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Paradise

inflight with air niugini

VOL 5, 2010





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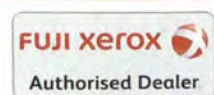
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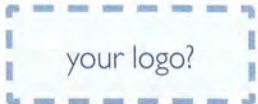
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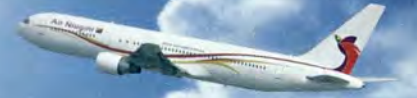
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Chairman's message



Welcome aboard

Air Niugini will commemorate its 37th Anniversary on November 1st, 2010 and the airline has much to celebrate. This year has indeed been a landmark year for the airline. We have seen the launch of our new Loyalty Program and to date taken delivery of the fleet's second Boeing 767 and a Dash 8 Q400 Next Generation turbo prop aircraft. By mid October the second of the Dash8 Q400 will join the fleet.

Our new range of cabin crew uniforms was launched last month as we continue our journey of development and continual improvement. Inspired by the rich and vibrant PNG heritage and diverse cultures, an international team of designers created a new conceptual uniform that truly represents our spectacular country and the personality of its people. The second phase of the uniform is being developed for Air Niugini sales and office staff and will be rolled out later this year.

The developments we have seen within Air Niugini places the airline in a pattern of growth for many years to come.

With the recent addition of these aircraft, extra services have been introduced to the current airline schedule. A third service to/from Mount Hagen on Monday and Thursday and a new service has been introduced to/from Mendi on Monday as well as a second Saturday service. Revised times are also in place for the Port Moresby - Vanimo - Wewak - Port Moresby service on Friday, the Port Moresby - Cairns service on Sunday; and the Port Moresby - Buka/Rabaul - Port Moresby Monday service.

In the current schedule the Manila service has been moved from Saturday to Sunday however commencing October 31st there will be three weekly services pending relevant Government approvals. A new Port Moresby - Cairns service has been introduced on Tuesday with the return service on Wednesday. Also pending Government approval a third service is planned for Singapore.

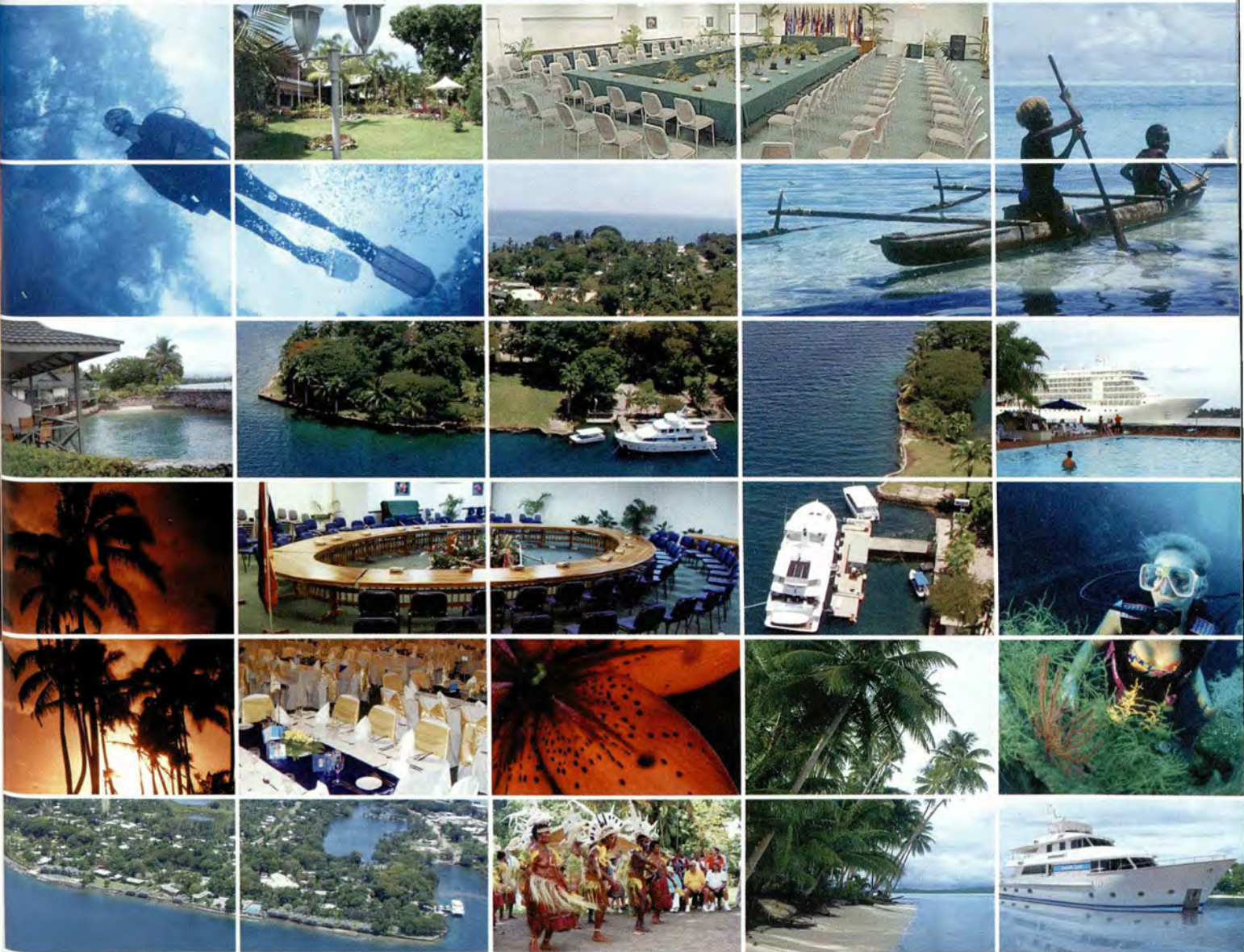
Also effective October 31st, 2010 there will be two weekly services to Hong Kong on Monday and Wednesday while the Kuala Lumpur service will be moved to Saturday. An F100 service will operate every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as well as a mid morning Sunday flight to Brisbane. The extra Sunday service will supplement the usual morning and afternoon services between Port Moresby and Brisbane.

I am pleased to say that the next schedule will provide adequate capacity to cater for the peak holiday season which commences towards the end of November.

Thank you for your continued patronage and enjoy your Bird of Paradise flight.

Sir James N. Tjoeng, KBE
CHAIRMAN

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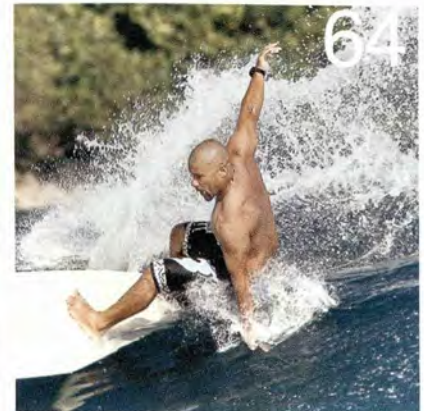
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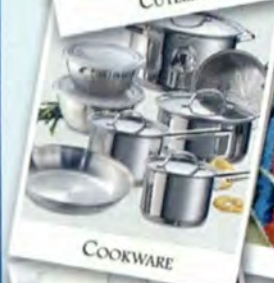
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Welcome aboard

Enjoy our Bird of Paradise in-flight service

Please ask us

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

Hand luggage

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

Takeoff and landing

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

Safety first

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

Electronic equipment

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

Children and babies

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

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

Entertainment

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

Pillows and blankets

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

Cuisine

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

In-flight Duty Free

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

Immigration and Customs Forms

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

Before you leave

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

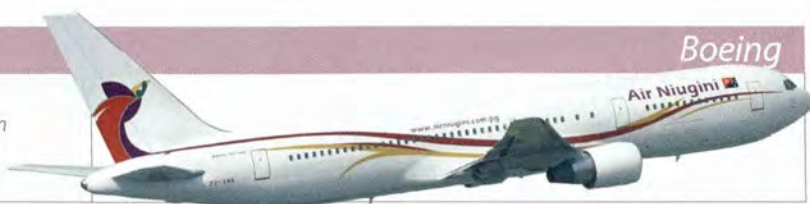


Air Niugini fleet

B767-300ER

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

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



Boeing

B757-200

Length: 47.3m
 Wing span: 41.1m
 Range: 4700km
 Cruising speed: 857kph

Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce RB211
 Normal altitude: 11000 - 12000m
 Standard seating capacity: 184
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 1



Boeing

F100

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

Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650
 Normal altitude: 11,000 m
 Standard seating capacity: 98
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 6



Fokker

DASH 8-Q400 NextGen

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

Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW150A
 Normal altitude: 7500m
 Standard seating capacity: 74
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 2



Bombardier

DASH 8-Q315

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

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



Bombardier

DHC-8-202

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

Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123D
 Normal altitude: 7600m
 Standard seating capacity: 36
 Number of aircraft in fleet: 3



Bombardier

DHC-8-100

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

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



Bombardier

Your wellbeing



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

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



ANKLE CIRCLES

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

KNEE LIFTS

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

SHOULDER ROLL

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

ARM CURL

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

KNEE TO CHEST

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

FORWARD FLEX

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



OVERHEAD STRETCH

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

SHOULDER STRETCH

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

NECK ROLL

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

FOOT PUMPS

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

2. Put both feet flat on the floor.

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

Innovation. From the ground up.



Air Niugini has invested in state of the art information technology to enhance customer relationships through its innovative **Destinations** Loyalty Program. Air Niugini's **Destinations** Loyalty Program is powered by Mercator, the IT solutions arm of the highly successful Emirates Airlines.

While new to Papua New Guinea, the Loyalty Program is in fact built on an engine that has 40 person years of investment and over 10 years of loyalty

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

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

Add to that a team of dedicated customer service and IT personnel at Air Niugini and it's easy to see why 2010 will be a significant landmark in the development of Papua New Guinea's national flag-carrier. We call it innovation... from the ground up!



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To learn more visit www.destinations.com.pg

Your health inflight

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

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

Blood Circulation/Muscle Relaxation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendations

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

Jetlag

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

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

Recommendations

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



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

Cabin Humidity/Dehydration

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

Recommendations

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

Eating and Drinking

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

Recommendations

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

Cabin Pressurisation

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

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

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

Recommendations

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

Motion Sickness

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

Recommendations

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

Papua New Guinea





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ADVENTURES IN PARADISE SAILING ON TIKITU

BY SUSAN GOUGH HENLY



Tikitu passengers get a visit from island boys.

It is a bright sunny morning and we are sitting on beanbags on the back deck of Tikitu, a 33-foot catamaran, enjoying a tropical breakfast of pancakes with pineapple and ginger marmalade, pawpaw, passionfruit, pomelo and lady finger bananas - all washed down with smooth New Guinea coffee. We gaze across an aquamarine sea to the tiny atoll of Ungalik, just two degrees south of the equator.

Several kids paddle past, dressed in blue school uniforms, on their way to Lavongai, the brooding jungle-covered mountainous main island on our left. All morning, women have been paddling in the opposite direction, bringing back piles of snake beans, tapioca and taro from the mainland farms to their village on Ungalik.

Since dawn, we have absent-mindedly watched men spear-fishing from other dugout canoes where the shallow turquoise waters of the coral reef drop into the cobalt blue of the deep.

"Outriggers are like our bicycles. We use them to go everywhere," laughs Dale Walker, Tikitu's first mate.

Tikitu's owner is Australian Dani Smith, who with her husband Adam, runs Adventures in Paradise, the only sailing charter in Papua New Guinea.

Based on Nusa Lik Island, just across the harbour from Kavieng, on the northern tip of New Ireland, their peak business offers live-aboard surfing adventures exploring remote breaks in the November-March wet season. During the rest of the year, they run general sailing charters all around Papua New Guinea's coastline.

My three teenage daughters and I are spending five days with Dani and Dale exploring the Tigak and Tsoi islands, a necklace of coral atolls that stretches up the east coast of Lavongai, once named New Hanover by German missionaries.

As the wind catches our sails, we spot dugong, dolphin and turtles and fill our days snorkelling, fishing, island hopping, and visiting Dani's many friends in villages along the way. At night under glittering stars, gently lapping waves lull us to sleep on the cat's trampoline.

Today, we are exploring a little bit of Lavongai with Cecelia Kissingmat and several friends who have paddled over to our catamaran in their outrigger canoes. We head across the blue lagoon to a river's mouth on the mainland, where young kids are splashing in the shallows.

Several of the youngest shriek with fear when they see us and run to hide in their mother's skirts. I look back



surprised at Cecelia. "They've never seen white people before and they think you are ghosts," she laughs.

Feeling like bit players in Conrad's Heart of Darkness, we splash our rosewood paddles up the muddy river, overhanging palms shielding us from the blazing equatorial sun.

We watch young men hack the insides of huge sago palm trunks with picks to get the pulp which women push through sieves to make starchy patties that form a staple of the local diet.

Then, we trudge through the rainforest up to a plateau to see women harvesting tapioca, yams, pawpaw and snake beans. Following the sound of children's laughter, we head to the local school...a barebones cinder-block affair whose classrooms are filled with lively science, maths and English projects.

The kids swarm around us and my girls lead the way Pied Piper-like down to the beach where they teach new singing and clapping games on the warm sand before we head back to Tikitu for lunch.

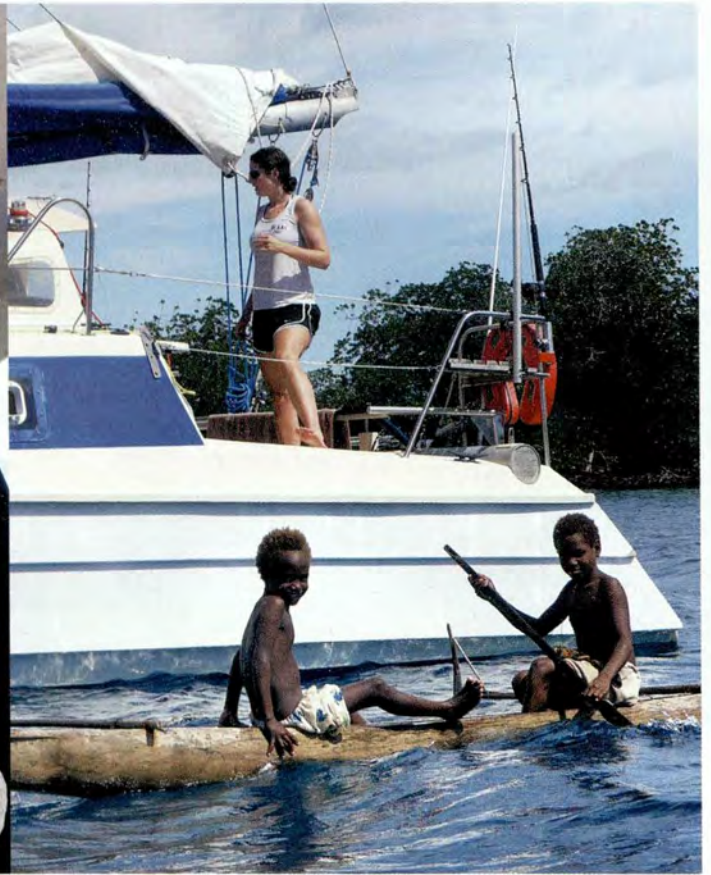
For every meal on our adventure, Dani deftly melds the ingredients and spices of Asia Pacific and produces remarkably delectable dishes in her tiny galley kitchen. There might be coconut-milk poached chicken, tossed in a Thai dressing with pawpaw, pomelo, peanuts and tangy greens for lunch, and pan grilled mackerel with rocket, watermelon and fetta salad with chilli dressing for dinner.

Another day, Dani introduces us to her friends on Ungalik, laughing over her shoulder as we arrive. "It's a little like Lord of the Flies, kids are everywhere."

Red-headed and red-teethed (courtesy of betel nut



Dani Smith...owner of Tikitu.



We spend our mornings snorkelling and then sail to a new destination for lunch. We fish for bluefin tuna and savour fresh sashimi moments after it is caught. At Ungalik, we marvel at coral reefs, reminiscent of manicured cactus gardens where creamy yellow and mauve brain corals jostle lime green and pink fan coral.



Fresh mackerel sashimi.



Paddling to Lavongai.



At Ungalik...kids swarm around the visitors.

chewing) mother of six Josephine, offers the latest village news as kids swing from the vines of a massive strangler fig. We visit primary school teacher Jerome, whose tidy compound spots a newly built cookhouse, an orchard of lau lau (tart bell apples), coconuts, bananas and pau nut trees.

Everywhere we go, people call out hello and fill our arms with fruits. We chat with grandmother Celine, whose tattered clothing does nothing to mar her elegant face and gracious friendly welcome. Dani shows us a traditional purri purri or voodoo site, marked by two giant clam shells, where the heads of enemy tribesmen would be split in half.

The missionaries changed all that. Indeed, there are not one, but two, churches on Ungalik: a brand new spire adorning the Roman Catholic Church, the humbler Methodist chapel sitting in the shade of breadfruit trees. Dani waves to Brian, who was named after her own father, and shakes hands with bowlegged Michael, a traditional wave caller who predicts storms with immaculate accuracy.

For a couple of days we are moored off Ungalik, villagers paddle over for a chat or to drop off some hand-woven pandanas mats or strands of traditional shell money made from whale vertebrae, black coral and small orange shells. It is all very low key and could not be more different than the constant bantering of hawkers in Southeast Asia. One dusk, Pious, Felix and Maxi, three little friends of Dani's, arrive by outrigger to play cards with us on the deck until the last hints of puce streak the



Dani Smith's friends happy to see her.

evening sky and stars prick the darkness. This sort of natural intimacy becomes the talisman for our adventures.

We spend our mornings snorkelling and then sail to a new destination for lunch. We fish for bluefin tuna and savour fresh sashimi moments after it is caught. At Ungalik, we marvel at coral reefs, reminiscent of manicured cactus gardens, where creamy yellow and mauve brain corals jostle lime green and pink fan coral. Dani knows each coral reef intimately and as we wend our way along the

coral atolls, she drops anchor at distinctive snorkelling sites, each one spotting its own attraction.

Off Kabotteron, we meander above delicate anemone gardens waving in the currents. At the tip of a long sand spit on Nusalomon atoll, we find a garden of giant clams while at the island's other end, the reef is awash with brightly coloured fish...from miniscule golden and electric blue darters to clownfish, parrotfish, eels and huge brooding grouper.



The days go by in a blur of exquisite beauty. We swim in water that is warm and translucent. We explore pristine coral atolls where ours are the only footsteps on the creamiest sand imaginable.

Kids at Lavongai.



Dani also shows us fascinating historical sites like the former leper colony at Anelau, which is now a technical training school, whose airy wooden buildings on stilts with wide verandahs to catch the sea breezes are the only structures the Japanese did not destroy during their occupation of New Ireland in World War II.

We play with kids on swings strung from massive mango trees and they sing songs to us from their outrigger canoes. On Nusalamon, first mate Dale, shows us Japanese gun emplacements now overgrown by jungle and climbs a palm tree to fetch us fresh coconuts.

The days go by in a blur of exquisite beauty. We swim in water that is warm and translucent. We explore pristine coral atolls where ours are the only footsteps on the creamiest sand imaginable.

We gaze upon puffy white cumulus clouds that swell from violet to puce to burnt orange in the balmy evening breeze and we get to know gentle villagers who could teach us a few things about living and laughing in the moment. Such are our adventures in paradise.

Fact File

GETTING THERE: Air Niugini flies direct to Port Moresby twice a week from Sydney and daily from Brisbane and Cairns, with connecting flights to Kavieng.

