

INFLIGHT WITH AIR NIUGINI VOL 5 2012

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# Our Commitment to Sustainable Development



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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# Message from the Chief Executive Officer



## Welcome Aboard

The airline continues to perform well on the strength of a vibrant economy and the increased demand for both domestic and international travel. As a result of the positive developments from projects taking place in various parts of the country, Air Niugini has added new aircraft to the fleet to support its schedule as passenger capacity continues to rise.

Business is also improving on the freight side of our business. Recently, a new domestic cargo terminal was opened which has enabled us to offer an enhanced service to our domestic clients. Terminal 2 will also operate as the international cargo terminal. New business has grown with imports to the country from Asia and Australia, and our links to the New Guinea Islands has facilitated business growth.

To improve services to our cargo clients, we are looking at introducing new dedicated equipment to the market which will cater for larger shipments to enjoy affordable air logistics solutions on scheduled flights.

Last month, Air Niugini rolled out a significant new airline system called Mercator Airport Reservations System (MARS) that will provide for greater integration between reservation, departure control, frequent flyer destinations and the accounting system. With all new systems, we will initially have teething problem with changeovers, however, customers should soon see improved service levels, resulting from a more efficient system.

The next airline schedule change will be from October 28, 2012 and be effective through to March 31, 2013 and will have adequate capacity for the traditional peak period. We would like to encourage passengers to book and confirm bookings as soon as possible to avoid disappointments.

During your flight with us today, we invite you to browse through our inflight duty free catalogue to find a gift for yourself or someone special. For more information on the airline, please visit our website: [www.airniugini.com.pg](http://www.airniugini.com.pg)

Thank you for your continued patronage and we wish you a pleasant journey with us today.

Wasantha Kumarasiri OBE  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**





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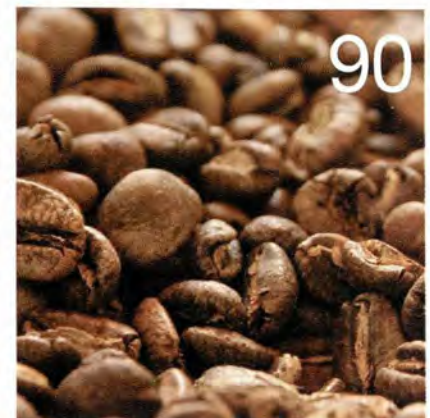
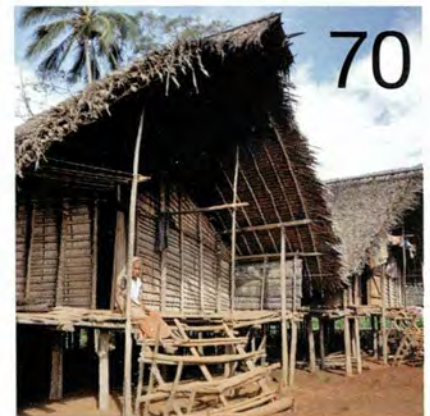
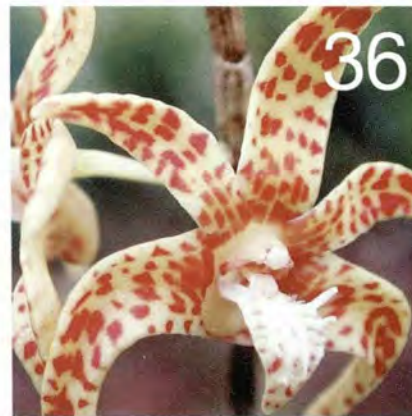
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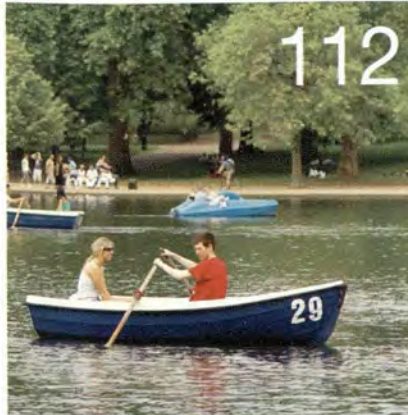
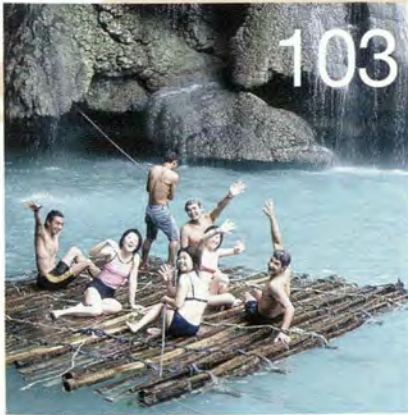


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# Your Shipping Partner



## STEAMSHIPS SHIPPING

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

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

Steamships - our experience, capability and capacity make us the ideal shipping partner.

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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.



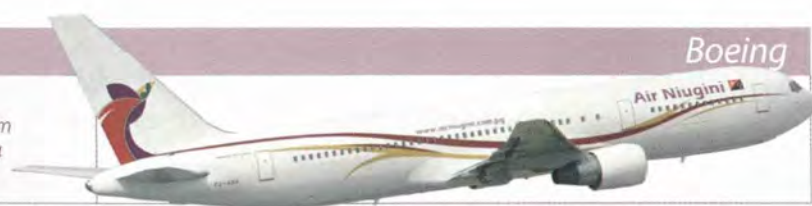


## Air Niugini fleet

### 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: 3



Boeing

### B737-700

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

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



Boeing

### F100

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

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



Fokker

### DASH 8-Q400 NextGen

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

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



Bombardier

### DASH 8-Q315

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

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



Bombardier

### DHC-8-202

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

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



Bombardier

### DHC-8-100

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

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



Bombardier

# Your wellbeing



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

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



## ANKLE CIRCLES

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



## KNEE LIFTS

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



## SHOULDER ROLL

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



## ARM CURL

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



## KNEE TO CHEST

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



## FORWARD FLEX

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



## OVERHEAD STRETCH

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



## SHOULDER STRETCH

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



## NECK ROLL

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



## FOOT PUMPS

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

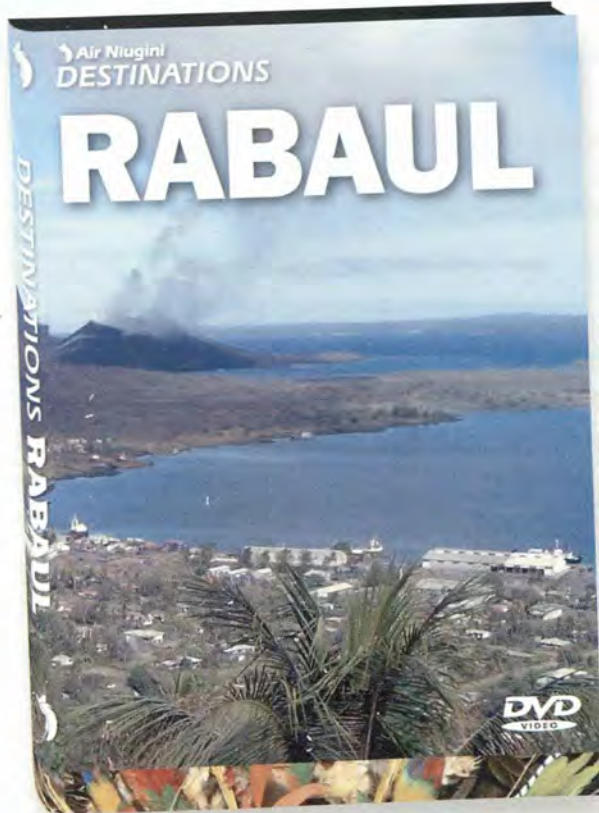


2. Put both feet flat on the floor.



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

# Before Kokoda there was Rabaul

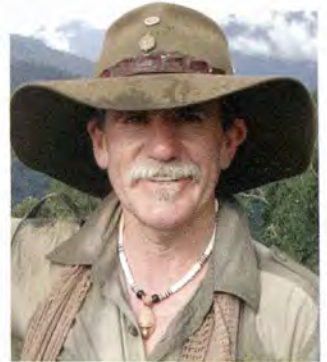


Rabaul. Peaceful, idyllic, laid-back. It is hard to imagine that 70 years ago the sleepy volcano town was to become centre stage in the theatre of war in the Pacific.

Our program looks at some of the history of those tumultuous times, much of which is still evident in Rabaul today.

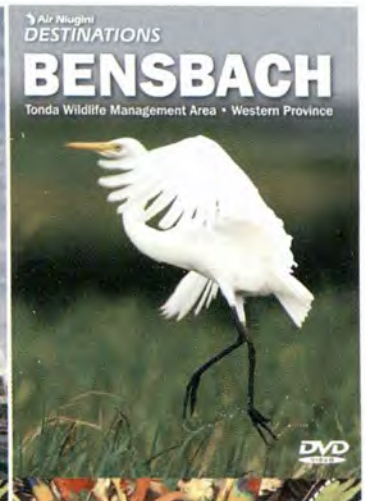
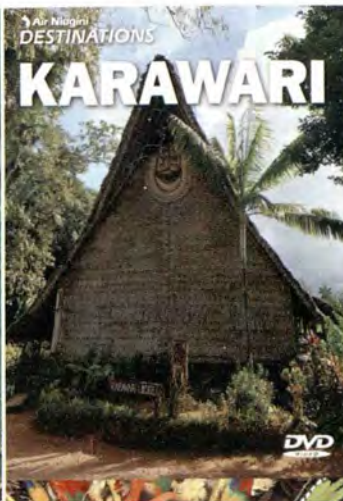
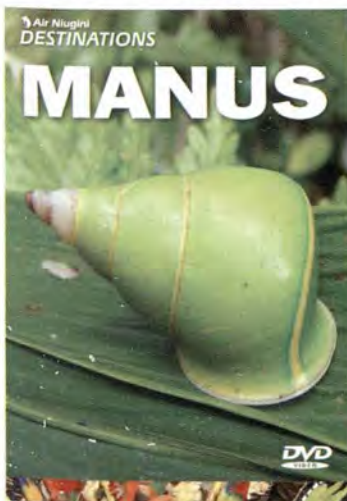
Our host is Charlie Lynn, a former army major who served in Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia during his 21 years of service. In 1991 Charlie established Adventure Kokoda and began leading treks across the famous Kokoda Trail.

Charlie has led over 60 expeditions across the Kokoda Trail during the past 20 years, but this is his first visit to Rabaul – a visit that gave him a greater understanding of the war in the Pacific and the origins of the Kokoda campaign.



## NEW DVD ON SALE NOW!

Other DVD titles available in the *Destinations* series



Available at Brian Bell stores nationwide.  
Also available through Air Niugini duty free.



Learn more: [www.airniugini.com.pg](http://www.airniugini.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 acts as diuretics, increasing the body's dehydration.
- ◆ Remove contact lenses and wear glasses if your eyes are irritated.
- ◆ Use a skin moisturiser to refresh the skin.

### Eating and Drinking

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

#### Recommendations

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

### Cabin Pressurisation

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

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

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

#### Recommendations

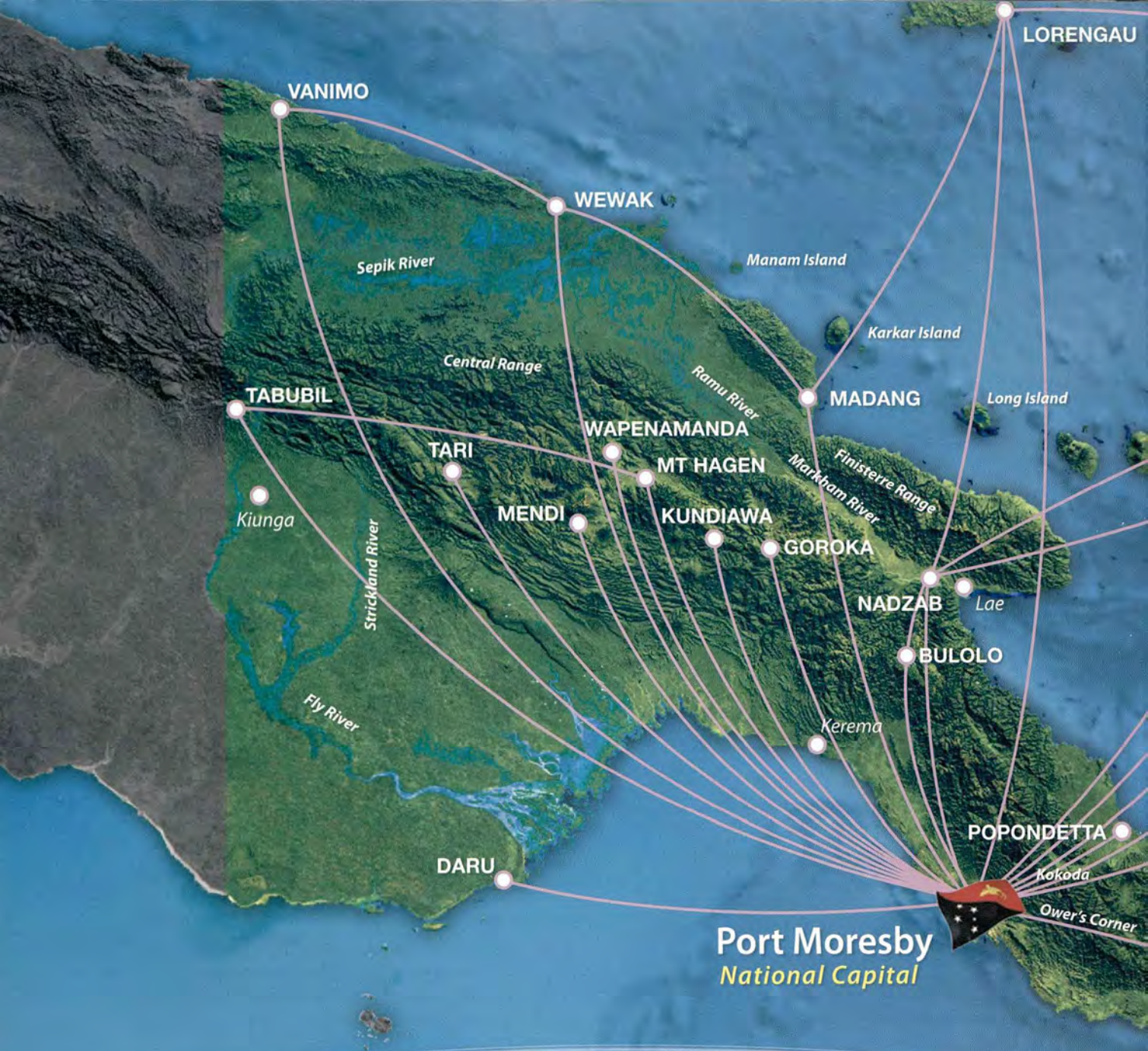
- ◆ If you have a pre-existing medical condition that warrants supplemental oxygen, you can order from us. Please give at least seven days notice before travelling.
- ◆ To "clear" your ears try swallowing and/or yawning. These actions help open your eustachian tubes, equalizing pressure between your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

### Motion Sickness

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

#### Recommendations

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



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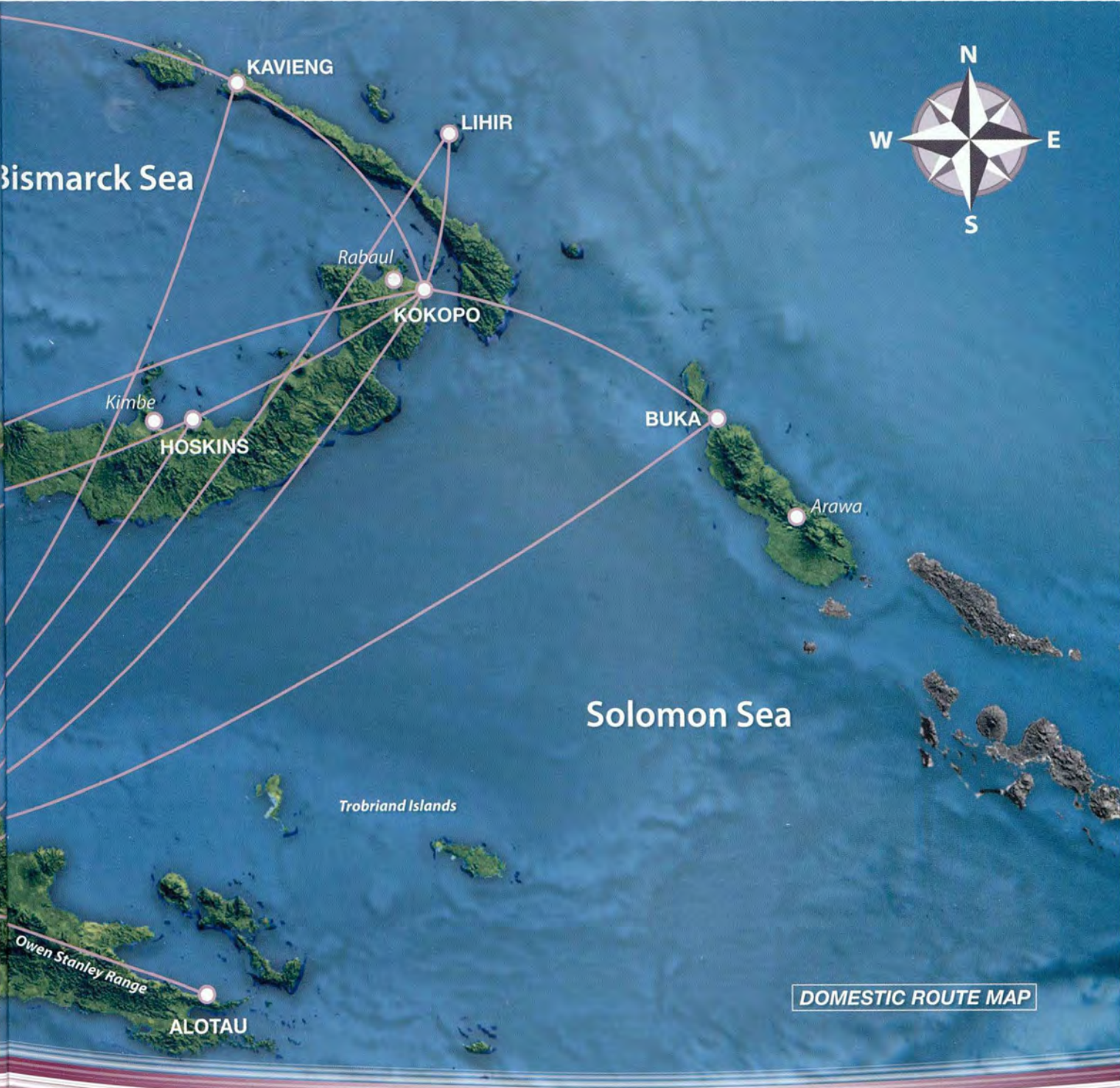
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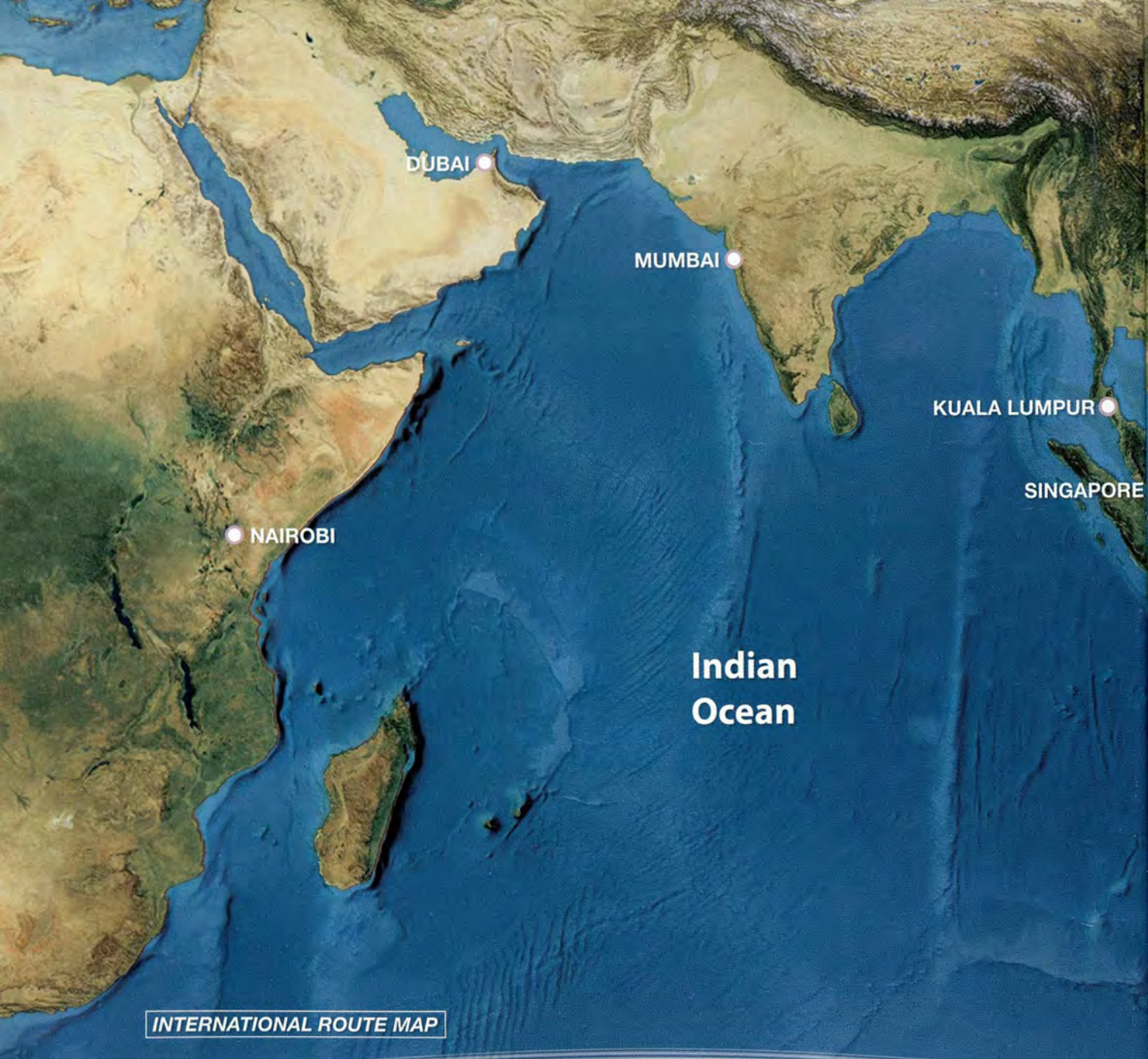
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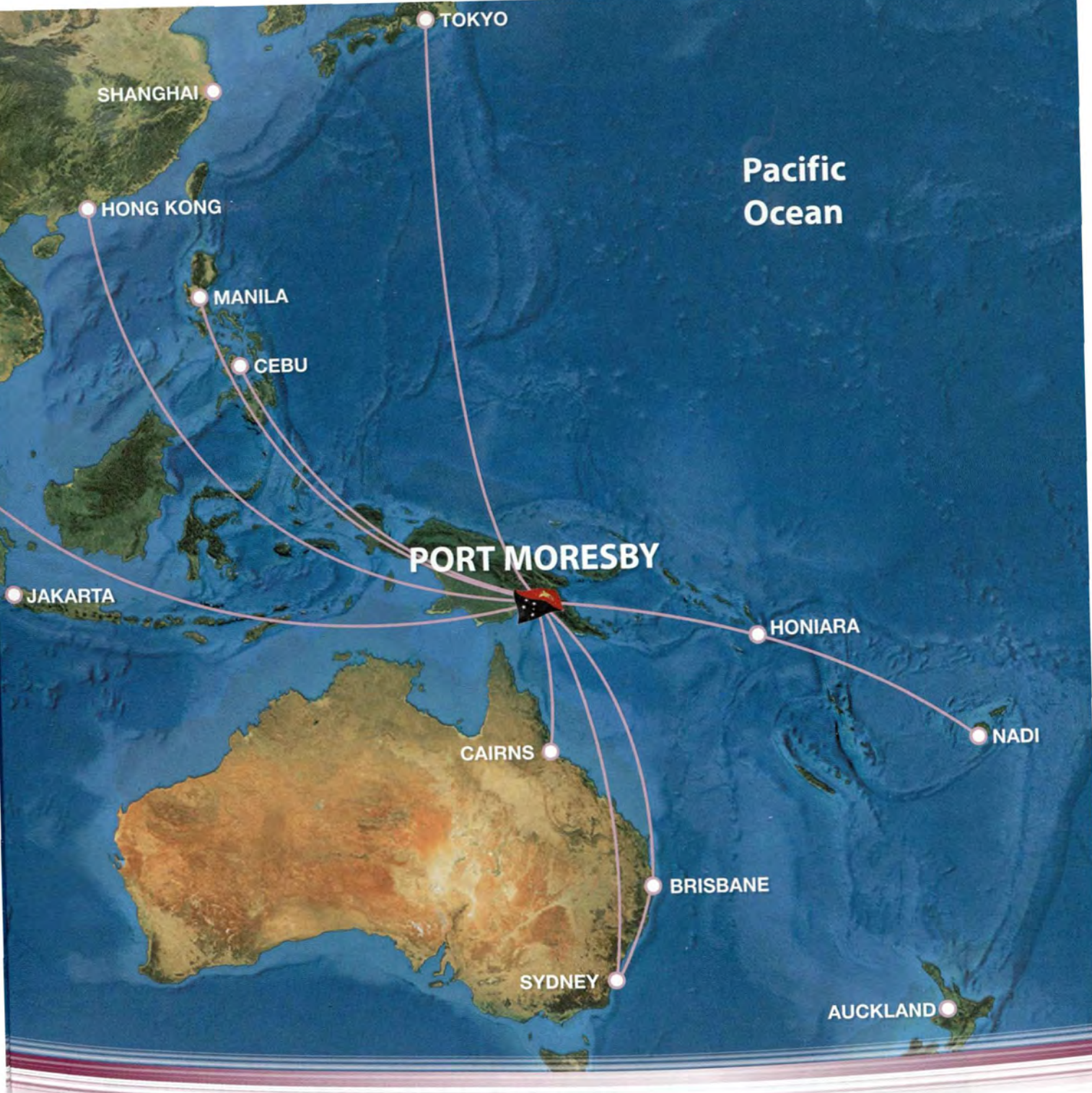
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A photograph of two women, likely of Pacific descent, smiling warmly. They are wearing white shirts with red and white patterned scarves. The woman in the foreground is looking slightly to the right, while the woman behind her is looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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# The 'Other' Oil Industry

