



Paradise

inflight with air niugini

VOL 5, 2005

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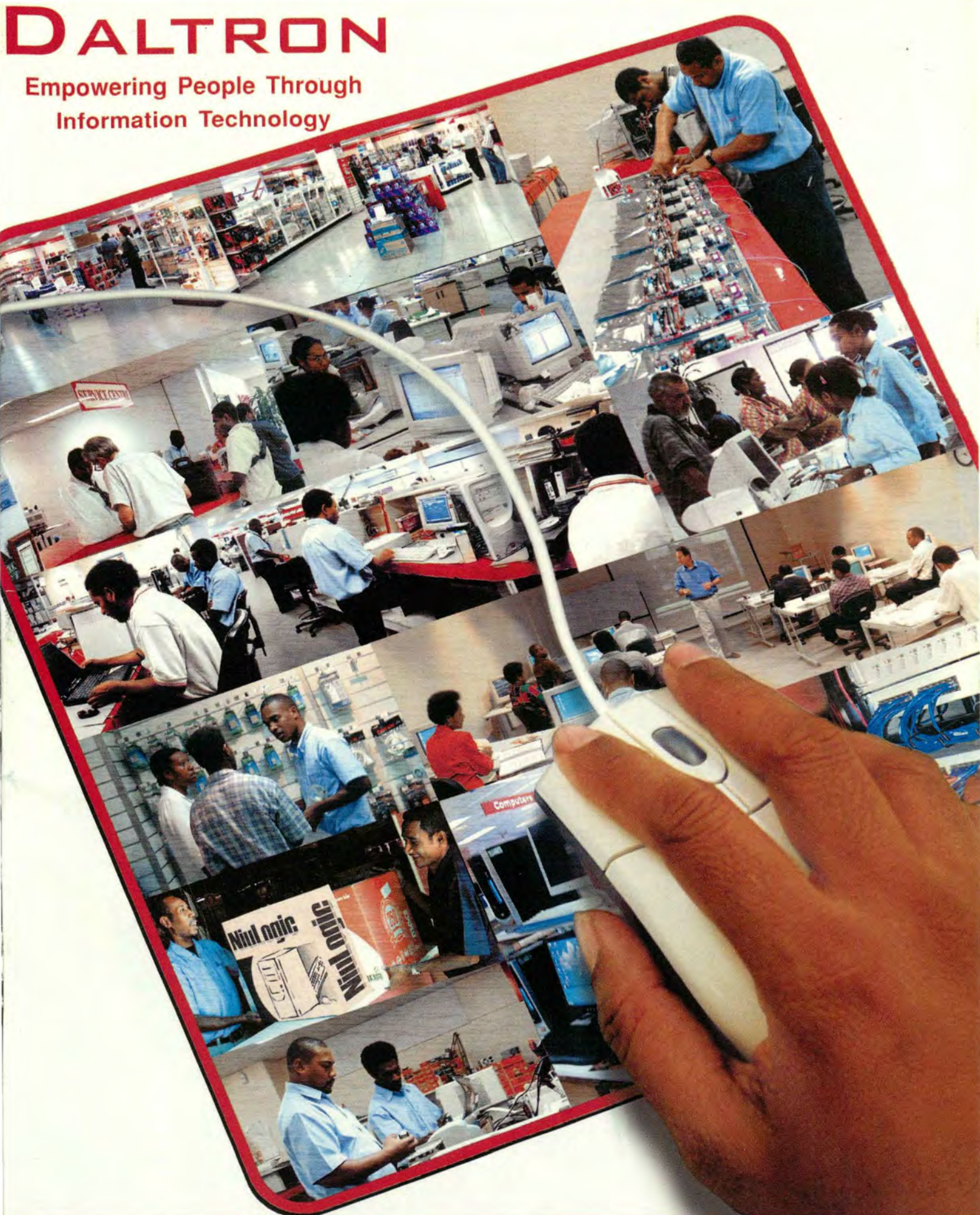


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Chairman's Message

Papua New Guinea's 30th Independence Anniversary in September became a platform for launching renewed national patriotism and pride in the country's achievements since independence came in 1975.

It was also a time for reflection on the difficulty and gravity of some of the challenges that confront our 5.9 million people.

Air Niugini played a suitable part in the celebrations.

We launched a new advertising campaign on September 11 as a lead to the country's 30th birthday.

The concept that drove it was the portrayal of the spirit of Papua New Guinea through music and images presented in a 60-second television commercial.

It succeeded, we believe, in conveying all the promise, hope and dignity to be found in Papua New Guinea and her people, and in promoting Air Niugini's promotional vision of One Country, One people, One Airline.

The special anniversary edition of **PARADISE**, our inflight magazine, was also well received and collected as a memento of travel aboard our flights at a memorable time.

The celebrations added zest to Air Niugini's continued role of promoting inbound tourism through its airline offices and expanding international network of general sales agencies.

I hardly need to say that the pressing current issue is the startling increase in the cost of fuel for our aircraft, and the vital need to ride through this period of particular crisis - one impacting upon every airline in the world - by devising and implementing every cost-saving strategy possible.

Cost cutting does not necessarily stall growth, although it can certainly impede it. We have ideas for growth simmering on our stove and these will emerge through 2006. One possibility is the revival of a Papua New Guinea/Fiji service raised by our Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare, with the Fiji Prime Minister, Mr Laisenia Qarase, when he visited Fiji in September.

Such a service might operate directly between Port Moresby and Nadi, or via Honiara and Port Vila, on a codeshare basis. It would offer North American tourists a more direct path to Papua New Guinea via Fiji, and for passengers from Fiji a more direct service to South East Asia, India, the Middle East and Europe.

I'm pleased to say that both airlines are actively discussing the idea.

Welcome aboard Air Niugini if you are travelling with us for the first time. If you are familiar with our services, welcome back.



Joseph Tauvasa
Chairman

75th ANNIVERSARY OF INVESTING IN PNG

Oil Search Limited was incorporated in PNG on January 17, 1929, and began a systematic search for oil and gas in the country.

Being severely capital constrained, Oil Search successfully introduced a number of large companies to the exploration effort, and in 1938, the Australasian Petroleum Company (APC) was born, comprising a joint venture between Oil Search, Standard Vacuum New Jersey (Mobil) and Anglo Iranian (BP), each group holding one third equity.

APC was the dominant explorer in PNG for almost 40 years. Oil Search's and APC's exploration activities through the 30s, 40s & 50s were unsuccessful, with a number of small gas discoveries made from an investment equivalent to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Activities centred on PNG's southern lowlands, known as the Foreland. The prospective Highlands fold belt, which displayed large surface anticlines, was practically inaccessible for drilling operations.

Using heavy lift helicopters in the late 1950s and 1960s opened up the area to more intrepid geologists.

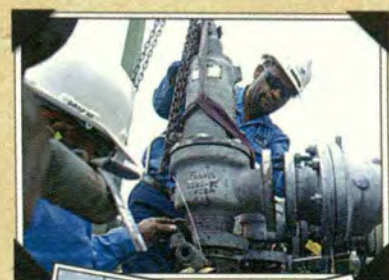
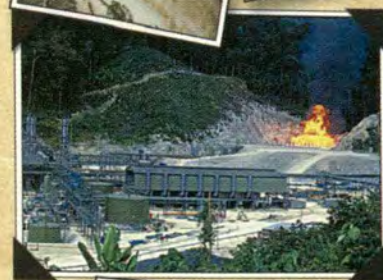
The primary exploring group then, led by BP and Gulf/Chevron were close to ceasing activities when, following a major gas discovery at Hides; oil was discovered at Kutubu in 1986. This led to the development of the Kutubu oilfield.

Oil Search Limited's election as operator in 2003, and the acquisition of ChevronTexaco's PNG assets, together with the merger with Orogen Minerals in 2002, has taken the company full circle to where it once again has the dominant role in all major fields and prospects in PNG. We are responsible for PNG's oil production and export.

Oil Search now has the financial strength and the asset base - not thought possible by the original promoters in 1929.

Oil Search is now embarking on what will be the biggest resource project ever to occur in PNG - the PNG Gas Project which comprises the piping of gas from the PNG Highlands over 2,000 kilometres to markets in Australia, and is also looking at other initiatives to commercialise its vast gas resources.

2005



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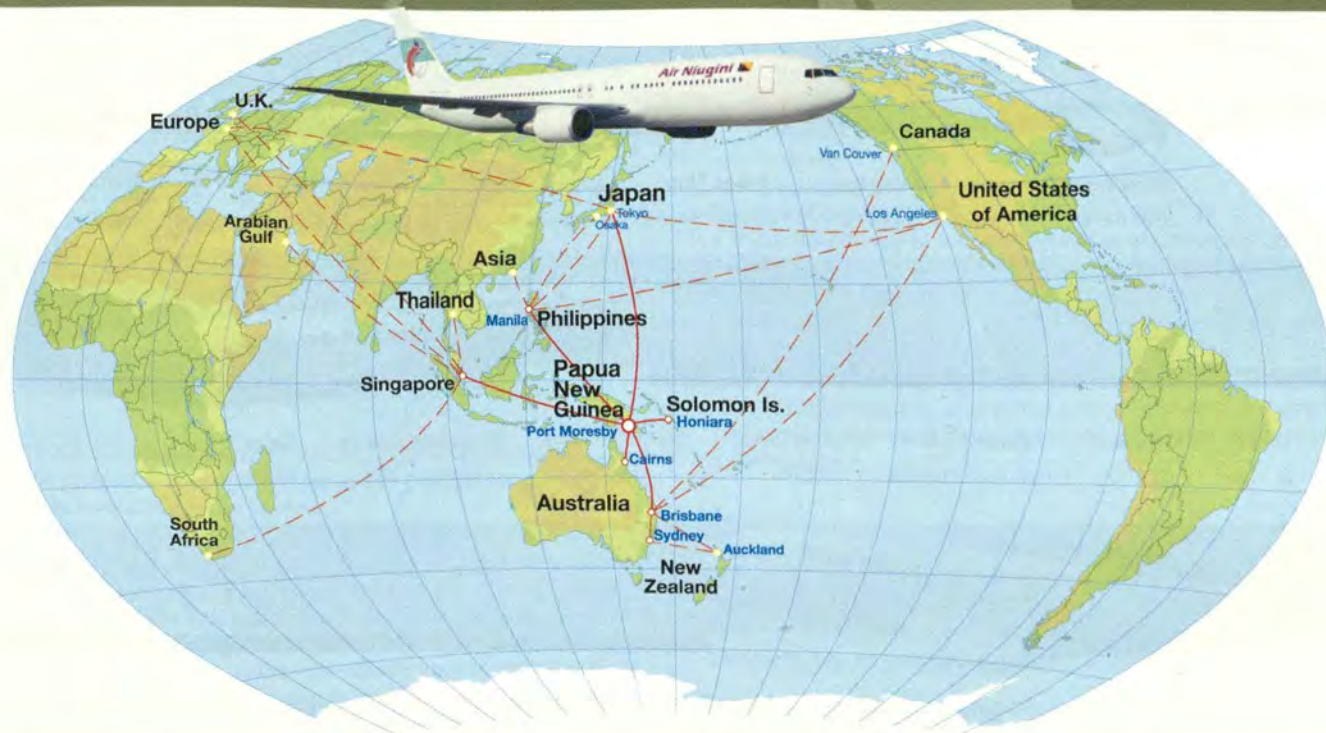
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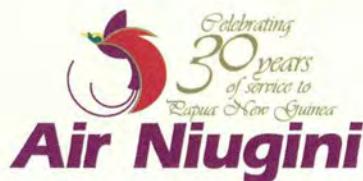
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Air Niugini Fleet

