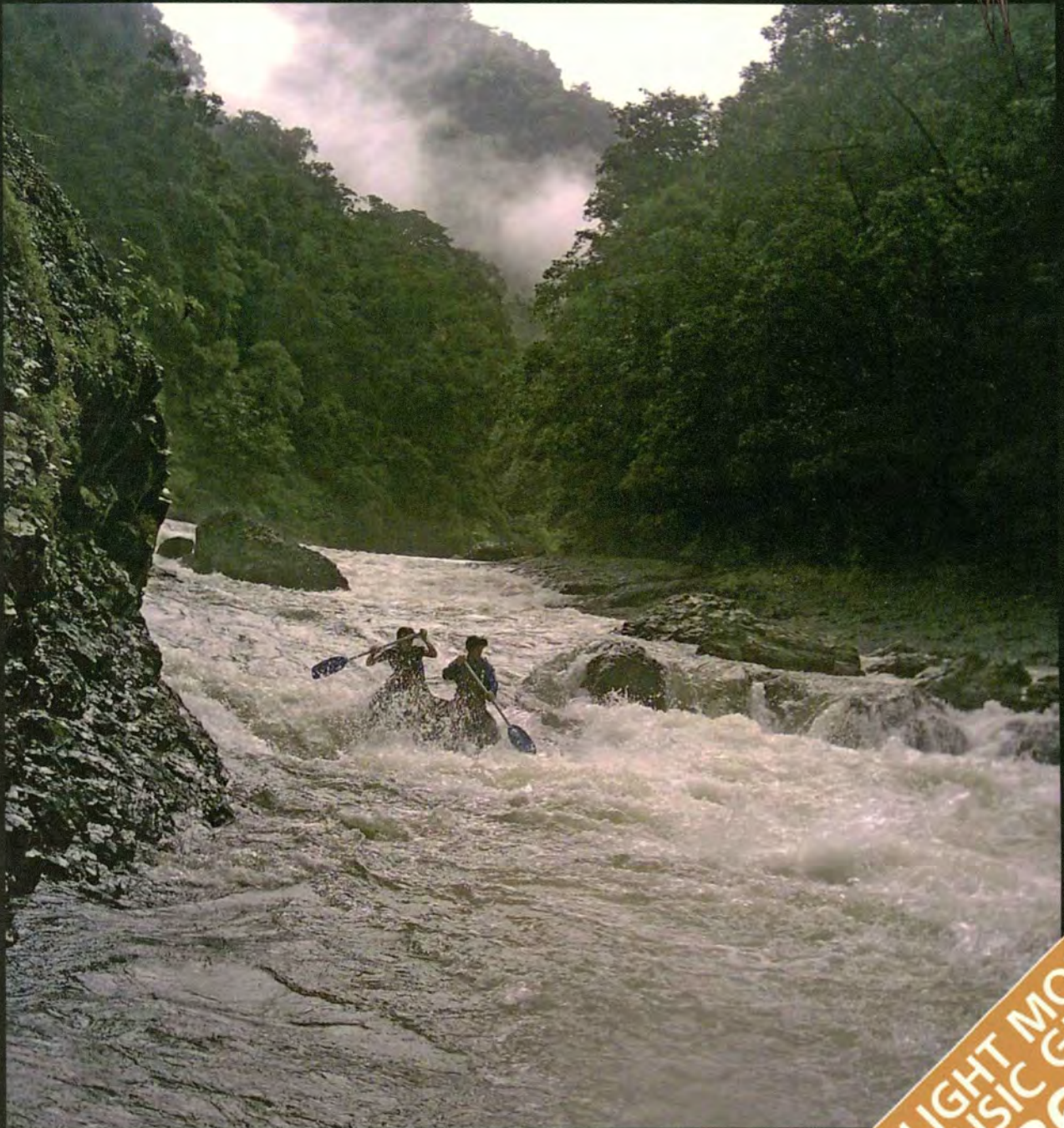


Paradise

inflight with air niugini

VOL 5, 2006



INFLIGHT MOVIE
& MUSIC GUIDE
36



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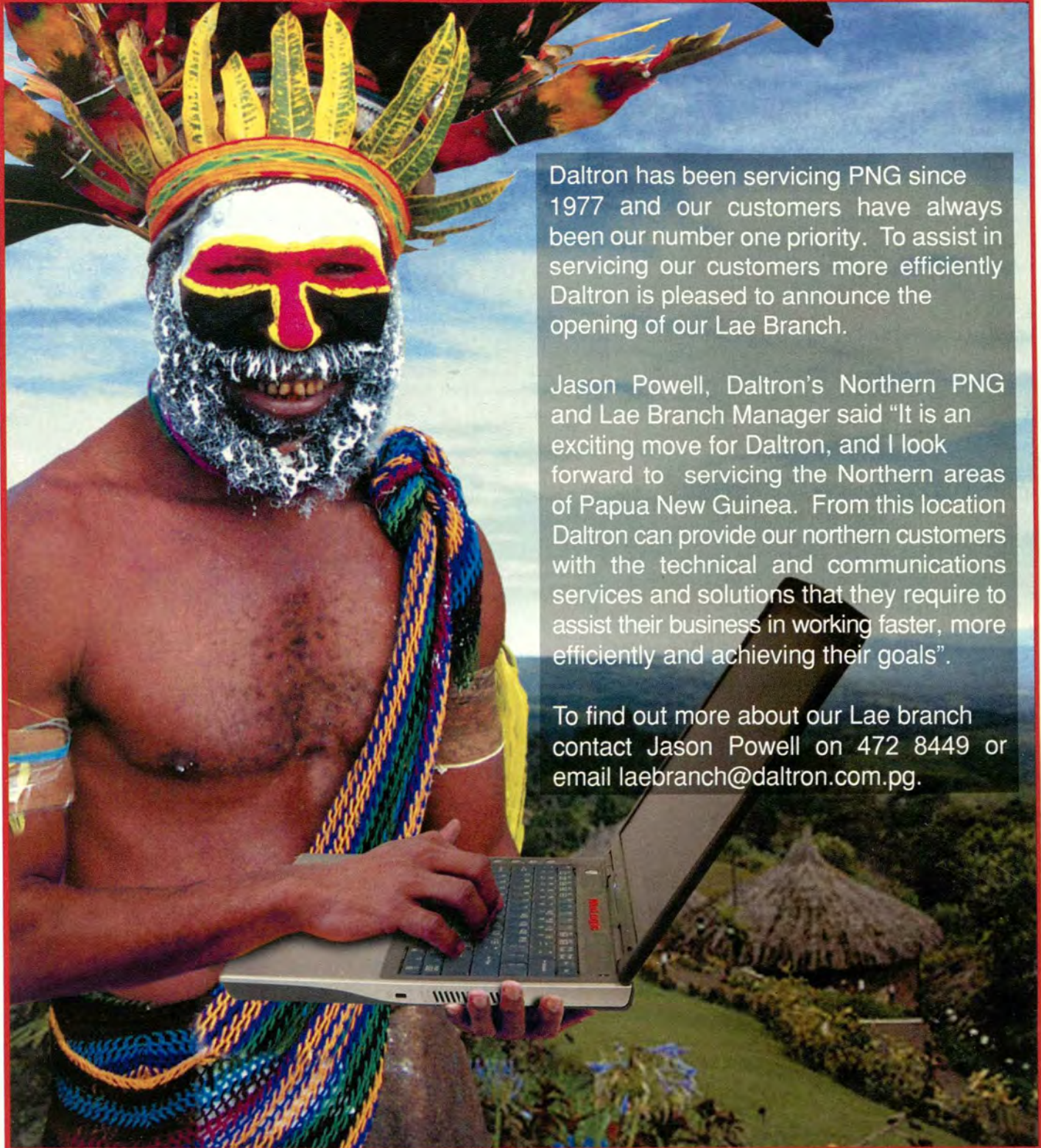
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Daltron now serving Northern Papua New Guinea from Lae!



Daltron has been servicing PNG since 1977 and our customers have always been our number one priority. To assist in servicing our customers more efficiently Daltron is pleased to announce the opening of our Lae Branch.

Jason Powell, Daltron's Northern PNG and Lae Branch Manager said "It is an exciting move for Daltron, and I look forward to servicing the Northern areas of Papua New Guinea. From this location Daltron can provide our northern customers with the technical and communications services and solutions that they require to assist their business in working faster, more efficiently and achieving their goals".

To find out more about our Lae branch contact Jason Powell on 472 8449 or email laebranch@daltron.com.pg.

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Chairman's Message

Welcome Aboard.

Air Niugini's service to Hong Kong on August 8, 2006 was applauded by the inaugural passengers who flew into the exotic oriental city and welcomed with a performance of the Chinese Lion Dance.

According to Chinese tradition, the lions are a symbol of wealth and good fortune. It was interesting to note also that Air Niugini was recorded as the 82nd airline that operated into Hong Kong that evening.

Once again, the number 82 has significance in Chinese tradition; eight means prosperity and two means easy.

During the inaugural welcome ceremony at the Hong Kong International Airport, the Master of Ceremony aptly described Papua New Guinea as "a masterpiece created by the hands of nature".

This country, abundant in natural beauty and a rich and vibrant culture, will celebrate its 31st anniversary of independence on September 16.

This is a time Papua New Guinea will display its proud cultural heritage through the many events and traditional festivals around the provinces.

This is a time when more than 800 tribes will unite as one to remember the birth of their nation.

Air Niugini has been a part of this birth and the growth and development of Papua New Guinea.

With the ever changing aviation industry environment around the world, Air Niugini is faced with the challenge to seek options to carry out its business smarter and in an efficient manner to compete against escalating operating costs and other regional competition.

Air Niugini has been examining expansion of its existing network and strengthening its current services.

To further stimulate tourism growth between Papua New Guinea and Australia, Air Niugini launched its Super Spring Sale fares between Port Moresby and Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney on August 1.

These all-inclusive fares provide for a minimum of five days and maximum of 14 days stay and are available right through to 30 November 2006. A 25% discount is also available to PNG domestic connecting passengers who purchase Super Spring Sale fares.

I am confident the initiatives taken up by Air Niugini will help extend the tourism market in this region and PNG in particular.

We welcome our overseas visitors who are in the country during the independence celebrations and invite you to participate in the festivities and experience true Melanesian hospitality.

To all our valued customers, thank you for your continued patronage.

Please enjoy our friendly inflight service and thank you for flying on our Bird of Paradise service.

