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IN PARADISE

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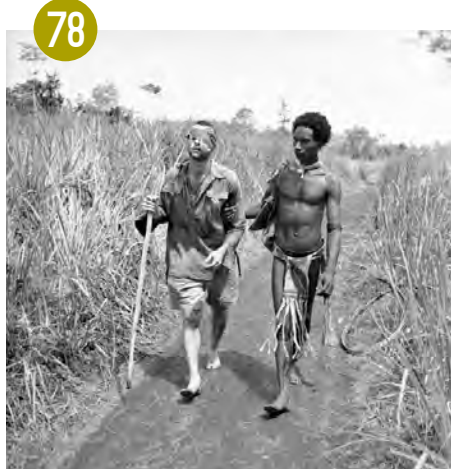


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COVER PHOTO: Papua New Guinean broadcaster and TV host Namila Benson. See our story starting on page 64. Photo taken by Doug Gimesy.



From Inclusion to Innovation: How TISA Bank is shaping the Future of Banking in Papua New Guinea



Mr. Michael O. Koisen, OBE ML
Group Chief Executive Officer, TISA

Papua New Guinea is a nation of remarkable diversity, resilience, and opportunity. With its vast geography, strong community values and a rapidly evolving economic landscape, the country presents both unique challenges and immense promise for financial services. At TISA Bank, our purpose is clear and unwavering: to ensure that every Papua New Guinean has access to safe, reliable, and modern banking - delivered in a way that is simple, inclusive, and empowering.

As a home-grown bank, TISA Bank was founded on the belief that financial inclusion is not merely a social responsibility, but a national imperative. For too long, distance, limited infrastructure and complexity have kept many individuals, micro-entrepreneurs, and communities outside the formal financial system. Our endeavors have been to bridge this gap by designing banking solutions that are practical, affordable and relevant to the everyday lives of our people.

Digital innovation sits at the heart of this mission. Technology allows us to leapfrog traditional barriers and bring banking closer to where people live and work. Through our digital platforms, particularly the Yumi Pei Mobile Wallet, we are redefining access to banking in Papua New Guinea. With a mobile phone in hand, customers can open accounts, make payments, transfer funds, receive salaries or benefits,

pay utility bills and participate in the digital economy - without the need to travel long distances or navigate complex processes.

Our vision is to develop Yumi Pei into a true super wallet for Papua New Guinea - one that integrates financial and non-financial services into a single, secure, and intuitive marketplace. In the coming phases, the platform will enable customer to not only transact but also access a broad range of value-added digital services. By bringing these capabilities together within one trusted platform, Yumi Pei will simplify daily life, empower small businesses, and accelerate participation in the digital economy.

However, digital transformation at TISA Bank is not about technology alone; it is about thoughtful innovation with purpose. Every product we introduce is guided by a simple question: does this make banking easier, safer, and more accessible for our customers? From simplified account structures and intuitive user interfaces to multilingual support and agent banking networks, our focus remains on removing friction and building trust.

Financial inclusion also means enabling opportunity. Access to banking opens doors to savings, credit, insurance, and investment-tools that help individuals and businesses plan, grow and build resilience. By extending these services to small traders, women-led enterprises, rural communities, and first-time bank users, we are contributing to broader economic participation and long-term national development.

Equally important is our commitment to responsible and sustainable banking. As a member of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV), TISA Bank aligns profitability with positive social impact. We believe that a strong bank is one that grows alongside its communities, supports local enterprise and acts as a trusted partner in nation-building.

Looking ahead, our vision is bold yet grounded. We will continue to invest in digital capabilities, expand our physical and agent presence, and collaborate with partners across sectors to deepen financial access. Our ambition is not simply to be a bank of choice, but a bank of progress- one that empowers people, connects communities, and supports Papua New Guinea's journey into a more inclusive and digitally enabled future.

At TISA Bank, we remain committed to making banking simpler, closer, and more human. Because when banking works for everyone, the nation moves forward together.

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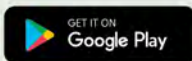
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Message from the Chairman

Welcome aboard



Warm greetings and welcome on board your Air Niugini flight.

Whether you are travelling for business, leisure, or returning home to loved ones, thank you for choosing to fly with our national airline.

Whatever the purpose of your travel today, this issue of *Paradise* will provide you with inspiration for your next journey on our network.

Starting with Papua New Guinea itself, we visit some beautiful locations in search of culture and memorable experiences.

In Kokopo, our correspondent nominates some of the things to see and do in the capital of East New Britain Province, including a visit to the market, the war museum, the Bita Paka war memorial cemetery and volcanic Mount Tavurvur.

Paradise also takes a journey to the Tufi fjords in this issue, a remarkable landscape of green hills and deep-blue waterways on PNG's northeast coast.

The isolation here has preserved language and craft. In a changing world, the traditions of the local people endure. Men continue to build outrigger canoes; women harvest sago and create *tapa* cloth.

Back in our national capital, Port Moresby, we take a trip to its popular craft markets and you'll also read about the fast pace of hotel development, with several international hotel brands such as Raddison Blu, Novotel, Intercontinental and Sheraton set to open.

Still on hotels, we review the Citi Boutique Hotel and visit the Hilton's buzzing Summit bar on the property's 15th floor.

With major resources projects in the pipeline and the PNG Chiefs set to enter Australia's National Rugby League competition in 2028

(you'll see an interview with the team's new CEO, Lorna McPherson, on page 10), we can expect to welcome many more visitors to our beautiful country. Having more world-class hotels here is just the start.

Also in this issue, you'll find articles to inspire you to travel on one of Air Niugini's many international routes.

There's a guide to Hong Kong for business travellers, a look into the hidden attractions of Fiji and a rundown of affordable accommodation at Air Niugini destinations in Australia, including Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns.

I'm also pleased to draw your attention to the 14-page 'Made in PNG' special feature in this issue. While PNG has many special destinations and unique cultures, it is also a country that makes things, from food and beverages to furniture, leathersgoods and even prefabricated buildings. You'll find many local success stories in this feature.

Air Niugini continues to fly the flag for PNG as its national airline, most recently at one of the world's most prestigious aviation events, the Singapore Airshow. There, we displayed one of our three new Airbus A220-300 aircraft, which received a tremendous reception. These new aircraft are a clear sign to our valued passengers that our fleet modernisation program is well and truly under way.

Finally, as Chairman, it is my great pleasure to acknowledge Alan Milne, who is returning to the airline for his second spell as CEO. The board and I wish him every success.

Thank you again for travelling with Air Niugini. I wish you a safe, comfortable and enjoyable journey.

Karl Yalo
Chairman, Air Niugini Board



2025

A YEAR OF GROWTH, PARTNERSHIP & PRIDE.

2025 marked a pivotal chapter for Kumul Minerals. Building on its mandate to manage and grow the State's mining interests, the company advanced key projects across the country, from strategic participation in world-class operations like Ok Tedi and Porgera, to the development of new mineral ventures that strengthen PNG's ownership in its resource future.

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PARADISE Q&A

LORNA MCPHERSON

PNG's long-awaited entry into the National Rugby League is slowly taking shape. At the centre of the journey is the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the PNG Chiefs. She spoke with *Michael Philip*.

Q: The PNG Chiefs' entry into the National Rugby League (NRL) has been described as a dream becoming reality. How do you see this journey?

A: This is more than forming a football team. We are building a national symbol and a high-performance sporting organisation. For Papua New Guinea, rugby league is part of daily life. The Chiefs represent a dream that has been talked about for decades. Now, it is slowly taking shape in a structured and professional way.

Q: You were appointed CEO in January 2026. What does this role mean to you personally?

A: It is a great honour and responsibility. This is not just a sporting project; it is a national project. My background in both corporate leadership and rugby league governance has prepared me for this moment. I understand the commercial side of elite sport, but I also understand how deeply our people connect to rugby league.

Q: Can you tell us about your professional background and how it helps in this role?

A: I have over 16 years of leadership experience in PNG, across corporate and sporting sectors. I previously served as a director with the Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League and was part of the Chiefs' board before becoming CEO. In my corporate career, I held senior leadership roles at Digicel Pacific, managing government relations, sales, retail, distribution and marketing. Those experiences taught me strategic planning, stakeholder engagement and operational management, all critical when building a professional NRL franchise from the ground up.

Q: Where does the Chiefs project currently stand?

A: We are officially scheduled to enter the NRL in 2028. Since confirmation of our licence through the partnership between the NRL, the PNG government and the Australian government, we have moved from concept to structured implementation. We now have a full governance board in place, a CEO appointed, administrative operations underway, and our team name – the Chiefs – selected through national public engagement. The

foundation phase is progressing according to timeline expectations.

Q: What key achievements have been made so far?

A: First, governance clarity was a priority. We established a formal board and executive leadership team to ensure transparency and long-term stability. Second, we opened our official headquarters at Santos National Football Stadium in Port Moresby. This gives us an operational base and visible presence. Third, we are strengthening junior pathways. We are aligning

Lorna McPherson, the newly appointed CEO of the Papua New Guinea Chiefs.



PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY PNG CHIEFS

with existing PNG competitions to ensure local players have a direct pathway to elite rugby league. Sustainability is key: we are building for decades, not just for 2028.

Q: Will Santos National Football Stadium be the home ground?

A: Yes, our home games will be played at Santos National Football Stadium, which has a capacity of around 14,800. While it meets basic hosting requirements, upgrades and high-performance enhancements are expected as part of our long-term planning.

Q: What about plans for a centre of excellence?

A: That is a major priority. Plans are underway for a dedicated centre of excellence and high-performance facility. This will include modern gym facilities, recovery and medical areas, analysis rooms and administrative offices. If we want to attract top-level NRL talent, we must provide world-class facilities.

Q: Player accommodation is often a concern. What is being done in that area?

A: Discussions are ongoing around player housing and possibly a secure team village concept. This is especially important for players relocating from overseas. Infrastructure development over the next 24 months will be critical to our recruitment strategy. (Since this interview, it has been announced that the Constantinou Group has been appointed to develop 67 units for players, staff and families at the Airways resort.)

Q: When will player recruitment begin?

A: Under NRL rules, expansion clubs typically begin recruitment about two years before entry. For us, that means late 2026. Recruitment will accelerate once a head



“ We are building a national symbol and a high-performance sporting organisation. ”

coach is appointed. We expect to build a balanced squad, combining experienced NRL players with emerging PNG talent.

Q: Has a head coach been appointed?

A: Willie Peters is the inaugural head coach. (He will start at the end of the year when he finishes a record-breaking season in the UK with Hull Kingston Rovers.) He will set the culture, standards and playing identity of this franchise.

Q: Who is supporting you at the executive level?

A: We are supported by a structured board and executive team, including our franchise

Chair, Catherine Harris, and General Manager, Michael Chammas. Our board members come from business and rugby backgrounds, bringing commercial, legal and sporting expertise. That balance is essential for long-term success.

Q: How has PNG responded to the Chiefs?

A: The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Rugby league is our national sport. The Chiefs represent national pride, global recognition and a dream realised. The public involvement in choosing the team name shows strong community ownership. This is not just a franchise, it is PNG’s team.

Q: Beyond sport, what will the PNG Chiefs mean for the country?

A: The impact will be wide-ranging. Sporting impact: a clear pathway from village rugby league to the NRL, retention of local talent and inspiration for young players.

Social impact: national unity, youth engagement and positive role modelling.

Economic impact: job creation, infrastructure development, and increased tourism and international exposure.

This project is about nation-building through rugby league.

Q: Finally, what message do you have for PNG as 2028 approaches?

A: There is still significant work ahead recruiting players and completing infrastructure. But we are building carefully and strategically. For a country where rugby league is woven into daily life, 2028 will not just be another season. It will mark the beginning of a new chapter in PNG’s sporting history. ■



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Miss Bird of Paradise visits gold mine

Miners were recently surprised by a visit from the reigning Miss Bird of Paradise PNG, Iampela Popena, to the remote Porgera gold mine in Enga Province.

She visited on International Women's Day in March, joining women from local communities and the mine workforce to celebrate women's achievements and leadership.

She was accompanied by Anna Bais, Chairperson of the Miss



PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY NEW PORGERA LIMITED

Miss Bird of Paradise PNG, Iampela Popena, on her Porgera visit (left) and with truck operator Sharon Umange (above).

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New premium mall in Port Moresby

Port Moresby's families have a special destination to visit following the opening of the city's latest shopping complex, Eliseo Premium in Hohola. Opened by Prime Minister James Marape on March 17, the ultra-modern mall features a wide range of retail outlets, including a large supermarket, and clothing, sports, toy, gift and electronics stores, over four floors. While the quality build and pleasing fit-out deserve the 'premium' label, the real attraction for families may be the buildings' fifth floor, which hosts a large games and entertainment area and food court. The quality and scale of the different amusements on offer is quite new for Papua New Guinea, from dodgem cars to virtual reality experiences, to climbing gyms and arcade-style games. It's likely to exhaust

even the most energetic youngsters. The building also hosts plenty of parking spaces. The five-storey complex is the flagship of retail and wholesale business the Eliseo Group of Companies, which has eight retail outlets across Port Moresby and employs about 2000 staff in the capital. The opening of Eliseo Premium marks a milestone for the company, as it replaces a smaller building on the same site, which was badly damaged by fire in January 2024. ■



PICTURES: BUSINESS ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL

The opening of the Eliseo Premium shopping mall in Hohola.



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PNG INFLUENCER REVEALS PASSION FOR WRITING

Entertainer and social media personality Joachim Lolok, known as Turagunan Bloke, has been known for making people laugh since 2019.

His hilarious skits, which often incorporate local humour, resonate with many Papua New Guineans, and he has a following of over 130,000 across Instagram, Facebook and TikTok.

But what his followers probably don't know is that his first passion is not comedy, but writing. While attaining his degree in journalism and public relations at the University of Papua New Guinea, Lolok made use of every spare moment

to write what is now his first novel, *Beo vaira: The Story of Kumkumpi*.

Released recently, it took seven years for Lolok to complete his novel, partly because he had to rewrite his manuscript after his laptop crashed in his final year of studies.

"It was a devastating experience. But thankfully, the story was already alive in my subconscious – the characters, the twists, the emotions. So, I started writing again from scratch."

Beo vaira translates to 'foreign bird' in Kuanua, the language of the Tolai people of East New



Marriott Executive Apartments Port Moresby, a waterside property close to the heart of the city, is set within the vibrant mixed-use development of Harbourside South. Boasting 88 luxury apartments with premier hotel services, Marriott Executive Apartments are suitable for both short and long-stay travellers.

Guests will enjoy oceanic views as well as leisure facilities offered within the greater Harbourside Precinct. Various bedrooms and penthouses are available, each promising the space, ambience, and privacy of residential living. Guests also have access to the Executive Boardrooms and the indoor and outdoor venue space on the 11th floor, providing stunning views.