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Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating capacity	Range*
B767-319ER	59.94m	47.57m	2 General Electric	857kph	11,000 -12,000m	230 + bags	8100km

F100



Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating capacity	Range*
F100	35.528m	28.076m	2 Rolls Royce Tay 650	780kph	11,000m	98 Pax + Bags	3000km



F28-4000

Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating capacity	Range*
F28-4000	29.61m	25.07m	2 Rolls Royce	750kph	9,000m	74 + bags	1600km

DHC-8-202



Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating capacity	Range*
DHC-8-202	22.25m	25.89m	2 Pratt & Whitney	550kph	7600m	36 Pax + Bags	1700km

Welcome Aboard

We ask that you acquaint yourself with the following features of our service...

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

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

Before you leave

Please check your seat pocket before you disembark to ensure you have not left any items of value.

Entertainment

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

Hand luggage

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

Pillows and blankets

On international flights, pillows and blankets are available on request from cabin attendants.

Children and babies

Our flight attendants will provide a Paradise Kit that includes a colouring book and pencils, games and puzzles. The flight attendants will also be pleased to assist in preparing your baby's food and bottle. Baby food and diapers are available on international flights.

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 seatbelt sign is switched off.



Medical information

In Flight Health Tips and Exercises

Your Health In-Flight

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 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:
 - increasing age above 40 years
 - pregnancy
 - former or current malignant disease
 - blood disorders leading to increased clotting tendency
 - personal or family history of DVT
 - recent major surgery or injury, especially to lower limbs or abdomen
 - oestrogen hormone therapy, including oral contraceptives
 - immobilisation for a day or more

- 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.
- While in flight, move your legs and feet for three to four minutes per hour while seated and move about the cabin occasionally, if conditions allow.
- Doing light exercises as depicted in the sketches below may be effective in increasing the body's blood circulation and massaging the muscles.

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.

We recommend that you:

- Get a good night's rest before your flight
- Arrive at your destination a day or two early, if possible, to give your body a chance to become more acclimatised to the new time zone.
- Fly direct to minimise flight time, when possible. This allows you to relax more upon arrival.
- Leave your watch on home time if you're staying at your 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.

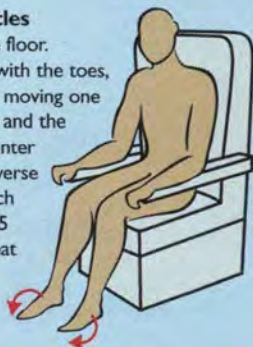
On longer stays, try to prepare in advance for your destination with its different time zone; adjust your meal and rest times to be closer to those of your destination.

In Flight Workout

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 sitting. They may be effective in increasing the body's blood 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 can not be done with ease.

1. Ankle Circles

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



2. Foot Pumps

This exercise is in three stages:
(i) Start with both heels on the floor and point feet upward as high as you can.
(ii) Put both feet flat on the floor.
(iii) Lift heels high, keeping balls of the feet on the floor. Continue these three stages with continuous motion at 30 seconds intervals.



Medical information

In Flight Health Tips and Exercises

- 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.

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.

We recommend that you:

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

Use a skin moisturiser to refresh the skin.

Eating and Drinking

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

We recommend that you:

- 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, flu or hayfever, your sinuses could be impaired. Swollen membranes in your nose could block your eustachian tubes - the tiny channels between your nasal passages and 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, equalising pressure between your middle 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 equalise 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 a 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.

With thanks to Qantas and the Boeing Corporation for allowing us to reproduce this material.

3. Knee Lifts

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

4. Neck Roll

With shoulders relaxed, drop ear to shoulder and gently roll neck forward and back holding each position about five seconds. Repeat five times.

5. Knee to Chest

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

6. Forward Flex

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

7. Shoulder Roll

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



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DANCING WITH ANCESTORS

The secret at Ela Beach

By Robert Keith-Reid

It's possibly Papua New Guinea's most closely guarded secret. If not, then certainly Port Moresby's.

It's the performance, usually monthly, by high school dancers at the Saturday morning Ela Beach Craft Market, down at the seafront near downtown Port Moresby.

It's a secret because incredibly few residents, let alone overseas, seem to be aware of it, although that's not for want of trying to bring it to their attention, says Jim Shearing, the British schoolteacher, who incepted what surely must be rated the most delightfully authentic dance show to be seen in Papua New Guinea.

For sheer unrestrained youthful exuberance, movement, colour and spectacle, this is a show that every visitor to Port Moresby should make an effort to see.





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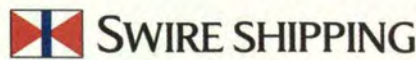
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Sitting on a gold mine...Ela Beach dancers on show.



A Japanese tourist with some of the dancers.



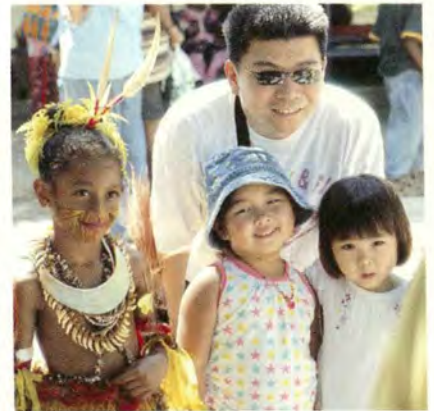
Images provided here clearly demonstrate why Shearing told *PARADISE*: "The dancing is so unique. A couple from Tokyo who came across it could only exclaim: 'Beautiful, beautiful!'"

"The rest of the world needs to know about it in a way to make this country extra proud. It gives an insight of what this country can offer."

The Ela Beach Craft market is normally a last Saturday morning-of-the-month event that is a treasure ground for a huge range of arts and crafts - baskets, bilums, masks, carvings, paintings, shells, pottery, plants and knick-knack.

Shearing launched the dance show starring youthful dance groups from schools around Port Moresby as a natural complement to it.

Trobriand, Motuan, Rigo, Mekeo, Kairuku, Manus, Gulf and Korari dances are those most frequently presented by groups ranging from 20 or 30 to as many as 60 performers. There may be four or more such groups performing from 9.30am.





A rule is that dress, sometimes elaborate, must be “strictly authentic”. No tinsel or material, or beads woven into costumes as stuff that wouldn’t have been available to be used decades ago.

What inspired the idea?

“In Port Moresby, there is always an undercurrent of pressure trying to drag young people away from their traditions because they live in a city which is more and more Western,” Shearing says.

“When they are dancing, they are holding hands with their ancestors. It goes through the system and makes them feel so proud.



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"Tourists have to see something of the real culture here. But I have had very little interest from tourists, businesses or the cultural commission.

"I've been told that I'm sitting on a gold mine, that if I could take them around the world I would be rich and famous."

Over the years, Shearing worked up the Ela Beach dances as a labour of love, contacting schools, persuading performers to form practice groups, rotating groups through the Ela Beach market site and arranging bus transport to and from it and other venues.



"The safety of the dancers is top priority; we guarantee to drop them off at their doorsteps," parents are assured.

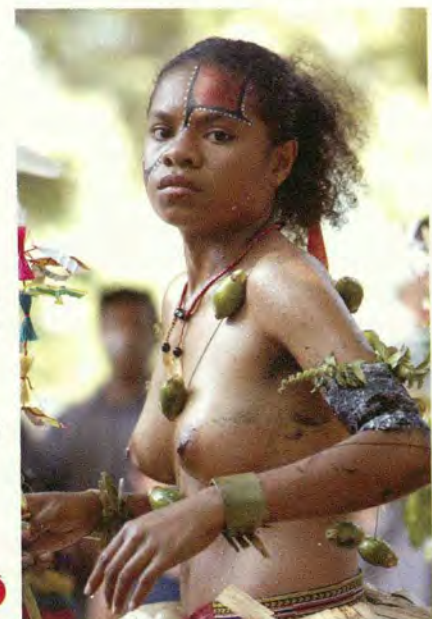
Shearing won some sponsorship support and managed to arrange some shows at hotels and clubs.

"A group of 12 would probably come along for 150 kina and transport. If a group is particularly good, I try to arrange other events it can attend."

At Ela Beach, sponsors chip in with 500 Kina, and cakes and drinks for everyone. The cash is a great help for dancers from homes where cash is short.

Since *PARADISE* spoke to Shearing, he's left Port Moresby after 10 years of teaching in Papua New Guinea.

A question is: Has his inspiration developed an impetus that will inspire Ela Beach's memorable performances to carry on?



CORNUCOPIA

PNG: Land of Great Abundance

CORNUCOPIA: Something overflowing with fruit, flowers, vegetables and much else; symbolic of plenty.

How about another definition for cornucopia? Papua New Guinea.

There's something for everybody in Papua New Guinea, overwhelmingly so for birdwatchers, bug hunters, orchid collectors, culture buffs, and photographers intent on capturing splendid vistas of mountains, forests, reefs, plains, islands and reef.

Papua New Guinea can't be absorbed in a week or two, a month or two. Or even in a lifetime?

Photographers such as Tony Karacsonyi, whose work is presented here, visit it time and time again. There's always something fresh for their lenses to focus on.

Here are some facts and figures about Papua New Guinea mostly written around Karacsonyi's photographs. These could be run on and on until the reader's eyes glaze and brain ceases to absorb them.

We won't carry the briefing to that stage; they'll be just enough to support the pictures. It is drawn from a variety of sources but mostly from the just published third edition of the absolutely excellent PNG Fact Book, a completely indispensable asset for residents of Papua New Guinea, people just interested in Papua New Guinea, and anyone in need of an easy-to-read reference on how Papua New Guinea ticks and what is contained in this treasure house of people, resources and things to wonder at.