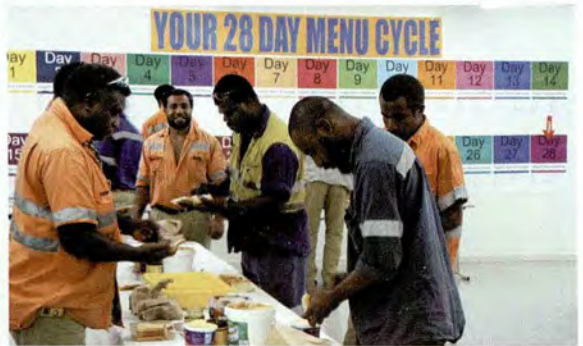
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Rumble in Rabaul

Expedition cruiser, **RODERICK EIME**, had no idea what he was doing when he set out for Papua New Guinea aboard Oceanic Discoverer. That's why he went.



It started as a low rumble, a distant reverberation that could have been a thunderstorm somewhere over the horizon. But it rises as an increasingly ominous crescendo to the point where I am looking up through the palm trees, frantically searching the skies for the B747s I am sure are about to pass overhead at about 100 feet.



Rabaul is intermittently the jewel of the New England and New Ireland district: perfect Simpson Harbour and glorious Blanche Bay - framed by a magnificent but volatile mountain landscape - are but a scant indicator to its tumultuous past.

Just the day before, with a technicolour dawn breaking behind us, Captain Scotty guided Oceanic Discoverer to our anchorage in the port of Rabaul. As we cruised serenely up the bay, pastel hued clouds sat delicately atop the high, distant ridgelines beyond Mount Tuvuvur that loomed on our starboard bow.

As we stared trancelike across the mirror-still waters, our gaze was quickly diverted to an enormous, dense grey plume of smoke and ash that rose quickly into the sky, staining and smearing our previously perfect watercolour landscape.

"ba-ROOOMM!", the thunderclap came several seconds after the appearance of the cloud and quickly brought the rest of the breakfasting passengers out on the deck amid gasps and swoons.

"Mount Tuvuvur," explains Dr Nancy Sullivan our accompanying cultural interpreter, "has been acting up like that for years - ever since the big one in '94."

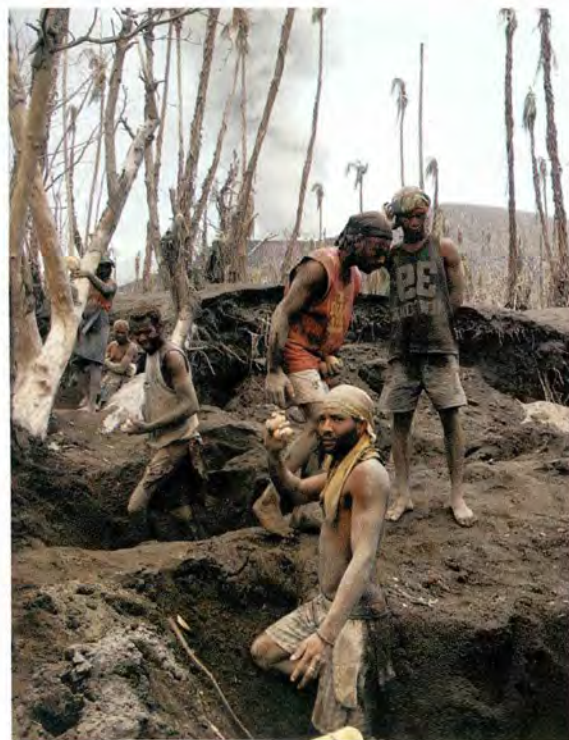
The "big one" to which Nancy refers to was the catastrophic eruption that again laid waste to the town of Rabaul. Again? Yes, Rabaul has

been comprehensively flattened by a series of natural and man-made events in the last sixty-something years and, although some semblance of life has returned to the remaining streets, no large scale rebuilding is likely to take place again.

But today I'm disembarking Oceanic Discoverer after 10 days amongst the romantic and superbly isolated islands within and around PNG's Solomon Sea.

It's been a breathtaking, almost intoxicating exploration of remote tropical atolls and secluded islets, inspirational encounters with reclusive villagers and wonderful exposure to secret rites and rituals. I'll always remember our celebrated landing on the island of Kiriwina amongst the Trobriands, where we weren't sure for a moment whether we were being feted or prepared for a feast.

This is the new adventure, the 21st century holiday, where travellers transcend the stereotypical, brochure-inspired, lazy week beside a pool and move into a whole other world. A place where experience rises above star-ratings and inspiration replaces perspiration.



The unexpected bird-catchers of Egum Atoll, the mesmerising yam harvest dancers of Kiriwina and the mysterious spirit geyser of Seuseulina on Fergusson Island blur into head-spinning medley when I try to recount them all at once.



This brief, but thoroughly enriching experience was one of genuine wonder. Even when I pondered the glossy brochure, tracing the route of the voyage, I was in no way prepared for the deluge of experiences in store.





But these high points are just a few of the richly rewarding events that occurred en-route from Alotau to Rabaul.

Most of the passengers have elected to stay on for the second leg of Coral Princess Cruises' *The Place Time Forgot* expedition voyage and I'm honestly disappointed to be missing the legendary Sepik River, the tropical fjords of Tufi, and the old colonial glamour of Madang that they are clearly looking forward to over the next 10 nights.

Often the subject of unflattering publicity with disproportionate attention paid to civil strife far away, PNG and particularly the outlying islands are a bewildering patchwork of languages, customs and diverse ethnic groups.

This brief, but thoroughly enriching experience was one of genuine wonder. Even when I pondered the glossy brochure, tracing the route of the voyage, I was in no way prepared for the deluge of experiences in store.

When I remarked to Coral Princess Cruises' Managing Director, Tony Briggs, that the prospectus completely undersold the product, he replied candidly, "I know, I know!"

The array of so-called expedition products currently on offer to South Pacific and Australasian destinations like the Kimberley,



Vanuatu, the Solomons, New Zealand and New Caledonia create a perplexing mix that makes choosing nigh impossible.

Yet the innate mystery and tantalisingly unexpected nature of these voyages adds great attraction to each itinerary. Expedition Cruising, in its truest form, offers only an outline of the intended trip.

The reality is a titillating anticipation that approximates the sensation once only experienced by the pioneering seafarers who

trailblazed through these unknown lands many hundreds years ago.

As Mount Tuvuvur's latest little eruption subsides and another downpour of fine, gritty ash ensues, I load my bags into the van for the one-way trip to Kokopo Airport and vow to return and complete my odyssey in the land I'll never forget.

• *The author wishes to thank Tourism PNG, Coral Princess Cruises and Air Niugini for their assistance with this story.*



LOLOATA DREAMING

BY KEN HOPPEN

Located about 20 kilometres to the east of Papua New Guinea's capital city Port Moresby, Loloata Island is a haven for day-trippers who want a private island stay, and most of all, divers from around the globe who have come to experience some of PNG's best and most accessible diving.

Loloata Island Resort is physically not far from the mainland, but a world away from the hustle and bustle of Port Moresby.

Loloata Island is a jewel sitting atop the crown of Papua New Guinea's tourism locations. It is a haven for day-trippers who want a private island stay.

Many of Loloata Island Resort's bungalows are over the water.



The top of the bommie at the end of the dive is the highlight.

Here, schools of diagonal-banded sweetlips vye with midnight snapper and red bass for living space over the reef, which is about the size of two and a bit tennis courts in area.

The most spectacular fish here is very shy though. A massive Giant Maori Wrasse (also known as Napoleon Wrasse) lives here. Close to 2.5 metres long, this large individual hovers near the edge of visibility,

uninterested, though wary, in the divers who temporarily invade his space.

There are many other spectacular reefs here too. Di's Delight, with its gorgonian filled channels leading out onto a wall that is simply filled with beautifully coloured anthias, is also home to the rare lacy scorpionfish.

This spectacular fish is thought to mimic the feathery-armed crinoids and is surprisingly hard to see even when it is out in the open.

The diving around Loloata is simply excellent. It is varied, ranging from beautiful coral reefs, muck dives with strange critters, to shipwrecks in crystal clear waters.

Perhaps Suzie's Bommie is the best known of the dive sites here. A large pinnacle rising from around the 40-metre mark to within seven metres of the surface, divers descend to their preferred depth and spiral upwards around the bommie, exploring the nooks and crannies, and marvelling at the colourful wildlife that is here in abundance.

From fire and decorator dart gobies to angelfish, butterflyfish and anemonefish, corals, ascidians and sponges, this reef is spectacular.

Loloata means 'One Hill' in the local Motu language.



Anemonefish of different species thrive in Loloata's waters too. This is a spine-check anemonefish.



Gorgonians around the 'D's Delight' divesite - also home to long-nose hawkfish.



One of the reef's most spectacular fish: the majestic angelfish.



For wreck diving enthusiasts there is the MV Pal II, an old fishing vessel sitting upright in 30 metres of crystal clean water, and the Pacific Gas.

This large 65-metre vessel sits with its bow pointing towards the surface at around the 16-metre mark, and its stern down the slope at around 45 metres.

A great dive at any stage, it is just after dark when this wreck takes on a magical overtone. A small porthole in the bow is the exit point for thousands of flashlight fish that live in the wreck.

These small fish have bioluminescent patches under their eyes that emit a green glow, effectively lighting up the surroundings like a torch and enabling them to hunt in the dark.

As divers gather on the deck and turn off their own lights, an alien glow starts to emanate from the hatch, soon followed by the luminescent green dots swirling up and out. Literally thousands of electric green dots. To merely say this is spectacular is an understatement.

The dives at nearby Lion Island are not known for their corals, reefs or even visibility. This is the area for 'muck dives'.

As divers gather on the deck and turn off their own lights, an alien glow starts to emanate from the hatch, soon followed by the luminescent green dots swirling up and out. Literally thousands of electric green dots. To merely say that this is spectacular is an understatement.



A large school of diagonal-banded sweetlips found above Suzie's Bommie.

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Close-up view of active volcano, Mt Tavurvur.



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Lionfish are spectacular, but venomous! Don't touch the spines!

With a silty substrate, Lion Island is home to a host of strange and unusual creatures. From venomous lion fish, cryptic ghost pipefish, and magnificent seahorses, to strange crabs and molluscs, this dive site is very rewarding for those with the patience to find something different.

Loloata Island Resort is a breath of fresh air when compared with the hustle and bustle of nearby Port Moresby.

They pick up direct from the airport. Fifteen minutes later you board the boat for the 10-minute ride out to the island.

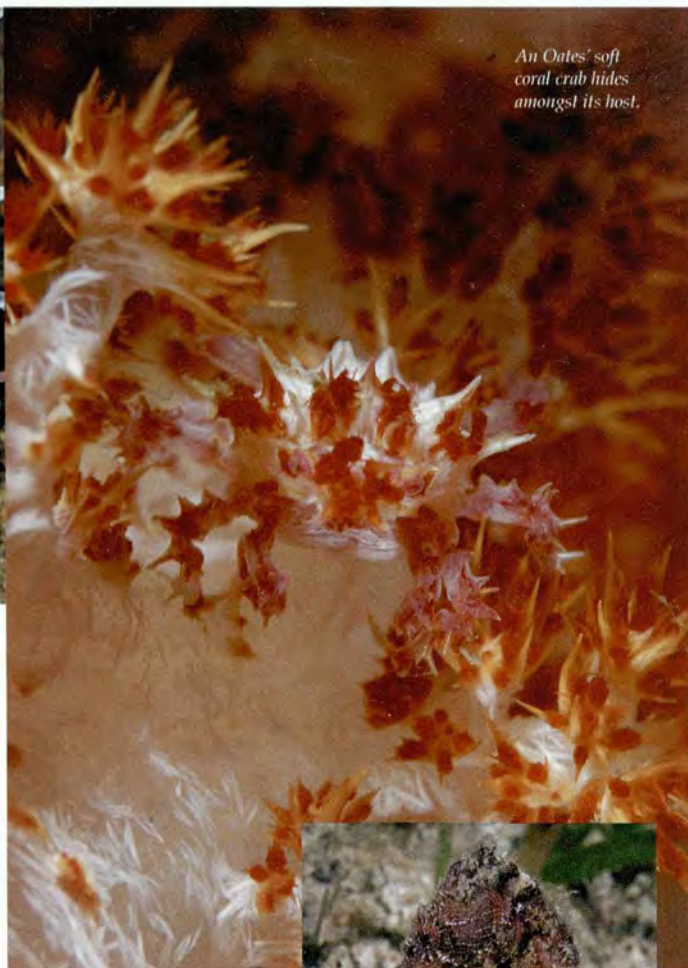
From there you step into the cabins nearby, leave your dive

gear at the dive shop and relax on one of the banana lounges.

The resort has a bar, restaurant, souvenir shop, and several areas where you can sit and mingle with other guests.

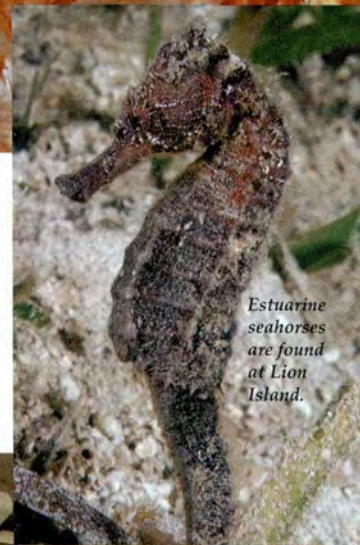
There are two walks on the island too. One takes you around the base of the island, whilst the other takes you up to the peak and along the island's ridge, with spectacular views of the mainland and the surrounding islands.

Whether you need a place to stay before a connecting flight to other PNG locations, or as a destination in itself, Loloata Island is a jewel sitting atop the crown of Papua New Guinea's tourism locations.



An Oates' soft coral crab hides amongst its host.

Contacts:
Loloata Island Resort
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 Phone: 675-325-8590
 Fax: 675-325-8933
 email: loloata@loloata.com
 web site: www.loloata.com



Estuarine seahorses are found at Lion Island.

Things to do while in Port Moresby

- Visit the Koki Market
This colourful and busy market is where many Papuan villagers meet to sell their vegetables and fruit along with fresh seafood. There are a small and larger markets scattered throughout Port Moresby and all are used as social gathering places.
- National Museum/Art Gallery
- National Parliament
- Variarata National Park
- Michael Somare Library
- Botanical Gardens
- Bomana War Cemetery

Other highlights

- Hanuabada village
- PNG Golf course
- Sogeri Plateau



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Magnificent FLYING MACHINES

BY MICHAEL WATERHOUSE



The DH 37, the first plane on the goldfields.

In 1935, seventy five years ago this year, the Territory of New Guinea issued two high value stamps - a £2 violet and a £5 emerald. They show a plane flying over a valley, a Spanish galleon and a white prospector panning for gold, watched by a villager holding a spear. Today, few people know of these stamps. Even fewer know of the story that lies behind them.



Stamps used to post the gold from New Guinea to Australia.

nd yet this story is a remarkable one in the history of both Papua New Guinea and Australia. It was a time when New Guinea led the world in commercial aviation, when world records were often set and as often broken.

As early as the 16th century, the Spanish had believed that New Guinea was rich in gold. But it was not until the late 19th century that Australian prospectors began finding it in Papua.

In the years before World War 1, some of them sneaked illegally across the border into German New Guinea, discovering gold there as well.

In the early 1920s, with New Guinea now administered by Australia under a mandate from the League of Nations, a tributary of the Bulolo River draining the slopes of Mt Kaindi, Koranga Creek, was the focus of the first successful gold mining effort, a highly productive alluvial lease worked by Shark-Eye Park.

Then in 1926, a gold rush followed a rich

discovery at Edie Creek, higher up Mt. Kaindi. In six weeks, two of the early miners took out 7,600 ounces of gold.

The area was only about 50 kilometres from Salamaua on the coast, but for the early miners, it was a six to eight-day trek over some of the most difficult terrain in PNG. There was no food available locally, so everything had to be brought in by carriers.

At one stage, there were more than a thousand of them moving back and forth along the tortuous track from the coast.

One man realised that the goldfield would only develop successfully if aeroplanes could be used to overcome the transport problem, enabling machinery and supplies to be brought in.

Cecil Levien was a remarkable visionary. He was the first to realise the gold potential of Bulolo Valley, the first to realise that planes would be needed to fly in dredges to do the mining, and the first to appreciate the commercial potential of the massive stands



Merri creek close to the junction with Edie Creek.

of timber - hoop and klinkii pine and cedar - that surrounded the valley.

It was due to his efforts that the first aerodromes were established on the waterfront at Lae and on the lower slopes of Mt Kaindi at Wau.

In March 1927, the first plane - a de Havilland 37 - arrived at Lae, flown from Rabaul in a five-hour 20-minute trip by Pard Mustar.

It was the first of a motley collection of ex-World War One bombers and other biplanes that were to scurry back and forth between the coast and Wau over the next 15 years.

By the end of 1927, there were four planes on the field - all fabric-covered single engine plywood biplanes, designed neither for freight nor New Guinea's climate.

The glue that held them together deteriorated quickly in the high humidity, so crude hangars were constructed out of local timber, held together with vines and thatched with saccas leaves.

Furthermore, they could only carry a total of six passengers or equivalent in cargo.

In 1928, they were joined by the first of six Junkers W34 single wing aircraft, whose aluminium alloy construction was impervious to

humidity. As well as not requiring hangars, they had a payload of 2,000 lbs and were faster.

The real turning point in the goldfields' fortunes occurred in 1930 when Bulolo Gold Dredging (BGD) was formed to dredge for gold in the Bulolo Valley. It set itself the target of launching the first dredge within 21 months. This meant ordering and shipping in to Lae vast quantities of material from many different countries.

This would have to be flown in to Bulolo on planes it didn't have, to an airstrip that didn't exist. A huge dredge and a hydro-electric power plant would have to be constructed in what was then a jungle by a labour force that hadn't been recruited.

Ray Parer's DH 4 at Lae Hangar.





A Junkers W34 No 3 arriving at Lae in 1929.

The key was two Junkers G31 aeroplanes, which were imported in crates and assembled on Lae aerodrome. These were amongst the largest planes in the world at that time, with three engines and an open cockpit. They were owned by BGD, operated by Guinea Airways - whose formation Levien had underwritten - and were specially adapted to carry freight, loaded through a top hatch.

A normal payload was around 5,800 lbs, though dredge parts weighing up to 7,765 lbs were sometimes carried - at that time the largest items ever flown.

The planes often flew up to five round trips a day between Lae and Bulolo and, as they were constantly coming and going, became known as Peter and Paul, after the children's nursery rhyme.

The plane on the two stamps is one of the Junkers G31s flying over what is an accurate representation of the Bulolo Valley at the time. By January 1932, each plane had done 500 trips, carrying everything required to construct the first dredge and the power house.

The period 1930 to 1932 was also one of frenetic activity at Wau and Edie Creek. New

Guinea Goldfields (NGG) had exercised options over most of the upper Edie Creek area as well as leases on the lower slopes of Mt Kaindi.

It now set about establishing the infrastructure to work these. Wau developed rapidly around the aerodrome, with its 1: 12 gradient. Individual miners were now scattered far and wide and Wau was a natural place for them to congregate when they wanted a break from mining.

On 21 March 1932, the first dredge was launched at Bulolo. However, Levien wasn't there to see it; he had died suddenly of

Lae aerodrome.





Dredge No. 1, the day before it was launched.

meningitis two months earlier. The day after the launch, his ashes were scattered over the valley from one of the G31s his vision had brought to Bulolo.

Over the next few years, BGD constructed a further seven dredges. Peter and Paul flew most of the material required, as well as that needed to maintain the existing dredges and construct a further two power plants and two townships - Bulolo and Bulwa. Their efforts were supplemented at times by a third Junkers G31, Pat.

The activities of BGD and NGG, several smaller companies and many individual miners working and prospecting across a wide area fostered the rapid growth of aviation to levels never seen anywhere in the world.

In 1935, planes in New Guinea flew 8,324 tons of freight, or 48% of all freight carried in the next five largest airfreight-carrying countries combined - Canada, Germany, the USA, United Kingdom and France. In the same year, planes in Australia flew 121.3 tons - less than 1.5% that flown in New Guinea.

