

# Paradise

inflight with air.niugini

VOL 2, 2004

 Celebrating  
30 Years  
of Service to  
Papua New Guinea  
**Air Niugini**



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in Port Moresby...

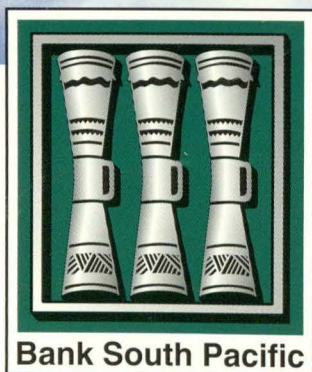
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## Chairman's Message



Joseph Tauvasa

Air Niugini realises that its future growth opportunities must come from developing inbound tourism, bringing in increasing numbers of foreign tourists to explore the unmatched range of natural wonders and experience the diverse cultures of this fascinating country.

However successful our country is in widening the scope of economy activity beyond mining, it is unlikely that the annual flow of business traffic of around 30,000 businesses per annum will increase significantly in the near future. Hence, we must develop tourism.

At present, only about 15,000 tourists visit Papua New Guinea each year, a rather small number when its size and attractions are noted and when compared with visitor figures reported by such major Pacific Islands destinations as Fiji and French Polynesia, and some of the smallest ones. The Cook Islands, with an area of just 240 square kilometres, had more than 70,000 visitors last year. Vanuatu had 50,000.

Papua New Guinea is not a mass tourism destination but has unique attractions. Papua New Guinea does not currently enjoy a high flight frequency from Australia or Asia, and the difficulties of developing acceptable tourism infrastructure, given the diverse and difficult terrain, has not so far made it possible to handle high volume tourism easily. Nevertheless, quality products exist and these attract top-end tourism. The dive industry with world class live aboard boats as well as land base dive operations and trekking, particularly the Kokoda Trek, are quality tourism products well-known around the world.

Beyond doubt, Papua New Guinea's tourism diversity is exceptional and ensures a great fascination for the real traveller in search of quite different experiences, cultures and interests.

Air Niugini realised that long ago, and from its inception in 1973 has worked to develop inbound tourism. We will continue to do so, as evidenced by our strong support for the outstandingly successful Lukim PNG Nau, mounted by the whole tourism industry in March, to promote itself as much to Papua New Guineans as to the businesses whose business is tourism.

Air Niugini's international offices in Cairns, Sydney, Manila, Singapore and Tokyo, plus General Sales Agents in Auckland, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Taipei, Seoul, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Frankfurt, Stockholm and London, can lay claim to be one of Papua New Guinea's most widely spread and effective marketing and promotion tools.

All are dedicated to spreading the net needed to catch the attention of travellers and to give guidance and advice to PNG tourism operators on local market and trade show participation.

From April, our new, larger Tokyo office, which we jointly operate with the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority, will be opened. This will help the development of Japanese inbound visitor traffic and in improving facilities. This year, the Tourism Promotion Authority board is providing increased funds for all promotional activities in Japan, Europe and the United States. In Australia, Air Niugini is constantly assisting travel wholesalers who promote Destination Papua New Guinea. These efforts produce the goods, and the goods are the visitors who in growing numbers will be filling the seats of our international and domestic service aircraft for the benefit of all in Papua New Guinea.

Thank you for flying with us.



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Paradise is the complimentary inflight magazine of Air Niugini, Papua New Guinea's international airline, and is published six times a year by Edinburgh Holdings Limited.

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**Printing**  
Inprint Pty Limited,  
Cnr Bilsen & Zillmere Roads,  
Boondall, Queensland, 4034,  
Australia.

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# Exceeding Expectations

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Salamaua Restaurant and the Coffee Shop are open each day from 6am till 10pm for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Enjoy a quick buffet lunch followed by pancakes and crêpes flamed at your table, or just pop in for a cappuccino and the best pastries in town! Or order a cake from The Cake Shop for that special occasion. Enzo's Pizzas can be ordered and then collected a few minutes later between 10am and 9:30pm each day.

Business Centre with fax, photocopier and a PC with free E-mail access for houseguests between 5pm and 10pm each day.

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- Twin-share Premier accommodation - K98 per person.

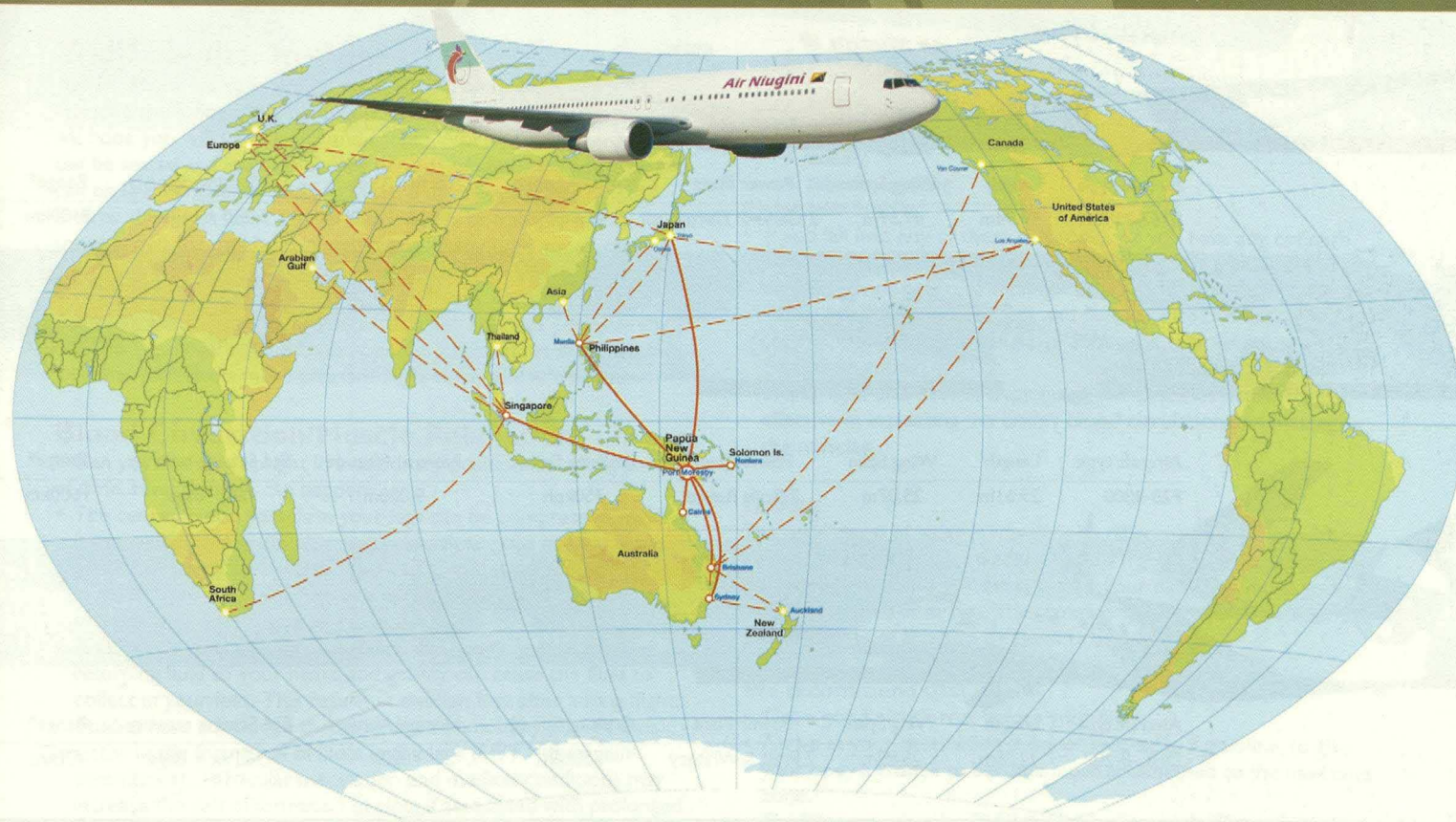
\* Minimum of 15 persons.  
Prices do not include 10% GST





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# Air Niugini Fleet

*Nobody Knows Papua New Guinea like Air Niugini!*



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



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



Aircraft type	Length	Wing Span	Power Plant	Cruising Speed	Normal Altitude	Std Seating capacity	Range*
DHC-8-202	22.25m	25.89m	2 Pratt & Whitney	550kph	7600m	36 Pax + Bags	170km

## Welcome Aboard

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

### Takeoff and landing

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

### Safety first

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

### Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

### Before you leave

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

### Entertainment

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

### Hand luggage

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

### Pillows and blankets

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

### Children and babies

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

### Electronic equipment

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



# Medical information

## *In Flight Health Tips and Exercises*

### Your Health In-Flight

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

### Blood Circulation/Muscle Relaxation

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

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

- dehydration
- heart failure
- trauma
- varicose veins
- obesity
- tobacco smoking

#### Recommendations:

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

### Jetlag

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

#### We recommend that you:

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

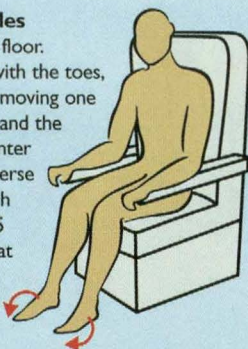
On longer stays, try to prepare in advance for your destination with its different time zone; adjust your meal and rest times to be closer to those of your destination.

## In Flight Workout

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

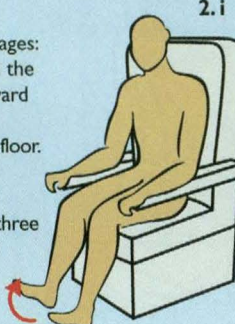
#### 1. Ankle Circles

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



#### 2. Foot Pumps

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





# Medical information

## *In Flight Health Tips and Exercises*

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

### Cabin Humidity/Dehydration

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

We recommend that you:

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

Use a skin moisturiser to refresh the skin.

### Eating and Drinking

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

We recommend that you:

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

### Cabin Pressurisation

It is necessary to pressurise the outside air drawn into the cabin to a sufficient density for your comfort and health. Cabins are pressurised to a maximum cabin altitude of 2440 metres. It is the same air pressure as

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

and descent.

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

### Recommendations:

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

### Motion Sickness

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

### Recommendations:

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

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

#### 3. Knee Lifts

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



#### 4. Neck Roll

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



#### 5. Knee to Chest

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



#### 6. Forward Flex

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



#### 7. Shoulder Roll

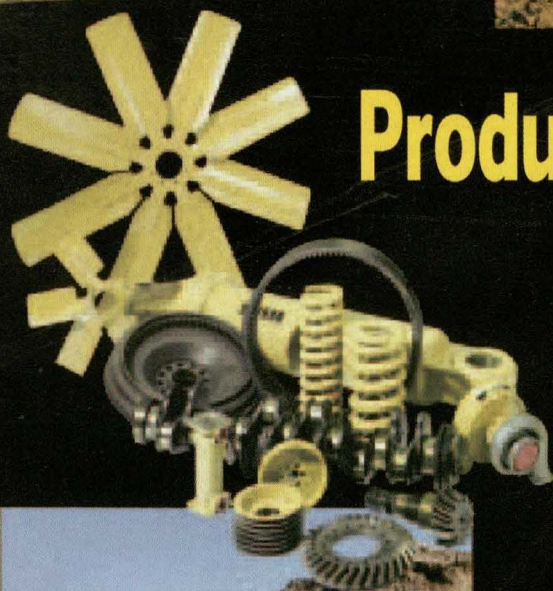
Hunch shoulders forward, then upward, then backward, then downward, using a gentle circular motion.



Caring for your safety!

Celebrating  
30 years  
of service to  
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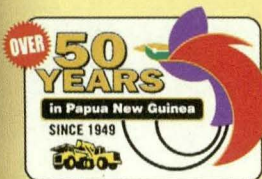


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HONIARA	Ph (677) 30 274	- Fax (677) 30 692



## HOW TO GET TO TUFU

**T**ufu Dive Resort is on the eastern side of the mainland and is accessible by air (50 minutes from Port Moresby). The resort is delightful with luxurious romantic bungalows and a very professional dive set-up. Packages include all meals and diving. [www.tufidive.com](http://www.tufidive.com)  
[info@tufidive.com](mailto:info@tufidive.com)

**Travelling around:** Well away from current political climate, PNG is a friendly and safe place to travel. There is plenty to see outside of diving, all resorts arrange side tours and nature walks. Port Moresby requires the usual cautions of any big city.

**Visas:** Required for all visitors, and can be issued on arrival.

**Health:** Malaria is regarded as a risk across the country, but Tufu sprays their grounds and we saw very few mosquitoes.



# WHERE THERE'S MUCK, THERE'S BRASS

## The Tufu Dive Experience







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Words by Beth Tierney and pictures by Shaun Tierney

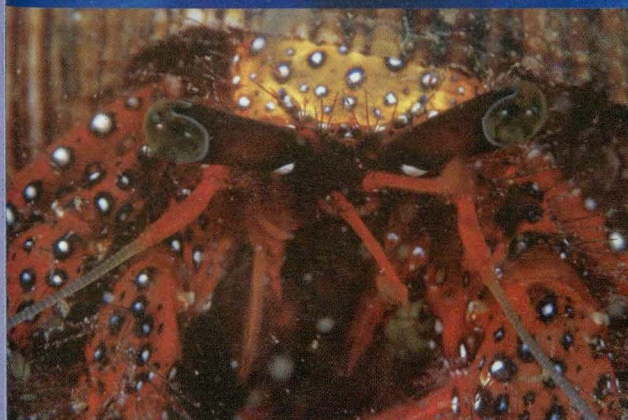
Remember what it was like getting down and grubbing in the dirt? Or digging around in a load of muck somewhere and coming up with the treasure of a lifetime? Well, you might have been six years old and your mother yelled at you, but it was worth it.

Now, the trick is to get to a place where you can do the same thing diving; feel like a kid playing in the muck until you come up with something so exciting you just can't

At first glance, the night dive off the pier wouldn't please anybody - there were old crates with coke bottles in them, rubber tyres and boxes rotting on the black sand sea floor. Looking around we saw old pieces of timber and coconut husks vying for space with tiny sponges and small corals. There's no doubt that this was a bit of a rubbish dump. But we've 'muck' dived before and know that sites like these often hold hidden treasures.

