

THE IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE OF AIR NIUGINI VOLUME 3 MAY - JUNE 2015

PARADISE



Meet the Huli Wigmen

Where do they live and what are they all about?

MANUS ISLAND

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IN PARADISE

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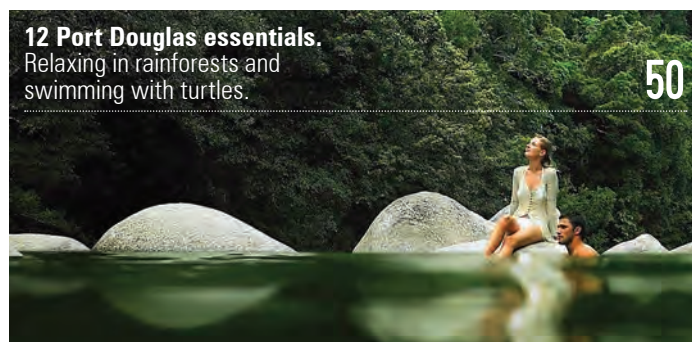
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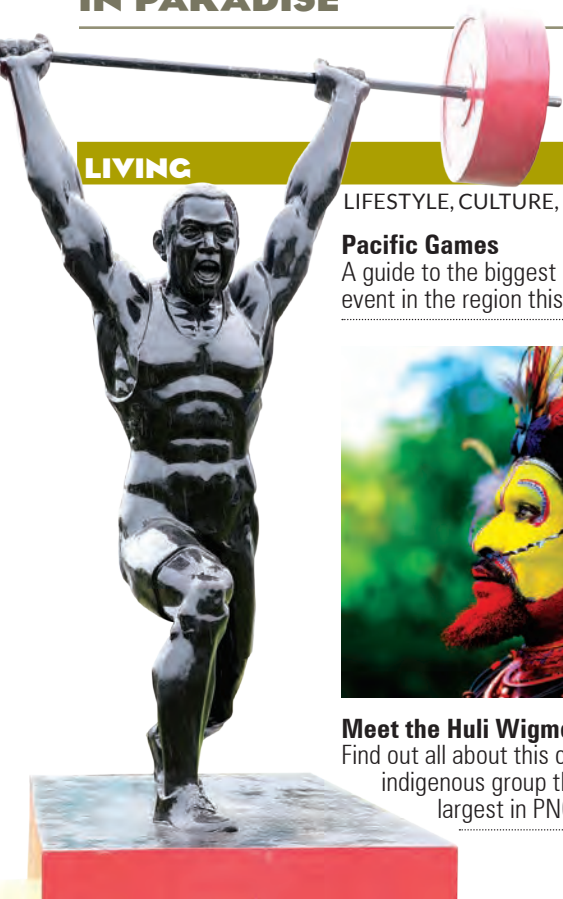
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Cover photo: An infant is mesmerised by a Huli Wigman.
Picture: PNG Tourism Promotion Authority



PARADISE



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BUSINESS ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

Andrew Wilkins

COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

Robert Hamilton Jones

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT MANAGER

Anthony Leydin

+61 (0)415 586 027

al@businessadvantageinternational.com

Business Advantage International Pty Ltd
Level 23, HWT Tower
40 City Road, Southgate VIC 3006, Australia
Tel +61 3 9674 7129 Fax +61 3 9674 0400
www.businessadvantageinternational.com



CORRESPONDENCE TO THE AIRLINE

The Chief Executive Officer

Air Niugini

PO Box 7186, Boroko, NCD, Papua New Guinea
Tel +675 327 3458 Fax +675 327 3550

EDITORIAL

EDITOR

Robert Upe

STAFF WRITERS

Kevin McQuillan, Ben Creagh

CONTRIBUTORS

Richard Andrews, George Anian, John Brooksbank
Greg Clarke, Joel Coleman, Roderick Eime, Susan
Gough Henly, Sally Hammond, Michael Hince,
Brian Johnston, Nina Karnikowski, Lucie Morris-
Marr, Jeff Turnbull, John Wright.

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Eva Arni, Air Niugini

DESIGN

Michael Whitehead, Alicia Freile

Editorial inquiries

Tel +61 3 9674 7129

paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com

Paradise online

www.airniuginiparadise.com

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Message from the Chairman

Welcome aboard



Air Niugini welcomes the very significant funding by the National Government for the redevelopment of Port Moresby's Jacksons Airport, with a large proportion of the funds having been spent already on providing the nation's capital with world-class airport facilities.

The next stage will connect the international and domestic terminal buildings, and that will help Air Niugini provide passengers with more efficient transfers between domestic and international flights.

I commend the vision and foresight shown by the Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, and his government for the upgrading of Jacksons airport to an international standard that will provide incoming and outgoing passengers with a much better customer experience.

The redevelopment, when completed, will enable Air Niugini to fully deliver on the commitment to making Port Moresby the link, or hub, to the major airports and markets in Asia and beyond. Our service to Hong Kong has been extended from two to three a week, and we now operate 14 flights each week to destinations in the region – Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila, Denpasar and Narita.

Our services now provide convenient connections to mainland China, northeast Asia, North America and Europe. Flights from Hong Kong enable same day journeys to Honiara, Nadi, Cairns and Brisbane, all connecting via Port Moresby. Port Vila, in Vanuatu, will be added later this year.

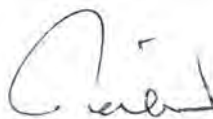
The full development of Port Moresby as the regional hub won't just benefit Air Niugini and its passengers. It will also benefit the economy of the nation's capital, and the nation as a whole. As we prepare to celebrate 40 years of Independence in September, we can regard a modern and efficient international airport as one of our significant achievements.

In July this year, Port Moresby will welcome an influx of passengers – athletes and visitors arriving for the Pacific Games. And, in 2018, Papua New Guinea will host the APEC Summit, which will bring many visitors to our shores. The redeveloped airport will help ensure the additional demand is fully met.

Air Niugini continues to invest in the training of its engineers. Recently, four cadet engineers commenced studies at the Air New Zealand Aviation Institute in Christchurch under the Air Niugini Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Cadet Scheme.

The four-year program aims to develop young engineers into becoming licensed aircraft maintenance engineers by utilising overseas training with Air New Zealand. Currently Air Niugini has 38 cadets, including six women, training under the scheme in New Zealand.

We welcome our visitors to our shores and wish you a pleasant experience in Papua New Guinea. To our valued customers, thank you for your continued patronage and we trust you will enjoy your inflight journey with the Bird of Paradise service.



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Hong Kong ... Air Niugini's new schedule puts it on the radar three times a week.

User-friendly flight schedule

Air Niugini's northern summer schedule came into effect recently. It is designed to be user-friendly for business travellers, leisure visitors and trade.

Under the new schedule, Air Niugini will operate three times a week to Hong Kong – every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday – providing more frequent connections to north Asia. The airline previously operated on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The flights take six-and-a-half hours and are timed to provide convenient connections between Hong Kong and Air Niugini's domestic destinations. The schedule will also allow travellers to fly between Hong Kong and Honiara, Nadi, Cairns and Brisbane, connecting via Port Moresby.

Hong Kong is among the top 10 busiest airports in the world in terms of passenger numbers, and offers convenient connections to China, north-east Asia, North

America and Europe. Hong Kong is also the world's busiest airport for cargo.

With the third Hong Kong service, it now brings a total of 14 Air Niugini flights to Asia each week. Air Niugini operates five flights to Singapore, four to Manila in the Philippines, one to Denpasar in Indonesia, one to Narita in Japan, and the Hong Kong services. Air Niugini has also re-timed its first morning service out of Brisbane, PX006, to a 7.55am departure, instead of 9am, to give travellers the benefit of an earlier, 11.05am, arrival into Port Moresby. The second daily service from Brisbane, PX004, still leaves at 10.40am.

From Port Moresby, departures to Brisbane are at 6.15am (PX003) and 1.30pm (PX005).

The airline will continue to operate twice-daily services to Brisbane, except on Saturday, when there is only one service.

Air Niugini will also introduce the Fokker 100 jet on the Port Moresby–Cairns route, replacing the Q400 aircraft. The Fokker 100 will be 20 minutes faster on the journey and will also provide more freight capacity.

On the domestic front, F100 services between Port Moresby and Lae have increased to four a day. There is also an additional Q400 flight to Vanimo on Thursdays.

Link PNG ... now flying to Losuia airport on Kiriwina Island.



Q400 Kieta services have been re-timed to connect with international flights at Port Moresby.

Air Niugini's subsidiary company, Link PNG, started commercial flights to Losuia airport in Kiriwina, Milne Bay Province, at the end of March, with direct flights from Port Moresby every Monday and Friday.

Losuia airport is located on Kiriwina Island, which is part of the Trobriand group of islands.

In addition to the Losuia service, Link PNG has also introduced daily services to Kiunga, Mount Hagen and Lae, via Rabaul.

Previously, Link PNG operated from Lae to Hoskins, Rabaul and back to Lae.

Link PNG now operates to 14 PNG destinations.

The airline's Dash 8 fleet operates all Link PNG services.

Meanwhile, Air Niugini has had to postpone its flights to Chimbu because of construction work being carried out by the National Airports Corporation.

Flights will resume as soon as the work has been completed, estimated by the NAC to be in December. ■

PNG woman captains aircraft

Papua New Guinean pilot Beverly Pakii has become the first woman to command a Dash 8 aircraft for Air Niugini.

Captain Pakii, 29, a graduate from Air Niugini's pilot cadet program, operated her first commercial flight on March 12. She flew from Port Moresby to Lihir, in New Ireland, then continued to Tokua airport in East New Britain and back to Port Moresby.

The flight was on a Link PNG aircraft. Link PNG is a subsidiary company of Air Niugini.

Air Niugini chief executive officer, Simon Foo, says the airline invests a lot of money and resources into training pilots and engineers and for a female to graduate into command is "encouraging and promising" for other women in the training system.

"Captain Pakii has come through the system holding a very high standard throughout," he says. "Her dedication, commitment and humble demeanor to achieve her command is demonstrated in her professional conduct in all facets. Air Niugini congratulates Captain



Shoulder to shoulder ... Air Niugini's chairman, Sir Frederick Reiher (left), and the CEO, Simon Foo (right), pin the captain's epaulets on the uniform of Beverly Pakii.

Pakii on her achievement and this milestone in her career. She is a role model to other aspiring female pilots."

Captain Pakii started as a cadet with Air Niugini in 2004. She completed her training at PPT Flying School at Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, Australia, where Air Niugini sends its cadets annually.

After completing her studies, she returned to Air Niugini in 2006 where she operated as a first officer on a Dash 8. After

meeting the minimum hours, she underwent command practice in preparation for becoming a captain. The comprehensive pilot training processes took the young pilot 10 years before achieving her command on the Dash 8.

Her father, Captain Ted Pakii, is an ex-Air Niugini pilot. He joined the airline from the PNG Defence Force in 1994 and commanded aircraft ranging from the Dash 7 to the Boeing 767.

Air Niugini has 50 cadet pilots, including five females. ■

AIR NIUGINI TEAMS UP WITH MELANESIAN AIRLINES

Air Niugini, Air Vanuatu and Solomon Airlines have agreed to work together to develop and promote an aviation partnership that will benefit Melanesian countries.

The airlines recently signed an initial agreement in Honiara,

in the Solomon Islands, to enter into a tri-partite, code-share arrangement on the Port Moresby–Honiara–Port Villa route.

They intend to start this service by June.

Under the agreement, Air Vanuatu and Solomon

Airlines will be using Air Niugini's Fokker 100 aircraft.

The code share will form the basis of other co-operative arrangements to promote aviation among the Melanesian Spear Head Group, an inter-governmental organisation that includes PNG, Vanuatu,

the Solomon Islands and Fiji.

The airlines have agreed to work in unison to generally promote the ideals of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in the airline industry.



Madang No. 1 with on-time flights

If you're flying out of Madang any time soon, you should be confident of your flight running on time.

Air Niugini in Madang has taken the No. 1 spot for the airline's on-time performance.

Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce president, David Conn, Air Niugini's CEO, Simon Foo, Link PNG CEO, Daniel Wanma, and chief operating officer of CASA PNG, Tom Waqa, recently presented a shield to the Madang team.

Mr Foo commended Madang manager Wewe Pih and his staff for excellent teamwork that resulted in maintaining a high rate of on-time performance for the entire year, including several months at 100 per cent.

"It's not easy to turn an aircraft within 30 minutes, ensuring details for all passenger, cargo, crew and aircraft are in place and departure is on schedule."



Winners ... Air Niugini's domestic airport managers who collected trophies for on-time performance.

Air Niugini's 23 domestic ports are divided into four categories, A to D, according to the number of flights in a day. Madang, Lae, Rabaul and Mount Hagen are in category A with two to four flights a day. Port Moresby, being the biggest airport, is categorised separately and its competition is based on different shift times.

Wewak was top-performing port in category B, Tari in category C and Mendi in category D. Port Moresby's "shift three" won in the capital, while Mendi took the CEO's prestigious award for nil delays in 2014.

Mr Foo introduced the on-time performance initiative in 2013.

LOUNGE UPGRADE

Air Niugini is pressing ahead with new and upgraded lounges at several airports around the country.

The biggest undertaking is at Port Moresby airport, where the airline has invested PGK2 million in a new international lounge. The new and spacious interior will be complemented with an enhanced food service that is being outsourced to professional caterers.

New lounges are also scheduled to open, during May, at Mount Hagen and Hoskins. A new lounge at Kieta (Aropa) has already opened.

Prior to its implementation, Air Niugini's overall average on-time departures were around 40 per cent, but are now averaging between 80 and 90 per cent. There have been days when Air Niugini's combined on-time performance for domestic and international flights has reached 100 per cent. ■



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Paradise Q&A: Anne-Sophie Hermann

Happy readers ... Anne-Sophie Hermann (right) with recipients of Buk bilong Pikinini books; pages from *Our Village: Tatana Island* (opposite).



A new chapter in PNG literacy

The founder of the Buk bilong Pikinini libraries is excited about a fledgling partnership to create books specifically for PNG children.

Q: What is Buk bilong Pikinini?

A: An organisation which seeks to increase literacy rates in Papua New Guinea by establishing children's libraries and running early childhood literacy classes.

Q: How many libraries are there?

A: We have 16 across five PNG provinces, and more to come. The first was established

at Port Moresby General Hospital in 2008.

Q: Why did you start them?

A: I was shocked to find that there were virtually no public libraries in PNG, not many bookshops and that less than 50 per cent of school-aged children were enrolled at school. A book/literacy drought, to say the least!

Q: Where are the libraries?

A: They are near marginalised communities where access to literacy materials and valuable learning opportunities are almost non-existent. Our libraries are stocked with 3000 children's books and have a minimum of two highly trained (by us) teacher-librarians. Our aim is to foster a love of



reading and learning. We do this by running a comprehensive literacy, numeracy and awareness program for children aged 4-6 years in the mornings and by supporting both school children and out-of-school children with normal library services and reading support in the afternoons.

Q: Where do you get the books?

A: We source all of our new and second-hand books in Australia, from publishing houses and private book drives.

Q: And now you are also creating books, not just lending them?

A: I have always found that it is important for PNG children to be able to read books written for them, which show the world around them and which present their culture, their history and their lives. Since the first library we have tried to source books produced locally – only to find that there are very few for the age groups and low-literacy levels for the children we serve.

I therefore decided to hold an author’s writing seminar in May 2014 to encourage Papua New Guineans to write and illustrate books for young children. We invited local publishers and authors to present, and also Alison Lester (former Children’s Laureate and one of the most successful children’s book authors in Australia) and Andrew Kelly of Wild Dog Books to help us run the seminar.

During that week we also managed to produce three books, and we hope to be able to do many more.

Q: And you have just published *Our Village: Tatana Island*.

A: *Our Village: Tatana Island* has been produced in partnership with Andrew Kelly and the children of the Tatana Island village.

It is a photographic early reader, which suits the literacy levels of children coming to our libraries and is an educational book about life in a traditional PNG fishing village. It suits our criteria for showing PNG culture and PNG nationals.

The images for the book were taken on the same day that we opened the library for the children on the island.

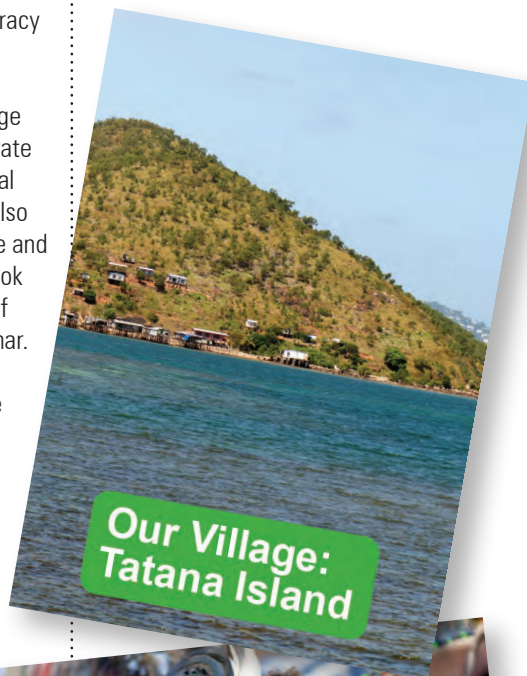
A group of children were given digital cameras and they showed us around their village, both inside and outside their houses. We met a nice array of “pets” as well – pigs, dogs, fish – saw dinner being prepared and people enjoying village life.

Andrew Kelly has an amazing eye for detail and has in addition to helping us produce this book also donated many books to Buk bilong Pikinini that the children greatly enjoy because of the large images and text.

Q: Where is the book available?

A: It is sold in PNG through Theodist and people can also contact me (annesophie@bukbilongpikinini.org) to order copies. We are planning to produce a series of readers about PNG, its people, as well as its nature/animals. ■

See bukbilongpikinini.org.



MUM STEPS IN TO BUILD SCHOOL LIBRARY

Lauren White (pictured) is a mother of three-year old twin girls and had lived on Lihir for only a few months when she hatched a plan to open a library at the Londolovit Urban Primary School.

“Every time I drove by the school I would be upset by obviously how little the kids have ... when I realised that they didn’t even have a library I knew I had to do something.”

Lauren started asking her friends and family to donate books for a library but didn’t get as many as she had hoped. Then she came across Books 4 Kids, an Australian organisation that collects books from libraries and other businesses and boxes them up for schools in PNG.

“They said they would send me around 2000 books – I just couldn’t believe my luck,” says Lauren.

“But then I realised that I would need somewhere to put them all and it was then that Anitua and Newcrest came to my rescue.

“Newcrest’s Lihir Gold Operation donated the shipping container and Anitua Constructions are refurbishing it so that it looks and feels like a proper library.”

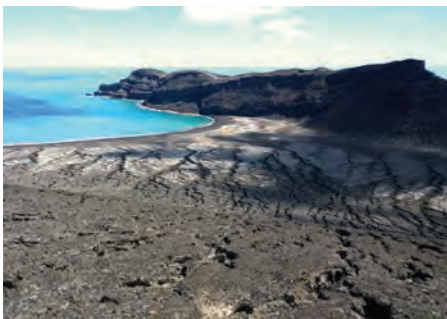
Anitua Logistics has also helped by shipping the books to Lihir for free.



New island emerges from the deep

These are some of the first photos of a newly formed island at Tonga that has risen from the sea following an underwater volcanic eruption. The photographer, Gianpiero Orbassano, says the surface of the island is fragile and slippery, and when he visited it was very hot. But he has predicted that the island, a two-hour boat ride from Tonga's capital Nuku'alofa, will become a "great attraction for tourists". The island is about 250-metres high and has a land mass 1.8 kilometres by 1.5 kilometres, according to some reports.

It appeared in January after the Hunga Tonga volcano erupted and has become the 177th island in the Tonga archipelago. But scientists have cautioned that it may eventually erode back into the sea and may not last more than several months. They have also cautioned against visiting, saying the surface is not stable and that further volcanic activity may take place. ■



Beauty queens tackle Kokoda

Two Australian beauty queens have traded their high heels for hiking boots to tackle the Kokoda Track. Laura Dundovic (pictured right), a winner of *Miss Universe Australia*, and Erin Holland, a winner of *Miss World Australia*, took on the challenging eight-day trek as part of a *Do Kokoda* campaign developed by the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority (PNGTPA).

The campaign aims to encourage more women to trek Kokoda. Their adventure was filmed to create three short documentaries. Dundovic says she was deeply affected by the experience, which not only physically challenged her but also allowed her to trace the history of her grandfather, Sir Thomas Blamey, a World War 2 leader. "There were times when it seemed too hard, but being able to walk in the footsteps of Australian soldiers, and in particular my

very own grandfather, was so incredible. I just had no idea what they went through on Kokoda – and I don't think you can grasp it until you're on the track." Erin Holland says: "Kokoda got us away from our phones and pushed our physical limits, which was incredibly rewarding." See dokokoda.com. ■



NUMBER CRUNCH

1018 That's the number of medals Papua New Guinea has won at the Pacific Games since they started in 1963. PNG is fourth of 22 nations on the cumulative Pacific Games medal tally, but will be hoping to race up the ladder when the next Games start in Port Moresby on July 4. New Caledonia, with 1926 medals, leads the overall medal tally, ahead of French Polynesia (1222) and Fiji (1240).





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War machines on display

One of the southern hemisphere's finest and biggest collections of military machinery has opened in Cairns.

The Australian Armour and Artillery Museum is the passion of Cairns businessman Rob Lowden, who has put together more than 100 exhibits, including Howitzers and even a German Panzer tank.

Lowden's collection is not the "junk yard" assortment seen at other so-called museums. Each exhibit is either restored to working condition, or has been carefully preserved.

Visitors can even take a ride in a Vietnam-era tank.

Lowden has been vigorously searching the globe for new additions to his collection and has sourced items from closed museums, private collectors looking to downsize and even through agents, like the one in Bulgaria, who has located several Soviet-era items for the museum.

How much is a real tank worth? Well, without revealing what Lowden has paid, some of the better examples recently sold have fetched more than PGK2 million.

The museum is located in the Cairns suburb of

Caravonica. Entry is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. Return transfers are available to the museum.

See ausarmour.com. ■

— RODERICK EIME



Test your grammar

A Texas-based Papua New Guinean, Kisa Nokolu, has created a language app that he hopes will help educate PNG's young people and students in English literacy.

The free Skool Quiz app is a fun and interactive set of English games and also aims to educate people on social issues.

Nokolu says his long-term vision is to integrate maths, history and science into the app. Skool Quiz works on computers and mobile devices.

See skoolquiz.com. ■

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Seeking perfection in Sydney

When English novelist James Hilton wrote *Lost Horizon* in 1933, he couldn't have dreamed that the idyllic destination he called Shangri-La would become a synonym for perfection and paradise.

Adopting this name for a prestigious worldwide hotel group in the 1970s has proved to be a masterstroke for Shangri-La Hotels.

In its quest for perfection, Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney, has recently refurbished its elite Horizon Club floors that have 360-degree views of the city, water and distant mountains.

The aptly named Horizon Club Lounge, on level 30, has also been refurbished and increased in size. It is Australia's biggest and most sophisticated club lounge in a five-star hotel, and its 13-metre high windows span four storeys.

The multi-million dollar renovation of the hotel, located at The Rocks, has also increased the size of the Horizon Club rooms.

The interiors have been decorated in pale gold and blue to match and reflect the Sydney Harbour views.

See shangri-la.com/sydney/shangrila/. ■

– SALLY HAMMOND

Macau booming

For such a compact city, Macau is showing plenty of muscle when it comes to growth. The former

Portuguese enclave is in a building boom, but city authorities say they are not losing sight of Macau's five fascinating centuries of Chinese-European history.

New hotels – Crowne Plaza and Harbourview Hotel – are the latest additions to the city, and by the end of the year the highly anticipated PGK8.5 billion Hollywood-inspired Studio City is expected to open.

Nearby, Galaxy Macau will be extended to include three new hotels. To complement them, a new vibrant street, Broadway, will open, complete with hawker-style stores, bars and restaurants, and world-class performances inside a 3000-seat

Broadway Theatre. Broadway is expected to open in late May.

Also due to open, at the end of the year, is the Parisian, which will feature a version of the Eiffel Tower, complete with observation deck.

New ground has also been broken on several more hotel and entertainment projects, including the PGK9 billion Lisboa Palace that will have three hotels, including one by Karl Lagerfeld, the designer for the Chanel and Fendi fashion houses.

Meanwhile, construction continues on the ambitious, 29.5-kilometre Hong Kong to Macau bridge, due to open at the end of 2016.

Air Niugini flies to Hong Kong three times a week. Passenger ferries run regularly between Hong Kong and Macau. The trip takes between 60 and 75 minutes. ■

BRISBANE'S NEW BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Brisbane has its first MGallery boutique hotel, with the opening of The New Inchcolm Hotel & Suites close to the CBD and Fortitude Valley.