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First, some basic PNG facts:

- Area - 462,840 square kilometres including the mainland half of New Guinea (the world's second largest island and about 1400 other islands). PNG is 43% foothill country, 29% mountainous, 12.8% lowland and 11% swamp country. It has 360,000 sq km of forest, 10,940 km of rivers (the 1200 km Fly is the longest), and 5380 sq km of lakes.
- Population - 5,171,548, according

to the 2000 census (probably about 5.4 million now), with 2,679,769 men and 2,491,770 women. 2000 rural population: 4,496,145. 2000 town population: 674,403. (Port Moresby's population has now grown to about 400,000).

- Languages - There are different opinions about the number; 715 distinct ones, according to one view, 823 according to another count.
- History - People may have appeared in some parts of Papua

New Guinea as long as 50,000 years ago. They were present in New Ireland 30,000 years ago. Stone age tools found in the Goilala Mountains were used 26,000 years ago. Rock paintings painted thousands of years ago are common in caves in Simbu, Eastern Highlands and Morobe. Papua New Guineans began growing crops in the highland of PNG about 9000 years ago - some of the world's first farmers. Independent since 1975 after about a century of German, British and finally, Australian rule.





Facts for nature lovers

- More than 10,000 plants have so far been counted in PNG in about 350 families. About 500 species may be found in one hectare of lowland forest. PNG has more than 3000 species of orchids, about one-tenth of the world's total. It has been illegal to remove adult orchids from PNG with authorisation since 1990.
- Forest - PNG has one of the world's largest remaining natural forest areas with more than 1200 species of trees in lowland rainforest areas and another 300 species in other localities.
- PNG has more than 40,000 sq km of mangroves containing 37 species of this valuable land. Mangroves usually don't look particularly inviting. But as is now being realised too late in some places, they are absolutely indispensable as a nursery for fish and as coastal protection.
- Birds - A bird watcher's paradise? Undeniably, PNG has 740 species which is nearly all the number found in Europe, North America and Australia combined. PNG boasts 33 of the world's 43 species of birds of paradise, nine of the 18 known species of bowerbirds, all three cassowaries, 63 of the 189 known honeyeaters, 26 of the 86 known species of kingfishers, four of the 12 species of megapodes, 50 of the 330 parrot families, and 50 of the 285 known pigeon species.
- Animals - eight species of wallabies - sort of small kangaroos, tree kangaroos - exactly that, they climb trees, eight species of cuscus, bandicoots, marsupial cats, deer (all introduced in the 19th century), spiny anteaters, about 160 frog species and, of course, introduced horses, cattle, goats, sheep, rabbits and pigs. Pigs are



About Tony Karacsonyi

Tony Karacsonyi is one of Australasia's leading wildlife and travel photographers. With awards, three years running, in the 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' Competition, London - one of the most hotly contested photography competitions on the globe - he loves diving and travelling in PNG.

He embarked on photography 20 years ago, at Jervis Bay on Australia's south coast, by finishing a scuba dive course and being surprised by the quality of the pictures he took with an underwater camera borrowed from a friend.

His first trip to PNG was about 1987, diving with Rod Pearce on his dive boat Barbarian at Salamaua.

With the help of Air Niugini, Melanesian Tourist Services, Trans Niugini Tours and Sportdiving magazine he's been exploring Papua New Guinea regularly, above and below the waves ever since.

"At Kavieng, we dived with silvertip sharks and saw Japanese sunken float planes," he recalls. "It was exciting to see the red Hinomaru - Rising Sun Symbol - clearly visible on the wing of a Aichi E13A 'Jake' floatplane at 20 metres underwater."

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of great cultural significance and important for traditional trade and exchange purposes. Pigs were probably introduced to PNG about 10,000 years ago.

- Insects - more than 50,000 species, including 30,000 beetles, and still counting. Some are very large and some are very small. Some are to be avoided, like the malaria-carrying mosquitoes.
- Spiders - several hundred species. Two have bites to be avoided;

the 14-cm span hairy bird-eating spider and the Redback which like to lurk in dark spots in buildings.

- Butterflies - more than 700 species. If you want some as souvenirs, visit one of several butterfly farms. The Queen Alexandra birdwing (27 cm wingspan) of Oro province is the world's largest. The commoner Goliath is the second largest. Hercules moths have a 25-cm wingspan.
- Snakes - As with most insects, these give most people the

shudders. PNG has 23 poisonous land snakes, 20 poisonous sea snakes, 14 watersnakes and keelbacks, 11 boas and pythons, nine blind snakes, seven tree snakes and six snakes you can safely pick up if you are sure they're one of the non-poisonous species. Be extra careful with deaths adders, Papuan taipans, Papuan black snakes and King brown, Eastern brown and Papuan whip snakes.

- It has about 195 different species of lizards, including seven species



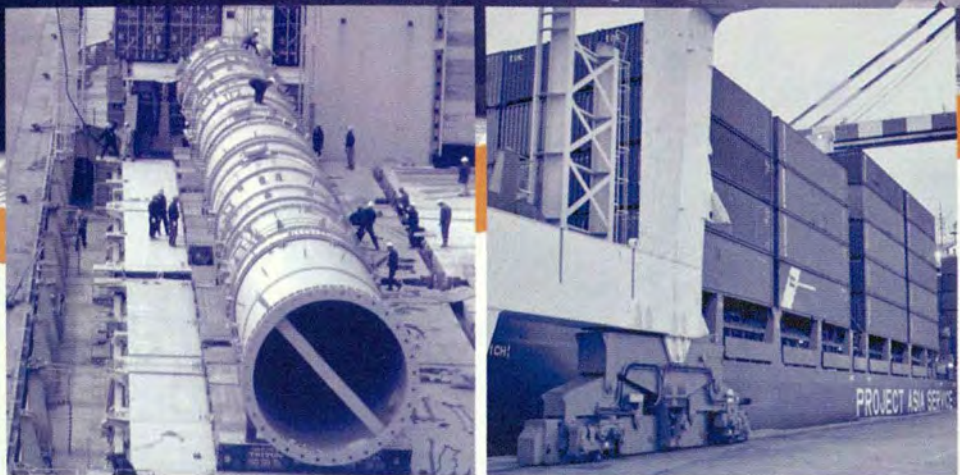
of monitor lizards. In the Western lowland forests, you may be confronted by a Salvador monitor. At 4.7 metres long, it is the nearest creature to a dragon you're likely to encounter.

- Do you fish? PNG has more than 2300 species (and still counting) of which 200 are freshwater species. More than 300 species of coral exist in its vast reef region.
- Crocodiles lurk in lowland swamps, lakes and river. Freshwater species grow to 3.6 metres. Others grow to more than six metres and are great biters. Beware.





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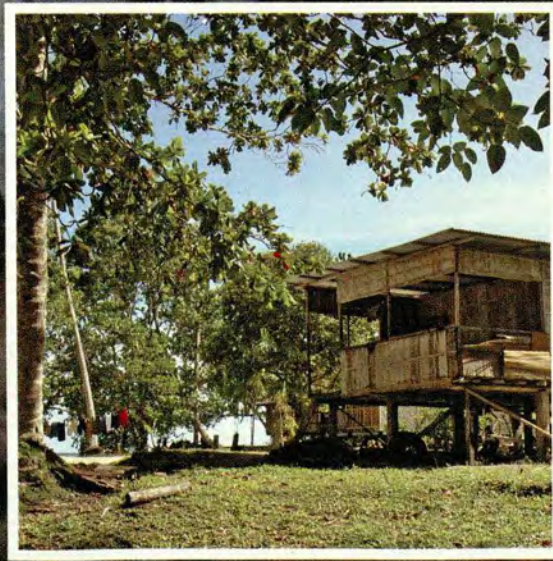


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Exploring New Ireland

Winding down at Dalom



By Briar Jensen

As I ambled along the beach at daybreak, villagers went about their morning routines. An elderly woman swished the entrance of her hut with a palm-frond broom; a young mother scoured her cooking pot with sand at the water's edge; children scampered naked between the nearby trees.

The contented grunting of a foraging pig mingled with the squeal of toddlers playing in the sand. Two teenage boys constructed a spear-fishing gun while further along the beach a woman washed clothes in the swiftly flowing river that is the lifeblood of this tiny settlement, one of many scattered along the narrow eastern coastal strip of New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea.