J. Tjoeng CBE

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



OIL SEARCH LIMITED

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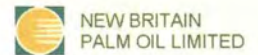
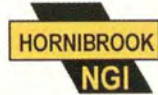
Singapore sets aglow

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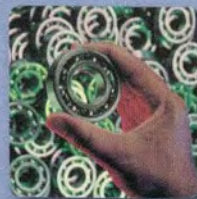
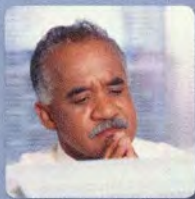
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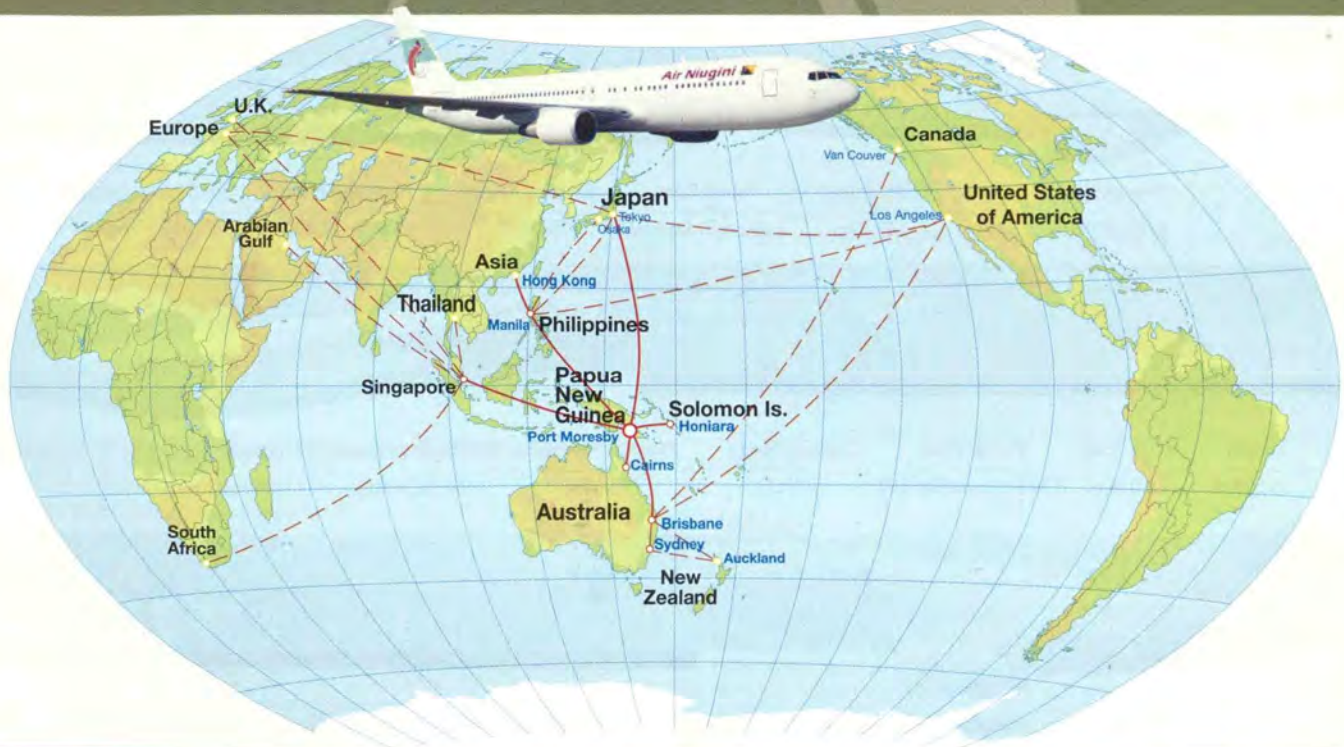
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Air Niugini

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B767-319ER

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.



Air Niugini

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 cannot be done with ease.

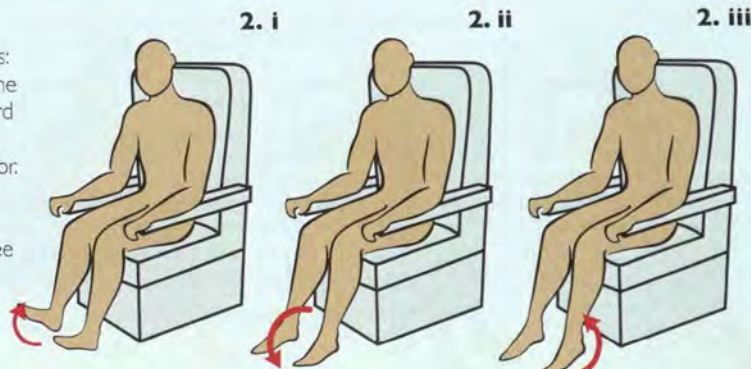
1. Ankle Circles

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 feet on the floor. Continue these three stages with continuous motion at 30-second 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.



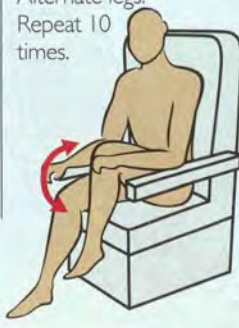
4. Neck Roll

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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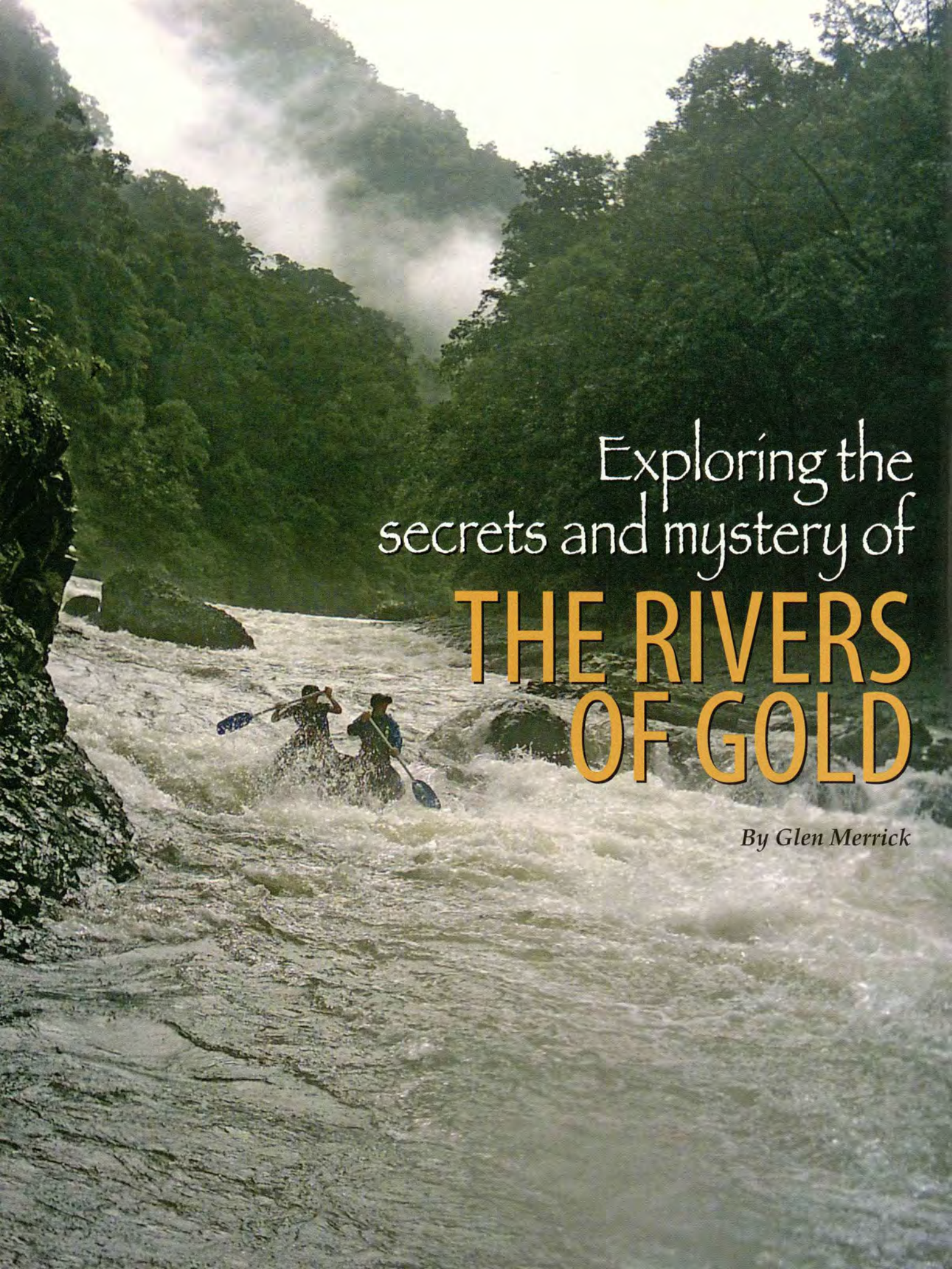


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Exploring the
secrets and mystery of

THE RIVERS OF GOLD

By Glen Merrick

Papua New Guinea for many travellers remains a land of mystery and wonder with its secrets lying deep in its impenetrable geography.

For those who will listen, the local people of Papua New Guinea will tell stories of the Mighty Golden Rivers, their waters laden with dust, tearing through the bedrock of the ancient mountains on their descent from the clouds.

The Watut is one of these Golden Rivers and rafting pioneers John Yost and Bruce Keller are set to capture the imagination of a new generation of explorers as they lead a four-day rafting trip through the gorges of the Watut.

Clients have flown in from the United States to join the expedition. They are gathering at Lae International Hotel for a final briefing where transport details, descriptions of

working with crude home-made sluices to gather what meagre traces of gold dust still remain.

We finally arrive at Bulolo River, the bus and our overloaded truck buckling under the weight of the passengers' rafts, frames, oars, ammo cans, coolers and dry bags.

The boats are pumped and rigged, three-oar boats and a paddle boat will be used. The oar boats will carry the bulk and weight of the trip supplies and the paddle boat will be crewed by the more experienced rafting clients within the group.

As the rafts push off into the currents of the Bulolo, the locals cheer and wave. Running down the river bank they seem as excited as we are to be underway.



The mighty Watut River...set to capture the imagination of new generation explorers.

the river and items to pack are being detailed.

Early in the morning, the bus starts its journey into the highlands - the roads are damaged by the Markham River and its seasonal floodwaters, so it will take three hours to reach the Bulolo River.

The Watut River deserves its reputation as a River of Gold - its waters begin near the old gold mining communities of Wau and Bulolo and fall from the highlands to the Markham River beside Lae.

In the 1920s, a gold rush began in the Bulolo Valley and flowed into the Watut. It was a very rich strike of high grade gold ore and many men worked and died in the fields. Even today as you float between the high walls of the Watut Gorge, villagers still line the river banks

The beginning of the first day we float through the Bulolo valley, an area where the gold rush began. Reminders of the goldfields lie on the river banks, dredges coated in thick red patina of rust lie next to locals panning for gold. As we float past, they all look up from their work to wave and smile.

The equatorial sun beats down incessantly throughout the day and as we float from the Bulolo into the Watut River valley, the water turns from clear to muddy, a reminder of the mining up and down stream. Locals light fires burning the tall grasses to make room for seasonal planting, smoke and flames leap high into the blue skies and rainbow bee-eaters dart above chasing insects fleeing the flames. Ahead, the high valleys and gently sloping hills abruptly meet the dark emerald walls of the

forest and waiting beneath the forest's heavy folds is the entrance to the Watut Gorge.

Walls rise towering above us and the river steepens, John signals for the guides to follow closely as the waters of the Watut quicken their pace.

The river begins to gain a steamrolling momentum, rapids form, gradually getting bigger as the gradient sharpens and the river narrows. From here, the rapids will continue for two days never once stopping or slowing.

Hours of rafting have passed leaving us in the depths of the Watut Gorge, completely exhausted and isolated from the roads which now are at least a two-day hike away.

The group quickly takes to the task of preparing camp each night. Always, no matter how remote you think you are, locals always appear and so when they arrive we are ready to swap popcorn and biscuits for papaya and coconuts.

Throughout the night, the group sits by the fire watching the blanket of stars overhead and talking about the day's adventures while drinking icy cold beer. Next morning, the camp is cleared after breakfast and the rafts rigged ready for a long 10-hour day of whitewater.

Parachute Falls.



Manoeuvring the Watutu river as it quickens its pace.



The river drops into the Barap rapids and continues its steep descent through powerful sections of whitewater. All day the river falls before us. By now everyone is a seasoned veteran and relishes the different challenges each rapid presents us with.

Not too far downstream, John remembers an area where a stunning waterfall, a short walk from the river bank can be found, so we stop to rest a little for the afternoon's rafting, eat some lunch and investigate the hidden falls. Water tumbles over the lip of Parachute Falls 100 feet to the pool below, a fine mist sparkles and rainbows dance in the cool air.

We paddle and row through the rapids for another three hours passing waving villagers. Children float out to us in their tyre tubes and follow us downstream with gifts of coconuts and fruit.

The river starts to level out, the vegetation changes quickly from the steamy thick green rainforest to dry eucalyptus, fringed high on the mountains by pockets of denser forests.

Birds begin to appear. Where before you can only hear them, now you can also see their beautiful plumage as they drift past parrots, lorikeets, hornbills, bee eaters

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and fruit doves - all filling the forest canopy with their songs.

The river widens and the rapids become gradually smaller. They now appear further apart as the gorge opens up and smooth rounded top mountains can be seen rising above the tree lines.

Along the river bank as the sun sets, villagers pan and sluice in the evening's golden light. Like the villagers upstream they too wave and laugh at the odd coloured boats passing by, before settling back into their work.