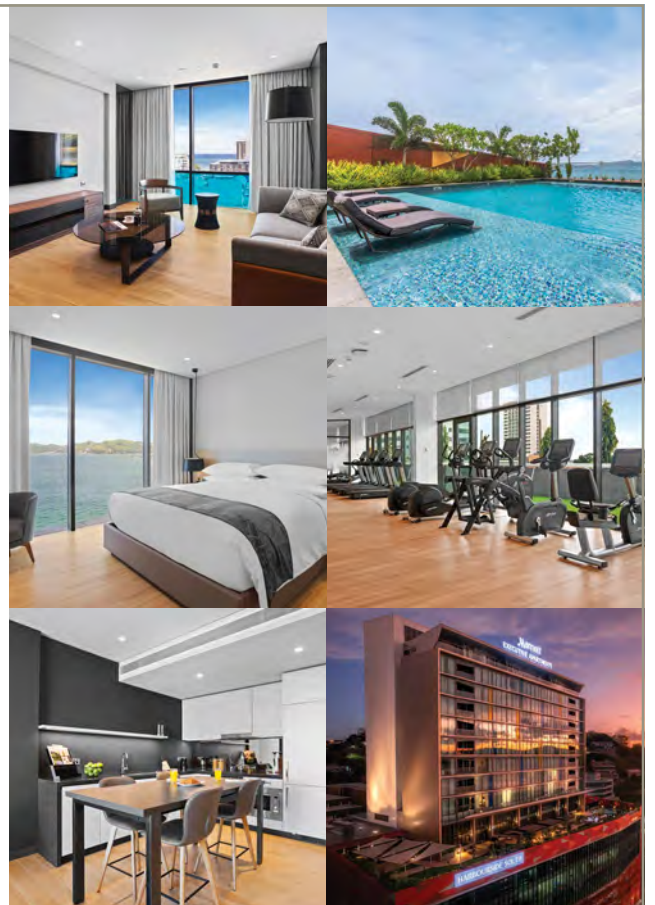
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“

In a time when our world is consumed by digital escapism, this story makes you stop, feel, and think again.

”

Britain. It refers to the title character, Kumkumpi, a man from Simbai, Madang Province, who fled to East New Britain during the Bougainville crisis.

The story, although a fictional thriller, is inspired by the life of Peter Joe, whose nickname is Kumkumpi. Just like the character, Joe sought refuge among the Tolai in Turagunan village. It is here that the real-life Kumkumpi became a part of Lolok’s family, eventually becoming an honorary guardian to the comedian-turned-author.

“The story follows Kumkumpi’s life and experience among the Tolai. From learning their culture, lifestyle, language, traditions, and finally being initiated into the Tolai society to be one with its people. The story also highlights

the rich history of the Tolai and East New Britain. At the same time, it also captures the prejudice Kumkumpi faced for being an outsider,” Lolok says.

Lolok’s initial interest in books and writing started from the need to improve his English in primary school. He was taught in Kuanua at Toboi Elementary School (Turagunan village), so when he switched to an English-speaking school his teachers discovered his language difficulty.

“I came home from my first day at an English-speaking school with a shattered spirit,” he says. “I informed my parents that I was to repeat second grade because of the language barrier, to which my parents advised me to read a lot of books. And that is what I did.”

Lolok launched his novel last December in Port Moresby and Kokopo.

In a review of the book, public personality Antonnia Singut says: “In a time when our world is consumed by digital escapism, this story makes you stop, feel, and think again. It is a testament of the contemporary writing piece penned by the author.”

The book is printed locally by Shane Baiva Publication House, and costs PGK50. To purchase, you can contact Lolok’s team on major social media platforms, including LinkedIn @Turagunan Bloke. ■

– MARY TAO

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More international hotel brands set for Port Moresby

For many years, the Holiday Inn in Waigani and Crowne Plaza (now Crown Hotel) in Town were the only major international brands in Papua New Guinea’s hospitality sector.

In retrospect, the opening of PNG’s first Hilton hotel at Star Mountain Plaza in 2018 now appears to have started a trend. The Crowne Plaza Residences opened in 2019, with the Steamships’ Marriott Executive Apartments opening in 2024.

More international brands are on their way.

Port Moresby’s largest hotel, RH Group’s Stanley Hotel and Suites, is set to re-brand as a Sheraton later this year and plans were announced in 2023 for PNG’s first Radisson Blu property as part of the Paga Hill tourism zone.

This year has seen announcements for two more internationally branded hotels.

Earlier this year, designs were released for a second major hotel at Paga Hill – a 200-room Novotel. Notably, Novotel – a brand owned by the Accor Group – is an official accommodation partner of the National Rugby League competition in Australia, which will welcome the PNG Chiefs team in 2028.

Meanwhile, a 179-room luxury Intercontinental Hotel (run by IHG Hotels and Resorts, which also runs Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza branded properties) is set to open in late 2028 close to National Parliament in Waigani.

While these properties are, or will be, operated by international hotel brands, it’s



A render of the Novotel, which will open at Paga Hill.

PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY ACCOR

worth noting that many of the investors behind these projects are local.

The Hilton was financed in part by landowners and provincial governments in Western Province and the Highlands region through PNG’s Mineral Resources Development Corporation. The Intercontinental will be part-owned by a Gulf Province investment fund, while the Radisson Blu will be 40 per cent owned by Papua New Guineans, according to its developer, Paga Hill Development Company. ■

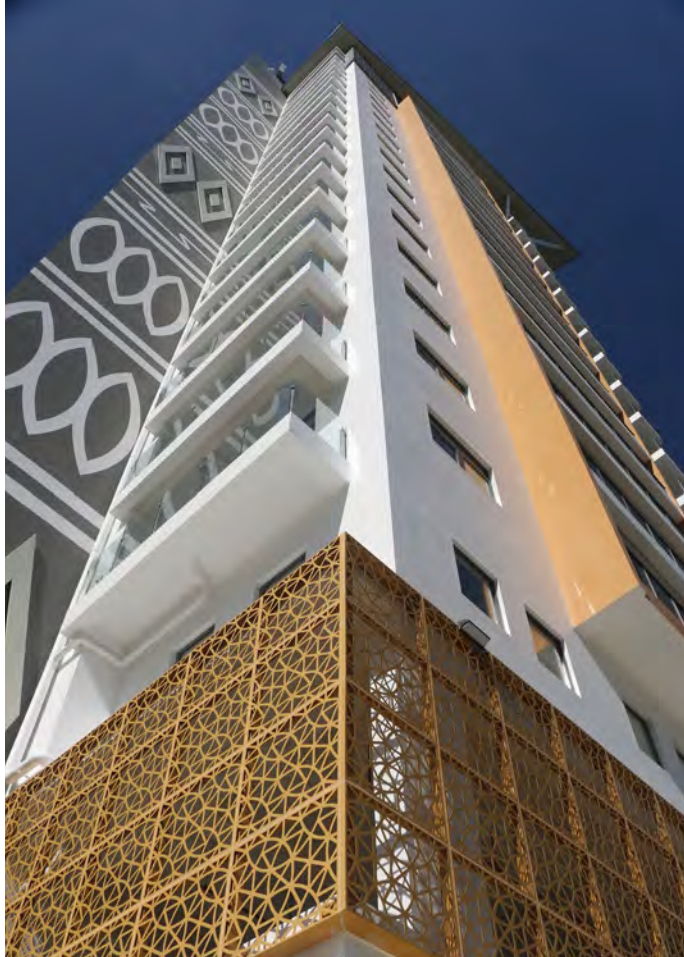
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Luxury apartments open at Paga Hill



PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY TWIN TOWER DEVELOPMENT

“

Paga Hill Paradise stands out due to its prime hillside location, integrated mixed-use vision, high construction standards and resort-style amenities.

”



Paga Hill Paradise Apartments, owned by Twin Tower Development Limited, will be a complex made up of three 22-storey buildings.

Phase one, the first apartment building, opened in January after two-and-half years of construction. It was built by CSCEC Steel (PNG) Co Ltd and China Railway Engineering Group. The design of the building was a collaborative effort, which included Australian company Pawa Architects.

The apartment is the first building to open for business

along the Paga Hill waterfront, just outside Port Moresby’s CBD. The 25-hectare stretch was marked as a Special Economic Zone six years ago by the PNG government.

There are 83 apartments (one to three bedrooms) available for rent. When *Paradise* went to press, the building was already at 75 per cent occupancy.

“Paga Hill Paradise stands out due to its prime hillside location, integrated mixed-use vision, high construction standards and resort-style amenities,” according to the management of Twin Tower Development.

“It offers a unique blend of luxury living, scenic views and is the first apartment sitting in front of the Paga Hill seaside. That distinguishes it from other residential developments in Port Moresby.”

Residents of Paga Hill Paradise can enjoy the infinity swimming pool, rooftop terrace and a state-of-the-art gym, all under 24-hour security.

Phase two will consist of the remaining two towers – another apartment building with 98 units and a dedicated office building that will have restaurants, cafes and a clinic.

It is due to be completed in the second half of 2028 at an estimated cost of PGK350 million. It is predicted to create an additional 1000 local jobs to the 500 jobs already created from phase one.

There are more exciting developments yet to come for the Paga Hill waterfront, including a Radisson Blu Hotel, the Satellite Casino, which is nearing completion, and a marina to draw cruise ships. All major works are set to be completed by 2028. ■

– MARY TAO



Duffy coffee boost for Lae

Lae coffee lovers received wonderful news at that start of the year: Duffy speciality coffee is now available at the Lae International Hotel.

“The social media feedback has been overwhelmingly positive,” says Chris Shine, Duffy group general manager.

This is the first regional partnership Duffy has established, following the supply of their coffee to three Coral Sea Hotels in Port Moresby.

“It’s a big deal for us, it’s a big investment too, in the sense of being able to get up there (and) do the right sort of training. Our head barista (Robert Pegi) spent time with each barista to train them and make sure they’re accredited to a level two certification to make our coffee,” says Shine.

Out of Duffy’s five blends, Lae International has chosen to pour the Niugini Special Dark

Roast, a traditional dark-roasted coffee with dark chocolate and orange notes.

The hotel’s baristas are now able to make the whole Duffy coffee menu, which includes cold drinks like frappes and smoothies.

The other blends, which include the signature espresso blend Fuzzy Wuzzy – exclusively served in their Port Moresby cafes – and Kissed by a Highlander – a lighter blend perfect for the pour at home – are available for retail purchase.

Regarding setting up a Duffy cafe in Lae, Shine says: “We’re definitely looking at options. We also have the Baker Boy brand, so if we did something in Lae, we’d look to do both of those things together to have a bit of efficiency of scale. But a Duffy cafe is definitely something that we feel is suited to Lae.”

– MARY TAO



PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY DUFFY

Duffy head barista Robert Pegi (back left) and Duffy group general manager Chris Shine (back right) with Lae International Hotel staff.



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EAST NEW BRITAIN FIRE CEREMONY INSPIRED AVATAR MOVIE

Oscar-winning film director James Cameron says the Baining fire dance ceremony on East New Britain inspired a key part of *Avatar: Fire and Ash*, his latest blockbuster movie.

Best known for writing and directing *Titanic*, the *Terminator* series and previous *Avatar* movies, Cameron flew to Rabaul in 2012 to make an expedition documentary, when he heard about the Baining people in the adjacent mountains.

In a recent article for *Condé Nast Traveller* magazine, the Canadian director describes how a local guide negotiated with the elders to let him film the sacred fire ceremony.

After a “tough slog” carrying 3D camera equipment up a muddy trail, Cameron’s team reached a Baining village surrounded by rainforest.

“Right after dark, when the only light came from the fire and the moon,” he was awestruck by the sight of masked dancers who performed barefoot on flames, amid drumming and chants.

Cameron says the dance “inspired” the creation of the Ash People, a fire-dwelling Na’vi clan featured in the movie. “It was spectacular, honestly, the most amazing thing I had ever seen.”

Beneath the epic visuals, Cameron’s movies often have an underlying social theme, such as



PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY DISNEY

A scene from the latest *Avatar* movie.

Indigenous rights, protection of the environment, or the dangers of unbridled technology.

In this way, the *Avatar* movie has resonated with PNG audiences with its references to family, survival, land and tradition. According to TV WAN Online, some audiences say the film “reflects values such as

bravery, community and respect for nature”.

Local cinema operators have also reported strong turnout, “particularly among youth and families, who see parallels between Pandora’s clans and PNG’s diverse tribal societies.”

– RICHARD ANDREWS



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Fishy business by the sea in Sydney

Port Moresby's Koki Fish Market is a fascinating place to visit, and now the new fish market in Sydney, Australia, is proving to be a big drawcard for visitors.

For six decades the Sydney Fish Market – one of the world's largest – sat on the east side of Blackwattle Bay.

In January, the market moved a short distance to the south side of the bay, and a spectacular new purpose-built home designed to better serve locals and tourists, as well as professional traders.

Designed by Danish architects, the new market's crowning feature is an undulating 20,000 square metre white roof, with skylights illuminating the interior. On the upper level is a vast space open to the public, incorporating a market selling fresh fish and other items. It's surrounded by numerous food stalls, many of which cook seafood to order – some from live tanks.

With food in hand, you can dine at tables on the broad outside terrace with a view of the bay and the impressive Anzac Bridge, though you might have to wait



The Sydney Fish Market at Blackwattle Bay.

PICTURE: TOM ROE

for a table to become free. Alternatively, book ahead at one of the sit-down restaurants, such as The Boatshed or Touch Wood.

The professional trading area is out of bounds for casual visitors, but it's possible to join a guided tour to view events such as fish auctions. To get hands-on with the catch, you can also book a

cooking class at the in-situ Sydney Seafood School.

The Sydney Fish Market is easily accessed by light rail line L1, which runs from Sydney Central station; alight at the Wentworth Park stop. Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Sydney twice weekly.

See sydneyfishmarket.com.au.

– TIM RICHARDS

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World War 2 plane found in mountains

After 82 years, the wreckage of a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Beaufort aircraft lost in Papua New Guinea during a World War 2 mission has been located in the rugged Baining Mountains of East New Britain Province.

This discovery ends more than eight decades of uncertainty for families of the Australian crew who disappeared with the aircraft.

On December 14, 1943, Beaufort A9-211 was undertaking a night mission when it reportedly encountered adverse weather conditions. The aircraft never returned to base and was declared missing.

In 2021, the RAAF was alerted to wreckage in the Baining Mountains. Following extensive research and analysis, the



A Beaufort aircraft (above); a propeller from A9-211 erected by locals as a memorial to the crew (right); the A9-211 crew, Flight Sergeants John Kenny (pilot), Arthur Davies (navigator), Thomas Burrowes (wireless operator and air gunner) and Murray Fairbairn (wireless operator and air gunner).



PICTURE: ASHLEY MATIC

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“

We are grateful for the support and assistance provided by authorities in PNG.

”

wreckage has now been formally identified as Beaufort A9-211.

Australia’s Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and Defence Personnel, Matt Keogh, said: “This aircraft discovery is significant and offers the chance to provide closure to families who have long wondered about the final resting place of loved ones.

“The Australian Government is committed to honouring the service and sacrifice of Australian military personnel from all theatres of war.

“It is a measure of who we are as a nation that we continue to strive to find, recover and identify our missing service personnel.

“We are grateful for the support and assistance provided by authorities in PNG throughout this process, particularly the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery, without which the investigation could not have taken place.”