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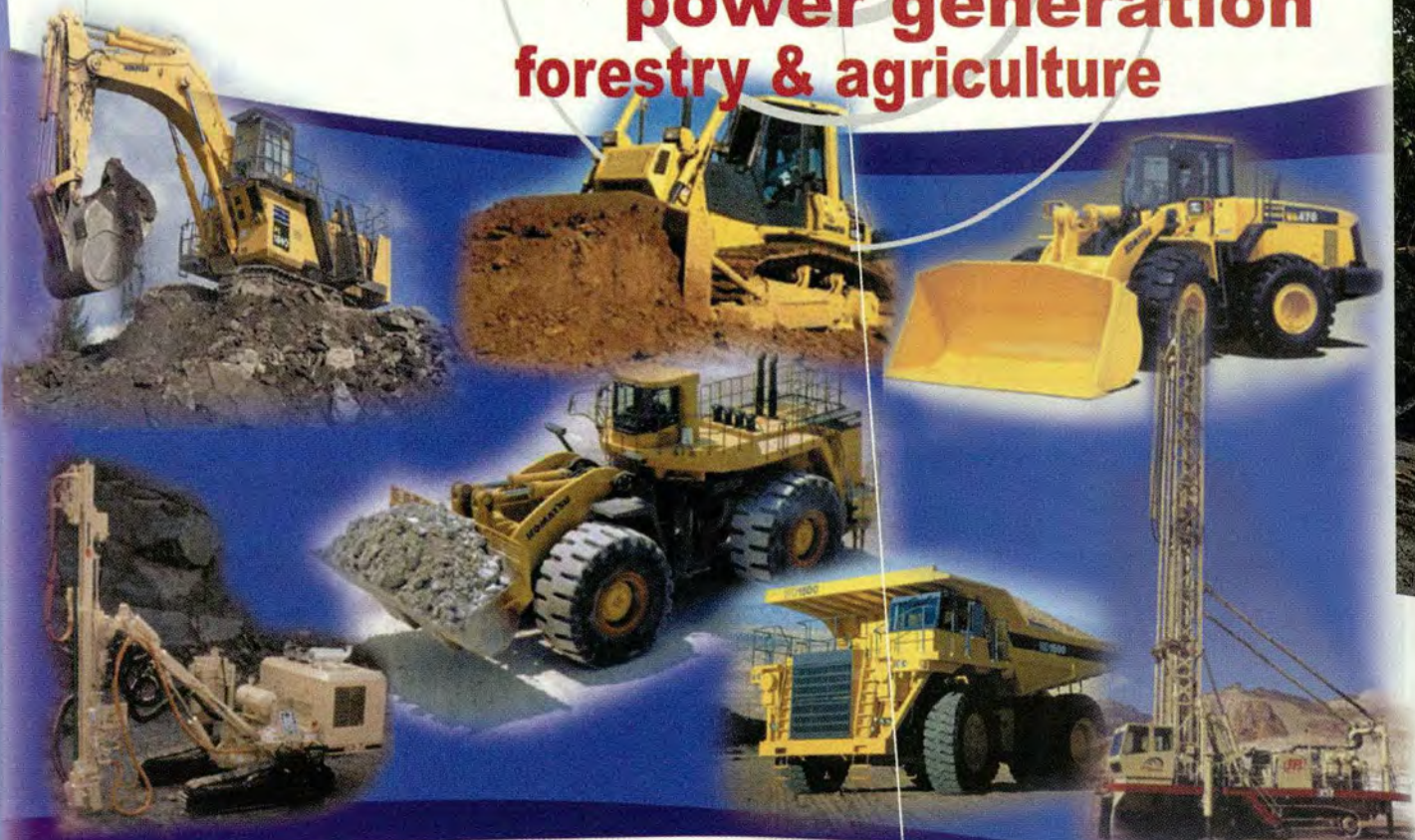
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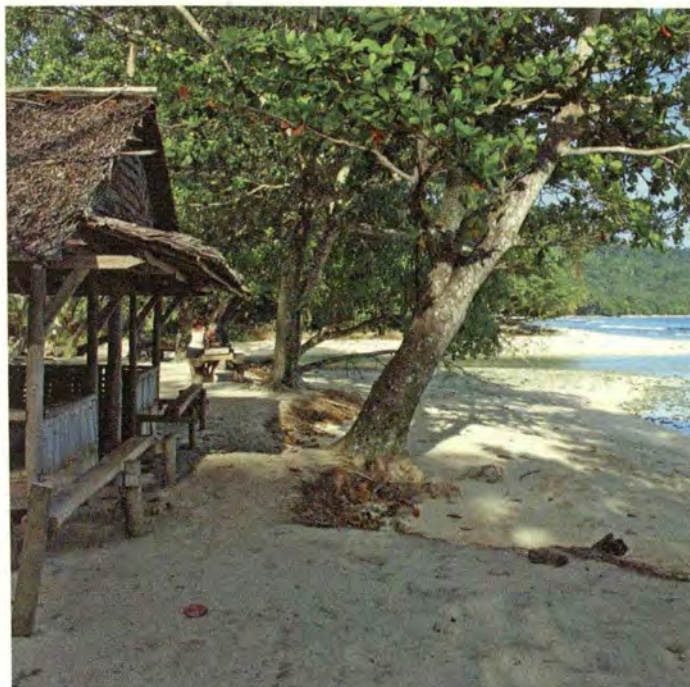
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I was in the village of Dalom, 176 kilometres southeast of Kavieng, the main town and port of entry to New Ireland Province. My friends and I were staying at Dalom Guesthouse which offers visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in traditional village life while enjoying a relaxing coastal holiday.

The guesthouse occupies a prime position in the village, just a few steps back from the beach. The tree-lined shores on either side curve gently seaward. A coral reef hides just offshore while in the distance looms Lihir Island. The sparkling jade waters of the Dalom River tumble over rocks at the side of the house before flowing into the ocean and carving a path through the reef.

The guesthouse, run by Milika Kana and her family, is designed along the lines of a traditional village hut, but on a larger scale. The elevated section features wooden floors and includes four bedrooms with windows onto the verandah and an open-air lounge facing the sea.



The adjacent sand floor kitchen includes a large timber table for meal-time gatherings, though you can also eat outside at the shady log table overlooking the beach.

There is a conventional toilet housed separately out the back and a shower too, though I didn't notice it, preferring to bath like the locals in the refreshing river.

Due to our spur of the moment decision to visit, our party of three had to travel to Dalom by PMV (Public Motor Vehicle), in this case an open truck. Although bruising on the backside, it provided a wonderful opportunity to chat with locals returning home to their villages.

Mothers shopping for school supplies, university



students visiting family and Tabar Islanders returning after provisioning in Kavieng.

While tourists are no longer an oddity in Kavieng due to its excellent surfing and diving, few venture down the coast. When our fellow passengers learned we were on holiday, they proudly began pointing out places of interest along the Boluminski Highway, like the palm oil pipeline and eel farm.

The driver even screeched to a halt in the middle of the road, stopping beside the 'snake in the rock' - where the head of a snake appears to protrude from an overhanging rock. One of the students explained it was a sacred place, home of the snake spirit.

We arrived at Dalom Guesthouse unannounced just on dusk, followed shortly after by two mature aged surfers who were also unexpected. Our hostess Milika, dressed in a colourful meri blouse and laplap (sarong), quickly



dispatched two of her daughters to make our beds and sweep our rooms before she rushed off to prepare our evening meal.

After washing away the road dust in the invigorating waters of the river (and attempting to get the knots out of my hair), I gratefully sank into a comfy chair in the lounge to exchange travel tales with Aussie surfers and watch my first firefly magically flit around the room.

When called to dinner, Milika apologised about the lack of fish or crayfish. "We have excellent fishermen in the village," she said, "but they don't go out everyday." Had she known we were coming she would have dispatched them that morning. But her generous servings of kaukau (sweet potato), rice and tinned meat were traditional village fare and we devoured them eagerly.

Clean, satisfied and weary, we all retired to bed early.





Cocooned inside my mosquito net, a gentle breeze fluttering the fabric on my window, I soon fell asleep to the rhythm of the waves pounding on the reef.

A village rooster crowed long before dawn, ensuring I was awake to watch the sunrise and enabling me to absorb as much of the village atmosphere as possible before my departure later that morning.

As I strolled along the sand, the lingering smell of burning coconut husks, used to repel mosquitoes in the evening, mixed with the delicate frangipani like fragrance of utun flowers freshly fallen at my feet. An extended family group sat in front of their huts eating a communal



breakfast of kaukau, while their little ones sucked the fibrous flesh of pandanus fruit.

As I made my way back to the guesthouse for breakfast of fried coconut pancakes, I felt immensely privileged to be part of this tiny village, albeit briefly. I sorely wished I could stay to go canoeing and fishing with the villagers, or take a guided tour to the nearby caves of the Lelet Plateau, the main vegetable growing area of the province.

Unfortunately, I had an international flight to catch. But if I'm ever back in New Ireland, a visit to Dalom Guesthouse will be top on my list. And I'll be sure to stay for several days.



Dalom Guesthouse can be reached by car, bus, boat or PMV. The Kana family has their own truck and will deliver you to and from Dalom if you book in advance.

There are numerous guesthouses and homestays along the east coast of New Ireland. The New Ireland Tourist Bureau provides information on their location and facilities. They can assist in planning an itinerary incorporating several guesthouses and can make bookings on your behalf.

For more information contact: New Ireland Tourist Bureau, P O Box 419, Kavieng, New Ireland Province; Phone: (675) 984 2441.

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THEY CAME, THEY SAW, AND THEY CELEBRATED



By *Malum Nalu*

They came from all walks of life, marching like pilgrims to Independence Hill in Port Moresby on the morning of Friday, September 16, 2005.

From the hilltop, one could see there were hundreds and hundreds of people still coming.

People were truly in a patriotic and celebratory mood for what would be the first event to kick start celebrations for Papua New Guinea's 30th anniversary.

The colours that stood out were red, black and gold, from the flags, the t-shirts, the caps, the laplaps and meri blouses donned for a special ceremony - the raising of the country's flag on Independence Hill.

Predictions of the gloom and doom brigade were virtually ignored throughout the nation as Papua New



Guinea stood together as one country, one nation, one people.

As the crowd swelled on Independence Hill, those in the back were standing on their toes, trying to catch a glimpse of the dignitaries in front.

Dignitaries, departmental heads, members of the diplomatic corps and invited guests arrived between 5.30am and 6am.

Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare and Lady Veronica, Deputy Prime Minister Sir Moi Avei and Lady Avei, Governor-General of Australia Major General Michael Jeffery and Lady Jeffery, Solomon Islands Governor-General Sir Nathaniel Waema and ACP General Secretary Sir John Kaputin were present.

The flag was brought to the main arena by 11 members of the disciplined forces around 6.15am.

A fly-by by a PNG Defence Force Iroquois helicopter followed by two of its aircraft - a Casa and an Arava.

Soldiers provided the guard of honour as the flag was carried on a slow march to the flagpole.

At around 6.30am, the flag was tied and hoisted as the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Band played the National Anthem, a deeply moving occasion that will be long remembered.

The National Pledge was read by six students from Port Moresby National High School.

At about 7am, Sir Michael unveiled a plaque



commemorating the 30th anniversary, and then addressed those present.

"Today, we celebrate as one people our 30th anniversary as a nation," he said.

"It is a particularly significant moment for me and I humbly thank the people of Papua New Guinea for the privilege of standing here today 30 years after I led this country to independence.

"Thirty years ago, who would have thought that the ethnically diverse people that inhabit the mountains, the plains, the rivers and the 600 islands would be flying one flag with great pride as one people?

"Today, we work side by side in offices, at building sites and in the market places enjoying the different variety of Melanesian music, food and arts and crafts of the different corners of our country.

"We marvel at bilums from the Highlands and swap them with the ones from our Coastal friends.

"We are proud of our traditions and dress our children in cultural dress on special occasions. And we enjoy a good laugh about our own idiosyncrasies.

"We have learnt in a short space of time to live together in tolerance of the differences in others - a far cry from the thousand of years of isolation that our forefathers had known."

Dignitaries then accompanied the Prime Minister to Parliament House for breakfast.

Later in the day, hundreds and hundreds of Port Moresby residents packed the Sir John Guise Stadium to witness the various cultural presentations under a light drizzle as they waved the Papua New Guinea flags in various sizes.

Various cultural groups displayed their unique dances and colourful traditional attire.

Cutting the anniversary cake...as offices around the country celebrated.



Not to be outdone, school children from various city schools awed the audience by tracing the country's history through choreographed dances.

As they went on, their dances depicted the traditional means of livelihood of the country's 1000 ethnic groups from the coastal provinces to the highlands.

These included farming, trading and hunting, among others.

The school children also dramatised the arrival of British explorers who declared Papua New Guinea a part of the British Empire.

Their acts also relived the coming of the missionaries who converted the inhabitants to Christianity.

The early Chinese traders who came to Papua New Guinea to set up businesses were also included in their acts.

There were also mock battles simulating certain dramatic scenes from World War II.

Dances reliving life under the Australian Administration until the declaration of Independence on September 16, 1975, were also given prominence.

Two students portrayed the first Governor-General Sir John Guise and the first Prime Minister Michael Somare as they delivered the original Independence declaration speeches.

