

THE IN-FLIGHT MAGAZINE OF AIR NIUGINI VOLUME 6 NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015



PARADISE

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Cook Is.



IN PARADISE

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OUR COUNTRY, OUR REGION, OUR WORLD

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Cover photo: Roaring along the Beriman River in New Britain. (See story, page 22). Picture: Ben Marr



PARADISE



*Paradise is the complimentary in-flight magazine of Air Niugini, Papua New Guinea's international airline.
Business Advantage International publishes it six times a year.*

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Printed in Australia. Both printer and paper manufacturer for this publication are accredited to ISO14001, the internationally recognised standard for environmental management. This publication is printed using vegetable inks and the stock is elemental chlorine free and manufactured using sustainable forestry practices.

Some of the articles in this publication are edited versions of those first published on the online PNG business magazine, businessadvantagepng.com.

Unsolicited manuscripts, artwork, transparencies and photographs are submitted at the sender's risk. While all care will be taken, neither the publishers nor the airline will accept responsibility for accidental loss or damage. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. Statements, opinions and points of view expressed by the writers are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the publisher, editor, or the airline. Information contained in this publication may be correct only at the time it was originally obtained by the writers and may be subject to change at any time and without notice.

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Message from the Chairman

Welcome aboard



By the time you read this issue of *Paradise*, it is more than likely that Christmas will be upon us.

I will therefore use this opportunity to extend to you the season's greetings and to look back on what has been a most challenging and "game changing" year for Air Niugini.

By any measure, 2015 has been a year of significant achievement for us.

The credit needs to be given to the airline's employees – from management to senior captains, flight crew, ground

operational staff such as engineers, and several hundred men and women who work with them to ensure our airline operates efficiently and safely and that you, our valued customers, get the best service from the moment you book until your final arrival.

I am very proud of our employees. They are our most precious assets. In the last year, or so, many have had to accept revised conditions of employment so that Air Niugini can remain viable and meet the opportunities that it has as a leading national and regional airline. I thank all our professional, administrative and support staff for contributing to a successful year, and helping to ensure the future will be even better for our national airline.

We have valued the continued and growing support of our passengers this year, our commercial clients, and our business partners and stakeholders. I believe we have rewarded that support and confidence with an excellent on-time departure and arrival performance, which is now the best in our 41-year history. We have also maintained our excellent safety record.

Air Niugini is wholly owned by the National Government. The board and management join with me in thanking the Prime Minister, the Minister for Public Enterprises and State Investments, and the National Government for the continued strong support Air Niugini has received during 2015, and the ongoing support and encouragement for our strategic development plan that will modernise our airline, secure its future, and improve its services.

We have also benefited from the visionary approach the National Government has taken to the re-development and upgrading of

our airports. The impressive re-development of Jackson's Airport is making passenger movement much more customer friendly and will contribute significantly to our goal of making Port Moresby the regional gateway from our Pacific neighbours with Asia and the World. The upgrading of domestic regional airports will also benefit our operations and enable us to expand services as demand grows.

Looking back on 2015, there are several achievements and changes that deserve special mention.

Firstly, the development of LinkPNG as a wholly owned subsidiary serving the special needs of distant and remote communities, has been remarkably successful. As a result of this, we are able to guarantee services to distant and more remote communities that otherwise might have been under threat. Where possible, we will extend services to other centres in the future.

Secondly, Air Niugini has started a major re-fleeting program. The key component of this project will be the introduction of nine Fokker 70 jet aircraft – the first two of which are now in operation. These aircraft offer significant jet aircraft speed, distance and comfort advantages and will be used on our key domestic routes, as well as our growing profile in the Pacific region.

Thirdly, Air Niugini is well advanced on the establishment of Port Moresby as the regional "hub" for airlines and air services linking the South Pacific with South-East Asia and beyond. This will benefit the people of Papua New Guinea travelling within our region and beyond, and will strengthen our links with our neighbouring island nations, and with Northern Australia. Our links with Air Vanuatu and Solomon Airlines have been strengthened during 2015, and the foundations for significant future growth have been laid. Establishing Port Moresby as an efficient and reliable regional hub will bring significant economic benefits through greater tourism and business activity.

Finally, may I wish you, and your families, a very happy and safe Christmas.



Sir Frederick Reiher, KCMG, KBE
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YOUR WORLD
YOUR WAY



Upgrades handed to passengers



Winners ... Air Niugini staff with some of the passengers who were upgraded to business class and given entry to the airline's Executive Club lounge.

Many Air Niugini passengers flying with the airline on domestic and international flights during September were pleasantly surprised when they were upgraded to business class.

The upgrades were part of Air Niugini's celebration of Papua New Guinea's 40th anniversary of Independence.

Every Friday during the month, the lucky recipients were selected from the airline's booking system as the 40th passengers to have booked on to their respective flights.

Among them was Marilyn Hipson from Karanda village in Erave, in the Southern Highlands Province. She was travelling from Port Moresby back to her village, via Mount Hagen, with her eight-month-old son Gabriel. It was her second-ever flight, the first being in 2012.

As well as the seat upgrade, she was given access to the Executive Club lounge

and a PGK100 excess baggage voucher for her next flight.

Another winner was Dorothy Pomat who was travelling to Cairns for the weekend.

"I was shocked when given my business-class boarding pass, another pass to the Executive lounge and the PGK100 excess baggage waiver," she said. "What a great start to my weekend."

Another lucky passenger, David Young, said he was very surprised when handed the boarding pass and led to the Executive Club lounge.

"Thank you Air Niugini for the promotion, I didn't expect it; I am a happy customer. Congratulations and happy anniversary Papua New Guinea."

Similar promotions were carried out at other domestic airports as well as Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns and Manila. ■

“ I was shocked when given my business-class boarding pass. What a great start to my weekend.

”

New 'pay later' booking process

Air Niugini has implemented a "pay later" payment method, which allows customers to make a booking online and to then make payment at a domestic sales office within 24 hours.

The new system came into effect in September.

It provides an option, for customers who do not have credit or debit cards, to make bookings online and to then pay at a sales office with standard payment methods such as cash.

Once the booking is made online (airniugini.com.pg) with the pay-later



Pay later ... passengers can now book online and pay later at any Air Niugini domestic sales office.

payment option, the system will hold the booking for 24 hours. If payment is not made in that time the booking will be automatically cancelled.

The pay-later payment system is available in all Air Niugini retail sales offices throughout the country. It's not applicable to international sales offices or agents. ■

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 Gold Seas TUNA in Teriyaki Sauce

PREPARED BY PNO MADE





High flyers ... the 14 Air Niugini cadets who are receiving on-the-job training.

Cadets step up for Air Niugini

Fourteen airline cadets, including seven females, recently joined Air Niugini under the airline's management graduate scheme.

They are graduates in various fields of studies from universities around the country and were selected after a vigorous recruitment process.

Air Niugini chief executive officer, Simon Foo, says it is part of the airline's vision to provide the best air services in the region, hence recruiting young graduates with a lot of potential is a step in the right direction.

"Air Niugini is committed to transformation and excellence and we are happy to be

able to recruit individuals who possess the potential and attributes to thrive in a challenging operational and customer-orientated environment."

In line with the objectives of Air Niugini's management program, the 14 have been inducted into the airline's operations division where they are receiving on-the-job training.

Mr Foo says the training will continue for some years and "will ultimately present a team of highly motivated and capable people contributing to Air Niugini's vision".

Several hundred candidates applied for the graduate positions. ■

FLYING THE FLAG

Air Niugini chief executive officer Simon Foo was among more than 400 delegates at the recent Papua New Guinea Advantage Investment and Infrastructure Summit, in Brisbane.

Air Niugini had a booth at the summit expo, where it showcased its business services in the region to industry leaders from 10 Pacific countries, including Papua New Guinea and Australia.

The summit was co-hosted by the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Business Advantage International.

Mr Foo is pictured with the airline's Brisbane business development manager, Miriam Musgrave.

For the story and more photos from the summit, see page 120.



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Paradise Q&A: Peter Vincent

The chief executive officer of the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority says cruise tourism has been a big boon for PNG.

Q: What's been the biggest thing in PNG tourism in recent years?

A: If we pick out one highlight in the past 10 years, it is cruise tourism. In 2013 the TPA decided to develop a cruise tourism strategy because the media perception of PNG with safety and security measures was quite bad and inaccurate, particularly out of Australia. Cruise tourism presented the opportunity for travellers to see PNG in a different light. As a result, we have had Carnival Australia and P&O operating here since 2013. We were very mindful of inviting brand names so they could flag PNG as an emerging destination, and then others would follow. That's exactly what has happened and the numbers are looking great.

We are not really after the bigger cruise ships of 2000 to 3000 people; we are after

the expeditionary ones that have capacity to carry up to 500 passengers, the ones that are capable of penetrating into our communities.

Q: But is there a negative effect on the communities?

A: I have heard all the stories that increasing tourism is going to destroy our culture and the environment, but to me it is the complete opposite.

The communities are saying 'thanks very much'. As a result of the visitors, they are reviving their culture and traditions, and earning income while they are entertaining the tourists (with cultural performances).

Q: Can PNG visitor numbers reach the big numbers of, say, Fiji?

A: We are going to remain as an adventure destination, not a mass-tourist destination. Some people look at numbers of 600,000 to



700,000 going to small islands like in Fiji and says to us 'what are you doing'? But there are no lessons to be learnt from Fiji. We are in two different markets.

They are after a mass market and we are more of an adventure and boutique market.

Q: How many people visit PNG annually?

A: About 50,000-plus visit for holidays. But with total arrivals, we expect to reach 350,000 people by 2017, up from 200,000 this year. Forty per cent of those people will be holiday makers. ■

“

They (PNG communities) are reviving their culture and traditions and earning income while they are entertaining the tourists.

”



LAE'S TREASURED DC-3 TO BE RESTORED

Lae businesses, individuals and plane enthusiasts have come together to restore an RAAF DC-3, which sits in the Lae Botanical Gardens.

Looking a little worse for wear these days, the plane is an important part of the Lae landscape and representative of the part played by PNG in World War 2.

The restoration work includes building a shelter to protect the plane from the elements, compiling a history of the plane and its use during the war, as well as archiving footage and photographs.

Anyone interested in helping with the restoration can contact the curator, Michael Lovave, mlovave@fri.pngfa.gov.pg.



Kid stuff

Recognised with a 'Certificate of Excellence' from Trip Advisor, the Port Moresby Nature Park is one of the city's top attractions. Now, it has just got even better.

Completed in April, the new Kids Discovery Corner is essentially a playground, but not the usual sort. While there are slides and ropes and things to climb, the space has been specially designed to encourage the flow of imagination.

Each feature represents an element of the natural world, including vine climbs, log hops, a tarantula tunnel, dinosaur dig and tree tower, and the children become explorers of their own natural environment, learning and discovering things as they go.

"We wanted a space where children could have their own adventure," says Michelle McGeorge, the park's general manager. "Sparking imagination and forming a

connection with the environment is one of the best ways of understanding its importance. We hope this will inspire all children to take an interest in their environment. ■

— KIARA WORTH



Hilton for Port Moresby

Port Moresby's hotel stocks continue to rise, with Hilton announcing that it will open a 212-room property.

Hilton will manage the newly built Hilton Port Moresby and convention centre in the Star Mountain Plaza development.

Construction of a 16-storey, mixed-use tower housing the hotel, along with office and

retail space and 128 apartments, is expected to start this year and be finished by late 2017.

Hilton Port Moresby will have 164 standard rooms, 46 executive suites and two chairman suites. The complex will include four restaurants and two bars, a business centre, health club, spa and outdoor pool and event spaces.

Built over two stages, the \$US400million project and operation is being overseen and controlled by Mineral Resources Development Company (MRDC).

MRDC is 100 per cent owned by the PNG government, and manages landowners and

provincial governments' equity interests in mining and petroleum projects in the country.

"Aside from being a popular leisure destination, Papua New Guinea is also increasingly attractive for business travel," says Augustine S Mano, managing director of MRDC and chairman of Star Mountain Plaza.

"With a 96-year legacy in hospitality as well as strong global commercial engines, Hilton is the perfect partner and we are confident that Hilton Port Moresby will set a new benchmark in world-class hotel experiences here in Papua New Guinea when it opens its doors in 2018." ■



Fiji, for adults only



The Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa has opened its Waitui Beach Club, a leisure retreat for adults only.

The club has its own pool, Champagne bar, poolside cabanas (with butler service, thank you very much) and a restaurant.

The \$FJ3.2 million development is within the existing resort and offers free yoga and tai chi in the mornings, a gym, healthy breakfast options, a selection of balanced menus by nutritionist Lucinda Zammit,

a 25-metre lap pool, complimentary sundowner cocktails and frequent evening entertainment.

Waitui (meaning 'salt water' in Fijian) also comes with a new accommodation category consisting of 74 beach club rooms that are close to the new facilities.

Sofitel Fiji's general manager, Alan Burrows, says the club aims to appeal to singles travelling with friends, solo travellers, honeymooners and couples getting away for a break in the Pacific islands.

Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Nadi three times a week. See airniugini.com.pg and softel.fiji.com.fj.



Paradise online

Paradise magazine is now available on PressReader, a website and app that publishes the full issues of thousands of newspapers and magazines around the world. Many airlines, hotels, libraries and restaurants offer customers free access to PressReader. *Paradise* is listed under the publications section, under Country/Papua New Guinea.

See pressreader.com.

Retail fillip for airport



Shopping for luxury brands in Papua New Guinea has become more accessible with the opening of Prouds in the upgraded arrivals and departure areas at Jacksons International Airport. Store manager, Kiran Rathod, says 5000 customers were served in the first weeks of opening, which coincided with the Pacific Games.

"Liquor, confectionary, perfumes, electronic items, jewellery and handbags topped the most-wanted list,"

The Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, officially opened the outlets, which will provide employment for 49 people.





Indigenous showcase

The Tjapukai indigenous centre at Cairns has been relaunched following a \$A13 million redevelopment that includes new theatres, restaurants and galleries.

“We’ve re-imagined the entire Tjapukai experience, using 21st-century technologies to tell the Dreamtime stories of indigenous Australia,” says Tjapukai chief executive officer, Greg Erwin.

New productions and interactive tourism experiences have been introduced. Among other things, visitors can try their hand at boomerang painting, weaving and jewellery making with an indigenous artist, and a guided bush food trail.

Tjapukai is located to the north of Cairns, next to Skyrail.

Air Niugini flies daily from Port Moresby to Cairns. See airniugini.com.pg, tjapukai.com.au. ■

A top season for Hunters

Papua New Guinea’s excitement machine, the SP Hunters rugby league team, fell short just one match from a debut grand final appearance in only its second year in the QRL Intrust Cup.

A 26–2 loss to the Ipswich Jets in the preliminary final brought to an end a wonderful year in which the team strung together an incredible 17-match winning streak.

The team’s injection into the Queensland state league has given the competition new life and in PNG, where rugby league is to the locals what soccer is to Brazilians, they have quickly accumulated fanatical support with games shown live each week on national television.

While the average crowd is around 4000 when they play at their home ground in Kokopo, numbers swelled to around 10,000 in the four games played in Port Moresby this year.

The dream for the team and the country is for the Hunters to play in an expanded National Rugby League (NRL) competition, but as chief executive officer Shane Morris says, that could be up to 15 years away.

So in the meantime, the team’s goal is to provide a pathway into the NRL for its players and, in doing so, to strengthen the national Kumuls side.

Morris points out that when PNG played Fiji this year, 15 of the 17 Fijian players were regulars in the NRL.

“The end goal is to be in the NRL but we have to do the small steps first,” says Morris.

“It’s been a tremendous year. We learnt

from the first year (when sixth and one point outside a finals place) and we are always reassessing what we can do better and what we can change. We want to make sure we give local players the chance to be seen on an international stage on a weekly basis.”

To cap off the year, Hunters captain Israel Eliab was selected at five eighth in the team of the year and coach Michael Marum was named coach of the year.

“Our strength is our speed, our agility and our unpredictability,” Morris says.

“Michael is still working on it but we need to get our forwards on the front foot and get on a roll.”


But the experience of making the finals this year, coupled with the bitter disappointment of going out in straight sets, adds to the fabric of the team and will make it even hungrier next year. ■

— JEFF TURNBULL

NUMBER CRUNCH

3 The number of times Queen Elizabeth II has visited Papua New Guinea. Known in Pidgin as ‘Missis Kwin’, Her Majesty was last in PNG in 1982, following visits in 1972 and 1974. Prince Charles and Prince Andrew have made several visits between them. Prince Andrew was the most recent royal visitor, in Port Moresby on July 4 to open the Pacific Games.






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Indonesian luxe

Away from the madding crowds of Bali's major tourist areas, this three-bedroom, plantation-style villa offers a peaceful retreat in the village of Tiyang Tutul.

Comfort and relaxation are the focus of Villa Mako's plush interiors and furnishings, which

include over-sized sofas, daybeds, poolside loungers and plenty of cushions.

The villa has a team of seven staff, including a manager and chef.

Guests are welcome at Hindu ceremonies in the nearby temple, which provide a unique insight into the religion and customs of Bali.

The luxury villa is available from \$US445 a night.

Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Bali every Monday. See airniugini.com.pg, villamako.com. ■



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Heels and hooves

The Far North Queensland town of Mackay certainly knows how to kick up its heels ... and hooves.

Thousands of people turn out for the annual beach races in the laid-back sugar-cane town south of Cairns and north of Brisbane.

They arrive in tuxedos, board shorts, Hawaiian shirts and, of course, the high heels. Some put rugs on the sand or sit under beach umbrellas, while others pay for premium tickets to access the Quarter Deck, which offers the best views and all-inclusive food and drink.

There are no bookies at the races so you can't have a flutter, but there's a carnival atmosphere and the champagne flows early.

Some race goers bring their own food and drink but there is also a lot on offer trackside, from tasty burgers to oysters shucked in front of your eyes in the Quarter Deck.

The date for next year's beach races had not been set when *Paradise* went to press, but it is usually during August.

Meanwhile, the Ibis hotel chain has opened the first airport hotel in Mackay.

The funky premium economy hotel has a modern and minimalistic design, with rooms from \$A129 a night.

The hotel has restaurant and bar, gymnasium and WiFi. The rooms include queen-size beds, smart TVs, USB ports and blackout blinds.

Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Cairns and Brisbane several times a week and passengers can connect to Mackay on local carriers.

See airniugini.com.pg, accorhotels.com, mackaybeachhorseracing.com.au. ■





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THE RIVER RUNS WILD

Richard Andrews reports on the hair-raising, epic first descent by kayakers of the Beriman River in East New Britain.



“

“More than a few times, giant fruit bats with six-foot wingspans flooded the narrow strip of sky overhead, seemingly out of nowhere. Pedro kept comparing it to the movie *Avatar*, but somehow that fiction didn't seem to do this place justice.”