Over the eight years 1931 to 1938, the ratio of freight carried was even greater - 54%, and in no year did freight carried by any other country's planes exceed that of New Guinea.

It has been estimated that, based on the weight of cargo moved, Lae was the busiest airport in the world throughout the 1930s, with Bulolo second, Wau third and Salamaua fourth. In numbers of departures and arrivals, Wau was first, Salamaua second, Lae third and Bulolo fourth.

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Junkers G31 'Peter' on January 21, 1942 after being destroyed by Japanese zeros aircraft.



Guinea Airways was easily the largest airfreight operator on the field, and indeed in the world. Between 1927 and 1942, its planes (including those it flew for BGD) made nearly 60,000 flights over 5.9 million miles, carrying 71,500 tons. Over the same period, planes in Australia carried a mere 4,888 tons.

Small aerodromes proliferated across the goldfields as individual miners carved out small strips on short, uneven surfaces with hair-raising approaches - anywhere they could persuade pilots to land. Small fox moths darted here and there carrying food and other supplies to keep miners and their teams of labourers

going. Thirty takeoffs and landings in a day were common.

There were many world 'firsts' - the first car to be carried by air, the first horses - and as many 'largest' items, mostly dredge parts and the occasional truck or tractor. Having much in common with the miners, pilots adopted a can-do mentality and rarely declined a challenge. If items didn't fit in a plane, they were simply tied to the outside or part was left protruding through an open door.

Peter, Paul and Pat met their end on Bulolo aerodrome on 21 January 1942, when they were destroyed by five Japanese zeros. It was the end of an era. The three planes had made 14,000 trips in 11 years, carrying nearly 40,000 tons of freight - nearly 10 times that flown in Australia over the same period.

By January 1942, the Morobe goldfields had produced 2.3 million ounces of gold. A remarkable achievement even by today's standards and one that would never have been possible without those magnificent men and their magnificent flying machines.



• *Michael Waterhouse's book Not a Poor Man's Field - The New Guinea Goldfields to 1942: An Australian Colonial History has recently been published by Halstead Press. It can be obtained from UPNG Bookshop or through notapoormansfield.com*

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Swire PNG Rainforest Study



John Swire & Sons and Steamships are proud to support the Swire Papua New Guinea Rainforest Study (SPRS), which was officially launched this year in the Wanang District, Madang Province.

SPRS has been coordinated by the Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS) of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, in partnership with the New Guinea Binatang Research Centre (BRC), the University of Minnesota, and the University of the Czech Republic.



The project included the construction of the Swire Research Station and establishment of a permanent 50 hectare rainforest monitoring plot which seeks to better understand biodiversity and forest dynamics by accurately mapping, measuring and monitoring all the trees with a trunk diameter of greater than 1cm.



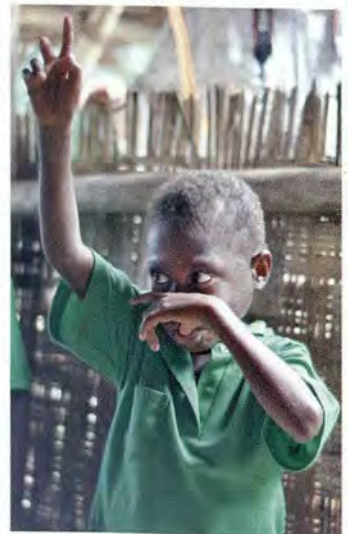
The project represents the first long term study of carbon dynamics in PNG forests and will increase scientists' understanding of forest dynamics and the ability to assess the response of Pacific forests to global climate change.

Being located in the heart of the jungle, Swire Research Station is the first of its kind in PNG,

giving researchers unique opportunities for ecological studies. The centre has accommodation and laboratory space, and is equipped to host national and international researchers. Members of the local community are employed through the Swire Research Centre as field research assistants, giving them the scientific skills required for sustainable forest management.



As part of financing the project, funds were put towards community development projects. After consultation with the community, it became very clear that there was a need for a primary school, as there was no schooling available for any of the region's forest villages in the wider area. The Wanang School has grown rapidly in only 18 months to include four teachers, three classrooms and 150 students. Many of these students come from outside villages, but have been accommodated and absorbed into the community. For all, some as old as 18, this is their first experience of primary education.



The project is replicable and scalable - CTFS is developing a model for emulating across different bioregions of PNG, and plans to establish a network of forest observatories across the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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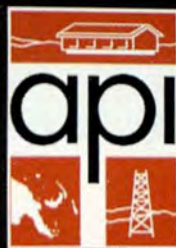
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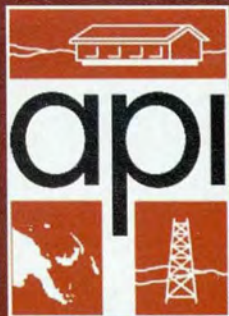
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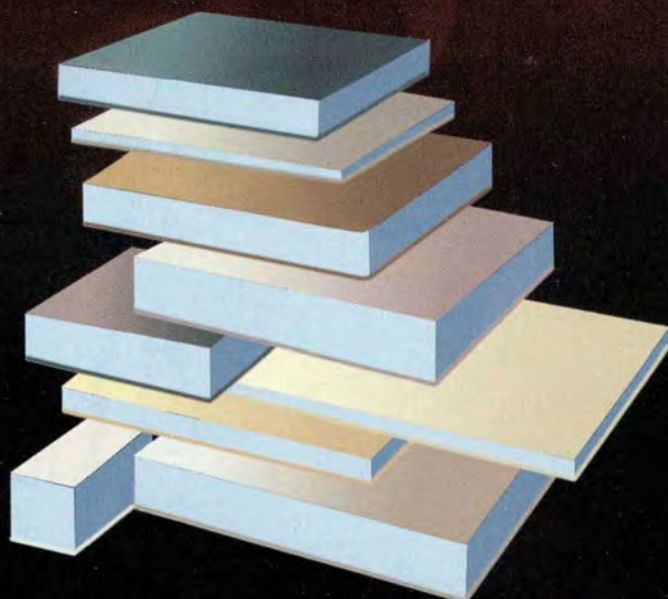
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Diving into History



Front of Pistoff.



Crew of B25.

Beneath the waters of PNG's Collingwood Bay, **RODERICK EIME** helps solve a 67-year old mystery.

he battered plane had brought them this far, enough to escape enemy territory, but now the flight was over. Riddled with bullet holes, one engine out and no fuel, 26-year-old US Army pilot, Lt. William 'Casey' Lett, from Indiana scanned the coastline for smooth water.

The flight to Lae was, for the crew of B-25 41-12830, 'Pistoff', a nail-biting bomb run on Japanese troops unloading in Lae and they had copped a spray of fire from five defending Zero fighters. On half power, they couldn't cross back over the towering Owen Stanley Ranges to Port Moresby. Instead they headed east along Papua New Guinea's ragged coastline in search of a safe haven.

"We're going in!" called Lett, and the five men held on and drew what might be their last breath. With wheels up and the remaining prop feathered, they hit the water as delicately as Lett could manage.

Amid a gut-wrenching din of tearing metal and shattering plexiglass, the nose caved in and a huge spray of water engulfed the plane.

Apart from Bombardier Gus Rau, who had struck his head, all were mercifully uninjured. With water pouring in, the men managed to get to their raft but villagers from nearby Ayuwan were already paddling to their rescue.



Thanks to the villagers and a small group of Australian troops camped nearby, the crew of "Pistoff" all found their way back to base.

But the poor plane's war was over and in just five minutes she'd settled into a watery grave.

Fast forward 65 years and Sebastian from Ayuman is chasing turtles in the silty water, off his little village.

As a big turtle flees his spear, Sebastian notices the shape of a plane in the depths.

The story of the crash and rescue has been forgotten over the decades and the find is reported to US authorities.

After sifting through wartime records of the 38th Bomb Group (The Sunsetters), officials are reminded that the precise whereabouts of 41-12830 remain unknown. "Somewhere near Buna," reads the record, some 200 kilometres west of our search.

Now I'm on my own little mission, bouncing across the choppy waters of Collingwood Bay en route to Ayuman in a runabout with dive crew - Archie and Alex - from nearby Tufi Dive Resort.

The few remaining veterans from the 38th Bomb Group Association are keen to fill the gaps in their records and I'm tasked with positively identifying the wreck by locating one of the few serial codes on the aircraft that can



Crew of Pistoff at Port Moresby.

conclusively rule off this chapter.

We're met by Sebastian and a small flotilla of canoes who gather about us curiously while Alex goes below to secure the boat.

As finder of the wreck, Sebastian is now its custodian and I've already been made aware of the villagers' intention of vigorously preserving it.

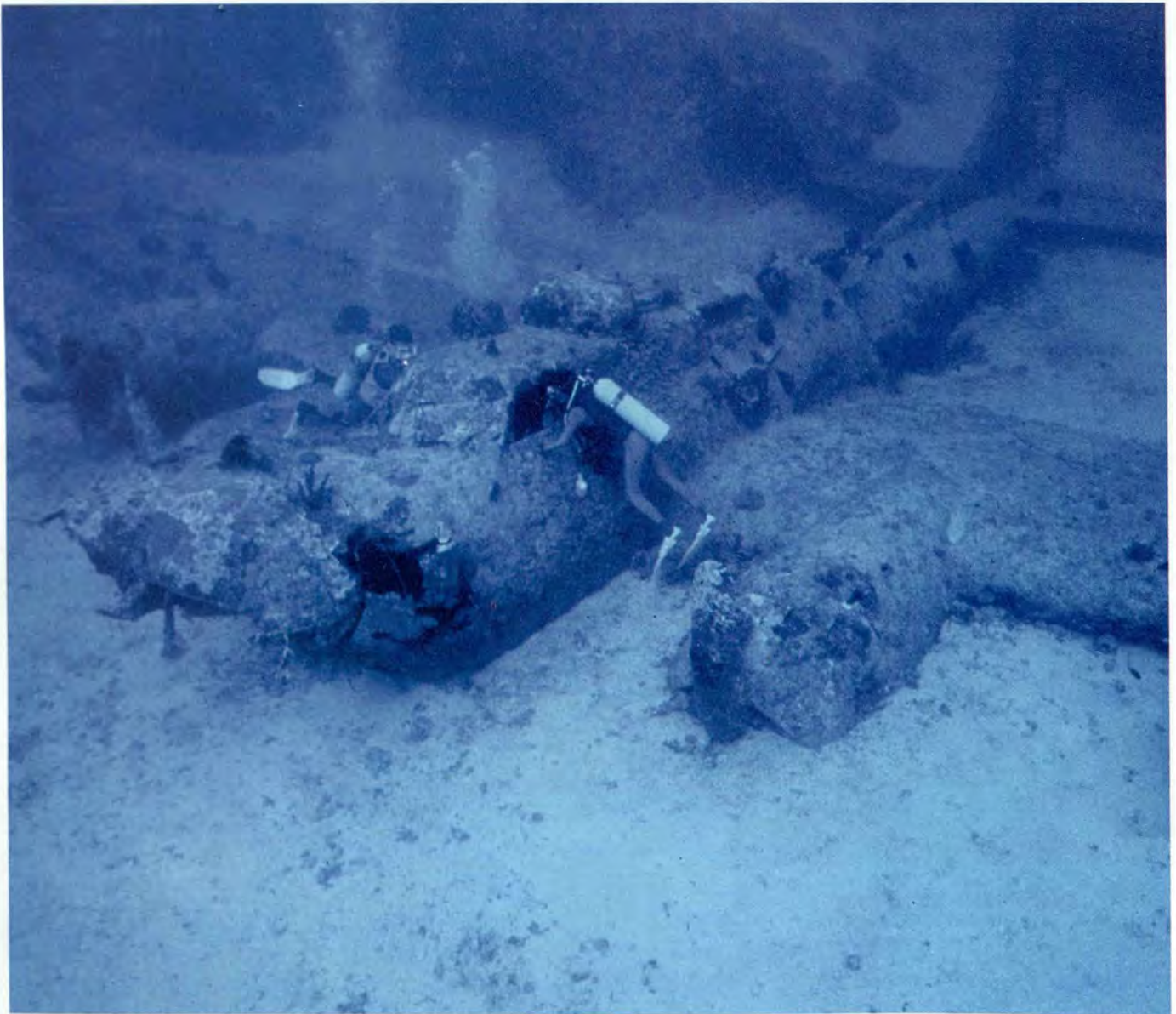
Luckily, Sebastian is Archie's bother-in-law and the discussions, while earnest and business-like, are positive.

A bright orange diver's 'sausage' pops to the

surface and we're clear to go down.

The water is murky and dark from the recent heavy rain and slowly the shape of the Mitchell bomber reveals itself.

First, the upper gun turret with its two 50-calibre machine guns, then the cockpit and finally the rest of the fuselage and signature twin tail. I'm deliberately diving with a lightened belt to keep me off the silty bottom and I begin picking over the forward part of the fuselage with my fins hovering above me.



B17 Blackjack faced wreck dive at Tufi.

The aluminium surface is completely covered by military grade algae with layers of marine growth on top. Like cars, all aircraft leave the factory with a stamped plate showing model and serial numbers and our search for it is proving frustrating.

I send slightly built Archie into the cramped fuselage and he starts handing me back all kinds of loose items; a Grimes Model K-8 hand-held searchlight, a Stanley Super Vac flask and a clip with five rifle bullets. We bring these to the surface to show Sebastian, change tanks and take some photos.

As I haul myself into the boat, Sebastian hands me a barnacle-encrusted metal box. It's clearly a piece of radio equipment one of them had salvaged well before our arrival. An ID plate is affixed to the top of the box and I scrub away at the growth to reveal its purpose.

Radio Control Box, Bendix Corporation, Signal Corps US Army and...wait...what's this? A serial number is hand-stamped into a little panel; '5052'.

Each aircraft has a unique identifier on their radio and this will be enough to confirm 'Pistoff's true identity.

Archie hauls anchor and finds to our great amusement that Alex had tied the rope to a loose 30 Calibre machine gun lying next to the wreck, part of the debris from the destroyed nose section. After some fun and photos, we return all items to the wreck and head home.

Nearly seventy years on and Papua New Guinea is still reluctantly giving up its war secrets. Crashed aircraft, sunken ships and the remains of MIAs are still being recovered to this day.

Tufi Dive Resort in Oro Province is perfectly located on the tip of a glorious tropical fjord. Itself a wartime PT boat base with its own history and artefacts, it is one of PNG's best known dive locations with access to numerous pristine coral reefs and wrecks including the well-documented B-17 Flying Fortress, Black Jack, lying at 45m across

Collingwood Bay. Lonely 'Pistoff', forgotten for over half a century, now joins their repertoire of dive sites.

Tufi is also famed for its brilliant cultural experience. Local villagers engage goggle-eyed visitors with vivid displays of dance, ritual and ceremony at least on par with anything else in the country.

The coastal residents of this land are ethnically diverse from their highland cousins and separated by hundreds of unique languages and rites.

Handsome, polite and gentle, well-organised tourism is critical in helping the people maintain their colourful traditions which they delight in sharing with their mesmerised guests.

• *The author wishes to thank Tourism PNG, Tufi Dive Resort, the men of the 38th Bomb Group Association and Justin Tayan of pacificwrecks.org for their valuable assistance in solving this mystery.*



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IDYLIC REFUGE

No one's in a hurry @ Nusa Island Retreat

BY BRIAR JENSEN

It's not every day you have a hornbill playing on your bungalow balcony. But this fellow is hopping up my steps and sliding sideways down the rail. Over and over again. It's hilarious to watch.

As well as the hornbill, there's a resident sea eagle on the beach, luminous electus parrots dropping by and an injured egret staying close for some tender loving care. This is no ordinary resort.



I'm at Nusa Island Retreat, Kavieng, in New Ireland Province, PNG. Made up predominantly of coastal and island communities, New Ireland has a sleepy, laidback feel. No-one's in a hurry around here.

Despite its stunning natural beauty - think South Pacific reef-encrusted islands, turquoise lagoons, white sandy beaches, crystal clear streams and verdant bush - the place is gloriously undeveloped.

Eco-sensitive Nusa Island Retreat, framed by sea, sand and palms, captures this easy-going atmosphere and with a few modern conveniences, creates an idyllic refuge from the hectic pace of modern life.

Perched on a sandy spit, under shady trees, the retreat borders a coral encrusted lagoon on one side and a deep channel on the other, yet it's only a couple of minutes across the harbour from Kavieng township, the region's main service centre.

Traditional island-style bungalows, which sleep up to six and share bathroom facilities, face the beach or garden.

There's a two-storey version, with bathroom for families or larger groups, and new overwater bungalows with ensuites.

The hub of the resort is the open-sided, sand-floored central dining and bar area. Rough-hewn coconut timber benches surround a



table-tennis table, where guests belt out a game while waiting for lunch or dinner.

Sharks' jaws, turtle shells and elaborate local carvings hang from the walls and ceiling.

Guests gather here throughout the day and night, chatting over cold SP beer and comparing notes on their day's activities.

The retreat, owned and operated by expat Australian Shaun Keane with his brother and sister, started out as a surfers' camp and is still dominated by wave-riders between November to April.

It's predominantly an older crowd; young dads on a guys-own getaway, middle-aged surfers reliving their youth, and father and son teams bonding over a few waves.

These guys appreciate being ferried to the breaks, the security of a banana boat standing-by and the less crowded waves.

A surf management plan, a world-first developed by the Surfing Association of PNG, ensures a maximum quota of visiting surfers per area to avoid overcrowding and disgruntled locals.

The small daily fee goes towards developing local surf clubs and other community projects.

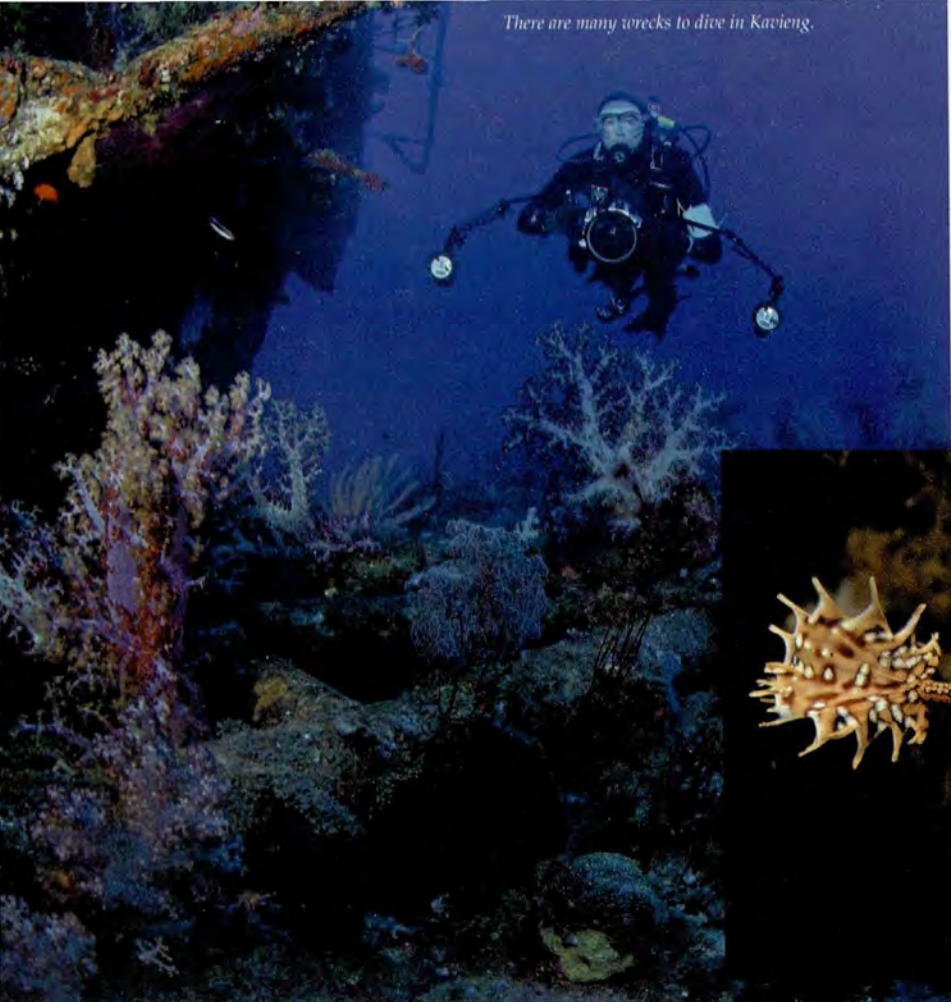
But there's plenty to do besides surf. The

A surf management plan, a world-first developed by the Surfing Association of PNG, ensures a maximum quota of visiting surfers per area to avoid overcrowding and disgruntled locals.