This drew a big applause from the spectators.

Papua New Guinea Defence Force soldiers then marched around the stadium to the beat of the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary Band in their colonial uniforms.

The Pipes and Drums of the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment - revived for the occasion - played old martial tunes.

The soldiers then displayed various disciplined drills followed by the three-gun salute.

Port Moresby Catholic Archbishop, Sir Brian Barnes, blessed the event which was capped off by Governor-General Sir Paulias Matane's speech.

Sir Paulias said Papua New Guinea could be destroyed in the next 30 years if people did nothing about changing their behaviour and attitude towards lives, respecting the property of others, and meaningfully participating in economic development opportunities to improve living standards.

"So let us guard our actions and devote our energies to building the nation, rather than destroying it," he said.

The Papua New Guinea flag was lowered at 5.30pm.

The turnout of people for the 30th Independence anniversary in the main centres of Papua New Guinea



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over the long weekend was described as "awesome".

Government officials were surprised at the large turnout, especially in the two main cities - Port Moresby and Lae - and how the huge crowd behaved.

Director General of National Events Council, Aiwa Olmi, estimated that over 80,000 people passed through the Sir John Guise Stadium to witness and take part in events organised over the long weekend.

Mr Olmi said he was deeply moved to see people come



With pride...singing the National Anthem.

together waving flags, or dressed in red, black and gold.

He said initial reports received from the provinces were the same with peaceful celebrations, one that he had not seen before.

Celebrations in most provinces started on September 9 and culminated with a rugby league match between the Australian Prime Minister's 13 taking on Papua New Guinea Prime Minister's 13 on Sunday, September 18.



Going traditional...People turn up in their traditional costumes.

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Parachute Pilots

A new way of seeing PNG

Paragliding is an air sport. Pilots use a performant parachute, a glider, that can be directed by the pilot to the left or to the right with manual controls. An experienced pilot can fly all day long by looking for thermals (rising hot air) and climbing higher in the core of these thermals, like birds do. Often paragliders fly as high as the clouds or even higher!



What a view...cruising over Mt Wilhelm.

Why come to Papua New Guinea?

The Airborneplanet team travels around the world exploring mountain ranges for paragliding and introduces brave indigenous people to the sensation of flying.

While studying the world's topographic and climate maps, our eyes fell on the many mountain ranges and valleys of Papua New Guinea (PNG). An international glider, David Russell, who paraglided from Mount Wilhelm in 2001, confirmed to the team that PNG has a good flying potential. To top that, PNG has some of the world's most unique cultures which will for sure guarantee a very interesting encounter!

But most of our information sources and friends from Australia told us it would be far too dangerous to paraglide in Papua New Guinea: "The weather is unpredictable! People will kill you! There are bloody tribal wars all over the place!"

Well, we almost cancelled our trip from Cairns. But luckily, we didn't!

On arrival in PNG, we didn't have a fixed itinerary, but the weather and our new friends drove us to Goroka and its surroundings; Karkar island with big coconut plantations, the Markhem Valley with its sugar cane plantations, Sinesine in rugged Simbu Province, Mt Wilhelm and West New Britain with its beautiful volcanoes. Wow, PNG is so varied!



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First flight

In Goroka, we were met by Bomal from Sinesine, who was our tour guide. That's how travelling goes in PNG. Each time we arrived at a new place, locals offered us assistance. They were very accommodating.

However, our first attempt was a mistake! When we arrived at our supposed launchsite, we discovered a couple of graves and a group of men digging another one. Luckily it wasn't for us.

However, our second attempt was a good one. The children who followed us up the mountain, towering above Goroka University, willingly cut the tall grasses with their machetes to clear the launchsite.

Soon after that, Aude got airborne and she enjoyed for the first time the fresh air of PNG! There were cries of excitement everywhere! But team members Kym and Kris had to postpone their first flight because of the sudden arrival of rainclouds. Aude was surprised by the height of the grass in the field that she had chosen for her landing. The grass was two metres high, guaranteeing her a soft landing.

Magical Karkar Volcano

On the eight-hour boat trip from Madang to Karkar island, we met Mamsem who invited us to stay with him at his village. Elizabeth, Mamsem's wife, each day served us first class meals of kaukau, potatoes, rice, coconut cream, meat, chicken or fresh fish and greens.

During our day walks, always in the company of curious kids, we enjoyed the refreshment provided, particularly the green coconuts. The coconut tree-climbers were amazing. In the afternoon, we walked to the beaches - AWESOME beaches - where we cooled down in the blue lagoon. The night walks were thrilling as we constantly faced the risk of falling coconuts or poisonous coral snakes.

Our purpose on Karkar was to fly from the volcano. But we were washed out on the approach. Locals told us we





talked too much during the climb and local legend has it that if climbers produced too much noise, the mountain sends mist and rain clouds! The climb was fantastic! But even in good weather, we could not have flown from the highly forested summit.

Instead, the schoolchildren took us to another launchsite - the school playfield - where there was a small hill. Kym, Aude and myself gave a short demonstration of how to paraglide. There was so much fun that Kym lost his concentration and ended up on a tree! After the demonstration, we talked for a couple of hours with interested students about Europe, paragliding, about the environment and global warming. Another great experience!



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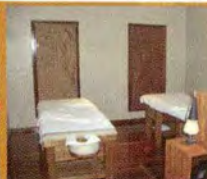
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Sinesine in Simbu

Sinesine district is a paragliding paradise: there are plenty of easy climbs up the green hills. There are few, but good landing alternatives. At Kere, Kris made the first tandem flight with Bomal, who probably became the first PNG paraglider! All the villagers and spectators who showed up were excited, so as Bomal. After the flight, the Kere people spontaneously gave us a sensational and 100% traditional singing in feathers and painted bodies! The dancers told us that they loved to perform abroad as well. Simbu is too big to explore in a couple of weeks. But we enjoyed the village life: no electricity and water from the river. At night, we all gathered around a kerosene lamp and we fantasised about our next flight from Mt Wilhelm. During our stay, unfortunately, an old lady died. Because we were staying with a local family, we participated in the whole burial process. What an experience!



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Mt Wilhelm

From the perspective of paragliding, Mt Wilhelm should be the highlight. Imagine flying from the highest point in PNG, higher than the clouds, and looking down the valleys seeing all of PNG below you, just like in an aircraft!

The hike up the mountain was an adventure. We spotted plenty of birds of paradise and cuscus and just before arriving at the base camp, we crossed a large field spread with flowers: what a landscape! Then we climbed a waterfall to arrive at a mountain hut bordering a beautiful blue lake. Aude unsuccessfully tried to catch a fish for dinner with an improvised line. Kris could not resist the beauty of the half crater surrounding the lake and he made his first flight above the lake! Surprisingly, small thermals passing over the lake kept him high. He couldn't go higher though as the shape of the clouds surrounding the summit indicated the presence of strong winds.

Our guide Vincent guided us safely up in the dark which was partly illuminated by a half moon. The day was blessed with a golden sunrise. This was a perfect flying day. Vincent showed us the place where David Russell launched in August 2001. We climbed higher until we couldn't go any higher! A 60% sloped rocky hill was the last obstacle before turning on a small plateau that led to the real summit. There we spread our gliders! Kris flew

tandem with David from Kere. We ran around to warm up our muscles. At high altitude the air is thinner, which

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meant that the pilot and the passenger had to run a lot faster to take off. The message was clear: run hard! Five minutes later, David was airborne! What an awesome view!

Here we were with adrenaline pumping and emotions high! The wind pushed us up and soon we could see the real summit! Kris did not risk going higher though as the wind strength picked up at altitude.

Aude launched shortly after the tandem and she cruised up and high above the summit of Mt Wilhelm! Her solo glider was faster so she could cope with the stronger

winds. One hour later we landed back where we started. We flew in the direction of Kesugl airport, then returned to the three lakes before landing next to the mountain hut. What a thrill! Thank you Mt Wilhelm!

West New Britain

PNG must be THE paradise. We caught a 24-hour boat trip on the Solomon Queen vessel to West New Britain. During this journey, hundreds of dolphins joined us.

We attempted to paraglide from a couple of extinct volcanoes, but we found the summits to be covered in trees. Finally, at the Nature Conservancy Research Center, nearby the luxury Walindi Resort, we found maps that showed us the exact places to fly from. But then, the weather changed and it was impossible to fly. Luckily, we found a great alternative. Shannon, from the Nature Conservancy, convinced us to go diving at Kimbe Bay. We took his advice. This is one of the best diving spots we've ever seen. Extraordinary corals never spotted elsewhere, and an abundant marine life, small and big! So instead of flying in the mountains, we spent our last days in PNG flying underwater! Both were hilarious!



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PNG Art Auction Record

Raising money for Manam Islanders



Sir Michael Somare (right) impressed by local art.

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It was a picture-perfect Garden Party. The venue was Papua New Guinea's National Museum and Art Gallery at Waigani, Port Moresby. And the money raised was over K126,000.

The humidity-clad setting did not dampen the spirits of the 200 or so guests gathered under the blue marquee. They were mesmerised by the antics of the auctioneering duo, Graham Osborne and Richard Sapias. Even without the traditional auctioneer's hammer, Graham and Richard held the audience spell-bound with a showcase of paintings by local artists who donated their work to raise funds for the resettlement of Manam islanders in Madang Province.

The story of Manam is a sad one. Over several years the island's volcano has continuously spewed molten lava and ash over the beautiful lush tropical rainforest. Hundreds of hamlets with a population of about 11,000 islanders did not go untouched.

As time went by, the idyllic Manam island became a natural disaster waiting to happen. Eventually, towards the end of last year, the island was declared uninhabitable. The people were moved out of their traditional homeland and relocated to Bogia district, along the north coastal mainland of Madang province. At present, they live in several care centres while awaiting the formalisation of land allocation for a resettlement scheme.

Coincidentally at about the same time, on the other side of the Pacific Rim of fire, the Asian tsunami struck leaving thousands of people dead and millions homeless.

Papua New Guineans were quick to respond to a nationwide appeal for assistance for the Asian tsunami



The crowd that came to support the Manam islanders.

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victims. Radio stations and the media attracted numerous donations from individuals and groups alike.

The idea of a fundraiser to assist the Manam restoration was mooted alongside the tsunami relief appeal. However, with the images of the tsunami devastation televised widely, it became obvious the public was more sympathetic towards their Asian neighbours rather than the Manam islanders' plight.

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Local paintings to be auctioned during the Manam Islanders' fundraising drive.

A separate fundraiser for Manam was decided and Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare agreed to host the Garden Party at the National Museum and Art Gallery with a focus on local artists' works. A total of 38 painters, jewellers, potters, sculptors and sculptresses, and screen printers came forward with over 130 pieces. This was an opportunity to contribute to charity. Moreover, it was also an ideal time for them to expose their work.