”





PICTURES: BEN STOOKESBERRY, BEN MARR, CHRIS KORBULIC

Glide path ... American Chris Korbolic, one of the four adventurers to tackle PNG's Beriman River.

One slip and it's over when you're climbing the wall of a steep gorge with 50 kilograms of loaded kayak dangling by a rope from your waist.

That was just one of the risks faced earlier this year by four adventurers tackling the first descent of New Britain's spectacular Beriman River.

Californian Ben Stookesberry, fellow American Chris Korbolic, Canadian Ben Marr and Brazilian Pedro Oliva, spent two weeks paddling one of the South Pacific's most challenging river canyons – a remote, 50-kilometre stretch of turbulent water and narrow channels contained by walls reaching 1200 metres.

"Some parts of the river are not navigable or are partly underground," says Stookesberry. "Portaging around them meant having to use bolts and climbing ropes to haul

ourselves and the kayaks up the canyon walls.

"Then we had to hack our way through the jungle using machetes, and figure out how to get back down to the river past the obstacles."

As one of *National Geographic's* adventurers of the year, Stookesberry's addiction to exploratory kayaking started when he broke his femur while mountain biking. "Healing the injury took 12 months, but during that time I was still able to get into a boat, and I fell in love with kayaking," he says. "Since then, I've taken on 70 first descents in 15 countries, but the Beriman was one of the most intense epics. And that's saying something!"

Stookesberry, Korbolic and Oliva have been dubbed 'Kayaking's Most Extreme Trio' for running some of the world's most inaccessible rivers, from Bhutan and Brazil to ►



The river runs wild



Air reconnaissance ... a chopper surveys one of the deep gorges of the Beriman River (above); Ben Stookesberry taking a breather (left); lowering kayaks and equipment into the river (middle and right).

Greenland and Africa. However, the Beriman elicited a few gulps when they first scouted the river for a week with the rest of the team. It became apparent that the descent would involve a combination of climbing, canyoneering and kayaking in areas where rescue might not be possible if something went wrong.

“There’s actually 13 gorges inside this massive canyon, with no roads, trails or villages anywhere near the headwaters, where we had to get dropped off by helicopter,” says Stookesberry.

“On day one, the area was shrouded in mist and we didn’t know if we could proceed. Luckily we made it, because PNG has some of the most experienced and savvy pilots in the world. The whole expedition would have been impossible without their support, and I can’t say enough about them.”

Once started, the team had to manoeuvre its 2.5-metre kayaks around treacherous rocks, difficult rapids and turbulence.

“It was terrifying at times,” admits Stookesberry. “I recall one day when we were all clinging to a nasty little eddy in class V whitewater with no way out of the river and another terrifying bend just downstream.”

In addition, rain fell every day of the expedition, creating another concern: flash flooding.



“Fortunately the river stayed low enough for us not to get caught by rising waters, which could have been lethal if we were hemmed in by overhanging limestone walls or camping just above the river,” says Stookesberry.

“But even though we were scared and stressed out, none of us could get over the crazy beauty of the place,” he wrote in his journal.

“These massive limestone walls, decorated with travertine sculptures, like stalactites that fluted together ➤





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Very soon, Lamana Hotel will open the doors to The Italian Restaurant, Spices (Indian restaurant), Brazilian BBQ & Steak House, Cafe Palazzo and the Temple night club.



The river runs wild

Blazing paddles ... surrounded by towering cliffs and jungle, two of the paddlers navigate the river. The only way out is to go with the rapids, or evacuation by helicopter.





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The river runs wild



Blueprint for adventure ... (from left) trip notes; portaging a section of the river; steering a course through the canyon.

into something like a thousand-foot-tall Christmas tree. There were waterfalls that fire-hosed turquoise water into the river from dozens of still-unknown caves.

“More than a few times, giant fruit bats with six-foot wingspans flooded the narrow strip of sky overhead, seemingly out of nowhere. Pedro kept comparing it to the movie *Avatar*, but somehow that fiction didn’t seem to do this place justice.”

Stokesberry credits fishing-lodge owner Riccard Reimann for the team’s success. “Riccard helped with scouting and extra equipment, but more importantly talked to the villagers about the trip. We wanted to establish good rapport with locals rather than showing up out of nowhere. He saw our visit as good promotion for ecotourism on the island.”

In fact, the Beriman will get international exposure in an upcoming documentary about the expedition by Canadian

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The river runs wild

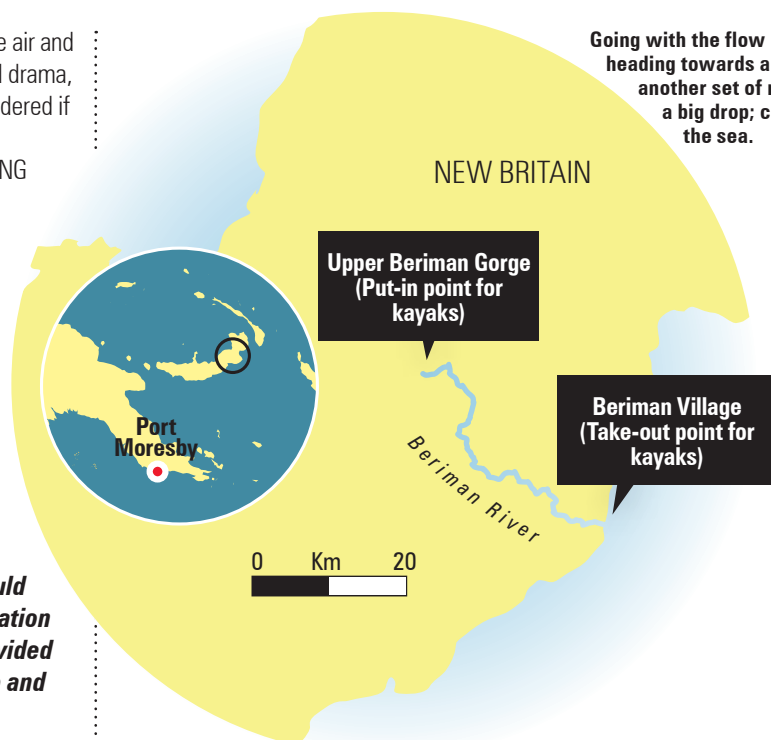


filmmaker Bryan Smith. "I followed the team from the air and the river bank," he says. "We anticipated tension and drama, but I have to admit there were moments when I wondered if they'd get out of there."

Stokesberry himself is looking forward to his next PNG trip with the same crew. "Apart from some foot rot from the constant damp, we came out of the Beriman unscathed, and now I want to explore rivers in the Central Highlands," he says.

"Along with the Himalayas and the Arctic, PNG is one of the frontiers of expedition kayaking, and I think another adventure is in order." ■

FOOTNOTE: *The expedition was staged from Liamo Reef Resort at Kimbe before the team moved to the Delawin Guest House on the remote south coast in the Pomio District. Ben Stokesberry says: "Both are places that I would highly recommend, not only for the accommodation but also for the local expertise and advice provided by their principals – Riccard Reimann at Liamo and Iggie Matapia at Delawin".*



Going with the flow ... (from left) heading towards a soaking in another set of rapids; taking a big drop; calm waters at the sea.





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WAR TREASURES

Roderick Eime explores some fascinating underwater war-time wrecks, including the famous *SS President Coolidge* in Vanuatu and *Black Jack* in PNG.

SS PRESIDENT COOLIDGE

Built in 1931 for a life of luxurious Pacific cruising, the 200-metre *SS President Coolidge* roamed the oceanic playgrounds of Hawaii, Hong Kong and,

ironically, Japan. Her guests reclined around two swimming pools, preened themselves in salons, worked out in gyms or just hung out at the soda fountain. Her fate, however, was anything but salubrious.

As war in the Pacific intensified, the US War Department sent her on voyages around the expanding theatre. She evacuated government personnel and US civilians from Hong Kong and other ports



“

For 90 minutes the *Coolidge* teetered on the edge while 5340 men calmly climbed down rope ladders and waded ashore.

”



The SS President Coolidge ... in her glory days (top left); teetering on the edge (left); relics from the ship (right).



as the tensions escalated and in 1941 she was converted to troopship operations and immediately put to work bolstering Allied garrisons.

On October 26, 1942, the fully loaded *Coolidge* approached the US base of Luganville on Vanuatu's Espirito Santo and, ever concerned about enemy submarines, captain Henry Nelson

made a beeline for the entry channel. What somebody had omitted to tell Nelson, however, was that the channel was mined and no sooner had the *Coolidge* poked its bow into the opening ... kaboom.

Nelson knew he had no hope of saving his ship, so he steamed for shore in an attempt to beach the liner, but he struck a reef instead. For 90 minutes the *Coolidge* teetered on the edge while 5340 men calmly climbed down rope ladders and waded ashore. But then it all went wrong and the huge ship listed and slipped backward into deep water.

Today, the wreck is one of the world's most famous dives, satisfying both experienced and novice divers alike. She lies ingloriously on her port side in 21–73 metres. Local dive operators have concocted dozens of adventures above and within the ship. Inside the hull are all manner of war materials, including vehicles, ammunition, artillery and heavy equipment, as well as poignant personal items like small arms, helmets, boots and medical supplies.

The preservation of the wreck and its development as a poignant tourist site is due largely to one man, Allan Power, who began exploring the sunken vessel in the 1970s when salvagers came to recover the propellers and other valuable items. Disturbed by the damage being wrought by indiscriminate plundering, Power successfully lobbied the Vanuatu government to protect the site, which was achieved in 1983.

Born in Sydney in 1933 and dubbed 'Mr President' by his adoring fans, Power has made something like 25,000 dives on the *Coolidge*, a feat that earned him inclusion in the Scuba Diving Hall of Fame at a glittering ceremony in the Cayman Islands in 2011.

"I started diving in 1949 with equipment I made myself," recalls Power of a time long before scuba diving was a recreational pursuit, "now diving is just one of many adventure sports almost anyone can do."

While the *Coolidge* has dark caverns and you need to keep your wits about you, there are numerous, "easier", dives in the nearby Segond Channel, with sites abounding in colourful marine life and coral at depths less than 20 metres.

Apart from the vivid writings of James A Michener, who set his best-selling novel *Tales of the South Pacific* on Espirito Santo, perhaps the greatest souvenir is the bewildering jumble of equipment dumped into the sea at what is now called Million Dollar Point. Here snorkellers can drift over trucks, cranes and earthmovers. ➤

Essential equipment:

Torch, camera, gloves, rash vest or light wetsuit.

Depth range: 21–73 metres

Visibility: 10–30 metres

Average water temperature:

25-30 degrees Celsius

Best season: Year round

Accommodation in Espirito Santo:

Beachfront Resort offers mid-range accommodation overlooking the sheltered waters of Segond Channel and Aore Island.

See thebeachfrontresort.com.

Dive operator: Allan Power Dive Tours offers diving for all levels and abilities.

See allan-power-santo.com.



War treasures

BLACK JACK

In the middle of the night on July 10, 1943, the crew of Boeing B-17F, *Black Jack*, took off on a mission to bomb one of most heavily defended ports in the entire Pacific, Rabaul.

This particular aircraft, serial number 41-24521, already had an impressive service history at the hands of captain Ken McCullar, bombing Japanese shipping, airfields and sinking the IJN destroyer, *Hayashio*, in November 1942.

Repaired many times, *Black Jack* was struggling that night to Rabaul and developed engine trouble before reaching

the target. The crew pressed on and dropped its bombs, but on the return leg a violent storm struck the aircraft and she wandered off course.

She was forced to ditch off the coast, near Boga Boga, on the northern tip of Cape Vogel in PNG's Milne Bay Province.

While the crew was rescued by nearby villagers, the aircraft slipped off the reef into 50 metres of water. Ironically, the deeper water has helped preserve the aircraft, keeping it clear of coral and other marine growth.

Black Jack lies on a white-sandy seabed and is in remarkably good condition. Apart from the waist guns and radio transmitters jettisoned before the crash, all other equipment is in place.

Bottom time allowed is only 10 minutes. The rest of the 100 minutes is for ascent and stringent safety stops are made along the way.

Schools of large, almost tame, batfish are known to inhabit the wreck and sharks and other species of pelagic fish often patrol it. ►

On her belly ... almost 50 metres under, divers explore *Black Jack*. The aircraft had to be ditched off the coast, near Boga Boga, after a bombing mission.

Essential equipment: Torch, camera, buddy tank, knife, gloves.

Depth range: 45–47 metres

Visibility: 10-20 metres

Average water temperature: 28 degrees Celsius

Best season: March to September

Dive operator: Tufi Resort is expert in accessing *Black Jack* and has tested dive plans in place. **See tufidive.com.**





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War treasures

PISTOFF

On January 8, 1943, a large Japanese convoy was sighted heading into Lae. Every available aircraft was sent to stop it. Twelve B-25 Mitchell bombers from the 71st and 405th squadrons, based at Port Moresby, were among the raiders including 41-12830 Pistoff.

Over the target, defending fighters sprayed *Pistoff* with machine-gun fire, putting one engine out of action and riddling the fuselage with bullets. Without sufficient power to cross the Owen Stanley Ranges, the pilot, William Lett, was forced to ditch in Collingwood Bay, near the village of Ayuwan.

Sitting on a silty bottom in 13 metres of water about 200 metres from shore, *Pistoff* is covered in a film of tough algae and clumps of coral. Apart from a badly damaged nose and a broken cockpit roof, the rest of the aircraft is largely intact, albeit heavily silted.

You'll need to take a guide with you from local dive operator, Tufi Dive Resort, who will negotiate access for you. ➤

Essential equipment:

Torch, camera, knife, gloves.

Depth range:

12–14 metres

Visibility:

5–10 metres

Average water temperature:

28 degrees Celsius

Best season:

March to September

Dive operator:

Tufi Resort has negotiated access with local landowners who guard the wreck from scavengers. **See tufidive.com.**

(A P-38 Lightning and remains of PT boats can also be dived from Tufi, quite apart from the spectacular reefs. Accommodation is also available at Tufi, as well as cultural experiences.)

Happier times ... *Pistoff* crew members pose in front of their aircraft before it was forced to ditch into the sea (top); a piece from the aircraft (middle left); surveying the plane in 13 metres of water (middle right and right).





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War treasures

A6M2 ZERO

Almost within wading distance from the shore of tiny Nivani Island in the Louisiade Archipelago, is the wreck of an A6M2 Zero (right) that ditched after the Battle of the Coral Sea. It is believed to be the aircraft of pilot Okura Shigeru, who was obliged to ditch his fighter near the temporary seaplane base after his aircraft carrier was sunk.

In just four metres of water in Deboyne Lagoon, no special equipment is required and is quite often enjoyed by snorkellers from passing yachts and expedition cruise ships. If you arrive without a pre-arranged visit, it is polite to seek permission from the chief on nearby Panapompom Island.











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War treasures



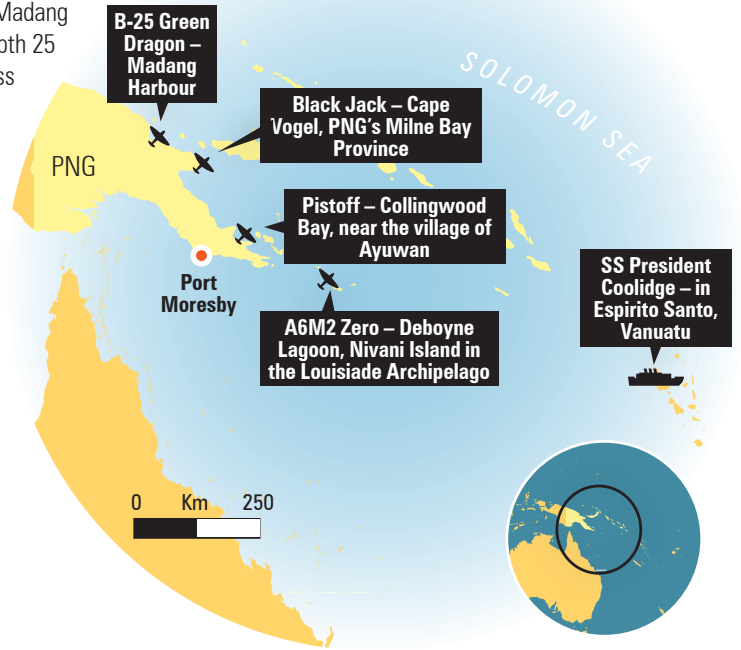
B-25 GREEN DRAGON

Another famous PNG wreck is the B-25 Green Dragon in Madang Harbour (maximum depth 25 metres). You can access it with Niugini Dive Adventures, which is located at Madang Resort Hotel.

See niuginidive.com.

Several aircraft and shipwrecks are accessible from Kavieng, on New Ireland, including float planes.

See scubakavieng.com.



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PICTURES: TAI POWER SEEFF, RORY DANIEL

Boutique beddings

From top-end to affordable, *Mark Daffey* surveys stylish accommodation choices on Air Niugini's network.

BALI

Nestled amongst rice paddies and surrounded by coconut palms just outside the cultural hub of Ubud, Sandat Glamping Tents (glampingsandat.com) is far removed from the hustle and bustle of Bali's beaches. This little slice of heaven contains five safari-style tents – each with its own plunge pool – as well as three luxury lumbug (rice barns), all fitted with locally made furnishings that include hand-crafted bamboo beds. **Prices from PKG570 a night.**

In the same region, on a ridge above the Ayung River, Bambu Indah (banbindah.com) is a stunning collection of individually designed bamboo buildings and antique Javanese teak-wood bridal homes. It combines sustainable practices in a luxury environment. **Prices from PKG260 a night.**

Smack bang in the middle of the island, amongst the cooler climes of the Central Highlands, is Desa Atas Awan (desatasawan.com). This 'Village Above the Clouds' offers just three suites, all designed by a local architect. **Prices from PKG210 a night.**

BRISBANE

Located in fashionable New Farm, Spicers Ballfour Hotel (spicersretreats.com/spicers-ballfour-hotel) is minutes from Brisbane's Storey Bridge. Step inside this iconic Queenslander and you'll discover a chic interior that's welcoming and warm, perfectly complementing its personalised service. **Prices from PKG534 a night.**

CAIRNS

Within easy reach of Cairns International Airport, and nestled between the Great Barrier Reef and the pristine tropical rainforests of North Queensland, you'll find Kewarra Beach Resort & Spa (kewarra.com). Beautifully appointed deluxe bungalows and spacious suites are spread across 30 hectares of lush tropical gardens that are set on half-a-kilometre of private beachfront. **Prices from PKG380 a night.**

FUJI

Countless resorts are strung out along Fiji's Coral Coast, between Nadi International Airport and the capital, Suva. The first of those to be built, Cusoe's Retreat (cusoesretreat.net.fj), has been entertaining guests for over 50 years. ➤



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In an unrivalled location, where the rainforest meets the ocean, Matanivusi Beach Eco Resort (surfingfiji.com) is designed for discerning travellers who want seclusion, service and

Great getaways ... Singapore's Hotel 1929 (left); Sandat Glamping Tents in Bali (right); the Havannah in Vanuatu (below); Indonesia's Bambu Indah (previous page).

