightly to the right, while the woman behind her is looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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Morning sunrise...breathtaking view.



WABAG

A walk in the clouds

WORDS: ALEXANDRA KALINOE
PICTURES: SEAN CONDON & ALEXANDRA KALINOE

Being told you have to travel to Enga, a place known for tribal fighting and protracted conflict, is honestly, quite daunting. But the reality is far different to what many people expect.

Lupa folks...friendly.



people as friendly and generous Papua New Guineans.

Our trip begins at Mt Hagen. The drive to Wabag takes approximately two hours. In some places, the state of the road creates unnecessary delays, but generally, the roads are in better condition than some I have seen in other parts of the country

This drive has to be one of the most spectacular in Papua New Guinea. I remember the first time I took it, departing Mt Hagen at roughly 4pm in the afternoon. That day I wrote on my Facebook status, '*driving through the clouds*' because that was what we literally did! Climbing the ranges, travellers experience spectacular views of Mt Hagen in all its majesty.

Welcome to Enga

'Getting to the Enga border from Mt Hagen takes approximately 50 minutes. A further 15 minutes takes you to the famed Kumul Lodge. Just before you reach the entrance to the lodge, the air becomes cooler and if you stick your head out the window, the wind gives you a cheeky cold slap as if to say - welcome to Enga!

With a reputation that spans the globe as one of our country's foremost bird watching sites, Kumul Lodge is one of the best known landowner eco-tourism lodges in Papua New Guinea. The lodge is constructed out of local materials, employs local villagers and is owned and managed by local people. The staff at the lodge can arrange other activities besides bird watching such as treks of Mt Hagen, picnics and orchid finding walks.

We stop along the way many times, as one of

Part of my preparation for the visit is reading up on what one of our country's last frontiers has to offer. To be completely honest, I had no idea where the capital Wabag was until early last year.

There is a great blogger writing about some of the most remote tourist destinations in Papua New Guinea. His name is Jaive Smare and he is introducing our country to the rest of the world by visiting some places that even angels once feared to tread! After reading Jaive's *My Amazing Paradise* blog posts on his various experiences in Enga, I felt reassured about travelling there.

Our driver and guide is Derek and my travel companions are a film crew from Australia. One of the highlights for me was watching them immerse themselves in the experience and come away with life-long memories of Wabag and its

Top of Lupa Mountain to catch the sunrise.



our companions Sean, a photographer, is bombarded by the natural beauty that awaits around every bend; a waterfall, a brook, a piglet rolling about in a muddy pothole on the side of the road, or a simple village scene.

Everything seems to be astounding his senses and it is becoming difficult to make it to Wapenamanda before dark. Eventually, we arrive in Wabag. There has been an ongoing road sealing project and since my last trip in February, a larger portion of the road is sealed, with grading taking place from as far as the Wapenamanda border.

We check in to the Lupa Motel. Apart from the normal rooms, the motel also features two-bedroom fully self-contained units.

These units are a blessing as there are not many places to eat in town, and cooking your own meals is the way to go.

Early the next morning we are up before dawn driving to the top of Lupa Mountain to catch the sunrise. For me, this was the highlight of the trip. It was raining in Wabag the night before and so the red clay road that winds its way up the mountain is slippery in parts. It is not sealed, and is quite narrow in some places.

I close my eyes and curl up on the back seat of the land cruiser with my iPod to 'block anxiety' as we steadily drive higher and higher. Then just as dawn is approaching, we get stuck around the bend from our final destination, the most ideal vantage point for capturing the sunrise, and literally, the

point where the road ends. Sean and I leave the land cruiser and hike up the road. He is carrying his photographic equipment and a tripod. He starts to run ahead in an attempt to beat the sunrise. We made it just in time.

Breathtaking view

The view is breathtaking. The sun's morning rays reveal valleys blanketed in cloud, rocky ridges and extensive waterways that cut through the landscape and gush through rocky riverbeds.

This is the stuff that world adventure capitals like Queenstown in New Zealand are made of. It is scenery such as this that awakens the senses and forces you to pinch yourself



This is the stuff that world adventure capitals like Queenstown in New Zealand are made of. It is scenery such as this that awakens the senses and forces you to pinch yourself to make sure you are really awake. Certainly, there is a sense of disbelief at how perfect and still this place can be.

Photographer Sean captivated by the sight and sounds of Wabag.



to make sure you are really awake. Certainly, there is a sense of disbelief at how perfect and still this place can be. During the day, Sean treks with a local guide to an amazing waterfall. The waterfall is 20 minutes from Keas village in Wabag, uphill and through mossy forest.

If you're game and reasonably fit, following a slippery pathway leads you beneath cascading water that washes down a cliff face. Along the way, Sean has taken a few tumbles and almost lost a camera, but in the end, he says the falls were reward enough for the tricky journey.

Later in the afternoon, we visit the EngaTakéAnda Tradition and Transition Centre. TakéAnda roughly translates to the house of wisdom. Unlike other parts of Papua New Guinea, the Engans are largely from one cultural and language group.

The centre is astounding. There is simply nothing like it in the rest of Papua New Guinea. It is an example of how tradition and culture can be kept alive by making them accessible to their owners, in this case, the Enga people.

Well researched exhibits featuring the work of many past anthropologists and missionaries line the walls. Explanations of Enga traditions appear as direct quotes from tribal elders and a chronological history of the province is plotted out, outlining the oral histories of generations past, and the written history of the province since Western contact in the 1930s. I never thought I would find such a well presented and cared for record of cultural heritage anywhere in this country, let alone in Wabag.

The Engans have a saying, *Endakali'Yangingi*, which literally translates to mean you need a person. Everybody is of value and has something to give to accomplish a task, no



Sean with the local folks at the Lomban Waterfall.

matter how large or small the task may be.

After 25 years of documenting the lives of the Enga people, anthropologist Dr Polly Wiessner has been campaigning strongly to have the centre built.

She sold part of her own property in the United States to raise funds to set up a Non-Government Organisation and also looked for funding to house the works of the many researchers that had documented the culture and history of Enga.

With foreign and corporate donors, the Governor of Enga and the Member for Wabag donated sizeable sums of money to the project.

The centre first opened its doors in 2009 and continues to evolve, hosting school groups, visitors, and the general public. It is open during normal business hours - Monday to Friday, and until 2pm on Saturday.

On our final day in Wabag, it became apparent that winding down was not easy for photographer Sean. He once again wanted to go in search of yet another must-see natural wonder. For him, Wabag was fast becoming the adventure capital of Papua New Guinea!

Together with his guide and some of the local villagers, he set off from Pawas village for the extraordinary Lomban Falls. If Sean thought the moss covered waterfall he had seen the day before was 'pretty', Lomban was more

'racy' in nature. Raging down and spraying mist, it is a sight to behold.

Trekking to beneath the falls, Sean was able to capture some stunning images of their full force. To trek to the base of the falls as he did, it is necessary to be reasonably fit. Although trails exist, they are not the type of hiking trails many visitors may be used to - some places are narrow, others you can't make them out .

Amazing

Travelling to the Highlands of Papua New Guinea is not often number one on the tourist list of 'things to do'. Interestingly enough, included in our party was Johnny, who had never been to PNG before, let alone the Highlands.

He found the people to be friendly and the atmosphere to be welcoming. He kept saying to me, 'why don't more people [tourists] come here...this is amazing...it's the stuff people pay thousands of dollars to see in South America and other remote parts of the globe?'

On the opposite end of the scale, I once travelled to Wabag with Shane, a friend from Australia who had grown up in Port Moresby and spoke fluent tokpisin, but never travelled to the Highlands before. By the end of the trip, he told me that he didn't feel the same level of tension in Wabag that he felt in other parts of the country. He will be visiting Wabag again

come September.

Perhaps the reason why our experience was so fantastic was because we travelled with a local guide like Derek who opened many doors for us, allowing us to catch a glimpse of the people's everyday lives. It is important to remember that any medication, even simple over the counter things like Panadine, or flu medication should be brought with you from home or purchased at a chemist in Mt Hagen as they are not readily available in Wabag.

It is cold at night, so warm clothing and a sleeping bag are a must! There is an Internet café in town, but if you have a Digicel dongle, the Internet coverage is good. Australian phones on global roaming also work from anywhere in the province.

Enga is not a fairy tale of rolling 'Lord of the Rings'-like landscapes, rigid mountain ranges, crater lakes, and raging rivers. There are serious law and order issues in some parts of the province, but since 2007, Wabag has been an oasis of calm. New business ventures are popping up in town, a new market is currently under construction, and the locals are very friendly and welcoming.

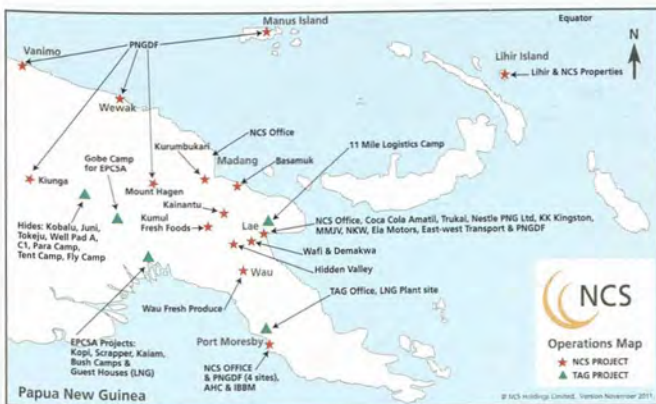
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SCENE STEALER

Salamaua's stunning backdrop

BY RENEE CLUFF

A few chickens peck at the ground in the shade of coconut palms lining the shore of a crystal clear sea. Clean sheets strung on a line between the trees flap gently in the soft ocean breeze. Teenagers are perched on the end of the wharf with hand lines, catching bait for village men who are preparing to head into the Huon Gulf to fish in their traditional canoes.

The women are returning from the nearby Francisco River with containers of water expertly balanced on their heads and bilums filled with fresh produce and firewood. Others are heading to the mountainside gardens to work. Young children swing into the ocean from a rope tied to the branch of a massive coral tree.

Welcome to Salamaua, where the scenery is so stunning, it almost appears staged. So much so that many first-time visitors have remarked that it looks more like a movie set than a genuine village site. But there's more to this backdrop than meets the eye - delve a little deeper and you'll discover an epic story of history and adventure.

Based on an isthmus, Salamaua is only accessible by a 45-minute boat ride from Lae in the Morobe Province. You can also travel by foot from the port city, which takes a couple of days. Or, the more adventurous can trek to Salamaua via the Black Cat track from mountainous Wau, which at a comfortable pace takes about a week.

It's a perfect degree of accessibility to support a healthy and thriving village atmosphere. Salamaua is too close to Lae to be considered remote. Access to medical help and supplies of food and fuel is relatively easy. But it's also far enough away to retain the quietude of the area.

Staging post

This is a far cry from the 1920s and 1930s, when Salamaua was a bustling town, home to expatriates from all over the world. Back then, the settlement was a staging post for gold exploration in Wau. The all-powerful New Guinea Goldfields Ltd had its headquarters there, along with Burns Philp.

There were named roads supporting



automobile traffic, an aerodrome, two banks, a bakery, a hospital, theatre and bars.

But Salamaua was most famed for its glitzy social life. Wealthy plantation owners who had holiday homes in Salamaua would descend on the isthmus each weekend and dinner parties, lawn tennis and croquet were the order of the day. It was an exclusive club and party-goers were always dressed to the nines. Among the characters to strut their stuff in Salamaua was the late Errol Flynn, before he went on to become a Hollywood legend.

Millions of dollars of gold was shipped out via Salamaua port up until the invasion of the Japanese in 1942. World War II also spelt an abrupt end to Salamaua's heady social schedule.

The Japanese landed on March 8 to no resistance from the small Australian garrison located in Salamaua. The detachment of the New Guinea Volunteer Rifles and the staff of the RAAF radio station there could only set about demolishing key infrastructure before fleeing into the hills towards Mubo.

Two days later, American and Australian



aircraft launched strikes on the Japanese invading ships. Two thirds were either sunk or severely damaged in the raids but the Japanese held their position and Salamaua became a staging post for attacks on Port Moresby, including the Kokoda Track campaign. When these attacks failed, it was turned into a major supply base.

Over the following year, several bloody battles were waged in the mountains between Salamaua and Wau, and many hundreds were killed on each side, not to mention the New Guineans who lost their lives.

The allies reclaimed Salamaua in September, 1943 but much of the town had been destroyed. Today, all that remains of the



original township are a concrete water tank riddled with bullets and a concrete bank vault, now housing a generator which supplies power to one of several expatriate weekenders that were built post-war.

The original town's cemetery still has gravestones intact, one of which describes the death of a loved one as a result of 'wounds from a native arrow'.

There are several gun placements with guns still intact, and expatriates have located the entrance to Japanese tunnels which honeycombed the mountainous headland. However, the tunnels are now mud-filled and impenetrable.

Erosion has also taken hold of the sand spit, which divides the headland from the main settlement. Despite repeated attempts to hold the sand through the placement of tractor tyres, it's a losing battle against the Huon Gulf

and will be only a matter of time before the headland becomes an island, cut off from the mainland.

Providing a clear picture of the extent of the erosion are fence posts that had been erected on the spit pre-war. To this day, they remain where they were planted, but are now a good 30 metres out to sea, with just the tops of the fence palings visible above the water line.

Plenty to do

The villages of Kela and Lagui now occupy the site of the former Salamaua town, while a series of weekenders, owned by expatriates and Lae businesses, line either side of the isthmus, with a sand path running through the centre. There are no roads, no cars and the airstrip has long since disappeared. The only shops are tiny trade stores, owned by villagers, where you can buy supplies such as

noodles, rice, kerosene, cigarette and beer.

On weekends, the area is alive with expatriates who arrive in cruisers to get away from the dust, pot holes and security issues in Lae. There's plenty to do - from exploring the headland mountain and its World War II remnants to bathing in the sea.

On the eastern side of the isthmus, the shoreline is open to the elements but the water is cold and fresh, thanks to flows from the Francisco River. In fact, it's so fresh that on most days, it's perfectly fine to open your eyes under the water - there is no salt sting. It's a great place to stretch back on an inner tyre tube, close your eyes and enjoy the movement of the waves. You can also take your tyre tube or 'gumi' up the river, to float downstream on.

A walk to the river is an experience in itself. Passing through the village, friendly locals will greet you as you pass. The beach bordering

It's also teeming with fish of all shapes, colours and sizes, and you may be lucky enough to spot the resident grouper, which sits in a shallow rock cave on the drop-off wall. The fish are so prolific that the sound of them munching on the coral is deafening! It's akin to the noise of continuous static electricity, at a pumped up decibel level.



the village is extremely beautiful with the sandy shore lined by palm trees and lakotois. Often, men will be carving out new canoes from tree trunks.

Closer to the river, fishermen are regularly seen standing on the shore, mending large swathes of fishing net. It's at this point that you will notice the shoreline take on a gold, glittery sheen. It's not your mind playing tricks on you - the glitter, which I'm told is tiny fragments of fools gold, runs out of the river from the goldfields up in the highlands. It's quite stunning on a sunny day.

The water in the river is icy cold, compared to the sea water, and depending on rain events further upstream, it can be quite fast flowing. Children should be watched closely, as the depth of the river varies considerably from step to step. It can be quite dangerous.

On the western side of the isthmus is a natural harbour, which promotes the growth of coral reefs and provides calm seas for the mooring of vessels. The calm surface is also great for water skiing or wake boarding. On this side, it's a good idea to check for stonefish before bathing barefoot. A quick snorkel in the swimming area will provide the all clear.

If you want to check out the reefs, you have a few options. A 15-minute walk across the sand spit and into the rainforest on the western side of the headland will take you to the cemetery. While many of the graves have fallen into disrepair over the years, they provide an interesting insight into Salamaua's history. From the graves, it's easy to step into the water, straight onto the reef and snorkel all the way back to the sand spit.

Located in the coral triangle, PNG contains 76% of the world's coral species and this reef is no exception. It's also teeming with fish of all shapes, colours and sizes, and you may be lucky enough to spot the resident grouper, which sits in a shallow rock cave on the drop-off wall. The fish are so prolific that the sound of them munching on the coral is deafening! It's akin to the noise of continuous static electricity at a pumped up decibel level.



The coral here is several hundreds of years old as evidenced by the slow-growing brain coral, which is massive. There is also plenty of cabbage coral and fan coral.

Branching corals come in fiery orange, purple, green and blue, while the soft corals are yellow, orange and pink. There are countless anemones and urchins.

The other popular snorkelling site is The Beacon. Sitting just offshore from the headland on the harbour side, the reef covers roughly the area of a football field. Because there is so much to see, it would take a half day of snorkelling to explore every inch of it.

Here, there are numerous sea cucumbers, sea slugs and fish, along with the maze of hard and soft corals. If you prefer to scuba dive, The Beacon provides a shallow, relaxing dive. It's also great for night diving.

The best scuba diving sites, though, are reserved by Japanese ship wrecks. Salamaua Harbour is the final resting place for the *Yokohama Maru*. At 6143 tons, it's such a big wreck that it can't be explored completely in one dive. The shallowest point, the masthead, is 55 metres underwater.