Over the past decade, the RAAF has identified seven missing aircraft, recovered remains of two aviators and accounted for 41 aviators deemed missing in action from World War 2.

The search continues for the more than 3140 missing aviators with no known grave, involving over 1000 missing aircraft from World War 2 and the Korean War. ■



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BIG PICTURE

TAKEN BY KATE WEBSTER

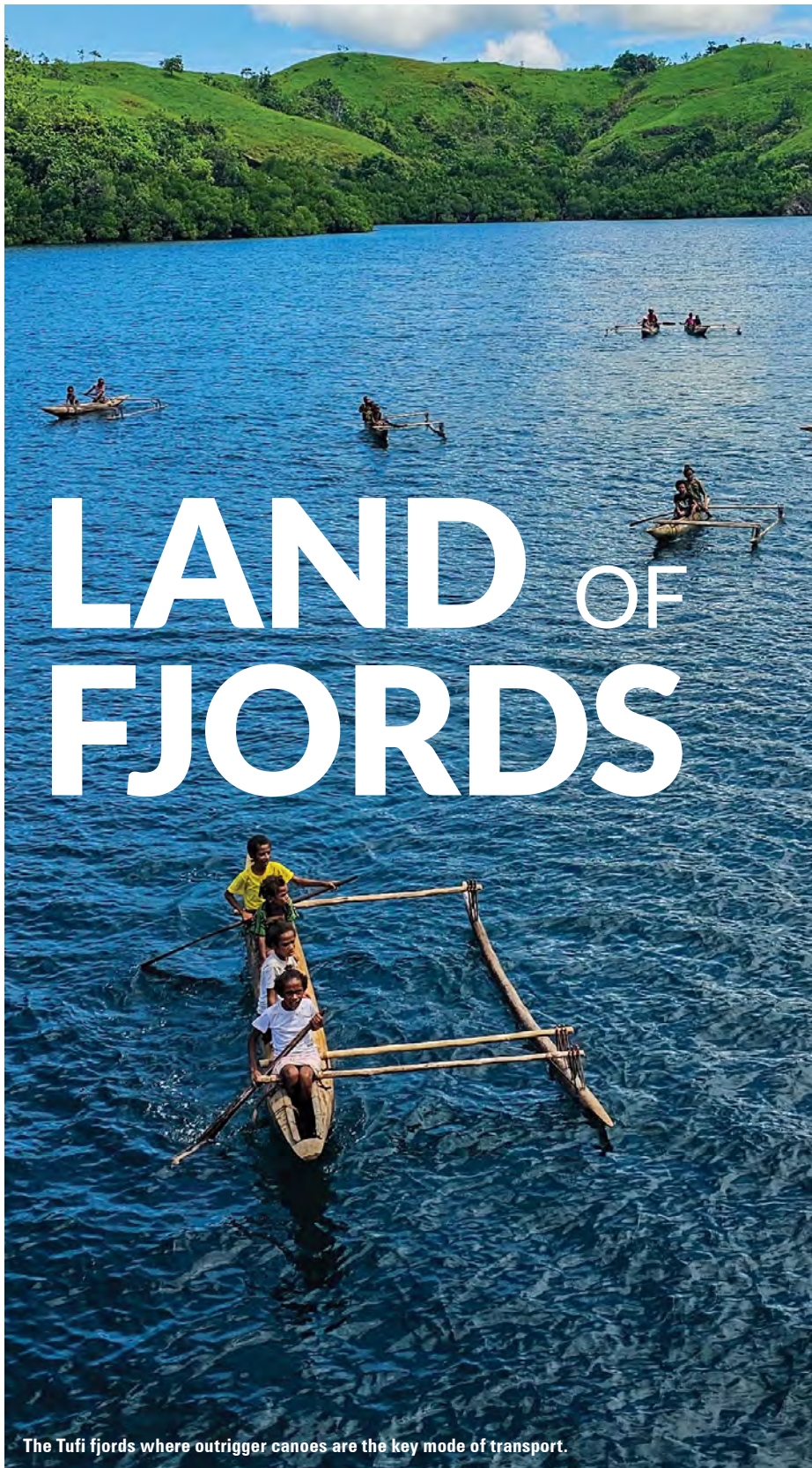
Children sit beneath an overturned boat on the beach at Kitava Island in Papua New Guinea's Trobriand Islands to escape the midday heat. The shady spot provides the perfect vantage point to watch village members perform their traditional 'Cricket Dance' for guests visiting the island.





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





LAND OF FJORDS

The Tufi fjords where outrigger canoes are the key mode of transport.

Kate Webster paddles into Tufi's volcanic coast and discovers the traditions that endure.

The first thing I notice about Tufi is the silence. Not the absence of sound, but the kind of quiet that feels geological – shaped over millennia by volcano, water and isolation. The fjords here rise abruptly from the sea. Dark green walls soar 150 metres skyward, their fluted cliffs carved by ancient eruptions and softened by jungle.

This is Oro Province on Papua New Guinea's northeast coast, where the land does not slope gently into the sea; it drops, dramatically. And in that drama, a culture has formed that is inseparable from water.

PADDLING THE FJORDS

I'm in an outrigger canoe that is long and impossibly slender, balanced by its float – the *ama* – skimming the surface like a steadying hand. I am seated low, close enough to trail my fingers in water the colour of deep jade. In front of me is a man paddling, wearing traditional dress, his grass skirt swaying with each stroke as shell adornments catch the light.

Behind me is his sister, also wearing a grass skirt, adorned with a shell necklace that drapes her body, and a headdress. There is no engine, no chatter. Only the dip and pull of paddles, and the soft slap of water against wood.

We glide forward in near silence, entering the fjord as though crossing a threshold.

The cliffs close in, jungle spilling down in thick folds of pandanus and breadfruit. Hornbills flash overhead. The air is humid and fragrant, heavy with green. As we move deeper inland, I understand how geography dictates rhythm here. There are no roads threading through these vertical walls.

The fjords are highways. The canoe is a lifeline.

Our destination is Sefo village, tucked beyond a bend in the water, invisible until we are almost upon it. ➤



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Jungle meets the sea (this picture) and sago making (below).

A LANDSCAPE THAT SHAPES LIFE

Tufi’s volcanic past is written into everything: the steep fjords formed by collapsed craters; the fertile soil that feeds taro and bananas; the isolation that has preserved language and craft.

“Water is our road,” one of the canoe builders tells me later, running his hand along the hull of a newly carved outrigger. He learned from his father, who learned from his. The timber is selected carefully, hollowed and shaped with patience, balanced with a float that must be precisely measured. A canoe that lists too far can cost lives.

He speaks about the changing world with a measured tone. Fibreglass dinghies and outboards are practical, he says. They save time. But the outrigger is identity. It is ceremony, fishing, courtship, transport. It is how young men learn discipline and skill.

“In the canoe,” he says, “you feel the water. You must respect it.” That respect is born of living in a landscape that offers abundance and danger in equal measure.

“

Tufi’s volcanic coast is dramatic, yes. Its fjords are worthy of postcards.

”



SAGO: FOOD FROM THE SWAMP

In Sefo, women lead me towards a stand of sago palms growing in low, waterlogged ground. Sago is staple food here, harvested from the trunk of the palm, its starchy pith laboriously processed into flour.

The work is communal and methodical. The trunk is felled and split. The pith is scraped, mixed with water and strained through woven fibres. The milky liquid settles, leaving sediment that will be dried and cooked into pancakes or dumplings.

One of the sago harvesters laughs as she shows me the rhythm of scraping, her hands

moving with practised ease. She has done this since she was a girl.

“This is our rice,” she says. “From the bush.”

Sago production is not romantic; it is hard labour. Yet it is also continuity. In a place where store-bought flour arrives by boat and costs cash that is not always plentiful, sago represents resilience. It ties families to land and swamp, to knowledge of when a palm is ready, to the patience required to transform tree into sustenance.

When I ask about the future, she speaks of education for her children – of wanting them to study, to have choices – but also of wanting them to know how to make sago. “If they forget this,” she says, “they forget who they are.” ➤





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CLOTH THAT TELLS STORIES

Under the shade of a palm tree, two women sit with lengths of *tapa* cloth spread before them. *Tapa* is made from the inner bark of certain trees, beaten into sheets, dried and decorated with natural pigments.

The patterns are bold and geometric, each motif carrying meaning – clan identity, lineage, place. The process is painstaking: stripping bark, soaking, beating with wooden mallets until fibres merge into a soft, pliable surface.

One woman holds up a finished piece and traces the design with her finger.

“This is from my mother’s side,” she explains. The cloth is not just fabric; it is genealogy rendered visible.

Tourism has created new markets for *tapa*, and some designs are now adapted for visitors – smaller pieces, contemporary colour palettes. Yet the core techniques remain unchanged.

The women speak pragmatically about selling their work. It brings school fees, roofing iron, medical supplies. But they are clear that certain patterns are not for sale. Some stories are not commodities. Here, adaptation is careful, negotiated. Change is allowed, but not at the expense of meaning.

RESPECTFUL ENCOUNTERS

As a visitor arriving by ship, I am acutely aware of my position on the periphery of these traditions. The canoe ride is an invitation, not an entitlement. The sago demonstration is shared knowledge, not spectacle. The *tapa* cloth I purchase carries labour and story.

Respect, I am reminded repeatedly, is simple: ask before photographing. Dress modestly. Listen more than you speak. Pay fairly. Understand that these practices are not staged relics but living systems embedded in daily life. ▶



Traditional dress at Tufi (this picture and above).



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WHERE CHANGE MEETS CONTINUITY

In conversations across Sefo village, I hear a consistent theme: a desire for balance.

Young men want to master canoe building and learn to navigate the digital world. Women want to sell *tapa* to visitors but also preserve sacred designs. Families want improved health care and education without losing language and land.

Isolation has protected Tufi's traditions, but it has also limited opportunity. The fjords that once guaranteed self-sufficiency now pose logistical challenges in a cash economy. Outboard motors hum alongside paddles. Mobile phones sit beside woven baskets.

Yet, as I am paddled through the fjord in the late afternoon light, cliffs burnished gold, I am struck not by a sense of fragility but of endurance.

A 'traffic jam' at Tufi (right). Canoe building is one of the traditions to endure in this region.

The canoe slices silently through water shaped by volcanoes long extinct. The float steadies us. Jungle presses close.

Tufi's volcanic coast is dramatic, yes. Its fjords are worthy of postcards. But what lingers is something less visible: a culture that has grown from steep land and deep water, carrying forward sago, *tapa* and canoe with deliberate care. ■

Tufi Resort has accommodation and a range of activities (diving, snorkelling, fishing, village tours, birdwatching, canoeing and more), see tufiresort.com; many cruise companies from Australia include Tufi on their itineraries, including Pearl Expeditions, which the author travelled with.







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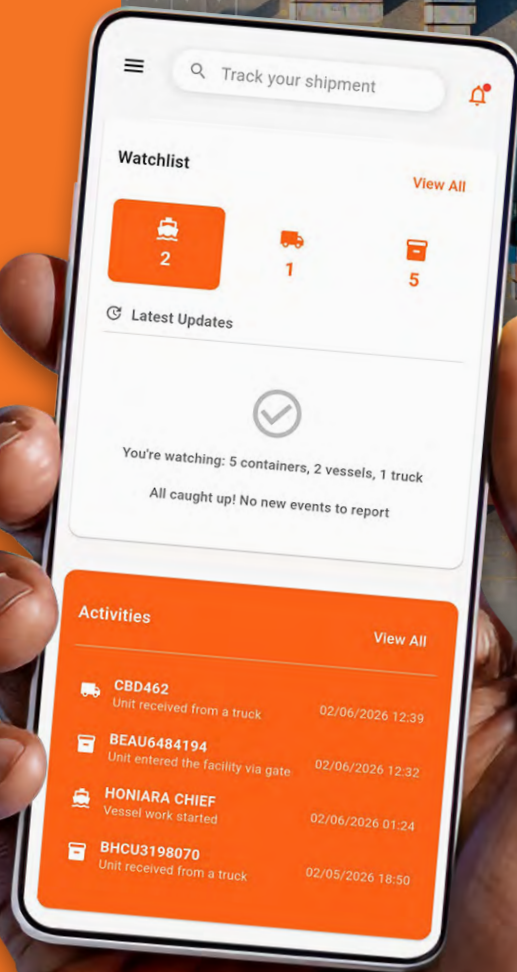




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4 THINGS TO SEE & DO IN KOKOPO

1 KOKOPO MARKET

This market is regarded as one of the cleanest and most well kept in Papua New Guinea. It provides an authentic glimpse into the culture, community life and food from the region, including fresh garden produce and

fish from the Gazelle Peninsula. Ready-to-eat food items are available, such as *aigir* (greens in coconut cream). Souvenir options include handmade baskets and shell jewellery. A hint is to bring small notes (PGK2, 5, 10 or 20) as vendors only accept cash.

Kokopo is the capital of East New Britain Province, well known for its diving, snorkelling, war history, island visits and volcano treks. Here, *Lemach Lavari* shares a few of his favourite things to see.