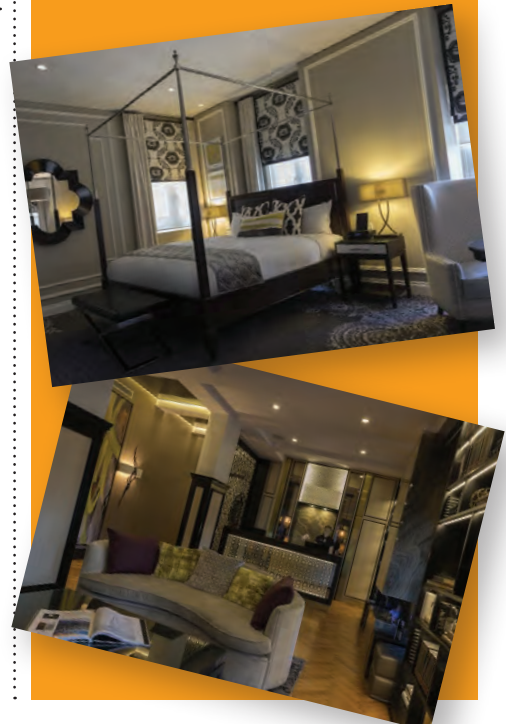
The hotel has opened in a heritage-listed building following a PGK16 million refurbishment and features 50 elegant rooms, including one and two-bedroom suites. It also has Brisbane's first loft-style hotel suites, lending a contemporary yet elegant edge to the vintage luxe property.

The hotel's Thomson's Reserve Restaurant and the Socialites Bar are both designed to recreate the glamour reminiscent of the Charleston era and Brisbane's original 1920's socialite scene.

There are also heritage-listed treasures to be found at every turn, not least an old cage lift, which sits at the heart of the hotel, an original feature of the building.

The MGallery is a collection of unique character hotels.

See mgallery.com/TheNewInchcolmHotel.





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Real Image



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MANUS

the flip side

Manus Island may be best known for its immigration detention centre, but surfer/photographer *Joel Coleman* reveals the unbridled beauty of the province in which it lies.



PICTURE: JOEL COLEMAN / SALT MOTION GALLERY



There's an old copy of the Papua New Guinea Lonely Planet guide sitting next to me: outdated, dog-eared and tattered. The opening line of the introduction reads: "PNG is the last frontier for travellers".

In 1998, I was living on Lord Howe Island, in New South Wales, working as a dive instructor. The captain of the dive boat told me about time he had spent in PNG with the legendary Jean Michel Cousteau (son of Jacques).

The captain spoke of some of the most incredible diving in the world, amazing tropical locations and friendly people. His descriptions of Manus Province sounded like he had found paradise. I promised myself that one day I would get there.

It took 16 years, but it was worth the wait. Surfing is what took me to Manus: no surprise, it takes me pretty much everywhere.

Perspective is defined as: "A particular attitude towards, or way of regarding, something; a point of view."

Most people's perspective of Manus Island is what they gather from the media. Very few tourists go there, as very little infrastructure exists to entice them. But

surfers have a different perspective on the world. If there is a wave worth surfing, it's a place worth visiting. From the frozen Arctic waters to the doldrums of the tropics, surfers are out there, looking for waves.

Many who surf want to have a taste of the pioneering days. They want to come around a headland, expecting nothing and finding a new wave; to have it to themselves, to soak it up, to name the break, to own the story.

While most people will tell you that's what they want to do, they really don't. It's kind of like a fantasy that, if lived out, may just cause more problems than it's worth. And then there are the real explorers, those who will push into a new area, take a punt, go around the next headland just to see what's there, and if the elements align, they will strike what they are looking for.

The captain and crew of the *PNG Explorer* are those people.

They have spent years going where other people won't; running a charter business where others say it is too difficult.

While this is not the first time they have taken the *Explorer* to Manus, it still has the feel of an exploratory trip. ►



Manus, the flip side



PICTURE: JOEL COLEMAN / SALTWATER GALLERY

Manus gold ... not the kind you need to dig out of the ground, the kind you can surf.

The swell, winds and tides can throw a lot of curve balls at you, so you never know when a reef may go from lying dormant to rising into a proper, “stand-up-barrel”, kind of wave.

For the first part of this trip, however, we do not get a lot of swell. What we do get is the sheer natural beauty of the islands. It’s easy to forget about the surf when you are floating in gin-clear, 30°C+, water. The islands are so idyllically beautiful and the water so amazingly clear that they redefine my perspective on what a tropical paradise really is.

What we lack in swell during the first half of the trip is more than made up in the second half. I’ll let the photographs do the talking for just how good the surf in PNG can be. Barrels like this really can’t be described in words. ➤

“

“It’s easy to forget about the surf when you are floating in gin-clear, 30°C+ water. The islands are so idyllically beautiful and the water so amazingly clear that it redefines my perspective on what a tropical paradise really is.”

”



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Manus, the flip side



PICTURE: JOEL COLEMAN / SALE PHOTO GALLERY

Rustic ... the World War 2 wreckage throughout the Manus region is abundant and open to exploration.

Unless you are completely detached from the news, you will have heard of the asylum-seeker processing centre established on Manus Island that the Australian government.

Before leaving on this trip I mentioned to a few people that I was heading to Manus. I might have even posted something on Facebook or Twitter. Quite quickly, I was hit with several emails from people wanting information on what I was going to do there, questioning whether it was safe and whether I would try to visit the processing centre.

As it turns out, I do end up going to the facility. We anchor for a few nights just off the naval base that has been extended to accommodate the facility, and are invited into the "wet mess" (workers' bar) for drinks.

I am sure there are journalists and human rights activists who have been doing their utmost to gain access to the facility without success. All we have done is show up with a bunch of surfers, say hello and we are invited in. I am, however, requested not to take any photographs of the facility, so I comply.

What strikes me more than anything is the large amount of construction work. Talking to some of the people who work there is interesting. The Australians I chat to are not allowed off the base without special permission. They are being paid "danger money" on top of their salaries, and living a life separated from the town of Lorengau, where the facility is located. This may not be the case for everyone who works there, but it was for the people I met. ➤



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Manus, the flip side



PICTURE: JOEL COLEMAN / SALT MOTION GALLERY



PICTURE: JOEL COLEMAN / SALT MOTION GALLERY



PICTURE: JOEL COLEMAN / SALT MOTION GALLERY

Manus snapshot ... crystal-clear water, perfect palm islands, great waves and coconuts for sale at the markets at Lorengau. Happiness is endemic among the PNG village children.

Given that, earlier in the day, we had absolutely no problems walking through the town, going to the markets and generally hanging out in Lorengau, the danger money received by the workers seems a little over the top. Yet, I am not an expert on such things, merely a photographer that likes to surf.

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Manus, the flip side



PICTURE: JOEL COLEMAN / SALT MOTION GALLERY

Essentially the people who I speak to have a narrow perspective on what Manus is really like. They're shut out from the rest of the islands, the perfect beaches, the crystal-clear water, the surf, the diving and the giggling children of the villages.

I can only hope that there are more people in the world like Captain Andrew Rigby of the *Explorer*, willing to show how amazing this place really is; people willing to take others there, to let them surf the waves, dive the reefs, get the fine white sand between their toes and the tropical sun on their shoulders, to drink straight from the freshly cut coconuts and dive into the crystal blue water and maybe, just maybe, people's perspective will start to change.

Don't limit your perspective, that's all I'm saying. ■

For more information about live-aboard safaris on PNG Explorer, see pngsurfaris.com.

 **Air Niugini flies daily from Port Moresby to Manus Island. See airniugini.com.pg.**



PICTURE: JOEL COLEMAN / SALT MOTION GALLERY



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Port Moresby NATURALLY

John Wright visits the inspiring Port Moresby Nature Park and suggests other city attractions for visitors who may be in town for the Pacific Games.

Safe sanctuary ... an endangered Huon tree kangaroo who calls Port Moresby's Nature Park home.

“

The nature park – PNG's only combined zoo and botanic garden – is now one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country.

”

“Port Moresby has a lot of value as a (tourist) destination, but it has been painted in such a negative light over the years,” says Michelle McGeorge. “You know ... the idea that there is nothing to do here, that it's unsafe.

“But people often use information that isn't current. Port Moresby is changing. The challenge is to show people that this place is not all the bad stuff you've heard about in the past 20 years.”

McGeorge, general manager of the Port Moresby Nature Park, in Waigani, knows what she's talking about. A former wildlife sanctuary manager from Brisbane, she arrived in Port Moresby with her zoologist husband, Brett Smith, in 2010 with a job to do: to find a way ►





of transforming the moribund National Capital Botanical Gardens into an attraction worth seeing. There was a lot to do.

Established in the national university grounds in 1971, the gardens had seen their heyday as a showcase for PNG's tropical plants and a desirable tourist attraction. They'd fallen into decline, with little direction and no business mission. The National Capital District Commission, which was responsible for the gardens, needed a strategic review and gave McGeorge and Smith a year to do the job.

Four years on, they're still at the park (renamed in 2012) and continuing to plan future strategies, having presided over an astonishing transformation in its fortunes. The nature park – PNG's only combined zoo and botanic garden – is now one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country and arguably the best in Port Moresby. Visitor numbers are three times what they were in 2010 and increasing steadily. What has happened?

Well, in a word, everything. Just yesterday, it seems, the old botanical gardens were included on Port Moresby day tours almost by default, a generally uninspiring and unexciting place that locals used for picnics but about which visitors found little to write home.

Now, thanks to a new business model as a charitable trust, more than PGK4 million in corporate sponsorship and proactive government involvement, the site is almost unrecognisable. New infrastructure includes a smart entry precinct with an al fresco cafe, gift shop and offices, a network of attractive



Hands on ... snake handling at the Nature Park; children uncovering a Diprotodon skeleton at the Nature Park's discovery zone.

pathways and boardwalks, permanent cultural displays and a children's educational playground.

But the park's living attractions – its birds and animals (many of them threatened or endangered in the wild) and its wonderful array of tropical trees and plants, including thousands of orchids – are the stars at Port

Moresby Nature Park, and they combine beautifully to form a fine tourist snapshot of PNG's natural riches.

The 12-hectare park, which is aiming for full international accreditation as a zoo, has 60 animal species (about 280 animals in total). It is the only site in the country to conduct breeding programs, and the only place in the world where you can see all three species of cassowary. Its rainforest tract, a survivor from the park's early days, is unique in Port Moresby, and its estimated 11,000 orchids include many native only to PNG.

The star exhibits include rare grey dorcopsis wallabies, agile wallabies from lowland PNG and northern Australia, endangered Huon tree-kangaroos, the cassowaries, birds of paradise, Papuan hornbills, Victoria crowned pigeons (the park has bred these birds), parrots and numerous other PNG wildlife species.

A new reptile enclosure will be built this year to house a collection of snakes, lizards and crocodiles.

As a microcosm of the country's incredibly rich and diverse flora and fauna, the park offers a chance for travellers to get a taste of the country in one simple hit if that is all they have time for. Recognising this, the park offers transfers from and back to the airport for people who want to make the most of their time in transit.

This is helping to improve Moresby's image with tourists, but the park's commitment to education and conservation will have a more profound effect on a national level. ►



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MORE PORT MORESBY ATTRACTIONS

■ (Bomona) War Cemetery

This war cemetery is the biggest in the South Pacific. Beautifully kept, it contains 3824 graves of PNG and Australian soldiers who died in the Papua and Bougainville campaigns against the Japanese in World War 2, as well as unidentified UK soldiers who died in captivity in Singapore. It is 19 kilometres north of Port Moresby on the road to Nine Mile. Allow 2–3 hours.

■ Sogeri Plateau/Kokoda Track

The drive from the city to the heights of the Sogeri Plateau and onwards to the start of the Kokoda Track is one of the best day trips out of Port Moresby. The climb up the range is spectacular in parts. This is a guided tour and can be combined with a visit to the war cemetery. Contact Niugini Holidays, phone (675) 323 5245; [see nghols.com](http://see.nghols.com).

Poolside at Port Moresby's Airways Hotel ... one of the best drinking spots in the South Pacific.

■ Markets

Some Port Moresby markets are not tourist friendly, but others are attractive and safe if you keep an eye on your possessions. Nevertheless, it is a good idea to find a local guide to show you around if you want a more relaxing experience. Malaoro market, on Gavamani Road near the General Hospital, is good for fresh fruit and vegetables as well as seafood, and the Koki seafood market at the eastern end of Ela Beach is a great experience. There is also a good craft market at Ela Beach on the last Saturday morning of the month. Ask your hotel for advice.

■ PNG National Museum and Art Gallery

This museum, next to Parliament Haus on Independence Drive, Waigani, is a must-see if you want to learn something quickly about PNG's history and cultural heritage. There are five galleries that contain tens of thousands of artefacts and national treasures.

Read more about the museum on page 72.

■ Relaxing

Loloata Island Resort, a 25-minute road and boat journey from Jacksons International Airport, has long been popular with locals and visiting scuba divers. The atmosphere is laid-back, the service and facilities 2–3 star. The beachfront units have en-suites and meals are included.

Airport transfers and hotel pick-ups and drop-offs, as well as day trips, can be arranged. Phone (675) 325 8590; [see loloata.com](http://see.loloata.com).

■ Shopping

The new Waigani Central shopping complex and the Vision City Mega Mall, a smart shopping centre also in Waigani, are examples of the kind of development that has been transforming Port Moresby in the past few years. The Mega Mall is worth a visit even if you're just window shopping, and there are some good restaurants, including Japanese and Chinese, as well as a cinema complex. For genuine artefacts, try PNG Art in Spring Garden Road, Waigani.

■ Eating

Duffy Cafe is among the new breed of Port Moresby eateries, the creation of a couple local lads who have combined the cafe with clothes shop. Port Moresby is addicted to Asian food and there are some good restaurants that supply it. Try Seoul House, next to the 5-Mile service station, as well as at Vision City Mega Mall. The Japanese restaurant Daikoku is popular. Lunch in the Lamana Hotel's chic restaurant is a worthwhile option, and pizzas at the Ela Beach Hotel are a hit.

■ Drinking

The poolside bar and restaurant at the Airways Hotel, overlooking the airport, is one of the best drinking spots in the South Pacific, both for the view and the ambience. The Royal Papua Yacht Club, on Champion Parade near the CBD, has become an institution and is a favourite spot for expatriates. Right on the marina, it is perfect for a sundowner and it serves wholesome meals. You will have to get a member to sign you in.



Port Moresby naturally



Song and dance ... Trobriand dancers at the Nature Park. Traditional *sing-sing* groups and dancers often perform there.

McGeorge says the park's guiding philosophy of education, recreation and conservation aims not just to benefit tourism, but also to promote environmental awareness and the protection of PNG's unique wildlife. The park delivered

education programs to more than 13,000 children in 2014.

"Most of the threat to the wildlife of PNG comes from overhunting and habitat destruction," she says. "We want people to know that animals should be cared for."

If the support from corporate sponsors and the wider community is anything to go by, the message is getting across. The park had 115,000 visitors last year and can barely keep pace with the number of private and other functions now being held there (400 a year). Major corporates, including ExxonMobil ("They have been a really amazing partner," says

McGeorge), BSP bank, Pacific MMI Insurance and others, as well as a hands-on sister zoo relationship with Zoos Victoria, have pushed the vision along.

More is in store, and the term "under new management" has never seemed to be more appropriate. ■

NEED TO KNOW

GETTING THERE Port Moresby Nature Park, corner of Waigani Drive and Goro Kaeaga Road (University of PNG), Waigani, Capital District.

OPEN daily 8am to 5pm (last entry 4pm).

ADMISSION Adults PGK13 (overseas visitors), PGK7 (PNG residents); tourist students (13-16 years) PGK7, children (3-12)PGK4.

CONTACT Phone (675) 326 0258 (reservations); see facebook.com/PortMoresbyNaturePark.

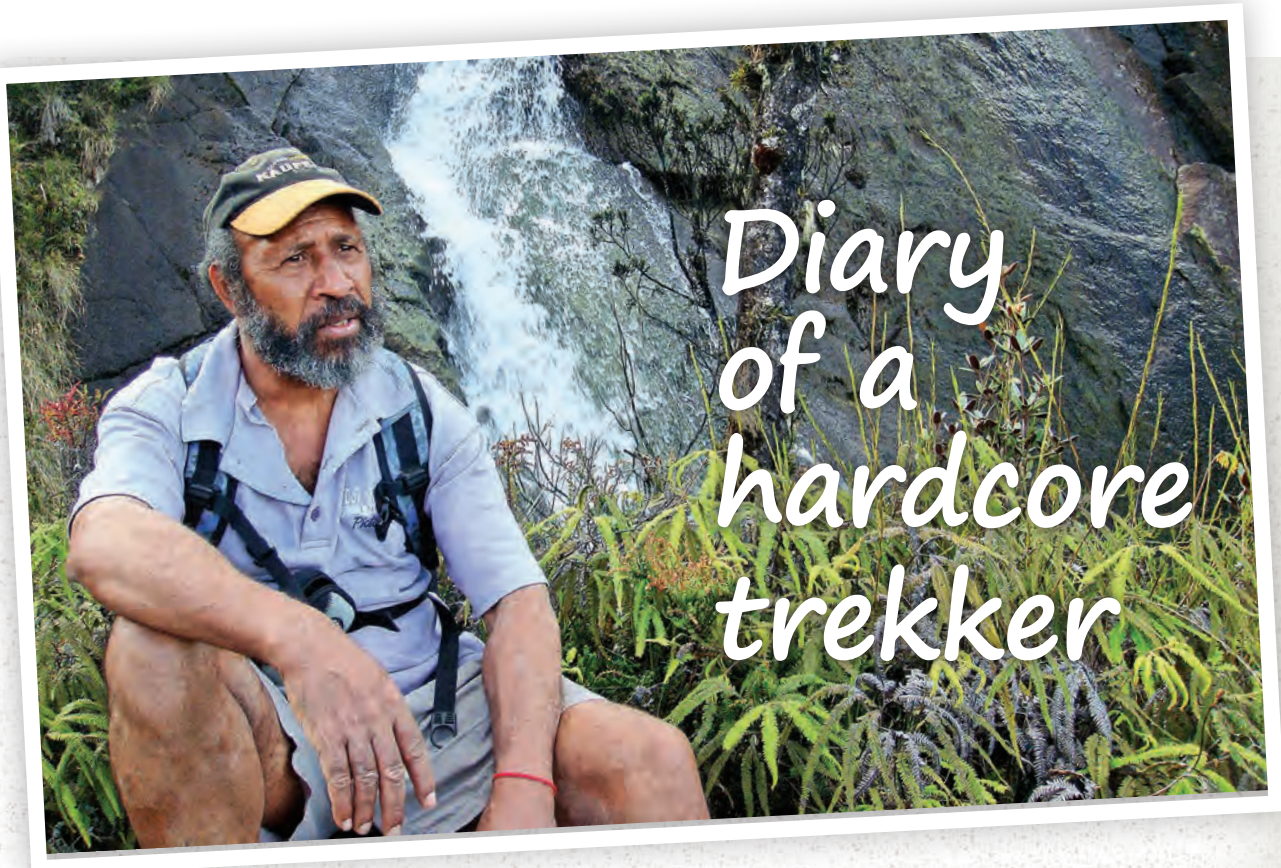


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Diary of a hardcore trekker

George Anian treks more than 140 kilometres over eight days, from Marawaka to Port Moresby. He gets lost on hunting trails, is soaked and spends 17 hours on the trail during one marathon day. But he emerges triumphant at the other end.

DAY 1

Sindeni airstrip to Marawaka Station.

At about 6.15am, my 10-seater plane taxis out of Goroka Airport and heads south, towards a small airstrip called Sindeni. It's a very foggy morning when we take off and we cannot see the ground.

It's only 30 minutes' flying time to the airstrip, where I am meant to meet up with my guide to Kerema.

I'm equipped with my normal camping gear, backpack, sleeping bag, a few warm clothes, a medical kit, plus a satellite navigation phone. And, of course, I have good trekking boots.

But things don't go exactly to plan when we land, because the guide I have hired to show me the track to Kerema has not turned up.

So, instead, I quickly assemble seven young Marawakas.

Marawakas are members of the Highlands tribe sharing the borders between the Gulf, Morobe and Eastern Highlands provinces. In the early days they were known to be kukukukus (head hunters).

They are carrying their bush knives, bows and arrows when we take off, with the intention of them showing me the way to

Menyamya and then back on to the main track heading for Kerema.

It's a detour that will add an extra day or two to the trip, but I have no choice.

Finally, we start walking and in my mind I want to do at least 10 hours a day, or more.

The track is in open kunai grass all the way and it is very hot. We only clock nine hours on that first sector.

For accommodation, I carry my tent and intend to build shelters out of bush materials, or sleep in a village house. I carry light food, eat off the bush and buy a bit from villagers as I go along.



On the trail ... the author George Anian (opposite page); crossing a wire bridge between Menyamya (Morobe Province) and Kanabea (Gulf Province) over the Kapau River.

DAY 2

Marawaka to Menyamya.

On the second day, we are to walk to Umba, between Marawaka and Menyamya. There are a couple of good climbs and some small hills. For most of the day it's very hot on the open kunai track.

After 8.5 hours, we reach Umba, but decide to press on the extra two hours to Menyamya. It is hard going, especially carrying my own backpack. It is along this section that I start developing blisters.

After walking for two hours I ask again,



how far to Menyamya? A little later one of the boys softly whispers to me, *klostu liklik!* Not far to go.

At this point, I put my head down and keep going. It is getting dark when we finally make it into Menyamya at 9pm.

I have walked 17 hours and 85 kilometres and the first thing I have to do is pull out the medical kit to dress blisters on my feet.

Then dinner, rice and tinned fish, and into my sleeping bag for the night. ➤

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Diary of a hardcore trekker



Three amigos ... George Anian's guides at a waterfall between Kaintiba and Kanabea; the locals who showed Anian the right track to Kerema; a woman wearing a traditional bark cloth on her head, between Sindeni and Marawaka.



DAY 3

Menyamya to a Gulf Province village. Fail to make the village, so camp in bush hut.

It's three days before Christmas and I crawl out of my sleeping bag and put my feet straight into my wet and muddy socks and boots.

A couple of hours along, we cross the Kapau River, which starts in the Eastern Highlands, flows through Morobe and joins up with the Tauri River and then on to Malalaua, east of Kerema.

Today is very hot and humid again, but after 11 hours of walking we fail to find a village and instead stumble across a bush hut where we can spend the night.

I get the blisters cleaned up with new dressing; swallow some paracetamol to ease pains in the old bones and muscles; and then dinner and my sleeping bag.

DAY 4

Bush hut to Weimawa Village, near Kanabea.

I get up before the guides; possibly 4am. It rained most of the night and is still raining now, making the track very difficult. It is a muddy and very slow day.

We also miss the main track and walk off into the bush along hunting tracks for a couple of hours before we run into two old men and one old woman and ask them for directions. They reply in their language, which we don't understand; however they turn us around and lead us back to where we had taken the wrong turn.

After another good 11 hours of walking we arrive at Weimawa Village. It is still raining and we are hungry and tired, hoping to get some local food. The villagers oblige and we have some sweet potatoes and vegetables.

DAY 5

Weimawa to Titikama Village.

It is so painful this morning, just to get up! I have more blisters and two of my big toes are starting to get infected. I have sore muscles all over the body.

Physically, I have nothing much left in me, although, mentally I am very positive.

After the previous day's rain, today is beautiful and clear.

It is a very gentle walk all day. There are no big mountains to climb, but it is steaming hot and humid.

We arrive at Titikama Village after 11 hours. I organise the guides to look for some vegetables for dinner, while I attend to my blisters. The vegetables are so tasty. ➤



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Diary of a hardcore trekker



Journey's end ... George Anian (with boots on) at the hut where he stayed on the last night before canoeing to Kerema and then boarding a PMV to Port Moresby.

DAY 6

Titikama Village to bush camp.

It's December 25. Happy Christmas, and have a good day!

We are well into the lowland jungle now. The vegetation is getting thicker and the sunlight is not penetrating through the canopy.

When we start walking there is more rain and by the time it is getting dark we have clocked only nine hours of trekking. For sure we have had a bad day but there is nothing much we can do except set up camp under a big tree for the night.

What are we having for Christmas dinner? One of the boys calls out "corned beef and biscuits". The boys kindly build me a little shelter out of wild banana leaves. I'm too tired to celebrate Christmas, and slip into my sleeping bag straight after dinner.

DAY 7

Bush camp to an unnamed village.

It's all downhill from here and I have a great sense of achievement when I am woken by the boys at 3.30am. They are singing and explain it is because they have done something good in almost completing the trek and they feel happy.

It is our last day of actual walking because tomorrow we will travel by canoe and PMV, all the way into Port Moresby.

We descend to sea level and clocked 10 hours on the trail.

Our dinner is a typical Kerema-style meal, sago and fish.

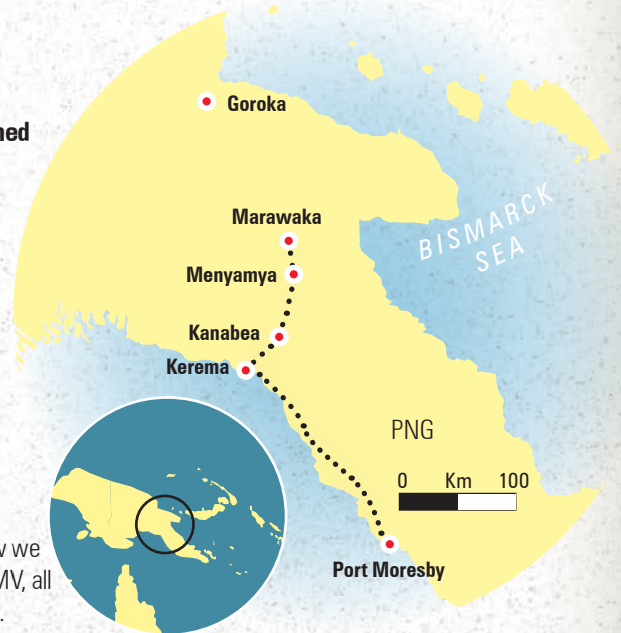
DAY 8

Village to Port Moresby.