On the other side of the isthmus is the *Kotoko Maru*. It's in much shallower water, which also makes it an excellent snorkelling dive. This ship is quite broken up and covered in coral but parts of it remain recognisable.

For fish life, the Aquarium, off the northern tip of the peninsula, is the best dive. Common species to congregate here include grouper, sharks, dogtooth tuna and oceanic triggerfish.

If fishing is your forte, you won't be disappointed. The sea around Salamaua is packed with yellowfin tuna, red emperor, Spanish mackerel, wahoo and the highly

sought after billfish, in particular sailfish and blue marlin. Out on the water, it's possible to spot a pod of dolphins and perhaps a whale shark. Even if you do happen to come home empty handed, you can still enjoy a feed of fish, with the locals often selling red emperor, lobsters and mud crabs they've managed to catch.

For those who prefer to remain on terra firma, a hike up the headland mountain is well worth the effort. It can be steep and muddy in areas but the reward comes in the form of spectacular views over the isthmus and all the way to Lae.

Piece of paradise

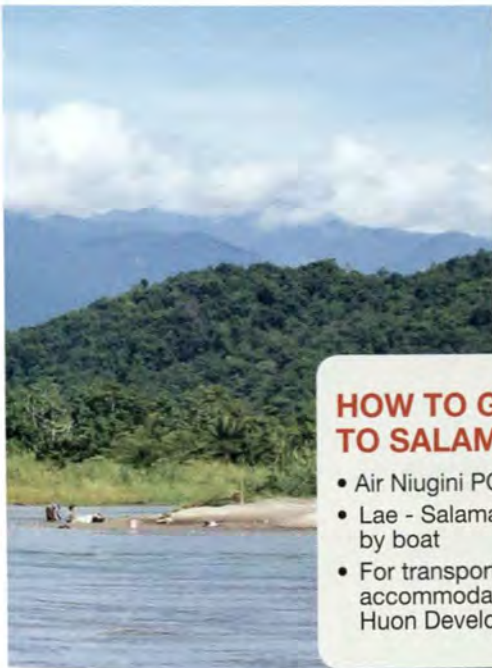
The coolness of the rainforest is a reprieve from the heat of the beach and if you are quiet, you are likely to spot a variety of bird life, not to mention insects that appear to be from an alien world, and even hermit crabs. There are also World War II relics, including a gun placement and the entrances to Japanese tunnels.

So how to get to this piece of Paradise? From Lae, you can catch a ride in a banana boat for about K30 for a one-way trip. Or, you may be lucky to hitch a ride with one of the many expatriates heading to Salamaua for the long weekend.

There is accommodation on the isthmus in the form of a lodge. The main house is pretty basic, and contains two bedrooms, a kitchen, living area, bathroom, patio, and in the front yard, a haus win. It's situated just a few metres from the harbour on the western side of the isthmus and right beside the village. Expect to pay about K100/night.

The house has its own water tank, so access to good, clean drinking water is not an issue. However, you will need to bring your own food





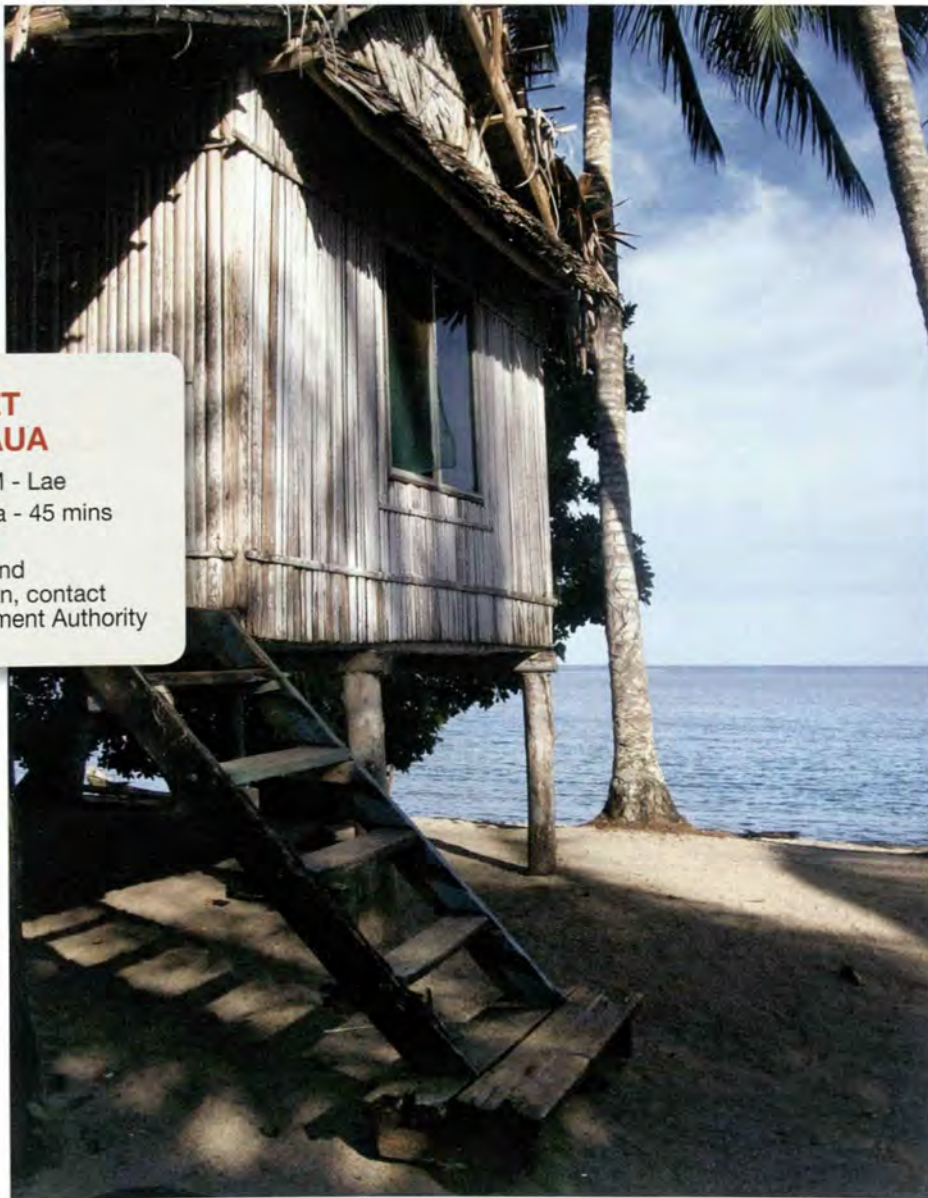
HOW TO GET TO SALAMAUA

- Air Niugini POM - Lae
- Lae - Salamaua - 45 mins by boat
- For transport and accommodation, contact Huon Development Authority

and fuel for the generator. The smaller houses in the complex will come much cheaper, but contain only one room. Enquiries about accommodation and the banana boat service can be made through the Huon Development Authority.

You can also ask them about a day trip to Busama, a village 20-minute boat drive from Salamaua, towards Lae.

This village is home to a stunning waterfall and taking a dip in the pool at the bottom of the waterfall, while quite cold, is extremely refreshing. You might even be entertained by the local kids, who like to climb the rock wall beside the waterfall, to jump into the pool at the bottom. Their antics are quite death-defying.



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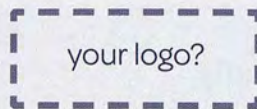
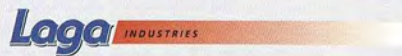
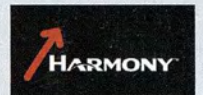
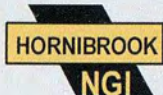
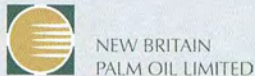
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Showtime in the Wild Pacific

BY GLENN A. BAKER

The python - all three metres of it - was in a better shape on the night of my arrival at Kainagunan village in East New Britain province than when I came upon it the following day at the annual Rabaul Mask Festival at Kokopo Showgrounds.

On that night, it appeared as a special guest at the rarely performed Bainings firedance.

The Bainings people, slightly surreal

mountainfolk who dance not so much around as in a fire, kicking embers with their barefeet as they re-enact being driven deep into the forest by Tolai warriors. They brought the snake as part of their trance dance, their farewell performance, before - as word got around the bush gathering - it would be roasted.

That was indeed its fate on the penultimate day of the four-day festival - a smaller version



Mudmen of Goroka.

of the more famous Mt Hagen and Goroka Shows, where extraordinarily festooned tribes from all over the anthropologically astonishing nation come to compare and compete.

It is said that half of all the languages spoken on the planet are spoken in PNG where, until not that long ago, there were residents of one valley quite unaware of their neighbours living in a relatively nearby valley.

'A Thousand Different Cultures' proclaims the tourism literature and it's no idle boast.

Wedged somewhere in between promenades and performances by the Devil Dance of the Tambarins, the Kusare warriors, local lads doing the Pera Pera dance with the Virgin Mary on their heads, the ever-popular (and widely travelled) Mudmen from Goroka, the Togaro/Ralubang birds and the Sulka grass creatures were forth coming, with great ancient ceremony from an earth oven, of our friend the python. Torn into smaller pieces by eager hands as a chant rose, it was passed out for consumption by the crushing crowd. It tasted, of course, like chicken.

The next day, the showground with goalposts returned to each end, played host to another ritual - a bone crunching match of the national sport of rugby league, with expatriate Aussies issuing guttural roars more harrowing than anything heard at the festival. But then, there's been a few of those in this part of the word.

Although your bags are tagged to Rabaul and you fly into an airport called just that, it's a half hour drive to what the world long knew as that town; to what might now be termed



It is said that half of all the languages spoken on the planet are spoken in PNG where, until not that long ago, there were residents of one valley quite unaware of their neighbours who were also living in a relatively nearby valley.

LOCAL DESTINATIONS

Seventy years on, it is the pivot of a thriving tourism industry. Visitors, mostly from Australia, come to dive the wrecks, go trekking and surfing - spoken about in tones of hushed awe by those who wander the big blue marble seeking out better breaks.



Pera Pera dancers with the Virgin Mary on their heads.

a Pacific Pompeii.

One still morning in September 1994, three volcanoes loudly erupted within about an hour and, with accompanying lightning strikes, took five lives and destroyed most of everything standing. Today, you go to clamber across the grey, post-apocalyptic caldera up to the rim of the Tarvuvur volcano, past hissing, boiling, sulphurous pits and the ash-encrusted remnants of a once bustling town (which has come partly back to life, with markets, motels and a well-worn tourist path along the World War II supply and defence routes).

No matter where you go in Rabaul or modern Kokopo, the still-smoking volcano draws all eyes - it is your inescapable line-of-sight. Some ask to be seated on the side of the Air Niugini craft that affords the best view of it on the way to the island of New Ireland, further into the extremities of this Melanesian realm of what some refer to as the Wild Pacific.

Kavieng, the capital and entry point of the island, draws much of its notoriety from having been a principal theatre of war as the Japanese swept through the Pacific. As 1942 began, it suffered aerial bombardment

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and the tales of subsequent massacres and destruction make for grim reading.

Seventy years on, it is the pivot of a thriving tourism industry. Visitors, mostly from Australia, come to dive the wrecks, go trekking and surfing which is spoken about in tones of hushed awe by those who wander the big blue marble seeking out better breaks. Even snorkelling off conceptually perfect coral islands that seem to have been borrowed from lush film panoramas or chocolate box lids, is almost Maldivian in quality, with teeming marine life and untrammelled surrounds.

Frenchmen who once wanted to slip away from a world encroaching on them joined the Foreign Legion. Australians go to Darwin or somewhere around here; infectious languid in their view of life. They operate slicing catamarans like the Adventures in Paradise Surf/Yacht Charters or run outpost island lodges like the Nusa Island Retreat, from where guests go surfing, fishing, kayaking, diving, wandering, soccer jousting with local kids or just poking about the place.

With reasonable rates, fresh seafood, an abundance of good humour and hornbills (inevitably dubbed Harry) settling on the

window sill of your elevated beach bungalow for some examination of one's entry into their exalted realm, you become swiftly convinced that this was the place you once read about in a novel that conjured up an escape that seemed the stuff of fiction. Not so, apparently.



Children perched on a tree with Mt Tavurur in the background.

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Crossing the border into Indonesia.



FLOCKING TO THE BORDER

Shopping for bargains at Batas Market

BY PATRICK MATBOB

Batas market on the PNG/ Indonesian border - about 30 minutes' drive from Vanimo town - has become a popular place for people hunting for cheap Asian goods.

The market's reputation has spread and people from Sandaun, East Sepik, Madang and other areas of PNG are flocking to the border.

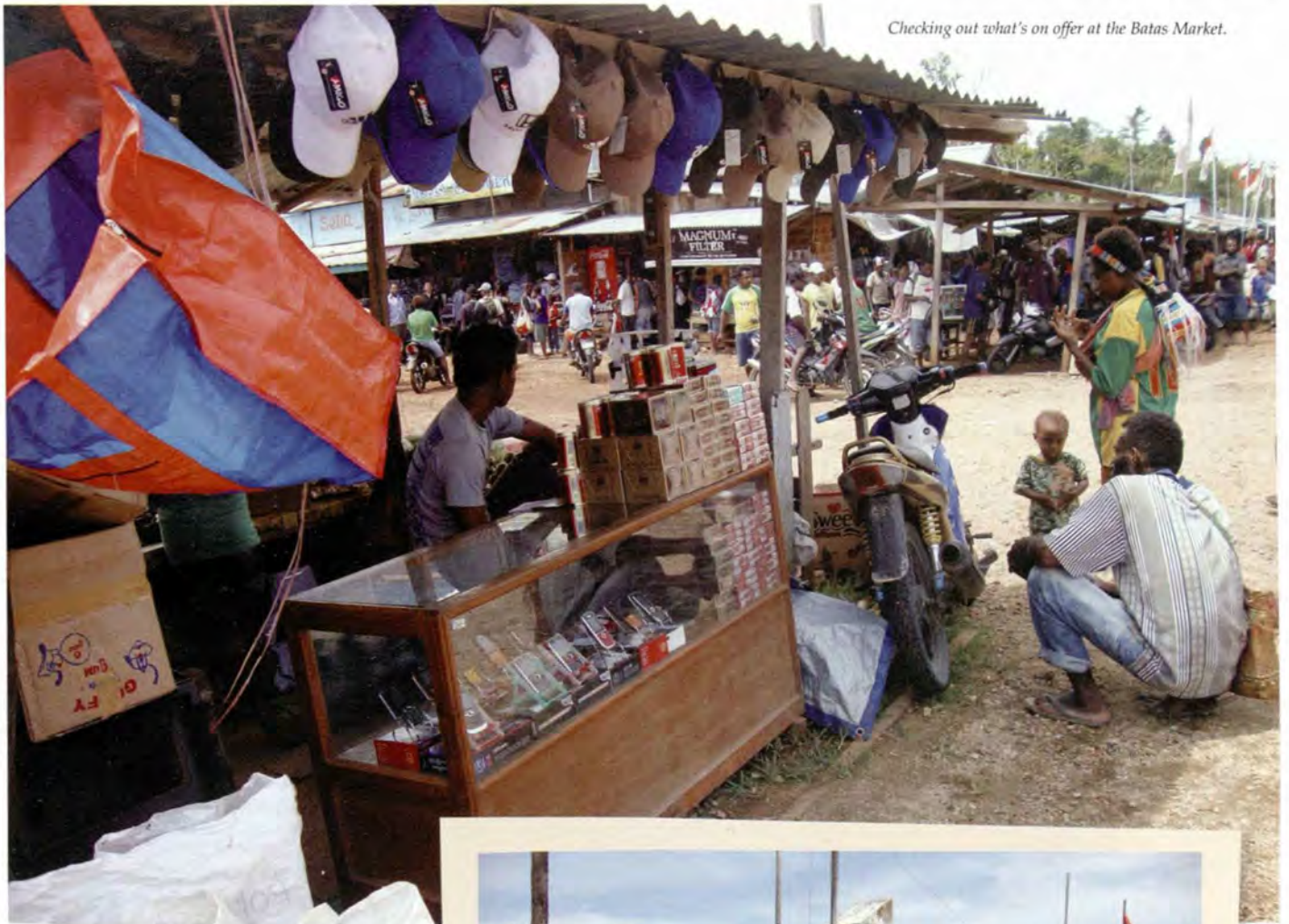
These people are not traditional border crossers and many do not own a passport. But they are allowed temporarily to venture a few metres into a foreign country to shop.

They are attracted by goods, mainly electronic items such as television sets, stereos and mobile phones that are sold at bargain prices.

Curious about this market, I decided to see for myself the business that was going on there. Going to Vanimo from Madang was not easy, unless one wanted to travel by sea, which was not an attractive choice in December with hundreds of holiday-makers.

My next best option was to travel to Port Moresby, then get a direct flight to Vanimo, which was the most convenient route. Cost for overnight accommodation in Port Moresby was solved when a close family friend kindly offered his home.

Checking out what's on offer at the Batas Market.



Next morning, I boarded my favourite plane Air Niugini's Q400 and jetted off to Vanimo.

As the aircraft approached the border town, I studied the scenery below me. It had been more than 25 years since I last visited and there were signs of development everywhere. Network of gravel roads crisscrossed the lush forests that surrounded the town showing that logging was still the main industrial activity in the province.