2 KOKOPO WAR MUSEUM & REMAINS OF QUEEN EMMA'S RESIDENCE

The museum is a fascinating place to learn about the local experiences during World War 1 and World War 2. Remnants from the Battle of Bita Paka and the Japanese occupation are on display on the front lawn and in glass cabinets in the gallery. Visitors can see old weapons, photographs and uniforms, and learn about the lives of soldiers and locals during the wars. Just up the road, you can see the concrete steps of Queen Emma's mansion. The steps are the only thing remaining from the mansion, which was occupied in 1886 by pioneering entrepreneur Emma Forsayth. She has been described as one of the most successful business figures in the South Pacific and was affectionately known as Queen Emma of New Guinea. She built a vast commercial empire of plantations, trade stores and shipping. The site of the mansion is now occupied by the Gazelle International Hotel. ➤

PICTURES: LEMACH LAVARI

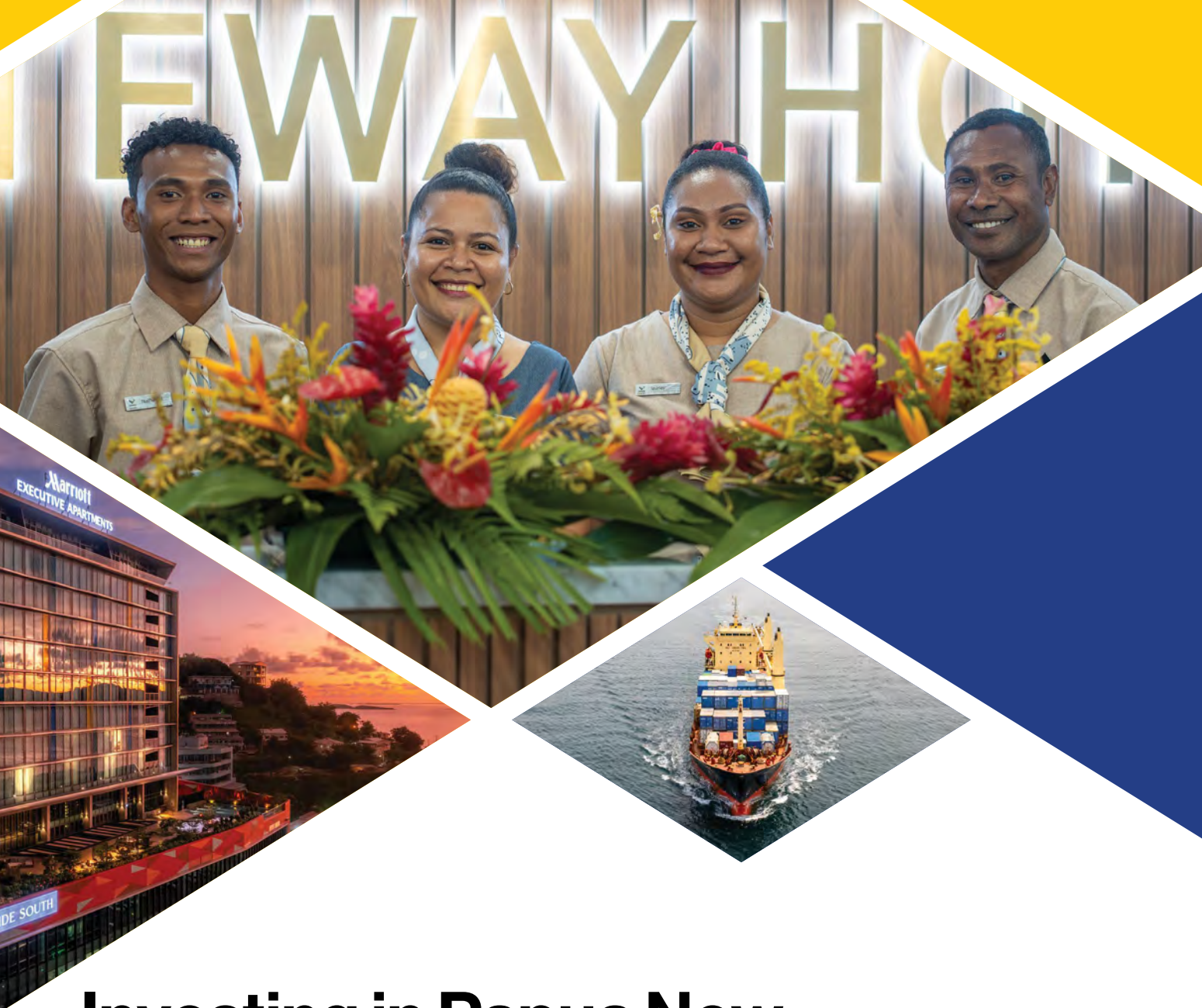


Fresh produce at the Kokopo market.



World War 2 artillery in the grounds of the war museum.





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3 BITA PAKA WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY

The cemetery is about a 20-minute drive from central Kokopo and holds the graves of servicemen and women from both world wars. The cemetery is built on the site of the German wireless radio station. Australia entered World War 1 when it captured the station in 1914. The cemetery holds more than 1000 troops, mostly Australian. Other countries include the UK, Netherlands, India, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Fiji and PNG. The well-kept lawns and

gardens provide a tranquil setting. The best times to visit are early in the mornings or late in the afternoons when it's cooler and quieter.



The Bita Paka war cemetery.



Mount Tavorvur and Mount Vulcan silhouetted in the background.

4 VOLCANIC MOUNT TAVURVUR

The eruption of Mount Tavorvur in 1994 together with Mount Vulcan forced the relocation of the provincial capital from Rabaul to Kokopo. Tavorvur is active and is one of the most iconic volcanoes in the Pacific. It is about a 30- to 40-minute drive from central Kokopo. The closer you get to the foot of the volcanoes, the more you will notice the devastation. It's a surreal, almost eerie panorama, where the raw power of nature is both beautiful and unsettling. If you're game, local operators guide visitors to the top of the crater. A recommended experience is to cook wild fowl eggs in the hot thermal springs and to eat them with some fresh coconut from the market. ■

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PICTURES: AIR NIUGINI



Air Niugini was a major attraction at one of the world's biggest aviation events.

Air Niugini stepped onto the global aviation stage for the first time at the Singapore Airshow at the Changi Exhibition Centre in February. Recognised as one of the world's premier aerospace and defence exhibitions, the biennial event attracts more than 60,000 trade attendees from around the world, alongside thousands of public visitors.

For Papua New Guinea's national flag carrier, the five-day event was far more than an industry gathering – it was a defining moment for both the airline and the nation it proudly represents.

Air Niugini's participation came at the invitation of global aircraft manufacturer Airbus, marking an important milestone in the airline's fleet modernisation and growth journey.

Taking centre stage in the static display area was the airline's A220-300 aircraft, P2-PGA – one of three new A220s recently acquired as part of its ongoing fleet renewal program. Positioned prominently among some of the world's most advanced aircraft, P2-PGA quickly emerged as a standout attraction.

Adorned in a vibrant PNG livery of bold red, black and gold, and proudly featuring the nation's 50th independence anniversary

AIR NIUGINI FLIES THE FLAG AT SINGAPORE AIRSHOW



Air Niugini's A220-300, P2-PGA, on display at the Singapore Airshow (top); visitors taking a photo opportunity before a guided tour of the aircraft (above).



New Ireland: undeniable beauty, peaceful people, and never-ending beaches.

Kavieng, situated at the northern tip of the island, is a picturesque destination offering tropical diving and snorkelling, surfing, fishing and kayaking through pristine tropical waters littered with amazing islands to explore.

The Kavieng Hotel is centrally located in town, a short walk from the markets and the Kavieng Golf Club.

Whether you're here on business or a family beach holiday, Kavieng Hotel caters for every traveller.

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logo inspired by its rich cultural heritage, the aircraft shone brilliantly under the Singapore sun. Amid rows of international carriers and aerospace giants, Air Niugini's A220-300 was unmistakable. Traders, investors, aviation professionals, families and students were drawn to the aircraft, many stopping to capture photographs and step onboard for guided tours.

Beyond its striking appearance, P2-PGA played a key role in Airbus' global promotional showcase to prospective customers. Its presence highlighted the A220's versatility, fuel efficiency, cabin comfort and operational performance – qualities shaping the future of commercial aviation across the Asia-Pacific region. To date, Airbus has delivered three of the nine A220 aircraft ordered by Air Niugini.

While the aircraft attracted considerable interest, it was PNG's culture that brought the display to life. Ten traditional dancers representing the country's four regions performed at the event, filling the exhibition grounds with colour, rhythm and storytelling.



PNG traditional dancers performed at the Singapore Airshow.

“

The synergy between the world-class A220 and the celebration of PNG culture created an unparalleled display of aviation excellence and cultural pride for all of Asia and the world to see.

”

Their powerful performances transformed the static aircraft display into a living expression of national identity.

Air Niugini acknowledges the support of the Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority for organising the cultural performances and strengthening the national showcase. Their contribution elevated the airline's presence and reinforced the message that Air Niugini represents more than an airline – it represents a nation.

Complementing the cultural performances, Air Niugini's pilots, engineers and cabin crew engaged with visitors, sharing insights into the airline's operations, fleet transformation and PNG's aviation landscape.

Air Niugini Board Chairman Karl Yalo described the debut as a historic step forward for the airline.

“Our participation at the Singapore Airshow signifies Air Niugini's confidence and ambition. Being present among the world's leading airlines and aerospace companies sends a strong message that PNG is ready to engage, invest and grow in the global aviation space.”

Air Niugini Chief Commercial Officer David Glover highlighted the broader opportunities created by the event. “The Singapore Airshow gave us an invaluable platform to promote not only Air Niugini, but PNG as a destination and investment opportunity. We were encouraged by the strong level of interest from traders, investors and especially students who were eager to learn more about our airline and our country.”

Throughout the week, discussions extended well beyond aircraft specifications to tourism potential, trade connectivity and PNG's strategic importance within the Asia-Pacific region.

Airbus President Asia Pacific Anand Stanley reaffirmed the strength of the partnership during the show.

“The synergy between the world-class A220 and the celebration of PNG culture created an unparalleled display of aviation excellence and cultural pride for all of Asia and the world to see. I am truly moved by their presence at the show, which I believe is a first in the 20-year history of the Singapore Airshow.”

Following the Singapore Airshow, Air Niugini continued to Japan for a two-day aviation showcase. ■

Chasing sunsets at Malagan beach, Kavieng.

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PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY YHA



AFFORDABLE AND FRIENDLY

Daniel Scott checks into a Sydney youth hostel where the views are to die for.



The rooftop of the YHA Sydney Harbour (above); the swimming pool at the YHA Cairns Central (top).

This must be one of Sydney's best-kept secrets. From where I am standing, on a balmy summer evening, I can take in the full panoply of the city's glorious harbour, its so-called 'coathanger' bridge angling off to my left, two giant cruise ships docked nearby and the cream-coloured sails of the Opera House stage centre.

What's more, the rooftop bar where I'm standing crowns a building located in Sydney's most historic precinct, the Rocks, constructed directly above one of the colony's earliest homes, dating back to 1807.



While you'd expect to pay a premium for a hotel with this outlook and location, at the YHA Sydney Harbour this vista is available every day, at a fraction of the cost. Its rooms – a modern mix of private ensuite and co-living accommodation – are also a far cry from the cliched image of crowded hostel dormitories, and the nightly tariff includes access to some excellent facilities and activities.

Sustainability is also part of this hostel's DNA, with power provided by a 30kW solar system, a 40,000-litre rainwater tank used for flushing toilets, low-energy lighting throughout and recycling stations in rooms and common areas.

The first thing I notice, on arrival on a busy Sunday morning, is the YHA's welcoming, convivial vibe. I check in early at reception, beside the 24-hour cafe serving coffees and snacks, and a large open kitchen/dining space where a range of guests, including several families, are chatting over breakfast or catching up on work, in private booths.

I just have time to drop my bags in my room before heading out on a free guided tour of local markets.

Led by the YHA's activities manager Sinead Quinn, the tour begins at the Rocks market, with stalls selling souvenirs, crafts and a smorgasbord of international foods, before our small group – including two young English women, a Colombian couple and a New York software designer – stroll across the Harbour Bridge to Kirribilli. This is more a neighbourhood market, set underneath the approaches to the bridge, with handmade soaps and ceramics and work by local artists on sale.

Value-added inclusions like this add appeal to a stay at the YHA, with rooftop yoga, painting classes, an indigenous heritage tour and a guided coastal walk from Coogee to Bondi among free activities.

I am booked into a 'Queen Opera Harbour View' ensuite room and it is contemporary and bright – easily four-star hotel standard – with a crisp bed in the centre backed by sleek wooden headboard and bedside strip lighting, a small table with a trendy Smeg kettle and two stools in one corner and a hanging space-cum-desk in another. There is also a

wall-mounted widescreen TV, on which guests can chromecast from their devices, free fast Wi-Fi, and an ensuite shower, vanity and toilet. The view from my room, 236, is across nearby houses, with Harbour Bridge glimpses to one side.

Yet, with an a la carte menu and drinks available at the rooftop bar from 2pm, and central Sydney's attractions on the doorstep, there is no reason to dwell in my room.

After an amble around nearby Chinatown and the Botanic Gardens in the afternoon, I return to the YHA for cocktails and a shared charcuterie board with a friend. While ogling that rooftop view as the sun sets, my preconceptions about youth hostels disappear forever.

Even an early check-out at 6.30am the next day is a breeze, with a barista-made coffee available at the 24-hour cafe and a take-away continental breakfast ready for my departure. As I hop into a rideshare to the airport, it's hard to imagine any accommodation topping the YHA Sydney Harbour for convenience, location or value for money. ➤



“

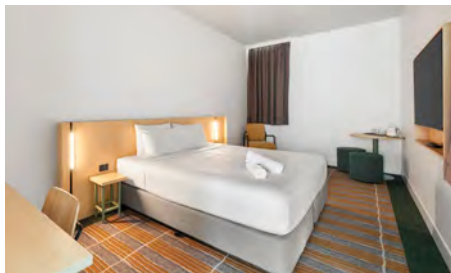
While you'd expect to pay a premium for a hotel with this outlook and location, at the YHA Sydney Harbour this vista is available at a fraction of the cost.

”



The cafe and common area at the YHA Sydney Harbour (above); some of the food offerings at the YHA Sydney Harbour (top).





The YHA Brisbane City (above); an ensuite room at YHA Sydney Harbour (top).

YOUTH HOSTELS AT AIR NIUGINI DESTINATIONS

YHA **Sydney Harbour** has 'Queen Opera Harbour View' ensuite rooms from A\$241 (PGK729) a night. yha.com.au/hostels/nsw/sydney-surrounds/sydney-harbour

YHA **Sydney Central** is located opposite Central station, with swimming pool and its own basement bar. Queen ensuite rooms from A\$300 (PGK907) a night. yha.com.au/hostels/nsw/sydney-surrounds/sydney-central-backpackers-hostel

YHA **Brisbane City** has award-winning accommodation on inner-city Roma Street, with rooftop pool, overlooking the Brisbane River and CBD, close to Suncorp Stadium and South Bank. 'King River' ensuite rooms

from A\$213 (PGK646) a night. yha.com.au/hostels/qld/brisbane-surrounds/brisbane-backpackers-hostel

The resort-style YHA **Cairns Central** has 59 rooms in the heart of the city, with tropical pool and outdoor barbecue area. Queen ensuite rooms from A\$134 (PGK406) a night. yha.com.au/hostels/qld/cairns-and-far-north-queensland/cairns-backpackers-hostel

Guests booking a stay automatically become YHA members. ■



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A GUIDE TO HONG KONG

FOR CORPORATE TRAVELLERS

Paul Chai reports on how to get the most out of Hong Kong on a business trip.



A junk on Hong Kong's harbour, which is surrounded by skyscrapers.



The impressive facade of the Peninsula Hotel.



PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY THE PENINSULA HOTEL



A grand deluxe harbour view suite at the Peninsula.

Once a quiet Qing Dynasty fishing village, Hong Kong was transformed into a global financial hub when the British took a 99-year lease on the territory at the end of the 19th century. Handed back to China in 1998, Hong Kong continues to be a business powerhouse and developed a work hard, play hard reputation as some of the world's best nightspots, dining and bars grew up around the skyscrapers.

Whether you are having a client dinner in Soho, impressing with drinks at Ozone in the Ritz-Carlton – the highest rooftop bar in the world – or composing your thoughts on a traditional Chinese red-sail junk on the harbour, Hong Kong means business.

THE COMMUTE

The fastest and most efficient way from Chek Lap Kok International Airport to the city is the Airport Express train. Trains run every 10 minutes from 6am to 1am and it takes just 24 minutes to reach Central; the ride costs HK\$130/PGK70 to Hong Kong station.

Taxis operate from the airport with different colours according to the areas in which they operate. Red means they go to most urban areas, green mainly operate ➤



PICTURES SUPPLIED BY MANDARIN ORIENTAL



A harbour view suite at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel (this picture and below).



in the north-eastern New Territories and blue operate on Lantau Island and Chek Lap Kok. A standard fare to Central should cost around HK\$375/PGK205.