Our dive master gave us the new dive tour. Just two minutes to the

As you can imagine, we spent a lot of our week diving this site. It seemed that every time we went down we found something new. Every moment spent studying the rubble seemed to be repaid with a new and weird creature well camouflaged by its location. One night we found what looked just like a discarded bit of cow bone, but when it scuttled sideways we saw a very odd little crab. A group of mandarin fish were very fond of the coke bottles and under the jetty there were three different frogfish and two tiny white seahorses.



believe your luck. When we headed off to Papua New Guinea, we'd heard of a reputation for some weird and wonderful critters as well as wonderful reef systems, but we had no idea that we would find such brilliant muck diving.

PNG is a long way from home unless you live in the very north of Australia. Getting there takes quite some stamina - a flight to Singapore, followed by one to Port Moresby, an overnight stop, and then another flight on a small plane will deliver you to your destination.

We had chosen Tufi Dive Resort in the heart of the country's spectacular fjord land and were delighted to finally see it perched on top of a craggy hill. This part of the country really shows its volcanic origins - tracts of deep blue water cut into a hilly landscape formed by ancient eruptions. And it's these fjords that characterise the style of diving.

Although we arrived after six o'clock, we were desperate to get in the water and see what was on offer.

right of the pier is a glorious sight. Not just one ornate ghost pipefish but five. A beige and white adult and a brown and gold one. We looked a little closer and there was a brown juvenile hovering in mama's shadow. A few inches further away, we spotted another, then glancing up a little and we spotted one more.

Not letting the excitement slacken, we were directed to the other side of the pier and were shown a toad fish on the rocky sand. A little further, there was a gaggle of old oil drums and two robust ghost pipefish, all hairy and messy, to camouflage themselves in the algae.

Along the side of the bay - or fjord - a small wall was forming and the corals started to improve. We found lots of crabs, shrimp and sleeping fish. Turning back, we spotted three banded pipefish, juvenile scorpion fish, big scorpions, lionfish, and some cowries. Near the oil drums was our most exciting find - two harlequin shrimp killing an orange starfish. And all these amongst a pile of old rubbish.

On another dive, we discovered that if you descend down past the rock where the pinnate batfish lives until you hit 40 metres, you find a whole load of history emerging from the depths. During World War Two, Tufi acted as a base for American patrol boats and down in the gloom there are the remains of one. By its side is a torpedo tube, with the torpedo still in it, a 50mm gun and the hull of a wooden fishing boat that still has its engine. To the side, there is also a Land Rover - its screen intact and crusted with tiny sponges and small corals.

In amongst this glorious muck, we also spent some time seeing what the local reefs had to offer. An hour or so from the coast, there are groups of oval sea mounds that drop off to over fifty metres. Most of these take a battering from the rough seas and strong currents. In 1975, a cyclone roared through and rearranged the geography. But there are some good corals at depths that are a haven for an incredibly diverse amount of marine species.



On Minor and Evy's Reefs, we were surrounded by huge numbers of schooling fish, there were groups of chevron barracuda, plus a sentinel who watched us constantly, masses of Spanish mackerel, schooling jacks, yellow-tailed snappers, damsels, angels and fairy basslets.

Our favourite dives were on Cyclone Reef. When the storm blew through, it pushed the reef formation around and even created a small barren island that is now used by birds.

Local dive guru, John Thomas, told us that a dive crew had once tried to plant some coconut palms in a 40-gallon drum on the newly formed land. But the local fishermen ate the coconuts and cut down the trees.

Below the surface the scenery is somewhat lush. A pinnacle connected to the main reef by a deep saddle starts at 26 metres and drops off to about sixty. There are a lot of black coral bushes around it and all the bushes were full of fish, sitting on the branches like nesting birds. Quite weird. Down at forty metres we could see a grey reef shark and lots of very long whip corals.

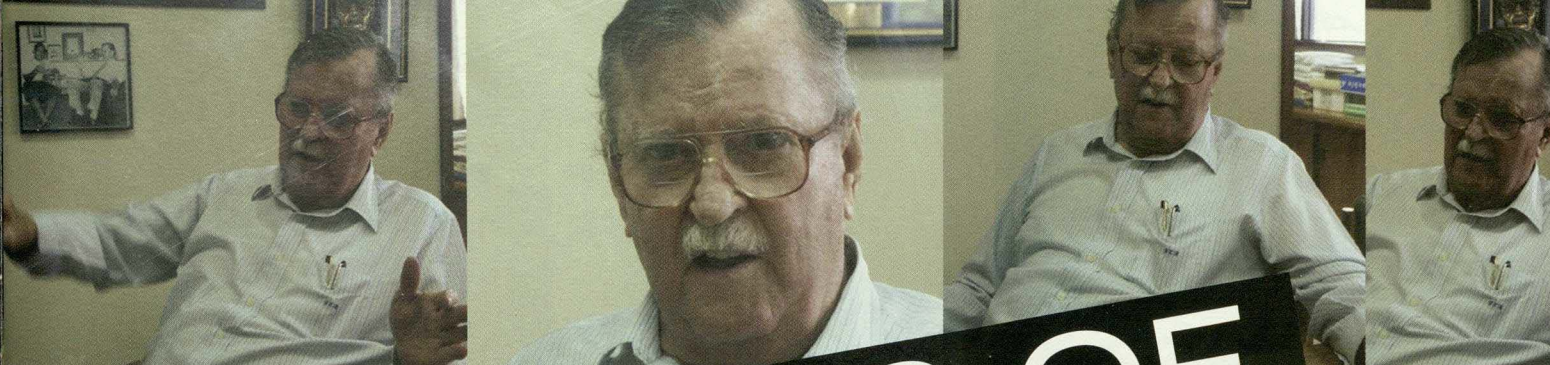
Back up on the main part of the reef, there was quite a large depression in wall. We re-entered here for our second dive and as we swam through it we met masses of schooling fish, a real soup of species, plus there were two juvenile white tip sharks. Along the wall, we found two big grey reef sharks circling below us. There was some nice coral and lots of sponges that all seemed to hide a different species of nudibranch. Way off in the blue, we just caught a glimpse of a flapping manta wing. By the time we swam back to our entry point, more juvenile sharks had arrived along with a dog tooth tuna, Spanish mackerel and a small turtle.

The outer reefs were quite a contrast to the inner bay at Tufi. Offshore, the bright and colourful gems that create a fantastic reef system complement the hidden glories of muck diving inshore. Our visit turned into a wonderful adventure as magical as any kid's game.



*War relics...history emerging from the depths.*





# 50 PEALS OF THE BELL

## Sir Brian's five decades in PNG

*By Robert Keith-Reid*

**A**pril, 2004. It's the month in which Brian Bell rings up 50 years of life and business in Papua New Guinea.

Back in April 1954, the then 26-year-old pharmacist arrived at Port Moresby.

He wanted to escape a small town life in Chinchilla, Queensland, with a population of 1500. His sense of adventure had been fired up by a newspaper report of the killing of two Australian patrol officers in the Star Mountains of Papua New Guinea.

"That's the place for me," he thought, and was told by a friend that "when you get there, get in touch with my brother at the government store. He might have a job for you."

In 1954, Papua New Guinea was an Australian colonial backwater. Burns Philp and W R Carpenters with Steamships were the great mercantile trading names in the land.

"There were phones and they were free, no taxation, no public transport and we had to get a quota for our imports. When that was used up, you'd either try to get it extended or you went to the person down the road and paid them to use their quota. There was no tax, but then again there was no money either. There was no money going into the community. The houses were built of sisal. The expatriates would come up to work and save their money to go south and didn't spend it here at all, so as a result there wasn't much money here.

"The Australians drove all the tankers and trucks. Papua New Guineans didn't do driving of any kind. Now, it's the other way round. They weren't allowed to drink until 1956. Things have changed, but in those days we had what was called the Native Women's Protection Ordinance.

"All the whites were not allowed to go into the villages between six at night and six in the morning because they were having too many little babies.

"When I came in '54, we had the

Australian Petroleum Company (APC) and they'd been drilling for oil in PNG since 1935. When they folded up and closed down, we thought the game's over and that was the end of it. But it wasn't, although APC used to keep Papua alive. We didn't get much money from Papua because the Australian government didn't put much into it because the United Nations gave us New Guinea to administer, so Australia put all their window dressing there to keep the UN happy. We still feel Papua has been a bit neglected."

That, says Sir Brian Bell, as he is now titled, was a little bit of Papua New Guinea as it was 50 years ago.

In ringing up his golden anniversary, Sir Brian can deservedly ring his bell loudly and clear. He's chairman and managing director of Brian Bell & Company Ltd, one of Papua New Guinea's great business success stories. You'll find Brian Bell outlets in 10 retail stores and represented by 25 distribution agencies throughout Papua New Guinea.

W R Carpenters, as it was, and





Burns Philp, as it was, are no more, although Steamships remains a competitor with such newcomers as Courts.

Brian Bell & Company flourished to absorb bits of the fading Carpenters and Burns Philp empires. One bit of that was a disaster. The company bought the Burns Philp branch at Rabaul 18 months before a volcano blew its top to destroy much of the historic old town. The insurance company denied cover. "It cost us millions and millions," says Sir Brian. Today, the Brian Bell organisation employs 1100 people and sells and services practically everything except food and clothing. It's in refrigeration, electrical appliances, chemical cleaners, furniture, toys, agricultural machinery, seeds, tools and fertilisers.

When business conditions got tough and banks cut credit off to small borrowers, Brian Bell established its own credit divisions, enabling customers on small budgets to pay instalments from their fortnightly pay.

The Brian Bell business just grew and grew, its founder agrees. One opportunity led to another. How does the company rate, measured by volume of business? "About half of Steamies, I reckon."

After first landing at Port Moresby, young Brian landed a temporary job - thanks to his friend's brother. A

few months later he moved on to the government pharmacy.

"I got out of the pharmacy and started a small business at Boroko in agency lines. We used to bring in a lot of guns in the old days; a lot of guns from every part of the world. The patrol officers used to take firearms out, shotguns and handguns and that continued for four or five years.

"We used to make the old Australian point-303 rifle, taking the barrel out and put in a conversion to a point-22. We used to re-barrel and rebuild guns. We used to do a lot of shooting at home in Chinchilla, pigs and ducks. That gave us a fair sort of income.

"I have nothing to do with them now, we don't sell or repair them. You don't want to tell people you've got guns in the place because people might come and say 'where's that gun you've got here?'

"In '54, you see, there was no licensing. Some of these characters used to pick up sub-machine guns. I mean all these young patrol officers; they were a bit like footy players from Australia. They used to shoot the trees, etcetera. That all ceased when licensing came in.

"The first store was over at Boroko. It ran for about a year or two. Then we went into town at the igloo, as it was called, down at the beach where the multi-storey building right on the beach is now, then we came back

to about somewhere where we were in 1969.

The Brian Bell lines of business grew out of each other, more or less. One thing led to another.

"In 1955, the South Pacific Brewery had been built and was producing beer like onion water. Every Saturday morning they used to have this special on this beer of theirs. You could go down and buy it at a very cheap price because no one liked it. They liked Richmond, Tiger and Becks, all imported foreign beer. At one stage a fire burnt down the shed on the wharf, so there was no imported beer. Everyone had to drink SP. The beer changed for the better when ownership changed. Times have changed because now they make world class beers. The owners used to sell refrigerators and when they moved to Lae they used me as their agent in Port Moresby. Then they wanted to get out of refrigerators, so I raised the money and took the agencies over.

"That was how Brian Bell's electrical appliance and refrigeration business began.

"I went down to Sydney to see the manufacturer of Crosby refrigerators and Bendix washing machines and persuaded them to give me some refrigerators without payment until I could pay them. I got the brewery manager to put them on his floor for 1% a month until they were sold or he would take them over on hire





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purchase.

"In those days the Commonwealth Government had a rule that if you live in a place where you needed assistance, you had a staff house, and if water and services were available you could have an automatic washing machine.

"So we sold hundreds and hundreds of washing machines and refrigerators. Then the PWD said, 'okay it costs us thousands to build staff quarters, so how about we buy washing machines and put them on a back verandah'. That was the Hoovermatic. We sold thousands and used to bring them in container-loads from England. So I've a lot of good things happen and a lot of good luck.

"The opportunities came and it grew like Topsy. When I first came here, we had Burns Philp here, and they used to come down and count the number of people that came in and came out of our doors. Competition was very keen.

"Now Burns Philp has gone and we bought quite a few of their stores. A lot of old timers have gone; W R Carpenters, we bought quite a few of their assets. Steamies used to sell electrical appliances, and Carpenters and Burns Philp.

"We specialise more in service, I suppose. Courts came in as a new competitors for us."

"When independence came in 1975, we decided that we wouldn't drop

our business down to that of a general trade store. We realised that Papua New Guineans and expatriates and foreigners would want a reasonable standard of facilities, so we kept the standard up of giftware and chinaware and appliances, etcetera. It's still the best store in town.

"Last year, we opened a new place in Lae. Bart Philemon says it's the best store in Papua New Guinea."

Sir Brian's family retains two-third of the business, with the remaining third held by the public service officers service fund.

At the age of 76, Sir Brian still retains a great head of steam for keeping competitors like Steamies at bay. It takes a few calls to catch him on the telephone because he's liable to be on the phone talking to someone else.

"People ring me because I sort of get involved with

everything. I'm secretary of half a dozen organisations. I'm chairman of the hospital board; chairman of the Salvation Army committee. I get involved with the community; the Port Moresby city mission. They are the charitable organisations where you can help the community be a little bit better than it would otherwise have been. That's what life is all about, isn't it?"



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*In PNG*

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Being a pharmacist, he's got a soft spot for the hospital. "It's the biggest hospital in Papua New Guinea. There's 900 beds and there's quite a lot to do there. Unfortunately, I spend more time in business than anything else. You go home and go to bed and think of the things you should have done today and you have to do tomorrow. Relaxing? A bit of swimming and TV."

Ring that golden anniversary bell is time for reflection. So much has happened during the passage of 50 years. "Oh, there's always a problem," he says. "My people lived in Chinchilla and you get a letter once a month that the drought has hit us, the sheep are dying, the cattle are dying, that there's no food. Three months later, you get a letter saying the cattle are dying, the sheep are dying because they're all getting caught in the floods. In other words, you are up and down all the time."

