

Paradise

inflight with air niugini

VOL 6, 2006





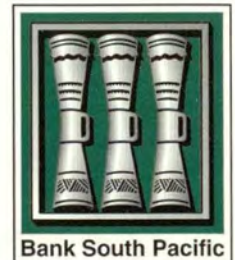
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Chairman's Message

Welcome aboard.

We celebrate Air Niugini's 33rd anniversary on November 1, 2006. From its humble beginnings as a domestic airline operating DC3 and F27 aircraft, we are now an international airline serving eight international destinations as well as 20 domestic airports.

The airline is operating well developed regional and international routes with a strong Asian and Australian focus backed by an extensive domestic network.

During the 33 years of operation, Air Niugini as the national airline of Papua New Guinea has endeavoured to, and continues to strive to provide excellent service to our passengers.

Our record of dedicated inflight service by our pleasant and attentive flight crew, highly qualified pilots and professional engineers have contributed to the airline's success. Additionally, our ground staff comprise of skilled technicians, travel and cargo specialists and administrators. The management of Air Niugini is committed to the ongoing training and development of national high potential staff.

Air Niugini currently operates a fleet of one Boeing 767, four F28s, three F100s, four Dash 8-200 turbo prop, with an additional two F100s joining the fleet before the end of the year. Our symbol, the Bird of Paradise, is a striking presence at airports in Australia, Japan, Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Solomon Islands.

As a 100 percent state-owned enterprise, Air Niugini visibly impacts daily on the lives of Papua New Guinea people and visitors. At Air Niugini, we have a strong sense that as the vital institution that we have become, the national airline is an asset that Papua New Guinea cares about and takes pride in.

I am confident that Air Niugini will become a strong and commercially viable business. The company is already making progress in turning around the financial performance of the airline. We look forward to future achievements, of serving Papua New Guinea, our citizens and our visitors.

As this is the final issue of Paradise for 2006, I would like to thank our valued customers for flying with Air Niugini on both our domestic and international services. I assure our customers that Air Niugini will continue to strive to provide the highest customer service to our passengers.

This time of the year is also the busiest for the airline with holiday makers travelling overseas and around the country to spend Christmas with their families and loved ones.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, management and staff of Air Niugini, I wish each and everyone a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Thank you for flying with Air Niugini and enjoy your flight.

J.Tjoeng CBE
Chairman



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CONTENTS

Phebe Parkinson

The riveting tale of Queen Emma's younger sister

14-20

Swamp Ghost No More

WWII wreck salvaged

22-26

Madang's German Connection

A 450-page book by James Sinclair

27-32

The Ghost Mountain

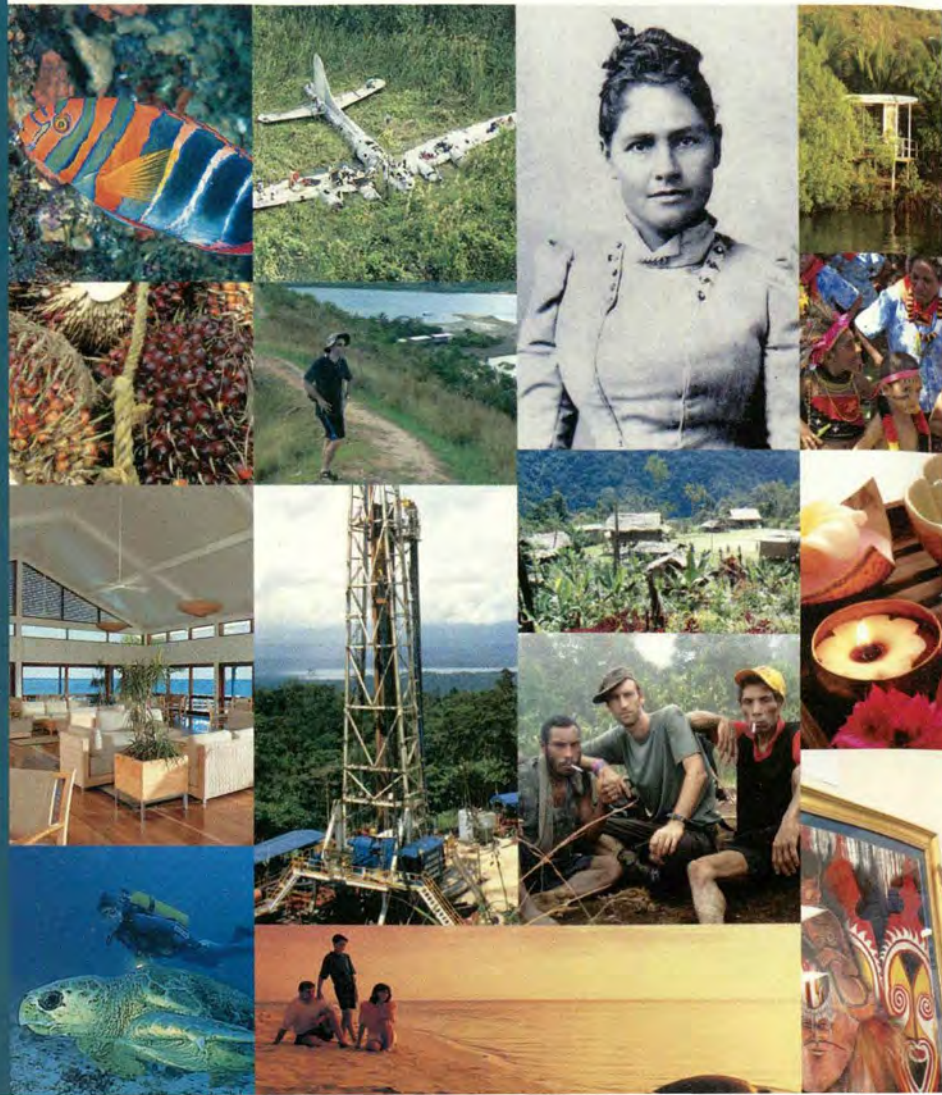
A forgotten part of American history

45-47

Happy Birthday

PNG celebrates 31 years of independence

49-52





The Smiling Islands

The 'relaxing face' of the capital

PNG's Cassowary

In Guinness World Records

Spa Pua

Port Moresby's 'little heaven'

Pacific's Answer to Economic Boom

Our natural resources

Haven on Heron

Intimate interaction with nature

54-59

60-62

63-65

66-69

70-74



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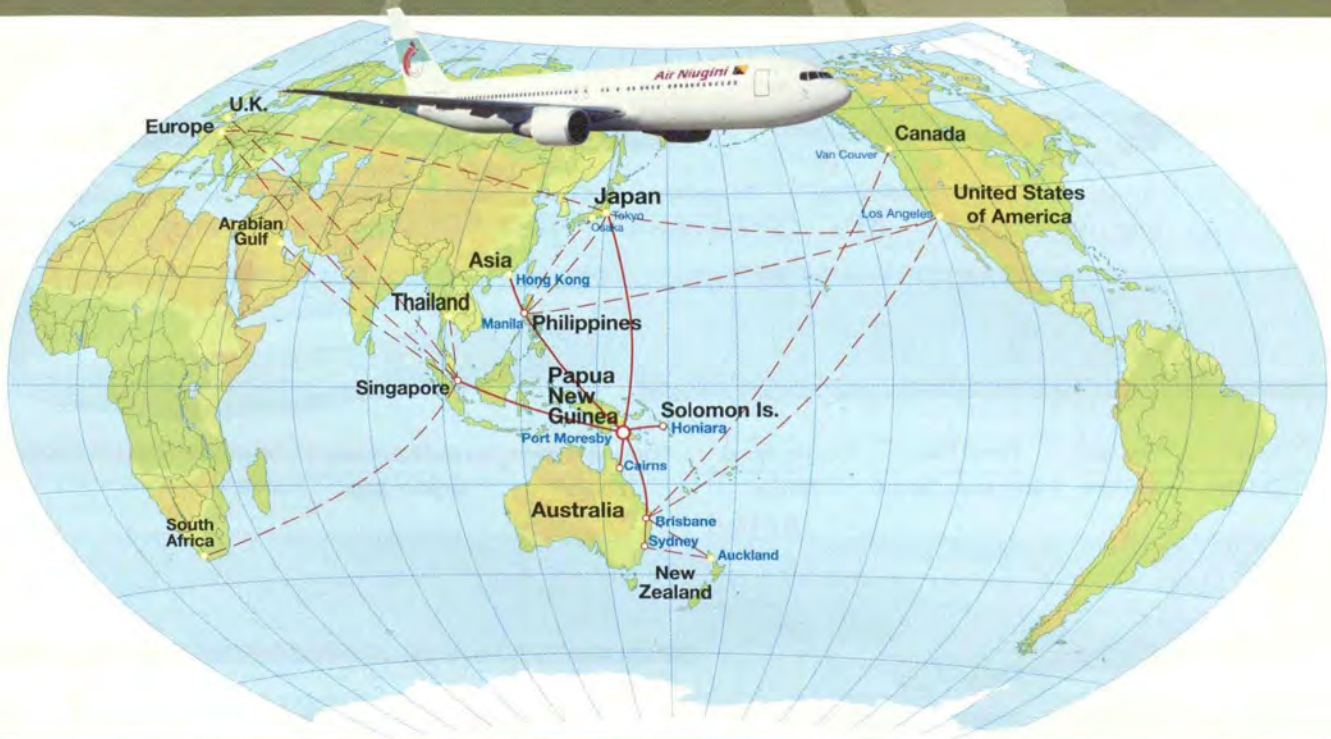
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Air Niugini Fleet

Nobody Knows Papua New Guinea like Air Niugini!



B767-319ER

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

F100



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



F28-4000

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

DHC-8-202



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

Welcome Aboard

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

Takeoff and landing

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

Safety first

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

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

Before you leave

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

Entertainment

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

Hand luggage

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

Pillows and blankets

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

Children and babies

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

Electronic equipment

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



Air Niugini

Medical information

In Flight Health Tips and Exercises

Your Health In-Flight

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

Blood Circulation/Muscle Relaxation

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

- The central blood vessels in your legs can be compressed, making it more difficult for the blood to get back to your heart.
- The long inactivity of your body muscles in this position can result in muscle tension, back aches or a feeling of excessive fatigue during, or even after, your flight.
- A stationary position inhibits the normal body mechanism for returning fluid to your heart, and gravity can cause the fluid to collect in your feet. This results in swollen feet after a long flight.
- Studies have concluded that prolonged immobility may be a risk factor in the formation of clots in the legs (DVT - deep vein thrombosis). Particular medication and medical conditions may increase the risk of formation of clots if associated with prolonged immobility. Medical research indicates that factors which may give you an increased risk of blood clots in the legs include:
 - Increasing age above 40 years
 - Pregnancy
 - Former or current malignant disease
 - Blood disorders leading to increased clotting tendency
 - Personal or family history of DVT
 - Recent major surgery or injury, especially to lower limbs or abdomen
 - Oestrogen hormone therapy, including oral contraceptives
 - Immobilisation for a day or more

- Dehydration
- Heart failure
- Trauma
- Varicose veins
- Obesity
- Tobacco smoking

Recommendations:

- If you fall into any of these categories or you have any concern about your health and flying, Air Niugini recommends you seek medical advice before travelling.
- While inflight, move your legs and feet for three to four minutes per hour while seated and move about the cabin occasionally, if conditions allow.
- Doing light exercises as depicted in the sketches below may be effective in increasing the body's blood circulation and massaging the muscles.

Jetlag

The main cause of jetlag is travelling to different time zones without giving the body a chance to adjust to new night-day cycles. In general, the more time zones you cross during your flight, the more your biological clock is disturbed. The common symptoms are sleeplessness, tiredness, loss of appetite or appetite at odd hours.

We recommend that you:

- Get a good night's rest before your flight.
- Arrive at your destination a day or two early, if possible, to give your body a chance to become more acclimatised to the new time zone.
- Fly direct to minimise flight time, when possible. This allows you to relax more upon arrival.
- Leave your watch on home time if you're staying at your destination less than 48 hours. Also try to eat and sleep according to your home time.
- Change your watch to the local time if your stay is longer than 48 hours, and try to eat and sleep in accordance with the local time.

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

In Flight Workout

These exercises are designed to encourage a safe way to enjoy movement and stretch certain muscle groups that can become stiff as a result of long periods sitting. They may be effective in increasing the body's blood circulation and massaging the muscles. We recommend you do these exercises for three or four minutes every hour and occasionally get out of your seat and walk down the aisles if conditions allow. Each exercise should be done with minimal disturbance to other passengers. None of the following should be performed if they cause pain or cannot be done with ease.