Outstanding concierge service is what separates the Lanson Place Hotel (lansonplace.com) from other boutique operations in Hong Kong. All of its 194 rooms and suites boast oversized glass windows, allowing natural light to flood every corner of the room. **Prices from PGK700 a night.**

Nestled among five-star hotels in the historical Tsim Sha Tsui district, Hop Inn on Hankow (hopinn.hk) is an affordable alternative (from PGK158) in pricey Hong Kong. Living spaces and rooms are decorated by talented local artists and illustrators.



satisfaction, but using sustainable practices. Matanivusi bears the distinction of obtaining the world's first 'sustainable surf resort' certification. **Prices from PGK1300 a night.**

HONG KONG

Hong Kong's first boutique hotel, J Plus, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2014 with a makeover. Rebranded J Plus Hotel by YOO (jplushongkong.com), the extensive refit applied refreshingly bright designs to each of the hotel's 66 graffiti-inspired studios and suites. **Prices from PGK450 a night.**

MANILA

The Bayleaf Hotel (thebayleaf.com.ph) is ideally located within the historic walls of Intramuros. The hotel has 57 vibrant rooms and suites, two panoramic restaurants and a

roof-deck bar with stunning views of Manila's skyline. **Prices from PGK215 a night.**

If you imagine a boutique hotel as a stately colonial estate set among manicured gardens, then The Henry Hotel (thehenryhotel.com) fits that picture perfectly. This collection of five 1950's houses inside a large Pasay City compound is all the more significant in a city that struggles to preserve its heritage buildings. Each of its 32 rooms (from PGK250 a night) blends nostalgic touches with the sort of technological amenities required by contemporary travellers.

PORT MORESBY

Port Moresby's Grand Papua Hotel (grandpapuahotel.com.pg) doesn't strictly fit the mould of a boutique hotel – it's a 16-storey building. However, the capital's first deluxe hotel has 161 rooms and suites and some of the best eateries in town. **Prices from PGK760 a night.**

Contrasting with the Grand Papua's sleek, contemporary lines is the Raintree Lodge (theraintreelodge.com), which has been described as Port Moresby's best-kept secret. The lodge is a tropical oasis in a suburban setting (it's in Boroko), with 12 spacious rooms around a Balinese-style courtyard garden.

Prices from PGK500 a night.

Also, don't miss the Airways Hotel (airways.com.pg).

SINGAPORE

Spread across five restored shop-houses from the early 20th century, Hotel 1929 (hotel1929.com) has 32 individually designed rooms fitted with a mix of classic designer and retro vintage furniture. **Prices from PGK320 a night.**

Across town in Little India, separate designers created themed masterpieces ➤



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across each of Wanderlust’s (wanderlusthotel.com) four levels. No two rooms are alike and the result is a juxtaposition of styles ... think Frank Gehry sofas beside Trent Jansen seats crafted out of recycled road signs, or friendly monsters cradling room lights versus room-sized rockets filled with aliens. **Prices from PGK320 a night.**

Hotel Clover The Arts (hotelcloverthearts-singapore.com) continues the funky-as-can-be theme in the heart of Singapore’s Central Business District. What makes this hotel’s 44 rooms special is that each was painted by local art students who won selection through a national competition. Styles vary from urban graffiti to pop art, retro kitsch or Zen Japanese. **Prices from PGK260 a night.**

SYDNEY

If you had to pick one spot to stay in Sydney, where else would that be than somewhere with harbour views, right next door to the Harbour Bridge? Well then, that place would be Pier One (pieronesydneyharbour.com). This converted wharf facility on Walsh Bay blends unique history with contemporary style. Stay in one of 189 federation-style rooms then stroll around the historic streets of The Rocks. **Prices from PGK350 a night.**

Nestled in the heart of groovy Darlinghurst, the 40-room Kirketon Hotel (kirketon.com.au) is located a short distance from practically anywhere noteworthy in Sydney. Guests here talk about the hotel’s warmth and relaxed ambience, especially inside its award-winning cocktail bar. **Prices from PGK300 a night.**



Bungalow luxe ... the Kewarra Beach Resort in Cairns (left); the roof-deck bar at Manila’s Bayleaf Hotel.

VANUATU

Set amidst flame trees and tropical gardens in an unrivalled location at Samoa Point, The Havannah (thehavannah.com) feels a world away from the hustle and bustle of city life, yet it’s just 25 kilometres from Port Vila. With a maximum of 34 guests, The Havannah is a luxury retreat catering exclusively for adults. **Prices from PGK960 a night.**

Mangoes Resort (mangoesresort.com) is another adults-only, full-service resort of 29 lagoon or garden bungalows on Efate Island. Many feature their own plunge pool, serenely set high on a cliff with sensational views over the sparkling sapphire-blue waters of a South Pacific lagoon. **Prices from PGK460 a night.** ■





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ADVENTURE

AHOY

Whether it's surfing, snorkelling or exploring islands, the *Ratu Motu* is the perfect vessel to take you there. *Bronwen Gora* reports from the deck of the luxury power yacht.



Adventure ahoy

“

Ratu Motu cruises West Sumatra and West Papua, visiting unexplored islands, beaches and reef breaks while navigating the archipelago’s tens of thousands of islands and atolls.

”

Paddling out to a reef break in a far-flung part of Indonesia was never going to be part of my reality. Yes, surfing has become an addiction – but only in middle age.

Alan Green, the founder of surf wear company Quiksilver.

I’m travelling on his charter boat, *Ratu Motu*, which has opened up surfing’s hallowed ground to ocean-loving tourists and gumby surfers like me.

Albeit, we gumby surfers only paddle out in far less-intimidating conditions than the more experienced surfers on board. Sure, we are still tossed and tumbled, but under the watchful eyes of staff, and with the knowledge that simply by waving our surfboard tips in the air, we can signal a pick up by tender or surf ski.

If close enough to *Ratu Motu*, we can paddle back any time we like for hot tea, or something stronger.

And therein lies only a fraction of the seductiveness of this sublime trip aboard one of the world’s most-renowned luxury cruisers.

Ratu Motu hails itself as Indonesia’s best charter boat, a claim that no one seems to challenge.

The 40-metre power yacht has a 20-guest capacity, with eight double berths and ensuites, plus two bunk-style cabins.

It cruises West Sumatra and West Papua, visiting unexplored islands, beaches and reef breaks while navigating the archipelago’s tens of thousands of islands and atolls.

Gourmet food, fresh fish (often caught by guests casting lines and sipping Bintang beers during afternoon expeditions on the tenders) and a full array of gentle water sports are now par for the course on *Ratu Motu*.

Instead of camera crews capturing world-champion surfers on cranking 10-foot waves, people like our group of friends and family partake in less intimidating pursuits such as kayaking, paddle boarding, splashing about on body boards and zooming around on *Ratu Motu*’s two jet skis.

There is also a full set of scuba-diving gear and the always-popular option of snorkelling in crystal-clear water above a riot of colourful coral.

When all the activity becomes too much, the large sun lounges on the forward upper deck get a good workout. So do the decks of cards and board games in the cool of the air-conditioned lounge below.

The deeper we motor into Indonesia, a favorite pastime becomes examining maps of Halmahera, fuelling much debate over which tiny dot of an island, and exactly which bump of said tiny dot, we surfed off only a moment ago.

The crescendo of the trip, however, has yet to come.

After a week of tooling around Halmahera’s coast dropping off on to whichever island or ➤

Tropical waves will always be beyond my beach-bashing ability, so I thought. But here I am with a few other beginners doing exactly that. And it’s all thanks to



Making a splash ... passengers take the drop from *Ratu Motu* into the warm Pacific water; previous page, a peaceful snorkelling moment.



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Adventure ahoy



break appeals, we go to sleep one evening and wake up in another world.

From my porthole I see steep, jungled mountainsides plunging straight into the sea – quite the change from sandy coastlines.

During the night the captain has hit full throttle and motored across the sea from Halmahera to the infamous spectacle of Raja Ampat. This is a watery maze of 1500 coral atolls ranging from petite, mushroom-shaped pyramids resembling floating grass huts to large islands and everything in between.

Astonishing and completely different in flora and fauna to anything we've seen prior, Raja Ampat's assembly of vine-covered volcanic formations poking out of the tranquil water is so surreal it almost feels like a set from the sci-fi movie *Avatar*.



Enormous clams, stag and table corals are everywhere, as are extraordinary underwater formations. Armies of rainbow-coloured fish accompany our every move.

Darwin's contemporary, Alfred Russell Wallace, first explored Raja Ampat in the mid 19th-century. But the area remained unmapped until 2001 when a team of Conservation International marine biologists undertook a survey and catalogued 500 species of coral (537 at last count to be exact) plus more than 1300 species of fish, making the region one of the world's richest concentrations of marine life.

Thankfully, Raja Ampat has been declared a marine sanctuary by the Indonesian government, and further moves are underway to proclaim this fascinating location a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Below the water, Raja Ampat's coral reefs are something to behold. Suddenly snorkelling, instead of surfing, is the major cause for excitement. (There is no surf here, anyway.)



Adventure ahoy




Thumbs up ... (from far left) a dinghy excursion, a surfer executes a cutback, Ratu Motu at anchor and excited locals jump in front of the camera.

While here, our early morning surfing missions are replaced with paddle boarding or kayaking, just an easy way to work up an appetite for our morning feasts of tropical fruit platters, tea and (real) coffee, followed by bacon and eggs any which way we like. Lunch varies from beautifully prepared meats and salads to fresh fish caught by the crew or guests. We all must dress neatly (no board shorts, T-shirts or swimming costumes) when taking a place at one of *Ratu Motu's* two extended dining tables, virtually the only rule on the boat.

It's just as well we are into the water sports as every night dinner is a delicious three-course affair with everything from fillet steak to seafood, to full Indonesian feasts landing on our plates. No one goes hungry – or thirsty for that matter. Beer is always available and most guests bring their own spirits and wine to supplement the on-board offerings.

Raja Ampat is so beautiful I have to pinch myself each day we are here, just as much to fathom where I actually am as to believe it is real. Memories are now imprinted on my mind, such as the moment a manta ray springs from the water, flaps its 'wings' and dives back in – right in front of my paddleboard as the sun sets.

This is real living. ■

 **Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Singapore and Bali from where you can catch a local airline to Sorong in West Papua to connect to Ratu Motu. See airniugini.com.pg.**

NEED TO KNOW

COST

Cabins from \$US700 a night; whole boat charter from \$US9500 a night. Includes transfers from Sorong (West Papua) to Ratu Motu, meals, some water-sport equipment, land excursions, surf guide, trip leader.

MORE INFORMATION ratumotu.com.



WHAT AMERICAN TEENS REALLY THINK OF PNG

Schoolteacher *Willy Fluharty* recounts a recent trip to PNG with students from the Cape Henry Collegiate School in Virginia in the US.



“

Our visit immerses us into a culture that takes us beyond our comfort zone into a nation of proud, spiritual people who welcome us with open arms.

”

“We would like to give one of your students the honour of killing the pig for our mumu,” village leader Pym says. The male students look at each other for about a minute, mutter a few phrases and one steps forward. “I’ll do it,” he volunteers.

This is the kind of cultural immersion our group of American high school students had been hoping to experience in Papua New Guinea.

While visiting the Kutump tribe in the Mount Hagen area, we are asked: “Why would you bring American high school students half way across the planet to visit PNG?”

Why not? PNG has the most diverse society in the world. I want to take my students out of their usual urban world and



expose them to a colourful tribal society. Travel is about people as much as it's about places.

Sadly, most Americans don't know where PNG is located, which is not surprising for my geographically challenged nation.

But when we visit a PNG school, we quiz a level 8 class about America and offer our school T-shirts as prizes for correct answers.

"Where is America on the map?" Many hands shoot up. A shirt is awarded. "Who's the president of America?" More hands, another shirt.

Obviously, PNG students are more global in the classroom than most Americans.

But for those Americans who are aware of PNG, National Geographic images of Huli Wigmen, *sing-sings* and birds of

paradise allude to an unblemished world beyond the ills of Western civilisation. Our visit immerses us into a culture that takes us beyond our comfort zone into a nation of proud, spiritual people who welcome us with open arms.

Prior to travelling, we had been warned by US government advisories to be wary of crime and tribal conflicts, but instead we find incredibly kind-hearted people.

Our first introduction to a tribe comes at a traditional bride price. We join in bearing bananas and bamboo laced with kina as our donation to the bride's family. The village cheers us on with a synchronised "ayeeeeeee" as we pay homage to the tradition. Afterwards, we sit with the village people and watch as dozens come forward with gifts ranging from pigs to a mattress. ➤

**Face painting ...
American students
with their faces
adorned at Kutump.**



What American teens really think of PNG

This particular bride price includes 19 pigs but we hear of others receiving more than 50. Periodically, an elder lectures the group in Pidgin, which none of us understood except for the occasional 'white people'.

In fact, we are referred to as white people throughout our Mount Hagen adventure, which is unheard of for our students.

For the first time, they are the minority, which gives them a new perspective on American race relations. In the Mount Hagen area we only see two other white people.

As thanks for our donation of funds to purchase a water tank for the village, we are invited to participate in a *sing-sing*.

The boys and girls are separated, and for hours, the villagers paint their faces, adorn them with incredible, colourful headdresses, and then as a unit, the Kutump and the 'white people' walk to the local school grounds where we dance, march and celebrate our friendship.

Our students are clearly affected by the kindness of Papua New Guineans. Everywhere we go, people wave



Bonding ... two of the students with Kutump villagers.

and always go out of their way to shake our hands.

The sense of community and kindness is something the students find refreshing, and they often lament how American society has lost this sense of community.

The bond also extends to the spiritual level. We attend a Lutheran church and are asked to add to the sermon with a song. A quick huddle with my students reveals that about half don't attend church and one is Jewish. The few churchgoers in our group quickly agree they all know the words to *Jesus Loves Me*.

They sing and, delightfully, within a few sentences, the congregation recognises the song and joins in. It is a rare moment when two cultures bond through a common religion.

Although we travelled from so far away into an unfamiliar world, we depart understanding as much about our similarities as our differences. It is the people of Papua New Guinea who have irrevocably altered the way my students will forever see the world. ■

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Country guide: Vanuatu

Craig Tansley profiles the South Pacific island that is one of the newest additions to Air Niugini's expanding network.

While Vanuatu's main island of Efate provides travellers with many sophisticated tourist options, most of country's other 81 islands offer an escape from the 21st century.

A French colony until 35 years ago, Vanuatu provides a fascinating fusion of European and Melanesian cultures.

You'll also find tropical blue waters lolling against wide sandy bays, outstanding diving, untouched mountainous jungle and smoking volcanoes. >

Blue-chip Vanuatu ... the island nation is known for its fresh-water blue holes.

PICTURES: DAVID KIRKLAND





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Country guide: Vanuatu

GETTING AROUND

On Efate, home to the capital Port Vila, you can hire a car with Hertz (carhirevanuatu.com), or take a taxi. There are also B-Buses (look for the B on the number plate); just hail one down on the street – most trips cost about 200 vatu.

Once you have arrived in Vanuatu via your Air Niugini flight, you can switch to local airlines to fly between the islands. There are daily flights to Tanna and Espiritu Santo, but services to other islands are more infrequent.

Smokin' ... Mount Yasur puts on a dazzling display, day or night. It is one of the world's most accessible live volcanoes.



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SIGHTS

Most guests stay on Efate. There's plenty to see and do there – from abseiling down waterfalls to kayaking blue lagoons, to surfing or playing golf on some of the South Pacific's best resorts and taking boat excursions in Port Vila's famous blue harbour. Port Vila is also home to a vibrant cafe and bar culture.

An hour's flight away, Espiritu Santo is one of the South Pacific's most picturesque destinations. Its attractions include the world's best wreck dive (the *SS President Coolidge*, which sank during World War 2) its world-renowned blue

holes (fresh water rises to the surface through layers of limestone and coral to create intense blue crystal springs) and one of the world's best-rated beaches, Champagne Beach.

Tanna is 45-minutes' flying time from Efate and offers visitors a chance to visit one of the planet's most accessible live volcanoes. Mount Yasur has been continuously erupting for over 800 years and visitors can get within a few hundred metres of the crater. The island is also home to bizarre cargo cults, including a tribe that worships Prince Phillip. ➤





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Country guide: Vanuatu



But you can go much further afield: witness land-diving on the island of Pentecost, spot elusive dugong off the pristine waters of Epi and live with locals far from other tourists in the thatched-roof huts of the Banks and Torres Islands.

CULTURE CULTURE

Listen to local legends and take part in a kava-tasting ceremony before joining in with some tribal dancing and a celebration buffet of local delicacies at the Erakor Island Melanesian Feast and Fire Show (Erakor Island, Port Vila, erakorislandresort.com).

Take a peek inside the long, rich history of the islands of Vanuatu and take in a cultural performance

Right at home ... locals on the flanks of Mount Yasur and at play in a blue hole (left and middle); divers explore one of Vanuatu's fascinating wrecks.



at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre (Rue d'Artois, National Museum, Port Vila, vanuatumuseum.vu).

Fly to the island of Ambrym and sleep beside villagers in traditional houses, taking part in traditional feasts and dancing far from any other tourists (vanuatu-paradise.com/en/island-by-island/ambrym).

CHILD'S PLAY

Kids can learn how to catch fish with a spider's web and come face to face with Vanuatu's history (including the skull of its last cannibalism victim) at the Larofa Cultural Village (10 kilometres from Port Vila, (apa-apa.net/~iarofa/).

Go climbing up waterfalls or swim underneath them and in natural rock pools with picnic spots available

at Mele Cascades (10 kilometres from Port Vila, tourismvanuatu.com/tours/adventures-paradise-t1/cascade-waterfalls.html).

For the best kid's club in Vanuatu check out the Funtastik Kids Club at Warwick Le Lagon & Spa on Efate (Elluk Road, Erakor Lagoon, warwickhotels.com/le-lagon-resort/).

RETAIL THERAPY

Don't look beyond Port Vila unless you're after local handicrafts and souvenirs. But Port Vila is one of the last genuine duty-free ports in the South Pacific – buy fragrances, French Champagne, jewellery (particularly Pacific black pearls), watches and sunglasses for bargain prices. And pick up some



local goods at the market place or in Chinatown (behind the main street).

SPORTING LIFE

Vanuatu is a constant hive of activity: there are frenetic games of rugby league and soccer being played daily in every village, ideal for watching (join in if you're game).