Buses also run and are cheaper but slightly slower than the above options. At the airport, the Plaza Premium Lounge is a partner lounge, meaning that Kumul Club members can access the lounge if they are travelling on an Air Niugini flight. Amenities include comfortable seating, plenty of charging ports, complimentary Wi-Fi, hot showers and a variety of food and beverage options.

CHECK-IN

The address to impress is the Peninsula Hotel Hong Kong (peninsula.com) in Tsim Sha Tsui. This is a grand hotel in the vein of Raffles in Singapore with eight onsite restaurants and five-star service. The pale facade dominates the local area and the imposing lobby harks back to when the doors first opened in 1928. Rooms are as large and well appointed as you would expect, and you can head to the Roman-style baths for a soak.





Hong Kong foodie delights ... noodles, Portuguese egg tarts, and fish balls; the founder of Bar Leone, Lorenzo Antinori.

PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD

Located in a shopping and dining hotspot, Conrad Hong Kong (hilton.com) in Admiralty sits above the Pacific Place shopping mall and offers lush rooms with views of the Hong Kong skyline or the lush mountainside. Despite its premium foodie position guests also have plenty of inhouse dining options: French-inspired dishes at Brasserie on the Eighth, traditional Cantonese cuisine at Golden Leaf or Champagne at the Pacific Bar. For extra inclusions book a room on an executive level and access the Executive Lounge for snacks and a quiet place to work.

EAST Hong Kong (easthotels.com) offers a boutique stay with a bit more personality in the heart of Taikoo Shing. Turn your work trip into 'bleisure' at this buzzy address that fosters a sense of community. EAST has an outdoor pool and wellness program, but the social centrepiece is Sugar rooftop bar, which has unbeatable harbour views; inhouse restaurant FEAST (Food by EAST) is a casual all-day diner with a mix of Asian and Western dishes.

RESTAURANTS

Breakfast: For a grab-and-go delight, head to Vission Bakery (vissionbakery.com), an unassuming shopfront in Central. Vission's must-have breakfast is the matcha mochi Danish, bright green with a soft centre of matcha-flavoured cream. Other baked wonders include a wicked banoffee puff, cinnamon crunch monkey bread and Danishes stuffed with pistachio custard.

Lunch: Ho Lee Fook (holeefook.com.hk) takes traditional Cantonese cuisine and gives it a playful twist in a dimly lit space known for its bright red armchairs and booths, and equally rouge wallpaper packed with dragons and floral prints. The restaurant is famous for its razor clams steamed live with aged garlic and soy sauce and glass noodles, but you can also try Hong Kong's famous roast goose.

Networking dinner: For a dinner to impress head to Duddell's (duddells.co), which has artistry on the plate as well as regular art shows; it is a Hong Kong classic. Some of the key dishes, like the crispy skin chicken, which is ladled hundreds of times with hot oil, are the work of culinary artists. This ➤



venerable restaurant had a revamp in 2025 and decor is inspired by the artistic mansions of Guangdong in the 1920s.

Solo dinner: When you don't have to be self-conscious about your slurping make your way to Sister Wah for a bowl of beef brisket noodles. The titular sister is no longer at the helm, but this is still a family-run affair with the next generation making sure the signature herby broth is up to scratch.

DRINKS

Hong Kong is officially home to the best bar in the world. Bar Leone (barleonehk.com) was bestowed with the honour of World's Best Bar for 2025 by The World's 50 Best Bars, and the first Asian bar to hold the top spot. But while the bar may be in Asia it takes its cues from award-winning Italian bartender Lorenzo Antinori who specialises in classic cocktails, like the bellini or a smoky olive (dirty) martini.

Central's The Savory Project (thesavoryproject.com), from the team behind the equally lauded COA, is a less traditional affair and, as the name suggests, it focuses on mixed drinks that have a very distinct savoury or umami flavour. It's a brooding space with backlit mirrors and low lighting, and it has a walk-in policy so get there early.

Maggie Choo's (maggiechoos.com.hk) is a hidden, speakeasy-style jazz joint located within a faux antique shop on Hollywood Road. The mood here reflects the opulence of 1920s Shanghai.

WORKSPACE

A modern shared workspace with a palm-tree-lined rooftop space to take a break, The Hive (thehive.com.hk) in Wan Chai offers hot desks, permanent stations, private offices and shared meeting rooms.

Situated on the busy intersection of Nathan Road and Mong Kok Road, Regus (regus.com) is close to major transport for convenience and it has a range of flexible working options from simple shared desks to spaces for small teams, as well as offices that you can rent by the hour.

For businesses that prioritise good design, WanderLoft (workatwanderloft.com) is a co-working and events space that uses the abundant natural light and a clean modern design to create a workspace that aims to



Tai O (recommended on the next page by Virginia Chan) and the Peak Tram.



PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD

inspire. Located in Kwun Tong this space encourages a sense of community and synergy between its users.

LATEST

Located in buzzy Gough Street in Central, The Spoon (instagram.com/thespoon.pastabar) is a neighbourhood pasta bar with an Asian twist. This new pasta spot is part of a growing trend of pasta places in Hong Kong, and the menu leans heavily on seafood with a crab meat dish inspired by Malaysian chilli crab and a Wagyu ragu with pappardelle that nods to beef rendang.

One of the bestsellers is the quirkily named 'seafood brown butter tomato rigatoooooooooni', which gets its title from the unusually long tube-shaped rigatoni that forms the dish.

ON THE RUN

People think of Hong Kong as a concrete jungle but 40 per cent of the territory is green space. Going up to The Peak is for those who want something quick and paved (but very steep). Lion Rock is challenging so make sure you bring your own water. If you're looking for bucket-list hikes, Dragon's Back was named the world's eighth-best hiking trail by CNN. For a city run with fantastic harbour views, hit the East Coast Boardwalk, which skirts Victoria Harbour and is one of the newest running tracks in the city. Along with the water views there are art installations, cool-down spots and plenty of facilities for runners. ▶

 **Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Hong Kong four times weekly. See airniugini.com.pg.**

THE CONCIERGE SAYS

“

One way to relax in Hong Kong is to head to Uncle Ming's whiskey bar atop AKI Hotel Hong Kong. Delight in bespoke cocktail tastings overlooking the city's spectacular skyline and serene waters or choose from over 100 international whiskies for a moment to unwind. For spas, Floww or Sense of Touch in Wan Chai are great choices and just a quick hop from AKI.

For some green space, Admiralty's Tamar Park, just one MTR station from Wan Chai, offers lush lawns connecting to the waterfront via the adjoining Central and Western District promenade.

Within a five-minute stroll from AKI lies Wan Chai Ferry Pier, gateway to Hong Kong's iconic Star Ferry. Step aboard the double-decker *Shining Star*, a faithful replica of a 1920s ferry, to slowly glide across Victoria Harbour.

”

JARET CHOW, CONCIERGE, AKI HOTEL HONG KONG – MGALLERY



2025 AUDITED RESULT

ANNUAL INTEREST
CREDITING RATE

13%



1.086
Billion Kina
(2024: 849M)



856
Million
(2024: 793M)



9.45
Billion Kina
(2024: 8.12 Billion)



611
Million
(2024: 591M)



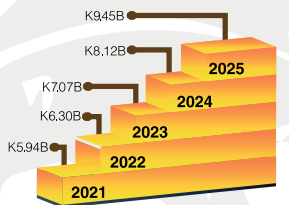
1.01%
(2024: 1.02%)



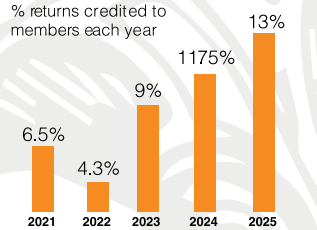
744,213
(2024: 715,873)

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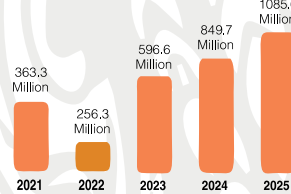
Net Assets Value
Growth
Billion — Total Fund Assets



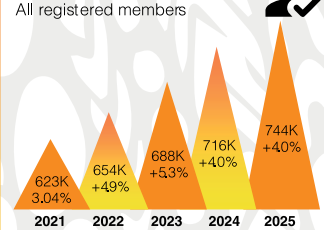
Annual
Crediting Rate



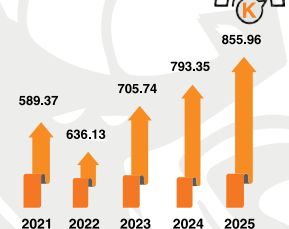
Net Profit
After Tax
Millions — Fund profit ability



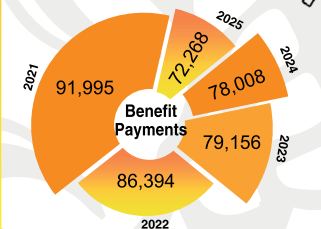
Total Membership
Base



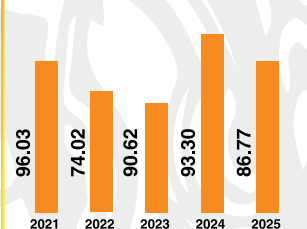
Contributions
(Millions)



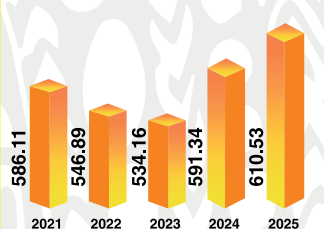
Number of
Transactions



Total Taxes
paid (Millions)

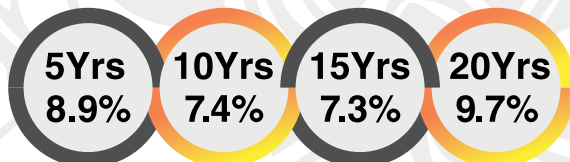


Withdrawals
(Millions)



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MY TOWN

VIRGINIA CHAN, Humid with a Chance of Fishballs authentic city tours and cultural experiences (humidwithachanceoffishballs.com).

Q: What must a visitor to Hong Kong do?

A: My absolute favourite tourist attraction is the Peak Tram. Tour guide tip: take a leisurely stroll to Lugard Road Lookout for a magnificent 180-degree view of the city. Also, you can prebuy or use your Octopus Card (a contactless payment card for public transport and some retail outlets) to skip the line. To experience Hong Kong's colonial past, Tai Kwun is great. It's the magistrate, prison and former police station all together and has

lots of fun exhibitions. To better understand Hong Kong's fishing village past, visit Tai O. You can still see the stilt houses, and all the seafood drying. Also, going into a trolley service dim sum place like Lin Heung Lau will instantly take you back to the city's past.

Q: What makes Hong Kong great?

A: My favourite thing about Hong Kong is how the old and the new are so perfectly intertwined and how the synergy between east and west blends so perfectly together. Did you know that Hong Kong has the most skyscrapers in the world? When you're on Victoria's Peak, the highest point on Hong Kong Island, you'll be able to see the skyscrapers in full view.

Q: Where would you go for a coffee meeting?

A: It needs to be somewhere convenient, with good coffee, but not too crowded where you can't get a seat. Usually, I like to go to Coffeelin, in Central; it's right next to the Central MTR station exit D2. For those having a meeting over at Quarry Bay, I like Alchemy ORIGIN. Bright and wonderful interiors with lots of seating.

Q: What about an after-work drink?

A: If you're looking for a hotel bar, then my go-to is Argo at the Four Seasons. It's got fantastic cocktails, and it's probably got the nicest interior of any bar in Hong Kong. ■

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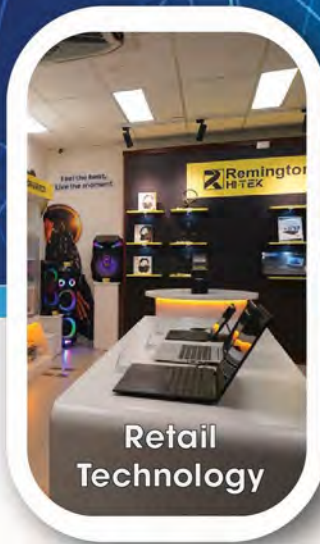


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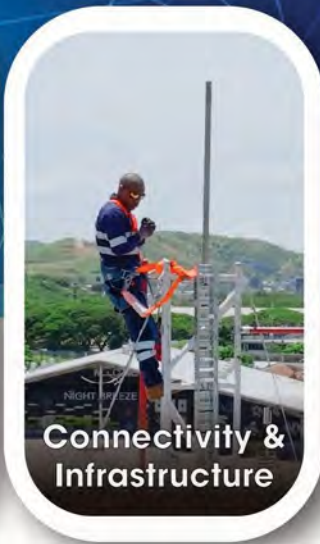
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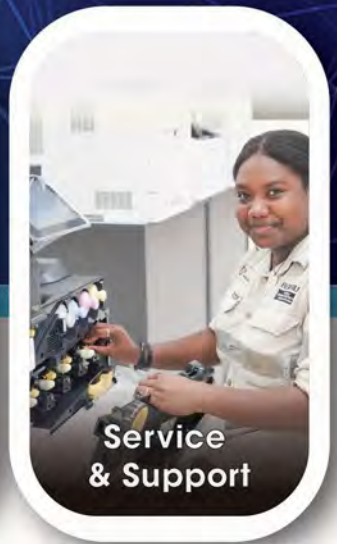
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YASAWA PICTURES: TOURISM FIJI

THE FIJI YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Craig Tansley picks the lesser-known islands of Fiji that warrant a visit.

Fiji isn't one destination, it's 333. That's a lot of islands, but most travellers won't go beyond the main island, Viti Levu. Here are three other options.



1 YASAWA ISLANDS

Why it's a virtual secret

Closed off to land-based tourism until 1986, the Yasawa Islands still have no major airports, and development has been purposely scaled back, with no big hotel chains allowed.

Why you should go

You want paradise but with plenty of exclusivity and luxury? Then this is your ultimate fantasy. There are 20 islands here – and they're home to Fiji's best beaches, by far. And set across these islands you'll find some of the South Pacific's best private island resorts. When you picture Fiji, it's the Yasawa Islands you're thinking of.

How hard is it to get there?

Not hard, at all. After arriving in Fiji with Air Niugini you can transfer to a propeller plane, sea plane or helicopter and be in the Yasawa Islands in 25 minutes. Or take a private boat, or even the ferry (regular ferries come here from Port Denarau via the Mamanuca Islands, but they take between three and five hours).

What you can't miss

Go island hopping. Book a private boat tour and check out all these islands – stopping at tiny sand cays, snorkelling off beaches and stopping in at resort bars and restaurants. There are tiny waves here if you fancy an easy or intermediate surf and the diving is world class. This is also one of the best spots



The pristine waters of the Yasawa Islands (this picture and below left); the Taveuni Palms Resort (right and below right)



TAVEUNI PICTURES: TAVEUNI PALMS



on earth to swim with manta rays, and you can also try an Awakening Shark Dive with bull and tiger sharks, designed by shark expert Dr Thomas Vignaud. And you must check out Sawa-i-Lau caves where you can swim through an underwater tunnel into a cave lit by sunshine.