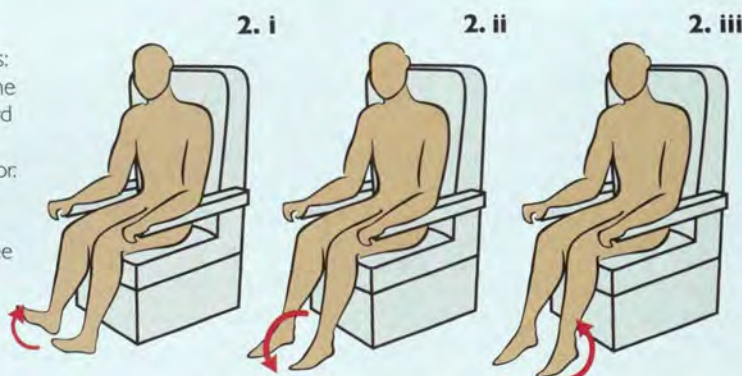
1. Ankle Circles

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



2. Foot Pumps

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



Medical information

In Flight Health Tips and Exercises

- Try some light exercise - go for a brisk walk, or do some reading if you can't sleep after arrival at your destination. It generally takes the body's biological clock approximately one day to adjust per time zone crossed.

Cabin Humidity/Dehydration

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

We recommend that you:

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

Eating and Drinking

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

We recommend that you:

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

Cabin Pressurisation

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

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

Recommendations:

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

Motion Sickness

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

Recommendations:

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

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

3. Knee Lifts

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



4. Neck Roll

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



5. Knee to Chest

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



6. Forward Flex

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



7. Shoulder Roll

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



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The story of "Queen Emma" has long been regarded as perhaps the most romantic and exotic tale of the South Pacific.

Scholars and scribes have written thousands of words in their attempts to chronicle the experiences of Emma Coe, the half-Samoan, half-American beauty, who dominated a marriage partnership to create a legendary plantation empire and star in an exotic pioneering landscape of 19th century New Guinea.

Yet an equally riveting tale is to be told of Emma's younger sister, Phebe.

Phebe married at 16 to Richard Parkinson, who was then 34 and the son of Duke of Augustenborg, of Danish and German parentage.



Husband Richard Parkinson.

The Riveting Tale of Queen Emma's Younger Sister **PHEBE PARKINSON**

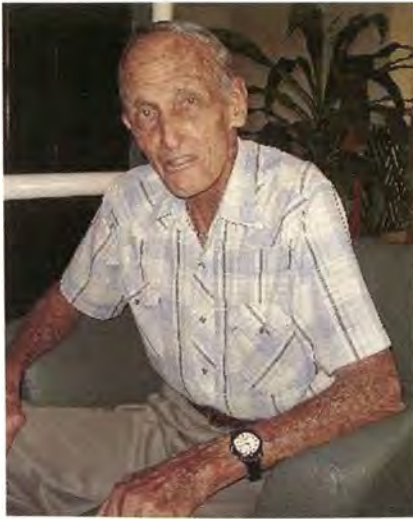
By Noel Pascoe

Two years later, the couple joined "Queen Emma" at Herbertsohe or Kokopo, as it was to become later, in the years before Germany annexed New Guinea under its control.

Kokopo was to become Emma's fiefdom as she established a plantation empire and a social empire for which she became famous as the hostess of extravagant parties for Germany's colonial rulers, ship captains and military and business pioneers of the region.

Alongside her was sister Phebe, who was just 18, when she sailed into Rabaul's Simpsons Harbour in 1881 with husband Richard.

She died in miserable captivity almost 63 years later under the wartime Japanese rulers of New Guinea, a month short of her 81st birthday.



Alf Uechtritz...grandson.

But she was far from forgotten. The matriarch of the Parkinson family, the mother of 10 children, had been a loving grandmother to her grandchildren and a remarkable woman in the strict plantation society.

One in particular, Alf Uechtritz, remembered Granny Parkinson fondly from the years spent in his childhood on Sum Sum plantation in the Bainings area of what is now East New Britain.

Alf's parents, Peter and Johanna, parted company in 1930 when Alf was only four years old. Phebe ran the Sum Sum household and was still there when Alf was shunted off to boarding school at the tender age of seven in 1934.

"I loved to listen to stories told by Gran about the early years of Samoa, as well as the early years of settlement at Kuradui and Ralum, Malapau and also about Gunantambu, my aunt Emma's place," Alf, a sprightly farmer who has just turned 80, recalled.

"Everyone, black white and brindle, loved Gran. She was always a happy person, gentle and soft-spoken but a great organiser with a twinkle in her eye.

"All the piccaninnies and the labour line would always

Kuradui homestead.



run to her. They would do anything for her."

So, as it turned out, would grandson Alf. He would trace the pathway of Phebe Parkinson 60 years later and with loving care have her reunited long after death with her beloved Richard.

Husband Richard had become famous well before his death in 1909 for his writings in "*Thirty Years in the South Seas*". He excelled as a surveyor, anthropologist, botanist, planter and author.

Phebe was a vital marriage partner, excelling at running the pioneer era household, giving birth to and rearing 10 children, and aiding Richard in his research with her invaluable knowledge of the local Tolai language and customs, and snippets of other languages.

As Richard toured the villages to amass information, Phebe would often be at his side, interpreting for him and the villagers.

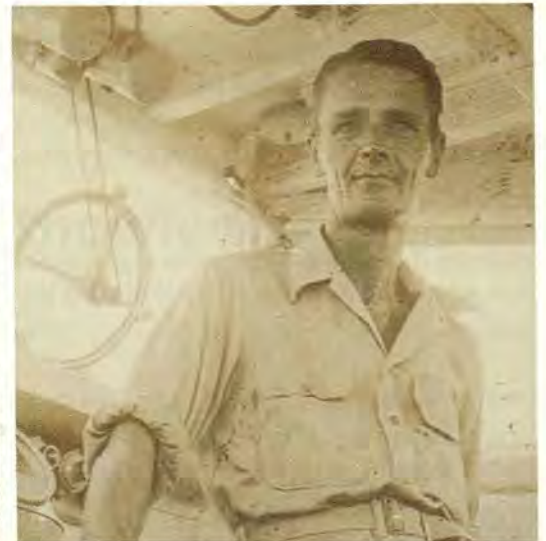
Grandson Alf returned from boarding school in 1937 for Christmas holidays and visited Phebe at a plantation near Kokopo, where she was living with Rudi Diercke, her eldest grandchild.

"It was great to see Granny again after all those years in Australia," Alf said. "She still had a small block of land near Raluana village with a small house and stayed there at times."

It was the last time Alf and his brother Ewald would see her. When they returned for Christmas in 1938, as the shadows of the European war gathered, Phebe had moved with Rudi to a plantation in nearby New Ireland.

Alf's father, Peter Karl Gustav Uechtritz, was interned like many other German citizens when the war came to

Rudi Diercke.





"Reckless Mountain Boys" ...crash-landed on a reef off Komalu in late 1944.

New Guinea and Australia.

He had married an English woman, Rita Brain, shortly before the war and had given birth to a boy, Robert.

Alf returned to the plantation, Sum Sum, on the south coast of New Britain with his stepmother and baby half-brother. There was no money for school so the family lived off the land and sea and what they could earn in cutting timber for local businessman Jack Chipper.

It was in this time of deprivation and difficulties that Phebe Parkinson continued to live in relatively remote New Ireland in the Namatanai district.

When Japanese soldiers, sailors and fliers invaded New Ireland, 24 hours before the more famous landing at Rabaul, there was no hope for escape for elderly people like Phebe.

Young Alf and his step-mother managed to get on the last ship out of Rabaul before the Japanese landed.

Elderly Phebe and Rudi stayed on at Komalu plantation. The relative peace ended when an American bomber nicknamed the "Reckless Mountain Boys" crash-landed on a reef off Komalu in late 1944, after being shot by a Japanese Zero fighter plane.

Three of the bomber crew were shot dead. Three seriously injured fliers were rescued by Rudi and his plantation workers.

Phebe tore up bed sheets and tried her best to save the wounded airmen. Her bedroom was "a mess of blood". But all three died and were buried at Komalu. The next day, a Japanese destroyer offloaded soldiers who took the

remaining bomber crew as prisoners and accused Rudi and Granny of harbouring Allied airmen. They were taken to a prisoner of war (POW) camp at Bo, a village near Namatanai town. Rudi, with the help of some workers, built a small bush house for Granny and himself but they were always short of food.

Phebe died under the Japanese regime of ill-treatment and starvation at Bo on May 25, 1944. Her dying wish was to be buried in Catholic ground.

Rudi won permission from the Japanese to have Phebe buried next to the bush church at Bo.

Only Rudi and his post-war wife Gwen, of the family in New Guinea, knew where Gran was buried. Grandson Alf returned after the war to help retrieve the family properties, a difficult task given their German background.

In 1951, he learned that Phebe had been buried somewhere around Namatanai. But it was not until 51 years later that he found out through freakish circumstances where his beloved grandmum was.

After the war, Alf married teacher Mary Lou and they reared 10 children of their own, ran New Britain plantations, returned to Australia, then came back to Papua New Guinea to a farming life before returning to Australia for good as fruit and cattle farmers in far North Queensland.

In July 2002, Alf attended a memorial service in Kavieng, at the northern tip of New Ireland, for all those who had been killed or died under the Japanese occupation of that province.

"At the ceremony, as the names on the plaque were read out, the nearest relation went and said a few words about their relation. I told the story of how Gran was sent to the POW camp, etc, but we did not know where her grave was," Alf said recently.

Alf had given up hope of ever finding Phebe's gravesite, but a stroke of fortune was able to befall him.

"The next day we all visited places of interest. Unbeknown to me, my son Gordon and his friend had made some enquiries and Gordon was given the names of three old men at Namatanai who had lived under the Japs and might know something. Whilst we were visiting other places, Gordon set out for Namatanai and approached an old native named Das Das. When asked,



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Das Das...knew of the burial site at Bo village (right).

“wanpela misis I dai pinis na planimnabout (a white woman died here and she was buried somewhere around here?), he said he knew of the burial place.



He led Gordon about 500 yards from his village house at Bo to the gravesite of Phebe Parkinson! Gordon noticed a tangket bush (a village flower of significance in traditional customs) planted at the head of the grave. Das Das said he had planted it there because “when the Missus was buried, we could hear her voice, she was very unhappy, crying out that she wanted to be buried in her own ground”.

Das Das did not really know who Phebe Parkinson was and that her husband Richard and a daughter and three sons were all buried at the Parkinson cemetery at Kuradui in the Raluana area of East New Britain.

“I knew that Gran had wanted to be buried beside her husband, so I set in motion efforts to get permission to dig up Gran’s remains and re-bury her at Kuradui,” Alf said.

The people at Bo agreed to the move and the remains were dug up, with the greatly appreciated help of businessman Julius Violaris, based at faraway Alotau in Milne Bay, and his manager Mick Kuerschner.

They provided “caring enthusiasm, expertise, equipment and skilled workers”, according to Alf, at the recovery of the remains at Bo and later with the reconstruction of the Kuradui cemetery at Kokopo.

“Without their help, I would have been really struggling to carry out the project,” he said. “Looking back on all that it entailed, I certainly could not have done it so quickly or so well.”

The damaged cemetery needed a lot of work. The workers reconstructed the gravesite, made a base of

coral stone and erected a cross and plaque. Among Mr Violaris’s workers was a stonemason who made cement crosses to replace those lost or damaged.

Alf recalls: “The local natives, both at Bo village and Raluana were tremendously helpful, pleasant, co-operative and enthusiastic.

“The Raluana folk offered to put on a singsing for the day of the re-burial to welcome home “Big Miti” as Phebe was called. Her legend lives on!

“Digging for the remains at Bo village was a very tense and emotional time for me. We all wondered whether the lapun Das Das had really remembered the site accurately and whether we would find anything. The first signs that it was Gran’s grave came when one of the diggers found the cross from Gran’s rosary beads. My cousin Rudi Diercke had buried her with her rosary around her neck.

“Then came a brooch and the lock off the door on which she had been carried to her grave. No proper coffins under the Japanese. Much had obviously turned to dust but there was part of the skull and slivers of bones from elsewhere. These were fragile and collected carefully as well as some of the earth around them to put in the casket.”



Digging the remains of Phebe Parkinson.

For weeks before the re-burial in January 2004, arrangements had been made, much of it by email with the church at Vunapope and the New Britain Cultural Society.

Vunapope mission staff who had kept Phebe’s remains safely since October advised on the





Vunapope Cathedral...where Phebe Parkinson's reburial service was conducted.

time and place and order of services at the Vunapope Cathedral and at the graveside.

