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We live in your world ANZ





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

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

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

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

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

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

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







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









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Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Welcome Aboard

As this issue covers December and January, I would like to share with you a few highlights of our operation during 2012 and what is ahead of us for 2013.

One of the milestones for 2012 was the introduction of the B737 into the domestic market commencing with Manus on November 8. Passenger and cargo uplift to Manus has in the past been limited on the F100 aircraft with fuel issues which restricted passenger numbers and the uplift of cargo. With the B737, cargo capacity on the weekly flight is 2 tonnes while passenger capacity is 122 with 16 business and 106 economy seats. Since the introduction of the B737 service, cargo uplift into Manus has been very positive with personal and household items filling up the cargo capacity. We are optimistic that there is business opportunity for more cargo out of Manus and also with the export of tuna to overseas markets.

The recent 5th PNG Games in Rabaul brought over 10,000 visitors to East New Britain Province from all parts of the country. It was a busy time for the airline uplifting so many players from different provinces to Rabaul. It is pleasing to say, all the teams arrived in Rabaul in time for the games. A number of athletes showed their talents during the games. I am sure there is a promising star like Toea Wisil in the making. The B737 operated into Rabaul to provide additional capacity to uplift the athletes after the games.

Other domestic ports earmarked for the B737 operation are Nadzab (Lae), Gurney (Alotau) and Boram (Wewak) in the near future.

The airline has increased its fleet of 13 aircraft in 2005 to the current 25. Four more aircraft will be joining the fleet before the end of the year (a B737-800 and three Q400s), and an additional two next year (another B737-800 and one Dash 8-300) which will bring the fleet to 31 aircraft in 2013.

Since 2005, the number of routes flown have also increased from 23 (17 domestic and 6 international) to 35 with 24 domestic and 11 international. Some new routes since 2005 include Bulolo, Daru and Cebu in the Philippines, as well as charter operations into Misima in the Milne Bay Province.

Our passenger numbers has also increased from approximately 800,000 to an expected 1.5 million by the year's end. Over a million of these are domestic passengers! The expansion with our future operation on the domestic network depends largely on the upgrading of airports around the country.

Air Niugini's board and management are committed to meeting the growing demands of a strong and vibrant economy of Papua New Guinea.

Thank you for your continued patronage as it is through your custom and loyalty that Air Niugini has and will continue to develop as the preferred regional airline. To keep up-to-date with the airline's activities and for your online bookings, please visit us at www.airniugini.com.pg

On behalf of the management and staff, I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your family for the festive season. Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Wasantha Kumarasiri, OBE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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The Facial Tattoos of Oro Province



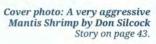


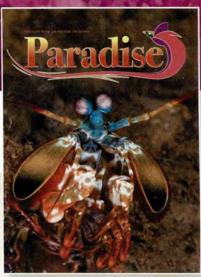














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STEAMSHIPS SHIPPING

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

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

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

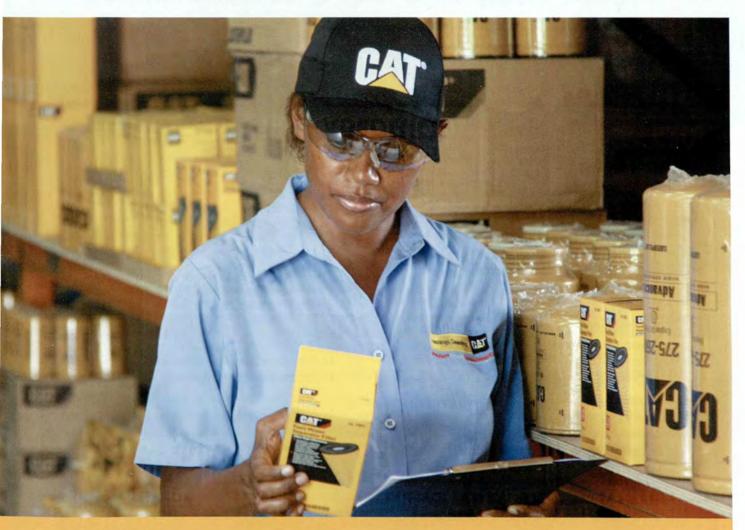
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Please ask us

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

Hand luggage

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

Takeoff and landing

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

Safety first

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

Electronic equipment

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

Children and babies

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

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

Entertainment

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

Pillows and blankets

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

Cuisine

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

In-flight Duty Free

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

Immigration and Customs Forms

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

Before you leave

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



Air Niugini fleet

B767-300ER

Length: 59.94m Wing span: 47.57m Range: 8100km Cruising speed: 857kph Power plant: 2x PW4000 Normal altitude: 11000 - 12000m Standard seating capacity: 214 Number of aircraft in fleet: 3



B737-700

Length: 33.6m Wing span: 34.3m Range: 6370km Cruising speed: 830kph Power plant: 2 x CFM56-7B22 Normal altitude: 11300m Standard seating capacity: 122 Number of aircraft in fleet: 1



F100

Length: 35.528m Wing span: 28.076m Range: 3000km Cruising speed: 780kph Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650 Normal altitude: 11000 m Standard seating capacity: 98 Number of aircraft in fleet: 6



DASH 8-Q400 NextGen

Length: 32.8m Wing span: 28.4m Range: 3000km Cruising speed: 670kph Power plant: 2x Pratt & Whitney PW150 A Normal altitude: 7500m Standard seating capacity: 74 Number of aircraft in fleet: 3



DASH 8-Q315

Length: 25.7m Wing span: 24.4m Range: 1700km Cruising speed: 510kph Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123E Normal altitude: 7500m

Standard seating capacity: 50
Number of aircraft in fleet: 3

Bombardier



DHC-8-202

Length: 22.25m Wing span: 25.89m Range: 1800km Cruising speed: 550kph Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123D

Normal altitude: 7600m Standard seating capacity: 36 Number of aircraft in fleet: 4

Bombardier



DHC-8-100

Length: 22.25m Wing span: 25.89m Range: 1800km

Range: 1800km St Cruising speed: 500kph N

Power plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW121

Normal altitude: 7600m Standard seating capacity: 36 Number of aircraft in fleet: 2

Bombardier





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

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



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



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



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



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



KNEE TO CHEST

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



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



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



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



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



Foot motion is in three stages.

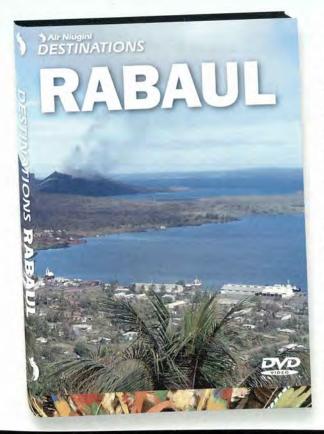
1. Start with both heels on the floor and point feet upwards as high as you can.





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

Before Kokoda there was Rabaul



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

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



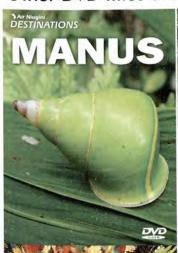
Our host is Charlie Lynn,

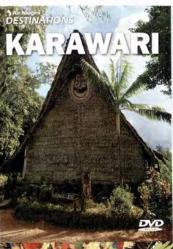
a former army major who served in Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia during his 21 years of service. In 1991 Charlie established Adventure Kokoda and began leading treks across the famous Kokoda Trail.

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

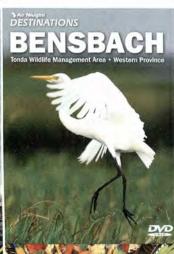
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Your health inflight

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

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

Blood Circulation/Muscle Relaxation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendations

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

letlag

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

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

Recommendations

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



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

Cabin Humidity/Dehydration

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

Recommendations

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

Eating and Drinking

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

Recommendations

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

Cabin Pressurisation

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

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

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

Recommendations

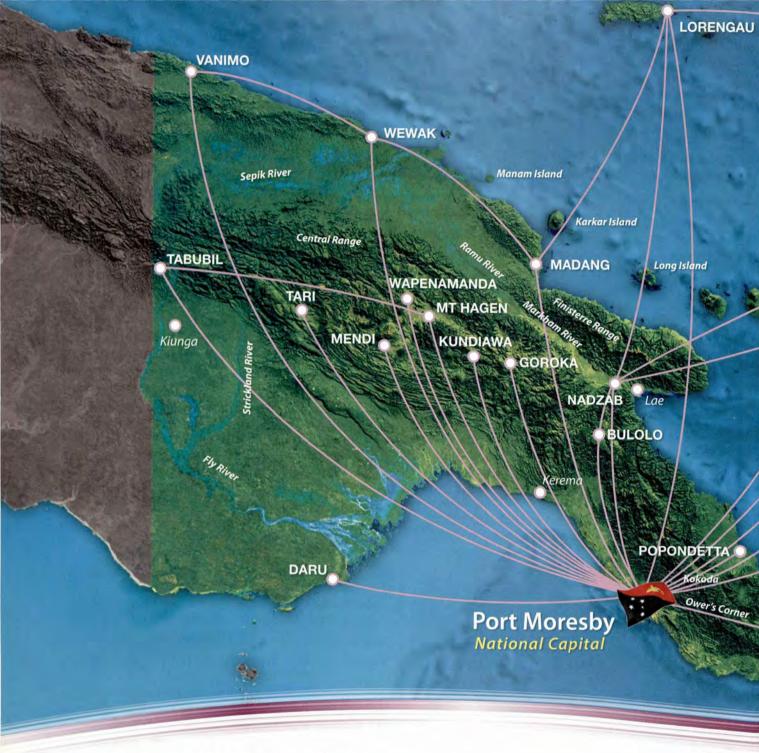
- ♦ If you have a pre-existing medical condition that warrants supplemental oxygen, you can order from us. Please give at least seven days notice before travelling.
- ◆ To "clear" your ears try swallowing and/or yawning. These actions help open your eustachian tubes, equalizing pressure between your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

Motion Sickness

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

Recommendations

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



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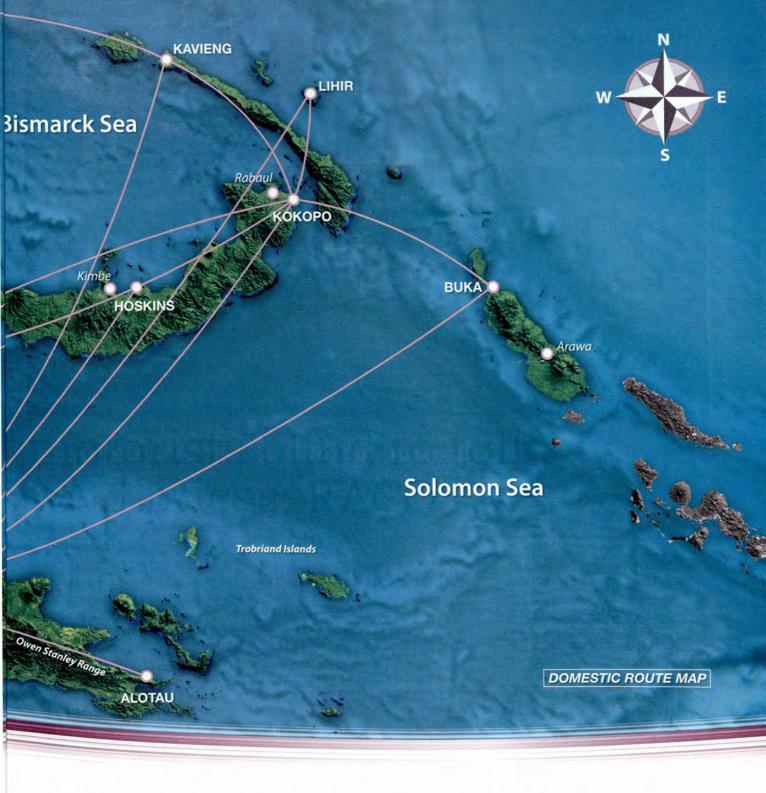
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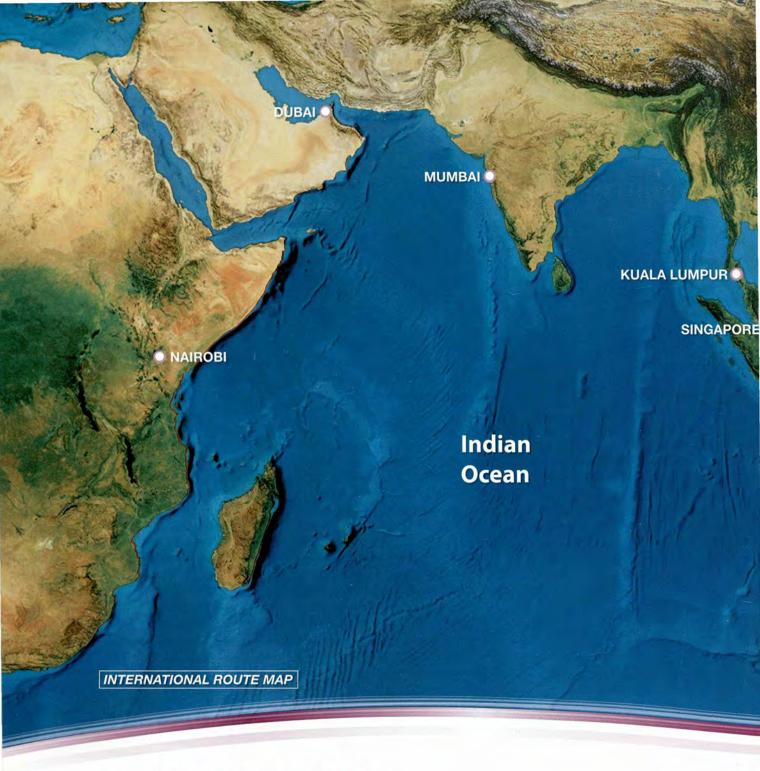
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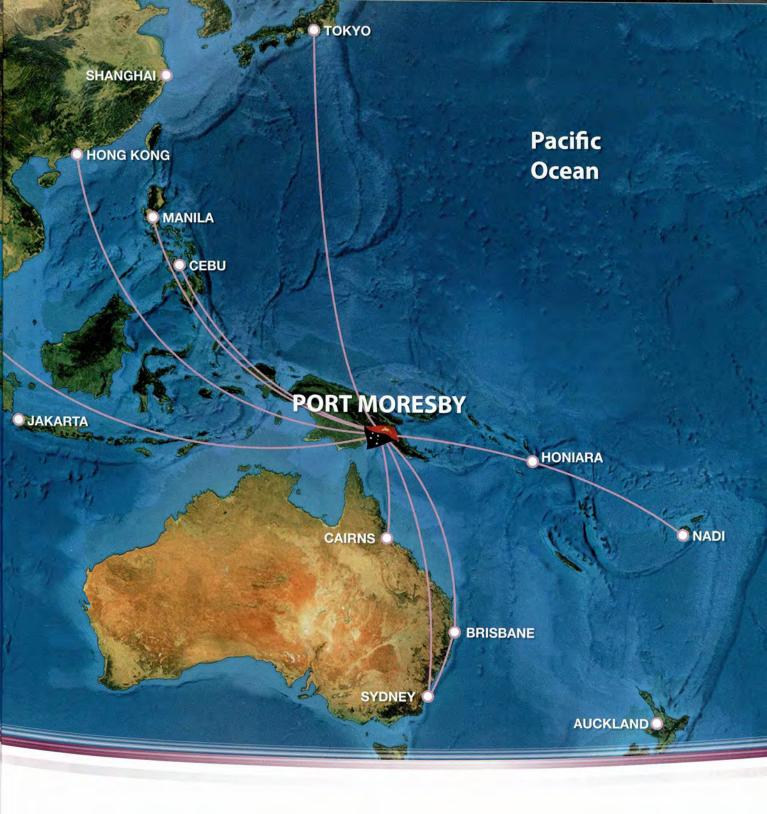
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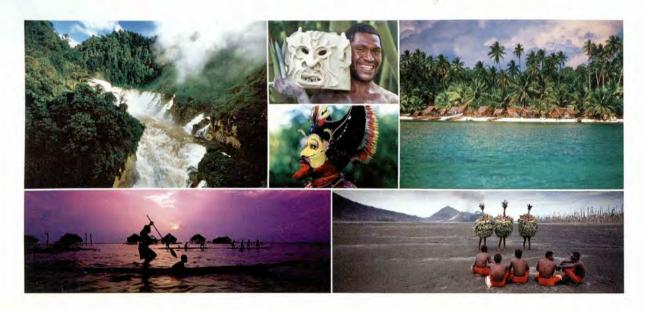
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Brisbane's Asia PacificTriennial

By Jeremy Eccles



Most of Australia's public art galleries get their biggest attendances from block-buster shows they've imported from Europe - Picasso, 'The Impressionists, Renaissance art, etc. But Brisbane's Art Gallery (QAGOMA) shows the latest art from Asia and the Pacific every three years and the crowds come pouring in.

The seventh Asia Pacific Triennial (APT7) opens early December and includes 77 artists from 27 countries. But it's honing in on two areas of special interest - West Asia, featuring works by artists from Egypt, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Syria and Jordan; and Papua New Guinea.

Since a central theme of the exhibition is people's relationship to a place at a time of rapid urbanisation, a major commission has brought artists from the East Sepik province of PNG to build two spirit houses in Brisbane.





Curator Ruth McDougall predicts that "one will hit you between the eyes as you go into the Gallery - just as it is intended to take you by surprise when you enter an Arapesh village. For the Kwoma people, painting the interiors of their spirit houses is more important - and seven of them have reproduced that experience for us in Brisbane".

McDougall also went to the famous Rabaul Mask Dance Festival in 2011 to commission a range of masks from nine different cultural groups in New Britain and the Sepik River regions of PNG.

The Tolai people of East New Britain, for instance illustrate the globalisation theme of the Triennial by incorporating plastic Virgin Mary statues in their grass-woven head-dresses.

Less influenced by the world, the Sulka make basketwork masks with huge decorated mushroom umbrellas above. And the Baining mountain people undertake toe-singing fire-dances wearing bark cloth masks representing spirits of the night. Some are 4 metres tall!

A group of ten artists from West Papua/Irian Jaya in Indonesia will be joining their PNG cousins. The seventh APT runs from December 8, 2012 to April 14, 2013 at the Queensland Art Gallery in Brisbane.



Moon Rock in Museum By Mere Tuqiri

by Mere Tuqi

If you ask, you may be able to see it. It's a piece of black rock brought back by the Apollo 17 mission from the moon. It is one of the many gems on display at the Solomon Islands National Museum, the main repository of the country's cultural heritage.

An inscription on the plaque holding the fragment reads: "This fragment is a portion of a rock from the Taurus-Littrow Valley of the Moon. It is given as a symbol of the unity of human endeavour and carries with it the hope of the American people for a world at peace."

It was 7th July 1978 and the American leader who presented the plaque to the government of the Solomon Islands was President Jimmy Carter, on behalf of the people of the United States of America, on the occasion of the independence of Solomon Islands.

Taurus-Littrow Valley served as the landing site for the American Apollo $17 \mathrm{\ mission}$ in December 1972.

There have been several hundred moon rocks given as goodwill gifts by the United States. About half of them are missing.



On a per gram basis, moon rocks might very well be one of the most valuable things on Earth.

One recent case in the news had someone trying to sell the stolen moon rock given to Malta for US\$5,000,000.

In public auctions, pieces of the moon have sold for \$400,000 for tiny fragments. But one gem expert says moon rocks are thought to be worth up to four times as much as diamonds.



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THE FACIAL TATTOOS OF ORO PROVINCE

By Don Silcock



ne of the most visually intriguing things about the local villagers around Tufi are the facial tattoos worn by many of the women - something you would not really be aware of without making the effort to visit them.

Tattoos and body art in general have enjoyed a significant renaissance in western society over the last 20 years or so. They have become both a badge of honour for those seeking to firmly establish their non-conformity and a trendy fashion accessory to others.

So it was quite fascinating to see them as an integral part of village customs, rather than a recent phenomenon.

From an anthropological perspective, the practice of using coloured pigment to make

permanent marks on the skin has been found in almost every major culture in history.

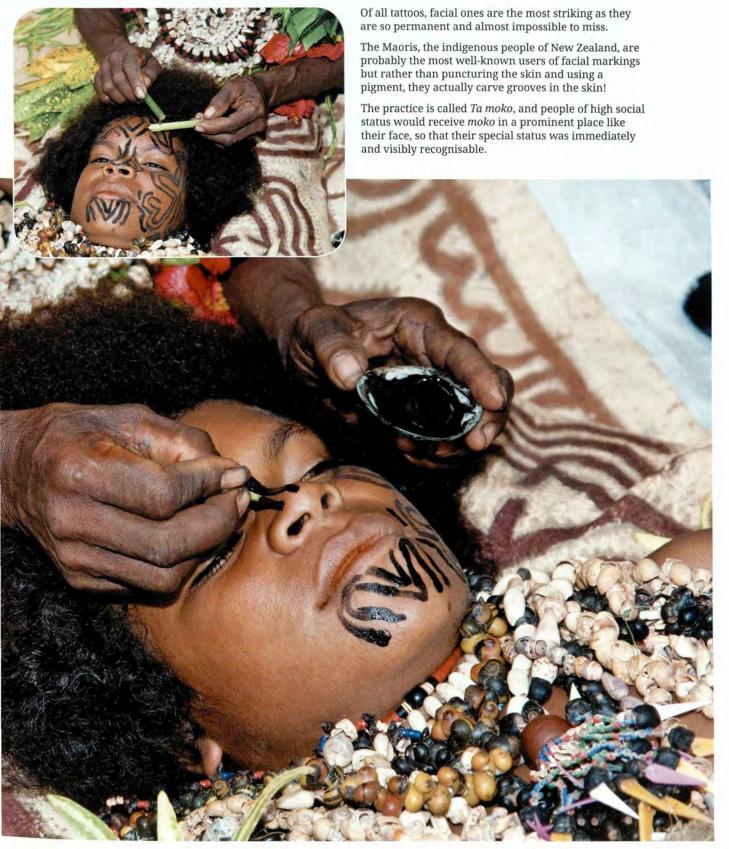
For example, the Egyptians were using tattoos to decorate themselves around the time of the pyramids, and the Chinese are known to have adopted them around 2,000 BC.