I disembarked at Vanimo Airport with some apprehension as I had not planned my Batas trip due to some changes in my travel plans which forced me to bring the trip forward. However, I had prayed earnestly for help and it seemed my prayer was answered. At the airport, the first familiar face I met amongst the crowd of strangers was a former media colleague, Winnis Map.

Winnis was now the coordinator of the Border Development Authority (BDA) and travelled regularly to the border for business.

BDA is the government body set up to develop the border areas of PNG providing the necessary infrastructure to help authorities such as the Customs and Immigration departments, Foreign Affairs and security forces to do their work. He was happy to help me with my trip as early as the next morning!



I spent the rest of Sunday attending mass and then wandering around the small town in the blazing heat. There were changes with new buildings in parts of the town but the general layout remained the same. The new additions were a two-storey provincial government complex; a court house; an AusAID-funded extension to the main hospital, rated as one of the best in the country; an Indonesian embassy; new residential homes linked to the logging industry; a new hotel; and several

lodges established to cater for the growth of surfing in the province.

The restaurant at the hospital served the best and cheapest lunches and is frequented by many customers.

Next morning, we drove along the sealed highway towards the Wutung border post, passing two logging ports where thousands of round logs are shipped out of the country each month.



PNG border post at Wutung.

The villages along the west coast from Lido to Wutung have also grown with more semi-permanent buildings on the beachfront. Wutung had also grown considerably since my last visit in the 1980s.

I walked to the border marker along an uninhabited beach to see the skull caves in an area known as 'no man's' land. Today, the village of Wutung has extended up to the border marker. Behind the village high above the plateau which used to be covered

by jungle was the border post. After passing through the military roadblock, there were more surprises for me at the border post.

The officer in charge of the border, Jacqueline Winuan, is a PNG Studies graduate of Divine Word University and it was good to see her after some years. And the customs officer there was a friend whom I had not seen for many years.

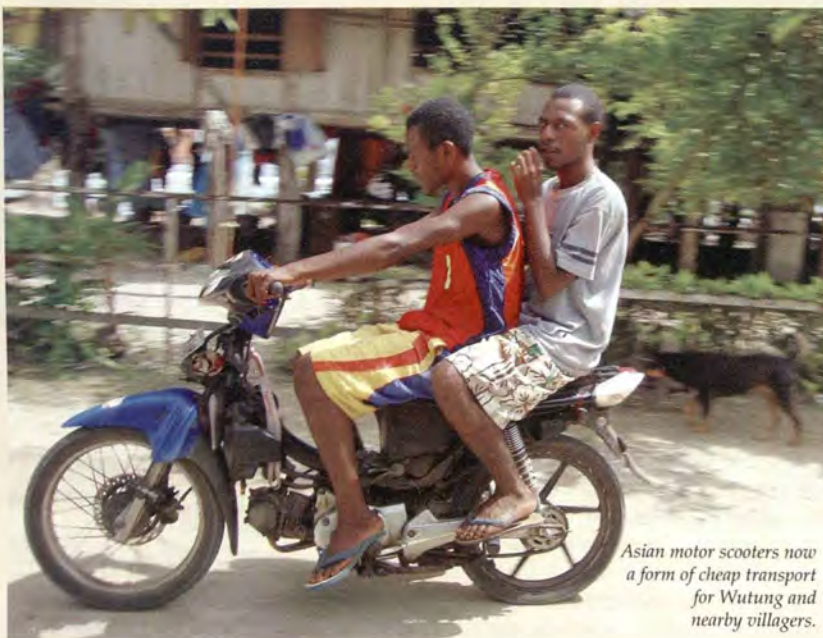
After exchanging niceties, I was told to fill out a form and join the crowd crossing to Batas. Amongst the border crossers were the traditional crossers from Wutung crossing to tend their gardens on the other side each day.

These people have been inconvenienced by the artificial border that cuts across their traditional land. Their daily activities pose a challenge for quarantine officers who have to check the garden crops they bring to and fro for insects, pests and diseases.

Walking the short stretch to the Indonesian border post, there were obvious signs that we were moving from one country to another. The most telling difference was in the design of the roads and buildings on the Indonesian side. There were well paved roads with high embankments and neatly paved footpaths on both sides that led all the way to the Indonesian post.

The buildings at the post were 'Asian' in architecture with thick walls, steep red terracotta roofs and were fenced by solid concrete posts and picket fences.

Unlike the PNG border post, all crossers were required to enter the building where two soldiers in military uniforms frisked each



Asian motor scooters now a form of cheap transport for Wutung and nearby villagers.



individual and checked their bags before one was allowed to emerge in Indonesia and stroll some 50 metres, passing the well-guarded Indonesian military base at Skouwto Batas market.

Despite its fame, the market was no more than a clutter of hurriedly nailed together timber and iron roof sheds packed with cheap varieties of Asian goods coveted in PNG. On sale were clothing and household goods, electronic gadgets, TVs, a range of basic food items such as rice, flour, noodles and cooking oil mostly sold in bulk, building and hardware materials and even a makeshift repair shop for motor scooters. One could bargain for the prices of goods which started at around K10.

It was obvious the Indonesians were after the stronger PNG kina and in the absence of any currency exchange facilities, all items were priced in PNG kina. It is still to be determined what happens to the thousands of kina traded across the border. But soon after my visit, Bank South Pacific in Vanimo ran out of cash because of the huge amounts being withdrawn and spent across the border.

During the weekends, the market is said to be packed with buyers and vendors, however, that day the market was not crowded. Yet there was a steady flow of goods being bought and brought into PNG over the border.

PNG Customs charges a tax on each of the expensive and larger items such as TV sets, scooters, building materials and rice and flour. The PMV operators also charge a fee on each item. Even after the tax and fees, the items are still very cheap than if purchased in Vanimo where the prices are comparatively higher.



Thriving trade at the Batas Market.

PMVs wait in an orderly queue for goods to be loaded and taken back to Vanimo or the villages.

On the PNG side of the border, a few stalls sold PNG goods that were in demand across the border. These include PNG tinned food such as Ox & Palm, Besta and souvenirs. Otherwise, the business is one way with Asian manufactured goods flooding into PNG.

I also noted a bustling betel nut market set up by West Papuan people from Wamena. Wamena is in the highlands of West Papua and like the highlanders of PNG, they are resourceful and business-minded. I was told that PNG betel nut was purchased and brought to Jayapura where it was packed

and supplied to Timika at the large Freeport copper mine. A notable Asian influence at the border is the growth in the number of motor scooters as cheap transport for Wutung and nearby villagers.

I bought some souvenirs for my children, plus a 4-gig flash drive which costs roughly the same in PNG.

I had to ask for an empty flash drive as most sold there are loaded with popular PNG music and part of a piracy racket that has badly affected the local music industry. With my few souvenirs, I headed back across the border for the long trip home.

• Patrick Matbob teaches at Divine Word University in Madang.



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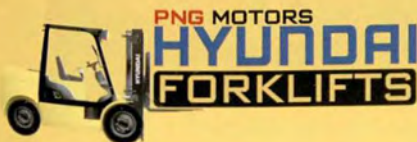
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The Water Course

Living and learning in a PNG village



WORDS: **RENEE CLUFF**
PHOTOGRAPHS: **MOLLY JO FELDE**

In the dark of night, a lakotoi (a multi-hulled canoe) circles aimlessly in the sea, off the village of Laukanu, in the Morobe Province's Huon Gulf.

The small waves are proving extremely problematic for the sailors onboard - the traditional outrigger canoe almost collides with the village's sea toilets, before capsizing on the shallow reef.

On shore, concerned villagers catch sight of the stray beams of torchlight flashing in all directions from the lakotoi. They're also bewildered by shouts of panic, which are interspersed with laughter. Do they need to launch a rescue?

At the helm of the canoe are six students from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). They're visitors to Laukanu and they're trying to make their way to nearby Dot Island, where they've been told they can get reception for their mobile phones.

The tale of their sea-faring shenanigans is just one of many amusing and heart-warming stories they'll take home after five weeks in Laukanu. They are proof that to truly experience PNG village life, you really have to roll up your sleeves and get in amongst it.

The students were part of a team of architects, designers, engineers and builders who took part in a new water sanitation project in Laukanu and

its neighbouring village of Kelkel. If ever there was a project that could boast success through an unlikely clash of cultures, this is it.

Joining the Sydneysiders and villagers was a group of nine architecture students from the University of Technology (UNITECH) in Lae, each of whom hail from different parts of Papua New Guinea.

They were all working together under the umbrella of Sago Network, a volunteer team of design, engineering, architecture and construction professionals, which is led by Rosemary Korawali. The former UNITECH student is now a Sydney-based architect who has a passion for community development projects, particularly in her home country.

Laukanu and Kelkel are vibrant fishing villages, located on the south-eastern coast of the Huon Gulf in a reef-lined bay backed by towering mountains. They are built on a small, low-lying U-shaped strip between the sea and mountain.

Sydney-based student Graeme McIntyre describes the setting.

"It's a very scenic site, surrounded by jungle and dozens of butterflies. We regularly rescue crabs from our work. It is hot and muddy work but everyone - from small children to grandparents - helps out and we've really enjoyed working alongside them."

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“There’s a transfer of knowledge and skills between the professionals, students and villagers but the villagers are taking ownership right from the beginning - from design to construction, the conceptual stage, right to the final product. It really is all about them.”

This display of hands-on practicality was a massive advantage when Sago Network was selecting a village to work in, according to project coordinator Lachlan Delaney.

“We found they had a strong community structure that gave a voice to its women and young people, we were looking for pro-activity and a solid representative structure within the community.”

His colleague, Brendan Worsley, adds that cultural dignity was also high on their list of selection criteria. “They’re quite proud, they like their fishing and they’re the best fishermen in PNG - just ask them. It’s really nice to see that pride.”

The villagers had in fact recognised their own need for a new plumbing system and had begun raising funds to have a feasibility study carried out.

Rosemary says this demonstration of leadership was key to ensuring the project was sustainable and well-maintained.

Sago believes that communities must be at the centre of their own development process and actively implement change.

“There’s a transfer of knowledge and skills between the professionals, students and villagers but the villagers are taking ownership right from the beginning - from design to construction, the conceptual stage, right to the final product. It really is all about them.”

And, their need was deemed to be critical, as Lachlan explains.

“The issue in Laukanu was that for a couple of decades they were dependent on a concrete water well that was constructed in the 1970s. That functioned well for 20 years but when it ceased to operate and wasn’t maintained, they had to excavate an area of soil near the shore to have access next to some ground water that sort of emerges near the coastline. So a 20-metre body of slow moving ground water was their sole water source.

“Because they were dependent on ground water source, they didn’t want to build pit toilets, so all toilet activity was taken to the small bay on which the community is located. But the tidal action from that bay meant the effluent periodically came in to contaminate water supply for both drinking and washing.”

So, those involved in Sago Network’s student studio designed and built a new system to redefine water supply. In all, six new pit toilets were constructed in areas and at depths where they wouldn’t affect the groundwater.

There are also two new shower blocks, two new laundry facilities and for the first time, four hand-washing facilities. New hand pumps have revitalised the two wells on the land.

They used bush materials and local techniques where they could, limiting the use of machinery

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"We learned just as much from them, maybe even more. Less than half the input was ours, it was really their project and if they know how the system works, it's sustainable."

and western hardware to make it easier for the villagers to maintain the structures. The project also had a strong focus on capacity building to give the locals the knowledge and skills they would need to ensure its upkeep.

Lachlan says the visitors benefitted just as much as the community.

"We saw it as both a community development project and a student studio. We don't pretend to operate under the guise of altruism, we got a lot out of it as well and the Sydney students, in particular, have had a wonderful cultural experience."

UNITECH student Penua Hila-Cook also insists the transfer of knowledge was a two-way street.

"We learned just as much from them, maybe even more. Less than half the input was ours, it was really their project and if they know how the system works, it's sustainable."

The project costs K60,000, excluding student costs. The PNG Sustainable Development Program came to the party with K30,000, which was matched by the Huon District

Administration. Lachlan insists local governments are able to help out.

"One of the key and very simple roles that we play is trying to connect the government back to its own people because the resources are here to address these issues.

"It's just a matter of organising people to get back out into the field and address rural development at a time when PNG is rapidly urbanising at a rate close to three percent per year. People are drifting into the cities in search of economic and education opportunities.

"So within that context, we're trying to refocus government's attention on the very small communities that are out there, so the draw of the city doesn't further reduce Papua New Guinea's rural communities and their culture."

Graeme says the villages also formed their own administration to lead their involvement.

"The energy was buzzing as these local spokespeople stepped in to present the schemes to their own community members. The UNITECH team also stood tall to



communicate and even act out the finer details of the proposals to ripples of applause!"

The UNITECH students were vital, according to Lachlan.

"They were the key cultural ambassadors in this project; they were the cultural go-betweens, facilitators for our Australian team so they played a very important role."

Dominic, an Australian student, also had plenty of praise for his PNG counterparts.

"We Sydneysiders were teamed up with the most amazing students. It wasn't just their skills but their great personalities. It really felt like family."

Fellow UTS student Joanne Taylor says the language barrier meant final presentations were often assisted by skits.

"We crouched behind the well with 'water' signs and when Jak moved the pump up and down, we jumped up, mimicked the movement of water with our signs, and ran downstream along the pipe path to the location of each male and female shower block. Then Emma and Peter, who were waiting in the shower locations, mimed the scoop of the water with coconuts and as the water ran off their backs, we ran down to the soakage pit.

"As simple and unnecessary as this may have seemed, they loved it and their laughter confirmed their approval and understanding of the process of water engineering."

Michael, another Sydney student, says when construction began it was all hands on deck.

"We had everyone from under five year-old pikininis to young boys and girls, mature women to elders all carrying gravel for the construction, with men young and old digging, ripping and slashing, all the while singing and

laughing as well. The air was filled with incredible energy and I was inspired to be part of it."

Fellow UTS volunteer Juliet says even with everyone pitching in, the construction effort was quite a challenge.

"We mixed the concrete for the toilet floor in an old outrigger canoe, which turned out to be not a bad container for the purpose. All the men, women, and children turned out to move the 500-kilogramme mass of concrete to the latrine site about 500 metres away. This was a good thing as the slab seemed heavier than anything we have ever carried or would ever like to carry again."

Throughout the five weeks, special culture days were set aside, giving the visitors the chance to learn traditional skills such as billum weaving.

And then there was the cuisine. Joanne says she tried dishes she'd never heard of before visiting Laukanu.

"Our meals were eaten in a 'haus win', an outdoor eating space built along the beach and we feasted on fish, cassava cake, taro, cooked banana, sweet potato and rice.

"The variance to the meal during our last supper was turtle meat, a great honour to receive but also something I haven't yet quite been able to get my head around."

She adds that the pre-dinner festivities



that night were also a highlight.

"Each section of the village came dancing from their homes to our eating space to deliver the food whilst singing and beating drums. Those who didn't want to dance needed to hide because they swept up any onlookers into their parade."

All agree they gained much more than skills and knowledge from the experience.

"I loved the positive attitude and comradeship amongst the community, my peers and the project leaders. There

"Their overwhelming sadness was apparent. I had been pre-warned that many of them were worried about us leaving and that there would be broken hearts and lots of crying but their display of raw emotion took me off guard."



was no other place I wanted to be," says Sydneysider Sandy.

UNITECH student Penua also acknowledged the camaraderie.

"It wasn't just what I learned about architecture, it was the lifestyle and I got to meet a lot of new friends. I want to thank my sponsors, Rams Architects and Lae Secondary School, who made my participation possible."

Co-ordinator Brendan says for many of the students, it was a life-changing period.

"The Sydney students have really had their eyes opened and were also educated as to how to approach the community process. For the UNITECH students, being able to work with some of the architects that came over and being able to network with them was a real bonus."

Sandy says the final goodbye proved more difficult than anyone expected.

"Our farewell was a surreal experience. I don't think any of us was really fully aware of what was to take place. After a series of speeches, many thanks and a song dedicated to Sago Network, we stood in a semi-circle as every village member came to shake our hands and say goodbye.

"Their overwhelming sadness was apparent.

I had been pre-warned that many of them were worried about us leaving and that there would be broken hearts and lots of crying but their display of raw emotion took me off guard."

Now that's a holiday packed with value...in every sense of the word.



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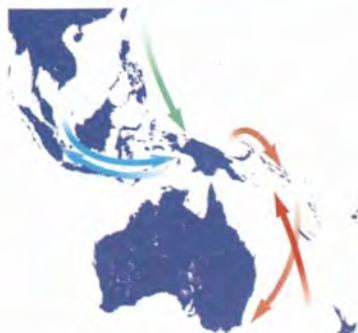
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RALUM

A club for everyone!

BY JOHN BROOKSBANK

We wanted a club that everyone in the community could be a member of, unlike others at the time when they restricted membership to 'Europeans'," says Stan Carswell (MBE), one of the foundation members of the club. He returned to Kokopo to attend the club's 50th anniversary celebrations held on December 6, 2011.

"...for the use and enjoyment of all sections of the community, to be known as the Ralum Club."

