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Aiming high

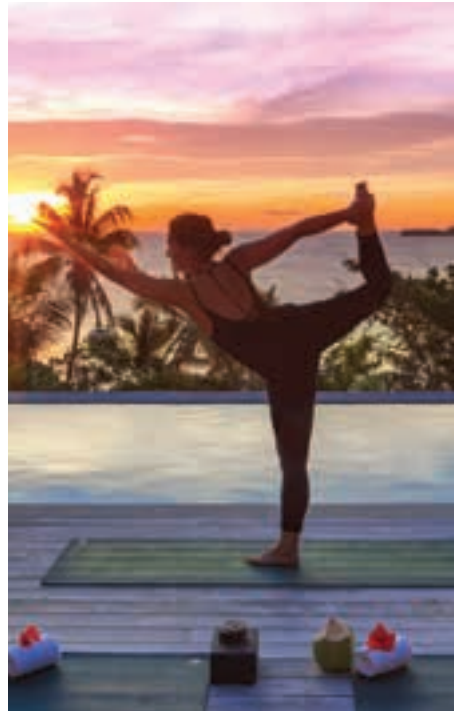
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LIFESTYLE, CULTURE, SPORT, ENTERTAINMENT



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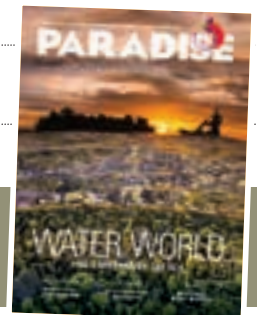
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Cover photo: A fisherman in the beautiful waters near PNG's Lissenung Island Resort. See our story, page 28. Picture: Grant Thomas



PARADISE



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Message from the Managing Director

Welcome aboard



As we work through the first quarter of this year, Air Niugini is constantly reviewing its programs and processes to identify areas we can further improve. Our focus now is on four key areas – costs, revenue, our people, and customer/operational excellence.

Our domestic sales offices and airport lounges are being

progressively upgraded and updated, with Mount Hagen the first of those to be completed last December.

During the first quarter, our subsidiary company Link PNG took delivery of an eighth Dash-8 aircraft to further improve services and support our customers around the domestic network.

We want our customers to know that Air Niugini is serious about robust performance and service delivery. We will be implementing a series of initiatives to improve our operational performance and our customer service under the banner of our 'Higher Altitudes' program. This program will take Air Niugini to the next level as the airline of choice for our customers.

Airlines are expected to be on time and dependable, and provide the products and services they promise to provide – Air Niugini is no exception. Regardless of how we

measure customer satisfaction, safety always comes first. You are important to us. Throughout any of our operational improvement programs there is one underlying principle that we will never compromise: 'safety before schedule'.

Our engineering product is something we all can be proud of – a result of world's best practice. Since last year, Air Niugini has been carrying out in-house detailed C checks on its Fokker jets and Dash-8 turboprop aircraft in Port Moresby, saving millions of kina.

The in-house arrangement also results in improved quality of the finished product and capacity building in terms of local knowledge and upskilling of maintenance staff, especially our young PNG aircraft maintenance engineers who are coming through the ranks after years of extensive training.

Because 85 per cent of Fokker aircraft are based in our region, there is an opportunity in the future for Air Niugini to offer similar engineering services to other Pacific islands and Australian regional airlines.

Please check the Air Niugini website airniugini.com.pg and Facebook for our monthly product promotions.

Enjoy your flight – and we look forward to welcoming you again soon.

Alan Milne
Managing Director





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Back to Bougainville... Air Niugini now operates twice weekly from Port Moresby to Kieta; a Fokker 100 aircraft that is used on the service.



Air Niugini resumes flights to Kieta and Tari

Air Niugini has resumed jet operations to Aropa airport in Kieta in Bougainville.

The recommencement of jet operations has become possible because of the installation of precision approach path indicator (PAPI) lights, which are a regulatory requirement and are also required under Air Niugini's strict safety standards.

PAPI lights are a visual aid, generally located beside the runway to help pilots maintain the correct approach to an airport.

The PAPI light project was jointly funded by the National Airports Corporation and the office of the member for South Bougainville, Timothy Masiu.

The Kieta flights operate twice weekly from Port Moresby, every Tuesday and Friday.

The Tuesday flight operates direct from Port Moresby to Kieta and then continues to Buka and Rabaul, before returning to Port Moresby. The Friday flight goes from Port Moresby to Rabaul, then Buka and Kieta, before returning to Port Moresby.

The Kieta flights are operated by Air Niugini's Fokker 100 aircraft, which offers a more comfortable and faster journey, and the aircraft features both economy and business class seats.

“
Air Niugini is the only
airline offering non-stop
flights between Port
Moresby and Kieta.

”
Air Niugini is the only airline offering non-stop flights between Port Moresby and Kieta, in addition to offering services between Kieta and Buka, and Kieta and Rabaul.

Air Niugini last operated to Kieta from December 2014 to July 2017 using Q400 turboprop aircraft.

Meanwhile, as *Paradise* went to press at the start of February, Link PNG was set to resume flights to Tari airport in Hela Province.

The airport was closed to Link PNG late in 2018 because of long grass and obstacles, such as trees, in the take-off area. Link PNG acknowledges the Hela Provincial Government for its efforts in addressing these issues.

Link PNG will be operating twice-weekly services to Tari, every Sunday and Wednesday. The Sunday flight departs Port Moresby at 1pm and arrives in Tari at 2.30pm. The return flight arrives in Port Moresby by 4.25pm. The Wednesday flight departs Port Moresby at 9am, arriving in Tari at 10.30am. The return flight is in Port Moresby by 12.25pm.

The flights will continue until the runway is closed for an upgrade by the National Airports Corporation.

Link PNG is a subsidiary company of Air Niugini that operates a fleet of DHC-8 aircraft. ■



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Time honoured ...
Martin Togel (right)
with Air Niugini
managing director
Alan Milne.

Air Niugini veteran retires

One of Air Niugini's longest-serving employees, Martin Togel, a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer, has retired after 45 years.

From Hanahan village in North Bougainville, he joined Air Niugini as an 18-year-old apprentice engineer from Ansett Airlines in 1972.

When asked about his 45 years with the airline, Togel said: "Air Niugini is my life, it created life for me and my family."

A career as a licensed aircraft maintenance engineer involves many years of hard work and experience. Ongoing training is required to keep up with new aircraft types and also new technology.

An aircraft engineer must also understand all aspects of local aviation regulations, and be conversant with airframe structures, electrical structures, radar systems, engine systems and propeller systems.

Togel received an F27 licence in 1987, followed by a Dash 8 licence. He also trained on Pratt and Whitney engines with Singapore Airlines.

Togel worked in various areas within the engineering department. He was an engineering foreman prior to taking up the role as an engineering coordinator with maintenance watch, his last role before departing Air Niugini.

Air Niugini acknowledges Togel for his outstanding contribution to the airline. ■

Airline initiative helps mothers

Air Niugini's 'Wan Community' initiative, which provides gift packs for mothers in maternity wards, has received strong support from three Papua New Guinea businesses.

Brian Bell donated 500 gift bags, while Black Swan International and Airways Hotel contributed towels, toiletries, sanitary products and baby toys towards the Christmas cause. The airline's staff in Port Moresby also donated gifts to help mothers and children.

Air Niugini's general manager of corporate services, Marco McConnell, thanked everyone for their support.

The gift packs were distributed at maternity wards in Rabaul, Madang, Mount Hagen, Goroka, Lae and Port Moresby. ■

Bright idea rewarded with air tickets

Air Niugini is embarking on a campaign this year called 'Higher Altitude', which is aimed at taking the airline from 'good' to 'greater'.

The campaign focuses on improvements in four key areas: costs, revenue, people/staff, and operational excellence.

An in-house competition was held to create a name for the campaign and the winner, from more than 500 entries, was cadet engineer Marcus Rahman (pictured).

For coming up with 'Higher Altitude', he won two return airline tickets to any Air Niugini destination, plus PGK2000 spending money. ■



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Air Niugini managing director Alan Milne (white shirt) at the Air Niugini family fun day in Port Moresby. Airline staff and their families get together for the day annually, taking time out to relax and participate in some sport competitions. The day is organised by a team of hard-working staff volunteers. ■



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PARADISE Q&A

JACQUI JOSEPH AND ADAM EVERILL

CO-FOUNDERS OF EQUAL PLAYING FIELD

Equal Playing Field champions safe homes, happy families and strong communities in PNG. The organisation tackles issues such as gender-based violence and uses sport to engage young people in its programs.



Q: Equal Playing Field (EPF) started when you both met at a youth summit in India in 2011. What motivated you to start it?

JJ: I'm driven by a high sense of altruism and service to others. This was formed during my childhood in the Bougainville crisis (1988–1998), where I witnessed a lot of lives and homes destroyed, including my own. I was privileged and am grateful to have a supportive family.

AE: I have a strong belief that you should find the place where you can be the most useful in the world and, when you find it, do something about it. I had been studying family violence issues, as well as sport, in Papua New Guinea. The stars aligned and

something said it was a good idea to utilise sport as a vehicle for violence prevention in PNG.

Q: What are some of your key programs?

AE: The Australian Government funds the 'EPF 4 Schools' program, where we go into schools for eight weeks at a time to promote gender equality to 12-to-16-year-old boys and girls. During the program, students take part in mixed-gender sport. There's also the 'EPF Academy' six-month program that trains men and women under 35 as facilitators and advocates for gender equality and respectful relationships.

Q: How many people are involved in EPF?

JJ: There are 40 active volunteers and 15 full-time staff.

We are recruiting for more to cater for new programs.

Q: Is there a major new program this year?

JJ: Yes, we are introducing the 'Generation Found' program, a direct upending of the 'lost generation' label describing the generation dispossessed by the Bougainville crisis. It attempts to be truly Bougainvillean, utilising tradition, culture, sport, and lessons on personal and civic responsibility to support literacy, livelihood and nation building.

Q: Does EPF cover all of PNG?

AE: EPF's face-to-face activities are currently in Port Moresby and Bougainville. But this year we will have tool kits available for teachers and leaders in other provinces with our messages going into more schools, homes

and communities across the country.

Q: What are some of the great stories that have emerged from your work?

JJ: There are so many beautiful stories, from daughters taking their mothers to family support centres, sons being proud of helping their mothers in the house, and EPF volunteers and staff transformed and fiercely passionate about building a PNG where all have equal opportunity to thrive through their involvement with us. ■

— ROBERT UPE

For more details about Equal Playing Field, see equalplayingfield.global.





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PNG art on display in Queensland

Papua New Guinean artists and villages feature heavily at the Queensland Art Galley's ninth Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT).

Every three years, artwork from Asia and the Pacific goes on display at the Queensland Art Gallery and Museum of Modern Art (QAGOMA) in Brisbane.

This year, organisers have brought together more than 400 artworks by over 80 individuals, collectives and groups. They come from Mongolia, India, Myanmar, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Hawaii, and beyond, QAGOMA director, Chris Saines, told *Paradise*.

The free exhibition, which runs until April 28, includes eight interactive projects developed especially for children and families in APT9 Kids, as well as cinema programs such as 'Microwave Films of the Marshall Islands', and a program of artist talks, tours, discussions, performances and drop-in workshops.

One workshop, by Bougainville's jewellery-maker Pauline Kimei Anis, teaches children the skills



Up, up and away ... a work by Goroka-based painter Simon Gende. Critics say he provides a humorous and insightful commentary on society.

to create a necklace using beads they have made from paper and coloured pencils.

“There are more than 400 artworks from Asia and the Pacific.”

“By giving children the means to make their own beads, they can consider how paper – often seen as an expendable resource – can be transformed into something precious,” says Saines.

Goroka-based painter Simon Gende, who has been acclaimed for his unique story-telling method, has three works on display.

They are, say critics, “often humorous and insightful commentary on society, religion, history and contemporary events,

characterised by directness, saturated with colour, suffused with irony, and using stylised or silhouetted figures”.

His works on display were inspired by a week-long visit to Brisbane in 2017, during which time he was introduced to the work of indigenous Australian artists Vincent Namatjira and his late grandfather Albert Namatjira.

Other PNG works on display are from the Tolai people from Nanganana Village in East New Britain, the late Gregory Dausi Moah from Buka on Bougainville, and the late Herman Somuk, also from Buka.

A special project, 'Women's Wealth', focuses on the closely connected matrilineal societies of Bougainville and the Solomon Islands, and the art forms made by women, from cane and pandanus weaving, to shell ornamentation and earthenware pottery. ■

– KEVIN McQUILLAN

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SHAKING UP THE SINGAPORE SLING

The ceiling fans are flapping, the peanut shells are strewn around the floor and a new Singapore Sling (pictured right) is on the menu in the iconic Long Bar (pictured below) at Singapore's Raffles Hotel.

While the rest of the hotel is still being renovated, the Long Bar quietly re-opened in September.

Luckily the queue wasn't too long on a steamy, thundery Wednesday afternoon as I crunched my way across the messy floor — amazingly the tradition of chomping through the sacks of peanuts and throwing the shells on the floor is still allowed. As I flick through the drinks menu — of course, I'm going to order a Singapore Sling — I hear a deep grinding noise that sends a tremor through the floor.

All heads turn to the bartender who is turning the wheel on a big green steel contraption — the Singapore Sling Machine that can shake 18 cocktails in one go. Customers are encouraged to have a go at cranking the handle.

The bar's interior harks back to the grand Malayan plantation homes of the 1920s. Everything looks fresh and cool, the new



cane and rattan furniture an essential part of the tropical ambience.

Legend has it that the famous sling was invented by bartender Ngiam Tong Boon in 1915 as a discrete ladies' drink. Its pink colour made it look like a refreshing juice and allowed the 19th-century ladies to join the menfolk in a tippie without it being obvious they were consuming alcohol.

With the new-look Long Bar comes the new-taste Singapore Sling with a list of upgraded

ingredients. Though the recipe is much the same, the new ingredients make a refreshing, punchy, less sweet and more balanced cocktail.

The new sling is more in keeping with people's changing tastes, explains Christian Westbeald, general manager of Raffles Hotel.

The cocktail now comprises Widges dry gin (instead of Gordon's), created by Langley's with strong notes of cardamom and orange, and it has a slightly stronger 41.5 per cent alcohol rating.

The cherry liqueur and grenadine syrup has been replaced by Crawley's natural grenadine using pomegranate, cane sugar and natural red colouring.

The drink also includes a specially blended spice plantation bitters from Scrappy's of Seattle and Pierre Ferrand Dry Curacao. Benedictine DOM herbal liqueur is the only original product still used. According to staff, second orders are more common with

the new sling, which costs \$S32 (about PGK77).

Raffles, established in 1887, will be closed until mid this year. The reception areas and suites are being revamped and the number of rooms will increase from 103 to 115. The hotel is taking bookings for stays from August 1. ■

— MARY O'BRIEN



Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to

Singapore five times a week. See airniugini.com.pg and raffles.com/singapore.

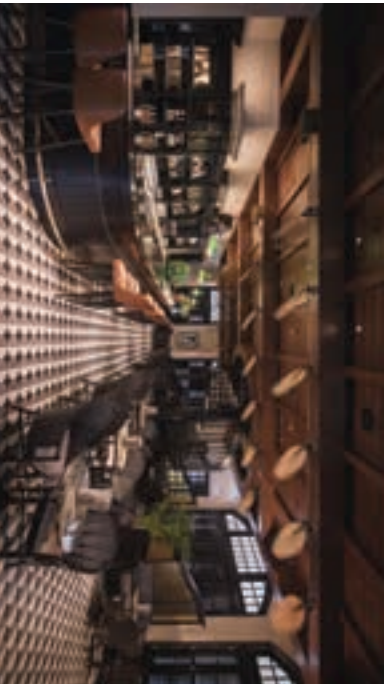
New Singapore Sling ingredients

- Widges dry gin specially created for Raffles
- Luxardo Cherry Sanguo Morlacco liqueur
- Pierre Ferrand Dry Curacao
- Scrappy's Spice Plantation Bitters
- Crawley's Singapore Sling Grenadine
- Luxardo maraschino cherries
- Benedictine DOM herbal liqueur
- pineapple juice
- lime juice

Singapore Sling with traditional ingredients

- 30 ml Gordons/Sipsmith gin
- 15 ml Heering Cherry Liqueur
- 7.5 ml Coitirrau
- 7.5 ml Benedictine DOM herbal liqueur
- dash Angostura bitters
- 10 ml grenadine
- 15 ml lime juice
- 120 ml pineapple juice
- ice cubes

Combine all the ingredients in a cocktail shaker and shake. Strain into a glass and serve garnished with a slice of pineapple and a cherry.



SURF'S UP ... AT ELA BEACH!

In a very rare event, Port Moresby's docile Ela Beach had ideal surfing conditions at the start of the year, thanks to Cyclone Penny. That's Andy Abel, the president of the Surfing Association of Papua New Guinea, in the waves on January 3. Abel says he shared the surf with a few friends and family. The waves only lasted for four hours, while there was a convergence of low pressure from the cyclone, a south-west ground swell and a north-west offshore wind. "These conditions are a surfers' dream," he says. ■



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Aussie eco-retreat opens its doors

An all-inclusive eco-retreat for a maximum of 20 guests has opened on Long Island, in the Whitsundays in Queensland. The Elysian retreat operates off the grid, powered by the sun, but guests don't go without. Elysian comes with a private chef, organic spa treatments and exclusive aquatic adventures showcasing the Great Barrier Reef. When guests arrive, they are met by the chef to discuss their taste preferences. Gourmet breakfasts, picnic lunches and three-course wine-matched dinners are part of the experience. See elysianretreat.com.au. ■



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High-voltage action in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's harbour-front will be buzzing on March 10 with 11 teams contesting the city's annual Formula E race. Formula E is an electric-car race series conducted on street circuits in 12 cities around the world, including New York, Mexico City and Rome. The cars can accelerate to 100kmh in 2.8 seconds and reach top speeds of 280kmh. That's slightly slower than Formula One cars, but still mighty fast. See fiaformulae.com and hkformulae.com. ■



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BIG PICTURE

TAKEN BY WILFRED KEPUI

A tangle of serpents slithers around the head and neck of Patsy, who is described by photographer Wilfred Kepui as 'PNG's original snake man'. He is also the leader of the Bongalic Culture Group and is seen here performing at a welcome ceremony in Lae for a *wairon* (traditional canoe) that has journeyed from Sorong to Samarai to retrace early Papuan voyages.

If you have a photo of Papua New Guinea that you'd like published in Paradise, email your submission to paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com. Photos should be at least 1.5mb and 300dpi.





Creating opportunities for local businesses

By purchasing as many goods and services as possible from local Papua New Guinea businesses, ExxonMobil PNG is helping grow the local economy and community skills.

Since the start of production, ExxonMobil PNG has spent almost PGK2.3 billion on Papua New Guinean services, with almost PGK682 million spent with landowner companies. This is in addition to the PGK11 billion spent during construction of the PNG LNG project.

Local businesses have been stimulated through the ExxonMobil-supported Institute of Banking and Business Management Enterprise Centre which provides training, mentorship and advisory services to local businesses.

The contribution PNG businesses have made to ExxonMobil PNG's success is considerable, and grows as the skills and capacity of local companies increase.

“Through constant training and mentorship, local businesses are now delivering better services at a higher standard and the PNG LNG Project has provided growth opportunities that would otherwise not have existed. These lessons of business development are now being taken back into the local communities and have contributed to transforming local economies.”

Joshua Coughran, General Manager of LABA, landowner company for the LNG Plant communities.

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The daily commute ... a local fisherman makes his way home near Lissenung Island.

PICTURES: GRANT THOMAS

Waterworld

Sandwiched between the Bismarck Sea and the South Pacific, Lissenung Island Resort is one of Papua New Guinea's hidden delights.

It is on a small private island accessed exclusively by boat from the nearest town, Kavieng, which is only a short Air Niugini flight

from the country's capital, Port Moresby.

The setting is pristine white-sand beaches, lined with palm trees and fringed by some of the world's most spectacular coral reefs.

Days are spent scuba diving and snorkelling the surrounding reefs, immersing in cultural island tours, surfing empty waves or relaxing

and soaking up the slow island life.

The resort has traditional wooden bungalows spaced across the island, ensuring maximum privacy and comfort. Sandy pathways, flanked by floral plants and tropical shrubs, link each bungalow. A spacious central building, where the restaurant is located, provides a communal area.

Meals are prepared from local produce and served by friendly staff. PNG's position in the Coral Triangle makes it one of the best diving destinations in the world, and Lissenung is a great example of this, with pristine coral reefs, thriving pelagic life and dramatic underwater topography.





Grant Thomas explores Lissenung Island Resort, where diving, snorkelling and surfing are part of the daily routine. The resort is also undertaking important fieldwork to save PNG's endangered turtles.

The owners of Lissenung Island Resort, Dietmar and Ange Amon, are committed to the protection of the local marine environment – so much so that they have privately funded their own turtle conservation project.

Turtle numbers are on the decline in PNG, partly because of human consumption and overfishing.

“

The resort has traditional wooden bungalows spaced across the island. Sandy pathways, flanked by floral plants and tropical shrubs, link each bungalow.

”



The team at Lissenung Island Resort is giving the turtles a fighting chance. Each morning during nesting season from September to February, team members visit the neighbouring islands to check for nests with eggs. Once found, the eggs are gently extracted, transported safely back to the resort and stored until hatching time. ➤

Water world



A speck in the ocean ... Lissenung Island (above); smiles from a local girl (right).

After about 60 days, the eggs hatch and the baby turtles are released onto the beach, usually after sunset and away from the prying eyes of potential predators. The turtles are drawn towards the ocean and innately propelled to swim out into the open sea. Here they will use sargassum floats – a type of seaweed that floats in large island-like masses – as a haven to grow, feed and hopefully survive into adulthood.

It is estimated only about one in 1000 sea turtles will survive to adulthood, so the efforts made at Lissenung are vital in helping the survival of the species. ➤





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Water world

The Amons have been recording and sharing valuable data about the local turtle populations with various scientific research institutions across Australia.

This data gives insight into the different aspects of turtle development and is important in ensuring a sustainable future for the species. ➤

Saving the turtles ... a Lissenung staff member collects turtle eggs from a newly discovered nest (right); hawksbill turtles can lay over 200 eggs in one nest (middle right); size and weight data of turtles is recorded for research purposes (far right).