The cultural society members backed the wishes of the local people in wanting to make the day a memorable and traditional one to mark Phebe's return to the side of Richard Parkinson.

The new generation was hearing about the couple with news of the impending re-burial.

Gifts of shell money, pigs and bananas were prepared for the family well in advance. The burial was to be a news event too. Besides PNG media, there were two television crews, one from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the other from Denmark. The Danes were to broadcast their film of the burial in the week of the wedding of an Australian to the Danish prince. Anything connected with royalty then would be topical!

The burial day was suitably bright and sunny. At the cathedral, the coffin bore two crosses. One was newly bought from Innisfail, the other was smaller and very old, it was the cross that had been found in Phebe's grave from the rosary beads.

The priest, said Alf, conducted a dignified and meaningful ceremony with the nuns and altar boys. Members of the family read the prayers of the faithful, especially written to include prayers for PNG and the re-burial of Phebe.

Alf noted: "I carried the coffin to a waiting car and an assortment of vehicles and buses transport all to the cemetery. There the coffin was carried from the car to the graveside to the beat of garamuts (drums) and then put into a specially constructed small house, a Pal na Boro (Tolai words), where it would rest during the burial service. We were welcomed by the landholder.

"Father Karl Heinze Hoppe conducted the burial service with back-up from altar boys and the nuns' choir. Great granddaughter Cathy presented the reading on love from Corinthians 13, so appropriate to one who in life gave so much love to those around her.

"Some of the prayers in the service had been contributed by an Anglican priest in Australia who knew the story and structured the prayers accordingly."

Alf gave a speech in Pidgin English, telling the story of Phebe's past, including her wartime experiences, and the discovery of her grave.

Alf and Mary Lou's eldest son, Peter, spoke in Pidgin on what Phebe meant to his generation. Then two great, great granddaughters, Kalo and Phoebe, spoke in English. Kalo used a little Samoan language in deference to Phebe's Samoan ancestry, quoting a passage from famed anthropologist Margaret Mead on Phebe's skills in uniting the best in Western culture with the best in Pacific cultures. Phoebe translated the Samoan words into English.

The coffin was then lowered into the grave by Alf, Peter and Gordon. Nine of Alf and Mary Lou's children were there (one was in the United States) and laid wreaths. Later, great great grandsons filled in the grave. The wreaths and photo of Phebe were re-arranged on top of the grave. There was also a photo of Richard on his grave. These photos were later donated to the local museum.

Phebe Parkinson acting as a translator for husband Richard.





Crying no more...at the new burial site.

Singing, dancing, gift giving and ceremonials followed the burial. After each dance, members of the family presented gifts of bananas and shell money to the dancers. Gifts including raw pork were cut up on the spot and given to all the people.

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Kuradui women danced in sombre clothing, chanting in rhythm “Phebe Parkinson”.

The next dance was a spectacular Tambaran performance from Queen Emma’s area, Karavi. Later there were two “whip’ dances which involved dancers being flailed by long stems of gorgor (a type of ginger).

“The final dance,” Alf recalled, “involved some dancers who had been banished to the bush for several days with their lips sewn together so that they could not eat and drink. They danced in zombie-like fashion and were protected by minders and collapsed at the end!”

The nation’s Foreign Minister, Sir Rabbie Namaliu (since allocated the job as Treasurer) was delayed in Port Moresby but arrived for the afternoon segment, which was being held in his home area.

He spoke movingly about the tremendous contributions Richard and Phebe had made to the area and PNG generally.

Everybody, including Sir Rabbie, drove to Karavi village where there was another welcome, singing and dancing and gift giving. They also viewed “Queen Emma’s” burial place.

All this time, the active volcano, Tauruvur (or Matupit) kept erupting

with loud booming noises and throwing up spectacular shows of ash and rocks.

The Uechtritz/Parkinson family were overwhelmed by the organisation, effort and happy participation of many local people.

The New Britain Cultural Society has pledged to maintain the cemetery. It and the Parkinson story will now be part of the tourist scene.

The family were not on the next plane back to Queensland, though.

They travelled down the rugged coast to their old home, Sum Sum.

They were caught by surprise when greeted by large numbers of people who had gathered to welcome them with gifts, dancing and singing.

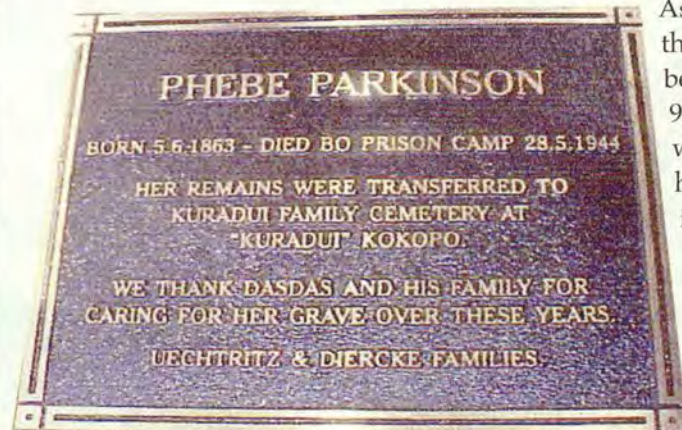
It culminated in the spectacular Baining fire dance.

The younger generation of Australians joined in the rhythmic dancing, around and around the embers of the fire.

Some of the more adventurous ran quickly through the fire. They camped at Sum Sum for two days and nights.

With everybody back into normal life, Alf says: “We all believe that Phebe is very happy now that she is finally laid to rest beside her husband, Richard.

As he died in 1909, they will actually have been parted for almost 95 years! No longer will the Bo people hear her crying in the night.”





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SWAMP GHOST NO MORE

WWII wreck salvaged

By Justin Taylan

B-17E 41-2446, the "Swamp Ghost", was salvaged from the swamps of Northern Province in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in May.

The Swamp Ghost had been sitting in the Aigiambo Lake for 64 years.

The plane was one of the world's last fully intact World War Two wrecks remaining where it crashed 64 years ago.

The B-17 is currently impounded by Papua New Guinea government officials pending a customs investigation.

On February 23, 1942, B-17E 41-2446 participated in America's first bombing mission in the South-West Pacific.

It took off for Australia as part of a flight under Major Carmichael flying first to Christmas Island. The next day, it flew eight hours to Canton Island, then to Fiji. Their stay in Fiji was delayed one day while the loyalties of the Vichy French in New Caledonia were ascertained.

Once considered safe, they transited through Plaine Des Gaiacs and flew to Australia, arriving at Garbutt Airfield near Townsville on February 20, 1942. Garbutt was considered an easy target for Japanese bombers, so this bomber was dispersed to Cloncurry.

The next day it was recalled to Garbutt for a raid on Rabaul, its first and only combat mission.



Part of a planned nine-bomber raid, this aircraft took off from Garbutt Airfield, late on the night of February 22 to bomb shipping in Rabaul at Simpson Harbour at dawn the next morning, and return via Port Moresby's 7-Mile to refuel before returning to Townsville. Only five bombers made it to Rabaul, the others had aborted.

Over the target, Frederick Eaton's bomber had to make a second pass, due to a problem with its bomb bay, but finally dropped onto a freighter of 10,000 tons.

On this second run, an anti-aircraft shell passed through the right wing without exploding. Results of the bombing were hard to observe due to the clouds.

Off the target, the bomber was intercepted by fighters over Rabaul, and manoeuvred to escape them. The tail gunner claimed one Zero, shot down at 24,000 feet after firing a burst of 400 rounds from a range of 200-300 yards. Waist gunner Crawford, claimed two more. Their plane was hit by the attacker's 7.7mm and 20mm fire.

After the battle, they flew as far as the north coast of New Guinea, before running short on fuel. Eaton force landed in a kunai field with the wheels up.

He thought it was dry ground, but actually it was a swamp. As the bomber touched down, it turned slightly, pointing the nose of the bomber slightly southeast at 183 degrees heading.



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The crew walked away from the crash site and with the assistance of local villagers and the Australian Resident Magistrate, Alan Champion, they arrived by boat back at Port Moresby on April 1, 1942—36 days after the crash, and returned to combat.

Discovery of Swamp Ghost

It was rediscovered in 1972 during an RAAF helicopter

exercise in New Guinea. Dubbed "The Swamp Ghost", the plane is nearly impossible to locate during the 'wet season', due to the high kunai grass and half submerged in swamp water. Few visitors and no grass fires have kept the plane in excellent condition.

Visitors who made it to the swamp discovered an undisturbed time capsule with instruments, guns and



markings still visible. Enthusiasts trekked to pay homage; salvagers sought its recovery.

A group from Travis AFB first proposed its removal in 1986. However, it did not receive PNG government's approval. Filmmakers once unsuccessfully sought its salvage for a movie slated to star Patrick Swayze.

American David Tallichet offered \$100,000 in 1999 and a five-year agreement was issued. In 2001, Tallichet transferred his recovery rights to Alfred Hagen who pursued the salvage solo.

In May 2006, Hagen's team disassembled the bomber and airlifted the pieces by helicopter to the coast and barged them to Lae in the Morobe Province for shipment to America.

The shipment was halted by relevant authorities. In the meantime, the Swamp Ghost will remain a protected property of the State and preserved until a decision is made as to its future.

• For photos, history and full coverage of the Swamp Ghost saga, visit: www.TheSwampGhost.com

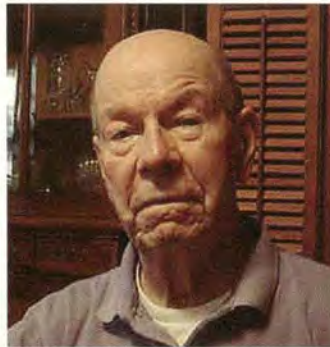
Local tourists on top of the recovered Swamp Ghost.



Richard Oliver's flight logbook.



Frederick Eaton



George Munroe



William Schwartz



Russell Crawford



Richard Oliver



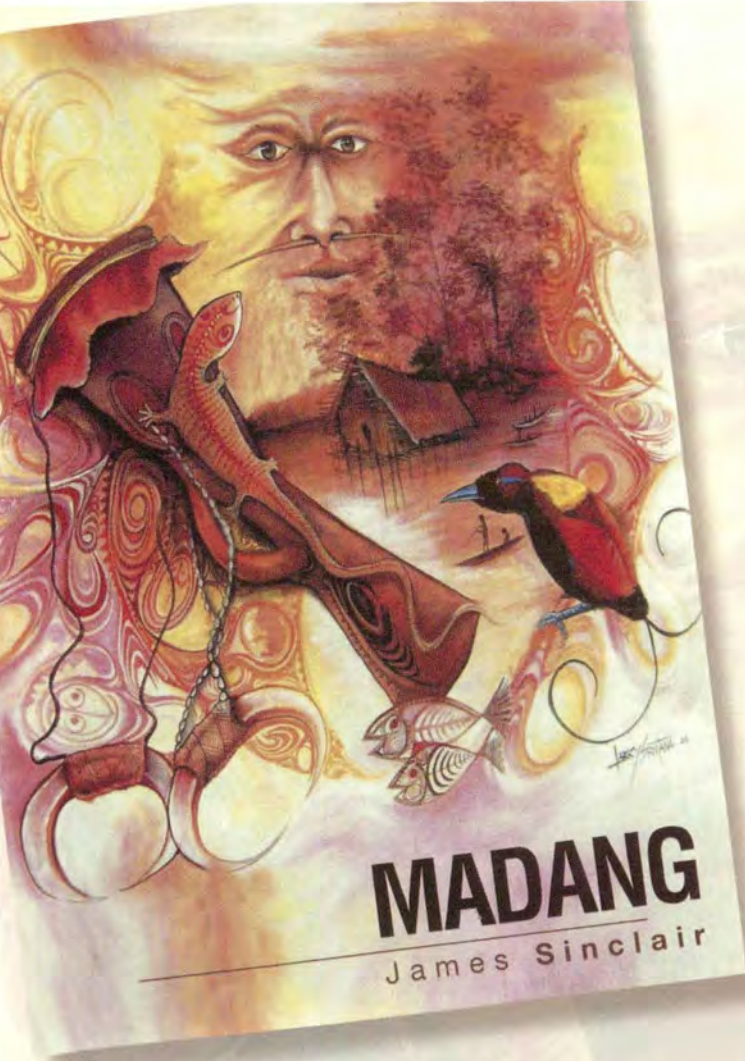
Clarence LeMieux



Henry Harlow

The Crew of Bomber 17

- Frederick Eaton - Pilot
- Richard Oliver - Bombardier
- George Munroe - Navigator
- Clarence LeMieux - Engineer
- William Schwartz - Waist Gunner
- Henry Harlow - Co-pilot
- Russell Crawford - Waist Gunner
- Howard Sorensen - Asst Radio (not pictured)
- John Hall - Tail Gunner (not pictured)



MADANG: THE GERMAN CONNECTION

By Patrick Matbob

It was the famous Russian nobleman and scientist Nikolai Mikloucho-Maclay who named the Madang coastal area the “Archipelago of Contended People”.