Play 18 holes of golf, with a local to show you the way as a caddie at Port Vila Golf & Country Club (Mele Road, Port Vila, pvgcc.club/).

Surfing is still in its infancy here, but you'll find some quality uncrowded waves; the most consistent are outside Breakas Beach Resort near Port Vila (Breakas Beach, Pango, breakas.com). ➤

VANUATU SPECIAL

If you're looking for kava, you've come to the right place. Vanuatu has the South Pacific's most potent kava – a mild sedative drink made from a local root. There are many kava bars throughout Vanuatu.



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DOUBLE REFRESHMENT

Country guide: Vanuatu



Taking the plunge ... natural rock pools and picnic spots await at Mele Cascades (left); one of the famous land divers at Pentecost Island (middle); a local at the Port Vila markets where handicrafts and fresh produce are on offer.

ESCAPE

Fly away on a day-long adventure to see the historic land-diving ceremonies on Pentecost and stop in Epi to swim with dugongs (airtaxivanuatu.com).

Stay in a grass hut on Malekula Island, famed for its cannibalistic past, where locals still wear dried fibre to cover themselves and perform kastom ceremonies (malekula.travel/)

Escape to Vanuatu's picturesque northern-most islands, the Banks and Torres islands, famous for white-sand beaches, pristine coral, coconut crabs and giant turtles (vanuatu-paradise.com/en/island-by-island/banks-torres).

PILLOW TALK

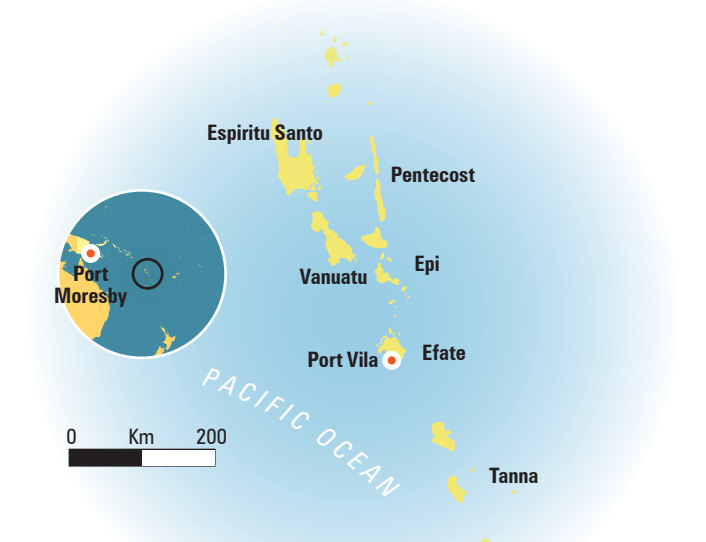
White Grass Ocean Resort ([Lenakel, Tanna, whitegrasstanna.com](http://Lenakel,Tanna,whitegrasstanna.com)) is right beside one of Tanna's best snorkelling destinations and offers a range of tours, including daily trips to the volcano.

Aore Adventure Sports & Lodge (Aore Island, aoreadventures.com), occupies a stunning stretch of private beach on a tiny island just off Santo's mainland.

Breakas Beach Resort (Pango Road, Port Vila, Pango, breakas.com) looks out across one of Vanuatu's prettiest bays.

WATERING HOLES

Friday happy hours are legendary at rooftop bar, Hemispheres, on top of the Grand Hotel (Lini Highway,



Port Vila, grandvanuatu.com/hemisphere-lounge-bar.html).

Want a little more action with your drinks, check out live bands and loud music at Port Vila's

main tourist nightclub, Rumours (Kumul Highway, Port Vila). For tasty local-themed cocktails served right beside the beach at Vanuatu's liveliest resort, try Breakas Beach Resort. ➤



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Escape. Explore. Enjoy.



Country guide: Vanuatu

EATS

For the best French cuisine in Vanuatu, try Restaurant le Jardin des Saveurs (Elluk Road, Port Vila, +678 25405). The lobster is to-die-for or consider trying the snails.

Eat the best local seafood right beside the water, with live bands at Au Fare Bar & Grill (Lini Highway, Fatumaru Bay, Port Vila, +678 25580).

For the best cuts of Vanuatu beef – plus sizzling fresh seafood with gorgeous ocean views – try StoneGrill (Wharf Road, Port Vila, +678 546 4506).



TUCK IN

There are two things you must try in Vanuatu. Locals have a penchant for flying fox; try it yourself at Port Vila institution, L’Houstalet (Captain Cook Avenue, Port Vila, +678 22303), served in a rich red wine sauce. And try coconut crab on Espiritu Santo at Port Olry Harbour Beach Restaurant (Port Olry, Espiritu Santo), served with garlic and curry sauce. ■

VANUATU

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258,000

CURRENCY:
Vatu; 1
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Spellbound by Melaka

Sally Hammond visits the colourful Malaysian city and tries bird's nest soup.



PICTURES: GORDON HAMMOND



Salmon and soup ... Christ Church in Melaka is built with salmon-pink bricks that were used as ballast in early merchant ships (above); the thin bird's nest soup that is considered a delicacy to die for (top right); colour on the streets (bottom right).

The first thing you notice about this major Malaysian city south-east of Kuala Lumpur, is that it has spelling issues. Most older people spell it Malacca. Yet, it's Melaka on signs and maps everywhere. So let's use the Malay option.

Melaka may be the country's third-smallest state, but it is the oldest. Dubbed 'The Historic State', it was settled almost 600 years ago by a refugee prince seeking sanctuary. Stumbling ashore in a humble fishing village, Prince Parameswara was so grateful for the hospitality of the locals that he declared a city should be built on that spot, naming it at once after the trees growing there. The tree bears fruit called Indian gooseberry, and has long had mystical significance to Hindus.

But it is the rose red Christ Church, that features in all the tourist photographs. Built in 1753, the Dutch colonists used salmon-pink bricks brought to Melaka as ballast in the

holds of their merchant ships. It stands today facing a small white statue of a deer-like animal. This is *Sang Kanchil*, the mouse deer which, legend has it, was the inspiration of the plucky first inhabitants of the area.

What you'll notice most, though, are the trishaws gaudily decorated within an inch of their superstructure. They clog the main square in a blatant effort to attract attention and snare a fare.

Visiting the city recently after several years, I was stunned by its spread – both outwards on reclaimed land, and upward. Little wonder that in 2008 its historic centre was named, together with Penang, as an UNESCO World Heritage site.

On another visit, our food-loving guide led us to Yong Ann Bird's Nest Restaurant. We squeamishly tasted a delicacy to die for. Quite literally. Harvesting the 'nests' of the cave swift can be dangerous work, we're told, and they're priced accordingly. When some slips

slimily through our teeth – not very nest-like at all – we are told it is really, simply put, the bird's saliva. Charming.

Yet this is a high-profit industry. But is it worth it? I sip a thin soup with a few slivers

“

The food of Malaysia is a culinary mirror of the country itself – a racial stir-fry.

”

of 'nest in it and slurp some mango bird's nest ice cream. Hmm, unremarkable, I decide. Sweetish. Nice texture. Certainly not worth the danger for the harvester or the loss of a home for the swiftlet family. ►



Spellbound by Melaka

Rock solid ... A Famosa, the Portuguese fort built in the early 16th century (right); people watching in Melaka (bottom left); a leisurely boat ride through the city (bottom right).



If you buy a bowl of bird's nest soup in a high-end Hong Kong restaurant you might pay between \$US40 and \$US100 depending on the quality – red is more than double the price of white. Packaged raw nests range between \$US2000 and \$US10,000. Street side in Melaka, our menu is much more affordable at just a few dollars.

An interesting new development in Melaka is seeing old shops being converted into cave swift accommodation. The inside walls

are plastered white, windows darkened to replicate a cave, and some places even charge for tours of the establishment.

Later, we eat much more tastily at Ristoran Peranakan, another name for the Nyonya culture, which both Melaka and Georgetown share. In the 19th-century, Straits Chinese, from Fujian Province, fled poverty and famine to settle in Malaysia. They married local Malays and their blend of cuisine has produced possibly the world's tastiest food.

In a lofty room we dine on chicken rendang and prawns in pineapple as we admire traditional opulent carvings and embroidered wall hangings.

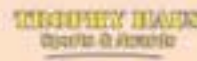
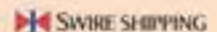
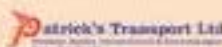
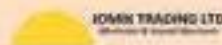
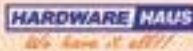
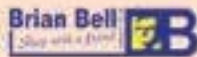
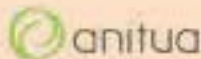
Another evening we join the locals at laminex tables in a corner food outlet for the local specialty – chicken rice balls. The food of Malaysia is a culinary mirror of the country itself – a racial stir-fry.

There is a corner of Melaka that we would not have found without a guide. ➤



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Spellbound by Melaka

Tucked away on the beachfront, its walls lapped by the waters of the Straits of Malacca, is a little slice of Lisbon. The tiny Portuguese Square is just three kilometres from the centre of town and channels Portugal with dining and dancing. A few simple restaurants are grouped around an open area, and we sit outdoors in the tropical night, sampling traditional Portuguese–Malay foods.

Next day, a trishaw ride around inner-city Melaka takes us past buildings with the classic hips and gables of Dutch architecture, English colonial mansions, Portuguese and Dutch churches, Buddhist and Hindu temples.

The Stadthuys, right beside the main square, is said to be the oldest remaining Dutch historical building in the Orient, and now home to the Museum of History and Ethnography. High on a hill behind the church we see A Famosa, the Portuguese fort, built in the early 16th century, ruined now except for the massive Santiago Gate, and the 18th-century St John’s Fort, constructed by the Dutch. The interweaving of 15th-century Malay culture (Melaka is Malaysia’s oldest port) with Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese and British influences is everywhere.

Over time, the area became an important empire, in a pivotal position on the trade routes between east and west, and rich cargoes of gold, salt, tea, opium, tobacco and perfumes were bargained for and bought there. For centuries, the Portuguese, English and Dutch vied over it, coveting monopoly of the spice trade, and each left a dab of their culture.

Hopping on and off our bicycle rickshaw, we find a temple happily combining Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, buy ‘hell money’ meant to accompany the dead to the next world, taste tiny pink jambus, surprisingly sweet nipple-shaped fruit, and wait out a tropical storm in the doorway of a coffin shop.

Finally, back in the main square, we thank our driver.

“Terimakasih,” we say in Bahasa Malay, paying him a little extra than we had haggled in the beginning. “Thankyou.”

He grins, knowing we mean it. ■



Street appeal ... a melange of advertising signs in Melaka (top); rustic colonial influences can be seen throughout the city (above).

NEED TO KNOW

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CURRENCY: Malaysian ringgit (MYR) = 0.73 kina

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LANGUAGE Bahasa Malay, but English also spoken.



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Kikori Rural Hospital
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Three of a kind ... treks



KOKODA TRACK, PNG

(96 kilometres; seven-day fast trek or 13-day leisurely trek). Buna Treks and Tours, a locally owned trekking company based in Buna Village, Popondetta, provides guided walks.

WHERE DOES IT START AND FINISH?

Kokoda to Owers Corner (or vice versa). Trekkers are met in Port Moresby by a company representative who arranges group check-in and then they are met by a track master at the start of their trek.

HOW FIT DO YOU HAVE TO BE, ON A RATING OF 1–10?

8–10, plus mental strength, according to Buna

OVERVIEW

Trekking on the Kokoda is physically and mentally challenging. A typical day starts at 6am and can involve up to eight hours of walking.

HIGHLIGHT

After crossing Eora Creek, trekkers reach spectacular Alola Village in the Biage Mountains, where they can relax with a hot cuppa with views down to the Kokoda Valley.

GUIDES/PORTERS

Most guides have completed 70 to 90 crossings each. Trekkers carry 10 kilograms or less of gear, while their porters carry up to 22 kilograms.

AT NIGHT

Tents and sleeping bags.

CONTACT

bunatrekkers@gmail.com

– RU



HINCHINBROOK ISLAND THORSBORNE TRAIL, AUSTRALIA

(32 kilometres; four days/three nights). Located between Cairns and Townsville in Queensland, Hinchinbrook Island is a short ferry ride off the coast. There are numerous trails; the most popular is the Thorsborne Trail.

WHERE DOES IT START AND FINISH?

It runs from Ramsay Bay to George Point. You'll need to book a transfer bus or taxi from the port at George Point to the beginning of the trail on the north end of the island.

HOW FIT DO YOU HAVE TO BE?

A challenge for seasoned walkers; 6–7.

OVERVIEW

Only 40 walkers are issued with permits to be on the island at any given time. Walkers must be totally self-sufficient and carry their own food, water and fuel stoves.

HIGHLIGHTS

Hinchinbrook Island is a World Heritage area, and the Thoresborne Trail snakes its way through a tropical wilderness, along spectacular ocean beaches and crosses numerous crystal-clear mountain streams.

GUIDES/PORTERS

Nope, you're on your own for this one.

AT NIGHT

BYO tent and lightweight sleeping gear.

CONTACT

portinchinbrook.com.au/hinchinbrook-island/thorsborne-trail

– TC



FIORDLAND, HOLLYFORD TRACK, NEW ZEALAND

(56 kilometres; three days/two nights). Hollyford Track is open year-round. Active Adventures provides guided walks.

WHERE DOES IT START AND FINISH?

The beginning of the track is accessible by road, 15 kilometres east of Homer Tunnel; it ends at Martins Bay, north of Milford Sound.

HOW FIT DO YOU HAVE TO BE?

This is a low-altitude walk suitable for walkers of reasonable fitness and children over 10; we rate it 4.

OVERVIEW

The track follows the course of the Hollyford River and features two lakes.

HIGHLIGHT

Along the track, you will see an incredible range of vegetation, sea birds, seals, penguins and dolphins.

GUIDES/PORTERS

The guides know the region intimately and ensure that walkers experience the best of the wild country. As all bedding, towels and food are provided, walkers only need to carry a light pack.

AT NIGHT

Comfortable lodges with twin-share rooms.

CONTACT

activeadventures.com/new-zealand/about/activities/hiking/multi-day-hikes/hollyford-track-guided-walk

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TIME TRAVELLER

Hanuabada, September 21, 1885

This photograph, by Australian-based German photographer John William Lindt, is amongst the earliest ever taken in Papua New Guinea.

Lindt travelled around the Protectorate of British New Guinea during 1885 at the request of the special commissioner, Sir Peter Scratchley.

This image shows botanist and ornithologist, Dr Henry Ogg Forbes, assistant deputy commissioner captain, Anthony Musgrave, LMS missionary William Lawes (in white, second from right) and what is referred to as a "party of Malays".

They are preparing to depart on an expedition inland to the Mount Owen Stanley area to gather flora and fauna information for the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia.

There were 30 Malay field assistants on the expedition, but some never went home, electing to stay in the country, marrying locals and starting families, whose diaspora are today spread far and wide in PNG and overseas.

— JOHN BROOKSBANK



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



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PEOPLE POWER



PICTURES: NESS KERTON, PAUL BARKER

Flag waving ... Port Moresby celebrated Independence with large crowds in the streets and at Ela Beach.

The streets were packed for Independence Day celebrations in Port Moresby.

Papua New Guineans, many dressed in their national colours, came out in their throngs in Port Moresby on September 16 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Independence.

The occasion was marked with official events, including the raising of the national flag on

Independence Hill, music concerts and fireworks.

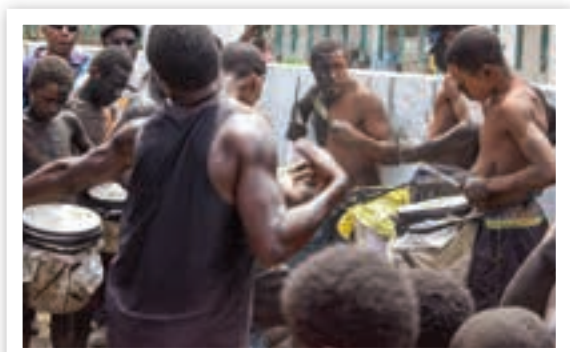
The Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill gave the Independence address and said the system of governance had held together in PNG for 40 years.

"We are proud of that," he said. "And I think Papua New Guinea has a bright future."

There was also an air show to mark the occasion, with military aircraft from PNG and Australia, as well as an Air Niugini 767.

The show started in spectacular fashion with one of the military aircraft streaking across ➤





A celebration for the people ... song, dance and colour for the 40th anniversary of Independence.



People power



A buzz in the air ... Papua New Guineans celebrated with enthusiasm, while military aircraft put on a stunning aerial show.



the sky with smoke in the national colours coming from its tail.

Photographer Ness Kerton, who was in the streets and at Ela Beach to record the milestone celebration, says there was a mood of happiness around the city.

"Independence Day in Port Moresby is always fun, the people are incredibly patriotic and there is a huge participation rate."

“

Independence Day in Port Moresby is always fun, the people are incredibly patriotic ...

”

Parts of Port Moresby were packed with people dressed in national colours and traditional bilas.

"Thousands were at Ela Beach; it was just about standing-room only; with children and adults having their faces painted for the day and almost every person wearing a PNG flag coloured outfit of some form."

PNG gained Independence from Australia on September 16, 1975. ■



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Christmas in PNG

A time for family and church

Daniel Kumbon fondly remembers the festive season from his childhood and reflects on how the occasion is celebrated in PNG.

My first experience of Christmas was falling asleep on the bare ground in a hut on a cold and starless night in the early 1960s at Mariant, a newly established Catholic mission in Kandep in the Enga Province.

There was much excitement as people talked about attending Christmas mass to celebrate the birth of Jesus, sent by God to save the world by allowing him to die on a wooden cross.

But, as a child, I wondered how all this was possible.

The story sounded, to me, very much like a legend from Kandep, about a young girl who went to collect vines in the bush to make a *bilum* and found a nest with two eggs.

She ate the eggs and became pregnant, eventually having a child unlike any earthly offspring. She named him Lelyakali Kimala – the legendary man who always seemed to appear on the scene to protect the poor and ordinary people from harm perpetrated by a one-eyed cruel giant named Keoakali Takaupin.

In awe of the Kandep legend, and the new (to us) phenomenon of Jesus, we children were tasked with gathering dried pit-pit, called *sambai kendole*, to use as torches during midnight mass at Mariant. We made

“

I could see more people coming from all directions with burning pit-pit torches, moving slowly along the bush tracks. It looked like comets criss-crossing the heavens in slow motion.

”

several bundles and tied them with vines.

When the much anticipated day arrived – the night I fell asleep on the dirt floor – it seemed all the people from the valley were going to celebrate mass.