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Water world

Sea life ... schools of batfish seek shelter in the wreck of a Japanese bi-plane (this page); turtle hatchlings start their perilous journey for survival (opposite page). ▶



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Water world



Daily life ... the cosy central restaurant at Lissenung (this page); a newborn hawksbill turtle swims to an unknown future in the open ocean (opposite page). ➤

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Water world



NEED TO KNOW

STAYING THERE There are four traditional-style basic bungalows at Lissenung Island Resort. Rooms from PGK390 a night per person.

THINGS TO DO Diving, snorkelling, fishing, surfing and village tours are available.

MORE INFORMATION See lissenung.com.

The team at Lissenung has also been involving local communities in the project as well as educating locals about turtle conservation.

While the turtles are just a small aspect of Lissenung Island Resort, it's refreshing to know that your stay is somehow contributing towards the survival of a species. ■

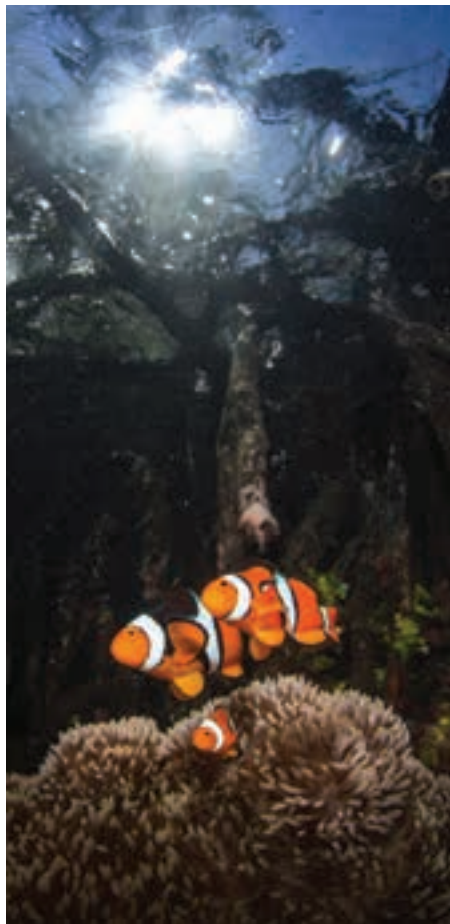
 **Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Kavieng daily.**
See airniugini.com.pg.



Water world



The Lissenung environ ... (clockwise from opposite page) a hawksbill turtle; an old fishing boat on its side near Kavieng; a flower decoration in a bungalow at the resort; exploring a plane wreck; bright-red soft coral in the mangroves; a school of sweetlips at Albatross Passage; a bungalow made from local materials; a family of clownfish in the mangroves.



Aiming high

Adrian Mathias reports on efforts to shine the spotlight on the Hindenburg Wall, one of PNG's hidden natural attractions.

Papua New Guinea's Hindenburg Wall is one of the country's most spectacular geographical features, a remote landform

where a series of limestone escarpments stretch for 50 kilometres along the edge of the Star Mountain Range. ➤

Cliff-hanger ... mist shrouds the 600-metre limestone Hindenburg Wall, which towers above the river Ok Kaakil in Western Province.





Aiming high

Sometimes described as a natural wonder of the world, the wall – in Western Province near the Ok Tedi copper and gold mine – is rarely visited, even by intrepid travellers.

That may be about to change if plans by local landowners, government authorities and the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA) come to fruition.

The authorities want to attract more visitors to see the towering cliffs, the waterfalls, the raging rivers, the rainforest, the wide



Walking on water ... a lone trekker crosses a tributary of Ok Kaakil on the way to the base of the Hindenburg Wall (right); a section of the wall at dawn, the time of day when it is least likely to be shrouded by cloud (opposite page).




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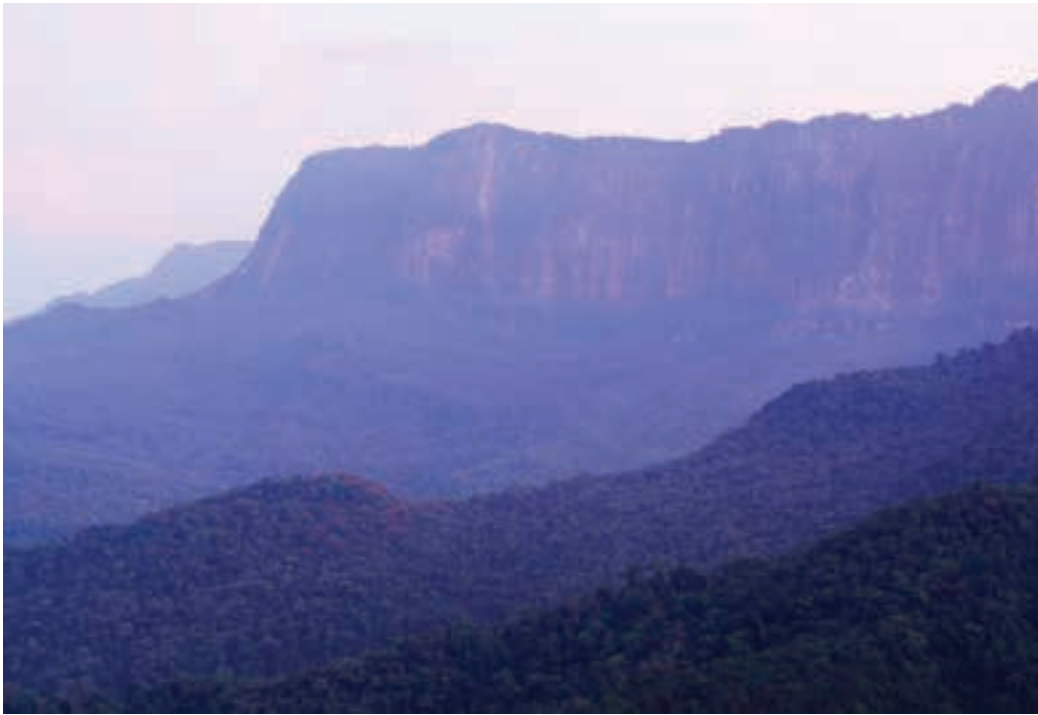
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Aiming high



variety of birds and the habitat that is home to rare plant and animal species.

In 2013, a Wildlife Conservation Society survey documented 1108 plant and animal species at the wall, of which at least 89 were known, or suspected, to be new to science.

A TPA spokesperson says a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Ok Tedi Landowner Trust Fund to pursue tourist development in the region.

TPA officers are expected to visit the area soon to evaluate tourism possibilities, but it's understood that a five-kilometre track to the wall, a resource centre for artifacts and arts and crafts, and new guesthouse accommodation have all been discussed. ➤

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Aiming high

“

The authorities want to attract more visitors to see the towering cliffs, the waterfalls, the raging rivers ...

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Cloud break ... the southern slopes of the Star Mountain Range are home to the Hindenburg Wall (main); trekking guides at Bultemabip, an abandoned village near the base of the wall (inset left); villagers at Bultem, near the wall (inset right).

Locals have agreed to fund the tourist initiative with royalties they have received from the Ok Tedi Mine.

An initial PGK2 million has been approved to cover the cost of early works, which may include the walking track that will connect to

the newly built Tabubil–Olsobip road.

The Hindenburg Wall is about 10 kilometres from the small town of Tabubil, which is near the border with Indonesia. The town was established in 1972 to service the Ok Tedi mine. ■

NEED TO KNOW

STAYING THERE: Hotel Cloudlands (+675 649 9277, facebook.com/HotelCloudlands) has basic rooms, restaurant and bar in Tabubil.

TOURING THERE: Kiunga Nature Tours (Samuel Kepuknai, +675 548 1451).

MORE INFORMATION: thetouristplace.com/tabubil-papua-new-guinea/

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When the seaplane with barefooted pilots lands, I can see a long, white-sand horseshoe bay, where just the right amount of coconut trees sway in the trade winds.

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Kokomo Private Island ... set on a white-sand horseshoe-shaped bay.

A little place called

KOKOMO

Craig Tansley gets into the groove on an exclusive Fijian island.

challenge you to go to Fiji's Kokomo Private Island without a certain '80s Beach Boys song* looping over and over in your head.

The realised dream of eccentric Australian billionaire Lang Walker, Kokomo Private Island seems – on first arrival – like the south seas epitomised.

When the seaplane with barefooted pilots lands and motors me right to the dock, all I can see is an open-air building beside a long, >





A little place called Kokomo

white-sand horseshoe bay where a couple of people are using stand-up paddleboards, and where just the right amount of coconut trees sway in the trade winds.

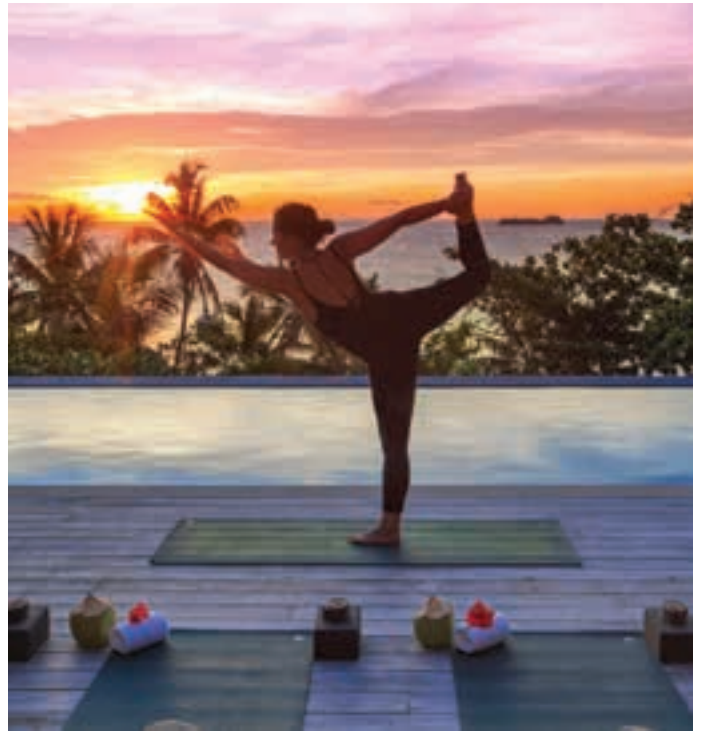
Here, we're sheltered within the world's fourth-largest reef.

There are just 21 villas, and five residences set across 57 hectares on a tiny island 45 minutes' flying time south of Nadi. There are no other resorts close by (just the cast and crew from a French version of *Survivor*); so when I land, I feel gloriously removed from the outside world.

I arrive just in time for lunch (though there are no set times for meals). There are two restaurant choices, but I'm drawn to an open-air eatery tucked into a small cove on a boardwalk above a beach.

This is Walker'd Plank. Head chef Caroline Oakley explains there are no menus or set dishes. She asks, instead, what I like, she tells me what's been caught, and we work it out from there.

I settle for a combination of Spanish mackerel sashimi, Fijian *kokonda* (raw fish cooked in lime juice, covered with coconut milk, onions, cucumber and tomato) and tempura squid.



Relax ... (clockwise) early morning yoga on the pool deck; each villa has a beachside infinity pool; one of the island's long white-sand beaches.



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A little place called Kokomo



“This is the place where you have to tell us when to stop (cooking) because we’ll just keep on going,” the chef explains.

At the bar, cocktail chief Leslie Dakua offers me his best concoction; before each day he sees what’s ready to pick at the island’s organic herb farm. Today’s special is lemongrass daquiri. And it’s good. So good I have another. I sit like this for hours, sipping, eating, staring ... until I realise I haven’t even seen my room yet.

When I do, I barely want to leave ‘home’ again.

A floor-to-ceiling window lets me look across to my own private beach, though in the foreground I have an infinity pool to swim in that’s built between frangipani trees.

Rooms are enormous and contain Fijian nuances such as thatched roofs and open-plan living.

My dilemma, I’m already finding, is choosing between doing lots of nothing, and bits of everything.

Eventually, I decide on diving, though I’m not qualified. Kokomo offers a Discover Scuba Diving package (included with your room rate), which allows beginners to dive to 12 metres in the open ocean.

After going over the basics in the shallow water in front of the resort, I’m taken for 20 minutes by speedboat to the Great Astrolabe Reef (the world’s fourth-largest reef). There are over 40 sites around the resort along the western and eastern side of the reef, with no other resorts having access. ➤





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A little place called Kokomo



Looking sharp ... a villa at Kokomo (above); head chef Caroline Oakley (below); snorkelling and diving are on offer with colourful fish (right).

We jump into the open ocean, and spend 40 minutes at 12 metres under the sea. There's a deep drop-off on the western side of the reef, which we swim along, watching reef sharks, turtles, fish and stingrays. The water's so clear I can see more than 40 metres.

Next morning, I'm rising with the dawn for a half-day fishing excursion. I wrestle with what we all think is a beast of a tuna until it comes to the boat – it's a 1.5-metre silver-tip oceanic shark.

The ocean's teeming with creatures – I'm pulling up tuna, mahi mahi and Spanish mackerel every few minutes and I'm definitely no fisherman. The next day, I try not to think of what's underneath as I surf a secluded reef pass. So few people have ever surfed around here that my guide throws out a buoy so we know not to paddle too close into the coral. And then there are boat rides to remote villages, where we walk past communities living in huts to a waterfall hidden deep within a green valley.

Some days I don't feel like leaving the resort at all; I spend hours over three- and four-course meals, deep in conversation with other guests, wondering how I'm



going to be hungry for my next meal, and marvelling at how I manage to fit another four courses in every time.

It costs a lot to stay here; but then, you're not just paying for a private resort, you're paying for a private world that nobody ever wants to exit. ■

***The Beach Boys song Kokomo was released in 1989 and was about a fictional place off Florida Keys. In Japanese, kokomo means 'heart, mind, soul'.**



NEED TO KNOW

STAYING THERE There are 21 beachfront villas on Kokomo Private Island, starting from \$US2500 per night, including meals, a nanny service, water sports, laundry and Wi-Fi. There are also five luxury residences.

THINGS TO DO Diving, snorkelling, fishing, surfing and waterfall tours are available. There's also stand-up paddleboarding, wake boarding and boat excursions.

MORE INFORMATION kokomoislandfiji.com.

 **Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Nadi twice weekly. See airniugini.com.pg.**





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The GREAT beach drive



Here's an Aussie driving trip with a difference – instead of going along the highways take the scenic route, along the beach. *Robert Upe* reports.

Beach picnic ... a shady spot on the sand (above); horse riding in the surf at Rainbow Beach (right).

Australian road trips are famed for kangaroos, dust and corrugated dirt roads. But there's a drive on the Queensland coast that casts that all aside for whales, sand and sea breezes.

The so-called 'Great Beach Drive' is a 380-kilometre jaunt that connects Noosa and Hervey Bay. Doing the whole journey can take three to five days, and includes Fraser Island. A lot, but not all, of the driving is on beaches.

There are sand dunes, cliffs and occasional camping spots among sheoaks and cypress pines on our left, while on the right the South Pacific sparkles in the sun. Whales can sometimes be seen.

A four-wheel drive is essential (they can be hired when you land in Brisbane on your Air Niugini flight).

There's an art to beach driving, but once you are aware of the basics it should be smooth going.

For starters, make sure tyre pressures are lowered, don't exceed the speed limit of 80kmh (50kmh near camping areas), obtain a permit for beach driving from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, ➤



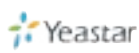


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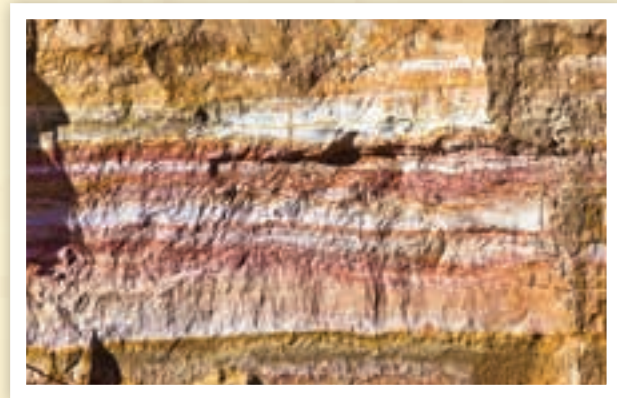
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The great beach drive



Big splash ... whales can be seen on the Great Beach Drive, especially between June and October (above); coloured sea cliffs (left); a beach mural in the wet sand (right).

be aware of the tides, and drive on the hard sand to avoid getting bogged.

If you prefer to be driven by an experienced guide, Great Beach Drive 4WD Tours has a fleet of vehicles doing a 70-kilometre stretch of the Great Beach Drive, from Noosa to Rainbow Beach and return.

The company will pick you up in Noosa, Coolum or Mooloolaba.

The eight-hour tour starts proper with a crossing of the Noosa River on a car ferry. A short distance from the ferry, you leave the bitumen and hit the wide-open Teewah Beach, which stretches to the horizon.

There are sand dunes, cliffs and occasional camping spots among sheoaks and cypress pines on our left, while on the right the

South Pacific sparkles in the sun. Whales can sometimes be seen between June and October, and there's always a chance of spotting dolphins.

There are estimates that 20,000 whales passed by last season on their annual migration.

The beach isn't exactly deserted. There are many other four-wheel-drives, some towing caravans, and we are also passed by a group of off-road motorbike riders.

Stops along the way can include Red Canyon, where you can scramble up the red and yellow sand for elevated views out to sea, and Freshwater Lake camping area.

The camping area is set about 500 metres inland and is a good spot for a drink or snacks under shady trees. ➤

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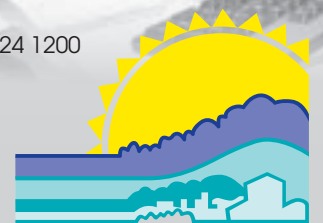
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The great beach drive



Great Beach Drive ... (clockwise from top left) Double Island Point; the lighthouse on top of Double Island Point; a view from the cliffs; caravans in convoy; a 4WD on the 'road' between Noosa and Rainbow Beach.

A bit further north, the beach leads to Double Island Point. There's a lighthouse at the top of the point and views in all directions. This is a particularly good place to look down at the water to see whales, dolphins, turtles, manta rays and sea birds. In the distance, Fraser Island can also be seen.

For surfers, Double Island Point has a mellow point break. Our guide tells us that the wave breaks for a kilometre when it is at its best, but otherwise you are likely to get a ride of a few hundred metres.

"Often surfers will take turns to surf the wave and drive their four-

wheel-drive to the end of the wave to pick up their mates and take them back to the take-off point," he says.

It's near here, too, that we stop to marvel at the coloured sands that give Rainbow Beach its name. There are about 40 shades of colour – including reds, yellows, ochre and rust – in the sea cliffs. Our guide mixes some of the colours in the wet sand, creating a temporary beach mural.

The turnaround point and lunch stop for the day tour is Rainbow Beach, a cute beach town that is known for the Carlo Sandblow, a massive sand dune that sprawls

across 15 hectares and provides views to Fraser Island and the amazing coloured cliffs along the beach.

If you're staying over at Rainbow Beach, one of the special experiences is riding horses along the beach. The rides (rbhr.com.au)

are with a guide on a stretch of beach where vehicles are not allowed.

If you're an accomplished rider you can ride bareback and take the horses into the water for a swim. ■

NEED TO KNOW

STAYING THERE In Noosa, the five-star Sofitel Noosa (sofitelnoosapacificresort.com.au) has prime position. In Rainbow Beach, the Rainbow Ocean Palms Resort (rainbowoceanpalms.com.au) has modern apartments.

TOURING THERE greatbeachdrive4wdtours.com conducts day tours between Noosa and Rainbow Beach.

MORE INFORMATION See australiasnaturecoast.com and visitsunshinecoast.com.

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





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CITY GUIDE:

SYDNEY

Bronwen Gora provides tips on her hometown, from Vietnamese food in Cabramatta to fashionable boutiques in Paddington.

PICTURES: DESTINATION NSW

From stunning beaches to cosmopolitan suburbs, Sydney's array of contrasting attractions is so vast as to easily fill an itinerary from one day to several weeks.

Australia's most populous city has a walkable CBD right by a fabulous harbour and the iconic sights of the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. Dining and accommodation are world class as is the city's calendar of events.

Among the most popular day trips are the Blue Mountains wilderness area just beyond

Sydney's western fringe and, closer to the centre, the city's pristine beaches, which stretch north and south of the metropolitan area.

Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Sydney twice a week.





Aerial view ... Sydney, as you may see it from your Air Niugini plane.

GETTING AROUND

Sydney Airport is eight kilometres from the city centre and while taxis abound, often the fastest route to the CBD is by the Airport Link train (airportlink.com.au), which runs every 10 minutes and takes 15 minutes to reach Central Station.

Trains, buses and ferries (transportsw.info) underpin the

public transport system. The CBD, eastern suburbs and most suburban regions – with the exception of the northern beaches – are well serviced by trains, while buses extend to the entire metropolitan area. A ferry network originates from Circular Quay, located between the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge,

and links the city to its western and harbourside suburbs, as well as the northern beaches via the Manly Ferry.

The Inner West Light Rail, under the banner of the L1 Dulwich Hill Line (transportsw.info/routes/train), connects Sydney’s Central Station and the inner west via 23 stops, including the popular Sydney

Fish Market (sydneyfishmarket.com.au) at Pyrmont. The remainder of the Sydney Light Rail network (sydneylightrail.transport.nsw.gov.au) is due for completion this year, a 19-stop network linking the CBD with the major sporting and entertainment venues to the south and the University of NSW. ➤



City guide: Sydney



SIGHTS

No visit to Sydney is complete without a pleasure cruise on the harbour, visiting the Opera House (sydneyoperahouse.com), climbing the Harbour Bridge (bridgeclimb.com) and wandering The Rocks (therocks.com) historic precinct located below the bridge's southern pylon. Stroll through Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens and into the Domain parklands where Mrs Macquarie's Chair, an exposed sandstone rock cut into the shape of a bench, is perfect for capturing postcard harbour views.

Just beyond the Domain is the enormous St Mary's Cathedral (stmaryscathedral.org.au), built on the oldest continuous site of Catholic worship in Australia. Across the road is the city's central oasis, Hyde Park, to the west of which lies the CBD proper.

Nearby vibrant inner-city areas to explore are the chic and stylish Surry Hills, the colourful streets of Newtown and Glebe and, in the eastern suburbs, upscale Paddington filled with fashionable boutiques, cosy cafes and weekend markets.