BY JOHN BROOKSBANK

Papua New Guinea is well known as a producer of premium grade coffee, but the country's biggest agricultural export earner since 2000 has in fact been palm oil.

Last year, sales of more than 707,000 tonnes of this vegetable oil were worth K1.8 billion, including domestic sales of K72 million.

*Aerial view of young palm oil plantation. Inset: Oil palm fruit.*



Oil palm makes up almost 60% of agricultural exports by value - much more than earnings from coffee. Over the last few decades, the palm oil industry has been the nation's largest employer and the only significant area of growth in the country's renewable sector.

Those who have visited Port Douglas, north of Cairns, may have thought the attractive palms lining the road and covered with ferns and epiphytes looked familiar - yes, they are oil palms.

Provided to the late Christopher Skase when developing his Mirage Resort by ex-PNG agricultural officer Dave Manton, they were intended to showcase the journey from the Captain Cook Highway into the then small fishing village.

In Papua New Guinea, however, the growing of oil palm is far from ornamental - it's big business. The palm has been grown in PNG since the 1920s when it was trialed with many other potential commercial agricultural crops by the colonial administrators of the time.

After a World Bank study in the 1960s recommended the crop, the Hoskins and Biella nucleus estates and smallholder blocks in West New Britain were established in 1967 and 1969 respectively.

In the following decades, they were followed by similar projects in Popondetta (Higaturu), Milne Bay and New Ireland; more recently in 2005, oil palm was planted in Morobe Province by Ramu Agri-Industries Limited .

One can't miss oil palm when flying over - the precise regularity of spacing in the younger fields and the dense green of more mature plantings, like the building blocks of a Leggo garden.

Mature palms produce huge bunches of fruit, weighing in at least 40-50 kilogrammes each, which take about six months to develop from pollination to harvesting.



***Interestingly, to produce one tonne of vegetable oil from soy beans would take ten times, and canola eight times more land than what oil palm requires. Oil palm also requires less pesticide than these other two crops.***

There is oil in the outer part of the fruit and palm kernel oil can also be extracted from the seed. A hundred kilos of fruit will typically produce just over 22 kilos of palm oil and about two kilos of palm kernel oil.

Interestingly, to produce one tonne of vegetable oil from soy beans would take ten times, and canola eight times more land than what oil palm requires. Oil palm also requires less pesticide than these other two crops.

A perception amongst people is that although oil palm developments employ many people and generate foreign exchange, they are somehow 'bad for the environment' in the broadest sense of that word. Persons of a greener hue, even if not ardent tree huggers, consider that hectares and hectares of a single crop, a monoculture, cannot be such a good thing.

This perception is driven by past years' wholesale destruction of large tracts of virgin forest in Indonesia and Malaysia to plant the crop.

Established companies in the oil palm business are of course well aware of this bad rap and are at pains to stress the many positives of the industry for all stakeholders involved here.

In PNG, these stakeholders include the more than 27,000 direct employees in the industry and an estimated 180-200,000 people who are supported by smallholder production associated with the main plantation estates.





This handsome palm, *Elaeis guineensis*, is a native of Africa and named after the country where it was first noticed. It grows best on well drained nutrient-rich tropical soils and can reach more than 10 metres in height when fully grown.

After 20 years or so, the palms become too tall to harvest, so they are felled and fields replanted with new stock. All plantations have huge nurseries where young palms are raised from germinated seeds.

A minimum throughput is required for oil palm mills that operate 24 hours a day, so developments are usually nucleus estates whose production is supplemented with fruit from smallholder growers.

In some ways, an oil palm project is like an enclave mining or petroleum project; managing more than 2,000 employees, factories, maintaining roads, transport for product as well as establishing everything needed for the workers - schools, medical facilities, police, water, sewerage and other infrastructure.

There is a total area of 138,000 hectares under oil palm in PNG, in plantations and about

53,000 hectares of smallholder and out-grower blocks.

The large capital cost and expertise required to establish a viable oil palm project, means that a large company with the necessary resources and credentials is usually at the centre of any sustainable oil palm development.

The last 10-15 years has seen plans for many new oil palm developments, most of which claim to be oil palm agro-forestry projects, which use the provisions of the Forestry Act to access and sell timber cleared to make way for palm oil development.

To-date, none of these projects have produced a drop of palm oil nor invested in the processing and supporting infrastructure to do so.

Many of these projects have unfortunately been associated with abuses of customary land rights and are a world apart from the country's real palm oil industry and its ethos of sustainability.

Most of the oil palm in the country is now managed by New Britain Palm Oil Limited

(NBPOL), based at Hoskins, which acquired Ramu Agri-Industries in 2008, followed by the Higturu, Milne Bay and Poliamba projects in 2010.

The only large producer not managed by the group is Hargy Oil Palm, based in Biialla in West New Britain, and owned by Sipef, a listed Belgian company.

These large companies have ISO 14001 environmental accreditation, report against GRI guidelines and, as endorsed by the Roundtable on Sustainable Oil Palm (RSPO) that they are members of, only export oil that is classified as certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO).

This is oil that has to have been grown on a plantation managed and certified in accordance with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil's principles and criteria.

These are plantations established on land that is not primary forest, of high conservation value or has been deforested after 2005 and address certain environmental, social and economic indicators.

The RSPO is a non-government organisation



- a coalition of industry, government, financial, retail, consumers and NGO organisations that have developed a structured approach to the sustainable production and use of oil palm.

To gain RSPO accreditation, companies have to demonstrate adherence to principles relating to biodiversity, employment conditions, community development and environmental consideration. Companies are audited annually by third parties for compliance with set criteria.

PNG palm oil and palm kernel oil is exported to Europe and sold in the domestic PNG market. In 2010, New Britain Oil Palm Limited spent 33.1 million euro to establish their own state-of-the-art refinery in Liverpool in the United Kingdom to process the highly saturated oil into forms that can be used in a wide range of end products such as cooking oil, mayonnaise, soaps, washing powder and

processed foods such as baked goods and chocolates, where it is a substitute for butter.

Less well-known is that during World War Two palmitic acid compounds derived from palm oil were combined with naphtha to produce the renowned anti-personnel weapon - napalm!

Within the country, downstream processing produces vegetable oil and fat which is sold to small goods manufacturing and baking industries within the country, worth K72 million in 2011.

PNG is also a major producer of palm oil seed to be used to establish or re-plant more plantations elsewhere. In 2011, seed exports were worth almost K14 million.

Palm kernel expeller, which is left after oil extraction, can be used as stock feed whilst other waste and by-products can be used to generate electricity or in some countries, recycled into fibreboard - all practices that can be registered under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Energy Development Mechanism.

Thus, in many respects, oil palm production is not such an undesirable rural development option to consider.

As consumers in Europe and North America become more conscious about the green

credentials of products they buy, the provenance of agricultural products and food ingredients is increasingly important.

In 2008 for example, the Unilever conglomerate committed to only use oil that was certified as sustainable.

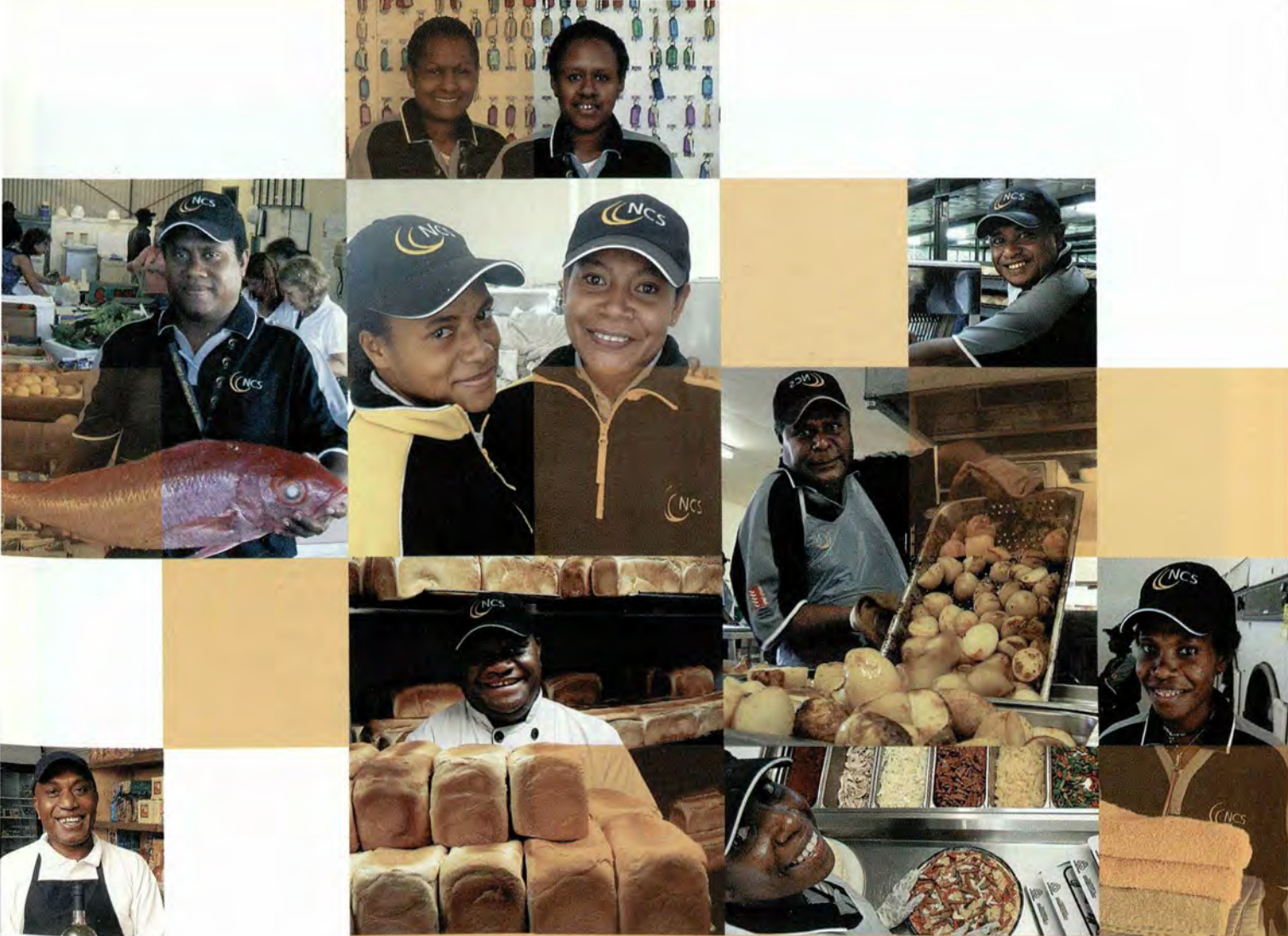
Papua New Guinea palm oil producers hope that the better price obtained for their CSPO exports offsets high transport costs and gains them a market niche.

The premier Italian chocolate manufacturer Ferrero Rocher, concerned about the environmental credentials of its ingredients, recently agreed to source all the palm oil product it uses from NBPOL because of their excellent reputation internationally as a sustainable producer.

The importance of oil palm to the nation's economy has to be taken in context - palm oil exports from Papua New Guinea constitute just 1% of the total world production - a staggering 51 million tonnes a year, produced principally by Indonesia and Malaysia.

So the next time you use Sunlight soap, Palmolive products or pop a chocolate into your mouth, spare a thought for the journey the oil has undertaken to get into your hands.





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# JUNGLE JEWELS

BY JOHN BROOKSBANK



**F**lying over almost any part of mainland Papua New Guinea and look down, what do you see? Inevitably, it is a blanket of green vegetation carpeting the ground. Whether swamp, savannah or rugged and mountainous jungle, the predominant colour is green, displayed in multiple shades from the light hues of kunai grass to the darker green of sago stands and mangroves that line beaded and multi-channelled river deltas.

On ground level when walking through the bush or even cutting it down, once again one experiences a palette of green hues from ground level up to the top of the canopy where plants vie for access to their piece of sunshine.

However, at particular times of the year if you are lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, there is a chance to witness a splash of colour as a plant flowers and advertises itself to potential pollinators.

These photos illustrate just a few of the plants that occasionally provide a welcome dash of something bright, other than green, against the normal background in the Kikori River catchment, adjacent to Lake Kutubu in the Southern Highlands Province.

The usual transition is from green to muted yellows and browns as leaves die and crumble into the soil, since often even the tree trunks are often covered in ever-creeping moss and lichens, green in colour, of course. Some of these gems of nature are tiny - just crayon

tips amongst the greenery that one has to look really hard to find, such as the orchids that annually erupt in one or more flowers.

Other plants such as the magnificent Flame of the Forest vine, *Mucuna novoguineensis*, the designated national flower of Papua New Guinea, appears in garish streaks over much of the bush in June and July every year.

At this time, the forest looks as if a giant has walked through with a dripping pot of red paint, leaving a trail of splashes of vivid red and orange to adorn the canopy.

In clearings and along tracks where sunlight can reach, one can't miss the festoons of this colourful vine, adorning the bush like Christmas tree decorations.

Sadly, this remarkable display is all too transient; within just a few days, the bright red and orange flowers will wilt, leaving dry seed pods to fall and start another cycle of life for the next year.

The real jewels of the jungle are the orchids which, like much of the vegetation, wear a rather boring green uniform for most of the year before bursting into an amazing variety in species, colour and form when it is time to flower.

Every time botanists visit forests in Papua New Guinea, they seem to find a new species or orchid, so there are doubtless many more jewels to be scientifically discovered and named.







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# Hot Spot

BY RENEE CLUFF



**W**e are standing on the precipice of an active volcano, looking into the crater as steam rises from hundreds of vents inside. The air up here is filled with sulphur, which assaults our throats and makes it difficult to breathe, a state of affairs only exacerbated by the accompanying rotten egg smell.

It's eerily quiet; there is no wildlife or vegetation to speak of on this barren, desolate landscape. We are the only people on the mountain. Apart from the neon yellows, greens and oranges of the sulphur stains inside the crater, the scene before us is black and white.

Logic tells me there is a miniscule chance of a full-scale eruption right at this point in time and yet I can't shake off the feeling of volatility.

Our guide warns us to tread carefully to avoid sending a shower of rocks inside the crater. Of course, a wrong step on the unstable, ashy soil could also send one of us plummeting inside the chasm to an inevitable death.





*It's eerily quiet; there is no wildlife or vegetation to speak of on this barren, desolate landscape...we are the only people on the mountain. Apart from the neon yellows, greens and oranges of the sulphur stains inside the crater, the scene before us is black and white.*

**Clockwise:** *The neon yellows, greens and oranges of the sulphur stains inside Mt Tavuvur crater; view from the Volcanic Observatory; and climbing up Mt Tavuvur.*



Ironically, it's an experience which makes me feel full of life - and a little insignificant as I ponder the power beneath - but most of all, just hyper-actively alive. In sharp contrast, my daughter is absolutely terrified. But who wouldn't be moved by the mixture of awe, fear, excitement and wonder, inspired by Mount Tavuvur?

This is Rabaul's most active volcano and partly responsible for the demise of the former New Britain capital. Eighty percent of Rabaul's buildings collapsed under the weight of tons of ash that were sent flying from the Tavuvur and Vulcan cones, when they simultaneously erupted in September, 1994.

There were only 19 hours of warning before the eruptions but city officials however managed to evacuate Rabaul's inhabitants, who had been well versed in evacuation procedures. Still, five people lost their lives, most of them from lightning strikes as the volcanic dust, debris and heat conduction produced powerful

electrical discharges into the atmosphere.

In the wake of the eruptions, the capital was moved to Kokopo, about 20 kilometres away, but the township of Rabaul has since been dug out and rebuilt. Small scale eruptions still occur intermittently from Tavuvur, the last of which was in early 2010. Vulcan has remained quiet since the 1994 eruption.

The two volcanoes are part of a series of vents running along the edges of the Rabaul caldera, which is partially filled by the sea. Vulcan sits on the western edge of the caldera, while Tavuvur is on the eastern side, with Simpson Harbour separating the two. Tavuvur is dwarfed by two other volcanoes sitting beside it; Kombiu is the tallest and is known as 'mother' while Turangan and Tavuvur are referred to as the 'daughters' or 'sisters'. Other vents include Sulphur Creek, Rabalanakia cone and the Dawapia Rocks, and they are also known as 'the beehives.'

The system, which roughly measures 14

kilometres by eight kilometres, produces lava and pyroclastic flows from these vents, and they have caused extensive death and damage to the settlements near the caldera over the last 200 years.

The worst in recent history was the 1937 concurrent eruptions of Tavuvur and Vulcan, which killed more than 500 people and buried Simpson Harbour in a raft of pumice. There was no warning, apart from continuous earthquakes in the hours leading up to the eruptions.

Today, a government-run observatory keeps a close eye on the caldera from the northern part of Rabaul. It also has responsibility for monitoring other volcanoes on New Britain and nearby islands.

Scientists say the uplift of a dome on the caldera floor in the past 15 years indicates that Rabaul and its outlying areas remain in a precarious situation.

*Walking up Mt Tavorur. Below:  
View from Mt Tavorur.*



***It takes about 20 minutes to arrive at the crater, which in my view, is seriously under-rated by official tourism publications. The experience certainly exceeded all my expectations.***



Perhaps the biggest experts, though, are the people who live on Tavorur's doorstep. The guide we had for our volcano adventure, Tami, lives on Matupit Island, which is really no longer an island because of the significant ash build-up which connects it to the peninsula.

He and his daughter Elizabeth make the trek up Tavorur regularly - for them, it's just a stroll in their backyard and we struggled to keep up with them. I should note that you don't need to be particularly fit to climb Tavorur. While it's extremely steep and sandy, it's only a few hundred metres to the top. Our children, aged six and eight, had no problems. It can get very hot though and should really only be tackled in the early morning or late afternoon.

From a harbour at the base of the volcano, alive with bubbling water and steam, the climb begins through channels of cooled lava. As you continue to ascend, the scenery across Simpson Harbour becomes increasingly breathtaking.

It takes about 20 minutes to arrive at the crater, which in my view, is seriously under-rated by official tourism publications. The experience certainly exceeded all my expectations.

Our tour was arranged through the Rapopo Plantation Resort in Kokopo and the Kaibara Dive Centre attached to it.

The resort, built on a former coconut and cocoa plantation, started out as a guesthouse in 2002, with visitors staying in bedrooms of the original plantation homestead. Despite undergoing an expansion in 2009, it still retains that relaxed, intimate guesthouse feel.