The small track from my village of Kondo was congested with people carrying burning bundles of pit-pit torches. The night air was filled with excitement as people greeted each other and shared jokes and laughter. There was the occasional sound of shrieking children as mothers tried to control them.

Mariant is situated on a hilltop and as I climbed higher, I could see more people coming from all directions with burning pit-pit torches, moving slowly along the bush tracks. It looked like comets criss-crossing the heavens in slow motion, headed towards a central location.

My mother was disappointed when we arrived early. Most people did not have clocks in those days and keeping time was not practised.

She took us to a small hut so we had some temporary shelter. People were already inside and we crept into a corner. While my mother joined in the conversations, I instantly fell asleep. When I woke up, the bell was ringing, signalling the start of midnight mass, but the excitement had ►



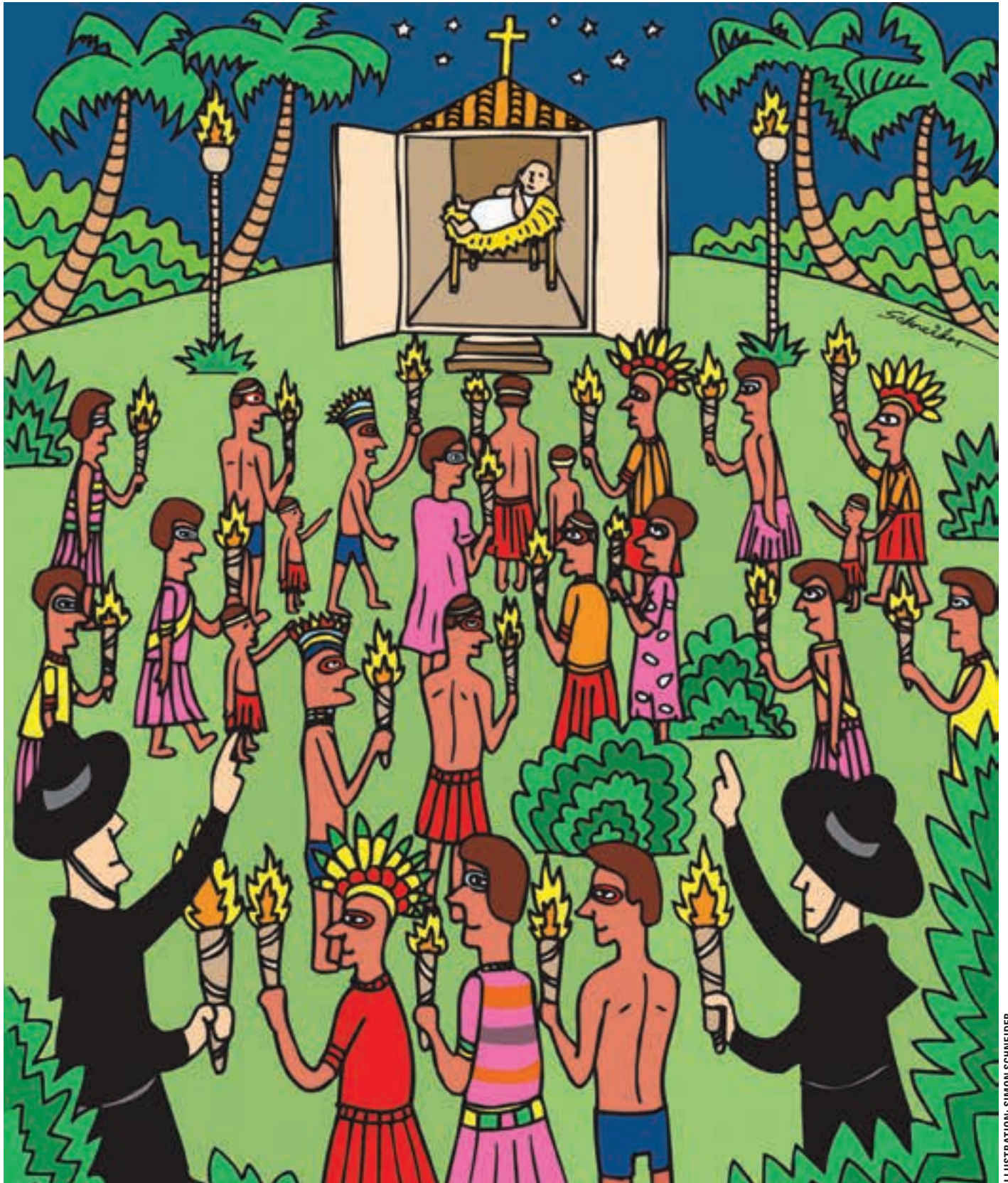


ILLUSTRATION: SIMON SCHNEIDER



Christmas in PNG



Flashback ... helmeted, and on his motrobike, one of the early priests who conducted Christmas mass at Mariant (above); the Mariant Church (below).

evaporated from me. I was tired and stiff, my teeth clattered and my body shook from the cold.

But my mother encouraged me to follow her into the church building, built from bush material. The place was filled with lots of people and, thankfully, it was warm. Two Coleman lamps were used to light the altar area. Elsewhere in the church, candle lights were flickering like orange stars. And the interior was decorated with fresh leaves, flowers and small trees.

And there it was – the manger where a tiny figure lay – a waxen image of the baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph watched as shepherds worshipped the new-born king. A couple of sheep lay around the manger. This is what I had come to see.

I gazed at this wonderful sight and gradually dozed off. I woke up when my mother pulled me to my feet. Christmas mass had just ended and I stumbled out in a daze. Everything seemed like a dream in the early hours of the next day.

I gradually understood the meaning of Christmas and paid attention more when I started to go to school. I served as an altar boy on one occasion. Another Christmas, I took part in a drama in which I played the role of the jealous King Herod who secretly planned to kill the infant Jesus.

Christmas mass is now an important part of Christmas all over PNG. It is widely celebrated by Catholics, while other Christian denominations also celebrate with special church services.

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It is a time when people are baptised and special church services – like revivals and crusades – are organised. It is when sweet carols are sung.

Papua New Guineans take time to decorate their churches and homes with trees, ferns and flowers fresh from the bush, or plastic decorations and lights bought from the stores.

Gifts are also bought and exchanged as special meals are prepared.

A typical local Christmas dish depends on where you are in PNG. Christmas meals prepared by Highlands families, for example, consist of meats – especially, pork, chicken and lamb chops.

The food is cooked in a *mumu* pit, steamed in big dishes over open fires, or barbecued in the backyard. Sweet potatoes, English ►





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Christmas in PNG



potatoes, taro, bananas and lots of fresh vegetables complete a Highlands Christmas feast.

Such feasts are also prepared to welcome students who come home to their villages from studies for the Christmas break. It is a time when lovers seal marriage vows in front of family and friends, followed by the display of bridal wealth (consisting of pigs and



Time to celebrate ... birthday occasions, such as this one, are sometimes delayed in PNG until Christmas when all family members are gathered together.

cash and distributed to the bride's relatives). It is always followed by feasting.

PNG families in urban settings often travel back to their villages during Christmas so they can share meals and be with loved ones. The children look forward to seeing their *bubus*, or grandparents, in the villages. Or, sometimes, the *bubus* are invited to the towns to spend Christmas. ■

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L&A GROUP OF COMPANIES

Errol Flynn ... joined the gold rush in PNG, bluffed his way into a job as a patrol officer and played poker on his yacht.



PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES



F | I N L I K E F l y n n

Richard Andrews reports on the swashbuckling times of Hollywood heart-throb Errol Flynn in PNG.

Film star, drunk, writer, explorer, brawler, blackbirder, womaniser, conman... and more.

Stories abound of Hollywood legend Errol Flynn, and tales of his exploits often overshadow the swashbuckling characters he portrayed on the silver screen.

With 2015 being the 80th anniversary of *Captain Blood* – Flynn’s first hit movie – the adventures of the Tasmanian-born actor are attracting renewed attention from biographers, bloggers and film buffs.

Accounts of the young man’s years in New Guinea during the 1920s and 30s foreshadow the pirates, outlaws and adventurers he played when he moved on to Hollywood and performed his own stunts.

There’s no doubt Flynn was “larger than life, but his New Guinea days are clouded in mystery,” says biographer Tom McNulty, who spent 10 years researching the actor’s life.

A rebellious teenager and skilled boxer, 18-year-old Flynn left Australia in the 1920s to join the Edie Creek gold rush in Morobe Province, after being expelled from every school he attended.

“

Women won't let me stay single and I won't let me stay married.

”

When his attempts to make a fortune were unsuccessful, he looked elsewhere. Flynn bluffed his way into a job as a trainee patrol officer, until officials discovered he hadn’t finished high school.

The ‘Tasmanian Devil’ drifted through various jobs around the territory. He worked briefly as an assistant plantation manager south of Kokopo, left a trail of unpaid debts and became a familiar figure in local pubs – as well as their occasional brawls. McNulty disputes a long-standing claim that Flynn killed a man in self-defence.

“There are a lot of tall tales in Flynn’s autobiography, *My Wicked Wicked Ways*,

says the American writer. “For the remainder of his life Flynn would tell stories about New Guinea, and sometimes he may have exaggerated a bit.”

Nevertheless, JK McCarthy, the renowned Australian patrol officer, recalled how Flynn stepped in once to protect a small man from a bully in a noisy bar, “knocking the loud-mouthed one cold”. Between such bouts, Flynn wrote several articles for the *Sydney Bulletin*, including a gory account of trying to kill a 270-kilogram turtle for a camp dinner.

He travelled between New Guinea and Sydney for five years, raising money for various ventures, including a tobacco plantation, which supposedly failed because of Australia’s protective import taxes. Another time, relatives helped Flynn buy an old yacht in Sydney, which he and three friends sailed to Port Moresby selling fish, playing poker and offering dubious “pleasure cruises” along the way.

An avid reader and quick learner, Flynn mastered tok pisin, which he used to recruit local labor for copra and tobacco plantations. Whether this amounted to blackbirding has been debated, but McNulty argues that there ➤



In like Flynn

is no evidence that Flynn “intentionally broke any laws”.

“He was, after all, trying to survive in a remote and dangerous location and whatever activities he participated in were focused on that simple fact.”

Similar debate surrounds the dates and events of a two-month expedition Flynn led up the Sepik River. Graphic accounts describe a journey plagued by malaria, leeches, crocodiles, snakes and an attack by locals that left Flynn wounded from a poisoned arrow.

The ostensible aim of the expedition was to gather documentary footage for the Australian film pioneer, Charles Chauvel. However, some researchers claim the journey was really a reconnaissance of unexplored territory on behalf of the British and Australian governments, who were anticipating an attack by Japan.

The Sepik expedition may have also launched Flynn’s film career, because Chauvel was apparently impressed by footage of Flynn

fighting a crocodile with a bamboo pole. As a result, Flynn was offered the role of Fletcher Christian in the early Australian talkie, *In the Wake of the Bounty*.

McNulty questions that story and believes it’s more likely that by 1933 Flynn had attracted movie industry attention through his appearances as a male model in Sydney cinema advertisements. It’s also claimed Chauvel saw an advantage in casting Flynn because he was a descendant of a *Bounty* mutineer, midshipman Young.

“Women won’t let me stay single and I won’t let me stay married,” said Flynn, who was married three times. His extra-marital dalliances in Hollywood have been extensively reported, and rumours of similar affairs had circulated earlier in New Guinea. One story that did the rounds involved a government official who found his wife in bed with Flynn. The ensuing row ended up with all parties injured and a visit to hospital.

In fact, Flynn found trouble, big and small, throughout his life, whether it was reporting on the Spanish Civil War or fixing a cockfight in the Philippines by sharpening the bird’s beak and filling it with poison

Ultimately, hard living, alcoholism, drugs and financial difficulties took their toll. Flynn died at age 50, from a heart attack and multiple-organ failure. However, McNulty prefers to remember the ruggedly handsome actor as a writer, a lover of beautiful women, and an explorer of the world’s unknown locations.

Flynn fans in PNG say his adventures made the outside world aware of places like Salamaua, Wau, Bulolo, Lae, Finschhafen, Port Moresby, Laloki, Rabaul, Kavieng, Madang and the Sepik. ■

In PNG ... that's Flynn at the Laloki Tobacco Plantation in the early 1930s. Photo supplied courtesy of Tom McNulty.

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“

Teachers cried, men and women cried.
After all these years, because of our struggle.

”



Kokoda lifeline for villages

Blade runner ... villagers around the helicopter in the village of Kanga; teacher Jessy Sangai; villager Conwell Biomi.

Helicopter blades beat the warm air above the village of Kanga, drowning out the sounds of insects and children.

Villagers, roused from their Sunday afternoon routine, rush to watch as it comes over the treeline, dangling a load of steel and timber from a cable attached to its belly.

The delivery of building materials by the Kokoda Initiative is part of a 240-tonne airlift – its biggest yet – to five local villages.

Every year more than 3000 trekkers fly to PNG from around the world to walk the iconic Kokoda Track, immersing

themselves in its military history and pristine natural beauty.

But villages like Kanga – a two-hour walk off the track – see little or no benefit from the trekking industry.

Now, thanks to the Australian-funded development program, Kanga has a new school and aid post, water and sanitation facilities and accommodation for teachers and health workers.

“When the chopper first landed with all these materials, what a joy these people of Kanga felt,” village leader Michael Okuto says.

“Teachers cried, men and women cried. After all these years, because of our struggle”.





Communities near the Kokoda Track are benefiting from a joint PNG and Australian government program to improve basic services.

Kanga's one-room school was falling down. The village also had no health facilities, so sick people and pregnant women had to be carried out by stretcher.

Teacher Jessy Sangai, who arrived in the village three years ago, says her predecessors had abandoned the school, forcing students to repeat the same grade each year.

But she was determined to give the children of Kanga a good education, and worked with the Kokoda Initiative and the Oro Provincial Administration to secure a new double classroom and teacher's house.

“The dream and the vision that I had was for this school to be a standard school like those schools in town,” she says.

Villager Mutua Mavasa says the new aid post will make a big difference to the community, particularly in the wet season, when river crossings become difficult.

“We just wait for the water level to get down to be able to bring them across. Sometimes the sick people get worse and die if rain continues.

“But now, with this new health centre, we will have everything here. That is why everyone in the community supports this project”. ➤



Kokoda lifeline for villages



Supply drop ... Kanga villagers with some of the materials delivered by helicopter.

The Kokoda Initiative is a partnership between the Australian and Papua New Guinea governments. It has been working with communities and provincial administrations since 2008 to improve health, education and sanitation in communities located along the Track.

The 10-day airlift in July and August delivered materials to eight Kokoda Track communities. Classrooms are currently being built in six villages, along with 34 toilets, six health and education staff houses, eight water tanks and six incinerators. ■



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Cruisin' in California

Kevin McQuillan speaks to PNG-born Freddie Apakali, who has landed big jobs with American entertainment institutions such as Conde Nast and Sony.

The beachfront city of Santa Monica in Los Angeles is a media city – home to many Hollywood celebrities, the scene for hundreds of movies, and the home base for media companies such as Sony Entertainment, Universal

Music and Lionsgate Films.

It's also home to Papua New Guinea-born IT specialist, Freddie Apakali, who grew up almost 11,000 kilometres away in the remote Highlands province of Enga.

Graduating with a bachelor of science in computer science from PNG's University of Technology, Apakali's first job was as an analyst/programmer with the Ok Tedi Mining company, based in Tabubil.

"I was one of 10 programmers," he tells Paradise.

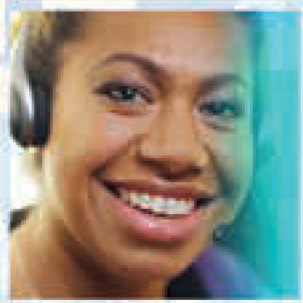
"During that time, I was doing mostly systems analysis: systems improvement, business improvement, systems support. ➤

Freddie Apakali ... his ambitious move to the US, where he now lives in Santa Monica with his wife and children, has been justified.





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Spotted in ...

“But I had this bigger desire to develop software. I wanted to get to that point where I was able to develop and engineer and at least put together something from ground up, rather than just providing support and improving existing systems.

“So after four years I wanted to step out of that comfort zone and I began looking to where I could harness this interest.”

Apakali couldn't find a suitable gig in PNG, so his only option was to either go to Australia or look north. Through family connections, he decided to emigrate to the US, and resigned from his Ok Tedi Mining job.

“I had no destiny, no set job, nothing. All I had in mind was that I would try and find my way and go from there.”

He ended up in San Diego, California, where he spent about six months freelancing, before getting a job in computerland's fabled Silicon Valley: a job which involved travelling to Los Angeles and nearby Santa Monica.

“

I had no destiny, no set job, nothing. All I had in mind was that I would try and find my way (in the US) and go from there.

”

“It was pretty tough, especially when you come from a culture which has extended family connections. You depend on your family when you're not working or otherwise occupied, so coming here to the US was quite different.

“Everyone else was preoccupied, busy, so either you get yourself busy or you get left behind.”

The move to the US and the work it led to has proved his ambitions were justified.

Contracts have included developing content management systems, developing applications, testing and debugging security features, writing new code to meet feature requests, and upgrading sites to cloud-based architecture, the highlight of which was the 2010 launch of the tazoodle.com search engine, a primarily cloud-driven system.

Apakali then worked solely for the Santa Monica-based Lucky Group, a computing subsidiary of the global media conglomerate, Conde Nast, publisher of *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker* and *Conde Nast Traveller*.

“Today, everything is e-commerce driven.

“Two years ago, they (Conde Nast) decided to go in a completely different direction. Instead of putting together traditional print magazines and shipping out print magazines with ads, what they decided on was a digital version of the ➤



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Spotted in ...

same magazine online, which we (the team in Santa Monica) built from the ground up.

“So with that digital version, readers are able to browse the magazine online, look through different volumes and, if you want to shop or buy something, you just click through that item and buy from the website.

“That’s what I did – I wrote and developed these programs, which allow customers to buy through the website.”

Recently, Apakali was recruited by Sony Pictures Entertainment and is now senior software engineer, at their main Studio campus in Culver City, California.

Apakali also runs his own software company, which he started in 2009, called Forrest Data Systems (forrestdatasystems.com) and consults for other smaller business houses that need software development help both in PNG and in the US.

“PNG’s software industry is still in its early days. There are a couple of developments that

people are doing, but mostly companies buy software off the shelf, or they download an application off the web and then try to tailor that to suit their business.

“But there is plenty of potential there to customise and develop one’s own program. Because of people like myself and Dr Raula Kula (assistant professor in software engineering at the University of Osaka in Japan) we are taking the idea of software originality and innovation back to PNG rather than buying off the shelf to suit one’s business need.”

There are plenty of PNG youngsters capable of moving into this area, he says, and it’s for that reason he has joined a support group called the PNG ICT Cluster to help the younger generation. It involves mentoring through online communication platforms, LinkedIn and other forms of social media. The group has a dedicated Facebook page, which discusses how to approach programming,

“constantly communicating with team members back in PNG”.