Try horse or bike riding in the nearby expanse of Centennial Park (centennialparklands.com.au), and then continue east to Bondi (bondibeach.com) where the renowned golden arch of sand is flanked by a community steeped in beach culture only 10 minutes from the CBD. Enjoy

the Bondi-to-Bronte walk before people-watching on the beachfront Campbell Parade strip.

For a (slightly) quieter alternative, take a ferry north to Manly (hellomanly.com.au). Buy an ice-cream while strolling along the Corso to Manly Beach and then meander around to Shelly Beach for a bite at The Boathouse (theboathousesb.com.au).



See and do ... (clockwise from top left) Balmain Market; the 1898 heritage-listed Queen Victoria Building has three levels of shops; the Blue Mountains.

SYDNEY SPECIAL

The World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park (sg.sydney.com/destinations/blue-mountains) is just under two hours by road or rail from Sydney and well worth a day or multi-day trip to fully appreciate the jaw-dropping scenery of deep valleys and plunging sandstone cliffs that change intensity of colour with the sun. Attractions range from bushwalks, clifftop viewing points and waterfalls to gorgeous villages sprinkled with historic hotels, cafes and restaurants.

Temperatures are cooler and the mountain air fresh. Kick off at Katoomba, location of the region's most famous rock formation, The

Three Sisters, and then head to the Scenic Railway and thrilling Scenic Skyline tramway nearby.

CULTURE VULTURE

A stellar line-up of international and local acts ignites the city for three weeks every January during the Sydney Festival (sydneyfestival.org.au). Almost as big an annual drawcard is Vivid Sydney,



of Sydney's newest hotels, the luxurious Sofitel Darling Harbour (sofitelsydneydarlingharbour.com.au) sits adjacent the ICC. In the CBD, the Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney (amorahotels.com/hotels/amora-hotel-jamison-sydney) is among the best equipped for impressive modern conferences, along with the Hilton Sydney (hiltonsydney.com.au) and, beachside, the Novotel Manly Pacific Sydney (novotelmanlypacific.com.au).

RETAIL THERAPY

CBD shopping heaven is found within the elegant three-level Queen Victoria Building (qvb.com.au), the pedestrian-only Pitt Street Mall (pittstreetmall.com.au) and the brash new World Square (worldsquare.com.au) development. Seek out the historic Strand Arcade (strandarcade.com.au) to see a stylish slice of yesteryear. Jump aboard the Shopper Hopper ferry (shopperhopper.com.au) at Circular Quay and visit Birkenhead Point mall to find high-end factory outlets.

PILLOW TALK

Standouts amid regular hotel chains are the luxury boutique QT Sydney (qthotelsandresorts.com) and five-star Primus (primushotelsydney.com), a centrally located luxury deco-style hotel in a spectacular ▶





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City guide: Sydney



Members only ... the Sheraton's club lounge (above); the Bondi to Bronte walking path (right).

heritage-listed 1930s building. Following a \$50 million refurbishment, the Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park (marriott.com/hotels/travel/sydsi-sheraton-grand-sydney-hyde-park) is one of Sydney's most impressive hotels.

EATS

For authentic Asian dining, browse the streets and alleyways of Sydney's atmospheric Chinatown (sydney.com/destinations/sydney/sydney-city/chinatown-and-haymarket) or catch a train to Cabramatta (sydney.com/destinations/sydney/sydney-west/cabramatta), where excellent Vietnamese cuisine and an immersive oriental experience awaits.

Find wall-to-wall modern restaurants of all styles in Sydney's newest harbourside precinct, Barangaroo, the area just south of Darling Harbour, which completes access around the foreshore to The Rocks.



The most regaled CBD restaurants include Mr Wong (merivale.com/venues/mrwong) and Rockpool Bar & Grill (rockpoolbarandgrill.com.au). For an injection of pure inner-city hip, it's hard to go past The Grounds of Alexandria (thegrounds.com.au), and anywhere in Waterloo for that matter.

WATERING HOLES

Sydney's small bar scene is now nicely evolved; experience it at places like The Baxter Inn and The Barber Shop. Meeting locals is guaranteed at Establishment (merivale.com/venues/establishmentbar), one of the fanciest after-work CBD bars patronised by the office crowd. Popular newcomers on the bar scene are The Sydney Brewery (sydneybrewery.com/surry-hills) and rooftop venue Smoke at Barangaroo (barangaroohouse.com.au/smoke-bar) on the waterfront. ➤



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City guide: Sydney

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Michael Mel is from Mount Hagen, PNG. He moved to Sydney to take up a position as the manager for the Pacific and International Collection at the Australian Museum.

I love Sydney because ... of the wonderful waterways including Kings Bay, Morrisons Bay, Rozelle Bay, Berry Bay, Neutral Bay, Rose Bay, Watsons Bay, Rushcutters Bay, Botany Bay and many more. Then all the great spots where land meets water with magnificent views: Potts Point, Cremorne Point, Point Piper, Barangaroo, and Bondi. I cannot go past the Australian Museum (australianmuseum.net.au). It has one of the world's best Pacific collections (especially from Papua New Guinea).

A great night out ... is at the iconic Sydney Opera House. Great restaurants include Portside Sydney, Aria Restaurant, and my favourite, Bennelong Restaurant and Bar.

We all gather at ... Regio's on Stanley Street in Darlinghurst. The pizzas are divine, the wine is good and the hubbub brings that extra flavour of laughter.

The best sport is ... of course rugby league. Kumuls, Blues and Roosters forever.

Don't forget to ... check out the great icons of Sydney. As old as they are, they still draw the crowds: the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, a ride on Sydney ferries and visit to Manly or up the Parramatta River. ■



SYDNEY

POPULATION:
4.6 million

LANGUAGE:
English

CURRENCY:
Australian dollar (AUD)

TAXI FARE FROM AIRPORT:
\$45-\$55 (about PGK110-130).

INTERNATIONAL DIALLING CODE:
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POWER:
Australian plug, 220V/240V

Rooms

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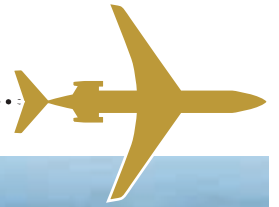
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AIRPORT REVIEW

BY BRIAN JOHNSTON



TOKYO NARITA





Narita International Airport serves the world's largest metropolis, receives half of Japan's international passenger arrivals, and is one of the world's top 10 airports for freight, yet still plays second fiddle to Tokyo Haneda airport in overall passenger numbers. It recently announced an expansion to include a third runway by 2028.

→ **WHERE**

About 75 minutes east of the city centre in Chiba Prefecture. Narita city has evidence of human settlement dating back 30,000 years.

→ **AIRPORT CODE**

NRT

→ **DISTANCE TO CBD**

73 kilometres

→ **TAXIS & HIRE CARS**

Both metered and fixed-fare taxi stands are located outside arrivals at all three terminals. The city centre is 75 minutes away and costs ¥15,000 (PGK460). Terminals 1 and 2 have car rental outlets.

→ **OTHER TRANSPORT**



There are train stations at Terminals 1 and 2; free shuttle buses take you onwards to Terminal 3. JR, Skyliner and Keisei line trains run very frequently (access.narita-airport.jp). Public buses (nariku.co.jp) operate to regional centres, shopping malls and museums.

→ **CLOSEST HOTELS**

Narita Airport Rest House (aporesthouse.com/english) is the only hotel within the airport. It has basic but comfortable rooms and a restaurant serving Japanese and western cuisines.

Nine Hours Narita Airport (ninehours.co.jp/en) provides that classic, though claustrophobic, Japanese cultural experience, a capsule hotel with 'rooms' just big enough to sleep in.



→ **TERMINALS**

There are three terminals, all of which serve international and domestic flights. A complimentary transfer bus connects them in around 10 minutes. You can walk (15 minutes) between Terminals 2 and 3.

→ **LOUNGE ACCESS**

Air Niugini's Gold Executive Club members have access to the China Airlines Dynasty Lounge in Terminal 2, which has VIP lounges, a business area, showers and a food and beverage bar.



→ **SHOPS**

You'll find all the regular fashion, cosmetic and duty-free stores, but you'd do best to plunder the Japanese shops for anime characters, fabrics, regional handicrafts, dolls, tea and beautifully boxed confectionery.

→ **FOOD & BEVERAGE**

The joy of Japanese airports is generally good food at almost regular prices. You'll find Chinese, western and other ethnic cuisines as well as sushi, satisfying bowls of ramen noodles, tempura outlets and grill-and-beer favourites.

→ **WI-FI**

There is access to free Wi-Fi throughout all terminals. Select 'FreeWiFi-NARITA' from your connection options, then accept terms and conditions to obtain access..



→ **WHAT ELSE**

You'll also find nap and shower rooms, a post office and baggage delivery to and from hotels. If you have the transit time, check out the NAA Art Gallery in Terminal 1, which hosts changing exhibitions of artworks, photography and even embroidery.

→ **FAVOURITE CORNER**

The Traditional Japanese Culture Experience Corner in the departure area beyond customs is the place to head in the afternoons for a changing array of events such as origami and kite making, traditional printing, and the chance to dress up in a kimono or samurai and ninja costumes.



SKYTRAX SAYS

"The airport is clean and well maintained."
 "Perhaps the easiest check-in experience we have had at any international airport. Security and immigration very fast and efficient."
 "Good information about transport to Tokyo and well organised." ■

 **Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Tokyo weekly. See airniugini.com.pg.**



PNG REVIEW: KIBURU LODGE, MENDI

Tel. +675 549 1077

WHO STAYS? Mainly business and government travellers.

HOW BIG? 20 keys

COST Standard rooms start from PGK295 + GST.

CHECK IN 2pm

CHECK OUT 11am

HIGHLIGHTS Rooms are surrounded by well-kept gardens, home to several native bird species, including the raggiana bird of paradise, whose favourite food trees have been planted. Guests are almost guaranteed to see Papua New Guinea's national bird.

NEARBY Mendi is the capital of, and the gateway to, Southern Highlands Province. From here, it's an easy drive along sealed road to Mount Hagen, capital of Western Highlands Province. Alternatively, there are roads into Hela Province, home of the famous Huli wigmen.

- **Wi-Fi in rooms/public areas:** ✓
- **TV:** ✓
- **Air conditioning in room:** ✗
- **Ceiling fan in room:** ✓
- **Business centre:** ✗
- **Gym:** ✓
- **Room service:** ✓
- **Swimming pool:** ✗
- **Free airport transfers:** ✓
- **Hotel arranges tours:** ✓
- **Breakfast included in standard room charge:** ✓



LOCATION

The lodge is on the outskirts of Mendi, about 10 minutes' drive from the airport, in the middle of a large estate alongside the town's namesake river, once a favoured grade five white-water rafting destination. Kiburu is framed by the lush hills of the Mendi Valley. The altitude and climate mean that it never gets too hot.

THE PLACE

Kiburu has been part of the scenery here since the late 1980s when it was established by local landowner Francis Awesa. The constant sound here is the gurgling water of the nearby Mendi River. As you walk around the well-groomed gardens, raggiana birds of paradise flit through the tree tops, making their intermittent but very distinctive calls. It's a haven of peace. There is back-up water and power if mains supply is disrupted, plus extensive use of local timbers, woven cane and *pit-pit* blinds, so the lodge has a village atmosphere. Construction is a pole and beam style; all structures initially had *kunai* thatch

roofs, replaced now with more permanent materials. The layout of buildings and two-room cottages is along the banks of the Mendi River.

ROOMS

There are two self-contained standard rooms per cottage; self-catering units; backpacker rooms; and three-bedroom houses with lounges, kitchens and verandahs, ideal for extended stays. The intimate bar, dining room and conference centre occupy the main two pavilions of the lodge.

FOOD AND DRINK

The hotel's restaurant is open every day for lunch and dinner. Predictably, being in the fertile highlands, there is much use of local produce, especially fruit and vegetables.

WHAT GUESTS LIKE

"The grounds are kept safe and secluded from Mendi town. The river runs near the cabins, creating an amazing monotonous noise that will relieve any tensions or jet lag."

– TripAdvisor ■





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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW: NOVOTEL SOUTH BANK, BRISBANE

novotelbrisbanesouthbank.com.au Tel. +61 7 3295 4100

WHO STAYS? Business travellers and holidaying couples and families.

HOW BIG? 238 keys, ranging in size from king-sized standard rooms up to junior and executive suites, with lounge rooms.

COST Rooms from \$AUD148.

CHECK IN 2pm

CHECK OUT 11am

HIGHLIGHTS Friendly staff and an appealing 20-metre outdoor pool.

NEARBY It's 800 metres to Brisbane's convention centre and a five-minute walk to South Bank's happening cultural precinct beside the Brisbane River.

Wi-Fi in rooms/public areas:	✓
Fee for Wi-Fi:	✓
TV:	✓
Air conditioning in room:	✓
Ceiling fan in room:	✗
Business centre:	✓
Gym:	✓
Room service:	✓
Swimming pool:	✓
Free airport transfers:	✗
Hotel arranges tours:	✓
Breakfast included in standard room charge:	✗



LOCATION

The hotel overlooks expansive Musgrave Park and is a couple of blocks behind Brisbane's vibrant South Bank. It's also only a 10-minute stroll to trendy West End village and to Fish Lane's popular bars and restaurants.

THE PLACE

This new 4.5-star hotel opened last May. It has an outdoor lap pool and gym on level one, and open-plan restaurant, bar and lounge on the ground, adjacent to reception. The best rooms overlook Musgrave Park and feature floor-to-ceiling windows. It's a classic Novotel, functional and bright, with friendly staff, two meeting rooms and (paid) underground parking. It's the perfect base for conferences at Brisbane's Convention and Exhibition Centre, as well as for holidaying families making the most of South Bank's cultural precinct and its riverside lagoon and beach. Wi-fi is free to Accor Le Club loyalty members, which is free to join.

ROOMS

There are 238 rooms over nine floors, ranging from standard (king-sized bed, ensuite shower, small desk, smart TV) to 40 square metre junior suites (king-sized bedroom, separate lounge room, two smart TVs, mini bar and Nespresso coffee machines) and two executive suites (twice the size of the

standard, with electric blinds, twin basins and bathtub in ensuite). Accessible rooms are also available for disabled guests.

FOOD AND DRINK

The Spice Central Kitchen and Bar is an impressive and welcoming hotel food and beverage outlet, with a menu worth staying in for. Appealing dinner appetisers include seared prawns in a yellow-curry bisque with slaw and an Australian mussel pot, marinere-style with chimichurri. Imaginative Asian-leaning mains include Lapsang souchong tea-infused barramundi and there is a range of steak cuts to please carnivores. The bar opens up into a lounge area, which is a good place to meet with friends or colleagues.

WHAT GUESTS LIKE

"Affordable price. The rooms above expectations. The greeting exceptional."
– TripAdvisor

"Stayed in a spacious junior suite. Clean, modern and wonderfully quiet. Good selection of Foxtel channels available. Staff pleasant and friendly. Great if you are attending a venue in South Bank." – TripAdvisor

"Travel for work. Lovely to arrive back daily to warm smiles, lovely spacious rooms and all the facilities you need. The chef is awesome."
– Expedia ■





New kid on the block ... the Novotel South Bank opened in Brisbane last May (opposite page); the 4.5 star interiors and the 20-metre swimming pool (this page).



Three of a kind: wreck dives



TUFI, ORO PROVINCE, PNG

The Tufi wharf was established by the Australian New Guinea Administration before World War 2 and began operating as a base for PT boats for the US Navy in 1942. As a result, you'll find wreckage from two destroyed PT boats and a small Australian freighter on the seabed just off the wharf, which exploded in a refuelling mishap during the war.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND

The waters surrounding Tufi are a scuba diver's Shangri-La, being home to swirling cyclones of barracuda, reef fish and sharks, including the rare white hammerhead, all flitting around the artificial reefs created by the coral-encrusted wrecks.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

As you swim between the various pieces of wreckage, keep an eye out for several machineguns and ammunition scattered across the ocean floor.

DETAILS

Tufi Dive Resort runs specialty wreck dives, and offers dive and stay packages. Tel. +67 5323 3462, see tufidive.com.

YONGALA WRECK, TOWNSVILLE, AUSTRALIA

Over a century ago, the 110-metre steam ship *Yongala* (pictured) sank in a cyclone in the Great Barrier Reef marine park. All 122 passengers and crew were lost at sea, and after an unsuccessful seven-day search the ship lay undiscovered for 50 years, until 1958. Sometimes referred to as 'Townsville's *Titanic*', it now provides travellers with the chance to explore the most intact historic shipwreck in Australian waters.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND

Because it's protected, swimming inside the *Yongala* is forbidden, which is why it's still in excellent condition. Swimming around the perimeter you'll see intact masts, toilets, chairs, portholes, lights, bottles and apparently even human remains.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Visit from June to November and you'll likely spot minke and humpback whales.

DETAILS

Yongala Dive runs dives of the wreck seven days a week. Tel. +61 7 4783 1519, see yongaladive.com.au.

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PNG artefacts return home

Lisa Smyth reports on a decades-long project that is repatriating important Papua New Guinean cultural items.

The cataloguing, documenting and recording of Papua New Guinea's cultural and traditional heritage is an ongoing story with its own rich history. From 1888 to 1898, Sir William MacGregor, the lieutenant-governor of British New Guinea, a Queensland colony at the time, assembled 11,000 traditional PNG objects.

"MacGregor thought he was a witness to a fast-disappearing culture that he wanted to save," explains Dr Andrew Moutu, director of the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery (NMAG). "He was passionate about artefacts as a record of culture, and he thought it was important to salvage objects before they were lost to posterity."

From 1979 to 1992, more than 4000 objects from the MacGregor collection, now scattered among the Queensland Museum, the Australian

“
More than 4000
objects from the
MacGregor collection
have been
repatriated to PNG.

”

Museum and Museum Victoria, were repatriated to PNG to form the foundation of the NMAG.

The repatriation of artefacts and strengthening the cultural links between PNG and Australia is a continuing project.

It has recently resulted in a research project and a book entitled *Kambek: Reconnecting Collections*, which was published to coincide with the APEC leaders meeting in Port Moresby. The book comprises 36 intimate portraits of Papua New Guineans and their connections with artefacts in the MacGregor collection.

"The wide-ranging, funny and thoughtful stories in *Kambek* illustrate the enormous and long-lasting value of encountering objects in the MacGregor collection," says Moutu. "I encourage everyone to visit the refurbished NMAG to see these objects for themselves." ➤



Treasures returned to the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery ... an armband from Oro Province (opposite page); a *kundu* drum from Western Province (left); a tobacco pipe from Central Province (above); a spatula from Milne Bay Province (right).



PNG artefacts return home



**LIME SPATULA
MILNE BAY PROVINCE**

The chewing of betel nut is part of the traditional culture of PNG, and it is common to see people spooning lime from plastic pots on street corners. But, like *kava* in Fiji, chewing betel nut can also be an important part of ceremonial occasions and this spatula is an ornate representation of PNG ritual.

It has links to the famous carver, Mutuaga, who lived in Milne Bay in the 1890s, and it is made from ebony. The carving, which depicts the eye of the frigate bird, is a traditional Milne Bay design and is similar to the designs used on war canoes. The spatula is large and is well used – you can still see the remnants of lime powder and it is uneven at the end. It would have been used to take a small amount of lime from a gourd during an important ceremony.

“It is possible this was made as a souvenir for people to take abroad. The arrival of missionaries in the 1800s meant the tourism industry was just beginning to take off,” says Moutu.



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PNG artefacts return home



**ARM ORNAMENT
NORTH EAST COAST, ORO PROVINCE**

Most traditional armbands are worn during dances, or when there is some celebration or ceremonial gathering, and many are still made and sold in the arts and crafts markets in PNG today. Women wear beaded armbands slightly above the elbow, and men wear them on the forearm. Given that this armband is quite small it most likely belonged to a woman.

The small beads on top of the main area of the armband would have been woven together using a strong natural fibre, and the beads are made from a plant called Job's Tear, a tall wild grass with seeds. Today, more modern fibres would be used for the weaving. ➤



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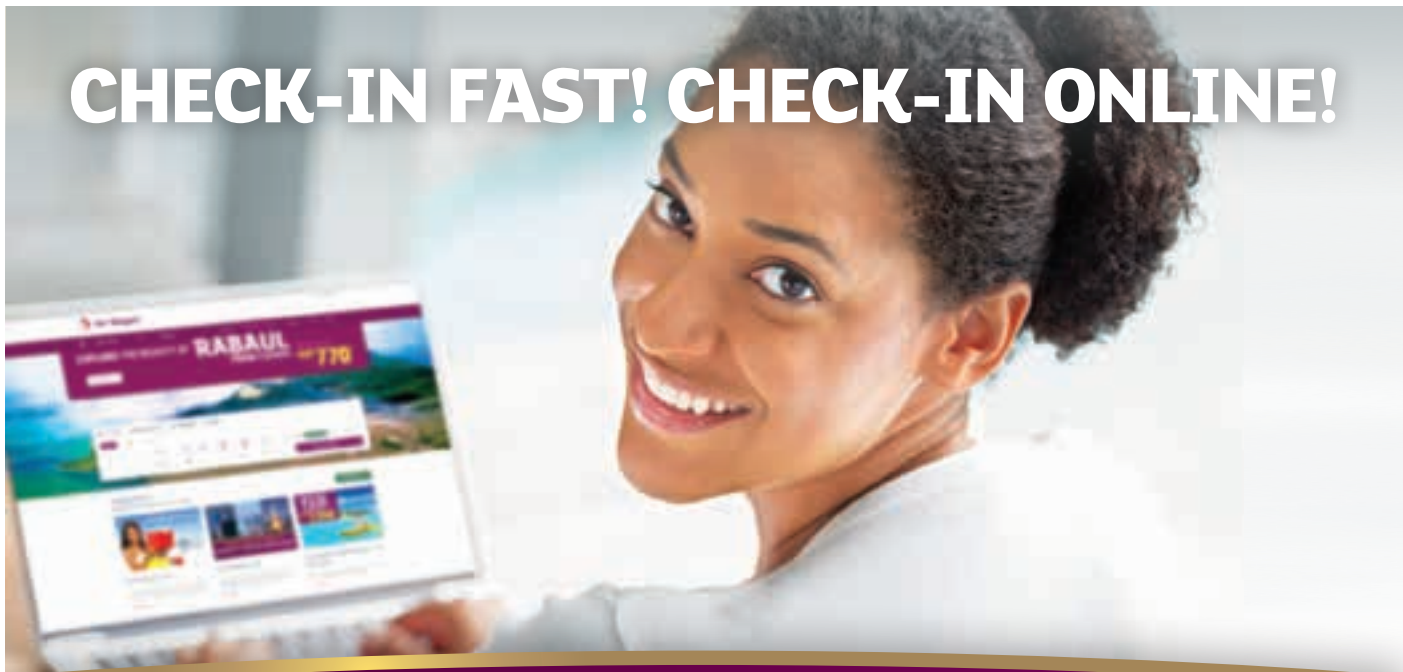
**DRUM
MOREHEAD RIVER,
WESTERN PROVINCE**

The *kundu* drum can be found on PNG's national crest, gracing the national currency, and is the symbol of the country's national broadcaster. "There is something about the *kundu* with which everyone in our country can identify," explains Moutu. "I think the *kundu* is the musical instrument that comes closest to the emotional and sentimental life of Papua New Guineans."