These few words from its Constitution encapsulate all the reasons why the club was formed on November 2, 1961, but they are just as true today - as can be seen from the current club membership, listing people with a range of distinctive European, Chinese and Papua New Guinean names.

In the 1960s, the Kokopo Country & Sports Club was the premier social institution in town. It hosted local cricket and baseball competitions but restricted membership to Europeans only - no mixed race members were allowed and certainly no Papua New Guineans. They were not allowed to drink legally anyway until November 2, 1962.

In fact, the clubhouse has changed little over the half century of its life - it is still a modest, low-set building that looks out over the waters of Blanche Bay, across to the volcanoes that still smoke over the ruins of Rabaul.

It had started life as a small residential bungalow at the edge of Revalian Plantation until the land it stood on was excised and its title transferred to the fledgling social club with the assistance of ADO Bill Kelly.



Of the couple of dozen people who had each parted with 20 guineas to become foundation members at the inaugural meeting at which it was decided to form the Ralum Club in 1961, only three managed to make it back for the birthday party 50 years later - Stan Carswell, 'Dicky' Doyle and Tommy Tse.

What is more important than the fabric of the building though is why it was established in the first place all those decades ago.

Kokopo was a sleepy township that always seemed to play second fiddle to the better known provincial capital of Rabaul, whose lights twinkled across the bay at night. With most commerce and government administration headquartered in Rabaul, the dominant social presence in Kokopo were those associated with the plantation industry and who at the time had somewhat colonial attitudes.



Three founding members who made it to the club's 50th birthday bash (from left)...Dick Doyle, Stan Carswell and Tommy Tse.

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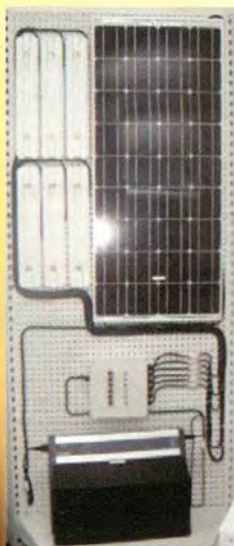


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The businesses and plantations of the time were happy to employ anyone but apparently drew the line with socialising with everyone as well; an attitude that sounds strange today, but in the years after World War Two, caused some resentment in the local, mixed raced and Chinese community of East New Britain.

Rabaul itself was well serviced socially with a number expatriate bankers single men's messes, two hotels - the Cosmopolitan and the Ascot - and clubs - the somewhat elitist New Guinea Club, the New Britain Club, the Ambonese Club, Kuomintang Club and the Kombiu Club. The latter clubs catered primarily to Asian members of the community and had no restrictions as to who could join. Strangely enough the New Guinea Club was managed for some years by Len Kent, married to Pang, a Chinese lady.



Ralum clubhouse.

These were the days before SP Lager was brewed in large quantities - the former Guinea Brewery in Lae was not bought out and expanded by South Pacific Breweries until 1964 - and so the main club beers were VB & Fosters in those large bottles along with the usual range of spirits.

For those not able to join a club, it was a case of going home with a beer bought from Steamships, BP's or a Chinese store with a liquor licence, where one could buy a carton

of six cold and six hot beers for three shillings a bottle! Inaugural office bearers of the Ralum Club were president John Acquiringco, secretary Joseph Schulze and treasurer Tommy Tse.

From the very start the club had a diverse range of membership, open to anyone who could afford the three-guinea nomination fee and two-guinea annual subscription fee; most early

members worked with larger employers such as the Administration and the Catholic Vunapope Mission.

The first items purchased by the club were a kerosene fridge and a Southern Cross generator - both essential to keep the beer cold in a town where power was switched off at 9pm every night.

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LOCAL DESTINATIONS



Ralum was initially a social club, a place to drink and socialise. As finances improved over the years, facilities were expanded and the club started hosting regular functions and weekly dances.

The club was popular and successful, not just because it was non-discriminatory but also because the most attractive ladies in town were of mixed race origin and the Ralum was definitely the place for young bucks to meet them on a Friday night!

After Papua New Guineans were legally allowed to drink alcohol in 1962, this swelled membership numbers and Australian beers soon disappeared from the shelves and fridges as the South Pacific Brewery achieved market dominance after swallowing the short-lived San Miguel Brewery and its small stable of beers in the 1980s.

The catastrophic 1994 volcanic eruptions that flattened and covered the Gazelle Peninsula with ash, also left the Rabaul Golf Club without greens so ever since, the annual New Britain Open Golf Tournament takes place at the Ralum Country

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Ralum Club...hosts one of the country's longest running golf tournaments - the New Britain Open.



Peter Lung...Ralum Club president.

Club over the last weekend of July each year - it is the longest running golf tournament in PNG; having run every year for 60 years!

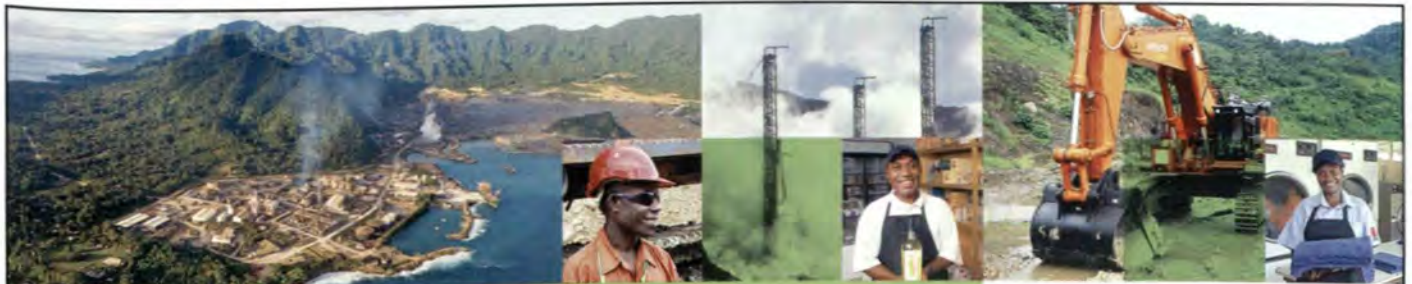
Golfers from all over PNG fly in for this tournament, including a number of professional golfers from Australia who come up each year. Leaving the winter weather in Australia, they usually stay for the week and go fishing, boating and partying, as well as playing golf!

In 1991, the Kokopo Golf Club amalgamated with the Ralum Club and then officially became known as the Ralum Country Club and base for a membership of golfers who developed the nine-hole course that exists to this day on the flat beachfront land beneath the site of Queen Emma's residence, next door to the club.

Overlooking the scenic course are concrete posts and running down the hill, the remains

of the steps are today the only evidence of Queen Emma's grand home Gunantambu, established in the 1880s.

Destroyed in World War II, it was a mansion of proportions not seen here before or ever again and which had stunning views over Blanche Bay to the islands beyond. Just next to the club, "Queen Emma's Steps" are now in the grounds of the Gazelle International Hotel, constructed in 2010.



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Founding club members - Steve Carswell and Dicky Doyle.

Ralum was the name given to the land used by Queen Emma as the port and trading centre from where she managed her plantation and trading empire in the days when Kokopo was known as Herbertshohe.

In the years following German annexation of its part of New Guinea in 1884, Emma consolidated her position and her fortune, based on the demand for copra and coconut oil squeezed from it by European mills.

Today, the Ralum Club still provides a bar, darts and snooker for its more than 350 members, about half of whom are Papua New Guineans and about half of whom are golfers, according to club secretary Paula Bullen.

It has much to offer - a Key Draw on a Wednesday night, a Joker Draw every Friday, lunch & dinner available every day, an air-conditioned 2-table snooker room, a golf competition every Sunday and great views from the clubhouse over the golf course to the sea beyond.

Club office bearers are elected every year at the AGM and the club president at present is Peter Lung whilst ex-Prime Minister Sir Rabbie Namaliu is club patron.

The club is a venue for many local bands and also apparently the place where one goes to exercise 'Zumba' style.

The three 'old-timers' who attended the party each received a copper beating to recognise their foresight and contributions to forming and running the club in its early days.

The 50th anniversary of the Ralum Club, was really the 2011 celebration of the founding of first all-inclusive social club in Kokopo - possibly the first step in the social integration of all the races living in East New Britain in the 1960s.



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ANZAC DAY / KOKODA 70TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Special Commemorative Pictorial



Air Niugini



Mon April 23, 2012: John Williamson and partner Meg Doyle arrive in Port Moresby. Left to right: Australia's High Commissioner Ian Kemish; Meg Doyle; John Williamson; Air Niugini CEO Wasantha Kumarasiri; Port Moresby RSL President Bryan Wareing; and Air Niugini Commercial Manager Dominic Kaumu.

Legendary Australian singer/song-writer John Williamson and his partner Meg Doyle arrived in Port Moresby on Monday April 23, 2012 for John's first ever concert appearance in Papua New Guinea. John Williamson performed at the Kokoda 70th Anniversary Dinner held at the State Dining Room, National Parliament on Saturday April 28, 2012.

John Williamson also performed his popular anthem *True Blue* and another popular Australian anthem *Waltzing Matilda* at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Bomana War Cemetery on Wednesday April 25, 2012. John Williamson's visit to Papua New Guinea was proudly sponsored by Air Niugini.



Mon April 23, 2012: John Williamson and his partner Meg Doyle were greeted by traditional Huli Wigmen upon their arrival at Jackson's International Airport.



Sat April 28, 2012: John Williamson performed to a capacity audience at the State Dining Room, National Parliament.



Australian Kokoda veteran 91 year old Jim Stillman (front, second from left) also attended the Dinner as a guest of Air Niugini.



Prime Minister Peter O'Neill and Air Niugini CEO Wasantha Kumarasiri.



Gideon and Helen Oli with John Williamson and Meg Doyle.



Also appearing with John was renowned Australian guitarist Col Watson.



Air Niugini CEO Wasantha Kumarasiri presented a framed PNG orchid to John Williamson.



Master of Ceremonies Justin Tkatchenko with John Williamson.



John Williamson with Glenn Armstrong



ANZAC DAY / KOKODA 70TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Special Commemorative Pictorial



Air Niugini



ANZAC Day, Wed April 25, 2012: John Williamson performed True Blue and Waltzing Matilda at the conclusion of the Dawn Service at Bomana War Cemetery, Port Moresby.



John Williamson with Australian Kokoda veterans.

John Williamson with Australia's High Commissioner Ian Kemish (left) and Australia's Minister of Defence Stephen Smith (centre).

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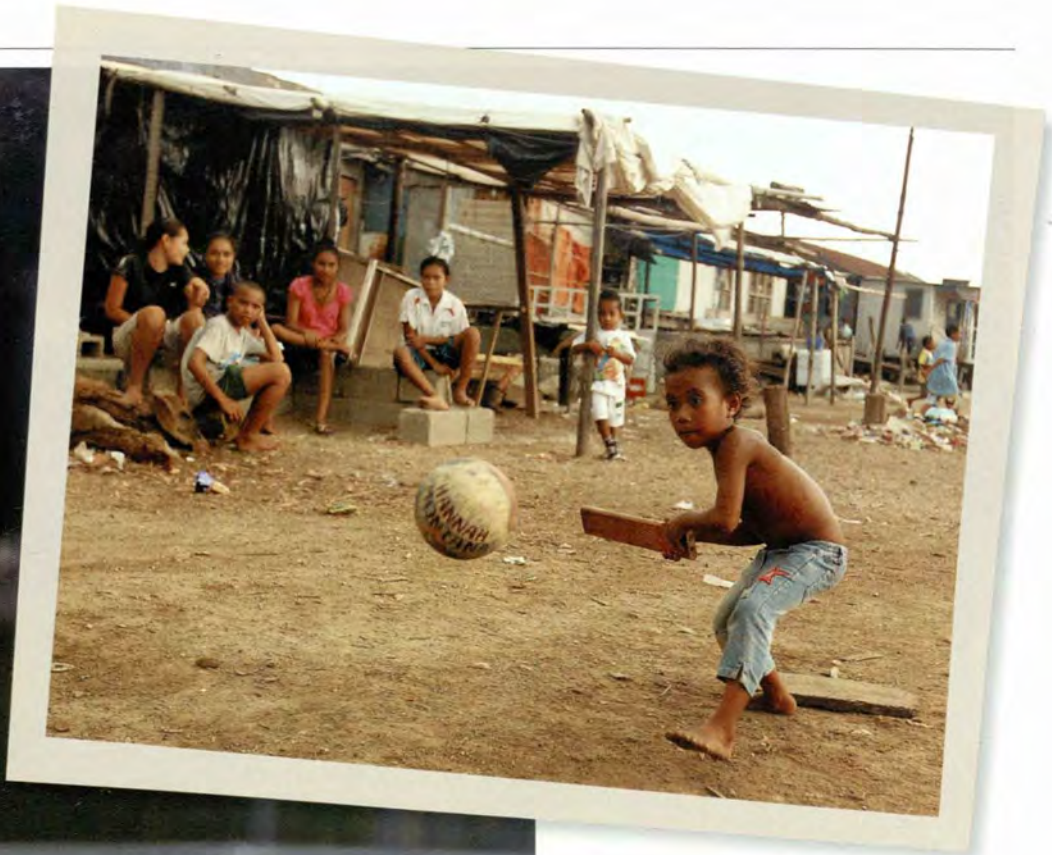
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CRICKET FLYING

PNG: The world's

BY ADAM CASSIDY



HIGH

newest talent

The world's newest cricket talent is emerging from one of the most unlikely places - and it's a long way in cultural terms from the English village greens and sunbaked ovals of Australia and the sub-continent.

They are coming from Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea, and are beginning to make a real impact on the world stage.


Papua New Guinea's national men's team - the Hebou PNG Barramundis - are now ranked in the top 20 in the world - and rapidly improving - and that is a truly remarkable cricket story that has come in a rush.

In May, 2009, Cricket PNG employed Australian, Bill Leane, as CEO. He was taken to "headquarters," the home of cricket at Amini Park.

Bill recalls two grounds side by side, one with a hard cement wicket and the other a synthetic wicket. Both were obscured by snake infested grass at least a metre tall. But worse than that, 40 squatters had taken over the land, 15 of them taking up residence in the toilet block, just 10 metres from what was supposed to be his office.

Then when he had some scrub removed from near the maintenance shed, he discovered another 20 squatters.

A protracted period of negotiation, threats, legal action and police involvement finally cleared the squatters.



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But that was just the first hurdle. A third ground in the complex had become an unofficial driving school for mini buses, trucks and cars.

So Bill and Cricket PNG called on one of their sponsors to provide bulldozers, and they built a two-metre moat right around the oval. In the first day or two, some vehicles crashed into the moat, but eventually the problem was solved. But then others decided to drive their cars on to the freshly cleared second oval, where as many as 100 people at a time would gather to drink.

Once again, Bill and the team moved in with bulldozers and built another moat. Then they established a single entrance to the complex and put permanent security staff in place.

That was the beginning of a rapid rise in the popularity of the game.

Since then, former Australian player Greg Campbell has taken over as General Manager of Cricket PNG and the rapid rise continues.

The senior men's team has improved its rankings from 24 to 19 in the world in 50-over cricket and 18 in the world at T20.

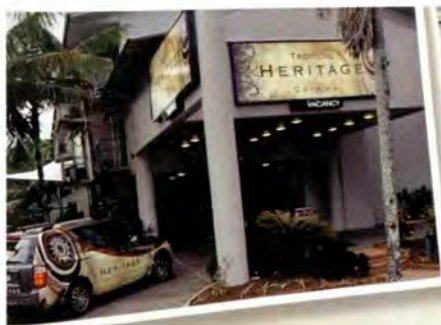
Women's cricket too is setting incredible global standards with more females participating in cricket in PNG than there are in

New Zealand, who is currently ranked second in the world.

The PNG Under 19 squad will this August participate in the Under 19 Cricket World Cup where they are grouped with India, the West Indies and Zimbabwe. Also in August, the PNG Under 17 team will be in Fiji competing in the International Cricket Council's East Asia-Pacific Under 17 Cricket Trophy Tournament.

Three years ago, the country had no official

junior programme. In 2011, through enormous support from major sponsor BSP (Bank South Pacific), as well as significant funding from the Australian Sports Commission's Pacific Sports Partnership Programme through AusAid, its recently established BSP Junior Cricket Programme topped 115,000 participants in 10 provinces. The programme recently won back to back International Cricket Council Global Awards in the category of Junior Participation Initiative.



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Amini Park is now one of the best facilities in the developing world of cricket, with two turf pitches, an indoor training facility and secure administration.

When Bill arrived, Cricket PNG employed eight staff, all based in Port Moresby. Now, there are 70 at head office and in six regional hubs around the country.

The nation's best players spend six months abroad developing their talents in Australia and Europe.

Players of the calibre of former Australian international and state players Andy Bichel, Brad Hogg and now Peter Anderson have been drawn to the country as coaches.

Income generated through non-ICC sources, such as sponsorship and local government support, has increased enormously.

Even now, more than half of the national team comes out of a single coastal village of 15,000 people, Hanuabada, on the outskirts of Port Moresby. Hanuabada was the centre of the local equivalent, liklik cricket and that is where the promoters of the game put in most of their early effort.