We walk for only 20 minutes from the village house where we have stayed to a river to get a ride on a canoe to Kerema.

It is a very slow-moving river, about a kilometre wide, and there are not many villages along the way.

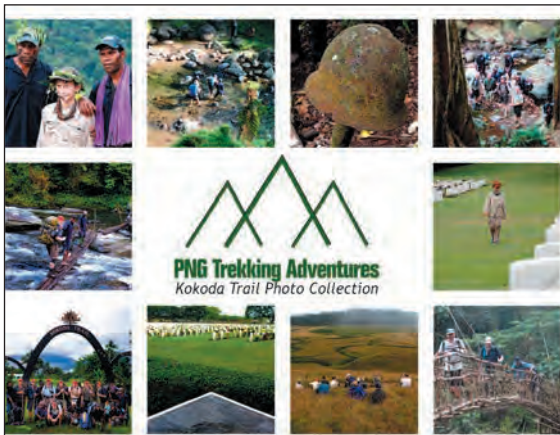
At Kerema, we board a PMV to Port Moresby along the Hiritano Highway.



It is exciting sitting among the locals and *buai* (betel nut) on the PMV. I'm stuck in one position for seven hours, but it is not as bad as walking for 10 hours.

At the end of it all, amazingly I have ended up with only nine blisters on my feet and lost two big-toe nails. But more importantly, I have achieved what I set out to do: walk from Marawaka to Port Moresby in eight days. ■

The author, from Salamaua in the Morobe Province, spent the next five days resting, eating and enjoying the company of his three children and four grandchildren.



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Kokoda Trail Photo Collection

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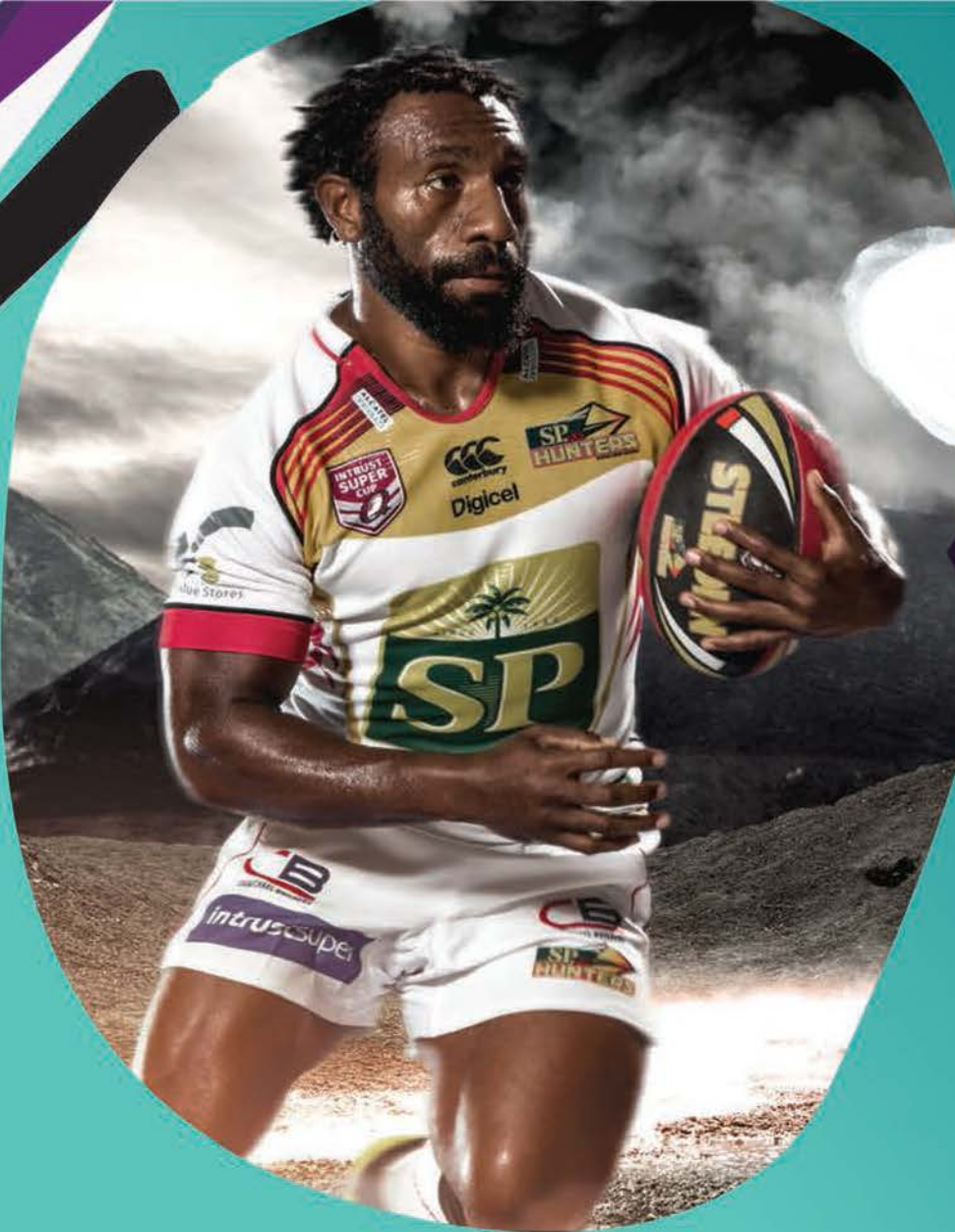
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FLY AND EAT

TOKYO

Street eats

Ameyoko Market is one of the best bazaars in Asia. Here, you can snack on seaweed, pickled octopus tentacles, yakitori chicken sticks, barbecue prawns and tropical fruit. Oh yes, and there is fabulous shopping to do afterwards, too, including bags, toys and clothes.

Ameyoko Market is in the Taito Ward of the city, next to Ueno Station.

Local favourite

For meat lovers, head to Kobe-Beef Kaiseki 511. The restaurant takes its name from the two grades of beef that the chefs exclusively use – A5 is the highest-quality of Japanese beef, and 11 is almost the highest grade of marbling, as measured on a 12-point scale. Rather than preparing their steaks on a hot grill, the restaurant roasts them in a brick oven at nearly 1000°C.

Located at B1, Dear Plaza Akasaka, Akasaka 4-3-28, Minato-ku, Tokyo.

Top-end treat



At the exquisite, French-style Signature restaurant at the I Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Tokyo, indulge in dishes such as poached langoustine with zucchini and peppermint, as well as foie gras in ravioli with snow peas and duck veloute. Delish.

See mandarinoriental.com/tokyo.

Hidden secret

Shichifukujin is one of the best sushi cafes in the city, according to chefs and locals in the know. Packed by 7pm, foodies race here for the quality of the scallops, tuna and sea urchin – at brilliantly low prices.

Located at 3-2-13 Koenji-kita, Suginami-ku.

SINGAPORE

Street eats



The infamous, sprawling Chinatown Complex Food Centre is a great place to have local traditional dishes and Singaporean street food. Be adventurous and try dishes including chilli crab, frog porridge

and prawn noodles.

Located in Chinatown, Singapore.

Local favourite

For the perfect, steaming bowl of laksa, complete with coconut milk, sea food and chilli, head to 328 Katong Laksa. It is one of the most famous restaurants in Singapore, loved by locals and visitors. The portions are big, cheap and addictive.

See 328katonglaksa.com.

Top-end treat

Named after its founder, Ignatius Chan, Iggy's at the Hilton Hotel on Orchard Road, is a serious foodie treat. Some of the world's finest luxury ingredients are on the menu including quail, Alba black truffles and white asparagus.

See iggys.com.

Hidden secret

Cocotte @ Wanderlust Hotel is the perfect place to re-charge, away from Singapore's hustle and bustle. It has a spacious design and a French rustic-style menu. We are talking rich chocolate tarts, steak frites and fish drizzled in saffron oil. Ooh la la!

Located at 2 Dickson Road, Ground Level, Wanderlust Hotel.



From the tastiest street food to fine dining, *Lucie Morris-Marr* presents a food guide to four of Air Niugini's key route cities. Time to land and tuck in ...

SYDNEY

Street eats

Take a water taxi and head to the colourful Sydney Fish Market, which offers Australia's biggest variety of fresh seafood. Take the chance to people watch as you eat freshly shucked oysters, lobster mornay and chips, succulent prawns and Moreton Bay bugs. Heavenly.

See sydneyfishmarket.com.au.

Local favourite

After a day exploring Sydney, head to Hurricane's Grill Bondi Beach for their famous "full rack" of ribs. Utterly mouth-watering, they are served hot and juicy.

See bondibeach.hurricanesgrill.com.au.

Top-end treat

For an unforgettable treat book a table at Quay, one of Australia's most respected restaurants, overlooking Sydney Harbour. Executive chef, Peter Gilmore, delivers intricate dishes such as steamed pink snapper with shaved southern squid, pink turnips and umami juices.

See quay.com.au.

Hidden secret

Head to the Food Society Restaurant & Bar for a lavish "Vodka High Tea." You can indulge in a delightful degustation by head chef Fernando Sanchez, who offers handmade savoury and sweet canapes.

See foodsociety.com.au.



HONG KONG

Street eats

Cheung Chau is a Hong Kong gem with its still-active fishing fleet, and the local restaurants are always ready to dish out the fresh fruits of their daily hauls. Seafood Street, near the pier, is the best place on the island for an alfresco meal and to soak up the lively ambience.

From the Cheng Chau ferry pier, walk along San Hing Praya Street.

Local favourite

At City Hall Maxim's Palace, you will discover why the locals consider this the home of dim sum. The huge dining hall, complete with grand chandeliers and floral carpets, has been serving dim sum for decades and remains a local institution.

See maximschinese.com.hk.

Top-end treat



The stylish Felix restaurant at the Peninsula Hotel boasts views of Hong Kong's spectacular skyline and pushes culinary boundaries. Stand out signature dishes include "Othello", slow-cooked sea bass with black shrimp mousse, parsley-ginger sauce, black yoghurt jelly and spinach-barley risotto. Pricy but worth every bite.

See hongkong.peninsula.com/en/fine-dining/felix.

Hidden secret

At Chi Lin Vegetarian, within a sprawling Tang Dynasty style garden, the kitchen team creates the menu using seasonal produce with both dim sum and a la carte dishes.

Located at Long Men Lou, Nan Lian Garden, 60 Fung Tak Road, Diamond Hill, Hong Kong. ■

 Air Niugini flies to Tokyo, Singapore, Sydney and Hong Kong regularly. For schedules, see airniugini.com.pg.



“

Sri Lanka's cuisine is centred around rice served with a fish, chicken, beef or goat curry ... and it is nothing like Indian food.

”

SRI LANKA CALLING

Kevin McQuillan experiences the delights of the island nation, from tea plantations, to elephants, pristine beaches, temples and delicious spices.

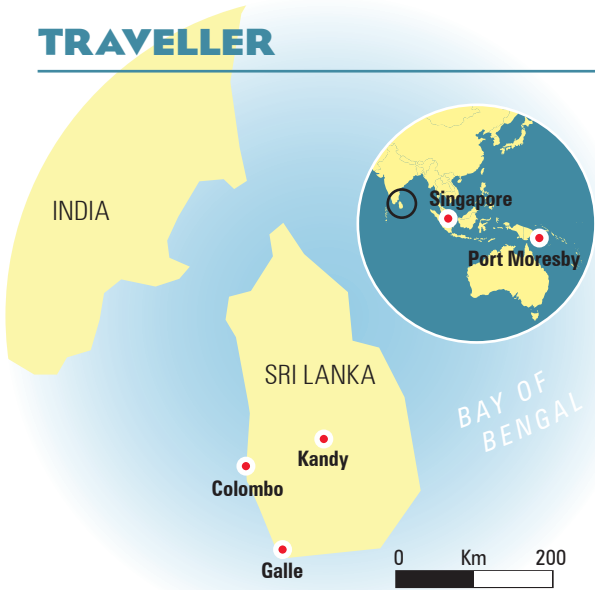
PICTURES: KEVIN MCQUILLAN, SRI LANKA TOURISM PROMOTION BUREAU

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Pole position ... fishermen in Galle (opposite); Hotel Deco 44 (right); the Tooth Temple, Kandy (middle right); Galle Fort (far right).



Sri Lanka is a country on the move, upwardly mobile and attracting tourists who are flocking to this now safe and stable island.

Five years on from the end of a 25-year civil war, the benefits of peace and security are visible throughout Sri Lanka, as the island nation rebuilds and develops.

Many travellers compare it to India, but even a short visit makes visitors realise that Sri Lanka is a world apart,

despite the countries' shared history. It is more laid back (India on Valium, is how one fellow traveller put it) beggars are few (despite widespread poverty) and the people are welcoming.

Last year, a record 1.5 million visited Sri Lanka from India, Europe, the Middle East, the UK, China, Korea and Australia. That's three times the number in 2006, when the country was recovering from the 2004 tsunami amid the civil war.

This year, the tourism board is hoping two million will visit, boosted by the global publicity from Pope Francis' visit in January.



Investments in hotels, cafes and staff training, redeveloping tourism facilities, high-quality roads, new offices, shopping centres, apartments and housing, reflect this new confidence, lifting the quality of life for all.

Eco-tourism is developing as a major driver, reflecting the diversity of the country's offerings: national parks with wild elephants, leopards, monkeys, spotted deer and amazing birds; whale watching, a turtle hatchery and elephant

orphanage, kayaking, surfing and diving, on top of its traditional attractions of ancient cities, temples and the tea plantations.

CULTURE

Sri Lanka's centuries-old Buddhist traditions attract devotees from India, Japan, China and the West. Likewise with an abundance of Hindu temples and mosques. The country is home to 22 million mainly Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims and Christians.

PLANNING


Most tourists visit the capital, Colombo,



only briefly, preferring instead to head directly to whatever has attracted them to the island. The tourism strip of nearby Negambo is good place to recover from a long flight, before heading north to the cultural centre, or east to the sugar-like sands of the coastal beaches.

Others head south, directly to the 430-year old fort city of Galle, which like many other places in Sri Lanka, is a World Heritage site, and from there to surf beaches, or up through the ➤





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Sri Lanka calling

centre of the island to Kandy and tea plantations.

ROADS

Travelling around the island is rarely boring. An ever-changing landscape can lead to sensory overload. From roadside stalls to small villages undergoing big development, watching daily life is absolutely intriguing.

A car and driver, and preferably a trained guide, ensures first-time visitors glean as much as possible from the sights and sounds. Besides, driving on Sri Lankan roads requires nerves of

made with vegetables, lentils or fruit. Tourism cafes charge around PGK12 a meal. And it is nothing like Indian food.

Hoppers are a specialty, particularly for breakfast, consisting of a crispy, bowl-shaped pancake, made from fermented rice batter and coconut milk.

No Sri Lankan meal is complete without sambols, some spicy, some sweet, and some savoury. Best of all are those made with Maldivian fish, chilli and coconut, topped with lime. After just a few days of eating Sri Lankan food, you'll be craving for chilli on your Western omelette.

Around Galle, a number of cooking classes offer hands-on experience to make these wonderful dishes.

ACCOMMODATION

Four and five-star hotels and resorts are all over the island. It is a genuinely year-round tourism destination, although where and when you go, is based on the two monsoon seasons.

As a rough guide, December to mid-April is considered the peak season for overall weather.



Sights, sounds and smells of the country ... (from left) Kandy street scene; curry in the making; traditional spices and flavours; gem cutter and polisher; residents at the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage.

steel and a high level of concentration. It's not unusual to see three huge buses and trucks overtaking each other on your side of the road. Despite that, the roads are of a high standard and make for pleasant driving.

TEA

The country maintains its former name, Ceylon, to help market its most important export: quality tea. But the industry has cleverly exploited the global tea obsession by developing its tea plantations in the highlands as a major tourism attraction, although tea plantation workers are among the most poorly paid in the country.

For dessert, curd and treacle is a delicious mix of buffalo milk and treacle. This goes well with fresh pineapple, which costs around PGK1, either in a supermarket or the roadside. Coconut is similarly priced. Drinking bottled water is a must, but at PGK2 a litre, it's cheap. Dragonfruit, guava, durian, sapodilla, mangosteen, rambutan and apples also abound in supermarkets and at roadside stalls.

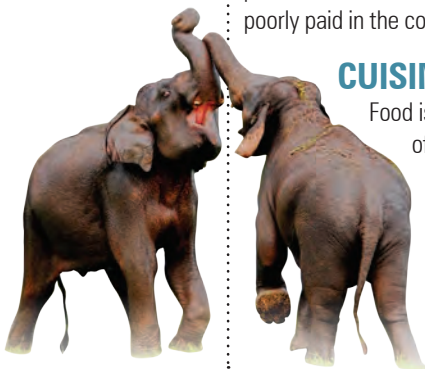
GEMS

Of the world's 85 varieties of gemstones, Sri Lanka is home to 40. Fertile soil produces rubies, sapphires, cat's eyes, garnets, Alexandrites and more. ■

 **Air Niugini flies to Singapore five times a week. From there, direct air connections are available to Colombo. See airniugini.com.pg.**

CUISINE

Food is a major attraction of Sri Lanka. Its cuisine is centred around rice served with a fish, chicken, beef or goat curry, along with other curries



NEED TO KNOW

STAYING THERE Quality hotels include the Cinnamon Grand Colombo (cinnamonhotels.com/CinnamonGrandColombo); the Jetwing Sea Hotel in Negambo (jetwinghotels.com/jetwingsea); Deco on 44 in Galle (decoon44.com).

TOURING THERE While independent travel is easy and fun, it can be time consuming. Another option is to hire a car and licensed tour guide/driver. Contact Thusitha Rodrigo, rodrours1@gmail.com.

MORE INFORMATION srilanka.travel





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10 PORT DOUGLAS ESSENTIALS

Robert Upe munches on mud crab, snorkels over the Great Barrier Reef and takes part in an indigenous smoking ceremony during a long-weekend break in Queensland's Port Douglas.

Rainforest reflections ... Mossman Gorge, near Port Douglas (above); snorkelling at the Lowe Isles (opposite page, left); snack time at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures (opposite page, right); a furry friend at Hartley's (opposite page, bottom)

Port Douglas is a Far North Queensland town that is small enough to provide a restful tropical break, but large enough to have good food, indulgent yacht trips to the Great Barrier Reef, interesting markets, world-class golf and a lively Carnivale if you visit during May.

After you arrive on your Air Niugini flight into Cairns, it is a 70-kilometre drive north along an easy-to-navigate highway that hugs the pretty coastline for some of the journey, with palm trees bending over the sand and turquoise water glimmering in the sun.

Along the way, call into chic Palm Cove for lunch. This small hamlet is blessed with many good restaurants, including the beachfront Nu Nu, with a repertoire including wok-fried mud crab and red curry of locally caught reef fish. Major car rental firms are based at Cairns Airport, ensuring a good and affordable choice of vehicles. Alternatively, there are coach services from the airport to Port Douglas.

Here are 12 must-do activities.



1 Port Douglas Carnivale. It's on this year, from May 22–31, and showcases food, wine, art and music. The 10-day event was originally a celebration of the start of the sugarcane harvest, but now marks the start of the tourist season. This year's program includes a Craft Beer and Cider Festival, street buskers and artists, celebrity chefs, themed lunches (don't miss the Jansz Longest Lunch), a street parade and much more.

See carnivale.com.au.

2 Macrossan Street shops. The relaxed main street of Port Douglas is filled with cafes, restaurants, juice bars, surf wear stores, fashion stores, galleries and souvenir shops along several blocks. The cafes have plenty of outdoor seating, befitting of the warm climate. The Port Douglas Sunday Market takes place nearby, on Wharf Street. In the other direction, you'll find the town's Four Mile Beach.

3 Iron Bar cane toad racing. This rustic, corrugated-tin and timber bar and steakhouse restaurant in Macrossan Street is just as famous for its nightly cane toad races as its porterhouse. The races start at 8pm and involve a field of toads on a table. If you're allocated a toad, it's up to you to egg on the amphibian to the table perimeter. This is done with one of those party whistles where the paper rolls out.

See ironbarportdouglas.com.au.



4 Fish Restaurant. This award-winning seafood restaurant is an airy and modern place, with large bi-fold doors that open to an alfresco seating area on Macrossan Street. The blue swimmer crab is done nicely with Singapore chilli sauce and the atmosphere, with the open doors to the town's main street, adds to a very worthwhile Port Douglas experience.

See 2fishrestaurant.com.au.

5 Take a yacht to the Great Barrier Reef. Imagine this. You are relaxing on the white deck of a slick catamaran, perhaps a crisp sauvignon blanc in hand, as the vessel cuts through the water on the way to the coral lagoon at the Low Isles. This half-day tour, from 1pm to 6.30pm, leaves Port Douglas daily and includes three hours at anchor. You can snorkel, lie on the beach or explore the

tiny isle with historic lighthouse. As soon as I get into the water there is a loggerhead turtle swimming next to me and we stay together as unlikely swimming partners for the next 10 minutes. We float over the reef, which is crowded with giant clams and colourful fish. Snorkelling instruction, in-water assistance, savoury snacks and canapes are all part of the deal. There are also full-day and sunset tours.

See sailawayportdouglas.com.

6 Face-to-face with crocodiles. We're in the middle of a lagoon and there are crocodiles all around, the biggest of them a staggering five metres. They're coming right up to our boat, snapping at meaty morsels on the end of a long pole held over the water.

The crocodile tour is part of the offering at Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. This excellent wildlife park not only showcases crocs, but there are also snake shows, koala feeding, photo sessions with pythons, a cassowary and wetland tour, and other creatures to see such as emus, quolls and lanky monitors. Afterwards, lunch on an outdoor deck overlooking the lagoon can include a crocodile burger.

See crocodileadventures.com.



12 Port Douglas essentials

7 Glass gallery. Some of the finest hand-blown glassware you're likely to find is located in a small studio along a dirt road in tropical rainforest on the edge of Daintree National Park. The Hoglund studio, 40 minutes from Port Douglas, displays vases, bowls, perfume bottles and other ornaments, with nature-inspired colours. Former US president Bill Clinton is among the admirers of this glassware, having purchased some when he visited the gallery's New Zealand studio. If visiting, leave time

for lunch – or Sunday breakfast – at High Falls restaurant, where a timber dining deck overlooks a bubbling river.

See hoglundartglass.com; highfallsfarm.com.au.

8 Tour a cocoa and sugarcane farm. Sweet Farm Tours is in the same vicinity as the glass gallery (see above). Find out all about cocoa and sugarcane on this working farm. The gift shop has local produce, including chocolates.

See sweetfarmtours.com.

9 Mossman Market. Mossman is a quiet town about 15 minutes north of Port Douglas. The town's Saturday market – with everything from tropical fruit to second-hand books, produce and craft – is held in parkland under the shade of big trees, between 7am and midday. My best buy is a jar of delicious green mango pickle. The town is also the gateway to Mossman Gorge.



Smoke and water ... (clockwise from above) Port Douglas from the air; smoking ceremony at Mossman Gorge; Herbie's Beach Shack at Thala Nature Reserve; a lonely beach at Thala.



10 Mossman Gorge. Located in the World Heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest, a trip into the gorge is a journey into lush rainforest with crystal-clear rivers and streams. You can take a self-guided walk, or go on a Dreamtime walk with an indigenous guide. The Dreamtime experience starts with a smoking ceremony in which bad spirits are ushered away. The guide provides a fascinating commentary on bush food and survival as you meander along

an easy track. The Mossman Gorge Centre includes a cafe/restaurant, indigenous art gallery, souvenir shop and helpful staff at the information desk.

See mossmangorge.com.au.

11 Indigenous art. Take an art workshop at the Janbal Gallery, where you are shown how to paint your own canvas, boomerang or didgeridoo in traditional style.

See janbalgallery.com.au.