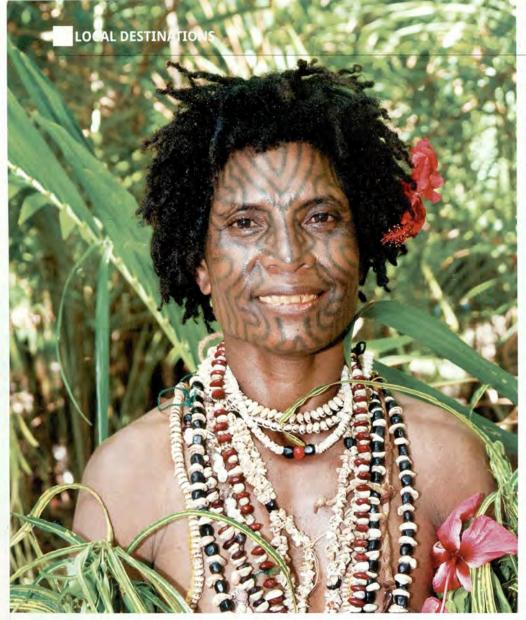
Tattooing was especially prevalent in the South Pacific and the word itself is a derivative of the Polynesian/Samoan verb *tatu* - meaning to strike. And the first recorded use of the word was in a 1796 diary entry by the British explorer, Captain James Cook.

However, 20th century colonisation and, in particular, religious missionaries who very much frowned upon the practice, effectively wiped it out in many locations.



The practice is called *Ta moko* and people of high social status would receive *moko* in a prominent place like their face, so that their special status was immediately and visibly recognisable.





Oro Province Facial Tattoos

Facial and body tattooing are reported to have been widely practised in coastal Papua at the time of the first European contact, but why it stopped in some areas and continued in others is not very clear.

Many of these earlier tattoo patterns were said to have been quite simple, but the "women of Tufi" were known for their elaborate and intricate designs.

The tattoos are made when a girl reaches her full maturity at around 18 years of age. They are a very visible indication of her "coming of age" and that she is now ready for marriage.

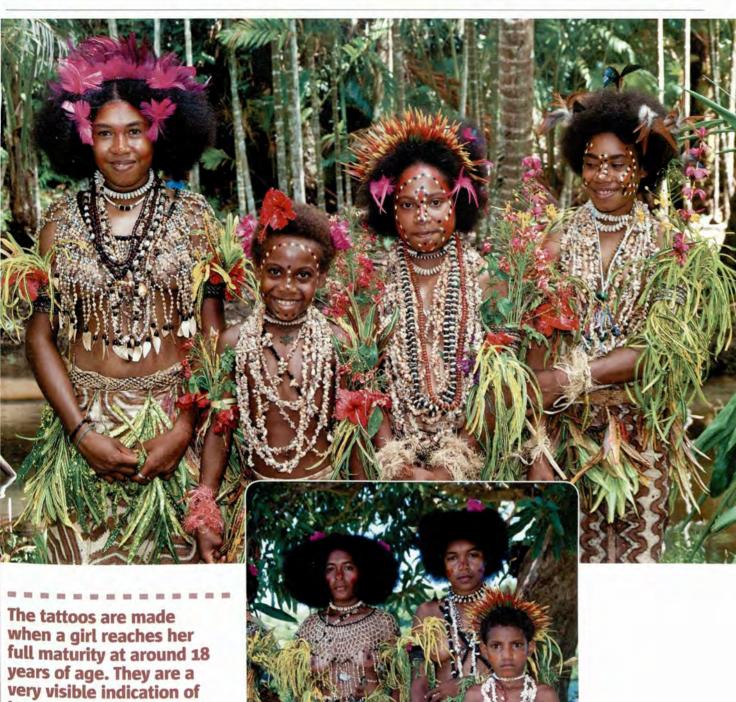
The process of applying the tattoos is a long and quite painful one involving a technique that is only practised by certain women in the village who have been taught it by their mothers and grandmothers.

The completed facial tattoo can take up to two months because it is applied in sections on a daily basis, which gives previously completed areas time to heal.

During that time, the girl lives with the tattooists away from the main village, in a special hut to shield her from the males in the village - particularly the young ones - and avoid any embarrassment from the inevitable swelling of her face as the painful process is followed.

The actual tattooing is done each morning for a couple of hours so that the girl can recover for the rest of the day...and the process is repeated until the right amount of ink penetration is achieved and the tattooist is satisfied with the result.





years of age. They are a very visible indication of her "coming of age" and that she is now ready for marriage.

The black ink used for the tattoos is made by mixing ground charcoal with water and then the pattern is painted on the girl's face using the stalk of a taro plant. Then, a lemon plant thorn is used as a needle to pierce the skin so that the ink can penetrate and permanently stain the flesh.

The actual patterns are quite specific with an overall pattern that identifies the Korafe tribe (main tribe of the Cape Nelson area) and variations for the numerous clans that make up the main tribe - such as the Kandoro, Fiyogha and Tawairi clans.

Once the tattooing and celebration is over, the girl is ready for marriage and the boy who has courted her now has to prove to her parents that he is of good character and worthy of their daughter.

Bride Price

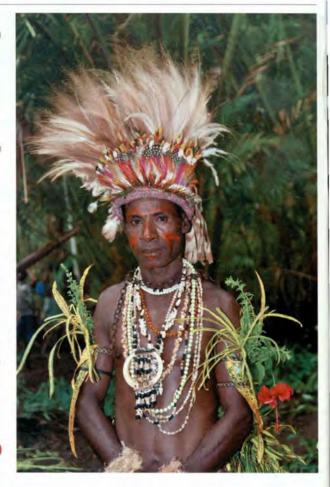
The completion of the tattooing is followed by a big celebration when the girl comes back to the village and the tattooist is presented with gifts from the girl's parents in recognition of the service provided.

Once the tattooing and celebrations are over, the girl is ready for marriage and the boy who has courted her now has to prove to her parents that he is of good character and worthy of their daughter. This typically means he will make a new vegetable garden for her parents or build them a new canoe or house to demonstrate his skills as a man. It is a big test for him.

If satisfied, the parents delegate the girl's initiation to her uncle - typically the mother's brother, whereby the uncle makes all the preparations for the actual wedding, which involves a major celebration and feast in the village.

After the girl has married the boy, it's then her turn to be "tested" to prove her worthiness as a wife to his parents so that the "bride price" can be settled.

The concept being that evaluating the boy and girl's overall worthiness allows the parents to properly decide the right price to be paid by the boy to the girl's parents.





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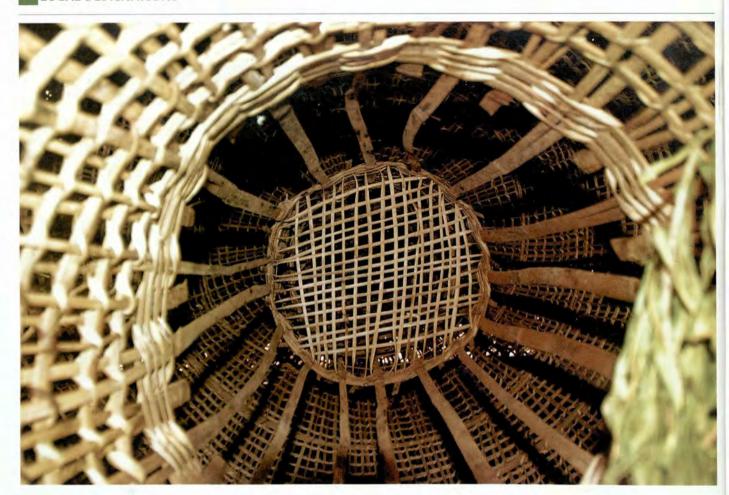
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TRAPS OF TRAPITON

By John Brooksbank

oRutan's gnarled old hands deftly twisted the split cane around another three-way joint on the body of the huge fish trap, knowing there will be hundreds more before the twometre long device is complete, although his colleagues ToKilala and ToUratun and their trainees will be there to assist him.

Confident that there will be a demand for the fish traps once they have demonstrated their effectiveness, the men have already finished or partly woven another three in their work area on the sand, just above the high tide mark.

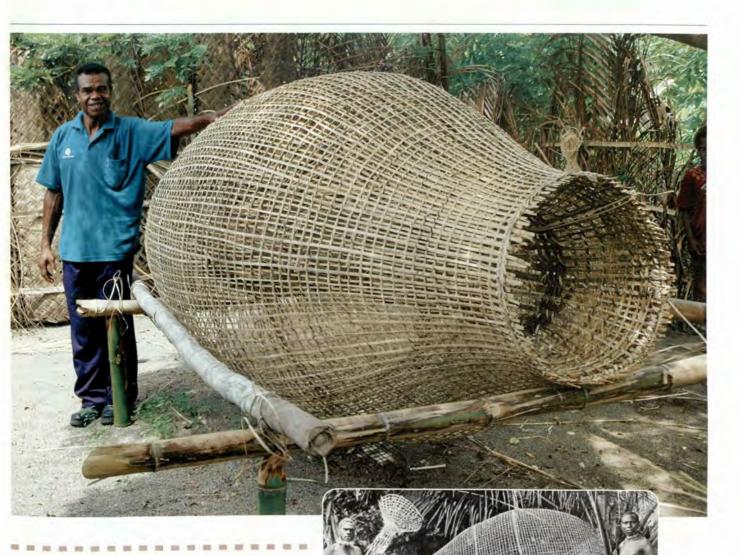
The traditional fish trap, or *wup*, was the first one to be made in the area for more than forty years, so when it is launched, it will be the cause for some celebration at

least in the village of Kuradai, just up the coast from Kokopo.

It will also be the culmination of many months of research and organisation by local Tolai Gideon Kakabin, without whose efforts the *wup* would never have been built.

It currently takes the old men and their two younger village trainees, ToKilala's sons, at least a month to complete each trap.

The first stage is the woven construction of the tubular inner core that has an almost cotton reel shape in the centre, of which there is a woven lattice-work plate of cane. This is a separate component. Then, on a rough bamboo jig, the main body of the trap is fabricated, working out from this inner core.



It is a time-consuming process, each crossover of split cane has to be tightly cinched, ensuring also that all the cane is oriented in the same direction so it will not twist during subsequent cycles of wetting and drying.

It is a time-consuming process with each crossover of split cane tightly cinched to ensure all the cane is oriented in the same direction so it will not twist during subsequent cycles of wetting and drying.

Once completed and transported out to sea on an outrigger canoe, the *wup* is held in place vertically by a long, thick hawser of twisted cane and rattan to an anchor of rocks in a woven basket, called a *peo*, that sits on the bottom of the sea.

The fish trap is held in place above its anchor by a thinner twisted rattan rope to a small raft of bamboo poles, or babau, that floats on the surface.

This raft, with a tree branch or palm fronds stuck into it, provides shade and protection that attracts shoals of smaller fish living in the top metre or so of the sea, known locally as *malabur*.

These 'bait' fish and the larger species such as amoro

and aurup that prey on them venture into the trap under the raft, become confused by its interior design and are unable to get out. Completely organic fishing!

After launching from outrigger canoes, the traps are placed in suitable offshore locations of the correct depth where they can stay for some time until in need of repair. They are checked every day to be emptied of catch.

As all fishermen would know, the sighting of seabirds flying around the raft is a sure sign there are likely to be fish underneath.

Another reason to build a solid trap with a strong rattan cable holding in to the bottom is to ensure the fish inside cannot be taken by any sharks that might be in the area.

Fish caught stay alive inside the body of the wup and any unwanted catch is thrown back alive, unlike gill netting where often everything that gets trapped in them ends up dead.



Gideon believes there is no reason why this traditional technology can't be reintroduced as a means for villagers to catch fish; it is cheap, efficient and as a bonus, it is likely that visiting tourists would pay to accompany local fishermen on their fishing activities - manufacturing, repairing, launching and checking the traps.

When Gideon Kakabin became interested in this traditional technology, ToRutan and his two contemporaries - all three already in their seventies - were the last people he could find in the village who knew how to make the fishing traps that he had seen in old photographs of the Gazelle Peninsula.

The traps are not unique to Kokopo, similar ones are found elsewhere in coastal communities in East New Britain, Duke of York and New Ireland. Their specific design must have been developed by a process of trial and error over many centuries. Photographs of villages from the colonial period often feature these large fish traps hanging up to dry in the trees.

Gideon was intrigued as to why such an efficient fishing method, utilising all local materials, had stopped being used in favour of store bought nets, dinghies and outboard motors that whilst possibly more efficient, ultimately cost more and not truly sustainable in a village situation.

Although no one is totally certain, it seems that increased boat traffic through Blanche Bay and Simpsons Harbour may have resulted in ships running into the small rafts above the traps. Also government fisheries officers may have promoted the use of nets, thinking that traditional methods were somehow inappropriate.

Gideon's interest has thankfully resulted in these traps being made once again on the shores of Blanche Bay, importantly now with a couple of younger people understudying the older weavers before they pass on.

In order to raise awareness of the traps with local and overseas visitors, he took a stall to demonstrate them at the 2012 Mask Festival arena, which won a prize for the best cultural display.

Here, Gideon and the old men were happy to chat for hours with anyone who was interested in the traps or other traditional fishing techniques.

We walked together from the edge of the Kokopo to Rabaul road, down the sea shore beneath Kuradai village where the trap is being constructed past cotton bushes, complete with white fluffy cotton balls - an amazing remnant of the many potentially commercial agricultural plants that had once been grown on a trial basis by the German colonial administrators more than 100 years ago!

Gideon believes there is no reason why this traditional technology can't be re-introduced as a means for villagers to catch fish; it is cheap, efficient and as a bonus, it is likely that visiting tourists would pay to accompany local fishermen on their fishing activities

- manufacturing, repairing, launching and checking the traps. The large man-size *wup* are not the only form of traditional fish trap available. In fact, there are also smaller woven traps that sit on the bottom, weighted down with stones and rocks.

Gideon is aware his village people will not go back to the *tumbuna* ways of the past without a good reason and preferably an economic reason.

The weaving techniques used in making the fish traps can be utilised to make similar structures - perhaps miniature models of the full-size traps for sale to visitors or simpler trap shapes for use as ornamental light shades.

This can be seen in the dining area at Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort where the steeply pitched roof space is illuminated with a small shoal of fish trap shaped light shades.

Let's hope this small village 'back to the future' project proves to be successful and in years to come, we may once again see these elegant large traps hanging in the trees above coastal communities in East New Britain.







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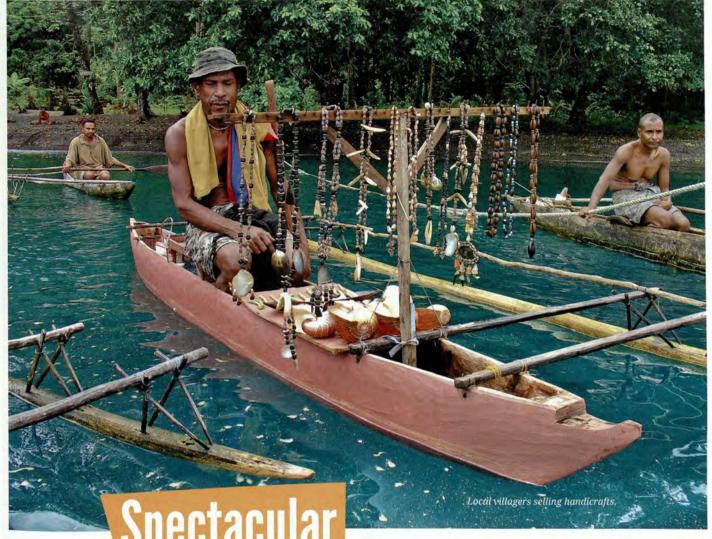
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Spectacular DIAD

By Don Silcock

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SEA FAN

CLEANING

STATIONS

JUVENILE ANGLE FISHES

AND & RUBBLE SLOPE

JOWN PLUS

LONGING

STATIONS

STATIONS

JUVENILE ANGLE FISHES

AND BLE SLOPE

JOWN PLUS

ON THE SOLOMON SEA side of the peninsula that forms the north coast of Milne Bay, is a small village called Lauadi. It's a pretty place with lush vegetation and a black sand beach, but very little else to distinguish it from many other similar villages in Milne Bay Province.

But what makes Lauadi so special is not what's on the land...it's what is under the water, just off the beach in front of the village and at the nearby headland that brings divers from far and wide.

For Lauadi hosts two of the best dive sites in Milne Bay - Dinah's Beach and Deacon's Reef.

The contrast between the two sites is really quite remarkable because Dinah's is very much a muck dive, whereas nearby Deacon's offers superb coral gardens that are simply quite spectacular!

It's quite amazing that two such excellent but completely different sites should be located so close to each other. But I guess it just reinforces the amazing diversity of Milne Bay Province!

Bob Halstead, the well-known pioneer of Milne Bay diving, is credited with discovering the two sites and he's made them so well-known.

Dinah's Beach, which is named after Bob's wife whose family actually owns Lauadi, was where Bob coined the phrase "muck diving". Bob was attempting to persuade the guests on MV Telita that, rather than diving the pristine reefs they had travelled so far to see, they should embrace diving where there is no beautiful scenery.



He started with Deacon's Reef back in 1987 when he took renowned *National Geographic* underwater photographer David Doubliet there.

Doubliet's fantastic images were published in the April 1988 edition of the *National Geographic*, making a significant contribution towards establishing Papua New Guinea as an international dive destination.

Coincidentally, they also helped convince me that I should leave the Middle East, where I was working at the time, and move to Australia so I could be closer to such amazing locations - but that's a story for another edition of Paradise!

Dinah's Beach, which is named after Bob's wife whose family actually owns Lauadi, was where Bob coined the phrase "muck diving".

Bob was attempting to persuade guests on MV Telita that rather than diving the pristine reefs they had travelled so far to see, they should embrace diving where there is no beautiful scenery.

The legendary dive travel pioneer Carl Roesler had chartered Telita for that cruise. He had brought along the usual party of well-heeled Americans and "Carl Wannabees".

According to Bob, Roesler and all the guests

simply assumed he was trying to save on fuel. But eventually they agreed to try the site for a few minutes on the promise that the boat would move elsewhere if they did not like it!

ainted frogfish in it

So muck diving was born because the guests did not come back apart from when they needed more air and film.

However, it has to be said that it took a while for the term to gain acceptance because it does create a bit of an image problem with the uninitiated, something that Roesler tried to correct by suggesting a name change to "Exotic Animal Diving".

44 PARADISE December 2012 - January 2013



black sand with a fair amount of organic rubbish or under a jetty with a lot of both organic and inorganic rubbish!

But what you will see are critters that you are highly unlikely to ever see on a coral reef. Critters simply don't do reefs much

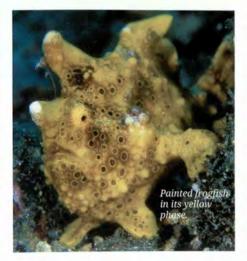
But what you will see are critters that you are highly unlikely to ever see on a coral reef. Critters simply don't do reefs much and strongly prefer an environment where they can blend in with the background and wait patiently for their next meal.

So what is a critter?

Well...the term critter is a generic and totally non-scientific one, used by divers to describe a broad and unrelated group of underwater creatures. The features of these creatures that get them into such an elite grouping are that they are typically small and occasionally tiny, they usually possess an amazing ability to disguise themselves and have flamboyant coloration.

There are basically two sub-groups of critters, with one being those of intense beauty and the other of brutal ugliness. There is rarely anything in-between!

Critters are highly sought after, particularly by underwater photographers who tend to regard them as trophies to add to their image collection! Besides their specific photogenic attributes, a key feature of many critters that really endears them to photographers is that they are usually static and appear totally confident that their ability to camouflage themselves has made them virtually invisible.



The Critters at Dinah's

My first dive at Dinah's was back in 2003 on board Rob Van Der Loos' boat, the MV Chertan, and it was also my introduction to critters generally.

Rob and the Chertan enjoy a very strong reputation amongst underwater photographers as he goes out of his way to find interesting critters for you. His book, *The Living Reefs of the Indopacific*, is a must read if you want to understand about them, their environment and most importantly, where to find them.

I have to admit I was much less able at "critter spotting" back then but I vividly remember that dive, because I spent what seemed like several minutes looking at the painted frogfish my animated dive guide was pointing at.

While I was wondering what was so exciting about a piece of brown sponge, he was wondering why I was not using that fancy camera!



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With so much to see and such shallow water, you can spend hours in the water and dives of 90 minutes or so are quite normal. There is always something different to see and visiting the same spot at different times of the day often produces nice surprises!

Above: Porcelain crab in its anemone.

Right: Moray eel and white banded cleaner Shrimp.

Above Right: Super nudibranch.



Why Are The Critters There?

This is a really an interesting question - why should one specific location host a treasure chest of the weird and wonderful and another spot quite close by have next to nothing?

From all the critter rich sites I have dived, I have observed what appear to be three key features for them to flourish:

Shelter: Critters don't like turbulent water...Which if you think about it, neither would you if you were a bottom dweller that relies on the element of surprise to pounce on your next meal!