Maclay was the first European to spend more than two years between 1871 and 1883 living amongst the Rai Coast (Maclay Coast) people and explored the coastal and interior areas of the province.

Other explorers, missionaries and government officers were also attracted to the area, among them, the late District Officer Kassa Townsend who wrote the following in his diary in 1922.

“Madang was, and perhaps still is, the most attractive township in the Territory. Built around the indented shore line, just inside the narrow entrance to its perfect harbour, the various bungalows and offices that Imperial German Government and several German companies had built stood surrounded by lawn and shrubs in profusion.”

The history of Madang has now been documented in a 450-page book titled Madang by author and former kiap James Sinclair who has authored many books on PNG.

The book was commissioned by Sir Peter Barter and Sir John Middleton and published by Divine Word University Press.

With the foreword written by Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare, the book traces the story of Madang since contact with the outside world, beginning with Maclay up to recent times.

Compiled from formal records and anecdotes taken from those associated with the development of the province and town, the book provides a colourful and interesting, yet sometimes tragic, insight into the early years.

The accounts come from an assortment of people—explorers, missionaries, plantation owners, miners, fortune hunters, Chinese entrepreneurs and government officials.

The establishment and development of the German colony in Madang was the direct result of power play thousands of miles away in Europe between the British and Germans who were carving up the Pacific region for themselves.



Chinatown street in Madang.

The Germans established the famous Neuguinea Compagnie and arrived at Port Constantine on Rai Coast on October 11, 1884. Thus began the long contact Madang—then known as Friedrich-Whilhelmshafen by the Germans—was going to have with the colonisers.

The German connection still lives on today in names such as Dallman (Passage), Bismark (sea / range), Alexishafen (mission), Hagen (Mount) and Hatzfeldthafen (mission) and many of the plantations they established still exist today.

The Germans were even responsible for the name “Madang” which they took from a little island at Finschhafen where the German settlement in New Guinea began.

Sadly, the manner in which the Neuguinea Compagnie went about acquiring land for its plantations in Friedrich-Whilhelmshafen caused deep resentment amongst the local people.

A Compagnie official Joahann Stanislaus Kubary acquired

vast tracts of land for plantations from unsuspecting local people paying for it with trade goods such as knives, mirrors, tomahawks, coloured beads and cloth. He did the same thing with Bilibil (Bilbil) Island people for land extending from Gogol to Gum Rivers and the interior. The land did not belong to the Bilibil and Yabob people and it was obvious they did not understand what Kubary was doing.

Judge F. B. Phillips corrected the blatant injustice in 1932 however; the resentment caused by the original land grab is still being felt today.

Unlike Maclay, the Germans and the local people did not get on. The Germans whose motives were to acquire land for business and profit soon met with resistance.

The people understandably resented the acquisition of their land and did not want to submit to the authority of the colonisers. They despised having to provide labour to build roads and plantations in lieu of head taxes that they were ordered to pay. Plantation managers and workers were attacked and the Germans retaliated harshly by

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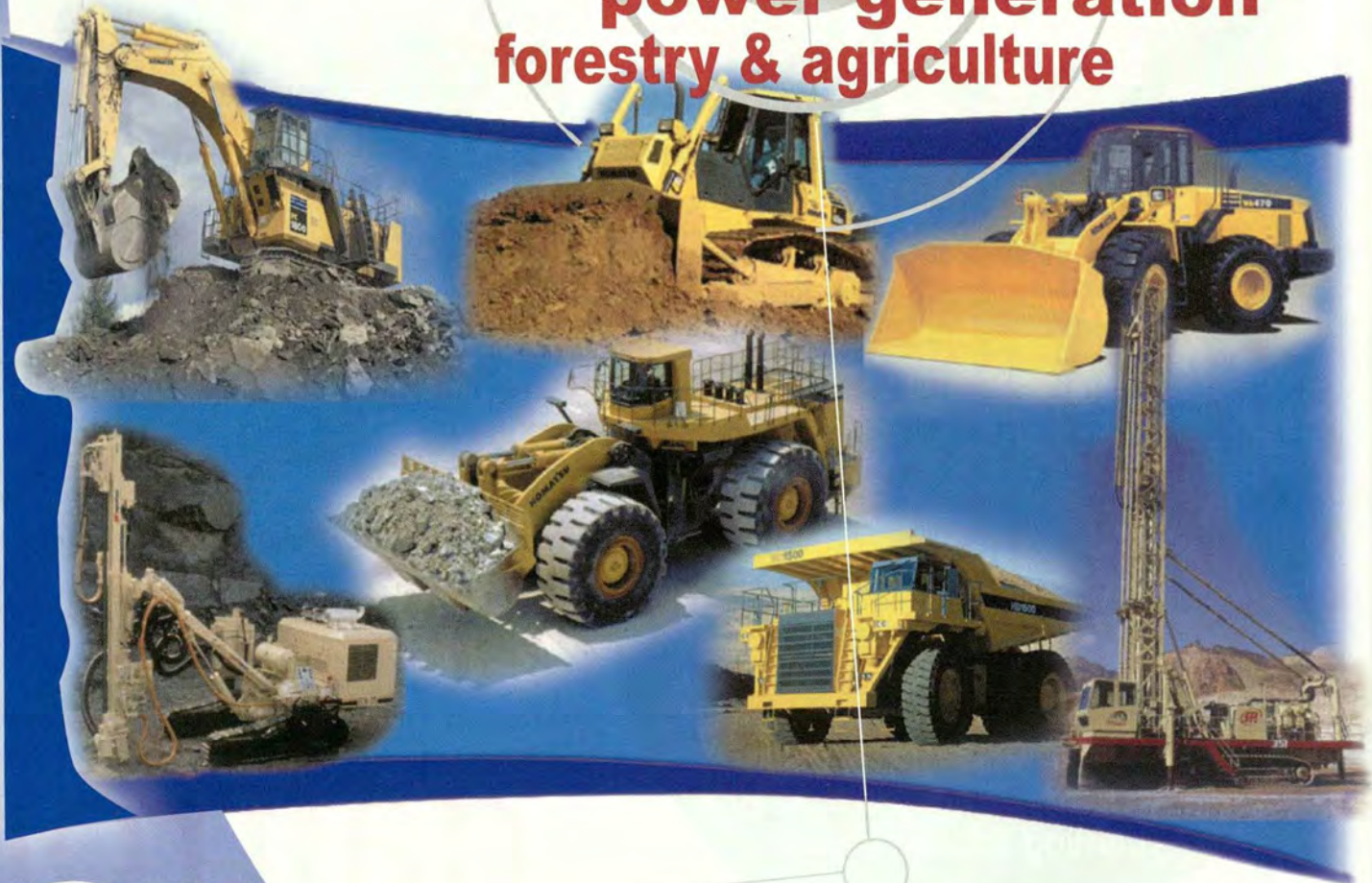
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carrying out punitive raids on the villages.

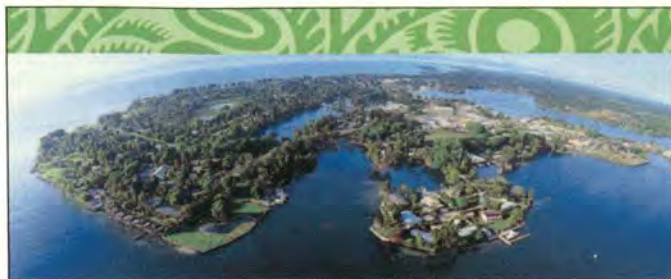
The situation came to a head in 1904 when the local people plotted secretly to attack and kill all Europeans living in the town including the District Officer.

However, the plot was betrayed by a local man and armed police managed to foil the attack. Justice was harsh. The ringleaders were rounded up and executed by a police firing squad and the remaining Siar Island people were exiled to the mainland.

The book also includes chapters on the work of the Lutheran and Divine Word missionaries who apart from spreading the Good News also concentrated on providing



Madang in the late 1960s.



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Much of the early history in the book is told from the colonialists' point of view for the simple fact that they had kept proper records of their activities. Therefore, if the book suffers from anything, it is the heavy concentration on the experiences of the early colonialists.

The absence of the voice of the indigenous people is noticeable throughout the chapters and only appears towards the era after independence.

The book records all major events beginning with Maclay's contact through to the war years and development up until independence.

Of course, it is not possible to record in detail all the events in the history of Madang and the life and experiences of people like Maclay, the Lutheran and Divine Word missionaries, the work of the patrol officers and other influential people like Yali are recorded in detail elsewhere.

There are numerous colourful characters and some of their experiences are told throughout the book. One example is the story of the bronze Hagen Eagle that was erected over the grave of Acting Administrator of German New Guinea, Curt von Hagen, in the early 1900s. In the 1950s, the Eagle suddenly appeared in Mt Hagen and became the symbol of the town.

According to a former Madang resident, Hec Longmore, the Eagle was found by a patrol officer in Saidor and brought to Madang. It ended up with Longmore on his verandah where it seemed to have caused a lot of entertainment.

Longmore says: "People were always trying to lift it. I used to bet young blokes twenty quid if they could carry the Eagle from my verandah to the Madang Hotel bar. It was solid bronze, must have weighed at least 130 pounds...it wasn't the weight, it was its awkward shape. One young German bloke carried it to the hotel, and dropped it on Flo's bar and broke it! Flo charged me twenty quid to get a new sheet of laminex..."

The book is illustrated by an interesting collection of photographs and the contemporary painting on the cover by internationally renowned Madang artist Larry Santana adds a local touch—making it a valuable record of history of the province and a collector's item.





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THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA



A young woman from the Midwest and freshly out of college gets more than she bargained for when she moves to New York City to become a writer and ends up as the new assistant to the tyrannical, larger-than-life editor-in-chief of a major fashion magazine.

Comedy
Rated: PG-13
Duration: 110 minutes
Cast: Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Stanley Tucci, Simon Baker, Emily Blunt, Adrian Grenier



November

THE LAKE HOUSE



A lonely doctor, who once occupied an unusual lakeside home, begins exchanging love letters with its newest resident, a frustrated architect.

Drama, Romance
Rated: PG
Duration: 99 minutes
Cast: Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock, Dylan Walsh



November

FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 TOKYO DRIFT



To avoid a jail sentence, Seasn Boswell heads to Tokyo to live with his military father, but gets caught up in the underground world of drift racing.

Action/Adventure
Rated PG-13
Duration: 104 minutes
Cast: Lucas Black, Bow Bow, Nathalie Kelley, Brian Tee, Sunny Kang, Leonardo Nam, Brian Goodman and JJ Sony Chiba.



December

YOU, ME & DUPREE



Carl and Molly Peterson are just starting their new life together - complete with a cute house, boring neighbours, stable jobs and the routines of newly wed existence. There's just one unfortunate hitch in their perfectly constructed new world....And his name's Dupree, Carl's oldest friend and perpetual bachelor who has found himself with nowhere to go after being fired.

Comedy
Rated: PG-13
Duration: 108 minutes
Cast: Owen Wilson, Kate Hudson, Matt Dillon, Michael Douglas, Seth Rogen, Amada Detmer.



December

CLICK



This outrageous new comedy focuses on a workaholic, advertising executive who finds a universal remote that allows him to control his career and personal life. But complications arise when the remote starts to overrule his choices.

Comedy, Fantasy

Rated: PG-13

Duration: 107 minutes

Cast: Adam Sandler, Kate Beckinsale, Christopher Walken, Henry Winkler, David Hasselhoff, Julie Kavner, Jennifer Collidge, Sean Astin



November/December

NEVERWAS



NEVERWAS follows a Yale graduate who gets a job at the mental institution where his novelist father spent the last years of his life. Once there, he meets a man who proves a mysterious link to his father's material.

Adventure/Drama

Rated: PG-13

Duration: 102 minutes

Cast: Aaron Eckhart, Ian MacKellan, William Hurt, Bill Belamy, Alan Cumming, Jessica Lange, Brittany Murphy, Nick Nolte



November/December

LADY IN THE WATER



A modest building manager rescues a mysterious young woman from danger and soon discovers that she is actually a "narf," a character from a bed-time story, who is trying to make the journey from our world back to hers. Working together with the other tenants, they protect her from the deadly creatures who are trying to prevent her from returning home.