12 Thala Beach Nature Reserve. Hang loose in a hammock strung under palm trees at the beach at this lodge-style getaway. The property is set in more than 50 hectares of forest and has access to secluded beaches 10 minutes' drive south of Port Douglas. The hammocks are next to Herbie's Beach Shack, a corrugated tin hut where you can buy afternoon drinks. The lodges are on stilts in the forest, some overlooking the ocean. Thala is eco- ➤



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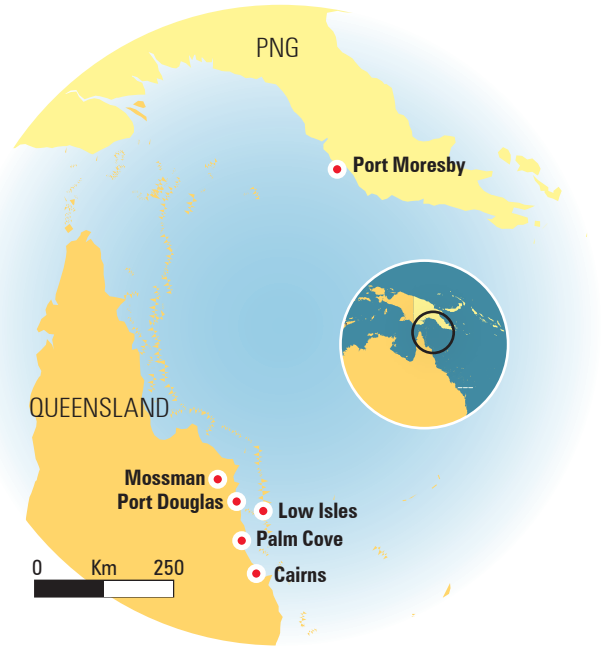
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12 Port Douglas essentials

friendly and offers nature tours and walks, stargazing and sea kayaking. The Osprey restaurant is high in the treetops and worth booking – for the setting and the food – even if you’re not a guest. The head chef is Luukas Trautner, who has worked in two European Michelin-star restaurants. ■

See thalabeach.com.au.

 **Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Cairns daily.**
See airniugini.com.pg.



NEED TO KNOW

STAYING THERE Thala Beach Nature Reserve provides a luxury out-of-town escape (see story). In town, the Hibiscus Resort and Spa (hibiscusportdouglas.com) is close to Macrossan Street. Golfers may opt for the Sheraton Mirage (sheratonportdouglas.com).

GETTING AROUND For rental cars at Cairns Airport see cairnsairport.com.au/rental-cars/. For other modes of transport, see tourismportdouglas.com.au/Port-Douglas-Airport-Transfers.

MORE INFORMATION visitportdouglassdaintree.com

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City guide:

KUALA LUMPUR

Brian Johnston finds that KL is a blend of old and new, from Taoist temples to glamorous rooftop bars.

Kuala Lumpur started off as a boomtown just 150 years ago, and doesn't have the pedigree of many an ancient Asian city. No matter: it has barely slowed down since its founding, yet has not lost any of its tumultuous character.

KL's blend of old and new, ramshackle and chic, make it a fascinating place. Wander around and get a feel for the contemporary vibe and business energy of the city, then kick back in a Taoist temple or a relaxing old-style coffee house, where afternoons just seem to drift away.





GETTING AROUND

Walking isn't the way to go in hot, humid Kuala Lumpur except in the colonial city centre's narrow streets. Taxis (sunlighttaxi.com) are abundant and relatively cheap and the hop-on, hop-off tourist bus (myhophonhopoff.com) trundles around the main attractions. Trains (myrapid.com.my) mostly suit local commuters but also link the airport.

Street scenes ... the Kuala Lumpur skyline with the dominant Petronas Twin Towers (opposite page); city traffic (above); Chinatown market (above middle); Chinatown hawker stall (above right).



SIGHTS

Colourful, bustling Chinatown lies at the heart of Kuala Lumpur, and has Taoist and Hindu temples worth a visit. But the chief attraction is soaking up the atmosphere of its tiny shops, cafes and street markets before plundering Chinatown's many eateries.

Petronas Twin Towers (Kuala Lumpur City Centre; petronastwintowers.com.my) is Malaysia's icon and were the world's tallest two buildings when opened in 1996. They are still spectacular, providing great views from a Skybridge and 86th-floor observation deck.

Jamek Mosque (Jalan Tun Terak) was built in 1909 in Indian Muslim (Mughal) style, with distinctive red-and-white striped minarets. Its shaded marble interior is deliciously cool in summer.



KUALA LUMPUR SPECIAL

Few things say Kuala Lumpur more than its hawker stalls. Imbi Market (on Jalan Kampung) or the stalls along Madras Lane and Jalan Sayur provide great street eats. Chinatown has some terrific evening offerings along Jalan Sultan and Jalan Tun HS Lee, with a huge variety of Malay and Chinese nosh dished up until long after midnight.

Squat on a tiny stool under the arcades of old Chinese houses, while the lights of skyscrapers glitter above, and tuck into a quintessential Kuala Lumpur experience. ➤



City guide: Kuala Lumpur



CULTURE CULTURE

The Islamic Arts Museum (Jalan Lembah Perdana; iamm.org.my) is the largest of its type in southeast Asia, with some 7000 items that range from Islamic calligraphy to jewellery and hand-written Korans.

The six-storey Thean Ho Temple (65 Persiaran Endah) is a collaborative effort of the city's Chinese community and is dedicated to the Heavenly Mother. It has colourful murals and beams and good views over the city.

Head to Badan Warisan (2 Jalan Stonor; badanwarisan.org.my) for an interesting account of how this traditional wooden Malay house, which dates from the 1920s, was relocated and reassembled. It features antique furnishings and various exhibitions. ➤

Islamic Arts Museum ... 7000 items on display.



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open your world



City guide: Kuala Lumpur

CHILD'S PLAY

Aquaria (aquariaklcc.com) fascinates kids with huge tanks of aquatic creatures. A walk-through tunnel allows them to eyeball sharks, eels and rays. Kids 14 years and over can scuba-dive with sharks.

Berjaya Times Square Theme Park (berjayatimesquarethemeparkkl.com) in the shopping centre of the same name has a gut-wrenching roller coaster, haunted house and rides to suit toddlers.

Sunway Lagoon (sunwaylagoon.com) is your retreat when the heat gets too much. The theme park has water slides, a lazy river, wave pool and beach, as well as a wildlife park with animal shows.

RETAIL THERAPY

Peter Hoe Beyond Boutique (145 Jalan Tun HS Lee) is the place to head for funky souvenirs and gifts. It sells Asian homewares, jewellery, batik fashions and other hand-printed fabrics, and has an agreeable cafe.



Shopping central ... a swanky Kuala Lumpur mall provides contrast to the street stalls and markets.

Asaana Fashion in the shopping mall beneath Petronas Towers (Suria KLCC, Kuala Lumpur City Centre; suriaklcc.com.my) has international high fashion, but is especially good for its one-stop Asian selection.

Government-run Kompleks Kraf Kuala Lumpur (63 Jalan Conlay; kraftangan.gov.my) has a great selection of quality handicrafts from across the country. Artists, potters and weavers work in the bungalows behind the store.

SPORTING LIFE

Malaysia is a top golfing destination and, an hour out of town, you could be testing your skills at Saujana Golf & Country Club (saujana.com.my) or the East Course of the Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club (klgccc.com).

Adrenaline junkies will get their fix at Extreme Park (extremepark.com.my), where activities include paintball war games, dodge ball, go-karting and flying foxes, including Malaysia's longest at 206 metres. ➤





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City guide: Kuala Lumpur



Stay cool at air-conditioned Camp5 (camp5.com), the largest climbing gym in Asia, where state-of-the-art climbing walls have over 400 routes to suit both beginners and experts.

ESCAPE

The popular Perdana Botanical Garden (klbotanicalgarden.gov.my) was founded in the 1880s and remains a green oasis for boating, early morning tai chi and contemplative strolls. There are also colourful butterfly and bird collections.

On the northern outskirts of the city, the limestone Batu Caves (tourism.gov.my) house an important Hindu religious site especially noted for its annual Thaipusam festival in January or February. A 272-step climb rewards you with views over the city.

A 2.5-hour drive north of Kuala Lumpur, the Cameron Highlands (cameronhighlands.com) are the traditional cool-climate escape from the city, offering a landscape of jungle and tea plantations and villas fronted by rose gardens.

PILLOW TALK

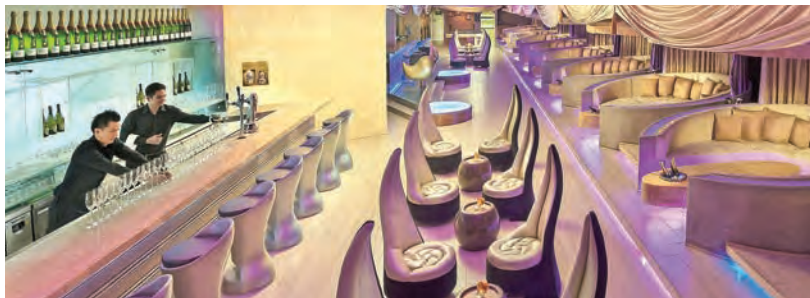
The Yard (51D Jalan Tengkong Tongshin; theyard.com.my) is a well-priced, cheerful boutique hotel in a mix of colonial and contemporary styles.

Bright, spacious and family-friendly Novotel Kuala Lumpur City Centre (2 Jalan Kia Peng; novotel.com) is a good choice in a city short of mid-range options.

Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur (Jalan Pinang, Kuala Lumpur City Centre; mandarinoriental.com) could hardly be in a better city-centre location, with commanding views from guestrooms and its infinity-edge swimming pool.

WATERING HOLES

Despite its name, Passion (181-183 Ramlee, Kuala Lumpur City Centre) is a laidback, lounge-lizard venue where low lighting, plush sofas and smooth music encourage chilling out either inside or on the outdoor terrace.



For a glamorous rooftop bar, Sky Bar (Traders Hotel, Kuala Lumpur City Centre; skybar.com.my) has long been one of the city's coolest venues, with great finger food, inventive cocktails and light-twinkled views.

Kuala Lumpur's luxury hotels have surprisingly funky bars, none more so than The Sultan Lounge (Mandarin Oriental, Jalan Pinang, Kuala Lumpur City Centre; mandarinoriental.com), where designer opulence meets a taste of Morocco.

EATS

Enak (LG2, Starhill Gallery, 181 Jalan Bukit Bintang; enakl.com) provides inventive, fine-dining interpretations of Malay dishes; its three-dessert sampler is a delight. ➤

Wine and dine ... (from left) the Mandarin Oriental's Club Lounge; the hotel's Sultan Lounge; street dining in Chinatown.



TUCK IN

Nasi lemak is Kuala Lumpur's signature dish, eaten off banana leaves at streets stalls or on fine porcelain in restaurants alike. At its base is white rice soaked in coconut cream. Side dishes include boiled egg, sliced cucumber, roasted peanuts and dried anchovies, as well as spicy sambal sauce. It's often accompanied by deep-fried chicken. Try nasi lemak at Village Park Restaurant (45 Jalan ss21/37, Damansara Jaya) or a more upmarket version at Bijan (3 Jalan Ceylon; bijanrestaurant.com).



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City guide: Kuala Lumpur



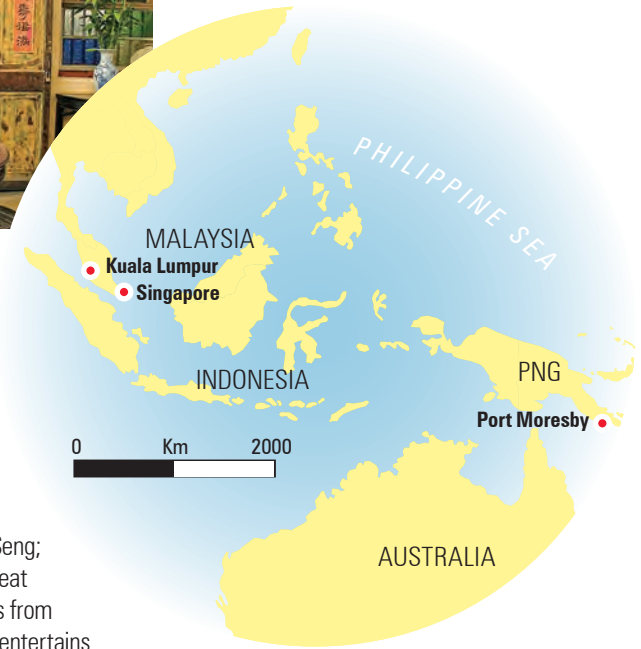
KUALA LUMPUR

- POPULATION:** 1.6 million
- CURRENCY:** Malaysian ringgit; 1 ringgit = PGK 0.74
- TAXI FARE FROM AIRPORT:** Around MYR100 to downtown KL
- INTERNATIONAL DIALLING CODE:** 60
- LANGUAGE:** Malay, with many native, Chinese and Indian languages. English widely understood
- POWER:** Three-pronged, square UK-style plug



Old China Cafe (11 Jalan Balai Polis; oldchina.com.my, pictured) is an intimate eatery in an old, antique-cluttered shophouse that serves Nonya (Chinese-Malay fusion) dishes from Melaka and Penang, including a mighty good beef rendang.

Songket (29, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng; songketrestaurant.com) has a great range of Malay dishes and others from around southeast Asia, and also entertains with traditional dancing and singing. ■



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TIN TOWN

Sally Hammond explores Ipoh, a Malaysian city built on its tin industry and held in high regard for its noodles.

PICTURES: GORDON HAMMOND

Tin city. That's what they should have nicknamed Ipoh. Instead they dubbed it "city of millionaires". It was tin, though, that made the millionaires.

This versatile metal was discovered in the valley of the Kinta River in 1876. Ipoh became the hub for the world's largest tin field, and British mining companies established headquarters there.

Already essential for solder, tin had long been used as an alloy with copper to create pewter or bronze, or with lead to make bullets. By the late 19th-century, the food industry was hungry for it, too. Tin was vital to plate steel for "tin" cans, and amassed a huge income for the country. In British colonial times, Ipoh was second only to Kuala Lumpur.

As we set out to explore this modern and still prosperous city surrounded by steep limestone hills, the morning air is already loaded with humidity.

I've heard Ipoh's noodles are better than anywhere else in Malaysia. That's a big claim with Penang about an hour by road to the north and Kuala Lumpur two hours south.

I must find the markets, so we follow the locals, watching for tell-tale signs: empty bags ahead, laden ones approaching. The Pasir Puteh Wet

Market is well worth the search. Inside, our eyes need to adjust from the glare, but our noses immediately tell us we've hit pay dirt. The odours of fish, blood, durian and much, much more hit us – but in a good way – for this is fresh, just-caught, just-harvested produce.

The market's four storeys are well-organised, with entire floors for meats or vegetables. We wander down alleyways of eggs (duck, hen, preserved) and others of rice, coconut, flowers, tofu.

There are corners devoted to smallgoods with scavenging cats scooting under counters and entire sections heady with spices, sauces, condiments. A supermarket on steroids.

The Ipoh Heritage Trail brochure has other ideas on what to see. Many of the city's century-old buildings, established by British companies, are still used as banks and offices, and make grand subjects for our photographs as we hike around the Old Town and its blocks of brightly painted heritage-status shop-houses.

Many of Ipoh's landmarks would sit comfortably in London.

The Birch Memorial, with its intricate murals, clock and campanile seems lifted from Europe, though it's a memorial to Perak's first British ►



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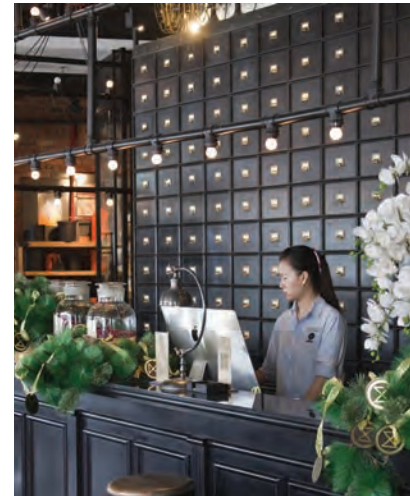
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Tin town

Ipoh time ... the city's Old Clock Tower (previous page); retro cases stacked at the M Boutique Hotel; street eats; the front desk at the M Boutique Hotel; street mural showing the old uncle.



Resident Minister. Totally disrespectful of local customs, he lasted a year before his assassination in 1875.

By contrast, the blindingly white railway station would fit well in India, and in fact, Hubbard, its designer, had served there and employed a Neo-Moorish style for what was originally a hospital. The locals call it the Taj Mahal of Ipoh. Easy to find, it is set apart with a marble forecourt and lawns and two other things to note, both connected with death.



In front of the station stands a flourishing ipoh tree, the poisonous sap of which was used by the indigenous people to tip their hunting arrows. Not far away is the War Memorial with its tragic inscription recording the deaths of around half of the 170,000 Asian labourers (many of them Malays) who were conscripted to construct the infamous Thailand-Burma Death Railway in World War 2.

But there's a lighter side, too. Facing the Ipoh Field, an "old uncle" drinks his coffee in a wall mural. Ernest Zacharevic, who painted much of Penang's street art, now shares his talent on walls around Ipoh.

For the active visitor, there is Lost Worlds hot springs and theme park on the edge of town, and beyond, mountains to climb and limestone caves (some with temples) to explore. In town there are huge shopping centres and the recreational Coronation Park with a newly landscaped Japanese garden.

One night we hungrily cruise the town looking for dining options, and across the river we find plastic tables and chairs have overtaken several streets. Family groups tuck into huge bowls of those famous sar hor fun noodles, unique because of Ipoh's mineral-rich water.

A bicycle vendor, ringing his bell, sways between diners with his load of dumplings and soup while nearby, globes of green-skinned pomelos swing above baskets of chrysanthemum and rosebud teas.

The affordable, uber-trendy M Boutique hotel (mboutiquehotels.com) surprises us most. Ultra-smart, packed with memorabilia, accented with bold colours and quirky signs, it has the feel of a big city brand – one that could replicate throughout a country. Our tiny room has everything we need, and the sparkling Old Town White Coffee Restaurant next door provides excellent authentic meals.

Appropriately, M Boutique's motto is "Strangers as Friends". Guests come as strangers and leave as friends. We certainly did – and that's how we felt about Ipoh, too. ■



Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Singapore five times a week, from where you can connect to Kuala Lumpur.

NEED TO KNOW

IPOH, Perak, Malaysia (pronounced: EE-poh)

POPULATION metro area about 1.4 million

DRIVING from Kuala Lumpur (approximately two hours on tollroad (airport 2.5 hours). Well signposted. Express trains also connect to KL.

LANGUAGE Bahasa Malaysia, but English also spoken.

MORE INFORMATION ipoh-city.com





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Three of a kind ... museums



PORT MORESBY

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OVERVIEW

The museum and gallery, based in several different sites, has well over 30,000 anthropological collections and more than 7000 contemporary art collections.

HIGHLIGHTS

The fascinating Life & Land Gallery records the lives of the early inhabitants of New Guinea, who arrived up to 50,000 years ago. The gallery also hosts a colourful collection of preserved bird specimens.

BEST TREASURE

The J.K. McCarthy Museum holds precious ancient artefacts including wooden dishes, stone mortars, stone blades and magic stones.

DON'T MISS

In the Masterpiece Gallery check out the tall posts from the Sepik region, which are used to decorate *haus tambarans* (spirit houses), ancestral boards from the Sepik people and intricately carved Malangan masks from New Ireland.

WEBSITE

museumpng.gov.pg



TOKYO

MIRAIKAN, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EMERGING SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

OVERVIEW

Often referred to by proud locals as the "Future Museum", high-tech Miraikan was created in 2001 by Japan's Science and Technology Agency.

HIGHLIGHTS

In the Tsungari exhibition area there is a huge interactive board that allows you to access various Earth observation data collected from scientists and research institutes.

BEST TREASURE

In the hugely impressive Robot World you can witness demonstration examples of Japan's leading humanoid robots. Also, a section of the Earth's rock core records a major meteorite impact event that is believed to have wiped out the dinosaurs.

DON'T MISS

The real-time displays of data from a huge array of seismometers across Japan, which shows the country gently vibrating.

WEBSITE

miraikan.jst.go.jp



BALI

BALI MUSEUM, DENPASAR, BALI

OVERVIEW

The museum was built in 1931 and is designed in the style of a Denpasar royal palace.

HIGHLIGHTS

There are four main buildings inside the museum: Tabanan, displaying theatrical masks and musical instruments, Karangasem, with sculptures and paintings, Buleleng, with textiles, and Timur with archaeological finds.

BEST TREASURE

The pavilion on the right side of the museum, contains a collection of *prasati* (bronze-age plaques) that sing the praises of a 10th-century king.

DON'T MISS

Make sure when you walk through the main building that you see the stone sarcophagus (coffin) dated from 600BC to 800AD.

WEBSITE

balidenpasartourism.com



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TIME TRAVELLER

Lae, 1931

Today, Lae is one of Papua New Guinea’s most important industrial centres, but this photo shows the township in its infancy, in the year it was declared a town.

Lae airstrip is in the foreground and the nascent port at Voco Point is in the upper right. Interesting, but less obvious, is the railway line between the port and airstrip areas.

Aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart was last seen alive in July, 1937, when she took off from Lae, which also saw world air cargo records broken by Guinea Airways and the smaller operators in the heyday of gold developments.

This flurry of economic activity was curtailed by World War 2, during which the Japanese developed Lae as a major military base until it was re-taken by Allied forces in September, 1943.

Greater detail about the development of Lae can be found in James Sinclair’s coffee-table book *Golden Gateway: Lae and the Province of Morobe*.

— JOHN BROOKSBANK



If you have a photo that may be suitable for Time Traveller, email paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com.











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GAME TIME

Port Moresby is poised to host the Pacific Games, the region's biggest sporting event this year.

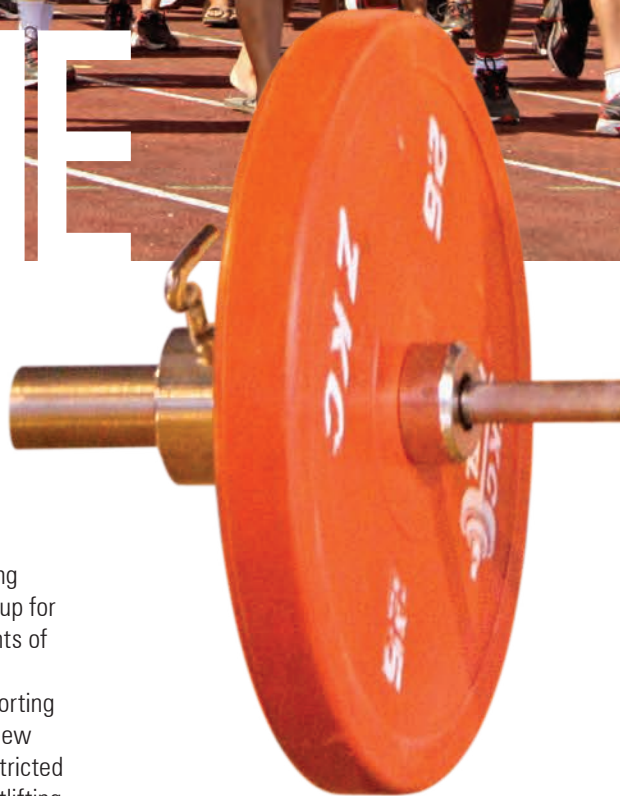
Jeff Turnbull reports.

The 2015 Pacific Games, which kicks off in Port Moresby on July 4, is not just a sporting event, but a cultural gathering embracing the indigenous people that populate the vast expanse of the region. The Games have been two-and-a-half years in the making, and it will be the third time that Port Moresby has hosted the event.

This time, the Games come on the anniversary of 40 years of Papua New Guinea's independence.

The PNG Government has committed PGK1.2 billion towards the Games for the renewal and construction of sporting infrastructure that will set the country up for decades to come and help attract events of international repute.

For the first time, the powerhouse sporting nations of the Pacific – Australia and New Zealand – will compete, but will be restricted to four sports: Rugby 7s, sailing, weightlifting and taekwondo.





Flying the flag ... the PNG team on parade at the 2013 Pacific Mini Games; weightlifter Dika Toua who won silver at the Commonwealth Games last year.



The Games organising committee believes bringing in those two nations will help raise the standard of competition in the allocated sports, as well as bring the Games into the living rooms of Australians and New Zealanders.

More than 4000 athletes and officials from 24 countries will be housed in the new Games village at the University of PNG.

Twenty-eight sports will be contested, ranging from athletics and swimming, through to the more sedate lawn bowls, golf, and ►



Game time



“

The Games images relayed around the world by broadcasters will highlight the natural wonders of PNG and the friendly faces of the people.

”

On the burst ... PNG's Joan Laggona makes her move in touch rugby which is among the Pacific Games sports (above); PNG hurdle hero Mowen Boino.

the unique spectacle of va'a (outrigger racing).

The champion of the Pacific at the most recent Games in 2011 was the French collective of New Caledonia – home to around 250,000 – but who punch way above their weight.

New Caledonia raked in an impressive 120 gold medals in an overall tally of 288 medals.

PNG will be counting on its recognised stars such as veteran swimmer, Ryan Pini, who reached the finals of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games in the butterfly, rocket pocket

weightlifter Dika Loa Toua, and athletics queen Toea Wisil to bring home the medals.

The country will be hoping home advantage will help its athletes better its last Games gold medal tally of 48 gold and 121 medals overall.

For Games chief executive, Peter Stewart, there is a whole lot more hanging on the sporting gala than medals.

He is hoping the message gets across to the rest of the world that PNG is a safe place to visit for a holiday.

“This is a showcase for PNG and will help change the perception of what the country is, particularly from a tourism point of view,” he says.

“What the games will do is help to quell perception that PNG is an unsafe place to visit.

“The Games will ensure that over 4000 visitors will go home and hopefully send testimonials to everybody they know about how helpful, how friendly and how inviting it was. These are testimonials you could never pay for in advertising.” ➤





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Game time



In safe hands ... rugby league star Noel Zemling with the Pacific Games relay baton (left); the designer and creator of the baton, Gickmai Kundun (right). The Games village (above left); statue in Port Moresby celebrating the Games (above right).