Kundu drums are made from logs hollowed out at both ends, with a membrane or skin fixed to one end of the log. The membrane comes from the monitor lizard, but people also use pigskin, snakeskin and, in modern times, rubber. This *kundu* is heavy and has a long neck where the vibration runs through and the 'voice' is created. The white painting on the drum stands out quite clearly, especially at night when it glitters in the moonlight.



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PNG artefacts return home



**TOBACCO PIPE
MAILU ISLAND, CENTRAL PROVINCE**

Smoking pipes can be found in cultures all around the world and are often used in family or community settings during times of storytelling. The designs on this pipe are copied from tattoos typically found on women in the coastal region of Mailu and represent the natural surrounds and ways of living in the area.

The zigzag lines represent the mounds that women make in the garden for planting yams, and the centipedes they often find while digging are also represented in the design. The circles with short lines represent sea urchins, which are an important daily food for Mailu people. ■

The NMAG is open 9am to 3pm Monday to Saturday and 1pm to 3pm Sunday. Entry is free on weekdays, PGK5 for residents on weekends and PGK10 for overseas visitors. It is located next to Parliament House on Independence Drive, Waigani. See museumpng.gov.pg.





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A TRIBUTE TO THE ANGELS

Dan Slater recalls the heroic efforts of the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, who helped Australian troops during ferocious fighting along the Kokoda Trail during World War 2.



PICTURES: AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, DAN SLATER





Chiselled in history ... a statue at the Herbert Kienle Memorial Museum, Kokoda (opposite page); a Fuzzy Wuzzy Angel, who appears to be the model for the statue, assists an Australian soldier during the Kokoda Campaign (above left); stretcher bearers carry a wounded soldier along a muddy track to Wau (above right).

“My father’s big brother was one of the Australian carriers,” says Joe Matama, his burly frame topped with a smiling, gentle face. “He carried their food and helped those sick or injured.”

Much has been written about the challenge of hiking the famous Kokoda Trail, the 96-kilometre wartime supply route that crosses the Owen Stanley Ranges from Central to Oro provinces. Even more has been written about the tenacity of the Australian diggers who defended Papua New Guinea against the Japanese invaders, fighting up and down the hellish ridges.

However, nowhere near enough has been written about some other heroes of the

campaign – the native Papuan carriers who were employed to move supplies to the front line and escort wounded soldiers back to safety.

Those brave and caring souls were dubbed Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels by the Australian troops, and their legacy endures through the actions of their descendants, porters who find work carrying equipment for tourists who come to trek that fabled route.

As one such tourist, drawn by both the fascinating history of the trail and the physical challenge it presents, I experience first-hand the devotion and skill of the Koiari men who accompany our group on its 10-day journey.

Though I have heard of the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels before, it is here that I first learn the full story behind their remarkable deeds.

Before the war, men such as Joe Matama’s uncle, Guia Kerea, often worked as indentured labourers on rubber or copra plantations, sometimes treated as little more than slaves. When the Japanese South Seas Force landed at Buna and engaged with a unit of ‘native rifles’ at the village of Kokoda on July 23, 1942, the Australian Infantry Force (AIF) scrambled for supplies.

Pack animals would normally have been used in such a situation, but there was no food for them in the highlands of PNG and disease was rife. Instead, plantation owners ‘loaned’ the army their Papuan labourers, while others were conscripted or signed up for a flat rate of five shillings per month. ➤



A tribute to the Angels

The Japanese also used locals in their campaign but they had a reputation for cruelty and were said to have killed carriers who were injured and could no longer work. Most other villagers, terrified of the bombs and noise of what they called the *bikpela pait* (bigfella fight), fled to the highlands for the duration of the conflict.

The carriers' primary job was to bring forward supplies (blankets, food, radios, boots and ammunition) to the front line, although they were generally kept away from the actual fighting. Initially carrying loads of eight kilograms, the men were later routinely given 18 kilograms or more. Rather than return empty handed, they were then tasked with escorting wounded soldiers back to Owers' Corner, and this is where they earned their legendary reputation for kindness.

A parade of the wounded ... Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels carry soldiers through kunai grass to an advanced US first-aid station.





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A tribute to the Angels

Teams of eight to 10 per stretcher worked in shifts to carry the casualties for up to 12 days, back to the field hospital. At night they would hack away foliage to make flat ground and lie down around the stretchers to keep their charges warm.

“The care and consideration shown for the wounded by the natives has won the complete admiration of the troops,” intones the narrator in the famous Kokoda Front Line newsreel of 1943.

After the war, the men went back to their villages, where they were sometimes awarded special status for their part in the fighting. There, they grew old and forgotten, until in the early 1990s Australian tourists started coming to the area to hike the Kokoda Trail, and the relationship between Australians and Papuans was re-established across this steep and unforgiving section of the highlands.

Major Charlie Lynn began bringing trekkers to PNG with his company, Adventure Kokoda, in 1991, engaging Koiari and Orokaiva villagers as

“

Apart from carrying equipment, today’s personal porters are a godsend on the treacherous trail. Each will hover at their client’s shoulder on steep or muddy sections, ready to catch them should they slip.

”

carriers, sometimes the descendants of the very men that worked on the track during the war.

Joe Matama is one of those employees. He began working for Lynn in 2005 as a group porter, and over time rose through the ranks to be trek leader, the man in charge of all the Papuan staff.

“Before Adventure Kokoda, I didn’t do anything. I just lived in the village,” Matama tells me, clearly very appreciative of the change in lifestyle that Lynn and the other companies have brought to the area.

“I had a fishpond and I would sell the fish, but now I don’t have to. Before trekking, our fathers and grandfathers had to work hard. They didn’t have a proper airfield so they had no service coming in. Through trekking, we now have a plane coming in giving us service, and trekking is helping us do some other things in our community and our church, and we can send our kids to school now because we get money from the track.” ➤



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A tribute to the Angels



On the trail today ... a trio of porters from the Adventure Kokoda trekking company take a breather (top); each porter sticks with a trekker (above); Joe Matama, a trek leader (right).



It's safe to say that most tourists would not be able to complete the Kokoda Trail if they had to shoulder their own loads, but apart from carrying equipment, today's personal porters are a godsend on the treacherous trail. Each will hover at their client's shoulder on steep or muddy sections, ready to catch them should they slip. Without these guardian angels at their backs, many more trekkers would doubtless be injured in falls. The porters are also great singers, providing their timeless voices at memorial services, and skilful carvers who can decorate a wooden stick with beautiful designs as a souvenir.

The industry, though, is precarious, with misunderstandings and controversy occasionally

disrupting the smooth running of the track. "If the trekking were to stop, we could look for oranges, bananas and *okari* nuts and take them down to Moresby to sell them, like our fathers and grandfathers did, but it would be hard work. When trekking season comes, we have an easy life," Matama smiles.

In time, the Angels aged and passed on. The last of them, Havala Laua, died in 2017, aged 92, in Kagi village.

There have been calls, notably from Lynn and Adventure Kokoda, to establish a Kokoda Day as a national day of commemoration to honour the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, and to build a spirit house for their souls to rest at Bomana War

Cemetery. Maybe the most poignant memorial to the carriers is the famous poem written by Australian sapper Bert Beros at 4am one rainy morning on the Owen Stanley Track. The final, moving, stanza gave the Papuans their now famous nickname and their angelic legacy.

*May the Mothers in Australia,
When they offer up a prayer,
Mention those impromptu Angels,
With the Fuzzy Wuzzy hair.*

Amen to that. ■





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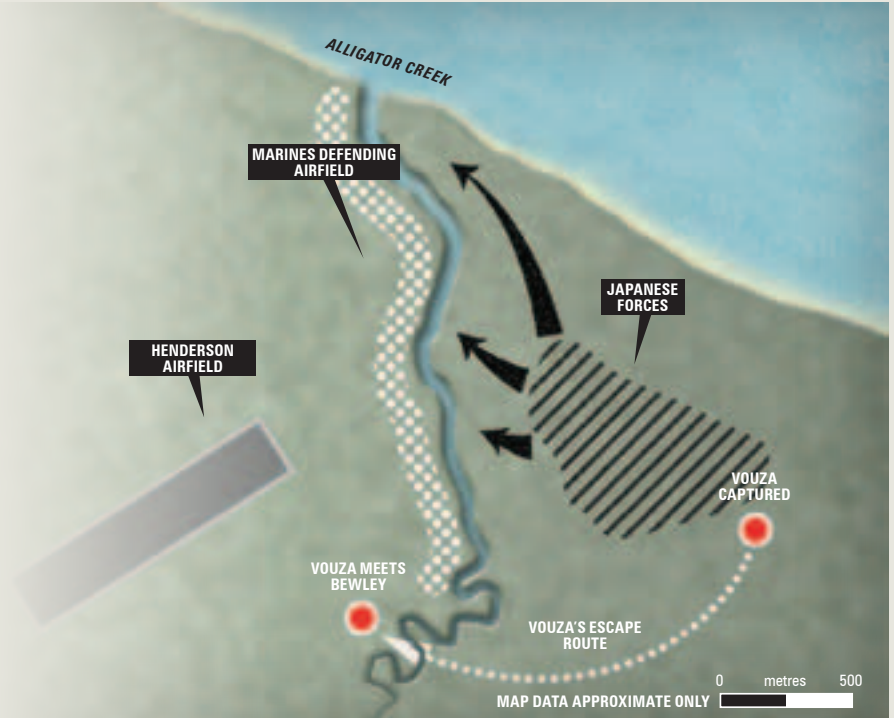
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Behind enemy lines

Peter Williams relates the legendary exploits of a Guadalcanal policeman during World War 2.

Late in the evening of August 20, 1942, in the jungle by Alligator Creek, Guadalcanal, stood a frightened soldier on sentry duty.

Private Wilbur Bewley, a 22-year-old newly minted US marine, was guarding Henderson airfield, the most valuable piece of real estate in the Solomon Islands.

In their first invasion in the Pacific in World War 2, the Americans had landed on Guadalcanal, taking the airfield from the Japanese. The Japanese, somewhere in the jungle near Bewley, wanted it back.

Bewley saw movement in the dark. He raised his rifle, but

hesitated to shoot, for the man advancing on him did not resemble an enemy soldier. Bewley said later "his bushy hair saved his life".

"Stop where you are," shouted Bewley. "No shoot, me no Japanese," was the reply.

The man with the mass of hair was covered in blood. He was taken to a command post. There, the man claiming to be a British Solomons native policeman named Jacob Vouza, told the Americans there were 1000 Japanese east of the creek who were about to attack across it towards the airfield.

The commander alerted his men and within minutes the Japanese assault started.

The Americans held off the attack, in no





Comrades in arms ... Martin Clemens and Jacob Vouza in Hawaii in 1968, returning home after attending a Marine Corps reunion in California (above); Vouza holding a Japanese officer's sword in Guadalcanal, November 1942 (right).



small part because of Vouza's warning. The desperately wounded policeman then asked to speak to his commander, Captain Martin Clemens.

Clemens, a 27-year-old Scot, was the district officer for Guadalcanal in what was then part of the British Empire.

When the Japanese had first arrived on the island in May, 1942, Clemens took to the hills, becoming a coast watcher and radioing reports about the Japanese to the Allies. When the Americans invaded Guadalcanal in August, he emerged from the jungle to join them.

Clemens instantly recognised the man Bewley had chosen not to shoot.

"It was Vouza," wrote Clemens. "He was in an awful mess and unable to sit up. I could hardly bear to look at him. We dragged him behind my jeep and there, in spite of a gaping wound in his throat, he told me his story."

Clemens had sent Sergeant Major Vouza across Alligator Creek in search of the Japanese. The marines needed to know if they

“

The soldiers smashed his face with rifle butts, slashed him with a sword and made him lie on a nest of red ants.

”

were there at all and, if so, where and in what strength.

Vouza was captured by the Japanese, but might have been released as they had no reason to believe he was other than an innocent local, until they found a miniature US flag in his pocket, given to him as a souvenir.

"Vouza would not divulge our dispositions," wrote Clemens. "The soldiers smashed his face with rifle butts, slashed him with a sword and made him lie on a nest of red ants, but still he said nothing. Then they bayoneted him repeatedly and left him for dead."

One of Vouza's eight wounds was a bayonet thrust into his armpit, through his throat and into his mouth, splitting his tongue. Clemens recorded that Vouza chewed through his bindings, crossed Alligator Creek and there encountered Bewley.

As the battle continued, Vouza gave Clemens a valuable account of the strength and location of the Japanese force. "A bullet hit the jeep as I lay behind a tree telephoning Vouza's information to headquarters," Clemens wrote.

"Vouza, who had lost pints of blood, was in terrible shape. He fully expected to die. And before he passed out again he gave me a long last message for his wife and children. We carried him back and got the doctors operating on him. They pumped Vouza full of new blood. Amazingly, the doctors said that he would live. What loyalty the man had. I felt immensely proud. Next time I saw him, he was sitting up in bed, swathed in bandages, smoking a large cigar." ➤



Behind enemy lines

The man with the cigar was not your average Solomon Islander. Born in Tasimboko village in 1900, or perhaps a few years earlier, Vouza was the son of Loe, chief of the Lengo tribe.

Vouza was a wild lad, often giving trouble to the British authorities. His relatives encouraged him to join the police force, hoping that the discipline would settle him down and mature him. It did.

By 1927, Vouza had attained the rank of sergeant and was posted to Malaita Island, where he specialised in hunting down violent criminals. By 1942, he had given 25 years of meritorious service, risen to the rank of sergeant major and was eligible for a pensioned retirement. He took it, returning to his village on Guadalcanal in May 1942.

Vouza first encountered the Americans when he found a US airman shot down near his village by the Japanese. He guided the man to the US lines. The marines, realising Vouza's background made him the ideal scout, offered him employment under Clemens.

On September 7, 1942, not three weeks after his ordeal, Vouza returned to duty.

"After I was discharged from hospital I wanted to fight the Japs and pay them back all what they done to me."

For Vouza, the war had become personal. He next brought Clemens and the marines details of a Japanese force concealed in a village on the coast. The marines decided to attack and Vouza, "who loved a scrap" according to Clemens, insisted on guiding them to the village.

With Clemens' permission, Vouza also organised his own group of islander raiders. In the following months, they ambushed and killed or captured many Japanese.

There are any number of stories about Vouza's exploits in this period.

Once, he overheard the officer in command of Divisional Intelligence, Colonel Edmund Buckley, complaining that they were not taking any Japanese prisoners for him to interrogate.

Vouza asked Buckley if he would like him to bring in a prisoner. Buckley said, "Well, yes I would." Vouza asked, "When you like the prisoner? Would tomorrow be all right?" Buckley said, "Yes that will be fine". Vouza then asked "What time you want him?" To Buckley's surprise, at the agreed time the next day, Vouza and his scouts brought in a live Japanese soldier.

In November, Vouza joined Colonel Evans Carlson on what became known as Carlson's Long Patrol, a 29-day march to find and eliminate the Japanese in the Koli Point area. Vouza commanded a 250-man party of local volunteers and armed police. Vouza's men and Carlson's marines killed 400 Japanese while losing only 16 men.

In February 1943, the Japanese evacuated the remnant of their force, giving up the six-month struggle to retain Guadalcanal.

By this time, Vouza's numerous contributions to the US victory had drawn attention and

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Behind enemy lines

reward. A BBC broadcast in September 1942 made him famous in Britain, resulting in the award of the George Medal for bravery. The Americans gave him the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit, also making him an honorary sergeant major in the Marine Corps.

After the war, Vouza continued to serve his country. He was appointed district headman in 1949, and was president of the Guadalcanal Council from 1952 to 1958. He was a member of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Advisory Council from 1950 to 1960. In 1957, he was made a member of the British Empire and in 1958 Vouza represented the Solomons Islands at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. He was knighted in 1979.



Coastwatcher ... Jacob Vouza with Father Emery De Clerk in 1975. De Clerk, a Catholic priest, was a coastwatcher on Guadalcanal during World War 2.

Appearing in newspapers, newsreels, postage stamps and at official gatherings, Vouza was the public face of the Solomon Islands for many years.

He died on March 15, 1984, six years after the Solomon Islands became independent from Britain.

Not long before his death, Vouza reflected on his adventures during the war.

"I remember my training in the police and how they tell me always to be faithful to my king. I think about how naughty I was when I first joined police and how much trouble I caused government. So I tell myself this time I do something good for my king to pay him back for all that trouble. Also I think better me die than Japs take our island because then I know all of us die." ■

Peter Williams is a historian living in Canberra, Australia. He has visited the battlefields of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands and interviewed war veterans. His books include *The Kokoda Campaign 1942: Myth and Reality* and *Kokoda for Dummies*. Jeffrey Tafolehe, a military history guide on Guadalcanal, contributed to this article.



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Jenny Homerang ... currently based in the Australian capital, Canberra, where she is studying for a PhD.

Jenny Homerang has developed an online Tok Pisin course and is ensuring that her local language is being preserved in her village. *Kevin McQuillan* reports.

For Jenny Homerang, language is the essence of being a Papua New Guinean. "We cannot do anything without language — it's our survival," she says. "Growing up in a country like PNG with 800 languages, and in New Ireland where we have around 20 languages, it became very obvious to me when I was young that it was so important for our culture. "I was very much influenced by my father who was a *maimai* (clan leader) and orator, a master carver and someone who thought very highly of our language, which he didn't want lost. "So he started a little cultural language school in our village where he trained us to speak our language very proficiently when we were about 10, to complement Tok Pisin and English. "Homerang's parents were from Madina village, the Naik-speaking region in northern New Ireland Province. As well as Naik, English and Tok Pisin, Homerang has studied Hiri Motu, French, German, Russian, Hebrew and Mandarin. Armed with a masters in environmental management and development from the Australian National University, her first job,

in 1983, was as executive secretary to the general manager of Ok Tedi Mining before she moved to Sydney, Australia, to work in the public service. After finishing in Sydney, she moved back to Port Moresby and worked in the newsroom for PNG's first television station, Niugini Television Network (NTN). When NTN shut down, she began a law degree, but decided to leave PNG after being attacked by *raskols*. She completed a bachelor of arts majoring in communications/political journalism at Canberra University, and worked in Israel at the Bahari World Centre based in Haifa. She is now completing a PhD at the Australian National University, researching the practice of honouring lineage and transfer treaties in mortuary ceremonies in her northern New Ireland (matrilineal) community. She's also developed the resources for the first Tok Pisin online language course, which begins in March. "ANU is a pioneer in online language education and Tok Pisin is an important language in Papua New Guinea, because it brings the country's diverse population together," she says.

"There's been a lot of interest, from students at and outside ANU, and journalists, Ok Tedi Mining employees and consultants," she says. Passing on language is a family trait. Her father's philosophy has inspired Homerang to follow suit. So, in 2010, she set up her own NGO, Recreating the Village, whose basic concept is to work on projects that reflect and enhance villagers' lives. The first project has been to build a pre-school for the village's 30 children. It opened last year, with funding from the Australian government. "It is run by three local women volunteers using the traditional, indigenous methods of transmitting culture and Naik, so the children can speak it fluently before going to school. They teach traditional songs and dance but also practical things like taking children onto the reef and pointing out marine life." The next venture is to write a Naik dictionary. "I want to eventually put Naik online so that people living in the city — or overseas — can learn the language of their ancestors," she says. ■





Ballina Gee ... loves taking her opera-style repertoire to communities unfamiliar with the genre.

Despite its size, the Pacific nation of Samoa has produced an unusually high ratio of male opera singers – baritone Samson Setu, the Sol3 Mio trio, and London-based Benson Wilson. Now add to that, its first female opera singer, Sydney-based soprano Ballina Gee.

She's known publicly as Pacific Diva.

But Gee is no diva, in the prima donna sense. With immense talent, she has few pretensions, isn't temperamental and doesn't throw tantrums.

Her vocal coach was Simon Kenway, renowned in the operatic world and currently the artistic director of Pacific Opera, which was established in 2003 to offer young local and international singers the chance to develop their vocal and performance skills to advance into the international opera arena.

Gee is the only Pacific Islander to have secured a place in the Pacific Opera program as an adjunct artist, and has performed in several concerts and productions.

She began opera singing at the age of 11 when her piano teacher discovered she had a large range and a textured operatic tone.

"It was weird practising my classical and operatic singing in a social housing low-economic area where people thought I was just crazy. And yes – some neighbours even told me to shut up," she tells *Paradise*.

Her first public operatic performance was in 1992 with Opera Australia's *The Little Mermaid* production.

A career highlight (so far) is being part of *The Phantom of the Opera* performed at the Parramatta Riverside Theatre in Western Sydney.

Gee prefers not to be defined as simply an opera singer.

"I see myself just as a professional singer who sings operatic repertoire. "I sing all sorts of genres like jazz, blues, rock, pop, gospel, spiritual, cultural and musical theatre.

But what I love to do is fusion where you mix different genres together and include a classical/operatic tone somewhere in the arrangement."

She loves singing opera-style repertoire to communities who would not otherwise have access or any interest previously, using Instagram (@PacificDivaWorld) and

Facebook (PacificDiva) to market her brand to the next generation.

"One of my fond memories is singing to refugee youth at the Western Sydney Migrant Resource Centre at a cultural event. They were amazed as well as intrigued at the operatic influence," she says.

Born in New Zealand to Samoan parents, she grew up in Mount Druitt, Western Sydney.