Drama/Fantasy

Rated: PG-13

Duration: 110 minutes

Cast: Paul Giamatti, Bryce Dallas Howard, Jeffery Wright



November/December

FIND ME GUILTY



The true story of the longest criminal trial in US history. Honour among thieves has never been more evident or entertaining than in this story about the Lucchese family mobster, Jackie "Fat Jack" DeNorscio, an imprisoned felon brought to trial on new RICO charges with other Lucchese gangsters. After firing his lawyer, Jackie decides to take matters into his own hands by representing himself.

Crime, Comedy, Drama

Rated: R

Duration: 125 minutes

Cast: Van Diesel, Peter Dinklage, Linus Roache, Ron Silver



November/December

IRRESISTIBLE



A deadline looms and Sophie Hartely is terrified of failure. To make matters worse, things are not going well with her husband Craig. When Sophie becomes convinced that she is being stalked by one of Craig's co-workers---a beautiful, high competent assistant, Mara Toufey---no one believes her. Sophie's life begins to fall apart.

Drama

Rated: R

Duration: 103 minutes

Cast: Susan Sarandon, Sam Neil



November/December

MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND



Matt Saunders thinks he's finally found the perfect girlfriend, the beautiful Jenny Johnson---who just so happens to be a superhero. When Jenny/G-Girl becomes overly possessive, Matt wants to call it quits---but how do you break up with a superhero? A scorned woman, Jenny/G-Girl unleashes on her ex the full fury of her super-powered wrath as she gets out on a no-holds barred mission to bust up Matt's budding romance.

Comedy

Rated: PG-13

Duration: 96 minutes

Cast: Uma Thurman, Luke Wilson, Anna Faris, Eddie Izzard, Wanda Sykes



November/December

Movies

CLASSICAL Channel 5

Overture - Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg
Wagner
Berliner Philharmoniker
Conductor: Klaus Tennstedt

Sonata In G Minor For Flute, Harp & Cello Allegro
Bach
Irena Grafenauer: Flute
Maria Graf: Harp
David Geringas: Cello

Orchestral Suite No. 3 In D - Air
Bach
English Chamber Orchestra
Conductor: Raymond Leppard

Trumpet Concerto In D Major - Vivace
Handel
Capella Istropolitana
Conductor: Richard Edlinger

Cuatro Madrigales Amatorios: De Los Alamos Vengo
Madre Rodrigo
Yvonne Kenny : Soprano
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
Conductor : Vladimir Kamirski

Violin Concerto - Rondo-allegro
Beethoven
Takako Nishizaki: Violin
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra
Conductor: Kenneth Jean

Clair De Lune
Debussy
Dame Moura Lympany: Piano

Nocturne Op.36 No.3
Skrjabin
David Nuttall: Oboe
Larry Sitsky: Piano

Lakme: Flower Duet
Delibes
Joan Sutherland: Soprano
Jane Berbie: Mezzo
L'orchestre National De L'opera
De Monte-carlo
Conductor: Richard Bonyngue

Swan Lake - Valse
Tchaikovsky
Czecho-slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra
Conductor: Ondrej Lenard

Love Walked In
Gershwin Arr. Grainger
Dennis Hennig: Piano

POP Channel 6

Tell Me Baby
Red Hot Chili Peppers



Daisychains
Youth Group

Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is
Jet

I Don't Feel Like Dancin'
Scissor Sisters

When You Were Young
The Killers

Savin' Me
Nickelback

Get Up
Ciara Feat. Chamillionaire

Rudebox
Robbie Williams

Chasing Cars
Snow Patrol

The Heart Of The Matter
India Arie

Turn Into
Yeah Yeah Yeahs

Taller, Stronger, Better
Guy Sebastian

Starlight
Muse

Maneater
Nelly Furtado

Lie About Us
Avant Ft Nicole Scherzinger

Right Where You Want Me
Jesse McCartney

EASY LISTENING Channel 7

Lovin' You
Minnie Riperton

Ticket To Ride
The Carpenters

Fallen
Lauren Wood

Fly Me To The Moon
Frank Sinatra With Antonio Carlos Jobim

Rosalinda's Eyes
Billy Joel



Constant Craving
K.D.Lang

Crying In The Rain
Art Garfunkel With James Taylor

Said I Loved You...But I Lied
Michael Bolton

Can't Keep This Feeling In
Cliff Richard

All Out Of Love
Air Supply

You And Me Against The World
Helen Reddy

Call Me When You Get This
Corinne Bailey Rae

Never Can Say Goodbye
Isaac Hayes

Merchant Of Love
Joan Armatrading

Here And Now
Luther Vandross

**PAPUA NEW
GUINEA
Channel 8**

Wan Kantri
Bemu Kidu & John Wong

Siri Siri
Sebeats

Stap We
South Tribe

Acting Papua
K-Mala

Zero Balance
Julius Moab

Daramuna
K2 Bliss

Siassi
O'Shen

Hagen Meri
Spectators

Lulu
Quakes

Keep The Fire Alive
Loujaya Haru

Garam
Fiwan

Rete
Lakwa Haru

Sori Raramani
PS2

Awa
South Tribe

**COMEDY
Channel 9**

Rachel
Steven Wright

Marriage, Divorce & Motels
Lenny Bruce

Weatherman
Saturday Night Live

Iq Test
Merrick & Rosso

Dieting
Jasper Carrott

The Folk Song Army
Tom Lehrer

Je T'aime
Bob Downe With Julian Clary

Miner
Peter Cook

**The Excited Southerner
Meets Mel Gibson**
Adam Sandler

**The Excited Southerner
Proposes To A Woman**
Adam Sandler

Musical Instruments
Robert Klein

Banana Boat (Day-o)
Stan Freberg

**The Devil Made Me Buy This
Dress**
Flip Wilson

Two Top 40 Djs
Hudson & Landry

**Kenneth Horne - Special
Agent**
Round The Horne

True British Spunk
Dame Edna Everage

**COUNTRY
Channel 10**

A New Pair Of Shoes
Catherine Britt

Jackson
Johnny Cash & June Carter

**The Seashores Of Old
Mexico**
George Strait

Showman's Daughter
Anne Kirkpatrick

When The Stars Go Blue
Tim Mcgraw



Where I Come From
Lee Kernaghan

I'll Go On Loving You
Alan Jackson

Life Is A Highway
Rascal Flatts

Jesus, Take The Wheel
Carrie Underwood

Tonight I Wanna Cry
Keith Urban

**He Got The Girl..I Got The
Road**
Allan Caswell

**There's More Where That
Came From**
Lee Ann Womack

Play Something Country
Brooks And Dunn

My Last Name
Dierks Bentley

**I Am A Man Of Constant
Sorrow**
Soggy Bottom Boys With Dan
Tyminski Band

Would You Go With Me
Josh Turner

**CHILDRENS
Channel 11**

Baby Elephant Walk
Henry Mancini

The Time Of Your Life
Randy Newman

**The Elves & The
Shoemaker**
Dragontale

The Bathtub Of Seville
Placido Domingo From
Sesame Street

**The Tale Of Squirrel
Nutkin**
Wendy Craig

**Can't Fight The
Moonlight**
G. Kane/r. Dobson/m.
Murphy/beanie M

The Gingerbread Man
Kazzoo With The
Queensland Symphony
Orchestra

School Daze Rap Dance
Mike Jackson

Swinging On A Star
Kazzoo

In Your Dreams
Ticklish Allsorts

**If I Knew You Were
Coming I'd've Baked A
Cake**
Cookie Monster & The
Count From Sesame Street

Stayin' Alive
Alvin & The Chipmunks

**Goldilocks And The Three
Bears**
Play School

The Laughing Policeman
Charles Penrose

What's New Pussy Cat?
Wendy And The Wombats

Taba Naba
The Wiggles Featuring
Christine Anu

Postman Pat Song
Ken Barrie

Ocean Man
Ween

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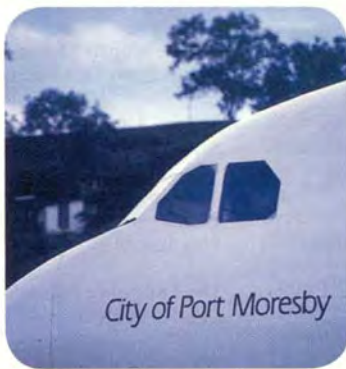


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Passengers to board Air Niugini's DC-3.



First all-Papua New Guinea crew on the "Big Bird".



Dieter Seefeld, Simon Foo, Howard Lahari, celebrating Air Niugini's 20th anniversary.



The Airbus A310 in Hong Kong.



Air Niugini's Boeing 767.



Celebration time.



Delivery of the first Dash 8-200.



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The F28-100 - also known as the 'Pocket Rockets'.



The new Fokker 100 aircraft.

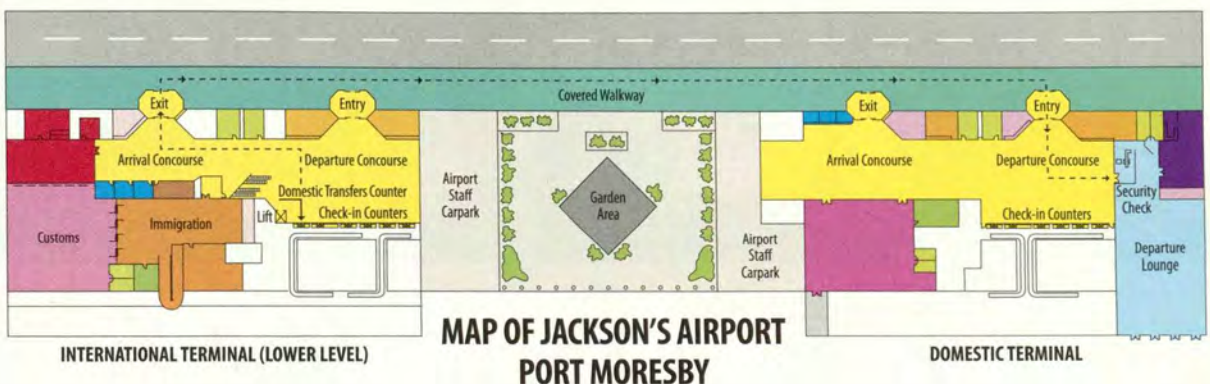


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THE GHOST MOUNTAIN

A forgotten part of American history

By Malum Nalu

A dream came true for American author-adventurer James Campbell when he walked a forgotten World War II trail recently.

Campbell and his team considered themselves lucky to come out in one piece and tell the story as the trail covered some of the most-rugged, leech-infested and inhospitable terrains in Papua New Guinea.

People living along the trail have seen very little or no government services since independence in 1975, and the team was feted like royalty at every village.

Campbell was accompanied by American writers - adventurers George Houd and Dave Musgrave - Hong Kong-based German photographer Philipp Engelhorn, and four Papua New Guineans from a local video production company POM Productions Calextus - Simeon, Kenneth Pasiu, Jack Solatia and Lee Ticehurst.

Fifty-eight-year old American journalist Houd, from the Chicago Tribune, was a serious casualty with a badly-infected foot but survived to tell the story.

This forgotten WW11 trail—used by American troops in Papua New Guinea—will be the subject of a book and television documentary set to be released in 2007.

This trail - like the Black Cat and Bulldog Trails in Morobe Province - played an equal, if not more significant role than the Kokoda Trail, but has now taken the backseat.

The trail, between Gaba Gaba in the Central Province and Buna in the Oro Province, is a march that military historians have called “one of the cruellest in military history”.

Campbell is an author currently under contract to write a book of non-fiction set in Papua New Guinea for Random House/Crown Books.

The book concerns a group of National Guardsmen - the Ghost Mountain Battalion - who fought the Japanese at Buna, Papua New Guinea, during WW II.



An exhausted James Campbell (right) with other team members.

This group made a gruelling 120-mile march from the coast, just south of Port Moresby, through the jungle and lowland swamps over the Owen Stanley Mountains and back down through the jungle before reaching the coast at Buna.

It took the men 42 days to cover the 120 miles. When they reached Buna, they were a shattered unit, ridden with malaria, dengue fever, dysentery, jungle rot and scrub typhus.

The 2nd Battalion, of which Company E was a part, was assigned the most gruelling mission of the entire Southwest Pacific campaign: to march from the Papuan Peninsula's south coast to its north coast, a straight line distance of only 150 miles.

What lay between the men of the 2nd Battalion and the north coast, though, was a no-man's land of some of the most inhospitable terrains on earth.

The 2nd Battalion began the journey just outside of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Crossing the river can be dangerous.