Surfing at Nusa...wave riders dominate Nusa between November to April.

There are many wrecks to dive in Kavieng.



snorkelling is simply breathtaking, whether straight off the beach in front of the resort or further afield in the harbour.

Electric blue sea stars, depicted on the retreat's logo, snuggle in the sand, coral outcrops team with kaleidoscopic tropical fish and wrecks protect tiny anemones and giant voluptuous-lipped clams.

The harbour is littered with wrecks, from trading vessels to war relics. Kavieng was occupied by the Japanese during World War II and the resulting debris is spread far and wide.

Harlequin ghost pipefish...diving is world class.



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The remains of a plane, not far from the resort, are easily viewed with a snorkel.

Scuba enthusiasts experience enormous variety; swimming with pelagics in current-swept passages, admiring delicate corals and fans on drift dives and investigating deep water wrecks.

Harbour muck dives surprise with delicate ghost pipefish and nudibranchs, and for experience divers, there's also freshwater cave diving.

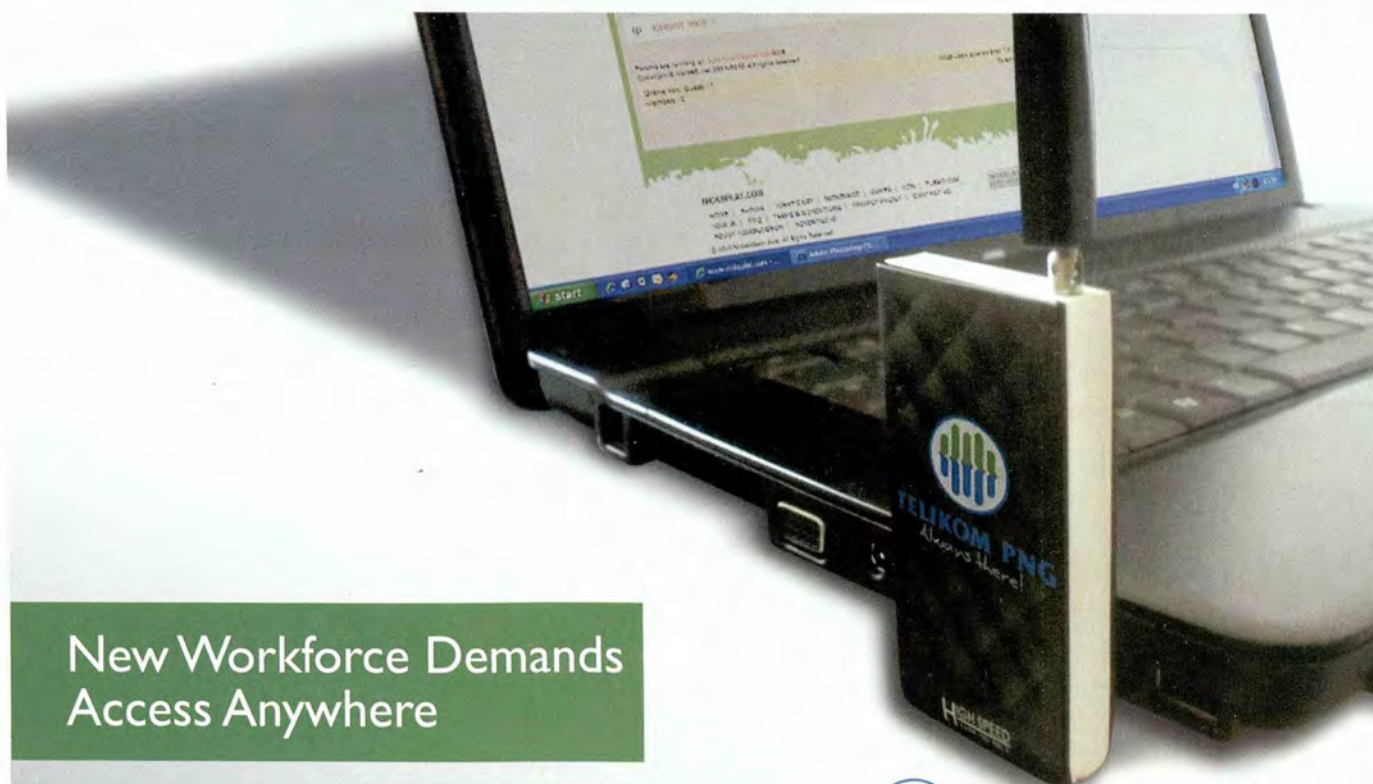
For on-water exploration, the retreat supplies kayaks and a couple of outrigger canoes, which are not as easy to paddle as they look.

But if you want to leave the hard work to someone else, set sail with Adam and Dani from Adventures in Paradise Yacht Charters. Their 10-metre catamaran, Tikitu, swings temptingly at anchor just off the resort, ready to whisk you away for a sunset cruise or island-hopping sojourn.

While it might seem Nusa Island Retreat is all about sun, sea and surf, it's also a great place to learn about PNG culture.



Exploring nearby islands on Tikitu.



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Wind chimes tinkle in the wind.

The retreat works closely with the local villagers, many of whom are employed at the resort. A small stall sells handcrafted jewellery and wooden carvings, the proceeds from which help to pay for school fees.

I take a walk to Panacondo village to watch master carver Bruno at work, sculpting his timber with axe, knife blade and broken glass.

A woman scrapes a coconut for cooking nearby while children play at the water's edge.

As well as helping with community projects like electricity and sanitation, the retreat provides a banana boat to ferry village children to and from school in Kavieng.

I hitch a lift with the kids to explore

the local market, which sells fresh produce from the mountains and surrounding islands.

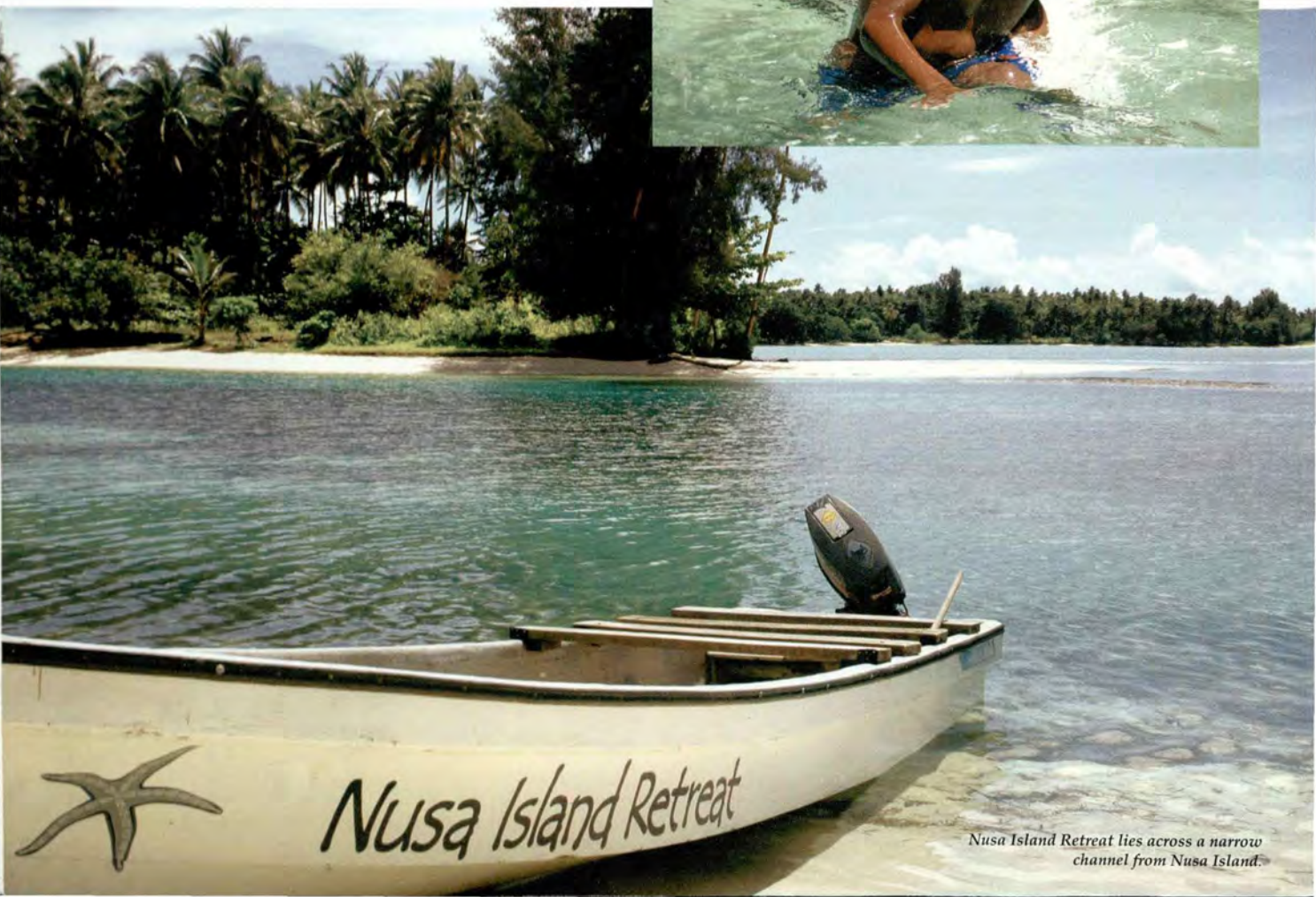
Laid out on the beachfront, it's a colourful affair with blue tarpaulins, striped umbrellas, bright sarongs and toothy red grins. Chewing betel nut is a popular local pastime.

Between swimming, snorkelling, island walks and market visits, I retreat to the verandah of my over-water bungalow.

As well as the visiting hornbill, it features a table, chairs and daybed - perfect for catching the cooling sea breeze that tinkles my shell wind chime. It's about as far from the madding crowd as you can comfortably get.



• The writer was a guest of PNG Tourism Authority.



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READY, WILLING & ANDY ABEL

BY DANNY O'BRIEN

Every so often you meet someone who really leaves a deep impression on you.

Something about their bearing and how they carry themselves, and this is before they even open their mouth.

For some, once they start talking it's all over and the façade comes crumbling down, but for others the clarity of their thought and the conviction of their words just add to their gravitas. Andy Abel, the President of the Surfing Association of Papua New Guinea (SAPNG), is a very interesting character.

As a kid in PNG, Andy was a motorcross freak. But when he broke his leg in his mid-teens and couldn't race, he thought things couldn't get much worse. That was until he worked out that the doctor who set his leg had misaligned it.

So rather than a few months in plaster and getting back on his bike, it turned into

something altogether different.

Andy's dad packed him off to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane to have his leg re-broken and set properly. And Andy's father was not someone you questioned.

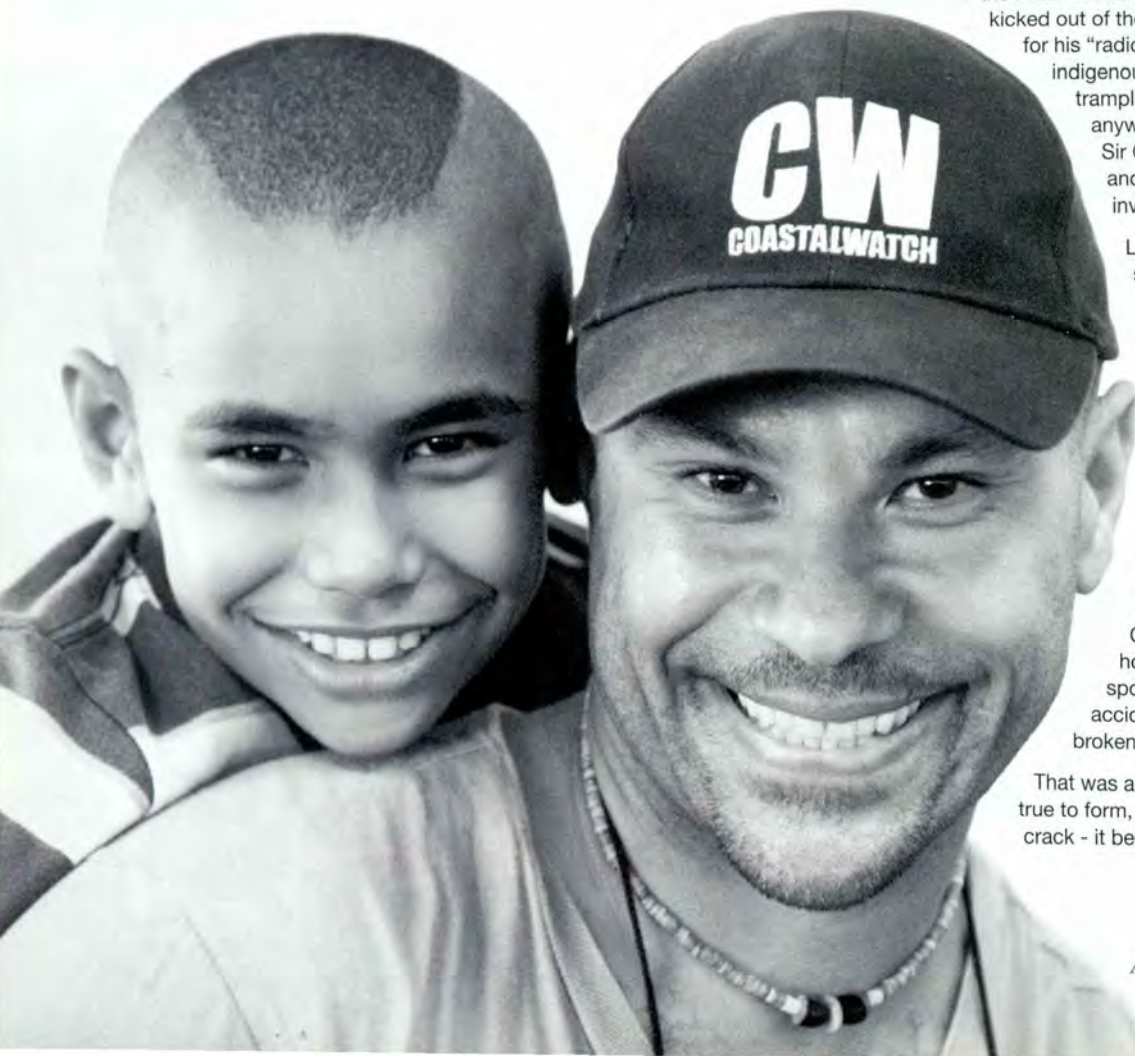
The pioneering statesman was a political science graduate from Cambridge University and one of the chief architects of the Papua New Guinea's constitution and its ultimate independence. He was knighted by the Queen for his services to the state.

Sir Cecil Abel, KBE, OBE was one of four children of pioneering missionary Rev Charles Abel of the London Missionary Society, later founding the Kwato Church in PNG. Rev Charles was a revolutionary missionary who arrived in PNG in 1891 after stints working with the Cheyenne Indians in the US and the Maori in New Zealand, to then only be kicked out of the London Missionary Society for his "radical" ideas about educating indigenous peoples without completely trampling their cultures. But anyway, back to Andy's father Sir Cecil; when he spoke, Andy, and anyone else within cooee, invariably listened.

Leaving PNG became something of an awakening for young Andy. After the operation, he spent three months convalescing on the Sunshine Coast, sitting on the bluff at Alexandra Headland, watching the surfing action below.

He found himself mesmerised by it. Inspired, he asked his father if he could finish off his senior high school on the Sunshine Coast to not only broaden his horizons, but also take up the sport of surfing, which, purely by accident, was all brought on by a broken leg!

That was all back in the mid-80s and true to form, Andy didn't just give surfing a crack - it became his obsession.



Andy Abel and his son.

Most of us would happily go about our business and quietly surf our brains out, perhaps swearing a mate or two to secrecy on pain of death, but all the while hoping against hope that no-one else discovered your Garden of Eden.



Andy Abel...in action.

When he got back to PNG after high school, Andy returned as a surfer, and saw his homeland in a whole new light. Imagine the scenario...aside from the odd travelling "expat", you're pretty much the only surfer in your home country. So what would you do?

Most of us would happily go about our business and quietly surf our brains out, perhaps swearing a mate or two to secrecy on pain of death, but all the while hoping against hope that no-one else discovered your Garden of Eden.

Andy's wired a bit different to most of us though. He still surfed his brains out, but in the spirit of the Duke, the 1956 US lifeguards, Peter Troy, and other surf pioneers, he resolved that surfing wasn't something to be selfishly hoarded, but should be a gift shared with the communities where you paddled out.

In 1987, Andy set about establishing PNG's first board riders club at Vanimo in Sandaun Province, and by '89, PNG surfing had grown enough to establish the Surfing Association of Papua New Guinea (SAPNG), with the then

19-year-old Andy as a founding member.

He has now served SAPNG for 23 years - the past 15 years as president.

Over the years, Andy surfed in other countries and saw the good, the bad and the downright ugly sides of surfing.

"Surfing took me all over the place; Bali and all over the Pacific Islands nations and many other countries. I saw indigenous Hawaiians, some of them royal blood, living on the Westside as beggars in tents and it made me

think, 'this would not happen in PNG'."

So although Andy knew surf tourism had the potential to bring a lot of benefits to PNG, he couldn't forget the ugly sides he'd seen in Hawaii, Nias, Bali and other surfing nirvanas that had been loved to death, and in some places, had turned into surf slums.

So true to form, Andy had a completely different approach in mind. But then that's part of his pedigree: "My old man once said to me, 'Andy, we Abels are non-conforming non-conformists.'"

Andy came up with the concept of a bottom-up approach to surf tourism, or what he calls the 'reverse spiral model', which was implemented in Vanimo.

As surf tourism evolved and expanded to New Ireland Province, Andy refined the model with a couple of brothers from Kavieng - Shaun and Nick Kean - and the now 13-member SAPNG board.

So what became the 'Surf Management Plan' (SMP) came out of this desire to make sure that influence spiralled up from host communities, rather than down from big business and government, hence the 'reverse spiral' logic.

The SMP, a world first, ensures that local communities that own reefs, beaches and marine environments are consulted as to whether they want to become involved in surfing. If they do, then community leaders

establish the number of surf tourists per day they'll allow in their area. Each surf tourist then pays up-front levies (around AU\$50 on arrival and AU\$10 per day) that funnels straight back to fund surfing developments at the village level and also community projects like aid posts, water sanitation projects and educational facilities.

Andy explains; "If we're going to develop PNG surfing with a clean slate, let's approach it in a slightly unorthodox manner and make sure we empower the most important people in the equation - the traditional custodians.

"Because without them, there is no surfing, they're the people who could say, 'See you later. You can go to hell. We just want to fish on our reef'.

"As a fellow Papua New Guinean, I just put myself in the shoes of these people and thought, hang on, 97% of our land is owned by the people. And yet, if we don't take stock and control this resource, what's going to happen?

"PNG is a pretty unique case in that surfing is confined to the months from October to March, and while the surf can be really good, it doesn't have the consistency of say, Indo. But when it's on, it's on. Surfers want to come to PNG because we're guaranteeing them pristine waves, uncrowded waves," says Andy.