Seven years ago, Apakali married Yessenia Vargas, a Latin American he met in San Diego.

“So I spend as much time as I can with my wife and two boys, aged four and five.”

Later this year, he will bring his family for their first visit to PNG.

As for living in Santa Monica, “it’s somewhere way up there”, he says.

“You don’t have to travel too far to find anything you want. Everything is right there by your doorstep. Food is great. You can have the best food anywhere in the world here in Santa Monica. Nightlife, shopping, literally everything. It’s way different.

“But then nothing’s for free. It requires being able to sustain yourself and being able to live in this lifestyle. If you’ve got a job, money in your pocket, able to pay your bills, hey, no-one is going to stop you from living the life you want to live.” ■



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Curry, Thai style

Green chicken curry is one of the most famous Thai recipes, and in this extract from Lonely Planet's new book, *Thailand: From the Source*, we learn all about the dish that delights so many.

There's little wonder that green curry, a vibrant intersection of coconut milk, Thai seasonings and a spicy curry paste, is one of the most famous Thai dishes in the world.

“

Making a curry paste is hard work. But now I have big muscles!

”

Where there's pain, there's also pleasure. At least that's the case according to Saiyuud 'Poo' Diwong, right, at her cooking school in Bangkok. "When I was young, I used to cry when making curry pastes because Thai people use so much chilli," explains Poo.

Despite this ordeal, Poo stuck with the curry pastes, and decades later, opened the eponymously – and uniquely – titled culinary school, *Cooking with Poo by Helping Hands*, at her home in Bangkok's Khlong Toei slum. And in what some might consider a cruel twist of fate, one of the most requested recipes at the school is that for *kaeng khiaw waan*, the chilli-laden dish known abroad as green curry.



Chicken Green Curry Kaeng khiaw waan kai



Serves: 2 **Preparation time:** 45 mins

Cooking time: 30 mins

Ingredients

500ml coconut milk
4 kaffir lime leaves, torn
300g skinless chicken breast or thigh pieces
6 tbsp fish sauce
1 tbsp sugar
250ml water
200g Thai aubergine, halved, or 1 regular aubergine, chopped into cubes
Small handful Thai basil leaves, to garnish

For the curry paste

1 tsp chopped kaffir lime zest
Thumb-sized piece galangal, roughly chopped
5–10 small fresh green Thai chillies, chopped
4 shallots, chopped
3 cloves garlic, chopped
½ small lemongrass stalk, sliced

- 1 Make the curry paste. In a mortar and pestle, pound the kaffir lime zest and galangal until you have a rough paste. Add the chillies, shallots, garlic and lemongrass, and pound until you have a fine paste. Alternatively, whizz them together in a blender or food processor. Set aside.
 - 2 To a large pan over a medium heat, add the coconut milk, the kaffir lime leaves and the curry paste. Simmer for about 5 minutes, stirring to combine, until the mixture is fragrant and slightly reduced. Add the chicken pieces, fish sauce and sugar. Bring to a simmer. Add the water and the aubergine, then simmer for 5–10 minutes until the aubergine is soft and the chicken is cooked.
 - 3 Remove from the heat, add the Thai basil leaves and transfer to a large serving bowl and serve warm with freshly cooked rice.
- *If some of the ingredients are not available in PNG, substitute with the closest local version. For example, you can use sweet potato if the aubergine (eggplant) is out of season and ginger if you can't get hold of galangal.*

Cooking with Poo ... Saiyuud Diwong on location at her Helping Hands cooking school in Bangkok; the finished product, served with rice.

Like most central Thai curry dishes, kaeng khiaw waan starts with a spicy paste made from pounding a variety of herbs and spices – and chilli – in a granite mortar and pestle. Explains Poo: “You can make a lot of curry paste in advance and keep it in the freezer.” In addition to a healthy amount of chilli, the paste for green curry also includes the zest of the kaffir lime, a green, knobbly, fragrant citrus fruit most likely unfamiliar to those outside of Southeast Asia. “We don’t use the inside of the kaffir lime as it’s too bitter,” says Poo; “that part is used for shampoo.”

In typical central Thai style, the pungency and spiciness of the chilli paste is tempered by frying in coconut milk. “Stir-fry the paste in coconut milk until it’s fragrant,” explains Poo. “When the paste smells good, then you add the meat. Coconut milk has fat, so you don’t need to

use oil.” It is at this point that the curry’s other elements and seasonings are added, in this case, additional coconut milk and round, firm Thai aubergines. “I use half coconut milk and half water,” adds Poo. “Thai people like crunchy vegetables. If you like them soft, just cook the eggplant a bit longer.” ■

This is an extract from *From the Source: Thailand*, written and photographed by Austin Bush & Mark Wiens © Lonely Planet 2015. RRP: \$34.99 (about PGK70).



Name dropping

John Brooksbank traces the origins of the names of PNG streets, rivers, towns and islands.



On the drawing board ... Port Moresby as seen by surveyor Walter Cuthbertson, who named a street after himself.

In many countries around the world, rivers, mountains, towns and streets are named after well-known explorers and colonial administrators. Papua New Guinea is no exception – the nation abounds in historical references.

Early maps show the names

assigned by German, French and British maritime visitors to the country. They reflect the names of the explorers themselves, their patrons, crew members and even minor officials they were trying to curry favour with.

Here, we feature some examples

of these little reminders of history.

Starting at the national level, the word Papua derives from the Malay *pua-pua*, meaning, frizzled, in reference to the people's hair.

The Torres Strait is named after Luis Vaez de Torres, who journeyed along the south coast of the main

island of New Guinea in 1606 and found that it was not joined to Australia.

Tatana Island in Port Moresby's Fairfax Harbour – named by captain John Moresby after his father, admiral Fairfax Moresby, when he discovered the sheltered ▶



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Name dropping



Early days ... many of Port Moresby's streets were named after colonial administrators.

port location in 1873 – was initially named Jane Island by the captain after his wife, although its use didn't last long. More enduring is the passage through the reef that took its name from his ship, *HMS Basilisk*.

The calm waters of Milne Bay were also named by Moresby, after a senior naval lord.

The exact locations of many of the PNG islands were not known until navigators and cartographers such as William Dampier (1700) and Philip Carteret (1767) travelled around them.

Dampier named the island of New Britain, and Carteret named

“

Port Moresby's international airport commemorates squadron leader Johnny Jackson, killed when his Kittyhawk was shot down during Japanese raids on the town.

”

New Ireland and the Admiralty Islands after his British masters.

Frenchman Louis-Antoine de Bougainville named the Louisiade Archipelago in about 1768, after Emperor Louis XV and, of course, the island that carries his name.

French rear-admiral Joseph

on one of the lost ships, and the Trobriand Islands after the captain of another of the lost ships, lieutenant de Trobriand.

He gave his own name to the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago, whose individual islands were later named by the tireless captain John Moresby.

Moresby named Normanby after the marquis of Normanby, governor of Queensland; Goodenough after commodore James Goodenough, commander of the Australian Naval Station; and Fergusson after the New Zealand governor Sir James Fergusson. ➤

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Name dropping



The Kiwi premier of the time, Sir Julius Vogel, was not forgotten either, having had a cape named after him.

Some early missionaries are also immortalised in the naming of features.

Reverend W.G. Lawes, left, of the London Missionary Society, has that well-known Port Moresby road named after him.

Goldie River, a tributary of the Laloki River, just outside Port Moresby, is named after one of the country's first permanent European residents, botanist and collector Andrew Goldie.

Continued interest in the country by the English saw captain F.P. Blackwood in *HMS Fly* in the 1840s naming that well-known large river after his ship, and Aird Hills after a mate on board.

A few years later, lieutenant Charles Yule was remembered in the naming of an island down the Central Province coast. Captain Owen Stanley was honoured



by having the central mountain range named after him in 1889 by lieutenant governor Sir William MacGregor, above.

Not many of the German place names have survived, despite Germany's relatively long

occupation of New Guinea.

Principal coastal settlements reverted to local names – partly in response to the recommendations of a report to the League of Nations in 1923 – including Herbertshohe to Kokopo, Berlinhafen to Aitape, Kaiser Augusta River to the Sepik River, Simpsonhafen to Rabaul and Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen to Madang. One that survived is Finschafen.

Other Germanic names that remain are distinctly hard rock – the Bismark Sea, archipelago and range was named after German chancellor Otto von Bismark, along with four peaks along the range named after his four children, including Wilhemberg or Mount

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Name dropping



Wilhelm, the highest mountain in PNG.

Further west, Mount Hagen, known as Hagenberg to the Germans, was named after colonial officer Curt von Hagen.

Along the east coast of New

Ireland, the 193-kilometre highway from Kavieng to Namatanai – built by district officer Franz Boluminski – still carries his name.

As the seat of government, the gradual expansion of Port Moresby resulted in streets being named after colonial administrators, notably special commissioner John Douglas and his deputy, captain Anthony Musgrave. Surveyor Walter Cuthbertson named a street after himself as well.

Sir Peter Scratchley, left, gave his name to the street in Badili that leads to Kila Kila and Sabama. The less-known Mary Street, which provides access to the Grand Papua Hotel, was probably named after the wife of Sir William Macgregor, the first lieutenant-



Name droppers ... (from far left) Reverend William Lawes, Sir William MacGregor, Sir Peter Scratchley; Musgrave Street, Port Moresby (above).

governor of British New Guinea, or Papua.

After World War 2, land was reclaimed in front of Champion

Parade, named after Herbert Champion, a government officer from 1902 to 1942. The new waterfront road was called ➤

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Name dropping



Street scenes ... Douglas Street in 1943 (top); the Papua Hotel in Musgrave Street in 1960 (right). The streets were named after colonial administrators John Douglas and Anthony Musgrave.



Stanley Esplanade after Evan Stanley, the first government geologist who, although he died in 1924, presciently foresaw the future importance of petroleum to the country.

Three companies that formed the Australasian Petroleum Company (APC), active in the country for many years, are remembered in the naming of Airvos Avenue on Paga Hill – ➤

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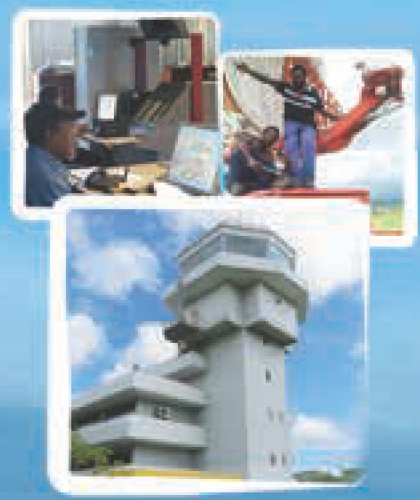
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Name dropping

an acronym of the initial letters of Anglo-Iranian, Vacuum Oil and Shell.

Wars are also good for leaving a few names behind. Port Moresby's international airport commemorates squadron leader Johnny Jackson, killed when his *Kittyhawk* was shot down during Japanese raids on the town. He was operating from a wartime airstrip that had been built over the local racecourse, one of seven air fields constructed around Port Moresby.

Gurney Airport, near Alotau, built as No.1 Strip by a US Army Engineer Unit during World War 2, was named after squadron leader C.R. Gurney in 1942 after he was killed during action there.

In 1935, R.A. Gordon took a 99-year pastoral lease over 40

hectares of land outside Port Moresby to run his dairy and butchery business. All too soon, however, Port Moresby expanded and the land was taken back in 1962. The suburb of Gordon was created, taking the family name despite efforts to utilise local alternatives.

As PNG moved towards Independence, increasingly suburbs and features were named using local languages, either using traditional place names or descriptive terms such as Hanuabada, 'big village' in Motu.

It has recently been the practice to name prestigious buildings after prominent politicians and other important individuals of the day – Morauta Haus, Bogam Rumana, Sir



The Papua Hotel in Musgrave Street in 1942.

Buri Kidu Haus, Marea Haus and Danaya House in Port Moresby are among them. Sir

John Guise Drive, in Waigani, commemorates the country's first governor-general. ■

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BY NINA KARNIKOWSKI

Dive in



DryCase

Regular sea goers will be all too familiar with losing tech devices to the ocean. The solution could be the waterproof DryCase smartphone, camera and music player case, a pouch created from a clear, waterproof material, through which you can take photos, use your phone and listen to music. The case uses a vacuum seal that stops water from entering, and you can attach it to your body using the Velcro armband. *About PGK110; drycase.com.*



Triton fins

It's a truth universally acknowledged that not all scuba fins are made alike. That's especially true when it comes to Sherwood's Triton Elite open-heel fins: their firmness gives you extra power in the water and the vented blades give you great thrust with every kick, which means you can get further, faster. They're also lightweight and buoyant, making it easy to keep them off the

reef or out of the silt, plus the heel pad is long and stable so they're very comfortable to wear. *About PGK327; sherwoodscuba.com.*



Easybreath mask

If you think dealing with uncomfortable, unhygienic mouthpieces and having to breathe through your mouth when snorkelling is the pits, you'll be thrilled to hear that UK company Tribord has invented the world's first full-face snorkelling mask. It lets you breathe through your nose and get panoramic views underwater, and is prevented from fogging up by a double airflow system like the kind used in domestic extraction fans. Available in two sizes and a variety of colours. *About PGK120; tribord.co.uk.*



Seascooter

Whether you're a casual snorkeller or serious diver, Seadoo's Seascooter will help propel you

through the water with little to no kicking, which means it can also get you to greater depths than you might otherwise have the energy to reach. Even if you're just in a pool, this device is seriously great fun. *From about PGK406; underwater.com.au.*



Diving mouthpiece

Seacure's Hi-Flow, a mouthpiece designed by an orthodontist to reduce the jaw pain and headaches that can come from constantly biting down on diving mouthpieces, uses moldable bite tabs that become extra comfortable once they've conformed to your mouth, teeth and jaw. The large port increases airflow, and a special attachment seals the mouthpiece when it's not in use to protect the regulators from debris. *About PGK83; seacuremouthpiece.com.*



Shark Shield

If you want to enjoy the ocean, you have to get used to the idea that you're sharing it with sharks – which can be as terrifying as they are beautiful. But strap the Freedom 7 Shark Shield to your ankle and the 2.2-metre braided antenna – which emits an electronic pulse that agitates the electro-receptors on

a shark's nose – protects you by making the shark want to leave the area, but not harming it in any way. *About PGK1403; sharkshield.com.*



ORIS Aquis depth gauge

ORIS is renowned for being at the top of the tier when it comes to specialist diving watches, and its rugged, clever Aquis is no exception. It was the first watch in the world to include a mechanical depth gauge that measures depth by allowing water to enter the timepiece, and you can choose between a steel bracelet or yellow or black Italian rubber strap, depending on how sporty you want it to look. *About PGK7839; oris.ch.*



Underwater torch

Finding the perfect balance of brightness, beam diameter, and size and shape can be difficult when you're searching for a light to take diving or snorkelling. Aqua Lung's Alu Trio – which has an elliptical shape that fits perfectly in your hand, three LED bulbs that cast a beam as broad as a car headlight, and a 19cm length that's easy to pack for dive trips – seems to come pretty close. *About PGK991; aqualung.com.*





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Gadgets and travel accessories

Laptop bag

Booq's Cobra Slim laptop bag weighs just 1.6kg and has a strap made from durable seatbelt material with a cushy non-slip pad, so you'll hardly notice it hanging from your shoulder. The stylish exterior is crafted from recycled PET and cotton, making it completely weatherproof, while the interior features a large padded compartment with a copper-coloured lining for your smartphone, pens and 15-inch laptop or tablet. *About \$PGK565; booqbags.com.*



Travel hanging unit

If messy, unorganised suitcases drive you mad, Kathmandu's hanging packing cell might be just what you need. Hang the foldable, space-saving cell from a wardrobe or rail in your hotel room to quickly and easily find what you need, then just as quickly and easily pack it back into your suitcase. *About PGK103; kathmandu.com.au.*



Handlebar speakers

Looking to lighten your load on the road? These small, funky, water and shock-resistant wireless Buckshot speakers from Outdoor Tech also function as a speakerphone, and come with a handlebar mount so you can listen, or be listened to, on the go. They fit on bikes, golf carts or anything else with a handlebar profile. Available in a variety of fun colours, including glow in the dark. *From about PGK92; outdoor-technology.com.au.*



Travel projector

FAVI's Pico Smart Projector throws a bright 100-lumens image sized up to three square metres on to the wall, and lets you run apps like DropBox, Chrome and Netflix via WiFi, making it equally perfect for business presentations and sharing travel snaps and videos with friends. Plus it's just 10 square centimetres, so it won't take up room in your suitcase. *About PGK1376; favientertainment.com.*



Power clip

The versatile PowerClip Carabiner Power Bank provides portable power and charging for smart phones and tablets and attaches easily to your bag, so you can whip it out quick as a flash whenever your battery starts to flag. Available in black, green, navy and red. *From about PGK83; ihomecases.com.*





Home camera

Keep an eye on what's happening back home with the high-definition Withings home camera. The discreet device works with a smartphone app and includes 24-hour time-lapsed playback so you can keep a tab on pets, kids or your home security while you're out of town. You can also use it to video chat with friends and family thanks to the in-built two-way microphone, plus the system tracks indoor air pollution. *About PGK552; withings.com.*



Sandals with 'secret' tray

A good holiday usually involves some serious swimming time, but keeping an eye on your valuables as you paddle isn't exactly relaxing. Enter Slotflop Stash It flip-flops, which also function as a mobile safe. The secret tray in the sole holds personal items like credit cards, money and keys. *About PGK69; slotflops.com.*



Travel wallet

Knomo's Knomad Mini cotton canvas travel organiser, which holds a tablet plus your passport, cards and cash, with straps to hold a pen and USB drive, includes a unique code so that if you leave it behind in your hotel room the finder can contact Knomo which will retrieve it for you and return it free of charge. Available in a variety of colours. *About PGK165; knomobags.com.*



More than a timepiece

This slick smart watch sends you pop-up notifications about flights and meetings and includes a built-in fitness tracker, as well as voice-activation to send texts, check the weather, search the net and more. With a stainless steel case and scratch-resistant glass, plus a variety of bands, cases and faces to match your personal style, it's as durable as it is chic. *From about PGK414; moto360.motorola.com.*



Smart luggage

It's a big call but we're going to make it: the Trunkster just might be the most innovative suitcase ever made. It comes with a durable roller door instead of a zipper, a built-in charger so you can keep your gadgets fresh while moving around, an in-built GPS to track its location anywhere in the world, plus an in-built scale so you'll never have to pay excess baggage fees again. Available in 56cm carry-on and 68cm check-in sizes. *From about PGK894; trunkster.co.*



Smart smartphone case

Smartphones can do everything for us on the road – give us directions, guide us around a city, connect us to our friends and family, help us access funds – but they can't do any of that if they're broken or out of battery. Thank goodness, then, for the BuQu Power Armour case, which not only protects your phone from getting cracked, scratched and broken, but also provides back-up battery power enough for one full recharge. *About PGK110 for the iPhone 6 version; buquitech.com.*



Laptop security key

The USB-based Yubico FIDO Security Key lets you lock your computer so no one can steal your work, even if they manage to steal your computer. The crush and waterproof flat dongle supports the U2F online authentication standard that's considered unhackable, and can attach to your set of keys so you won't lose it. *About PGK50; yubico.com.*





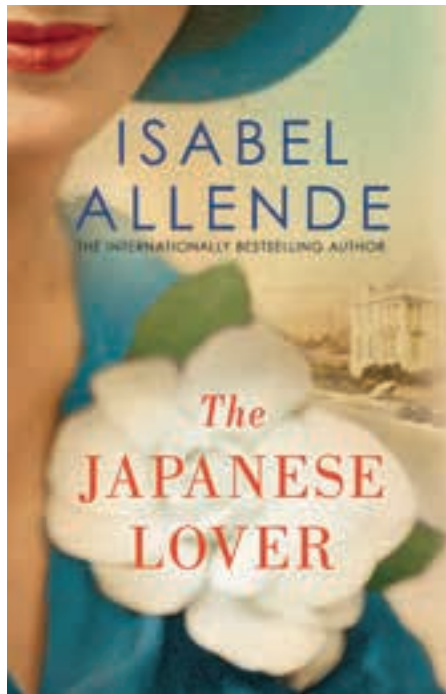
438 Days: A Fisherman's True Survival at Sea (Macmillan) by Jonathan Franklin

On November 17, 2012, Salvador Alvarenga left the coast of Mexico for a two-day fishing trip. A brute of a storm killed his engine and the sea's current powered his boat to an ocean of hell. Alvarenga would not touch ground again for 14 months. When he was washed ashore on the Marshall Islands in January, 2014, he had drifted over 14,500 kilometres.