The exhibition in the Allan Mann Art Gallery combined with the art auction promised to attract the crème de la crème of Port Moresby society. It was decided that artists who donated their work towards the auction would receive 100 percent of the revenue from the sale of their pieces in the Allan Mann Gallery. Those unable to donate to the auction would give 20 percent of their revenue from each piece sold in the to the Manam cause.

There were 10 auctioned items - seven paintings, one piece of costume jewellery and two screen-printed fabrics. With every bid, the prices of the artworks escalated. Bids were dominated by Colleen

McCarthy of Curtin Brothers, Sir Brian Bell of Brian Bell Company, and George Constantinou Jnr of the Constantinou Group of Companies. Henry Kila of PNG Harbors Board, Noreo Beangke of Credit Corporation, Nick Nades of the Institute of Business Studies, Bernard Fong of Market 2000, and Marie Anderson of Melanesian Fashions managed to weave their way through the frenzied verbosity of the auctioneers and the audience laughter to score one or two pieces.

The enthusiasm of the crowd was infectious as they wondered how high vigorous competition would take the bids to. Drinks flowed freely all afternoon and the trays of hors d'oeuvres kept coming. The auctioneers did not let their audience down. They entertained guests on the warm Port Moresby afternoon as they put on a super show in the company of Sir Michael and Lady Somare.

Undoubtedly the items which attracted a great deal of attention were a couple of paintings donated by a young artist - Daniel Waswas. Educated in Auckland, New Zealand, with a Masters in Fine Arts, Waswas

owns a private studio. He has quickly become a sought-after Papua New Guinean artist. With overseas exhibitions under his belt, Waswas's works take pride of place in the foyers of large corporate offices such as the Crowne Plaza. For the auction pieces, he moved away from his

adventure
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trademark "falling paint" technique to the commonly used oil/ acrylic on canvas style.

One of his two outstanding auction



pieces titled "Totem Poles" of the Sepik depicted an individual's perception of stability in life. Waswas explained that the artwork featured objects people rely on to build their foundations.

"The "Totem Poles" of Sepik Haus Tambaran (spirit house) is intricately portrayed to symbolise



our foundation in this country (PNG) as it is nationally represented by the House of Parliament.

"All traditional houses in PNG have very strong foundations that hold the houses together for the benefit of families and communities. A house in a village that is intricately designed and built is regarded as a masterpiece



David Waswas with one of his paintings. With him are Sir Michael Somare and Lady Somare and Kevin Yaxley, Airport Airways Hotel general manager .



and all compliments go to the master craftsman.

"In this artwork, the portrayal of the poles along with traditional spiritual figures marks our identity in this country capturing the essence of what our traditional roots of stability were before the introduction of modern forms of security and foundation. The art depicts our roots of origin to remind us to make an attempt to reflect on our past to make our future balanced and rewarding," he said.

As custodians of traditional morals, stories and folklore handed down by their ancestors, artists like Waswas breathe life and beauty into their art forms just like a glass blower does his ware. When they put paint to canvas, fabric or paper, they invoke life into their work with instinct and incantations in every brushstroke. The value of their artwork, whether it be in Papua New Guinea or anywhere in the world, should not only be measured by the monetary price it attracts, but by the spirit it endows.

It was not surprising that amidst heightened excitement and several minutes of tooting and frooing between Curtin Brothers and Constantinou Group, the "Totem Poles" painting stopped the show at a whopping K42,000. The winner of the bid was George Constantinou Jnr.

Loud applause, cheering and gasps of disbelief could not hide the obvious delight of the fundraising committee. This had to be the highest bid ever made for a painting in PNG. In total, the Garden Party raised over K126,000. What a better way to raise funds for a good cause! And the specific cause? The fundraising committee has its sights set on using the money to purchase mobile health

units for Manam islanders. The spirit in which the funds were raised at the Garden Party epitomised the true spirit that inspires PNG artists like Waswas. The afternoon certainly belonged to them as well as to the Manam people.



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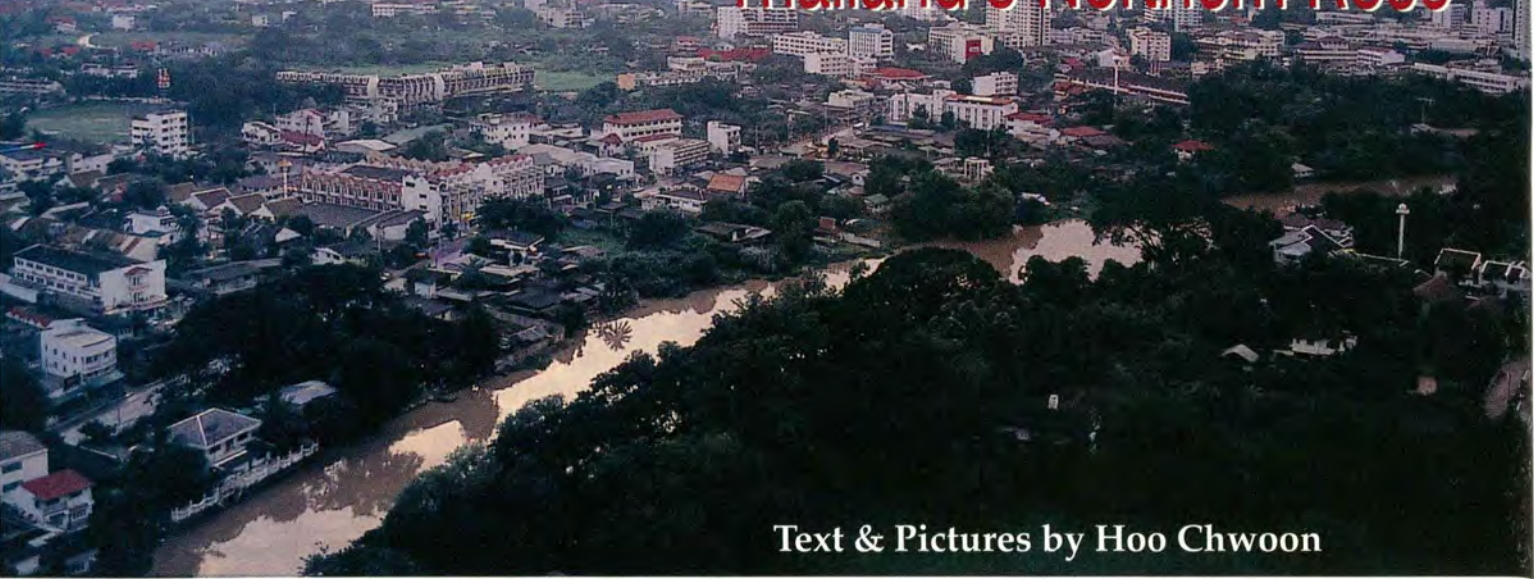
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Chiang Mai

Thailand's Northern Rose



Text & Pictures by Hoo Chwoon

Chiang Mai city skyline.



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Chiang Mai - Thailand's second largest city - is a mere one-fortieth the size of its capital, Bangkok. But while Bangkok is just 223 years old, Chiang Mai was founded in 1296, although archaeological evidence has predated human civilisation there to the Palaeolithic Age. With its great antiquity scarred by a tumultuous history of internecine warfare, Chiang Mai is a huge tourist draw with its agreeably unsticky weather, idyllic sights and provincial charms peculiar to itself and the picturesque northern Thai region of which it is the hub.

Girding the city's original precincts, there still totter the moats, fortified gates and ruined Buddhist temples that whisper a history of 700 years. Other monuments attesting to its colourful past. Once the capital of Lan Na, an independent Thai kingdom, Chiang Mai has fervently preserved its rich cultural heritage. Something of the old Lan Na still lives on in the rhythms of its rural life.

Strategically sited on the banks of the Ping River, Chiang Mai - a fertile plain with a patchwork of rice paddies and fruit orchards ringed by majestic mountain ranges and hillocks - is a gateway to some of Thailand's most beautiful natural scenery. It is a window to the culture of the hill tribes who jealously guard the mainstay of their traditional practices.

Rearing above its pedestrian epithet of 'a new city' are Chiang Mai's touted claims as 'The Land of a Million Rice Fields' (Lan Na) and 'The Rose of the North'. Chiang Mai merits both sobriquets; for not only is it lush with the shimmering greenery of padi fields, it is also the famed abode of Thailand's most resplendent beauties. Like the variegated hues of her famous parasols, Chiang Mai from the air resembles a kaleidoscope with all the coloured fragments falling together and coalescing into a beautiful form.

From its skyline, Chiang Mai can be considered a new city with its proliferating multi-storeyed buildings, gleaming hotels, restaurants, bars, discotheques, banks and travel agencies. Yet Chiang Mai is not pervasively new. Pagodas, chedis juxtapose with high-rise buildings, delineating a jagged skyline that is arrestingly incongruous. The incongruity does not divorce but instead weds the modern to the traditional, the new to the old, consummating the two eras in a complementary marriage: the new and modern accentuating the old-world charms while the old and traditional separate the sophistication of the new and modern. These pointed contrasts accentuate the venerable ruins and cast a historical backdrop to the spiky skyscrapers.

One age-old Chiang Mai custom which is still animatedly

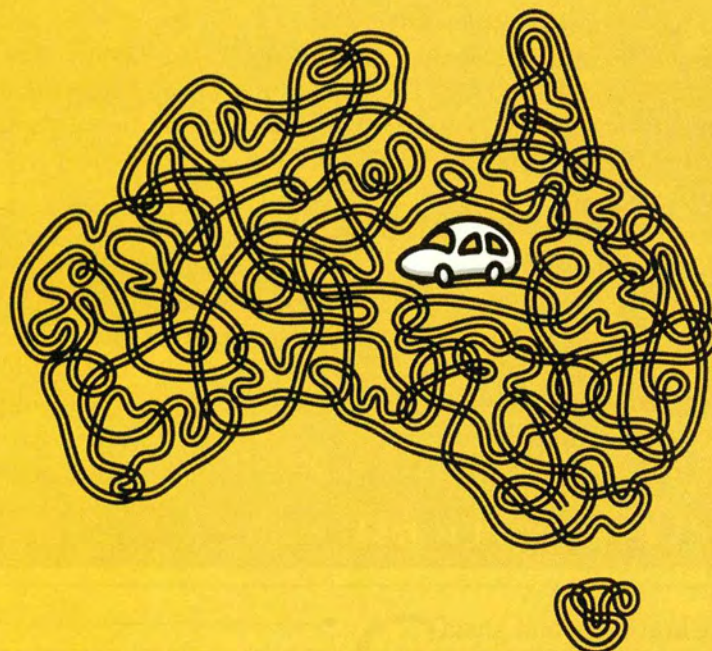
enacted is the practice of traditional craftsmanship by its artisans. Its cottage industry, reputed to be the biggest in the world, sprouts a wide array of silverware, copperware, brassware, lacquerware, silkware, gems and umbrellas and draws a heavy horde of tourists to marvel at artistry untampered by the age of modern technology. Indeed, sad will be the day when they are abandoned and sacrificed to the more efficient but soulless artefacts trotted out by assembly lines. To give way to the modern means of production is to lose the personal touch that imbues a distinctive character to the crafts.