In fact, under Andy's watch, surfing has continued to grow steadily in PNG, with 11 clubs currently established and SMPs

But wary of the future, Andy's next big step for PNG surfing will come later this year when SAPNG proposes a bill to the PNG Parliament which has received the blessing of Sir Michael to have SMPs enshrined into law.



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Prima Munge in action at the PNG National Championship at Nasil.

developed for surf areas in Vanimo, Madang, and New Ireland Provinces, and more to come next year.

In January 2007, the SAPNG held its first national titles and selected a team to compete in the South Pacific Games (now called Pacific Games) in Samoa.

The Prime Minister Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare opened those national titles and unveiled SAPNG's first strategic plan, which it had formulated in collaboration with the World Bank.

"It wasn't soccer or rugby or cricket, it was surfing that brought the Prime Minister to Lido village in Vanimo and in lieu of what he saw, he donated 100,000 kina to build a double-storey classroom which is all built now, delivered," states Andy.

Meanwhile, while he's not spending time with his wife and son managing his business, or running SAPNG, Andy sits on the boards of the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority, Deputy President of the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery, Vice President of the PNG Tourism Industry Association, and is a member of the International Surfing Association's New Surfing Nations Committee.

But wary of the future, Andy's next big step for PNG surfing will come later this year when the SAPNG proposes a bill to the PNG Legislative Parliament which has received the blessing of Sir Michael to have SMPs enshrined into law.

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In recent years, he's been approached by surf tourism stakeholders in the Mentawais, Maldives, Fiji, the Caroline Islands, and other Pacific Islands nations, all wanting to know how he's done what he's done with surfing in PNG; they too want to know more about Andy's "unorthodox" approach.

He sees the passing of this bill as central to an equitable and sustainable surfing future for his people and country, as part of his contribution to the social and economic nation building of PNG, and an extension of his Abel family's 119-year legacy. Andy's contribution goes a lot further than surfing and PNG.

In recent years, he's been approached by surf tourism stakeholders in the Mentawais, Maldives, Fiji, the Caroline Islands, and other Pacific Islands nations, all wanting to know how he's done what he's done with surfing in PNG; they too want to know more about

Andy's 'unorthodox' approach.

But Andy doesn't see his work as unorthodox as much as pure common sense. Recently, when a bureaucrat from the Australian Federal Government's Ministry for Finance was at a PNG Tourism Promotion Authority board meeting, he was blown away by SAPNG's achievements and told Andy how "unprecedented and radical" his work was.

Andy responded; "No it's not. I've created a win-win for my people that is equitable and sustainable. I see it my way as a surfer and as a Papua New Guinean..."

The surfing of today is almost unrecognisable from when the Duke spread the stoke around the world back in the early 20th century.

In some ways, it's progressed out of sight when you look at the technology we have and the performance levels people are reaching. But in other ways, it's all gone a bit pear-shaped when you look at the crowding issues we have, and the surf slums we've created in our supposedly hallowed grounds.

But whatever way you slice it, at least there are people out there like Andy with the vision and intelligence to see things differently, and the courage and commitment to follow good ideas with real action.



Wave at Yako village in Vanimo.

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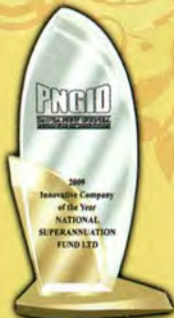


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Rachel James...the reigning Miss Papua New Guinea.

More than Meets the Eye

BY STEVEN DAWANINCURA

There is something different about Rachel James. It's not that she stands a shade under 6-feet tall, nor that her statuesque presence inevitably turns heads when she walks into a room, it is something far greater.

Rachel has a green heart.

It is the source from which this 26-year old marine biologist draws powerful motivation. Rachel has always had a strong desire to save the planet - starting in her own backyard - and wants everyone else to join her in being green too.

"This is something I have believed in for a long time," said Rachel proudly.

And now more than ever, this young woman has a mandate to vocalise the issues she holds close to her heart.

"There are pressing environmental issues such as climate change, water scarcity and biodiversity that can be successfully dealt with through mediums such as awareness campaigns in our communities."

August 7 this year is where her journey began and Rachel made it clearly known in her maiden speech, telecast nationwide moments after being crowned Red Cross Miss Papua New Guinea 2010.

"My coronation is a stepping stone for me to do as much as I can to help the environment and the communities impacted directly and indirectly by global climate change."

From living the academic life as a marine biologist one day to Miss PNG the next, Rachel's meteoric rise in profile has been "a bit overwhelming".

"Things just happened so quickly," she recalls. "Sometimes I just sit back for a moment and realise that not so long ago I was sitting on a beach in my home province contemplating my future."

It is a position that she has come to accept with grace. "Being Miss PNG is a demanding role so a lot of responsibility comes with the territory," she admits.

Whilst she has managed to take the competition and pressure of the pageant comfortably in her leggy stride, much is now expected as she prepares to fulfil her obligations over the coming 12 months in her new role.

A self-confessed 'surfer chick', keen touch player and tri-athlete, Rachel is also a women's advocate and conservationist, and to top it all off, she also has a Master's Degree in International Studies of Aquatic Tropical Ecology & Conservation under her diving belt.

Her day job is as the environmental policy officer at Bank South Pacific where she is responsible for drafting policies to make the Green Bank greener. It is an opportunity that she is embracing with gusto.

"I have lots of ideas from controlling energy use in BSP's many branches to advocating greater investment in environmentally sustainable projects," she says.

Make no mistake, she is many facets rolled into one unique package - and one gets the feeling that Rachel's 12-month tenure as Miss PNG has the makings of something special.

Ocean Deep Roots

Rachel's marine environmental roots are as deep as the ocean that surrounds her home province - New Ireland. She is the only girl amongst three brothers - Luke, Matthew and Nicholas - all highly competitive surfers - to proud parents Jesse James and Kerrian Killion.



Miss James with other contestants.

It's from her mum's home village of Taktakap that Rachel credits her childhood upbringing 'jungle island style' for keeping her feet firmly planted on the ground and deeply connected with the natural environment.

"I love the way of life back home, it's simple, relaxed and family is everything."

Born under the horoscope of Pisces, some would say an affinity with marine life and the ocean was written in the stars. As a nationally

ranked surfing champion and Scuba Dive Rescuer soon to be Master Diver, the ocean is never far away from her daily life.

"Throughout my childhood and early school years all we did was spend our whole time in and around the sea," she recalls fondly.

"The seas were everything from our playground to something we lived off and respected, unfortunately attitudes have changed since those days.

"Our oceans are now in trouble from pollution, overfishing and reef destruction. I have seen this first hand in my own province and around PNG."

It was these littoral experiences that strongly influenced her educational path to pursue Marine Biology and aquaculture degrees of science at the James Cook University in North Queensland until her Post Graduate Master's studies placed her in the heart of Europe at Bremen University in Germany.

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Underwater babe...Miss James checking out PNG's underwater wonders.



She arrived home as a young woman on a mission to promote marine conservation, firstly in the waters of her home province New Ireland, then around PNG, and potentially the South Pacific.

Taking Shape

After successfully completing a master's degree while simultaneously tackling the German language and Northern European culture, Rachel left a burgeoning modelling career and was drawn back to PNG by her deep abiding love of the country and its waters.

She arrived home as a young woman on a mission to promote marine conservation firstly in the waters of her home province New Ireland, then around PNG, and potentially the South Pacific.

Diving head first into her humanitarian duties Rachel has already warmed to the position as a role model for women and young children.

Being a recognisable commodity as a public figure may present a daunting challenge to those who shy away from crowds, but Rachel embraces the opportunities it presents.

Whether attending formal or informal engagements, she is a visibly inspiring

figure to those around her.

Even during a routine activity like being out shopping, mothers and children are drawn to her.

She always has time for the everyday people and values a friendly chat or just a hello. Rachel draws her own inspiration from the people she interacts with on a daily basis.

The selfless image Rachel projects is genuine, she has time for everyone. This is not work for her, it is simply her open personality coming into its own.

It is a strong quality she attributes to the influences she has gained from a select few in her life. Foremost, she acknowledges she has gained much strength and resilience from her father.

"I consider myself extremely fortunate to have grown up and always had a circle of strong women around me, starting with my mum, who has been a source of inspiration for everything I have done to-date."

Top on Rachel's list is Dame Carol Kidu, currently Papua New Guinea's sole woman in National Parliament this term, as the epitome of a resilient force behind human rights and gender equality.

Several great aunts and ladies also make the pecking order such as educationist Maria Kopkop and aid worker Cathy Amos, along with former South Pacific and PNG squash champion Monica Salter, and mentor and former Miss PNG, Eva Arni.

Without such positive influences in her life, Rachel says it would not have been possible for her to remain the grounded person she is today.

"I have been able to gain so much strength and self-belief from each of these liberated Papua New Guinean women in their own special ways that have allowed me to keep life in perspective and I am eternally grateful," Rachel declared.



Relaxing at the Gateway Hotel in Port Moresby.

"I think it is a bold and timely move," said Rachel.

"The focus has now moved from being beauty-oriented and based primarily around fundraising and is now more aligned with the Red Cross Society's mission as a humanitarian organisation."

The new concept has also seen the event evolve into one that develops and showcases the contestant's personal, intellectual and humanitarian qualities.

"It was a tremendous experience this year to be a part of a programme that encourages self development of young career-driven Papua

Face Value

In 2010, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society, organisers of the Miss PNG Quest opted for a revamp of the event's structure for the first time since it was established in 1974.

By doing so, the quest has now become more in tune with the global trends of the new millennium and that suits the incumbent Miss PNG just fine.

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Photo by Jason Pini

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"It was a tremendous experience this year to be a part of a programme that encourages self development of young career driven Papua New Guinean women who are capable of achieving great things in own their individual rights."



New Guinean women who are capable of achieving great things in their own individual rights."

In the 33-year history of the quest, a key component retained is the face to face interactions with those that the PNG Red Cross continues to serve.

Rachel believes she's better prepared for the journey ahead, thanks to the three weeks of this year's quest spent with her fellow entrants visiting communities and hospitals around the country.

"Seeing first-hand the efforts of the Red Cross and the impacts its valuable donors have made in the rural areas where there is limited access to health and social services was an eye-opening reality check. Knowing what has been and can be achieved opens the doors to ways forward," Rachel added.

The X Factor

When 19-year old Eva Arni, a cadet journalist with the South Pacific Post (Post Courier), became the very first Miss PNG in 1974, she

did more than don a gown and glittering tiara.

She inspired a whole new era for Papua New Guineans and young women among Pacific island nations by claiming the coveted Miss Asia title a year later in 1975.

At that time, a Miss PNG Queen's natural progression to 'the dream' was via Miss Asia and the top tier of it all was Miss Universe or Miss World.

All that has now changed with the recent advent of Miss Earth and Miss South Pacific. They now offer new pathways for young women of the new millennium.

Eva's feat has yet to be emulated. Even today her achievements have remained an ambitious talking point for every aspiring entrant.

Rachel has also set benchmarks of her own. Not only by winning Miss PNG, but by also being judged Miss Patron's Choice and Miss Humanitarian this year. A tremendous achievement as nobody has ever won all three titles before.

With such a successful performance, ideas have been mooted that the Miss Earth Quest may now seem a very real possibility on the horizon. For now though, she is quite happy to let her tenure take its natural course.

But the talk of Miss Earth draws an unmistakable glint of excitement in Rachel's eyes.

"Yes, that would certainly be the ultimate goal for me. I'm not quite sure of the entry requirements, but if I am eligible that is certainly an event I would aspire to attend.

"As a marine biologist from a country as unique as Papua New Guinea, there are a few higher or more appropriate platforms in which to proudly promote long-term strategies I have in mind to protect our pristine waterways."

For a moment her thoughts trail back to the untainted settings of her childhood it triggers the emotion that is a driving force behind her passion to preserve marine life in PNG.

Her words come flooding out like the tidal surge she wrote her post-graduate thesis on - the sea grass meadows, mangrove forests, endangered species, coral reefs, atolls, and beaches.

"Don't forget, these are all areas that Papua New Guineans survived on for generations," Rachel points out proudly. These are all places that spawned our traditions and legends - I firmly believe that all of these are worth protecting and saving for our children and our children's children."

From community action groups, programme planning, and awareness to research and policy development - this is Rachel's calling.





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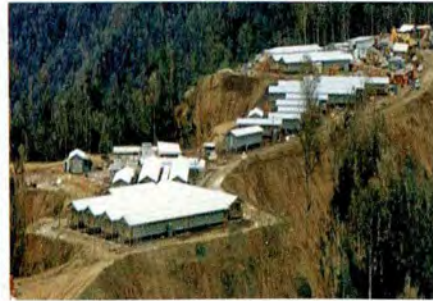
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PNG Music Making Waves Worldwide

BY GRAHAM SIMMONS



Papua New Guinea musicians at the Sydney's Home nightclub.



Raymond Chin...founder and managing director of CHM Supersound.

It's taken over 30 years of hard work, but the music studio CHM Supersound, established in Port Moresby by music magnate Raymond Chin, is set to take the planet by storm.

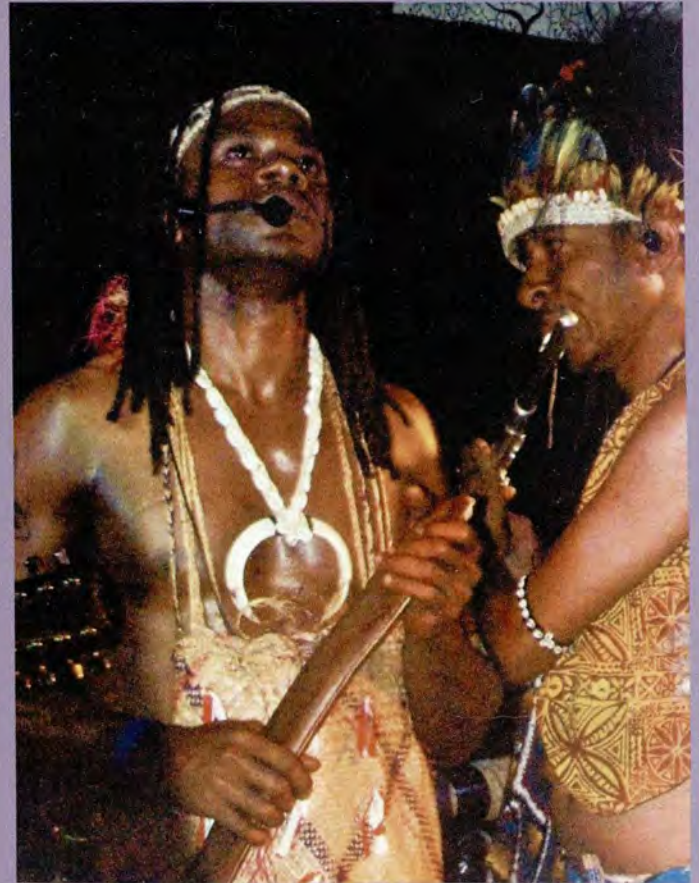
he world's biggest producer of Melanesian music, with over 3,000 albums under its belt, has just signed major distribution deals with iTunes and leading international music retailers.

To see and hear these musicians performing live is a totally infectious experience. PNG music is raw, earthy and punchy. It comes right from the gut and occasionally from the heart too. The instrumental lineups are eclectic and sometimes astonishing - everything from slide guitar and tin drum to the most sophisticated saxophone playing you'll ever hear.

Reggae influences also come across strongly. But with over 800 distinct languages in the country, the task facing most PNG musicians is simply to communicate, and the best way for them to do so is in the common lingua franca Tok Pisin, or Pidgin.



Reviews of the band's performance were universally thumbs-up. "That band could have gone on any music stage worldwide, and they would have just blown people away..."



Doing their thing...Apox and Warian Echoe.

A group of some of PNG's best musicians performed in Sydney recently as part of the Song Summit held under the auspices of APRA (Australasian Performing Right Association). Among the performers were such diverse talents as dAdiigii (aka Armstrong P Gomara), Apox, Shane Amean of the band Cornerstone and multi-instrument maestro Warian Echoe.

But there couldn't have been a more inauspicious start to a visit. The keyboard player fell ill, Chin's wife was hospitalised, and the band's instruments were quarantined by Customs - all on just one morning.

Luckily, the two victims quickly recovered, and the substitute instruments were somehow found. On the night, the band turned on a fine performance, all clad in their finest tribal costumes (which admittedly did look a little unusual in the swish surrounds of HOME, Australia's biggest nightclub). But not all tribal accoutrements were on show.

"Warian Echoe nearly broke down and cried when we told him he couldn't wear his penis-gourd on stage," said Chin.

"That's his tradition, but we thought that not all the audience would understand this."

Reviews of the band's performance were universally thumbs-up. "That

band could have gone on any music stage worldwide, and they would have just blown people away," says Sebastian Chase, founder of MGM (Metropolitan Groove Merchants).

Chase and MGM were instrumental in bringing the group's music to a wider audience. "I went up to Papua New Guinea with performing rights lawyer John Kenny about three years ago, and we were really impressed by what we were listening to there," says Chase.

"In the global market, all indigenous music needs to be promoted worldwide, but we realised that up until then, not much of their music was known outside PNG. So we decided the best strategy was to make use of the digital age and make up a digital catalog of their music.

About a year ago, we started digitising the tracks and the plan now is to develop a pathway for global distribution. The first step was to get the albums listed with iTunes, and the next step is to start bringing out physical copies and market the music internationally."

I caught up with the band, seeking some insights into their unique music.

The first band member, Shane Amean, of the group Cornerstone, tells of how he got into playing music.



Shane Aman (of Cornerstone)...in action at Sydney's Home nightclub.

Music in Papua New Guinea is still very much a grassroots business. Around 98% of recorded music is still sold on cassettes, with CDs and MP3 players still being at the top-end of the availability spectrum. And competition among performers can be fierce.

"I was severely burnt in an accident when I was about nine years old," he says, "and was bedridden for a couple of months. I had a cassette by Don Williams, and I played it over and over again. And that's what led me to start playing the guitar".

The rest is history. Cornerstone, with ring-ins Haoda and Julius Kwarere, became one of the top groups recorded by CHM Supersound.

Another member of the group performing in Sydney was Apox, from Papua New Guinea's Manus Island. Rastafarian influences come across strongly in his first album, *Fairy Tale*, released in October 2009.

On the album, he sings in four languages: English, Tok Pisin, Oro and Manus (the language of Manus Island).

His years spent in Hawaii (where he acquired a degree in international business management) and New Zealand also had a bearing on his music.

The infectious beat of the album's tracks does not hide its more serious focus, namely some unique problems encountered in Papua New Guinea such as urban violence and the centuries-old legacy of inter-tribal warfare in the country.

"Another problem is literacy," says Apox. "Until that problem is fixed, it will be difficult to get real communication happening."

Music in Papua New Guinea is still very much a grassroots business. Around 98% of recorded music is still sold on cassettes with CDs and MP3 players still being at the top-end of the availability spectrum. And competition among performers can be fierce.

Another performer, Echoe (aka John Ani) is one of the band's most interesting and colourful characters. He graduated with a music degree from the University of Papua New Guinea, with a major in saxophone.

After nearly 10 years of playing with the police band, he decided to branch out and enjoy what he enjoys the most - multi-instrumental recording and playing.

His music is a fusion of hip-hop, jazz and traditional Melanesian music - a totally unique and highly polished set of sounds.

The fourth band member - dAdiiGii (aka Armstrong P Gomara) from Lae on the

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Papua New Guinea musicians...Apox, Warian Echoe, Shane Amean (of Cornerstone) and dAdiiGii.

north coast of Papua New Guinea - is also an accomplished performer. The first track on his very first album opens with rich polyphonic vocals, followed by drum-backed rap interspersed with Middle Eastern riffs. Altogether extraordinary!