"Things go up and things go down. Generally, where Papua New Guinea is concerned, there's always a problem, The economy's not very good at the moment, but it's

improving.

"Nothing ever goes the way you want it all the time. But we're on a fairly level playing field now. The exchange rate of course shoots us in the bloody foot."

By that he means that the exchange rate trends make it more costly to buy from Australia, although it becomes cheaper to import from the United States.

Despite the ups and downs of business, the Brian Bell group is strong and intends to grow.

"We're looking for new fields all the time," Sir Brian says. "We're looking around the Pacific. We're looking at the Solomons and Vanuatu. You see the place is growing all the time, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands."

"There's very few old-timers left. There's a couple over at Rabaul.

"Where's the line drawn between old timers and not? Well, they used to talk about the Bepores, the Before the Bloody War, but there's a lot of 30-35-year-old people here".

consul for Sweden and Norway, the ambience is one of an amiable family outfit. He is the big boss but his staff evidently don't regard him as an ogre. On the wall also is a photograph of young Brian, as portrayed in the company logo, with Sir Albert Maori Kiki.

"In the olden days village elders had more control," he says. "They used to have a consensus attitude. They used to make sure that the younger generation behave themselves. I guess it's the same in a lot of societies. 'You're old-fashioned dad and mum, that's gone by the board. This is the way we do it now,' modern kids say."

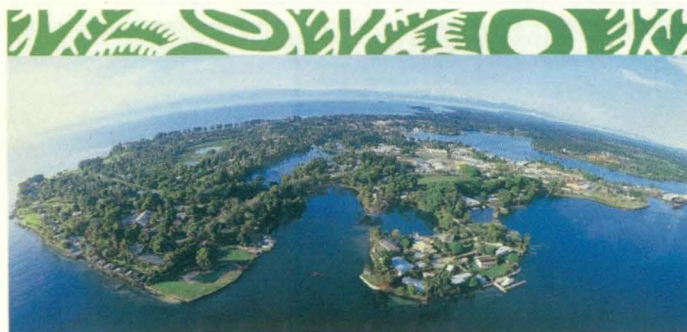
"In PNG, we're a bit like the Spanish and Mexicans. You know, at a football match they get excited and wreck the place. Papua New Guineans are having to make great adjustments in having moved so recently from centuries old traditional life to cope with the 21st century pressures, he says. "You can't expect them to be all a complete success in making that transition."

"The community's so small here that everybody knows each other and I don't have any trouble, although there are some places to stay away from at night. There are places in Sydney and Brisbane and England where I wouldn't go.

"The thing is you've always got a commitment to your staff. I've got a thousand people. They've got women and kids; with the wantoks you've got a commitment to five or six thousand people. You might employ only a thousand but their income is spread over the community. That's one side.

"Why get out of business? What would I do? It's like going south. Up here you've got someone to look after you all the time. I've got staff to look after me. I've got a housekeeper at home working since 1974.

"I like to keep things going. I don't like to see things going backwards. I don't want to knock the community. The community looked after me well and it's up to me to look after them."



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PROUDLY POKER MACHINE FREE

Looking back, looking at now, and looking ahead, the grand old man of Brian Bell becomes philosophical about Papua New Guinea.

His wife, from Glebe, near Sydney, died in 1992. His stepson is with him in PNG and his stepdaughter lives in Brisbane.

"I've got a good group of people in all the branches," he says. Sitting in the company's small boardroom, decorated with commissions that proclaim him to be honorary





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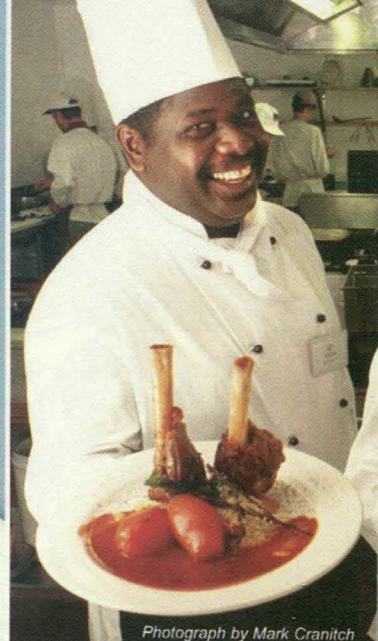
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# BIGGER AND BETTER NEXT YEAR

*2003 Lukim PNG Nau a hit*

*By Robert Keith-Reid*

**“A tremendous success. We will be back next year. We were not expecting so many people!”**

Coming as it did from Gary Seddon, president of the Papua New Guinea Tourism Association, that verdict on the Lukim PNG Nau tourism show staged at the Holiday Inn, Port Moresby, in March, is no great surprise.

But it was a verdict heard from scores of the travel trade people and simply curious members of Port Moresby who not only flocked to the show in what must have numbered in the thousands, but were actually

ready to pay a two-kina admission fee to see it.

Lukim PNG Nau may well prove to have been a historic catalyst for bringing what was for many years PNG's sadly fragmented tourist industry together as one.

It may also be the catalyst for at last setting PNG tourism on the road to making tourism a vital contributor to the national economy, one generating cash that flows not just to big hotels, airlines and tour operators, but to every corner of the rural economy. The show had several targets and seemed to have hit them all. One was to bring together all sectors of the tourism business - hotels, travel companies

and transport operators, dive and sports fishing business and some of the smallest and newest of indigenous adventurers into the business of tourism.

Other targets were to bring Papua New Guineans face-to-face with tourism, what it can do for the country and for them, and hopefully encourage them to venture beyond the confines of Port Moresby and other towns to discover for themselves the extraordinary variety of sights, scenes and sensations Papua New Guinea has to offer.

Kerry Byrd, who had been Air Niugini's representative in North America for 20 years, was in town for the show and to update himself





on PNG tourism's latest attractions. You'd guess that by now he'd have seen it all. But no.

"Wow!" he exclaimed to *Paradise* magazine, "I had no idea we had this trekking now. The surfing scene is so well organised. And some of the new lodges I've seen at Alotau and the Sepik are amazingly world class."

The Americans who discovered Papua New Guinea are invariably overwhelmed by the country, he says. "They always say it is the most memorable place they've seen. It is such an extraordinary experience you don't get anywhere else in the world."

Seddon, the Hertz Rental boss in PNG, said the tourism show attracted most of the participants the association had wanted to be present. "There are some smaller operators with some tremendous products around the country that we really wanted to show off. But financial constraints hindered them from coming here.

"We are hoping that next year, when they've seen what a show like this can achieve, that some will collaborate as joint ventures. The association wants more small operators to participate in the show by pooling resources to cut the cost of their presence. Otherwise, the trip to Port Moresby will be too costly

for individual small operators. We are looking at ways that we as an industry association, and possibly with a development fund of some sort, can subsidise participation by small operators who find the cost of

*"They always say  
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It is such an  
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experience you  
don't get anywhere  
else in the world."*

getting to Port Moresby prohibitive.

"Our own resources were limited. The support we received from corporate levels and from our affiliations like the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Media Council and the like, has greatly helped. We have put this together on a shoe string, although I don't think anyone wandering in would see it like that. I am hoping we can use this as a springboard. If we've

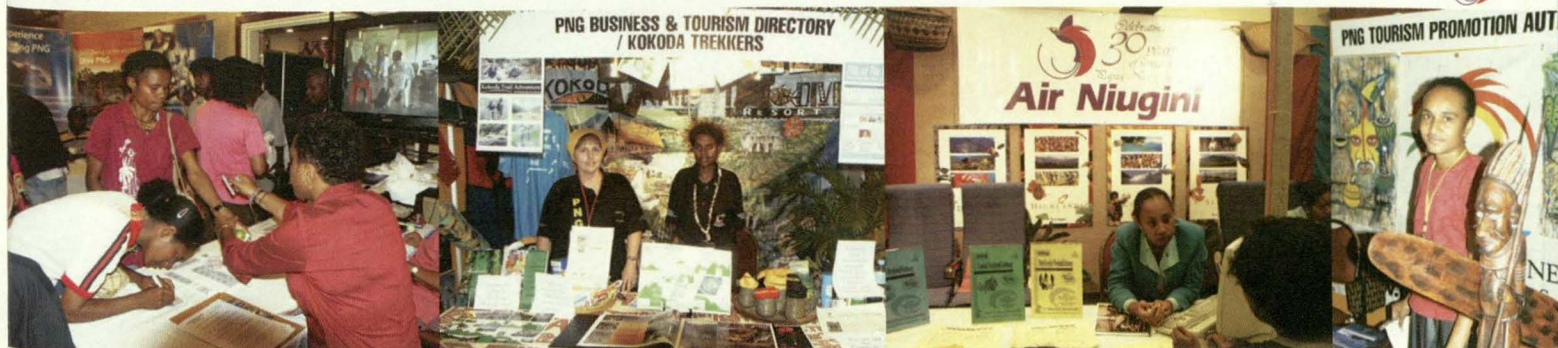
got more money to play with next year and some more support from the operators, then we can really achieve something. It is early days, but you can already see the potential. We could easily double the size of the show. We got 34 exhibitors this year. Is 50 or 60 out of our reach? I don't think so."

Seddon says the association hopes to participate in the Bula Fiji regional tourist market in Fiji in May and the Trends show in Australia. "Three hundred odd buyers go to Bula and 400 to Trends.

"If we could capture 10 percent of each of those and say 'this is what we have', show them the portfolio of our show and invite some of those buyers here to see this, that would certainly be a big step. The operators here have been very, very surprised and pleased by the interest shown in the event."

Awards for the best booths and prizes of 5000 kina advertising packages went PNG Tours and Business Directory and the joint Kundiawa/Minj Hotel booths.

In what was its first venture into promoting tourism, South Pacific Brewery was Lukim PNG Nau's major sponsor, supported by Air Niugini, the PNG Media Council, Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority.











# OIL & GAS *Powering the future of PNG*

*By John Brooksbank*

**O**il is the lifeblood that has sustained the Papua New Guinea economy for the last decade.

Whilst not 'big league' in world terms, the oil industry is of critical importance because of its financial impact. Much is said of the various natural resources of the country - such as timber, mining, fishing, agriculture and people, its human resource - but in cold, hard commercial terms the whole economy is built upon a foundation of income from the petroleum industry.

Since the first commercial export of oil on the tanker Ten-ei-Maru on June 27, 1992, more than 300 million barrels of oil have been produced. This has benefitted national, provincial and local-level governments, project area landowners and hundreds of employees engaged in petroleum exploration, construction and production activities.

The financial returns from the industry over the last ten years are staggering; in approximate rounded numbers - K3000 million to the national government, principally from petroleum income tax; K186 million to landowners, mainly from royalties and equity dividends; K253 million to the Southern Highlands and Gulf Provincial governments, and K800 million in indirect benefits from tax credit funded infrastructure and contracts to local landowner companies.

Oil is a finite resource and many of the Kutubu fields at Hedinia, Iagifu and Agogo have been emptied. Fields that were developed later such as Gobe and Moran are also in decline - overall as these oil fields

deplete, the incomes and benefits they generate correspondingly drop. However, the industry still contributes 20% of PNG's export earnings and a significant percentage of the country's GDP. All stakeholders should be working together to ensure that the industry has a future and benefits can continue to flow.

Local people in various parts of the country have been aware of natural oil and gas seeps for hundreds, and perhaps thousands of years. Mineral oil was a trade commodity, used to spread on the skin for sing-sings and other traditional ceremonies.

Exploration has demonstrated that Papua New Guinea has been blessed with substantial oil and gas reserves although exploitation has been constrained by the rugged topography of the country. Oil exploration started in 1912 with a shallow well drilled at Upoia after planters G. Thomas and Lewis Lett noticed oil seepages and gas vents along the Vailala River whilst they were out gold prospecting the year before. Since that time, many millions have been spent and more than 100 wells drilled as exploration interest has waxed and waned.

The Oil Search acquisition of the ChevronTexaco petroleum assets and their takeover of oil field licence Operatorship in October 2003 represents a renewed drive to consolidate and expand the oil and gas industry in the country.

Oil Search is no stranger to Papua New Guinea - the company is in fact far older than the nation itself, having been incorporated in 1929. As its name suggests, the company focus has always been the search for hydrocarbons.

Amazingly, Oil Search was able to

survive just on shareholder support for 60 years without ever discovering a commercially viable oil reservoir. Only since the discovery of 'light sweet crude' from the Iagifu 2X well in February 1986 and the development of the Hides Gas Field has Oil Search had any 'real' commercial income.

Since that time the company has grown quickly, most recently with the merger with Orogen Minerals Limited in April 2002 and the acquisition of the ChevronTexaco's PNG assets in October 2003. At the same time Oil Search was elected by its joint venture partners to succeed ChevronTexaco as operator of all oil producing projects in the country.

Listed on the Port Moresby and Sydney stock exchanges, Oil Search now has a market capitalisation of about US\$ 750 million and over 38,000 shareholders, mainly from PNG and Australia. The Government of PNG is the largest stockholder with an 18% equity interest in the company, which is the largest investor and largest taxpayer in the country.

As the major stakeholder and operator of all PNG's oil and gas fields, Oil Search is now in control of most of its asset base for the first time in its long history. Although most of Oil Search assets are in PNG, the company also has exploration licence interests in Western Australia, Yemen and Egypt.

True to its history Oil Search is set to aggressively explore for more oil and gas during the next decade. This will include 'green field' exploration, seismic and drilling activities, as well as work near existing known fields and processing facilities so that maximum benefits can be derived.





*Clearing for oil exploration, which has led to the development roads and lifting of living standards.*

Oil production currently averages about 48,000 barrels a day, and as Oil production currently averages about 48,000 barrels a day and as some oil fields deplete the company hopes that continued exploration will allow them to bring new reservoirs into production.

This will maintain production and therefore financial benefits to government and landowner beneficiaries.

Although it may be the largest, Oil Search is not the only petroleum player in Papua New Guinea. A new entrant to the petroleum industry, InterOil Corporation, is also busy drilling in the hills of the Papua foreland region in the Gulf Province. In December 2003, they spudded the

Moose 2 well - the second of a planned 16 wells - in a US\$12.2 million, multi-well programme.

InterOil Corporation is an integrated energy business. It is currently constructing an oil refinery at NapaNapa, across Port Moresby's Fairfax Harbour.