Hosts Brian and Bev Martin will get to know you by name and share a drink with you as they offer advice and stories about the place they call home.

Meals are eaten on the verandah of what was the original house, overlooking Blanche Bay. Just across the expanse of water stand the mother and daughter volcanos, providing an attention-grabbing backdrop.

The food is fantastic - in a country where dining is often a hit and miss, every meal we devoured at Rapopo was spot on. The chef is also happy to cook up your day's catch to your liking, and that flexibility extends to your dining location - you can arrange to eat on the white sandy beach, fronting the resort or on the poolside deck.

During World War II, the plantation was the location of a Japanese airstrip and today, aeroplane wreckage is carefully strewn throughout the landscaped gardens.

Rapopo actually means 'nesting place' in the local lingo and for those who prefer to sit and chill, it's the perfect place to do so. You can laze around the pool and take advantage of its aquatic bar, which also has a television if you

Rapopo Plantation Resort swimming pool and dining area (right).



can peel your eyes away from the view of the volcanoes. It's not a bad place to spend an afternoon.

A few steps onto the beach and you can be snorkelling or swimming in the crystal clear waters. It's a decent snorkelling site, featuring hundreds of spiky sea urchins, clown fish of all colours living in various anemones and fat sea slugs. Apart from the consistent clarity of the water, what struck me was the variety of the fish.

For the children, beachcombing is at its best here. As well as the beautiful array of shells, there are hermit crabs and sand crabs aplenty. And the sand is extremely soft on your feet, courtesy of volcanic ash mixing with the ground coral and shells.

The rooms at Rapopo are modern, roomy and stylish, all built with local timber. The executive suites feature separate lounge and dining areas and plunge baths. A fully equipped conference centre caters to the resort's business and government clientele.

If you do want to venture out of the 'nesting place', the Kaibara Dive centre, located within the grounds, has all the bases covered. It can arrange everything from harbour cruises to helicopter flights, fishing expeditions to scuba dives.

There are 65 Japanese war ships resting on the bottom of Simpson Harbour, so there's plenty for the experienced diver to explore. Beginners are not forgotten, though, with a submerged tug boat, located just off the resort, providing the perfect 'L' plate dive.

One facet of Kokopo and Rabaul that we really wanted to explore was its war history, so we arranged a guide through the resort, jumped into a hired car and were off.

First stop was the Bita Paka war cemetery, the final resting place of Australian servicemen killed in the East New Britain and New Ireland areas in World War Two, including those who died while being prisoners of war.

***If you do want to venture out of the 'nesting place', the Kaibara Dive centre located within the grounds has all bases covered. It can arrange everything from harbour cruises to helicopter flights, fishing expeditions to scuba dives.***



Bita Paka war cemetery...the final resting place of Australian servicemen killed in East New Britain and New Ireland in World War Two.

Casualties of the old Indian army, who had been taken prisoners of war in Malaya and Hong Kong and sent to PNG, are also buried there. The memorial commemorates the missing too, including more than a thousand Australians.

But this cemetery was built even before World War Two, with 32 World War Two servicemen either buried or commemorated here. The cemetery is near the site of the German wireless station, which was captured by the Australian forces in 1914 to seize New Britain from German occupation. It was the first Australian action of World War One and five naval personnel who died in the operation are

buried at Bita Paka.

Between World War One and World War II, Rabaul became the capital of the Australian Territory of New Guinea, until the 1937 volcanic eruption which forced the capital to be moved to Lae. Then, in 1942, Rabaul was captured by the Japanese and it became the main base for the Japanese military in the South Pacific region. One hundred and ten thousand Japanese were based there during the height of the war and several kilometres of tunnels were built into the hills in and around Rabaul, to shelter them from allied forces.

Most of the tunnels still exist, honeycombing



***The landowners have kept the tunnels well maintained and were able to point out what the different rooms were used for. As well as a hospital area, a washing area and kitchen complete with chimney, there is a workshop still containing ship parts...***

land now once again occupied by its traditional PNG owners. For a K5 fee, we visited one such site, located on the main road between Kokopo and Rabaul. The landowners have kept the tunnels well maintained and are able to point out what the different rooms were used for. As well as a hospital area, a washing area and kitchen complete with chimney, there is a workshop still containing ship parts, such as wheel pulleys and bolts, now well rusted.

Inside, it's pitch black, so you will need to bring a torch and hold on to young children. There are sudden drops between upper and lower tunnels that would be easy to fall into in the dark.

If you forget to bring a torch, try exploring Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's bunker in Rabaul. It's located next to the Rabaul Club, which houses the town's museum and contains artefacts and fascinating historical records from German settlement in the 1800s to the present day.

The bunker is still half buried in volcano ash, but the inside has been dug out. It's much more light and airy than the tunnels and contains some interesting hand-drawn maps of the region on the ceilings and walls of the bunker.

A short drive north of Rabaul at the submarine base in Tavui, there are Japanese newspaper clippings glued to the ceilings of the bunkers. The submarine base also has tunnels carved into the rock on the shore at Tavui point, which were used to house supplies and ammunition for the Japanese submarines. It will cost K10 to climb the headland and explore the bunkers as well as inspect the submarine supply tunnels on the shore. This is also reportedly an excellent dive site, featuring an extremely steep drop-off, heaps





of marine life and undersea tunnels.

Other places of interest include the markets at Kokopo, where people still trade with traditional shell money, and the volcano observatory, which provides a spectacular lookout over the Rabaul caldera.

And don't forget to check out Queen Emma's steps at the Gazelle Hotel in Kokopo. Queen Emma, a half American, half Samoan princess, arrived in PNG in 1878. She is credited with bringing about economic development to the Gazelle Peninsula through the establishment

of steamships and plantations. Her lavish lifestyle, charming character and fondness for male company earned her legendary status and she became known affectionately as the Queen of New Guinea.

The Gazelle Hotel has been built on the site of Queen Emma's mansion at Kokopo. Only a few steps remain from the former residence and they are now a drawcard for visitors to the hotel. The Gazelle is also a great place for a meal - the chef there specialises in fish dishes but for our son, he also whipped up what we now refer to as PNG's best ever burger.

If you do get out on the water, a stop at one of the Pigeon Islands is recommended. There is a choice of the 'big' island or the 'small' island of the Pigeon pair.

You will need a skipper with local knowledge to navigate through the reefs, but there is excellent snorkelling, hermit crabs with pastel coloured shells, and as always, white sandy beaches and crystal clear water.

It's a perfect blend of relaxation and adventure, which represents the overall vibe of the Gazelle Peninsula - a definite hot spot on PNG's tourist trail.

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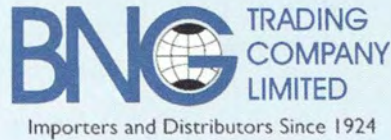
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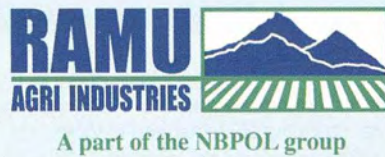
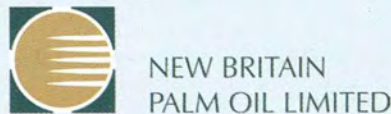


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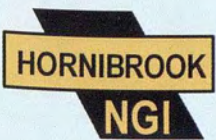


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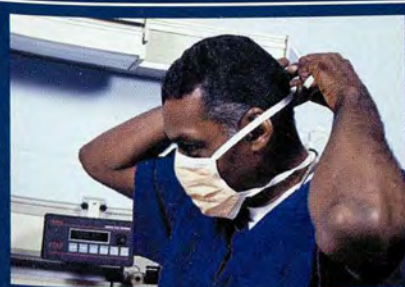
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# FESTIVAL OF MASKS

BY JOHN BROOKSBANK





**The Tolai elder, bare-chested and wearing just a bright red laplap, pulled his arm back like a baseball pitcher and with all his strength and a huge shout threw a handful of tabu shell money at the masked and leaf-clad tumbuan kneeling before him.**

**The tumbuan swayed back with the impact, shook itself and shuddered, almost in thanks for the onslaught.**

The display was just part of the theatre for this particular East New Britain village group at the annual Warwagira and Mask Festival, and this year, even some of the visitors in the audience were invited to hurl shell money at the lined-up tumbuans.

The activity mimics the contribution of shell money by members of the clan to their tumbuans, who accumulate such wealth as a traditional 'bank' to be used when necessary, such as to finance a person's funeral feast.

The tumbuans are spirit figures, one or more are 'owned' by each clan or sub-clan, identified by specific designs on the mask head-dress.

The whole outfit is a huge woven framework of split cane, its body covered in a sheath of green leaves, topped off with a conical head-dress with painted eyes and with a resplendent tuft of white feathers at its tip.

The only outward sign of humanity are two brown legs protruding from under the mask. The tumbuans dance around to the rhythm of the music beaten out by other men on kundu or garamut drums, accompanied by a male choir from their particular clans.

At various times, the tumbuans bend over so that their tufted masks teasingly brushed the faces of serenading musicians and, judging

by the shrieks from ladies in the audience at these times, it was apparent that some dancers had omitted underwear from their wardrobe.

The Warwagira Show, organised and hosted by a different village each year, has been previously held in and around Rabaul since 1971 but, since the catastrophic volcanic eruptions of 1994, has taken place in Kokopo.

The event has a tradition of being a showcase for the culture and music of the Tolai people and their West New Britain, New Ireland, Baining and Pomio neighbours with performances from village groups, choirs and string bands that often continue right through the night until morning.

This year's lineup included artists such as Leonard Kania and the Neutral Stones Band.

Organising Committee chairman, John Robin, estimated that more than 20,000 people attended this year's show, which immediately preceded the Mask Festival, an event that has been held since 1995.

The festivities start in the early morning with what is known as the Kinavai, during which dancing tumbuans arrive at the shore atop canoes, seemingly floating in the air - depicting what traditionally they were supposed to be - almost weightless beings.



***Looking through a copy of "Thirty Years in the South Seas" by Richard Parkinson, husband of Queen Emma's sister Phoebe, his black and white photographs of tumbans and other spirit figures taken in the 1890s look remarkably similar to those seen today at the Mask Festival.***

This year, the two events were for the first time held on a makeshift showground between the recently constructed Gazelle International Hotel and the Kokopo Museum - consisting of a large dancing area in front of a spectators stand and surrounded by over 60 stalls constructed from traditional materials and adorned with banners of various supporting businesses.

The events have been hosted by the East New Britain Government for the past decade and this year, costs were again met by them, together with donations from local businesses.

The tumbans and other dancers, initiated men only, prepared themselves in an area screened off from the prying eyes of women and children with palm fronds and branches at

the edge of the display area; from which they emerge prancing to the vocal and drumming harmonies of their accompanying clansmen.

The Kinavai that marks the start of the Mask Festival activities encapsulates the rationale behind the whole event - it is a re-enactment of the arrival of the Tolai people on the Gazelle Peninsula from their original homeland in New Ireland, a celebration in some ways of their invasion of this volcano-prone land at the tip of the island of New Britain.

Reasons for the departure of certain Tolai clans from New Ireland to relocate in East New Britain hundreds of years ago are lost in the sands of time - perhaps it was war, disease, over-population or just a desire to settle on new lands - it seems unclear even to the anthropologists.



The Mask Festival is one of the best showcases to see the similarities and differences between the cultures of the people from West New Britain, East New Britain and New Ireland provinces, all of whom have tumbans or equivalent spirit creatures, but in a vast smorgasbord of materials, colours, shapes and sizes.

One might think that the masks and their demonstration has changed to meet the requirements of modern times such as appealing to visitors but this appears not to be the case.

Looking through a copy of "Thirty Years in the South Seas" by Richard Parkinson, husband of Queen Emma's sister Phoebe, his black and white photographs of tumbans and other spirit figures taken in the 1890s look remarkably similar to those seen today at the Mask Festival.

Although design is true to tradition, it is likely that the bright and vibrant colours seen today originate from a trade store rather than a natural ochre.

Although red seems to be the lap-lap colour of choice for Tolai men, a group from New Ireland brightened the proceedings wearing bright yellow hats and tops as they chanted for their weird vegetation clad spirit figures with black and orange faces.



*One never really needs a reason to visit Kokopo and the Gazelle Peninsula but just in case you do – why not choose to come when the next Warwagira and Mask Festival is held in July 2013?*



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Other dancers painted their bodies black and brown or spotted with white dots and different coloured face masks and conical hats - all were happy to pose with visiting tourists!

One or perhaps two of these spirit figures might be seen during a visit to East New Britain or one of the other provinces but the Mask Festival is really the only chance to see so many different types in one place at one time.

This year, a group from Siassi in

Morobe Province danced playing their kundu drums and wearing pyramidal black, white and red head-dresses and there was even an appearance by the unmistakable clay-clad mudmen from Asaro in the Eastern Highlands Province.

One never really needs a reason to visit Kokopo and the Gazelle Peninsula but just in case you do - why not choose to come when the next Warwagira and Mask Festival is held in July 2013?



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Anyone who has spotted a tree kangaroo in the wild can count themselves lucky. These creatures are elusive in the extreme; masters at disappearing into the foliage at the highest points of the tallest trees. Some locals refer to them as 'ghosts of the forest' because of their ability to go about their daily lives unseen.

You would think this talent to lie low way up high would help protect the animals by keeping them safe from predators - in fact, most of the 10 species of tree kangaroos are considered threatened because of hunting and habitat loss.

The most endangered is the Matschie's Tree Kangaroo, which is found exclusively on PNG's Huon Peninsula and nearby Umboi Island. It's not known exactly how many there are in the wild, although estimations have put their numbers at around 1400.

Danny Samandingke, education co-ordinator with the Tree Kangaroo Conservation (TKCP), says in this region, successfully capturing a tree kangaroo puts hunters in an exclusive club.

"If you are able to catch a tree kangaroo, you are considered the best hunter. It's quite a prize."

Founder of the programme, American biologist Lisa Dabek, searched the rainforests of the Huon Peninsula for no less than eight years before she finally spotted one.

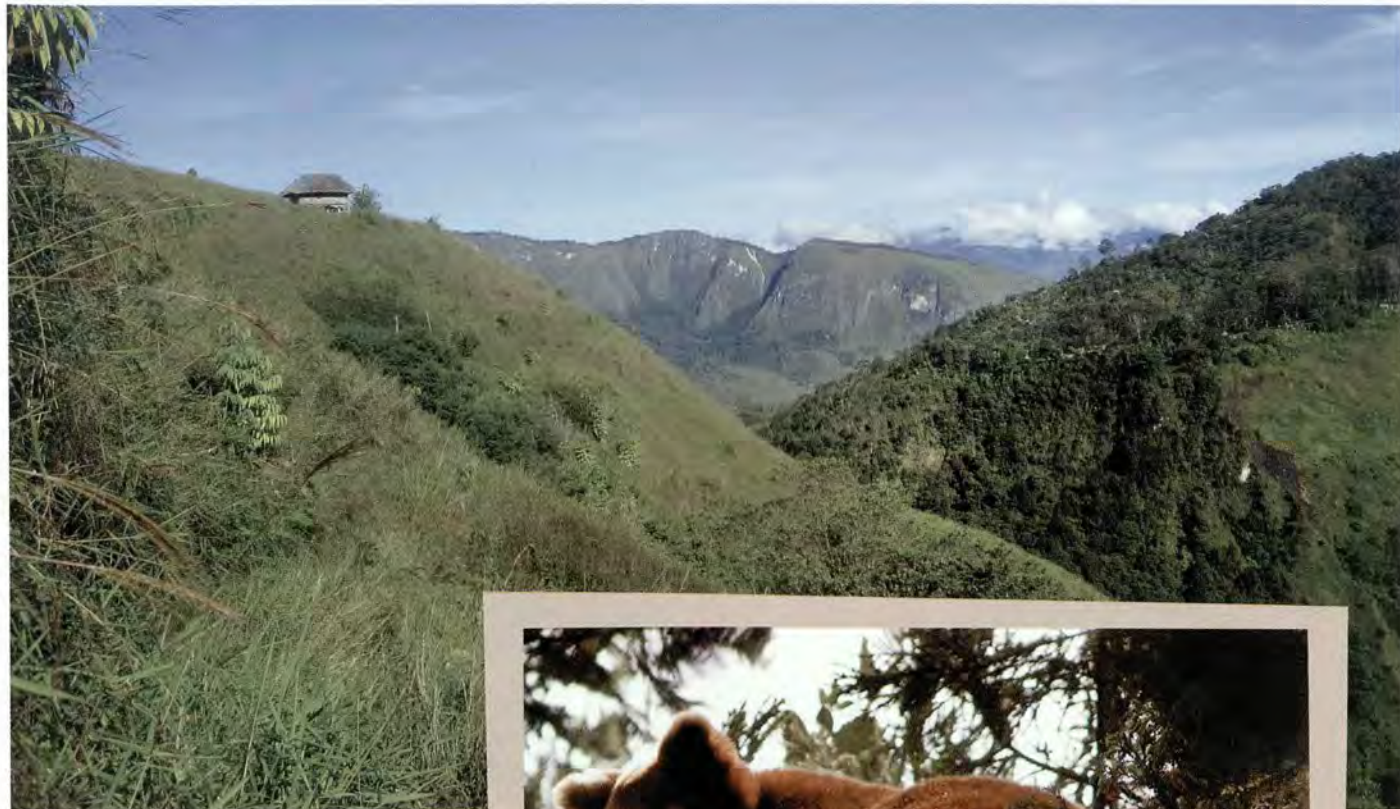
# The GHOST of the FOREST

Saving the Matschie's Tree Kangaroo has led to PNG's first conservation area

WORDS: RENEE CLUFF

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF THE TREE KANGAROO CONSERVATION PROGRAM

*Just recently, a National Geographic team fitted some of the animals with critter cams, giving researchers a completely new insight into their day-to-day lives.*



Mikal Nolan, the TKCP's community-based organisation manager, says in the end Dr Dabek had to call upon the help of local hunters to help her find a tree kangaroo.

"It may have been ironic at the time but of course, it wasn't long before she converted those hunters. Suffice to say, they're now supporters of the programme."

Still little is known about the Matschie's tree kangaroos, despite intensive research into their habitat, behaviour and biology over the past 16 years. What is known is that they evolved from rock wallabies during the Pleistocene period, when a drying out of the then PNG/Australian continent caused rainforests to shrink.

Eventually, the rock wallabies adapted, so they could climb the trees in search of food. Of the two species of tree kangaroos still found in north-eastern Australia, one is equally as comfortable on land as in trees. The other eight species of tree kangaroos come from Papua New Guinea, with the flagship Matschie's tree kangaroo among them.

These animals are agile climbers and are able to leap nine metres to another branch or 12 metres to the ground. Once on terra firma, they hop between trees, although Samandjke says they are exceptionally cautious.

"They will sniff the air and listen to the sounds of the forest and when they're happy there



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are no predators in the vicinity, they will come down."

Further hindering their numbers is their territorial nature. The males, in particular, like to have a large territory and all Matschie's tree kangaroos live a solitary existence, only coming together to mate. In captivity, females go into heat every 51-79 days and their gestation period is the longest of any known marsupial, at between 39 and 45 days. The joey is born less than 2.5 centimetres in length and is not ready to leave the pouch until a year after its birth.

Sixty percent of their time is taken up by sleeping. They feed during the day on leaves that are high in tannin, which gives their furry coats a rich, glossy, mahogany colour. It's

the same colour as the moss which covers the trees they inhabit, allowing them to camouflage themselves.

Flowers, fruit, nuts, bark and sap also make up their diet and while they are classed as herbivores, they'll also eat insects, small birds and birds' eggs.

Matschie's tree kangaroos have a life span of 14 years in captivity, but it's not known how long they live for in the wild. In their isolated natural habitat, they are secluded from infectious diseases and are extremely healthy. But they also have to contend with predators.

Just recently, a National Geographic team fitted some of the animals with critter cams, giving researchers a completely new insight into their day-to-day lives.



The cameras viewed the world from the animals' perspective, high up in the rainforest canopy, and confirmed many of their suppositions, including their preferences to feed early in the morning. What did surprise researchers, though, was that the animals have a predator that attacks from above - eagles. One kangaroo fitted with a critter cam was actually killed and eaten by a Harpy eagle.

However, their main enemies are humans. Eighty percent of Papua New Guineans rely on the environment for sustenance and tree kangaroo meat is considered succulent fare. They're eaten during cultural ceremonies and their fur is made into costumes.

Dogs are used to help sniff the arboreal creatures out and once located, they're shot at with traditional bows and arrows. Even if the arrows miss, the animals are often scared out of the trees, onto the ground, where they're easier to catch.

Destruction of the rainforest by mining, logging and development has also played a part in their declining numbers, particularly due to their territorial nature.

But on Huon Peninsula lies a pristine parcel of rainforest that has never been subjected to mining, logging or modern development. Here, in 2009, the TKCP successfully created the first officially recognised conservation area in Papua New Guinea, in accordance with the PNG Conservation Act of 1978.

The main focus is a region known as the YUS, named after its three main rivers: the Yopno, Uruwa and Som. Beginning at sea level, it rises over 4,000 metres, encompassing a spectacular and diverse spectrum of wildlife and habitats. It's a region that's completely owned by customary clans.

Mikal says because of this, hunting is still allowed in designated areas, however local landowners discourage the hunting of tree kangaroos.

That the TKCP has managed to gain the trust and support of these clans is a credit to the program. Over time, by balancing conservation with the cultures and needs of the communities, programme leaders have been able to develop an awareness of conservation among the locals.

The TKCP believes the owners of the land must be the drivers of any conservation effort, if it's to be sustainable, and investment in the communities has helped foster a positive relationship.

Since its inception in 1996, the programme has expanded health care for villagers, including the introduction of solar vaccine refrigerators in YUS health centres to assist the Morobe Division of health with its immunisation program.

Family planning resources and midwife training have also been welcomed by the local

communities. Danny says there is also a focus on education, which has included scholarships for budding teachers.

"The students who are given scholarships sign an MOU, which asks that once their teacher training is complete, they return to the YUS region and teach there for six years. After that, they are free to go wherever they wish. But the plan ensures a steady stream of qualified teachers into the remote villages."

The programme also assists with curriculum development, has implemented conservation education programmes and aided construction of local infrastructure, such as airstrips and field offices.

Every initiative is carried out in collaboration with the people of the YUS area, through a community based organisation. This is made up of 51 landowners who form three committees covering conservation, education and health. Mikal says every ward with pledged land is represented and there are at least three women on each committee.