Where to stay

Fly in on a grass runway to Yasawa Island Resort & Spa and sleep in a villa right on the beach. You have 11 private beaches on the island, and private picnics can be served on all of them. Or dine under the stars, in a restaurant beside the water. yasawa.com

2 TAVEUNI

Why it's a virtual secret

It's a 75-minute flight from your arrival airport at Nadi, so fewer tourists bother. There's also no mass tourism here with no resort strips, little in the way of nightlife and no hotel chains. What's more, because of its reputation as the Garden Island of Fiji, visitors assume there's only wilderness here.

Why you should go

It's stunning – huge mountains drop right into the sea, like the settings in the *Jurassic Park* movies. And the sea is full of fish and coral – in fact, the Somosomo Strait, beside Taveuni, is one of the world's best dive spots, home to over 1200 species of fish. And over

80 per cent of the island is protected within a national heritage park – so there's waterfalls and mountain hikes all over. And yet, all this is simply a perfect backdrop to what you can experience. You'll find some of the most romantic villas and eco-stays in Fiji, and great restaurants and bars.

How hard is it to get there?

Not difficult. After arriving in Fiji with Air Niugini fly 75 minutes from Nadi with Air Fiji on one of several daily flights. The flights start about F\$280 (about PGK550) each way.

What you can't miss

Luxuriate on an island with all the five-star convenience you'll ever desire but mixed in with a small island quirkiness and the ➤



“

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PICTURES: NAMALE RESORT & SPA



Pool bliss at the Namale Resort & Spa at Vanua Levu.

sorts of venues you'll soon feel like a local at. Foodies will love the genuine farm-to-table gourmet treats on Taveuni, from the seafood curries at perennial favourite Coconut Grove Oceanfront Restaurant to the sunset views from high above the ocean at the ultimate south seas bar setting, Tramonto by the Sea Restaurant & Bar.

Where to stay

Opt for the mega-luxurious private villas with their own pools at Taveuni Palms Resort with the kind of romantic vibe that attracts honeymooners. Each villa sits on its own private beachfront, so exclusivity is guaranteed. taveunipalms.com

3 VANUA LEVU

Why it's a virtual secret

It's Fiji's second-largest island and it's located barely 60 kilometres from Viti Levu, yet most of Vanua Levu still runs on sugar and

coconuts (copra). Sugar might be important here, but if privacy is more your desire, there's no better island in the South Pacific.

Why you should go

Imagine an island that appears deserted but has some of the planet's best hidden-away private resorts and eco-stays. Vanua Levu is like a secret society that you'll want to be a part of.

How hard is it to get there?

Easy. There are 50-minute flights from Nadi Airport leaving several times a day, from F\$230 (about PGK450) each way.

What you can't miss

Nowhere in the South Seas is more laid back and uncrowded. The island has mostly dirt roads except a gloriously scenic strip of bitumen called the Hibiscus Highway, looking out across the 200-kilometre-long Great Sea Reef (a prime diving location). Round-the-world yachties gather at a rustic yacht

club bar, in sleepy tourist and sugar town Savusavu. But the real attraction is the string of world-class five-star resorts sprinkled across a remote coastline. There's everything here from famed US motivational speaker Tony Robbins' 200-hectare paradise, Namale Resort & Spa, to Savasi Island Resort, set on its own 20-hectare private island, to Koro Sun Resort, set on 65 hectares of wilderness overlooking the sea.

Where to stay

And yet, it's hard to go past one of the planet's first genuine luxury eco-resorts, Jean-Michel Cousteau Resort. Created by the son of diving pioneer Jacques, this resort is as good for families as it is for couples.

fijiresort.com ■

✈ Air Niugini flies from Port Moresby to Nadi twice a week. See airniugini.com.pg.



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HOTEL REVIEW: CROWNE PLAZA FIJI NADI BAY

Tel +679 6700 6700, see fijnadibay.crowneplaza.com.

WHO STAYS? Mix of business and leisure travellers (including families with young children).

HOW BIG? 324 rooms

COST Standard rooms from FJ\$427 a night.

CHECK IN 2pm

CHECK OUT 11am

HIGHLIGHTS The daily aqua aerobics class is led by an entertaining team.

- Wi-Fi in rooms:
- TV:
- Air conditioning in room:
- Swimming pool:
- Room service:
- Free airport transfers:
- Gym:
- Hotel arranges tours:
- Breakfast included in standard charge:



PICTURES: FIONA HARPER

LOCATION

Crowne Plaza Fiji Nadi Bay Resort & Spa is at Wailoaloa Beach, about 15 minutes by road from Nadi International Airport. The beachfront hotel sits midway between Denarau and Vuda Marina. There’s a handful of local bars lining the beachfront.

THE PLACE

The resort opened in 2018 under the Pullman brand. It was acquired by US-based former Fijian Jay Singh in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. A multi-million-dollar reconstruction has breathed new life into it, with further upgrades to the spa, gym and kids club still to come. Wailoaloa translates from Fijian into ‘black sand’, so don’t expect the sort of brochure-worthy beaches found in the Mamanuca or Yasawa Islands. There is, however, a strip of imported white sand dotted with sun lounges. But Crowne Plaza is really all about swimming pools – six of them – including two near-100-metre lap pools.

ROOMS

There are 324 rooms and suites across four accommodation wings. The original standard rooms in two central wings have undergone soft refurbishment. Second and third-floor rooms have triangular balconies, some with ocean or pool views. Ground-floor rooms open onto grassy terraces and pool-facing rooms

are just a few steps from the water. But it’s the two new wings where this hotel shines. One and two-bedroom suites are styled in neutral contemporary tones while a wall of glass bathes them in natural light. Ground-floor suites have direct pool access while upper levels enjoy ocean or pool views.

FOOD AND DRINK

Dining and bar options are plentiful: La Bottega Italian Ristorante is fine dining, complete with a pizza oven. Harvest is a relaxed all-day restaurant and offers an extensive international breakfast buffet. Azura offers casual poolside lunches. Urban Sugar Beach Club is the resort’s centrepiece with a DJ spinning tunes each afternoon, lounges that spill onto the deck along with sunken glass-sided poolside tables that give the impression of dining underwater. Latitude Lounge Bar is sultry and sophisticated, while 17.78 Whiskey Bar is an intimate speakeasy-styled bar. Add a coffee shop, lobby bar and swim-up pool bar and there’s no shortage of venues.

WHAT GUESTS LIKE

“Loved every bit of the place, the friendly services from the staff, the delicious food especially breakfast. The rooms were just so divine.” – Google

“Perfection. The rooms are comfortable and the staff outstanding.” – Google



HOTEL REVIEW: CITI BOUTIQUE HOTEL, PORT MORESBY

Tel +675 300 1300, Lahara Avenue, lahara.citigrouppng.com

WHO STAYS? A mix of professional athletes, fans, medical tourists, religious groups, business travellers and families.

HOW BIG? 59 rooms, with a choice between deluxe queen and deluxe twin. You can also inquire at the hotel to stay at any of the 78 apartments in various locations (East Boroko, Vaivai Avenue and Korobosea).

COST PGK420–990

CHECK IN/ CHECK OUT

2pm/10am

HIGHLIGHTS The Rooftop Terrace Bar and the 5/8th Bar Hall have views into the Santos National Football Stadium. The stadium will be the home ground of the country’s first NRL team, the PNG Chiefs, set to debut in 2028.

NEARBY The Santos National Football Stadium (on the stadium’s premises is the Locker Room Cafe & Bar), Rita Flynn Netball Centre and Boroko Market.

- Wi-Fi in rooms:
- TV:
- Air conditioning in room:
- Swimming pool:
- Room service:
- Free airport transfers:
- Business centre:
- Breakfast included in standard charge:



PICTURES: WILLIE BAYANG

LOCATION

Citi Boutique Hotel is 15 minutes from the airport but next door to the country’s best sporting facilities and Boroko Market. It is just outside Central Boroko where you can find shops like Brian Bell Plaza and Garden City.

THE PLACE

There’s something for everyone at Citi Boutique – from sports fans who want to catch a big PNG Kumuls game to couples needing a weekend away (the Infinity Salon is in the lobby, and the Infinity Spa is on the second floor). Rooms are found on the first and second floors, while dining options are on levels three and four. The hotel is owned by local real estate entrepreneur Jonny Philips, and is just one of the five properties under Citi Group (PNG) Ltd.

ROOMS

Citi Boutique has 39 deluxe queen rooms and 20 deluxe twin rooms.

FOOD AND DRINK

Lahara Restaurant on level three provides all-day dining, with a mix of Pacific-inspired cuisine and international classic dishes. The

Wine Room is stocked with old-world and new-world wine that you can enjoy with a cheese plate. The Red Velvet Lounge, which lives up to its name, is decked out with a long red velvet booth that lines the walls of the room and is perfect for cocktails or a date night.



From here, you can take things up another level to the Rooftop Terrace Bar (pictured), a great spot for barbecue or grilled dishes and drinks while watching live rugby next door. The two conference rooms and the 5/8th Bar & Hall cater for large groups.

WHAT GUESTS LIKE

“Customer service was excellent. Citi Boutique staff are kind and greet with smiles. Rooms are cleaned every day. Towels are replaced every day.” – TripAdvisor

“I come to Citi Boutique often for personal space and to enjoy food. Its comfy and quiet. If you are looking for such, Citi Boutique is the one to go.” – TripAdvisor

“Staff were amazing, hotel was convenient for the purpose of my visit and was also very clean.” – Booking.com



TIME TRAVELLER

Volcanic devastation, Rabaul, 1994

On the morning of September 19, 1994, after days of tremors had forewarned of a serious event and enabled all residents of Rabaul to evacuate safely to nearby villages and Kokopo, the cones of volcanoes Tavurvur and Vulcan began to erupt simultaneously. They emitted huge volumes of material, reaching an estimated six kilometres into the sky. It was the heavy falls of ash and pumice that covered and destroyed most of Rabaul's buildings, the airport and other infrastructure.

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



PICTURES: POST COURIER

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COLOUR ME HAPPY

A TOLAI WOMAN SHOWCASING
HER PNG HERITAGE

PNG-Australian arts presenter Namila Benson
is a champion of colour, cultures and connectivity.
Belinda Jackson reports.

It was a box of children's paints that cemented broadcaster Namila Benson's signature look on Australian television, bringing the striking colours of Papua New Guinea to a notoriously black-clad discipline.

"I was at home with young kids, a two- and a three-year-old, and we were playing with face paint. I put the blue face paint on as lipstick, and I thought, 'I love this! I love this colour'," says Benson, a radio broadcaster on Radio Australia's Pacific Service, host of ABC TV's weekly *Art Works* program and presenter of the recent *The Art of ...* series for ABC TV.

"And then I tried a deep, beautiful green as lipstick, and people started commenting and asking about it, and it just worked – it's become my signature look."

It could be written off as simply make-up, but colour is integral to Benson's work and connection to PNG. The broadcaster's family traded the warmth of East New Britain's capital, Rabaul, for sometimes chilly Melbourne in 1973.

"My mum was pregnant with me when we came, so I was born in Melbourne. But I'm thankful for my parents – even though we were far away from our village, our cultural ways and our language were very much rooted in day-to-day life. My parents are both Tolai, and they always expressed the importance of knowing who we are, and I love that I've been raised to know who the people are that claim me.

"No matter where I go in the world, I'm a Tolai woman, a Melanesian woman through and through."

Raised in Melbourne's inner east, she grew up in the only PNG family in the area. "But even though the PNG community here in Australia was small, it was tight, so my family always had deep connections."

Her parents, she recalls, would prepare food, tell stories, and bring dances and songs from home.

"And I do that now with my own children, who've also been raised here. I keep our ancestral legacies and our old people alive."

It's not just through language, song and food: Benson also uses her PNG roots to inform her personal style.

"Melbourne, especially in the arts, is so about wearing black, and when I started the *Art Works* television series in 2021, I used to wear a lot of black, until the ABC stylists sat me down and said, 'This is television, and you're not going to a funeral. You're someone. Look at the culture you come from; you can get away with wearing colour'.

"And ever since then, it's all been loud prints and loud colours. I'm all about a good pattern clash," she says, with a laugh.

"I wear a lot of *bilas* – my pig tusk, my earrings woven by island sisters, the neck pieces, I love my *meri* blouses from PNG, and I used to wear a lot of *bilums* (bags), looped around my neck. In PNG, they're a beautiful way of expressing yourself, as well as being practical."

Growing up, the family would return to PNG every couple of years. Now, when she's home, Benson travels to PNG to see and ➤



PICTURE: DOUG GIMESY

“

No matter where I go in the world, I'm a Tolai woman, a Melanesian woman through and through.

”

Namila Benson likes to show off the striking colours of PNG.



PICTURE: NICK HARRISON





Namila Benson lives in Australia but is drawn to Rabaul to spend time with family.

document arts events, but inevitably she is drawn to Rabaul to spend time with her family.

"Reconnecting with my bloodline is super important to me," she says. "My sons identify as Tolai – they can say the names of their great greats, they know exactly where their matrilineal land is, who their Grandmothers are.

"There's something about your essence that changes when you're back home – you don't have to justify yourself, and that's so refreshing and so peaceful. And there, I'm quite dull and boring, barely anyone looks at me. Even when I was back in Moresby (to film *The Art of ... Home*, the final, PNG-based episode of her recent arts series), I didn't stand out in any way unless people heard my accent.

"The sisters there are on fire. It's really beautiful seeing the confidence of this next generation, how they move in the world, between *tokples* (local language/dialect) and English, holding their own within a Western context and switching back to the real deal."

She's now begun to explore further afield across the country.

"I really, really love Kavieng (the capital of New Ireland Province) but the one place I'd love to visit in PNG is Bougainville; I've always thought it looks absolutely stunning," says

“
It's all been loud prints
and loud colours.
I'm all about a good
pattern clash.

Benson, citing Bougainville Elder Aunty Sana Balai from Buka Island as her inspiration.

The Assistant Curator for Indigenous Arts at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) for the past 16 years, Balai has laid a strong foundation for Melanesian artists and their work, to be seen and understood without having to adapt to a Western lens, says Benson.

"She's a strong cultural woman, talking about her culture, community and ways," she says. "Maybe it's about being island cultures, and not from the mainland, but there are a lot of similarities between her Buka and

my Tolai cultures, and we both come from strong matrilineal heritage, so I've always wanted to go to Buka."

As a keen observer and reporter on PNG arts, Benson has a long list of black Pacific artists she admires, from Port Moresby rapper Sprigga Mek to Madang-born actress, playwright and screenwriter Wendy Mocke.

"On stage and on screen, she's all hits, no misses. She's always driven by her homeland. Madang inspires her and the ocean inspires her. She's a powerhouse.

"And I'm really, really loving (sculptor) Grace Dlabik; as an arts practitioner, she's finally stepping into her own, with Elder Aunty Lahui Arua, who's 104 years old, making clay pots and doing it the proper village way."

Painter Lesley Wengenbo is also singled out for his hyperrealistic portrait work.

"You see the work he's created, and it's unmistakable he's a PNG artist.