Now the river has calmed down, it is a different experience and you see the Watut in a new light.

A long day is coming to a close, the whitewater sections have been wearing away our energy reserves steadily throughout the day.

As we pushed into a gorgeous red Papuan sunset, we hope to find a suitable beach to spend the evening.

We camp very close to the exit of the gorge amongst the mining equipment of a local village. Local boys wander down offering clean water from the village pumps and more gifts of fruit for everyone.

Tomorrow we will float out into the open lower valley of the Watut where we hope to find a village downstream that will hire us a boat we can use to tow the rafts for a day across the flat pools of the winding lower Watut.

Morning light appears and we are already on our way with the Watut Gorge falling behind us. As the Watut river snakes past villages, river traffic begins to become busy as dugouts of all sizes appear, some being poled and others cruising along with shiny new Yamaha outboard motors idling behind.

Manoeuvring is difficult amongst the

trees and logs that clog the lower Watut.

While our boatman prepares the engine, we organise clients into the dugout. Our dry bags become cushions, water bottles, fruit and books appear in readiness for the long hot day ahead since we will need to motor for at least seven hours if we are to make it to the campsite at the mouth of the Markham River.

The romance of sitting in a dugout canoe in the wilds of Papua New Guinea lasts for about the same length of time it takes for our butt cheeks to go numb, even with such beautiful surroundings.

single malt whiskies and rum secreted away especially for such an occasion.

The long day and whisky finally takes its toll as the group slips into a fitful sleep in preparation for the final paddle.

Awaken early by the birds singing and the burning sunlight, the group shapes up remarkably well after the previous evening with everyone happily finishing a double helping of juice, sausages, bacon and eggs.

Eager to be on the river before the heat of the day, we packed and rigged the rafts ready for the last river leg.



Rest time...after a day's hard work.

The entrance to the Markham River is a welcome sight. Late in the afternoon bare grass covered hillsides squat next to the ancient Markham riverbed.

Behind them and rising into the distant clouds are the towering shadows of the highlands soaring thousands of feet above sea level.

The dugout pulls ashore at a campsite used previously by John. Tonight under a sky bursting with starlight we gather round a roaring fire on our last night rafting the Watut.

The faint throb of drums can be heard drifting down from upstream villages as we tuck into a delicious supply of

We head downstream - the final few miles to the confluence with the Markham River.

The rafting teams float along enjoying the peaceful pace of the slowly waking villages and the cool morning breeze. Before we realised it, we have rounded the last corner and our journey down the Watut River comes to an end.

The Watut River is not just a journey through an incredible ecosystem isolated by oceans, it is a life experience to be shared and savoured, a chance to exist in a world almost forgotten until the last century, a world among headmen and tribal rituals, a place where tall dark forests hide the last great habitats of some of the world's rarest and most exotic creatures.





PUB CRAWL AT THE ROCKS

By Rob Dunlop

I'm not normally one to condone binge drinking or pub crawling, however in the context of exploring the character rich area of The Rocks in Sydney, I feel a slight loosening of morals might be in order. Besides how else can one truly imbibe the idiosyncratic character of each pub without sampling its signature drink?

My good mate Geoff agrees to accompany me, even after I inform

him of the challenge I have concocted - that we have to drink the most popular drink at each pub, regardless of whether we like it or not. But I cave into the following terms: slash pub crawl in half - from 14 to seven pubs, and limit participants to two only, to reduce potential rowdiness. Ok, then. Grumble, grumble.

Our first stop is The Fortune of War on George St which proudly boasts on its awnings that it is Sydney's oldest pub since 1828. This is a claim that stirs lively debate amongst local historians and other licensees.

Along the walls, convincing arguments are presented in the form of framed historical documents and newspaper clippings.

Battles aside, we settle into the pub's most popular drink, Tooheys New, a lager that could easily pass as Sydney's iconic working class beer. Elderly beer styles such as Tooheys Old and Reschs Draught are still available to satisfy the locals, population 800, of which some have been showing their faces for 40-50 years.

We head upstairs to the First Fleet bar, which displays lists of the First Fleet passengers. Geoff finds the name of a relative, a First Lieutenant marine, who arrived in 1788 on the Lady Penrhyn - a ship that carried 101 female convicts. The Rocks, Australia's oldest European settlement, is indeed rich in history.



Australian Hotel...serves only Australian beer.



Inside the Fortune of War.

Our next stop, only a few minutes away, is the Orient Hotel, which began trading in 1884. Today it is a slick and polished operation that spans three floors and spills outside into a family-friendly courtyard. We are served Jack Daniels whiskey and cola. And as the music in the downstairs bar area plays, single thirty somethings start filing in.

Orient Hotel...a slick and polished operation.

We leave the sweet tastes of the Orient and make tracks for the Observer Hotel, established 1848, which is a return to old style pub atmosphere. And as we drink our third drink, schooner of Tooheys New (again), Gavin, the chatty barman, regales us of haunted house stories. He and his colleagues have to brave the spirit of a woman murdered by the publican in 1944.

The haunted Observer Hotel...established in 1848.





Glenmore Hotel...has fantastic views.

We'd love to chat some more, Gav, but we're on a mission. When we hit the streets again, we decide on a higgledy piggledy deviation instead of continuing along George St. Needless to say, we're starting to feel a little bit under the weather by now.

We resort to the map for our next stop, the Glenmore Hotel, on Cumberland St, which has been around since 1921. The most popular drink is Coopers Original Ale, which is a perfect match to the old English style pub. We head to the rooftop beer garden for views of the Opera House and tuck into the signature lunch of burger and chips.

The fantastic views and splash of winter sun induce us to linger and sink another schooner. By this time we're so full, but still have three pubs to go.

We limp about 40 metres to The Australian Hotel, built in 1913, which occupies a dramatic corner setting with contrasting modern skyline as a backdrop.

Patriotically, they serve only Australian beer, including 98 bottled varieties! George, the duty manager, presents us with the prized drop - Scharer's Lager, which is brewed in Sydney.

It's a beer, he says, that crosses gender and age. And with a smooth,

sweet flavour, it's not hard to see why. Extending the patriotic theme, the pub also serves up pizzas of kangaroo and emu.

Pub number six, the Harbour View Hotel provides us with a breath of fresh air.

Inside the Australian Hotel.





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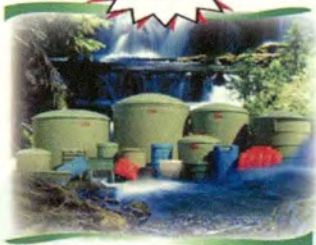
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Harbour View Hotel.

Both in the form of imposing outdoor views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the drink we are served - Bloody Mary - complete with protruding

celery stalks and submerged cherry tomatoes.

This is a pub with a retro feel much

Mercantile Hotel...rowdy Irish bar.



closer to art deco, which the signature cocktail reflects. Sit on the balcony and ponder: In 1923, the original pub, replaced by a granite pylon, was demolished along with 800 homes to make way for the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Wow.

Our lucky last stop, back on George St, is the rowdy Irish pub, the Mercantile, established 1915. But at this stage we are in no mood for Irish jigging, so we instead head outside, clasping our schooners of Irish Stout, Guinness.

It's pub number seven and drink number eight. Just how many standard drinks that equates to, we are unsure of. But the main thing is we have survived, with no brawling or vomit sprays to speak of. We did it, dude! Eight cheers for congenial mini-pub crawls!

Mates forever...



Yes, we made it...Rob Dunlop and mate Geoff.



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Brother Owen and sister Diana Ainui cutting their mother's tabu wheel. The wheel they have is worth about K3500.

TABU AND TUMBUANS

The death rituals in the Tolai culture

By Annette Sete

The beating of the garamut (drum) woke up the entire community at Bitabaur, a small village outside the township of Kokopo, in East New Britain. It announced what people would soon find out; the death of an 85-year old woman.

Word about the death was sent out to relatives, friends and nearby villagers who flocked to Bitabaur for the special death ceremonies.

This is a story of one of Tolai's ceremonies where tabu shells and tumbuans play a major role. It is especially to do with death.

Tabu shells are the legal tender for the Tolai people, although it is not recognised by authorities. People use tabu to buy rice and other goodies in the village trade stores, or from individuals who trade with tabu.

Tabu also signifies how wealthy a person is. It is also used in bride price ceremonies, weddings, feasts and other celebrations, including death ceremonies.

So when relatives travelled in for the funeral of the late Rosa Baldia Ainui, they came with clothes for the ceremony as well as tabu shells, some in "params" (a metre long rope containing tabu shells), others came with "tabu wheels" (hundreds of params rolled into a wheel).

After the funeral at the Bitabaur United Church, the late Rosa was laid to rest at the nearby cemetery. Families, friends and relatives gathered to bid her farewell. In the Tolai culture, it is normal to have choirs sing while flowers and wreaths are being laid.

Then followed the "Ulaubu" or the mourning period. Tents were set up, mats woven from coconut fronds, make-shift kitchens and fireplaces built for families and relatives who would be visiting and sleeping with the family of the late Rosa; a way of showing their sorrow.

This period saw varied groups invited to sing throughout the night while relatives of the dead made tea and coffee and distributed biscuits and bread for those choir groups.

The "Kututabu" or the breaking of the tabu, then followed after a couple of weeks depending on the family members of the late Rosa.

The late Rosa was a respected mother in this village. Her status in the community stemmed from her role in the women's fellowship of the United Church where she was one of the founding members.

Her husband also held various positions within the church. Son Owen Ainui is also a respected member of

the Bitabaur village.

As such, hundreds of people gathered for the “kututabu” or some call it “minamai”. This is a ceremony where tabu wheels and params were cut by the immediate family members and distributed to those who had helped during the mourning period, funeral and burial.

Families and relatives of the late Rosa contributed tabu to help the immediate family compensate helpers. For example, the men who dug the grave would be given tabu as a token of appreciation.

Then comes the part where families cut the tabu wheels. This is a show of the tabu wealth. Varied sizes were brought out.

In normal circumstances they would have been kept in houses and storerooms as wealth of the family where they would continue to roll params on to the wheels for such occasions. After the “kututabu”, the params that were cut off the wheels will have to be replaced for future tabu ceremonies.

Betel nut is another significant object in this ceremony. It will also be dished out together with tabu to those who have come to pay their respect for the dead. It is a way of marking the death of a person. Everyone - big and small, young and old, men and women - will be given tabu and betel nut.

It is a time for tabu trading as well. Mothers and young women have packets of twisties, lollies, ice cream and other snacks for sale - to be bought with tabu shells only.

One lady was selling cheese pop for 40 tabu shells a packet. A cone of ice cream was going for 100 shells. Another lady had boiled sausages for 80 shells each.

While all these were going on, the crowd was called to attention by the arrival of two tumbuan. They were from the family of the late Rosa. Tumbuan also signify the

importance and status of males in the Tolai culture. This is a rare appearance and a brief one too, where they were given tabu and went back into hiding. As part of the cultural rituals, these tumbuan are said to have gone back to the dead and would not come out for a long, long time.

After a few days, people again gathered for another ceremony, the “kikutu”. This is to end the mourning period. The Ainui family prepares a feast for all those who attended the funeral, burial, “kututabu” and those who brought food or cash to support the family. A pig is killed and cut up for distribution together with rice, betel nut and bananas. Everyone has to have a share of the feast.

The last ceremony is called a “tunkubin” where mats used by families and relatives of the late Rosa who slept with her immediate family during the “ulaubu” were burnt. Another feast is held to thank family members

for their help during the mourning period. Owen said the whole exercise was an expensive affair even though it was more a traditional ritual than a modern exercise where the dead has a funeral service and a burial.

But he said it was a matter of whether

you’re in or out of the traditional society.

“It’s an expensive exercise because of the traditional and customary ceremonies. I could have said no to doing all these but that’s not our way of life,” he said.

“It’s my culture and people before me have done that. If I don’t do it, then I bring shame to myself and my family.”

So as they bid farewell to the late Rosa, and the death rituals come to an end, families, relatives and friends return to their homes and jobs to continue their lives. The village of Bitabaur goes back to its daily activities and the tabu wheels once again are hidden away for future rites.