Beaches or other areas prone to surf or strong currents will just not support a significant critter population.

Dinah's is a classic example of the kind of sheltered beach that enables critters to thrive because the nearby headland that hosts Deacon's Reef provides excellent shelter from the predominant southeasterly currents that run up the north coast.

Nutrients: Critters like muck in the water - usually from a nearby small river or stream, which provides rainwater run-off rich with organic nutrients.

But just like Goldilocks, this nutrient porridge should not be too hot or too cold. Too much nutrient will produce siltation and inhibit the critters growth, while not enough nutrient is...well, not enough nutrient!

Some Current: Yes, I know I said critters don't like current, but there is current and there are CURRENTS....

Nearby deep water with an underwater topography that creates cold-water upwellings, rich in phosphorus and nitrogen from decayed organisms on the sea floor, are the types of currents that produce the conditions critters like.

This mixture of river run-off and cold-water nutrients and a sheltered environment combine to make a critter "hot-spot".

Diving Dinah's Beach

Diving Dinah's could not be easier, but you will need a boat to get there!

Live-aboard dive boats drop anchor in the deeper water and tie their sterns to one of the trees near the village, so entry is a giant stride off the back.

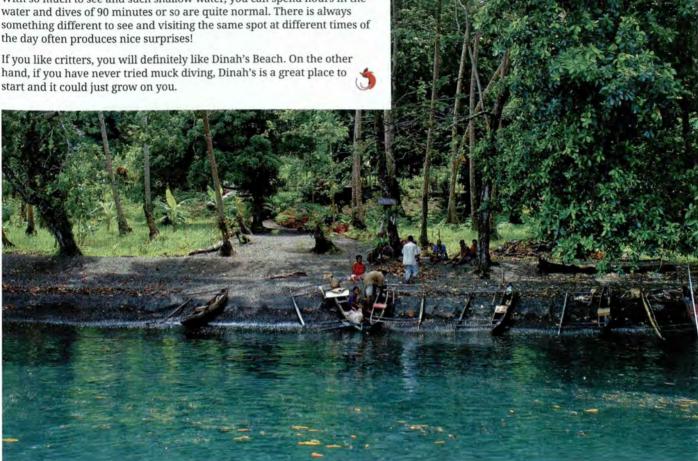
The beach slopes off at an angle of about 30 degrees into the depths, but it's rare to go any deeper than about 12-15 metres because all the critters are usually found in less than 10 metres.

With so much to see and such shallow water, you can spend hours in the water and dives of 90 minutes or so are quite normal. There is always something different to see and visiting the same spot at different times of the day often produces nice surprises!

If you like critters, you will definitely like Dinah's Beach. On the other hand, if you have never tried muck diving, Dinah's is a great place to

· Don Silcock is based in Sydney, but travels widely in Asia and his website (www.indopacificimages.com) has extensive information and image galleries on the diving in Papua New Guinea and other great locations across the Indo-Pacific region.

Dinah's Beach.





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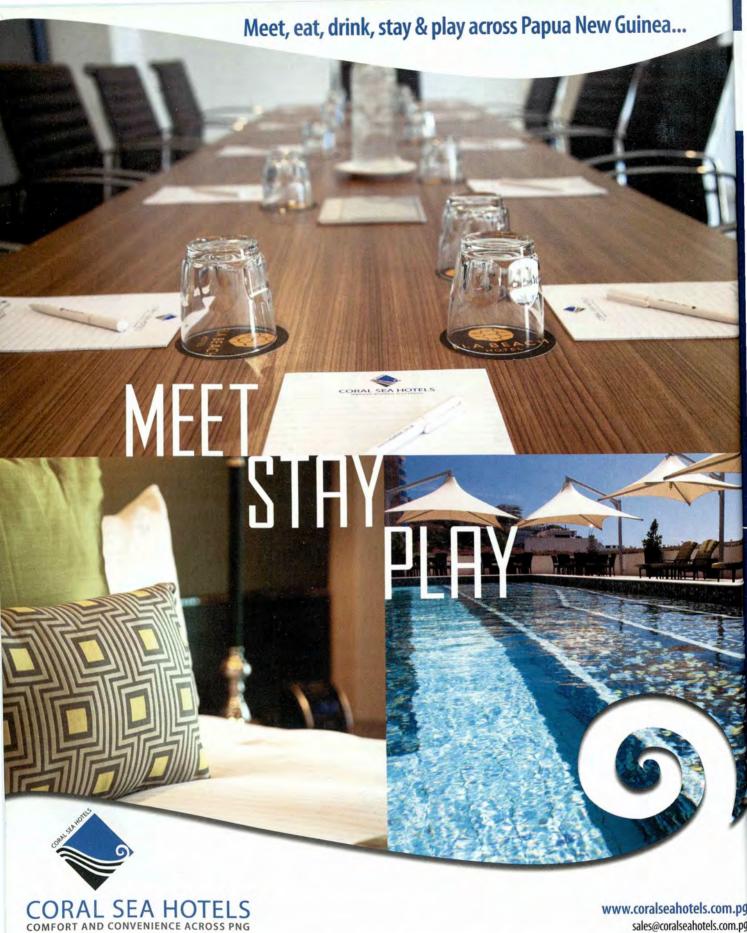




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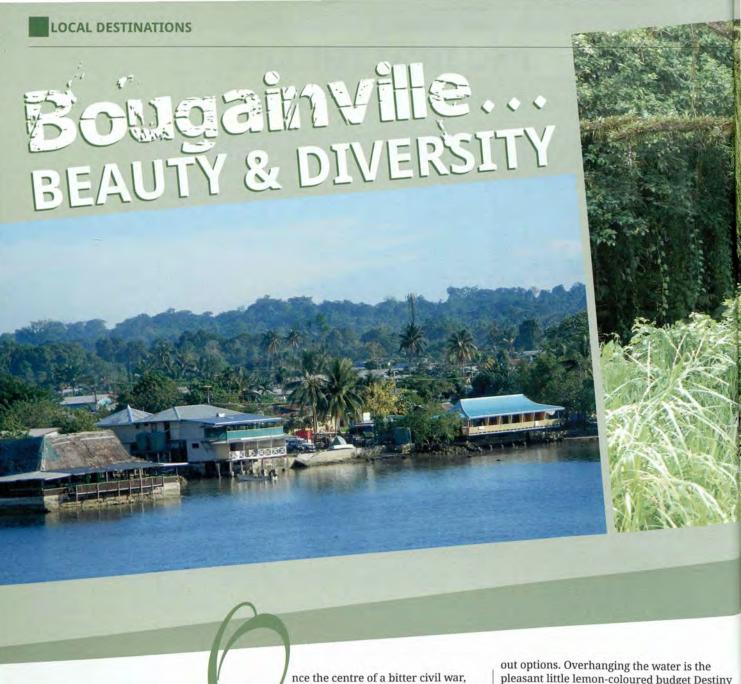
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nce the centre of a bitter civil war, the now benign Bougainville is a region of extraordinary beauty and diversity. As you fly into Buka Airport, a gorgeous panorama of emerald islands, blue lagoons, and white, sandy beaches welcome you. Across the narrow passage and on the 'mainland', the cloud swathed, brooding volcano Mt Balbi beckons you to this land of adventure, history and mystery.

To begin, my friends took me for a quick spin around town and the boat landing area where a huge crowd had gathered to watch a knockout boxing match for selection to represent Bougainville at the upcoming PNG Games in East New Britain's Kokopo. Over the road on the small beach landing, scores of people and goods were being loaded onto the ubiquitous 'banana boats' for transport across the 750-metre wide passage to Kokopau.

At the far end of Buka Town's one main street is a cluster of accommodation and eating

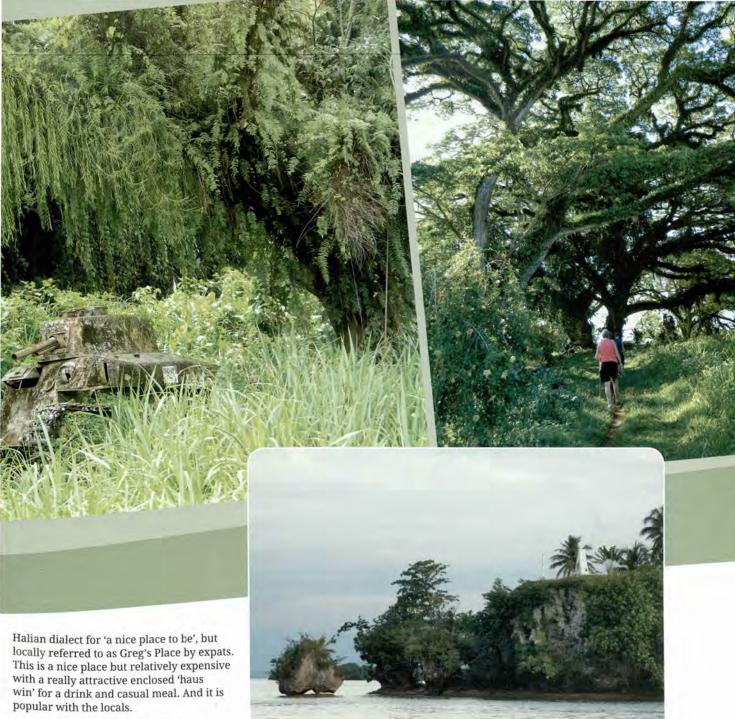
out options. Overhanging the water is the pleasant little lemon-coloured budget Destiny Guest House. Next door, we find waterside Reasons Bar, which has rooms being built at present.

Neighbouring Kuri Village Resort, though ethnic and interesting, has seen better days. However, it's a bit of an icon and if you visit here, drop in for a drink. It was Saturday and on the evening's agenda was a 'bamboo band'.

This is a musical experience unique to Bougainvilleans where a couple of young men play a stack of bamboo pipes of varying lengths with their thongs (flip flops if you're a New Zealander!). This is usually accompanied by singers and dancers.

Great Passage views and beyond are to be had from the waterfront bar and restaurant, with a turtle pond to amuse you if you look the other way.

Finally, we found Lynchar with very nice accommodation and also a restaurant for simple meals. By this time, we were feeling pretty peckish and drove around to *Toyena*,



A five-minute moonlit boat ride through the glassy channel waters brought us to the delightful little island of Sohano at the entrance to the Buka Passage. The enormous tourism potential of this venue is obvious. Tsibu, a mushroom-shaped limestone 'spirit being', rises from the fringing reef to greet you. Atop the limestone cliffs, there is a pretty walkway around the island with water views every which way you look.

Here, I stayed at the Sohano Ocean View Apartments being developed by local businessman Ralph Christen, an enterprising young man with a vision. His Swiss father used to work at the Panguna mine.

Though his apartments are still a work in progress, this is by far the elite accommodation of Bougainville - overlooking the waterways with four ultra-modern apartments and seven rooms.

Ralph also runs a bakery and a kai bar in town.

During the colonial years and World War II, Sohano was the administrative centre. The administrator's house and medical centre are still in use today. Surrounding the latter are several giant raintrees whose limbs are densely covered in bright, pretty ferns and frame a picture perfect scene of the islands beyond.

The facilities were taken over by the Japanese during the war and Sohano became a sea-plane base from which to conduct battles at Guadalcanal. In fact, a War Memorial to soldiers who died in the Solomons campaign has been erected by the Japanese and stands sentinel here with a sea-plane war relic nearby.

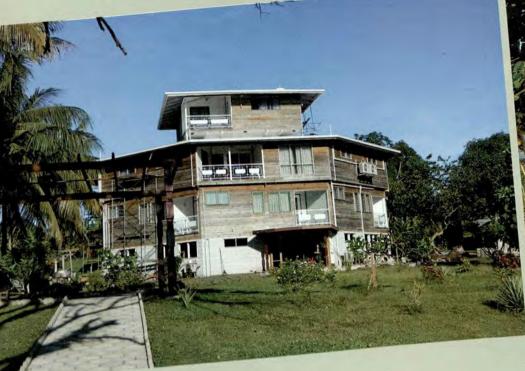
We had a Sunday snorkel in the clear waters of nearby White Island. The pandanus-clad island had some nice patches of coral and fish, and clearly is a popular weekend picnic destination for the locals.

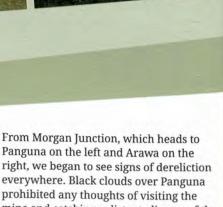
With a wonderful *mumu* prepared at Ralph's place, we looked forward to our own evening treat which Ralph's mother Alice, her friend Ann, and a few other women cooked.

The centre of administration has moved camp a few times over the years. During

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The scars of the war years are visible everywhere in the former capital, which once boasted some of the best roads, electricity generators, banks, medical and sports facilities, schools, cinemas and shops in the country.





the late 1960s, Arawa town was built to accommodate employees of Bougainville Copper, and after independence in 1975, it became the Administrative seat of what was then known as the North Solomons Province, renamed Bougainville in 1997 during the crisis.

On Monday, I hitched a lift to Arawa with Ralph's friend Justin Marshall, in order to see it for myself.

The rattly, three-hour drive runs parallel to the mountain backbone of the island through thick jungle or old, tall ex-German coconut plantations with the new cash crop, cocoa, planted beneath.

A cattle farm or two spoke of reviving business interests in a country whose economic development has been retarded by its troubles.

There are still pockets of 'meka mui' (homelanders) whose occasional skirmishes inhibit business growth and they seem to be found around Panguna and further south around Buin and Siwai.

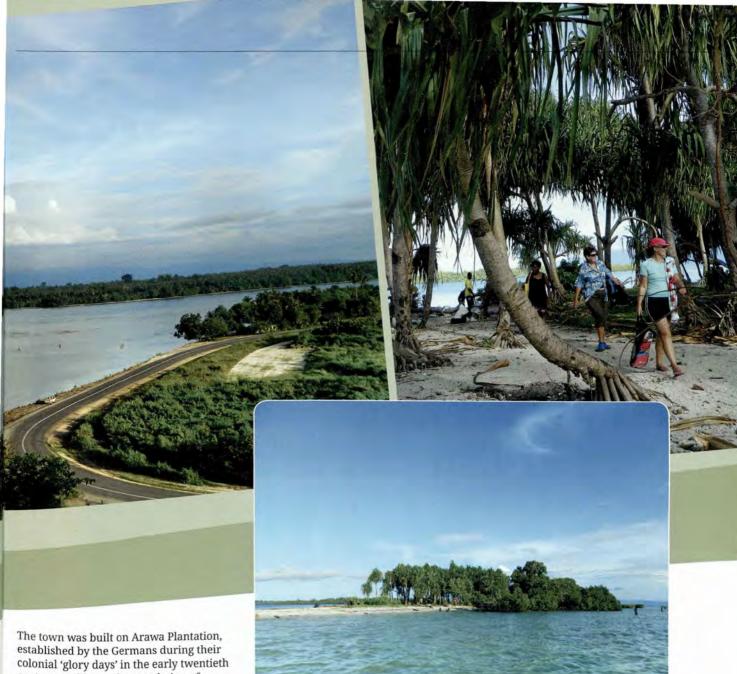
mine and catching a distant glimpse of the smoking Mt Bagana volcano.

A minor detour along the old Port Mine Access Road (PMAR) revealed the neglected

A minor detour along the old Port Mine Access Road (PMAR) revealed the neglected and pilfered Loloho Power Station which used to carry electricity all the way to Buka.

Skirting the overgrown ex-golf course and town, we headed out to what was left of Kieta, the international port for Arawa, where once lived about 10,000 people. Little evidence of that remains, though a wharf and some war relics are reminders of its former strategic importance.

The scars of the war years are visible everywhere in the former capital which once boasted some of the best roads, electricity generators, banks, medical and sports facilities, schools, cinemas and shops in the country.



The town was built on Arawa Plantation, established by the Germans during their colonial 'glory days' in the early twentieth century, and housed a population of approximately 130,000. Most of these were destroyed during the complex conflict which lasted throughout the nineties. The Administration was, at the time, moved to Buka, where it remains to this day.

Arawa occupies a spectacularly beautiful site in a natural coastal amphitheatre ringed by big, brooding, limestone mountains covered in thick jungle.

A touch of nostalgia crept into Justin's voice as he pointed out former aspects of the town which now lay derelict, burnt out, pulled down or overgrown, including the hospital which was once the pride of PNG.

However, he's optimistic that people and small businesses are gradually returning, even occupying gutted buildings like the former BSP (Bank of South Pacific). One of the positive remaining legacies of the mine years is the network of quality roads throughout the town.

Today, the leaders of the Autonomous

Region of Bougainville (AROB), a political entity established in 2001 at the time of the Peace Agreement, assemble in Buka Town in what was formerly a University of Papua New Guinea building with a fine hilltop location overlooking the passage.

Its gardens and pathways are adorned with orchid poles each crowned with a carved 'chief's hat' representing authority. Discussions continue regarding ARG's political status and financial position within Papua New Guinea as a whole.

In the meantime, a referendum will occur in the next few years to hear the people's voice on the matter. Until then, certain peace agreement criteria will need to be met regarding good governance, economic development and weapons disposal. The options will be to remain a truly

autonomous entity within the PNG political system, become a completely independent country, or revert to being the 'sankamup' province of PNG.

There are talks of Panguna copper mine reopening sometime in the future, so perhaps Arawa will see better days again, and hopefully with a more equitable distribution of wealth, this time to keep everyone happy and moving forward. At 4am I took the 4WD bus back to Buka for more insights into the north.

A couple of hours were spent at the village of Navuanek with my World Vision contacts, checking out the inspiring efforts of the villagers to improve their water and sanitation facilities, but that's another story (See story on page 89)!

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Like the 'mainland' island, the villages seemed fairly prosperous with tidy, solid homes and lovely gardens. Sweeping, glorious views of the coastline reveal themselves from time to time.





Then it was off to Lamanmanu in the north to seek my colleague's family and pass on her love and good wishes. Irene, one of the neighbours who happens to work with my friends in Buka Town, came along to show the way.

Like the 'mainland' island, the villages seemed fairly prosperous with tidy, solid homes and lovely gardens. Sweeping, glorious views of the coastline reveal themselves from time to time.

We stopped at a roadside market for Irene to stock up with yams and a big basket full of kau kau (sweet potato) for only K10. Value! And soon we came to the Sareke household where smiles and laughter were the order of the day.

By the time we returned in the late afternoon, the roadsides were brimming with people returning from their day's activities. Groups of boys played football on almost every village green. Fires were starting for the evening meals and pigs and chickens wandered their way across the road, going home too I expect. Cheerful people waved and welcomed us and we stopped to buy a hand woven basket for me to take back to Port Moresby, the next morning.

Apart from the places, my abiding memory

will be of the friendly people of Bougainville and their welcoming ways; Ralph; Ann; Joel the boat boy at Sohano; Lily, who barbecued me bananas at Areiva Guesthouse in Arawa and her daughter Rosie, who walked me around town and to the market; Justin, who provided so many insights; Boniface and Gail of World Vision who showed me the village and sanitation projects and the Navuanek villagers themselves; Irene, of Law and Justice, who assisted us in finding my friend's mother; and to my Bukan colleague Alice, for providing the inspiration to visit.

Bougainville's not an easy place for an independent traveller to get about and I'm thankful to my friends who work here for opening the doors for me to glimpse this extraordinary, 'sankamup' region.

If you book accommodation before you come, the guesthouses will fill you in on how to get out and about. Kuri Village resort runs tours and I believe there's a tour company in Arawa.

One thing's for sure; your memories, like Bougainville itself, will remain fresh, warm, sunny and evergreen.





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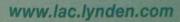


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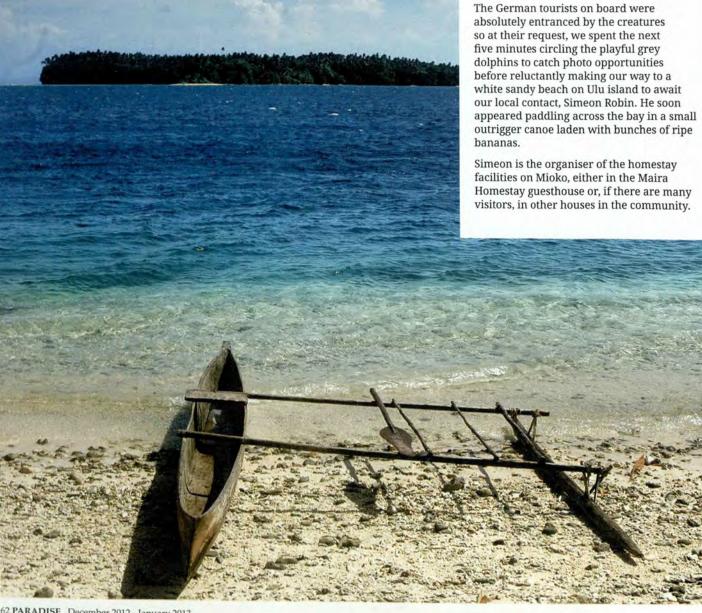


HOME STAY ON MIOKO!

By John Brooksbank



by the main islands of the Duke of Yorks, the water around the dinghy suddenly erupted with the antics of a pod of at least a dozen sleek grey dolphins who seemed to immediately incorporate our vessel into their water games - diving under the boat and occasionally leaping completely out of the water in a pirouetting vertical dance.



He patiently explains to the visitors the situation that he and his fellow Duke of York residents find themselves in - an almost subsistence lifestyle based on fish, cassava and taro, with few sources of cash income to pay school fees and other small necessities of life. Visitors and the small income they bring are therefore welcome in these islands.

They are about 45-60 minutes boat ride from Kokopo - the time of the year, weather and wind will determine whether you arrive wet or dry on the island group.