The corporation also has retail marketing interests and arrangements with Shell.

InterOil would be overjoyed to discover sufficient oil to at least feed their refinery.

They would then be able to control and maximise benefits from PNG oil - from its release from rock strata 2000 metres underground to when petrol or diesel fuel is pumped into

retail consumers' tanks.

InterOil is drilling in areas explored in the 1930s and 1940s by various consortia, including those that Oil Search was a part of - such as the Australasian Petroleum Company (APC).

They are hoping that they can commercially develop the tantalising oil and gas shows that those early explorers discovered, using modern technology.

Gas is the sleeping giant of PNG's petroleum industry. Ever since the start of oil exports in 1992, the gas that is extracted at the same time as oil has been separated, compressed and re-injected back into the structures that it came from, often





more than 3,000 metres underground.

Re-injection is commercially prudent, it conserves a valuable resource for future use and assists in pressurising reservoirs to maximise oil production. The option is environmentally unfriendly, flaring something the PNG Government would never allow in any case.

PNG has an enormous amount of gas in the existing Kutubu, Moran and Gobe oil fields in Hides, as well as in other discovered but undeveloped gas fields including Juha, Angore, Iehi, Barikewa, P'nyang, Kimu, Uramu, Pasca and Pandora.

These reserves are estimated to hold more than 4 thousand billion cubic feet of gas.

In many ways gas is the future energy money spinner for Papua New Guinea. The much discussed PNG Gas to Queensland pipeline is still the front runner to utilise this gas to supply industrial customers in Queensland.

Marketing efforts are focussed on getting sufficient customers committed to enable engineering and design work to begin. Once this occurs, it is likely that the US\$1.7



billion construction associated with this project will proceed.

It is understood that Oil Search is also actively evaluating other options including condensate stripping at Hides, construction of a gas pipeline to Port Moresby, production of compressed natural gas, and the development of a methanol plant somewhere on the south coast of the country.

Whatever development option is pursued, it will benefit Papua New Guinea since the commercialisation of gas enables greater oil production.

So it seems that even if there are no more major petroleum discoveries, progressive companies like Oil Search and InterOil will ensure that the resources that have been found will be commercially exploited during the next few years.

This in turn means continued income for government and landowners, continued employment for the hundreds of people working in the petroleum industry and the multiplier effect of this activity and income throughout the rest of the economy of Papua New Guinea.

PNG really is a country whose future, in all senses, is going to be powered by oil and gas!

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# ENGA'S BLOSSOMING HOPE

## *Life after Porgera closes*



By Malum Nalu

**P**yrethrum, a chemical derived from dried chrysanthemum flowers, could be Enga's saving grace as the giant Porgera gold mine winds down its operations.

Pyrethrum is derived from the dried flowers of chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium.

The name given to the active insecticidal components of the dried flowers is 'pyrethrins'.

The pyrethrum flower provides a highly effective protection against mosquitoes, carriers of killer diseases such as malaria and yellow fever.

The physiological action of pyrethrins is to inhibit mosquitoes from biting and causes repellency, immobilisation, paralysis and death.

The Enga provincial government is embarking on a massive campaign to promote the growing of the crop since it is the only cash crop that grows well in high altitude.

The Enga government has already bought a pyrethrum factory at neighbouring Mount Hagen, Western Highlands, under the name Enga Pyrethrum Company.

Manager Joe Tomerop oversees initiatives to promote the growing of chrysanthemum throughout Enga.

Enga Pyrethrum Company buys dried flowers from growers at a current rate of K1.30 per

kilogramme.

It also supplies seedlings to villagers and schools who will grow and sell the flowers to the factory.

Oil is extracted from the flowers in the factory and then poured into drums ready for export.

Overseas markets have already been found for drums of oil now awaiting export at Mt Hagen.

Enga Pyrethrum Company is using the old Taluma agriculture research station at Sirunki to grow the seedlings, which are then distributed to other growers and schools throughout the province.

"Chrysanthemum was first introduced in the 1960s," said deputy agriculture advisor Abraham Nane.

"The factory (at Mt Hagen) was owned by a private company when the crop was then widely grown in the Highlands provinces.

"Enga took it on as a cash crop with about 95 percent of all the crop produced in Enga.

"That was from the late 1960s up to early 1980s. Ten years ago, the factory closed down. It was closed for about 10 years and as a result people lost interest and stopped growing the crop.

"About three years ago, the Enga provincial government decided to revive the growing of the crop by reopening the factory.

"So far they have spent about Kina 3

million to fix the factory and make it operational again.

"People have started growing and producing the crop again.

"At the moment, they have extracted about seven 44-gallon drums of oil."

Mr Nane is confident that with the right kind of support, Enga's pyrethrum industry should take off over the next five years.

"Annual production at the moment is not very heavy; maybe it's about 20 or 30 tonnes," he said.

"If pyrethrum continues to be an important crop over the next five years, it should be ready to peak at about 300 to 400 tonnes a year.

"The province was producing that much before. And we hope to reach this target in about five years," Mr Nane said.

Chrysanthemum plants are transplanted four months after germination and they flower about four months later.

"When the petals open up, the farmers pick these, dry them and sell them to the primary industry ministry at K1.30 per kilogramme," Mr Nane said.

The Enga Pyrethrum Company extracts the oil and sells to interested buyers.

Laiagam is currently the main producer of pyrethrum in Enga followed by Wabag and Kandep.

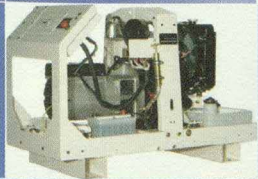
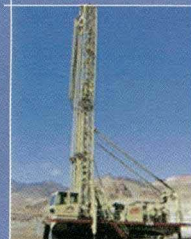




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# COMMUNITY SPIRIT

*A very different way of doing things*

By John Brooksbank

Everyone has heard the old adage that "it is better to teach a man to fish than to give him free food". It is an admirable community self-reliance concept.

How this is achieved may not be that obvious in your particular part of the world. Many Papua New Guinea villagers have become used to government talkfests and political promises at election times - leading to little or no action. In contrast, international resource companies developing petroleum or minerals operating in the country are ready to provide material goods and support for their neighbouring communities.

When villagers attend workshops run by the Community Development Initiatives Foundation (CDI), they are sometimes shocked by the way things are done.

CDI promotes a participatory and collaborative approach to development with the people that are directly involved - local villagers, local government councillors and others living in sometimes quite isolated rural communities. The Foundation and its staff follow through from meetings and workshops to practice what they preach about Papua New Guineans helping themselves.

CDI, as its name suggests, is a non-government community development organisation. It works with rural communities in the Gulf and Southern Highlands provinces impacted by the petroleum industry. It was established in 2001 by Chevron Niugini Limited before its departure from Papua New Guinea.

CDI activities encompass agriculture, health, distance

education and capacity building programmes in the two provinces and are designed to augment and support Government efforts. This is to ensure that adequate social services reach the rural communities affected in some way by the oil industry operations. This is a huge area - from the Doma Peaks near the Hides Gas Plant through to Lake Kutubu, across to the Samberigi valley in the east and Mount Bosavi in the west, and down to coastal villages on the Gulf of Papua. This part of the country from the Highlands to the coast is home to approximately 20,000 people, in more than 83 villages, speaking 13 languages.

Although receiving core recurrent funding from the oil industry joint venture participants in the Kutubu, Gobe and Moran oil projects, CDI also actively sources other aid donor funding to ensure its future growth and survival. This is vital, since funding from the oil industry will only continue whilst oil and gas is being produced. The CDI vision is for an organisation that will develop and be in existence long after the last drop of oil is squeezed out of the sub-surface sandstones and limestones of Papua New Guinea.

Operating out of three training centres at Moro, Samberigi and Kikori, CDI programmes have already gained the attention of certain international aid agencies and donors. Some of these, like World Vision and Conservation International, have started to work closely with CDI on particular aspects of their activities elsewhere in Papua New Guinea. Additional funding could see an expansion of CDI activities into other areas of the Gulf and Southern Highlands provinces.



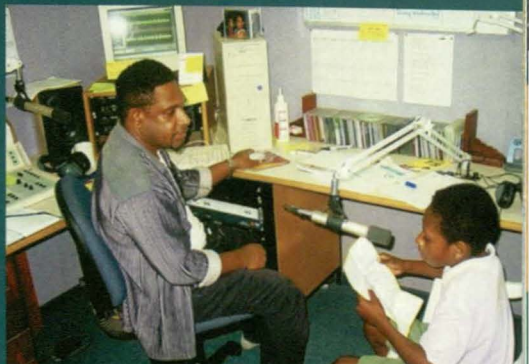
*A good education...foundation for future development.*



*Vanilla growing encouraged.*



*Training...part of CDI's work.*



*Jobby Paiva, CDI-FM radio station manager, interviews a young listener.*





Under the dynamic and focused leadership of executive director Ms Sisa Kini, a graduate of the University of Technology in Lae, most of the more than 40 CDI staff are relatively young. This does not mean that they are inexperienced. They bring in vitality and energy to their work.

Based out of studios in Kikori, a community radio station, CDI FM, has been established under the guidance of a coordinator - the effervescent Jobby Paiva.

The CDI approach is to operate a commercial-style radio station that plays music which people want to hear and which will need to be switched on all day. Then, instead of advertising breaks in the music there is local news, development tok save messages and educational stories in pidgin, Motu and other local languages.

You can catch PNG's latest radio station broadcast in the Southern Highlands and Gulf provinces: in Kikori on 92.3, Samberigi on 90.9 and in the Lake Kutubu area on 89.3. The CDI FM radio team looks forward to you tuning in to listen and hopefully learn.

Unlike engineering, mining or petroleum projects in which the achievements are easily seen and measured, the results of the sort of community development work carried out by CDI, dealing primarily with people, are a little more intangible.

Many CDI activities relate to assisting and supporting existing institutions and government services which are often poorly resourced. This means that there is sometimes no easy or instant recognition of achievements that come from development inputs.

Nevertheless, CDI has a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation programme which tracks

its activities and outputs that are in some way quantifiable.

In the community CDI measures immunisation rates and the incidence of certain diseases. In the forthcoming years, its focus is on reducing malaria and TB in target communities and increasing awareness of HIV / AIDS.

With regards to education and training, CDI efforts focus on improving access to non-formal and distance education and enhancing the capacity of schools in their targeted communities to provide education services. CDI staff administer College of Distance Education (CODE) and Institute of Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE) programmes for residents of communities in the Southern Highlands and Gulf provinces. In-service training and other support is provided to teachers of local schools.

Except for the Samberigi valley and in Huli speaking areas, and the rest of the region covered by CDI, there is traditionally very little gardening practised.

Communities subsisted on the harvesting of sago, bush foods and fishing. With the advent of petroleum developments and an influx of cash from royalties and company dividends, many traditional practices have lapsed.

In preparation for the time when the oil and gas reserves run out, CDI has been making efforts to identify food and cash crops that can improve food security in villages and perhaps also provide an alternative source of cash income.

Model gardens have been established in various locations to trial upland rice, vanilla, husbandry of rabbits and Muskovy ducks. These demonstrations will be utilised for village farmer training, field days and as nurseries to

generate propagation materials for distribution to farmers.

Given the lack of a farming tradition in the region, the transition of village activities to include gardening and small animal husbandry will probably take quite some time.

For example, in late 2003, Kalapa Kaluhia, a villager from the Hedinia valley, made the first commercial sale of parchment coffee from the Lake Kutubu area from trees tended since the establishment of his seedling nursery in 1999.

CDI has been particularly successful in working with councillors in the East and West Kikori local-level government wards in the Gulf Province.

As a result of awareness and training workshops, these elected members have been involved in preparing ward profiles and plans that form the basis of five-year district plans.

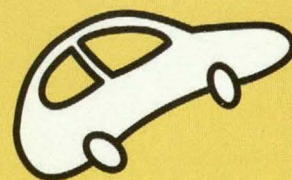
Some of these locally generated community project plans have been submitted to the Australian Government for funding under the Community Development Scheme (CDS). Examples include agricultural projects at Omo and Omati villages, youth projects in Ero and Kekea villages and community resource centres at Kikori and Omo village.

In all its activities CDI advocates an approach that ensures that affected groups take an active role in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes and activities.


So, in many small ways, the various CDI programmes have been making subtle changes in the lifestyles, development choices and aspirations of rural villagers in the Gulf and Southern Highlands provinces. It is a fine example of bottom-up development planning in action.







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# SAILING ON A SEA OF DREAMS

*The Bismarck Solomon Seas*

The Bismarck Solomon Seas region is acknowledged as one of the world's unique marine environments. Known as the "Western Indo Pacific cradle of marine biodiversity", this seascape covers an ocean area of 2,356,000 square kilometres that stretches from Birdsheed Peninsula of the province of Papua, Indonesia, across the Admiralty and Bismarck archipelagos of Papua New Guinea, all the way east to Makira Island in the Solomon Islands. Covering an area equal to that of Indonesia and Malaysia combined, it is one of the last tropical marine expanses that remains relatively unaffected by human activity.

This vast area hosts a variety of ecosystems which forms a rich ecological mosaic. Sea depth varies from shallow sheltered coral reefs to some of the world's deepest oceanic trenches. And while we're talking superlatives, this region can boast of the world's longest island-protected lagoon, the highest number of coral species ever recorded at one site, one of the highest densities of mangrove colonies in the world, and the largest remaining breeding population of leatherback turtles in the Pacific Ocean.

Undoubtedly, there are more globally outstanding statistics, but incomplete scientific information in this remote region is still relatively scarce. Isolated surveys however, indicate an extremely rich and unique range of marine species. More than half of the world's coral species can be found. For example, Raja Ampat, in northern Papua, indicated 400 coral species and 280 species of coral fish within a single

80-minute dive. Preliminary listings for Papua New Guinea have counted more than 3000 species of fish, half of which are associated with coral reefs. This inventory includes a range of rare and mesmerising species such as the frogfish, pygmy seahorse, ghost pipefish, elegant cuttlefish, and Merlets scorpion fish. Larger critters visit the area to breed and feed, giving divers a chance to cavort with hammerhead and silvertip sharks, marine turtles and not to mention mammals of all shapes such as whales, dolphins and the elusive dugong.