Stewart says the Games images relayed around the world by broadcasters will highlight the natural wonders of PNG and the friendly faces of the people.

He says while the government has invested PGK1.2 billion in staging the Games, the majority of it is being spent on sporting arenas and venues, which will have a multiplying effect for years to come.

Stewart says the state-of-the-art arenas will have the capacity to attract not only sporting events, but also business seminars, religious and cultural events. "These venues are generally multi-purpose and can be used for any world-class type of event," he says.

For most of his professional career, Stewart has been involved in sport. He has worked at three Olympic Games, four Commonwealth

Games and this will be his fourth regional games as chief executive.

He promises the opening and closing ceremonies in Port Moresby will be events to remember.

"They will be spectacular occasions, the likes of which have never been seen in Papua New Guinea before," he says.

The Rugby 7s competition will feature four of the six top nations in the world, with the team to watch being the in-form Fijians.

New Zealand, Australia and Samoa are also in the mix, and the competition is sure to attract some of the biggest crowds at the Games.

Rivalries will be renewed in the men's volleyball between 2011 winner PNG and major challenger Wallis and Futuna, a tiny French collective of just over 15,000 people, ➤



Game time

which will field a number of French professional players.

Weightlifting will be another sport of world standard, with seven competing nations bringing home 16 medals from the Glasgow Commonwealth Games last year, which included PNG's two gold medals.

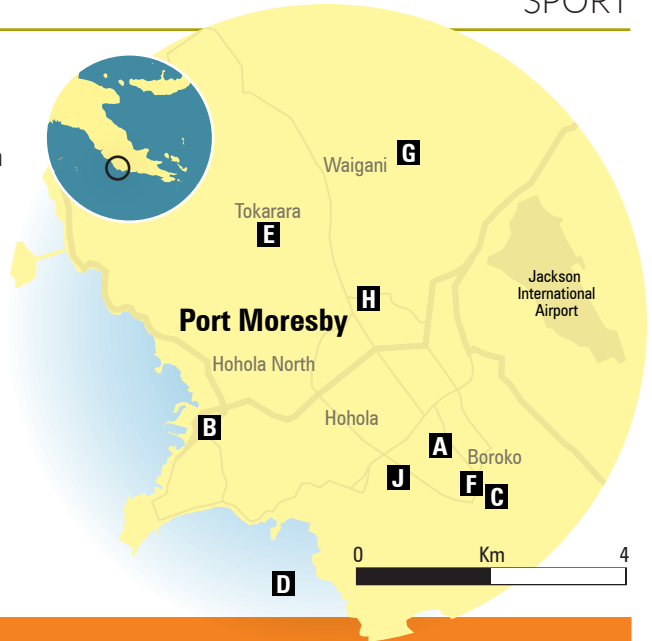
The Games baton began its 100-day journey around the country on March 26. It will be carried over rugged roads, bush tracks, rivers, and up mountains as it is taken to each of PNG's 22 provinces.

The baton itinerary includes landmarks such as Mount Wilhelm in the Simbu Province, Sepik

River in East Sepik, Tufi Fjords in Oro, Esa'ala Hot Spring in Milne Bay, and the volcanoes in East New Britain.

The baton was sent off by the Prime Minister Peter O'Neill with a message of welcome to all people in the country to take part in the relay and the Games. ■

More information,
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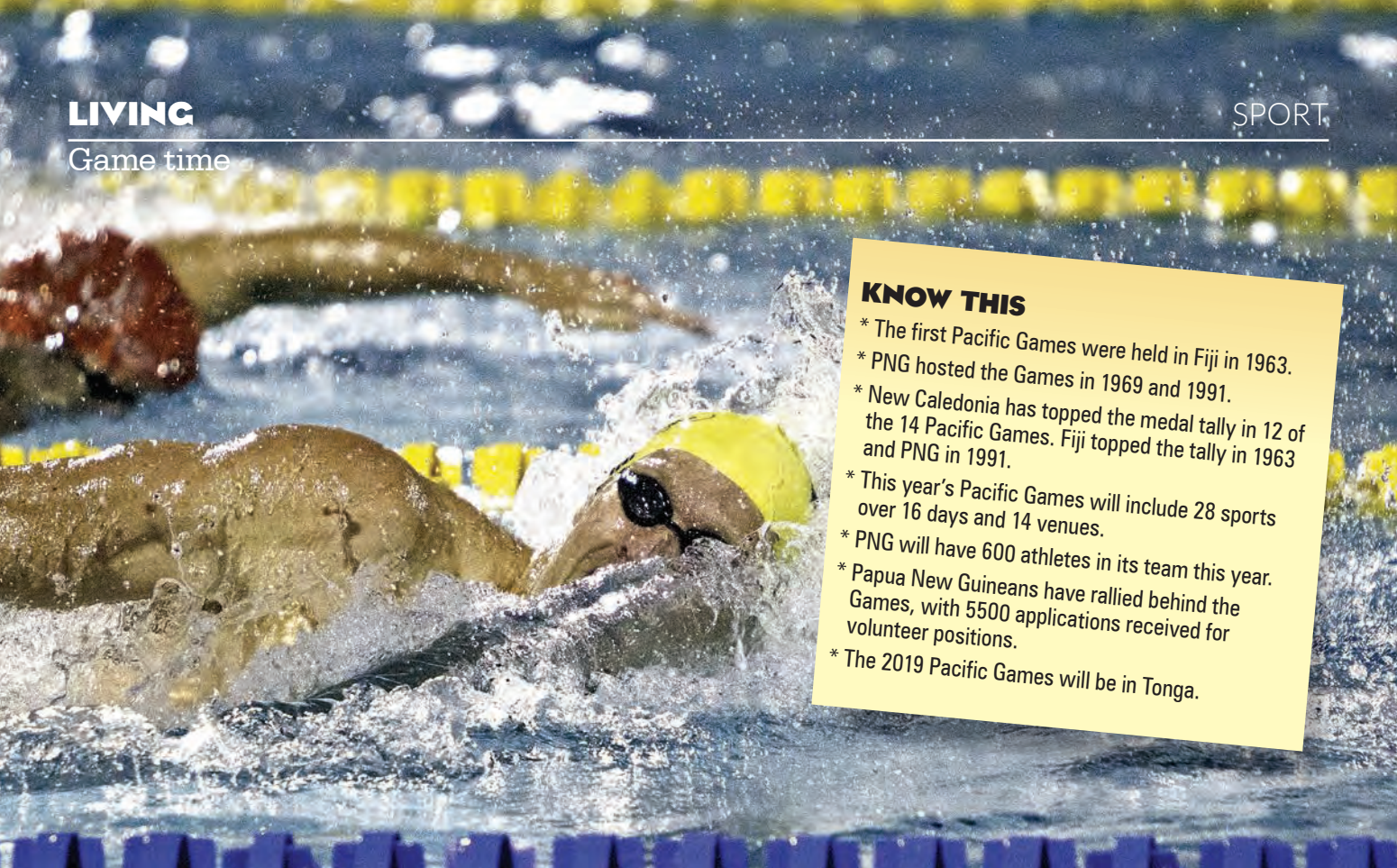
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KNOW THIS

- * The first Pacific Games were held in Fiji in 1963.
- * PNG hosted the Games in 1969 and 1991.
- * New Caledonia has topped the medal tally in 12 of the 14 Pacific Games. Fiji topped the tally in 1963 and PNG in 1991.
- * This year's Pacific Games will include 28 sports over 16 days and 14 venues.
- * PNG will have 600 athletes in its team this year.
- * Papua New Guineans have rallied behind the Games, with 5500 applications received for volunteer positions.
- * The 2019 Pacific Games will be in Tonga.

Making a splash ... veteran PNG swimmer Ryan Pinni.

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Game time

A CROWD PLEASER



Tura the Kokomo, the official mascot of the Pacific Games, has completed a tour of Papua New Guinea that included every province.

The cheeky hornbill was the centre of attention at schools across the nation and stopped crowds in the streets on the tour



to promote the Games and to evoke a sense of national pride.

Tura was the brainchild of 13-year-old Taka Seigori, a student at Tubuseria Primary School in Central Province.

Taka's creation won a nationwide school competition to come up with a mascot that



embodies the spirit of the Games – fun, enthusiastic, friendly and community minded.

Tura depicts a cheeky and funny hornbill, known in PNG as a kokomo. The crown of the bird symbolises the colours of the Pacific Games.

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MEET THE HULI

PICTURES: PNG TOURISM PROMOTION AUTHORITY





WIGMEN

Richard Andrews looks into the life and times of PNG's Southern Highlands warrior clan.



Meet the Huli Wigmen

It's a long way from the snowy village of Elora, Ontario, to PNG's Southern Highlands – home to the Huli warrior clan.

But when Pauline Grove (pictured) and her husband were looking for "a new direction" in 2004, they jumped at the opportunity to leave their Canadian restaurant and catering business and manage the Ambua eco-lodge in Tari.

"Sadly, Iain passed away during our third year, from an unexpected illness, but I felt I wasn't finished in PNG. I stayed on to live and work with the Huli," says Grove.

As a director of Trans Niugini Tours, Grove organises visits to local villages and has

developed a strong appreciation of a unique culture that prizes art, magic and warriors.

"Huli people are very upfront," says Grove. "If they like you, they'll tell you; if they don't like you, they'll also tell you. I've come to respect the fact that they don't misrepresent their intentions."

Perhaps those traits help explain why the region's largest ethnic group reputedly includes PNG's "fiercest warriors".

"At the same time, villagers warmly welcome visitors and are flattered that people from around the world travel long distances to learn about the Huli way of life," Grove says.

When European explorers first found the remote clan in the 1930s, they discovered a rich culture with colourful body decoration, dances and chants that mimic the Bird of Paradise.

To 20th-century outsiders, it was an exotic, lost world, inhabited by a people who consider themselves to be "the keepers of birds".

"Modern visitors are still amazed by what they see and hear," says Grove, "especially when they encounter the Huli Wigmen."

To become a Wigman, unmarried Huli males must prepare themselves for adulthood in special schools. Ancient purification rituals and a restricted diet transform the boy into a man and make his hair grow strong and fast.

Under the guidance of a learned master, said to possess magical powers, the boy's hair is picked out and periodically splashed with ritual water. Bands of bamboo then shape the hair into what eventually looks like a toreador's hat.

Separated from women during this period, the boy sleeps on a headrest that prevents his hair from being squashed. After about 18 months the entire coil is clipped off close to the scalp and moulded to create the basis of the renowned Huli ceremonial wig. ➤



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Meet the Huli Wigmen

“The wigs are then decorated with amazing arrays of feathers and flowers,” says Grove. “The Huli are not only warriors, but real artists as well.”

Grove also enjoys the Huli sense of humour, which is sometimes at the expense of visitors.

“For example, Habia, our long-time cook at the lodge, always feigned amazement when we came to the kitchen and told him there was a vegetarian in the group,” says Grove. “He would shake his head and say ‘white man can have meat every day and they choose not to have it ... tsk tsk’”

“His astonishment is understandable when you live here. Vegetarianism is a mystifying choice to someone whose diet is mainly sweet potato, and protein is hard to come by. Pig meat on the menu is reserved for special events.” ➤

Smile ... the Wigmen have a reputation as fierce warriors, but according to Pauline Grove, who has worked with them for years, they also have a great sense of humour.



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Meet the Huli Wigmen

That's because pigs represent wealth and are the traditional exchange commodity, often used to pay for bride price, land, death indemnities and other expenses.

Despite the influence of the 21st century, Grove believes the basic Huli principles and beliefs remain intact. "It's refreshing to see young children participating in *sing-sings* and village demonstrations," she says.

“

Huli people are very upfront.

If they like you, they'll tell you; if they don't like you, they'll also tell you.

”

"It tells me that the presence of visitors has, in fact, helped to sustain Huli culture.

"Nevertheless, there are signs of change. Western-style clothing is becoming more common and traditional dress is increasingly reserved for special occasions. The recent introduction of the mobile phone has changed communication and you hear less yodelling across the mountains."

Grove says local guides at each lodge accompany Trans Niugini Tours visitors to villages, explaining the culture of the Huli and translating conversations. "Each village will demonstrate some aspect of their culture whether it's a *sing-sing*, marriage ceremony, or a wig school," she says. ➤



Face time ... a Huli Wigman has the undivided attention of an infant who is already being groomed in traditional ways.



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Meet the Huli Wigmen

“Visitors come from many countries, especially the US,” says Grove. “They’re typically between 50 and 80 years old, well-educated and well-travelled. But they often say meeting the Huli beats anything they’ve seen before.” ■

 **Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Tari (the heartland of the Huli) four times a week. See airniugini.com.pg.**



KNOW THIS

- * The Huli live in the Southern Highlands.
- * They are PNG’s largest indigenous group.
- * They have traditionally gone to war over land, pigs and women.
- * They paint their faces yellow, red and white.
- * They perform some of their biggest sing sings at the Goroka and Mount Hagen shows and may also be seen at other cultural and ceremonial occasions around the country.
- * Ambua Lodge (pngtours.com) arranges culturally based excursions to nearby Huli villages.



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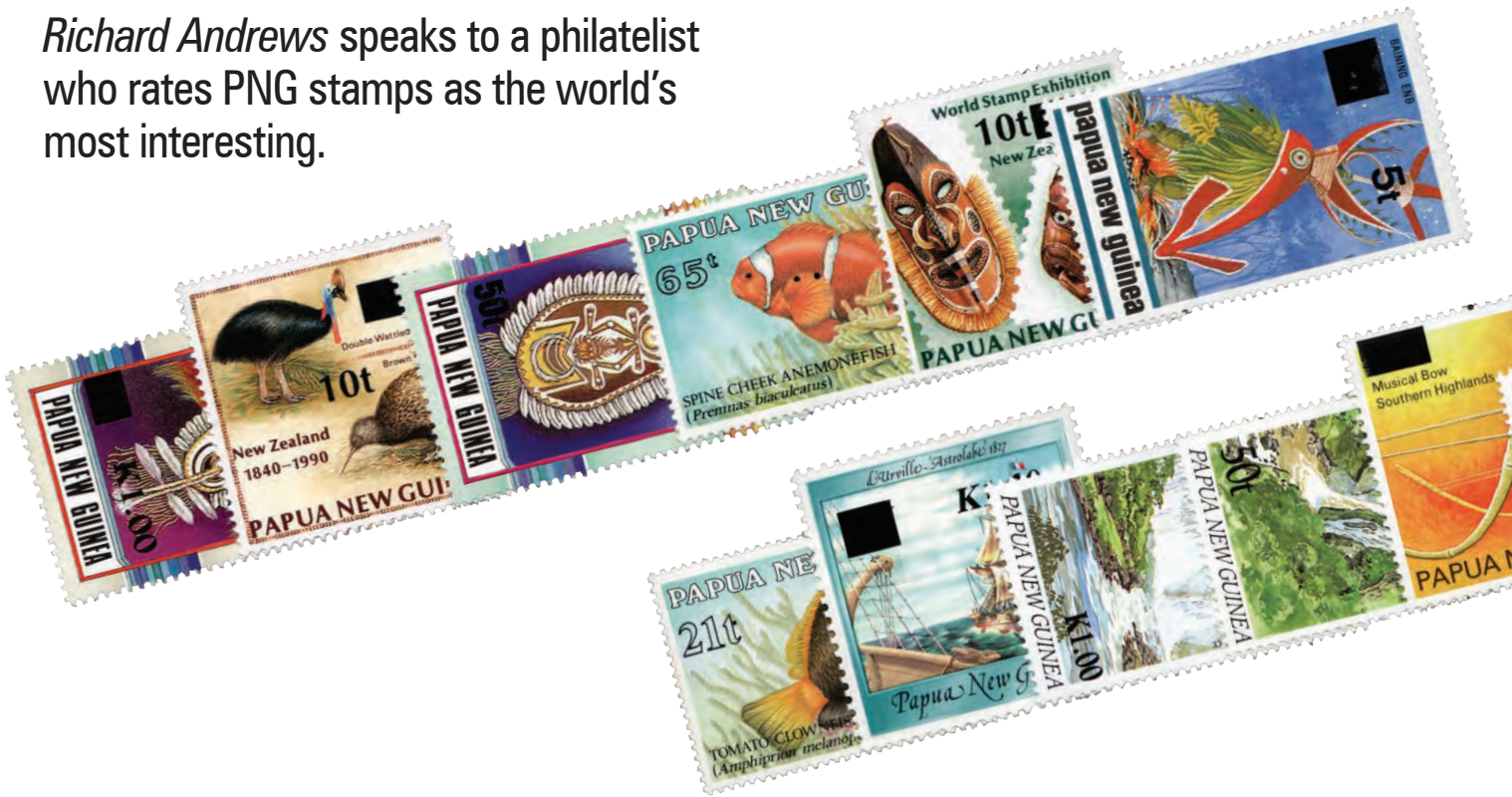
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The stamp detective

Richard Andrews speaks to a philatelist who rates PNG stamps as the world's most interesting.



Time travel, detective work and undiscovered treasures. Just another day in the life of international postage-stamp dealer Glen Stephens.

Stephens belongs to an enthusiastic group of collectors that ranks postage stamps from Papua New Guinea among the world's best and most interesting.

"PNG has the most popular stamps of all the Pacific Islands and that appeal is global," he says

For more than 35 years, the Sydney-based philatelist has scoured the globe for collectible stamps, and regards those from PNG as a "true window into the nation's history, geography and rich culture."

The stamps and envelopes also reflect the country's challenges, development and individuality.

"Many collectors are drawn to a series first issued in the early 1930s that broke away from the traditional practice of featuring monarchs on stamps," says Stephens.

"Instead, these issues were based on original photographs and lithographs showing traditional village scenes, wildlife and everyday citizens."

Such stamps became, in effect, time capsules of PNG life that were sent around the world and in the process transformed local identities into national icons.

On one stamp, we meet Steve, the younger son of a successful businessman, operating a sawmill and trucking business at Hanuabada. Another set features Sergeant Major Simoi from Kiwai Island, the first local policeman to reach the rank of warrant officer.

Post PNG is committed to maintaining the quality of its stamps and says the world's



Stamp sleuth ... Glen Stephens scours the world for his collection.





“

Captured German stamps overprinted by the Australians in World War 2 have sold for more than PGK100,000 each.

”

finest designers and painters create them. The national mail operator describes their miniature works of art as “vibrant, colorful and authentic in detail”.

But it’s more than the artwork that makes PNG stamps interesting. Early postal authorities provided few written details for their stamp issues. As a result, philatelists devoted to PNG have formed an international community of historical sleuths that searches for the missing background and exchanges information.

“For example, most collectors of German stamps are interested in PNG because *Deutsch-Neuguinea* was, of course, once a German colony,” says Stephens.

In fact, stamps graphically record PNG’s transition from colony to independence ➤



A philatelists’ delight ... PNG stamps and envelopes.



The stamp detective



in 1975. The so-called “hobby of kings” documents the conflicts and political intrigues along the way as Germany, Britain, Australia, the Netherlands, Japan and Indonesia occupied or controlled territory on the islands of New Guinea.

As one country or administration took over from another, it sometimes reused existing stocks of stamps and overprinted them with new postal charges or words showing who was now in charge.

Collectors have long valued many of these items, and captured German stamps

overprinted by the Australians in World War 2 have sold for more than PGK100,000 each.

Such sales are part of the allure for philatelists like Stephens, who’s discovered treasures in the most unlikely places.

“The one that takes the cake is a 1933 First Flight cover with an amazing history from the Wahgi River Valley in the Western Highlands,” he says. “The illustrated cover was sent by the region’s first airmail and signed by the pilot. I found the item in a carton of junk and sold it to a client for PGK3000.”

But despite the widespread appeal of PNG stamps, Stephens advises new collectors to be cautious if they’re looking only for an investment.

“You need many years of experience in collecting and sound advice from experts,” he says. “Seek expert advice and buy material from reputable sources that is guaranteed in writing to be genuine. Online sellers, in particular, can be a very dubious source for the rarer PNG stamps.” ■

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BRUSH STROKES

Ratoos Haoapa Gary has developed into one of PNG's finest artists, preserving the beliefs and traditions of his ancestors through his paintings. His works are displayed in collections around the world. *Susan Gough Henly* reports on the street kid who has made good.

Port Moresby-based contemporary artist Ratoos Haoapa Gary has been painting for more than 30 years and his works are in collections in the US, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. Born in Eherekela in the Gulf Province in 1962, Ratoos belongs to the Elema people who originate around the Orokololo and Kerema Bays on the Gulf of Papua.

The Elema are recognised for their powers of sorcery. With the arrival of the missionaries, however, traditional Elema culture was forbidden and much of the art-making culture was also lost.

This makes Ratoos' paintings all the more fascinating, as he is one of the few contemporary artists from the Papuan Gulf who continues to express the beliefs and traditions of his ancestors through his paintings.

At the same time, the fluidity and dream-like quality of his work is reminiscent of the paintings of Joan Miro and the mobiles of Alexander Calder.

While collections of carved spirit boards and large processional masks from the Elema are in important ethnographic collections of Papua New Guinean art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and in the De Young Museum in San Francisco, Ratoos' work with dots and lines follows the body painting tradition, rather than wood carving or masks.

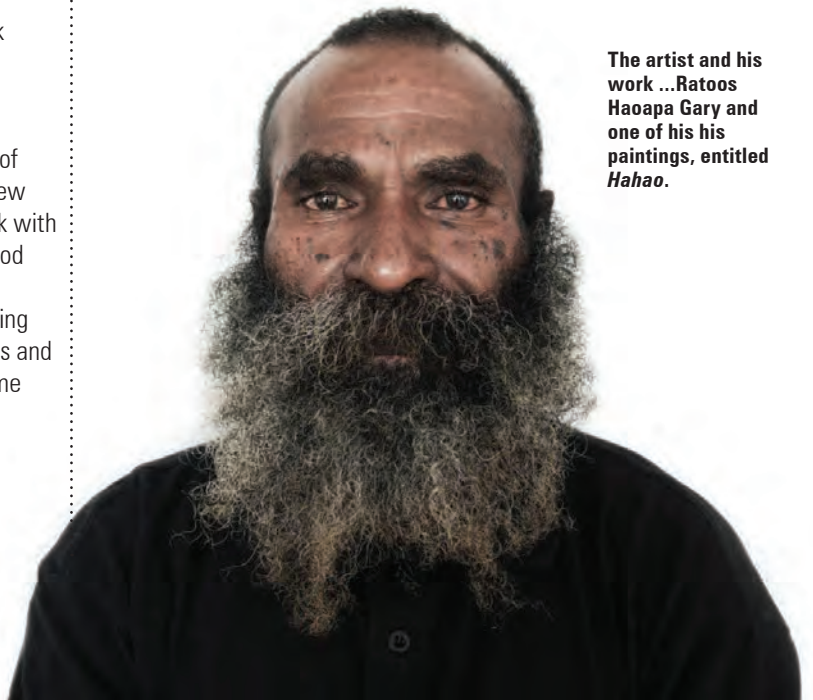
"My paintings dance with the spirit. They vibrate with interlocking images of patterns, which represent bush tracks, insects, animals and people. They portray stories of heroes, changing forms across time boundaries and cycles in nature."

There are three main elements to his work: fluid lines creating fantastic shapes, incredible colours from the lush landscape and ocean floor, and a vibrancy of movement.

"For me the dot is the beginning of movement. The dot is the source of life and expresses the spirit. In combination, dots represent clans and images in a relationship that binds them together. I have developed my own style, integrating dot-screening effects from photography, where size and distance are created.

The path Ratoos' took from country boy to artist was not an easy one.

"I was not good at school, left home and went to Port Moresby at 15, where I was a street kid. I actually picked up a brush on the street and started playing around with painting." ➤



The artist and his work ...Ratoos Haoapa Gary and one of his paintings, entitled *Hahao*.



Brush strokes



Splash of colour ... Ratoos Haoapa Gary uses Jim Thompson silks from Thailand for some of his works. This work is called *Hal Akore*.

He got involved with theatre during the South Pacific Festival in 1980, and Australian teacher and theatre practitioner Gary Stonehenge recognised his potential and helped him to study at the University of Wollongong, where he graduated with an Associate Diploma in Arts in 1984. Ratoos was so grateful for Stonehenge's mentorship that he named one of his sons after him.

Ratoos continued his studies at the Eora Centre for Arts in Sydney and connected with a number of Aboriginal artists.

"This was the most enriching element of my time in Australia. I felt empowered learning about Aboriginal land rights, which is very important for a Black person. Australia gave me that path."

“

My paintings dance with the spirit. They vibrate with interlocking images of patterns, which represent bush tracks, insects, animals and people. They portray stories of heroes, changing forms across time boundaries and cycles in nature.

”

Ratoos returned to PNG in the 1990s and became a visual arts teacher at Kerevat Senior High School, near Rabaul in East New Britain. Later he became an artist in residence at the International Education Agency. He has now resigned from teaching to concentrate on his art full time and to do intensive research into the art of the Papuan Gulf and how it connects different languages and tribes. He is particularly interested in studying the symbolism of each tribe, the importance of different animals and plants, and how this symbolism connects to tribes in other provinces.

"So much of our culture was changed by the missionaries, but I still remember that my great uncle was a protector of the environment, including the ocean. He used to regularly call in on the fish to ensure they were doing well."