Among the handicrafts found at the colourful night bazaar at Chang Khlan Road are silverware, lacquerware, teak and wood carvings, cotton, silk, pottery and umbrellas, all fashioned with the labour of love at specific locations.

The district of Whali is famous for its silverware: bowls, cups, dishes and jewellery. The silver is almost one hundred percent pure, thus making the end-product light. The workers mount their silver pots and bowls on wooden frames and patiently sculpt out intricate designs with a hammer and a sharp etcher. The silky skills and delicate touches soon transform a plain piece of silver into a highly coveted gem. Woodcarving industries straggle along the highway of San Kamphaeng. At this



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cottage industry, men and women, some standing on a high sideboard, some sitting cross-legged on the floor and others perched atop an unfinished cupboard, can be seen labouring away with meticulous care. Showrooms display an assorted assemblage of woodcrafts, from gigantic forks and spoons for beautifying walls, plates, cups, trays, animal figurines, particularly Buddhas, to whole suites of ornately carved teak furniture. A favourite motif is the dragon which reigns over Thai folklore and mythology.

Not long ago, a loom could be found in every home in Northern Thailand. The womenfolk weaved the cloth

needed to garb their families. Today, traditional and primitive looms are still used by the cottage industries, spinning out shimmering silk that mints a mega-buck business. The showrooms are piled high with a dazzling array of cloth, some plain-coloured, others splashed with variegated checks or stripes. These beautiful materials have glossy textures and are better suited for tailoring into evening wear. There are also ready-made silk garments, smooth-flowing silk scarves, cushion covers, sand patchwork bed spreads and quilt covers, silk purses and slippers, all fit for royalty.

The flourishing Chiang Mai pottery industry is said



Celadon pottery.



Umbrella making.

to have its beginnings when King Ramakamhaeng of Sukhothai visited Kublai Khan at the close of the 11th century and brought back his daughter along with an entourage of five hundred potters. By the 14th century, the kingdoms of Sukhothai and Lan Na Thai (Northern Kingdom) were churning enormous quantities of ceramic vessels and figurines for temples and palaces, as well as practical stone jars for domestic use. During the Burmese invasion in 1557, Chiang Mai's kilns went cold and the ceramic industry was dormant only to be resurrected at the turn of the last century.

San Kamphaeng churns out some of the finest pottery



Traditional paper umbrellas.

through the blending of modern techniques with the ancient. The most sought-after style is celadon, a high-biscuit finish with a cracked greyish-green glaze. This undergoes two firings, the first at low temperature seals the clay piece and the second at 1260°C. After that, the porcelain is hand-painted before the final product is sold at a price that is hardly commensurate with the hours of labour and artistry invested.

Colourful umbrellas are crafted at the cottage industry of Bor Sang which is also steeped in legend. In the 17th century, a decrepit old man replaced the weather-beaten umbrella of a pilgrim monk with a paper umbrella. When the villagers saw it, they wanted him to make umbrellas for them too. This kind deed launched the old man into the umbrella business. Since then, Bor Sang has been known as the 'Umbrella Village'.

The craftsmen are divided in their labour, some specialising in paper-making, others frame-making. When an umbrella finally takes shape, it is forwarded to painters who buckle down to mixing colours and dabbing them onto the paper surfaces with quick deft strokes of fine brushes to delineate the popular motifs. What started as an umbrella industry has now branched out into the making of beautiful fans.

The Thais are blessed with dexterity which allow them to magically transform a mass of materials into fine art. Their creativity was given a huge boost when Her Majesty the Queen of Thailand made a personal commitment to encourage the perpetuation of their craftsmanship.

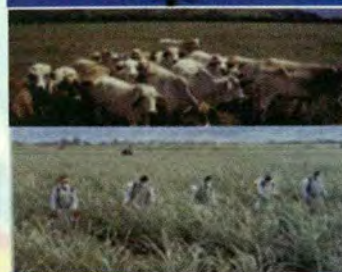
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TAPPING THE TAIWAN MARKET

Jean Ju casts for more business

By Kora Nou

She may be from Chinese Taipei, but she has been doing an excellent job for Papua New Guinea's national airline, Air Niugini, for the last 17 years.

Jean Ju is the supervisor for Chamay Travel Services which acts as the airline's General Sales Agent in Taiwan.

"I've worked for many airlines, but none of them is as challenging as Air Niugini; we started our sales work from nothing and from nowhere."

Now she despatches at least 500 passengers a year from Taiwan to visit PNG. "This may be just a small figure for Air Niugini or Papua New Guinea, but if we keep on doing the good work, the figure will increase and I'm confident of that," she said

from her office in Taipei city.

"Today, we have become an information provider on PNG in Taiwan. The many inquiries we receive are not only limited to the travel industry. Some ask about the location of the country, the weather, and the currency. Some are serious about its business potential, about future investment, even about emigration.

"We do our best to give people a satisfactory answer, although in some cases it takes us a bit of time to provide the necessary information."

Ju says any travel agent in Taiwan is now able to get information they need to organise a group or arrange itineraries for tourists.

"There are business groups and tour groups to PNG. For example, we

had one group travel in August for the Mt Hagen Show, comprising two business class and 18 economy class tourists.

Another group of 10 attended the Goroka Show, while a diving group of 12 will visit Alotau in the Milne Bay Province and Loloata Island Resort in Port Moresby at the end of January next year."

When she started off, Ju admits it was not an easy job to sell PNG in Taiwan.

The main problem, she said, was getting relevant information. But now with the assistance of Air Niugini and the PNG Tourism Authority, she has enough information and promotional materials to approach travel agents with as well as arrange seminars.



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"You may say the door to PNG is now open."

Ju is conscious of her competitors. "People from Chinese Taipei can easily find at least 50 different tour programmes for Japan from the media; every travel agent knows how to sell it. It is my goal to have at least 10 tour programmes for agents to sell in this market within three to four years," she said.

Ju has also ventured into the lucrative Chinese market. "We have the same cultural background with China, therefore we cannot afford to overlook the business opportunities available there.

"Our Beijing office, established eight years ago, and the Shanghai office, to be opened soon, are looking at ways of tapping this market."

Air Niugini's Marketing Manager, Nori Maniana said Ju has worked with the agency for 17 years, providing advice and a booking

service for Air Niugini.

"Her Chamay Travel Service has provided steady results for the airline since its inception and recently picked up in sales for business traffic.

"Sales results at the end of July have increased by 37 percent over the same period in 2004," Maniana said.

There's also been increasing queries, Maniana says, from the expatriate population in Taiwan about Papua New Guinea's attractions and packages. Activities that have drawn their attention include adventure tours, trekking and diving.

Air Niugini makes a six-hour flight to Singapore twice a week. It is a further four hours to Taiwan's Chiang Kai-shek International Airport.

• For more information, Jean Ju's address is: 3rd Floor, No. 92, Sec. 2, Chien-Kuo N. Road, Taipei; Telephone: +(02) 25152025; Facsimile: +(02) 25051526.



Jean Ju...working on raising PNG profile in Taiwan.



Kokoda Trail Map – Poster Size (800 x 300mm)

This impressive wall map of the Kokoda Trail was developed from wartime sketches held by the Australian War Memorial, data from army survey maps, satellite images and GPS readings. The Australian Army rising sun badge and an image of the Isurava War Memorial are embedded in the mountains. The words etched in the granite pillars of the memorial: "Courage – Mateship – Sacrifice – Endurance" are watermarked in the sky as a solemn reminder of the qualities displayed by our diggers and the 'fuzzy-wuzzy' angels during the Kokoda campaign in 1942.

Price: \$149.50 including GST and postage within Australia

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www.adventurekokoda.com.au

THE ARMED NATIVE CONSTABULARY OF PAPUA

By Jim Sinclair

In recent years, the young nation of Papua New Guinea has experienced well-known law and order problems. The Police Force - under strength and with inadequate resources - has struggled to contain the situation.

The PNG police force of today can trace its history back a long way. In this article, the beginnings of the story will be told. In the late 19th century, Papua New Guinea was divided into two territories: British New Guinea and German New Guinea. Australia took over British New Guinea (Papua) in 1906 and German New Guinea after the Great War.

When Sir William MacGregor became governor of British New Guinea in 1888, he found he had no power of any description to enforce the government's will in a land still mostly unexplored and inhabited by warlike tribes who resisted white intervention in their affairs. One of his first actions was to establish a regular police force.

Before taking up the New Guinea appointment, MacGregor had served in Fiji, and it was to Fiji that he turned to for the nucleus of his Armed Constabulary. He asked the Governor of Fiji, Sir John Thurston, to select ten time-expired members of the renowned Fijian Armed Native Constabulary, plus a Sergeant and Corporal from serving members.

Twelve Malaita men (who had the reputation of being the best fighting men in the Solomon Islands) were recruited and with Sergeant Ratu Naivolovolo and Corporal Ifereimi set sail in the warship HMS Rapid. They arrived in Samarai on 25 August, 1890. The twelve constables (or privates as they were then called) had signed on for three years.

The names of the first members of a force that was to win renown and the honour of the prefix "Royal" over the years were Tomu Orgovi, Tabua Onemai, Harry Daviri, Jim Kalugausu, Tom Kualemanu, Sam Luluwata, Frank Dawaningara, Frank Suria, Joe Maravosa, Johnny Futeramu, Tom Tarumbaia and William Varombo.

The little force was under the control of a Commandant, the first being a seasoned police officer with service in Africa, called George Wriford. Quarters for the Commandant and his men were provided at Ela Beach and an eight-cell prison was built with squared mangrove logs.

A simple uniform was adopted: a blue serge jumper and



dungaree knickerbockers edged with red braid, a broad leather belt with cartridge pouches and a knife.

Forage caps and bandoliers were later added and the knickerbockers were discarded in favour of a sulu of red-edged heavy blue serge. It was the sulu-jumper uniform that became famous throughout the Territory of Papua.

The force was styled the Armed Native Constabulary (ANC). The first weapons issued were .577-calibre, black powder, single-shot Snider carbines, short, light weapons firing an immensely destructive lead bullet that had a fearful kick and made an appalling noise on discharge, to the accompaniment of a vivid muzzle-flash and billowing clouds of smoke. A bayonet was later issued.