Owen Ainui giving tabu to the tumbuan as part of the rituals.

RAMU RIVER... THE NEW TRAVEL HOTSPOT

Words and Pictures by Steven Mago

Mention the word Ramu everywhere in PNG and the first thing that comes to mind is sugar.

Start talking about tourism in Ramu River and the mountainous region of Madang and people here will tell you that there is no such thing as tourists in Ramu.

The closest they get are bible translators, researchers and anthropologists - but no bona fide tourists whose purpose of visiting PNG is purely for leisure, pleasure and recreation.

Put simply - the Ramu region has never been a strong contender for new adventure tourism. No one in the PNG tourism industry has ever considered Ramu seriously. But maybe Ramu's days in the doldrums are coming to an end.

From new indications and efforts being put in place in Madang by tour operator PNG Experience Tours, Ramu



Alef AalFs and Cornelia Kamp boarding the plane from Simbai to Madang.

River and its adjacent mountainous region and bordering wilderness neighbourhood could soon be taking off as PNG's newest and serious adventure tourism area.

It has already drawn the interests of three overseas-based inbound tour operators wanting to package Ramu River.

Ask Dutch tourists Hendrick Alef AalFs and Cornelia Kamp, world adventure tourists, and they will tell you why they think Ramu River and Simbai are definitely PNG's new adventure travel hotspots.

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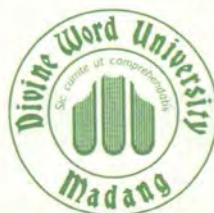
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Alef Aalfs and Cornelia Kamp.

challenging, culturally authentic, beautiful, natural, and pristine with an exceptional birdlife as Ramu River.

With the help of local tour operators and Ecotourism Melanesia, the visitors undertook an historic Ramu River canoeing experience. It started with a day trip around Madang, visiting the town's attractions including

Balek Wildlife Sanctuary, Alexishafen Catholic Mission and Kusen village, the site of a well-known dive/picnic site, "Hole in the Wall." At Kusen, they were hosted by Rebecca Samen who demonstrated the traditional way of making soap and traditional medicine.

The Ramu expedition started with a drive to Boko village in the Usino sub-district. There they overnighed before taking a three-day canoe voyage downstream, stopping at villages and observing their unique wildlife and birds including baby cassowaries at Gueil Village, about 80 Blyths Hornbills, 3 Victoria Crowned Pigeons, a crocodile at the mouth of the Simbai River, 5 different species of kingfishers including the colourful Paradise Kingfisher,



Boko women welcome the party.

hundreds of Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos, numerous water birds and a Bird of Paradise in the forests between Akraski and Aiome.

After overnighing at Akraski, they walked for three hours to Aiome station where Dickson Kangi, master guide from Simbai Kalam Guesthouse, was waiting. Kangi led the group across Asai River and mountain hiked to Kenenz, half way between Aiome and Simbai.



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Canoeing the Ramu River.

Setting out to set a record, they canoed across from Akraski and walked to Aiome, crossed the Asai River and arrived at nightfall at Kenenz, a journey that would normally take two to three nights but which they did in a record time.

Their tour of the region, organised by PNG Experience Tours in collaboration with Madang Visitors and Cultural Bureau, Simbai's Kalam Guesthouse and Ecotourism Melanesia gave the tourists a "real taste of adventure, authentic cultural experience and value for money", according to Kamp.

"We came from South East Asia and I can tell you PNG is the best of our travel experiences. Out of the places and activities we visited and did here, the Ramu River expedition is the highlight because it was a challenging and authentic cultural experience. Nothing was made up for us along the way; we came, met and saw people, became part of their lifestyle, environment and wildlife as it was," said Aalfs.

"This is the experience we came for so when we walked in the mud and canoed down the river in driving rain, we enjoyed every minute of it because we were in the midst of a wilderness region and could not have asked for anything more. Birds were not really on our minds but when we saw about a hundred hornbills, cockatoos, pigeons, parrots, lorikeets, drongos, kites, a crocodile and a bird of paradise, we were over the moon. Ramu is definitely a hornbill, kingfisher, cockatoo and crowned pigeon paradise.

According to Aalfs, "Ramu has the potential to be PNG's best adventure hotspot and there's a lot of Dutch tourists who would love to come and experience your river canoeing adventures, trekking, mountain hiking, kayaking, rainforest and bush walks, scientific studies, village study tours, birding and orchids."





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CHANNEL

- Just My Luck (ENGLISH) 1 ●
- Just My Luck (JAPANESE) 2 ●
- The Sentinel (ENGLISH) 1 ●
- The Sentinel (JAPANESE) 2 ●
- The Break-up (ENGLISH) 1 ●
- The Break-up (JAPANESE) 2 ●
- Nacho Libre (ENGLISH) 1 ●
- Nacho Libre (JAPANESE) 2 ●

● Shown on all flights

● Shown on flights to Port Moresby

● Shown on flights from Port Moresby

NB - Japanese is available in Business Class by pressing the desired channel button plus pressing the language button.



Denotes movies shown in Business Class



Denotes movies shown in Economy Class

Movies available on International flights.

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JUST MY LUCK



Ashley is the luckiest girl in the world while Robert is the unluckiest guy – until a magical kiss between them swaps their luck and Ashley suddenly meets with bad fortune at every turn, while Robert can't believe his new-found good fortune. Ashley is determined to kiss Robert again to steal her luck back, but when she falls in love with him for real, she starts to have second thoughts.

Romantic Comedy

Rated PG-13

Duration: 103 mins

Cast: Lindsay Lohan, Chris Pine, Samaire Armstrong, Carlos Ponce



September

THE SENTINEL



When a colleague is murdered, Secret Service agent Pete Garrison is put in charge of the investigation. But Garrison himself becomes a suspect after he is blackmailed by someone who knows of his affairs with the first lady. Stripped of his duties and now a fugitive, Garrison races to prove his innocence and save the president's life.

Thriller

Rated PG-13

Duration: 107 mins

Cast: Michael Douglas, Kim Basinger, Eve Longoria, Kiefer Sutherland



September

THE BREAK-UP



After breaking up, a couple struggles to live together in the condominium which neither wants to move out of, while facing the question of what their relationship really means to each of them.

Comedy, Romance

Rated PG-13

Duration: 107 mins

Cast: Vince Vaughn, Jennifer Aniston



October

NACHO LIBRE



In this hilarious story, a poor Mexican monastery worker with a big heart, finally realises his life-long dream of becoming a wrestler when he enters a local Lucha Libre Tournament in an attempt to save his community with the prize money.

Comedy, Romance

Rated PG

Duration: 91 mins

Cast: Jack Black, Hector Jimenez, Ana de la Reguera



October

AMERICAN DREAMZ




On the morning of his re-election, the President decides to read the newspaper for the first time in four years. This starts him down a slippery slope. Frightened by the President's apparent nervous breakdown, his Chief-of-Staff pushes him back into the spotlight, booking him as a guest judge on the colossal hit talent show, American Dreamz

Comedy, Satire, Political

Rated PG-13

Duration: 107 mins

Cast: Chris Klein, Dennis Quaid, Hugh Grant, Jennifer Coolidge, Willem Dafoe

 **September/October**

ON A CLEAR DAY




Frank is a hard-working 55 year-old, respected in his local community, who suddenly finds himself without a job. For the first time in his life, Frank is without direction. When his friend Danny jokes that on a clear day he could swim to France, an idea is planted in Frank's mind. Concealing his plans from his loving wife Joan, Frank decides to put his life back together by attempting the ultimate test of endurance – swim the English Channel.

Drama

Rated PG-13

Duration: 98mins

Cast: Peter Mullen, Brenda Blethyn, Billy Boyd

 **September/October**

THE GREAT NEW WONDERFUL




A character-driven movie about hope and learning to live with life's unexpected changes. Five stories are woven together against the complex backdrop of a new era in New York.

Comedy, Drama

Rated R

Duration: 87 mins

Cast: Maggie Gyllenhaal, Edie Falco, Olympia Dukakis, Tony Shalhoub, Nasserudin Shah

 **September/October**

LUCKY NUMBER SLEVIN




Set in New York City, a case of mistaken identity lands Slevin in the middle of a war being plotted by two of the city's rival crime bosses – The Rabbi and The Boss. Slevin is under constant surveillance by relentless Goodkat and finds himself having to hatch his own ingenious plot to get them...before they get him.

Drama, Thriller

Rated R

Duration: 109 mins

Cast: Josh Hartnett, Morgan Freeman, Ben Kingsley, Bruce Willis, Lucy Liu

 **September/October**

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3




Recently retired, Agent Ethan Hunt lives a slower-paced life training new IMF agents. With this change, new opportunities enter his life, including a possible marriage to his girlfriend Julia. However, when a new conflict arises, Ethan is called back to duty to confront the toughest villain he's ever faced – Owen Davian, an international weapons and information provider with no remorse and no conscience.

Action, Thriller

Rated PG-13

Duration: 120 mins

Cast Tom Cruise, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ving Rhames, Keri Russel, Ana de la Reguera

 **September/October**

POSEIDON




It's New Year's Eve and festivities have begun aboard the luxury cruise ship Poseidon, at sea in the North Atlantic. Tonight, many of the ship's guests have gathered to greet the New Year in style in the magnificent Main Ballroom. They raise champagne glasses as Captain Bradford delivers a holiday toast and the band rolls into a version of "Auld Lang Syne." Meanwhile, on the bridge, the Chief Officer senses that something is wrong.

Action, Adventure

Rated PG-13

Duration: 98 mins

Cast: Kurt Russell, Josh Lucas, Richard Dreyfuss.

 **September/October**

CLASSICAL Channel 5

**The Marriage Of Figaro:
Overture**
Mozart
Academy Of St.
Martin-in-the-fields
Conductor: Sir Neville
Marriner

**Violin Concerto Op. 8, No.
12 In C (Allegro)**
Vivaldi
K. Botvay: Violin
Budapest Strings

**Pavane Pour Une Infante
Defunte**
Maurice Ravel
Tasmanian Symphony
Orchestra
Conductor: David Stanhope

Valse Triste, Op. 44
Sibelius
Berliner Philharmoniker
Conductor: Herbert Von
Karajan

'O Sole Mio
Di Capua/capurro
The Three Tenors
Orchestra Del Teatro
Dell'opera Di Roma
Orchestra Del Maggio
Musicale Fiorentino
Conductor: Zubin Mehta

**Rhapsody, Op. 79, No. 2,
In G Minor**
Brahms
Van Cliburn: Piano

1812 Overture, Op. 49
Tchaikovsky
Vienna Philharmonic
Orchestra & State Opera
Chorus

**Arrival Of The Queen Of
Sheba**
Handel
English Chamber Orchestra
Conductor: Raymond
Leppard

Greensleeves
Trad. Arr Lee
Yvonne Kenny: Soprano
Melbourne Symphony
Orchestra
Conductor: Vladimir Kamirski

Gnossienne No. 1
Satie
John Williams: Guitar

**Eine Kleine Nachtmusik,
K.525 Rondo (Allegro)**
Mozart
Philharmonia Orchestra
Conductor: Colin Davis

POP Channel 6

Get Together
Madonna

Amazing
Westlife

Stars Are Blind
Paris Hilton

Temperature
Sean Paul

That Old Pair Of Jeans
Fatboy Slim

Deja Vu
Beyonce Feat. Jay-z

Anysound
Thevines

Girlfriend
The Darkness

Buttons
The Pussycat Dolls

Sexy Love
Ne*yo

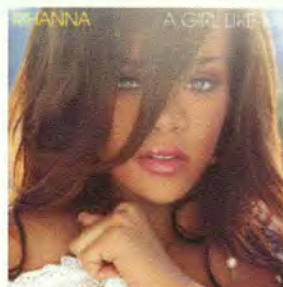
Extravaganza
Jamie Foxx Feat. Kanye West

Ain't No Other Man
Christina Aguilera

Hey Bang Bang
Starky

Get It Like You Like It
Ben Harper

Unfaithful
Rihanna



The River
Live

Who Knew
Pink

Life Wasted
Pearl Jam

EASY LISTENING Channel 7

**Stuck In A Moment You
Can't Get Out Of**
U2

Not Me, Not I
Delta Goodrem

Save The Last Dance For Me
Harry Connick Jr.