"Armstrong was just a street kid, hanging out

on the streets of Port Moresby when I first spotted his talent. He has since gone on to be one of our best-selling artists," says Chin.

dAdiiGii's two top albums have been "Dayz of my life" and "Welcome to my life". It's common nowadays to talk about little known places as being the "last frontiers" - but in

the case of the music of Papua New Guinea, this description is more than just apt. There's no doubt whatsoever that this music is set to make waves worldwide.

When this happens, the music of PNG will be not just "World Music" but real music of the world.



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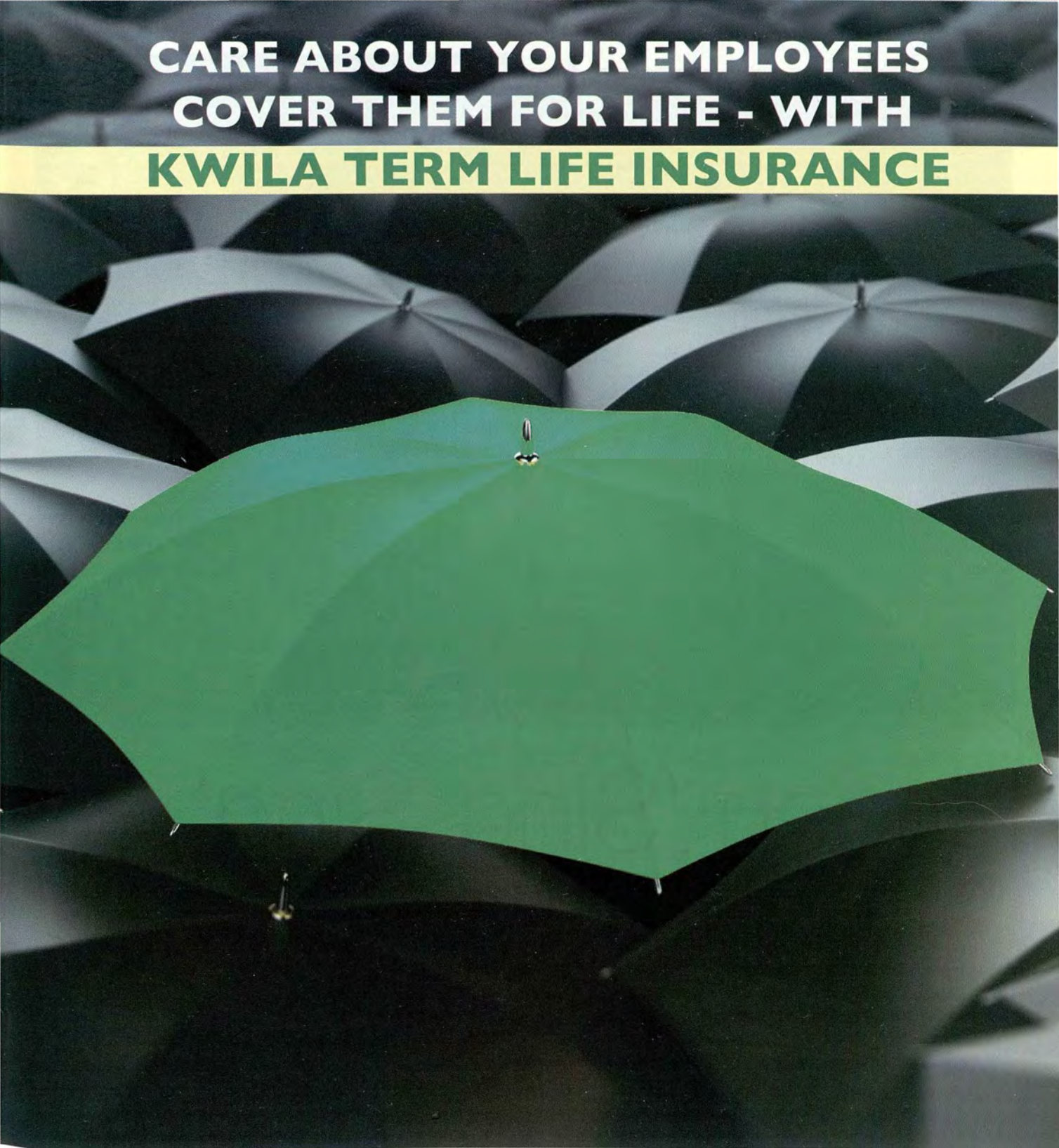
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Hagen 'Sing-Sing'

BY DIANA MCMANUS

Mt Hagen Show is truly a cultural feast and the more you gorge, the greedier you get for more! It's a stunning expression of regional pride which takes your breath away.



I can't think of anything more positively overwhelming than watching a hundred odd regional cultural groups march proudly, singing and dancing, onto the Hagen Showground, line up in allocated areas, and then continue to show us what they're made of.

Can you imagine...thousands of people simultaneously chanting and dancing in a scene of well organised chaos, if there is such an anomaly?

I, and two friends from Port Moresby, came up for the weekend for the show, and stayed at the very pleasant Hotel Poroman in town, the successor of the former Hotel Poroman Lodge.

Denis Doyle, the manager, and Julie Livi, the duty manager, ran a very slick operation for their guests, many of them from overseas who had come especially for this event.

There was a mini fleet of cars, vans and a small bus which shuttled backwards and



forward to the showground all day, so you could come and go as you pleased, and a personal guide for each group.

We took off in the early morning mist not knowing that the parade didn't start until 11am. This presented no problem at all and in fact was a brilliant entrée for the feast to follow.

The layout of the grounds is such that the central area, which is the football ground in normal time, is surrounded by earthen hills for the spectators and that is fenced in.

One side of the arena has an extra fenced in area for vehicles bringing in VIPs and international guests.

Here, there were a couple of spectator stands, the Governor's enclosure and all manner of local handicrafts on sale.

On the other side of the arena were large enclosed fields where many of the out of towners had erected temporary 'long houses' to accommodate themselves, and these were the focal point of preparations for the show.

This is where you could get close up and personal with the performers and Simon, our guide, took us straight there.

The care and attention paid to the details of dress, headdress and body paint was fascinating and brought about a new appreciation of the time and effort involved

in staging a cultural event. It also gave us glimpses into the bonding which such preparation brings about between group members.

As we wandered freely amongst the different groups we, along with hundreds of other European tourists were welcomed warmly by all who were more than willing to have a chat, explain something, have their photos taken and even offer items of 'bilas' for sale.

Somehow a colourful skewered lorikeet which looks so gorgeous in the plumage of the dancers doesn't fit so well into western lifestyle! In this cultural context, however, it seemed perfect and the end result of the varying head gear was nothing short of sheer artistry.

There was the short fuzzy cassowary plumage worn by the Kutubu Foe sing-sing group (the men in red), elegantly waving black plumes of the women from Simbu's Mindima and Kuka cultural groups, highly elaborate local head-dresses worn by the Marama cultural group, adorned with a mixture of white, cream or tan bird of paradise tail feathers, green, red and blue of the lorikeets and the iridescent 'eyes' of peacock feathers.

Anglimp's Kuli Kona group seemed to combine them all. Other head-dresses were the result of ingenuity and modern materials such as the groups from Morobe Province, one with huge red and white painted cardboard 'boats' and

another with purple feathers. No less exciting and varied was the face and body painting.

In general, it's the faces which have so powerful an effect on you. Traditionally, these were painted with local clays and the help of vegetable dyes.

Today, these are sometimes substituted with modern materials, for example, white liquid ink. With one group, we saw, silver paint which gave somewhat of a sci-fi effect.

Combinations of red, white, blue, yellow and in some instances orange, create startling images which adorn many of the paintings and images we see abroad representing 'the face of PNG', not to mention the powerful black faces and hats of the Engan males.

The Engan Sili Muli women's group also looked spectacular in their brown clay bodies, broad black hair wigs and long grass skirts. The Boda women's cultural group seemed to combine fabulous faces with fabulous head-dresses and traditional dress.

A couple of groups in particular captured our attention with their outstanding body paint. One group from Simbu was painted in black and white horizontal stripes, apart from a couple with verticals.

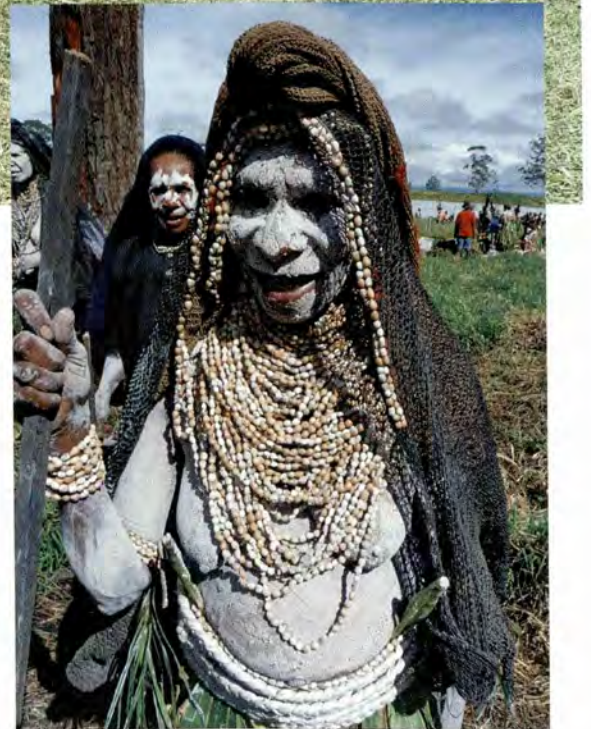
They carried four black and white striped poles which were later used for the bamboo dance whereby the poles are alternatively



clacked together to the rhythm of traditional singing while women skillfully dance between them. A definite threat to the ankles!

I saw with astonishment what I thought were pygmy people dancing. On closer inspection, they turned out to be young boys with the tops of their heads shaven and that hair used to create false beards and moustaches.

From a distance, with their striped bodies and body language, they looked, for all intents and purposes, to be little adults. The effect was quite unbalancing actually.



Mud was used extensively by two groups. The famous Asaro mudmen were there with their heavy clay masks, clay painted bodies and weird slow motion movements while brandishing bows and arrows, and small leafy branches.

Another group of women were heavily painted in clay and wore black bilums on their heads. Simon told us that this was traditional widows' funeral dress. It was very effective in conveying a deep sense of sorrow.

Another fascinating aspect of dress was the varied way foliage was used as decoration. Women sat with long pale green striped leaves patiently folding them this way and that to create a crinkled effect for the green 'bussles' worn at the back, reminiscent of old Queen Victoria-style dresses.

An outstanding example of crinkled skirts were the chocolate brown creations of the Gena Wai Singing group from Simbu. Others had bunches of pink and green leaves with short stems which could be cleverly tucked into or





under a waist or arm band, and one women's group wore bright green leaves so extensively on their bodies and heads that indeed they looked like moving bushes

Still strolling around before the show officially started, we came across a group of flutists playing their bamboo instruments in sweet harmony and later, at the festival proper, discovered the fully dressed Kogl Kama Flute Cultural group from Mul.

Apart from flutes, and one group's whistles, the main instrument was, of course, the kundu drums and they were out in force. Beautiful examples were on display, some of which seemed to have mouths like snakes.

By this time the sun had come out, revealing the gorgeous mountain backdrop of the Waghi Valley, and groups from outside the gates were

arriving with their followers and dancing their way up the road towards the entrance gate where they congregated, psyching themselves up for the grand entrance. Glistening with oil, the last touch to the body decoration, they gave us a preview of what was to come and an opportunity to appreciate them individually.



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When the gates opened, that was our cue to be shepherded around to the visitors' enclosure, while local people gathered on the hill slopes to watch. For them, the entry fee was K4. For us, it was K300 and I think that's fair enough considering the disparity between our relative incomes, and the privilege we had of experiencing the flavour of the highlands.



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From the heights (and heat) of the spectators' stand we watched in awe as group after group emerged through the gate and gradually filled the showground. Where they all came from I couldn't imagine, for there were far more than we had seen outside and far more surprises in store for us.

What a feast! All in all, I can't say enough for the quality of the culture we saw on

display and for the organisers who managed the event so professionally. I'm sure all the international visitors were totally satisfied and had enjoyed the cultural feast as much as we did.

When we left the airport, my Canadian friends were talking about coming again and bringing their five adult children to see the show next year.

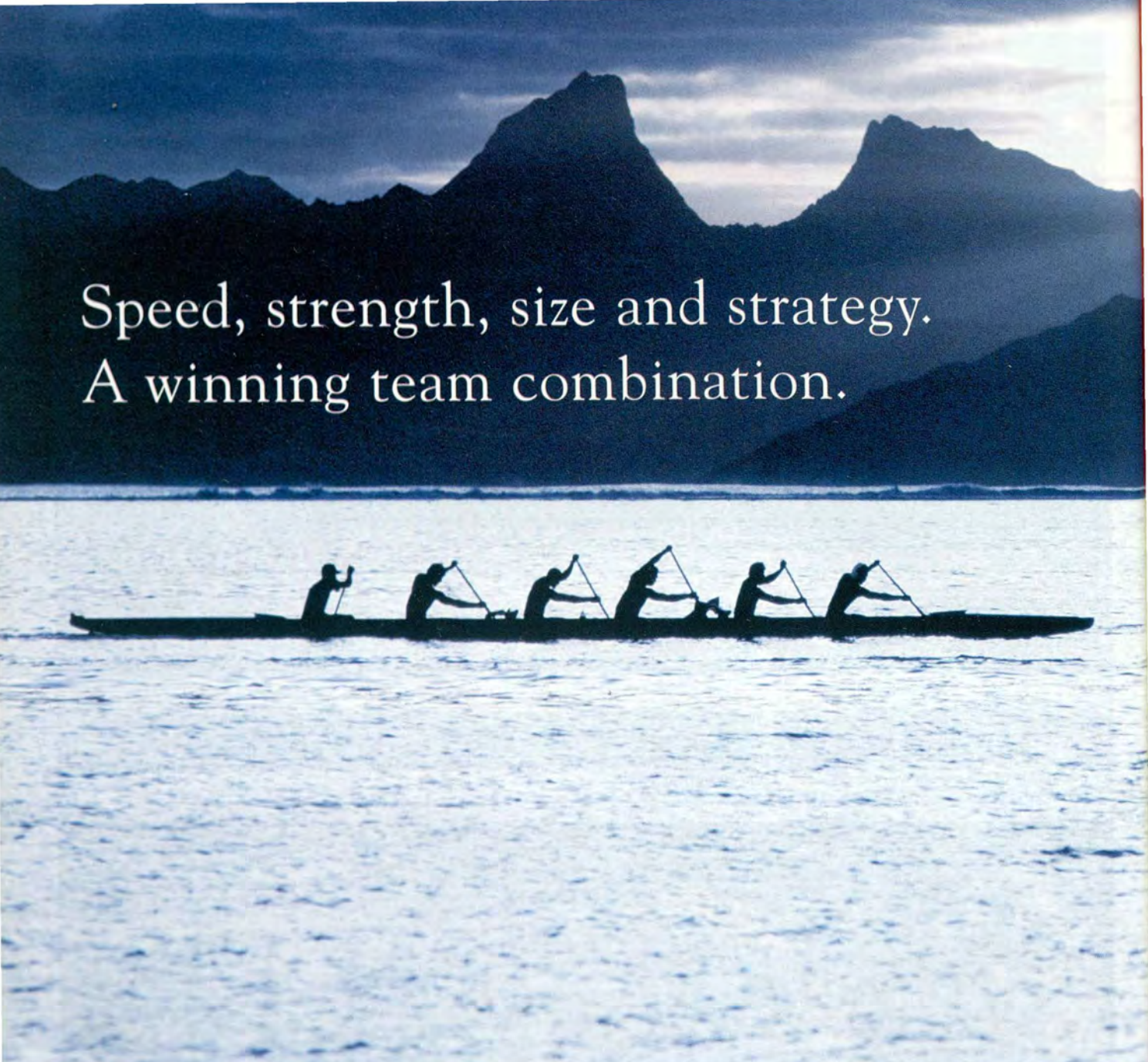


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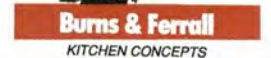
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Laid-back beach style shopping at Bondi. Photos: NSW Tourism

Shop till you drop SYDNEY STYLE

BY JULIE IHLE

Sydney is not just about beaches, sunshine and cafes; it's also a shopping mecca. Where else combines big city style with beach chic? Whether you're in the market for a fashionista fix, eclectic homewares or one-in-a-kind gift, Sydney has it in the bag.

Downtown chic

Downtown Sydney is chocca with stylish city shopping areas. Forget soulless malls; instead think Victorian extravaganzas and the latest cutting edge complexes. Queen Victoria Building, an immaculately restored building dating from 1898, has all the usual fashion outlets with the upper levels devoted to luxe fashion and gifts. Even The Met Store gets a look in with beautiful reproductions from New York's famous Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Strand Arcade, with its wrought iron lace balconies, is another grand old reminder of yesteryear and has earned a name for itself as a hand-crafted jewellery hub. Opening in late 2010 is the revamped Westfield complex, which encompasses gleaming Glasshouse and Skygarden and will showcase fashion, food and lifestyle stores. For serious retail therapy, head to Castlereagh Street for Chanel, Gucci and Jimmy Choo. And if you time your visit for December, be sure to check out the magical Christmas displays in the David Jones department store shopfront - a Sydney institution.

The Rocks

As Sydney's original convict settlement, The Rocks has transformed into one of the country's most popular tourist destinations. With a breathtaking sweep of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House, it's a picture perfect

The Italian Forum at Leichardt specialises in all things Italian.



Strand Arcade...has lovely wrought iron balconies.

day out. It's a great place to pick up souvenirs, famed Australian opals, akubra hats, indigenous art or some Ken Done apparel, known for its intense brights.

Inner city precincts

Sydney may have its fair share of big hitters in the department store stakes, but it's a short taxi or rail ride to inner suburbs where vintage vies with up-and-coming designers and cutting edge fashion. Each inner city precinct has its own flavour and it's fun to try each one out for size.

Surry Hills - once a grimy inner city suburb - today it is the centre of funky urban design. Crown Street is packed with trendy cafes, contemporary art, retro treasures and indie fashion where you're sure to pick up a one-off design.

Paddington - with its Victorian townhouses and cool inner city vibe - oozes class. Clustered around Oxford Street are

boutiques, hole-in-the-wall bars and rare book shops.

Double Bay - dubbed Double Pay because of its ritzy Euro labels, like Christensen Copenhagen or Commes des Garçons - this bayside 'burb is undeniably flash. Whether you're on the prowl for a special occasion frock, window shopping or people watching, this is Sydney shopping at its shiny best.

Leichardt - with its Mediterranean flavour - the Italian Forum is a great place to pick up modish European shoes with a gelato scoop on the side.

Glebe - often overlooked - but therein lies its appeal. With an alternative new age bent, Glebe holds court with vintage, second-hand books and music shops, and you're only ever a few steps away from organic coffee.

Mosman offers grand designs and labels galore mixed with sleek eateries with gorgeous Balmoral Beach nearby.



It is in the bag...shopping at Paddington.



Trendy Paddington is a design hub.

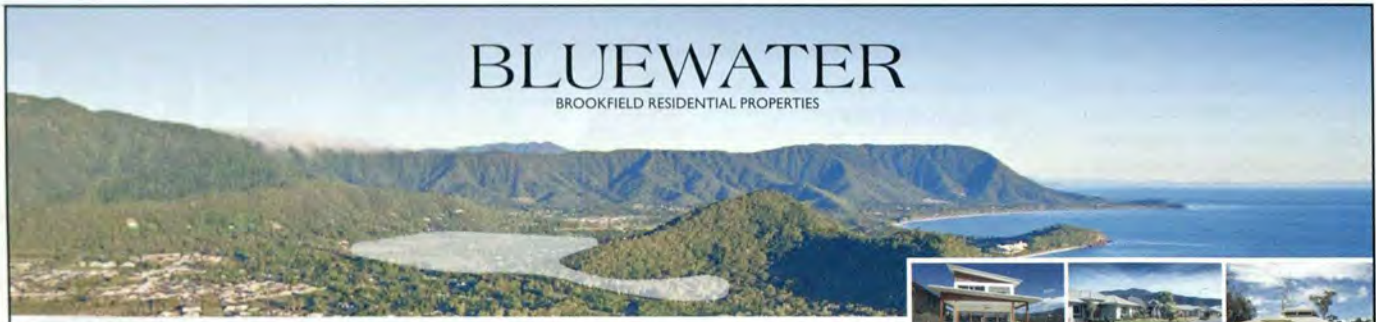


Window-shopping at Mosman.