That has paid off handsomely. Imagine the potential for the national team as the game broadens its reach around the country.



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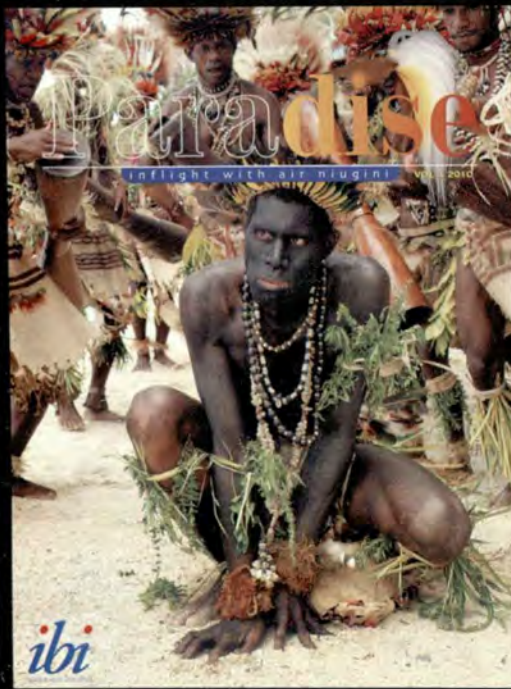
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Magical Milne Bay

'I'm definitely going back'

BY JOHN BROOKSBANK

Magical, mysterious, musical, 'moorish... whatever alliterative word you'd like to use when describing Milne Bay - it is definitely one place in Papua New Guinea everyone should visit at least once in their life!

The plane lands at Gurney Airport, a strip surrounded by a dark green swath of furiously growing oil palm, and a quick 20-minute drive out of town on a sealed road.

Alotau is a charming place, spread along a part of the northern shore of Milne Bay, cooled by breezes blowing off the water, where people are polite, rubbish is fastidiously cleaned up (even at the market place!) and the foreshore offers a selection of scenic lookouts, war memorials, cafes, bars and eateries to hang out in.

Having a car does make moving around less tiring but there are at least 40 taxis plying the streets who would love your custom and local fares are just a few kina.

Sitting on a deck or patio watching the sun go down with afternoon cocktails or having an early evening meal at the Driftwood Resort or the Alotau International Hotel listening to waves lapping in front (or underneath!) your seat, you really know you are on holiday.

Milne Bay Province makes up the eastern end of mainland Papua New Guinea and includes 10 larger and more than 150 smaller named islands, cays and atolls, the better known being the Trobriands, the D'Entrecasteaux and Louisiade island groups.

The name of the bay, the province and many of the main islands such as Goodenough, Fergusson and Normanby reflect the early English and French maritime explorers who traversed these waters in the 18th and 19th centuries naming features after themselves, their officers, admirals or patrons.

Whilst Alotau is a nice place to stay in one of the hotels or guest houses such as Napatana Lodge,



Battle of Milne Bay Memorial.

Bayviews Apartments in 'top town' or Masurina Lodge in 'middle town', it can also be a base for travel further afield to places elsewhere in the province. There are a number of boat operators who are only too happy to take you to one or more of the outer islands where people still live essentially subsistence lifestyles, based on fishing and gardening.

A big plus for visitors is that literacy levels in the province compared to the rest of the country are extremely high and almost everyone speaks English.

The anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski puts the Trobriand Islands on the map in his erudite treatise *The Sexual Life of Savages*, written in the early 1900s, in which he referred to them as the 'Islands of Love', a reflection of the somewhat loose sexual practices (at least compared to Europe at that time!) that prevailed during the annual yam festival celebrated in the area.

Milne Bay was, until the Second World War, administered from the little island of Samarai, a mere 54 acres in area, once known as the Pearl of the Pacific by early colonialists who thought that as a port adjacent to the China Straits linking Asian ports to the north and Australian ports to the south, it was destined to become another entrepot like Singapore. Unfortunately, the war got in the way and the township was torched to prevent it being used by the Japanese.

After the wartime hostilities, Samarai never regained its previous status and gradually declined, resulting in businesses and administration moving to the mainland, where Alotau was officially gazetted as the provincial centre in 1968.

Thousands of hectares of sea, islands and reef make the province a magnet for those who love to snorkel, dive or game fish. The rusting remains of casualties of the many battles that were fought on land, sea and in the air



Dried fish at the local market.



Haus win bar at Alotau International.

across Milne Bay also attract people with an interest in matters more wartime and historical.

The sea floor around the province is littered with diveable wrecks - such as the Mascoota, a cargo vessel off Wagawaga village, and the bomber wreck known as Blackjack near Cape Vogel.

There are memorials to those who fell in the Second World War in Alotau town on the Sanderson Bay shorefront and at Giligili, the site of some of the most savage fighting - half way between Airstrip No.3 (also known as Turnbull Strip) and Airstrip No.1 (Gurney Strip).



Girl at Sehulea station.

There aren't that many roads in Milne Bay outside of Alotau, since it is essentially a maritime province. The road that most people travel along is the one to East Cape, the easternmost tip of mainland PNG.

The cape is 56 kilometres from town; a pleasant 90-minute drive along the north shore of the bay for most of the way, passing through or past quaint residential hamlets and the occasional school or church en route. Half way along the road, just past the road over the hills to Huhuna is the little village, or rather a collection of hamlets clustered close to the shoreline, called Bou - a place the modern world seems to have passed by. Like many places in the province, life moves slowly and in time with the weather and seasons.

People often travel to East Cape to catch village work boats, the nearest thing there is to public transport, to travel home to the D'Entrecasteaux islands, the Trobriands or Woodlark Island and other points in the north-east of the province, since the journey is shorter than from Alotau. Seen in the far distance when standing on the East Cape wharf is Fergusson Island in the D'Entrecasteaux group, where the famous Dei Dei hot springs and geysers can be found.

Just along the north coast is the well known Tawali Resort, a small and exclusive 15-bungalow hotel nestled on the coast and only accessible by sea, a short 10-minute boat ride from the end of the road.

Although primarily set up as a dive resort, manager Rod Clark says he would like the place to be seen as a holiday destination since there are so many other things to do - such as canoeing, kayaking, hiking, exploring local waterfalls and skull caves and then visiting nearby villages to watch traditional activities such as basket weaving and dancing.



Dei Dei hot springs in Fergusson Island.



Alotau Market.



Village workboats at Sanderson Bay.

To the north-west of Alotau, if one follows the road past Gurney Airport for another hour you arrive at Ulumani Treetops Rainforest Lodge. It is set amongst pristine forest in the foothills of the Pini Ranges. They have backpacker accommodation or separate bungalows and cottages for the better heeled visitor. Then there is another small resort offshore on the site of an old copra plantation on Doini Island, a short boat trip just to the south of Samarai Island.

Nearby also is Kwato Island, where members of the London Missionary Society, arriving hot on the heels of the colonial administrators in 1891, established their first church.

This was the lifetime base for the well-known Reverend Charles Abel, grandfather of the present member of parliament for Alotau Open, also a Charles Abel.

Facilities were expanded at Kwato and for many years it was a centre for, among other educational studies, teaching wooden boat-making skills to people of the district. It is now being considered as the site of a technical college for the province, so it may continue its tradition as a place for training hands as well as minds.

Although the Misima gold mine closed in 2006 after 15 years of operation and the depressed world prices for copra makes this once thriving rural industry uneconomic except as a

means of earning a cash income at village level, the province is still bustling.

A major commercial activity is the operation of Milne Bay Estates, now owned by New Britain Palm Oil Limited, which manages just over 11,000 hectares of oil palm. This enterprise employs more than 2,000 people and supports many spin-off businesses.

Oil palm development is an option that is being considered for other parts of the province, particularly in areas that have been logged in previous years.

So, whilst Milne Bay is not exactly dynamic in a big city sense of frenetic activity, it is still a place that 'works' - people are polite, observe queues, keep appointments. Like many places in the province, life moves slowly and in time with the weather and seasons.



Fishing near Dobu Island.



Village boat at Kelolog village, Normanby Island.

There is some level of forestry in the province - although there are no longer any log exports, so all timber is processed locally; there is also a certain amount of harvesting of marine products from its 250,000 square kilometres of sea, which contain a third of the reef area of the whole country.

The gold that first brought prospectors to Sudest Island in May 1888 still continues, along with other minerals, to tantalise explorers and geologists on the islands of Milne Bay province.

Gold exploration has been carried out on Normanby Island for almost 20 years, whilst exploration licences have also been issued for parts of Woodlark, Fergusson and Misima islands. Such exploration activity also supports a certain level of local employment and sub-contracting opportunities.

So, whilst Milne Bay is not exactly dynamic in a big city sense of frenetic activity, it is still a place that 'works' - people are

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polite, observe queues, keep appointments, administration divisional heads wear ties and government at all levels is staffed, resourced and operates.

Inner Sanderson Bay, just down from the main wharf, always seems full of village work boats and dinghies, in from the outer islands; it is active all hours of the day loading or unloading goods and people.

After hours, when the sun goes down and stores are closed, an 'umbrella' market comes to life, colourfully illuminated with lanterns, along the shore of the bay to service boat people with loose cigarettes, betelnut, biscuits, noodles and those other small necessities of life.

The Milne Bay Tourism office has a staff of knowledgeable ladies who run a small craft shop, collate information on the attractions of the province and organise events such as the annual canoe festival, held every November/December and which seems to get bigger every year.

So, whatever your active outdoor interests are, in or out of the water, Milne Bay is a place to visit. Alternatively, if you are just looking for a quiet, pleasant hideaway to hide, chill or hold a conference where delegates will feel relaxed, this province is also the place to come. I'm certainly be going back!



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The late Tony Subam performing with Sanguma.

Subam, Sanguma & the sounds of the 80s

BY PATRICK MATBOB

The death of Tony Subam - musician, composer, arranger and leader of PNG's 80's contemporary ethno jazz group Sanguma - focused attention on the achievements of this unique music group.

The group's beginning is synonymous with the birth of a new nation, some 40 years ago. It was a time when Papua New Guinea was preparing for independence and looking to forge a nation out of hundreds of tribes, languages and cultures.

The architects were also conscious the process could cause the loss of their rich cultural heritage that the new nation possessed.

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cultures and institutions were set up and funded to carry out the work.

The institutions set up under the National Cultural Council of PNG included the Institute of PNG Studies, Skul Bilong Wokim Piksa (Film Institute), the National Theatre Company, and the Creative Arts Centre (later renamed the National Arts School). Today, only the Institute of PNG Studies, the National Film Institute and the National Performing Arts Troupe remain.

The Art School, which is now a part of University of PNG, offered two basic courses - fine arts and music. It was from the music school that Tony and Sanguma would emerge. Tony made an immediate impact at the National Art School in 1977, together with fellow students who had formed Sanguma.

Sanguma was the ensemble through which students could express their musical creations. Two of the founding members - Thomas Komboi (trumpet, composer/arranger) and Sebastian Miyoni (composer/arranger) - would remain with him. Other key members who joined later were Buruka Tau (keyboards), Raymond Hakena (drums), Aaron Murray (composer/arranger, flute), Apa Saun (bass), Paul Yabo (composer/arranger, trumpet) and Leonard Taligatus (lead guitar).

Other musicians who performed with the

group at various times since 1977 were Peter Piruke, Jessie James Pongap, Bill Stevens, Robinson Guta, Hilary Laris, Josepha Tamelagai and guest musicians Les Maclaren and Rick Halstead.

Sebastian, a pioneer member of Sanguma, recalled that Madang was one of the first provinces Sanguma toured in 1977 soon after it was formed. "We played during the Maborasa Festival at Laiwaden Oval."

Tony, who had grown a distinct dreadlock, was a standout figure on stage during the group's 1977 independence celebration tour that inspired many young Papua New Guineans.

His recreation of the popular traditional Madang songs like Rorombe and Naiyo (Naiyo from his mother's Yabob village) with a blend of modern and traditional musical instruments left a lasting impression. Equally was Thomas' Morobe arrangement of Spangane.

The PNG education department was encouraging traditional cultures and songs to be taught at schools in keeping with the growth of a new nation, and Sanguma's fresh approach to adapting traditional PNG music fired the imagination of many.

For the generation of the time, Sanguma was comparable to the famous British Afro group Osibisa, whose music was a fusion of African, Caribbean, Jazz, Rock and R&B.

Aaron Murray later contributed Yalikoe, Wanjo and other compositions that also became the signature songs of Sanguma.

These songs had commercial value if they could be rearranged into the popular genres of the time. Black Brothers of West Papua demonstrated this when they rearranged Yalikoe which made it on the British Disco charts in the early 80s. However, this was not the aim of Sanguma, who only released two recordings as a group through the National Broadcasting Corporation. A demo recording done in the early 80s in Sydney of Pongap's Namilai definitely had commercial prospects however, the group never pursued it.

The western musical instruments that the group used included keyboards, brass, flutes, drums and electric guitars.

The PNG instruments were Manus garamuts, Bougainville bamboo trumpets, panpipes, Sepik bamboo flutes, kundu drums, shakers, rattles and highlands kuakumba flutes.

Subam's arrangement of the kuakumba piece with keyboard accompaniment remains a classic. Their musical arrangements included experimenting with complex jazz harmonies and rhythms as heard in Miyoni's Garden Song.

At the height of their fame in the late 80s, Sanguma had developed into a class of



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Sanguma...PNG's unique musical group. From right: Sebastian Miyoni, Tony Subam, Leonard Taligatus, Apa Saun, Thomas Komboi, Buruka Tau, Paul Yabo and Raymond Hakena.

Writers often dubbed their music as a fusion of ethnic jazz rock. Members of the group when asked to describe their music would simply reply 'Sanguma'.

For their graduation in 1980, Tony and Sebastian would release two suites through CHM Studios in Port Moresby. Tony's work was based on the legend of Honpain, the spirit woman who created pottery for the Yabob people where Tony's mother comes from. Sebastian based his piece on the exploits of his Milne Bay province's powerful witches.

Besides Sanguma, Tony had contributed immensely to the development of PNG music over the years. Little known is his involvement in writing and recording the sound track for PNG's first feature length movie Marabe produced by the PNG government. The use of traditional instruments and percussions feature heavily in the film with the most memorable piece being Marabe's farewell, written by Sebastian, featuring Aaron Murray on the flute and Tony on the classical guitar. Tony was also one of the principal writers of "Eberia", the stage opera by one of PNG's great actors William Takaku.

He also wrote the music for "My Brother, My Enemy" with Sebastian which was a play about the West Papuan independence struggle. He also wrote the music for John Kasaipwalova's musical production "Sail the Midnight Sun" and co-wrote the music for "Nights of Emotions" with Sebastian.

its own, incomparable to anything PNG had ever produced. International music critics had problems identifying their music or fitting it into any popular western music genre.

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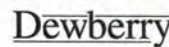


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Sebastian Miyoni (with flowers) arriving in Madang for Tony Subam's funeral.

When the PNG Government opened its new High Commission building in Canberra in the early 80s, Sanguma was invited to the ceremony. Tony wrote the song *Welcome to the House* for the occasion.

Tony was also passionate about the political and socio-economic situation in the country.

After independence, he and fellow PNG artists would be affected by the political decisions made by the leaders of the time. One of the enduring decisions would be made by Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan in the early 1980s to cut funding for arts and culture because of the financial difficulties the country was facing.

The National Arts School was going to be closed down, however, after strong protests by students and supporters, the decision was reversed. However, funding was cut back and the school was eventually taken over by the University of PNG.

Tony would express his views on the impact of development on PNG and on political struggles of West Papua in another recording with Pacific Gold.

This was a personal recording of songs he had written which were in English and had powerful personal messages and experiences.

Among the songs was the track "*Indonesia, leave our people alone*", dedicated to the West Papuan struggle for independence. Later, he and Sebastian assisted in the peace process on Bougainville by organising the youths around Arawa to perform the peace treaty song "*Spirit of Love*" written by William Takaku.

With Sanguma, Tony travelled the world performing in Germany, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the Pacific Islands and lived and performed in US.

The group disbanded in 1989 and manager Peggy Reed attributed this to "a split between the original members and the newcomers".

Tony's influence was wider than often realised. He was an inspiration to his relatives in Madang which saw the growth of creative song writing and recording in the province.

Musicians like his late cousin, Sandy Gabriel

and Kales, Willie Tropu, Old Dog and the Offbeats and Demas Saul would emerge through Chris Seeto's Tumbuna Track commercial studio.

Today, their 'Madang' sound has established itself amongst the popular PNG music.

Tony teamed up with the famous American guitar virtuoso Bob Brozman in 2003-2004 to record East New Britain stringbands to produce the album *Songs of the Volcano*. He was also in Australia last year to run workshops on PNG music.

Early in December, Tony travelled to the Milne Bay islands to spend a few days with his Sanguma mates Sebastian, Thomas and Raymond.

"We slept on the beach under the stars and open sky, reminiscing about the good old days, spoke about our families but not about Sanguma," Sebastian recalled.

"Sanguma was going to be the topic for another trip, and sad to say that trip with our brother was the last trip that we shared with him. Our bond is much closer than his (Tony's) own blood brothers," said Thomas who helped formed Sanguma.