"For instance, there may be a need for a footbridge over a certain river, so we go back to the community representatives and get their feedback on exactly where it should go. They will want to make sure it increases the safety of school children who may need to cross the river each day, and they'll want it to connect to neighbouring villages to allow for goods to be moved more easily between communities."

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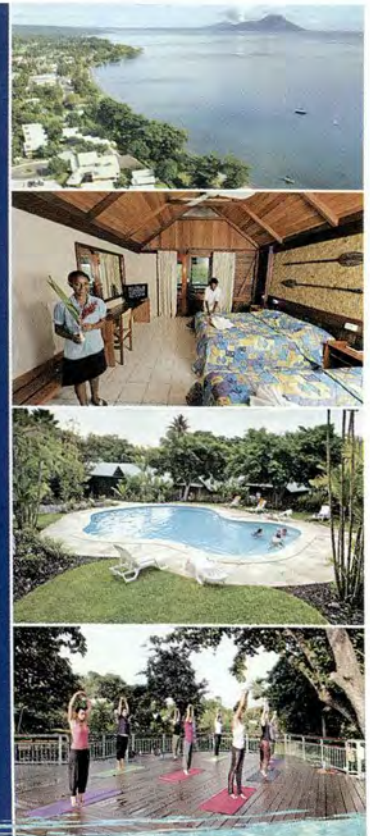
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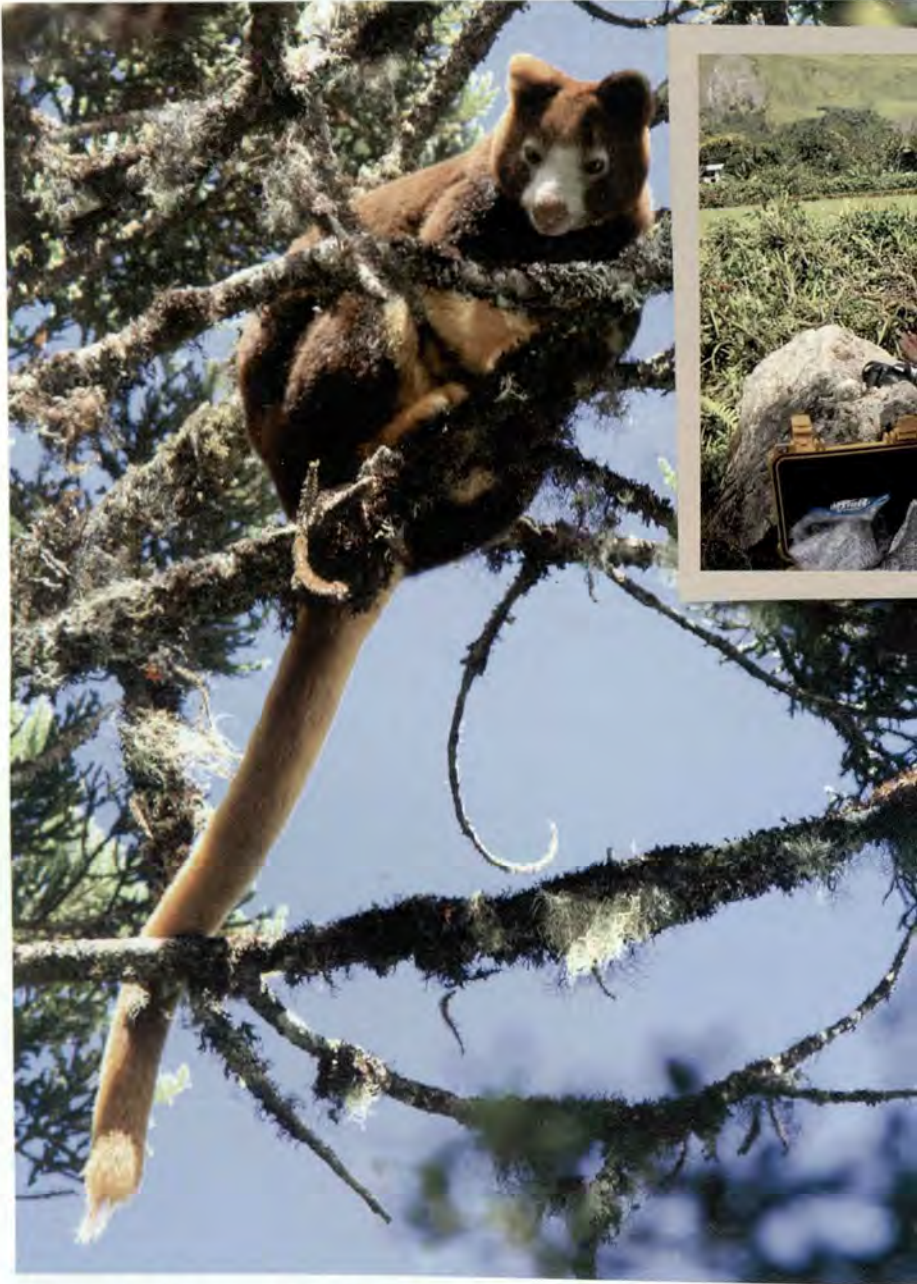
*Close-up view of active volcano, Mt Tavuvur.*



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***“Eventually, we want to see areas of pledged land join up to make wildlife corridors, so sometimes we make recommendations to help achieve that.”***

Programme leaders insist they are not against development in the YUS area, as long as it's well managed and sustainable. One development project that has been led by the TKCP is a coffee exporting business.

Family-sized coffee bean plots have been established in villages right across the region. The PNG Coffee Industry Corporation loaned its expertise, and last year, the first batch of YUS Coffee was sold by the landowners to global coffee company Caffe Vita. It was then exported to the United States where it was snapped up by coffee lovers.

The success of this project has encouraged nearby villages to get in on the act and pledge

parcels of their land to the conservation area.

Plotting such tracts is a long and laborious task because of the mountainous terrain. Mapping officers literally walk the boundaries of each clan-owned forest, with GPS in hand. Often, it has to be done with clansmen from each side of the boundary, to avoid disputes over ownership.

Danny says the total conservation area is growing every year.

*“Eventually, we want to see areas of pledged land join up, to make wildlife corridors, so sometimes we make recommendations to help achieve that.”*

The zoning of YUS land to define areas for activities such as hunting and agriculture is also a work in progress and is decided by the communities themselves.

A desire for more eco-friendly development has increased alongside a rise in population growth, with local landowners realising they must act quickly to protect their resources.

They attend workshops on reforestation and agro forestry, which is particularly important, because the clans actively cultivate trees for medicines, building materials and firewood.

Mikal says the workshops, held by academics from James Cook University, guide landowners on how and where to use their natural resources in order to preserve both cultural practices and the environment.

*“So they're educated about where they should hunt, where they should build their gardens, the best practices for garden turnovers, the most efficient way to grow a particular type of tree, that sort of thing.”*

They're also benefitting from what's dubbed the 'wildlife bank'. In the conservation zones, where hunting is banned, tree kangaroos are able to increase their population and once numbers are high enough, their offspring branch out into the zones where hunting is allowed. It makes a hunter's job much easier and allows villagers to regularly benefit from a source of protein in their diet.

Landowners have also embraced a concept to appoint local field research assistants and conservation advocates and now, 12 men from the villages in the YUS area are employed by the TKCP as rangers – the first of their kind in all of Papua New Guinea.

Their field work has involved the fitting of radio collars on Matschie's tree kangaroos. To date, 15 have had the collars fitted. They help the researchers track the mysterious animals and learn more about their behaviour in the wild.



It's anticipated that the findings will assist in developing a more comprehensive plan on how to protect them.

While there are no hard figures on whether the programme is actually working, anecdotal evidence suggests their numbers have increased significantly over the past decade.

It's been a truly global effort, jointly funded by a National Geographic Society/Waitt Grants Program, Conservation International and the German Development Bank (KfW) under the German Ministry for the Environment's Lifeweb Climate Change initiative.

The headquarters of the programme is actually thousands of kilometres from PNG, at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo in the United States, where a lot of fundraising is also carried out. Researchers from Cairns' James Cook University lead the field work and monitoring, including the training of the rangers.

But what started as a push to save one species of one animal has evolved into so much more.

As monitoring of the tree kangaroos is carried out, researchers also use the opportunity to detect long-billed echidnas, New Guinea quolls, bandicoot species and bird species.

A beetle survey has yielded 7,000 samples and while they are still being identified, many new species are expected to be among them.



Mark Ziembeck  
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But the programme is even more holistic than that, now encompassing climate change and carbon research. Four weather stations have been installed to collect data on changing weather patterns, which will be compared to agricultural productivity and ecosystem changes over time. Levels of carbon are also being mapped right across the landscape.

And now, a linguistics expert has entered the YUS region to map the grammar of one of the many languages there and to look at the relationship between their spoken word and their natural world.

No doubt "conservation area" is a term recently added to their vocabulary.



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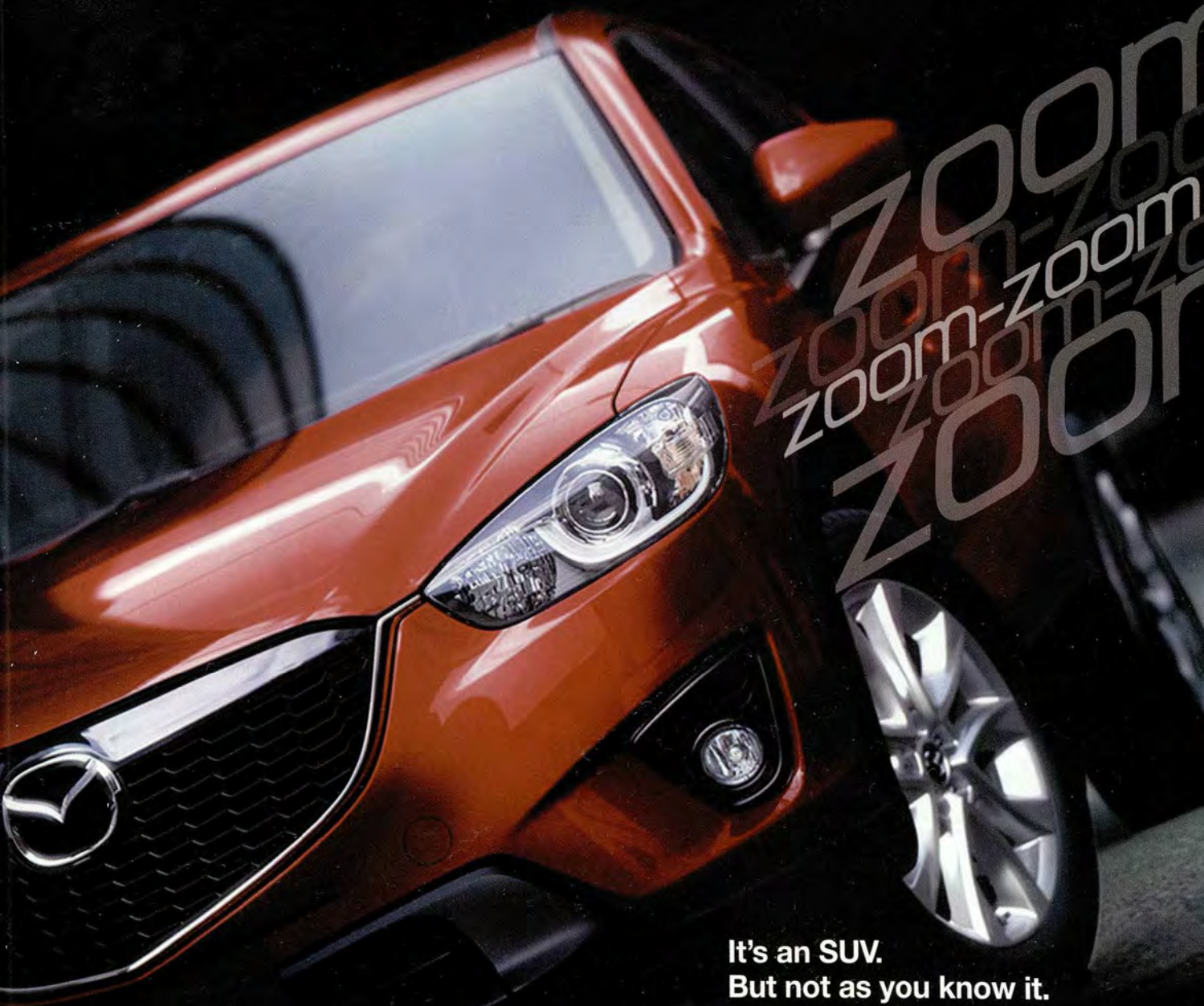
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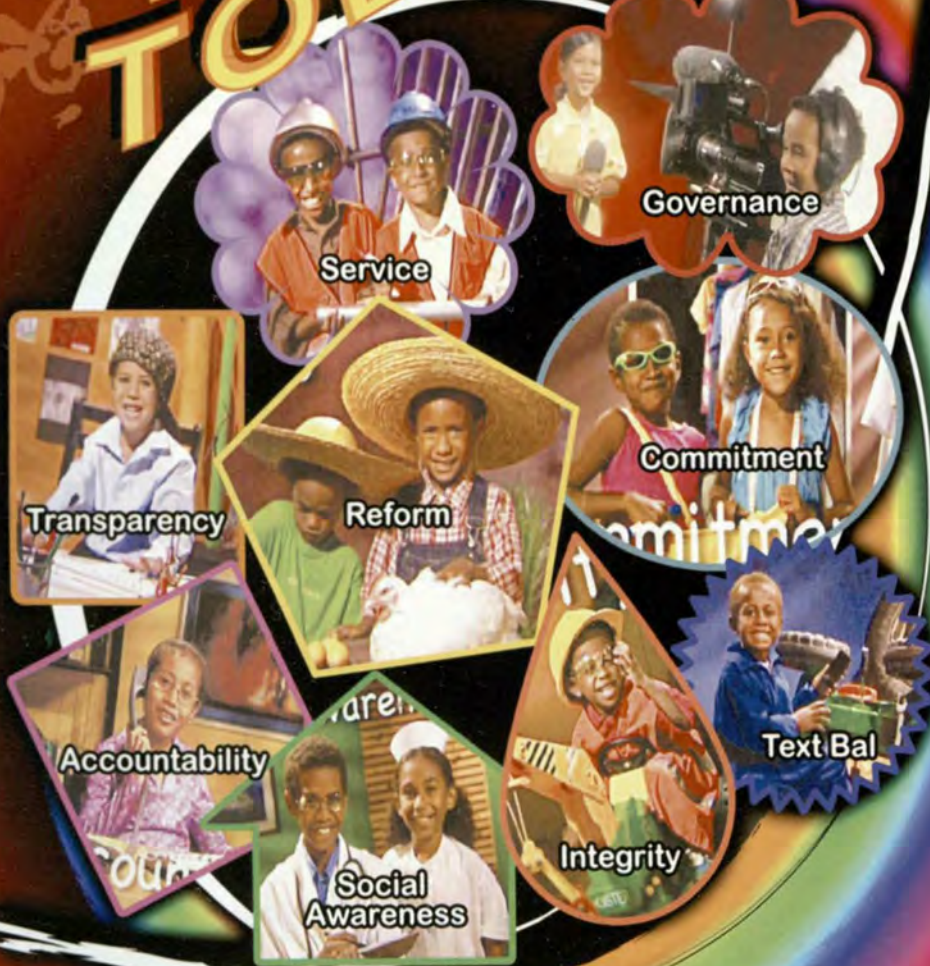
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# Longhouse Communities

## COPING WITH CHANGE

BY JOHN BROOKSBANK



**It's a time of change for Foe speaking people - traditional subsistence lifestyles are no longer an option!**

**A**s experienced in many parts of the country that have hosted major forestry, agriculture or other resource developments, getting better roads and increased access to services, life for the Foe speaking communities who live near Lake Kutubu in the Southern Highlands will never be the same as 'taim bipo'.

Although largely outside the project impact footprint, the Foe people have benefitted from petroleum developments carried out on their doorstep since the 1990s; populations have increased and people from other areas have been accommodated through marriage and business.

Christianity is now a common belief through

the activities of a variety of churches. There are schools and health centres operating and their area is connected to the Highlands Highway.

It's all very different from just 50 years ago when their longhouse communities were totally subsistence, remote, isolated from roads, communications, government services such as education and health, and often in a state of war with their neighbours.

For millennia, the Foe people were middlemen at the centre of a poly-ethnic trade network with links to many highlands and coastal communities; involved in the flow of stone axe and adze blades, pigs and salt southwards, and the movement of tobacco and mother-of-pearl shell northwards.



*It's all very different from just fifty years ago when their longhouse communities were totally subsistence, remote, isolated from roads, communications, government services such as education and health and often in a state of war with their neighbours.*



In this traditional economy, the Foe and neighbouring Fasu people produced only one trade good themselves - digaso oil - produced from the sap of certain tree species (*Camposperma brevipetiolata*) and used as a pungent body 'cosmetic' in sing-sings.

The Foe are not Highlanders nor are they truly coastal people; their land sits at an altitude of about 2,500 feet, so plants such as betelnut and pineapples thrive.

Traditionally, they were not gardeners, subsisting on a diet of sago and fish caught from rivers or Lake Kutubu and living in longhouses somewhat reminiscent of the huge *dubu* that once dominated villages along the river deltas of Gulf Province.





### Embracing new ideas

So have the old ways been summarily thrown out and new practices embraced? Not quite.

In the years following the First Oil in 1992 when the Highlands Highway was extended to the oil development base camp and airstrip at Moro, a number of villages such as Wasemi, Tugiri and Gesege, all on the shores of Lake Kutubu, did not rebuild their longhouses when they fell into disrepair.

However, other communities have incorporated the grand men's longhouses and flanking women's houses into their village development plans.

Fiwaga and Damaiyu villages, just up the hill from the small district centre of Pimaga, have continued to maintain their impressive longhouses. In fact, they are a centrepiece of the Foe Kundu and Digaso Festival, which is now an annual celebration of local culture and lifestyles.

However, at the same time, these communities also organise themselves into a number of agricultural cooperatives that mobilise their members' individual efforts as they acquire gardening skills and practices.

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**Many families in Foe villages found an activity that suited their preferred lifestyle - inland fish farming. After just a few years of the project being implemented, there are at least 100 ponds in the area, containing perhaps in excess of 10,000 tilapia fish. This means that there is always fish to eat and an excess to sell in the local markets.**

Many families in Foe villages found an activity that suited their preferred lifestyle - inland fish farming. After just a few years of the project being implemented, there are now at least 100 ponds in the area, containing perhaps in excess of 10,000 tilapia fish. This means that there is always fish to eat and excess to sell in the local markets.

The Kutubu Foe Women's Cooperative is a good example of grassroots action. Under the leadership of their dynamic chairlady, Naomi Samuel, this incorporated group grew out of the Kutubu Foe Women's Association.

This peak body for 58 village-level women's groups in the Foe speaking area had until that time restricted their activities to organising training in basic home skills such as sewing, food preservation and baking.



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### Ladies move

After some of the association members attended a conference on 'women in agriculture', they were interested to try planting upland rice in their home villages.

Using the network of women's groups, Naomi soon had small family rice plots growing in all villages and it was obvious that here was an activity that would be sustainable and diversify food sources.

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The success of the ladies came to the attention of Oil Search Limited, who donated a small mechanised rice mill to assist in processing the dried rice, since white rice stores longer than the raw rice. In the first year after receiving the mill, the ladies milled 1.5 tonnes of rice!

It became obvious that there was so much rice being produced that there would be excess to sell. It was at this point that the association decided to form a cooperative as the vehicle for this community business enterprise.

An increasing number of Foe families now have large gardens growing a variety of produce whilst the cooperative continues to mill rice for a small fee for non-members.

Activities have expanded into collection of a variety of fruit and vegetables for sale to nearby LNG Project construction camps. Milling rice also produces chaff, the dried seed husks, which are used as feed in local fish ponds, so nothing is wasted!

Perhaps spurred on by the success of their lady folk, another group, the Pimaga Farmer's Cooperative, has recently been established under the guidance local pastor Kofe Ibu, an avid inland fish farmer himself, to similarly support local farmers through assistance in produce marketing and organisation of training.

The Foe longhouse was, and still is, a centrepiece of the Foe communities; an elevated building that was a strictly male domain. Often more than 100 metres long, the double-ended longhouses are divided up into separate alcoves, each with a separate fire hearth and sleeping area for individual clans or sub-clans, alongside a central aisle.



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## LOCAL DESTINATIONS

Occupying a prominent position on a ridge line, each longhouse is flanked by smaller houses occupied by the women and children of the village. Meetings were often held on the small verandahs protected by the overhanging roof at either end of the longhouse.

The end result of the changes that have taken place in these communities is that many of the elements of traditional lifestyles and village structure continue today as they did before, although it is noted that most men now live in houses with their wives and children.

Tree bark is still beaten out to produce distinctive tapa rain capes, sometimes used as every day wear, as well as sing-sing regalia. Sago remains an important component of local diets but people have adopted different practices with regard to alternative food sources and marketing excess produce through representative village cooperatives - a melding of the old and new.

There is a realisation amongst the Foe that some old ways must change and people adapt to new situations. Although outside agencies such as the government and petroleum companies can help in this process, fundamentally, it is the mindset of the people that is altering - embracing new ideas and modifying traditional practices.

Lifestyles in Papua New Guinea, like culture, are never static - they are constantly changing and evolving to meet the demands of today.



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# BUSINESS OR BISNIS?

BY JOHN BROOKSBANK



**R**esource area landowner companies generally have a bad name in Papua New Guinea. They are perceived, rightly in many cases, as organisations that say they are representative but are often not; that are convenient money-collecting entities milked by the more educated or street smart individuals who are their managers or directors, to fund Port Moresby-based lifestyles.

Such landowner companies or lancos as they are commonly referred to, are often used as a modern day incarnation, called 'bisnis' - that perpetuates the traditional personality based re-distribution of wealth in order to gain status, rather than as commercial entities able to pay dividends to their village shareholders and compliant with the provisions of the PNG Companies Act and other legislations that govern private sector business.

So it is refreshing to see that some landowner companies operate as they should and even more exciting to see those

that perform beyond all expectations, both in a commercial sense and also in the redistribution of profits amongst the landowner groups they represent.

The stand-out performers include the IPI Group that grew out of Porgera gold mine operations, the Anitua Group that emerged from Lihir, and more recently, Trans Wonderland Limited (TWL), owned by smaller lancos from the petroleum development areas of Southern Highlands and Hela provinces. These companies have been able to expand their operations beyond the resource development that spawned them and are now active elsewhere in PNG and even overseas.