Marianne Witzig, creator of the Witzig Gallery in Maclean on the NSW north coast, is a staunch supporter of contemporary PNG art. ➤

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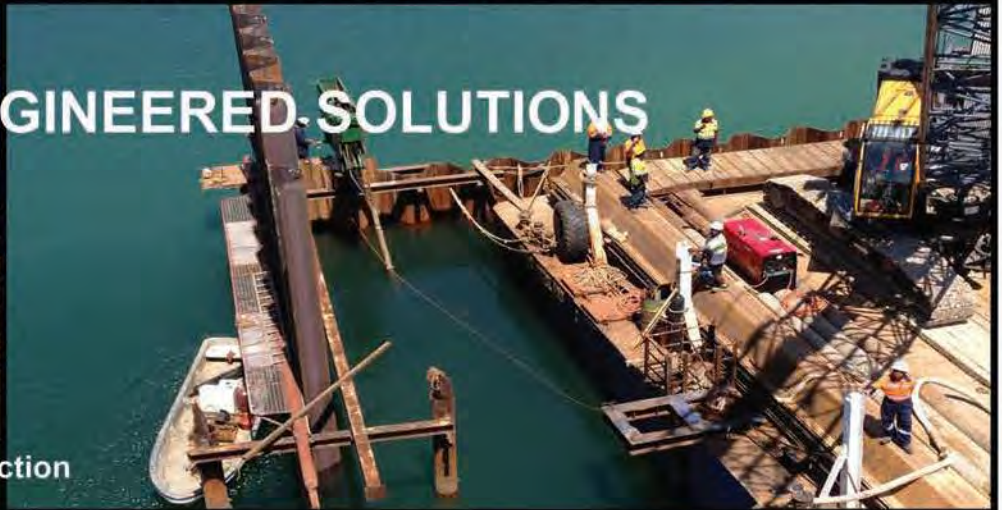
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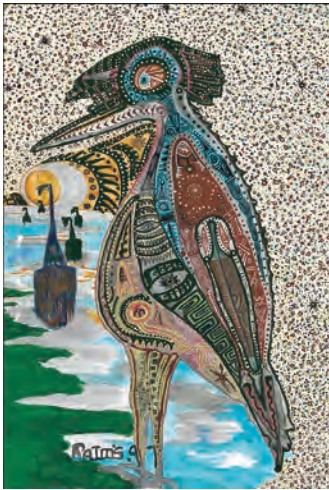


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Brush strokes



Kingfisher ... Ratoos Haoapa Gary's art offers a connection to the land.

A planner, who also works for the New Ireland Provincial Government, she has one of the most significant private collections of contemporary New Guinea art in the world. She not only represents more than 40 artists but she also helps supply much-needed quality materials for their art making. In the case of Ratoos, she brings him Jim Thompson silks from Thailand and fine Spanish fabric inks.

"I bought my first Ratoos piece in 1997 and have been collecting his work ever since. His work is unique and particularly vibrant when produced on fabric. Ideally, I find his paintings most powerful when they are a hung scroll, so the material can flow in the

breeze with the natural light flowing through them."

Even though so much traditional culture has been lost in PNG, she says it is amazing how many customs continue to be passed down through the generations. "Art offers a connection to the land and a celebration of life."

Ratoos had his first solo show, called *Meuori Hahikao* – Message Carrier, at the Creative Arts Gallery of the University of PNG in Port Moresby in 2001. The theme was *Ove Horelave* or Rising Spirit. He wanted to express how PNG culture is very much alive and to show the next generation that in order to develop new forms of expression they must understand and interact with the

past as a means of preserving their identity.

There was a significant flowering of contemporary art during the time of Papuan New Guinea independence in 1975 but sadly this has floundered. "There is no skills development program for artists and nowhere to show art in Papua New Guinea," he says.

"I try to communicate the sense of joy of our culture whilst also confronting difficulties. Art is very important in human life. Art helps create change in any culture." ■

Ratoos Haoapa Gary's paintings can be seen at witzig.com.au/art/png-artists/creator/19/5.



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SAVING THE RAINFORESTS

John Wright reports on an ambitious rainforest research program where local villagers and world scientists are working side by side in the rugged terrain around Wanang.

PICTURES: MAURICE LEFONCE

In 2000, the start of something remarkable happened in the Madang Province that put Papua New Guinea at the forefront of global efforts to understand and preserve the world's great tropical rainforests.

The people of Wanang, an isolated community about 100 kilometres south-west of Madang in the rugged Middle Ramu District, set aside a permanent, 10,000-hectare conservation area.

They already lived in the third-biggest tropical rainforest wilderness on the planet (covering much of the island of New Guinea), after the Amazon and Congo Basins, but also wanted to ensure that their pristine wilderness home wouldn't fall prey to logging, or any other threat, including climate change.

With advice from the Madang-based environmental group New Guinea Binatang Research Centre (BRC), they set aside the conservation area; and it was just the beginning.

Fourteen years later, backed by a multi-national force of scientists as well as by

government and private enterprise, Wanang's conservation initiative is the focus of an ambitious project that has put it in the

“

Helped by local villagers in an extraordinary four-year undertaking, scientists marked, identified and recorded almost 300,000 trees.

”

vanguard of rainforest research and that could help preserve such wilderness areas for generations to come.

In 2008, John Swire & Sons (PNG) Limited, through its PNG subsidiary Steamships

Trading Company, committed \$US250,000 to build a rainforest research station at Wanang. The end result was the Swire Papua New Guinea Rainforest Study (SPRS), its programs co-ordinated by the Centre for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS) at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. They are just two of numerous international and PNG institutions now contributing to long-term research at Wanang.

At the heart of the research project has been a monumental undertaking to record and monitor every tree in a large patch of lowland rainforest close to Wanang. And, as part of the research, 18th-century technology adapted to 21st-century needs is helping scientists get closer to the secrets of rainforests than ever before.

In the first stage of what will be a decades-long monitoring operation, scientists delineated a 50-hectare patch of rainforest. Helped by local villagers in an extraordinary four-year undertaking, scientists marked,



identified and recorded almost 300,000 trees. Every one of them will be examined again regularly over coming decades to enable scientists to learn more about rainforest dynamics and the likely effects of threats including deforestation and global warming. The information gained also could facilitate reforestation strategies and sustainable forest industry.

An essential part of the SPRS has been the recruitment and training of local villagers for the hands-on research work, as well as community developments, also funded by Swire/Steamships, including the construction of Wanang's first school, which now has more than 200 students. The positive effects on the local economy are ongoing.

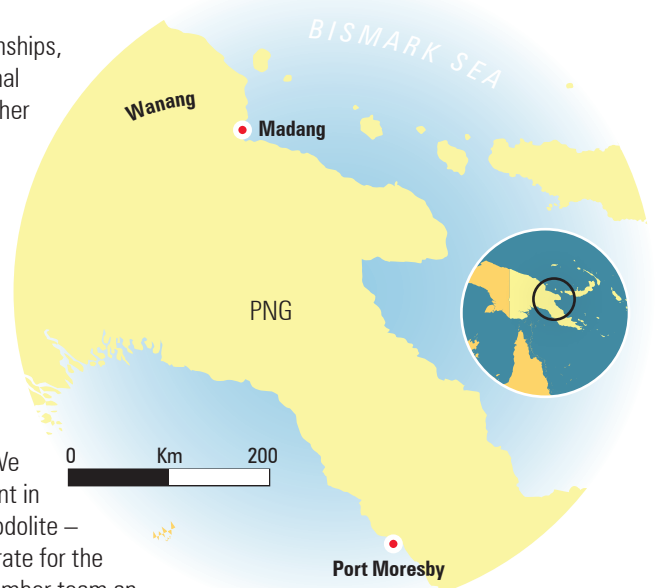
According to project scientists Vojtech Novotny and George Weiblen, the initial tree-monitoring phase at Wanang was a challenging job made harder by the especially rugged terrain, characterised by an endless series of ravines, ridges and floodplains. Access to Wanang, which was completely isolated before the study began, is by four-wheel-drive vehicle only, and the 50-hectare

research plot is a further four to six-hour walk along rough forest tracks.

"With support from Steamships, Swire, US and Czech National Science Foundations and other organisations, we started the survey in 2008 and concluded in 2012," says Novotny. "It was a huge effort involving a team of 20 full-time assistants.

"One element was constructing a precise topographic grid over the rugged terrain while not disturbing the vegetation. We had to measure point to point in this grid, using a digital theodolite – GPS devices are too inaccurate for the job – and it took a three-member team an entire year just to finish this task."

Weiblen says the fieldwork has been highly >



Taking flight ... the ropeway that leads into the rainforest canopy (opposite page); the helium balloon that carries scientists; signs in Wanang village.



Saving the rainforests

demanding and has included identification, by local and overseas botanists and other experts, of every tagged tree in the research area.

While the on-ground research will continue for many years, scientists at Wanang recently began looking upwards at what some consider the last terrestrial frontier – the rainforest canopy. And to get closer to an environment that because of gravity and other practical reasons has rarely been studied carefully, they are using an idea first put to use in the late 18th century – passenger-carrying gas balloons.

In the 21st-century adaptation, now being used at Wanang and elsewhere in the world, a 7.4-metre diameter helium balloon carrying one passenger and adjusted in-flight to make it neutrally buoyant, moves across the rainforest canopy while tethered to a two-kilometre ropeway and traverses laid in place by helicopter. ➤



School of the rainforest ... children assemble at Wanang village where locals have been working alongside scientists.



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Saving the rainforests

Called a canopy bubble, the balloon allows the scientists it carries to study and conduct experiments on the highly biodiverse top layer of the rainforest – the previously inaccessible highest and thinnest branches of the forest – observing its plants, insects and birds in a way never before possible.

In the few months that the canopy bubble has been in use at Wanang, scientists have collected arboreal ants and other treetop insects, some of them previously unknown to science. The scientists are studying the role herbivorous insects play in the canopy (where most of the photosynthesis in rainforests takes place) and what effect the experimental exclusion of their natural enemies, including birds, will have on the canopy foliage.

The Swire rainforest study, although in its infancy, has already made an impact. About a quarter of Wanang’s wider community of 400 people has been employed on the project.



Taking flight ... a scientist soars over the rainforest at Wanang.

According to Novotny, eight young Wanang workers are being trained in research, including two who are studying birds (there are more than 100 species in Wanang), while

others are becoming experts on plants, fruit flies and butterflies.

Novotny says the Swire station hosts regular training for diverse groups of PNG and overseas students, and the Wanang community, helped by the UK Darwin Initiative for Survival of the Species, is exploring further ways to benefit from their forest conservation.

“Supporting Wanang as well as BRC (which is essential to the survival of Wanang) is a highly demanding business,” he says.

“However, we have managed to sustain years of activity and hope that we will be able to continue.”

As Weiblen says, sustaining such large-scale and long-term environmental science will require the continued partnership of the Wanang people, government agencies, NGOs, the business community and other donors.

The sentiment is echoed by Steamships, which has called upon other corporate and philanthropic entities to back the project. ■

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Grape expectations

Wine production is catching on in Asia. Michael Hince looks into the emerging industry.

When it comes to wine, terms like “old world” and “new world” are readily understood. The former refers to Europe and the Mediterranean, the latter to Australia, South Africa, the US and South America.

However when it comes to Asia, South East Asia and the subcontinent, images of *vitis vinifera* don't spring to mind. Most would assume that it's too hot and steamy to cultivate wine grapes.

Not so, according to Denis Gastin, Asian wine expert and the man behind the fledgling

Asian Wine Producers Association (AWPA) formed last year.

“Wine is now being made from locally grown grapes in 13 countries across Asia and the initial AWPA membership consists of wineries from six of them: Japan, China, Thailand, India, Indonesia and Myanmar,” says Gastin.

Unsurprisingly China, now among the top 10 wine-producing countries globally, tops the list, followed by the next largest, Japan, then by India, Thailand, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Myanmar and Indonesia (Bali).

I'm sipping a Bali wine, a Hatten Alexandria white made from Belgia grapes, as I write. Founded by Bogus Rai Budar-sa in 1994, Hatten Wines relies on domestically grown grapes and, according to Gastin, “is producing surprisingly good wines”.

Even Cambodia, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka are experimenting with viticulture, albeit in a minor way.

Wines from some of these regions are loosely called “new latitude wines”, in that the vines from which they are made grow outside the conventional two bands that straddle the globe roughly between latitudes 30 and 50 north and south, denoting areas long thought suitable for viticulture. Others are simply Asian wines.

But as the renowned wine writer Jancis Robinson says: “All this is changing fast, global warming and advances in refrigeration and irrigation techniques, not to mention much greater control over how and when vines grow, have opened up to the grapevine vast tracts of the world previously thought unsuitable for viticulture.”

This is especially apparent in China, where vines are planted and wine is being made in areas as remote and arid as Inner Mongolia's Gobi Desert.

China has more area under vine, predominantly reds, than Australia and some,





like UK wine merchant Berry Brothers and Rudd, predict that within 50 years the quality of Chinese wine will rival that of Bordeaux.

The rapidly emerging Chinese middle class initially took to drinking premium Bordeaux reds with alacrity due to their perceived status, as much as to their taste. However there's a huge domestic thirst for locally produced reds, albeit of modest quality, underpinning wine in China.

According to Gustin, the most convincing statement on where Asia stands in the world of wine today is where the international authorities rank China.

"The International Wine and Spirits Research Organisation has just rated China as the No. 1 consumer of red wine in the world, consuming 155 million nine-litre cases annually – that is up a massive 136 per cent since 2008," he says.

But, there is more to Asian and new latitude wines than China.

Japan is emerging as a quality leader with a progressive shift to making globally benchmarked premium wines, including the popular white wine, Koshu, with its crisp acidity and low-alcohol level pairing well with sushi.

Gustin, and English Masters of Wine Lynne Sherriff and Anthony Rose, rate Koshu highly.

Gustin sees India, Thailand and Bali as the "regional novices", and though there are many below-average wines produced in India, there are now more than a dozen of its 90-plus wineries operating to international benchmarks. Indian wineries have done very well in Europe, North Asia and the US,

using Indian restaurants as an entry point to promote their wines, he says.

The term "new latitude" wines originated in Thailand, regarded as a regional trailblazer with its rigorous industry standards and improving quality wines. Also vinous expertise from abroad is at work. For example, in Bali Hatten Wines' Australian winemaker James Kalleske is representative of the growing number of international winemakers working in the region.

“

China has more area under vine, predominantly reds, than Australia and some predict that within 50 years the quality of Chinese wine will rival that of Bordeaux.

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There are also wineries in Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and in Myanmar around the Inle Lake Region, which are making good wines with classic *vitis vinifera* European varieties. There are also embryonic, small-scale winemaking ventures in Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

Gustin sees the growing importance of Asia to the traditional wine world as significant,

given the growing involvement of global brands like Remy Martin, Pernod Ricard and Domain Château Lafite Rothschild.

As to the predominant wine style, apart from China's taste for reds, fruity crisp, fragrant, sweetish wines served cold are preferred as a match to complex spicy foods.

Perhaps, eventually, more Japanese and Thai wines will make their way throughout South East Asia.

Gustin says: "It always amazes me that, if you go to a Japanese restaurant, you can have a great selection of Japanese beers, Japanese sake and Japanese Shochu – but no Japanese wines – likewise with Thai restaurants there is Singha beer, but no wines."

But what about wine quality?

While currently the overall quality of new latitude and Asian wine is comparatively low – partly because of the dominance of China and its high volume, low-cost domestic wines – things are slowly but progressively changing.

According to Gustin, "as consumers are developing palates – through local experimentation with imported wines and also through international travel – and developing the financial capacity to satisfy their palates, wine quality standards are bound to improve, especially with new and old world wine expertise and interest".

Best leave the final word to Jancis Robinson. "I still find it hard to believe that new latitude wines will ever be seriously good, but then that's what was said about new world wines not that long ago." ■



Ploughing ahead ... a tractor driver at Sula Vineyards in India (opposite page); Sula grapes (left); GranMonte winemakers among the barrels in Thailand (middle and top); Sula's founder and CEO, Rajeev Samant (right).



BY NINA KARNIKOWSKI

Cool shades



Revo Raconteur

When the first pair of Revo sunglasses was created in 1985, they used lens technology developed by NASA as solar protection for satellites. Today, the company continues to create some of the clearest and most advanced high-contrast polarised sunglasses available. The Raconteurs, which come with a choice of chic gold, gunmetal or chrome aviator-style frames, also come with the option of green water lenses, which boost natural colours by cutting through surface glare and low-light conditions, making them perfect for fishing, hiking and golf. [PGK726, revo.com](#)



Maui Jim Breakwall

If you're heading out to the islands or lounging around on the beach for the day, Maui Jim's Breakwall sunglasses might be the perfect companion, thanks to their saltwater-safe lenses and frames. Because the shades are rimless, they're so light you'll forget you have them on, plus they feature Polarised Plus 2 lenses, meaning they'll cut out glare from the water. Available in three lens colours. [PGK440, mauijim.com](#)



Zeal Penny Lane

The shimmering 60s are recreated with Zeal's Penny Lane frames. While these sunglasses might look most at home on the beach, they incorporate some rubber into the nose bridge and ear stems to keep them secure if the day calls for some more rigorous activity. They come in a variety of retro-frame colors. [PGK284, zealoptics.com](#)



Zeal Darby

Sure, the Zeal Darby shades look good (particularly if you're going for a Tom Cruise *Top Gun* vibe) but the best thing about them has to be their Z-Resin frames, which are made from a castor bean oil base instead of petroleum oil. They come in a great range of frame colours, and are impact-rated for any activity, making them the ideal for active travellers. [PGK336, zealoptics.com](#)



Oakley Half Jacket 2.0

These sunnies feature an interchangeable lens system, so you can quickly and easily match your lenses to your lighting situation when you're on the go. A large variety of replacement lenses are available, all made from Plutonite to filter out UV, plus the lightweight sunnies won't

hook to your ears like ordinary frames, making them easier to slip on and off. [PGK335, oakley.com](#)



Ray-Ban Classic Wayfarers

The iconic Ray-Ban Wayfarer, which has been manufactured since 1952, is the perfect hand luggage addition for city getaways or sunny island hopping. The chic shades are made from acetate, meaning they not only look fantastic but are super durable, too. [PGK481, ray-ban.com](#)



Persol PO 714

What could be more convenient than sunnies that fold into four, to fit snugly into your pocket when you're on the go? Enter Persol's PO 714 shades, famously worn by actor Steve McQueen and living up to their name (Persol is derived from the Italian phrase *per il sole*, "for the sun") by giving 100 per cent protection from the sun. The effortlessly stylish design comes in a selection of "Vintage Celebration" colours, including coffee with green polarised lenses and Virginia tobacco with brown polarised lenses. [PGK795, persol.com](#)



Oakley Frogskin LX

Oakley Frogskins have been around since the late 80s, proving the

timelessness of their design and their excellent optics. The hand-made frames are crafted from durable acetate with metal hinges, and their polarised lenses are hydrophobic to repel water, sweat, and oil. [PGK377, oakley.com](#)



Carrera 8002

From the Carrera Active range, made specifically for people who live life on the go and drawing from the Carrera's history in racing sports, these sunnies incorporate the brand's signature red piston-spring hinges, polarised lenses and an extra-comfortable fit, making them a great choice for any outdoor activity. The sporty shades also come in a variety of fun colours. [PGK297, carreraworld.com](#)



Polaroid P4300

These head-hugging, wraparound sunglasses promise to protect your eyes while you're in the great outdoors, doing anything from riding bikes to walking by the ocean. Polaroid's UltraSight lenses protect the wearer up to the highest UV exposure level – meaning 100 per cent protection from UVA, UVB and UV rays. It doesn't hurt that the elegant aviator-style lenses look effortlessly cool, too. [PGK207, polaroideyewear.com](#)





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Gadgets and travel accessories

Roll-up backgammon set

Travel means waiting, and lots of it. Best to keep yourself entertained with Pickett's beautiful, handmade roll-up backgammon set, made with fine British leather and available in eight different colour combinations. Includes a zipped compartment that holds nickel and leather counters and dice, leather fastening ties, and a weighted metal bar at the end so it lies flat when open.

About PGK996, pickett.co.uk.



Sleep Phones

You can think of sleep phones – speakers embedded in a comfy fleece headband – as pyjamas for your ears. Developed by a doctor, they sync with your smart phone or other Bluetooth-enabled device so you can reduce ambient noise with music or sleep sounds to help you get to the land of nod anywhere, anytime. The rechargeable device comes with free sleep sound downloads, is available in a wireless version, and comes in a variety of colours.

From about PGK82, sleepphones.com.



Mahabis Slippers

Taking the design of the Moroccan babouche slipper with its folding back as inspiration, UK-based company Mahabis has reinvented the humble travel slipper. The felt design comes with a detachable rubber sole (available in six colours) and collapsible heel that you can pop on for arrival at the airport, then pull off to switch to relax mode once you're on board.

About PGK240, mahabis.com.



Bamboo Bluetooth keyboard

A Bluetooth keyboard is just the thing if you want to travel without your computer but need to work on the road. Impecca's eco-friendly bamboo version, for use with tablets, smartphones and iPhones, is lightweight and thin, wireless up to ten metres, has a long lasting battery and is designed for ergonomic comfort. It also comes with four colour options on the trim.

About PGK162, impecca.com.



Micro travel umbrella

Travel in the tropics makes an umbrella a non-negotiable travel companion, but to avoid awkward packing dilemmas they need to be small. Genius Pack's micro travel umbrella folds away neatly to only 15 centimetres in length, meaning you can tuck it away just about anywhere to whip out for protection from unexpected showers or extreme sunshine. Available in black or white.

About PGK48, geniuspack.com.



Korjo luggage strap with lock

Luggage straps have always been a snazzy way of easily identifying your luggage, but now Korjo has taken the clever devices to the next level by adding a combination lock that will help keep your belongings safe and sound when you're in transit. They come with an in-built name indicator, in yellow, red and blue.

About PGK39, korjo.com.



LaCie Fuel

This sandwich-sized, wireless hard drive will keep your music, photos and videos safe when you're on the move, and is especially good for movie streaming on your iPad, laptop or iPhone. It includes 1TB of wirelessly accessible storage, which means more than 500 movies can be streamed (or 160,000 images or 190,000 photos) to up to five devices at once.

About PGK497, lacie.com.



Travel pillow

Forget your kidney-shaped travel pillow: 2015 is all about the NapAnywhere. You can twist the disc-shaped pillow into the ideal shape to nestle between your head and shoulder, so your neck can relax and you can sleep comfortably on planes. It also comes with a chest strap for greater stability, in crimson, lime or black.

About PGK150, see napanywhere.net.

Pebble Steel watch

A smartwatch that's also stylish? Yep, miracles do happen, in the form of the Pebble Steel. With a slick and funky design that comes with a choice of leather or metal bands, the Pebble Steel sends pop-up notifications of emails, texts and social media accounts, lets you control music playback on your phone, and comes with a huge choice of watch faces and Android and iOS apps from the Pebble appstore. It's only a matter of time before this watch will pack your bags for you!

About PGK526, getpebble.com.

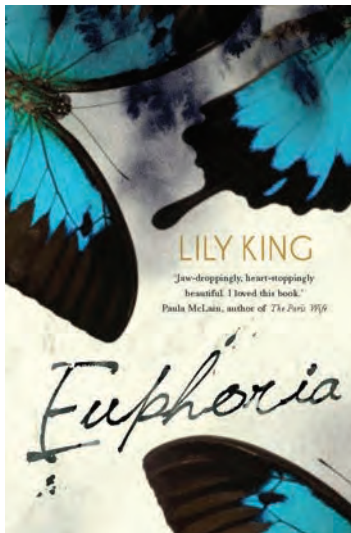


Paklite duffel bags

The benefits of hard shell suitcases can't be denied, but for your more adventurous trips, something soft, yet sturdy, is in order. Enter Paklite's new Escape duffel bags, which feature an aluminium lockable trolley handle, easy-glide wheels and a lightweight yet durable fabric construction. The perfect, no-nonsense travel companion that will make even the most action-packed jaunts a breeze. Available in three sizes, in green, rust and black.

From about PGK326, paklite.com.au.





Euphoria (Picador) by Lily King

Euphoria is inspired by events in the life of American anthropologist Margaret Mead, an acclaimed scholar and writer who lived and studied on PNG's Sepik River for two years in the 1930s.

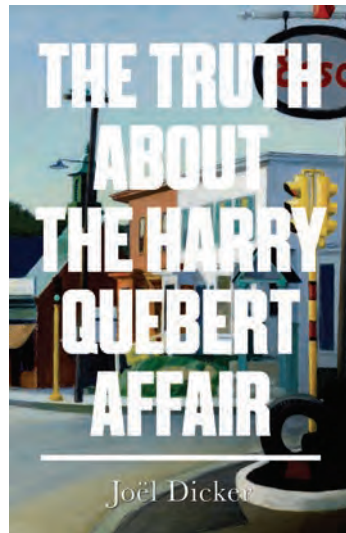
The central characters of this work of fiction are three anthropologists, who become part of a love triangle that threatens their careers and ultimately their lives.

Englishman Andrew Bankson has been alone in the field for several years, studying the Kiona River tribe in New Guinea. Afflicted by the memory of his brothers' deaths and increasingly frustrated and isolated by his research, the suicidal Bankson encounters controversial Nell Stone and her Australian husband.