Its route north led the men through thick jungles over the rugged, mist-shrouded Owen Stanley Range and back down through more jungles and lowland swamps with fetid, chest-high water.

In their struggle to reach Buna, the Ghost Mountain Battalion was assisted by a large group of Papua New Guineans, who served as guides and carriers.

Later, these same men - men from villages all over the Papuan Peninsula (especially from Gaba Gaba and Buna) - served as scouts and litter bearers, carrying wounded American GIs from the battlefield to portable hospitals and to the airstrip at Doboduru for transport to Port Moresby.

Exhausted...James Campbell and team members.



A village along the trail.

The Australians on the Kokoda Trail called these men "fuzzy wuzzy angels".

The American soldiers referred to them as simply their "saviours".

Author-adventurer Campbell repeated the epic trek that Sergeant Paul R. Lutjens described in his journal as one of the cruellest in military history", in late June and mid-July this year.

The entire trail had not been hiked since the men of Company E did it in 1942.

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Campbell's book about the experience and the ensuing battle - an ordeal that has been largely forgotten by history - tentatively titled *The Ghost Mountain Boys: Across New Guinea with WW II's Heroic 2nd Battalion*, will be published by Random House / Crown Books in June 2007.

"The film will come out late next spring, May, June," Campbell told me.

"I'm doing an article for Outside magazine that will come out next spring also. There'll be some more radio interviews and TV interviews, and George (Houd) will probably do a piece in the Chicago Tribune on travelling to Papua New Guinea.

"So you can see, it's going to be a big, big deal and we hope this trail will eventually become popular.

"We hope it will not only bring Australians who have done the Kokoda Trek and want to do something different, but even Americans who are half a world away.

"May be they'll be inspired to come here and do this trail, not only those who are interested in WWII history but also those who are interested in the wilderness, remote places and pristine places.

"I don't know if it will eventually become another Kokoda Trek, however, I'd like to think that it has some kind of potential as a national historic trail, and also bring some attention to some of these forgotten villages."

Houd, who considers himself a survivor, says: "Since the Australians quit patrolling, no one goes up there any more.

"They (villagers) kind of long for the old days when Australian patrol officers would come, and there'd be medical help, there'd be dispensing of justice where complaints could be lodged, but that doesn't happen anymore."

Campbell's team started their trek at Kwikila in the Central Province and ended at Popondetta, from where they went to Buna.

They had to leave out some parts of the original track used during WWII because of the time factor. However, they were able to capture some remarkable footage of the area, including interviews with those who remember WWII, flora and fauna, virgin rainforest and the eerie, mist-covered Ghost Mountain.

"The moss at Ghost Mountain was amazing," Campbell recalls.

"Everything was dripping in there; everything was kind of decorated with moss.

"It was dark. An eerie place, that's why they called it Ghost Mountain."

The experience, however, made Campbell and his team all the more richer.

"It all made us appreciate what the soldiers had accomplished," he said.

"Really, for Americans, it's a forgotten part of WWII in the South Pacific.

"When they think of WWII in the Pacific, they think of Guadalcanal, they think of the Philippines, but many people don't know of those fierce battles fought in New Guinea.

"Papua New Guinea is one of the last great wildernesses of the world, the people are wonderful and they took great care of us. We loved it."



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

PNG celebrates 31 years of independence

By Oseah Philemon

The children of Papua New Guinea always look forward to celebrating the anniversary of their country's independence. This year was no different.

For the thousands of them, trying to recall an event that happened a long time ago is difficult. They are happy just to know that on this day 31 years ago, Papua New Guinea gained its independence.

Teachers encourage the children to start their preparations weeks in advance. They tell the children to prepare to put on a good show for their parents to come and see at their school.

The children of Sunny Bunny Kindergarten and Pre-School rehearsed dances and songs under the watchful eyes of their teachers since the beginning of August.

They learnt dances from Bougainville, Morobe, Manus and Central Provinces.

The dances were difficult to learn at first, but the children soon memorized the lyrics and the actions.

At home before the big day, many put on little shows to show parents a glimpse of what to expect when they come to the school on the celebration day.

They were told by the teachers theirs had to be the very best performance for their parents to watch.

The children also learnt to sing the Papua New Guinea national anthem. In class they also drew pictures of the national flag and coloured it in its true colours of red, black and gold with pictures of the southern cross and the bird of paradise. These were then displayed on the board outside the classrooms for parents to see.

It was the morning of September 15, 2006. The Port Moresby sun was unforgiving as always. But excited parents and their children arrived at once to witness the big event.

As independence day fell on Saturday, schools celebrated on Friday, the day before.

Once inside the tiny school yard, the children immediately went to their respective sections to be dressed up by their teachers. They also had their faces painted with traditional

PNG designs in readiness for the performances.

The air in both the kindergarten and pre-school was one of great excitement and laughing as the teachers hurried the children to get dressed up quickly.

The little girls giggled amongst themselves over their dresses while the boys tried to show their masculinity as little warriors of their school.

It was just past 10.30am and the show is about to start. Teachers advised the parents to assembly outside and wait for their babies to emerge from their hideouts with the surprise show.

Then the children emerged all beautifully dressed and full of big smiles. The parents could not hide their excitement. The kindergarten class were the first to put on their show.

These little ones aged two, three and four years, put on their different dances with help from their teachers.

Cameras went into overdrive as excited parents pushed and shoved each other around in an attempt to capture the best photographic records



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of their little ones. Every movement was recorded on camera.

The three to four-year old children followed the teachers as they danced around in circle while the two-year olds just simply wondered around the circle putting on their own show much to the laughter of the parents.



The teachers tried not to disturb them, after all it was independence anniversary celebrations and the children came to celebrate, even if theirs did not really fit in with the school programme, so long as they were happy.

The pre-school class showed more order when their turn came up. They swayed their heaps, bent their knees, sang and danced much to the delight of the parents. More pictures were taken.

After their performance, the kindergarten class joined the pre-school for a combined formal part. They sang the national anthem as loudly as they could. The parents watched in awe and amazement.

How lovely it was to listen to the little children sing their national anthem so beautifully. In fact, they sang the national anthem much better than most adults.

Once the short formalities were done, the children were led back into their respective classes to wash their hands in preparation for lunch.

The parents brought cooked food of all kinds that filled up long tables in both classes. The children then sat down for lunch.

It was an exciting time as the children ate a big lunch prepared by their parents especially to celebrate the 31st anniversary of independence.

Once lunch was over, the children began their departure from the school. They hopped into the vehicles with their parents for the ride home.

Most were tired and as the vehicles pulled away from the Sunny Bunny School, most fell asleep at the back seats of the vehicles on the way home.

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Another celebration has ended. In the early hours of the next morning, they won't be there at Independence Hill to watch the national flag raising ceremony.

They have had their celebrations and look forward to the next one in 2007. 



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The Smiling Islands

The 'relaxing face' of the capital

Words and pictures by Diana McManus

Much has been written about the gorgeous diving and resort destinations on the north coast of Papua New Guinea and in the outlying island provinces.

Too little is written about Port Moresby's own lovely little islands, probably because they largely remain the domain of the local community and aren't touted as tourist attractions.

But let me assure you, readers, life in Port Moresby has much more to offer than meets the eye. You don't necessarily have to own a boat to sample its island playgrounds.

Sparsely wooded Gemo Island is directly across the harbour from the city, from where it is almost indistinguishable from the mainland beyond it.

Expats refer to it as Leper Island because once there was a leper colony there. The buildings have long since gone but concrete slabs and foundations still remain to mark the spot.

Gemo Passage, between this island and its Eastern flank, is shallow and studded with coral growth. A sail through here at low tide even in a catamaran with a shallow draft, requires a lookout and constant vigilance to pick a way through. You almost don't need a snorkel to appreciate the beauty of the coral and the fish-life as it slides beneath the hulls.

Gemo Island is a quick and easy destination for small

motorcraft looking for a sheltered barbecue site.

Port Moresby actually has two harbours divided by Tatana Island, joined to the mainland by a causeway to service the large village there. From the city this is not immediately obvious and it appears that you can see the other side of the Harbour.

However, the water winds behind Tatana Island where it opens out again and assumes the name of Fairfax Harbour. Both harbours play host to all manner of vessels which come and go, some of which are moored at the Royal Papua Yacht Club (RPYC). Port Moresby Harbour is also the permanent home to the wreck of the *McDhui*, a wartime troop carrier, whose rusting hulk may be seen lying on its side in shallow waters, now a very accessible venue for snorkellers and divers.

Near Gemo Island, and guarding the entrance to Port Moresby Harbour is the twin peaked Lolorua Island, complete with ship wreck. A container ship was blown onto the island during a gale and now rests on the rocky spit between the peaks, touched by the sea only at high tide. Each end of the island tapers off into rocks which jut out into the sea and offer a welcome resting spot for birds. The island has no fresh water or shade and is quite exposed. Nevertheless, the leeward side has a little beach and locals can often be seen there picnicking and cooking their catch.

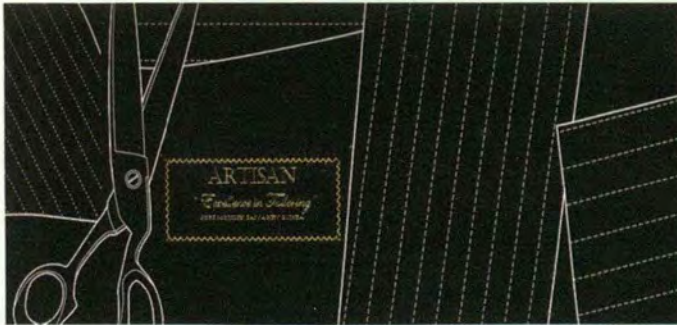
Clearing the Harbour, Daugo Island, commonly known as Fisherman's, comes into view on your right. This is a very long, low-lying island of sand accumulated upon a rocky limestone reef.





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In places, where the sea has broken through, large, mushroom shaped limestone formations squat together. It is a flat, grassy, windswept island with an old war time airstrip over which trainee pilots still practice their approach runs. They never land.

One end of this island is inhabited and home to a small community which depends upon tanks for its water. Traditionally, their livelihood is fishing, hence the island's nickname.

The collective catch is brought over daily to the markets on the mainland, particularly Koki Fish Market. At the other end of the island is a pure white sand spit and white sandy beaches with clear blue-green waters and a cluster of palms standing sentinel.

Fisherman's is a favourite spot for picnickers, day-trippers, and serious or leisure fishermen. It is the site for the RPYC's Annual Christmas outing which is a huge undertaking involving a vanguard of workers who go across on a barge beforehand to set up marquees, trestles and benches so that members can have a little shade.

As a saltwater swimming spot, it's unsurpassable. It's also a great site for dive boats which bring their members out to the reef which extends beyond the island. Even snorkellers can get a taste of the coral reef and its drop-off here, although the water is a trifle too deep for true colours.

If you choose to turn left at the Harbour entrance and motor/sail east with Ela Beach to your left and the reef and Basilisk Passage on your right, you will shortly come to

Manuabada, otherwise known as Local Island. Both this, and Gemo Island with their steep hills form two thirds of the course for the annual, gruelling Three Peaks Race held in early May. Competitors need a boat. They sail to Manuabada, swim ashore, run up the peak and back, then swim out to their boats.

After sailing back to Gemo Island this procedure is repeated, and the final leg is back to the RPYC and a run up the formidable Burns Peak which towers over the steep Poraporena Highway cutting which links Town with the bulk of Moresby's outlying suburbs.

If you're not into such strenuous activities, Manuabada has a beautiful, white sandy beach and aquamarine waters to swim in. Rocky cliffs and erosion caves are there to explore.

It is also a great place for fishing, especially trolling a line through the channel which divides the island from the mainland. You can easily pick up a mackerel or a barracuda. Manuabada too is uninhabited.



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Beyond Manuabada are two other islands of interest, Motupore and Loloata. These are easily accessible via a twenty minute-drive through pretty countryside to Bootless Bay where ferries are available to take you across.

You can leave your car safely at the family home there. Motupore is really the domain of the University of PNG's marine studies.

The Motupore Island Research Centre (MIRC) houses a research station and accommodation for scientists, students and visitors. Its mission is building capability and advancing knowledge in marine and coastal resource management. For example, in 2005 the centre was awarded funding for two years to investigate sea-



horse diversity, distribution and trade in PNG. More recently it has been the hub of a co-ordinated effort to harvest crown of thorns starfish which has appeared in epidemic proportions over the past couple of years.

The island is tall and craggy and respectably vegetated. It is not really open to day trippers.

Loloata, on the other hand, welcomes visitors. In fact that is Loloata Resort's "raison d'etre". It is a strange shaped island which appears to be chopped off at one end, leaving a triangular shaped cliff. Along the top of this island there is a narrow pathway with steep sides sloping down to the sea below.