It consists of a cluster 3 main and 11 smaller low-lying isles, the largest being Duke of York Island and the others include Pigeon, Big Pigeon, Utuan, Kabakon, Kerawara, Ulu, Makada, Mualim and Mioko. There are protected harbours and mooring points between the islands and from some parts one can look back at the volcanoes that tower over Simpsons Harbour and Rabaul town in the distance.

From a longer-term historical perspective, the Duke of Yorks were a way-point in the migration of the Tolai people from New Ireland to New Britain hundreds of years ago, although with the passage of time, the language now spoken on the islands, their culture and traditional dances are different from those in New Ireland and the mainland Tolais, who speak Kuanua.

The Duke of York islands, sitting in the middle of St George's Channel, midway between the islands of New Britain and New Ireland, were not always such a rural marine backwater.

In search of pearls, pearl shell, copra and beche-de-mer, German and other traders



had been visiting the area for some years before eventually the firm of J C Godeffroy & Sohn set up a commercial post on Mioko in 1874, followed by Eduard Hernsheim at Makada harbour.

Hot on the heels of visiting whalers and island traders, the legendary Methodist evangelist Reverend George Brown, along with eight Fijian and Samoan lay preachers, set up his first mission station at Port Hunter in 1875, staying until 1881.

Three years later in 1878, Emma Forsyth travelled from Samoa to also settle on Mioko, setting up a trading station and purchasing her first blocks of land to plant up as coconut plantations. In those days, she would ride around her properties on

horseback. Predictably, Reverend George lived in a traditional house very much like the others in the villages on the islands, whereas the European traders constructed wooden colonial residences typical of the time, with wide verandahs, manicured formal gardens, footpaths and the necessary number of domestic staff.

As part of his colonial games of chess, German Chancellor Bismark organised a navy expedition to his country's Pacific trading outposts and in November 1884, the Marines raised the flag of the Reich over the Duke of York group and it officially became Neu Lauenburg the following year.

At the same time, New Britain and New Ireland became Neu Pommern and Neu





Mecklenburg respectively. It was a bold move that led to the Dutch and somewhat reluctant British governments similarly delineating their areas of colonial influence in the region.

After a few years on the Duke of Yorks, Emma was confident enough in her dealings with the local communities in the area to venture to mainland New Britain, following the German traders who had set up shop there.

put down roots and built up a vast commercial and plantation empire centred at Herbertshohe, now known as Kokopo, entertaining on a grand scale at her lavish house at Gunantambu, and eventually, as a result of her wealth and influence in the area, became famously known as Queen Emma.

Tall geriatric coconut palms remain waving in the breeze on the Duke of Yorks today, although the once productive plantations are no longer operational - some have been passed back to the traditional owners whilst the ownership of others remains with the United Church.

Villagers produce copra on a small scale but the labour required plus the cost of transport to the mainland makes this a rather marginal exercise with the current world prices for this commodity.

The only other resource available for villagers to earn a cash income are the fish that are plentiful in the protected waters in and around the island group - and with the local population rising every year, now being more than 12,000 people, having a cash income is becoming increasingly important.

The islands are very different from suburban Germany and the camera-laden European tourists are soon surrounded by a crowd of beautiful blond-haired children eager to catch a look at photos of themselves.

These whooping, gleefully innocent and carefree youngsters attend elementary and primary schools on the islands but for further education, they have to travel to mainland East New Britain; they are not yet old enough to be worrying about

sustainable development.

There are few remains of yesteryear. Shifting tides have washed away the shoreline in some places, building it up in others - there used to be a number of graves of German seamen, now only one remains under a village house, looking out into the calm and bright blue waters of the bay.

A few vestiges of the colonial residences can be found such as Emma's swimming pool, now virtually indistinguishable from a jungle pond.

As they did in Rabaul, the Japanese occupying forces garrisoned on the islands during World War 2 dug tunnels in which to store ammunition and other materials safe from the depredations of Allied bombers.

On the main island of Duke of York there is still a somewhat overgrown airstrip and a huge copra drying and storage shed on the sea shore adjacent to a crumbling jetty, slowly rusting away in the tropical sun.

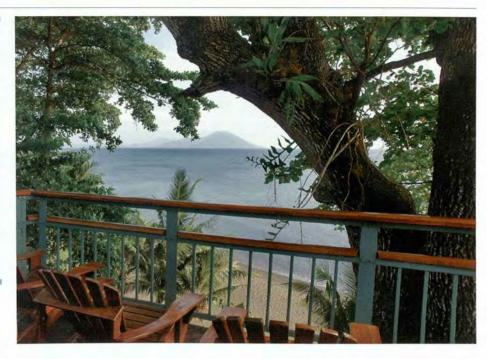
Our tourists loved the innumerable secluded coves and white sandy beaches to sunbake on under the palm trees, or as a base to swim, snorkel or go diving from; seemingly in the middle of nowhere but in reality just a short boat trip away from the shops, hotels and relative hustle and bustle of downtown Kokopo.



Although not mentioned during our visit, initiated Duke of York islanders have a reputation as sorcerers and fire eaters, the latter a scarcely believable feat involving biting off pieces of burning coconut husks and blowing embers from the mouth...something to look forward to on the next trip to these intoxicating

There are many other activities that will appeal to people visiting or 'home-staying' on the islands other than experiencing village life, such as inspecting various bits of rusting World War II memorabilia - both above the ground and beneath the sea, including two Japanese tanks in shallow waters off the north-western tip of Duke of York island, probably lost during their transfer to the shore.

With the assistance of Taklam Tours and Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort which



organise tours to the islands, Simeon is looking at other possible sources of assistance to improve infrastructure at Mioko. He wants to build on the current homestay arrangement to increase the number of tourists visiting his islands and to provide a cash earning option for his fellow villagers.

Although not mentioned during our visit, initiated Duke of York islanders have a reputation as sorcerers and fire eaters, the latter a scarcely believable feat involving biting off pieces of burning coconut husks and blowing embers from the mouth... something to look forward to on the next trip to these intoxicating islands.





ANDRA'S CORMERCE SARDENS

n Andra Island outside almost opile of neatly are alongside stacks villagers will te and colourful corals he the reefs and left outsi sun as the first step in to wonder how this correefs they are taken for Andra Islanders take produce what the the whole of the provit of Manus Province, the traditionally had a moof coral lime for chew catechu) - a practice ul Guinea (PNG) - and is social, cultural, custon

n Andra Island in Manus Province, outside almost every house there is a pile of neatly arranged coral fragments alongside stacks of driftwood. The villagers will tell you that these once live and colourful corals have been harvested from the reefs and left outside to be bleached by the sun as the first step in lime production. One has to wonder how this coral harvesting affect the reefs they are taken from.

Andra Islanders take pride in the knowledge that they produce what they say is the best lime in the whole of the province. Along the north coast of Manus Province, the Andra Island community traditionally had a monopoly on the production of coral lime for chewing with betel nut (Areca catechu) - a practice ubiquitous in Papua New Guinea (PNG) - and is an intricate part of many social, cultural, customs and rituals.

Lime production involves firstly collecting and drying the source of the lime, which can be shells or corals fragments. On Andra, the source is mostly coral fragments, which have to be alive when harvested and left out to dry.





66 PARADISE December 2012 - January 2013





Dead or algae smothered corals are discarded; only specific types of coral are chosen. Once sufficiently dry, the coral fragments are baked on stacks of logs until they turn completely white. The coral fragments are then carefully sorted to remove all unwanted pieces and stored in woven baskets or cardboard boxes.

Over a period of several weeks and possibly months, the coral fragments crumble and break down to form the lime powder which is periodically spread out in the sun before being packed for sale.

Lime production on Andra is very much a family affair; from harvesting and drying to baking and final sale of lime. As the process is time consuming, coral harvests occur only two to three times a year depending on the size of the harvest.

Lime sales from a single harvest can support a family for several months as they only sell a portion at a time to buy what they need.

As part of a wider study to assess the effect of fishing on coral reefs within PNG and Indonesia, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in 2002, found that fishing and lime production were the two main sources of income for most households on Andra.

The studies also found that compared to similar sites in Manus and other parts of PNG, the coral reefs surrounding Andra were virtually denuded of acroporid corals - which are those preferentially harvested for lime production.

Thus, the islanders' economic dependence on the lime trade had, over time, directly contributed to a reduction in the number of these corals on their reefs. Although coral harvesting may not have been such a big problem in the past when the population was relatively small, it has become a bigger problem now as the island's population has grown.

Andra is a small island, located just off the north coast of the main island of Manus. It is home to two main clans, the Paluwaha and Rai, which are further divided into three sub-clans. Theirs is a peaceful and tightly knit society, built on decades of strong leadership and commitment to maintaining customs and traditions. Being an island community, they are also heavily reliant on their marine resources to meet their social and economic needs.

There isn't a lot of arable land to make gardens so all vegetables have to be bought from markets on the main island. Community elders talk of days when Andra was the main supplier of fish to the market in Lorengau, but those days are gone now, they say.

As more and more of the preferred type of corals were harvested, there weren't enough to meet everyone's needs. People now harvest a wider variety of corals, including some that takes a long time to grow. Fish that were plentiful in the past are rarely seen today, say the village fishermen. Those fish that could easily be

caught in shallow waters are today only seen in much deeper waters. People have to work harder to maintain their livelihoods.

In an effort to try and address these issues, a coral farming project was implemented by the WCS in partnership with the community. This is part of a wider resource management strategy aimed at providing a sustainable way for the continuation of coral lime trade on Andra.

Coral farms consisting of five broodstock and eight harvest-stock tables were established within the reef area belonging to each of the two main clans. The tables were fabricated from iron rods and G4 mesh wire. The brood-stock tables were stocked with coral fragments from nearby reefs and took about six months to reach a size big enough for grafts to be taken for attachment to the harvest-stock tables. The harvest-stock took between six and eight months to reach a size suitable for harvest. The coral tables had to be continually cleaned of algae and other unwanted things to get the best outcome.



Will this work? Will everyone be willing to grow their own corals from now on? No one knows for sure but for now, most people seem to be willing to give it a try.



The first harvest in May 2008 produced about the same amount of coral as the average amount harvested per family during one lime production exercise. This proved that each family could establish and maintain several coral tables which could produce the same amount of coral within a given year as they had in the past, but without having to harvest directly from the

Today, the Andra community is looking to expand the coral farms so that each family can have their own. All that is needed now is the initial start-up cost of fabricating the tables and establishing them, but more importantly, the communities' commitment to growing their own corals for lime production and stop harvesting from the wild.

The WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) continues to work with the community and a process is underway for it to become financially independent in order to support the expansion of the coral farms and in doing so relieve extractive pressure on their reefs.

Will this work? Will everyone be willing to grow their own corals from now on? No one knows for sure, but for now, most people seem to be willing to give it a try. Resource management issues are very much intertwined in the everyday needs of people, the need for food and financial



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 Further information on the Andra Coral Farming Project can be obtained by contacting the author on jwia@wcs.org.

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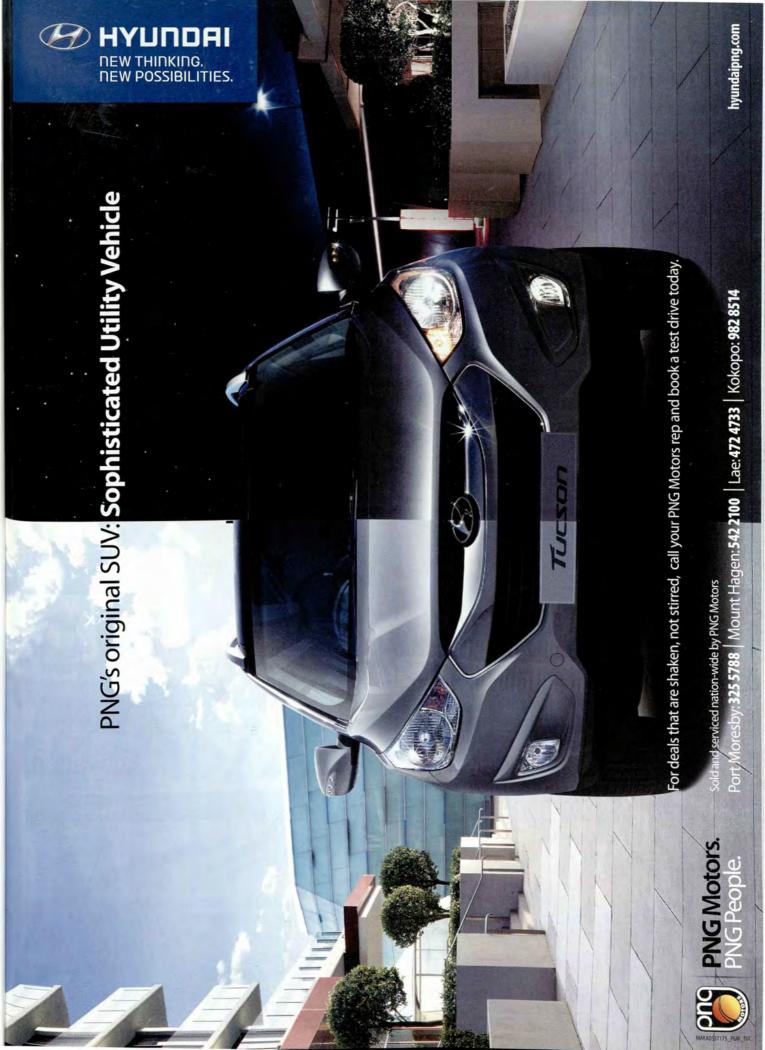
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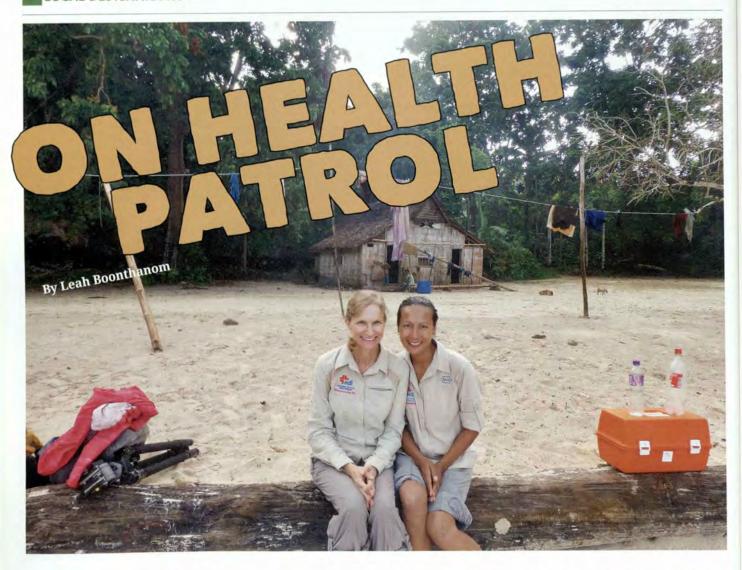
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MY PLANE ARRIVES AT KAVIENG late at night, soaring through a sudden tropical downpour and landing in a laid-back island paradise. New Ireland is remote and its white coral beaches, exotic marine life, WWII dive wrecks and uncrowded surf breaks deserve to be better known. But that is not why I'm here.



I have come to travel around the region with the not-for-profit medical relief agency known as Australian Doctors International (ADI). It sends volunteer doctors on health 'patrols' to assist remote and rural communities. Founded by Australian GP and community leader Dr Peter Macdonald, the ADI programme is based on 10 years of experience working in Western Province. In New Ireland, ADI has partnered with the Provincial Government, which contributes considerable funding and dedicated health staff for patrols.

Last year, ADI's volunteer doctors treated almost 3,000 patients and provided over 550 hours of on-the-job training for health workers. They also distributed medical equipment worth over \$145,000 donated by Australian and PNG organisations to needy rural health centres.

"When we go out as an integrated team with ADI, people get health services that the government otherwise can't routinely provide," says Dominic Sahamie, Director of Health for New Ireland Province.

Health is, according to some of the communities we visit, the only government service currently reaching rural areas. Most of the province's 160,000 people are subsistence farmers who exist in simple villages without running water, electricity, phone coverage or proper roads.

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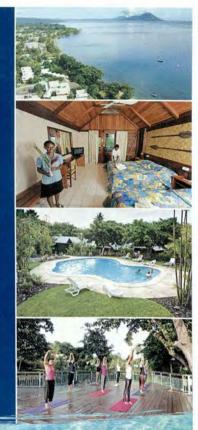
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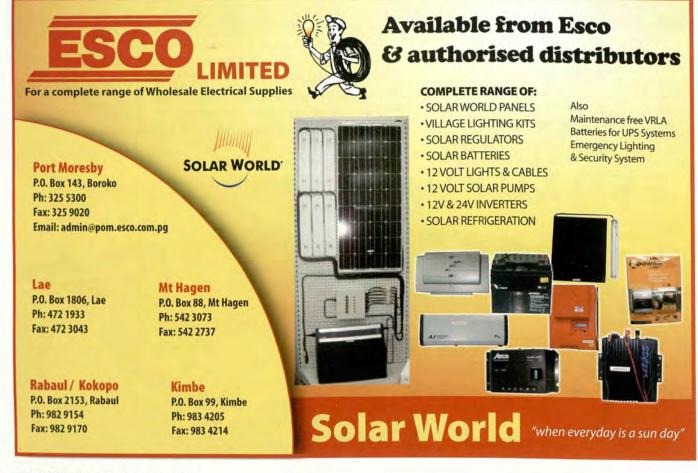
Pigs darting out of bushes are the only indication we're approaching another village. Huts are wholly constructed from wild bush materials; there are no markers of modernity.

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I join an ADI health patrol headed by Dr Merrilee Frankish. She gave up a successful rural GP practice outside Cairns to volunteer in PNG for six months. Merrilee speaks fluent Tok Pisin, learned as a medical student in PNG's Madang and Lae provinces 30 years ago. She has expertise in public health, tropical medicine, obstetrics and surgery.

The local patrol team members include eye nurse Roland; TB coordinator Wilson; HIV/AIDS educator Audrey; women's health nurse Jennifer; water and sanitation inspector Eremiah; and dental therapists Simon and Matthew, who are all very committed. "These integrated patrols are our only opportunity to reach the rural people in faraway places," they explain.

Our destination is the isolated West Coast. We set off in 4WD troop carriers down the Buluminski Highway on the East Coast, planning to circumnavigate the island. Flanked by palm trees, we pass picturesque villages with swept sand gardens and trade stores selling rice, bully beef and other basic supplies. Smoke from kitchen fires cooking kaukau (sweet potato), taro and yam billow through sago leaf roofs. Laughing kids kick balls across hot, dusty fields. Plantation workers wield knives on impossibly long handles to fell coconuts and palm fruit, key sources of regional income.



Five-and-a-half hours later, the West Coast offers much less and is very isolated. We drive over the island at Labur and head north along an unsealed, potholed goattrack surrounded by dense encroaching jungle. Pigs darting out of bushes are the only indication we're approaching another village. Huts are wholly constructed from wild bush materials; there are no markers of modernity. We slow down beside people walking to their gardens and women washing by the river to give tok saves (announcements) about the team's health services.

"Come tomorrow, the next day, or the day after to your health centre to see a dokta, (doctor) get treatment for your eyes, teeth, PAP smear, HIV test," Audrey the straighttalking HIV/AIDS educator calls from our vehicle. To me she says, "The West Coast is forgotten."

Our first stop Messi Health Centre is painted blue and yellow and presided over by a jungle-covered limestone escarpment with a giant bat grotto at the top. At 7am, the village bell - an old WWII bomb case - bellows to announce the health team's arrival. Patients come from near and far, some riding in the back of the old school truck, others walking for three dusty hours.

The ADI doctor Merrilee treats a baby girl with hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain), a



man with elephantiasis, a young mother with severe mastitis.

A village elder embroiled in land disputes came with difficulty swallowing, proposing witchcraft as the cause. Instead, he's diagnosed with oral cancer, likely related to chewing *buai* (betel nut), PNG's narcotic equivalent of coffee and tobacco. There are also a lot of musculoskeletal aches and pains. For locals labouring all day long in gardens and carrying home heavy loads

of root crops, vegetables and firewood, the physical cost is high and basic painkillers are either unaffordable or unavailable.

"The last ADI patrol gave us new ideas on how to deal with patients and taught us about the different treatment options," says Sister Margaret, the hardworking nurse who runs Messi Health Centre. As part of the ADI programme, local staff assist the volunteer doctor during clinics to gain onthe-job training.



We jump out of the 4WDs and wade across by foot so the vehicles can better negotiate the rushing waters. During the rainy season, this sole thoroughfare is completely cut off. The locals can be isolated for weeks, save for taking to the ocean in canoes.



On the other side of the health centre, the women's health nurse conducts PAP smears (the slides are shipped to Australia for analysis - 900 women in PNG died of cervical cancer last year). The eye nurse does vision tests and distributes subsidised spectacles. The dentists pull decayed teeth from adults and even young children - they'll only perform temporary fillings if the patient can get to Kavieng, five potholed hours away, within one month for a permanent filling. Most patients know they'll never be able to muster the 60 kina return truck fare, so they opt for an on-the-spot tooth extraction.

We stay at the church guesthouse and bathe downstream in a cool crisp river. On the beach at dusk, villagers light a campfire using driftwood and dried coconut husks, and invite us to join them. They sing and tell stories about their local shark callers, who continue the ancient tradition of serenading sharks using rattles made of coconut shells. Anything is possible in this beguiling land.