"And in dance, theatre, writing and visual arts, there are so many extraordinary people, like Yuriyal Bridgeman, who's doing wonderful things with his Kuman shield paintings, West Papuan singer Voice of Lele (Lea Rumwaropen) and visual and performance artist Jeffry Feeger; there's definitely no shortage of wantoks doing incredible things.

"So, when it comes to the future of PNG artists and artistry, I think it's just going to be a continuation of expanding and experimenting with different materiality that artists are being exposed to, as they adapt to where they live – at home or abroad."

Yet, she says, art through a Western lens hasn't always been welcoming or neutral.

"Melanesian artists haven't always been welcome or seen as valid," she says. While Polynesian art is perceived as contemporary, she argues Melanesian art is seen as historical, or static. "Yet there are many PNG contemporary artists who are creating internationally recognised works – and doing so powerfully – telling ancestral stories, with a contemporary twist."

And through her work as a broadcaster, producer and presenter, as well as a speaker at art and literary festivals, Benson feels a responsibility to tell those stories. ➤





PNG RW26

PAPUA NEW GUINEA RESOURCES WEEK 2026

29 JUNE - 17 JULY | APEC HAUS PORT MORESBY

Scan to LEARN MORE



PNG Resources Week is the country's premier resources event, uniting industry leaders, policy makers, landowners, and project partners. It showcases the latest developments in mining, energy, and petroleum, highlights investment opportunities, and celebrates the vital role the resources sector plays in Papua New Guinea's growth and development.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 29 June - 10 July** PNG Resources Golden Exhibition | APEC Haus, Port Moresby
- 8 - 9 July** PNG Resources Week Career Fair | APEC Haus
- 13 - 15 July** CANCONEX | APEC Haus, Port Moresby
- 16 July** PNG Resources Summit | APEC Haus, Port Moresby
- 16 July** PNG Resources Summit Gala Dinner | The Stanley Hotel
- 17 July** PNG Resources Week Charity Golf Challenge | Royal Port Moresby Golf Club



PNG IW26

PAPUA NEW GUINEA INVESTMENT WEEK 2026

29 NOV - 2 DEC | ICC SYDNEY

Scan to LEARN MORE



PNG Investment Week is Papua New Guinea's leading investment event, bringing together government, industry, and global investors to explore new opportunities across key growth sectors. The event creates a powerful platform for connection, collaboration, and investment, positioning PNG as a competitive and attractive destination for business.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 28 November** Sponsors Boat Cruise
- 29 November** PNG Climate Investment Summit
- 29 November** PNG Regulators Forum
- 29 November** PNG International Suppliers Forum
- 29 November** PNG Investment Week Expo
- 29 November** President's Dinner
- 30 November** PNG Investment Leaders Summit
- 30 November** PNG Investment Week Gala Dinner
- 30 November** PNG Investment Week Expo
- 1 December** PNG Resources and Energy Investment Summit
- 1 December** PNG Investment Week Expo
- 2 December** PNG Infrastructure Investment Summit
- 2 December** PNG Investment Week Expo
- 3 December** PNG Investment Week Charity Golf Challenge

PICTURE: DOUG GIMESY



Namila Benson in Melbourne.

“People are yearning for something beyond status quo – I feel it with the content I make; it’s not necessarily about mainstream art, but it’s the important perspectives. When

I’m doing a story. I look for whose voice is missing ... I know my life would be easier if I went for the big names (to report on), but there are too many compelling stories flying under the radar.

“What I’ve learned from my Tolai culture is that everyone gets a say, everyone gets a seat at the table.”

While support for the arts is always questioned, for Benson it is artists who are giving a voice to the big issues of the day.

“In PNG, we come from oral histories, with beautiful storytelling. This is what drives us, beautiful and extraordinary narratives that hold a mirror up to us.

“I think the arts is a platform to dive into bigger conversations about who we are and how we identify, and that’s what I see with these contemporary and multidisciplinary artists I’ve connected with. They’re holding really important conversations about who we are.

“I feel the artists, more than politicians, have been at the forefront of holding extraordinary global conversations, such as Black Lives Matter and Me Too – showing up the way politicians aren’t equipped to do, unapologetically saying, ‘No, this is where we draw the line. Let’s name the problematic power dynamics’.

“The arts are profound and transformative, and eloquently express the deepest parts that we can struggle sometimes to verbalise.

“But I can look at a piece of art, or listen to music, or witness a dance or learn a song and there’s something about it that can move me to tears. Or create a spark that makes me think, ‘That’s what I’ve been struggling to say or understand’. A piece of art that creates this internal shift that clicks beautifully into shape, and I think, ‘Now I get it.’” ■



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PNG ON THE NEW YORK

RUNWAY

Fashionistas were held breathless in the US recently at a fashion parade that showcased *bilum* wear. *Theresa Patterson* reports.





PICTURES: THE BUREAU FASHION WEEK

It was a very special moment for Florence Jaukae Kamel when models adorned in her *bilum* wear swayed down the runway at New York Fashion Week in February.

"Everyone was quiet when the models walked out because the *bilum* was something new," she says, now back in Papua New Guinea, in her home province of Eastern Highlands. "People are used to cashmere, silk and cotton but not *bilum*."

A traditional, spacious bag, *bilum* means 'womb' in Tok Pisin, reflecting how it is often used to carry and rock babies to sleep. Being strong enough, *bilums* have also been used to carry firewood and food. Today, they are also a trending wardrobe staple and a source of pride for PNG women, particularly the diaspora abroad.

Inspired to extend or transform the string bag, more than 20 years ago Kamel created her first *bilum* dress, styled after the skin patterns of the carpet snake. While the dress idea initially caused skepticism, the steady grind at her craft – which saw her ultimately train over 500 PNG women in developing natural fibre garments – paid off with opportunities to create select pieces for Miss PNG in the early 2000s, the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne and the Pacific International Runway in Sydney in 2018 (among many others).

The exhibition at New York this year marked her second one there (her first was during United Nations Week in 2015). This time, the 13 items unveiled were taken from both her '*Bilum Meri* Collection' and the '*Niyana Cowrie* Collection', which had outfits detailed with cowrie shells sourced from Finschhafen in PNG's Morobe Province.

Working with the not-for-profit Amuni Foundation, Kamel, sometimes referred to as '*Bilum Meri*', co-delivered *bilum* training for women from Finschhafen. Some of the women had to travel four hours by boat and five hours by bus to attend the training sessions.

The sessions equipped artisan weavers with the skills and knowledge needed to earn an income from their craft.

PNG *bilum* wear paraded on the catwalk for New York Fashion Week included 13 outfits from the collection of Florence Jaukae Kamel.

“Everyone was quiet when the models walked out because the *bilum* was something new.”

When Kamel isn't training, exhibiting or creating, she is connecting over 3000 women weavers in PNG with buyers worldwide. Her biggest client is Sydney-based not-for-profit Among Equals, which ships orders to more than 50 retail outlets globally. The sales through the company directly benefit the artisans, who individually may support a household of up to 10 people. That's many families with money in their pockets, school tuition paid or food on the table.

Long term, she has plans to build a *bilum* hub in Goroka to help weavers with materials and a workspace to design their items. It is also her dream to build a *bilum* museum, given the cultural artefact has an audience in museums in Australia and New Zealand. In September this year, the Goroka *Bilum* Festival will kick off its 17th year of celebrations, alongside the famous Goroka Show.

Meanwhile, in the short term, Kamel is targeting a few more fashion weeks and runways happening regionally.

Reflecting on the milestone event and her journey, she shares: "*Mi brukim bush na pikinini blo mi, ol PNG meri, bai karim na go het wantaim bilum.*" ('I am giving it a go and creating an opportunity for my children, the PNG women, to carry the craft of *bilum* wear forward'.) ■



MOVERS AND SHAKERS



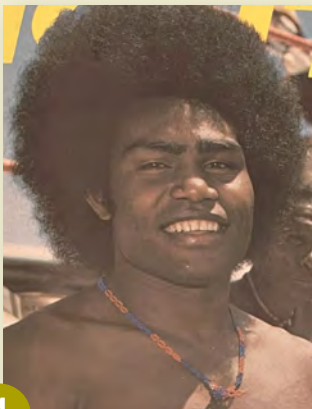
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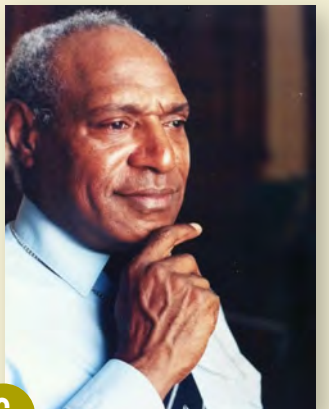
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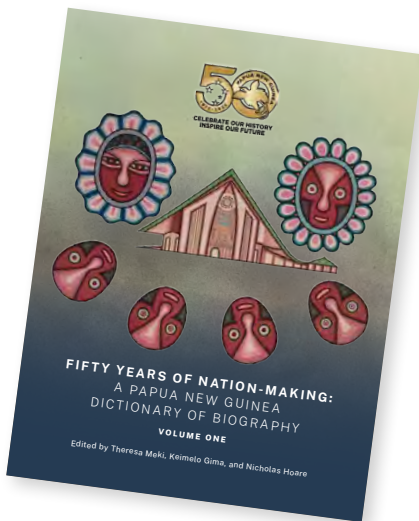
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6



A biography of prominent Papua New Guineans casts light on people who have helped shape the nation. *Richard Andrews* reports.



The cover of *Fifty Years of Nation-Making*.

1

**Higher education governance
Cecilia Nembou.**

PICTURE: BENBERTH KADUM,
COURTESY OF UPNG.

2

**Public service reformer,
sports personality and high
commissioner John Kali.**

PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY HIGH COMMISSION
OF PNG, CANBERRA

3

**The 'mother of business
incubation' Linda Voyorite.**

PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY LINDA VOYORITE

4

**Boxer
Martin Beni.**

PICTURE: FIGHTER MAGAZINE

5

**Women's advocate
Dame Kilapelema Amini.**

PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY AMINI
FAMILY ARCHIVES

6

**Civil servant, lawyer, diplomat,
politician Sir Anthony Siaguru.**

PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY SIAGURU ARCHIVES

Imagine finding an old trunk in the attic, unopened for years, containing memories of the joys, sorrows, relationships and achievements that have shaped your family for generations.

That's what it's like reading *Fifty Years of Nation-Making: A Papua New Guinea Dictionary of Biography*. In this case, however, 'family' means the nation, according to Dame Meg Taylor.

"This work honours our founding fathers, mothers and the generation of Papua New Guineans that followed them," says the country's first woman lawyer, and social justice trailblazer.

Her introduction highlights "those individuals who, through their separate and collective efforts, guided us to our current position as an independent nation."

The *Dictionary of Biography* includes Dame Taylor's profile among 29 narratives of men and women who have shaped PNG's society through their political, legal, social, cultural, medical, educational and military contributions.

Published by the Australian National University (ANU) with support from the Australian government, the volume's entries were curated and edited by ANU researchers Theresa Meki and Nicholas Hoare, as well as lecturer Keimelo Gima from the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG).

"The current project, led by the three of us, is the rejuvenation of an earlier University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) project," say the editors, who worked tirelessly to track down and involve relevant contributors.

The book's choice of subjects and personalised writing style depart from the standard who's who approach of similar collections.

Launched last September, the book features authors from UPNG, the University of Goroka and Divine Word University, as well as other academics, students from overseas universities and people outside of academia.

Workshops were organised to train new writers, who in turn raised "culturally specific" issues that had to be navigated.

For example, one writer asked: "If I am going into a community to interview a resident there, I'll have to acknowledge the community leaders and seek collective permission prior to conducting that interview – how do I do that?"

Another asked: "What if my subject is a big-man in his society and has three wives – do I include that piece of information in his biography?"

As it turned out, many of the biographies were written by descendants such as the son and daughter of gender equality advocate Dame Kila Amini and the granddaughter of Kuri Dom, an influential theologian and community developer.

Other contributors include friends and colleagues of the participants. The tribute to Sir George Telek (featured in the February issue of *Paradise*) was written by David Bridie, the Australian songwriter, composer and co-founder of *Not Drowning, Waving*.

In many ways Telek's biography dramatically embodies the story and spirit of PNG's people.

Bridie writes how the internationally celebrated artist has blended traditional and contemporary music, promoted traditional culture and addressed societal challenges – all while overcoming the destruction of his home by the Tavurvur eruption in 1994 and treatment for squamous cell carcinoma, due to chewing *buai*, or betel nut.

Another dramatically significant entry tells of Martin Beni whose 1974 fight ➤



“

This work honours our founding fathers, mothers and the generation of Papua New Guineans that followed them.

”

with Australian lightweight champion Colin Cassidy halted proceedings in PNG's House of Assembly. The boxing match was seen as a "symbolic moment for a country searching for unity, pride and identity."

Many entries in *The Dictionary of Biography* celebrate the contribution of women to PNG's development.

Among others, Dame Kilapelema Rupa Amini is portrayed as a leading advocate for women's rights and education; Waliyato Clows broke barriers for women in politics by becoming one of PNG's first female parliamentarians.

Sister Lorraine Garasu is hailed as a key figure in promoting peace and reconciliation after the bloody Bougainville conflict; Muriel Lerner advocated for disabled artisans, while Ibal Powaseu overcame polio and societal barriers, also to fight for disability rights; Linda Boyorite was prominent for her

role in business development and women's empowerment.

In other areas, David Linge's contribution to medical education and research is acknowledged; Bernard Narakobi is credited for his part in shaping PNG's constitution and legal framework, and as an advocate for religious rights and identity.

Volume 2 of the book is planned to coincide with next year's Pacific History Association conference, hosted by UPNG.

***Fifty Years of Nation-Making: A Papua New Guinea Dictionary of Biography, Volume 1* is published by the ANU. For further details contact ANU Department of Pacific Affairs, bellschool.anu.edu.au/dpa. PDF copies can be downloaded from hdl.handle.net/1885/733768950. ■**

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THE HISTORY OF PNG

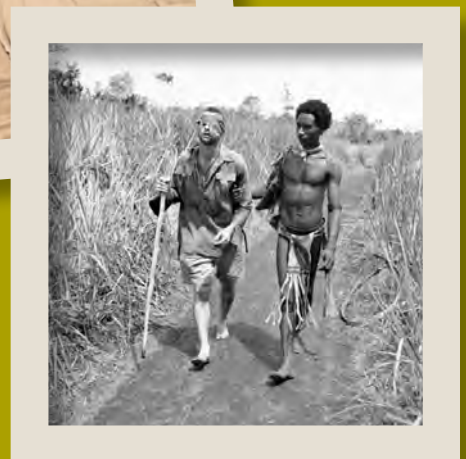
Roderick Eime delves into a book that lays out PNG's history in a straightforward and understandable way.



PICTURE LW JOHNSON



PICTURE: COURTESY ALAN KERR



PICTURE: GEORGE SILK

Moments in history featured in Eric Johns' book include PNG's founding father Michael Somare with Australian politician Andrew Peacock (above); taking the oath (above right); the iconic Fuzzy Wuzzy image (right).