The path simply goes to the other chopped off end. It's less than a kilometre, but it's well worth the walk for the spectacular views up and down the coast and across to the Owen Stanley Range. From here you can clearly see the huge stilt village of Tubuseria.



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The resort is a favourite getaway for Moresbians and most long weekends it's packed. It's a scenic 30-minute boat ride, which takes you past Motupore to the island's very long jetty. Both of these islands are the ridge caps of ranges which have long since subsided into the sea.

From Loloata, regarded as the Jewel of Port Moresby - you can get free transfers across to tiny Lion Island for snorkelling and swimming before lunch.

Snorkelling gear is available for hire at a very reasonable

cost, as are kayaks. Being left for a couple of hours on Lion feels like being marooned. It is named for its shape which resembles a lion snoozing on its paws, reminiscent of Sydney's Lion Island, but much, much smaller.

Here you can swim off the white sandy beach or snorkel the excellent coral gardens which have a superb variety of soft corals in shallow waters showcasing their colours.

Not a bad little selection of islands is it? When I hear people commenting on what a dry, dusty place Port Moresby can be, I remind them of Port Moresby's other face, the sparkling blue one, with lots of welcoming, smiling islands!



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PNG'S CASSOWARY IN GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

By Ron Toft



Did you know that the world's most dangerous bird is the cassowary, whose kick is powerful enough to rip open a person's stomach, that the remotest spot is in the South Pacific 2575 kilometres (1600 miles) from the nearest land and that the most forested country is the Cook Islands?

Or that the world's tallest man, a goat herder from Inner Mongolia, towers above everyone at 2.361

metres (7 feet 8.95 inches), that the longest lasting fire is in a coal seam in New South Wales (it's thought to have been burning for around 5000 years), that the most venomous jellyfish is Flecker's sea wasp or box jellyfish (some victims die within four minutes, if left untreated), that Cher's 'Farewell Tour' was the highest grossing music tour by a female artist (\$394 million) and that the biggest known stars in our Milky Way galaxy are red supergiants with diametre in excess of 1.5 billion kilometres (900 million miles)?

If not, you haven't seen the latest 2007 edition of Guinness World Records - the planet's most authoritative source of record-breaking facts and figures.

Since 1955, this best-selling book has documented the longest

and shortest, the lowest and highest, the heaviest and lightest, the fastest and slowest, the coldest and hottest, the commonest and rarest, as well as a host of other fascinating extremes, discoveries and achievements, in, on and beyond our planet.

Such is the popularity of this annual work of reference and so great the international interest in record-breaking that London-based Guinness World Records receives tens of thousands of letters every year from people who want to be included in the next edition or keen to make suggestions for new categories.

One of a kind, Guinness World Records is used by people all over the world and from all walks of life to inform, educate and entertain - and, of course to settle arguments. It is also a record-breaker in its own right, for it is the world's best-selling copyrighted book.

There are more than 40,000 individual records within the Guinness World Records' computerised database, only about 10 percent of which are published in the book itself.

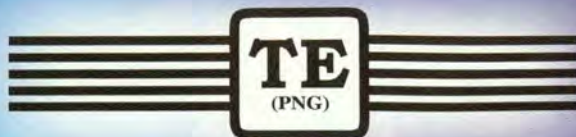
During the past year, this database has mushroomed by a further 2244 new or updated records, "so I would like to thank every one of the 65,000 people who've submitted crazy, awe-inspiring, courageous claims," said editor-in-chief Craig Glenday.

"If a record has been approved but not included in the 2007 edition, which has just been published, I apologise. But there are only so many records we can squeeze into one book. But check our website (www.guinnessworldrecords.com), for you might have made it online."

Pacific records

There are various Pacific region records in the new edition of Guinness World Records. The world's most dangerous bird -

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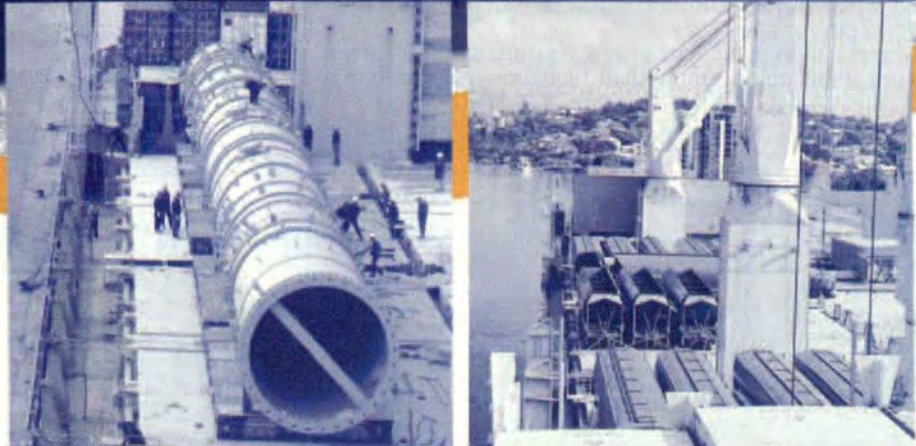
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the previously mentioned cassowary - is endowed with clawed toes, the inner toe of each foot having a 12 centimetres (5 ins) long spike.

A cornered bird, says Guinness, can be extremely dangerous and will leap into the air and lash out with this spike if it feels threatened. The cassowary is found in Papua New Guinea and in Queensland, Australia.

The bird with the keenest sense of smell is the black-footed albatross of the North Pacific, which can detect the smell of bacon fat being poured into the ocean at least 30 kilometres (18 miles) away, while the world's smallest spider is the male Patu marplei of Samoa which is just 0.43 millimetres (0.017 inches) long.

The most venomous centipede is the Scolopendra subspinipes of the Solomon Islands, the venom from which is so potent that victims have been known to plunge their bitten hands into boiling water in an effort to seek relief from the excruciating pain.

The world's most forested nation in terms of percentage of area covered by trees is the Cook Islands with 95.7 percent in 2000.

The Pacific is the world's biggest and deepest ocean. The deepest spot lies within the Mariana Trench, near Guam, which was visited in 1960 by the manned US Navy bathyscaphe Trieste.

The most accurate depth measurement was made in 1995 by an unmanned Japanese vessel, Kaiko, which recorded a depth of 10,911 metres (35,797 feet).

The pressure at this point is more than 1000 times greater than it is at the ocean's surface. So deep is the Mariana Trench that if Mt Everest were to be dropped into the Pacific at this point, it

would disappear 2000 metres (6560 feet) below the surface of the water.

The remotest place on our planet is a spot 2575 kilometres (1600 miles) from the nearest land of Pitcairn Island, Ducie Island and Peter I Island. Centred on this spot is a circle of water with an area of 20,826,800 square kilometres (8,041,200 sq miles) - much larger than Russia, the world's biggest country.

The fastest moving land mass is the Tonga micro-tectonic plate near Samoa which is moving into the Pacific at a rate of 24 centimetres annually, and the highest recorded ocean temperature was the 404° C (759° F) measured in 1985 above a hydrothermal vent in the Pacific about 480 kilometres (300 miles) off America's West Coast.

Most powerful of all short-term natural climate changes on Earth is the El-Nino Southern Oscillation which is caused by cyclic warming of the eastern and central Pacific. The complete cycle of El Nino and La Nina (its cooler counterpart, characterised by unusually cold ocean temperatures) is three to seven years.

On a lighter note, Waisale Serevi of Fiji holds the record for the greatest number of goals scored by one player in IRB Sevens tournaments.

Serevi put no fewer than 385 balls in the net while playing for his country between 1999 and 2005.

"Guinness World Records is not only a publishing phenomenon, with total global sales now exceeding 100 million copies, but also a widely quoted social document," said Glenday.

"The book is a snapshot at a given point in time and, as such, an invaluable source of reference."



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Port Moresby's 'Little Heaven'

The whiff of sweet citrus tingles your nostrils as you walk down a short flight of stairs into a well-kept tropical hillside garden under a cool canopy. You wouldn't know you were in Port Moresby, a city of barren, windswept hills, as EURALIA PAINE reports.

At the end of the short walk is a modest looking low bungalow out of which scents of various types waft out of the wooden walls and windows.

Lighted miniature candles encircled by tiny white pebbles greet you at the entrance. Inside the foyer, petite floral arrangements nestle side by side with small artifacts which anywhere else would deem insignificant.

In this setting though, every tiny little object has been ergonomically placed against a backdrop of exquisitely polished natural timber and rattan décor.



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only those who have the time and feel the need to pamper themselves take refuge.

For an hour or so, they retreat into an abyss where rejuvenation of the body, mind and soul takes place. This place? Spa Pua - a health and wellness spa - located at the Airways Hotel near Jackson's International Airport.

Spa Pua offers a full range of holistic treatment for men and women including traditional Thai and Indonesian massages.

There are half-day and full-day packages comprising Steam, Sauna, Facials, Scrubs, Hand & Foot Care and Body

From the moment you walk through the entrance, you are enveloped by exotic fragrances emanating from the lavender-scented oil burners.

A warm ambience is created by the natural illumination seeping through the windows blending with the soft indoor light.

You can't help but inhale the soothing background music that floats by. The effect the place has on you is instantaneous. Even your demeanor alters and you can literally feel your heart beat slows down.

One of the friendly female staff is quick to offer you a refreshing cup of ginger and lime drink to set the pace for the relaxation treatment you are about to receive.

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Wraps.

The newly introduced Jet Lag Massage and Jet Lag Recovery Package may tickle your fancy particularly after a long flight.

The Jet Lag Massage takes 80 minutes and begins with a calming herbal footbath and reflexology to soothe those feet that may have been crammed for hours. Your therapist will assist you to select the perfect blend of essential oils for an aroma-therapy massage. Then let her give you a cold wrap around your legs and arms. This is a



totally rejuvenating experience especially for tired muscles.

The Jet Lag Recovery Package lasts two and half hours and is a gentle aroma therapy soak bath which promises to dissolve your fatigue. This is followed by an aroma therapy massage and scalp treatment. The scalp treatment is deep moisturising to suit any hair types but more importantly the gentle rolling and kneading of the scalp removes those cobwebs out of your mind clearing your head.

A therapeutic ear candle will unclog the blocked ears, remove toxins and relieve the pressure from flying. The ear candle is also beneficial for those seeking relief from sinus problems, ear aches, tinnitus, and general irritations in the ear and throat.

Of course there are other indulgences! The thirty-minute Quick Relief is a light massage concentrating on the scalp and back that will wipe away your tensions. To give yourself a face-lift, you could try the Aloe Soother. The aloe juice is believed to contain amylase, proteins and collagen that will make your face smooth and youthful looking.

The Foot Reflexology was uncomfortable for me; only because the soles of my feet are very ticklish. Although, I must admit, the 45 minutes was worth it! The treatment involves applying finger pressure to minute points in the feet, creating an invigorating effect throughout the entire body.

If you are one who enjoys Scrubs, then try the Thai exfoliating treatment using a unique blend of sea salts; or the Javanese Lulur, utilising a traditional Javanese body scrub made from rice powder, turmeric and other spices. I know this does sound like you are being put through a blender for a spicy meal. But seriously, you are guaranteed a silky polished skin afterwards.

There is a spa treatment for young married couples too. Even if you aren't, the Honeymoon Package may appeal to you. It is a luxury package for couples boasting a secret combination of sandalwood, jasmine and rose essential oil believed to be an aphrodisiac.

Paradise Experience is to die for. It lasts a mere six hours and is a head to toe rejuvenation which consists of exfoliation, full body massage, herbal soak and moisturising, facial treatment, spa cuisine complete with



a pedicure and manicure. You'll feel utterly new, you might not recognise yourself. Special services especially for man's well-being are available. For example, there's something for the executive man, sporty man or one who likes being totally pampered.

For the ultimate in relaxation, the Four Handed Massage involves two therapists working in tandem. They will take your massage experience to a new level moving up and down the body with the same pressure, speed and rhythm in perfect synchronisation. Under the spell of the tandem massage, don't be alarmed if you enter a meditative state. Now, this treatment would be ideal as a birthday or Christmas gift to someone special.

Spa Pua has been open since November 2004. The following year, the establishment won the "Best Display Encouragement Award" at the Papua New Guinea Trade show - 'Lukim PNG Nau'. It hasn't looked back since. It's opening hours - 9am to 9pm daily - are usually booked out especially at the weekends.

The spa facilities include three air-conditioned treatment rooms with sauna and steam baths, a gift boutique, changing rooms and private lockers. Eleven female staff including two Thais, work round the clock under the management of Sasa Chamchoy.