"I understand the difficulties of pursuing an operatic art form when you live in a low socio-economic household and I want to help mentor others to pursue their talents regardless of their circumstances," she says.

Outside singing, Gee has created 'Housing With a Purpose', which aims to help families build their wealth from nothing. To date, she has helped several families into their own homes and to build their portfolios.

"Knowing what it was like to be homeless with my daughter, losing everything I had built in my property portfolio due to family and domestic violence situations, my greatest achievement is to be an advocate for both affordable housing and against abusive family behaviour," she says. ■

THE PACIFIC DIVA

Kevin McQuillan meets Samoan soprano Ballina Gee, who blends her operatic singing with other styles, including jazz and blues.



MY PNG

BY THOMAS IVARATURE

A nervous journey, by boat and bus

Despite his trepidation, *Thomas Ivarature* visits a friend in New Ireland.

My friend, Owen, recently invited me to visit Poliamba, New Ireland Province, where he lives.

I had never ventured alone to a new place, so the idea was 'unsettling', but I was determined to prove my mettle.

At the time, I was in Kokopo, East New Britain, so I decided to take a dinghy from Kokopo across to Namatanai, on the west coast of New Ireland, and then a PMV (public motor vehicle) to Poliamba.

Accompanied by a colleague, Ricky, I made my way to the Kokopo beachfront, where rows of boats line the shore. I was bewildered by all the activity: locals were peddling a

variety of goods, while skippers were enticing potential passengers to consider their services, shouting out the number of spaces available to encourage their rapid occupation.

I had no idea which boat to take, but Ricky was familiar with the scene and confirmed a place for me by palming PGK70 to the skipper of the appropriate dinghy, which had the name *Firefly*.

After paying, I waited an hour as the skipper touted for more passengers, before we set off on our 70-kilometre journey across Saint George's Channel.

I waved goodbye to Ricky and, as we gained speed, the dinghy smacked into the water. The

skipper traversed the waves at an angle, which made things more comfortable, but also slowed us down.

At one point we ran out of fuel, with no land in sight. Calmly, the skipper unplugged the fuel line from the empty canister and plugged it into a reserve canister that was under a tarpaulin. The tarpaulin also revealed a hole in the stern the size of a 20 toea coin, which was meant to drain any excess water in the dinghy while moving.

We weren't moving, and it wasn't draining!

My mind was screaming at the skipper to plug that hole, but on the outside I was calm as a Hindu cow.

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As I looked on, the skipper chewed on a *buai* and lit a rolled-up cigarette. Taking his time, he finally fired up the engine and we continued.

A bit past 2pm, we arrived at a small beach on the west coast and, shortly after, a truck arrived to take us into Namatanai town.

I asked our driver, Dumlick, if he could point out a PMV going to Kavieng. Being a decent fellow, he made sure I found the right vehicle and even told the driver that I was new here and I was to be let off at Poliamba. The bus driver responded in a good-natured way that I had nothing to worry about as long as I paid my PGK40. I would be in Poliamba soon enough.

We didn't leave straight away because there were a couple of empty seats. So we cruised the township on the lookout for passengers. We also stopped at the supermarket so we could get refreshments for the road ahead.

The sun was getting low as we drove along the Boluminski Highway, with the 15-seater bus casting shadows on the pavement. Music blared from the stereo, but the best part was the orange wonderland created by the setting sun on the sea.

Aptly named *bilas peles* (beautiful place), New Ireland was truly living up to its reputation.

We crossed several bridges over rivers that flow from the mountains, and eventually darkness fell.

We made several stops along the way to stretch, including at a night market where the driver reassured me that we were near Poliamba. But I reminded myself to take that piece of information with a grain of salt, as what was considered 'near' by locals

could turn out to be far for the uninitiated.

We continued our journey, making several stops as passengers disembarked. By the time my watch showed 10pm I was getting frantic.

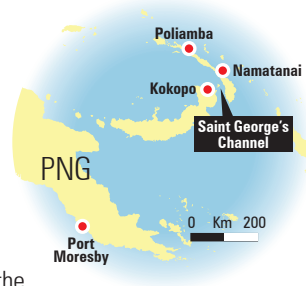
What if the driver forgot my stop? What if we had passed Poliamba and were on our way to Kavieng? I didn't know anyone in Kavieng! Where was I going to sleep for the night?

Five hours and 150 kilometres from Namatanai, we pulled into Poliamba.

I looked out and to my relief saw Owen approaching the bus. As I disembarked, I could see the beginnings of a smile on his

face: "Bro, I was starting to think you were never going to make it."

"So was I, brother! So was I!" ■



'My PNG' is a column in which Papua New Guineans write about where they live, or about a part of the country they know and love. If you wish to contribute, email paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com.

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A PIECE OF PNG: SHIELDS

WHAT ARE THEY?

Shields, depending on their shape and design, can be used as a defence against throwing spears and clubs or for close combat. Smaller shields were worn as body armour. They can also have ceremonial uses.

WHERE ARE THEY MADE?

Shields are made across Papua New Guinea, but have a particularly abundant number of forms in the Highlands and Sepik regions, where warfare was once common. You can get a first indication of a shield's origins from its shape: for example, Sulka and Mendi shields are oval, Trobriand Island shields pear-shaped, Kandrian and Telefomin shields rectangular.

WHO MAKES THEM?

Shields are usually made by the warriors themselves. In some places, such as the Trobriand Islands, only the most skilled warriors had the right to make and carry the best and most elaborately decorated shields.

HOW ARE THEY MADE?

Shields are carved from wood and may be smooth or have raised bosses. Kandrian shields are made from three wooden planks lashed together with rattan, and in some regions shields were once made from bark. Because of their fragility, these are now quite rare. Sulka shields are covered with criss-crossed cane to help absorb blows from clubs. Adze marks generally indicate an older shield made with stone tools, as most modern (post-World War 2) shields are carved with metal implements. Loop handles on the back are generally made from rattan cane.

HOW ARE THEY DECORATED?

Shield decoration varies widely from region to region, but in general features bright colours and striking designs that are created to intimidate the enemy, convey a spiritual message, or represent the particular culture of the bearer. Representations of nature – such as flying



foxes, conus shells and turtles – are common motifs. However, Telefomin shields are striking for their angular geometric patterns, while Sepik shields often depict human or spirit faces. Shields from the Trobriand Islands are often considered PNG's most elegant, as they have very detailed motifs. From the 1970s, contemporary, foreign influences have been felt on shield design, the most famous being Mount Hagen shields depicting the comic-book hero Phantom.

HOW WERE THEY USED TRADITIONALLY?

PNG warriors did not carry shields on the forearm like medieval knights, but slung them over their shoulder to protect their side, while leaving both hands free for using weapons – more body armour than actual shield. Such shields have a distinctive notch at the top to fit under the armpit. In contrast, the much larger *akkom* shields of the highland people were carried into battle by unarmed shield bearers and used to shelter bowmen who stood in a line behind.

Shields were often given personal names and were considered by some groups to be a receptacle of ancestral power. Not all were used in warfare, with some shield types reserved for ceremony.

WHERE CAN SHIELDS BE BOUGHT?

You can find shields made for tourists in craft shops, and antique versions in more upmarket galleries. Fine examples sometimes go under the hammer at international auction houses for tens of thousands of dollars. ■





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“ We are focused on consolidating our position as the State's nominee in all future oil and gas developments, including the expansion of the PNG LNG Project; the Papua LNG project, operated by Total SA and Pasca A, the first offshore project operated by Twinza Oil. ”

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KOZUE, PARK HYATT TOKYO REVIEW

After a few days exploring a wintry and bustling Tokyo at street level, it is a delightful contrast to ascend to level 40 of the tranquil and elegant Park Hyatt Tokyo, to dine at Kozue.

This hotel was made famous by the iconic 2003 film *Lost in Translation*. By night, the outlook and architecture of its Japanese fine-dining (*kaiseki*) restaurant reminds you of the New York Grill (located 12 floors above) that features extensively in the film, while by day Mount Fuji is often visible in the distance.

Japanese restaurants tend to specialise in one kind of cuisine (such as sushi, tempura or ramen), but Kozue offers its mixed international and local clientele a more varied menu, including set/degustation options.

We opt for the a la carte option but start with assorted Japanese delicacies, featuring familiar and unfamiliar seasonal, local produce. So impressive is it in both presentation and taste that even this picky reviewer did not, could not, leave a morsel.

Next, the assorted sashimi and wagyu beef sirloin are exquisite, but beware that portions are on the small side.

Kozue is not just a great restaurant, but a magnificent all-round experience. Our polished yet friendly English-speaking waiter even gives us a tip on where to go next for a drink. It turns out to be such good advice that it makes returning to ground level all that much easier to swallow. ■



WHERE:
Park Hyatt Tokyo, 3-7-1-2,
Nishishinjuku, Tokyo
(located in the Shinjuku Park Tower)

PHONE:
+81 3 5323 3460

STYLE:
Japanese fine dining

TYPICAL PRICE:
Mains ¥3500

BYO:
No

OUR FAVOURITE DISH:
Wagyu beef

IN A WORD:
Celestial





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E'CCO BRISBANE REVIEW

When New Zealand-born chef Philip Johnson opened e'cco bistro on Boundary Street, in Brisbane's CBD, in 1995, it quickly became one of the city's top restaurants.

In March 2018, the restaurant moved to a new location, in inner-city Newstead, close to Fortitude Valley, following Brisbane's trend of food venues opening beneath new apartment blocks – in this case 'Haven', opposite a heritage-listed former gasworks.

The restaurant's second incarnation is sleek and light-filled, centred on an open kitchen (including a Brazilian *parilla* wood and charcoal grill), and affords it more space, with an alfresco terrace, adding to the classic south-east Queensland feel of indoor/outdoor dining.

The service also reflects sunny, laid-back Brisbane. However, it's e'cco's elegantly presented food that puts it back among the city's best upmarket restaurants.

While mainly championing local produce, and particularly the region's top-quality seafood and beef, e'cco's executive chef, Gerd Pretorius, sources some ingredients from further afield, including Tasmanian quail from Rannoch Farm, served as an enticing entree with slow-cooked cotechino pork sausage.

Other entrees like wagyu bresaola with caper berries, and squid ink linguine, salmon and saffron butter, provide an apposite light introduction to mains such as a 500-gram black onyx dry-aged porterhouse steak. Whatever main you choose, add the cauliflower side, which, like a luminous chorus member, almost outshines the show's stars. Served with golden raisins, caper, almond and anchovy custard, this dish banishes childhood nightmares of overboiled cauliflower cheese.

Among the desserts, the deconstructed mango and passionfruit cheesecake is another dish that nearly eclipses the rest.

Those with time should try the chef's tasting menu (\$89, wine pairing \$60 extra) but this is not a restaurant to hurry through, with a premium wine list from Australia, New Zealand and Europe. ■

WHERE:

63 Skyring Terrace, Newstead,
Brisbane

PHONE:

+61 7 3831 8344

WEB:

eccobistro.com.au

STYLE:

Modern Australian

TYPICAL PRICES:

Entrees \$AUD26–29, mains \$36–49

OUR FAVOURITE DISH:

Cauliflower, golden raisins, caper, almond,
anchovy custard

IN A WORD OR TWO:

Stylish and unfussy



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look good, feel good BY BRONWEN GORA

Coffee: now more friend than foe



There is no doubt coffee is one of the world's favourite stimulants and it also has a raft of health benefits, the decaffeinated variety of the dark brew included.

For a start, as recently as 2016, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reversed its classification of coffee as a 'possible carcinogen' after coming to the conclusion that there is not enough proof to establish any link to cancer.

"I'm not really sure why coffee was in a higher category in the

first place," said Owen Yang, an epidemiologist at Oxford University, at the time. "The best evidence available suggests that coffee does not raise the cancer risk."

Drinking coffee that's too hot, however, is not desirable. WHO still advises that drinking very hot beverages of any kind can potentially raise the risk of esophageal cancer, although the evidence is limited.

The year before WHO revised its classification about cancer and coffee, the Harvard T.H. Chan

School of Public Health in Boston, in the US, released study results that found moderate coffee drinking, meaning less than five cups per day, was linked to a lower chance of dying from chronic illnesses like heart disease, type two diabetes and neurological diseases.

Protective effects were found in both regular and decaf coffee, suggesting that it's not just caffeine that comes with health benefits, but possibly the naturally occurring chemical compounds in coffee beans.

Coffee is also thought to be helpful in guarding against the onset of Parkinson's disease, a neurological condition causing tremors and difficulty coordinating movements, although the findings for women and men vary slightly. Studies have shown that men who drink lots of coffee have a below-average risk for Parkinson's disease, and animal studies suggest caffeine prevents the death of nerve cells that produce the neurotransmitter dopamine, which is a core component in bringing on the disease.

In women, however, the relationship between caffeine intake and Parkinson's disease appears more complex. Recent research suggests caffeine has a beneficial effect on women, but only if they are not using any kind of oestrogen-replacement therapy generally prescribed during menopause.

On the aesthetic level, drinking four cups of coffee a day can slash the risk of developing rosacea, a skin disease marked by chronic redness. This is attributed to caffeine's ability to restrict blood vessels and suppress immune response, but only from coffee, not other sources such as tea.

Maybe best of all is that coffee adds depth and decadence to a range of desserts. Here is a healthy version of one of the world's most famous and favourite coffee-based recipes, the Italian treat tiramisu. This no-bake, vegan, dairy-free and gluten-free recipe comes courtesy of Sydney-based nutritionist and television personality Zoe Bingley-Pullin (zoebingleypullin.com).

TIRAMISU

FOUR INDIVIDUAL SERVES

<p>INGREDIENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¾ cup hazelnuts ¾ cup walnuts ⅓ cup almond meal ½ cup medjool dates 2 tbsp virgin coconut oil melted To garnish: 1 cup coffee beans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ½ cup almond milk ¼ cup maple syrup 2 tsp vanilla extract ¼ cup espresso coffee 6 dates soaked for 6 hours, seeds removed 2 tbsp raw cacao powder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> almond meal, dates and coconut oil to a rough dough. Place half of the mix into four lined and medium-sized ramekins, spread evenly and press down to compact. Place in the fridge and set remainder to one side at room temperature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vanilla extract, then blend until smooth. Pour half of the vanilla cream in a bowl and set aside.
<p>COFFEE CREAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 cup raw cashew nuts soaked for 6 hours 	<p>METHOD</p> <p>STEP 1 Base: In a food processor, blend hazelnuts, walnuts,</p>	<p>STEP 2 Vanilla cream: In the food processor, add the cashews, almond milk, maple syrup and</p>	<p>STEP 3 Coffee cream: To make the coffee cream in a bowl and add the coffee, dates, cacao powder and blend again to combine all the ingredients.</p>
			<p>STEP 4 To assemble the individual serves of tiramisu, layer coffee cream on top of the base, followed by a layer of vanilla cream and repeat twice. The top layer should be vanilla cream. Top with a tiny coffee bean to decorate.</p> <p>STEP 5 Refrigerate for two hours or more so the tiramisu can set.</p>



RECHARGE IN SYDNEY

If you're heading to Sydney, Australia, and need a quick, healthy break try one of Billabong Retreat's two-night/one-day programs. Located just over an hour from the CBD and accessible by train, the retreat offers a range of programs centred on such topics as mindfulness, yoga, stress management, self care, clean food, meditation and rejuvenation.

One of the most appealing aspects of Billabong Retreat is that there is no pressure to adhere to a strict program. Emphasis is placed on catering to your needs. If you wish to sleep through the daily 7am yoga session and simply turn up to enjoy the breakfast buffet of delicious healthy fresh food served at 8am, it's totally up to you. Breakfast is generally followed by a session focusing on the topic of the particular program, then a break, and lunch at midday – another scrumptious buffet of dazzling vegetable-based dishes.



Afternoon sessions on the retreat topic begin at 2pm, and a yin (gentle) yoga class follows at 3.30pm.

After dinner, the evenings are filled by either a meditation class, or a movie screened in the comfortable lounge area filled with an array of couches, chairs and beanbags. Or you can curl up and read a book or simply sleep.

With an emphasis on rest, relaxation and fostering guest's rejuvenation, Billabong Retreat fits the bill for any traveller in need of a no-pressure break, nutritious food and pampering spa treatments, and is surrounded by leafy bushland and birdsong. The paradise-like facility sits in a pristine pocket of Australian bush on Sydney's outskirts, and built around a lotus-filled billabong. It is accessible by car (about 90 minutes' drive from Sydney's CBD) or rail. Pick-up can be arranged from the station.

See billabongretreat.com.au.

A HAPPIER WAY TO EAT

When it comes to healthy eating, much of the discussion focuses on what we eat and how much of it (portion size). Equally important, however, is the speed at which we eat, with dozens of published scientific studies on the subject having concluded eating too fast equals weight gain.

Enter Hapifork, the high-tech fork that tracks how fast you eat as well as being a perfect pocket-sized companion for the health-conscious traveller.

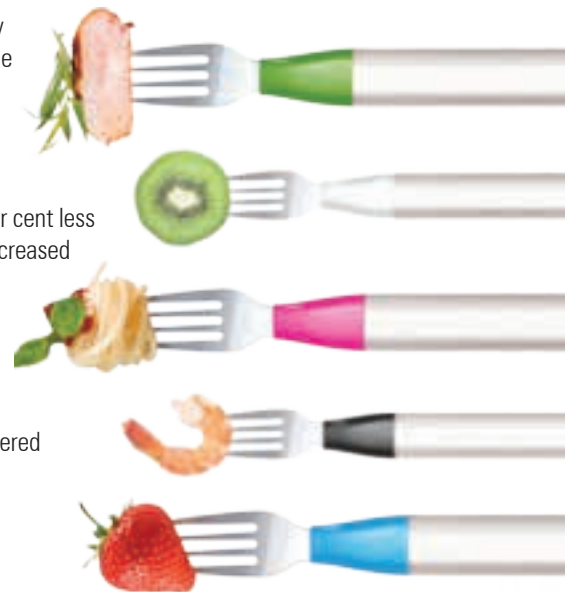
If you eat too quickly, Hapifork vibrates gently and an indicator light appears. Ideally, after taking a forkful of food, users place Hapifork down, chew 10 to 20 times, then

wait until the light turns green again before picking it up to take another mouthful.

Among published studies on the effects of eating speeds is one in which the lifestyle habits of 500 men were tracked over eight years. When all lifestyle habits such as smoking and exercise, as well as eating speed, were accounted for, it was found that weight gain was greater in the fast-eating group for all age groups and was statistically significant when the age groups were combined. This finding was no matter what other lifestyle factors impacted on their health.

Chewing thoroughly aids digestion, and the studies by Hapifork's manufacturer on their product's effectiveness claim users consume 11 per cent less calories due to the increased satiety felt by eating slowly, with some reportedly losing up to four kilograms a month.

Hapifork can be ordered online. ■
See hapi.com.



Foam roller

A foam roller might not seem like a travel necessity ... until you use one and realise how excellent they are for rolling out those post-flight kinks. This one, from Brazyn, is collapsible, so you can easily stash it in your suitcase, and the foam nubs are designed to release trigger points and knead muscles so you stay limber on the road. Comes in orange, black, blue and pink, for about PGK223; brazynlife.com.



Mini tripod

Sturdy and high quality, lightweight and compact, Manfrotto's Pixi EVO 2-section mini tripod is a snap-happy traveller's best friend. Compatible with entry-level DSLRs and devices up to 2.5 kilograms, it has a ball and socket head for speedy adjustments, and rubber feet to reduce slippage. Available in black, red and white. About PGK163; manfrotto.us.



Chic travel pillow

We all know slinging a travel pillow around your neck at the airport isn't a great look, but the awkward shape of most of them makes it a necessity. Not so with the Fennec travel pillow. Since it's made from memory foam, it compresses into a small pouch that can be easily slipped into any carry-on bag. It's comfortable and features a handy strap to keep it in place, making it perfect for catching those zees whenever you can. Available with a blue, green or red case, for about PGK231; fennecgear.com.



Luggage scale

Weighing your luggage before you head to the airport is important, but it's crucial once you're away, if you want to avoid the exorbitant excess baggage fees that often follow destination shopping. Enter Etekcify's battery-operated hanging luggage scale, which easily hooks onto suitcases, backpacks or briefcases and gives an accurate digital reading of the weight you're dealing with. About PGK45 including battery; etekcity.com.



Duffel bag

For weekends away, not much beats the North Face's Base Camp camouflage-print carryall. It looks great, yes, but it also fits a surprising amount of stuff, and the durable canvas it's crafted from is coated to protect your luggage from moisture. Carry it using the handles, or on your shoulder with the padded detachable strap, use the zippered compartment on the end to stash dirty clothes and shoes, and the inner-mesh pocket for additional organisation. About PGK582; thenorthface.com.





Portable speaker

Marshall's Kilburn II speaker is the coolest portable Bluetooth speaker on the market, but it also performs exceptionally well (read: loud without losing sound quality). It has 20-plus hours of playtime on one charge, which makes up for it being a little less portable than other Bluetooth speakers. The plus side is that it'll look just as good in your living room as your hotel room. About PGK984; marshallheadphones.com.

Camping hot spots

For anyone feeling as though they need some fresh travel inspiration, Chris Santella's *Fifty Places to Camp Before You Die* covers the best spots on earth for sleeping under the stars – from France, to Chile, to Botswana and beyond. There are tips for how to camp well, interviews with camping experts and stunning photography. About PGK66; bookdepository.com.



Flat toiletry bottle

These minimalist Matador FlatPak refillable toiletry bottles claim to be five times lighter and three-and-a-half times more compact than traditional silicone travel bottles. Fill them with shampoo, soap, laundry liquid or sunscreen. Available in packs of one or three for about PGK59; roklife.com.au.

360 camera

If you want to take your travel photos to the next level, the One X is Insta360's latest 360-degree camera. This new model captures professional-level 5.7k resolution video and 18-megapixel images using dual fish-eye lenses, has improved stabilisation and a new TimeShift feature that lets you adjust the speed of different parts of the clip to focus on key moments. The coolest feature? When you attach the purpose-built selfie stick, it automatically disappears from your shot. About PGK983; insta360.com.



Buff visor

Could the visor be the ultimate travel hat? We think so. Especially this lightweight, simple black one from US brand Buff. There's an inbuilt sweatband to help keep your face cool and dry no matter what the temperature, a Velcro closure to securely fit all head sizes, plus you can throw it in any travel bag and not worry about squashing it. About PGK65; buffusa.com.