Tony is survived by his two partners and five children, four boys and one girl. He was head of the music strand at the University of PNG at the time of his death. Tony was laid to rest on the tiny Mareg Island at Yabob amongst many of his maternal ancestors.

Sanguma band which has not performed since the late 80s is planning a final reunion concert on December 25 in Madang as a tribute to its leader.

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Tony Subam was accorded a state funeral for his contribution to PNG music.

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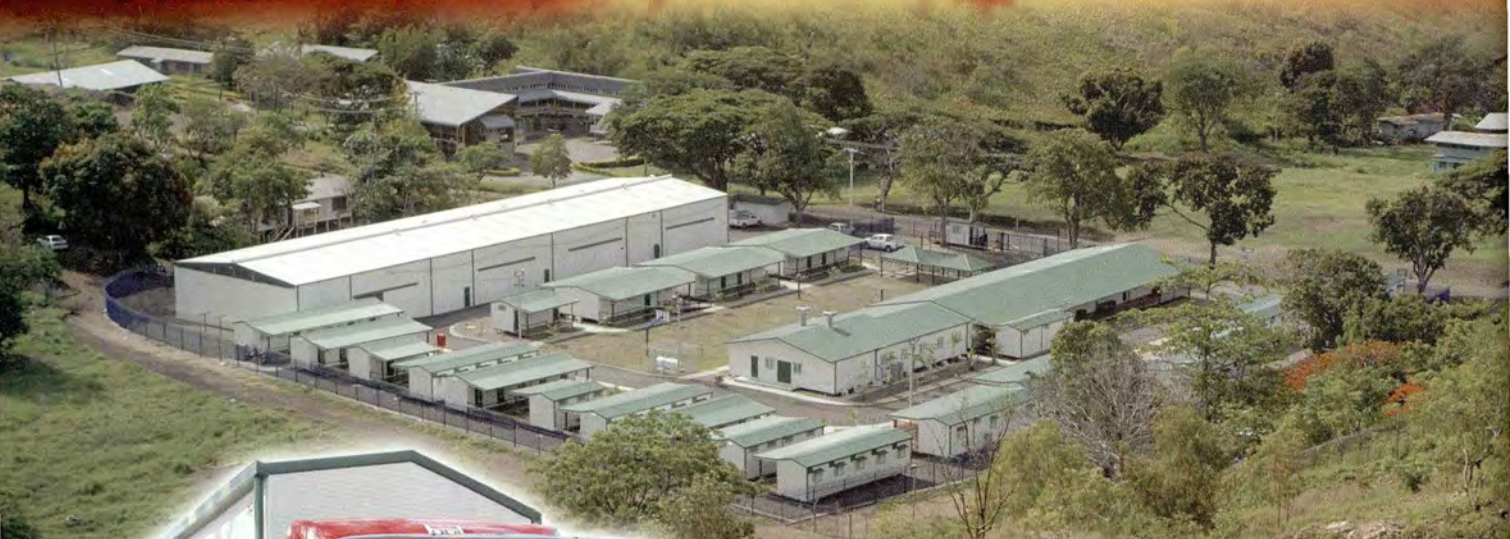
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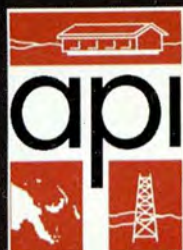
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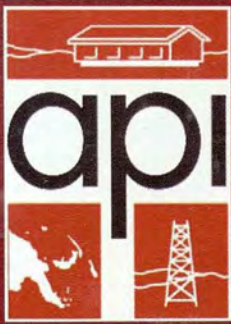


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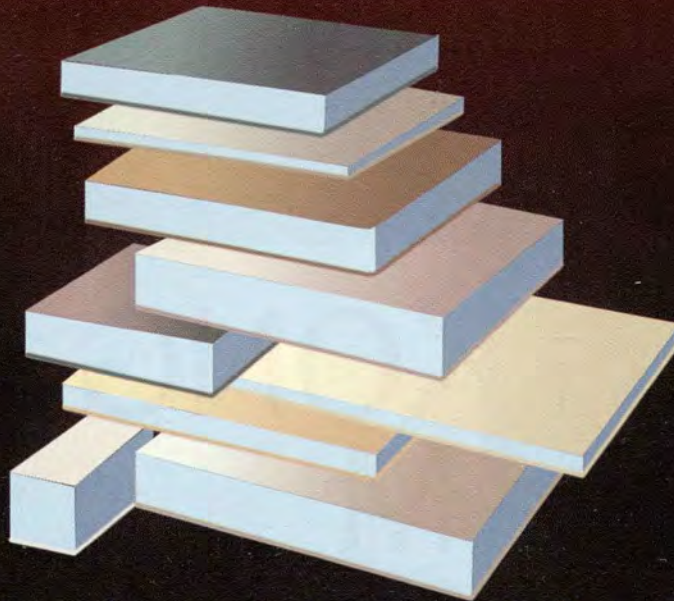
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HONG KONG BY TRAM

BY MARIANNE ROGERSON

Hong Kong. The name conjures up images of fast-paced modern living, towering skyscrapers emblazoned with the world's biggest brands, flashing neon signs and crowds of city workers brokering deals over late night cocktails.

Yet the work-hard-play-hard culture of the world's 10th largest trading economy didn't always define Hong Kong's persona, and within this whirlwind of luxury brands and financial services, there remains a fossilised reminder of a slower pace of life: the city's tramlines.



The views from the windows may have changed beyond all recognition since Hong Kong Tramway's debut in 1904, but the iconic double-decker trams are as much a part of Hong Kong life today as they were a century ago. With 163 tramcars, the world's largest fleet of double decker trams carries a daily average of 230,000 passengers as they travel East to West along Hong Kong Island.

From a tourist's point of view, these relics of the past provide a unique opportunity to embark on a voyeuristic journey through Hong Kong's suburbs, and watch the layers of daily life unfold. Perch above the crowds

It may not be the quickest or most efficient form of transport, but it is certainly the most atmospheric. And at just HK\$2.30 per ride, it is the best value sightseeing tour you are likely to find.



on the upper deck and enjoy the lurching and rocking movement, the distinct 'ding ding' of the bell, and the scent of nostalgia drifting through the open windows. It may not be the quickest or most efficient form of transport, but it is certainly the most atmospheric. And at just HK\$2.30 per ride, it is the best value sightseeing tour you are likely to find.

To discover your own slice of Hong Kong life, board the tram in Kennedy Town, on the far western tip of Hong Kong Island. With only six tram routes and the destination clearly displayed on the front of every tramcar, you can't go too far wrong. Tram stops are spaced nearly every 250 metres, so you can hop-on and hop-off whenever you fancy, but your first stop should be Sheung Wan.

Characterised by its densely packed narrow streets, Sheung Wan provides a fascinating glimpse of 'old' Hong Kong. This is a world made vibrant by the past traditions of the Chinese merchants who arrived more than 100 years ago. Join the throng of locals and browse the traditional Chinese medicine shops, or search among an astonishing variety of dried seafood, ginseng, birds' nests and sharks' fins. Keep a look out for Des Voeux Road West (Dry Seafood Street), Ko Shing Street (Herbal Medicine Street), and Wing Lok Street & Bonham Strand (Ginseng and Birds' Nest Streets).





Your wanderings should take you along Hollywood Road, named for the holly bushes that once flanked the street. Today, the trees have made way for antique shops and open-air curio stalls, hawking an eclectic collection of souvenirs and memorabilia - everything from Mao badges to Ming dynasty furniture. It is also the home to Man Mo Temple, resplendent with gold altars and red shrines paying tribute to the Taoist gods of literature ('Man') and war ('Mo'), the air thick with plumes of aromatic smoke from burning incense coils.

You will know when you are approaching Central, the seat of the government and Hong Kong's banking and financial centre, by the skyscrapers looming above you. These modern iconic buildings such as the HSBC Main Building with its exposed steel framework, serve as a symbol of Hong Kong's success. Designed by Lord Norman Foster, this prominent landmark was completed in 1985 at a cost of HK\$5.2 billion, the most expensive skyscraper in the world at that time. In its shadows, the Legislative Council Building and Statue Square serve as a reminder of Hong Kong's colonial past.

If you are in the area over lunchtime, you will notice the restaurants around Wellington and Stanley Streets, quickly becoming crowded. Mak's Noodles (77 Wellington Street) has the reputation of serving the best shrimp wantons in the city, while its neighbour Yung Kee (32-40 Wellington Street) is famed for the succulent roasted goose it has been dishing up for 60 years. Nearby, Luk Yu Tea House (24 Stanley Street), established in 1933, is the oldest and most famous teahouse in Hong Kong and is a good option for traditional dim sum.

Make your way back down the hill towards the tramlines via the Central-Mid-Levels Escalator. At 800 metres long, this is the world's longest covered escalator and serves as a transit link for residents of the Mid-Levels to commute to work, running downhill from 6am-10am, then uphill from 10.20am-midnight.





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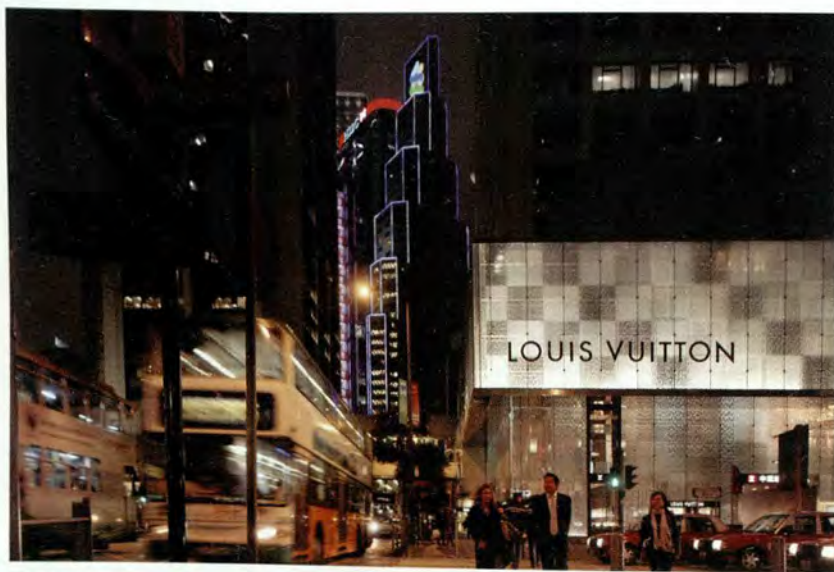



As you continue your tram journey, the next suburb you pass through is Wan Chai. Night owls may wish to return to Hong Kong's most notorious nightlife district after dark to hit the bars and clubs of the Lockhart Road area. For now you can explore the open-air stalls of the Tai Yuen street market, or stay on board to reach Causeway Bay.

If you are in Hong Kong to make use of the tax-free shopping, then Causeway Bay, with its countless malls and boutiques, is a good bet for a one-stop shopping strategy.

This is also where the tramlines split, so choose your next tram with care. One route loops around Happy Valley racecourse - Hong Kong's home of horse racing, while the other continues through the predominantly residential areas of Tin Hau, Fortress Hill and North Point. While these areas may not hold much in the way of tourist attractions, this part of the journey should not be missed for a real glimpse into scenes of authentic Hong Kong daily life and domesticity. Look out for washing hanging from the windows above and the street stalls crowding either side of the tram.

The end of the line is Shau Kei Wan. This also signals the beginning of the Eastern District Tourist Trail, a vivid reminder of Hong Kong's past as a fishing village, with its fishermen's temples, shipyards and fish market. Choose to follow the trail as far as the Museum of Coastal Defence, or count out \$2.30 and shake, rattle and roll your way back into the city.



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TEE OFF IN PARADISE

Where one can play in world-class courses

BY SAMISONI PARETI

If Fiji is where one-time world number one golfer Vijay Singh comes from, then it follows that the island should have many more players like him. Right?

Not quite, but what Fiji has on offer is a world class 18-hole championship golf course the master golfer himself provided the initial design.

At Fiji's Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course, not only can looks be deceiving but it is sure a distraction.

With the stunning deep blue Pacific Ocean as its southern borders and rolling hills forming its northern barriers, this Vijay Singh blueprint 18-hole golf course - located 45 minutes from Nadi International Airport on the west coast of Fiji's main island - is world class.

As an avid golfer and Natadola Bay Golf Club member John Kemp puts it, "if you get stuck here, you wouldn't really mind with a spectacular view like this."

Particularly breathtaking is the 4th hole as the fairway runs along part of Natadola's two-kilometre long white sandy beach, a stretch of sand so stunning that an American travel magazine ranked it among the world's top 10 beaches.

Singh made mention of the 4th hole when he first toured the course while it was under construction in 2005.

With the beach lining the left side of the fairway, the view he said would be spectacular. But his signature hole is the 12th.

"I think the opening hole there is going to be really good. You stand up and all you see is the ocean behind you. Its really, really spectacular."

From the 5th hole as the golf cart takes you further inland from the Club House, the 6th hole can be a "killer" though with its 210m carry from the hillside tee down to the fairway.

"Having played in many golf courses in Australia and Hawaii, Natadola is sensational," says retired Australian banker Bob Lyon.

He is also a Natadola Golf Club member, like Kemp.

"Here at Natadola, every hole is special, each one is different."



18th hole...infront of the Natadola Golf Clubhouse.



Natadola Golf Clubhouse bar.



Natadola golf course...undoubtedly Fiji's best.

Natadola is undoubtedly Fiji, if not the South Pacific's best golf course, wonderfully marrying the excitements of golf around its stunning location.

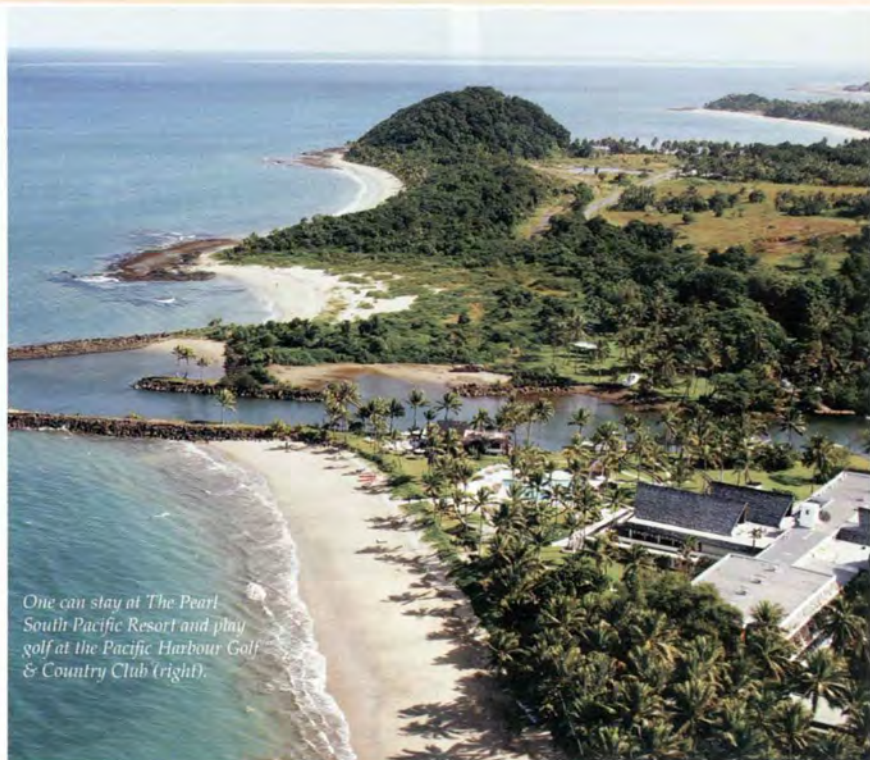
Australian pro Matt Griffin currently holds the best score off the black tees at Natadola with 71 in round 1 of the 2009 Fiji Open.

General Manager of Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course Jose Calleja says the club will this year host the Starwood Classic, Natadola Bay Pro-am and the Fiji Classic.

Giving that extra attention to detail is what Calleja likes to describe his work which includes overseeing staff working on the green, in the golf shop and the restaurant and bar.

"Our guests are our priority and from keeping the carts in tip-top shape to ensuring the golf shop keeps clubs for players of all levels, and offering superb service in a stunning location."

Rajesh Goundon is Director of Golfing



One can stay at The Pearl South Pacific Resort and play golf at the Pacific Harbour Golf & Country Club (right).



Hitting the ball at Denarau golf course

here, and being a Fiji pro player himself, he also takes the lead in the club's golf clinics.

There are only two other resorts in Fiji that boast an 18-hole course like Natadola: the Denarau Golf & Racquet Club in Nadi and the Pacific Harbour Golf & Country Club, outside Fiji's capital city.

Denarau's golf course is the handiwork of world-renowned course designer Desmond Muirhead while Pacific Harbour's greens once hosted the Great White Shark and one-time world number one Greg Norman.