When Bankson finds the couple a new tribe to study, he diverts them from their plans to leave New Guinea. He also ignites a three-way intellectual and romantic conflagration.

Lily King's award-winning debut novel *The Pleasing Hour* was a *New York Times* Notable Book. Her third, *Father of the Rain* (2010), was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice.

Euphoria, a story of passion, possession, exploration and sacrifice is her fourth novel.



The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair (Maclehose) by Joël Dicker

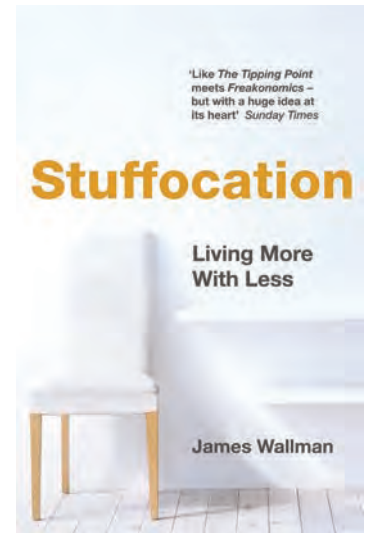
August 30, 1975: the day 15-year-old Nola Kellergan is glimpsed fleeing through the woods, never to be heard from again; the day Somerset, in New Hampshire in the US, lost its innocence.

Dicker's work of fiction unfolds 33 years after Kellergan vanishes. Marcus Goldman, a successful young novelist, visits Somerset to see his mentor, the hugely respected writer Harry Quebert. Goldman hopes to find a cure for his writer's block as his publisher's deadline looms.

But his plans are upended when Quebert is suddenly and sensationally implicated in the cold-case murder of Kellergan – whom, he admits, he had an affair with.

As a child, Dicker spent every summer vacation in New England. He knows the region where his novel unfolds. He may also be equally familiar with the secrets of fine story telling.

Who killed Nola Kellergan? A whole lot of people all over the world want to know. Swiss-born Dicker's 670-page novel has been published in 30 languages and 45 countries. It has sold some two million copies in Europe and a paperback version was released in May.



Stuffocation: Living More with Less (Penguin) by James Wallman

"Why do we keep buying more and more, even though we already have more than we need and can cope with?"

In search of a solution to his own problem, the author, who describes himself as a trend forecaster, takes to the halls of the Elysée Palace with Nicolas Sarkozy, goes up in a helicopter above Barbra Streisand's house on the Californian coast, and into the world of the original *Mad Men*.

Wallman's central theme is to find a way of living beyond materialistic consumerism. "It's gone from a point of giving us abundance to over abundance," he says. "We've got too much and it's not making us happy." He theorises that stuffocation is one of the defining problems of the 21st century.

And Experientialism is Wallman's answer to it. Finding happiness, identity, status and meaning through buying experiences – rather than another suit, Louis Vuitton bag or even perhaps a 20th T-shirt: the one you may have just bought but might not ever wear.

Wallman introduces the innovators whose lifestyles may provide clues to how many of us will be living tomorrow. At times his ideas can feel inspiring and, whether you agree with him or not, at least possible.





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Mad Max Fury

Fury comes three decades after the 1979 release of the first *Mad Max* movie starring Mel Gibson. This is the fourth movie in the franchise – *Mad Max 2* and *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* came after the original. George Miller, the man in charge of the first three, directs *Fury*.

In the post-apocalyptic world of *Fury*, Max quits the police force after the loss of his wife and son. In a desert landscape, part of a world without many of life's necessities including hope and law, Max, who may be more lost than humanity, meets a woman, played by Charlize Theron, who is in desperate need of a lift.

Fans will be pleased to know the cars, motorbikes, evil and explosive chaos have all made it into the movie's 21st-century version. But in 2015, Gibson, who starred in 1979's original, has been replaced by Englishman Tom Hardy (his recent film credits include *The Dark Night Rises* and *Locke*).

Zoe Kravitz, whose dad is musician Lenny, is also in the cast, as is Nicholas Hoult (*X-Men*). Former world strongman contestant Nathan Jones plays the intriguing Rictus Erectus.



Noble

The award-winning *Noble* is the true story of a woman who escapes from the tragedies of her youth in Ireland and an abusive marriage in the UK after risking everything on the streets of Vietnam.

Set in Vietnam, this UK/Irish film is the true story of children's rights campaigner Christina Noble who, in 1989, left the UK for Ho Chi Minh City with little more than fearlessness and the belief that one person can make a difference. Recalling in part her own childhood experiences, the homeless children of the former Saigon become her *raison d'être* as she fights to establish a network of support for street kids.

The makers of the movie have a sizeable trophy cabinet. *Noble* is the winner of six US film festival awards, including a Spirit Award at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

Noble was written and directed by Stephen Bradley and has variously been described as raw, genuinely powerful, captivating and moving. Irish actress Deirdre O'Kane plays Noble. Vietnamese actor Nhu Quynh Nguyen plays orphanage director Madame Linh.



Tomorrowland

"What if there was a place, a secret place where nothing was impossible?" asks George Clooney in the movie's promo. In this adventure/mystery/sci-fi movie from Disney, a former boy-genius inventor (Clooney) teams up with a teenager (Britt Robertson) for a mission to unearth the secrets from such a place.

Clooney's character is middle-aged and disillusioned. Robertson's longs for the neglected world of science and exploration – NASA is in mothballs and Cape Canaveral no longer.

The two of them have an opportunity to change themselves and the world after Robertson's character, Casey Newton, takes possession of a small, initially innocuous badge. It sounds a little trite, but the moment when she first flashes to another reality after touching the pin is one of those moments we have perhaps all dreamed of.

The movie reportedly takes its name from the Tomorrowland section of Disneyland. The story is co-written by the team that penned *Lost* (Damon Lindelof and Jeff Jensen). Englishman Hugh Laurie also stars in the film.

Given *Tomorrowland* may be a place where it is actually possible to change not only oneself but the world, Clooney, again in the promo, asks a second, far more obvious question: "Want to go?"

The movies featured on this page will screen at Port Moresby's Paradise cinemas. For screening dates and session times see paradisecinemaspng.com.



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High hopes for new LNG plant

PNG's second Liquid Natural Gas project may begin early next year if studies justify its development, reports *Kevin McQuillan*.

Discovered in 2006, the field is quaintly called Elk-Antelope. Located in the Gulf Province, it has a number of advantages over the first PNG LNG plant, which began production ahead of schedule last May.

The ExxonMobil-led LNG plant is located in the PNG Highlands, requiring the gas be piped more than 700 kilometres to a processing plant near the capital, Port Moresby.

Those advantages are why Dr Michael Hession, managing director of InterOil, which discovered the field, is confident the project will go ahead.

"It is closer to infrastructure than any other developed gas field in the country and it is close to a major river, an important cost benefit when transporting people and equipment.

"It also has the natural advantage of being in a less-mountainous region than other major gas fields, a big factor in development cost.

"But more importantly, it is a single gas field that can be developed without the expense of pipelines and processing facilities to collect gas from multiple fields," he says.

InterOil estimates the PGK 50 billion (\$US20 billion) project — should it go ahead — will take

at least five years to build, with construction due to start within 14 months and the first LNG export due in late 2020 or early 2021.

The lead operator in the project is France's Total S.A., a "major" in the industry.

"This project cannot exist if you don't have a major oil and gas company involved," says Total's managing director in PNG, Philippe Blanchard.

"Total is one of the major companies. We are experienced in LNG. We are present in the whole value-added chain of LNG projects, from upstream assets to building LNG trains and trading LNG products."





Fired up ... exploratory work at InterOil's site at Elk-Antelope.

The working interests in the venture, once the PNG Government and landowners take up their 22.5 per cent shareholding as expected, will see Total owning 31.1 per cent of the shares, InterOil 27.5 per cent, Oil Search 17.7 per cent, and other small investors 1.2 per cent.

Recent drilling at the site has boosted hopes it will be big enough to build the country's second LNG plant, with InterOil reporting one of its wells has struck gas about 230 metres closer to the surface than expected, indicating that extracting gas could be cheaper than expected.

Citigroup analyst, Dale Koenders, also says the field could be bigger than anticipated.

He says this latest drilling result supports InterOil's base case of between five and seven trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas. (The first PNG LNG field will produce nine tcf over its 30-year life.)

Hession says Elk-Antelope "will support at least a two-train project", and while InterOil and Total favour developing their own infrastructure independent of ExxonMobil,

one of his partners has a different view.

Peter Botten, Oil Search's managing director, says the Elk-Antelope project should make use of the existing infrastructure created for the PNG LNG project, perhaps contributing to additional trains at the ExxonMobil-run LNG plant in the north-west of Port Moresby.

While it is a view he has held for months, Botten says the recent fall in oil prices supports his case.

He says that unlike other projects in Australia, Canada and the US, the expansion of ExxonMobil's PNG LNG venture and the Elk-Antelope LNG venture are economical even at prices "materially lower" than current levels.

"The oil price drives a certain urgency to work together and ensure we are not building things that duplicate activities," Botten says.

“

Recent drilling at the site has boosted hopes it will be big enough to build the country's second LNG plant, with InterOil reporting one of its wells has struck gas about 230 metres closer to the surface than expected.

”

Hession doubts the fall in global oil and gas prices will affect plans to develop the Elk-Antelope fields.

"We don't expect near-term production revenue to be affected by falling oil prices and LNG production from Elk-Antelope is scheduled for early the next decade, by which time most analysts believe the oil price would have recovered."

Expectations of rising energy demand are underscored by a recent edition of ExxonMobil's *Outlook for Energy*, which suggests that global demand for energy is expected to rise by 35 per cent from 2010 to 2040, or by an average of 1.4 per cent a year.

Natural gas will be the fastest-growing major fuel source by then, the manager of the energy and economics division in ExxonMobil's corporate strategic planning department, Rob Gardner, told a briefing in Port Moresby.

Demand will increase by about 65 per cent, half due to demand from Asia, led by China.

"By 2040, natural gas is expected to account for more than a quarter of global energy use, surpassing coal in the overall mix," Gardner's report says.

The final word to Hession: "Elk-Antelope sits on the doorstep of Asia, the world's largest LNG market, and we are poised to take advantage of our proximity to markets. ■

The stories in our 'Strictly Business' section were first published in PNG's online business magazine, businessadvantagepng.com and are re-published by arrangement with Business Advantage International.



Five quick questions

For Exxon Mobil's new managing director, Andrew Barry

What skills and experiences from other countries do you bring to your new role?

A: I have 22 years' international experience in the oil and gas industry, working with ExxonMobil. Before I came to PNG, I was president of ExxonMobil Canada. In this capacity I was responsible for ExxonMobil's production, development and exploration activities across Canada. I started my career in Australia and have also worked in Qatar in various engineering and LNG marketing roles.

What are your first impressions of PNG?

A: It's amazing here. I'm very fortunate that my job has taken me to so many places in the world – and now I'm living in one of the most beautiful countries. There are a lot of places I want to see and things I want to do while I'm here. I am a Maroons supporter so I'm looking forward to spending

time in a country that loves rugby just as much as I do.

What will be your priorities in your first months in charge of ExxonMobil's PNG operation? What changes, if any, are we likely to see?

A: Our focus won't change. I think ExxonMobil has created a very strong presence here in Papua New Guinea, under the guidance of Peter Graham, and I want to continue that and build on it even further. We remain committed to safe and reliable production to meet our customers' demands, to being a good neighbour. We continue to have growth ambitions for our business in Papua New Guinea and are actively exploring in the country.

Global oil and gas prices have fallen markedly in recent months. How is this likely to affect ExxonMobil in PNG?

A: Similar to other players in the industry, we will be affected. But these sorts of fluctuations

are expected in a volatile industry such as ours. We don't make investment decisions based on the high point in a price cycle – we look at investments over the long-term. Across the globe, ExxonMobil has a balanced portfolio across upstream, downstream and chemical businesses, and this positions us to continue to deliver results throughout the commodity price cycle. In our particular case for PNG, we know that the demand for LNG is strong and we expect this will continue to be so over the next 20 to 30 years. Papua New Guinea is strategically well positioned to supply the Asian markets, where most of the demand growth will take place. Gas reserves are likely to grow with further exploration and appraisal drilling and, along with strong demand, this gives us confidence for the future.

What are you most looking forward to in your new role?



Andrew Barry ... has taken over the top role for ExxonMobil in PNG from Peter Graham.

A: I am now part of a project that is showing the world what Papua New Guinea is capable of delivering. I really want to continue to build our presence in Papua New Guinea, and I'm keen to see that the project benefits the people of Papua New Guinea. ■

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CPL keen for growth

PNG's largest retailing group is pressing ahead with plans for expansion, including the opening of an apparel outlet. *Ben Creagh* reports.

Despite a challenging retail environment, CPL Group chairman Mahesh Patel says the diversified retail group is not just aiming to consolidate its position, but is seeking further expansion.

The company has recently opened a Jacks clothing store and has big plans for its City Pharmacy and Stop N Shop brands.

"Since 2008 and 2009, we've just been busy growing, and we've grown from a middle-sized PNG company to a large PNG company," Patel says.

But several factors, including the early completion of the PNG LNG project, led to lower-than-expected profits for CPL Group in the 2014 financial year. The company has also faced teething problems with a couple of its newer retail brands.

As CPL has adjusted to a changing marketplace, Patel says the company will approach improving efficiencies on a number of levels.

He says there will be elements of consolidation and expansion, with the recruitment of experienced leadership being a major component of each.

"Internally, we're going into this transformation of creating efficiencies now," Patel says.

"We've got three or four very high-quality expats actually recruited, which is against the market, but these are people with vast experience, not only in Australia, but right across Asia as well.



In the CPL fold ... Stop N Shop (above) and City Pharmacy (opposite page).

CPL Group's core businesses, City Pharmacy and Stop N Shop, have continued to experience single-digit growth, a pace Patel is confident will continue.

The company has development plans for both brands. At City Pharmacy outlets

nationwide, there are plans to strengthen healthcare services by recruiting more in-store nurses.

Work on two new Shop N Stop outlets is expected to start this year, adding to last year's opening of the massive PGK100 ➤



THE CPL STORY

Historically, the CPL Group, which started with a single City Pharmacy store in 1987, has diversified both through acquisition and by launching new retail ventures. It now has 59 retail outlets across Papua New Guinea.

In 2005, it acquired the Stop N Shop supermarket chain from Steamships Trading Company, and in 2009 also acquired the Steamships Hardware chain, rebranding it as Hardware Haus.

Between 2011 and 2013, it launched three new brands into the PNG market: Bon Cafe, Eagle Boys Pizza and Paradise Cinema, PNG's first multiplex.

In its most ambitious move to date, CPL opened the Waigani Central shopping complex last year. The complex is the site not only of PNG's largest Shop N Stop outlet, but also Bon Cafe and City Pharmacy outlets, Port Moresby's second Paradise Cinema and a new DIY concept store, Haus Depot.



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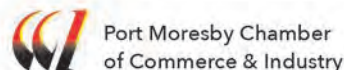
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CPL keen for growth

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Having introduced PNG consumers to barista-made coffee (Boncafe), pizza (Eagle Boys) and multiplex cinemas (Paradise Cinemas), CPL has shown itself keen to launch new businesses in PNG.

”

million, 5000-square-metre store at Waigani Central.

Having introduced PNG consumers to barista-made coffee (Boncafe), pizza (Eagle Boys) and multiplex cinemas (Paradise Cinemas), CPL has shown itself keen to launch new businesses in PNG.

Its next move has been into fashion, with the opening of the Jacks of PNG apparel outlet at Waigani Central.

Jacks, which originated in Fiji, offers casual wear to consumers and may represent an opportunity for clothing manufacturers in PNG once it is established.

“What we want to do is bring that in, but then start rejigging PNG designers to do PNG custom-made clothing,” says Patel.

Meanwhile, Boncafe, another profitable business for CPL, grew to seven outlets in 2014 after the latest store opened at Waigani Central.

Some of CPL’s other brands have proved more challenging, but Patel is confident of

improvement as they become more efficient and effective.

Eagle Boys Pizza, for example, has required a change of approach since CPL launched the Australian brand in 2013.

“What we didn’t realise was we had the wrong demographics, because people who eat pizzas here could only afford to eat it at hotels. Our pizza was for the mass market, but the pricing is not quite mass market pricing,” Patel says.

He says Eagle Boys management also found that Papua New Guineans preferred thin-based pizza instead of the thick base that was initially offered.

“It really comes down to smarter market research,” Patel says.

Of all of its brands, Hardware Haus was the only CPL business to record a loss in 2014.

Viewing this as an opportunity, Patel says new management has been appointed and an efficiency improvement process is being implemented for the business. ■

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BSP expands further into the Pacific

Recent acquisitions from Westpac have given the PNG-based Bank of South Pacific the platform to move into new countries, reports *Kevin McQuillan*.

Bank of South Pacific's (BSP) regional expansion has taken a significant step forward with the acquisition of several Westpac operations in the Pacific.

BSP has agreed to buy Westpac's banking operations in Samoa, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga for \$A125 million.

BSP already operates in the Solomon Islands and Fiji, in addition to its main PNG

business. It has a history of growing through acquisition, having bought Habib Bank's Fiji assets in 2006, the National Bank of Solomon Islands in 2007, and National Bank of Fiji and Colonial Fiji Life Insurance Limited in 2009.

"It is a regional strategy. We have and will continue to have a strong presence in the

region for a very long time," BSP chairman, Kostas Constantinou, says.

Westpac says its commitment to PNG remains unchanged despite the agreement to offload several of its Pacific operations.

PNG's first bank, Westpac also plans to maintain operations in Fiji, where for 113 years it has been the country's longest-serving institution.

HQ ... the Bank of South Pacific's Port Moresby office.



“Our decision to sell our operations in these nations reflects our desire to increase focus on our growth plans in the larger markets of PNG and Fiji, where we have a strong history,” says Westpac chief executive Rob Whitfield.

With its ties to Asia, Australia and New Zealand, Whitfield says that the PNG and Fiji markets support Westpac’s international aspirations.

“Indeed, we continue to see significant opportunities in both Fiji and PNG markets and will continue to invest in expanding our infrastructure and capability in the region.”

Constantinou, and BSP group CEO, Robin Fleming, have visited the bank’s new operations, in part to assure staff they will continue to be employed.

“Job security is not only contained in the agreement but it’s also an undertaking from myself and that is one of the reasons why I actually visited these countries,” Fleming says.

At the same time, BSP has launched BSP Finance, an asset finance business aimed at offering finance deals of between PGK20,000 and PGK3 million.

“

It is a regional strategy. We have and will continue to have a strong presence in the region for a very long time.

”

The move will enable the bank to compete with ANZ, Westpac and Credit Corporation, which BSP tried unsuccessfully to acquire in late 2013.

PNG country manager for the newly formed subsidiary, Jodi Herbert, says BSP has identified opportunities to provide new and existing clients with asset finance services.

“It’s now about going back to our clients and saying that we can do this business for you as and we are keen to do it,” Herbert says. “There’s a big part of the market where this is the case.”

After launching BSP Finance in Fiji in late 2014, Herbert added that BSP Finance would also investigate introducing the subsidiary in additional Pacific countries, including those territories acquired from Westpac. ■

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WIRED

Kevin McQuillan speaks to Priscilla Kevin about her path into information and communications technology.

How an ICT wiz has made her way in a man's world

Can PNG develop a generation of technology entrepreneurs? The answer is probably yes, if the case study of technology specialist Priscilla Kevin is an example.

She runs the Port Moresby-based ICT consultancy, In4net, which she set up two years ago.

"I provide ICT management and advisory services, financial business data analysis and general ICT consulting services," she says.

"Priscilla Kevin is one of the younger generation of PNG entrepreneurs," says Paul Barker, executive director of the Institute of National Affairs in Port Moresby. "And one of an even smaller group of confident and worldly women entrepreneurs, who has stepped into the traditionally male enclave of engineering and ICT."

Her love of science, maths and physics was evident at school.

"When I was at the National High, before I chose computer science, I was offered a scholarship to be a pilot. But I was very interested in computer science," says Kevin.

"It was a new industry," she adds.

Kevin graduated 12 years ago with a BA (honours) in computer science from the PNG University of Technology, ranking top of her program. She was dux at high school, and scored highest in national maths at National High.

Her policeman-father hails from West Sepik Province, and her mother from Barakau village in the Central Province, which produces some of the major Papuan musicians and intellectuals.

Her first formal employment was with MIS Software Solutions, a local distributor of SYSPRO, a resource-planning software.

"It gave me an opportunity to learn and understand different types of businesses in private sector, government and academia in PNG and what existed in the market."

In 2009, she set up her first technology consulting company, which ceased shortly after her family split. The demand for security and stability of her children, though, saw her return to full-time employment.

"It's hard when you experience failure in life, but I've learnt that failure is good because it teaches you to change course and to become better than what you were before."

Aside from being an entrepreneur, Kevin actively participates in sector-led initiatives.

She is on the executive of the PNG Computer Society, a member of PNG Business Council, a leader in the European Union-funded PNG ICT cluster and is on the board of the Pacific Islands Internet Society.

Last year, she was part of the EU

Business Climate program, which brought together ICT specialists in PNG to create collaboration and connect with government and the private sector. (It was one of four such clusters in the Pacific – the others were in Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu.)

An outcome of the cluster work has been to begin talks with the National

Government on creating an intellectual property rights (IP) law.

"We're saying there is potential for PNG to invent and innovate but we don't have any IP protection in PNG," says Kevin.

Priscilla Kevin ... one of PNG's younger generation of entrepreneurs.



Other initiatives include advocating tax incentives for ICT SMEs, reducing internet costs and promoting entrepreneurship, mentorship and venture capital market opportunities for PNG businesses.

"There has been a lot of focus on entrepreneurship, and last year we started up our first entrepreneurship training with Australian Business Volunteers. It involves one month's training mentorship."

A major barrier to developing a culture of entrepreneurship in PNG, she says, is the expense of starting up a new business.

"The major cost is rent. Real estate is really expensive and so are internet costs, but it is also difficult to promote who you are, and what you do."

Over the next 12 months, Kevin wants to grow her business, and that highlights another challenge for entrepreneurs – access to funding.

"Startups do not always have the much-needed capital to accelerate an idea.

“

It's hard when you experience failure in life, but I've learnt that failure is good because it teaches you to change course and to become better than what you were before.

”

"The ICT industry has great potential, but the environment in which it operates needs to be looked at. We are in the knowledge era and the internet and ICT is very new to the country, just 10 years old,

so there is great interest in the ICT industry as a career."

Most of that potential is in the rural sector, she says, where electricity often doesn't exist, and the cost of internet access is high.

"Rural people don't have access to basic key information to enable them to develop their communities. Power is just one of the bigger challenges, especially for businesses. They can't use ICT because of the power, the high cost of the internet."

Kevin's leisure interest is mainly in reading.

"Lots of reading," she says. "I collect and read many books on thinking, leadership, computer technology and world history.

"I read a lot about great people who have changed the face of the globe as it inspires me to think differently about how to solve our country's problems by taking into account cultural context and people at the core." ■

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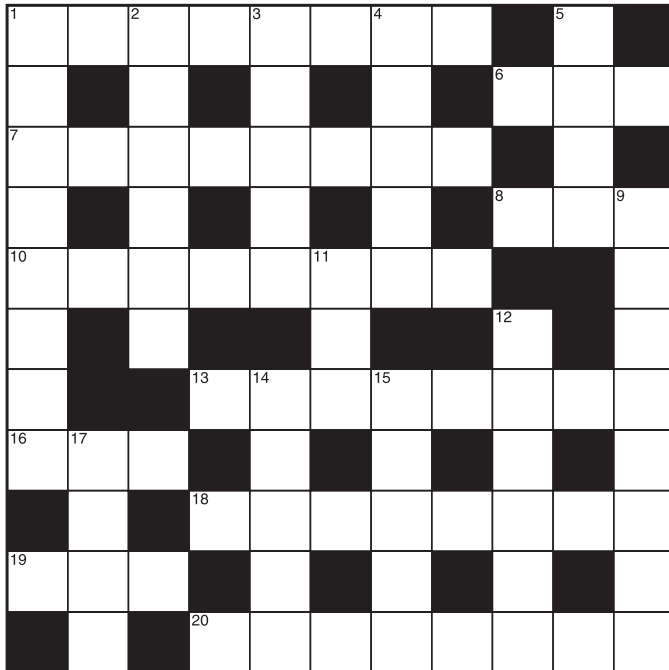
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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

1. Policeman gets near disturbance (8)
6. Tree planted in inlet (3)
7. Heard Alec shun time for making false promises (8)
8. Young chap started like a dream (3)
10. Ready like a scout should be (8)
13. Strange rep to serve jam (8)
16. Song for me and my contrary lag (3)
18. Street demos in favour of school exams (8)
19. Maniacal and demented primarily (3)
20. They cleverly arrange to provide perfume and colour (8)

DOWN

1. Using a broom across the board? (8)
2. Wound in fish and staggered (6)
3. More in next race (5)
4. Neck cord comes with ring in the nose (5)
5. Galahad had left fete (4)
9. Seaside's ravaged by bugs (8)
11. French street lament (3)
12. Plants to produce eye parts (6)
14. Right, you are AI from the country! (5)

15. Sir accepts thanks for instrument (5)
17. Act swiftly and promptly at first (1,1,1,1)

STRAIGHT CLUES

ACROSS

1. Army rank (8)
6. Held off, kept at ... (3)
7. National ballot (8)
8. Boy (3)
10. On standby (8)
13. Bottle or dry (fruit) (8)
16. Girl (3)
18. Raises objections (8)
19. Furious (3)
20. Flower retailers (8)

DOWN

1. Wide-ranging (changes) (8)
2. Recited, ... off (6)
3. The E of ESP (5)
4. Gallows loop (5)
5. Festive occasion (4)
9. TB, ebola & typhoid (8)
11. Regret (3)
12. Fleur-de-lis flowers (6)
14. Pastoral (5)
15. Ravi Shankar's instrument (5)
17. Immediately (1,1,1,1)

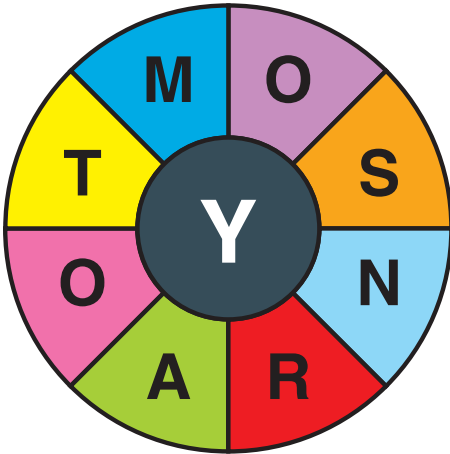
The Paradise Quiz

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE REGION?