Author Jonathon Franklin is based in Santiago, Chile. Among his previous books is *33 Men*, the exclusive account of the Chilean miners trapped nearly a kilometre underground.

Franklin regularly reports for the *Guardian*, *Washington Post*, *National Geographic* and *Esquire*.

For *438 Days*, Franklin has put his considerable investigative powers into recording another extraordinary survival tale. The book is based on dozens of hours of interviews with Alvarenga, interviews with his colleagues, search and rescue officials, the medical team that saved his life and the remote islanders who nursed him back to health.



The Japanese Lover (Simon & Schuster) by Isabel Allende

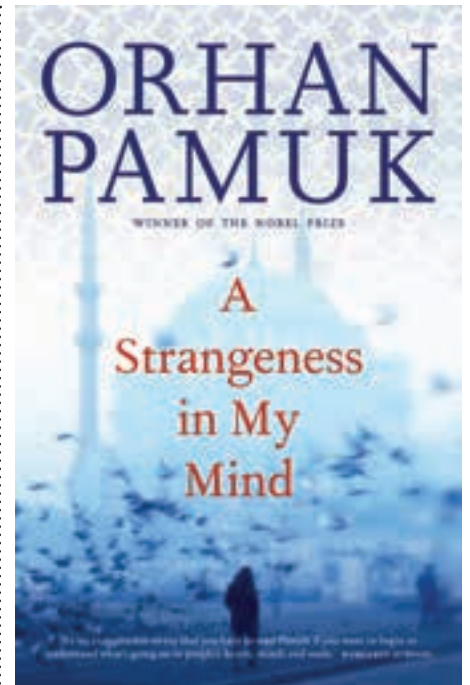
Chilean author Isabel Allende has sold more than 65 million books since her first novel, *The House of the Spirits*, was published in 1982.

In *The Japanese Lover*, Allende has again weaved a fictional plot between historical events. This love story has its beginnings in 1939, when the world goes to war. As the Nazis circle Poland, the parents of young Alma Belasco send her to live with relatives in San Francisco.

There, Belasco meets Ichimei Fukuda, the son of the family's Japanese gardener. The two are separated when Fukuda and his family – like thousands of Japanese Americans – are relocated to internment camps following the bombing of Pearl Harbour.

Throughout their long lives, Belasco and Fukuda often reunite but are forced to hide their love from the world.

Decades later, when Belasco is nearing the end of her eventful life, the care worker looking after her strikes a friendship with her grandson. The pair becomes intrigued by a series of mysterious gifts and letters sent to Belasco, and they learn about Fukuda and a secret 70-year passion.



A Strangeness in My Mind (Penguin) by Orhan Pamuk

Orhan Pamuk was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2006. He has been described as one of the freshest, most original voices in contemporary fiction.

Pamuk lives in Istanbul, and research for this novel may have involved wandering from his home to the local coffee shops, bars and markets.

In *Strangeness in My Mind*, street vendor Mevlut Karatus wanders the streets of Istanbul every evening, wondering at the 'strangeness' in his mind, the sensation that makes him feel different from everyone else.

Karatus spends three years writing love letters to a girl he saw just once at a wedding, only to elope by mistake with her sister.

He devotes many years to jobs leading nowhere until (finally) fortune conspires to let him understand at last what it is he has always yearned for.

A Strangeness in My Mind is about coming of age in a great city.





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Suffragette

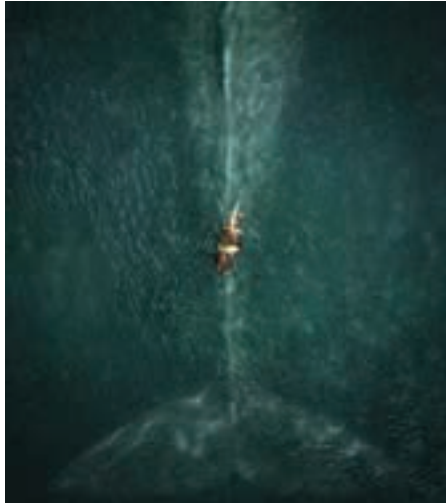
As absurd as it now seems, women were once denied access to the ballot box. *Suffragette* is the story of the women who battled to ultimately win female suffrage.

In the UK in the late 19th and early 20th century, the instigators of the early feminist movement were forced underground to pursue a dangerous game of cat and mouse with an increasingly brutal state, in the quest for equal rights.

This is a drama that tracks the story of the foot soldiers of the early feminist movement. Screen stars Meryl Streep, who plays perhaps the world's best-known suffragette, Emmeline Pankhurst, Helena Bonham Carter and acclaimed young English actor Ben Whishaw should guarantee this remarkable story gets the attention it deserves.

Carey Mulligan (pictured) plays the main character, Maud Watts, a laundry worker. Maud has seen peaceful protest achieve nothing. She and her mates are radicalised and turn to violence as the only route to change. They are willing to lose everything in their fight for equality – their jobs, their homes, their children and their lives.

The story of Maud's fight is gripping. It might also be heartbreaking and inspirational.



In the Heart of the Sea

This drama-thriller is directed by Academy Award winner Ron Howard and is based on the book by Nathaniel Philbrick (his novel has the same name as the movie) about the sinking of the whale-ship *Essex*.

A far earlier tale of the *Essex's* misfortune reportedly inspired author Herman Melville to write *Moby-Dick*.

In 1819, crewmen aboard the ship from Nantucket face a battle for survival when a massive whale attacks their ship and cripples it. The survivors from the crew of 21 are left adrift on the sea. Facing storms, starvation, panic and despair, "trust gives way to doubt and hope to superstition". The survivors must resort to the unthinkable to stay alive.

The film stars Chris Hemsworth, who played F1 driver James Hunt in *Rush*, Irish actor Cillian Murphy, and Englishman Tom Holland.



The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2

The *Hunger Games* is a movie franchise adapted from three adventure novels by the American author Suzanne Collins. The series is set in *The Hunger Games* universe, and follows young characters Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark as they fight for survival in the nation of Panem (once North America).

The franchise title comes from the *Hunger Games*, an event where selected teenagers from the various districts of Panem must fight until one survivor remains. In the first movie, Katniss volunteers to fight in her younger sister's place.

The film adaptation of the *Mockingjay* book title has been split into two parts.

Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) teams up with her closest friends, including Peeta (Josh Hutcherson), and Gale (Liam Hemsworth), and sets out to liberate the citizens of war-torn Panem and assassinate a president who'd very much like Katniss dispatched.

Can this mighty female warrior with her smarts and bow and arrows negotiate the traps, enemies and moral choices that will ultimately determine the future of millions? There is a lot at stake. The *Hunger Games* franchise has grossed more than \$US2 billion.

Port Moresby's Paradise Cinema screens many of our reviewed movies. For screening dates and session times see paradisecinemapgn.com.





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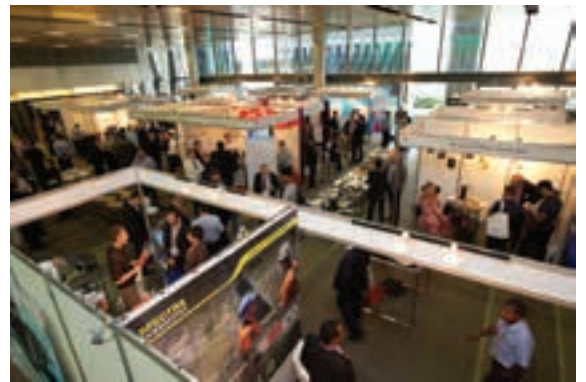
Gathering of the *who's who* of PNG business

More than 400 business leaders attended the Papua New Guinea Advantage Investment Summit.



Down to business ... the Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill (top right); packed conference room (right); Geoff Hunt, the CEO of New Zealand's Hawkins Group (above); leading executives in a panel discussion on ways to improve PNG's productivity (top).





Eyes front ... delegates listening to a speaker at the PNG Advantage Investment Summit (above); the summit's expo in full swing (top right); representatives from the major players in LNG: ExxonMobil, Total, Oil Search, Repsol and the National Petroleum Company; Peter Botten from Oil Search (left).



Who's who of PNG business gathered at the end of August for the annual Papua New Guinea Advantage Investment Summit.

This year held in Brisbane, Australia, the two-day summit was opened by PNG's Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, and brought over 400 business leaders and government officials from 10 countries together to discuss investment opportunities in PNG.

Delegates were given detailed briefings on PNG's economy by Prime Minister O'Neill, treasury secretary Dairi Vele and Bank of PNG governor Loi M Bakani, while panel discussions covered such topics as how PNG

business can be more productive, investing in PNG and opportunities for overseas companies in PNG infrastructure.

A highlight was a discussion on the future of PNG's gas sector, which featured senior representatives from all the major players: ExxonMobil, Total, Oil Search, Talisman/Repsol and the National Petroleum Company of PNG.

The second day, opened in colourful fashion by Public Enterprises minister Ben Micah, was focused on developing PNG's national infrastructure. It included presentations on PNG's state-owned enterprises, and its plans for roads, electricity, ports and telecommunications.

It closed with some compelling case studies from companies doing business in PNG, including Hawkins Construction, the builder of the high-profile Kumul Flyover in Port Moresby.

"It was one of the best PNG conferences I have ever attended," Kina Group CEO, Syd Yates, told the organisers, Business Advantage International and the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "This comes down to having an interesting program which reflects current topics, and quality speakers."

"It was really informative and definitely worth attending," agreed Helen Hamilton-James, managing partner at Deloitte PNG. ■





PNG POWERS UP

A solar-power scheme is shedding new light in remote areas, *Kevin McQuillan* reports.

Hitting the right note ... Barefoot Power is providing affordable and renewable energy in developing countries (above).

Barefoot Power assists people in developing countries with access to affordable renewable energy – with the focus firstly on providing lighting.

It has been operating in Kenya, the Philippines, rural India and Uganda since 2008, although Papua New Guinea was its testing ground 11 years ago.

“We used PNG in the early days because of its climate and conditions, and it proved a good test bed because our products are now very reliable,” says Rick Hooper, the chief executive officer of Barefoot.

Hooper says the key to successfully run solar energy is to have “available” sunlight hours and that with PNG being close to the equator there is an average of 10 to 11 hours of sunlight a day.

“Solar systems are designed around having six hours of solar sun per day, so in PNG you’re able to recharge your system quite effectively because you have such long sunlight hours.”

In March, Prime Minister Peter O’Neill committed to putting a solar lighting kit in

every classroom and every teacher’s house in areas in his electorate without access to town power.

Barefoot Power local PNG agent, Solar Solutions PNG, began operations over two years ago.

“All our products are sold in kit form, and we’re seeing growing interest in the larger kits, the household kits, which give you four lights and phone charger capability, plus the ability to run a 12-volt fan, TV or radio,” says managing director, Jon Pittar.

“The market here is a little more sophisticated than some of the other starter markets in Africa, as we are selling many more of the larger kits than the single lights, which can only light one room in a house. Solar Solutions PNG is also selling security lights, street lights, vaccine fridges and solar hot-water systems.

“In the villages, our customers are families who don’t have access to the grid.

“A 30-watt kit consists of a solar panel using 12-volt battery that will run four lights for a family home, which usually consists ➤



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PNG powers up



Shining light ... solar power is said to be a good option in PNG because of the long daylight hours.

of two bedrooms and a lounge room. They have the option of putting one light underneath the house or on the outside, because people like sitting and chatting on the veranda.

"The uptake on radio and TV options is growing quite rapidly, but not as fast as we're seeing in Africa. We do expect that to change as the TV stations widen their transmission range."

Most sales take place in Port Moresby and Lae, through distributors Hardware Haus, Titan Distributors, Anitua Hardware and Datec.

"People who are working are buying systems and sending them back to their village and families," Pittar says.

"We've also got various electorates in PNG looking at the quality solar option for lighting up the schools, health centres or for rural electrification projects.

"Solar has only scratched the surface in PNG. Because of the government policy ➤

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By the end of the year, Barefoot hopes to have a product to charge laptops and tablets using solar energy.

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THE NEW WORLD

Kevin McQuillan looks at the effects of emerging technology in PNG.

The smart fridge ... it may one day be able to tell us of supermarket specials available for items that need to be restocked in the home.

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E-commerce, mobile technologies, cloud computing and the Internet of Things (IOT) are topics not just for developed-world economies, but also for developing economies such as Papua New Guinea.

These technologies will increasingly affect Papua New Guineans in business, and at home.

In the commercial world, the new technology will disrupt, or radically change, the traditional way of doing business, according to Robert Hillard, the managing partner (consulting) at Deloitte Australia.

He says the technologies will also put pressure on the traditional role of chief information officers.

"CIOs need to harness emerging disruptive technologies for the business while balancing future needs with today's operational realities," he says.

"To tackle these challenges, companies will likely need to cultivate a new species

of worker, with habits, incentives, and skills that are inherently different from those in play today."

According to IT security specialist Robert Blackman, PNG's predominantly rural society will be empowered with increased mobile technology.

(Currently, mobile phone usage has about 50 per cent market penetration, with phone banking popular in rural and remote areas.)

As greater numbers of businesses and consumers avail themselves of e-commerce and mobile retailing, trading hours will be effectively extended from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday to genuine 24x7 operations.

"Whether PNG people are in their villages scattered across the country, on buses, at airports or at work, e-commerce and mobile retailing will provide them with easier access to their accounts, to check balances, view recent transactions, pay bills online and

receive real-time alerts on any possible fraudulent activities," Blackman notes.

And, while e-commerce and mobile retailing may reduce staff levels in specific companies, overall they will increase employment, as more business ventures become viable and possible.

In a sign of the times, PNG Power announced in June that it would no longer accept cash payments.

PNG IT specialist, Priscilla Kevin, says mobile technology is giving ordinary Papua New Guineans "the confidence to trade online, which previously was known and accessible only by corporate businesses and few academic institutions and those with connectivity".

But bmobile-Vodafone's chief executive officer, Sundar Ramamurthy, warns lower internet costs and faster data speeds are critical to the development of e-commerce in PNG. ➤

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The new world

“

It is not outside the realms of possibilities in PNG for our fridge to inform us that we are near a supermarket offering specials on items we need to replenish at home.

”

Cloud computing — storing, managing, and processing data on remote servers via the internet — will also radically transform the PNG business landscape, predicts Blackman, as more business operations gravitate to using and storing their data, and using services in the cloud.

IBM predicts that by 2016 there will be one trillion cloud-ready devices connected to the internet. Work patterns and habits are changing, with more of us out of the office, working from home and checking emails and accessing data and services remotely. If you're using a service like Google Docs, you're already cloud computing.

While we're currently preoccupied with connecting our phones and computers to the internet, the Internet of Things refers to the way in which the internet is used to connect any kind of object — a piece of machinery, a sensor such as a thermostat, or a video camera, for instance.

“The number of connected intelligent devices will continue to grow exponentially, giving ‘smart things’ the ability to sense, interpret, communicate and negotiate, and effectively have a digital voice,” says Steve Prentice, vice-president of the US consumer research company, Gartner.

“It is not outside the realms of possibilities in PNG for our fridge to inform us (based on location services) that we are near a supermarket offering specials on items we need to replenish at home,” says Ramamurthy.

The Internet of Things is already with us, with many international companies that have a presence in PNG already using it to manage their assets.

With PNG's economy becoming increasingly internationalised, the challenge for PNG-based businesses will be to have a plan to leverage these new technologies in pursuit of greater profits and productivity. ■

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LABOUR FORCE

After starting with a small loan, George Griffin now runs a multi-million kina business. *Kevin McQuillan* reports on the remarkable rise of the recruitment whizz.

In 2008, with encouragement and a small loan from a colleague, George Griffin set up the recruitment business, CC Pacific, in partnership with Cadden Crowe.

Seven years and a lot of hard work later, he has a multi-million kina business on his hands. "There were many hurdles in the early days," Griffin admits.

He was working with minimal capital funded by a PGK14,000 loan, operated out of internet cafes and caught public transport to meet potential clients.

"I'd worked for another recruiter for seven years prior to venturing into the recruitment business for myself," he says. "In addition to this, I'd had seven years' experience in sales and marketing, business management and the IT sectors.

"I formed the alliance with Cadden Crowe who, at the time, were seeking to grow their presence and footprint into Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific."

But Griffin says it was an extremely difficult and time-consuming process for a PNG

citizen with no business history to gain lines of credit. The start-up hurdles ranged from simply opening a bank account and setting up credit facilities, to leasing a car and obtaining a credit card.

Griffin says if he'd not had the support of senior staff at Cadden Crowe that he would have "walked away many times".

"I wonder how many others have tried and are trying to do things the right way and just give up or find alternate ways to operate?" he says.

Once the start-up hurdles were overcome and he began to win work, other challenges arose: cash flow, finding competent staff, staying local but meeting international expectations and adapting to the standards used by larger clients.