In 2010, Anitua, owned by 2,600 individual and six clan shareholders, had 3000 employees and a turnover of US\$105 million, whilst some subsidiaries of the Anitua Group, such as the NCS catering company now operate in more than 15 locations around the country managing various mine sites and PNG Defence Force messes.



With at least a decade left of mining on Lihir, there is plenty of time for the Anitua to build up capital from its contract mining subsidiary and other service contractors and increasingly diversify its business so that eventually little of it will be mine-related.

Ipili Porgera Investments Limited, or IPI as it is more commonly referred to, is owned by more than 2,500 landowners from the Porgera mine area of Enga Province.

The company started with small mine-related contracts and over the last 19 years has grown - IPI now has an annual turnover in excess of US\$60 million, derived from transport, catering, building, property and logistics.

IPI has more than 1,000 employees along with substantial warehouses, workshops and offices in Lae, Mount Hagen and Porgera.

Trans Wonderland Limited (TWL), which only started in mid-2009, paid dividends for its first full year of operation and in 2011 enjoyed a turnover of US\$44 million.

It is a remarkable story of cooperation and commercial success from a part of the country more usually associated with exactly the opposite, on both counts.

TWL shareholders are 26 landowner companies from the Hides, Moran, Kutubu and nearby areas of the Southern Highlands who, in line with its constitution, are paid an annual dividend of 20% of profits.

TWL was established at just the right time - when the construction of the PNG LNG Project was ramping up with many thousands of tonnes of materials to be transported into the Hides and Tari areas from Lae port.

The company has a significant transport contract with Oil Search and contracts with others along the Highlands Highway, and in a joint venture with the Agility Group, handles all PNG LNG Project transport and logistics work.

TWL is looking at investing in other air and sea transport activities that will sustain it when LNG construction is complete and trucking revenues decline.

There are many landowner companies owned by clans and individuals associated with all mining and petroleum developments, as well as larger oil palm and forestry developments in the country. They carry out a variety of service activities including security, labour supply, road transport, plant hire, catering, civil works and maintenance.



## LOCAL DESTINATIONS

*The three examples cited are successful because the day-to-day operations of the companies under a proper management structure are kept completely separate from meetings and activities of the boards of directors.*



In the Southern Highlands at present, there are many people employed in local landowner companies associated with PNG LNG Project construction - some of these companies will thrive whilst many will disappear when the work dries up in late 2013.

What are the essential ingredients that have led to the success of particular lincos, such as those highlighted above? Understandably, it is a combination of factors.

Firstly, it is necessary for all shareholders and their representative directors to have a broad enough vision for their joint enterprise and realise that it has to be of a sufficient size and be able to work anywhere - large enough to afford the costs of professional management and be operated along strictly ethical lines, with regular audits and other checks and

balances to ensure statutory and contractual compliance.

Professional management means that PNG and international quality standards can be met by these companies - both IPI and Anitua have full ISO quality assurance certification for their services.

Secondly, support of resource companies from whose operations these businesses grew is important. They all realised the advantages of such 'umbrella' representative entities from the standpoint of dealing with an entity with the ability to consistently provide technical services, operate effectively and distribute any profits as dividends to shareholders.

This helps to mitigate the possibility of disruptions by landowners unhappy with actions of their representative organisations.

Resource companies saw significant long-term value in such arrangements and often assisted with the establishment and expansion of these landowner companies.

Oil Search Limited, for example, assisted TWL with a short-term loan of K11 million, now repaid, to acquire the assets of an existing transport company.

The three examples cited are successful because the day-to-day operations of the companies under a proper management structure are kept completely separate from meetings and activities of the boards of directors.

In this way, business is handled by the company and the *bisnis* of local politics and status is managed by the boards, so no individual or interest group interferes with the daily operations of the companies.

Whilst this sounds overly simplistic, and in fact a normal practice elsewhere in the world, it is the blurring of this division of responsibilities that has led to many landowner companies not operating profitably.

In order to accommodate and manage 'non-commercial' support for local communities, the TWL Constitution requires the company to annually set aside 5% of its profits for community projects.

The company has also entered into contracts with local groups from petroleum development areas, undertaking to lease highway trucks for a sufficient time for them to repay commercial finance.

The arrangement has also assisted the company to quickly expand its fleet from an initial 23 prime movers and trailers to a total of more than 260 pieces of plant and light vehicles today.

As in any representative and democratic process in PNG, arriving at the decision to form these umbrella landowner companies and consortia is not necessarily a straightforward process - it often takes many meetings of project area landowner and landowner company leaders, perhaps over years, before a consensus agreement is eventually reached.

These three landowner companies are excellent examples of what can be done in a resource area for the benefit of all stakeholders if there is sufficient vision and willingness to set up and professionally manage, a commercially viable business structure for the common good, rather than pandering to personal or local agendas.

So it is possible to carry out *bisnis* and business at the same time!



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# PNG COFFEE A HIT

## Now the Chinese are wanting it too

BY DAVENDRA SHARMA



**B**verage drinkers in Germany love it. So do the Japanese, Americans and Australians. And now, the Chinese are turning to aromatic coffee from Papua New Guinea on their breakfast tables.

If an exporter can break into the Chinese market, it is considered by far the biggest scoop as China is the world's single largest market - and being the most populous nation with 1.2 billion.

Promoted through the Beijing-based Pacific Islands Forum Trade Office (PIFTO) and PNG's Investment Promotion Authority (IPA), 10 coffee companies will go head-to-head with 2000 exhibitors from 20 other countries selling upto 3000 agricultural products at the popular 10th China Agriculture Trade Fair.

China's Ministry of Agriculture is keen to see PNG coffee on show, where in excess of 30,000 visitors will inspect world range of products.

For IPA, which actively pursues export market opportunities for PNG producers, the fair will give the break it has wanted for years.

Its own research has shown that the Chinese is a niche market and that the country's younger generation is fast developing a taste for coffee away from the trend of generations of traditional tea-takers in China. There is also a big growth in coffee shops - led by international brands such as Starbucks and COSTA and other international brands such Cafe Flat White from New Zealand, which has established its own chain of coffee shops there.

With coffee being the largest agricultural produce of PNG, IPA's campaign is to go into China "in a big way". IPA's Julienne Leka-Maliaki says while it takes a lot to win a market like China, the Pacific islands have an opportunity that has become available.

She said if PNG gets the break in China, the local producers will not be able to imagine the prospects that come out of such a massive market. "It really depends on the ability to meet the export volumes of the Chinese market, so I suppose it's really the niche market we could be looking at."

Coffee aside, PNG also hopes to showcase

**Coffee is PNG's champion money-spinner as it already enjoys lucrative markets in Australia, the United States, Germany and Japan. Germany takes 40%, Australia 22%, the US 20%, Japan 8% and the rest of Europe absorbs the remaining 10% of export sales from PNG.**

cocoa, spices, coconut oil and an aquarium company in China. Through PIFTO, other small islands countries could also reap benefits from displays in Beijing, says Leka-Maliaki.

PIFTO arranges accommodation and excess to the show's booths for islands countries to expose their land and sea products to a potential 30,000 buyer companies.

Leka-Maliaki hopes more islands governments will take up the initiative in future as the world is embracing China for market prospects.

The Chinese Agriculture Ministry is also taking exhibits of agro-products (grains, cash crops, fruit and vegetables, seeds, edible oil, edible fungus, dried fruits and nuts), food and beverages (conventional foods, instant foods, snacks, healthy foods, frozen foods, canned foods, condiment, fruit juices), agrotechnology (embryo, breeder, meat products, poultry products, dairy products, fishery products, seafood, aquaculture products), animal husbandry and aquatic products and agro input products (agrochemical, fertiliser and seeds).

The islands countries currently enjoy trade access into Australia and New Zealand through SPARTECA, South Pacific Regional Trade Cooperation Agreement. Though the two senior Forum countries are closer to the islands and consequently the transport costs

are minimal, China is a large market and it is opening its doors to small players like the Pacific islands.

Coffee is PNG's champion money-spinner as it already enjoys lucrative markets in Australia, the United States, Germany and Japan. Germany takes 40%, Australia 22%, the US 20%, Japan 8% and the rest of Europe absorbs the remaining 10% of export sales from PNG.

The PNG Coffee Industry Corporation - a merger of PNG Coffee Industry Board, Coffee Development Agency and Coffee Research Institute - in a 2012 survey said the coffee exports earn 460 million kina annually for PNG, of which 70% goes to the households who farm and produce the beans.

Coffee is one of PNG's biggest agriculture seller, ahead of coconut, cocoa and rubber. But on the global scene, it is ranked 15th largest supplier. It is only a small player in the world - providing a tiny 1.2% of the world market demand. It is far behind Brazil - 40.5%; Vietnam 16.2%; Columbia 11.5%; Indonesia - 8.1% and India - 4.2%.

World Bank's International Finance Corporation stepped in in July to assist one of the PNG's leading exporter, Kongo Coffee Ltd with a 10 million kina to help the company expand its operations to buy coffee from the thousands of small farmers and process it for export.

The IMF which last year poured in US\$19 billion to agriculture industries around the globe, noted that PNG coffee had a huge potential to reach new heights if initiatives can be put in place at ground level.

"By helping Kongo increase its exports and sustainability, we are giving small-scale coffee farmers an assured buyer who will want more of their product," Carolyn Blacklock, IFC's resident representative in PNG, said.

"More demand means younger farmers have a future and are given the opportunity to expand their businesses, increase profits, and create jobs."

The IFC loan is channelled through a risk-sharing facility with Bank South Pacific. The assistance would mean Kongo will triple coffee processing capacity to six tonnes per hour from the current two tonnes.

"This improvement will allow us to purchase more coffee beans from local farmers, satisfy our customers' demands, and increase our coffee exports," said Jerry Kapka, Kongo's managing director in Chimbu province, where more than 100,000 depend on coffee produce for cash. Kongo is one of the three largest exporters of PNG coffee.

Leka-Maliaki and IPA would agree that while PNG has immense scope to broaden its coffee



## LOCAL DESTINATIONS

*Coffee nevertheless is the backbone of PNG's rural economy with nearly 2.5 million dependents for their livelihood in the Highland provinces.*



*One of the many coffee shops that have flourished in China.*

overseas, there are challenges to be overcome in years ahead. The 2012 study identified that rural infrastructure, land tenure issues and theft from farms could plague the industry as it prepares to take on the world. It also points out that trees are getting over 40 years old - which means they would need to be replenished soon for the industry to stay afloat. Replanting strategies has been advocated by the government agencies promoting growth.

Production of the mostly Arabica coffee in PNG has steadily increased in the last decade since 2000 and the proportion of export to production has been maintained at 95%. The industry can only be enhanced if new markets like China open up for the otherwise mineral-rich country.

Coffee nevertheless is the backbone of PNG's rural economy with nearly 2.5 million people depending on coffee for their livelihood in the Highland provinces.

The study recommends that as the world moves to organic foods, there was an urgent need for PNG to lift its organic production from 5% to 30% by 2018.

With the impending closure of the OK Tedi mine in 2015, PNG should start shifting its focus to coffee and other forms of agriculture to maintain its growth levels, says Nancy Lelang, assistant secretary in the Treasury department when announcing a fiscal outlook for the country recently.

She advised that prices of PNG's major export commodities would continue to be volatile, with the global economy still recuperating from the impact of the hard-hit recession of 2009-2010.

Speaking to reporters in Port Moresby recently, Lelang said over the medium-term 2013-16, the PNG economy would rely on coffee-inspired agriculture, forestry and fishing to boost exports.

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Kongo Coffee products.

She said while the government would continue to invest in rural infrastructure and assist in finding overseas markets, the local growers would have to ensure quality and timely production of goods.

"The growing of the non-mineral sectors can also be accomplished through reviews of industries," she said. "Equally important are the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors which comprise a vast majority of our people.

"The benefit of growing the non-mineral sectors of the PNG economy is ultimately to improve the quality of life of all Papua New Guineans, as well as to grow the PNG economy."

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# THE ISLAND OF THE GODS

## Bali's casual chic fishing village

BY ALEXANDRA KALINOE



**B**ali, often called the island of the Gods, has long been a tourist mecca, attracting travellers from across the globe. Once a paradise for surfers and westerners seeking an alternate lifestyle, the island now boasts different experiences to suit every traveller. From families, to couples, to groups of friends, there is something for everyone.

On my recent trip to Bali, I decided to spend a week on the shores of Tanjung Benoa, famed as a centre for water sports.

Tanjung Benoa was once a sleepy fishing village but in the mid-1970s, its potential for water sports was discovered and the area was developed. A lovely restaurant culture has sprung up and it has become a relaxing place to recharge your batteries.

Unlike bustling Kuta, Benoa is less busy, and there are no all-night dance clubs and bars. Day spas and boutiques line the main street. Located approximately 20 to 30 minutes from

Nagura Rai International airport, the area is not as up-market and separated from the rest of Bali as Nusa Dua, yet Benoa is less than 10 minutes away from Nusa Dua's glitzy shops and eateries.

One of Benoa's jewels is the Aston Bali Beach Resort and Spa, located on its own private beach.

The hotel is constructed in contemporary Balinese style and sits on beautifully landscaped traditional gardens. When entering the hotel reception, it is difficult to fully appreciate the grandeur of this hotel. Once you enter the main lounge/bar, which features one of the island's two baby grand pianos, the hotel's beauty becomes obvious.

The lounge opens onto a terrace that overlooks the central gardens, lagoon pool and private beach. In the evening, cocktails in the lounge area are a must as day turns into night and the breeze sweeps in from the ocean.





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Local musicians perform soothing classics from the likes of Billie Holiday, transporting guests to another era. There is light chatter, some French and a few German words stand out, but guests are mainly catching up before dinner for a quick drink and utilising the complimentary wireless internet service to keep in touch with the outside world.

The lounge is furnished in a contemporary style with steel, glass, wood, and trendy recycled furniture, sounds strange? It certainly was the last thing I expected

to see after the traditional foyer, but the whole hotel comes together beautifully – very casual chic.

All the rooms are large and feature a spa bath, shower and balcony. The beds are big and comfortable. Everything in your room can be controlled from a panel next to your bed, and the rooms feature polished hardwood floors, locally crafted wooden furniture and wooden shutters that turn day into night for that much needed sleep-in on your break.

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*In the evening, the elephants perform a talent show for lodge guests. Lodge guests are able to hand bathe and feed the elephants. I've never heard of another place where guests are able to come into such close contact with these awe-inspiring animals.*



The best part of your stay will become apparent from the moment you arrive. It is without doubt the service and the small touches staff provide during your stay, whether it be little reminders when you have fallen asleep on the beach - 'Maam, your massage is now' or just remembering what you like to drink - 'Maam you will have Grey Goose Vodka, many ice, fresh lime juice and cranberry'.

Mojitos on the beach were enough to keep me hotel bound for two days, however, on the third day, I decided to take a trip into Kuta.

One good thing about Kuta is the shopping. If you want to pick up souvenirs and gifts and you don't mind constantly being harassed by someone trying to sell you something, then it is the place to be.

It certainly is the home of the budget package holiday maker so you will find scores of young adults trawling the bars from as early as 6pm. After a quick dash to Matahari, a local grocery store for some much needed supplies, I was glad to be heading back to Benoa.

Perhaps one of my best days was spent in Ubud, at the Elephant Safari Park and Lodge in Taro. Tours can be booked from the hotel, and transfers are door to door and provided by the park tour company.

Getting there takes over an hour by car from Benoa, but the further you get from Denpasar, the more of the real Bali begins to unfold.

From the many artisans workshops that line the road where master craftsmen carve stone and wood to the numerous temples and shrines draped in offerings, the island's mystical heritage becomes clear.

The majority of Balinese are Hindu, and it is not unusual to stumble on a temple ceremony as we did on our drive through Ubud. Urban landscapes give way to terraced rice paddies and the air becomes much cooler as we move further from the ocean. Traffic thins out and we find ourselves moving from one small cluster of homes to the next, separated by vast expanses of farmland and cleverly planned irrigation canals.

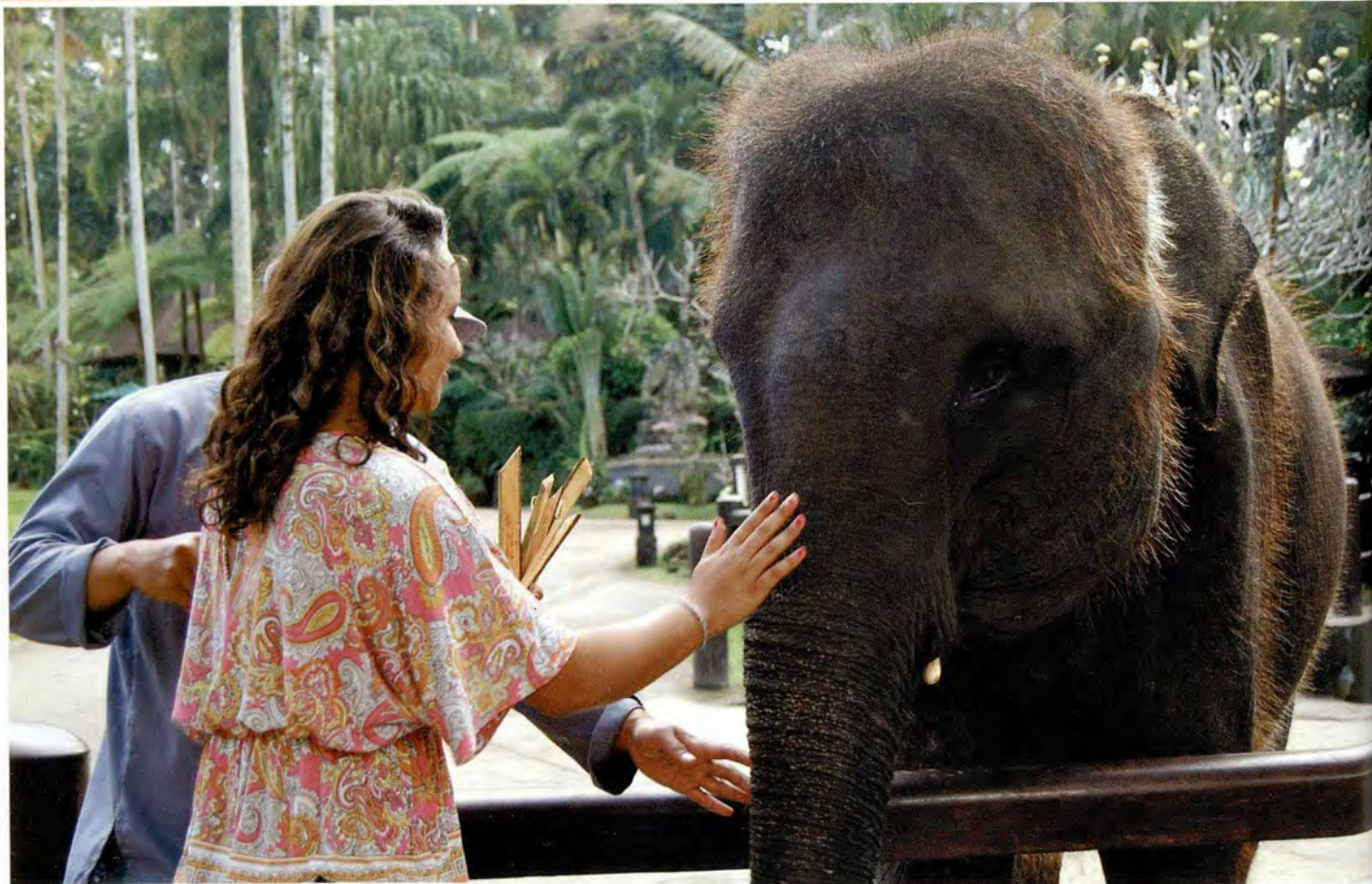
The park is home to the largest herd of rescued Sumatran elephants in the world and it's owned and operated by Nigel and Yanie Mason.

Set on 3.5 hectares of botanical gardens, national forest and parkland, visitors can also stay at the lodge for a more indulgent experience.

Guests at the lodge relax in exotic safari surrounds and elephants roam within view of the parkview suites and main dining and lounge areas.

Guests can be collected from their suite by elephant and taken on either a day safari, or a twilight safari through the forest and surrounding areas in the evening.

In the evening, the elephants perform a talent show for lodge guests. Lodge guests are able to hand bathe and feed the elephants. I've never heard of another place where guests are able to come into such close contact with these awe-inspiring animals.



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The park also features an elephant museum and guides are able to communicate in a variety of languages. Everyone that works at the park seems to be passionate about the elephants, and as I take a ride through the forest, my elephant chaffer tells me all about the conservation work they do at the park to highlight the plight of the Asian elephant.



*One of the best things about holidaying in Bali is that you can eat Balinese food, which is delicious!*

He is originally from Sumatra and came to Bali with the elephant I am now riding fifteen years earlier. He explains to me that elephants are emotional, just like people.

They are also capable of forming strong bonds with their human handlers, and so each handler always remains with the same elephant for as long as possible.

This was by far one of the best experiences I've ever had in Bali and I highly recommend staying at the lodge for the night if you can. A day-trip from Benoa including lunch, transfers and entry fees will set you back about US\$90.

One of the best things about holidaying in Bali is that you can eat Balinese food, which is delicious! You can also learn to cook Balinese food at Bumbu Bali, a leading Indonesian

cooking school and restaurant, located metres from the Aston. The strange thing is that due to the high number of foreign tourists, most hotels do not offer a wide variety of local dishes. I chose to eat out almost every night...food is cheap here and it is good. I did, however, sample the delights of 8 Degrees South at the Conrad Bali which offers great seafood and tapas. Prices range from AU\$5 to AU\$60.

The Paon Beach Club, Benoa, features great Indonesian and Asian cuisine at a gorgeous outdoor setting. Prices range from AU\$4 to AU\$11. My favourite dish is Babi guling, Balinese roast pork, specifically, spit-roasted suckling pig! The eatery that I love the most for this dish, Babi Guling Chandra, is slightly off the tourist trail and located in Denpasar.



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The restaurant is clean and the service is good. It is open 24 hours a day and also offers great sambal mata and sate. If you are feeling adventurous, try the babi guling special which includes satay, sausages, and more exotic parts of the pig!

The Nusa Dua Theatre is ten minutes from the Aston, and I caught the Devdan Treasure of the Archipeligo show, a 90-minute journey through Indonesia, featuring a troupe of talented dancers and amazing aerial acrobats. The costumes are gorgeous, and the musical odyssey takes the audience from Bali, to Sumatra, Java, Borneo and Papua. An adult ticket costs approximately US\$65 and can be booked from the tour desk at the Aston.