1. What happened in Rabaul in 1994?
2. What are you eating if you are indulging in the Papuan New Guinean dish of *kol pis no rais*?
3. Who was Sir Hubert Murray?
4. Where is Jimbaran Bay?
5. Name Singapore's first prime minister, who died on March 23?
6. What is the Japanese alcoholic drink *sake* made from?
7. What was the previous name of the Indian city of Mumbai?
8. What is the name of Timor-Leste's prime minister and father figure who stepped down in February?
9. Who won the Australian Formula 1 grand prix race in Melbourne in March and for which team does he drive?
10. Where are you if you are at the following co-ordinates: 9.5136° S, 147.2188° E?
11. Is PNG closer to the North Pole or the South Pole?
12. If you are reading the *Straits Times* newspaper, where are you most likely to be?
13. What is the national currency of Vietnam?
14. Name the capital of the Solomon Islands.
15. Why is the small island of Iwo Jima in the Pacific significant?



Wheel Words



Create as many words of 4 letters or more using the given letters once only but always including the middle letter. Do not use proper names or plurals. See if you can find the 9-letter word using up all letters.

12 Good 17 Very Good 22+ Excellent

For solutions, see page 136.

© Lovatts Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Rating: ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

					2		4	3
		8		7	4	9		
7				1	3		5	
		9	4			3		8
6	7			2			9	5
8		3			7	6		
	8		7	3				9
		7	2	4		5		
4	9		5					



Solutions

Wheel Words

Solution:

Army, Arty, Many, Mayo, Nosy, Rosy, Soya, Stay, Tray, Tyro, Yarn, Antsy, Artsy, Mayor, Moray, Nasty, Rayon, Roomy, Satyr, Sooty, Stony, Story, Stray, Notary, Smarty, Snooty, Stormy, Masonry. 9-letter word: ASTRONOMY.

S	E	R	G	E	A	N	T	G			
W		E		X		O		B	A	Y	
E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N		L		
E		L		R		S		L	A	D	
P	R	E	P	A	R	E	D			I	
I		D				U				S	
N				P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E
G	A	L		U		I		I		A	
	S			P	R	O	T	E	S	T	S
M	A	D		A		A		E		E	
	P			F	L	O	R	I	S	T	S

9	1	6	8	5	2	7	4	3
5	3	8	6	7	4	9	1	2
7	4	2	9	1	3	8	5	6
1	2	9	4	6	5	3	7	8
6	7	4	3	2	8	1	9	5
8	5	3	1	9	7	6	2	4
2	8	5	7	3	1	4	6	9
3	6	7	2	4	9	5	8	1
4	9	1	5	8	6	2	3	7

The Paradise Quiz

1. Mount Tavurvur erupted and destroyed the town. 2. Fish with rice. 3. A judge and lieutenant-governor in Papua from 1908 until 1940. 4. Bali. 5. Lee Kuan Yew. 6. Fermented rice. 7. Bombay, 8. Xanana Gusmao. 9. Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes. 10. Port Moresby. 11. The South Pole is 8957 kilometres from Port Moresby and the North Pole 11,047 kilometres. 12. Singapore. 13. Dong. 14. Honiara. 15. It was the site of a bloody battle between US and Japanese troops during World War 2, symbolised by the famous photo of six American troops raising their flag. Three of those troops died before the fighting finished.

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Out and about

A quick guide to Papua New Guinea, from catching a taxi to making a phone call.



CLIMATE

With the exception of the Highlands, PNG has a warm tropical climate. The wet season in Port Moresby is from December to April.

COMMUNICATIONS

Internet: Web access in Port Moresby has improved immensely in recent years. Although it remains costly, all the Port Moresby hotels listed in this guide provide a fast-speed internet service. In other urban centres, you may still be relying on dial-up. For those staying longer, wireless internet, via a USB modem is available, although download speeds can vary.

Phone: International mobile phone roaming is possible in PNG but it is costly. A cheaper option is to buy a local SIM card and pre-paid credit (including data packs for smartphones).

It is much cheaper to make international calls from PNG than vice versa.

ELECTRICITY

The current in PNG is 240V AC 50Hz, using Australian-style plugs.

GETTING AROUND

As a general rule in PNG, you need to plan your travel carefully.

Taxis: Recommended firms are Comfort (325 3046) and Scarlet (7220 7000).

Car hire: Deal with one of the international names and ask them to provide a driver (around

PGK400 per day). With the poor state of roads, especially in Lae, 4WDs/SUVs are recommended.

Airport transfers: For arrival/departure in Port Moresby, any of the hotels listed in this guide will provide a complimentary transfer.

Domestic flights: Travelling within PNG often means taking an internal flight (for instance, you cannot drive between Port Moresby and Lae). Air Niugini offers passengers the chance to book (and check in) online but make sure you print out a copy of your receipt to show at

the check-in counter. Aircraft and helicopter charter services are available for travel to remote locations.

HEALTH

Serious medical conditions typically require treatment outside the country. Travellers should ensure they have adequate health cover (the cost of medical evacuation alone can reach US\$30,000). Visitors should also note that malaria is prevalent in PNG and there have been cases of measles and tuberculosis in some parts of the country.

MONEY

PNG's currency is the kina (PGK). ANZ and Bank of South Pacific (BSP) have branches at Port Moresby's international airport. ATMs are located around Port Moresby, Lae and other urban centres.

SAFETY

While the situation is not as bad as portrayed by some international media, you should always take precautions, especially at night.

TIME ZONE

PNG has a single time zone, 10 hours ahead of UTC/GMT.

EATING, DRINKING, SOCIALISING IN PORT MORESBY

Airways Hotel: Port Moresby's ritziest hotel has several places to eat. If you're after fine dining, Bacchus is the place to go. For something more casual, go poolside, where Deli KC's serves antipasto, salads, sandwiches, milkshakes, espresso and a limited Italian menu for dinner. ►





The Poolside Bar should not be missed for its garlic prawns. The Vue Restaurant, which has a buffet each morning and evening, as well as an a la carte menu, has stunning views. This is also the place for traditional rectangular, wood-fired Italian pizza. See airways.com.pg.

Aviat Club: The club is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Home-style meals include stir-fries, toasted sandwiches and salt-and-pepper prawns. The burgers and the fish and chips are spectacular. This is a great spot to sit at lunchtime under the shady mango trees, or in the air-conditioned bar. See aviat.com.pg.

Cafe on the Edge: There are good hamburgers here and breakfast options such as eggs benedict, avocado and the best crispy bacon. The servings are generous. It is one of the few cafes in town that opens early; you can grab your first cuppa from 6.45am. Located under the residential buildings on the new Harbour City development, down behind the ANZ and BSP bank. See facebook.com/CafeOnTheEdge.

Crowne Plaza Hotel: There are multiple eating options at Crowne. The in-house restaurant includes a buffet for breakfast (eggs cooked to order), as well as lunch and dinner. It's one of the few

restaurants in Port Moresby with gluten-free choices. The hotel also has fine dining at the Rapala restaurant, where the steaks and garlic prawns are impressive. Old-fashioned crepes suzette makes an appearance here, too, and is cooked at your table.

Daikoku: The extensive Japanese menu has teppanyaki, donburi bowls and a large range of sushi. Tucked away above the SVS shopping centre in Harbour City, chefs will whip up your meal at your table. The teppanyaki menu includes several courses, so come with an empty stomach. See ourportmoresby.co/things-to-do/archives/daikoku.

Duffy Cafe, Gabaka Street: This has rapidly become popular among the expat community, with excellent coffee and homemade cafe-style food. See facebook.com/duffypng.

Dynasty at Vision City: This may be the biggest restaurant in Port Moresby. Its size, its chandeliers and its gold decor make it a favourite for balls, dinners and parties. The menu is huge, too, with pages of Asian dishes. Don't miss yum cha on Sunday mornings. See ourportmoresby.co/things-to-do/archives/dynasty. ►



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Fusion: This is one of the newer restaurants in the city and always seems to be doing great business. It's Asian with a fusion of flavours from China, Thailand and Vietnam. Takeaway available.

Grand Papuan Brasserie: The funky Grand Papua Hotel bar serves up cocktails and has a decent wine list, along with some tasty tapas-style bar food. Grab a seat in one of the huge, black leather chairs or head to the Brasserie, which has a nightly buffet. The a la carte menu is good and the steaks are delicious. See grandpapuahotel.com.pg.

Lamana Hotel: The hotel's restaurant has a daily soup and salad buffet lunch, with your choice of main and a drink. There is an Indian buffet night on Thursdays. See lamanahotel.com.pg.

Royal Papua Yacht Club: Relaxed, spacious and open to non-members. Comfort food, draught beer and an open-plan bar area showing sport on large screens. If it's too busy, try the Aviat Club in nearby Konedobu. See rpyc.com.pg.

Seoul House: This restaurant specialises in Korean and Thai food, cooked on the hot plate right in front of you. Seoul House

is tucked away in a garden oasis compound in Five Mile. Tel +675 325 2231.

Tasty Bites: This is the newest restaurant in Port Moresby, serving Indian and tucked away in the town centre in Hunter Street near Crowne Plaza. You won't get a table unless you book. Tel +675 321 2222.

Vision City: PNG's first major shopping mall houses an increasing array of eateries. The cavernous Dynasty (Chinese) and the Ten (Japanese) are stand-outs. See ourportmoresby.co/things-to-do/archives/dynasty.

HOTELS

Airways Hotel

PNG's only top-tier hotel, Airways is located within a large, secure compound next to Jacksons International Airport. An inspiring setting, luxurious rooms and excellent service. See airways.com.pg.

Crowne Plaza

Upmarket rooms and suites in the heart of the CBD. Decent gym, business centre, undercover parking, thriving café and Mediterranean restaurant. Tel +675 309 3329.



Ela Beach Hotel and Apartments

On the fringe of the CDB, this constantly expanding hotel/ apartment complex is part of the Coral Sea Hotels group. Its main eatery is popular at lunchtime. See coralseahotels.com.pg.

Gateway Hotel

Another member of Coral Sea Hotels, this time located next to the airport. A range of amenities include Port Moresby’s largest dedicated meeting space. See coralseahotels.com.pg.

Grand Papua

Port Moresby’s newest large hotel opened in late 2011. The hotel features 156 suite rooms (short and long stay), an executive floor, gym and conference facilities. The separate ➤



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restaurant and bar areas are popular venues for business meetings in town. See grandpapaahotel.com.pg.

Holiday Inn

Located in the government district of Waigani. Large grounds with walking track, in a tropical garden setting. Outdoor restaurant dining and bar area, business centre and gym. Tel +675 303 2000.

Laguna hotel

The Laguna is the latest hotel to open in Port Moresby, providing high-end facilities. The 60-room property is a five-minute drive from the heart of Port Moresby and features a lagoon-style pool, free airport transfers, free WiFi and free buffet breakfast. Tel +675 323 9333.

Lamana Hotel

Also in Waigani, this modern hotel's facilities include the popular Palazzo restaurant (steaks, pizzas and Indian cuisine), business centre, conference facilities and fashionable nightspot, the Gold Club. Tel +675 323 2333.

LAE

In PNG's industrial hub of Lae, the Lae International Hotel has a secure, central location, pleasant grounds, cable TV and several dining options. Tel +675 472 2000, see laeinterhotel.com.pg.

The smaller Lae City Hotel has quickly established a good name since opening in 2013, but be sure to make a reservation well in advance, laecityhotel.com.

Finally the Melanesian Hotel, part of the Coral Sea Hotels group, also provides business-standard hotels in several other urban centres. ➤







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HELPFUL WEBSITES

Air Niugini, airniugini.com.pg

PNG Tourism Promotion Authority, papuaneuguinea.travel

Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry, www.pomcci.com ■



TALKING PIDGIN

The number of languages listed for Papua New Guinea is about 850, but Tok Pisin (pidgin) is the most used, and perhaps the most charming.

Along with Hori Motu and English, Tok Pisin is one of the three official national languages.

It is an English-based creole language and there are variations of it throughout the country.

To get the idea, here are some common words and phrases:

- Good morning,** *monin*
- Good afternoon,** *apinun*
- Thank you,** *tenkiu*
- Yes,** *yes*
- No,** *nogat*
- Hospital,** *haus sik*
- Bank,** *haus mani*
- Toilet/bathroom** (small house), *smol haus*
- Food, or to eat,** *kai kai*
- Meal time,** *taim bilong kai kai*
- What is your name?** *Wanem nem bilong yu?*
- I do not like it,** *mi no laikim*
- Rifle,** *bigfella iron walking stick*
him go back along topside
- Person who speaks nonsense,** *emti tin*

- Football,** *kikbal*
- Jet plane,** *smok balus* (smoke bird)
- Angry,** *kros*
- Baby,** *pikinini*
- I love you,** *mi laikim yu tru*
- Really,** *tru*
- Moustache,** *maus gras*
- Fish,** *pis*
- Ocean,** *solwara* (salt water)
- Man with two wives,** *sikispela lek* (six legs)
- Lying down,** *slip*
- Journey,** *wokabout*
- Cinema,** *haus piksa*
- Useless,** *nogat*
- 4WD,** *fowil draiv*
- Hairdresser,** *man i save katim gras bilong het*
- Make clear or explain,** *klirim*
- Your,** *bilong yu*
- Reef,** *rip*
- Parents,** *papamama*
- Coffee,** *kopi*
- Taxi,** *taksi*
- Bedroom,** *rum slip*
- Sugarcane,** *stik suga*
- Out of money,** *poket bruk*



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Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

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Cuisine

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Before you leave

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Air Niugini fleet



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Wing span: 47.57m	Normal altitude: 11000 - 12000m
Range: 8100km	Standard seating capacity: 214
Cruising speed: 857kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 2



B737-800 - Boeing

Length: 39.5m	Power plant: 2xCFM56-7B26
Wing span: 35.79m	Normal altitude: 11300m
Range: 8100km	Standard seating capacity: 158
Cruising speed: 857kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 2



B737-700 - Boeing

Length: 33.6m	Power plant: 2xCFM56-7B22
Wing span: 35.79m	Normal altitude: 11300m
Range: 6370km	Standard seating capacity: 122
Cruising speed: 830kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 1



F100 - Fokker

Length: 35.528m	Power plant: 2xRolls Royce Tay 650
Wing span: 28.076m	Normal altitude: 11000m
Range: 3000km	Standard seating capacity: 98
Cruising speed: 780kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 7



DASH 8-Q400 NextGen - Bombardier

Length: 32.8m	Power plant: 2xPratt & Whitney PW150A
Wing span: 28.4m	Normal altitude: 7500m
Range: 3000km	Standard seating capacity: 74
Cruising speed: 670kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 6



Falcon 900EX - Dassault

Length: 20.21m	Power plant: 3xHoneywell TFE731
Wing span: 19.33m	Maximum altitude: 51000ft
Range: 4500nm	Standard seating capacity: 12
Cruising speed: 650mph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 1

Your health inflight

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

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

Blood Circulation/Muscle Relaxation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendations

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

Jetlag

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

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

Recommendations

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



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

Cabin Humidity/Dehydration

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

Recommendations

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

Eating and Drinking

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

Recommendations

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

Cabin Pressurisation

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

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

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

Recommendations

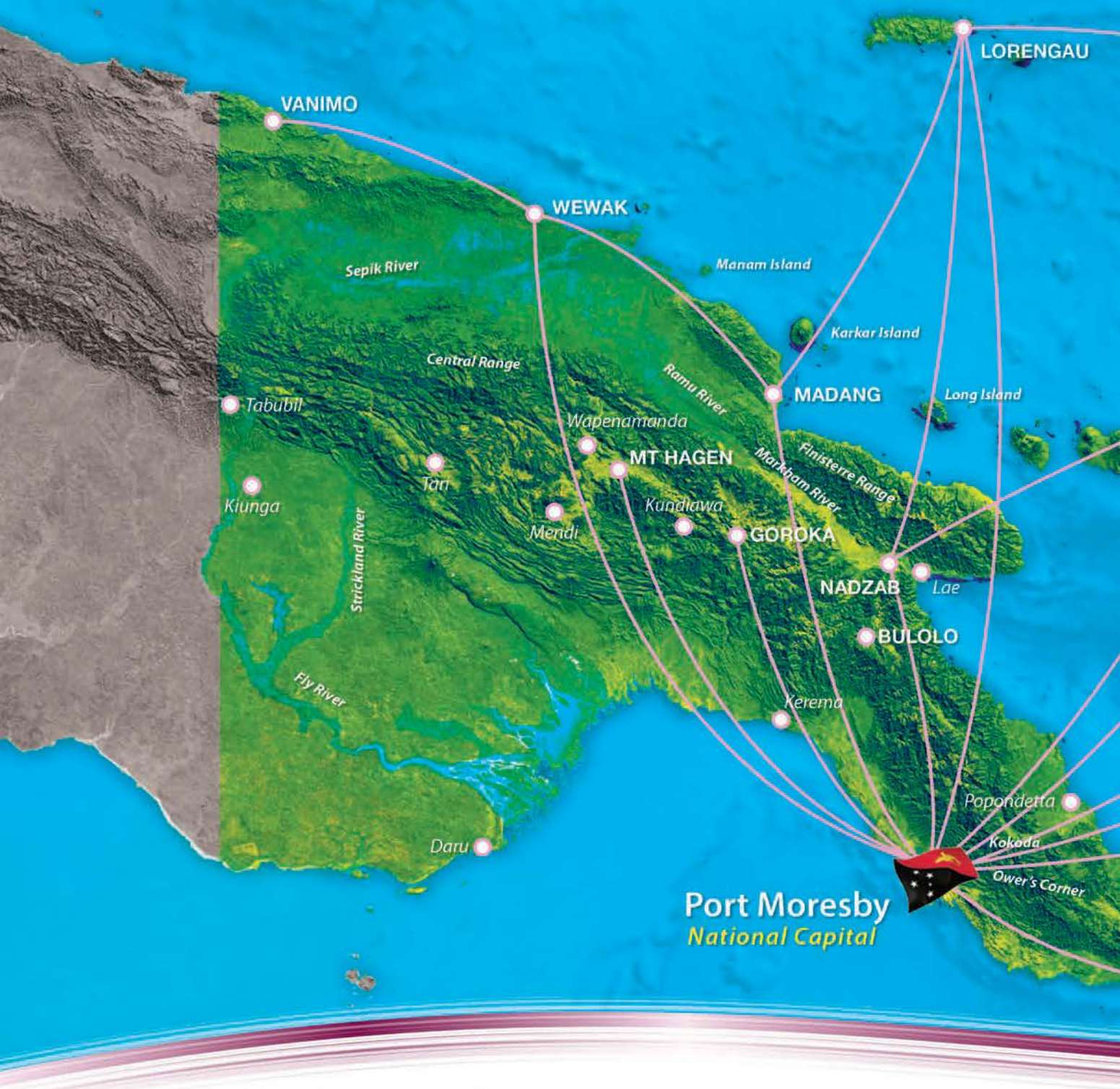
- ◆ If you have a pre-existing medical condition that warrants supplemental oxygen, you can order from us. Please give at least seven days notice before travelling.
- ◆ To "clear" your ears try swallowing and/or yawning. These actions help open your eustachian tubes, equalizing pressure between your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

Motion Sickness

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

Recommendations

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



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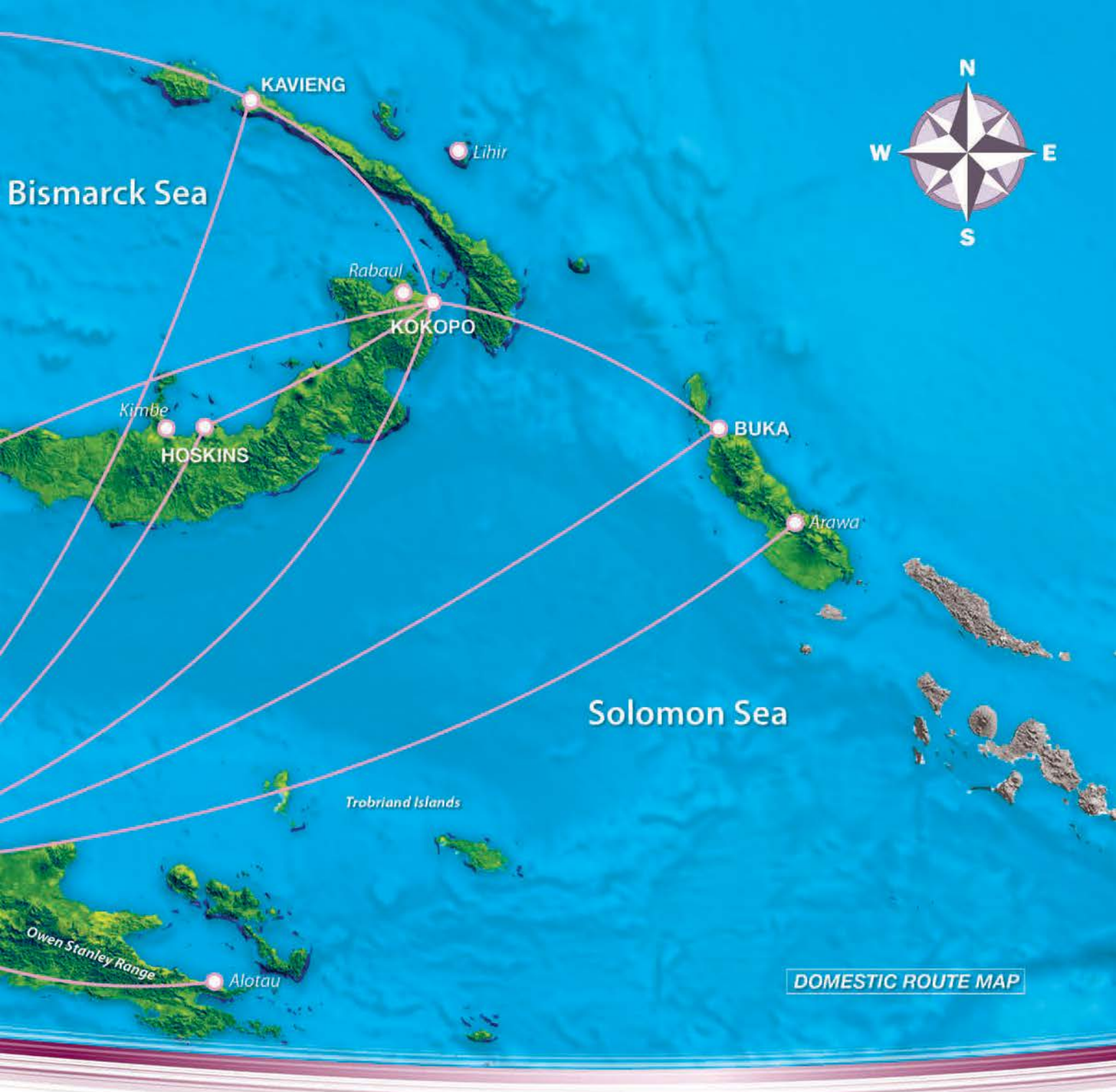
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Fax: (81) 3 5733-2568
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Your wellbeing



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

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



ANKLE CIRCLES

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



KNEE LIFTS

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



SHOULDER ROLL

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



ARM CURL

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



KNEE TO CHEST

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



FORWARD FLEX

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



OVERHEAD STRETCH

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



SHOULDER STRETCH

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



NECK ROLL

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



FOOT PUMPS

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



2. Put both feet flat on the floor.



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

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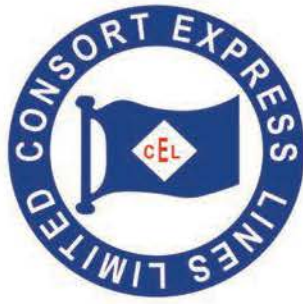
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