## **The Human Dimension**

The communities living close to the Bismarck Solomon Seas are dispersed villages reliant upon marine resources for their daily existence - tuna for instance provides a key source of income to locals as well as a basic protein source for thousands of coastal communities living along the shorelines. Over 200 cultures and 880 language groups whose lives, customs, and knowledge are linked







inextricably with the ocean and island shores. The lifestyles and livelihood of these people and their institutions are a critical feature of this seascape, as unique and valuable to future generations as the habitats and species in its teeming waters.

Ancient systems of customary tenure found in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are now recognised under international law. It enables the resource owners, the coastal villagers, full control over their resources. By contrast, the government in Papua follows a more centralised model of conservation and resource management although a process of decentralisation is under way.

Attention to these resources - both human and natural - comes not a moment too soon, as the region faces a growing set of pressures from forces that include:

- Rapidly growing coastal populations;
- Expanding and unchecked commercial interests (fishing, mining, and tourism);
- Pollution from land and sea

sources;

- Poorly designed coastal developments;
- Decision-making constrained by incomplete information; and
- "Natural" disasters linked to climate change (coral bleaching, cyclones and tidal waves).

Many of these threats have been recognised with a commitment to concerted action at the highest levels of national government in each of the three countries. Furthermore, the key to promoting strong protection and resource management is by understanding the scale and biological effects of these threats and adequately recognising how customary marine tenure cultures are vulnerable to social and economic changes.

### Mapping out the journey

To address some of these marine conservation-planning gaps and provide a strategic vision for the future management of marine resources across the region, WWF has introduced amongst non-government organisations (NGOs), government agencies, the private

sector and resource owners a new conservation approach for the Bismarck Solomons Seas.

Called "ecoregion conservation", this new approach implements conservation work across a larger area that is defined by geographically distinct species, habitats, and processes. Through ecoregion conservation, WWF and its partners aim to reverse the fate of the world's biodiversity by creating a foundation of strategic partnerships to address threats and support long-term conservation.

An ecoregional approach for Bismarck Solomon Seas will strengthen coalitions of stakeholders who have not previously worked together on their joint conservation goals; provide a single conservation blueprint as a reference point for regional, national and local initiatives. These include, but not limited to establishing marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, policy initiatives and creating alternative livelihood; the creation of an ongoing sharing of information, ideas, skills and resources across organisations working in the Bismarck Solomon





Seas.

A conservation plan to conserve the multitude of marine species, habitats and ecosystems of the Bismarck Solomon Seas is a noble ideal. But the task itself is formidable in such a complex, vast, and underdeveloped landscape. With this in mind, WWF brought together more than 60 scientific experts in July 2003 to share their knowledge to create profiles of the Bismarck Solomon Seas.

The workshop was aimed at establishing a baseline of ecosystem health, profiling the region's biodiversity, and mapping out priority areas for conservation, with corresponding threats.

A total of 48 priority areas were highlighted, of which six were considered to be globally important - rare examples found in few other places (or nowhere else) on the planet. Individually, some of these 48 patches of land and sea are more diverse or unusual than others, but together they represent the heart and soul of the marine ecosystems of the Bismarck Solomon Seas.

A biodiversity vision for the region

also emerged, around which all stakeholders are envisioned to come together:

"A region where care for the environment is based on a balance of traditional practices and management that utilises appropriate scientific knowledge. A marine environment that will serve as the bank of the people - where a healthy and happy population can sustain its needs and fulfill aspirations.

"A region where coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds, dugongs, whales and the richness of the seas are present for the world to see. A region linked by the migratory paths of turtles and fish which bind together countries in partnership and commitments that will shape the future of conservation across the ecoregion.

"A region where local people and scientists have the understanding and capacity needed to conserve the natural wealth of the marine environment well beyond the next 50 years. A marine environment that will live in the dreams, stories, languages and songs of people for

many generations to come."

### **A call for action**

A biodiversity vision for the BSSE initiates an exciting journey of dialogue, collaboration, planning and action. To give momentum to that journey and drawing on the full scope of experience and expertise, series of conservation aspirations have been generated. The focus of these aspirations revolves around building support for an ecoregion conservation plan that -

- Establishes representative networks of Marine Protected Areas;
- Encourages ecosystem based management for sustainable fisheries;
- Initiates monitoring programmes for migratory species; and
- Supports cross country collaborations and information sharing.

### **Response to the call**

Following on from the Vision Workshop in July 2003, WWF and its partners have taken the next steps in this exciting journey of discovery.



- Presentations to key stakeholders on the process and outcomes of the vision workshop. As a result, in PNG the Manus Provincial Government plans to establish a field station on Manus to encourage the implementation of conservation strategies in these ecoregional significant areas.
- Addressing data gaps, WWF Solomon Islands, The Nature Conservancy, Solomon Islands Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources and Conservation International in May 2004 will conduct a rapid assessment of some of Solomon Islands most outstanding reefs and marine habitats.
- Recently, the Indonesia Government has declared its intention to protect the globally significant areas in the North Coast of Birdshead Peninsula nesting beaches for the largest leatherback turtle rookeries in the Indo Pacific. WWF Indonesia - Papua played a significant part in the advocacy and provision of

data leading up to this declaration.

- Planning steps are underway with the National Fisheries Authority in PNG to pilot a Marine Stewardship Council certification of a domestic fishery, in the context of establishing an ecosystem based management framework, which could be expanded throughout the region.

### The Journey continues...

Thus far, the combination of knowledge, expertise and values of a core group of scientists and conservationists has fuelled the first steps in the journey of discovery across the Bismarck Solomon Seas.

This journey can go no further until they are joined by those who can bring additional values, needs, incentives and considerations.

For this reason, thousands of people from hundreds of communities across the three countries will be invited to incorporate their cultures, traditions and systems into this

biodiversity vision to reflect the reality that good conservation is the result of a careful blend of science, sociology, economy, politics, and a little bit of spirituality thrown in.

Only then, can a final destination be agreed to and the arrival of all interested parties be assured. Biodiversity, after all, is the foundation of the lives and livelihoods of the people of the Bismarck Solomon Seas.

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# HEAVENLY VIEWS

Capturing PNG's splendour from above

Board an aeroplane or, more exciting, a helicopter, and on a flight over any of the regions of the 462,000 square kilometres of Papua New Guinea, you're almost bound to see something new, intriguing or unexpected.

Photographer Rocky Roe, on assignment, has been making such flights for years. Presented on the cover of this edition of *Paradise*, published for the first time, is a secret waterfall he's captured with his camera as one of his latest finds.

The pilot of the helicopter he was travelling in from Lake Kutubu, in the Southern Highlands, scenically a region of some of the most splendid

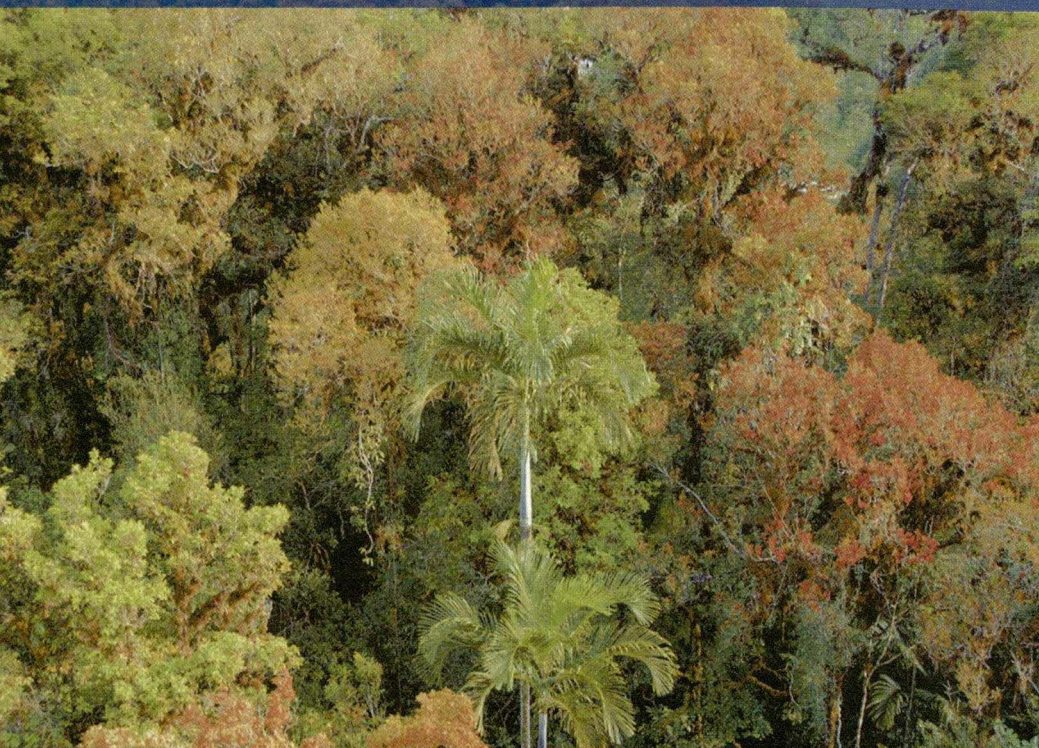
of Papua New Guinea's array of differing landscapes, diverted a little of his normal course and a few minutes later exclaimed: "I haven't seen that one before." Nor had Rocky Roe.

Isolated and enhanced by a gem of a natural pool half way down its length, the fall quite likely has been visited only by the birds, animals and insects of the forest habitat that encloses it.

The other falls shown in these pictures, also in the Southern Highlands are well known and visited, although not easily, for their spectacular arrangement of cascades.

Constructed of verdant high valleys set between mighty limestone peaks, the Southern Highlands is a region unknown to outsiders until as late as the mid-1930s, with some parts not entered by patrols of the then Australian administration until 50 years ago.

Rocky Roe's camera here captures just a trace of this magnificent Eden-like area, where rivers snake through forests with foliage of not merely dark to lighter shades of green but with also an intricate array of subtle shades of red associated normally with the autumn foliage of far more northerly and colder forest climates.