A couple of tips: the water is not potable, so you are advised to drink bottled water at all times. Bottled water can be very expensive at the hotels, but just across the road from the Aston are two mini marts that stock bottled water and other amenities that are quite costly in the hotel.

Always, always bargain, and look around before you make an offer, particularly on goods in market stalls. Gratuities are expected in almost all service industries so make sure you have small change for tips. Take a metered taxi at all times to avoid

sometimes high fixed prices, the concierge at your hotel can arrange this for you and make sure to hold on to 150,000 Rupiah cash to pay for your departure tax when leaving the country.

Papua New Guinean passport holders need a visa to enter Indonesia, and this can be obtained in approximately three working days from the Indonesian Embassy in Port Moresby.


When I was younger, Kuta was more my cup of tea, these days however, Benoa is definitely the place in Bali that appeals the most to me.

Staying in Benoa doesn't mean you have to miss out on all of the action; all it means is that you can decide when you want to be a part of it, and when you just want to be on your own.

Once I get comfortable on the beach, the outcome is the same every time. Days lapse, and from the moment I arrive, there is always a sense of dread that the time to say goodbye is only days away.

My next trip to this patch of paradise on the Island of the Gods will be longer, much longer!



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*Days lapse, and from the moment I arrive, there is always a sense of dread that the time to say goodbye is only days away.*



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# CEBU CHARMS



BY MATTHEW KNOTT

The laid-back paradise of Cebu was the birthplace of Christianity in the Philippines and is showcase for much of the country's heritage. But with a unique and proud culture, stunning scenery, white sandy beaches, top-class diving spots, and an eye firmly on modernity, there is far more than history to attract visitors to 'the Queen of the South'.

Located in the central Visayas region, the main Cebu Island is long and thin: 250km north to south and only 40km across at its narrowest point.

Consequently, visitors are never far away from pearl blue seas, fabulous diving spots with an array of marine life, and white sandy beaches; an impression only enhanced by a trip to any of the 167 gorgeous islets that surround Cebu.

Visitors will arrive at Cebu-Mactan Airport, on the neighbouring Mactan Island, where they can immediately encounter tropical delights such as Hadsan Beach and a wealth of resorts. Cebu's story is a ripping narrative, visible through the city's monuments, festivals and plentiful artefacts. From the 13th to the 16th century, the then-called Zebu was inhabited by Hindu, Animist and Muslim natives, and ruled by Rajahs.

## History

The arrival of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan in 1521 was the turning point. Representing the Spanish monarchy, he befriended the Rajah, introduced Western culture, and baptised 700 natives.

Soon after, Magellan headed to Mactan, where he met fierce resistance from Datu Lapu-Lapu, the native king. Magellan was killed, his body never recovered, and the Spanish fled Cebu.

Repeat visits were unsuccessful until Miguel Lopez de Legazpi landed in 1565, ushering in a period of settlements, European influence and flourishing trade.





Cebu was ceded to the US in 1898, and invaded by the Japanese in WWII, although never without resistance, until independence was granted in 1946.

Cebu wears all elements of its history proudly and interestingly both Magellan and Lapu-Lapu are equally celebrated. Lapu-Lapu, a national hero symbolising the resistance of the Filipinos, is celebrated with a statue at Mactan Shrine, where well-kept grounds make a pleasant spot, as do the shell craft gift vendors and the delicious fish restaurants nearby.

The location where Magellan was killed is also commemorated, while the famous cross that he planted on arrival in Cebu has been preserved in an outer layer of tindalo wood, mounted on a concrete pedestal and housed in tile-roofed kiosk with decorative paintings depicting the arrival.

### Sinulog Festival

But perhaps the most venerated connection to Magellan fuels Cebu's joyous Sinulog Festival, a colourful fiesta of street dancing, face painting, bands and mardi gras.

The festival is a devotion to Santo Nino - this image of the holy child was a gift reputedly given to the Rajah's wife by Magellan and subsequently discovered by one of Legazpi's

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soldiers in a burned out hut as battle raged: the origin on the cult of Santo Nino.

The Basilica Minore del Santo Nino is the oldest religious site in the Philippines - although the present handsome structure dates back to the 17th century - and was awarded minor basilica status by the pope in 1965.

The richly-clad 30cm statue wears a golden crown and is the object of prayers on Fridays. And the sight of the image drives the Sinulog into fever pitch with rousing cries of "Viva senior Santo Nino."



Cebu City is studded with numerous other historical gems.

Fort San Pedro is a coastline fortification looking imperiously across to Mactan Island. Built by Legazpi as a base against raids, it boasts 20-foot high and 8-foot thick walls, but as befits the modern-day harmony within Cebu, the sentry walk is now a popular spot for young lovers.

San Carlos University, established in 1595, is the oldest school in the Philippines and four worthwhile galleries within the university's museum are themed: Spanish colonial, Ethnographic, Archaeological, and Natural Science. Meanwhile, Colon Street is claimed as the oldest in the Philippines, but these days is the throbbing heart of modern Cebu, boasting shops, cinemas and restaurants.



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### Modern glories

A more recent Cebu hero, Sergio Osmena, former President of the Philippines, is the focus of some of the city's more modern glories. The Avenue of Flags leads to Fuente Osmena, a splendid park named in his honour.

Osmena Boulevard points the way to the Capitol Building, seat of local government and a replica of the White House. Meanwhile, a

gallery dedicated to the favourite son contains some 500 personal belongings.

Equally fascinating is the Beverley Hills district, home to the wealthy Chinese businessmen and colourful evidence that Christianity doesn't have a stranglehold over Cebu's wealth and faith.

The Taoist Temple is the most visited landmark in the opulent area; the 81 steps represent the 81 chapters of the Taoism scriptures, while the vivid green and red design, the pagoda roof, dragons and lions provide the photographic inspiration.

While Cebu is a visual treat, the other senses are never forgotten. The island is a tropical fruit paradise; the mangoes of the Guadalupe region of Cebu are said to be the sweetest in Asia.

A trip to the Carbon Market with its dazzling array of fruit alongside fish, meat and handicrafts is a must. St Mary's Vineyard and Winery, to the north of the city, meanwhile, offers free tastings of a refreshing Greek-like wine. For sounds, head to the highly rated guitar workshops of Mactan, where acoustic masterpieces are crafted with materials from Mindanao; Alegre Guitars, in particular, is recommended.





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**Geography**

Cebu is located in the Central Visayas region of the Philippines, and consists of the main island and 167 surrounding islands. The main island is 250km from north to south. A range of hills located in the spine reach around 870 metres in height. The area is divided into three large urbanised cities, six smaller cities, and 44 municipalities.

**Climate**

Mostly sheltered from typhoons and monsoons, the average temperature is 27 degrees, with a range between 17 and 34. April to June is the hottest period, while June and July are the wettest months.

**Travel**

Air Niugini has commenced direct flights to Cebu-Mactan airport.

**Further Information**


A range of local services are listed at [www.cebucitytourism.com](http://www.cebucitytourism.com).

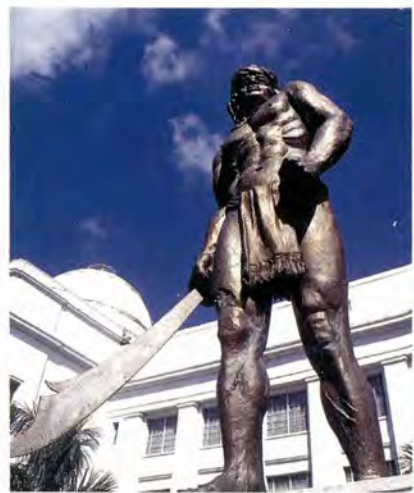
**Growing economy**

Cebu is reputed to be the fastest growing economic region of the country as well as the most productive. It is becoming an IT hub. One of the industrial giants on the island is the mammoth, multi-industry, 25-hectare San Miguel plant, located in the city of Manadue. The plant is worth a visit for its commanding views and free tastings of the famous beer produced there.

Another fine viewing spot is Tops in Busay. At 2000 feet above sea level, the climb can be steep, but the reward is a breath-taking vista of metropolitan Cebu, the bustling port, Mactan and several other tropical islands, gleaming like pearls dropped in the sea, and even as far as Bohol, another paradise island easily accessible by boat from Cebu. Other areas outside of the city are well worth a visit: Mantayupan Falls is one of Cebu's awe-inspiring natural landmarks; Moalboal, to the south of the island, is a lively beach and dive spot popular with locals; on the opposite side, Sogod and the Cebu Club Pacific are famed for sub-aqua diving and, for the more adventurous, a nudist beach!

Throughout history, Cebu has left an indelible mark on those that arrived in curiosity and with visitors to its natural and historical charms welcomed with open arms, that effect is likely to long continue.

 **Air Niugini flies direct to Cebu once a week.**



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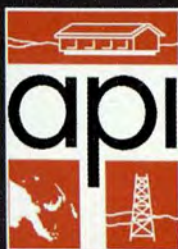
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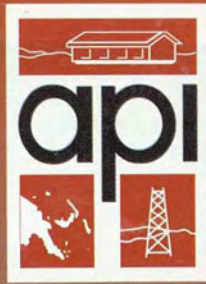


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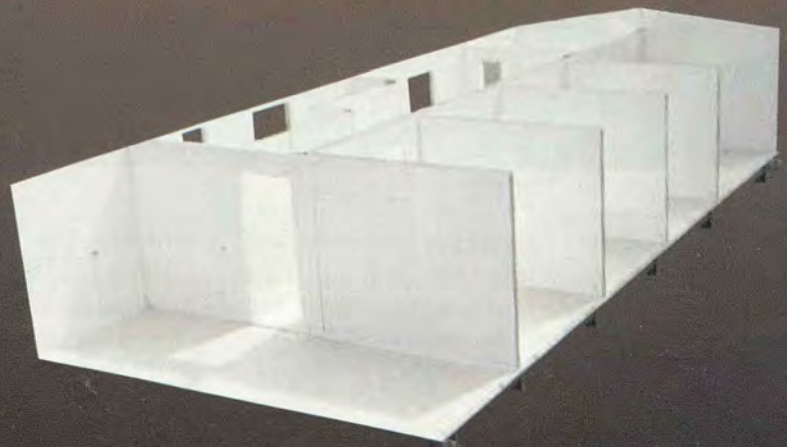
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# LONDON

# 5 Interesting places to see

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY: MARIANNE ROGERSON

London is basking in the world spotlight with the Queen celebrating an historical 60 years on the throne (the only other British monarch to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria in 1897) and the city successfully hosting the world's greatest sporting event, the Olympic Games. Here, we highlight five fascinating places within this bustling metropolis.

*Hyde Park, the most popular of London's eight royal parks.*



## 1. Hyde Park

Undoubtedly, the most popular of London's eight royal parks, Hyde Park, covers over 350 acres in the heart of the city.

Originally created by King Henry VIII in 1536 to entertain ambassadors and dignitaries with deer and wild boar hunting, it remained a royal park until 1637 when Charles I opened its gates to the general public.

Today, millions of visitors flock through its gates every year to stroll through the grounds, play sports, picnic, go boating and swim.

The star attraction of the park is the Serpentine, an 11-hectare lake created in 1730 by Queen Caroline, wife of George II.

Today, it is the scene of much of Hyde Park's recreational activity, with rowing and pedal boats available for hire, and the Lido and paddling pool attracting swimmers during the summer months.

Other highlights include Speakers' Corner, where people may speak publicly about anything, and two important memorials - the Diana Memorial Fountain which commemorates the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the 7 July Memorial which comprises 52 stainless steel pillars, representing the 52 victims of the 7 July 2005 London Bombings.





*Hampton Court Palace...Henry VIII's favourite royal residence is also one of the world's most magnificent palaces.*

## 2. Hampton Court Palace

Henry VIII's favourite royal residence is also one of the world's most magnificent palaces.

In just 10 years, King Henry spent more than £62,000 rebuilding and extending Hampton Court - a sum equal to approximately £18 million today. Each of his six wives enjoyed new and lavish lodgings, whilst the King rebuilt his own rooms several times. It was here that he learned of his fifth wife, Catherine Howard's alleged adultery, which led to her imprisonment in the Tower of London and ultimate beheading.

Today, visitors can explore King Henry's Palace without fear of incurring the wrath of the infamous monarch.

The Tudor Kitchens, designed to feed 600 people twice a day, are a living monument to 230 years of royal cooking and entertaining, while other highlights include the rich and colourful Chapel Royal, and the Great Hall, England's greatest medieval hall with its stunning collection of Henry VIII's tapestries.

Outside, a sprawling deer park covers 750 acres, with 60 acres of beautifully maintained formal gardens featuring over 200,000 flowering bulbs and trickling fountains.

Most intriguing to visitors is the Hampton Court Maze, "the most famous maze in the history of the world", which confuses with its twists, turns and dead-ends.



*Tate Modern...has attracted over 400 million visitors, making it one of UK's top three tourist attractions.*

## 3. Tate Modern

In 1889, Henry Tate, an industrialist who made his fortune as a sugar refiner, offered his collection of British art to the nation.

With no space in the National Gallery, a new gallery dedicated to British art was created.

Today, Tate has four major sites and nearly 70,000 artworks, including the national collection of British art from 1500 to the present day.

The newest of the four galleries, the Tate Modern, opened its doors in May 2000 and has since attracted over 40 million visitors, making it one of UK's top three tourist attractions and the most visited modern art gallery in the world.

Britain's national gallery of international modern and contemporary art is housed within the former Bankside Power Station, an iconic building on the banks of the River Thames, its large central chimney towering over the river.

Visitors enter via the Turbine Hall, a dramatic five-storey hall that once housed the electricity generators of the power station, and now provides 3,400 square metres of gallery space.

The former boiler rooms now form the galleries, displaying works from the world's most famous contemporary artists. A development project is underway to transform the power station's oil tanks into further gallery space.

#### 4. Tower of London

For over 900 years, the Tower of London has stood guard over the capital. Founded in the 1070s by William the Conqueror, the Tower was built to strike fear and submission into the unruly citizens of London, following his successful invasion of their country.

The fortress has since served as a royal palace, arsenal, royal mint, royal zoo and jewel house, but is most famous as a prison and place of execution.

It has played host to many famous prisoners and witnessed several executions, including those of Henry VIII's wives Catherine Howard and Anne Boleyn, whose ghost is said to haunt the premises.

The job of guarding these prisoners fell to the Yeoman Warders, more popularly known as 'Beefeaters'. These iconic symbols of London today serve as tour guides as well as safeguarding the impressive collection of Crown Jewels that are on display here.

To many, however, it is the ravens that are the real guardians of the Tower, with the legend proclaiming "if the ravens leave the Tower, the kingdom will fall".

The Tower of London.



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## 5. Houses of Parliament

The Houses of Parliament, or Palace of Westminster as it is also known, boasts a 900-year history that has seen it transformed from a royal residence to the home of a modern democracy.

Today, it serves as the meeting place of the two houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom - the House of Lords and the House of Commons, whose job it is to approve new laws and scrutinise the work of the government.


Overseas visitors can attend debates on current issues and proposed new laws and watch committees when Parliament is in session.

Additionally, guided tours of Parliament are available most Saturdays throughout the year and during Summer Opening to visit the magnificently decorated interior, including the Queen's Robing Room and Westminster Hall, one of the only buildings to have escaped devastation during the fire of 1834.

No visit to the Houses of Parliament would be complete without admiring the Clock Tower that houses the world's most famous bell - Big Ben.

The 334-step climb takes visitors to the top of the 150-year old clock tower to hear Big Ben strike the hour, but is only open to UK residents.



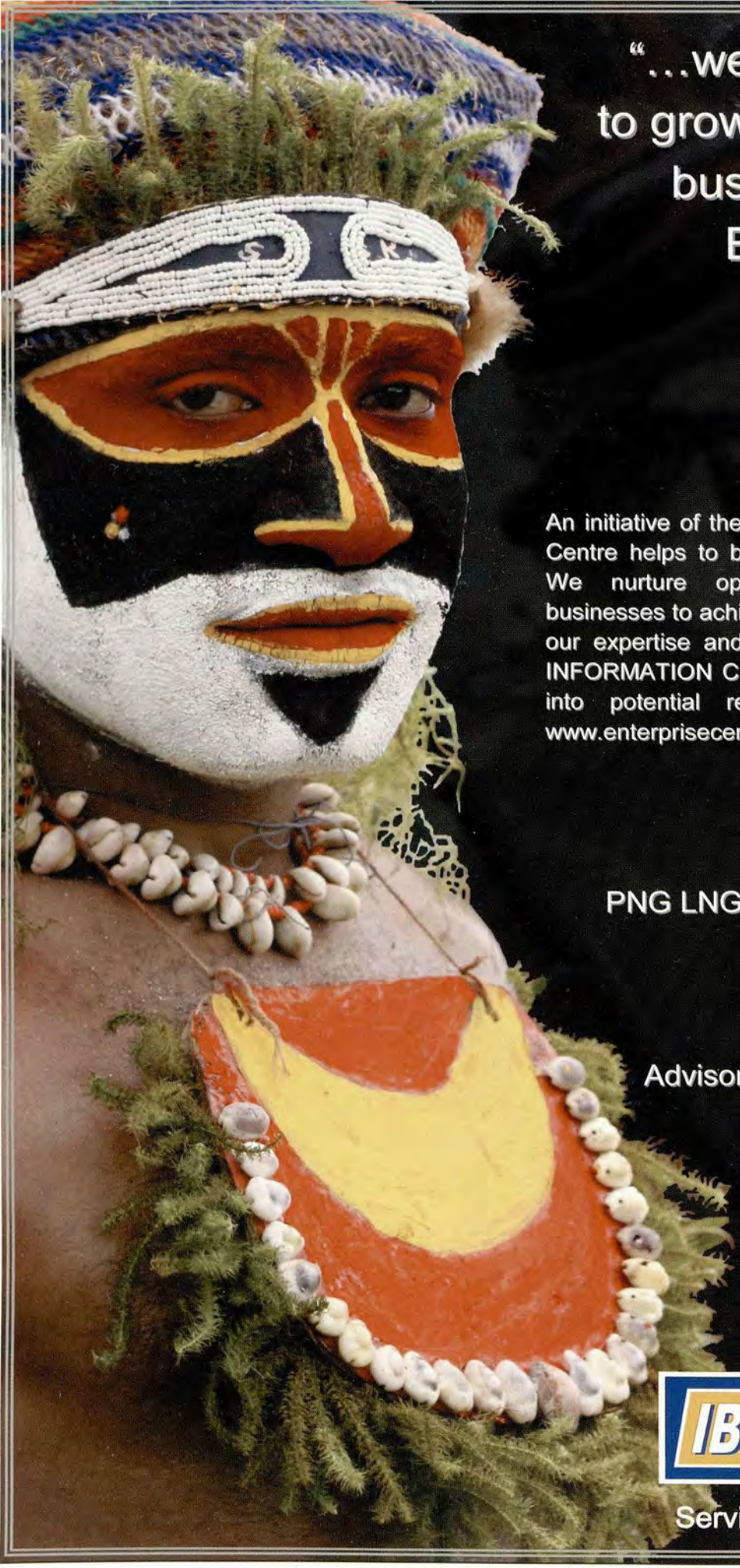
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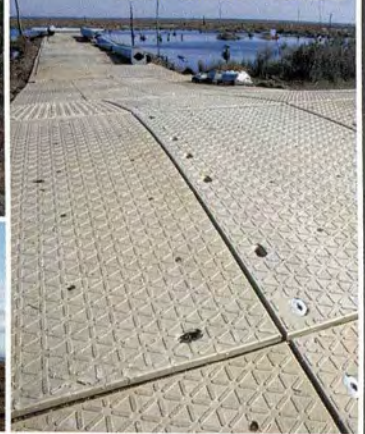
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# Maintaining the Raj



**K**uching was once the capital of the fabled White Rajahs of Borneo. Now, it's the capital of Sarawak state and, for me, the capital of good humour and great laksa. After more than a decade's absence, I return to this fondly remembered Eastern Malaysia city.

The Kuching I rediscover is, with a few exceptions, even better than before - still laid-back and affable but now more prosperous and hip to its White Rajah-era heritage.

My hotel room overlooks the Sarawak River, a languid, tea-coloured tide that bisects the town. Little yellow sampans shuffle across it, carrying passengers to the kampung settlements on the northern bank.

I peer down on the old battlements of Fort Margherita, built on the shore opposite by Rajah Charles Brooke, and I enjoy the mild conceit that I have a better view of his fort than he ever had. Sadly, an ugly new government building beside it has ruined the historic riverfront vista.

Kuching is dotted with towers, forts, courts and other 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.





## First Rajah

Sir James Brooke, the first Rajah, was a British adventurer with an armed yacht. In 1839, at age 36, he arrived in Sarawak just as the Sultanate of Brunei was entangled in a war against native tribes.

Sir James, with equal measure of derring-do and canon power, turned the tide and in return, the Sultan had to reward him with the province of Sarawak.

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

Charles died in 1917 and was succeeded by his son, Vyner Brooke. When Vyner married London socialite Sylvia Brett in 1911, one of her admirers, playwright George Bernard 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*

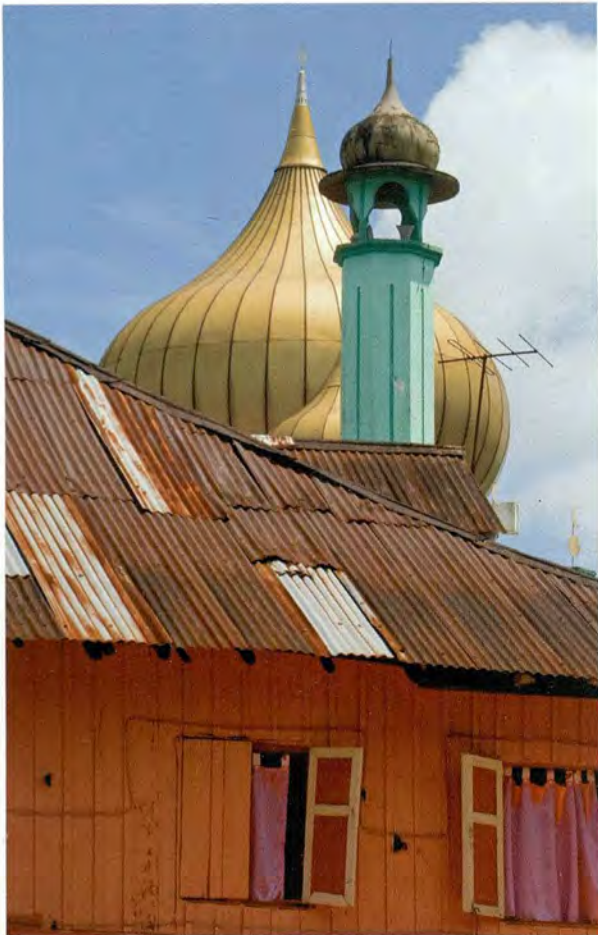
After the Japanese occupation of World War II, the ageing Vyner ceded Sarawak to Britain - against strenuous local opposition - and in 1963, the briefly British colony of Sarawak was absorbed into the new Federation of Malaysia.