Transparent flight bag

Dumping your toiletries into the tray at airport security is always a drag. Now you can do it fashionably, with this leather-trimmed PVC zippered Nightflight bag from Montblanc. At 14x20 centimetres, it's compact enough to slip into any carry-on bag. About PGK231; mrporter.com.



Shoe bag

Packing dirty shoes into your suitcase alongside your nice clean clothes just doesn't make sense, yet we all do it. Better to use one of these Misslo nylon travel shoe bags, which can double as toiletries and laundry bags. Available in packs of four, in plain black or mixed colours. About PGK34; amazon.com.



Swashbuckling in PNG

Glenn Dunks reports on a film that depicts the life and times of Hollywood legend Errol Flynn in PNG.



Swashbuckler ... Thomas Cocquerel portrays Errol Flynn in the latest film about the Hollywood legend.

The story of Errol Flynn has been adapted to the screen many times. However, rarely have the swashbuckling Hollywood superstar's days in Papua New Guinea featured as prominently as they do in the new Australian adventure film *In Like Flynn*.

The matinee idol has been portrayed by Guy Pearce and Kevin Kline among many others, but it is usually in movies that focus on his time in the US where he made 1930s audiences swoon in motion pictures like *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Captain Blood* and *The Sea Hawk*.

It turns out that he was discovered by a producer while in PNG, assisting a film crew through the jungles with his machete and his fearless pursuit of adventure.

Portrayed in this film by Thomas Cocquerel (*Red Dog: True Blue*, *Table 19*), he has the swagger and dapper good looks that became his trademark in the American movies.

Adapted from Flynn's memoirs by his grandson, *In Like Flynn* tells of how Flynn sought out the very same style of adventure that he became famous for in Hollywood.

Including a woman in every port and a team of rough-hewn sidekicks along for the ride, legendary Australian film director Russell Mulcahy (*Razorback*, *Highlander*, *Resident Evil: Extinction*) has made a wild and old-fashioned tale of thievery, double-crossing, danger and intrigue.

PNG was once a popular destination for Hollywood filmmakers, who responded to the country's tropical settings and beautiful scenery.

Stories set on the high seas about wayward explorers and pirates were common in the golden era of Hollywood as audiences wanted escapism from The Great Depression.

It's understandable that the real Flynn would have been attracted to PNG, lured by the promise of gold.

In Like Flynn suggests that it was his quick-thinking bravery in the face of death (by chasm and by crocodile) that endeared him to the American film producer who ultimately brought him to the US and into a life of Hollywood luxury.

We may never know for sure how accurate this story is, but even if it is only partly true, there's no denying that he makes for one extraordinary subject. ■



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Us

Cast: Winston Duke, Lupita Nyong'o, Elisabeth Moss

Fresh from winning a rare Academy Award for a horror movie, *Get Out* writer-director and former sketch comedy star Jordan Peele returns with another frightening vision of contemporary society. Winston Duke and Lupita Nyong'o star in *Us* as the parents of two young children whose summer holiday at a beach house is interrupted by uninvited guests who look and act exactly like they do. They're literally on the run from themselves. Joining in the grisly mayhem is Elisabeth Moss (*The Handmaid's Tale*) for what promises to be a horror experience that audiences aren't likely to forget. This is a thrilling must-see from the newest master of scary movies.

**Destroyer**

Cast: Nicole Kidman, Sebastian Stan

Australian acting legend Nicole Kidman is not a performer whose film choices could ever be labelled as safe. For every comic adaptation like *Aquaman*, there are three or four much-lower budgeted indie movies where she navigates the psyche of a complicated woman. On a roll with acclaimed performances in *Big Little Lies*, *Lion* and *Boy Erased*, her latest is no different. *Destroyer* stars Kidman as dishevelled and disturbed LAPD officer Erin Bell in the cinematic return of filmmaker Karyn Kusama (*Jennifer's Body*). The film is split into halves: one half as Bell investigates a brutal criminal and the other half that goes back in time as she works undercover within a gang. The way these two stories converge will surprise and shock. Most notably, Kidman has undergone a radical makeover, with bloodshot eyes, discoloured teeth and a face caked in dirty make-up. It's a stunning transformation from the glamorous Kidman who digs deep into Bell's unstable mind and with Kusama helps build a captivating modern-day cop thriller.

**Dumbo**

Cast: Colin Farrell, Danny DeVito, Michael Keaton

Disney continues to turn its animated classics into live-action remakes with *Dumbo* the next in line. Unlike other recent efforts like *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Jungle Book*, Disney has hired a director to take on this beloved classic. Tim Burton (*Batman*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*) takes the reins. Audiences will delight in the extravagant period costumes, the over-the-top travelling circus sets and dazzling visual effects that bring the flying, floppy-eared elephant to life. This isn't just a shot-for-shot remake with human actors – the 1941 original is only 60 minutes long, so Burton has had to go back to Helen Aberson's original novel and flesh out this moving story for modern crowds. You are sure to shed more than a few tears with this one as this family friendly fantasy is set to conquer the box office once more.

**Avengers: Endgame**

Cast: Chris Evans, Robert Downey Junior, Scarlett Johansson

So it all comes down to this. Apparently. It's easy to be forgiven for some cynicism towards this fourth and supposedly final *Avengers* movie from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. We return to where we left off – Thanos (Josh Brolin) was effective in collecting all of the infinity stones and succeeded in his plan to erase half of the world's population. To ruin what comes next in the aftermath would be to destroy the fun, but it's easy to assume that the *Avengers* have a plan and some of our beloved characters may, or may not, return when it's all over.

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





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The New Silk Roads By Peter Frankopan (Bloomsbury Publishing)

The Silk Road, first established some 2000 years ago, was a network of trade routes connecting China and other parts of Asia with the Middle East and Europe.

Peter Frankopan is professor of global history at Oxford University.

When his book *The Silk Roads* was published in 2015 it became part of a reassessment of world history, challenging readers to look at the past from a different perspective. *The New Silk Roads* addresses the present and future of a dramatically changing world.

Themes of isolation and fragmentation permeating the Western world – such as Brexit and Trump – contrast with events along the Silk Road where ties have been strengthened and mutual cooperation established.

Following roads eastwards from Europe through to China, by way of Russia and the Middle East, Frankopan provides a reminder that we live in a profoundly interconnected world while taking a fresh look at the network of relationships being formed along the length of the Silk Roads today.



The Age of Light By Whitney Scharer (Pan MacMillan)

This is a historical novel about ambition, love and the personal price of making art. It is based on the life of Lee Miller, a renowned photographer who, in assignments for *Vogue* magazine during World War 2, covered the liberation of Paris, the London blitz, and the concentration camps at Buchenwald and Dachau.

Miller was a model before she became a photographer. "I'd rather take a photograph than be one," she says shortly after arriving in Paris in 1929 where she hopes to farewell her previous career and pursue her dream of being an artist.

Miller catches the eye of the famous surrealist artist Man Ray and she is drawn to his egotistical, charismatic force. As their personal and professional lives become entwined, Miller is consumed by two desires: to become a famous photographer and to have a healthy and loving relationship.

As Miller asserts herself and moves from being a muse to an artist, Man's jealousy spirals out of control, and their mutual betrayals threaten to destroy them both.



Going Back By Munjed Al Muderis and Patrick Weaver (Allen&Unwin)

Associate professor Munjed Al Muderis is a world-leading surgeon and author. In his bestselling memoir *Walking Free*, he described his experience as a refugee fleeing Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Munjed's new book involves another journey, but this one takes him across the world on a quest to save others with his life-changing new surgical techniques known as osseointegration. This involves implanting titanium rods into the human skeleton as well as attaching robotic limbs to allow patients effective and permanent mobility.

Munjed has performed this operation on hundreds of civilians, wounded British soldiers who've lost legs in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a survivor of the Christchurch earthquake in New Zealand.

Nothing, though, has been as extraordinary as his return to Iraq – at the invitation of the Iraqi government some 18 years after he fled – to operate on soldiers, police and civilian amputees wounded in the horrific war against ISIS. These stories, heartbreaking but also full of hope, are told by a former refugee returning to the place of his birth as a celebrated international surgeon.



Insane Mode By Hamish McKenzie (Faber&Faber)

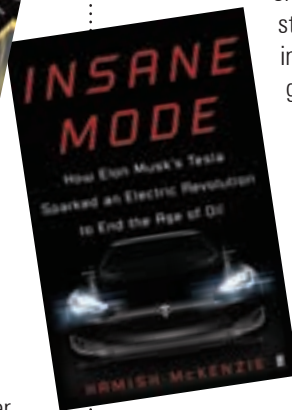
A feature on a Tesla vehicle – the Model S – gave it Ferrari-like acceleration and the title for this New Zealander's book. Former Tesla employee McKenzie tells how a Silicon Valley start-up's wild dream came true, how its founders, including Elon Musk, took the fight to the government-backed Detroit car manufacturers.

The popularity of electric cars continues apace around the world, nowhere more so than in China, and McKenzie interviews little-known titans who have the money and the market access to power a global electric-car revolution.

In 2018, Tesla released a mass-market electric car that has helped reconfigure the perception of electric vehicles. The cars were an indulgence not so long ago but now – much like Ford's Model T of the early 20th century

– are slowly transforming the public's relationship with motor vehicles.

The idea of a day when every car on the road is electric is no longer completely insane.





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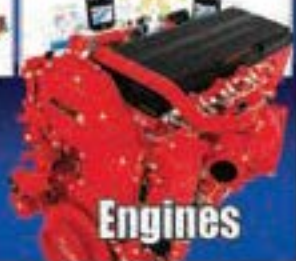
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TAKING PNG ARTISANSHIP TO THE WORLD

The global handicraft market is worth \$US38 billion and 'profit-for-purpose' enterprise REAL Impact is making sure Papua New Guinean artisans are getting their fair share. *Lisa Smyth* reports.

It is rare for a visitor to PNG to not walk away with a charming woven basket, or a colourful *bilum* or a beautifully carved timber bowl. PNG handicrafts are as distinct as the 800 tribes that inhabit the country, and the artisans who make them are as skilled and dedicated as any in the world.

But, on the global stage, PNG handicrafts are virtually unknown.

To peruse, and ultimately buy, an authentic piece of paradise you have to visit PNG. While

the handmade textiles of India and the richly coloured ceramics of Morocco adorn hotel lobbies and living rooms the world over, PNG handicrafts have yet to tap into the artisan market – the second-largest employer in emerging economies behind agriculture.

"PNG artisans are proud master craftspeople with skills that date back centuries, including weaving, carving, textiles and basketry," says Virginia Bruce, chief executive officer and founder of REAL Impact.

"Globally, artisans are major contributors to the world's fashion, textile and homewares industry; however, sustainable market access has not yet been available to PNG artisans."

Bruce has more than 25 years of experience in branding and business development, working for the likes of Warner Brothers and the International Olympic Committee. Roughly 10 years ago she began thinking about applying her extensive knowledge of 360-degree marketing to social impact.



“I wanted to take my commercial knowledge and apply it to the development sector,” explains Bruce. “I wanted to disrupt the aid system and build a new business ecosystem to support small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) and empower communities.”

And so, working with Pacific Trade Invest Australia, InnovationXchange and Pacific Rise programs, Bruce established ‘profit-for-purpose’ enterprise REAL Impact.

REAL Impact is creating a shared service platform that delivers the necessary Minimum Viable Business requirements to Pacific Island SMEs, from capacity building through to capital access, marketing, design and a retail interface.

“The informal sector in PNG is made up of 80 per cent of the population and it is characterised by lower and less reliable income and difficult working conditions,” notes Bruce.

“By helping local artisans create viable businesses we will create a real economy that is inclusive, equitable and sustainable and deals in real value and financial returns.”

In November, during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in



“Laundry baskets, planters, stools, light shades, jewellery and *bilums*, all made using traditional materials and techniques, are available for purchase online and can be shipped all over the world.”

”



PNG style ... table and lightshades (opposite page); Virginia Bruce with artisans of the lalibu community (this page).

Port Moresby, the organisation launched its B2C e-commerce digital marketplace, *Considered by Real* (consideredbyreal.com).

The website provides SMEs access to regional and global markets, and showcases ethically sourced products handcrafted by rural Papua New Guineans.

Expertly designed and with high-quality imagery and functionality, the platform sells a range of products that many Papua New Guineans would find in abundance at their local market at a premium price. Laundry baskets, planters, stools, light shades, jewellery and *bilums*, all made using traditional materials and techniques, are available for purchase online and can be shipped all over the world.

“The platform is a pilot program that has the potential to create real scale, awareness and a single location for businesses and consumers to source Papua New Guinean artisan goods from small-batch artisan producers,” says Bruce.

During APEC, the organisation also lobbied for the development of a permanent creative arts precinct in Port Moresby and is currently looking for partners to help develop this commercial and logistics urban hub.

While *Considered by Real* is the final piece in a high-impact supply chain, Bruce and her team have also been exploring ways to help SMEs find the first piece – funding. Due to its isolation and small populations, Pacific region SMEs have always found it difficult to find investors. ➤

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.



Taking PNG artisanship to the world



Making an impact ... Virginia Bruce (above) and Cathy Wariapa (right).

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Taking PNG artisanship to the world

But, in November, Cathy Wariapa from the remote lalibu District in the Southern Highlands received a loan of \$US15,250 through microfinance platform Kiva. The first of its kind in PNG, the loan was crowdfunded in less than 14 hours. Wariapa, founder of Cwakama Arts & Crafts, will use the capital to develop new products using the traditional skills of the lalibu weavers from her community.

REAL Impact has partnered with Kiva to facilitate zero-interest loans of up to \$US50,000 for SMEs in PNG and the Solomon Islands.

Since launching in 2005, not-for-profit Kiva has facilitated more than \$1.2 billion in micro-loans to low-income business owners and individuals in 80 countries, with women making up more than 80 per cent of its three million borrowers.

Kiva works on a crowdfunding model, which allows lenders to connect with organisations

that provide small, low-risk loans to in-need individuals or groups in developing countries.

“At Kiva, we are committed to addressing the challenge of financial exclusion wherever it exists in the world,” remarks Mark McDonagh, Kiva investment manager.

“Through our platform, we are able to offer a unique form of risk-tolerant capital that REAL Impact will use to finance and scale promising businesses in the Pacific region.”

REAL Impact is committed to preparing a minimum of four SMEs for investment in the next six months, and, with the retail platform already launched, there’s no reason PNG handicrafts won’t be appearing in hotel rooms and on fashion runways in the next few years. ■

See realsocialimpact.com for more information, and you can find PNG handicrafts for sale at consideredbyreal.com.



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Help for PNG businesses

Young and dynamic advisors are stepping up to provide support for PNG's 50,000 small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs). *Lisa Smyth* reports on a service industry that looks set to boom along with the number of SMEs in the country.

Three-and-a-half-years ago, Akae Beach began her own firm, Beach Accounting and Advisory (BAA), based in Brisbane. Having spent more than 20 years working for large corporate clients in Papua New Guinea, she decided to go out on her own, but with a focus on small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs). "I knew that there were not many people helping the SME market. There is help for larger corporate clients but a gap for SMEs. Many are not keeping regular accounting books every month, and are not compliant," she says. Having recognised the opportunity in the market, what Beach didn't expect was for her business to grow so quickly. Originally from

Bougainville, Beach moved her business base to PNG in 2017 and now employs 45 staff across offices in Port Moresby, Lae, Buka and a soon-to-open office in Kokopo. Her business has supported more than 130 SMEs in the past year. "For a long time, SMEs in PNG were almost exclusively retailers and wholesalers. But now there is definitely more coming from the agriculture, tourism and technology sectors," says Beach. The PNG Government estimates that the number of SMEs in 2015 was just under 50,000 but the government's development plan calls for that to grow to 500,000 by 2030. This growth will create two million jobs and ultimately SMEs will contribute 50

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Help desk ... Akae Beach (left), one of the young guns providing assistance to SMEs.

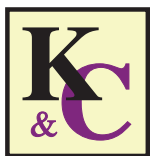
per cent of the country's gross domestic product. But many SMEs operate in the informal sector or cash economy and view the fees of consulting and advisory services as too high.

"More SMEs are starting to become aware of consulting services, but are put off by the high fees," explains Beach. "But when they realise that they can employ us on a part-time basis, and that our cloud-based technology means we can service them anywhere, they start to see the benefit."

Understanding the unique business conditions in PNG, Beach began offering night hours to her clients so they wouldn't have to close their businesses during the day and could have greater flexibility around their bookkeeping.

"We always have 10 staff working at night to help our clients, but there are also sound business reasons. The internet in PNG works a lot better at night – it is a lot faster – and many of my employees are ➤

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“

The PNG Government estimates that the number of SMEs in 2015 was just under 50,000 but the government’s development plan calls for that to grow to 500,000 by 2030.

”

students and parents who appreciate flexible work arrangements,” says Beach.

Services providers in the areas of business and financial accounting, business planning, recruitment and human resources, marketing and e-commerce, IT systems, standards and certification advice, and export promotion and market linkages are vital to achieving the expected growth in the SME sector in PNG. But the service industry that caters to SMEs is still very underdeveloped across the Pacific.

“We’ve seen considerable interest in PNG from the business service industry, and we are particularly pleased with the traction gained through the accounting and financial services firms we have on board,” says Steve Knapp, director of Business Link Pacific, a New Zealand government-funded program that launched in 2017.

The program works on both sides of the equation – providing subsidies to eligible

SMEs, as well as a referral service and a quality assurance system for service providers, including BAA.

“We identify the best local service providers so SMEs can access quality local business advisory services, while service providers can be connected to new clients,” explains Knapp. “These service providers are taking a dynamic approach to harnessing more SMEs into their portfolios and recognise the positive results that come from healthy thriving small businesses in the Pacific.”

Beach, who sits on the boards of the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Transparency International, believes the future of business in PNG is bright.

“With new technology you don’t need much capital to start a business these days and we will see a lot more start-ups in PNG. I am looking forward to seeing more empowered Papua New Guineans in the coming years.” ■

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OFFSHORE GEM

A gas project in the Gulf of Papua is getting closer to production.

David James reports.



Twinza Oil is getting closer to producing gas from the Gulf of Papua, according to managing director Huw Evans. He has outlined ambitious plans for Papua New Guinea's first offshore hydrocarbons development.

Evans told a resources conference recently that the aim is for the Singapore-based company to move to production in 2021.

"We will be producing 220,000 tonnes of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) annually – 20,000 barrels of liquid per day – which will be roughly 55 per cent condensate and 45 per cent LPG.

"It will be stored on the offshore vessel and then taken either into the domestic market or for international sales.

The Pasca A gas condensate field, a carbonate pinnacle reef in the Gulf of Papua, is not a new find. It was discovered in 1968 but has been dormant.

But improvements in drilling efficiency, production technology and development engineering have made the discovery technically and financially viable.

Evans says the site is about 70 minutes from Port Moresby by helicopter, and 14 hours by boat.

It is 120 kilometres from Western Province and 90 kilometres from Gulf Province. The reserve is in 93 metres of water, considered a shallow to intermediate depth.

Evans says the Pasca A facilities will have third-party access, enabling the commercialisation of other gas projects.

"We are surrounded by two trillion cubic feet of discoveries. It is well overdue for development and it is not the only one. There are a number of other gas fields that are available for development.

“

We will be producing 220,000 tonnes of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) annually – 20,000 barrels of liquid per day – which will be roughly 55 per cent condensate and 45 per cent LPG.

”

"With our infrastructure, hopefully we will be the catalysts," he says.

"It is a very simple and straightforward field development because we can very clearly see our target under the ground. That is different from onshore, which is challenging because of the seismic issues."

Evans says the company is close to agreeing to terms for a gas agreement with the PNG government.

Twinza has completed planning for installation work, environmental impact statements, concept engineering through to pre-FEED (front-end engineering design), tendering for all of the major components of the facilities, a macro-economic impact study, a field development plan and a local content plan.

There are no land ownership issues because the site is offshore, but the company is negotiating with government about how best to distribute the benefits.

"We are looking to put as much LPG as we can into PNG at lower prices, targeting diesel replacement wherever we can," Evans says.

"Because we return production rates so quickly the cash flow is very high, so the return to the government is almost immediate.

"They get tax revenue and royalty revenue virtually immediately and Kumul as a partner have an equity stake in it as well. So there is a very good return to the state at relatively low cost."

The initial shareholders of the company, which is incorporated in Australia, are the Clough family, who founded Clough Engineering.

Twinza is also backed by the private equity fund Kerogen Capital. ■





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PNG's techno future

David James reports how PNG is set to benefit from technological advances, including the undersea fibre cable from Sydney to Port Moresby that will deliver faster internet.

The proposed Coral Sea cable from Sydney to Port Moresby, which is expected to be operational at the end of the year, is one of the most important economic events to occur in Papua New Guinea.

The cable is to have a technical maximum capacity of 10 terabytes per second, which is about 1000 times current capacity. It will transform internet speeds, and costs – and not before time.

The internet penetration rate in PNG is still well below the global average but mobile coverage accessibility has increased sharply, from three per cent of the population in 2006 to over 80 per cent now.

According to the International Telecommunications Union, in 2017 only about two per cent of the PNG population had fixed broadband subscriptions, while 8.9 per cent had mobile broadband subscriptions. In 2017, only 9.6 per cent of the population used the internet.

Futurist Mark Pesce estimates that about a quarter of PNG's population owns a smartphone. He says the aim should be to increase that to 85 per cent of the population over the next five years.

"A smartphone can be used for communication, for commerce, for education, for community, for culture. We've only just started to scratch the surface."

The biggest mobile phone company in PNG is Digicel. The company has 1100 towers, >



Connected ... the Coral Sea undersea cable from Sydney to Port Moresby will deliver faster internet to PNG.





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PNG's techno future

of which only about 300 are on the electricity grid. The company achieves about 80 per cent coverage of the country.

Paul Statham, until recently the regional director of Digicel Pacific, says the company has aggressive plans to expand its offerings when the submarine fibre cable is built. He believes these innovations will especially benefit business.

Statham points to his experience in Kenya, where costs of data fell by almost 99 per cent after a submarine cable was put in. He warns, however, that bringing the fibre cable to the shore is only one step.

China's Huawei will build the domestic internet network, which will connect to the undersea cable. The cable will run between Port Moresby, Alotau, Popondetta, Lae and Madang.