Market madness

Local markets are popular in Sydney where sunny weather and laid-back lifestyle conspire to make going to the markets lots of fun. Markets abound, so it's a matter of choosing your interest, checking the times and away you go. The grand-daddy of them all

is Paddy's Market at Haymarket, and The Rocks' Saturday market is popular too. Glebe market has a folksy bent, where you can spend happy hours fossicking for crystals or candles to live music. Balmain and Rozelle are treasure troves for ceramics or Tibetan rugs and Paddington market is the place for hand-made jewellery.



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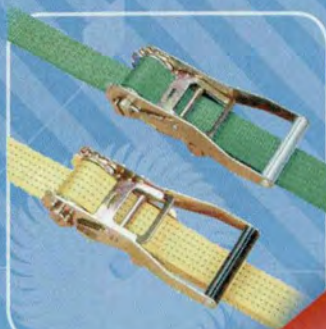
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Boutique beachware

Sydney beaches are now style icons in their own right. Bondi is the kingmaker, the streets are lined with the latest wave of surf brands - Tigerlily, Jets, Zimmerman and C&M Swim. Finish your day with a relaxing coffee at hip, second-hand bookshop/cafe Gertrude and Alice.

Avalon, on the northern beaches, is off the beaten track but an easy bus ride from the city. It's easy to see why this is the peninsula's style hub. Stroll the suburb for an upmarket array of gift shops, day spas, lifestyle stores and slinky beachwear boutiques.


Outlets

No shopping spree is complete without a look at the outlets. Head to Homebush Bay, Birkenhead Point or Alexandria for bargains on brands like Orotan, Lisa Ho and Timberland. The easiest way to get around is to hop on a tour where you can shop till you drop.

Sydney-style merchants

It's not surprising that a city as beautiful as Sydney has nurtured locals with creative verve. Collette Dinnigan, Ken Done, Akira Isogawa, sass & bide are just some of the famous local fashion plates.

Today, there's a new batch of designers. Check out Rose & Ruby for smoky floaty frocks and Ginger & Smart for fashion and luxury spa products.

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Aerial view of Denarau and the golf course (right).

DIVINE DENARAU

For that divine holiday experience

BY RAJAN SAMI

Fiji's Denarau Island has long been considered the jewel in the crown of the country's tourism industry. And justifiably so.

For Denarau is the South Pacific's largest integrated resort; home to several of the world's leading hotel brands; a championship golf course and tennis ranch; as well as a shopping centre and a bustling marina that serves as a gateway to Fiji's picturesque outer islands.

Only 20 minutes from Nadi International Airport and eight minutes from Nadi Town, a causeway links Fiji's main island Viti Levu to Denarau.

On the 600-acre island, visitors use the friendly open-air 'Bula Bus' to resort hop or make their way to the marina to shop and eat. Besides a number of retail outlets selling local fashion and traditional artifacts, the Port Denarau shopping complex houses a variety of restaurants to suit different palates and pockets.

The marina is also the main point of entry to the beautiful Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands. This makes Denarau perfect for pre and post-island stays. The marina is also where you'll find super yachts, cruiseline groups, cruise operators such as the South Sea Cruises and Captain Cook (which offer day cruises to nearby islands), and great fishing charters.

Denarau's 18-hole championship golf course, set amidst lush tropical greens with bunkers shaped like marine creatures and waterways, is suitable for all levels of golfers. For tennis players, in addition to the four all-weather lit



Bula Bus...your open-air transport around the island.

What makes Denarau Fiji's and in fact the South Pacific's premier tourist destination? It's got to be the island's family friendly atmosphere where kids can run amok in safety while parents relax, secure in the knowledge they've chosen the right Fijian island for their holiday.

Action time...a dose of culture at the Denarau Shopping complex.



courts, there are six natural grass courts. Each resort also offers a variety of water sports from jet skiing, parasailing, waterskiing, fishing, diving and snorkelling.

If your idea of activity is more sedate, there are beaches and pools aplenty as well as a number of day-spas to indulge your every whim.

What makes Denarau Fiji's and in fact the South Pacific's premier tourist destination? It's got to be the island's family-friendly atmosphere where kids can run amok in safety while parents relax, secure in the knowledge they've chosen the right Fijian island for their holiday. The island is equally ideal (and large enough) for romance - be it a wedding, honeymoon or simply a loved-up getaway for two.

The only trouble is choosing a lodging from the eight available on the island, each as good as the next.

Couples will appreciate the tribal chic environs of the Westin Denarau Island & Spa, with its calm, zen-like atmosphere and sumptuous Heavenly Beds. By contrast, sister property Sheraton Fiji is popular with families: kids 12-years and under stay, play and dine for free.

The Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa combines French finesse with Fijian friendliness and is renowned for its award-winning eateries.

Those that like their sun with a healthy dose of style will appreciate the Fiji Beach Resort & Spa (managed by Hilton), which oozes effortless luxury.



Sheraton Fiji Resort...one of the hotels on Denarau Island.



Sheraton Denarau Villas...a home away from home.

For those who prefer a home away from home, Sheraton Denarau Villas and The Terraces both offer serviced apartments with fully equipped kitchens.

If the pool is your determining factor, try the Radisson Resort Fiji, its outside suites are set around a sprawling pool complex with adults-only pools and in-pool dining.

For those who like to buy in, the WorldMark

South Pacific Club by Wyndham is a popular timeshare resort.

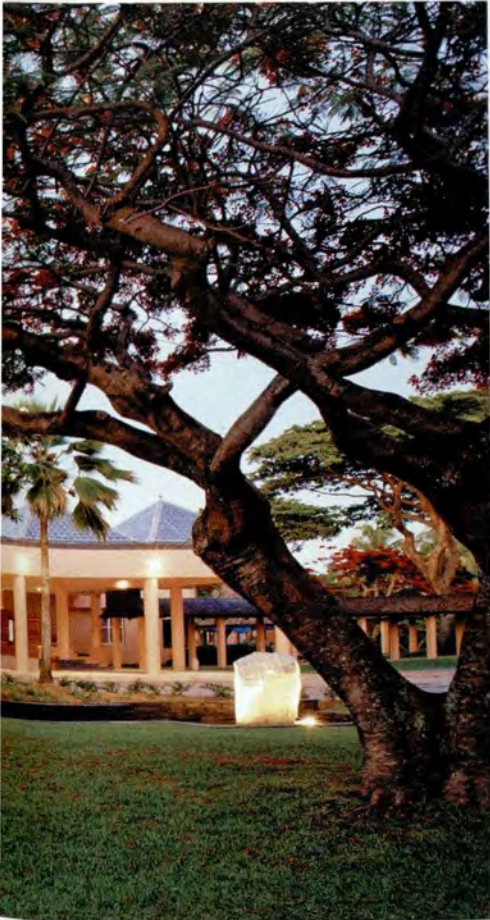
The majority of Denarau's resorts have dedicated kids clubs, which offer fun activities for the little ones in addition to babysitting services. This frees up parents to try out the island's many grown-up attractions. Most of the resorts are also home to some of the best spas in the South Pacific region, with the latest treatments from around the around, as well as signature Fijian therapies such as the *bobo* (bombo) massage.

Each resort is also home to a number of signature restaurants, which means the island is a veritable food mecca as guests can try a different one at each meal.

In addition to the resort-based eateries, Port Denarau is also home to a number of excellent dining establishments offering everything from casual bites (pizzas and pies) to gourmet Italian and Indian fare.

You'll find the Hard Rock Café's only Fijian outpost here alongside Cardo's, a homegrown joint renowned for its steak and seafood.

For the business traveller, Denarau is well suited as a conference destination. Many of the island's resorts have dedicated convention centres and are equipped to handle large groups, making it a popular destination with international companies who reward their best performing employees.




Service with a smile...at Radisson Resort Fiji.

Once on Denarau, it's not hard to see why the island is Fiji's most popular holiday destination. Gorgeous beachfront resorts sit side by side within perfectly manicured tropical gardens.

The sheer variety of activities on offer as well as places to shop and eat means guests are

truly spoiled for choice and never have to leave the island during their stay. Understandably, many become Denarau devotees, returning year after year for that divine holiday experience.



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Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa...reknown for its award-winning eateries.



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Sunset on Sarawak River, Kuching, Sarawak.



Maintain the Raj

Kuching of the White Rajahs

BY JOHN BORTHWICK

Kuching, capital of the Malaysian state of Sarawak on Borneo Island, is the former redoubt of the “White Rajahs of Borneo”. It is also the capital of good humour, easy conversations and great laksa.

All of which thrive amid an architecture of colonnades, battlements, gun-ports, godowns, Chinese shophouses and Malay kampungs. After an 18-year absence, I am returning to this fondly remembered town.

The Kuching I rediscover is, with a few notable exceptions, an even better place - as laid-back and affable as ever - but now more prosperous and definitely more hip to its White Rajah-era heritage.

I drop my bags in a ninth floor hotel room overlooking the winding Sarawak River, a languid, tea-coloured tide that bisects the town.

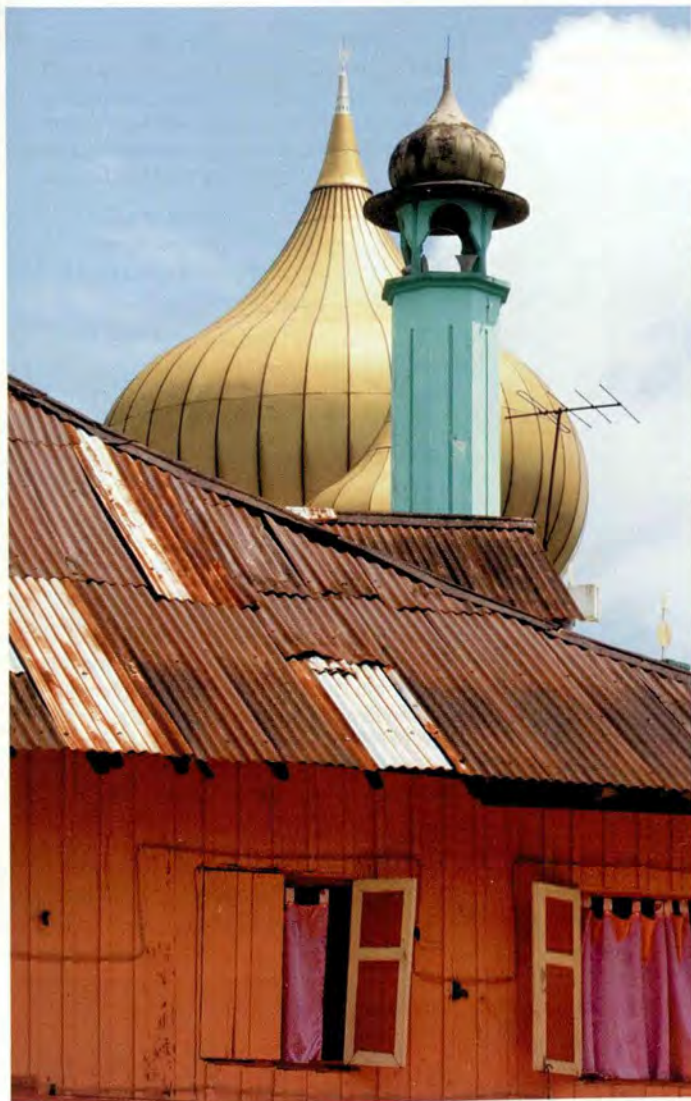
Below me, little yellow sampan ferries shuffle back and forth across its flow, carrying passengers to the kampung settlements on the river's northern bank.

I peer down on the fusty old battlements of Fort Margherita, built on the shore opposite by the second White Rajah Charles Brooke and I enjoy the mild conceit that I have a better view of his fort than he ever had.

Kuching is dotted with towers, forts, courts and other civic edifices that are the legacy of the three Rajah Brookes who ran Sarawak from 1841 to 1946 and were the only resident European dynasty to ever rule in Asia.

Sir James Brooke, the first White Rajah, was a British adventurer with a private income and an armed yacht.

In 1839, at age 36, he arrived off the coast of Sarawak just as a local Malay prince from the Sultanate of Brunei was entangled in a civil war against native tribes.



Kuching is dotted with towers, forts, courts and other civic edifices that are the legacy of the three Rajah Brookes who ran Sarawak from 1841 to 1946.

TuaPekKong in Sarawak.



Brooke, with equal measures of derring-do and canon power, led the prince's side to victory. In return, the Sultan of Brunei was obliged to reward him with the province of Sarawak.

During his 27-year rule, Sir James aggressively expanded his territory by 15 times that of the original grant. In 1868, he bequeathed Sarawak to his nephew Charles, who ruled for almost 50 years, and further expanded the domain until it reached the size of modern Sarawak, some 125,000 square kilometres.

Charles died in 1917 and was succeeded by the third and last White Rajah, his son, Vyner Brooke.

In 1911, Vyner married London socialite, Sylvia Brett, one of whose admirers was playwright George Bernard Shaw. On hearing of her marriage, Shaw penned her a ditty:

***Ride a cockhorse to Sarawak Cross
To see a young Raneé consumed with remorse.
She'll have bells on her fingers
And rings through her nose
And won't be permitted to wear any clothes***

Returning after World War II, the ageing Vyner Brooke stayed only as long as it took to cede Sarawak to Britain - against strenuous local opposition. Not long after, in 1963, the briefly British colony of Sarawak was absorbed into the new Federation of Malaysia.



In the background is the White Rajah's former palace, the Astana, now the state Governor's residence.

It's dignified stuff, although funereal humour is never far off. On an earlier visit to this temple I had seen families burning mock cheques marked "Bank of Hades", as well as a "Passport to Hell" and "Hellelevision"- brand video sets - all for the use of the dear departed in the Afterlife.



Guan Thian Siang (1889), ornate Teochew Chinese temple on Jalan Carpenter.

Kuching is still, for me, the friendliest and most livable capital in South-East Asia. Its half a million residents - ethnic Chinese, native Sarawakians and Malays - inhabit an orderly-enough web of shophouse streets and lanes, plus plenty of parks and a broad riverside parade, the Main Bazaar.

I stroll along the latter, the oldest street in Kuching, past its blocks of two-storey shophouses, many of them occupied by the same families for generations.

Instead of mum and dad stores selling haberdashery, tools and rice, today I find galleries and boutiques with Sarawak artifacts such as woven Iban pua kumbu blankets.

Half way along the street is the Tua Pek Kong Temple, the oldest Chinese temple in Kuching - it was built in the 1876 - where giant joss sticks waft aromatic clouds above a busy traffic intersection and Chinese families commemorate their dead by burning curious offerings such as fake money and cardboard models of limousines.

It's dignified stuff, although funereal humour is never far off. On an earlier visit to this temple I had seen families burning mock cheques marked "Bank of Hades", as well as a "Passport to Hell" and "Hellelevision"- brand video sets - all for the use of the dear departed in the Afterlife.

For thirty cents I squeeze into a little tambang or sampan for the five-minute shuttle across the river to Fort Margherita, named after the second Rajah's wife, Ranee Margaret.



The Square Tower (1879), Kuching waterfront from White Rajah-era.

The fort was built in 1879, in late-Renaissance style with crenellated battlements in order to guard Kuching from river pirates, although it has never fired a shot in anger.

Several hundred metres further west along the same bank is the stately Astana.

Charles Brooke also built this pocket-palace in 1870 as a marriage gift for his Ranees. Its tall

shingle roofs and low white main structure, plus defensive parapet tower, face Kuching city across the river.

The Astana remains the residence of Sarawak's main man, these days the Malaysian state Governor.

Kuching's city mothers and fathers have lovingly restored every Brookes' building,



Kuching...redolent with the tang of living well.

some of them architectural eccentricities, with prosaic names like the Round Tower, the Square Tower and the Pavilion.

Along with the Astana, the most impressive of Brooke's structures is the Court House complex - an elegant and beautifully proportioned cluster of buildings facing Main Bazaar, whose austere white lines are topped by another high-hatted roof of belian ironwood.

Kuching is redolent with the tang of living well - the aromas of clove and copra, durian, fish, rambutan, rain and more, not to mention

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The Pavilion Building (1909), White Rajah-era, now Sarawak Textile Museum.

Subaru and Beemer.

Whenever it's time for lunch, I duck through the mid-town bazaar to narrow Jalan Carpenter. There, opposite an ornate, red-tiled, dragon-embellished Teochow Chinese temple, I find, as one should near a place of spiritual sustenance, an excellent site of bodily sustenance, an open-air hawker food centre.

A bowl of Kuching laksa arrives, seething deliciously with spices, vermicelli noodles, coconut milk and prawns. In spite of Kuching's

burgeoning café and restaurant scene, I often find myself defaulting to lunch here for a song and this luscious laksa.

Several blocks inland from the waterfront is the best little museum in Southeast Asia. Built by the Brookes in 1891 and full of hunted heads and historic jetsam, the Sarawak Muzium, like Sarawak itself, is a wondrous thing.

There's intricate rattan basketry, beautiful Chinese ceramic martaban urns and in the grounds, a gigantic carved Kayan tribal burial pole.

However, the Gigglers' Choice in Sarawakiana displays is the "rhino's denture," a 20-centimetre diameter hairball found inside a Borneo rhino's stomach - embedded in the hairball is a human dental plate.


History records nothing about the owner (or loser) of the plate, now as extinct as both the Borneo rhino and the White Rajahs.

The Brooke administration usually observed Sarawakian customary laws - Dyak, Chinese or Malay - as interpreted by a local elder and an English District Officer.

The rules of court for longhouses were simple: "Not more than three persons shall speak at any one time, and no drinks to be served until after a decision has been made." Sarawak was probably the last place on earth where "trial by ordeal" continued.

If a District Officer and his advisors were utterly unable to reach a decision, usually in disputes about land or heirlooms, each party would pick its champion and the court adjourned to the river.

The two men dived in - and the one who could stay under water the longest won the court case. No one dreamed of questioning the verdict.

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Singapore's Star Creatures

BY ROB DUNLOP

Singapore's premier animal attractions - Jurong Bird Park, Singapore Zoo and Night Safari - are not only local stars, but also part of a luminary list that includes the best animal attractions in the world.

These award-winning wildlife reserves are also recognised for the significant roles they play in animal education and conservation, and are home to some of the world's rarest and most endangered species.

The parks are spectacular on so many levels. And worth a visit to Singapore alone.

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Red Macaws at Jurong Park.



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Caribbean flamingos at the Flamingo Lake.

The African Waterfall Aviary is a tropical African rainforest complete with huts and artefacts. More than 1500 birds, including beautiful parrots, chirp away in a swathe of colour.

Observation decks provide views across the top of the aviary and its waterfall. And in

a world first, a monorail train, the Panorail, weaves through the aviary in air-conditioned comfort.

In the Southeast Asia Birds Aviary are the most beautiful and rare species from around the region, all tweeting away in a chorus of song. To mix it up, every day at noon, a



Toco Toucan sits prettily at the Toucans Exhibit.

tropical thunderstorm is unleashed in the aviary.

The Flamingo Lake boasts a flock of 1000 bright pink Caribbean flamingos, while the long orange-beaked toucans sit prettily in the Toucans Exhibit. And in a dazzling array of colour reminiscent of Australian skies, thousands of Lorikeet parrots, in red, blue, green and yellow, flit about the Lory Loft, which is the world's largest walk-in aviary.