Kuching is, for me, the friendliest and most liveable capital in South-East Asia. Its half-a-million residents - ethnic Chinese, native Sarawakians and Malays - inhabit a 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 century-old Chinese shophouses. Instead of selling haberdashery and rice, as they once did, today, I find galleries and boutiques.

I step into the 1876 Tua Pek Kong Temple, the oldest temple in Kuching, where giant joss sticks waft aromatic clouds above a busy intersection and Chinese families honour their dead with burnt offerings of fake money and cardboard limousines.





It's dignified, although funeral 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.

I squeeze into a little tambang or sampan, for the shuttle across the river to Fort Margherita, named after the second Rajah's wife, Raneë Margaret.

Built in 1879 in late-Renaissance style with crenellated battlements in order to guard against river pirates, it never fired a shot in anger.

Further west, along the bank, is the stately Astana, a pocket-palace Charles Brooke built in 1870. With its tall shingle roofs and defensive tower facing Kuching city across the river, the Astana is still home to Sarawak's main man, these days the State Governor.



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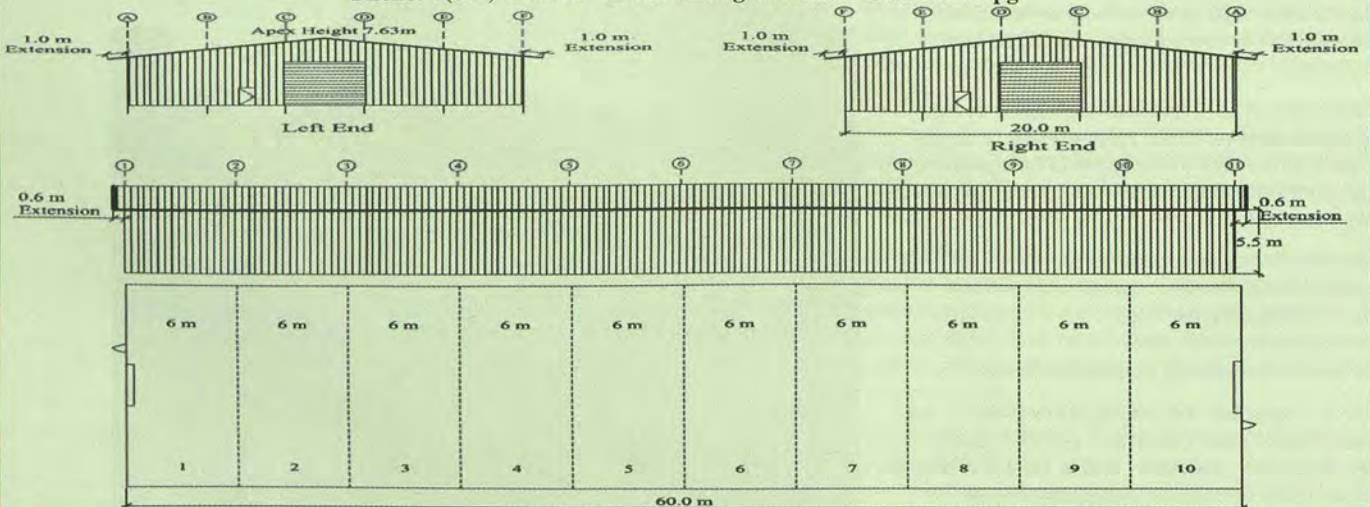
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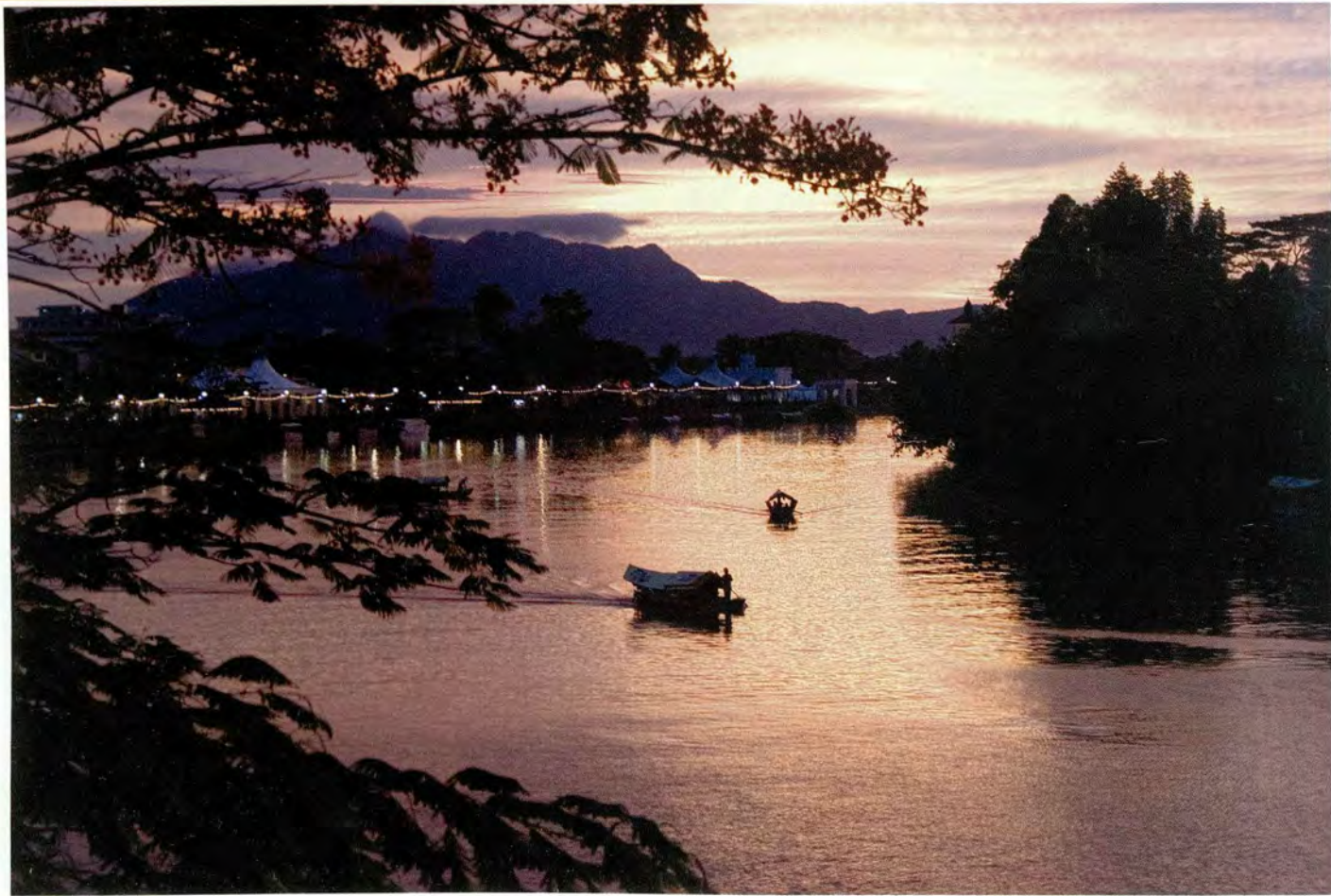
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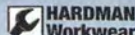
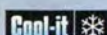


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**Restoring Brookes' era buildings**

Kuching's administrators have restored every Brookes-era building, some of them architectural eccentricities with names like the Round Tower, the Square Tower and the Pavilion. Along with the Astana, their most impressive structure is the Court House complex - a beautifully proportioned cluster of buildings facing Main Bazaar, whose austere white lines are topped by a high-hatted roof of belian ironwood.

The town is redolent with the tang of living and dining well - of clove and copra, durian, fish, rambutan and rain. For lunch, I duck down to Jalan Carpenter. Opposite an ornate, dragon-embellished Teochow Chinese temple, I find an open-air hawker food centre - and a bowl of Kuching laksa, seething with spices, vermicelli noodles, coconut milk and prawns.

In spite of Kuching's burgeoning café and restaurant scene, I often find myself defaulting here to lunch for a song and this luscious laksa.

Inland from the waterfront is the best little museum in Southeast Asia. Built in 1891 and full of hunted heads and historic jetsam, Sarawak Muzium is full of intricate basketry, beautiful ceramic martaban urns and, in the grounds, a gigantic carved Kayan tribal burial pole.

I love the "rhino denture," a 20-cm diameter hairball found in a Borneo rhino's stomach - embedded in it 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 customary laws - Dyak, Chinese or Malay - as interpreted by a local elder and an English District Officer.


**Simple rules**

The rules of court 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 unable to reach a decision, each party picked its champion and the court adjourned to the river.

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

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*The rules of court 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."*



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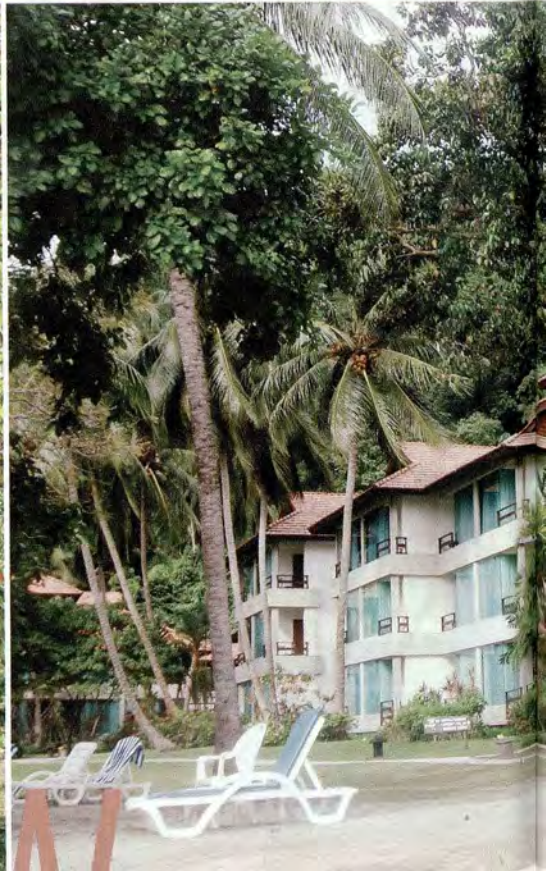
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W

hen it comes to a place like Malaysia, it wouldn't take much to convince me to pack up my bags and move.

I could happily fill my days and nights sipping champagne with Kuala Lumpur's (KL) socialites, endlessly hopping from one café or bar to another, or perhaps open a boutique backpacker hostel on the island of Penang, and laze the days away staring out into the ocean and soaking up the old world charms that encompass the streets of Georgetown.

I'm always struck by the easiness of people here. There is never any pretence, instead welcoming smiles and a sincere willingness to make sure that whatever you may desire, shall be fulfilled. My partner and I were in desperate need of a holiday.

With Christopher's (my partner) parents living in KL, we decided it was the obvious choice for our much needed break. With just over 10 days to spare, we began to plan our trip.

Of course, we would spend a few days with his parents in KL and no doubt fall victim to one or more of its many enormous shopping malls (I once entered a shopping mall in KL mid-morning and left hours later rather dazed and confused only to look up and find a half moon which appeared more as a mocking smile staring back at me.)

Yes, we were prepared for that part of the trip (Visa card - check!) however our main aim was to find an isolated beach somewhere and spend as much time laying on it as humanly possible.

# PANGKOR

## The Perfect Getaway

BY ALYSON JOYCE



So began my research on the fabulous World Wide Web and thanks to Google Search™, the listings were seemingly infinite.

This actually proved to be more of a hindrance to my search as page after page of hotel and resort, bungalow and every type of holiday abode imaginable slowly became overwhelming.

After enduring my complaints about there being too many options (something one should really never complain about), the ever composed Christopher suggested his family's long-time vacation spot, Pangkor Island Beach Resort, on Pangkor Island.

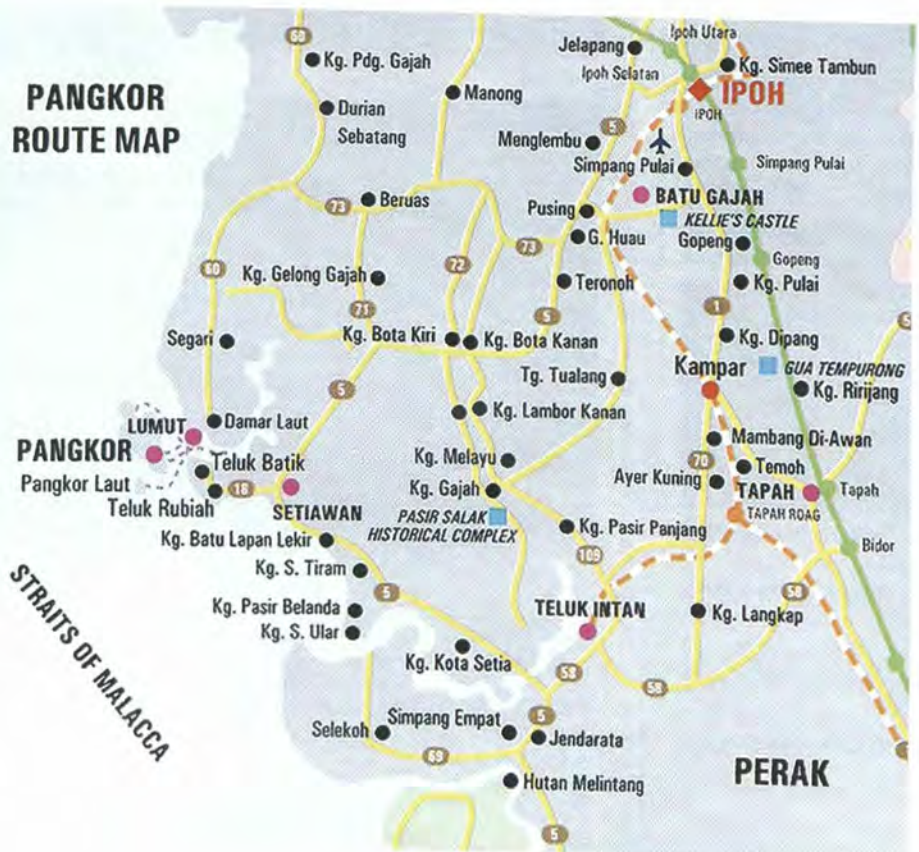
After frantically organising entry visas to Malaysia, we were on route. I can now say after arriving in Kuala Lumpur that PNG passport holders do not require entry visas prior to arriving in Malaysia.

After a few days in KL, our journey to Pangkor began by coach which leaves at around 8am from Kuala Lumpur - however be sure to check as the coaches don't run every day.

You could also hire a car and travel in your own time, but from the very beginning, we had agreed that we would be doing as little as possible! So we gathered our supplies and boarded our coach for the three-hour journey.

For the most part, all you can see are palm oil plantations, but the latter part of the trip is lovely and picturesque as you wind through villages edging closer to the coast.

*I'm always struck by the easiness of people here. There is never any pretence, instead welcoming smiles and a sincere willingness to make sure that whatever you may desire, shall be fulfilled.*





The journey ends in Lumut, a sweet little coastal town complete with the usual tourist stalls of brightly coloured fabrics and knick-knacks selling as souvenirs.

After a short wait, we were escorted to the ferry for the 20 minutes or so ride to Pangkor. Chris and I sat outside and took in the salty air.

There is an air-conditioned cabin also but you have a great view of the naval base and surrounding islands if you can manage the heat. From the ferry, we hopped onto a little open aired truck which took us to the resort.

We were greeted with that infectious Malaysian smile, coupled with a cheery 'Selamat Datang' (welcome), and a drink of rose water which instantly expels the heat from one's body. Next on the agenda was to check-in, find our room, dump our bags, and head for the beach!

This was done without fuss and we were soaking up the sun faster than you could say 'Pina Colada?'

Pangkor Island Beach Resort is one of the few resorts on Pangkor that is fortunate to have a private beach. The sand may not be white, but the water is beautifully calm with a perfect temperature. One could easily spend an entire day floating on one's back as the world floats by.

The resort itself comprises 258 rooms split into 4 separate wings including the Garden Wing, Pacific Wing, Ocean Wing, and for the more luxury inclined traveller, the Lanai Rustic Villas and Suites.

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It is worth the research as many resorts offer 3-day/2-night specials which we happened to chance upon. This had us in the Ocean wing in a spacious room complete with big fluffy bed and a bathtub you could fit a small family in.

After a lazy afternoon watching the sunset, we headed to the restaurant to indulge in the international buffet laid out before us, complete with local delicacies and rather tempting desserts. One thing I will never get enough of is the food in Malaysia.

Roti Canai (it is Penang's institution) is a must wherever you go, so if you get the chance, try it there.

Do also try 'Ice Kacang' - a local dessert specialty NOT for the faint-hearted with a rainbow of ingredients including rose syrup, condensed milk, peanuts, corn, red bean, coconut syrup, all topped off with a scoop of ice cream.

I'll admit, after my first mouthful I made my decision and it wasn't positive. Regardless of whether or not you try Ice Kacang, the amazing curries, delectable satay, delicious seafood and the fresh seasonal fruit will have you unbuttoning your jeans and breathing that heavy 'oh heavens - no more' sigh.

We waddled back to our room hand in hand while breathing in the fresh ocean air and stopping to glance at the moon rising over the sea. I slept like a baby.

The next morning we woke up to find the balcony had been commandeered by two mischievous locals, and by locals I mean

monkeys. There is a clear sign stating to keep your belongings in your room and your doors locked as they have figured out how to open them. I had left a water bottle on the balcony the day before which proved to be quite entertaining for both the monkeys and us as we watched them comically trying to open it.

We ate breakfast (meals are all inclusive with the specials by the way) and set off to see what the day would bring. The resort offers a plethora of activities to keep you occupied including an array of water sports, snorkeling, two swimming pools, a mini golf course, free tennis and archery and much more.

We decided to hire a scooter for the day and after intensely eyeing Christopher as he went for a trial run and deciding I would be safe, we doubled up and sped off to explore the island.

Pulau Pangkor has a land area of only 8 square kilometres and a population of approximately 25,000 islanders, so you can imagine it doesn't take very long to circumnavigate the entire island.

Sadly, it is heavily promoted as a low-key tourist destination, but it has many attractive features amongst its resorts and beaches. Fishing and fish products remain as major industries on the island which explains the overwhelming smell that invades your nostrils as you approach the main town.

Dried fish is considered a specialty here and they do not disappoint. Piles and piles of tiny dried specimens line the main street. If you can stand the smell, it's worth the look.



**MAKE MINE A**





Keep your eyes open for the giant Monitor Lizards. We came around a bend to be greeted by one enormous fellow. Christopher suddenly forgot how to stop the scooter (a likely story...) and when we did finally stop, we were too far ahead. I tried to sneak back to take a photo but it shot off into the forest!

We continued our scooter ride through the villages and felt the temperature rise and fall as we whizzed past the shore line and up through the jungle. There are several lookout stops on the way and with little to no traffic, the roads are basically yours. It is an altogether superb little town with friendly locals who exist as they have always existed.

They had no idea where Papua New Guinea was, but it didn't matter, as long as we were having fun and enjoying our stay. I thanked my

chauffer with a kiss as we arrived back at the resort in time to catch the daily spectacle that is feeding the hornbills.

These magnificent looking birds flock to the feeding station every evening at around dusk to indulge in the fruits the resort has to offer. It is a rather noisy affair and you are advised to stay well back as the birds can become quite aggressive. The sun setting over the ocean as a back-drop, is a magical sight and makes for some wonderful photos.

Our last day at the resort was spent doing very little. After breakfast, we pulled up a chair each and lay quietly reading our books while soaking up the atmosphere. It was around then that we decided it was time to have a sand castle building competition.

To the winner would go, well nothing really, but it was fun none-the-less. We divided our tools and commenced construction.

The always ambitious Christopher decided to embark on quite an elaborate design, a circular establishment complete with underground tunnel and moat. He scoffed at my simple traditional blueprint and I smiled to myself knowing full well that by the time the tide came in, my castle would be built, however, he would still be madly trying to complete his all mighty creation.

As I had predicted, the last laugh was mine. The tide edged closer and my fortress was not only complete, but complete with tenants (a group of visibly alarmed crabs that a rather chatty young girl had decided would inhabit my castle).

I congratulated Christopher on his valiant effort (as it crumbled into the ocean) and we bid our talkative young friend and her family of confused crabs farewell.

The ferry back to Lumut leaves three times a day, I would suggest catching the 1pm to give you enough time to get back to KL before dark but of course that's entirely up to you! We said goodbye to the wonderful staff and reassured them we would be back very soon.

I was completely relaxed and couldn't have asked for more. Places like Pangkor are perfect for a quick getaway and remember, it is only one of hundreds of resorts to choose from.

• Check out: <http://www.tourism.gov.my/> for more information, I also found this website helpful for information on Malaysian beaches and islands: <http://www.malaysia-islands.com/>



✈ **Air Niugini flies to Singapore on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and one can catch Malaysian Airlines to KL. From KL, you can fly direct to Pangkor or catch a bus to Lumut and then a ferry to Pangkor Island.**



# HARBOUR CITY

## Shimmering like crushed diamonds in the mid-day sun

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY: GLENN A. BAKER



Familiarity may not, as the old maxim goes, breed contempt, nor even necessarily indifference, but those who have spent their lives near wondrous things can sometimes take them for granted.

That occurred to me as I was perched more than 30 floors above Circular Quay, just behind the billowing sails of the Sydney Opera House, commentating for British radio, as the clock ticked away the minutes towards 2000.

Expatriate Clive James was once rendered rhapsodic because Sydney Harbour was "shimmering like crushed diamonds in the mid-day sun".

At midnight on New Year's Eve, there was

so shortage of shimmering, though the sun's role was replaced by 200,000 individual explosions engineered by the two renowned fireworks masters who ply their trade from Sydney to the world - Syd Howard and Vince Foti.