Our next stop is Panaras Health Centre, several bumpy hours and rising rivers away. We jump out of the 4WDs and wade across by foot so the vehicles can better negotiate the rushing waters. During the rainy season this sole thoroughfare is completely cut off. The locals can be isolated for weeks, save for taking to the ocean in canoes. It's no wonder they refer

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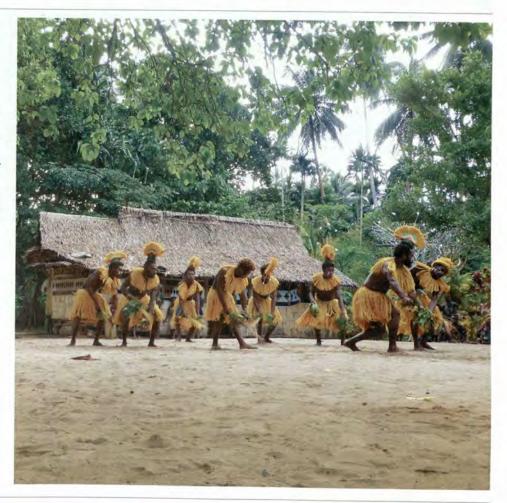


to their birthplace as the 'Last Page', a slice of New Ireland that feels all but forgotten. Except for today.

Our arrival in Panaras coincides with preparations for the National Mask Festival in neighbouring New Britain Province. For the first time ever a dance group from the West Coast has been selected to represent New Ireland - and that group just happens to be from Panaras. We join the excited villagers for a final dress rehearsal, settling on the sandy beach beneath knotted pandanus palms. Musicians beat kundu drums and a garamut that reverberates a beautiful wooden timbre.

The male dancers wear turmeric yellow grass skirts and headdresses embellished with drongo feathers and sing in the old language. The first act is a ceremonial warrior dance, showcasing strength and ferocity as the men stomp on the earth and agitate coconut shell rattles.

The second depicts four mischievous forest dwarves comically darting about in masks with oversized ears and exaggerated expressions. The finale re-enacts the cremation of a dead man in traditional Kuot tribal custom and, instead of being a sad affair, the mourners' theatrical wails of anguish are met with hilarity from the crowd.





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The following night I am awoken by water buckets clanging and minutes later, a newborn crying. Four babies arrive by the light of a kerosene lamp during our three-day stay, all delivered safely by the health centre staff, with no need for the patrol team to intervene.

This isn't always the case. PNG's infant mortality rate is 47 deaths per 1,000 live births¹, comparable to Bangladesh. Its maternal mortality rate is 733 per 100,000 live births², the highest in the Pacific.

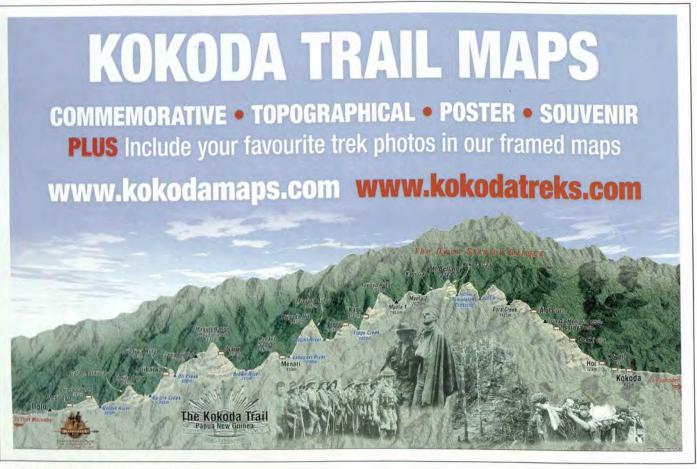
Key factors include peri-natal infections, post-partum haemorrhage and a lack of skilled birth attendants.

The next day Merrilee trains the staff on complicated deliveries and neo-natal resuscitation. At one stage, she jumps on the delivery bed in feigned labour to coach them through a shoulder dystocia ('stuck') delivery. The staff relish every word - in isolated areas like this, they are the front and final line of any emergency.

Merrilee also distributes medical equipment donated by ADI sponsors, including scales, stethoscopes and surgical instruments, and teaches staff how to use it. The women's health nurse Jennifer stays up past midnight helping staff update clinical records.

"These community health workers receive only two years formal training, lack basic essential equipment and yet are more-or-less doing the job of doctors," says Merrilee in amazement. "But as our integrated health patrols prove, it doesn't take much to improve the situation."

The community is already seeing the benefits of Merrilee's training on malaria prevention and diagnosis and the new MALA-1 treatment, given during a visit five months earlier. Malaria cases here have dropped from





16 in one day to 16 over an entire month. Merrilee insists that staff weigh every patient as part of routine examinations - TB is highly prevalent in the region and weight loss is a good indicator of infection. She also trains staff to test patients for diabetes using glucometers donated by Roche Australia.

"We learn a lot from the ADI doctor and everyone else on the team," says Anasine. "Patients are no longer returning again and again with the same problem because now for the first time we can treat them properly."

In the midst of an afternoon downpour, the HIV/AIDS educator Audrey, TB coordinator Wilson, and water and sanitation inspector Eremiah visit a local school to give health talks to the students. Wilson and Eremiah teach how to contain TB and maintain personal hygiene in the absence of running water and toilets. Audrey delivers a nonosense session on safe sex and drugs. It's an essential initiative, considering that PNG accounts for 99% of the Pacific region's reported new HIV infections³.

Back at the health centre, a village elder comes to Audrey for HIV testing. "I want to have the experience so I can see for myself what it feels like. Then I can tell the younger people and encourage them to get tested too," he says.

Our final stop is Piliwa Health Centre on Djaul Island. Getting there involves a one-hour banana boat ride from Lamusmus across the brilliant blue ocean. We chase a pod of playful dolphins and in turn are pursued by flying fish moving so fast I mistake them for tropical wasps. We zoom past limestone cliffs and across shallow

reefs, as the cool ocean spray splashes away the heat of the searing sun. Close to Piliwa, our cook Elizabeth casts over the side of the boat and reels in a giant tuna, which re-appears that night as dinner.

We are just three hours by sea from Kavieng, yet we may as well be back in Messi or Panaras. Merrilee refers several patients for suspected TB, but it's difficult to confirm and prescribe treatment because there aren't any laboratory services. She insists that the health centre help transfer these patients to Kavieng.

The eye nurse Roland sees a nine-year-old schoolboy who's suffered crossed eyes and refractive errors since birth, but his family has never been able to afford the journey to Kavieng for treatment. A patrol member pays for some glasses.

In a village at the other end of the island, water and sanitation inspector Eremiah deems the murky creek from which everyone collects water - a canoe ride and 30 minutes walk away - as unfit for drinking, but the village's three small water tanks are inadequate for a population of 200 thirsty people, especially during the dry season.

However, there is hope, as patients are diagnosed and treated and leave feeling that the Provincial Government and outsiders care. There is promise as health workers are trained on topics of their choice and their morale lifted by the patrol team's presence.

There is connectivity and closeness as the HIV/AIDS educator Audrey and women's health nurse Jennifer give a tok save on sexual health to women gathered on the grass; every opportunity is precious.

These integrated health patrols - a unique partnership between the New Ireland Provincial Government and Australian Doctors International - prove what can be achieved by working at the grassroots level with local communities: an integrated health service that is tailored to meet local needs, build capacity, disseminate information and ensure healthier communities.

We return to Kavieng after 11 long days on the road. Our vehicles, once filled with medical equipment and drugs, are now laden with woven baskets of buai, coconuts, bananas, papaya, kaukau, yam and other foodstuffs received as gifts from the villages we have visited.

The local patrol team members are eager to return home and prepare a feast with their families, but I am still savouring my journey to quaint pockets of this evocative island province.

I am still remembering the jungle-backed beaches, warm village hospitality and the wide smiles in the face of adversity. I am still delighting in New Ireland, a place that now feels like an old friend.



- http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/papuang_ statistics.html
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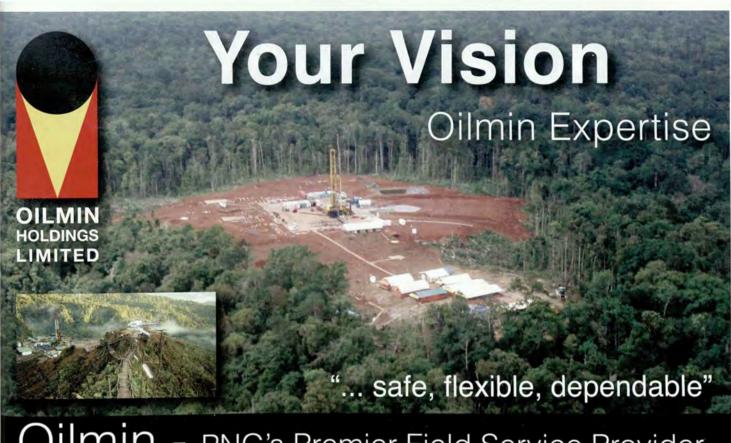


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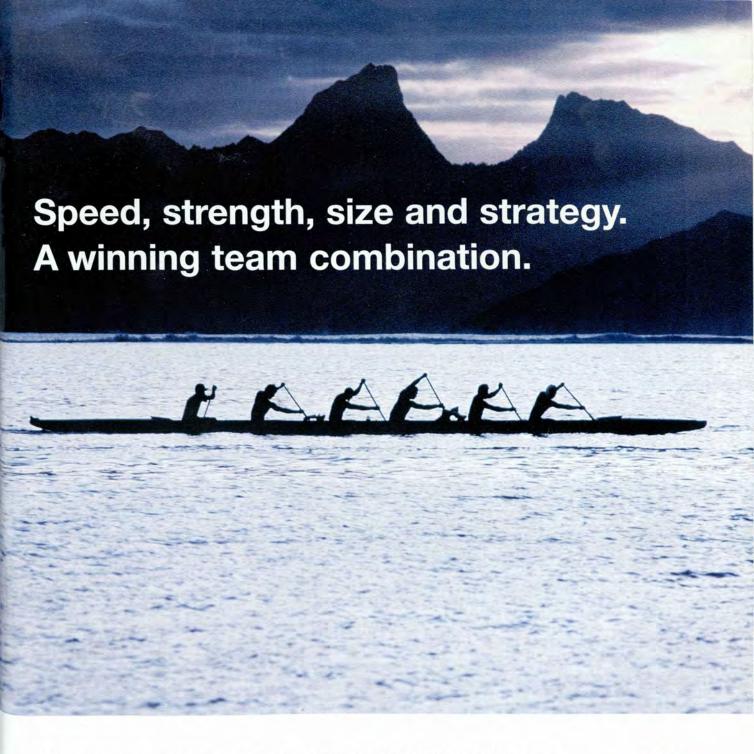
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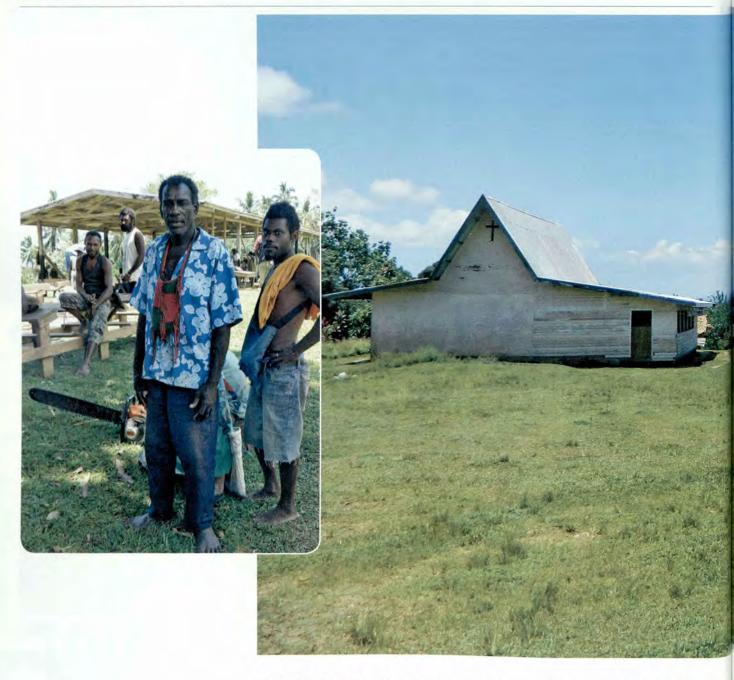


MAKING A DIFFERENCE Inspirational Navuanek on Buka

By Diana McManus

Sometimes it's hard for us who live in the modern world to imagine what it would be like to walk 4.5 kilometres each way, three times a day, to fetch daily water needs from the nearest water source!

Yet this is what the women of Navuanek, on Buka, have been doing since the beginning of village memory. How do they find the time to do the things Bougainvillean women were expected to do; raise and educate the children, work in their gardens and cook the meals?



All that has changed in the past three years due to an inspirational collective and collaborative effort between the villagers and World Vision.

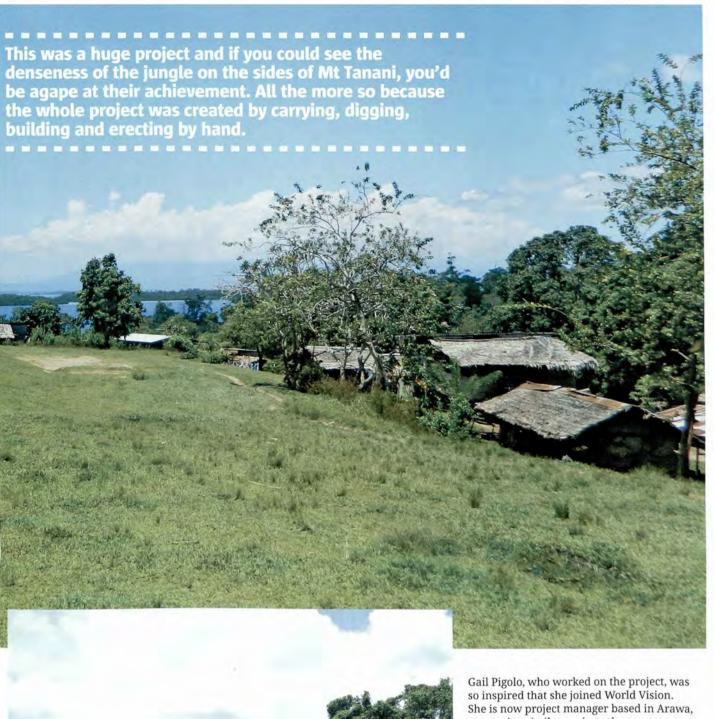
Now, the village of 600 or so inhabitants, has nine taps and ventilated, improved pit toilets for its people, similar to the type used in Australian National Parks. And the quality of women's lives has improved, not to mention the quality of the villagers' lives in general.

Around 2009, Reuben Maneou, one of the leading lights of the project, responded to ideas put forward by World Vision's local project manager Boniface Wadari, and soon the whole community was involved in the planning. The idea was to create a gravity fed water supply which dropped 114 metres from spring waters at the top of the nearby Mt Tanani.

This was a huge project and if you could see the denseness of the jungle on the sides of Mt Tanani, you'd be agape at their achievement. All the more so because the whole project was created by carrying, digging, building and erecting by hand.

It took three months for the project to be completed and involved all able-bodied villagers. Many of them set up camp at the foot of the mountain and women who couldn't handle the physical requirements cooked for everyone else.

What they built and installed is a dam with two sedimentation tanks and a water distribution tank. These were carried up by hand. A pipeline was dug into the ground to service not only the main Navuanek village but also the other Navu villages.



overseeing similar projects there.

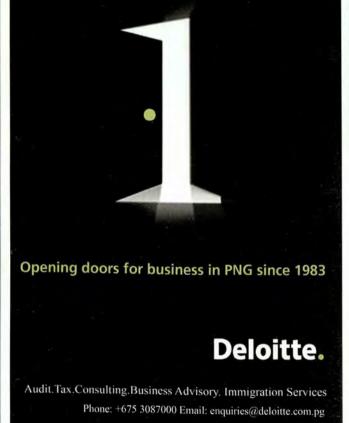
The project is self-sustaining and committee member Julie Kutsini collects K1 per month from each village family to be banked into the BSP (Bank of South Pacific) village account for any on-going maintenance and repair works required. On the committee also is the local Council of Elders representative, James Teop.

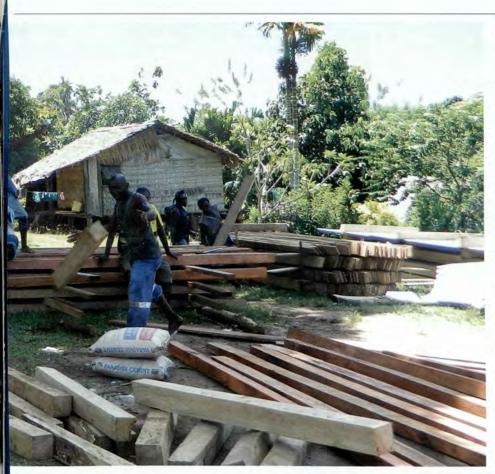
The water tech men do regular maintenance and go up to the dam once every three months. They work on the tanks keeping them clear of leaves and other debris. In the wet season, the dam outlet is shut down to prevent muddy water from entering the tanks.

Inspired by the initiative, the village then undertook to improve its sanitation facilities, hence the new VIPs at strategic points.









According to Reuben, the improved water quality and sanitation have had some interesting spin-offs. There is improved attendance at the village school now, with children being able to use the nearby toilets and wash their hands.

Church programmes are now attracted to come to the village, such as the Ministry programme, and this generates income for the community. Last year, over three hundred church guests from Rabaul camped on the village green... all because of water and sanitation. In fact, as we spoke, there was a women's programme in progress in the church next to us and their harmonious singing was a pleasant distraction from talking toilets!

Perhaps, one of the best spin-offs has been the pride and enjoyment of positive, collaborative achievement, and the villagers are on a roll. In fact, we extracted Reuben and James from what looked to be a construction site. The village men were out renovating the little primary school while the children were on holidays and having a lot of fun by the looks of it. On our return, there seemed to be a communal cook up happening for lunch, and some pretty happy faces.



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So be generous the next time you are invited to contribute to humanity's progress and take heart from the big hearted little community of Navuanek on Buka that your money will be well spent!

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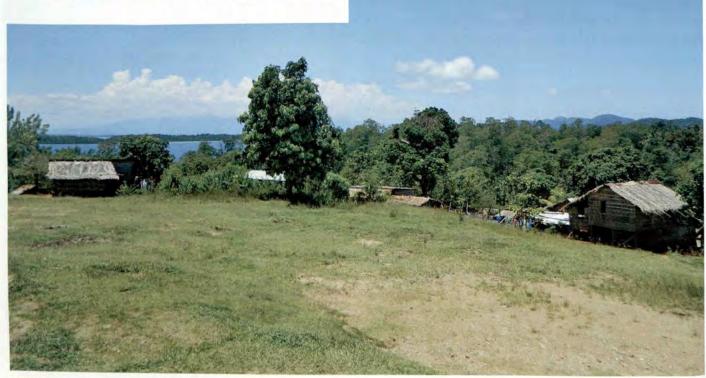




There are lots of wonderful projects going on throughout PNG sponsored or funded by a raft of NGOs. They make such a difference to ordinary people's lives and are a reminder to us, readers, of how fortunate we are.

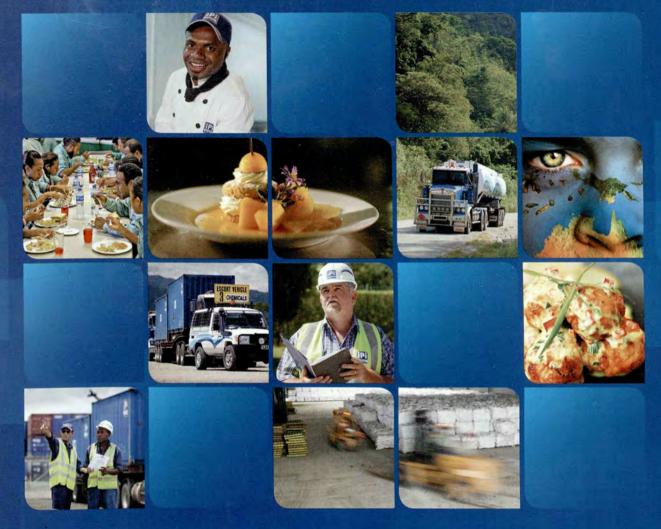
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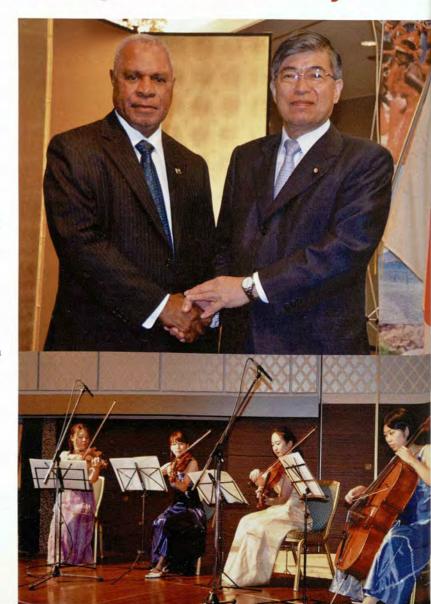
BIGBIRTHDAY BASH Celebrating 37 years of independence in Tokyo

By John Brooksbank

lourishing samurai-like swords, the two traditionally dressed chefs on the raised stage dramatically dissected the huge red-fleshed tuna to the delight of the watching crowd, all eagerly waiting their turn to fill their plates with the raw fish. Although it was just one of the menu options available at the reception, it was still one of the highlights of the evening.

The function at the ritzy New Otani Hotel, in downtown Tokyo, is one of, if not, the, biggest event of the year for the PNG Embassy in Japan - the celebration of 37 years of independence. Attended by more than 350 people, the black tie event saw most of the men dressed in suits and the ladies in demure cocktail dresses or in more colourful traditional kimonos.