Around the park, the peacocks are always showing off. The enigma of the owls can be seen in the World of Darkness, an exhibit that turns day into night.



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Penguins waddle around the Penguin Expedition in a landscape of rocks and cliffs. And all seven species of the pelican can be seen at Pelican Cove, which also has an underwater viewing gallery.

With a dozen exhibits and attractions to explore, a full day doesn't seem enough to take it all in. Yet, there's more. Kids can also get wet at the Splash N Slide Station, a dedicated play area, which also has a dry play area. And food and refreshments are available in the African themed restaurant, Bongo Burgers.

When the birdpark was initially created in 1971 from kind donations from officials and ambassadors from around the world, little did that the park know that it would end up as one of the world's most important collection of birds, and an influential spearhead of numerous conservation projects.

Jurong Bird Park is located at 2 Jurong Hill, Singapore. Opens 8.30am to 6pm daily. Admission price is S\$18 for adults and S\$9 for children 3-12 years old. Panorail Ride costs S\$5 for adults and S\$2.50 for children 3-12 years old. Phone +65 6265 0022 or visit www.birdpark.com.sg.



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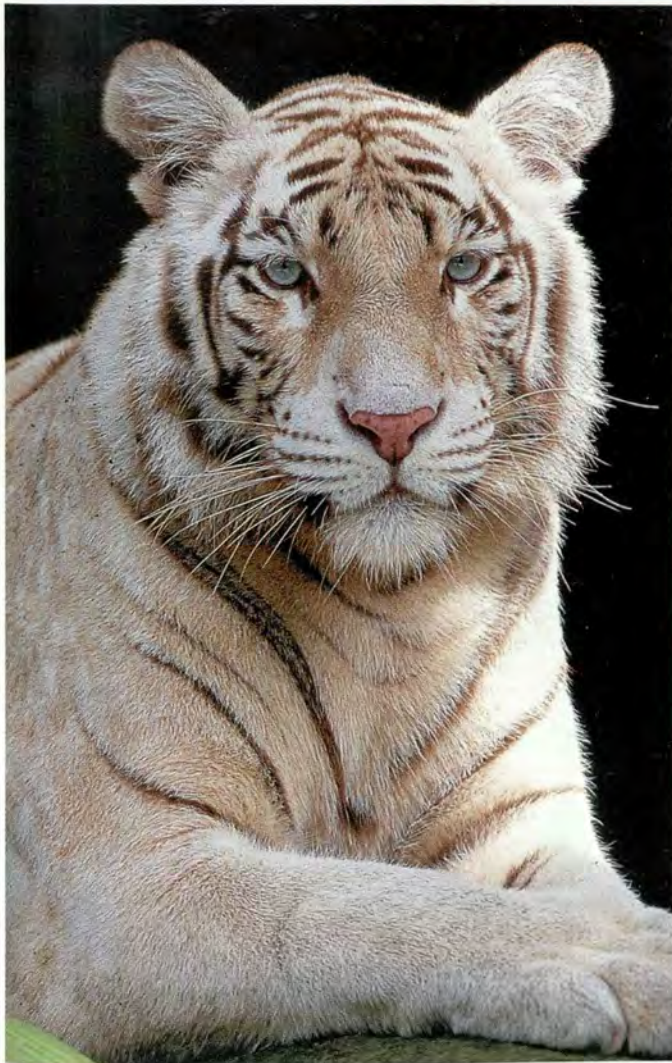






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A rare Bengal White tiger at Singapore Zoo.

Singapore Zoo

Singapore Zoo is unique in its concept of the "Open Zoo". You won't see animals in cages here. What you get is beautifully landscaped habitats that look natural. Concealed moats separate animals from visitors so you feel you are immersed in their territory. And for the more dangerous animals that can leap, glass walls provide a shield.

The zoo, which opened in 1973, is spread over 28 hectares with 315 animal species, totalling 2530 animals. A 20-minute scenic boat ride that winds along a reservoir with thick vegetation allows for the viewing of the large monitor lizards, related to the Komodo dragon.

The pretty stork-billed kingfishers build nests along the banks, and white-bellied sea eagles, Singapore's largest bird, glide through the water.

There are around a dozen exhibits in the park, including the White Tiger, which houses rare Bengal White Tigers. One out of every 10,000 of the normal orange-coloured tigers has the whitish coats. Perched on the rocks against the lush green foliage, the tigers look splendid.

In the Australian Outback exhibit, you'll encounter kangaroos and the world's deadliest snake - the Inland Taipan.

Arctic conditions have been re-created for Polar bears while cheetahs, giraffes, lions, zebras and rhinos roam in Wild Africa.

And what's a visit to Asia without seeing orangutans? The zoo has bred 33. Other primates you'll see are gibbons, spider monkeys, chimpanzees, mandrills, tamarins, langurs and lemurs.

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Boat ride around Singapore Zoo.

And in strictly controlled conditions, rides are available on elephants, ponies and horse drawn carriages. To quell hunger pangs and thirst, three food and beverage outlets are positioned around park. Retail therapy is on hand as well.

Singapore Zoo is located at 80 Mandai Lake Road, Singapore. Opens 8.30am to 6.00pm daily. Admission price is S\$18 for adults and S\$9 for children 3-12 years old. Phone +65 6269 3411 or visit www.zoo.com.sg.



Night Safari

In 40 hectares of lush forest near Singapore Zoo, you'll find the world's first wildlife park purposely built for night time visits.

Most tropical animals are nocturnal, so the Night Safari is the place to see them in action.

The park, built in 1994, is spread into eight geographical zones, which can be explored on foot or by tram. The 45 minute tram ride takes you through three continents - Asia, Africa and South America.

In the Himalayan Foothills (one of eight exhibits), amongst the boulders and grassy meadows, you'll see the largest goats in the world, the markhors.

And in the Indo-Malayan Region exhibit, you'll encounter the unusual looking Malayan bearded pigs. Both the male and female pigs have whiskers on their snouts. The pigs are normally found in the mangroves and forested areas of Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo.

In the South American Pampas lives the largest living rodent, the Capybara, along with the Giant Anteater, which forages with its 15cm long claws.

The Indian subcontinent is home to the Gir



Malaysian bearded pigs.

Lion, Sloth Bear and Striped Hyena, the least vocal of the hyenas.

For munchies and drinks, there is a large restaurant, burger place, and ice-cream shop, as well as a number of retail outlets selling handmade jewellery and toys. And of course, there's a chance to take home your own cuddly creature as a souvenir. Plush stuffed animals are aplenty.

Night Safari is located at 80 Mandai Lake Road, Singapore. Opens 7.30pm to 12 midnight daily. Admission price is S\$22.00 for adults and S\$11.00 for children 3 to 12 years old. Phone +65 6269 3411 or visit www.nightsafari.com.sg.

 Air Niugini flies to Singapore twice a week.



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CULTURAL EVENTS FOR 2010 FROM THE NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMISSION

MOMASE REGION		
Date	Event Description	Town/Province
4th June – 7th June 30th Oct – 31st Oct	Madang Festival Morobe Agricultural Cultural Show Festival	Madang Lae
3rd Sept – 4th September 8th September 10th Sept – 11th Sept	9th National Garamut & Mambu Festival 4th Garamut & Mask Festival 2nd Middle Sepik Festival	Wewak Rofudogmu Village Paliambe Village
SOUTHERN REGION		
Date	Event Description	TownProvince
15th Apr – 18th Apr 5th May – 7th May 11th June-12th June 23rd July 10th Sept- 15th Sept 5th Nov-7th Nov	National Arts & Craft Exhibition 8th Gogodala Canoe Festival 6th Gulf Mask Festival New Ireland Cultural Day Hiri Moale Festival 7th National Canoe Festival	Port Moresby Balimom Town Toare Village Port Moresby Port Moresby Alotau

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NEW GUINEA ISLANDS REGION

Date	Event Description	Town/Province
8th July – 14th July	Warwagira Festival	Kokopo (Rabaul)
15th July-18th July	16th National Mask Festival	Kokopo (Rabaul)
20th July-22nd July	Tavur Cultural Show	Kimbe (West New Britain)
22nd – 24th July	Kavieng District Cultural Show	Kavieng
27th July-29th July	Kono Wokisok Festival	Kono Village - West Coast New Ireland
30th July – 2nd Aug	Kontu/Tembin Shark Calling Show	Kontu Village - West Coast New Ireland
5th Aug-8th Aug	5th Namatanai Mask Festival	Namatanai Town – New Ireland
12th Aug – 14th Aug	Mona Festival	Autonomous Region Of Bougainville
10th Sept- 13th Sept	Choral Festival Show	Kokopo
14th Sept- 15th Sept	Kokopo District Cultural Show	Kokopo
16th Sept-19th Sept	Music Festival	Kokopo

HIGHLANDS REGION

Date	Event Description	Town/Province
TBA	Enga Cultural Show	Wabag
14th Aug-15th Aug	Hagen Show	Mt Hagen
13th Sept-15th Sept	6th Bilasim Skin Festival	Goroka
17th Sept-19th Sept	Goroka Show	Goroka
TBA	Coffee Festival	Goroka

For further details contact: Email: culture@daltron.com.pg

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Ms Esther Sapulai with Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri.



New Generations New Horizons



Air Niugini showcased its new range of cabin crew uniforms in an impressive parade at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Port Moresby, on Monday September 6.

In front of a capacity crowd, the new uniforms were paraded by Air Niugini's cabin crew on a catwalk that resembled a runway.

Air Niugini introduced its last uniform back in the early 1990s, so the latest innovation by the country's national airline is a welcome change.

Chief Executive Wasantha Kumarasiri said the new range of uniforms had been developed over many months by a number of focus groups including the airline's Board of Directors and cabin crew themselves.

The new range of uniforms' colourful motif was inspired by the rich and vibrant PNG heritage, culture and lifestyle that was depicted in varying degrees and designs on the attire.



The range covers both international and domestic cabin crew and the scope of rankings from Purser to Senior and Line crew.

Air Niugini passengers will see the uniforms in service from October 2010.

The airline is also currently developing the second phase of its uniform regeneration, focusing on office, sales, engineering and ground staff.

Air Niugini's uniform regeneration project is headed *New Generation, New Horizons*.

Among the cabin crew who modelled the new uniform range was Air Niugini's longest serving cabin crew member, Esther Sapulai. She joined the airline in 1975 with another colleague Olga Apelis.



Left to right; Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri, Ms Esther Sapulai, Minister for Public Enterprise, Hon. Arthur Somare & domestic cabin crew Lorna Haoda and Tapua Aliu.



Flight Tests with Bombardier

Bombardier Performance Executives and Pilots were in Goroka, Eastern Highlands province recently to carry out flight tests for Air Niugini's newly acquired D8-Q400 Next Generation aircraft.

Upon further analysis of data, the outcome will determine Q400's operations to Goroka Airport. The Q400 Next Generation aircraft has a 74-seat capacity and can fly to almost all major airports in the country.



Air Niugini CEO, Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri, ANG staff and the Bombardier Performance Team in Port Moresby upon completion of the test flights.

Air Niugini Backs Road Safety Competition

Air Niugini has showed support for the MVIL initiated Road Safety Competition where it will be flying a 22-strong party including the 15 winning PMV drivers on an extended NRL grand final week trip to Sydney, Australia, in September.



MVIL Managing Director, Dr John Mua (left), Air Niugini CEO, Mr Wasantha Kumarasiri (middle) and the airline's General Manager (Marketing) Mr Colin Lyttle showing support for the road safety competition.





Air Niugini in Sepik Golf Challenge

A

Air Niugini was among corporate organisations who took part in the recent Sepik Open Golf challenge held in Wewak from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th August.

The airline presented four return tickets from Port Moresby to Sydney to the winning team, which was the National Gaming Board.



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Welcome to Papua New Guinea

General Information

Lying entirely within the tropics, barely south of the Equator and just north of the Australian continent is Papua New Guinea, the second largest island in the world.

With a total land mass of 473,189sq.km it is the last of a string of Islands spilling down from South East Asia into the Pacific.

Apart from the mainland, Papua New Guinea comprises a remarkable collection of islands, atolls and coral reefs scattered around its coastline. The mainland is divided by the Owen Stanley Range—a rugged central spine with peaks over 4,000 metres high. Great rivers begin their journey to the sea from these mountains—among them, Fly and Sepik waterways. Below the mountain chain, fertile coastal plains, flooded delta regions and mangrove swamps exist alongside broad sandy beaches, sheltered bays and dense rain forests.

The coastal regions are tropical however in generally the climate is warm to hot and humid all year round. Temperatures on the coast vary between 25-30 degrees throughout the year.

The Highlands regions enjoy a temperate climate, ranging from 20 degrees during day to as low as 10 degrees during the evenings. Rainy season varies from province to province, however generally the country is driest from May to December.

Fully independent since September 16, 1975, the country has a freely elected democratic government. PNG became the 142nd member of the United Nations on October 10, 1975 and is also a member of the British Commonwealth.

The population is just over 5 million with over a third in the Highlands region of the country. The people are Melanesian though in appearance they are quite varied.

There are more than 800 distinct “live” languages with Melanesian pidgin and Hiri Motu being the two most widely used. English is the official language in education, business and government circles.

Papua New Guinea has a vibrant and multifaceted economy with two distinct systems operating side by side.

The vast majority of the people live a traditional, non-monetary barter economy that existed long before European colonization began. Co-existing with this is the modern economic system based on mining, petroleum, fishing, forestry and agriculture.

The main exports are gold, copper, oil, coffee, tea, copra, oil palm and forest products.

What to See and Do



Ideal Cruising Experience

The wonders of Papua New Guinea never cease to impress even the most intrepid traveller. Offering a multitude of ideal experiences, the visitors will find a country rich in culture, ethnic diversity and where little has changed over centuries. Cruising Papua New Guinea is relaxing since island life is slow-paced and informal. Rich in cultural and ethnic diversity PNG promises to reward cruise enthusiasts with unforgettable sights and sounds.

Diving

This is home to some of the world's most spectacular diving, dubbed as 'underwater photographer's paradise.' It is said to have twice as many species as the waters of the Red Sea, and up to five times as many as the Caribbean. The waters are a wonderland of elegant reefs, sunken wrecks, brilliantly coloured coral and marine life. The immense diversity of dive sites includes barrier reefs, coral walls (drop-offs), coral gardens, patch reef, fringing reefs, sea grass beds and coral atolls.

Trekking the rugged terrains

Trekking in Papua New Guinea is a challenge which portrays the real meaning of adventure in paradise. An extensive network of walking

tracks covers most mountain areas, and experience bush walkers are well catered for. The most popular is the Kokoda Track which continues to provide challenges and experiences beyond men's imagination. Others include Mt. Wilhelm, Bulolo, Wau and Madang. The Kokoda Trail, so significant to World War II continues to grow in popularity amongst serious trekkers.

Excellent Fishing

The country's reputation for excellent fishing localities and choices of catch is fully boosted by the wonderful climate.

Surfing the waves

Experience an unforgettable wave-riding adventure in the country's wave-breaking shores. From the breath-taking coastline of Vanimo that stretches down Madang, to the sandy beaches of New Ireland Province, where premiere breakpoints and scenic surfing sites are located.

Bird Watching

Bird watching does not only require dead silence, it provides the opportunity for watchers to take in nature's most eerie surroundings and eternal spring whether up in the Highlands or in a typical tropical weather in the coastal areas. Over 700 species of feathered fliers flutter across our island including 38 of the 43

known species of the exotic Bird of Paradise. Not all the colours of the rainbow have been reserved for our feathered friends as there is an unlimited range of hues and shades to be seen in our 2000 orchids and countless magnificent butterflies including the world's largest, the Queen Alexandra Birdwing.

World War II Relics

Relics of World War II battles are found in most parts of Papua New Guinea's land, underwater, caves and tunnels.

Astounding Volcanoes

Located along the "Pacific Ring of Fire, Papua New Guinea offers distinct views of active volcanoes that captivates a land of tranquility. There exists a number of volcanoes in certain provinces, including the latest 'basaltic statovolcano on Manam Island, Madang Province. Other recent volcanic location include Rabaul's two volcanic cones-Vulcan and Tavurvur-and West New Britain's Mt Pago.

Visitors to our country are guests and hospitality is an honour in our Melanesian culture. Tipping is neither expected nor encouraged.

Reprinted courtesy of the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority. www.pngtourism.org.pg

Recommendation to incoming expats

1. Obtain "A Welcome Guide to Port Moresby" - the most comprehensive and up-to-date information source containing everything you need to know to be successful in PNG, and how to manage and enjoy your business and private life.

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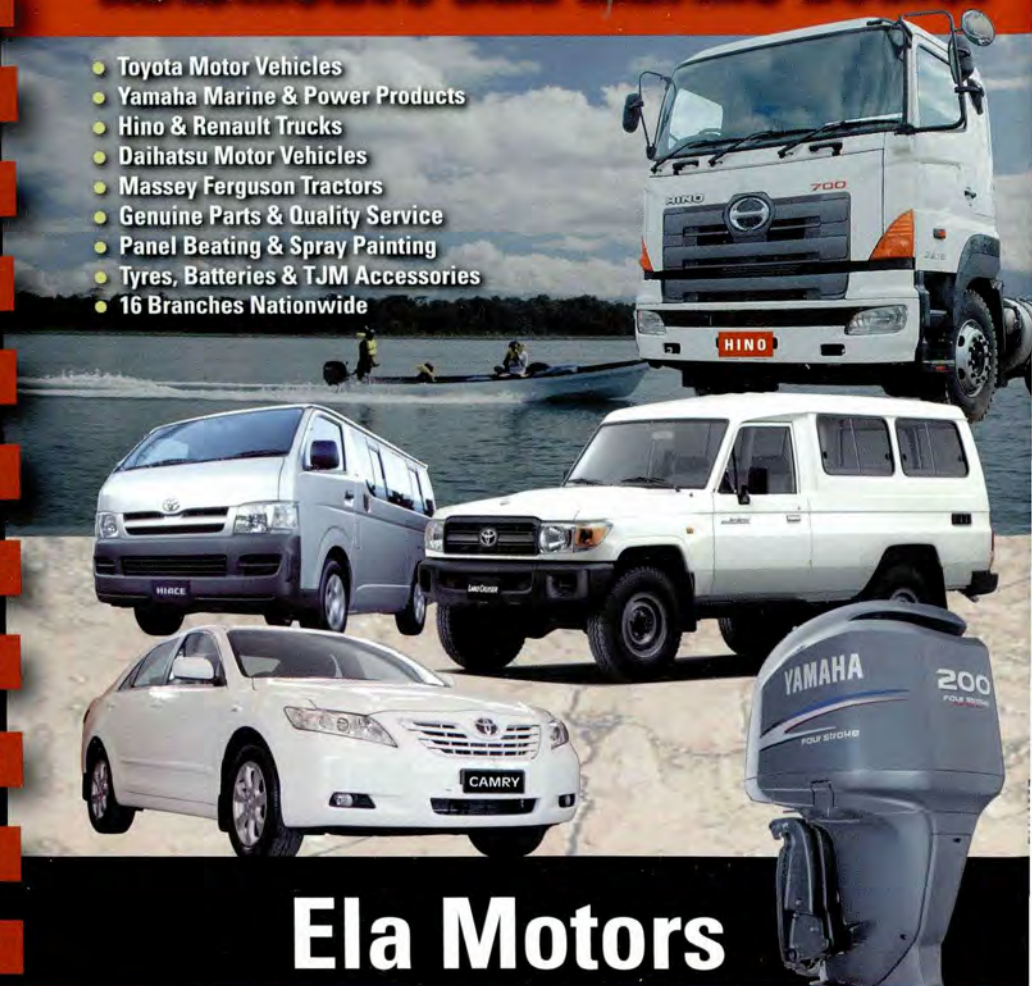
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