Put Your Records On
Corinne Bailey Rae

I'll Be Loving You (Forever)
New Kids On The Block

Sailing
Rod Stewart

Good People
Jack Johnson

**(You Make Me Feel Like A)
Natural Woman**
Aretha Franklin

Bad Day
Daniel Powter

Thank God I Found You
Mariah Carey (Featuring Joe &
98 Degrees)

True To Your Heart
98 Degrees & Stevie Wonder

Rise & Fall
Craig David Featuring Sting

I Can't Make You Love Me
Kate Ceberano

Don't Know Much
Linda Ronstadt & Aaron
Neville

Greatest Love Of All
Whitney Houston

PAPUA NEW GUINEA Channel 8

- Wan Kantri**
Bemu Kidu & John Wong
- Where Did It Go Wrong**
Drainside Feat. S/Tride
- Kaikai The Buai**
Gwadu
- Dirava**
Lakwaharu Prophet Singers
- Isa Mai Dia**
Lista Laka
- Spangane**
Sirosis
- Stailim, Stailim**
Murphy Buana
- Trupela Man**
Tania Sorariba
- Running Dreams**
Southern Tribe
- Burn It Up**
Oshen
- Ma Pacifica**
Dadi Gii
- Ino Mahn**
Angela Wala Feat. Hitsy Golou
- Wasombe**
Band Of Atzunas
- Anuguwatong**
Jlee
- Kaiavuru Ua**
Scholastic

COMEDY Channel 9

- Enya's Dirty Pub Songs**
Full Frontal
- Good Advice**
Allan Sherman
- The Grandparents**
Bill Cosby
- Silly Names -3**
Steve Penk
- Double Indemnity**
Groucho Marx
- Stand Up -3**
Dusty Young
- Foreign News (Channel 9)**
The Fast Show
- The Latest Devices**
Get Smart
- Room Service**
Henny Youngman
- Steel Marbles**
Jerry Clower
- The Wedding**
Rowan Atkinson
- Weatherman**
Saturday Night Live
- Heimlich Manoeuvre**
Eddie Izzard

COUNTRY Channel 10

- Just Another Day In Paradise**
Phil Vassar
- Settle For A Slowdown**
Dierks Bentley
- Nothing At All**
Kasey Chambers
- Somebody's Hero**
Jamie O'Neal
- Living In Fast Forward**
Kenny Chesney
- Who Says You Can't Go Home**
Bon Jovi Feat. Jennifer Nettles
- The Lucky One**
Faith Hill
- Don't Forget To Remember Me**
Carrie Underwood



- Red Ragtop**
Tim McGraw
- Life Is A Highway**
Rascal Flatts
- Somebody Like You**
Keith Urban
- The Chain Of Love**
Clay Walker
- I Believe In A Thing Called Love**
Hayseed Dixie
- Suddenly I**
Jake Nickolai
- Your Cheatin' Heart**
Leann Rimes
- Thank God I'm A Country Boy**
John Denver
- It's Alright**
Trisha Yearwood

CHILDRENS Channel 11

- Pokemon Theme**
Pokemon - Music From The T.V. Series
- Under The Sea**
A*teens
- Sand Crab's Disco**
Monica Trapaga
- The Elephant Elevator Operator**
Elephant Elevator Operator
- Mr. Chatterbox**
Douglas Blackwell
- Honey Bear Band**
Steve Howard/ Felicity Rosier/ Martin Cilia
- What's Up Doc?**
Bugs Bunny & Elmer Fudd
- Clap Clap Happy**
Jump 2 It
- The Ants Go Marching**
Barney & Friends
- Gus's Wonder Song**
Gus The Snail From Mr. Squiggle
- Robot No.1**
Hi-5
- Sleeping Beauty**
Julie Andrews & Peter Schickele
- Be Careful What You Eat**
Animaniacs
- Zip-a-dee-doo-dah**
Little Richard
- Going To The Zoo**
Noni Hazelhurst & Monica Trapaga
- Monkey See Monkey Do**
Ticklish Allsorts
- George Of The Jungle**
The Presidents Of The United States Of America
- There's A Hole In The Bottom Of The Sea**
Grover & Friends From Sesame Street

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New F100 joins Air Niugini fleet

Air Niugini has taken delivery of two more F100 aircraft.

The current fleet consists of one Boeing 767, three F100 aircraft, four F28-4000s and four Dash 8-200s.

With the eventual phasing out of the F28-4000s by early next year, future domestic services will be provided by the F100 jets and Dash 8-200 aircraft.

Air Niugini commenced its F100 service to Buka on July 18, 2006 with other airports to follow dependent on the airport upgrading programme.



Hong Kong service resumes

Air Niugini resumed flying to Hong Kong on August 8, 2006 after suspending its services eight years ago. Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr Jim Tjoeng, and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri, accompanied guests of the airline on the inaugural flight.

Upon arrival at the Hong Kong International Airport, the inaugural guests were welcomed by a Chinese Lion Dance performance to signify wealth and honour.

The weekly flight to Hong Kong is an extension of the Manila service which now operates every Tuesday and overnights in Hong Kong. The return service departs Wednesday evening at 1910 via Manila and arrives in Port Moresby at 0520 Thursday.

With the introduction of the weekly service to Hong Kong, Air Niugini has offered the opportunity to Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company (HAECO) to provide part of the engineering maintenance support for its B767 aircraft. With this arrangement, Air Niugini is expecting to maintain a long-term relationship with HAECO and Hong Kong as the national flag carrier of Papua New Guinea.

Air Niugini has offered an all-inclusive fare of K1975



Welcome to Hong Kong...Dora Kay (Hong Kong Airport Authority), Wasantha Kumarasiri (CEO Air Niugini) Jim Tjoeng (Chairman Air Niugini Board) and Sumasy Singin (Chairman IPBC).

Port Moresby / Hong Kong / Port Moresby (return basis & includes taxes and surcharges).

Flight details:

Tues. Dep. POM 3:00pm; Arr. HKG 8:45pm

Wed: Dep. HKG 7:10pm; Arr. POM 5:20am Thurs.

You can call (675) 327 3444, or visit your nearest Air Niugini Sales Office or Travel Agent for further information and conditions.



SUPER SPRING SALE

Air Niugini launched its latest special Super Spring Sale - on 01 August 2006.

This fantastic fare initiative from the national airline offers travel from Port Moresby to Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney and vice versa with departures right up to 30 November 2006.

- Port Moresby to Cairns return: K1276
 - Port Moresby to Brisbane return: K1531
 - Port Moresby to Sydney return: K1807 (Fares inclusive of taxes and charges)
- The special fares provide a minimum of 5 days and maximum of 14 days stay.

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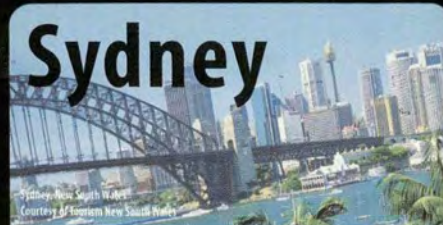
Brisbane



Brisbane, Queensland
Courtesy of Tourism Queensland

K1531*

Sydney



Sydney, New South Wales
Courtesy of Tourism New South Wales

K1807*

- Price includes Return airfare and all taxes and surcharges.
- Departures ex POM effective 01 August, 2006 to 30 November, 2006.
- 25% discount for domestic connecting passengers purchasing the Spring Sale.
- Minimum stay 5 days. Maximum 14 days.
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THE MYSTERIES OF MALAGAN

Words and photographs by Nicky Dunnington-Jefferson



They were facing out to sea, waist-deep and above in water, under lowering skies heavy with the threat of rain. It was 5.30 am. Suddenly, to a man they turned on a given signal, and 13 fearsomely masked warriors (wanis) emerged like ghouls out of the gloom and forced their way through the waves, tearing up the beach towards us, each brandishing a clutch of wooden spears and emitting blood-curdling yells.

This spectacle took place in New Ireland Province, in the remote north-eastern Tabar Islands in the Bismarck Archipelago. It was part of a ritual ceremony to honour the life of the late Chief Joel Pichia of the Kuk clan who died in 2002. The ceremony we attended was the first in a series of up to ten that will culminate in September 2006, when the final feasting will be staged to celebrate the life of the revered chief, some four years after his death.

It was May 2003, and we were a small party of four intrepid adventure seekers; three 'Ladies from London', and our leader, David Baker, an Australian with twenty years' experience exploring Papua New Guinea. We had come to the Tabar Islands to absorb and experience the complexities of Malagan, the extraordinary culture which is at the heart of life in the Tabar Islands. In Baker we had the ideal leader, as he was a friend of Chief Pichia and had been made an honorary chief of the Kuk clan.



Reaching the Tabar Islands was an adventure in itself. We flew to Kavieng, capital of New Ireland, a quaint town with a slightly dilapidated colonial feel. At the airport brothers Ken and King, from Tatau village where we would be staying, met us with a vehicle, and they would look after us for the duration of our stay.

We set off down the Buluminiski Highway to Konos, the road flanked by oil palm plantations, the ocean offering tempting glimpses

as we drove along. Ken's dinghy awaited us, and after loading up we departed for the Tabar Islands on a flat, glass-like sea. Clouds like icebergs sat on the horizon, others resembling volcanoes hovered over smoky-blue mountains. Way out to sea the sun dipped behind pink clouds, turning the sea to molten gold, and flying fish jumped into the sunset as we motored on in the gathering dusk, finally landing on tiny Tatau Island in the dark.

David had already explained to us about Malagan. He told us that Malagan expert, Tibor Bodrogi, records that "the term Malagan has a dual meaning. It is the name given to the memorial festivals held in honour of the deceased; it also applies to the carvings and various representations made for these festivals."

David, an art collector in Sydney and recently nominated president elect of the Oceanic Art Society in Australia,



had more to add: "Just as the words Christianity or Buddhism can describe some people's religious beliefs, the word Malagan describes the belief system of many of the people of northern New Ireland. Today Malagan is still the core element in the celebration of their life. Malagan custom, culture and art are the very fibre that holds the people and their beliefs together. Today the pulsing heart of Malagan culture and tradition is located on the four tiny Tabar Islands."

After a torch-lit walk from the shore to our comfortable accommodation in Andi's Guesthouse and following an excellent dinner, we fell asleep to the smell of frangipani.

The next day we began to sample Malagan in earnest. First, we were taken to the VIP men's enclosure, to the site of Chief Pichia's grave, where we were greeted by men garlanded in leaves and fronds, singing quite beautifully. It was very moving, as the late chief was much loved and respected.

Now it was time to board Ken's dinghy for the two-hour trip to Big Tabar Island, where we enjoyed our first sight of the bizarre wooden carvings, also known as Malagans, which are so significant and symbolic to these people. We saw the works of the late master carver

Lapan Landava; elongated totem-like figures painted in bright colours - black, yellow and orange - sometimes with shells for eyes. Also featured were fish, birds, snakes and lizards, creatures familiar to the carver.

The greatest living Malagan master carver is Edward Salle, and this small, bespectacled, distinguished-looking man in his seventies is an essential purist of traditional Malagan carving. I was able to spend time with him and his son, Mathew, who, under his father's tutelage, is carrying on the art of traditional carving and is establishing a reputation of his own.



Edward's work is well known internationally and has been exhibited overseas. Edward told me that carvings are based on legends, but that each individual creates figures and masks based on his own imagination, and that no carver may imitate or copy another.

David had timed our visit to coincide with the customary mortuary ceremonies and rituals that take place after the death of a clan chief, and in which he, as honorary chief, would participate. Chief Pichia had died some nine months previously, but now was the time to 'remove' his home and begin to celebrate his life with a big feast. On the day before the feast



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we were privileged in the men's enclosure to witness the preparation of masks and three vavaras (discs of woven reeds decorated in red and yellow, resembling bright sunbursts), all traditional malagans. This is men's work, and as they worked they sang, their haunting melodies lingering on the night air.