This unique place of indulgence offers something for everyone. New services are introduced regularly due to client demand.

Specials are also available for those who may find the normal prices a bit steep. One thing is for sure though, when you want to unwind in Port Moresby, Spa Pua is definitely the place to go. Remember, taking care of yourself is not a fickle vain act; it's all about your health and happiness.





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PACIFIC'S ANSWER TO ECONOMIC BOOM

By Baeau Tai

The Pacific islands are geographically dispersed and diverse, but on the whole richly endowed with natural resources.

These range from underground

reserves of oil and gas to precious metals of gold and silver, some base metals, sugar, palm oil and copra that support alternative fuels.

ANZ Bank highlighted this in its recent Pacific quarterly report issued in August 2006. It said that if its expectation that energy and metal prices will remain high in the

medium term proves correct, this natural resources base represents a great opportunity to attract investment into the Pacific over the next three to five years.

As at August, the global economy was in its fourth consecutive year of a commodity price boom. Oil prices appear to have settled in at above

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US\$65/bbl for WTI, while precious and base metal prices are at an historic high.

"Taken as a whole, the Pacific region excluding Australia and New Zealand holds 200 million barrels in proven reserves of oil, 5.5 trillion cubic feet of known natural gas and 175 million barrels of LPG," said Amy Auster, ANZ's Head of International Economics.

She said the natural gas reserves are most significant, representing 25% of proven reserves for the Asia Pacific region as a whole, with the quantity of oil and gas deposits in the Timor Sea still unknown.

The ANZ report said that according to the most recently available data, PNG currently produces 50,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd) and 140 mn cubic feet of natural gas annually. There is minimal production elsewhere in the region.

Current production of base and precious metals amounts to 433 kilotons per year, with numerous fields yet to be developed. In alternative fuels, commercial sugar production is an established industry in Fiji (300 kilotons annually).

Palm oil has been produced in the region and is experiencing a resurgence. Copra has also been produced for years, but in many countries is limited to subsistence farming.

The Pacific produces roughly about 4% of the 1-2 million tonnes of copra traded annually on the world market, but its production has the potential to increase significantly.

Only four countries in the Pacific are potentially significant exporters of hard commodities: PNG, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and New Caledonia.

PNG is the major regional producer of primary energy and gold. The Solomon Islands has potential for substantial precious metals mining, but its activity has been stunted by political upheavals.

Timor-Leste has significant gas fields, but they are yet to be developed. In New Caledonia, nickel is the mainstay of the economy.

Fiji produces both gold and silver in limited volumes. In addition, Fiji's economy is more diversified in agriculture, manufacturing and services.

With only four of the 11 largest Pacific islands economies holding known mineral resources, production and export of soft commodities is the mainstay of economic activities for the entire Pacific.

It is also important for the four hard commodities producers, since even in resource-rich PNG more than 85% of the population still primarily earn their livelihoods from the agricultural sector.

As such, to further develop and commercialise crops for the alternative fuels industry still represents an important

potential opportunity for the region.

The production of alternative fuel inputs is not new to the Pacific. Fiji's sugar industry began in the 18th century, although it is the only Pacific islands economy that produces sugar on a commercial basis.

Production of palm oil, which also began long ago, is limited to the Solomon Islands and PNG where plantations have been developed.

Copra is by far the most significant crop with the potential for use in biofuels, and it has been produced across the Pacific for domestic use and exports for decades. However, the production and processing of copra has remained at subsistence levels in most countries.

Production and processing has waxed and waned with global prices, which fell to as low as US\$198/MT in 2001 before recovering to around US\$350/MT currently.

Although most Pacific islands produce copra, only a handful of countries have commercial processing capacity. Vanuatu has the biggest crushing capacity in the Pacific, with a pre-existing mill that as of mid-2006 was not in use. The Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste both had commercial operations in palm oil, copra and coconut oil, some of which were able to keep running through the disturbances of 1999-2000.

Samoa has extensive coconut plantations and a coconut

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PNG also has commercial operations in copra. American Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Caledonia, and Tonga do not have a history of commercial copra processing for export.

International natural resources companies focused on energy and precious metals have been active in the Pacific for a number of years.

Major oil company, Oil Search Ltd, has operated in PNG since 1929 and operates all of the country's producing oil and gas fields. It has taken the lead on the development of the PNG-Queensland Gas pipeline project. Woodside Petroleum and ConocoPhillips are the main operators of the existing oil and gas in the Timor Sea, with at least 8 joint venture partners including Shell and Santos. Contracts for East Timor's onshore oil and gas fields are to be awarded in 2007, while Eni of Italy has been awarded five blocks of

the sovereign offshore acreage and Reliance of India has been awarded one.

In the Joint Petroleum Development Area covered by the Timor Sea Treaty between Timor-Leste and Australia, contracts for four areas will be awarded at the end of this year, while contracts for the Greater Sunrise area are pending ratification from the governments involved.

About a dozen mining companies operate gold, copper and silver mines in PNG, Solomon Islands and Fiji. The largest in PNG are Emperor Mines Ltd, which operates in PNG and Fiji, and Lihir Gold Ltd.

New investors have come into the Ok Tedi copper mine (owned by PNG Sustainable Development Programme Ltd or PNGSDP, Inmet Mining Ltd and the PNG Government) and the Ramu Nickel mine (Metallurgical Construction Corp of China, Highland Pacific Ltd, Mineral Resources Madang Ltd and

Mineral Resources Development Corp). Australian Solomon Gold has taken over the operation of Gold Ridge mine in the Solomon Islands, which was shut down in 2000 when its former owner Delta Gold withdrew. The mine is expected to be operational by the end of next year.

In New Caledonia, the global players involved in the nickel mining industry are Canadian companies Inco and Falconbridge.

As evidenced by the deal signed recently for the Ramu Nickel mine in PNG, there has been interest expressed from Chinese investors in the Pacific, as has been the case in other commodity exporting countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Chinese investment thus far has been concentrated in the development of nickel mining, but could expand to other areas. Similarly, South Korea's POSCO has reached a deal with locally-owned SMSP in New Caledonia to construct

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a nickel processing plant in Korea that will be 51% owned by SMSP and will rely on supply of nickel from New Caledonia for 30 years.

Chinese investors are also beginning to get involved with potential biofuel projects. Earlier this year, the government of Vanuatu appeared to have agreed to establish a new palm oil plantation on the island of Santo, with Chinese aid, despite concerns about the ability to harvest during Vanuatu's severe cyclone season.

While there are a lot of resources, the Pacific islands nations can capitalise on, there are also resources development risks the nations have to consider.

ANZ's Auster says the exploitation of a natural resources base for export comes with "a myriad of opportunities" for the country involved, but it also carries risks. Countries that export hard commodities can easily suffer the "resources curse", also known as

Dutch Disease.

"The curse refers to the circumstance in which the local currency appreciates against the currencies of trading partners due to large foreign currency earnings. As the currency appreciates, other industries find it difficult to compete, and the economic base can become quite narrow," she said.

Further, the dividends and royalties paid by mining concerns to the government can become a sort of budgetary crutch, allowing governments to artificially spend beyond their means, particularly through transfers to the local population. This loose fiscal policy can stimulate demand and in the context of a strong currency would promote import demand while potentially discouraging workers to seek employment.

At the same time, the petroleum and mining sectors do not necessarily generate significant employment

opportunities, particularly outside of their immediate geographic location.

Thus, a vicious cycle is created in which more people become dependent upon the government recycling its resources income back to the unemployed or under-employed while the economy loses competitiveness and the non-resources sectors shrink.

Another complication of the resources sector in the Pacific relates to its great ethnic diversity and cultural ties to the land. In these circumstances, the revenues earned from resources extraction can become the subject of dispute between local groups, the national government and private companies that operate the sites.

Controversy over the profit split, use of revenues and management of mining projects has caused untold projects to be delayed or closed during the Pacific's history in this sector.



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

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

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Haven on Heron

By Briar Jensen

Heron Island epitomises my ideal tropical island; a tiny coral cay with lush green forest encompassed by pristine white sand.

The translucent turquoise waters of the surrounding lagoon meld into deep sapphire hues.

The sand is soft, the waters safe and

there's an abundance of wildlife to watch.

Located in the Capricorn Group of islands, 72 kilometres off Australia's Central Queensland coast, between Gladstone and Rockhampton, Heron Island is part of the Great Barrier Reef.

At only 18 hectares, with a circumference of 1.8 kilometres, it's

only tiny but packed with natural attractions.

As a National Park, surrounded by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, the eco-accredited island offers the chance to interact with nature within the comfort of a resort.

Due to a wonderful spirit of cooperation between Voyages Heron Island, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Ranger Station and University of Queensland Research station, who all share the island, opportunities abound for learning more about the local environment and its inhabitants in between relaxing on the beach or reading by the pool.



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easy, regardless of age.

As soon as you are in water deep enough to float, literally two steps from the beach, the aquatic show begins. On the sandy bottom of Shark Bay we floated above giant shovel-nosed rays, cowtail stingrays and pink whip rays.

Off North Beach, kaleidoscopic fish darted between the coral while black tipped reef sharks cruised swiftly in pursuit.

On the reef edge, a 10-minute boat ride away, were numerous

There are guided reef walks, island walks, turtle viewing and star gazing, and an extremely popular junior ranger program for 7 to 12-year-olds.

If you prefer to learn at your own pace there's a huge range of free booklets and brochures at the information centre.

Identification sheets are available for sharks and rays through to birds and plants, and the twitchers lists and nature guides are great for self guided walks.

But you don't even have to be that active; it's possible to absorb some of nature's sights and sounds from the comfort of a beach towel or deckchair.

Because Heron is located right on the reef, snorkelling is





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species of parrotfish, butterfly fish, damselfish and wrasse.

It isn't necessary to snorkel or dive though to appreciate the diversity of the reef.

During daily reef walks at low tide we watched tiny jewel coloured fish flash past our viewing scopes while a marine biologist explained the reef ecosystem in between pointing out sea cucumbers, clams and sea stars.

There're also reef tours available in a

semi-submersible and glass bottom boat.

But not all the action is in the water. Large colonies of Mutton Birds and Black Noddy Terns - about 150,000 of them during breeding season between September and March - call Heron home.

The smell of their guano was a bit overpowering at first, but we soon got used to it and grew to love watching the antics of nesting turns and their fluffy black chicks in the


tree overhanging our balcony.


Then there are the turtles. Both Green and Loggerhead turtles nest on Heron Island between October and March. Guided by a Queensland Turtle Research Program ranger we learnt to identify the two species from their tracks, heard about their extraordinary life cycles and witnessed them nesting, which involves digging a body pit and egg chamber, laying, covering, then concealing the eggs.

This process takes up to three hours so being able to move cautiously between 20 or more turtles at different stages of nesting was a bonus.

Watching these magnificent creatures lumber up the beach in the moonlight, knowing they had travelled from as far as Indonesia or New Caledonia and would not eat again until they returned to those feeding grounds, made my




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appreciation of their efforts so much greater.

Observing them shuffling exhausted down the sand a few hours later in the warm glow of dawn was a humbling, but inspiring way to start the day.

Voyages Heron Island strikes just the right balance of casual sophistication. The resort is very relaxed and informal, while still offering high levels of comfort and service. The friendly courteous staff soon had us unwinding in their keyless, cashless environment.

The low-line resort buildings are located around the harbour, leaving the rest of the island to the Pisonia

forest. The lounge and bar area, with its expansive folding glass doors, makes a welcoming location for a pre-lunch drink or early evening cocktail.

Light entertainment is provided here in the evenings too, but we found most guests retired early.

Meals are included in the tariff and apart from the weekly barbeque are served in the Shearwater Restaurant. Breakfast and lunch are buffet style, though it's possible to order a lunch hamper for a private beach picnic.

Dinner is a choice of three courses from an innovative modern Australian menu that changes daily

and there's a seafood buffet on Saturday nights.

While we were lucky enough to stay in a beachside suite with balcony overlooking the reef, we spent little time in our room.

However, we appreciated the cooling ocean breezes that flowed through the double sliding doors, something the garden rooms further back from the beach appeared to miss out on.

While the island is relatively small, its beaches provide ample private space for the average 260 guests. Even around the small pool we could always score a deck chair, though not necessarily in the shade.

Whether being pampered in the spa or relaxing at the bar, there generally there seemed to be more staff than guests. In fact, we kept wondering where everybody was.

With no motorised water sports, rowdy nightclub or in-room TVs, Heron Island is a perfect place to unwind. And with the added benefit of intimate interaction with nature, it exceeded my definition of an idyllic island.



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