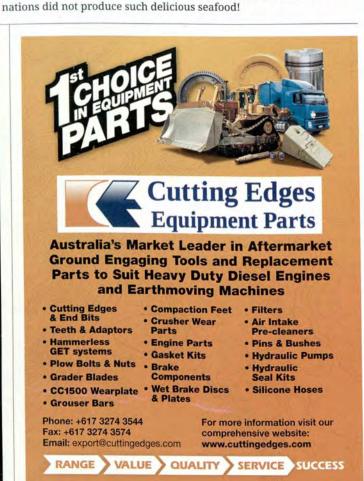
Ambassador Gabriel Dusava, his wife Anna and Katsuo Yamashita, chairman of the Japan-Papua New Guinea Association, manned and greeted the long line of guests; this ante-room was adorned with a profusion of amazingly colourful flower arrangements donated by the various businesshouses with a connection to Papua New Guinea.





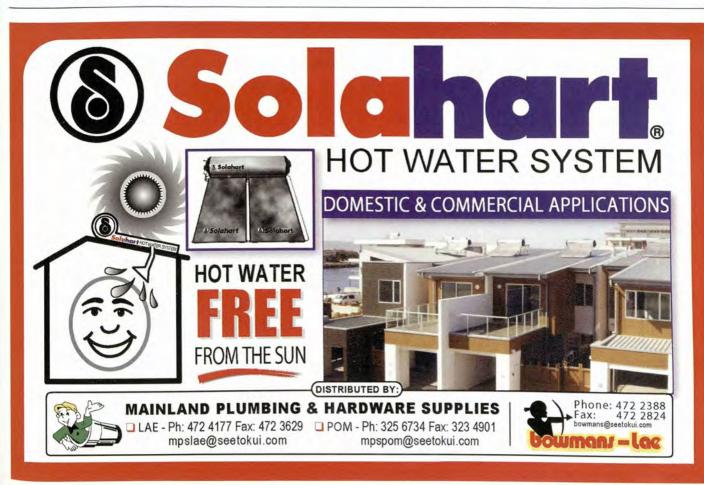






ambassadors from Africa bemoaned the fact that their landlocked







Developmental agencies such as JICA and various non-government organisations including the Japan PNG Association were present at the reception; as were ladies from the Machida Cranes Lions and Bird of Paradise groups.

Independence was marked by an annual golf tournament, the 10th to be held so far at the Tomioka course, an hour or so outside Tokyo. The event aims to promote friendship and cooperation but also serves to raise funds for charity - proceeds last year

were donated to victims of the catastrophic tsunami. It is intended that players have fun rather than fiercely compete around the manicured greens of the Tomioka course, a rather hilly 18 holes adorned with carefully sculpted trees and duck-filled lakes, all 'interesting' hazards to the average player. The number of new balls used during the rounds was evidence of the degree of difficulty for some players. Mature female caddies, with their distinctive hats and pink headscarves who also drove the golf buggies,

were a source of sage advice for visitors to the course on the lie of the particular greens and the best club to use.

A total of 140 players in 35 teams, including a number of ladies teams, competed in the all-day tournament. Everyone who competed received a 'show bag' of small items from Papua New Guinea and information about the country, as well as a lucky ticket to be drawn later; the club house foyer was decked out in a small display promoting the country also.







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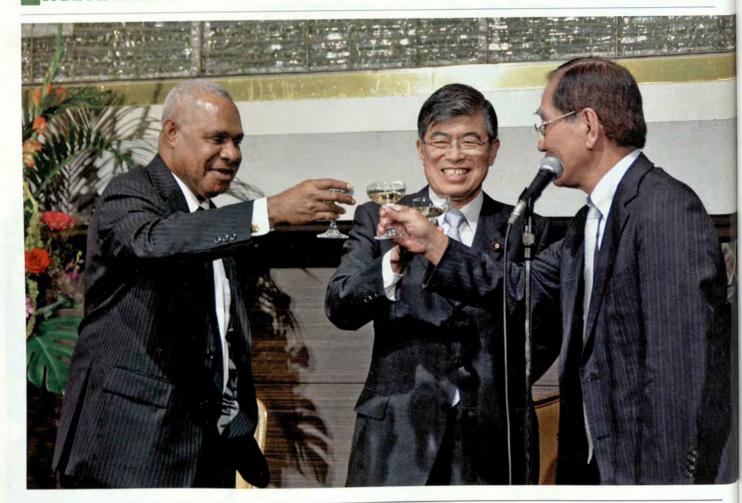
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The celebration of the 37th anniversary of Independence of Papua New Guinea in Japan is a grand affair, an event that serves to strengthen ties that link the two countries...

The reception at the end of the day, attended by the Mayor of Tomioka, various ambassadors and other business leaders. was an opportunity to award prizes for many categories of players - including the person with the highest score!

A total of more than 40 prizes, almost all products of PNG included coffee, carvings, beer, colourful bilums and even Warrior dark rum whilst the first lucky draw prize was a return ticket for two from Narita to Port Moresby.

Speeches were given by Ambassador Dusava and Tomioka Mayor, Tushiyuki Okano. This was topped off with a toast from the president of the Tomioka Golf Club, Toshiharu Ishii, which was the signal to tuck into food on offer. Everyone was eager to sample some of the PNG products laid out such as SP Lager, huge tiger prawns and a smorgasbord of other food including



fresh sushi cut from a tuna caught in PNG waters.

The celebration of the 37th anniversary of independence of Papua New Guinea in Japan is a grand affair, an event that serves to strengthen ties that link the two countries and, as mentioned in speeches of the day, these, although based on trade in many cases, are much deeper and stronger than business alone.







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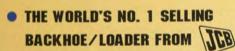
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By John Borthwick

before morning coffee then buy a bigger yacht by lunchtime.

Instead of gnomes, I see snow domes, the distant Swiss Alps, and sunlight on Zurich's church spires and clock faces, the white swans on her river and students on cycles. It's a late summer afternoon along Limmatquai, the curving boulevard that faces the Limmat River, and the view of all this is so benign that I wonder why the rest of the world can't be as civilised?

It's not just a matter of wealth that underpins this civility; it's also the surprisingly good manners of Zurich residents - known as Zürchers. As I step onto a street crossing, a canary yellow Ferrari that's driven by a cigar-chomping Zürcher, who looks more like a gansta than a banksta, brakes immediately to let me cross. Elsewhere, I'd have almost been roadkill. At other times after taking photos on a busy street, I lower my camera to find that several pedestrians are waiting patiently in order to not step into my shot. Just as in Sydney or Shanghai - not.

ZURICH



A cruise on Lake Zurich is high on my wish-list. Tour boats depart frequently from the Bürkliplatz pier, so I use my ZurichCARD (good for buses, boats, trains, trams and museums) and am soon cruising past lakeside suburbs, then villages backed by vineyard-clad hills and green pastures manicured, if not pedicured, to perfection. Along this 30-km stretch, known as the Swiss Riviera, I spy the occasional stately chateau, the sort of place where I imagine Carl Jung once lived and is now home to one of those gnomic bankers. After two hours of heading south, whistle-stopping at village piers and wooded islands, I step off the boat at the medieval village of Raperswil.

Next morning in Zurich's Old Town, I head to the 13th century Fraumünster Church

to see the famed windows that were made in 1970 by artist Marc Chagall. Illustrating Biblical tales, the five tall, stained-glass panels, backlit by the sun, are a visual Hallelujah, a psalm sung in light. I notice that normally hurried visitors stop in their tracks, gob-smacked and silent. We sit and contemplate the windows' beauty.

"Zurich fashion prices aren't too bad," says Jackie, an Australian visitor I meet in my hotel lobby. She adds, "And the sizes are more realistic than the beanpole figures that Paris fashions seem made for." And that is the extent of my Zurich shopping research because when I stroll down Bahnhofstrasse, one of the world's great fashion streets, the stores are closed. It's Sunday and another mark of Swiss civility is that Sunday remains a day for fun,

family, prayer, beer, boating or whatever, rather than compulsive selling and spending. The Bahnhofstrasse mile that I stroll glitters with the franchise shingles and elegant baubles that you can also see in airports and malls across the world. "Yes, but they're more expensive here," jokes a Swiss friend.

Zurich has seen a parade of historic luminaries from Charlemagne, Le Corbusier and Goethe to Mozart, Thomas Mann and even Tina Turner, or so I read. Irish novelist James Joyce lived here twice, during which time he taught English, wrote part of Ulysses, noted that Bahnhofstrasse was "so clean you could eat a pudding off it", and died in 1941. He's buried not far from the zoo, where he hoped that he might continue to enjoy the roar of the lions in eternity.





In Spiegelgasse, a narrow cobbled incline in the Old Town, I find a plaque on number 14 declaring that Vladimir Lenin lived here during 1916-17. The story goes that he and his wife had already paid their rent a month in advance when in 1917, he was called home to head up the Bolshevik Revolution. The landlady, rather than refunding their rent, promised the Lenins they could always come back and stay for a month, free. As history shows, Lenin had larger fish to fry.

Church bells ring a duet across the town and lipstick-red geraniums burst from window boxes. Maseratis growl along the Limmatquai where Cafe Bar Odeon, the former hangout of exiles like Lenin and some very odd bedfellows, still serves good coffee. I duck in for one. For decades, creative thinkers such as Joyce and Albert Einstein plus others of.

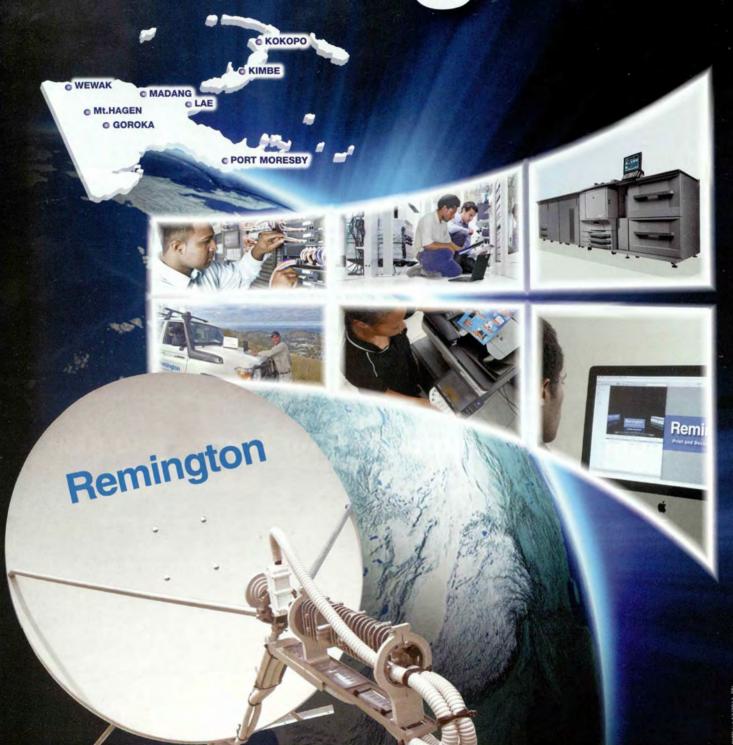
let's say more destructive touch - think Mussolini - supped and drank beneath its Deco mirrors and marble columns. The Odeon, although now half its former size, is still as elegant as these shapers of history knew it.

There's more to Zurich than the perfected, post-Gothic chocolate box streets of its Old Town. It has, for instance, possibly the best public transport system in the world. One throw-back, to 1889, in this truly modern system is the antique red rail car, the Polybahn, that climbs steeply to Zürich University. It's free, there's only one stop and the ride lasts three minutes. You step out onto the university's vast forecourt that overlooks Zurich's steeples, rooftops and river. It's a view that has been enjoyed, perhaps even inspired, by no fewer than 21 Nobel Laureates who've passed through the institute's portals.



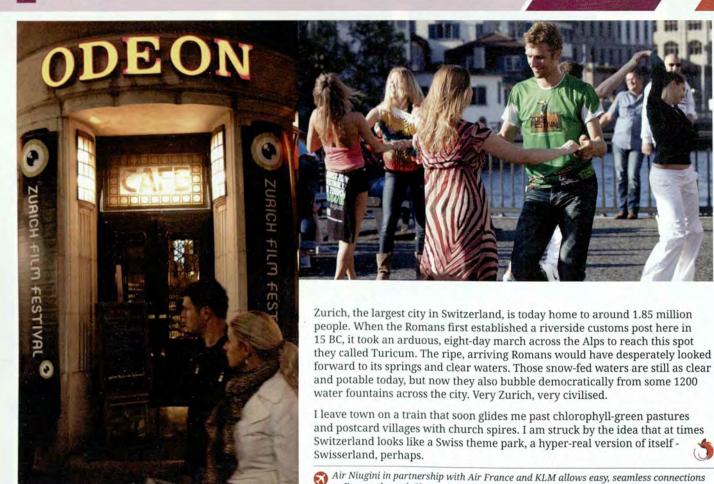


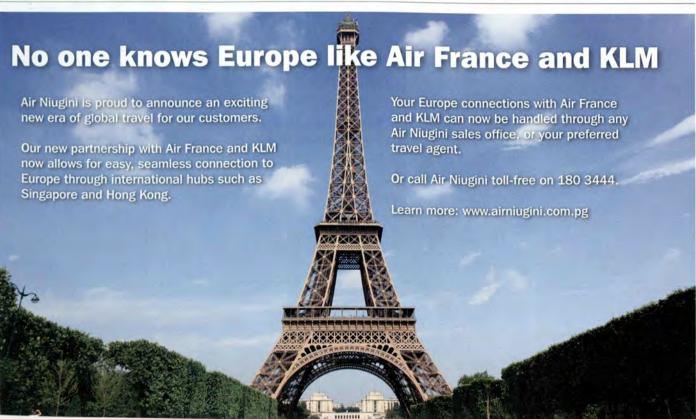
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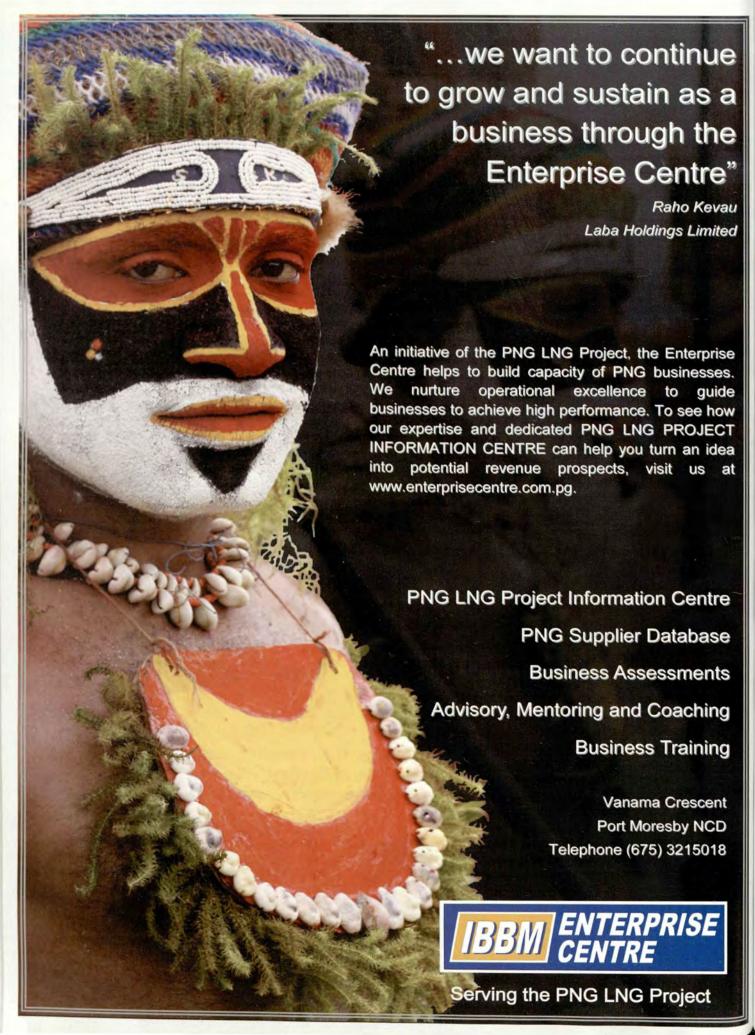


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This was one of the fabled bullet trains or *shinkansen*, and one of the faster ones since it was an express; other bullet trains - so called because of their shape rather than their speed - are not so

fast because they stop more often.



We were travelling from Tokyo to Kyoto, a distance of 370 kilometres which, with just a single stop at Nagoya, took just over two hours, an average speed of about 180kph, which although not as fast as these trains apparently can travel, was way fast enough for me!

Unlike slower trains, there is no clicketyclack as lines are crossed by the *shinkansen*, the ride is smooth, smoother than an aeroplane in fact, with no real sensation of speed - until one looks out of the window that is!

One should remember that apart from buying a ticket to travel, one should also buy a seat reservation in case there are no seats available in the first three carriages of the train which are usually designated reservation-free.

The seats are large, spacious and comfortable with refreshments available along with wi-fi internet connections in case you really have to be connected to the office all the time. Consistent with Japanese traditions of politeness and respect, train

Kyoto train station is a huge multi-storey, almost monolithic structure housing a confluence of rail, underground subway and local bus services, along with all the necessary associated restaurants, shopping malls, cafes and most important - if, like us you are lost and confused - there is an English speaking Tourist Information Bureau, replete with maps, brochures and advice.

There is no shortage of places to visit once you arrive. As the capital of Japan for 1100 years until 1869 when the imperial court moved to Tokyo, Kyoto has a plethora of royal palaces, shrines and temples - over 1600 Buddhist temples and 400 Shinto shrines. In fact, there are so many that a visit really deserves a few days to do it justice. The city was thankful not to be too adversely affected by the ravages of World War II - so many older buildings survive. About twenty percent of Japan's accredited National Treasures and important cultural properties exist in the city, many of which were designated by UNESCO as World Heritage sites in 1994.

Kyoto's population of about 1.5 million people includes many students, since there are 40 universities located within the city bounds. There are a small number of PNG students to be found here, including Raula Kula from the Aroma district of Central Province who is studying IT at one of

Tourism, involving an estimated 30 million people a year, is understandably a major component of the regional economy.

Amongst the many historic buildings that can be visited is the Higashi Honganji temple complex, just a few minutes from the railway and bus station, which, although undergoing a meticulous multiyear renovation to its various buildings, is a huge and impressive wooden structure.

Unlike many of Kyoto's mountain temples which are mostly Zen, Higashi Honganji belongs to the popular Pure Land sect of Buddhism. The temple buildings were originally constructed in 1602 but suffered as result of fires and the current structures date from 1895, the Meiji era. Interestingly, during this later reconstruction the ordinary rope available was apparently not strong enough and women devotees of the temple donated their hair to be woven into stronger ropes - an example of one of these hair coils, somewhat aged, is on display.

The Kinkaku-ji Temple, better known as the Temple of the Golden Pavilion, another one of the World Cultural Heritage sites, is spectacular as well. The original structure was built as a villa and VIP guesthouse about 1397 by shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. After his death, it was converted by his son into a Zen Buddhist temple since he had found solace in that branch of the religion.

Sitting adjacent to a picturesque lake studded with strategically constructed islands, brimming with carp and surrounded by manicured pine trees, the threestoried residence literally glows due to its covering of many kilos of gold leaf.

The original residence was unfortunately lost in 1950 in an act of religious 'arson' after one of the custodian novice monks in a dream-like reverie apparently thought the place would look more beautiful framed with colourful flames. However, the current structure was rebuilt soon after as an exact replica of the original that had stood in the same place for centuries - it is an iconic and much photographed image.

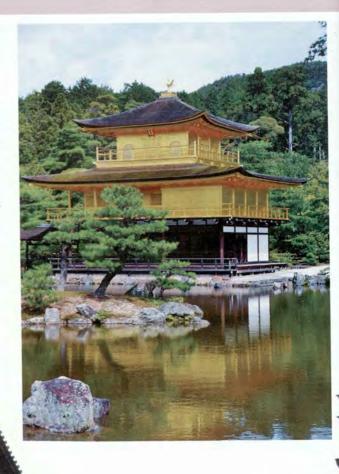
The Imperial Palace is really a palace complex, a large compound of about 27 acres, surrounded by an imposing wall enclosing buildings used by the Japanese emperors and their household staff.

Over the centuries, a number of palaces were built and destroyed as a result of fires, earthquakes or warfare and the current buildings, built in a variety of traditional architectural styles, date from 1854.

The gates in the wall are almost as interesting as the other structures since custom dictated that certain gates could only be used by persons of certain social rank, who could also only access selected buildings.

The quaint Oikeniwa garden is modelled around a large pond across which the arc-shaped Keyakibashi bridge looks like something straight off a willow pattern plate and is no doubt also snapped by millions of visiting tourists.

The state of the s





Some of the floors in the corridors are built deliberately to squeak in order to alert guards to the presence of intruders. They are known as Nightingale floors.

Then, there is Nijo Castle, originally built in 1603 as the official Kyoto residence of the first Tokugawa Shogun, Ieyasu. As a fortification, it doesn't fit the mould of a European castle, not having high battlements and turrets, although it does have a wide moat and huge wooden gates to deter would-be intruders. Due to the constraints of wood as a building material and the incidence of earthquakes, this is a low-rise castle.

The buildings within the walled castle area are dominated by the Ninomaru palace built in the shoin-zukuri style with linked sections which had various degrees of restricted access, dependent on one's class and presumably a degree of threat to the resident shogun.