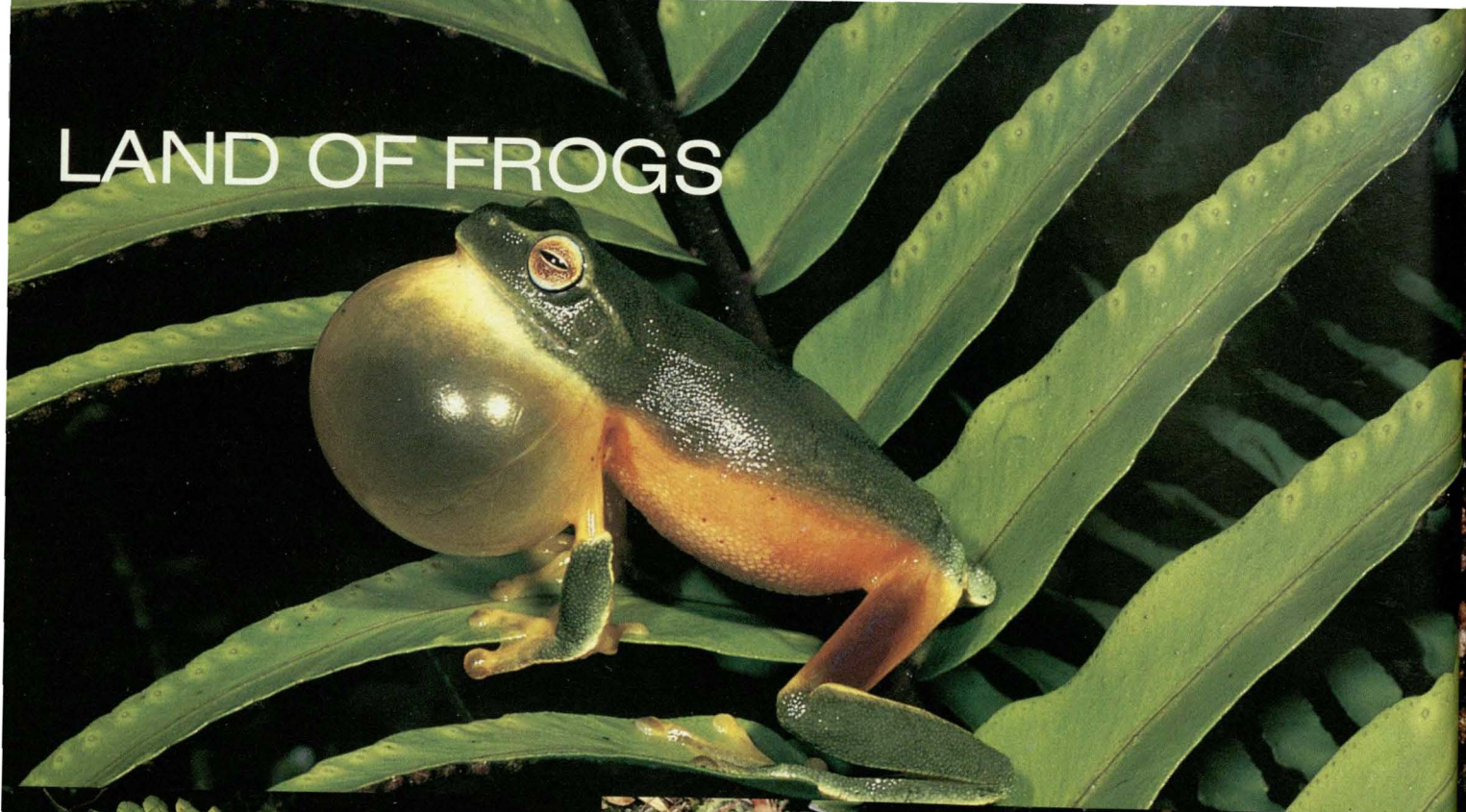








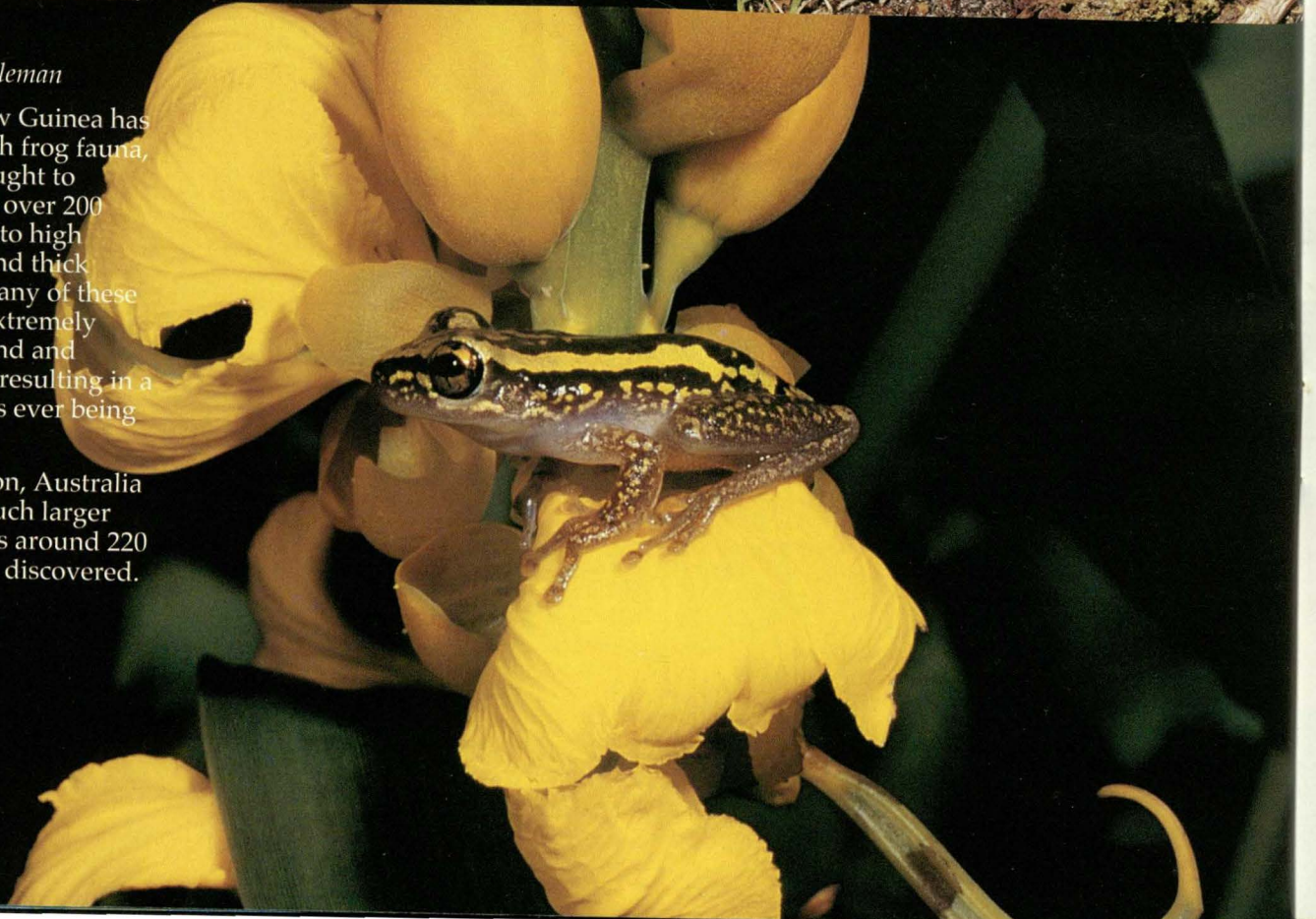
# LAND OF FROGS



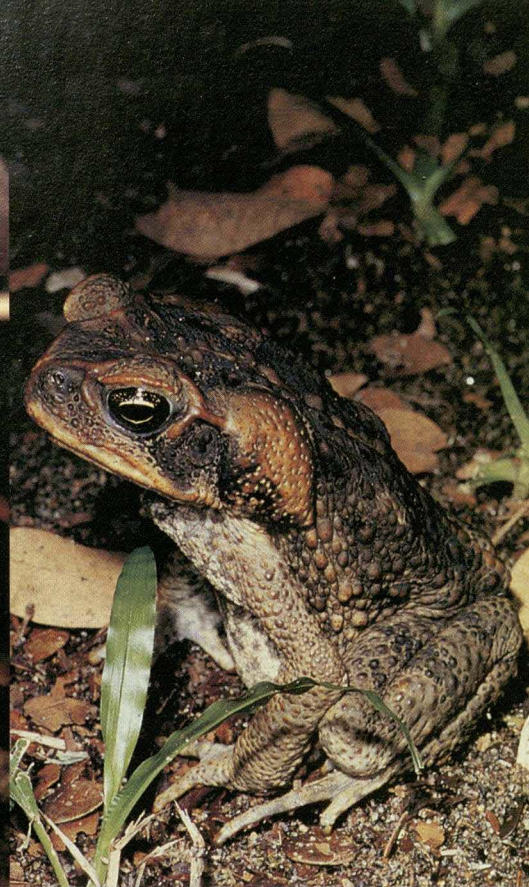
*By Neville Coleman*

Papua New Guinea has a very rich frog fauna, which is thought to number well over 200 species. Due to high mountains and thick rainforest, many of these species are extremely difficult to find and photograph, resulting in a few examples ever being published.

By comparison, Australia which is a much larger land mass has around 220 species so far discovered.







However, Australia has vast expanses of dry, desert-like semi-arid areas and although some Australian frogs have adapted to live in this harsh environment, species are few and far between in these areas.

Although a lot of work has been accomplished in establishing species records over the years by various biology departments in Papua New Guinea and visiting scientists, it does not appear that many Papua New Guinea people are aware of their frogs. Most of my inquiries have only resulted in local villagers showing me introduced cane toads - *Bufo marinus* - which have become extremely common in the mountains of Port Moresby to the islands of Milne Bay since they were introduced from Australia over 60 years ago.

The cane toads in and around the town areas of Port Moresby are small, while those up in the mountains (Variata National Park) are quite large and very healthy. On the Milne Bay mainland and some islands, they are huge and extremely common. It's easy to understand why many Milne Bay villagers think the toads are frogs because they grew up with them and the toads have always been there.

Also the toads are large and inhabit open space areas around yards and creek outlets and sit up very straight when hunting.

Local frogs, on the other hand, have shy retiring nature and mostly hide away. They're only noticed during their breeding season when the males call. Whereas some male Papua New Guinea frogs may call all night during the breeding season, others may only call for an hour or so at dusk and produce very soft sounds, making them extremely difficult to find.

### **Worldwide frog decline**

Over the past 15 years, there has been a general decline in frogs with some species becoming extinct in various countries.

This has been attributed to global warming, fungus attacks and over-zealous collecting by scientists.

In Australia, some species, only discovered 20 years ago, are now believed to be extinct. At least 10 species have not been seen or heard of for years despite wide-scale searches, and many others are on the endangered species list.

Interestingly enough, some of the species now rare and endangered in Australia are common in Papua

New Guinea.

With a world focus on frogs as environmental indicators, there has been a huge interest in their natural history, behaviour, lifestyles and general knowledge.

It seems quite credible that some resorts in Papua New Guinea might take advantage of this interest and take steps to find out what frogs are in their immediate vicinity, perhaps even offer "frog watching" as part of their guest activities (as some of the more successful mountain guest houses and resorts have done in Australia).

In Papua New Guinea, frogs live everywhere, high up in rainforest trees and right down to the ground. They live in and around streams, rivers, ponds, waterfalls, grasslands, and swamps, in trees, under the ground, in gardens, high up in the mountains and right down to where creeks enter the sea.

### **Natural history**

While the biology of some is well documented, many others remain a mystery. Some develop from eggs laid in the water turning into tadpoles; others lay their eggs in nests where the males look after them until they hatch out as juvenile frogs.





Tadpoles of pond-dwelling frogs have small mouths. Those that live in fast flowing streams have a highly developed suctorial mouth, which

enables them to cling onto rock surfaces and avoid being swept downstream.

It is thought that most frog species

feed on flying, crawling or burrowing insects though little is known if there is any preference except that they would take advantage of whatever was in season at the time.

Frogs generally have dull night-time colours and brighter during the day. Males and females may also have different colours from each other.

Frogs are able to alter their patterns of colour and their skin texture. Sometimes they may appear smooth and at other times the

skin may be raised in bumps, granules, ridges or wrinkles. Most alter their colours and texture to suit their surroundings.

Although some species may be active during the day, most have nocturnal natures with large well-developed eyes allowing them to "see" in the dark. The few that live underground have small eyes.

Females are generally larger than males. Males attract females by calling during the breeding season. The male vocal sacs extend beneath the throat and puff up as the male calls.

Once a female responds, the male clasps the female from behind in a tight embrace encouraging her to lay eggs, which he fertilises with sperm as they leave the female's body.

With such a huge number of frog species, the variants and colour variations and the many areas which are yet to be thoroughly explored, it will be many years before the Papua New Guinea frog fauna is completely recorded, if ever!

Certainly, with over 200 recognised species there are enough to encourage frog enthusiasts from across the world to experience another aspect of Papua New Guinea's rich natural heritage.



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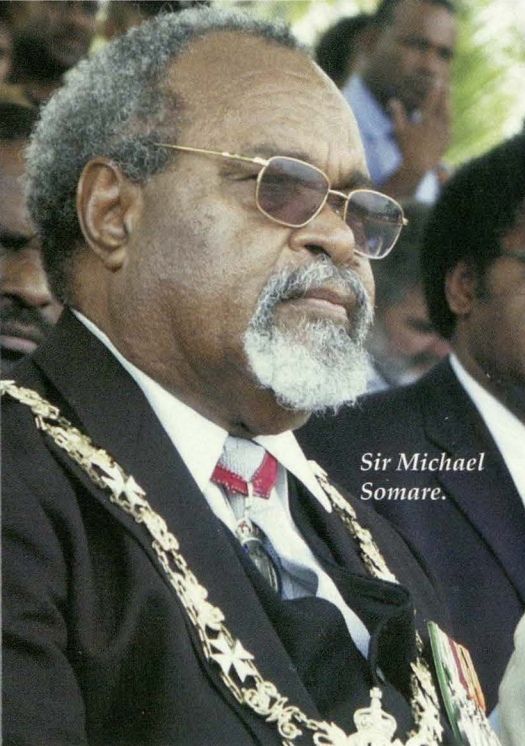
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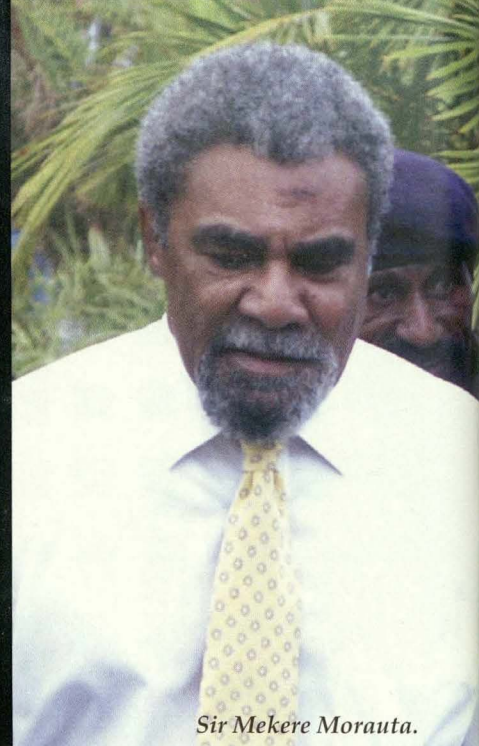




Sir Michael Somare.

# SOGERI

*Holding a special place  
in PNG's history*



Sir Mekere Morauta.

By Patrick Matbob

Sogeri holds a special place in the history of education in Papua New Guinea.

In 1944, the commander of ANGAU (Australia New Guinea Administrative Unit) Major General Basil Morris opened a 'central school for teaching natives various trades' on Sogeri plateau, outside Port Moresby.

Set on the former site of the 113 Australian Convalescent Depot, the school's location blessed it with a mild climate and green environment that was in stark contrast to the hot and dusty Port Moresby, just a few kilometres away.

Now the school's history is recorded in a 342-page book "Sogeri - the school that helped to shape a nation", written by a former teacher, Lance Taylor.

Much of the material was collected by the school's history club in the 1980s. The result is an impressive edition which for the first time acknowledges Sogeri's enormous contribution to the development of Papua New Guinea. The book's title aptly summarises the school's vital role in training Papua New Guinea's leaders.

Sogeri's old boys are today the 'who's who' of Papua New Guinea: Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare,

Opposition Leader and former Prime Minister Sir Mekere Morauta, and Governor-Generals Sir Tore Lokoloko and Sir Serei (Vincent) Eri head the list of famous names.

Sogeri was spotlighted by the colonial administration for the training of teachers and grooming future national leaders.

Before the war, education for the native Papua New Guineans was largely the domain of the missionaries who taught their flocks and prepared promising students for mission work.

War brought a lot of changes. Australia's post-war colonial government became keen on educating and developing 'native' human resources. Major General Morris stressed that the time had arrived "to attempt something bigger than has been possible with the limited resources of the individual missions."

Throughout its 50 years of history, from 1944 to 1994, Sogeri had no special privilege as the nation's 'elite' institution. In fact, staff and students struggled to meet the ambitious results demanded from inadequate facilities, staff shortages, and pathetic lack of funds, resources and materials. Years of drawn out battles between the school's headmasters and education officials at Konedobu are vividly recorded. They were battles unknown to all those people impressed with the

products of Sogeri.

It was on June 22, 1944, when the first students arrive at Sogeri, led by 30-year-old Kamona Walo, reputedly the first to be enrolled. Most students in the first few years came from the London Missionary Society schools along the Papuan coast, from the Abel family's Kwato Island mission, Roman Catholic school on Yule Island, Methodist schools in the Trobriand and D'Entrecasteaux islands, the Anglican school at Wedau and the Seventh Day Adventist mission at Bamu River.

They were met by Lieutenant Frank Boisen and his fellow army officers who were members of the Angau unit. They were issued with two blankets, a mosquito net, two laplaps of "white unbleached, or khaki colour", a wide black belt, a khaki shirt, a sweater for evening wear, a cup, plate, spoon, a cake of soap and grass knife. In time, two sticks of black 'twist' tobacco and a monthly allowance of five shillings were added to the regular list. The pioneers cleared the school grounds and began with work parades that became a feature of Sogeri.

Among them were Fred Boski Tom and Apelis Mazakmat from New Ireland, Oala Oala Rarua from Hanuabada, and Sir Tore Lokoloko, all destined to set the pace for leadership. Angau's army officers were the first teachers, applying military discipline that was a





tradition for years.