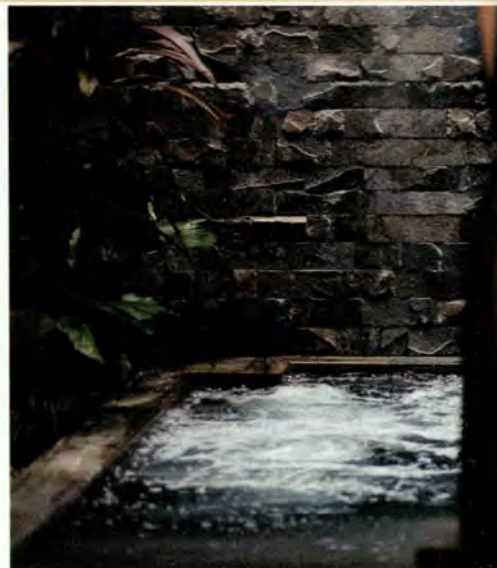
Resident golf pro at Pacific Harbour today is Apenisa Koroicure, a one-time Fiji representative to the Pacific Games.



Denarau golf course...a view from the top.



InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa at Natadola...caters for the luxurious travellers. It is some 5 minutes from the golf course.



Where Golfers can stay

Whether professionals or amateurs, golfers, their families and friends have quite a few accommodation choices when opting to include golfing in their Fiji holidays.

Down at the spectacular Natadola Beach, some 5 minutes drive away from the golf course is the award winning InterContinental Fiji Golf Resort & Spa that caters for the luxurious traveller.

It's a 5-star resort of 271 rooms, suites and villas, offering five restaurants and bars, spa, four swimming pools, kid's club, wedding pavilion and a conference centre.

If luxury is not really your thing, then sharing the picturesque Natadola Bay beach is Yatule Beach Resort, offering bungalow-type accommodation.

Being small, Yatule captures that homely atmosphere, and you can always take the 5-minute walk to the nearby InterContinental Resort for the daily shuttle that leaves the resort every half an hour for the Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course.

If golfing at the Denarau Golf & Racquet Club is what you prefer, then you have a wide range of accommodation choices on Denarau.



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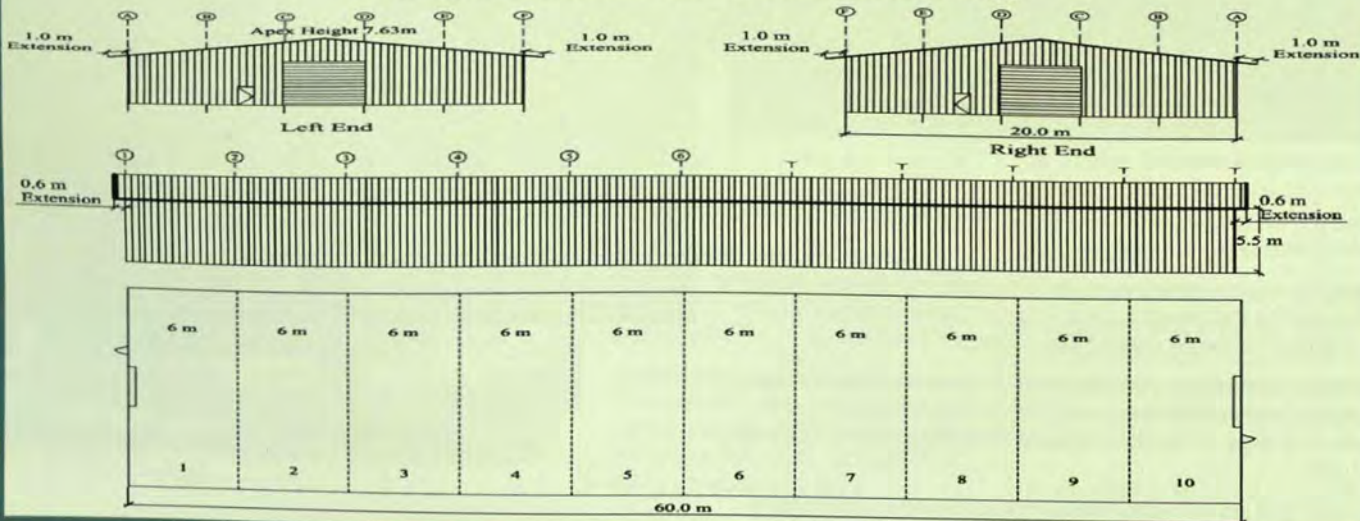
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Starwood Resorts manages Sheraton Fiji, Westin Resort & Spa and Sheraton Villas, which are located just a walk from the golf club.

Also found on Denarau Island are the Radisson Fiji Resort, Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa, Fiji Beach Resort & Spa managed by Hilton, Wyndham WorldMark Denarau Resort and Denarau Terraces.

Worthy of mention too is the Shangri-la Fijian Resort, Fiji's largest island resort that boasts 442 rooms.




Sheraton Denarau Villas.

Located some 60 minutes drive east from Nadi International Airport (or 20 minutes from Natadola Bay), the Shangri-la Fijian Resort offers a 9-hole golf course set amidst the island's coconut palm groves.

Through a partnership with the Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course, guests at the Shangri-la can access special golfing fees at the world acclaimed golf course.

Natadola is even offering to provide Shangri-la Fijian Resort with one of their golf concierges.

Shangri-la's Chi Spa is hugely popular amongst travellers and a favourite holiday destinations for weddings and families.

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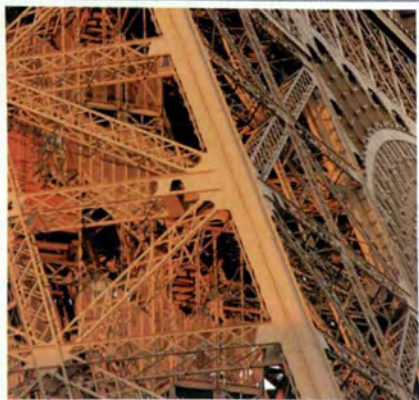


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The Eiffel Tower as seen from the Esplanade du Trocadero.



PARIS

CITY OF MIXED DELIGHTS

BY JOHN BORTHWICK

Skip the icons. That was my rough plan for seeing Paris beyond its famed museums and cathedrals. Very soon the idea went out the window - just like my bag did. But more of that later.

I start by breaking "no icons" resolution. Ages ago I had spent a week in Paris without visiting the Eiffel Tower. This time, I decide I should - after all, how many more chances might I have?

I am soon overwhelmed by the scale and grace of this wondrous, iconic skyhook. It is a vertical Art Nouveau version of Sydney Harbour Bridge but 10 times lovelier than the old "coat hanger".

Skipping the hour-long queue for the lift, I climb 700 stairs to the second stage. Up there, Paris is spread before us like a glittering cape with cathedrals, columns and vast parks stitched into its weave.





Christmas lights on Champs-Élysée Avenue, Paris.

Then I fall into one of those mad conversations that good travel is all about: two Romanian tourists assure me that when Count Dracula ruled their Transylvanian homeland, "Everything was very good, everyone very better behaved." No doubt.

One of the cathedrals I can see is Sacre-Coeur, crowning Montmartre ridge like a grand white wedding-cake. Yes, another icon. The hike up to it from the Metro station seems almost as steep as to the Eiffel Tower, but the summit turns out to be more about partying than praying. The church steps and its terraces are alive with Oriental brides posing in silk pavlovas, African hawkers (ready to flee at the first sign of a cop), buskers, drummers, strummers and sweethearts.

On my first youthful visit to Paris, I spent my birthday on a cobbled street - Rue de la Huchette - on the Left Bank. I follow that memory back, to stand outside the ancient building where I shared a room with a dozen fellow travellers and on the day, they had played the Beatles' Today's Your Birthday 22 times - as you might only do when you turn 22.

I find the street transformed from the quiet lane of my crash pad days to a thronged thoroughfare where voluble Greeks bearing souvlaki entice passers-by to eat, drink and be spending-up in their restaurants. I do.

Over a prix fixe meal (three courses and coffee, 22 euros), I read that Parisians sometimes call this street Bacteria Alley. Someone must have told them about the sink in our crash pad.

Much else has also changed, including the complexion of Paris. In suburbs such as Porte de Montreuil, where I find a bonsai-sized

\$100-a-night hotel room, I might almost be in Senegal, Mali or Algeria. The streets are a riot of bright African gowns and turbans and the footpaths are carpeted with flea-market bric-a-brac.

France's colonial cousins have returned her earlier courtesy calls, permanently and in large numbers.

A café in Paris.





The Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris, a Gothic Roman Catholic Cathedral on the eastern half of the Ile de la Cité (one of the remaining two islands on the River Seine). It is widely considered one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture in France and Europe and houses the reliquary that is believed to contain the Crown of Thorns.

I wander the rows, imagining what tales the dead literati here must nightly tell each other. As well as Wilde, among the roll call of scribes are Apollinaire, Balzac, Colette and Moliere. And when Pere Lachaise's iron gates creak closed at sunset, what spectral chords must drift up from its garage band of Bizet, Callas, Chopin and Grappelli, as eloquently conducted by their neighbour Marcel Marceau?

It is mandatory for rock n' roll fans to pay homage at the tomb of the Lizard King. The Doors' front man, James Douglas Morrison, 1943-1971, lies beneath an inconspicuous headstone behind several mini-mausoleums. Doors' fans have long disturbed the eternal slumbers of Jim's neighbours.

A security guard now hovers there all day to prevent them carving their love all over the adjacent tombs. Too late. Morrison's epitaphs, graffiti from his own lyrics, are scrawled everywhere: "You lite [sic] my fire, Jim", "You broke on through to the other side." And, inevitably, "No one here gets out alive."

So, I have succumbed to at least three Paris' icons but have not photographed any. Why not?

The usual way into Paris from Charles de Gaulle Airport is by train. Hooded homeboys prowl the carriages but my daypack sat secure on the non-aisle seat beside me. As the train approached an early station, one of the



Paris has countless icons for me to avoid, or not, as the case may be. One that I can't miss is the world's greatest convocation of expired genius, Pere Lachaise Cemetery. "Have you seen Oscar Wilde?" I ask of passing strangers.

An American with a map to this vast necropolis of 48 hectares and over 300,000 bodies soon points me in the right direction. And there his tomb is, a massive blond stone plinth topped by the winged angel. It is covered in passionate lipstick kisses and graffiti of descending wit, ranging from the poet's own lines - "and his mourners will be outcast men/for outcast always mourn" - to "I love you, Oscar" and "Oscillate Wildely."





View of the Seine, the statue of St Genevieve (the patron saint of Paris) and the Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris.

Visitors to the Louvre Museum.



hooded homeboys dropped his coins beside me. I helped retrieve them. And in three seconds my pack was gone avec camera and laptop. Welcome to France.

The bag evaporated, whisked from behind me then probably straight out a far side window. No one, of course, saw a thing. I pursued the hood onto the platform. He stood empty-handed and with his accomplices nowhere in sight. With a shrug, he blew that signature Gallic syllable of contempt, "Pwffff!"




Restaurant on the Seine near the Notre Dame Cathedral.



Watching the Rugby World Cup in a pub in Paris.

I could think of a fitting response but that wouldn't bring back my backpack. I continued to the city, to Gare du Nord police station where the cops have heard it all before, ten times a month, every month. The only compensation was that my passport was not in the bag, and the Paris policewoman who took my statement looked agreeably like Scarlett Johansson.



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Street Food SINGAPORE STYLE

BY MARIANNE ROGERSON

Chicken rice...rice cooked in chicken stock then topped with slices of steamed chicken and served with a bowl of clear broth. Accompanying condiments include chilli sauce, ginger sauce and dark soy sauce.



Singapore's incessant drive to grab world headlines through its constant reinvention and progression has attracted the world's most famous chefs to set up their latest ventures in the city-state.

Wolfgang Puck, Guy Savoy, Tetsuya Wakuda and Joël Robuchon are just a few of the international culinary legends attracted by the bright lights and streaming cash flow. Beyond the glitz and glamour of these new high-end establishments, however, beats the real heart of epicurean Singapore - within the well-loved hawker centres, the city's version of street food.

From gloopy bowls of fish porridge for breakfast, to a pile of chicken satays and smoky char kway teow for dinner, exploring the street stalls of Singapore makes for a fascinating journey.

This juxtaposition between the new and the old, the glamorous and the gritty, continues to Singapore's very core. Locals proudly proclaim that Singapore has two national pastimes - shopping and eating.

But while the consumer's obsession centres around the luxury boutiques of Orchard Road, your average shopper will cross the island with their Louis Vuitton shopping bags to seek out their favourite hawker stall.

But while the consumer's obsession centres around the luxury boutiques of Orchard Road, your average shopper will cross the island with their Louis Vuitton shopping bags to seek out their favourite hawker stall. And cross the island they will, if they think the food is better, so great is their obsession. If you want to start a debate with a group of Singaporeans, just ask them which hawker stall does the best chicken rice in town.

Every year on national day, Singapore stands as one and pledges to be "one united people, regardless of race, language or religion". And nowhere is this promise realised more than in the hawker centres. Head down to Lau Pa Sat, one of the city's biggest hawker centres, located in the heart of the Financial District, and you will see Indian labourers queuing behind Chinese executives, while a group of Malay office workers share a table with a European tourist.

It is this multi-ethnicity of Singapore's make-up that makes these hawker centres so appealing. This city of some 5 million people is made up of four ethnic streams: Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian. But there is more to this multi-ethnic buffet than first meets the eye, says Dr Leslie Tay, who tracks down and reviews the best local



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Congee.

including Hainanese, Teochews, Hokkiens and Cantonese.

food stalls in his award-winning food blog ieatshootipost.sg.

His website attracts over 500,000 hits from 90,000 unique visitors every month, and a good review can see a hawker stall suddenly blessed with snaking queues.

"To understand Singapore food, you need to learn a bit about the history of our country," he says. When the Chinese immigrants flooded into Singapore during the 19th century, he explains, they represented several different dialect groups

"At the same time, Indian, Malay and Arab traders all descended on the island. And in this bubbling cultural melting pot, new relationships were formed...and new recipes created. Long before the skyscrapers and branded boutiques lined the island's streets, hawkers plied their trade, pushing their carts along and setting up shop wherever they found custom.

"They all brought their own traditions and recipes with them and adapted them to their new lives and their new audience," continues

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Tay. "This was food cooked by migrants, for migrants."

And so through a slow process of culinary fusion, a distinct Singaporean cuisine emerged. Traditionally, most Chinese dishes feature little or no chilli. But with Malay and Indian customers demanding more heat, the fiery sambal chilli has become a part of many a Singapore Chinese dish today. Likewise, Malay dishes have incorporated noodles introduced to them by their Chinese neighbours.

"So when people think that Singaporean cuisine is just Chinese or Indian food, they're wrong. We have dishes here that don't exist anywhere else - they're a unique blend of all our ancestral elements," says Tay.

Rapid urbanisation in the 1950s and 1960s saw a surge in demand for cheap street food, and the itinerant hawkers eventually settled into makeshift food 'villages'. The inevitable sanitation problems that ensued were addressed by a newly-independent Singapore government - and today, these rehoused hawker centres benefit from running water and electricity, and

"So when people think that Singaporean cuisine is just Chinese or Indian food, they're wrong. We have dishes here that don't exist anywhere else - they're a unique blend of all our ancestral elements."



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But that does not make your meal any less authentic. The hawker centre remains at the heart of local Singaporean culture. A visit to Boon Tat Street beside Lau Pa Sat hawker centre after dark is an experience not to be missed. Hundreds of satay lovers flock here as the stalls start churning out clouds of smoke and the vendors vie for business. Take a wander under the bobbing red lanterns of Smith Street in an evening and take your pick from any one of Singapore's ubiquitous dishes - a steaming bowl of spicy laksa, a plate of

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Chicken Satay...one of the many dishes to be found in the hawker centres.

full-flavoured Hokkien Mee, or a dish of sinful yet delicious roti prata.

But before we get dragged too far into this Singapore of old, Dr Tay puts forward his latest project - the eat Hawker iPhone app, which provides instant access to over 460 hawker stalls



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Roti prata...flaky flatbread made from water and wheat flour.

and comes complete with a GPS-enabled map function. A modern solution to an age-old craving. So yes, Singapore as a nation visibly craves reinvention and progress, but there are thankfully some local traditions it won't let go of.



✕ *Air Niugini flies to Singapore every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and has connections to and from Cairns and Brisbane.*

Must Try Hawker Dishes

Chicken Rice

Rice cooked in chicken stock then topped with slices of steamed chicken and served with a bowl of clear broth. Accompanying condiments include chilli sauce, ginger sauce and dark soy sauce.

Hokkien Prawn Mee

A mixture of egg and rice noodles stir-fried in seafood stock, and garnished with prawns, fish cake, bean sprouts, leafy vegetables and sometimes pork and cuttlefish too. Served with fresh lime and sambal chilli sauce.

Satay

Diced marinated meat (usually chicken, beef or prawn) skewered onto bamboo sticks and grilled over charcoal. Served with raw onions, cucumber and a spicy peanut dip.

Laksa

Thick rice noodles steeped in spicy gravy made from chilli paste, dried shrimp (hae bi) and coconut milk. Commonly topped with cockles, prawns, fish cakes and bean sprouts.

Char Kway Teow

Flat ribbon noodles tossed together in a wok with cockles, prawns, bean sprouts, Chinese sausage, sweet soy sauce and lard. A good Char Kway Teow should have what's known as 'wok hei' - the smoky flavour that comes off a hot wok.