The big day had come. At first light the warriors, all in red shirts, emerged from the sea, and as they dashed up the beach, led by the late chief's son, Lengei, we spotted 'our' Ken hard on his heels. As their vocal outpourings reached a crescendo the women now added their voices to the occasion, wailing loudly as they too mourned their beloved leader.

The wanis ran towards a big house with a tin roof and water tank (donated by David), formerly the late chief's residence. Next door was a smaller house in which he had actually died, and the warriors now performed a strange dance routine before they stopped suddenly in a crouching position to hurl their spears. Traditionally spears are thrown at the house in which a high ranking person has expired, and in the main that was where they were directed. However, some spears went astray and one young blade made certain that his projectile scored a direct hit on the water tank! When the warriors had thrown their spears they all lined up before us. A leaf was placed in front of each man for contributions and when these had been gathered up, the wanis danced their way to the men's enclosure and immediately removed all their fantastic finery. End of Round One.

Round Two started in the rain, which had threatened since daybreak, but there was work to be done. It was time to prepare for the mumu, a traditional feast in PNG. Mumus differ in preparation, depending on the region. The mumu on Tatau Islands was conducted outside the men's enclosure. No pit was dug, and everything took place above ground. Old coral pieces collected from the bush were placed on the ground, then wood, and more coral was laid on top. The imminent rain necessitated immediate protective action: poles were erected, and a piece of corrugated iron found to shield the fire. When the wind began to blow alarmingly, a covering roof made of woven sago leaves magically materialised, reinforced with another sheet of corrugated iron.

Meanwhile, pigs must be slaughtered and three met their fate, a huge clap of thunder splitting the air as they breathed their last. I was fascinated to watch the hair being singed from their bodies, and this also had to take place under cover as it was so wet. It was carried out in a multiple incineration when dry leaves were lit and all pigs singed together under a protective canopy.

Next came the grand disembowelling. First, the hind legs were hacked off with a big knife, and then the innards hauled out and placed in bowls. Tasty morsels were put aside, to be served later as an entrée before the main feast. Blood was scooped out by the handful, and I saw a heart swiftly consigned to a bowl. Finally, the forelegs were chopped off, and all was ready to roll.



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We had wondered about the Malagan significance of the vavaras, and now all was revealed when we were summoned back to the men's enclosure. This is exclusively men's territory, and I and my two female companions, Brenda and Liza, were the only women present because we were with David.

During our absence, a backdrop of woven palm fronds, which we had seen in preparation the previous evening, had been completed and erected. This was constructed to display the three vavaras, but first came more singing. Lengei led the way as voices young and old were raised in songs passed down the years. My favourite songster, mouth bulging with betel nut and dribbling deep orange saliva, enormous stomach as tight as a drum, was especially vociferous. After it was over he lit a long, thin cigarette.

Now we watched as the late chief's brother displayed his malagan, followed by Lengei, and finally David, helped by King, displayed his. Once all the malagans had been displayed according to tradition, a prayer of blessing was said, in English, and now we must eat. The men laid down large leaves in front of us, and on them placed huge chunks of tapioca and kaukau (sweet potato). We also received a big bunch of betel nut. Out of two mammoth cooking pots came a juicy, fatty stew of pigs' innards - the entrée.

Time for more dancing, performed by groups from different parts of the islands. Two young men from Edward's village spotted sensational pointed headgear and colourful masks with spiky collars. This group was resplendent in abundant leaf and floral adornment - like a moving forest. The women also had a say in the dancing, led by a splendid lady with a whistle. Some had white-painted faces, and all waved necklaces enthusiastically.

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And so to the feast proper! Only men ate in the men's enclosure, so we ladies joined the women, children and babies, outside. We shared the two smaller pigs, which had been stuffed with various unidentifiable greens, accompanied by kaukau and tapioca.

An impromptu party later that evening was a fitting

way to celebrate our remarkable time with the people of Tabar Islands. We were so fortunate to have had this opportunity, through David, to witness and participate in the complex rituals and ceremonies which are the essence of Malagan, giving us an insight into a culture seldom revealed so intimately to westerners. Did we understand it? That's the question.



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FROM PNG TO LONDON

A stint at the British Natural History Museum

By Katayo Sagata

When I was in primary school back in the 1980s, my teacher would make us sing "London Bridge is falling down, falling down, falling down" ... and he would make us run through an imaginary bridge. Never in my wildest dream did I think that one day I would see the bridge.

In October 2005, I was there looking at this great bridge. I had a flashback to my early school days at Inivi community school and this moment in London. I could not believe I was seeing the bridge. London Bridge is not a make-believe as I had imagined as a child, it is real and I cannot run under it.

If it were not for insects, I would not have been there in London to see

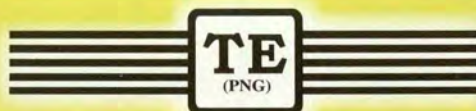
my childhood fairy bridge. I have been studying insects especially ants in Papua New Guinea (PNG) for five years and I was in London to get more training on insects at the British Natural History Museum (NHM) under the Darwin Initiative funding.

The Darwin Initiative is a small grant programme that aims to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of resources around the world.

The initiative is funded and administered by the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The Wildlife Conservation Society-Papua New Guinea (WCS-PNG) and the New Guinea Binatang



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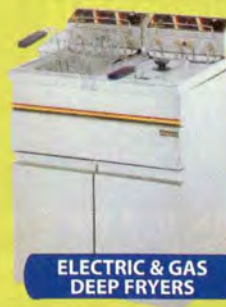
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Research Centre (NGBRC), the NHM and the University of Sussex had been awarded the Darwin Initiative to jointly train a group of PNG university students in conservation biology for the next three years.

As part of this training programme, my colleague Darren Bito from NGBRC and I spent two months at the NHM to be trained in various aspects of entomology (study of insects).

NHM is a world leader in natural science like zoology (study of animals), paleontology (study of fossils) and entomology. The collections at the zoology department

comprise 28 million specimens representing all animal groups with the exception of insects and arachnids (spiders, scorpions, pseudo scorpions, mites). Many specimens originate from the work of famous zoologists such as Caroli Linnaeus, Charles Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace. The Palaeontology department collection comprises 9 million specimens drawn from all over the globe. It is one of the world's greatest palaeontological collections.

The insect collection is intriguing and the most comprehensive in the world. A few other institutions hold equally large collections, but those at the Natural History Museum are unrivalled in depth and breadth of their coverage.

Insects, other freshwater invertebrates and arachnids comprise another estimated 28 million prepared specimens. They include named representatives of about half of the more than one million described species. Developed over more than two centuries, they form a comprehensive database of the known world fauna.

Their scientific value goes far beyond their primary area of use. They form an important part of Britain's and indeed the world's cultural heritage.

The department of entomology has a building within the museum and is two times bigger than the Port Moresby General Hospital. It houses all the insect collections of the museum and the largest collection of all insects is Coleoptera (beetles and weevils).

The Coleoptera collection comprises several million identified specimens plus a very large collection of yet to be identified specimens. Darren and I were fortunate to be trained by the head of the Coleoptera research section and chief curator of beetles and weevils.

Scientists at the entomology department are people who profoundly care about insects only and are fully dedicated to science. These people commit their entire life-time studying insect taxonomy (science of classifying

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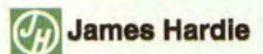
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and naming all living things) and systematics (study of historical evolutionary relationships among species that has led to diversity of life). Charles Darwin who is famous for developing the theory of evolution spent part of his time at the museum.

Some of his insect collections are found in the museum. So it was both exciting and interesting to get training from an institution where some of the greatest scientists had lived and worked.

As amateur entomologists from PNG, we were excited to be learning so much about insects from the wealth of knowledge stored in this magnificent institution.

We spent two months learning different aspects of insects. The highlight of our training was learning how to identify insects using traditional methods such as physical characters (morphology) and modern methods using DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid - the nucleic acid which forms the genetic material of all the cells in living things).

Identifying and describing species based on morphological characters is something which Darren and I are familiar with. But identifying a species based on DNA and tracing their ancestral origin was something

we have never done in PNG. It was exciting to actually extract DNA and sequence it (getting DNA base pairs) from a piece of meat from a dead insect stored in alcohol.

The whole process of DNA extraction and sequencing was like following a recipe book to prepare a meal.

We extracted pieces of tissues from a dead insect and made soup out of it by adding different chemicals. After some cleaning with chemicals, the soup was put through a machine called PCR (Polymerase Chain reaction), a technique used to replicate DNA to make many copies of that particular DNA sequence at a controlled temperature.

The soup was again run through a process called electrophoresis which separates the DNA into different bands (sections) by using electric current. The bands were photographed under ultraviolet light and analysed using computer programmes.

Such is the technology today that Darren and I were able to see an insect through its cells and find out the constituents of the cells and DNA.

Although the technology is not new, doing it for the first time and looking at the DNA units (base pairs) which



Katayo Sagato at work at the British National History Museum.

make up the basic building block of life (cells) is mind boggling and something my parents and ancestors would never have understood.

The museum believes in conserving life in their wild habitats so all its collections at the museum are all dead animals or casts made out of plasticine or plaster of paris.

Some of the charismatic animals of Papua New Guinea at the museum are New Guinea harpy eagle, cassowary, some species of Bird of Paradise and short-beaked echidna.

But an animal that got my attention was the extinct plant eating mammal



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The giant skeleton of the mammal called Diprotodon...used to roam the forests of New Guinea.

called Diprotodon. The skeleton of this giant is very carefully framed using wires and preserved in a glass cage, well secured from any impact that would otherwise damage the delicate skeleton.

You can easily compare your height against the skeleton. It is taller (about 3 metres) and larger (about 100 kilograms) than humans and one can only wonder how the extinct giant must have roamed the island of New Guinea before man arrived.

Away from the museum, I was able to visit a deciduous temperate forest for the first time.

The temperate forest structure was simple. The forest floor was open with very few shrubs and the large trees that reach up high skyward had no vines, epiphytes and moss

growing on them, a typical aspect of the tropical forests in New Guinea and elsewhere.

The leaves falling off the trees during spring do not decay but form mulch on the forest floor.

In Papua New Guinea forests, leaves and

other debris decay faster, supplying nutrients to the ever growing plants.

It was spring and most animals including plants were inactive.

The plants were shedding their leaves and most animals were preparing to hibernate (a sleep like state where animals remain inactive) in preparation for the winter.

In the tropical forests, there is no distinct season.

It is either wet or dry and the forests and animals are consuming energy and reproducing throughout the year.

As someone who has spent most of his time in the tropical forest, it was quite fascinating to observe such important differences.

Indeed, it is so interesting because

such different aspects of forest types contribute to the diversity of life that can be found in a habitat or ecosystem. The temperate forest is so simple in structure that there is less biological diversity compared to tropical forests.

Tropical forests including the forests of New Guinea are so complex and biologically the richest ecosystem in the world.

By visiting the temperate forest and seeing what was there, I was able to appreciate the tropical forests of Papua New Guinea. We are so lucky to have so much tropical forest in PNG intact with high biological diversity.

The British people are proud of their museum and the science their scientists are doing at the museum. It forms part of their cultural heritage and are proud to share this knowledge with the world.

In PNG, we do not have these, but we do have biological diversity in the wild forming part of our cultural heritage.

If there is anything we can be proud of and share with the world, it will have to be our biological diversity.

PNG could become a major destination for tourists and scientists who want to see live biodiversity first hand.

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FOOD... How NARI is behind it

Jenifer and Lavina Waring from Tambul, Western Highlands Province, hold early maturing sweet potato varieties harvested from trials by NARI at its Tambul Agricultural Research Station.

By Alan Quartermain

How many Papua New Guineans eating sweet potato, taro or rice, think about the farmers who grow these crops?

In most cases few will do that, but those who do might probably be the farmers or gardeners who grow the crops themselves.

Few, however, will probably think about the generations of innovative farmers and agricultural scientists who develop the crop varieties and the best ways to grow them in each place.

This innovation and development goes on. For Papua New Guinea, research work in the area of staple and lesser food crops and domestic animals is being carried out by the PNG National Agricultural Research Institute, popularly known as NARI.

For its contribution, NARI has earned local and international recognition in recent years for its efforts in helping

farmers improve their livelihoods through their own efforts.