Agriculture was stressed and staff and students grew a variety of crops to supplement the basic diet of rice and tinned meat and fish.

Civilian teachers soon succeeded army instructors. Norman Fell, headmaster for eleven years from 1952, contributed greatly to Sogeri's evolution. He was passionate about the school. His tactics for prising supplies and priority for the school varied. When a new septic tank system failed, he phoned the Assistant Administrator Dr John Gunther and told him that 200 students were excreting into the Port Moresby water supply. "The fault," writes Fell, "was repaired overnight."

The school actively raised money for itself rather than rely solely on government funds. A big money maker was 'Sogeri grass' discovered in the early 1960s. Taylor writes: "With no shortage of expatriates in Port Moresby seeking to beautify their barren garden plots, the school cornered a "good market for grass runners," and came to view its pleasant green expanse as a near perfect solution to the problem of fundraising and bothersome cash flows.

"Through the 1960s students carved out many tons of turf to sell in town, the profits bring newspapers, magazine subscriptions, school ties and even violin recitals by the Australian musician, Ronald

Woodcock."

From 1957, the school focused on general education. The last teacher-training course was run by John Newnham and produced Enos Baloiloi, Lohia Boganu, Vela Kila, Bobi Livinai, Paulias Matane, Matthew Nalu, Aisea Taviai, Alkan Tololo, Ronald ToVue, Waterhouse Wai Wai and Michael Tom. The last name to burst into politics in the late 1960s was one Michael Somare.

In 1957, Sogeri spearheaded PNG's native cadet units, formed to develop qualities of leadership and self-reliance within a framework of military activities. Led by Warrant Officer Jim Pashen, the unit impressed General Wade, General Officer Commanding the Northern Command, who spoke optimistically of sending some cadets to an Australian army school.

But not all things went smoothly, Taylor relates. "An enthusiastic young cadet, Ramu (Ted) Diro by name, accidentally shot Lance Corporal Gerega Pepena in the bottom at point-blank range. Fortunately, the offending projectile was a blank. Diro became the first Commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force after Independence, whilst Pepena became defence minister."

A later student was Jerry Singirok, also a future defence force commander. In 1972, it launched an event that brought it national

prominence - the school festival of traditional dancing, later to become known as the 'Sogeri Singing'.

1978 was perhaps Sogeri's greatest year of achievements. Led by the principal Norman Vaughton, it won the country's Lester B. Pearson Scholar for 1978, and the Lions' Youth of the Year. Sogeri was triumphant in national and international sports and a rock opera, Jesus Christ Superstar, that was the centrepiece of the National Arts Festival. It formed the Kalibobo Bamboo Band which recorded a cassette that sold over 10,000 copies. 'Wanpela Liklik Meri' became one of the most popular tunes in the country.

At Sogeri fiftieth anniversary celebration in 1996, a frail 76-year-old man from Hula village had a place of honour. He was Kamona Walo, one of the first to be enrolled at ANGAU's Papuan Central Training School. Education reforms and the opening of new secondary schools have changed the status of Sogeri and other high schools as 'national' schools. With the growing number of secondary schools, it plays a part in implementing new education policies and steering a new course for teaching.

- Sogeri - the school that helped to shape a nation. A history, 1944 - 1994 by Lance Taylor. Available at Brian Bell in Port Moresby at K59 and rest of PNG at K65.







# DESTINATION CAIRNS

*Home to the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest*



*By Meggan Brummer*

The first to arrive in Tropical North Queensland were the Aborigines and the Torres Strait Islanders. Next, were the adventurous Dutch navigators, followed by Captain James Cook, who paved the way for European settlement. Other immigrants later arrived to seek their fortune in their hunt for gold. All of these contributed to the rich diversity of culture and traditional history of Queensland. Who will be next? - You perhaps?

It's my birthday and I am about to be treated to my first holiday in Queensland. I don't know much about where we are going; just that it is a resort called Turtle Cove, which sounds rather appealing, and that it is just outside Cairns. As we land at Cairns International Airport, I can feel the hot, humidity in the summer air. Greeted by a friendly young man from the resort, we are relieved to be directed into a comfortable, air-conditioned bus.

We're driving through cane fields past views of the Coral Sea coastline, offshore islands, sandy beaches and Cape Tribulation. We are following the signs north towards Mossman and Port Douglas, past the northern beaches; Machans, Holloways, Trinity, Kewarra, Palm Cove and Ellis. Thirty minutes and 4.2 Kilometres later, just after Hartley's Creek Crocodile Farm, we reach Turtle Cove. It's not noticeable from the main road because as it is part of

the rainforest no sign is allowed. It is explained to us that if we decide to hire a car, (limousines are also available) and are trying to find Turtle Cove on our own, we'll know that we've gone too far if we get to Thala Beach or Port Douglas! Or if you prefer, you can get dropped off on the doorstep of Turtle Cove by a helicopter!

First impressions count and I immediately like what I see...our room is practically on the beach and our apartment looks out to sea. Between my bed and the sandy beach there is nothing more than just a few metres of lush green grass and white deck chairs on which to lounge. Our unit contains one single and one double bed, bathroom en suite, air conditioning, television, refrigerator and tea and coffee making facilities. There'll be no complaints from me today! Apparently we had a choice between this or one of the Ocean Terrace rooms, which are towards the back of the resort. Although the Ocean Terrace rooms have great views of the Coral Sea, for me nothing can compare with the great location of our Beachfront Unit.

Nestled between the sea and the rainforest, Cove Resort has deservedly earned itself a reputation for being one of the most relaxing paradise spots in Australia.

Set in the rainforest in Australia's northern tropical coastline, between the small, beachside town of Port Douglas and the larger town of Cairns, we are also very close to two

World Heritage sites - the Great Barrier Reef and Daintree Rainforest.

During our five days we have little to complain about. The only disappointment comes when we find out that we can't swim in the sea. Why? It's a bad time of the year for jellyfish and someone died recently from being stung by one. I rather fancy living a little longer so I decide to stick to swimming in the glorious swimming pool, alternating between this and the outdoor jacuzzi just a metre or so from the pool. We relax on the beach, read a few pages, relax, relax, and then relax some more. A game of scrabble by the side of the pool helps to keep the mind sharp for an hour, but then it's time to relax again before an evening sunset walk and yoga on the beach. What's so great about this resort is that it has its own private beach, so I can do my yoga in a secluded and peaceful space at the end of the beach.

No one's up except the sun and it's the most amazing time of the day. Each morning we wake at sunrise and practice yoga on the beach. Occasionally our new American friend joins us. It's his first experience and he loves it. An hour later I am still on the sand. I have forgotten the rest of the world. My eyes are closed, legs comfortably crossed and I am facing the waters of this blissful ocean, meditating to the sound of the waves.

They draw closer and closer until eventually they touch me, greeting me with the joy of another



wonderful day! I breathe the fresh ocean air deep into my lungs, rejuvenating every cell in the body. The mind becomes still, all thoughts are suspended and I am nothing but the sound of the waves. I am so totally alive and utterly relaxed. What else but to follow the dawning of this day with a fresh fruit platter of tropical fruits for breakfast!

It seems I have lost count of the days and I am told that today we are scheduled to go on a cruise to the Great Barrier Reef. Our tour has been arranged by Turtle Cove, who run tours to the Reef twice a week, including transfers from Turtle Cove to Port Douglas, morning and afternoon tea and tropical seafood lunch and snorkelling.

The cruise is rather speedy and I'm not the only one feeling a bit nauseous on the way there, but it is not for long before we stop and the snorkelling gear comes out. The Great Barrier Reef is really something.

Her coral structures extend over 1,500 kilometres and in and on them can be found a phenomenal variety of flora and fauna. The Reef consists of about 21,900 individual reefs which are spread over an area that is larger than Ireland and the United Kingdom combined!

We spend our next few days rather leisurely, not venturing further than the beach, the restaurant and our room, apart from one evening when our American friend drives us to Port Douglas. We find a spot in the Harbour area and order evening drinks to sip in synchronicity with

the setting of the sun.

Although we don't make it to the ancient Tropical Rainforests, our friends do and live to tell us of the wonderful time they had. Amongst the oldest in the world, the rainforests in this area were placed on the World Heritage List in 1988 and cover just less than 900,000 hectares of land. Primitive plants can be found in the forests, which have remained undisturbed for millions of years. Rare birds, insects and mammals continue to attract and delight nature lovers from all over the world.

The tour run by Turtle Cove includes a visit to Daintree Village, a trip on the Daintree River and an opportunity to see crocodiles, lunch at the Daintree Tea House, visit to the Rainforest Habitat, (an award winning man-made rainforest sanctuary) and hike through private rainforest where you can take a swim in fresh and natural waters! If you prefer to adventure off on your own, you can hire a 4WD and an eco-accredited nature guide and set off to the rainforests!

If you're a little more energetic than we were, then there are a range of activities you can take part in, both in and around the area, including any of the following:-

- Try your hand at ballooning,
- Go White water rafting,
- Visit Port Douglas for a day or even just for a meal,
- Take the train or Skyrail to the Tablelands town of Kuranda,

• Spend some time in Kurunda at its markets and other tourist attractions,

- Visit Cape Tribulation,
- See an Aboriginal Dance,
- Go fishing

• Hire a vessel for private charter in Cairns to suit your style and your pocket!

• Take a rainforest walk through the Daintree, visiting the Bloomfield Falls and ambling along Four Mile Beach on your way up to Flagstaff Hill, or just enjoy a more leisurely stroll around the Marina Mirage.

• Take a day trip into Cairns where, if you're not up for shopping, you can check out the cruise liners and yachts at the marina just one block from the main centre. Whilst you're there, wander along The Esplanade, where you can relax on the grass under a shady tree after lunch at one of the many cafes, restaurants or coffee shops.

• Visit Green Island for a day and check out the underwater observatory and Marineland Melanesia on this small 12-hectare coral cay.

As a final tip on the weather, I cannot say it any more clearly - Cairns is hot! And if you want to avoid the rainy season, speak to your travel agent and make sure you don't plan your holiday during the rainy months! Although, having said that, the rainy seasons are also wonderful and downfalls are gloriously refreshing and typically short-lived.



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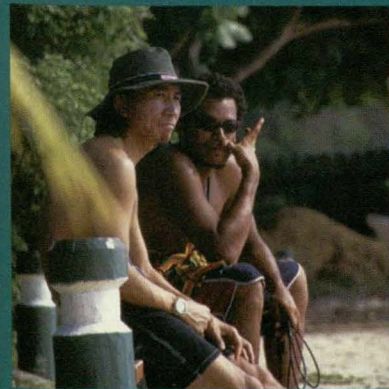
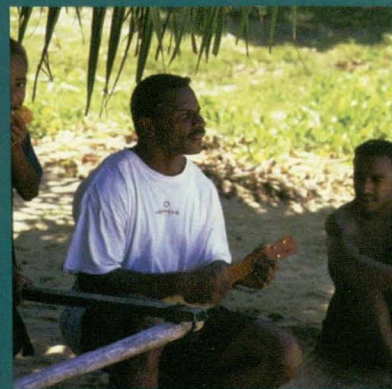
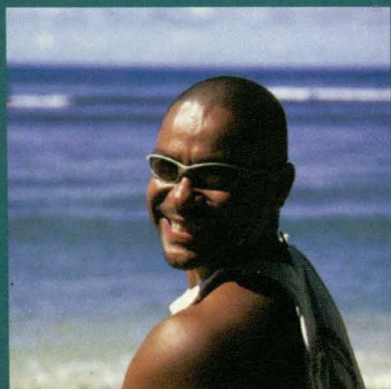
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# GROWING WAVE





"You can be a simple grassroots man just like  
we have a lot of grassroots people down at the

village level surfing with us.

"In actual fact, some of the best surfers in the  
country are simple village people..."





A part from movies like the unforgettable Gidget and the psychedelic songs of the Beach Boys (Surfing USA, Kokomo, California Dreamin', etc), surfing came pretty much late into Papua New Guinea in the late 1980s.

Surfing, every surfer will tell you, is a very powerful spiritual experience in which you find the breath of Mother Nature behind every ocean swell.

And the late 1980s was when PNG found the perfect wave.

That was when young Andrew Abel, third generation of the famous Abel dynasty of Kwato Island, set up a club in Vanimo with an enthusiastic bunch of novices.

From those humble ripples, the PNG Surfing Association is now a growing wave.

"The surfing association was essentially set up by a bunch of young surfers, primarily local surfers, 17 years ago," Abel recalls in an interview.

"We became affiliated to the PNG Sports Federation as a sporting body and then the International Surfing Association, which is based out of California in the US."

From those humble beginnings, with an office situated out of the late Sir Cecil Abel's residence at Waigani, the fledgling PNG Surfing Association worked to promote surfing - first and foremost - at the grassroots level.

"Our pioneering surf club was the Vanimo Surf Club, based out of Sandaun Province, in Lido village, in 1988," Abel continues.

"From those humble beginnings in Vanimo, I spent a lot of time flying backwards and forward with my girlfriend at that time, Francesca, who is now my wife.

"She was instrumental with me in sitting down with the young Vanimo surfers to introduce surfing.

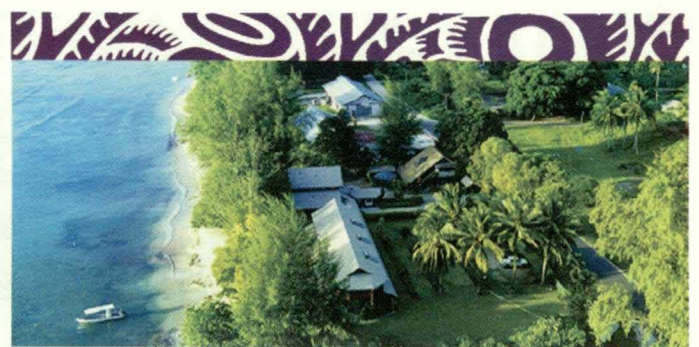
"At that time, they were only surfing with bellyboards, and through their enthusiasm, I started to donate my own boards and then the senior surfers started to pick up the sport, started surfing the real fibreglass boards."

Abel approached the village councillors as well as John Tekwie, at that time Sandaun Governor, and who later became patron of the association.