After winning his first big contract, Cadden Crowe and Rubicor advanced Griffin around PGK140,000 to cover payroll, and related expenses.

"I was able to pay that back in around 18 months and since then have operated within our own cash flow," he says.



George Griffin ... faced many hurdles in the early days of establishing his recruitment business.

"As a small PNG business with limited cash reserves, winning a major contract supplying labour hire can be very stressful financially."



Griffin's business today has five permanent head-office staff, two site-based supervisors and around 50 contractors made up of expatriates and nationals.

“

As a small PNG business with limited cash reserves, winning a major contract supplying labour hire can be very stressful financially.

”

“Employing a strong financial controller has been a key reason for my success to date,” he says.

“We maintain a low-rent office in Port Moresby and watch every toea.”

In its first full year of operation in 2008, CC Pacific's revenue was PGK3 million.

In 2013, a bumper year, it had climbed to PGK12 million. Last year, it was just over PGK8 million.

After 14 years in the recruitment business, Griffin says there is a huge need to deal with a skills shortage in PNG.

“Dependence on overseas labour is causing social issues, increases the costs of goods, services, accommodation and contributes to an increase in inflation that has a detrimental impact on ordinary Papua New Guineans,” he says.

“We also do not seem to be training enough people to replace those who are ageing and/or leaving the workforce.”

However, Griffin says qualified professionals in areas such as accountants and human resources appear plentiful. ■

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.



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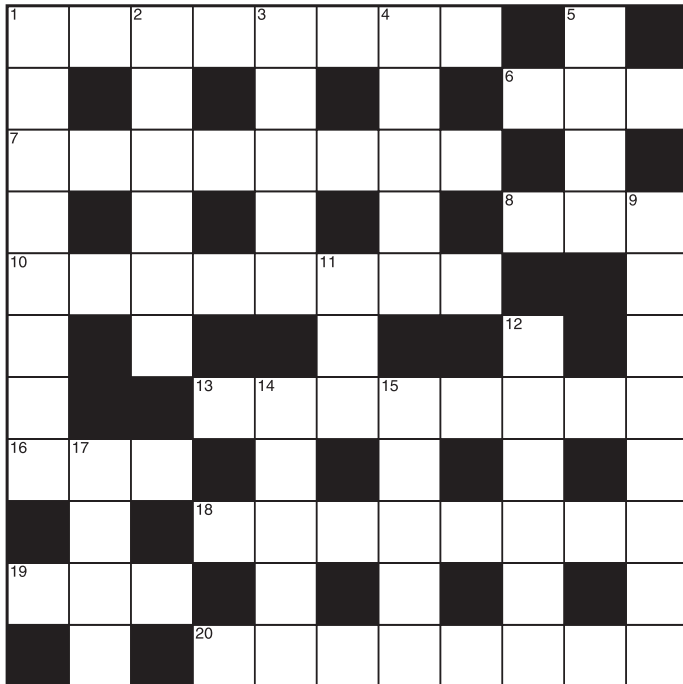
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DoubleTake

Tackle either set of these clues – you can even mix and match them, because the solutions are the same for both sets



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1. Queen's emblem covering dress outfit (8)
- 6. Even Mohawk is an acorn bearer (3)
- 7. Bag for jacket and trousers provided before legal proceedings (8)
- 8. Sheraton throws out roast chicken (3)
- 10. Dislike of a certain point of view (8)
- 13. She saw Spooner at the coast (8)
- 16. Shout out and weep (3)
- 18. Fond of sage? The same with me (8)
- 19. Is able to take the blame if carried (3)

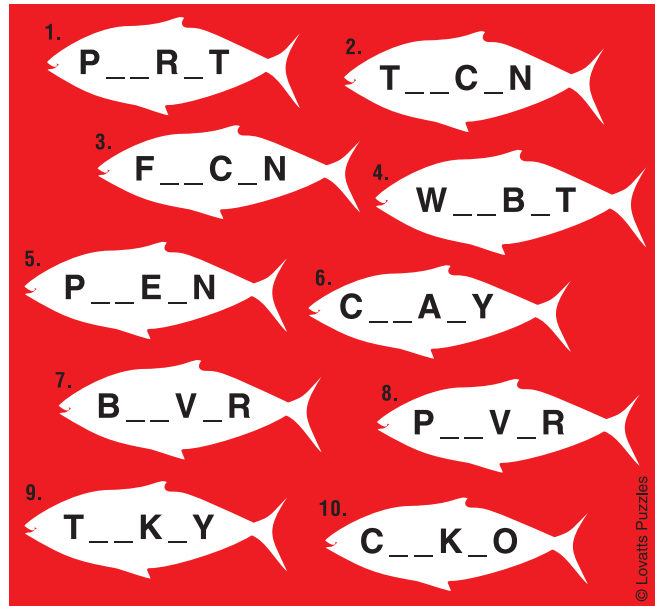
- 20. Used for good measure, though a stirrer in the kitchen (8)

DOWN

- 1. European Community still joyful (8)
- 2. Cuts parasites on board (6)
- 3. Makes fun of smock that was altered (5)
- 4. Girl had nothing but rope, for cowboy (5)
- 5. Turned up when auction item left Camelot (4)
- 9. One-off score? (8)
- 11. Irish group made to leave Madeira (1,1,1)
- 12. It has a number of spots on it (6)
- 14. Banish eggs? I'll say! (5)
- 15. Treads on stairs (5)
- 17. In Brazil, money is genuine (4)

Red Herrings

Fill in the gaps with letters to find the names of eight birds. Only eight? Yes, two of the examples are red herrings and won't produce anything but frustration. All the answers have six letters.



STRAIGHT CLUES

ACROSS

- 1. Musical troupe (8)
- 6. Wine barrel timber (3)
- 7. Luggage item (8)
- 8. Egg-layer (3)
- 10. Strong disinclination (8)
- 13. Ocean's edge (8)
- 16. Shed tears (3)
- 18. Similarly (8)
- 19. Hornet's nest, ... of worms (3)
- 20. Cutlery item (8)

DOWN

- 1. On a high (8)
- 2. Cake portions (6)
- 3. Derides (5)
- 4. Lariat (5)
- 5. Arrived (4)
- 9. Last teens year (8)

- 11. George and ... Gershwin (3)
- 12. Chain reaction, ... effect (6)
- 14. Expel from homeland (5)
- 15. Becomes involved, ... in (5)
- 17. Property sales rep, ... estate agent (4)



The Paradise Quiz

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE REGION?

1. Which country is having a November referendum to change its flag?
2. How many stars on the PNG flag?
3. If you are standing at the corner of the Highlands Highway and Bumbu Road, what would you see?
4. The vatu is the currency of which country?
5. Which country is home to *pho*, the salty broth with noodles, herbs and either beef, chicken or prawns?
6. Where is Kieta?
7. Singapore recently set a record for the most tweets sent out about a one-day event in the country. What was the event?
8. What is China's equivalent to Twitter?
9. What did the Kon-Tiki expedition set out to prove?
10. What was the name of the Kon-Tiki's captain?
11. What are the northernmost and southernmost points of Australia?
12. What are the two common terms used to describe people from Hong Kong?
13. What is the national sport of Japan?
14. Who was the Chinese Nationalist Party leader who fled into exile in Taiwan when the Communists swept to power in 1949?
15. What is the longest river in PNG?

Sudoku

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

Rating: ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

			4					1
			5			3		7
	1				3		4	2
1	3	9	6				2	
		5	2	1	7	6		
	2				4	8	1	5
8	7		1				5	
2		3			9			
5					6			


For solutions to the quiz and puzzles, see Page 136.

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Red Herrings

SOLUTION:

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E	N	S	E	M	B	L	E		C	
C		L		O		A		O	A	K
S	U	I	T	C	A	S	E		M	
T		C		K		S		H	E	N
A	V	E	R	S	I	O	N			I
T		S		R				D		N
I			S	E	A	S	H	O	R	E
C	R	Y		X	T		M			T
	E		L	I	K	E	W	I	S	E
C	A	N		L	P		N			E
	L		T	E	A	S	P	O	O	N

3	5	2	4	7	8	9	6	1
9	6	4	5	2	1	3	8	7
7	1	8	9	6	3	5	4	2
1	3	9	6	8	5	7	2	4
4	8	5	2	1	7	6	9	3
6	2	7	3	9	4	8	1	5
8	7	6	1	3	2	4	5	9
2	4	3	8	5	9	1	7	6
5	9	1	7	4	6	2	3	8

The Paradise Quiz

1. New Zealand.
2. Five.
3. The Lae Golf Course and the Lae Showgrounds.
4. Vanuatu.
5. Vietnam.
6. Bougainville.
7. National Day Parade (230,000 tweets, beating the previous record of 100,000 tweets for a One Direction concert).
8. Sino Weibo.
9. It was a 1947 raft journey across the Pacific Ocean to prove that people from South America could have settled in Polynesia.
10. Thor Heyerdahl.
11. Cape York Peninsula and Wilsons Promontory.
12. Hong Kongers and Hong Kongese.
13. Sumo wrestling.
14. Chang Kai-Shek.
15. The Sepik (1126 kilometres).

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Out and about

A quick guide to Papua New Guinea, from catching a taxi to making a phone call.



PICTURES: PNG TOURISM PROMOTION AUTHORITY; DAVID KIRKLAND

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 ➤



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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 \$US30,000). 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.

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 ▶



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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

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Moresby's largest dedicated meeting space. See coralseahotels.com.pg.

Grand Papua

Port Moresby's newest premium hotel opened in late 2011. The hotel features 156 suite rooms (short and long stay), an executive floor, gym and conference facilities. The separate restaurant and bar areas are popular venues for business meetings in town. See grandpapuahotel.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. Recently expanded to include a three-star Holiday Inn

Express hotel (Port Moresby's newest hotel). 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.

EATING, DRINKING, SOCIALISING IN LAE

Bunga Raya Restaurant:

A local favourite, serving Malaysian-style Chinese. Located next door to the Lae Golf Club. Make sure to try the stuffed lettuce cups, laksa and claypot tofu. Tel. +675 472 7177

Chigi's Cafe:

A delightful place inside the temporary Brian Bell store near the Lae main markets. Serves good coffee, milkshakes, sandwiches, cakes and salads. Tel. +675 7217 1966.

Golden Aviat:

A good option for Chinese, located on Huon Road in Eriku. Open for lunch and dinner and yum cha on Sundays. Tel. +675 472 0486.

Huon Club: A private members' club, offering air-conditioned facilities, comfortable lounge chairs, an expansive deck overlooking the Lae Golf Club, a fully stocked bar and Foxtel connection to preview all the racing and sporting events. Tel. +675 7347 1058.

Lae International Hotel:

Home to three restaurants – Luluai's Italian Pizza, Vanda, and Kokomo, which all serve an array of international and Western cuisine, including Indian and seafood buffets. The Sportsman's Bar (aka Jack's Bar) is also a good place for a nightcap, or two. See laeinterhotel.com. Tel. +675 472 7000. ▶

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Lae Golf Club: Whether it's after a challenging round of golf or just an excuse to catch up with friends, the club is excellent for a few sundowners as you overlook the stunning green. Tel. +675 472 1363.

Lae Yacht Club: The perfect place for late-afternoon beers, or just as nice for a relaxing lunch. Serves pub-style food including burgers, steaks and pizza, which goes down a treat with the surrounding views of the Huon Gulf. See laeyachtclub.com. Tel. +675 472 4091.

Mountain View Restaurant: One of Lae's newest restaurants is at the Crossroads Hotel at Nine Mile. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, make sure to try the Japanese fusion menu – it's

the only place in town where you can get good sushi. See hornibrook.com.pg/crossroads/. Tel. +675 475 1124.

HOTELS

Crossroads Hotel: A 45-room facility at 9 Mile. The hotel has a Japanese-themed teppanyaki restaurant with Asian/Western fusion menus, full bar service, a well-equipped gym, WiFi and complimentary transport transfers both to Lae City and Nadzab Airport. See hornibrook.com.pg/crossroads/. Tel. +675 475 1124.

Lae City Hotel: One of the newest hotels in town, offering a 24-hour concierge service. Located in the main Top Town area, it also has an excellent cafe and restaurant with western and

Asian cuisine. See laecityhotel.com. Tel: +675 472 0138.

Lae International: The city's premier hotel has newly renovated rooms, full bar service, conference and banquet halls, a gym and pool. See laeinterhotel.com. Tel: +675 472 2000.

Lae Travellers Inn: An affordable option, offering clean and comfortable rooms. Just a few minutes from the centre of town, the inn also has conference facilities and a small restaurant serving western and Indian cuisine. Tel. +675 479 0411.

Melanesian Hotel: An iconic property located in the heart of Lae. The city centre is easily accessible and the hotel has nice rooms with harbour views.

A gift store and hairdresser is available on site, as well as a contemporary restaurant offering everything from pizza and steak to Asian and roast buffets. See coralseahotels.com.pg. Tel. +675 472 3744.

For general information about Lae, see lcci.org.pg and rainylae.com.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

- Air Niugini, airniugini.com.pg
- Business Advantage PNG, businessadvantagepng.com
- PNG Tourism Promotion Authority, papuanewguinea.travel
- Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry, www.pomcci.com ■

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Welcome aboard

Enjoy our Bird of Paradise in-flight service

Please ask us

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

Hand luggage

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

Takeoff and landing

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

Safety first

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

Electronic equipment

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

Children and babies

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

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

Entertainment

A selection of movies and music including classical, modern, country and local are available on international services.

Pillows and blankets

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

Cuisine

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

In-flight Duty Free

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

Immigration and Customs Forms

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

Before you leave

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



Air Niugini fleet



B767-300ER - Boeing

Length: 59.94m	Power plant: 2 x PW4000
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: 2 x CFM56 - 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: 2 x CFM56 - 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: 33.526m	Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650
Wing span: 28.076m	Normal altitude: 11000m
Range: 3000km	Standard seating capacity: 98
Cruising speed: 780kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 2



F70 - Fokker

Length: 30.91m	Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 620-11 turbo-fan engines
Wing span: 28.08m	Normal altitude: 11000m
Range: 3410km	Standard seating capacity: 80
Cruising speed: 783kph	Number of aircraft in fleet: 1



DASH 8-Q400 NextGen - Bombardier

Length: 32.8m	Power plant: 2 x Pratt & 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: 23.21m	Power plant: 3 x Honeywell TFE731
Wing span: 18.13m	Maximum altitude: 51000ft
Range: 4500km	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 act as diuretics, increasing the body's dehydration.
- ◆ Remove contact lenses and wear glasses if your eyes are irritated.
- ◆ Use a skin moisturiser to refresh the skin.

Eating and Drinking

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

Recommendations

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

Cabin Pressurisation

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

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

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

Recommendations

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

Motion Sickness

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

Recommendations

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



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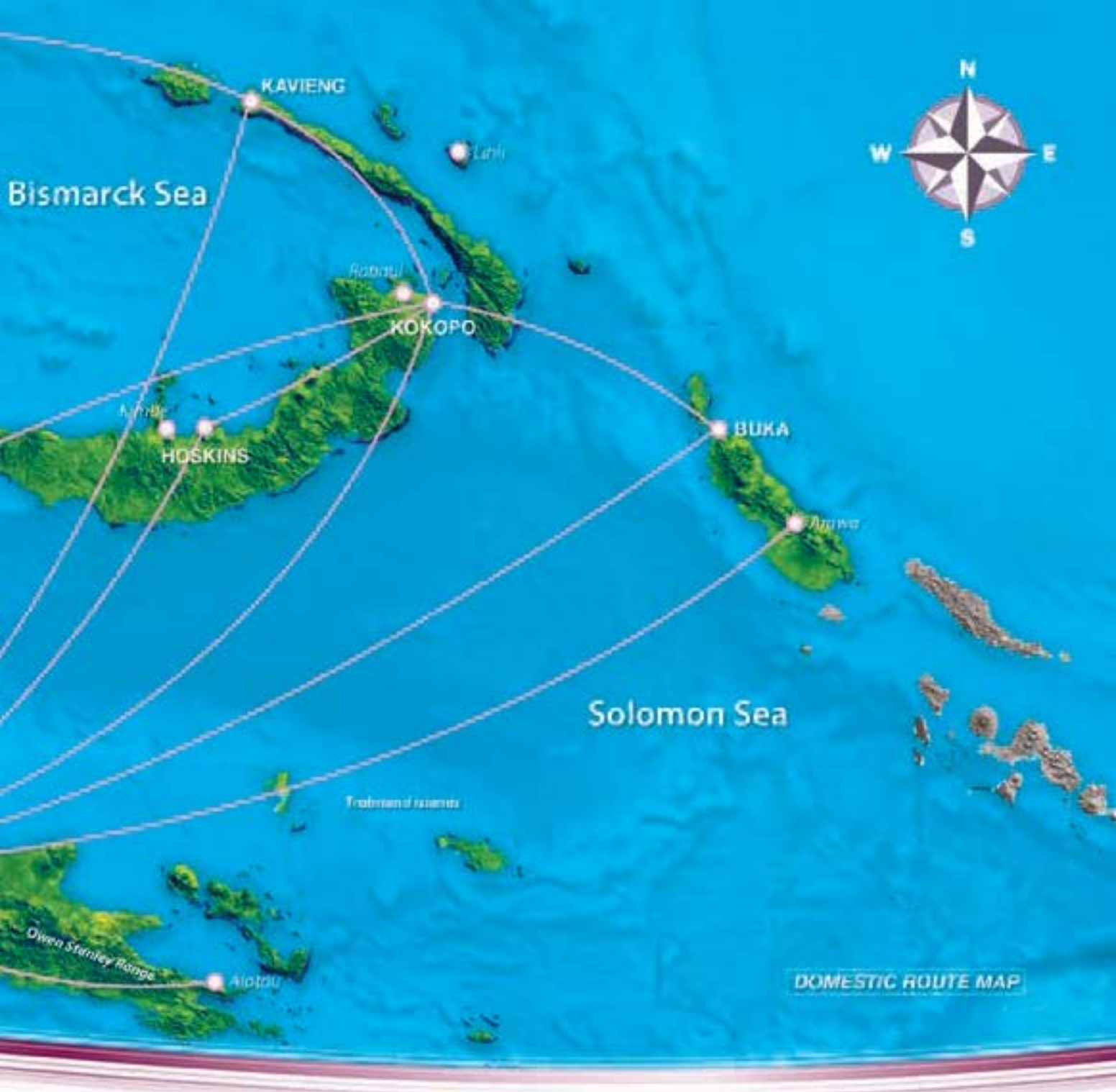
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PACIFIC OCEAN

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Tel: (44) 1293 874 952
Fax: (44) 0870 2432 288
Email: ams.air@flightdirector.com

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

Send 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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