"Unless it is distributed across the nation, it is of no real benefit unless you live in Port Moresby – and even then, when internet capacity improves and prices fall, demand just increases and increases," Statham says.

He says Digicel has very aggressive plans to build out metro fibre across the major towns. The company also plans to introduce cloud services, which he believes will be of great benefit to businesses in PNG.

He says it could reduce IT overhead costs by more than a third, improve flexibility and increase quality.

"One of the challenges we all face is a lack of talent in information and communications technology (ICT). The talent we do have we want to focus on high-value tasks."

Many businesses in PNG are using the slow economic conditions to upgrade their computer systems, notes Steve Hillyard, general manager in PNG for Pronto Software.

"At the moment, there is a reluctance to use cloud computing due to concerns about network infrastructure reliability, although that might change with the new cable.

"Most of our major customers in PNG are in the process of upgrading. As the market has got tighter, people are looking at their systems. It is a time for them to consolidate and invest in their business.

"Sometimes they can't do that because they are busy, or another major project starts and they are looking at opening more stores, buying more stock and putting on more staff.



Upwardly mobile ... about 25 per cent of PNG's population owns a smartphone, but futurist Mark Pesce (above) says the aim should be to increase that to 85 per cent.

"All those things aren't happening right now. So, they are investing some money in their business to get them up to the latest release of the software. That way, they can take advantage of the economy when things kick along again."

With only about a tenth of the population using the internet, there is potential for great growth in the digital economy.

Statham says Digicel is investing around \$US10 million (PGK32.84 million) in hardware that will allow businesses to access cloud services.

He believes this should reduce IT costs by more than a third, adding that PNG has an

opportunity "to leap the technology curve" because it does not have some of the legacy infrastructures that more mature economies have had.

Jeff Gilpin, entrepreneur and founder of employment agency PNG Workforce, said in the recent APEC meetings in Port Moresby that the high cost of internet access in PNG has been a problem, but that may soon change.

"When the internet is affordable, you will have access to some of the big platforms (provided by) the big multi-million dollar companies. One thing that the internet does well is to break down barriers. If you want to learn stuff, it's all out there.

"For example, cloud software and programs like salesforce.com are already available to small enterprises as well as big companies."

Entrepreneur Crystal Kewe says PNG has a small vibrant community of ICT start-ups with a membership of over 30. They have established the PNG ICT cluster with operations in the education sector, conservation, micro-enterprise and other areas using web apps.

Kewe says they are working to raise awareness and link up with international organisations. She contends that an innovation policy and strategic framework are required to align the institutional actors: governments, science and innovation agencies and research and training institutions with the ICT industry.

Futurist Pesce believes that the PNG economy could develop a strong ICT sector to accompany the resource industry. He points especially to the use of mobile communication in agriculture.

"We have wireless IOT (internet of things) centres that transmit information about soil quality directly to a depository that can be made to support small holding farmers. There are alarm systems and CCTV (closed circuit TV) that can assist in securing the nation and its cities.

"There are wearable monitoring devices that can allow an understanding of health care in individuals and communities – and the containment of diseases. It can all be accessed through this Digicel network that is so pervasive and touches so much of the community."



PNG's techno future

“
A smartphone can be used for communication, for commerce, for education, for community, for culture. We've only just started to scratch the surface.

”

Wayne Golding, a member of the APEC Business Advisory Council, agrees, noting that in agricultural economies land yields can be improved threefold using digital technology.

He says the delivery of seeds to farmers and of farmers' product to market using drones are examples of the enormous positive impact of a digital economy.

“No one will succeed unless we get our communications infrastructure sorted out,” he says, adding that the gap between “the haves and have-nots” is widening.

Digital technology is also being used in resource industries. Oil Search is using drones operated digitally, according to chief executive Peter Botten. Gavin Wood, the chief information officer for Newcrest Mining, which operates the Lihir gold mine, says the company is taking an aggressive approach to using digital technology, claiming the company's IT investment over the last two years has more than paid for itself.

“With the cloud, you don't need to spend big bucks to get a good outcome. When the gold price was low, we looked at an agile delivery model.”

Finance is another sector being revolutionised by digital technology. Pesce argues for convergence: telecommunications companies becoming banks.

According to a report by RMI University, *Digital Entrepreneurship across the APEC region*, the PNG Government is partnering with the Australian Government to examine the feasibility of using advanced financial technologies such as blockchain to leapfrog traditional financial infrastructure into the future digital economy.

Only 15 per cent of the PNG population has a bank account but most people have mobile phones. According to the Bank of Papua New Guinea a range of innovative technological solutions are being explored to increase the population's access to financial services and ability to do business. ■

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A great place to visit

PNG has the potential to be seen as one of the world’s most intriguing destinations. *David James* reports.

A study of Papua New Guinea tourism by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has found that, for the first six months of 2018, there were 34,600 visitors to the country. They spent a total of \$US78 million (PGK260 million), an average of \$US2262 (PGK7529) per trip.

The study looked at tourism numbers between January and June. It found that visitors spent on average PGK757 per day.

Almost two-thirds of visitors were male. Forty per cent had a household income under \$US50,000, 34 per cent in the range \$US50–100,000, and 26 per cent over \$US100,000.

‘Culture and history’ was nominated as the top reason for holiday visitors to choose PNG.

The IFC found that 54 per cent of visitors to PNG in the first six months of 2018 arrived for business purposes. Thirty per cent were tourists, and 16 per cent arrived to visit family and friends.

“

PNG is seen as a once-in-a-lifetime destination.

”

The top five industry sectors that benefit from tourism are accommodation (\$US31.2 million; PGK103 million), aviation (\$US23.7

million; PGK79 million), food and beverage (\$US8.3 million; PGK27 million), local transport (\$US3.8 million; PGK12.7 million) and domestic travel (\$US3.6 million; PGK12 million).

The IFC believes the tourism market has potential to grow. “With the right investments in infrastructure, capacity building, product development and marketing and tackling regulatory issues, PNG could receive an extra \$US117 million (PGK391 million) per year in niche market tourism revenues and position itself as a globally recognised tourism destination.”

The PNG Government has set out long-term plans to promote the industry. The aim is to achieve 1.5 million tourists per year by 2030.

The Prime Minister, Peter O’Neill, recently said that the government is aiming to build at least 2000 beds in Kokopo.

The Tokua airport (New Rabaul airport) is to be upgraded for direct flights from Australia, China and Japan. ■

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POWER BLOC

David James reports on the deal between PNG, Australia, Japan, NZ and the US that will deliver electricity to most Papua New Guineans.

Carolyn Blacklock, the acting managing director of PNG Power, says the money that will come from the Papua New Guinea Electrification Partnership established at APEC will greatly assist the roll-out of electricity around the country.

The \$US1.7 billion partnership has been struck with Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the US. It has the goal of connecting 70 per cent of the population to electricity by 2030.

Currently only about 13 per cent of PNG's population has reliable access to electricity.

"The PNG Electrification Partnership is not loans; it is not tied aid," Blacklock says.



Carolyn Blacklock ... says there is a target of 30,000 electricity connections in PNG this year (above); PNG Power workers (top right).



"It is real money, starting with \$US45 million from January (2019). We don't have to go through hoops.

"We will procure, and they will come and check we have done the connections. Then they will give us the money. It is that simple."

Blacklock says the development of PNG's electricity grid has been piecemeal, funded with district money. It means new funding continuously has to be found.

"This is admirable, but it is not going to get up the development of PNG that we need.

"This Electrification Partnership stops PNG Power from having to borrow money. We can't afford the PGK3.6 billion price tag to electrify our country."

Blacklock says PNG Power has been doing about 2500 connections a year for the 10 years to 2017. It has a target of 30,000 connections across the country this year.

Blacklock believes the workforce at PNG Power is up to the job.

"If you give people a chance to go out and do what they believe their job is, which is actually connect Papua New Guineans to power, you can see that they can do it."

Blacklock says PNG Power is now supplying more power to Harmony Gold in Hidden Valley and has also increased its supply to Mainland Holdings.

The company is negotiating with Newcrest over the Wafi-Golpu mine.

"We spoke with Wafi-Golpu about six months ago on the back of the notion that PNG Power could supply cheaper power than if they built their own.

"We are still proving to them that this is possible, but with a blended tariff it is probably going to be in the order of six US cents a kilowatt hour cheaper than what they can do."

“

The PNG Electrification Partnership is not loans; it is not tied aid. It is real money, starting with \$US45 million from January (2019).

”

Blacklock says the company has also been concentrating on re-establishing its low-cost hydropower installations.

"If you were wondering why PNG Power wasn't making any money, it was in part because we have an environment where we are burning diesel and fuel oil, rather than fixing up our own hydro.

"We need to think of ourselves as the institution that underwrites the future of our country." ■

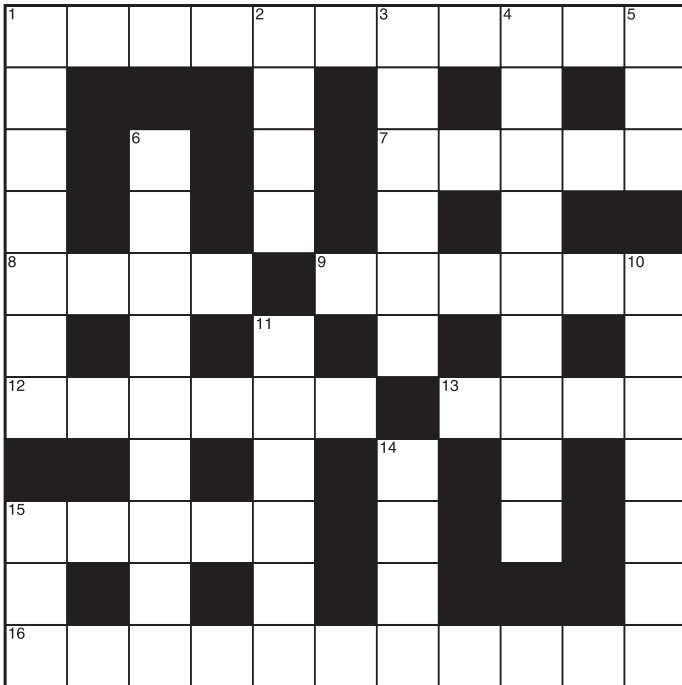


BRAIN GYM

QUIZ, PUZZLES, CROSSWORD

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

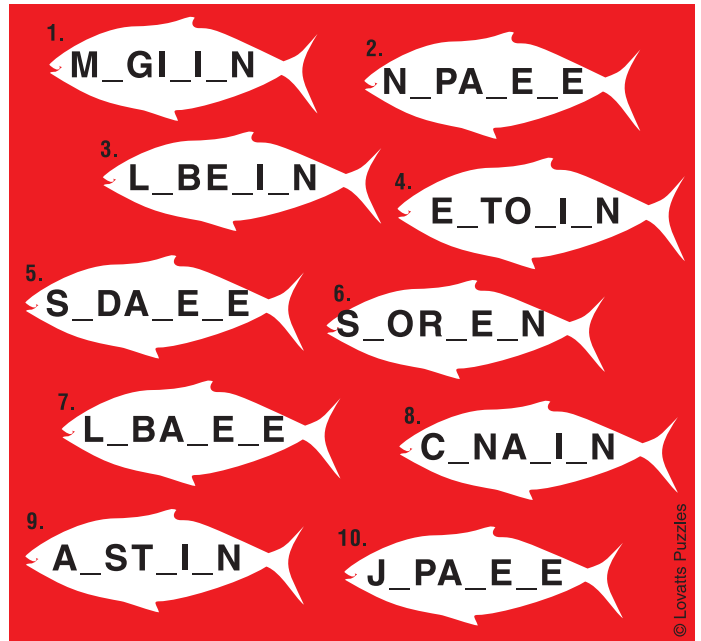
1. Place to hang around if you're patient? (7,4)
7. Embarrasses some fools (5)
8. Rave about girl's name (4)
9. Longs for twelve months, north and south (6)
12. Time to add flavour (6)
13. Check out place to get bag (4)
15. Quick on the uptake, like Maxwell (5)
16. It shows your rate of progress (11)

DOWN

1. Docks in new harvest (7)
2. Chilled in nice decanter (4)
3. Burglar escapes amid black looks (6)
4. Watchful maid follows start of outside broadcast (9)
5. Says she misses her married title (3)
6. Spoil Ma and deal out jam (9)
10. He fleeces those who flock to him (7)
11. Stationed at variety of depots (6)
14. First man to make commercial radio band (4)
15. Distressed call from every other spouse (1,1,1)

Red Herrings

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



STRAIGHT CLUES

ACROSS

1. Doctor's reception area (7,4)
7. Donkeys (5)
8. Plant, aloe ... (4)
9. Deeply desires (6)
12. Summer or winter (6)
13. Detective's job (4)
15. Wise guy, ... aleck (5)
16. Velocity gauge (11)

DOWN

1. Quays (7)
2. Decorated (cake) (4)
3. Stares angrily (6)
4. Eagle-eyed (9)
5. Mr & ... (3)
6. Citrus preserve (9)
10. Woolshed worker (7)
11. Sent (mail) (6)
14. Eve's mate (4)
15. Mayday signal (1,1,1)



The Paradise Quiz

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE REGION?

- Can you name a Papua New Guinean town from this jumble of letters: *ooaettppdn*?
- In which year did Air Niugini start flying?
- What does *sloim* mean in Tok Pisin?
- Where in PNG are you if you are standing at an altitude of 4509 metres?
- What is PNG's *paedophryne amauensis* frog famous for?
- Where is Nadzab Airport?
- Who or what are *Lily* and *Stella*?
- What is the name of the bridge over the Brisbane River that links the northern and southern suburbs of the city?
- Where are you if you've flown into VLI?
- Which country is home to the marinated dish, chicken adobo?
- What is Japan's national sport?
- What is the popular combat sport practised in Thailand in which participants use knees, elbows, shins and hands to strike?
- Which country is known for its square watermelons?
- Which of these three tennis players reached the finals of the Australian Open: Naomi Osaka (Japan), Sam Stosur (Australia), Zhang Shuai (China)?
- Where are you in PNG if you have played a round of golf at this course (pictured)?



Sudoku

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

Rating: ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

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



Solutions

Red Herrings

RED HERRING, Nepalese, Liberian, Estonian, Sudanese, RED HERRING, Lebanese, Canadian, Austrian, Japanese.

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

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

The Paradise Quiz

1. Popondetta.
2. 1973.
3. Slow down.
4. On the summit of PNG's highest mountain, Mount Wilhelm.
5. At about 7mm long, it is claimed to be the world's smallest frog and can easily fit on a 10 toea coin.
6. Lae.
7. PNG fashion/lifestyle magazines.
8. Story Bridge.
9. At Bauerfield International Airport at Port Vila, Vanuatu (one of Air Niugini's many destinations).
10. Philippines.
11. Sumo wrestling.
12. Muay Thai (Thai boxing).
13. Japan. The watermelons are grown in glass cases and were invented by graphic designer Tomoyuku Ono in 1978. They are ornamental and not meant for eating.
14. All three. Osaka won the women's singles, and Stosur and Shuai won the doubles.
15. Mount Hagen Golf Club.



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Out and about

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



PICTURE: MILEN STILYANOV

Port Moresby from the air ... Harbour City in the foreground and the suburb of Konedobu nestling into the hills.

CLIMATE

With the exception of the Highlands, Papua New Guinea 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. In other urban centres, you may still be relying on dial-up. For those staying longer, wireless internet, via a USB modem, is available. Complimentary Wi-Fi is becoming more common at hotels, and is also available at Jacksons International Airport.

Phone: International mobile phone roaming is possible in PNG but it can be costly. A cheaper option is to buy a local SIM card and pre-paid credit (including data packs for smartphones).

ELECTRICITY

The current in PNG is 240V AC 50Hz, using Australian-style plugs.

GETTING AROUND

Airport transfers: For arrival/departure in Port Moresby, any of the hotels listed in this guide will provide a complimentary transfer.

Car hire: Deal with one of the international names and ask them

to provide a driver (PGK450+ per day). With the poor state of roads, especially in Lae, 4WDs/SUVs are recommended.

Taxis: Recommended firms are City Loop (1800 000), Comfort (325 3046) and Scarlet (7220 7000).

Domestic flights: Travelling within PNG often means taking an internal flight (for instance, you cannot drive between Port Moresby and Lae). Air Niugini offers passengers the chance to book (and for some flights, also to check in) online, but make sure you print out a copy of your receipt to show at check-in. Aircraft and

helicopter charters are available for travel to remote locations.

HEALTH

Serious medical conditions can be treated in Port Moresby at Pacific International Hospital and the Government Hospital, which have 24-hour emergency and critical care services. Some conditions may require treatment outside the country. Travellers should ensure they have adequate health cover (the cost of medical evacuation can reach \$US30,000). Visitors should also note that malaria is prevalent in PNG and there have been cases of measles and tuberculosis. ➤





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MEDICAL EMERGENCY

For St John Ambulance phone 111 or 7111 1234. St John provides 24-hour ambulance service in Port Moresby.

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.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

PNG observes a number of public holidays unique to the country. In 2019, they include National Remembrance Day on Tuesday, July 23; National Repentance Day on Monday, August 26; and Independence Day on Monday, September 16.

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 OUT

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 to Deli KC. The Vue Restaurant, which has a buffet each morning and evening, as well as an a la carte menu, has stunning views. See airways.com.pg.

Asia Aromas: Offering Chinese and Thai food by the water at Harbourside, this eatery has consistently good reviews on social media. Outdoor seating is



Edge by the Sea ... has a marina outlook at Harbour City.



Element Bar and Restaurant ... Asian fusion in a youthful atmosphere.

available. A good spot for sunset drinks. Tel. +675 321 4780.

Aviat Club: The club is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Home-style meals include stir-fries, toasted sandwiches and salt-and-pepper prawns. This is a great spot to sit at lunchtime under the shady mango trees, or in the air-conditioned bar. See facebook.com/pages/Aviat-Club/141553252563094.

Bel Cibo: A casual and affordable family style restaurant serving Italian-American at Vision City. See belcibopng.com.

Crown Hotel: There are multiple eating options at Crown. 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. See ihg.com.

Daikoku: The extensive Japanese menu has teppanyaki, donburi bowls and a large range of sushi. Tucked away above the Stop n Shop shopping centre in Harbour City, chefs will whip up your meal at your table. See daikokupng.com.

Duffy Cafe: Known for excellent coffee and homemade cafe-style food and bakery items, Duffy has three locations – at Harbourside, Gordons and Jacksons International Airport. See duffypng.com.

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. See facebook.com/pages/Dynasty-Restaurant-Vision-City/148278471918956.

Edge by the Sea: The 'Edge' cafe was renovated in 2017 and has alfresco dining with a wonderful marina outlook from the ground floor at the Edge Apartments in Harbour City. Eggs benedict, burrito bowls, pork burgers and grilled snapper are among the breakfast and lunch menu favourites. There's a mist water system in the alfresco area that can reduce the ambient air temperature by up to 10 degrees ... perfect for those blistering-hot days. Tel. +675 7995 5263.

Ela Beach Hotel: The Beachside Brasserie aims to be one of Port Moresby's best value-for-money restaurants, offering seafood and other dishes from the Pacific Rim, curry, pastas, and a classic grill menu. It's located next to the pool, set in Italian gardens. See coralseahotels.com.pg.

Element Bar and Restaurant: One of Port Moresby's newest restaurants, Element offers Asian fusion with excellent service. On Champion Parade, on the first level of MRDC Haus, it has modern decor and a huge balcony. Tel. +675 7252 8778.

Fusion: This is one of the city's busiest restaurants. It's a fusion of flavours from China, Thailand and Vietnam. Takeaway available. There's also a sister restaurant, Fusion 2, in the far corner of the ANZ Bank Compound in Waigani. Tel. +675 7196 6666.

Gateway Hotel: The hotel's dining options include ➤





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Bookings: 327 8100 | coralseahotels.com.pg

Jackson's Gaming—Restaurant—Bar, which has a rooftop bar with views of the airport, as well as claims to the best lamb rack in town. Sizzler's Family Restaurant offers value dining, while Enzo's Express does quick lunches, coffee and pizza. The hotel's Departure Bar, next to the hotel lobby, is a comfortable and air-conditioned space to while away some transit hours in between flights. See coralseahotels.com.pg.

Grand Papua Hotel: The elegant Grand Brasserie has an a la carte menu of modern European cuisine, as well as buffet options. The Grand Cafe, on Douglas Street, has barista-made Goroka coffee, fruit juices, freshly made salads and sandwiches. The Grand Bar — with stylish marble, high ceilings, timber floors and window shutters — has a light menu and is a popular place to wind down after work. See grandpapuahotel.com.pg.

Hilton Port Moresby: The hotel has five eating areas including Mumu, which is named after the traditional earthen oven of PNG and serves traditionally inspired dishes. There's also a top-floor lounge bar called Summit, cafe-style dining in Copper on the lobby level, all-day dining and a breakfast buffet at Feast, and quick bites, such as sandwiches and coffee, at Halo in the convention centre foyer. See www3.hilton.com. Tel. +675 750 1800.

Hosi Ramen: As the name suggests, this Japanese restaurant at Vision City specialises in ramen (noodles served in broth with meat and vegetables). See facebook.com/pages/Hosi-Ramen/565779996932557.



Airways Hotel ... near the airport and renowned for its excellent service.

Korean Garden: An affordable menu at Vision City that includes a do-it-yourself barbecue, as well as traditional favourites such as kimchi and gimbap. See facebook.com/pages/Korean-Garden/595454767289525.

Lamana Hotel: You're spoilt for choice here with Spices (Indian), the Italian Restaurant, Rio's at the Temple (Brazilian), Cafe Palazzo, Lanes Ten Pin Bowling, and PNG's biggest nightclub, The Gold Club. See lamanahotel.com.pg.

Magi Seafood Restaurant: A local secret on Spring Garden Road (same side as SP Brewery) with excellent Asian food, but specifically the best mud crab in town, which needs to be ordered 24 hours in advance. Tel. +675 323 3918.

Mojo Social: This casual Mediterranean-inspired bar and restaurant is on the ground floor of PWC Haus at Harbour City. Tapas-style dishes, risotto and pizza are among the offerings. See mojosocialpng.com.

Naked Fish: A seafood and steak restaurant at Harbourside. Great spot for sunsets and the water views. Tel. +675 320 2293.

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. 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.