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CAMBODIA

Land of Contrast & Surprises

BY DIANA McMANUS

Cambodia - from sublime to depressing, this country is guaranteed to take you on a roller coaster ride of emotions. In just one week of exploration, which took us from the national capital of Phnom Penh to the regional city of Siem Reap, some 260 kilometres away, our hearts were dragged into hell at the notorious 'killing fields' of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, and soared with the gods at the ancient temples and ruins of Angkor.

With only a handful of high-rise buildings, capital Phnom Penh is actually a relatively quiet city, compared to the hustle and bustle of Ho Chi Minh City or Bangkok. Focus on 'relatively', because it's still a busy, noisy place with scads of motorcycles and tuk-tuks weaving their way through the cars.

If you're not on one of the broad, modern boulevards which radiate out from the Independence Monument, you'll be in narrow tree-lined avenues where open fronted shops and businesses abound with peddlers hawking their wares from hand-drawn carts or bicycle baskets.

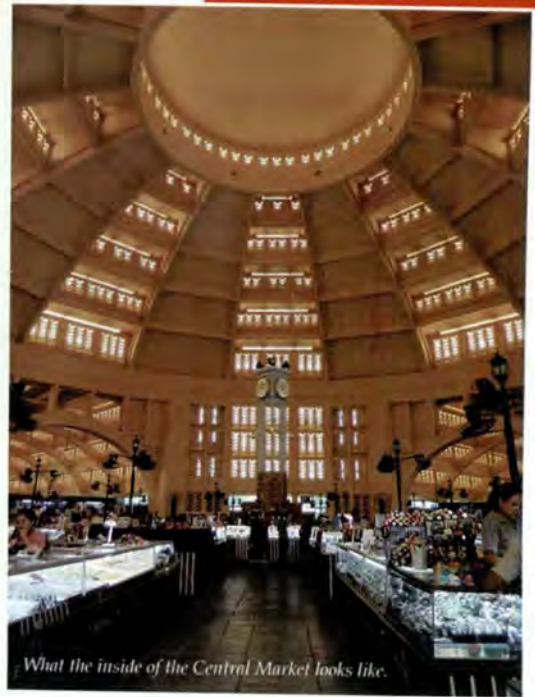
Only the large public buildings exist in true Cambodian architectural style and they are very impressive indeed. Some of these - the National Assembly, Buddhist Institute, National Museum and the Royal Palace - are all fairly close together and offer a glimpse of Cambodia's former glory. Most, including the Royal Palace, are found bordering the river at the confluence of the mighty Mekong and Cambodia's Tonle Sap.

A few hours by boat on the blue, downriver water will find you at Ho Chi Minh. In the wet season, a few hours the other way takes you to Siem Reap, cradle of Angkor! Unfortunately, we were there at the end of the dry season and the brown, muddy river was too shallow for commercial boats to make the journey. The blue and brown striped confluence was fascinating.

The riverside is buzzing with action, particularly at Sisowath Quay, where most travellers hang out. Here, there are lots of pleasant boutique hotels, restaurants, bars, cafes and little shops in which to while away your time, and ticket offices for the boat rides when they're available.



Outside of the Central Market at Phnom Penh.



What the inside of the Central Market looks like.

The city is laid in grid fashion with most streets bearing numbered labels American style, however, the French influence may also be seen in the Rues and Boulevards.

Cambodian food is fantastic and the top restaurants such as Malis, with its unparalleled ambience, are relatively inexpensive. Others with great ambience such as the Khmer Surin can be found strung along 278th Street, parallel to Sihanouk Blvd, not far from the Independence Monument, and Manor House, our own pleasant and quiet boutique hotel complete with a pool on 262nd. The numbers may be easy to remember but they make no sense at all in their geographical relationship to each other.

For western style shopping, 184th and 240th which flank the sides of the Royal Palace compound, have delightful cafes, shops, tailors and seamstresses. However it's at the Phsar Thmey (Central Market) that you're likely to pick up a bargain, particularly with silk, jewellery, clothes and souvenir items. The other markets, and there are many, like the Russian Market, are hot, crowded places, but you can get practically anything, including the full beauty treatment.

You can then seek compassion for your materialism at the nearby Buddhist Wat Phnom, the only hill in Phnom Penh and small at that, after which the city is named. Naughty people like myself, who like to dabble with the pokies, can visit Naga World, the city's casino. Even if you only go to see the nightly performances of Cambodian youth amongst the opulence of the foyer and each red chandeliered floor, it's worth a visit.

But there's nothing that can bolster your spirits enough to cope with the horrors of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime. A neo-Nazi of epic proportions, this 'beast' was responsible for



Posing with Pom, our tuk-tuk man.

the execution of approximately 1.8 million of his countrymen in the short space of three years, from 1976-1979. And the most touching memorial to this is at the National Genocide Centre, a thirty-minute tuk-tuk ride out of town.

Being a teacher, I couldn't bear to visit the former high-school-come-torture centre from which daily emanated shrieks of pain and torture before the unfortunate souls were packed off to the nearby killing field for execution. As in Germany, locals were ignorant of the horrors taking place on their doorstep, as nightly loudspeakers blared out Party Songs and artificial cheering to mask the screams of the victims.

At this particular killing field, and there are over 800 scattered throughout Cambodia, there were over 9,000 victims exhumed within a space of about two acres. Their skulls,

along with their unearthed clothes, have been preserved behind glass in a chilling 17-tiered monument 'lest we forget!' Most of the mass graves remain as grass covered pits, but some, representative of different groups of people, are covered in and numbered to accord with the detailed information provided by the ear-phone kit lent to you at the entry gate.

We ended up taking the six-hour bus journey to Siem Reap the following day, not that you can leave something like that behind. What a surprise! For the most part, instead of the emerald green quilting of rice paddy fields I'd been expecting was 260 kilometres of dry, dusty landscape, dotted with sugar palms. It rivalled the Queensland outback, flies and all, apart from occasional regional capitals such as Kampong Thom.



The floating village.



The floating shop.

Siem Reap turned out to be a vibrant little city with palpable optimism and a flourishing resurgence of Cambodian Arts, particularly the Angkor designs. It has a thriving heart of tourist restaurants down around Pub Street and the Night Markets, where you can readily buy delicious Amok, the regional dish of fish cooked in coconut. Nightly classical and cultural dance shows are available with a meal.

To see where the fish come from our driver tuk-tuked us about 15kms out of town, for a boat trip to Tonle Sap Lake, the largest in South East Asia. Here, we encountered one of the many floating villages along its shores. Houses, shops, schools, and even a giant basketball stadium are all affixed to rafts which rise and fall with the water level during wet and dry seasons. The lake backs up from overflowing Mekong waters during the wet by about fifteen metres. We saw it as a vast, shallow, muddy inland sea.

The Angkor civilisation originally migrated across from India around the tenth century bringing its heavy Hindu influence. Only from about the late twelfth century did it begin its conversion to Buddhism. Both these great religions are responsible for the inspiring legacy of that past, because the temples were the only buildings made from stone, and thus they endured the ravages of time.



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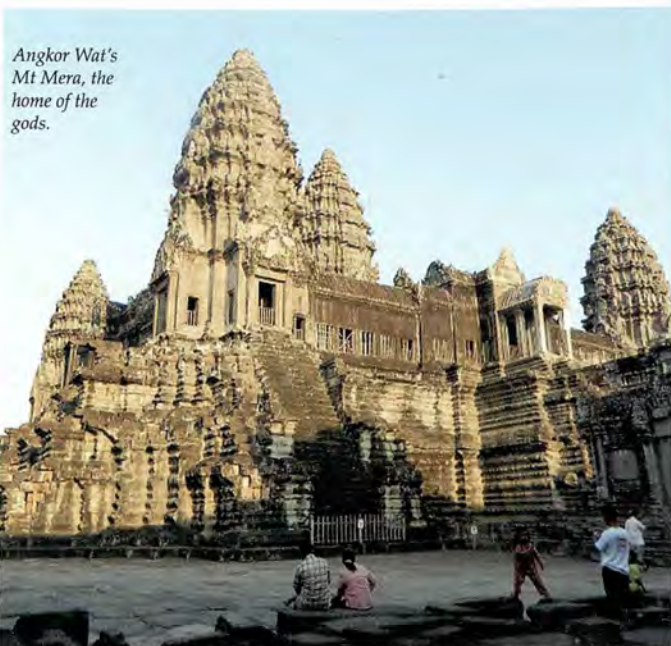


The floating school.



Great cities once covered the plain which surrounds Siem Reap. Over thirty temples still remain scattered across an area of roughly 360 square kilometres. These survive amongst the thick temperate rainforests which have been left in the national park as a reminder of days before rice fields I suppose. Time constraints only allowed us a glimpse of this past, as we tuk-tuked out to Angkor Wat for a sunset inspection and managed to visit three more the next day in searing heat before succumbing to sloth.

Angkor Wat is the best preserved and most famous. It's the largest religious monument in the world. A two hundred metre wide moat surrounds what was once a thriving city and is crossed by an ornate stone causeway. Within its stone city walls, the causeway continues between other minor temple buildings and a couple of disappointingly small lagoons to the main impressive structure, a repository of fine carvings and powerful architecture representing Mt Mera, the home of the gods. In fact the entire layout of all these cities, including the moat, represents the cosmic universe as the ancient Angkors understood it.



Angkor Wat's Mt Mera, the home of the gods.

Each temple complex has its own character and deserves time. Even more impressive, but less well preserved and known is the nearby gated city of Pra Thom with the proverbial naga (snake) being wrestled by the gods in the 'Churning of the Sea of Milk' for the chance of immortality. This complex with its existing 'elephant terrace' and 'terrace of the leper king' gives a greater idea of the palaces which once were the city surrounds.

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One of the most exciting temples is Ta Phrom, deliberately left in a state in which it was found by archaeologists. It hosts giant trees whose roots embrace the walls, windows and doorways.

If you have a vivid imagination, one of the most exciting temples is Ta Phrom. Deliberately left in the state in which it was found by archaeologists, this temple hosts giant trees whose roots embrace the walls, windows and doorways like a lover's death lock. This spectacular site is where Lara Croft's Tomb Raider was filmed with its eerie and unnerving images. You need a good week or so to do them all justice! The sheer scale of this lost world is overwhelming. It's well worth the \$20/day entry fee to the park, and your tuk-tuk driver will take you around all day for a mere \$15.

With its beaches and islands to the south, mountains of the north and that great plain in the middle, Cambodia is definitely a land of contrasts and surprises with its polarised history and its resilient, friendly people. I think Cambodia has a lover's lock on me because I'll be back!



 Air Niugini flies to Singapore. From Singapore, you can fly to Cambodia on either Singapore Airlines or Silk Air. Air Niugini has interline fares agreement with both airlines.

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NEW CHECK-IN AND BOARDING PASS SYSTEM



AIR NIUGINI HAS INTRODUCED a new check-in and boarding pass system. The new system, which became effective May 8, has been introduced first at the Port Moresby domestic airport, before it is implemented across all domestic airports in the country

The move is part of Air Niugini's continuing efforts to improve customer services.

Called MACS, the new Airport Control Systems is hosted by Mercator, a leading provider of technology solutions for the aviation industry. MACS is currently being used by Emirates Airline, who is amongst a number of other major carriers who use the system to manage their passenger operations.

MACS is the first phase of Mercator's Jupiter suite of Passenger Services Solutions being implemented for Air Niugini and will be followed by Mercator Airport Reservations System (MARS), the advanced Internet booking and staff travel solutions.

Upon completion, the airline's sales, airport, loyalty and revenue accounting systems will be fully integrated enhancing passenger experience, better internal controls and efficiency.

Air Niugini's Loyalty Programme customers will benefit once both the airport and sales systems are implemented - with up to date profile and points details and redemptions available at the airline's Sales offices.

Air Niugini's current Airport and Sales System has been provided by SITA for the past twenty years. In line with Air Niugini's vision to advance and achieve complete integration of systems, the airline has changed systems and providers.

Chief Executive Officer, Wasantha Kumarasiri said that Air Niugini takes this opportunity to thank SITA for its support over the last twenty years and welcomes the new partnership with Mercator. Air Niugini will continue its partnership with SITA on other hardware and date communication solutions.



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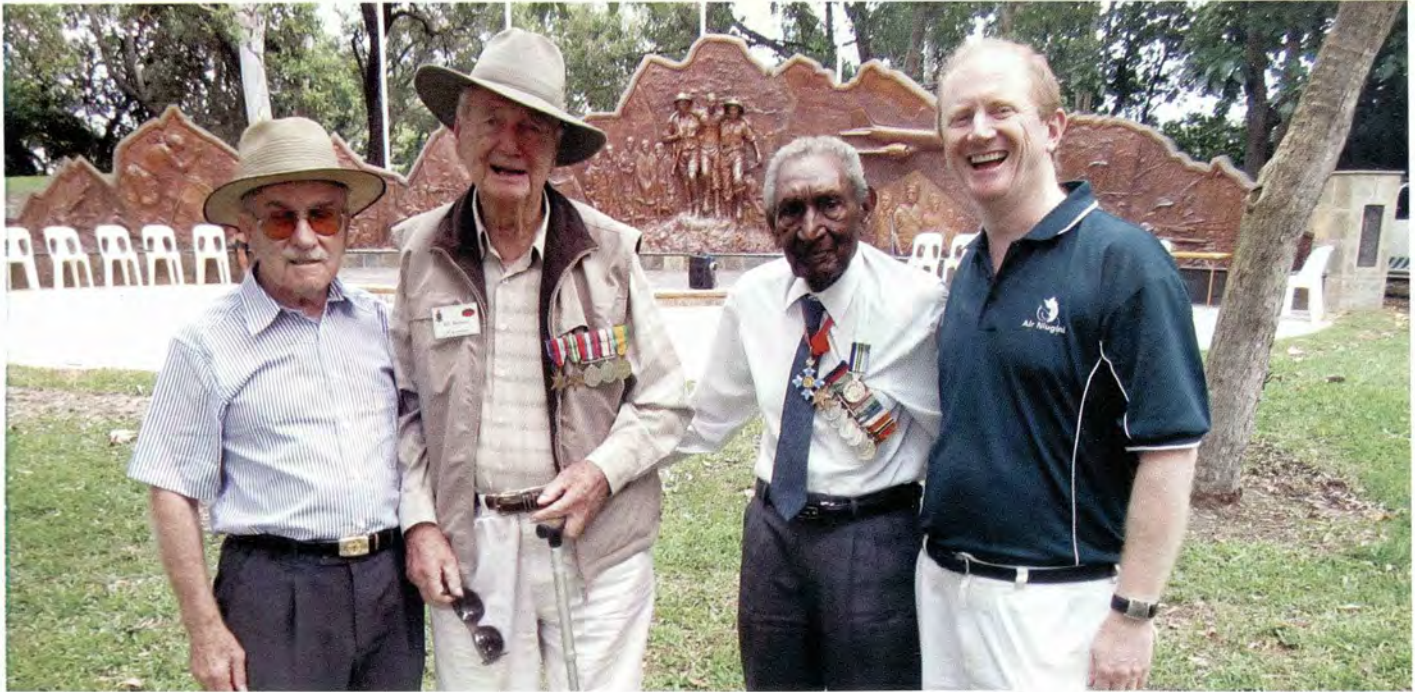
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CELEBRATING KOKODA



In front of Kokoda Memorial Wall at the recent Kokoda 70th anniversary celebrations on the Gold Coast. From left: Maurie Pears, MC, Korean War Vet and instigator of the 60th anniversary Korean Memorial Wall, which opened last August in Cascade Gardens; Bill Bellairs; Ben Moide; and Charles Morley, Air Niugini's Regional Manager, Australia.

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AIR NIUGINI SUPPORTS FIJI FLOOD APPEAL



AIR NIUGINI recently supported the Fiji Flood Appeal in Port Moresby by uplifting 780 kilograms of relief supplies to Nadi, Fiji, free of charge. The relief supplies, mostly clothing items, were donated by Fijians living in Papua New Guinea, as well as other residents. The flood appeal was organised by the Fiji High Commission in Port Moresby.

From left: Air Niugini's Executive Manager-Cargo, James Tira; Acting General Manager Commercial, Dominic Kaumu; Chief Executive Officer Wasantha Kumarasiri; Fiji High Commissioner to PNG, His Excellency Dr Niumaia Tabunakawai, and Mrs Ofa Tabunakawai; and the Embassy staff gathered at Air Niugini Cargo terminal for the handover of the relief supplies to be uplifted.

CEO's Safety Hazards Reporting Awards

Chief Executive Officer, Wasantha Kumarasiri recently presented awards to three staff for promoting a "Culture of Safety at Air Niugini" in their respective workplace.

The programme is administered by Air Niugini's Safety Systems Manager and encourages employers to report Safety Risk Hazards within their workplace for mitigation, thereby upholding the airline's Safety Policy and maintaining the highest levels of Safety at Air Niugini.

This initiative is in line with the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Safety Management Systems.

From left to right: Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri, Tony Harabe (ANG Security Department), Adrain Varagu, Richard Naume (Flight Services Department), Chief Operating Officer, Captain Daniel Wanma, and Safety Systems Manager, Ishmael Mokonea.



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