The thirty three rooms contain over 800 tatami mats - a traditional measure of size - and are lavishly illustrated with wall paintings. Some of the floors in the corridors are built deliberately to squeak, in order to alert guards to the presence of intruders, known as Nightingale floors.

The castle was the venue in 1867 for the country's feudal lords to formally hand over sovereignty to the Emperor after 250 years of Tokugawa rule. As expected in such places, there is an associated garden built around a pond, said to have been designed by Kobori Eshu, a master garden designer.

There is, of course, more to Kyoto than old buildings and universities, although it is the temples and shrines that most visitors come to see. The city is home to many information technology enterprises, being the headquarters of companies such as Nintendo, Kyocera and GS Yuasa.

Getting around Kyoto is relatively easy by train or bus and the city also boasts a subway system. There are a range of hotels; from up-market western establishments to the more traditional



Ryokan guest houses, which are usually smaller family-run enterprises with just a few rooms. Here, guests are obliged to remove their shoes at the entrance and slippers are worn inside.

Accommodation in a ryokan is usually a single large, undivided room floored with traditional tatami rice-straw matting, with the only piece of furniture being a single low table. Doors are sliding screens and decoration is usually one or two simple ink brush drawings or scrolls. Seating in the room is on cushions, called zabuton, arranged around the low table and one sleeps on a futon rolled out when it is time to snooze.

Most ryokan will have a communal

bath, which is generally for separate sex bathing, although to cater for Western visitors many rooms now have en suite facilities and more privacy for ablutions. Numerous superb hot-spring resorts, known as onsen, are in fact ryokan built on the site of hot springs.

Getting to Kyoto or other cities further away from Tokyo is no problem because the train is so fast. So if one is in Japan, it's only six hours from Port Moresby by AIR NIUGINI. It's definitely worth travelling outside the capital - for the journey as well as the final destination, and will take very little time - like a speeding bullet, one might say.



Air Niugini flies to Narita on Saturday.





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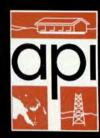
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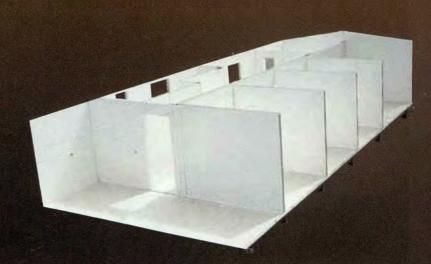
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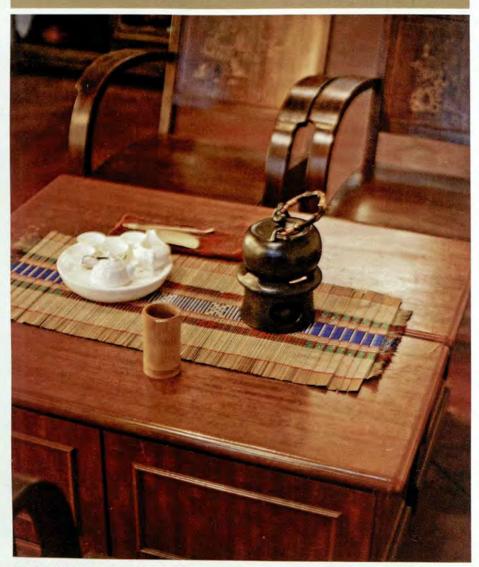
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Tea's Changing Image

Singapore's tea scene is now trendier and more desirable than ever before, but it's not just the city's decadent afternoon tea sets that should be taken notice of.

Writer Lauren Hill finds out how to experience the city's old Chinese teahouses and exactly why we should be drinking more of this revered beverage.



Yixing Xian Teahouse, Chinatown

"By and large Singaporeans are coffee drinkers but in the time I have had my teahouse it has grown steadily," teashop owner Vincent tells me. "Twenty four years ago I decided to give up coffee and drink tea instead - it's so much better for my health."

His calm demeanor and the ambience of the teahouse - Chinese music in the background - set a mellow unhurried tone for our meeting. Yixing Xian teahouse is in one of the Peranakan style shop-houses on Chinatown's Tanjong Pagar Road. The teahouse has been open and thriving for the past 24 years.

"Smell the white tea," he says handing me a canister of tealeaves. "It's fresh because it's the least processed of all tea. That's why it's so healthy and has almost zero caffeine in it."

As we talk, he prepares a tiny pot of steaming hot fresh white tea. He pours a taster into the delicate Chinese cups, prompting me to try it. "When a tea is very smooth and very light, you can feel it at the back of your throat. It actually tastes milky."

Yixing Xian specialises in fresh tea, so Vincent takes a tin of tealeaves from a nearby shelf to show me the difference between fresh tea and older leaves. "If green tea is black, it shows that it has aged and that it does deteriorate over time."

Vincent travels regularly to different provinces in China to personally source the tea. "I try not to go to the same area twice as there are so many places that produce tea in China."

I ask Vincent about the workshops that he tells me are the main part of his business. "I teach students about tea from plant to palate, how tea originated, the different types of tea and how to differentiate them by colour, smell, taste and aroma. I talk about the equipment - why so small - and the culture. Drinking Chinese tea is social. It's not so much about custom or rituals but it's for people to get together and to socialise. It's more about the free flow conversation.

"People learn a lot from the workshops but have fun too. That's how I've been able to sustain my teahouse for the past 24 years."

You can join one of Yixing Xian's workshops to learn about tea yourself or simply visit the teahouse to sample the fresh tealeaves and accompanying home-cooked Chinese food.

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"We usually tell people about the health benefits first - green tea is full of vitamin C, white tea is an antioxidant that's used in cosmetic products and oolong tea, red tea and black tea are very good for slimming."

Tea Chapter

"This teahouse was actually visited by Queen Elizabeth and this is the seat she sat in," Angela said pointing to an old framed photo on the wall behind me. "We were very lucky because the shop had just opened in the same month she visited - this was on the Royal route because the shop-houses are so historical. She's the only visitor we've had who wasn't asked to take her shoes off as she came in."

It's exactly 23 years since a group of good friends - around 15 of them - started this venture together, which then evolved from a hobby to their business. After their 20-30 year friendship, the teahouse is still coming up with new ideas for their clientele.

Angela tells me that when she first came to work at the teahouse she was a coffee drinker, but now she sees tea in a different way. "When I first came here, I already had a very strong interest in Chinese culture but then I learned about the health element of tea as well.

"Nowadays, in Singapore, it's a coffee culture and an instant culture. Young people often prefer to go to the coffee chains so we are trying to change this. When anyone sees this teamaking process, they love it - we want to make people love the idea before coming here.

"We usually tell people about the health benefits first - green tea is full of vitamin C, white tea is an antioxidant that's used in cosmetic products and oolong tea, red tea and black tea are very good for slimming."

The teahouse is divided into three different styles - Chinese, Japanese and Korean. However, in each setting, the Chinese process of drinking tea is always shown. "We are not doing a performance, we're introducing a







way of brewing tea that you can do at home, so you have the story behind it too. Every step you take has a reason and a story. It's very cultural."

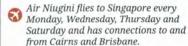
Tea Chapter has different cultural programmes throughout the year. "During the moon-cake festival, we talk about the festival as well as the tea and show people how to make snow-skin moon-cakes. Other events

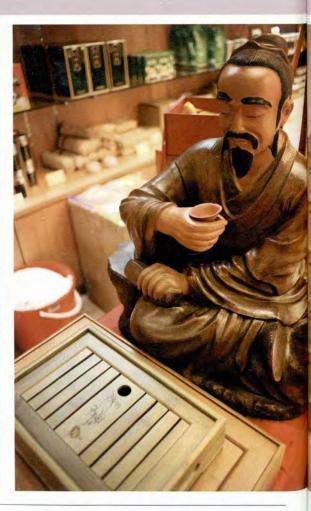
have been the Chinese New Year and the dumpling festival. As well as brewing tea, we have something to do together that has more meaning.

"Different types of tea go with different festivals and different types of food as well. Strong teas go with heavier ingredients. Just like wine - normally you have white with seafood and red with meat - and just like wine tasting, you need to use your imagination to taste the full flavours of the tea and really appreciate it.

"I think this is very important to Singaporean culture. The younger generations are influenced by Western culture now, which is good but we shouldn't forget this one. Tea Chapter is a place for people to chat and meet up and for people to connect because the city is too busy - everyone is always rushing - and when you drink tea, you must learn a little bit of the culture."

Tea Chapter has regular cultural programmes you can take part in or you can go along to be introduced to Chinese tea and their range of tea infused cuisine.





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Tea Specialist Helen Xu Fei talks tea

It's in a small café in Jurong, that I meet up with Singapore's resident Tea Specialist, Helen Xu Fei,to talk about why we should be drinking more tea.

As we age she tells me, our bodies accumulate excessive amounts of free radicals, which cause diseases and the signs of ageing. Antioxidants capture these free radicals, slowing down the aging process - and it's no surprise when Helen tells me that green tea is one potent variety. If you drink a cup of tea without sugar or milk, it contains almost zero calories, and is an anti-oxidant: one that's more effective than supplementing your diet with vitamins.

"Lab tests have also shown that certain types of tea, such as Oolong, have a slimming effect. It contains chemicals that actually speed up your metabolism and help with digestion," Helen said. "Tea also contains a very unique amino acid, a sedative that makes you feel relaxed without any drowsiness. On the contrary, you feel more focused."

Before becoming a tea specialist, Helen spent time working as a tea-taster, which exposed her to the great variety of teas. "There didn't used to be so much variety and the tea we drank back then wasn't as refined as it is today. When I was a child, my grandmother drank a lot of tea and each spring my grandfather would go to the tea store to buy the first crop of tea leaves.

"Tea is very versatile now. It can be modern and fashionable. Now is a good time to change the people's mindsets."

Singaporeans have renewed their approach to drinking tea due to cultural influence and Helen is an advocate of tea's changing image.

HELEN'S RECIPE FOR CHAITEA

INGREDIENTS:

- Black tea 20 grams
- Star Anise 2 pods
- Cinnamon 2 sticks
- Dried cloves 12 buds
- Ginger 1 large piece (approx 30-50 grams) diced
- Peppercorns crushed, 1 tsp
- Ground cardamom 1.5 tsp
- Milk 4 cups
- Brown Sugar to taste
- * Use more peppercorns or gingers for spicier taste.

METHOD:

Put the tea and the spices into a pot. Add 4 cups (about 900 – 1000ml) of water, boil and then simmer for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile warm the milk.

Strain the tea into another pot, before adding the warm milk and brown sugar.

Bring the mixture to a boil again before serving.



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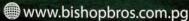
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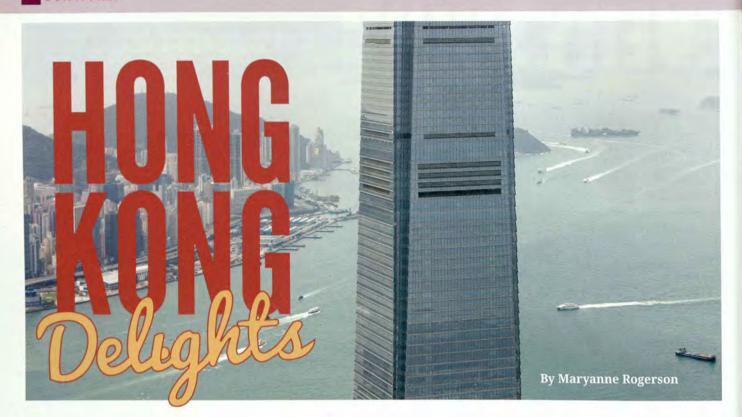














There are few cities on Earth as exciting and enticing as Hong Kong. Its chaotic streets, glimmering skyscrapers, flashing neon signs and cultural fusion all combine to create a city that attracts some 40 million visitors a year. But with more than 50,000 hotel rooms, over 11,000 restaurants and a plethora of shopping malls and street markets to choose from, narrowing down your options can be difficult. Here we pick out some of the highlights of this intoxicating metropolis.



HOTELS

There is no shortage of luxurious hotels in Hong Kong. The "Grande Dame of the East", The Peninsula (www.peninsula. com), has been the city's symbol of luxury since its debut in 1928. The neo-classical arches of its magnificent lobby depict the pinnacle of colonial elegance, while the fleet of iconic green Rolls Royce limousines ensures you arrive in style. Just a short hop away, the Ritz Carlton (www.ritzcarlton.com) boasts the accolade of being the world's tallest hotel, perching 490 meters above the city. There's more to impress you here than just the view, with a Michelin-starred Cantonese restaurant, ESPA spa and even an infinity pool with an LED screen ceiling. But if you do come for the view, you'll find telescopes within the large contemporary bedrooms. For a more intimate stay, The Upper House (www.upperhouse.com) is the choice of the world's fashionistas and hip celebrities (Keanu Reeves and Gwyneth Paltrow have both stayed here) who are attracted by its sleek sandstone and polished bamboo design, cutting-edge technology (check in is via iPad) and what they claim to be the biggest hotel rooms in Hong Kong.

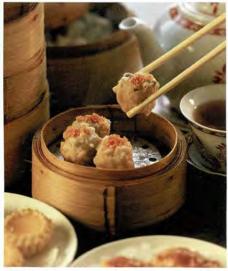
HONG KONG

FOOD

Hong Kong is synonymous with Cantonese cuisine, and to visit the city without sampling its dim sum would be like visiting Rome without partaking in pizza. These small servings of steamed or fried dumplings, buns and pastries are shared among family groups and friends for breakfast or lunch. For an authentic experience, take a number and join the queue at the cavernous and crowded Maxim's Palace at City Hall (www.maxims.com.hk), where the bamboo baskets are dished out from steaming trolleys.



For a more refined affair, enjoy a seat with a harbour view and nibble on such delights as Lobster and Scallop dumplings at Lung King Heen at the Four Seasons (www.fourseasons.com), the world's only three Michelin-starred Chinese restaurant. Once you have had your fill of Chinese food, a wealth of renowned international restaurants awaits you. L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon (www.robuchon.hk), Caprice (www.fourseasons.com) and Otto e Mezzo Bombana (www.ottoemezzobombana.com) were all awarded the coveted Michelin three-star rating this year, the latter being the first Italian outside of Italy to do so.



NIGHTLIFE

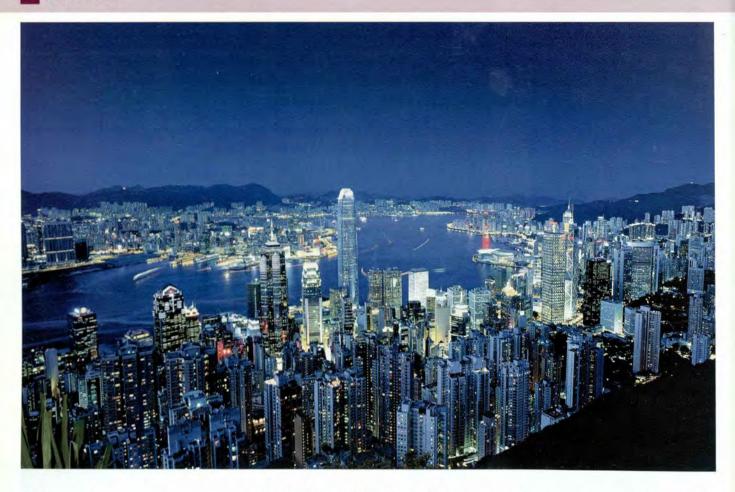
With a city skyline that puts even Manhattan to shame, it's all about enjoying the view with your cocktail in Hong Kong. If you're working (or shopping) in the city, then join Hong Kong's after-work crowd at Sevva (www.sevva.hk). Its outdoor terrace in the shadow of the famous HSBC main building is the focus of many a celebration. Nearby, the moneyed crowd makes its way to Café Gray bar at the stylish boutique



Upper House hotel (www.cafegrayhk.com), and snuggles into its loungy window booths with pineapple and thyme martinis in hand. To make the most of the impressive skyline, however, you need to head to Kowloon. The Philippe Starck-designed Felix at the Peninsula hotel (www. peninsula.com), the nearby Aqua Spirit (www.aqua.com.hk), and the Ritz Carlton's

118th floor OZONE (www.ritzcarlton.com) all compete to draw in evening revellers, their darkly lit interiors highlighting the impressive panoramic vistas. For a unique evening experience, jump aboard the Aqua Luna (www.aqua.com.hk), a beautifully refurbished traditional Hong Kong junk boat for a 45-minute prosecco-fuelled harbour tour.



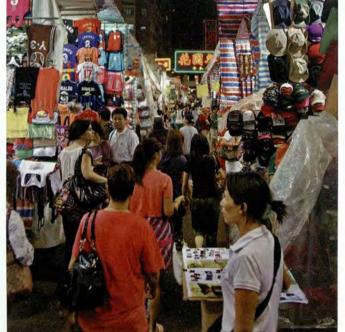


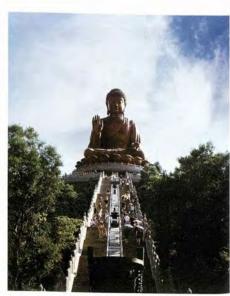
ATTRACTIONS

Half the fun of visiting Hong Kong is pounding the pavements through the jostling crowds and soaking in the atmosphere - but there are a few attractions worth seeking out too. If the weather is clear then catch the Peak Tram up the

Peak (www.thepeak.com.hk), the highest point on Hong Kong Island, for one of the world's most spectacular city views. Almost as impressive is the city skyline from the iconic Star Ferry (www.starferry.com. hk), which has been ploughing across the harbour between Kowloon and Hong Kong Island for over a hundred years. Be sure to

take the trip during both the day and nightand for just \$2.50 HKD (\$3.00 at weekends) per ride, you can afford to. Further out of town, Lantau Island is home to two popular visitor attractions: The Ngong Ping 360 cable car ride (www.np360.com. hk) takes 25 minutes to reach the Po Lin Monastery and its Tian Tian Buddha statue, one of the world's largest, while Hong Kong Disneyland (park.hongkongdisneyland. com) is the place to head to if you're visiting with the family in tow.



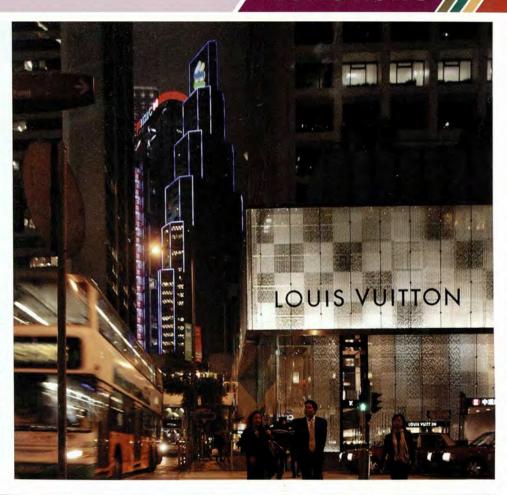


SHOPPING

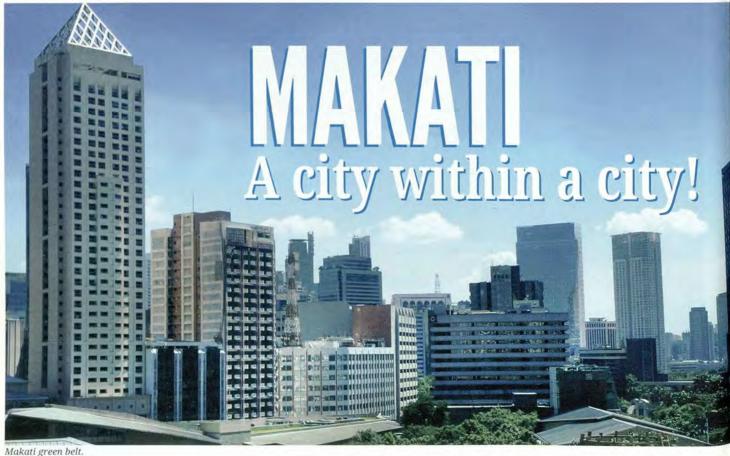
Hong Kong is a tax-free shopping paradise, with giant glitzy malls featuring the latest creations from the world's leading designers at one end of the spectrum, and markets touting everything from jade to flowers to fake watches and handbags at the other. If you have money to burn, The Landmark (www.landmark.hk) is certainly Hong Kong's swankiest mall with its chic international boutiques and big designer brand names, while Pacific Place (www.pacificplace.com. hk) tails a close second featuring Harvey Nichols' Asian flagship store. If size matters to you then Times Square in Causeway Bay (www.timessquare. com.hk) offers nine floors of retail therapy. Beyond the air-conditioned luxury of the malls, Hong Kong's street markets are the source of many a haggled-for bargain. Check out the Mongkok Ladies Market for handbags and clothes and the undercover Stanley Market for souvenirs, while the Temple Street Night Market is the place to head for some after-dark bartering in a bustling atmosphere.



Air Niugini flies to Hong Kong on Monday and has connections to and from Cairns and Brisbane.







By John Brooksbank

SITTING LITERALLY IN THE MIDDLE

of Metro Manila, it is but one of the 17 designated cities within the nation's capital, greater Manila is a true mega-city with a population of more than twenty million - a fifth of the hundred million or so people who call the Philippines home.

Makati is also the financial centre of the country, hosting the stock exchange and major banks, along with numerous international hotels, best restaurants, head offices of many corporations and most foreign embassies, including that of Papua New Guinea. A place for all sorts of international affairs!

The city is almost in the centre of the capital, with Manila Bay to the west and Laguna de Bay to its east. Named by the Spaniard Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, who dismissed the area as worthless swamp, Makati grew during the post-World War 2 and is now instantly recognised as a city, containing 50 of the tallest skyscrapers in the country.