NARI has sought to find out the needs of farmers in the lowlands, highlands and atolls. The work of NARI deals with problems and opportunities for farmers across a range of farming environments.

It has projects dealing with problems of drought and frost, the means to overcome declining soil fertility due to population increases and over-use of land, the ever increasing desire for income from farming, the wish to grow rice to satisfy new tastes and help with food security, the need for high quality animal protein and the peculiar problems faced by atoll people.

It has thoroughly tested, recommended and released to farmers five high yielding and disease tolerant banana varieties and four rice varieties.

Similarly, varieties of peanuts are going through a series of tests, including growing them on farms,



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A NARI plant pathologist, Selwin Hariki, explains to farmers NARI's research initiatives on potato late blight management in the highlands.

to determine those best for use by farmers.

Taro

Four brand new taro clones with high yields, good taste and resistance to taro leaf blight disease have been released from a long and complicated breeding programme.

NARI scientists are also on the verge of a breakthrough in the control of taro beetle.

This beetle is the number one enemy of this culturally important crop throughout the Pacific and is responsible for loss of taro diversity and decline in production in many parts of PNG.

The drought and frost project yielded

a comprehensive set of drought coping strategies and documentation of traditional means that farmers have for dealing with these problems.

Sweet potatoes

Four drought tolerant sweet potato varieties for the lowlands, five for the highlands and four lowland cassava varieties have been recommended.

From its collections containing over one thousand sweet potato varieties, NARI has recommended 79 as best for various lowland conditions and is working on producing similar recommendations for the highlands.

These recommendations will include varieties that are early maturing and

therefore good for planting after a drought for quick recovery.

Yam

The introduction, testing and release to farmers of the African yam has been a success story.

This white yam which was introduced in 1986 has been found to grow well in PNG. It is very high yielding, tolerant of droughts and has a well liked taste. Its use is now spreading very rapidly.

This has been helped by the development by NARI of rapid multiplication techniques for both yams and taro, using small tuber pieces called mini-sets.

This new yam is now so popular that it is used in traditional cultural exchange.

Biological control

The management of pests and diseases of food crops is always a problem for farmers.

NARI is continuing to look at biological control solutions or at integrated management by using a mixture of improved growing techniques and chemical control if absolutely necessary.

Biological control has been successful with using insects for siam weeds (*Chromolaena*) and a parasitic wasp

Youths from Tambul in the Western Highlands Province showing off early maturing varieties of sweet potato being screened by NARI.

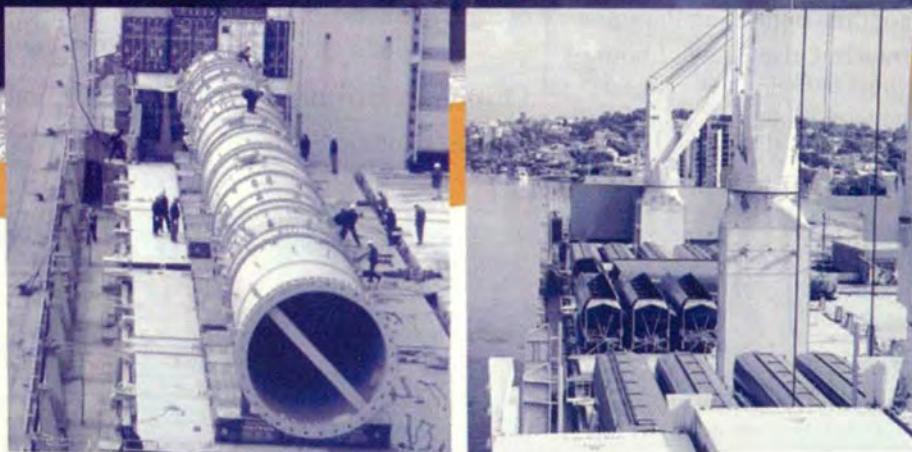


Farmers from Wampar in the Morobe Province with a mammoth African yam harvested outside Lae City.





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NARI Officer, Tale Kande Isito, checks out aibika at a NARI demonstration plot at NARI's Sir Alkan Tololo Research Centre outside Lae in the Morobe Province.



for diamondback moth pests found in cabbages. In this respect, NARI's work is not only benefiting Papua New Guinea but also its neighbours in the region.

In March this year, it supplied gall fly

to East Timor at country's request to manage its chromolaena problem.

Potato late blight is a new disease in PNG which causes severe damage to potato crops in the highlands.

While NARI has released some recommendations on ways to control the disease, its research continues.

A banana pest control package has also been developed and released. Pesticides derived from locally grown plants are cheap, effective and safe.

NARI has developed and tested such pesticides obtained from derris, chilli and neem, and farmers are being taught on how to use these on their food crops.

Other control measures that have been developed are for clubroot of brassicas (e.g. cabbages) and collar and root rot of aibika, the popular green leafy vegetable.

Domestic animals

Increased food crop production



A NARI stockman from the Labu Livestock Programme demonstrates the sheep drenching technique.

will result in increased surplus and wastes and expanded opportunities for feeding domestic animals.

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NARI's chief scientist, Professor Alan Quartermain, with a rabbit kit.

management systems for these animals using maximum quantities of locally available food crops, crop residues, surpluses and wastes.

At the same time, it is breeding chickens, ducks, rabbits, sheep and goats in both the lowlands and highlands for sale to farmers wishing to farm these animals or expand their flocks.

Marketing produce

The study of ways to improve marketing options and marketing process for food crops is also a NARI concern.

NARI is involved in a study on the marketing of fresh produce from the highlands to the cities and intends to expand this type of activity.


It is also studying the whole process of how a food crop production system functions so that it can identify strengths and weaknesses and propose ways to improve it.

This involves a study of the linkages and interactions among farmers, input suppliers, extension agencies, research institutions, markets, wholesalers, retailers, transport operators, policy makers and the people who finally buy and eat the food.

This story has been about food crops and livestock.

But other green leafy vegetables, fruits and nuts are also important foods, and spices are used to make our foods more interesting.

And so the story gets spicier. NARI is doing work with a range of crops of importance or with potential not mentioned in this story, such as pyrethrum, introduced tropical fruits, indigenous nuts, spices and kava.

These have been or will be the topics of further stories. Fly Air Niugini and watch this space. 

• Alan Quartermain is the Chief Scientist at National Agricultural Research Institute.

health. The small-scale production of batches of commercial broiler chickens has grown by leaps and bounds to satisfy, in particular, the live-bird market.

NARI is actively working on the development of feeding and



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Nautilus goes underwater for mineral exploration

Drilling programme at Solwara to start 2007

By Baeau Tai

Papua New Guinea is extraordinarily endowed with deposits of gold, silver, copper, oil and gas. Much of it remains untouched.

But the government's new fiscal incentives are attracting outside investment to develop the mining and petroleum industries.

Since independence, mining and petroleum have been the driving force of PNG's economy, contributing significantly to total exports, government revenues and GDP.

Over the last 10 years, the mineral and petroleum sectors comprised around 70 percent of the country's total merchandise exports, provided over 20 percent of total government revenues, and about 25 percent of GDP, on average. Mining exports alone accounted for 55 percent of total merchandise exports in 2003, equivalent to some K4.2 billion (approximately US\$1.1 billion).

Incentives introduced to attract investment in the petroleum sector have given a major boost to exploration in PNG.

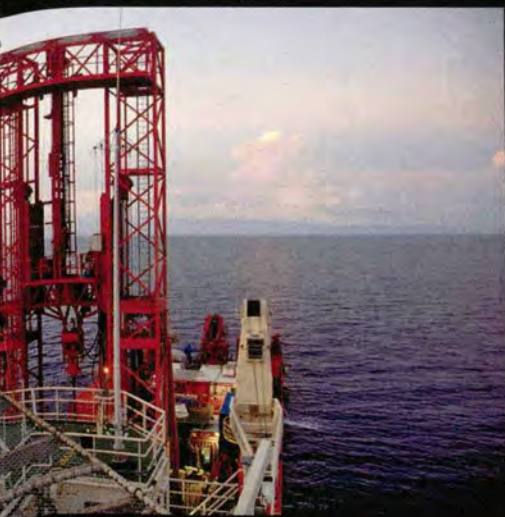
Rich in mineral resources and petroleum, PNG has been described as "a mountain of gold floating on a sea of oil".

In the global mining scene, PNG can stand out as a country that also has potentially huge subsea minerals deposits.

And Nautilus Minerals is now positioned to become a world leader in underwater mineral exploration. The company is set to kick-start its drilling programme for a new class of potentially huge subsea mineral deposits at its Solwara project in the first quarter of next year.

It is already considering building its presence with initially focussing on its "high grade chimney" zones in the 10 prospects scattered throughout the Manus Basin under the Solwara Project which is located in the territorial waters of PNG in the western Pacific Ocean.

Nautilus vice-president corporate development, Mike Johnson said the company's first successful commercial drilling early this year with costs totalling \$40 million (Canadian dollars) showed high grade seafloor massive sulphides.



The company has entered into an agreement with Barrick Gold Corporation whereby Barrick will convert its interest in the Solwara Joint Venture into a 9.59% stake in the company.

Barrick, through its subsidiary Placer Dome, has spent over US\$12.2 million in project expenditures under the Farm-In Agreement with Nautilus' subsidiary, Nautilus Minerals Niugini Limited. Nautilus has agreed, subject to the prior receipt of an approval from the TSX Venture Exchange, to issue Barrick with a special warrant that will automatically convert into 4,783,163 common shares of Nautilus on September 11, 2006.

Under the agreement, affiliates of Barrick will transfer all their rights, title and interest in the exploration data, engineering data, software and equipment, including a trial seafloor cutting machine and an airlift riser test rig, to Nautilus. Barrick will release all contractors, consultants and relevant staff so they can work with Nautilus directly.

As announced on May 15, Nautilus has already employed three ex-Placer Dome managers who will facilitate a smooth transition of the project.

On closing, the Solwara Joint Venture will terminate and Placer Dome will transfer all its interests in the tenements to NMNL.

Preliminary exploration reports at the Solwara project has identified a 1300-metre zone, 80-200-metre wide, averaging 15.5 grams per tonne of gold and 10.1% copper with Nautilus already completed 88 seafloor samples.

The Solwara joint venture comprises exploration licences in the territorial waters of PNG covering 17,500 square kilometres and an exploration agreement covering 17 countries throughout the West Pacific. It is focused on the assessment of gold-copper-zinc-silver massive sulphide mineralisation on the seafloor.

Eighty eight sea floor sulphide samples collected by Placer Dome Oceania Limited in the 2005 and 2006 field programmes over Solwara 1 were calculated by Nautilus to average 15.5g/t gold and 10.8% copper.

In 1977, PNG was the first country in the world to grant exploration licences for seafloor volcanic deposits.



LIHIR GOLD

Among the world's top 10 gold producers



By Beau Tai

Given the massive size of the Lihir gold resource, at around 40 million ounces, Lihir Gold Limited should be able to consistently produce more than 1 million ounces of gold per year.

That should comfortably place the

company among the top ten gold producers in the world and increase its "attractiveness" to investors, Lihir Gold's managing director, Arthur Hood told *PARADISE*.

He said from that base on the island of Lihir, "we intend to expand

through acquisitions to build a major Asia Pacific gold producer".

The company is the first in PNG and in the South Pacific to go into the carbon trade business.

"Clearly, this is a great achievement



for the company and a big environmental step forward for PNG," Mr Hood said.

He said Lihir Gold Ltd was the first company in PNG to be granted the right to accumulate and trade carbon credits, following the development of its environmental-friendly geothermal power generation facility.

The international organisation responsible for the administration of global emission trading earlier this year confirmed it had registered the Lihir Geothermal Power project under the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.

That means the Lihir geothermal power station project has been formally certified as a facility that will lead to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, enabling the company to start generating carbon credits which can be sold on global markets.

At current world prices, the carbon credits are worth approximately US\$3 million per year in additional revenue for Lihir Gold.

The development of Lihir's new 50-megawatt (MW) geothermal power station, which is driven by naturally occurring underground steam reserves, will lead to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for the company's gold mine and processing plant located on Lihir Island, 900 kilometres north east of Port Moresby.