The training of the little force was along purely military, not police, lines. The men were regularly drilled and a high standard of conduct was enforced by military-style punishments where necessary.

By 30 June, 1896, the ANC was seventy-eight strong. Recruits were obtained from Papuan tribes and Papuans eventually replaced all the original Fijian members, some of whom had returned home, while the others remained after marrying Papuan women. Police Motu became the language of the Constabulary, filling the same role as Pidgin English in the New Guinea territory.

As the Constabulary grew, small detachments were



allocated to the various government stations - Daru, Rigo, Mekeo, Nivani, Sudest, Samarai, Mambare River, and later others - with a headquarters detachment retained for special duties.

Outstation police were under the control of the white officers of the Magisterial Service - Resident Magistrates, Assistant Resident Magistrates and later, Patrol Officers, who held the rank of European Officers of the Armed Constabulary.

Police accompanied all government patrols, including such famous exploratory journeys as the North-West Patrol of 1926-28, the Strickland-Purari Patrol of 1935 and the Bamu-Purari Patrol of 1936. In this way the men of the ANC became known to the tribes in the farthest regions of Papua.

Sir Hubert Murray became Lieutenant-Governor of Papua after Australia took over British New Guinea. The strength of the ANC then stood at 160. Over the following decades the ANC expanded (although it never exceeded 300), forging a fine tradition through countless patrols, often coming into conflict with wild tribes and usually - but not always - acquitting themselves honourably. Many were killed or died on government service. Young villagers aspired to become members of "Judge Murray's police".

The arms of the Constabulary changed over the years, the final type of rifle being the single-shot .303 Martini-Enfield

carbine, which began to be issued in the mid-1920s and remained the standard rifle until the late 1930s.

The outbreak of the Pacific War saw the men of what in August, 1939, became the Royal Papuan Constabulary filling a new role: that of soldiers. On 1 June 1940, recruiting for a new indigenous military force began - the Papuan Infantry Battalion, the unit from which Pacific Islands Regiment grew. The first Commanding Officer was Major Leonard Logan, previously Headquarters Officer of Armed Constabulary and an ex-Constabulary volunteer. Many of the later recruits also had Constabulary backgrounds.

Space does not permit an account of the deeds of the Pacific Islands Regiment (PIR) during the Pacific War. It is sufficient to say that a total of 3852 men served in the four battalions of PIR, plus a further 1040 who served in "M" Special Force. The PIR inflicted 2209 casualties on the enemy and thirty-eight PIR men were killed in action, with ten missing, believed killed. The PIR was awarded eleven battle honours and twenty four soldiers won decorations.

It should also be remembered that during the war, men of the Royal Papuan Constabulary and the New Guinea Police Force also fought alongside Australian and American soldiers, losing forty two of their members.

It was from the men of the Royal Papuan Constabulary and the New Guinea Police Force that the PNG Police Force of today was formed. May their deeds never be forgotten.



- Canoeing • Trekking • extreme remote villages (WWF PROJECT)

It is quite a hard, but doable and very beautiful trek from Wagu to Gahom. It takes 3 days of walking, 6 to 10 hours a day, crossing thick tropical rain forest, two mountain ranges, and criss-crossing rivers. There is absolutely no village in between and you have to sleep in tents below shelters. When you arrive at the destination on the other side, in the small Bahinemo village of Gahom, you will relax in a large stilt house and may go back by canoe - A wonderful and unique experience.

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papua new guinea experience

MT HAGEN SHOW - MT HAGEN

To promote and preserve unique cultures for future generations; to promote tourism development for the province; and to carry on its great tradition of unifying the highlands provinces and people of other provinces.

Background: Started in 1994, the show immediately became an annual event gaining international and domestic recognition. The organizing committee endeavours to use this show as a measure for Unity, Pride, Presentation and Progress. The kinds of performance that occur during the show include, Traditional dance groups, Typical Western Highlands rituals, Primitive arts & crafts, Western Highlands Province Products fair and others.

Duration: 2 - 3 days

Month: August

Venue: Kagamuga Show Ground. Located seven kilometers from Mt Hagen town and five minutes from Kagamuga airport.

Transport: Public transport, Hire cars

Places of interest:

Mt Hagen market, Surrounding villages.

ENGA CULTURAL SHOW - ENGA

To identify the heritage and pride of their forefathers.

Background: Started in 1994, the show immediately became an annual event gaining international and domestic recognition. The organizing committee endeavours to use this show as a measure for Unity, Pride, Presentation and Progress. The kinds of performance that occur during the show include, Traditional dance groups, Typical Enga rituals, Primitive arts & crafts, Enga Products fair and others.

Duration: 2 - 3 days

Month: August

Venue: The Enga Show Ground

Transport: Public transport, Hire cars

Places of interest:
Surrounding villages

cultural show experience

HIRI MOALE FESTIVAL - PORT MORESBY

To observe and preserve the Hiri Trade expeditions between the Motu- Kaitabu people and Erema (Kerema) people on the south western coast of Papua New Guinea.

Background: Using traditional means of navigation, the Motu-Kaitabu people would sail west to trade clay pots for sago and canoe logs from the Erema (Kerema) then return some months later. The Hiri trade remained an integral part of Motu- Kaitabu life even after the first expatriate arrived. However, with the onset of western influences, WWII carrier duties and the population seeking employment, this saw the decline of this voyage and in 1957, it was officially banned after a lagatoi capsized killing a number of crew members. This cultural event was staged to maintain and remember the spirit of the Hiri trade thereby imparting Hiri expedition experiences and skills that would otherwise be lost. Performances include traditional dances, Hiri queen contest, Lagatoi arrival, canoe racing, musical presentations plus arts & crafts exhibitions.

Duration: 2 - 3 days

Month: September

Venue: Selected areas around Port Moresby, But mainly around the Hubert Murray Stadium and Ela Beach.

Transport: Public transport, Taxis and Hire cars

Places of interest:

Varirata National Park, Sogeri Plateau, National Museum & Art Gallery, PNG Arts, National Capital Botanical Gardens, Bomana War Cemetery, National Parliament.

GOROKA SHOW - GOROKA

To promote and preserve Eastern Highlands and other Highlands cultures as well as showcase their provinces arts and cultures.

Background: The first Highlands show was staged at Goroka in 1956. The Australian Administrator's initial aim was to bring together various clans from around the Highlands provinces. The tradition continues and in recent years the show has hosted between seventy and one hundred and forty singing groups- each comprising of between ten and twenty participants. Groups now come from all corners of the country and are hosted for a week by neighboring villages around Goroka. This is by far the largest gathering of groups at any show.

Duration: 3 days

Month: September

Venue: Goroka Show Ground

Transport: Public transport and Hire cars.

Places of interest:

JK McCarthy Museum, Eastern Highlands Cultural Centre (Kainantu), Daulo Pass.

TUMBAN MASK FESTIVAL - RABAU

Staged in Port Moresby for the first time in 1995, it is the National Cultural Commission's desire to maintain and preserve, in live form, this important aspect of Papua New Guinea culture.

Background: The Mask festival was staged as a National festival to promote Mask cultures of Papua New Guinea, particularly the provinces where the mask culture is prevalent, the New Guinea Islands, the Momase region and the Gulf province. The festival is on rotational basis.

Duration: 2 days

Month: July

Venue: Queen Elizabeth's Park, Rabaul, ENBP.

Transport: Public transport, Hire cars.

Places of interest:

Yamamoto Bunkers, Submarine Base Tunnel, Japanese Tunnel-Karawia, Watom Island, Rabaul Observatory.

authentic cultural experience



MOROBE SHOW - LAE

To display and promote agricultural, manufacturing, educational and cultural products to visitors.

Background: Displays at the show include varied displays such as mining, poultry, animal shows, building materials, school displays and non government organizational groups. It is also an arena to promote the Morobe people's art and culture in terms of performing arts. Performances include traditional singing groups mainly from the Morobe province plus contemporary rock and string-band music.

Duration: 3 days

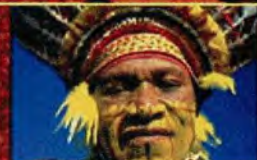
Month: October

Venue: Lae Show Ground

Transport: Public transport and Rental cars.

Places of interest:

Rain Forest Habitat, Lae War Cemetery, Lae Botanical Gardens



when & where in 2005

May 5 - 7th
June 5 - 7th
June 24 - 26th
July 5 - 9th
July 6 - 12th
July 13 - 16th
Aug 12 - 14th
Aug 12 - 14th
Aug 20 - 21st
Sep 2nd - 3rd
Sep 15 - 18th
Sep 16th
Oct 15 - 16th
Nov 2nd - 5th

PNG Coffee festival & Trade Fair
Central Agriculture show
Lukim PNG Nau Tourism exhibition
Milamala Yam festival
Tolai Warwagira
National Mask festival
Engan Cultural show
Tufi Cultural show
Mt Hagen Cultural show
Garamut & Mambu festival
Hiri Moale festival
PNG Independence celebrations
Morobe show
Kundu & Canoe festival

Goroka, Eastern Highlands
Port Moresby, NCD.
Port Moresby, NCD.
Kiriwina, Milne Bay
Kokopo, East New Britain
Kokopo, East New Britain
Wabag, Enga
Tufi, Oro
Wewak, Western Highlands
Wewak, East Sepik
Port Moresby, NCD.
All throughout the country
Lae, Morobe
Aiotau, Milne Bay

Smaller shows and events do take place throughout the year. Colourful cultural activities from schools, church groups and communities also take place throughout the country.

For further information

Papua New Guinea
Tourism Promotion Authority
5th floor, Pacific MMI House, Champion Parade
P.O. Box 1291, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
Telephone: (675) 320 0211
Facsimile: (675) 320 0223
Email: info@pngtourism.org.pg

Australia contact:
Gavin Anderson and Company
Tel: + (612) 9552 4499
Fax: + (612) 9552 4899
Email: pngtourism@gavinanderson.com.au

www.pngtourism.org.pg

CANOE & KUNDU FESTIVAL - ALOTAU

Background: Initiated by the National Cultural Commission and the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority in close consultation with the Milne Bay Tourism Bureau as agent in 2004 as an annual cultural event. Milne Bay a maritime province where the main form of transport in the past and today is by sea of different forms and character. The choice of awarding Milne Bay with this festival is not only an appropriate selection, but truly a somewhat grand mix of culture and tourism working together to promote our living traditions and eco-tourism.

Duration: 6 days

Month: November

Venue: Aiotau. Feeder starting points will also stage cultural activities before racing canoes off to Aiotau.

Transport: Hire cars and taxis

Places of interest:

Skull caves, Bat caves, World War II relics tours, local village tours, nearby island tours, snorkel & dive tours, bird-watching tours, Samarai & Kwato Historic site tours.



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