Sogno: This is a traditional Italian restaurant with pastas, risottos and pizzas served out of a stone oven at Harbourside. Tel. +675 320 0001.

Stanley Hotel and Suites: This Waigani hotel has several restaurant choices, including the fine-dining Silver Leaf and the chic tapas-style Monsoon Lounge. Green Haus restaurant has all-day dining, including buffet dinners with live cooking stations. See thestanleypng.com.

Tandoor on the Harbour: Come here for a curry with great bay views. See facebook.com/tandoorontheharbour.

Tasty Bites: This Indian restaurant is tucked away in the town centre in Hunter Street near Crowne Plaza. Bookings recommended. 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 visioncity.com.pg.

LAE

Bunga Raya: This local favourite, serving Malaysian-style Chinese, is located next door to the Lae Golf Club. Be sure to try the stuffed lettuce cups, laksa and claypot tofu. Tel. +675 472 7177.

Cafe 411: There's a cosy atmosphere at this casual cafe next to Hotel Morobe on Coronation Drive. The Western-style menu includes finger foods and PNG coffee. Tel. +675 479 0100.

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

Lae City Cafe: Located in the Lae City Hotel on 3rd street, the cafe serves Western and Asian cuisine. The signature dishes include ribs and Nasi Goreng. Tel. +675 472 0138.

Lae Garden Restaurant: The Asian menu includes staples such as crispy chicken and butter prawns. The elegant restaurant, ►



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inside Hotel Morobe on Coronation Drive, offers breathtaking views of the city from its balcony. Tel. +675 479 0100.

Lae Golf Club: The club is excellent for a few sundowners as you overlook the stunning green. Tel. +675 472 1363.

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

Lae Yacht Club: The perfect place for late-afternoon beers, or just as nice for a relaxing lunch. Serves pub-style food. See laeyachtclub.com.pg. Tel. +675 472 4091.

Mountain View Restaurant: Located at the Crossroads Hotel at Nine Mile. Be 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

PORT MORESBY

Airways Hotel: Airways is within a large, secure compound next to Jacksons International Airport. An inspiring setting, luxurious rooms, excellent service and very good food options. See airways.com.pg. Tel. +675 324 5200.

Citi Boutique Hotel: The Citi Boutique Hotel is in Boroko, a quiet residential area with shopping centres and sporting facilities. It has 60 deluxe queen and twin rooms, a business centre, cable TV and free Wi-Fi. There's also a day spa and beauty salon, restaurant, bar, karaoke



The Citi Boutique Hotel ... has 60 queen and twin rooms.



Hilton Port Moresby ... the 15-storey hotel opened recently.

room, and a rooftop terrace. The hotel provides free airport transfers. See citiboutiquehotel.com. Tel. +675 300 1300

Citi Serviced Apartments and Motel: There are two Citi Serviced Apartments and Motel properties, one block located at East Boroko and the other at Manu. They are set in safe and secure grounds. The apartments are fully kitted out. They include cable TV, free Wi-Fi, washing machines, dryers, fridges, fans and air conditioning. Housekeeping is also provided.

See citiboutiquehotel.com. Tel. +675 300 1300.

Crown Hotel: Upmarket rooms and suites in the heart of the CBD. Decent gym, business centre, undercover parking, thriving cafe and Mediterranean restaurant. See ihg.com. Tel. +675 309 3329.

Ela Beach Hotel and Apartments: On the fringe of the CBD, this constantly expanding hotel/apartment complex is part of the Coral Sea Hotels group. See coralseahotels.com.pg. Tel. +675 321 2100.

Gateway Hotel: Conveniently located just minutes from Jacksons International Airport, the hotel has a range of dining options, conference facilities, modern gym and two swimming pools. Free airport shuttles are available for guests. See coralseahotels.com.pg. Tel. +675 327 8100.

Grand Papua: This premium hotel features 156 suite rooms (short and long stay), an executive floor, gym and conference facilities. The separate restaurant and bar areas are popular for business meetings. Centrally located. See grandpapuahotel.com.pg. Tel. +675 304 0000.

Hilton Port Moresby: The capital city's newest luxury hotel opened in late 2018 and is in the government district 10 minutes from the airport. There are five restaurants, an executive lounge, six meeting rooms, a convention centre, swimming pool and fitness centre. All rooms in the 15-storey hotel include floor-to-ceiling windows. The accommodation includes standard rooms, executive rooms and suites. See www3.hilton.com. Tel. +675 750 18000.

Holiday Inn: Located in Waigani, the large grounds include a walking track in a tropical garden setting, outdoor restaurant and bar area, business centre and gym. Includes three-star Holiday Inn Express hotel. See ihg.com. Tel. +675 303 2000.

Laguna Hotel: 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 Wi-Fi and free buffet breakfast. See lagunahotelpng.com. Tel. +675 323 9333. ➤



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Lamana Hotel: In Waigani, the hotel has 24-hour free airport transfers, free in-room Wi-Fi, a conference centre, restaurants, and the famous Gold Club. See lamanahotel.com.pg. Tel. +675 323 2333.

Stanley Hotel and Suites: One of Port Moresby's newest hotels, this is a luxurious 429-room property in Waigani, close to government offices and embassies. It has 95 long-stay apartments, gym, pool, cafe, restaurants and an executive lounge. Connected to Vision City Mega Mall. See thestanleypng.com. Tel. + 675 302 8888.

LAE

Crossroads Hotel: A 45-room facility at Nine Mile. The hotel has

a Japanese-themed teppanyaki restaurant with Asian/Western fusion menus, full bar service, a well-equipped gym, Wi-Fi and complimentary transfers to both Lae City and Nadzab Airport. See hornibrook.com.pg/crossroads. Tel. +675 475 1124.

Hotel Morobe: A centrally located 38-room boutique property built in 2014. See hotelmorobe.com. Tel. +675 4790 100.

Lae City Hotel: Located in the main Top Town area, this hotel has 24-hour concierge and an excellent cafe and restaurant with Western and Asian cuisine. See laecityhotel.com. Tel. +675 472 0138.

Lae International Hotel: The city's premier hotel has recently



Lae International Hotel ... deluxe rooms and apartments are available.

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. Tel. +675 479 0411. ■

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TWO-MINUTE GUIDE TO TOK PISIN WORDS/PHRASES

Papua New Guinea has more than 800 languages, but the three official languages are Tok Pisin, English and Motu. Here, we outline some Tok Pisin, which is the largest *lingua franca* of PNG.

- *Where do I find a taxi?*
Bai mi painim taxi long we?
- *One coffee with milk, please.*
Wanpela kap kopi wantaim milk plis.
- *Where is the toilet?*
Toilet istap we?

- *How much is this?*
Hamas long dispela?
- *Thank you very much.*
Tenkiu tru.
- *You understand English?*
Yu save long tok Inglis?
- *Where is my bag?*
Bag bilong mi istap we?
- *Where can I change my money?*
Wanem hap bai mi ken senisim moni bilong mi?

- *One beer, please.*
Wanpela bia plis.
- *Why? Bilong wanem?*
- *How many children do you have? Yu gat hamaspla pikinini?*
- *Where are you from?*
Yu bilong wanem hap?
- *I don't know. Mi no save.*
- *What do you want?*
Yu laikim wanem samting?

- *Restaurant*
Ples bilong kaikai
- *Goodbye* **Gutbai**
- *Hello* **Halo**
- *Water* **Wara**
- *Baggage* **Kago**
- *Airport* **Ples balus**
- *Place* **Ples**
- *Fish* **Pis**

NUMBERS

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Image © David Doubilet/Walindi Resort

MV OCEANIA

A new dive liveaboard vessel begins operation out of Walindi Resort in Jan 2019.

Plan your next dive trip to Papua New Guinea and join us on this modern and comfortable 27 metre catamaran, offering dive itineraries including Kimbe Bay, Witu Islands, Fathers Reefs and beyond.

email: reservations@mvoceania.com



Image © Peter Lange

walindi PLANTATION **resort**

In operation for over 35 years on the shores of Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea.

Relax in a tropical bungalow, dive or snorkel the world renowned reefs of Kimbe Bay, take a birdwatching tour, enjoy a nature hike or book a scuba course.

Contact our friendly staff for a package to suit you.

email: resort@walindifebrina.com

NEW IN 2019

Image © Andrew Dutton

mvfebrina LIVEABOARD

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email: febrina@walindifebrina.com



Image © David Schuler



Image © Marcelo Krause

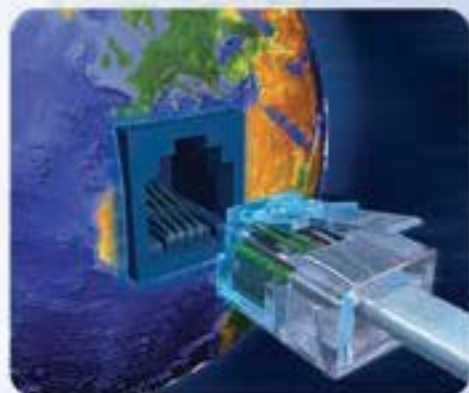


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Ensure that your seat is in the upright position during takeoff and landing. Folding tables must be returned to their original position in the seat back or the armrest.

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
Wing span: 47.57m
Range: 8100km
Cruising speed: 857kph
Power plant: 2 x PW4000

Normal altitude: 11000 - 12000m
Standard seating capacity: 188
Business class: 28
Economy class: 160
Number of aircraft in fleet: 2



F70 - Fokker

Length: 30.91m
Wing span: 28.08m
Range: 3410km
Cruising speed: 743kph
Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 620-15 turbo-fan engines

Normal altitude: 11000m
Standard seating capacity: 76
Business class: 6
Economy class: 70
Number of aircraft in fleet: 5



B737-800 - Boeing

Length: 39.5m
Wing span: 35.79m
Range: 8100km
Cruising speed: 857kph
Power plant: 2 x CFM56 - 7B26

Normal altitude: 11300m
Standard seating capacity: 144
Business class: 16
Economy class: 128
Number of aircraft in fleet: 2



DASH 8-Q315 - Bombardier

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

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



B737-700 - Boeing

Length: 33.6m
Wing span: 35.79m
Range: 6370km
Cruising speed: 830kph
Power plant: 2 x CFM56 - 7B22

Normal altitude: 11300m
Standard seating capacity: 116
Business class: 12
Economy class: 104
Number of aircraft in fleet: 1



DHC-8-202 - Bombardier

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

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



F100 - Fokker

Length: 35.528m
Wing span: 28.076m
Range: 3000km
Cruising speed: 780kph
Power plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650

Normal altitude: 11000m
Standard seating capacity: 101
Business class: 8
Economy class: 93
Number of aircraft in fleet: 7



Falcon 900EX - Dassault

Length: 20.21m
Wing span: 19.33m
Range: 4500nm
Cruising speed: 650mph

Power plant: 3 x Honeywell TFE731
Maximum altitude: 51000ft
Standard seating capacity: 12
Number of aircraft in fleet: 1

Inflight entertainment

Movie, TV and music highlights available on Air Niugini flights

MOVIES



A Star Is Born

Genre: Drama, Biography

Rating: M

Stars: Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper, Sam Elliott
Seasoned musician Jackson Maine discovers – and falls in love with – struggling artist Ally. She has just about given up on her dream to make it big as a singer until Jack coaxes her into the spotlight.



Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald

Genre: Adventure, Fantasy

Rating: M

Stars: Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Dan Fogler
Grindelwald has escaped and is gathering more followers to his cause – elevating wizards above all non-magical beings. The only one who might be able to stop him is Albus Dumbledore.



Bad Times at the El Royale

Genre: Action, Drama, Mystery

Rating: MA15+

Stars: Jeff Bridges, Cynthia Erivo, Dakota Johnson
Seven strangers, each with a secret to bury, meet at Lake Tahoe's El Royale, a rundown hotel with a dark past. Over the course of one fateful night, everyone will have a last shot at redemption . . . before everything goes to hell.



Bohemian Rhapsody

Genre: Drama, Biography

Rating: M

Stars: Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Gwilym Lee
This movie celebrates the band Queen, their music, and their extraordinary lead singer Freddie Mercury, who defied convention to become one of the most beloved entertainers ever.



Can You Ever Forgive Me?

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Biography

Rating: M

Stars: Melissa McCarthy, Richard E. Grant, Dolly Wells
Melissa McCarthy is masterful in the captivating account – based on a true story – of a down-and-out writer who resorts to lies, deceit and outright crime to get back on top.



Smallfoot

Genre: Family, Animation

Rating: PG

Stars: Channing Tatum, James Corden, Zendaya
A bright young Yeti finds something he thought didn't exist – a human. News of this 'smallfoot' throws the simple Yeti community into an uproar over what else might be out there in the big world beyond their snowy village.



Fever Pitch

Genre: Comedy, Romance

Rating: M

Stars: Drew Barrymore, Jimmy Fallon, Jason Spevack
A teacher falls in love with a successful businesswoman. Although their lives are different, the relationship seems perfect until the baseball season begins and she has to compete with his first true love: the Boston Red Sox.



Seven

Genre: Action, Thriller

Rating: R

Stars: Morgan Freeman, Brad Pitt, Kevin Spacey
Two cops chase a psychopath who is committing a series of unusual crimes based on the seven deadly sins.



Pad Man

Genre: Comedy, Drama

Rating: PG

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Sonam Kapoor, Radhika Apte
A rural welder, Lakshmi, is disturbed to find that his wife, unable to afford sanitary pads, uses unhygienic methods. Fostered by concern for his wife, Lakshmi embarks on a journey to manufacture low-cost sanitary napkins.



Europe Raiders

Genre: Drama

Rating: M

Stars: Tony Chiu-Wai Leung, Ji-hyun Jun, Kris Wu
Two rival bounty hunters team up to save the world.



Cafe Funiculi Funicula

Genre: Adventure, Fantasy

Rating: No Australian rating available

Stars: Kasumi Arimura, Motoki Fukami, Haru
There is a mysterious urban legend about this cafe. When you sit at a certain table, you can go back in time to any point you choose. But there are also some uncompromising rules that customers must follow.



I Love You, Hater

Genre: Comedy

Rating: PG

Stars: Joshua Garcia, Julia Barretto, Kris Aquino
Joko is trying to help his family survive, while Zoey is hoping to prove herself to the world. Opportunity rises when a job comes up for a personal assistant. Just one catch – they have to compete against each other.



TV



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Ice Road Rescue

Genre: Documentary

Episode: Forces of Nature

Stars: David Wartnaby

Winter hits hard in Norway. Thord risks his life to keep the roads open while a winter storm strikes. Up in the north, Jo Roger and his son Ole Henrik are dealing with enormous amounts of snow.



Kokoda: The Spirit Lives

Genre: Documentary, Travel

Stars: Patrick Lindsay

Walk in the footsteps of the Australian soldiers who fought on the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea in World War 2. This modern telling gives them a voice, honours their sacrifices and their legacy, and helps to pass on their story to future generations.



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Family Guy

Genre: Comedy

Episode: Big Trouble in Little Quahog

Stars: Seth MacFarlane, Alex Borstein, Seth Green

After Brian teases Stewie for being small, Stewie invents a shrinking machine that results in both of them shrinking to a microscopic size.



© 2018 WB

Friends

Genre: Comedy

Episode: The One with the Rumour

Stars: Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, David Schwimmer

Special guest star Brad Pitt plays Will, Monica's high school friend who was the only student fatter than Monica. She invites him to Thanksgiving dinner with the gang, unaware that he isn't fond of Rachel.



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The Resident

Genre: Drama

Episode: Three Words

Stars: Matt Czuchy, Emily VanCamp, Manish Dayal

Nic and Conrad contemplate their past when they team up to diagnose a happy husband and wife admitted to hospital with mysterious symptoms.



© 2018 WB

Young Sheldon

Genre: Comedy

Episode: Summer Sausage, a Pocket Poncho, and Tony Danza

Stars: Iain Armitage, Zoe Perry, Lance Barber

While Sheldon is busy obsessing over the status of Meemaw's budding relationship with his mentor, Dr Sturgis, George and Mary attempt to bond with their other kids.



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Baby TV

Genre: Family, Animation

Episode: Moving and Grooving

Enjoy popular songs like *London Bridge*, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, *If You're Happy*, and many more.



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Prison Break (2017)

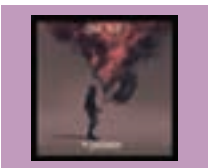
Genre: Drama

Episode: Ogygia

Stars: Dominic Purcell, Wentworth Miller, Amaury Nolasco

It's been seven years since Michael Scofield was presumed dead, but when clues suggest that he might still be alive, Lincoln Burrows reunites with Sara Tancredi to help track down the truth. The path leads Lincoln to Yemen.

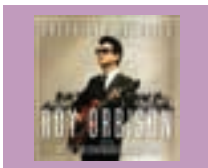
MUSIC



The Chainsmokers Sick Boy

Genre: Pop

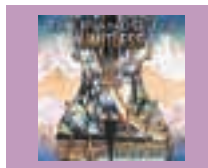
Sick Boy comprises the singles released by The Chainsmokers last year. Each release represented a new chapter for the duo in the ongoing building of the album, culminating in a complete 10-song set.



Roy Orbison & The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Unchained Melodies

Genre: East Listening

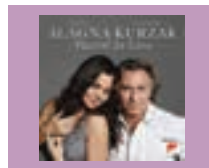
That haunting voice, those uplifting and emotional songs – there is only one Roy Orbison, and fans once again get to hear him in a new way with brand-new orchestral arrangements.



The Piano Guys Limitless

Genre: Classical, Easy Listening

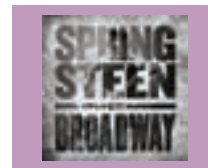
The Piano Guys showcase their talent for reinventing the music of any genre, from contemporary pop and rock hits to classical compositions, Hollywood scores and even never-before-heard originals.



Roberto Alagna & Aleksandra Kurza Puccini in Love

Genre: Classical

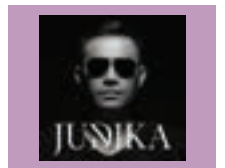
Each of Puccini's operas possesses its own colour. Star tenor Roberto Alagna and his wife, the Polish soprano Aleksandra Kurzak, have made the most poignant duets from Puccini's operas the focus of their first collaborative album.



Bruce Springsteen Springsteen on Broadway

Genre: Golden Hits, Soundtracks

The album features songs and stories from Bruce Springsteen's historic 236 Broadway show run. It's based on his best-selling autobiography *Born to Run*.



Judika Nalon Abadi Sihotang Judika

Genre: Pop

Judika is a pop singer from Indonesia. He was the runner up of Indonesian *Idol* season two in 2005. Since then he has carved out a career in the entertainment industry.



Your health inflight

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

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

Blood Circulation / Muscle Relaxation

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Former or current malignant disease
- Blood disorders leading to increased clotting tendency
- Personal or family history of DVT

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

Recommendations

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

Jetlag

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

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

Recommendations

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



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

Cabin Humidity / Dehydration

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

Recommendations

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

Eating and Drinking

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

Recommendations

- Avoid overeating just prior to and during the flight. It is difficult to digest too much food when the body is inactive.
- Drink coffee, tea and alcohol in moderation. These drinks acts 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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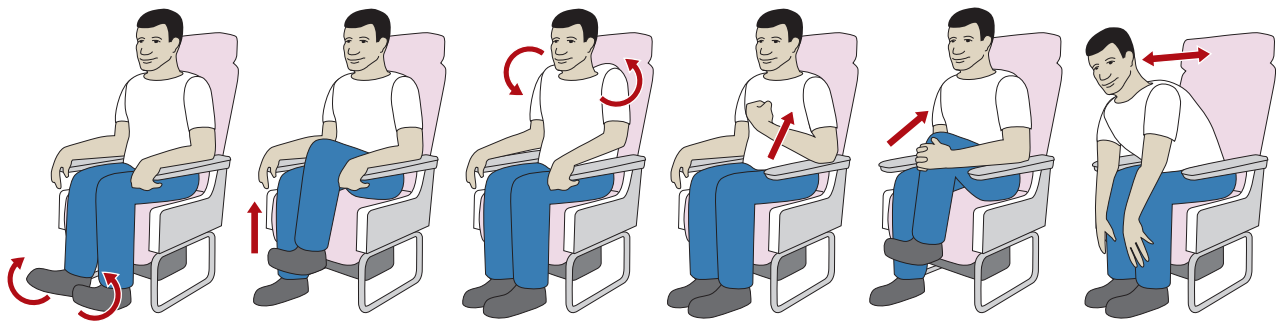
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Your wellbeing



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

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



ANKLE CIRCLES

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

KNEE LIFTS

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

SHOULDER ROLL

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

ARM CURL

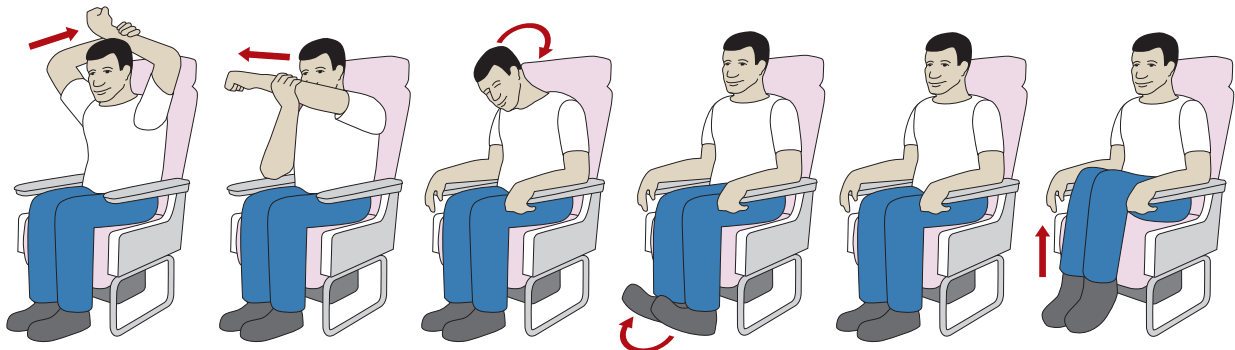
Start with arms held high at 90° angle - elbows down, hands out in front. Raise hands up to chest and back down alternating arms. Do these exercises in 30 second intervals.

KNEE TO CHEST

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

FORWARD FLEX

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



OVERHEAD STRETCH

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

SHOULDER STRETCH

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

NECK ROLL

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

FOOT PUMPS

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

2. Put both feet flat on the floor.

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

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