Over 25 minutes, 20 tonnes of artfully engineered pyrotechnics ignited from four barges, nine rooftops, the Sydney Harbour Bridge and even the pinnacle of the Opera House, bathed the harbour in a spectacular shower of erratic and ecstatic illumination which elicited gasps not from just the one million plus folk gathered along the shores but uncountable millions across the planet viewing the benevolent blitzkrieg on screens.





That night, as rock star Iva Davies (of Icehouse) struck up the Sydney Symphony Orchestra on the forecourt of the Opera House to perform his Great Southern Land epic, a flotilla of 18 three-storey high sea creatures (including a crayfish, shark, bluebottle and blue-ringed octopus) built as Chinese lanterns, symbolically climbed out of the deep to join the celebrations and the A-list likes of Kidman, Cruise and MacGregor bobbed about on billionaires' yachts as excited as the families clinging to any vantage point on shore, there was a communal sense of child-like wonderment in the air.

As any Sydney cab driver will tell you if the subject arises, the Yarra (Melbourne) is a muddy puddle masquerading as a river, the Torrens (Adelaide) and Swan (Perth) are not much better, and Moreton Bay (Brisbane) is a mere dent in the coastline. But Sydney Harbour, now there's a waterway! And it is. More stirring, more remarkable as a natural setting for a modern city than any contender even the citizens of San Francisco or Rio would dare to submit for consideration.

In researching a book on the city, Wales' Jan Morris, the doyen of travel writers, reached the conclusion that "The only constant of all Sydney opinion, the one leitmotiv of writing about this city from the very beginning of its history, is the beauty of its harbour.

"It is as though Sydneysiders

feel the harbour to be their one unassailable satisfaction. It is extraordinary still how often Sydney people comment upon their harbour's beauty; and perhaps by now, it is a matter of self-productive convention, like the British conversational obsession with the weather."

We talk about it, certainly, but we also use it and always have. Not Ganges-like to sanctify our bodies or bear away cremation ashes, but as a physical and spiritual gathering point during time of celebration and ritual process.

From floggings to fireworks, executions to extravaganzas, opera listening to oyster eating, the harbour is a willing host, a stately stage.

Even when there is no pageantry - no sleek maxi-yachts hurtling toward the heads in a mad dash toward Hobart each Boxing Day, no Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Mary II gliding toward their moorings on the same day and nearly paralysing the city's road traffic in the process, no celebrity ceremonies around Circular Quay - the surface can be as busy as the ice rink of a European park.

Red water taxis skim across the swells left by lumbering Manly ferries, warships return to Garden Island dockyard from some unspecified manoeuvres while a lone windsurfer battles to stay upright as a news helicopter swoops down to capture aerial footage of the multi-million dollar mansion of a recently divorced social butterfly.

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**No one in Sydney ever wastes time debating the meaning of life - it's getting yourself a water frontage. People devote a lifetime to the quest.**



At times, it seems as if the water itself is almost incidental. Apart from Sydney's 60 kilometres of coastline, there are 240km of harbour foreshore, every inch of which is no less valuable than Tokyo's Ginza, London's Mayfair or New York's Fifth Avenue. Since the first successful merchants of Sydney Cove sought to remove themselves from the squalor of their penal colony cum shanty town the rich have known where to build their palaces, swimming pools and tennis courts, site their docks and erect their no trespassing signs.

Close to the city, the heavily-populated northside edges of the harbour can resemble the shores of the Bosphorus, while the commercial zones from Circular Quay around to Darling Harbour and Pyrmont are not unlike Manhattan, Hong Kong and Singapore. But along the opulent, lushly foliated inlets, bays, points and heads, with any land not claimed by parks, zoos and public beaches, comparisons are harder to pin down. For, it has been said, this is where the myth of egalitarian Australian is effectively shredded.

That a harbour view is the key to wealth and position in Australia was underlined by recent tax office statistics that listed seven of Australia's ten wealthiest postcodes (by average income) as suburbs or areas alongside or within a direct line of sight of Sydney Harbour.

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At the top of the list, with an average taxable income per resident of A\$83,645 was 2027, which embraces the glitzy Point Piper, Darling Point and Rushcutters Bay.

Of the top 13 postcodes on the list, only three were not in Sydney (though Melbourne's Toorak did come in second).

It was the character Elaine Ross, the literary agent in David Williamson's defining play and film *The Emerald City*, when lifting the veil of innocence from a Melbourne screenwriter, who said it best: "Money is more important here. Why? To edge yourself closer to a view.

In Melbourne, the views are equally depressing so there's no point. No one in Sydney ever wastes time debating the meaning of life - it's getting yourself a water frontage. People devote a lifetime to the quest."

Not always, as it happens. For centuries, it qualified as the world's best kept secret - known only to the land's indigenous inhabitants, the Aboriginals of the Laura tribe, part of the oldest surviving race on earth.

These indigenous people did not use the land but rather harmoniously existed with it. They changed nothing, they built nothing,

they left no physical mark beyond some cave paintings. Though European arrival was inevitable, a series of oversights helped preserve its pristine state for many decades.

That it has risen, in just two centuries and a bit, as a pre-eminent metropolis of the new world, a bright, brash, glittering Xanadu at the bottom of the planet, is impressive. That it has done so by dint of dogged determination and imagination, against a backdrop of sometimes unspeakable cruelty and isolation, retaining good humour and liberal tolerance along the way, is miraculous.



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*Washed by the Pacific, warmed by a mild Mediterranean climate and usually enveloped by impossibly blue skies, Australia's harbour city is home to a staggeringly diverse array of humanity that adapts to its undemanding ways with disarming ease.*



Sydney has the pace, vigour, openness, the cultural assault, tingling licentiousness, the greed, power and wealth, all with a self-sufficient smirk plastered across its broad, freckled, suntanned face. And most important of all, it has the bloody grandeur.

The harbour sets the tone of life and its use or misuse can engender vigorous debate. For years, environmental battles have been waged over the allocation of harbour foreshore land for public use.

A noble cause, to be sure, but one put into perspective by the overwhelming popularity of the 54-hectare Darling Harbour project,

which was more a case of reclamation than restoration.

For a hundred years, Darling Harbour was an anchorage in decline, a factory zone, a rail goods yard, an industrial eyesore and a grimy urban slum.

Then came the grandiose schemes for a harbour promenade and complex of public facilities which Sydney folk were prepared to believe only when they opened their baby blue eyes and saw it all to be true.

Let there be no doubt that on a fine Sydney weekend, no more than a handful of its citizens have a desire to tramp around

Sydney Harbour National Park listening to cicadas chirp (or rub their legs together or whatever it is they do) and picking paspalum out of their trouser cuffs, but tumultuous hordes descend upon the shops, aquarium, maritime museum, IMAX cinema, exhibition and convention centre, amphitheatre, Chinese garden, electronic entertainment complexes and restaurants of the much-embraced Darling Harbour.


Sited in the nearby bays and inlets is the Sydney Theatre and Dance Companies and the Star City Casino. Across the harbour at Milson's Point, near the northern shadow of the Harbour Bridge, behind a vast, welcoming, laughing mouth, Luna Park entertains yet another generation of Sydneysiders with its terrifically tacky treats.

The acceptance of Darling Harbour and the vitality of the areas and attractions that surround it says something about Sydney's outgoing spirit. It may be the weather, it may be the location, it may be the standard of living, or it may just be a sense of inalienable right to be and do and go and enjoy at will.

Washed by the Pacific, warmed by a mild Mediterranean climate and usually enveloped by impossibly blue skies, Australia's harbour city is home to a staggeringly diverse array of humanity that adapts to its undemanding ways with disarming ease.

Sydney Harbour may only be a body of water but my New Year's resolution is to never take it for granted again!



 Air Niugini flies to Sydney twice a week - on Friday and Sunday.

# RIVER RAFTING PRISTINE WILDERNESS

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY: SEAN HOBBS

Visitors to Fiji anticipate a marine wonderland - snorkelling in pristine waters with colourful corals, lounging on white sandy beaches, and perhaps shark diving for the more adventurous. But fewer travellers realise that Fiji's interior offers some stunning natural attractions as well.



One of these is the Upper Navua Conservation Area, an internationally acclaimed wetland. This pristine wilderness is accessible thanks to Rivers Fiji, an eco-tourism company that operates white-water rafting trips through the Upper Navua gorge.

I am heading to the conservation area for my maiden attempt at white-water rafting. We meet early at the Rivers Fiji office on the grounds of The Pearl South Pacific Resort in Pacific Harbour, about a three-hour drive southeast from Nadi international airport.

My guide for the day, Moses Batirua, begins to detail our itinerary by stabbing a large map on the wall with his finger. We will make our way into the Fijian highlands, he says, until we reach the vicinity of Nabukelevu village.

This will take about an hour. Here, we will board rafts and make our way 24 kilometres downstream on the Navua River, which will take around four hours including a stop for lunch.

The finger on the map traces the river's course until it stops at Wainadiro village.

At this point, Moses says, we pack up our kit, change into dry clothes, get back on the bus, and drive for a little over an hour back to Pacific Harbour.

On the 4WD bus, we bounce into the mountains along a rutted dirt track. I can smell the sweet, moist odour of rainforest and fertile earth.

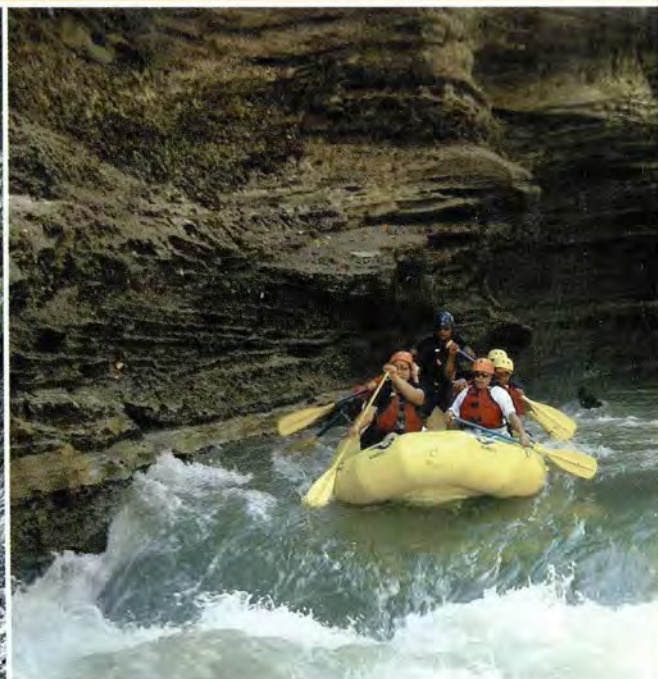
The sun's morning rays stream through the bus windows, and outside there is a splendid vista of lush green forest.

There is also evidence of mahogany and pine logging along the track but once we make it to the conservation area, the vegetation changes noticeably.

The forest cover is now thicker and undisturbed. We are in the heart of Fiji. When we reach the end of the track, we exit the bus, don vests, helmets, and get issued with a paddle.

There is an easy 10-minute bushwalk to the 'put in' point where the rafts and equipment have been prepared in advance.

After a paddling and safety demonstration, it is time to clamber into a canary yellow inflatable raft.



### Spectacular scenery

I'm in the same boat as Moses who sits at the stern and steers using two large oars. We start our journey downriver by gliding gently into a picturesque canyon with high rock walls and abundant vegetation.

The scenery is spectacular but the serenity doesn't last long as we soon begin picking up speed on a collision course with the first set of rapids.

As the white-water comes into view, my adrenal glands kick into gear and my grip on the paddle tightens.

When we hit the rapids water sprays high over our heads and a wave rolls over the front end of the boat. I am soaked instantly from head to toe.

I find myself sitting momentarily in an inflatable yellow bathtub filled to the brim. There is water everywhere and I can't help but be filled with glee, it's like being a kid all over again.

As we emerge from the other side of the rapid, the water empties from the vessel quickly and we ready ourselves for the next assault, just metres ahead. All around me I can hear screams of exhilaration ricocheting off the canyon walls as each group smashes into turbulent water.



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**Special place**

“Coming through the gorge just makes me think ‘Wow!’, it’s such a special space. It’s worth preserving for the benefit of humankind,” says Taholo.

The Upper Navua Conservation Area is recognised as a wetland of international importance by the Ramsar Convention, a treaty that seeks to protect the ecology of the world’s unique wetlands.

The Upper Navua, like other Ramsar sites, is a haven for endemic and endangered species. Many of these species are still unknown to science. Only recently new species of gobie fish have been recorded in the Navua River and it is believed that more aquatic and terrestrial species remain to be discovered in the area.

Rafting down the river it is possible to see numerous Sago Palms, which are unique to Fiji and threatened with extinction.

After lunch, all the wastes are stowed on the rafts and we paddle back into the current feeling energised and ready for another session. The next few hours are filled with excitement and splendour.

After careening through multiple sets of rapids we enter another majestic canyon and float peacefully on glassy water.

This pattern continues for the next few hours as we alternate between gliding along sublime stretches of river with panoramic views and spearheading Class III rapids with steely determination and hearts in our throats. It is a fantastic adventure amidst awesome beauty.

A little over the halfway mark we make a stop where a tributary feeds into the Navua River and disembark onto a rock platform. The guides retrieve food from waterproof bags and lay out a fresh lunch, and thankfully plenty of it. Meanwhile the rest of the rafters lounge in translucent blue rock pools and relax beneath cool waterfalls.

During lunch, I speak with Taholo Kami, the Regional Director in Oceania for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Taholo and other members of the IUCN team have come to the Upper Navua to experience not just the thrill of white-water rafting but also to appreciate the conservation area’s unique biology and habitat.

*“Coming through the gorge just makes me think ‘Wow!’, it’s such a special space. It’s worth preserving for the benefit of humankind.”*



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*The sun is setting and I feel great. I've enjoyed an action-packed day in an incredible location and helped support the local environment and community along the way.*



### First eco-tourism project

By the time we make it back to Pacific Harbour, I am both jubilant and exhausted.

Back at the office, Kim Anderson, the General Manager, tells me more about Rivers Fiji.

"We were the first ecological and sustainable tourism enterprise in Fiji. We are also the first and only land leased for conservation purposes in Fiji," he explains.

The company leases land from nine mataqali or land owning clans along the river. "We established the conservation area and then


in 2006 with help from government and the Department of Environment we had the area recognised as a Ramsar site," Kim says.

"We are the stewards for the conservation area and approximately 58 Fijian dollars from each tourist goes directly to the community, the mataqali, in the form of direct payments.

"That's not including the employment and other things we do for the villages. All of our guides are hired from the mataqali along the river. They represent their mataqali first and work for Rivers Fiji second," Kim says.

"We also fund medical outreaches for the villages and provide free transport. A tremendous amount of the money Rivers Fiji makes goes back in to the community - it's a marriage between us and the villages and people of the highlands."

The sun is setting and I feel great. I've enjoyed an action-packed day in an incredible location and helped support the local environment and community along the way.

 Air Niugini flies to Nadi two times a week on Friday and Sunday.



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# AIR NIUGINI GETS CRICKET LEGENDS TO PLAY IN PNG

*Above: Some of the cricket legends who came to play in Port Moresby with Air Niugini officials: From left are: Adam Holliake, Graham Hick, Aravinda De Silva, Dominic Kaumu (PX), Scott Syris, Captain Daniel Wanma (Air Niugini), Wasantha Kumarasiri (CEO, Air Niugini), Merv Hughes, Carl Hooper and Greg Campbell (GM-Cricket PNG)*

**AS PART OF ITS ONGOING SPONSORSHIP** for Cricket PNG, Air Niugini supported the recent "MVIL/MMI 'Don't Drink & Drive' Legends Bash" by sponsoring flights from Australia for cricket legends including; Carl Hooper (West Indies), Aravinda De Silva (Sri Lanka), Scott Styris (New Zealand), Merv Hughes and Michael Dighton (Australia), Graham Hick and Adam Hollioake (England).

The cricket legends were chosen to play for the six participating teams, one of which was Air Niugini Jets, in the T-20 competition which was held on September 8-9 at Amini Park, Port Moresby.







# Engineering Cadets Head to New Zealand

*Above: Twelve cadet engineers with Air Niugini Chief Operating Officer, Capt Daniel Wamma, and the management team prior to departing for New Zealand. The cadets include Allan Gaige, John Toroda, Benjamin Koa, Chuck Matane, Elton Tunkia, Sanjay Eorage, Jacob Tuges, Kanawi Wamma, Steven Alois, Kupa Korua, Mark Uberawa and Reginald Jalina.*

**AIR NIUGINI AND AIR NEW ZEALAND** Aviation Institute have signed a ten-year agreement for EASA B1 and B2 Basic Engineering Maintenance and on-job training.

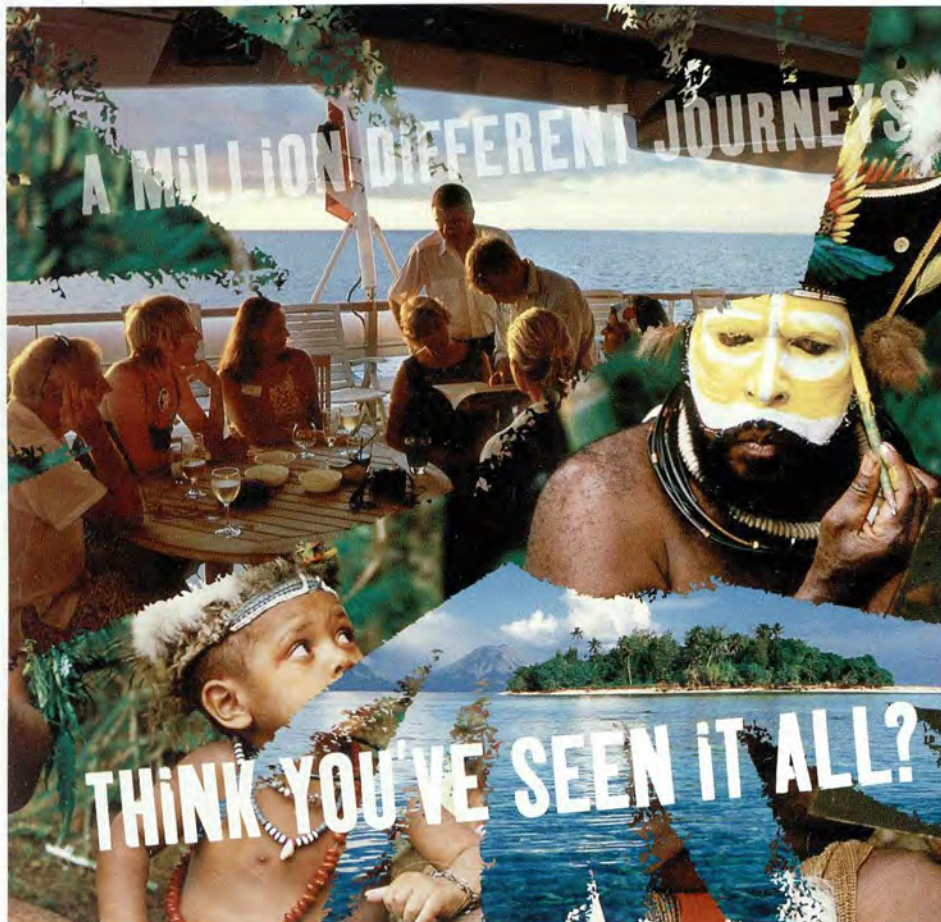
The signing saw the first batch of 12 engineering cadets from Air Niugini leave for Christchurch in September to begin a four-year training with Air New Zealand Aviation Institute.

The programme will provide theory, practical training and assessment of an approved EASA 147 Basic Maintenance course in the first two years and the formal training course will follow for a further two years of on-job training with Air Zealand Technical Operations and Air Nelson Technical; both Part 145 approved organisations.

During their on-job training postings, the engineer cadets will be embedded into both MRO operations to gain the experience required to support a B1.1 or B2 licence application. An additional aim of these final two years is to build type experience concurrently with basic licence experience on Boeing 737 and Bombardier Q400 as these aircraft types are consistent with Air Niugini.

The opportunity to complete both the formal Part 147 training and Part 145 experience within the same organisation is quiet unique.

A second group of engineering cadets will begin their studies in February 2013 with regular intakes planned for the remainder of the term of the agreement.



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# Amenity Kits for Business Class Passengers

**AIR NIUGINI HAS LAUNCHED** a new amenity kit for incoming Business Class customers on night flights from Singapore, Manila, Hong Kong and Narita.

The amenity kit contains comfort items such as an eye-mask, socks, earplugs, comb, toothpaste and toothbrush.

An impressive addition to the kit is a number of Palmer's skin-care products.

The Palmer's collection includes a 30g tube of Cocoa Butter, a sensual and rich lotion that contains Vitamin E to protect and nourish hands and elbows. A 10g tube of Lip Butter is included to protect lips against the dehydrating atmosphere of the air-conditioned cabin.

Also in the kit are 15g tubes of Palmer's Gentle Daily Cleanser and Palmer's Daily Facial Lotion - products that assist to refresh, brighten and hydrate the skin, ensuring that Air Niugini Business Class passengers arrive at their destination revitalised and refreshed.

The Palmer's Collection has been introduced by Air Niugini in collaboration with Trend's Beauty Products, a Papua New Guinea

company established in 1991 that has been at the forefront of developing the hair and beauty industry in Papua New Guinea.

Trends also operates a number of spas in Port Moresby under their Spa Pua trademark and is offering a 50% discount voucher for a 90-minute massage as part of the amenity kit.

Speaking at the launch of the new Business Class amenity kit held at Bacchus Restaurant in Port Moresby, Air Niugini Board Chairman Garth McIlwain said that Air Niugini has embarked on a programme of improvement throughout the entire cabin of its international fleet of Boeing 767s.

"We have also introduced new blankets in both Economy and Business Class, and by mid-2013, our customers will see the results of the substantial investment we have made in upgrading cabin seating along with a state-of-the-art in-seat entertainment system," Mr McIlwain said.

Air Niugini also took the opportunity to showcase the second phase of its new-look cabin crew uniforms, the result of a research carried out following the introduction of the new uniforms in 2010.



"Air Niugini is committed to continuous improvement and to do so, we are looking at every aspect of our business to ensure our stakeholders, including the travelling public, receive maximum returns on their investment" Mr McIlwain added.

Mr McIlwain also thanked the Board of Air Niugini, the Board and management of IPBC and the Minister for State-Owned Enterprises for their support and guidance in improving Air Niugini's service to the travelling public.



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