The power plant is being developed in stages. An initial 30-megawatt facility was commissioned in July last year, taking the company's geothermal generation capacity to 36 megawatts, after including a mobile 6-megawatt pilot plant constructed in 2003.

The 30-megawatt facility is now being expanded through the addition of another 20 megawatts

due for completion before the end of the year. That will lift its total capacity to 56 megawatts, meeting all of Lihir's current electrical power requirements.

Further expansion of the power plant is also being investigated to meet additional demand from anticipated increases in gold processing capacity in the future.

The geothermal power plant is progressively replacing electricity currently generated through combustion of heavy fuel oil in diesel engines. When the current expansion is completed, the company's geothermal power generating facilities will reduce CO₂ emissions by approximately 280,000 tonnes per annum.

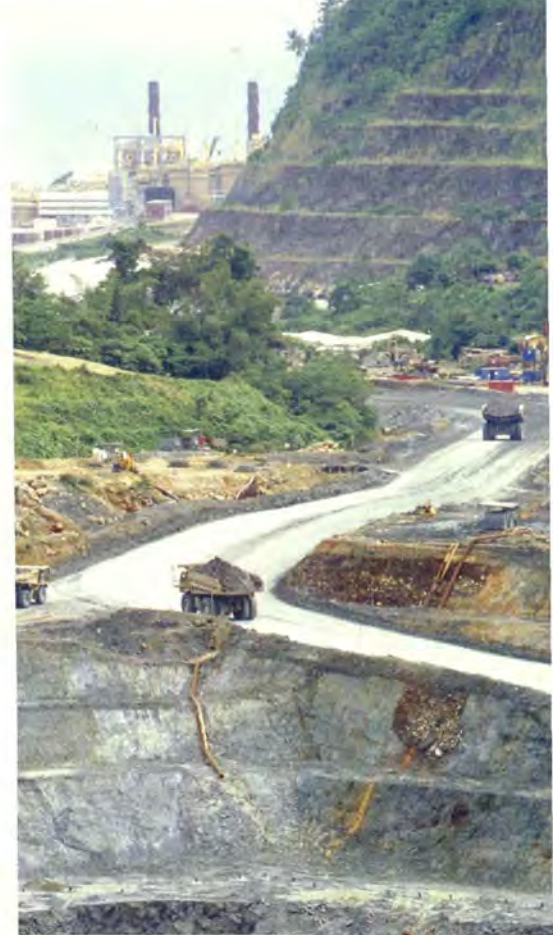
Carbon credits, or Certified Emission



Reductions (CER), are accumulated in proportion to reductions in CO₂, with one tonne of CO₂ equals to one CER. The registration by the CDM Executive Board entitles Lihir Gold to accumulate carbon credits for the next 10 years.

"This has been a great project for Lihir Gold and an environmental landmark for Papua New Guinea," said Mr Hood.

"It is environmentally beneficial and



provides a cheap source of power to underpin the future expansion of this project and the company. The announcement recognises the benefits of the facility and provides a valuable source of revenue to assist in the implementation of the project," he said.

The company has around 36 million tonnes of ore in stockpiles, containing around 3 million ounces of gold. Under the current plan, the stockpile will continue to grow to about 106 million tones. These stockpiles are not scheduled for processing until after 2020, based on the existing schedule.

Mr Hood said the original idea was to process only the high grade materials initially and stockpile the low grade materials for processing down the track. "However, we are currently looking at ways to lift our processing capacity so we can process more of the ore we mine

and stockpile less. That brings forward revenue and creates value for shareholders. We are expecting to lift production to beyond one million ounces of gold per year," he said.

Mining is proceeding well at its high-grade Lienetz structure and the pit is developing as expected. Lihir Gold has a very diverse shareholder base. Institutions hold around 80% of the shares on issue.

American shareholders own around a third of the company, Australians own 20% and United Kingdom 15%. Its biggest single shareholder is a Los Angeles-based fund called NWQ.

Mr Hood believes the company's stock is "undervalued" from a number of different perspectives.

He said: "The track record of the company has been poor in the past and that has undermined our



Lihir Gold workers working on the autoclave.



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credibility in the market.

“The company previously was managed under contract and was not in charge of its own destiny. The market previously and wrongly had a jaundiced view of PNG as an investment location and has therefore discounted out stock.

“The fact that we have had a relatively low rate of production relative to our reserves has led to a low market valuation per ounce of gold in reserves. All of these factors are now changing. We have introduced new independent management which is rebuilding credibility, creating a growth strategy for the company and improving performance. PNG’s economy and governance is improving. And we will lift our rate of production. Therefore, all the factors leading to our undervaluation are being addressed, and we expect that to be reflected in the share price over



Working to meet the target...Lihir Gold plans to increase production to more than 80,000 ounces next year. time.”

The company expects to put out a new reserve statement next year. The factors that will affect the reserve include an increase in gold price, improved economics from the addition of flotation and other processing improvements. You would expect to see a positive

impact on reserves, but it is too early to say how much.

It is currently constructing a 3-million tonne per annum flotation plant, which will commence commissioning in the first quarter of next year. This will lead to a significant increase in production to more than 800,000 ounces next year.



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.

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SINGAPORE SETS AGLOW WITH

Moon Cake Festival

Text & pictures by Tan Hoo Chwoon

As summer cools into autumn in temperate countries, the latticed streets of tropical Singapore's Chinatown are, once again, aglow with the seductive sway of overhanging lanterns.

There is a fever of excitement as preparations hot up for the Moon Cake Festival (also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival), blazing Chinatown in glorious colours. Makeshift stalls come aglow with kerosene lamps as shoppers work their way through the throng. The night air warbles mellifluous songs that are a paean to the glorious colours of autumn. All this may seem a little out of joint in the sunny island on the equator where it summers

throughout the year. But this is the mood that grips Singapore come the Moon Cake Festival which falls on 6 October this year.

A pretty ribbon of beaded lights string the stalls together, drawing crowds to their mounds of goodies: moon cakes, piglet pastries, pomelos and Chinese tea; together, they make a handsome gift set for the festive celebration.

There are several accounts of how the Chinese came to celebrate the Moon Cake Festival, many of which have their bases in legend. But by far, the most popular account is supposedly grounded in historical fact. It is said that the celebration had its embryo in the Yuan Dynasty (AD 1279 - 1368) when China was under the yoke of



the Mongols (during whose reign Marco Polo was supposed to have visited the Emperor's Court).

By all accounts, the Mongols were oppressive rulers and their Chinese subjects, understandably, had little love lost for them. A few attempted coups were staged. Valiant efforts, but alas, all in vain. As each action, by scientific law, is bound to provoke a reaction, the Mongols further

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tightened their vicelike grip on the Chinese. No one was allowed to meet in a cluster, no matter how small it was. This law was promulgated to forbid any gathering which might be in danger of fomenting another planned revolt. Those Chinese endowed with leadership qualities and seditious tendencies were kept under watchful eyes, thus hampering any further attempts by the Chinese to overthrow their rulers.



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Then a patriot by the name of Chu Yuan-chang hit upon a brilliant idea: The Chinese who had since time immemorial been celebrating the Mid-autumn Festival (during which they made votive sacrifices

to the Moon), should choose the joyous occasion to be the stage for yet another revolt. It was a time-honoured custom for the Chinese to exchange moon cakes as gifts during the festivities.

Unbeknownst to the Mongols, Chu had advised his fellow Chinese to have a message embedded in each moon cake so that word could be surreptitiously passed from family to family to be on the lookout for the secret signal for a concerted uprising at the appointed hour when the celebration was due to be at its height.

So under cover of the merriment that pervaded the festivities, the unsuspecting Mongolians were finally overthrown. And Chu went on to found his Ming Dynasty (AD 1368 - 1644) and China was finally freed from the yoke of foreigners.

So to this day, Chinese communities around the world still celebrate the Moon Cake Festival. Some of the more common varieties of moon cakes are made of black-bean paste, brownish lotus paste, yellow-bean paste and the golden trotter (lotus seeds mixed with sweetened paste).

These moon cakes are usually embedded with a preserved duck egg yolk to enhance the flavour. And there are no hidden messages in them!

And moon cakes, in the course of the centuries, have evolved and taken on various permutations to pander to varied consumer tastes. And sometimes in the overzealousness of confectioneries in their fervid pursuit of the dollar, unconventional pastes such as durian, cocoa, chocolate, strawberry and green tea have been concocted. 'Thank you very much!' scream the purists who are hell-bent on sticking to what has been honoured by custom and tradition. Cheers!

In addition to these traditional moon cakes which are usually shaped like the moon, there are also other pastries, the most common of which are those that are shaped like piglets and encased in a plastic net. These are usually kids'

stuff. 'Sooooo cuuuute! Mummy, I want one!' Moon cakes are nothing if not oily. And hence they are usually eaten with pomelos whose sour tang is supposed to aid digestion. And Chinese tea is also drunk in copious proportions to purge the body of the fat that is in moon cakes.



As the Moon Cake Festival is also known as the Lantern Festival, buying of lanterns for children to light them and parade their prized possessions through the streets is mandatory. The shape of lanterns, too, has taken various permutations, often dictated by fads. One moment it was Superman. Next Batman and Ultraman. Then Ninja Turtles. And I think there must be a Harry Potter lantern



somewhere, too. Such are the joys of childhood! During the Moon Cake Festival, the Chinese Garden in Singapore will be lit with lanterns and floats of all shapes and sizes. The young ones, with a flame in their hearts, will find it an appropriate time and setting to whisper their sweet nothings. After all, in Chinese culture, the moon is a symbol of love. And the Goddess of the Moon is responsible for granting her blessings on romance and bestowing marital bliss. Dare you incur her wrath?

Around the island of Singapore, there will be poetry recital competitions. The poems, aptly chosen, are all



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panegyrics on the moon. And for those who have little poetic sensibilities, there is always the karaoke.

You will not be hard put to find competitions for those who can best sing their praises to the moon. At every karaoke joint, you bet that the most popular songs belted are 'Moon River', 'Moonlight Serenade',

'Moonlight and Roses', 'Magic is the Moonlight'. You get the drift? Yes, everyone will be mooning and crooning the night away. Okay, okay, I admit it, others are merely croaking away, much to the consternation of their listeners.

Hey, let's give them a hand for their courage. And may the Goddess of the Moon forgive them!



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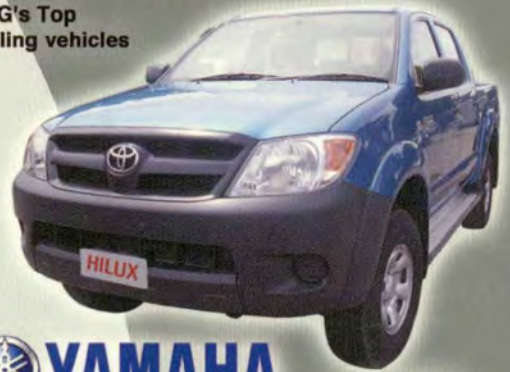
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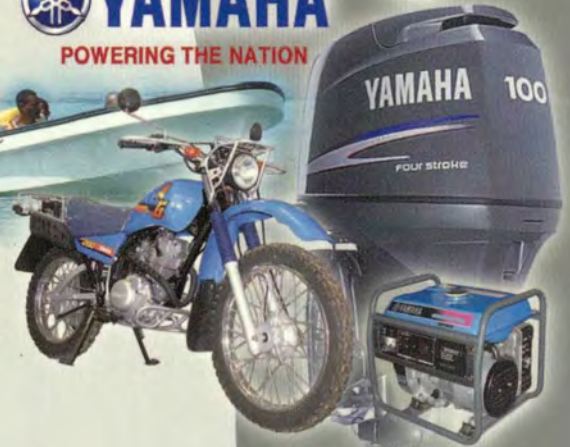


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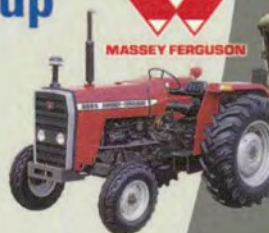
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