One need not leave Makati, since the city has everything anyone could need in terms of specialty shops, supermarkets, eateries and drinking establishments to service its estimated resident population of 530,000, which works out to 20,000 people per square kilometre!

It is likely however that these numbers are an underestimate and swell to more than a million because of the daily influx of those who work, play and shop in the financial district. This is evident in the morning and afternoon rush hours and often during the day as traffic gridlocks to a horn-blaring standstill - if it wasn't for the hot, humid and tropical weather, it would often be quicker to walk than use one of the many taxis that ply the streets.

Friday afternoons are particularly worse as an estimated 2 million people leave the capital to enjoy a weekend back in their home provinces, so at this time sitting somewhere tasting local beverages is a far better option than trying to travel anywhere!



PHILIPPINES



A redeeming feature of Makati that sets it apart from the polluting urban mess that exists in many other Asian conurbations is the Greenbelt and associated open areas. Greenbelts one, two, three, four and five are linked developments of seemingly endless retail outlets, cafes, restaurants and bars over three levels surrounding a ribbon of greenery, fountains, gardens and lawns - a little piece of fresh air amid the hustle and bustle of the city. Roads in the area are either directed under the development or bridged with aerial walkways, all roofed to protect pedestrians from the sun and rain.

It's possible to walk under cover through the Greenbelts into Landmark and then into the similarly linked Gloriettas one to five, Rockwell Centre and the Power Plant Mall - another amazing series of multi-level supermarkets and shops - an incredible temptation for those susceptible to retail therapy, literally kilometres of arcades containing hundreds of stores, so keep the credit card locked away!

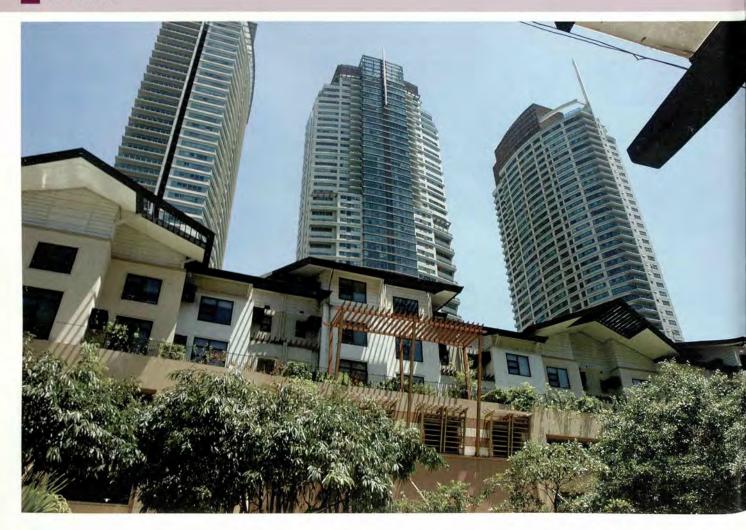
Right in the middle of Greenbelt, surrounded by gardens and overlooked by tower blocks, there is a haven of peace - a place of worship, the predictably Catholic Saint Nino de Paz chapel, housed in a huge concrete dome from which harmonious and sweet singing emanates all hours of the day and night. Another patch of greenery is the Ayala Triangle park, all that remains of what was once the Nielsen Air Base that once played a part in the defence of the country.

Relatively quiet by day, Greenbelt bursts into life after dark in a neon flurry of brightly lit places to eat, drink and be merry, most of which are open well into the next day. The constant presence of security personnel at all entrances ensures a certain degree of sobriety and good behaviour so everyone feels safe.

This is a very good thing since prices for food and drinks, even in the flashier establishments are very competitive whilst in the more down-market bars they are ridiculously cheap by Australian or PNG standards - 90 pesos (A\$2.00) for a cold San Miguel pilsener is not an incentive for responsible drinking!

Makati is also home to many international hotels including the Shangri-La, Dusit Thani, Intercontinental, New Dawn and the unforgettable Peninsula Manila at the intersection of Ayala and Makati Avenues. The latter, known familiarly as the Manila 'Pen' is a truly grand establishment staffed with innumerable doormen, concierges, taxi cab hailers and dapper little lady doormen in yellow uniforms and caps whose only function appears to be opening doors and saying "good morning, sir".





The 'Pen' has excellent service, a fine bar or two and good restaurants as well as a sauna, spas and pools for those who wish to do something more energetic than light weightlifting in the tastefully appointed cocktail bar.

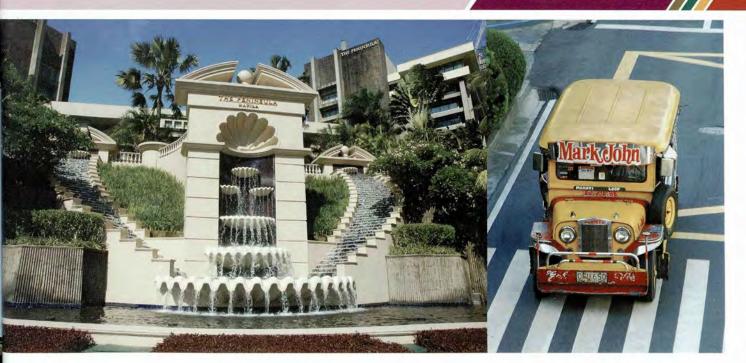
The hotel foyer is one of the places to be seen in town, with its soaring ceiling, potted palms and resident chamber orchestra on the mezzanine balcony atop the sweeping staircases, providing real lobby music, nothing piped here!

As a centre for business and diplomacy,

Makati is also a premier location to live and in recent years towers of expensive (A\$1 million – A\$2 million each!) condominiums have risen above the more traditional and exclusive gated urban villages of Bel Air, San Miguel, Urdaneta, San Lorenzo and Magallanes.

In these exclusive communities, behind high, barbed wire clad perimeter walls, boom gates and enjoying their own security guards, those who can afford it live in detached homes, small havens of domestic peace just minutes away from the offices and other amenities of the city.





For most of the day, the air in Makati is a cacophony of typical urban street noise, not the least of which being the cries of the bus stop spruikers for the independent and often very colourful locally manufactured jeepneys that service the city; low cost competition to the air-conditioned buses that travel the main commuter routes within and outside the area. Dissected by two major north-south highways, the city also has the elevated MRT - Metro Rail Transport - and three regular railway stations that commuting residents can access.

The colonial history of the city has not been totally wiped out in the name of progress - there are still a few Spanish era Catholic churches to be found amid the concrete jungle.

Makati was in fact the centre of the revolt against Spanish colonial rule at the end of the nineteenth century and in more recent times was the principal base for peoples' protest against President Ferdinand Marcos after Ninoy Aquino was assassinated in 1983.









the election of the mayor, vice-mayor and other city officials.

So, as a visitor do you have to be worried about making yourself understood because of an inability to speak Tagalog, the national lingua franca based upon a local Luzon language? No, not at all - just like PNG, although there are about 150 local languages and dialects, English is the official language of higher education, government and commerce, so conversation is easy.

So if you want to take a 'city break' or just a stop-over en route to a nice waiter-serviced white sandy beach on an island elsewhere in the Philippines archipelago, why not spend a day or so in Makati - a city within a city?

Air Niugini flies to Cebu on Tuesday and to
 Manila on Wedneday, Friday and Sunday.

Despite the occasional violent antigovernment outburst, the Philippines is still essentially a democratic state. In 2007, US\$1.2 million worth of damage was sustained by the Manila Peninsula after military forces stormed the hotel to arrest those rebelling against aspects of the rule of then President Gloria Arroyo.

Ongoing sensitivity to the possibility of such

acts is reflected in the number of police on the streets of the city and the level of security at major hotels, where all cars are examined prior to entry and all bags are inspected, often by explosives sniffer dogs.

Makati city consists of 33 barangays, which are the smallest unit of local-level government, whose captains manage their constituency's affairs and are involved in



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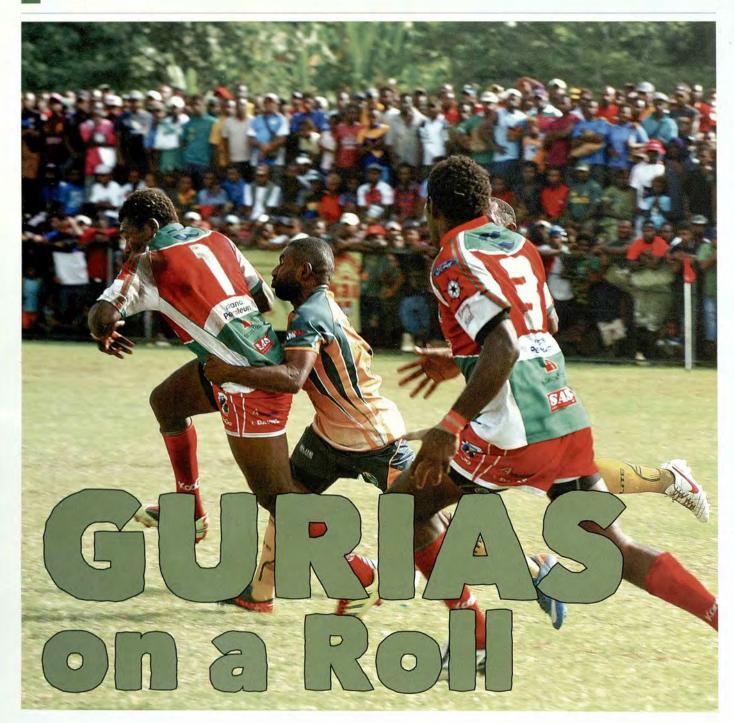
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By John Brooksbank

EVERYONE WHO LIVES in Papua New Guinea knows what the pidgin word guria means - an earthquake or tremor.

Gurias have been part of the daily lives for everyone living in and around Rabaul, Kokopo and other parts of the Gazelle Peninsula in East New Britain for many years before and after the catastrophic 1994 eruptions, so it is the most appropriate name for the regional rugby league team.

Running a rugby league team in the Digicel Cup national competition is not a cheap exercise - money is required for uniforms, training equipment, doctors and medical insurance, air fares and accommodation to travel to away games elsewhere in the country and, no doubt, many other expenses.

The level of funding required is much more than can be earned just from the gate-takings so corporate sponsorship is essential.

Under the current arrangements in the Digicel Cup, national teams have to be legal entities. The islands regional Gurias team is 'owned' by NGIP Agmark, which has supported the team in one way or anothersimilar to the Stop & Shop Vipers from Port Moresby; Toyota Enga Mioks, Bintangor Lahanis from Eastern Highlands; Kongo Coffee Simbu Warriors; Gulf Isapeas, Hela Wigmen; and Mendi Muruks from Southern

Gurias in action.



The Gurias team has not always had such a high level of corporate support. In previous years until 2001, when the national competition was known as the Inter-City Cup, the team was supported by NGIP, Agmark and Rabaul Metal Industries at a modest level of about K10,000 per company.

The great popularity of the team amongst all Tolais and other from East New Britain. whether living there or somewhere else in the country, their appetite for the club merchandise, and, of course, the performance of the team has attracted other corporate sponsors for the Gurias - including Islands Petroleum, Ford, Rabaul Metal Industries, Andersons Foodland, Credit Corporation and Security Assistance Services (SAS). Even companies from outside the province kick in some funding, such as the Kavieng Hotel and Davies Paints, a hardware supplier from the Philippines which uses photos of the players in some of their advertising posters.

Highlands; and WGS Mount Hagen Eagles teams; who also participate in this national competition, currently consisting of ten teams.

Whilst the Gurias don't have the lusciously attractive cheergirls of the Lae Snax Tigers, they make up for this by fielding a very fit team who are vigorously trained to last the full 90 minutes of a game.

John Nightingale, managing director of NGIP Agmark, is an avid rugby league supporter and is more than happy to manage the team.

The cost of running the Gurias in 2011 was over a K1million and the income from gate-takings, merchandise sales and other corporate sponsors contributed about K800,000 to the team's account; the shortfall was picked up by NGIP Agmark.

This cost is spread across the various operational divisions and branches of the company in its 14 locations around the country, where it is active in retailing, hardware and industrial sales, road transport, agriculture, property, steel fabrication, engineering and shipping.

John considers that this is a small price to pay for the public goodwill that this corporate support provides for the company and its diverse operations.

NGIP Agmark is the country's largest cocoa grower, trader and exporter; it is a public company with about 4,000 shareholders listed on the Port Moresby Stock Exchange.



Adding a different twist to increasing the level of corporate and individual sponsorship for the Gurias, the management team arranges a player's auction in which sponsors can 'purchase' a particular player. Last year, this event raised K135,000 in just one night.

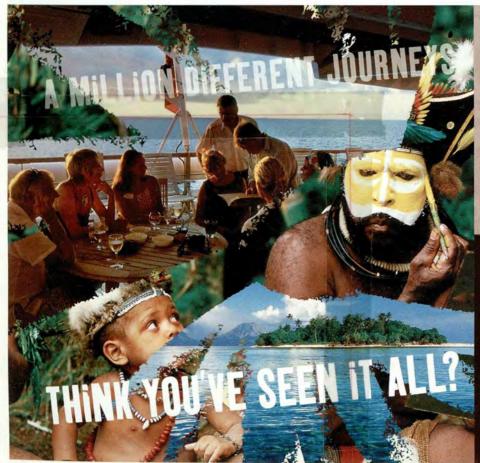
The team is a source of huge local pride, people want to be associated with 'their' team - walking around the streets of Kokopo on any day of the week you will always find someone wearing an Agmark Gurias shirt or cap, so many folk are obviously happy to part with a few kina for a bright & colourful supporter's jersey. For the absolute die-hard fans, there are also Agmark Guria seat covers for the car!

Adding a different twist to increasing the level of corporate and individual sponsorship for the Gurias, the management team arranges a player's auction at which sponsors can 'purchase' a particular player. Last year, this event raised K135,000 in just one night.

The team, whilst consisting mainly of players from East New Britain and the Islands region of the country, also has a few key team members who hail from other parts of PNG, and they all train rigorously every morning and afternoon.

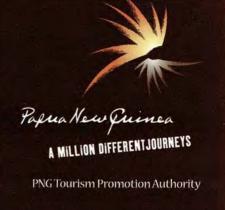
The players are full time, paid a living wage plus a share of any of the prize money that the team wins - for example, last year's minor premiers purse of K25,000 was divided up amongst the squad.





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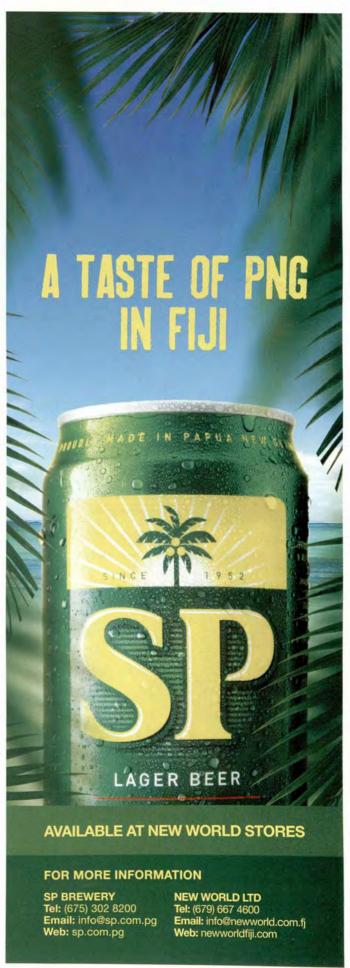
The many products that generate revenue for the Gurias - supporters' jersies and seat covers (below).

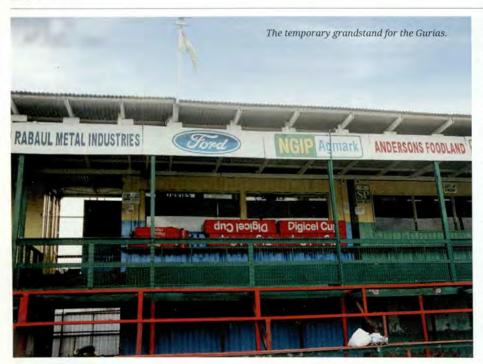
Every year, there is a pre-season Rugby League 9s competition held between 20 teams, over 10 weeks in East New Britain and this is an excellent opportunity for the Gurias coach to check for any emerging talent.

The Gurias have done well in past years, winning the national competition in 2005 and 2009, coming 3rd in 2010 and getting the minor premiership in 2011, the first year of the Digicel Cup.

This is largely due to the professionalism and discipline instilled in the team by Michael Marum, an NGIP Agmark store manager in Kokopo, who was team captain in 2001 and coach since 2005.







This is more than just corporate branding by NGIP Agmark and the other sponsors - it is about the private sector being a part of the community and playing a part in its development through sport.

The team's home ground at present is Kalabon Park, which has fairly basic facilities including a temporary permanent 'six container' grandstand that in future will hopefully be replaced with a more permanent structure.

NGIP Agmark, however, does more than just put a hand in its corporate pocket for the team, it often provides jobs for players - past and present - in one of its divisional branches around the country, somewhere within its 1500 plus workforce.

This provides players with a future beyond the game and is deeply appreciated by those associated with the club, helping to ensure a family, caring environment and solid community support.

This is more than just corporate branding by NGIP Agmark and the other sponsors - it is about the private sector being part of the community and playing a part in its development through sport.

Gurias are a force to be reckoned with - a successful rugby league team, ambassadors for their region and worthy to wear the livery that proudly proclaims the support they receive from businesses in East New Britain and elsewhere in the New Guinea islands.

• This article was written before the Gurias went on to win the 2012 Digicel Cup.





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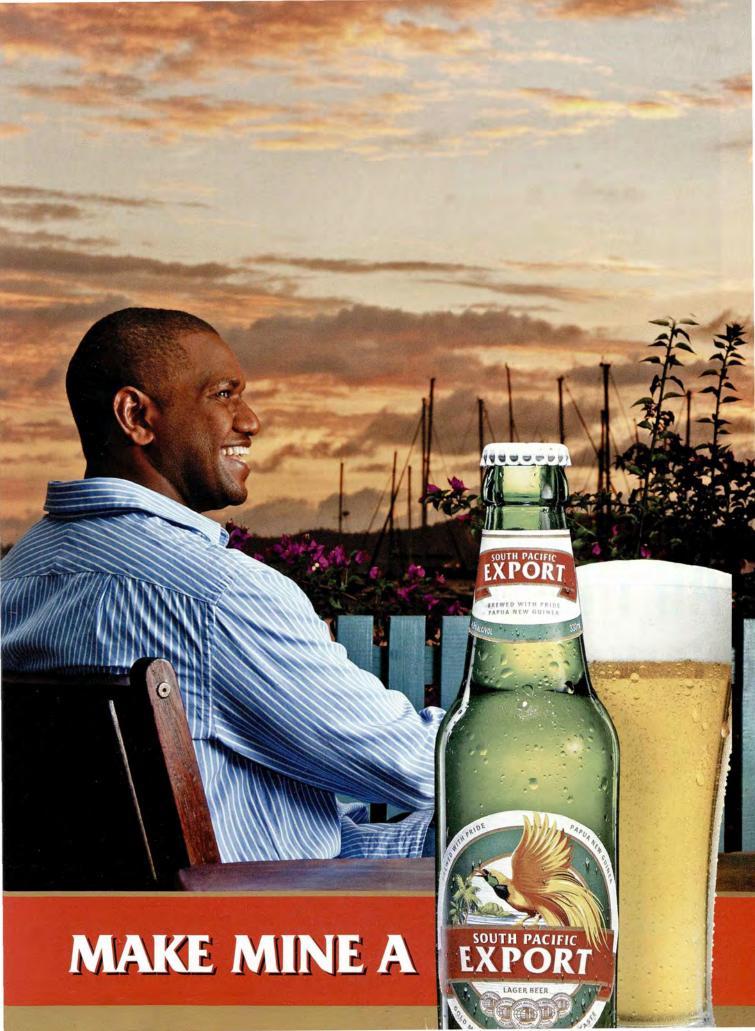
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Air Niugini Introduces B737 Service to Manus



he inaugural direct Boeing 737 flight to the domestic destination of Manus took place on November 8 - a first for the airline to introduce the Boeing service on its domestic network.

Air Niugini also plans to use the B737 to Lae (Nadzab), Rabaul (Tokua) Alotau (Gurney) and Wewak (Boram), where the runways are adequate for the B737 aircraft.

The B737 also operates to Sydney and Brisbane (Australia), Cebu (Philippines), and has included Honiara (Solomon Islands) and Nadi (Fiji) during the Christmas period to meet passenger demands.



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Left to right: 1st runner up - Christine Kaupa (Miss Sapphire Springs); 3rd runner up: Grace Richards (Miss Steamships); 2nd runner up: Shanaella Haembo Olewale (Miss TST); 3rd runner up: Kate Abau (Miss Dekenai); and winner of Miss South Pacific (PNG) Pageant 2012 Ruby Laufa (sponsored by Freshwater).

AIR NIUGINI'S SPONSORSHIP to the Miss South Pacific Pageant (MSPP) included two return tickets to an Air Niugini international destination for Miss South Pacific (PNG) Pageant Miss Ruby Laufa (wearing the MSPP crown) and the runners up.

The airline also sponsored travels for one of the judges and an entertainment group from Brisbane. Air Niugini is also sponsoring Miss Laufa's trip to Brisbane on her way to the regional Miss South Pacific Pageant in Pago Pago in early December.



The winners of the 2012 Miss South Pacific (PNG) Pageant are shown here receiving their airline tickets from the Chief Executive Officer, Wasantha Kumarasiri.



Miss TST and 2nd runner up in the MSPP 2012, Miss Shanaella Olewale receiving her prize from Air Niugini CEO Wasantha Kumarasiri.



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