"Basically, my approach is unique in the surfing world, and it's been confirmed by people who come into the country," Abel explains.

"The approach that I put forward was based on what I called the 'bottom up' approach, whereby the surfing association works in collaboration with respective village communities and we set up an affiliated surf club, in this case being Vanimo Surf Club.

"Vanimo Surf Club is owned and operated by the local surfing community. They affiliate to the Surfing



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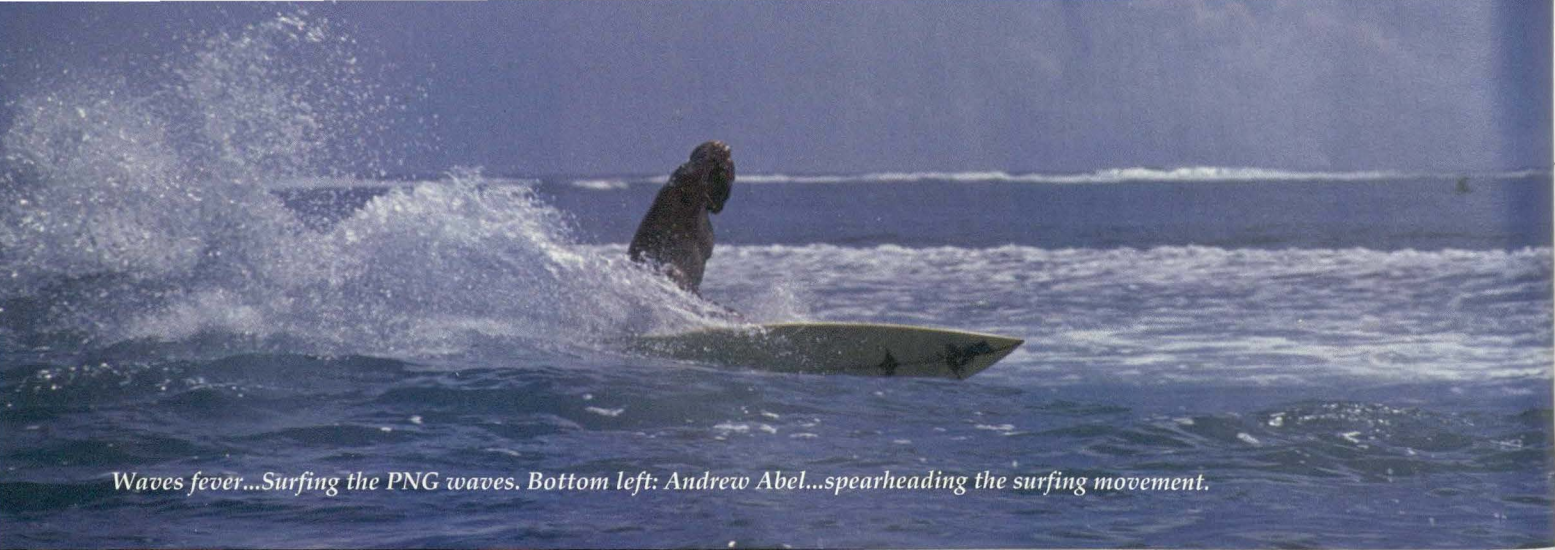
Fax: 852 3543

Website: [www.mtspng.com](http://www.mtspng.com)

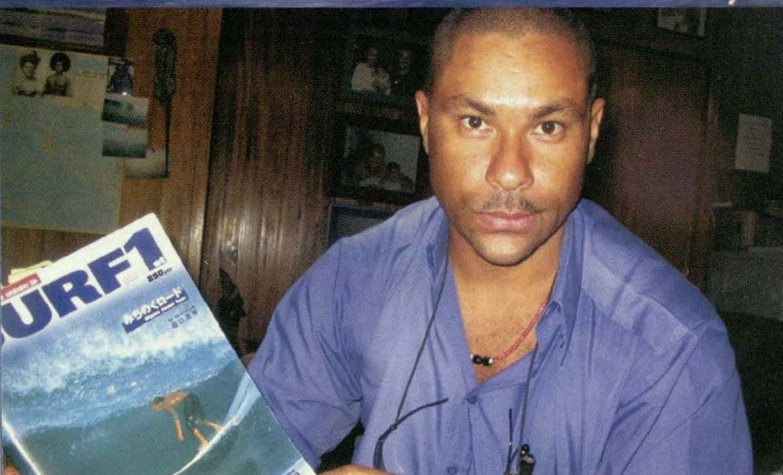
Email: [melanesian@meltours.com](mailto:melanesian@meltours.com)







*Waves fever...Surfing the PNG waves. Bottom left: Andrew Abel...spearheading the surfing movement.*



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c



Association.

"The Surfing Association is affiliated to organisations like PNG Sports Federation which has everything to do with sports, now more so than the PNG Tourism Industry Association, which is to do with tourism; and the International Surfing Association.

"And through this 'bottom up' approach, the local village community can access tourism through our affiliations with our surf tour operators in Japan, and Australia - which are our primary markets - and our close working ties with Air Niugini and Tourism Promotion Authority.

"In PNG, the way I set it up was to protect the rights of our local people to ensure that they directly participate in the surf tourism industry and they benefit.

"And this is the unique thing about this 'bottom up' approach where Surfing Association is working within our constitutional framework, which is also outlined in

Surfing, every  
surfer will tell  
you, is a very  
powerful  
spiritual  
experience in  
which you  
find the breath  
of Mother  
Nature behind  
every ocean  
swell.

our goals and objectives, which is listed on our website.

Such has been the interest in the way PNG Surfing Association is going about that a student in the United Kingdom is now doing his PhD thesis on sustainable surf tourism in PNG.

"So," Abel adds, "from our humble beginnings 17 years ago, basically promoting surfing as young enthusiastic surfers, the Surfing Association has developed into a major contributor to the social and economic development of this country in promoting surf tourism in parallel with surfing.

"So we're no longer just perceived as a sporting body. We are now playing a significant role in contributing to the GDP of this country, which, I hope, will set a precedent.

"I hope we can set a precedent for other sporting bodies around the country to emulate."

Last year, about 350 overseas surfers came to PNG, and Abel hopes this

"fill 'er up, thanks!"



Shell Papua New Guinea. Proud to be fueling Air Niugini's success.



figure will hit the 500 mark this year.

"The surfing monsoon season is from October to April," he points out.

"That's when the monsoon season up in Vanimo, Kavieng, is at its peak. And then the season swings around and then we have the southeasterlies blowing through from Australia.

"And then the northern cycle is flat for six months. So it's a six-monthly cycle."

Surfing is now PNG's third largest tourism magnet after diving and fishing.

"So from those humble beginnings, simply promoting a sport as a passion, we've now become a force to be reckoned with in the tourism industry," Abel beams.

"And the great thing here is that this is not a thing being controlled by bureaucrats, or politicians or foreigners.

"The destiny of surfing and surf tourism is being determined by the Surfing Association, which is made up of locals and a number of expatriate people on our committee.

"But primarily, at the end of the day, as president of Surfing Association, I devise most of the strategies and goals and objectives in line and consistent with the National Government's long-term development plans through the Tourism Promotion Authority so that we work in parallel.

"You know, we're not out of synch with them. But we maintain our autonomy, we generate all our own revenue, are totally self-sustaining and we generate all our revenue through levies that we charge our inbound surfers and through the sales of our merchandise."

Abel says the Surfing Association wants to promote surfing not only domestically but also give aspiring young male and female surfers the chance to take part in overseas

competitions.

PNG surfers, mostly villagers from Lido outside Vanimo, have represented the country at the 1999 and 2003 South Pacific Games.

"And it's open to all, young and old, male or female, expat or local, this doesn't matter," he adds.

"This is a non-discriminative sport.

"You don't have to be rich to do this sport.

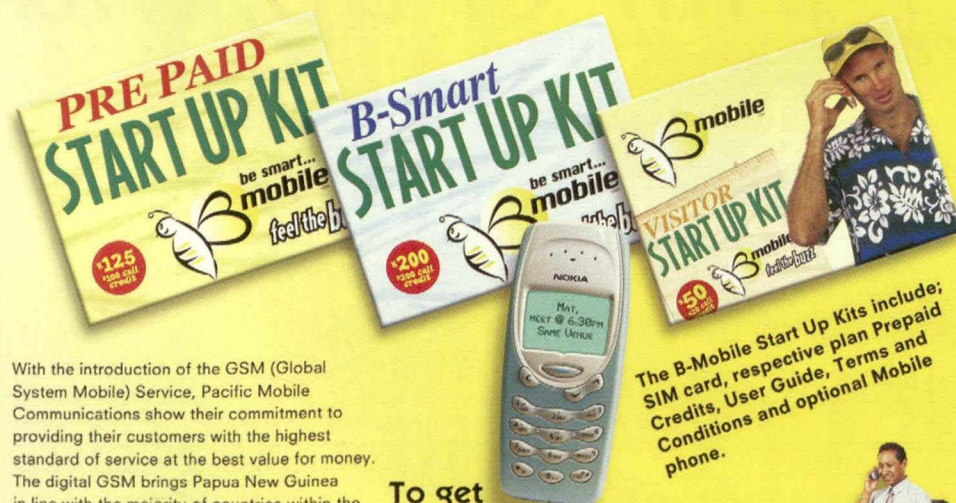
"You can be a simple grassroots man just like we have a lot of grassroots people down at the village level surfing with us.

"In actual fact, some of the best surfers in the country are simple village people. I'm really proud to say that."

• Further information can be obtained from Abel on telephone (675) 3260884, email: [abelcorp@online.net.pg](mailto:abelcorp@online.net.pg) or [www.surfingpapuanewguinea.org.pg](http://www.surfingpapuanewguinea.org.pg)



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# welcome

## Getting Around

At Jackson's Airport, which is 11km from the centre of Port Moresby, there are rental car counters, a bank and duty free shops. Major hotels have a courtesy bus to and from the airport. Taxis have meters. Within the city, PMV's (public motor vehicles) cost 50 toea per journey. Elsewhere, PMVs, taxis and hire cars are available.

## Useful Port Moresby Numbers

Air Niugini Information 327 3480  
Reservations & Confirmation 327 3555 (Domestic)  
Reservations & Confirmation 327 3444 (International)  
Police 000  
Ambulance 325 6822

## Currency

Papua New Guinea's unit of currency is the Kina which is divided into 100 toea. Exchange your money at Jackson's Airport or in banks which are open from 8.45am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday and until 4pm on Friday. Credit Cards are accepted in leading hotels and shops.

## Customs and Quarantine

Adults over 18 have a general allowance of new goods to the value of K250 and are allowed duty free:

- 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250grams of tobacco
  - One litre of alcohol
  - A reasonable amount of perfume
- Drugs, pornographic literature or video tapes, fire-arms and weapons are prohibited. Food items, seeds, spices, live or dry plants, animal products and biological specimens such as cultures and blood need special import approval.

## Languages

Although over 800 languages are spoken in Papua New Guinea, English is the language of education and commerce. Tok Pisin is widely spoken and Police Motu is common in the Southern region.

## Time

Papua New Guinea is 10 hours ahead of GMT, in the same time zone as Eastern Australia. There is no day-light saving.

## Communication

ISD, STD and facsimile services are available in most centres. Public phones are available in the major centres. Phone cards and Telikads can be used in the major centres. Some rural areas have radio phones while others use high frequency radios.

## Driving

Drivers licences issued in other countries are valid for 3 months after arrival. Vehicles travel on the left side of the road; speed limits are 60kph in built-up areas and 80kph out of town.

## Electricity

Electricity supply is 240 volts AC 50 Hz. Some hotels

have 110 volt outlets for shavers and hair dryers.

## Health

Water quality is within WHO standards in most towns. Bottled water is available. In rural areas it is advisable to boil water. As malaria continues to be a health risk in the country, anti-malaria tablets should be taken two weeks before arrival, during your stay and for 4 weeks after departure. Use insect repellent and wear long-sleeved shirts, trousers and shoes in the evening. Dentists, doctors and hospitals are in all major centres. Rural areas have health centres and aid posts staffed by trained health workers.

## Dress

For most occasions, dress is informal. Rubber thongs and shorts are not allowed in some bars and restaurants. Lightweight clothing is suitable for coastal areas but a sweater or jacket will be needed in the highlands.

## Restaurants

Western cuisine is available in hotels, restaurants, guest houses and lodges. Port Moresby has several Asian restaurants. Some hotels especially in the provinces serve potato, taro, yam, pumpkin, banana and greens cooked in coconut milk.

## Tips

Tips are neither expected nor encouraged.

## Shopping

Large stores and artifact shops offer a variety of goods for sale. Saturday is a half day for most shops and nearly all are closed on Sunday. Artisans sell their craft beside the roads or in markets. All markets sell a wide range of fruits and vegetables.

## Cultural Events

Celebrations of traditional culture include:

**July** — National Mask Festival, Rabaul

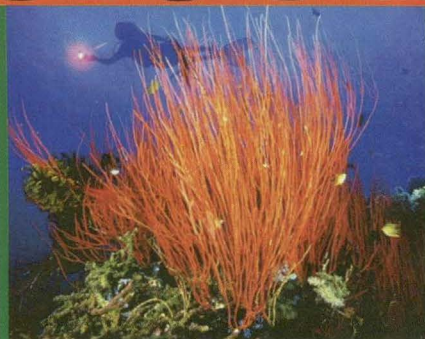
**August** — Mt. Hagen Show, Mt Hagen

**September** — Hiri Moale Festival, Port Moresby, Goroka Show, Goroka, Maborasa Festival, Madang

**October** — Morobe Show, Lae

## Export Rules

Many artifacts historical and cultural objects are prohibited exports. Others require a permit from the National Museum. Export permits for wildlife and animal products are issued by the Nature Conservation Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
EXPERIENCE

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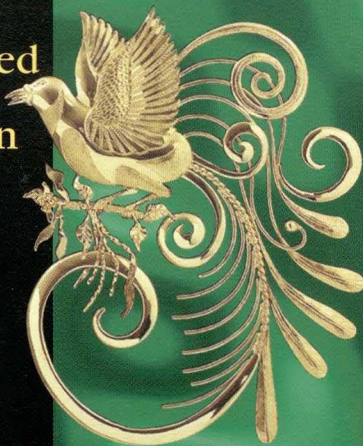
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