I'm beyond impressed with anyone who can sit down and write a history of any country, let alone one as complex and diverse as Papua New Guinea, yet Eric Johns has managed just that with *A History of Papua New Guinea: From Prehistory to Independence*.

Johns is neither a contract writer nor a lofty academic; instead, his insight comes from years of teaching in PNG and a cultivated network of credentialled peers whom he openly acknowledges for their contributions.

This book is Johns' third, following on from his two-book series *PNG History Through Stories*, both of which are listed in the country's education curriculum as official resources.

As such, this comprehensive 635-page volume spans PNG's prehistory to its independence in 1975 and was published, not accidentally, in the 50th anniversary year of the country's independence.

Aimed at regular readers and advanced students, the writing is easily digestible and straightforward, making PNG, with its mind-boggling linguistic diversity, fragmented geography and relatively recent emergence as a sovereign state, much easier to understand.

As a sporadic traveller to PNG myself over the past 20 years, I know that the country never ceases to reveal new and fascinating insights. My interest in military history, in particular, keeps me coming back and Johns' work goes a long way to answering lingering questions that have occupied much conversation over dinner tables.

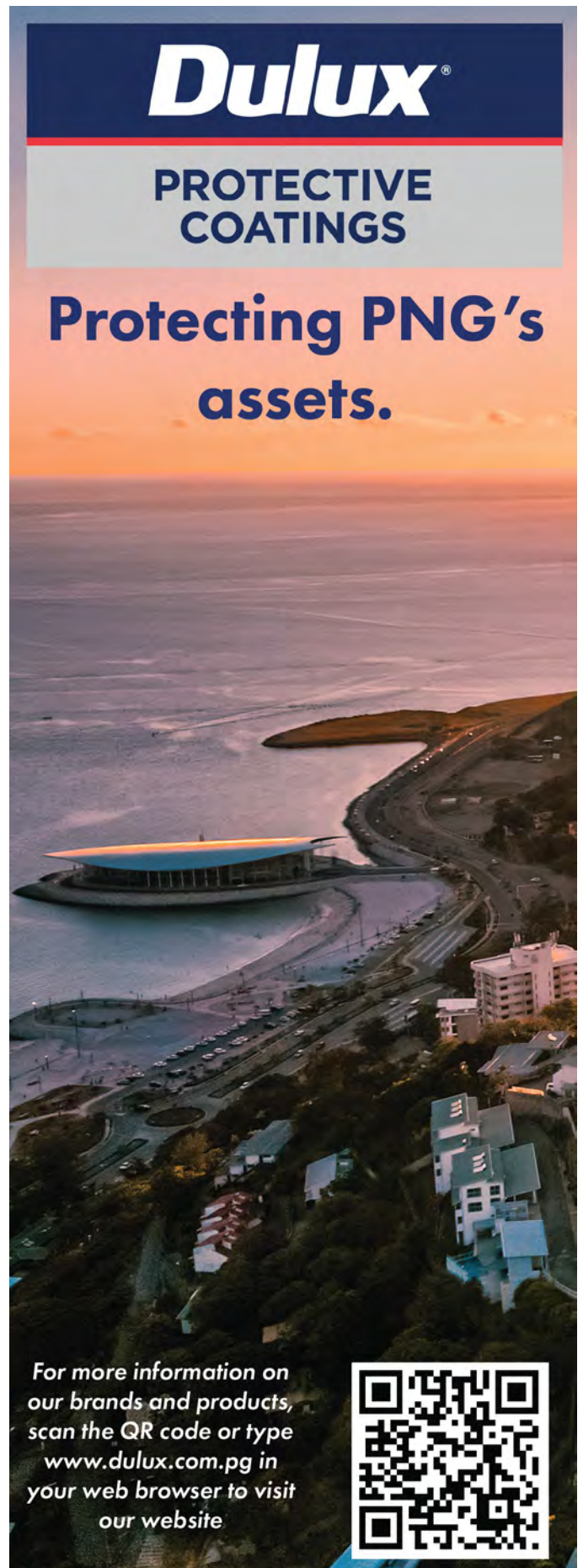
“

Aimed at regular readers and advanced students, the writing makes PNG much easier to understand.

”

Case in point are the legendary Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels, who played such a crucial role in the Allied campaign of World War 2. John's book casts light on the truth of their involvement. Popular accounts paint them as cheerful, hard-working and reliable aides to the military: carrying supplies, evacuating the wounded, and generally helping in any way they could. The 'angel' was immortalised in a poem and by the iconic photograph of Papuan Raphael Oimbari leading the wounded Australian soldier George Whittington to safety.

In truth, as Johns elaborates, "most carriers (and other labourers) were forcibly conscripted. While labourers often formed friendly relationships with Australian or American soldiers, the popular mythology also ignores details about the often-harsh treatment of labourers by their white overseers, or the suffering of village people when over-recruiting took place." ➤




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Johns also reminds us that “three battalions of Papuans and New Guineans, led by Australian officers, took part in the war against Japan ... they took part in every major campaign waged by the Australians, except for Milne Bay.”

He does not shy away from describing how the war affected Papua and New Guinea, offering a thoughtful and sensitive analysis of the lingering after-effects and how these fed into the desire for eventual independence.

An area where my knowledge is sadly lacking is the vast prehistory of PNG. I’ve relied on academics like the late Dr Nancy Sullivan for enlightenment on these matters. Johns goes some way to filling the chasm in my education left by Sullivan’s untimely death 10 years ago.

Thankfully, his book’s early chapters address pre-colonial Papua New Guinea with authority, conveying the immense antiquity and diversity of human life in the region.

“
Three battalions of
Papuans and New
Guineans, led by
Australian officers, took
part in the war against
Japan.”

Johns highlights how the rugged mountains, dense rainforests and scattered island chains fostered the development of thousands of distinct communities and the 800 or so unique languages.

In my experience, the other topic that is constantly raised in discussions is the arrival

of Europeans, which Johns highlights as a transformative but uneven process, tracing the succession of German, British and later Australian colonial powers, and highlighting how these foreign governments reshaped the traditional ways of life, yet never fully penetrated many of the more remote regions.

Finally, and most appropriately, Johns tackles the thorny issue of independence without sugar-coated romanticism, exploring the realities in a country where modern political protocols must coexist with deeply rooted *kastam*, a theme that runs as a consistent thread throughout the book.

If there is any criticism, it is perhaps that the book’s accessibility occasionally comes at the cost of analytical depth, but, in my opinion at least, this does not detract from Johns’ stated aim: “... to produce a book that would serve as a valuable resource for both interested readers and students of history.”

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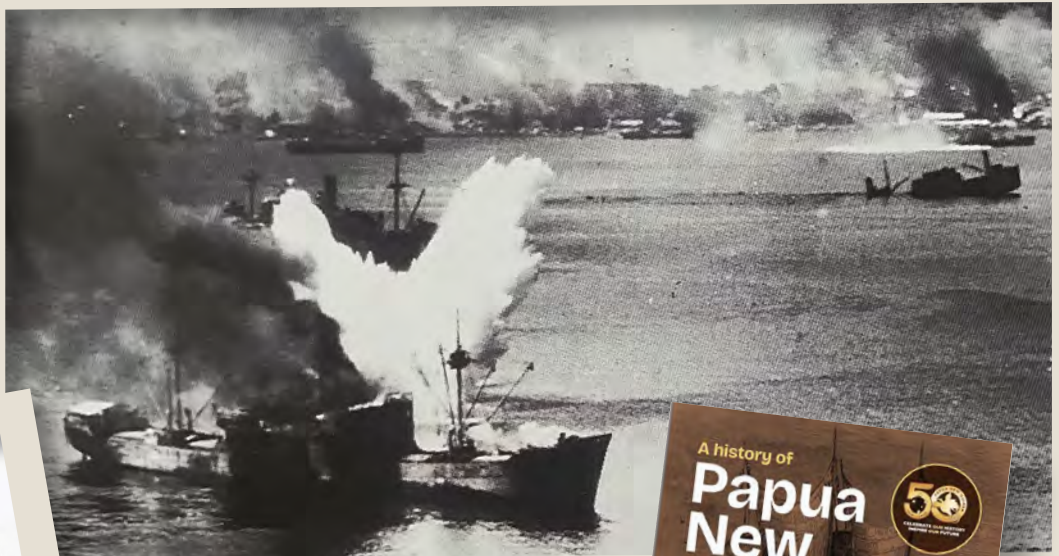
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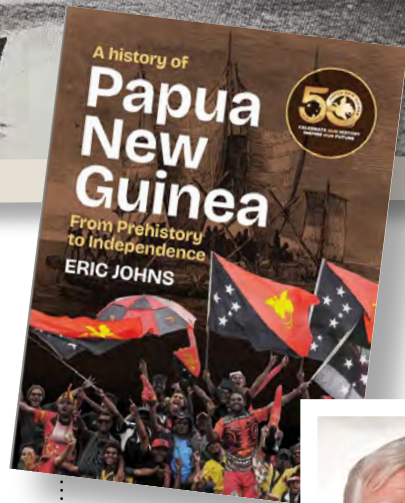


PICTURE: MONICA FOSTER & PETER STONE



PICTURE: PATRICK LINDSAY

A bombing raid on Rabaul during World War 2 (above); Golpak, a Papua New Guinean who collaborated with the Australian military during the war (left). Both photos feature in the book by Eric Johns (far right).



In conclusion, I must concur with the words of Keimelo Gima, a lecturer in history at the University of Papua New Guinea's School of Humanities and Social Sciences, who states in the foreword: "Beautifully written and carefully researched, Johns' work draws on contributions from both local and international historians, as well as the accounts of individuals who played pivotal

roles in shaping Papua New Guinea's past. *A History of Papua New Guinea: From Prehistory to Independence* fills a large gap in the nation's history, particularly its colonial era.

It is an essential resource for students in the schools and universities of Papua New Guinea, where the nation's history is an integral part of education." ■

***A History of Papua New Guinea: From Prehistory to Independence*, by Eric Johns. See historypng.com.**



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OFF TO THE MARKET

Port Moresby has a thriving market scene where you can find everything from handcrafted items to local food treats. *Lemach Lavari* reports.



Scenes from the day and night markets (this page, opposite page and following page).

PICTURES: LEMACH LAVARI, MICAH DEMAS, LOYDSON KAVE



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If you're in Port Moresby and want to experience Papua New Guinean food, art and culture, the POM City Markets are the place to go.

Marketgoers can try treats such as *tamatama* (mashed cassava with fresh coconut cream), find abstract art that depicts PNG's rich culture and people, and pick up handcrafted items.

There are many talented local artisans at the markets who sell one-of-a-kind products, ranging from jewellery to clothing, baskets and *bilums*.

The markets showcase more than 50 local businesses at any one time and are family friendly. They always include a play area and games for children. Also, there is a zero tolerance on alcohol consumption.

The markets are the brainchild of Sylvia Pascoe, who has been running them since 2017 through her events company Pascoe Promotions.

“

There are many talented local artisans at the markets who sell one-of-a-kind products.

”

She says the markets help the development of the small to medium enterprises (SME) sector in PNG. "People are able to start businesses and are given the opportunity to test the market for their products," she says.

"Most of the individuals who sell at the markets had no other source of revenue before this. So, to be part of a platform where people get to literally build families and communities is a privilege," she says.



One of many success stories from the markets is Anne Iauka who runs Anka Crafts. "When Anne first started, she and two other women split the registration fee for their stall. Eventually they got their own stalls and now Anne exports to countries like Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Her success has seen her providing a source of revenue for many people in her village in Bougainville," Pascoe says. ➤



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The day markets are open 8am to 5pm and the night markets from 3pm to 9pm.

There are two day markets each month (during weekends) and one night market (on a weeknight).

Day markets are usually held at the National Museum grounds, or the New China Town, and night markets are at the Harbourside precinct. Free entry.

To find the latest dates for markets, follow POM City Markets on Facebook. ■

TIME	DESTINATION	GATE	FLIGHT
12:15	GERMANY	A2	P136
12:35	USA	B1	P145
14:50	AUSTRALIA	C3	P582
15:25	JAPAN	D2	P725
17:15	ITALY	A1	P319
20:25	UK	B2	P417
21:35	N. CALEDONIA	C2	P175

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A SCIENTIFIC MIND

Mary Aseari speaks with Dr Samoa Asigau, a Papua New Guinean biologist whose work in the US focuses on protecting American consumers.



Dr Samoa Asigau advises young Papua New Guineans to 'be fearless' in the pursuit of their careers.

“

We help companies get their products to the shelves faster, without compromising on consumer safety.

”

Q: What made you become a science geek?

A: Growing up in Papua New Guinea as a millennial before the digital age, my world was shaped by the outdoors rather than a screen. Whether I was playing with plants or exploring the beaches of my home provinces – the Central Province (Gabagaba) and Milne Bay – during family holidays, I was constantly immersed in the natural world. This cultural upbringing fostered a deep-seated curiosity about the mechanics of nature. I didn't just want to observe my environment; I wanted to understand the 'how' and 'why' behind it. This passion for discovery and experimentation is what led me to the sciences.

Q: How did you end up studying in the US?

A: I'm a proud, 'through-and-through' product of the PNG school system. My journey started with a Bachelor of Environmental Science and Geography at the University of PNG, followed by an honours program while working with the then Wildlife Conservation Society and the PNG Institute of Biological Research (PNG IBR). That experience opened doors to an East-West Centre scholarship, which took me all the way to the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) for my Masters. I returned to PNG



for a while afterwards to work with PNG IBR and mentored the next generation of local scientists, but my professors eventually encouraged me to head back to the US for my PhD. I officially hit the 'Dr' milestone in 2018 when I attained my Doctor of Philosophy in Biology degree at UMSL and have been living and working in the US ever since.

Q: Your work on the Galapagos Islands is one of the first things that pops up on a Google search of your name. What was that research about?

A: During my research in the Galapagos Islands, I served as an ecological detective working to prevent the same avian malaria (a tiny blood parasite) crisis that devastated Hawaii's unique bird populations. My work focused on a blood parasite called *haemoproteus*, which can drive endemic species to extinction if left unchecked. Because the Galapagos is home to only three mosquito species, it provided a rare, controlled environment to map out the entire transmission cycle: from the birds carrying the parasite to the mosquitoes that spread it.

While I participated in fieldwork capturing and testing birds, my primary focus was identifying which specific mosquito acts as the primary carrier and determining the environmental conditions that allow the parasite to thrive. By understanding this delicate biological loop, we can develop better strategies to protect these rare birds.

Q: What are some awards, grants or scholarships that you have received in your field of study?

A: To support my PhD research in the Galapagos, I was fortunate to receive a prestigious \$10,000 grant from the Saint Louis Zoo, along with several supplemental awards from my university. These grants were instrumental in funding the fieldwork itself, while my day-to-day living was covered through my roles as both a research assistant and a teaching assistant. Balancing these positions allowed me to gain valuable experience in the lab and the classroom while securing the financial freedom to pursue my passion for biology.

Q: Where do you currently work and what does a typical day at work look like?

A: As a senior scientist at bioMérieux, a French world leader in disease diagnostics, I work on the front lines of food safety here in the US. While my company provides testing technology for hospitals and pharmaceuticals, my specific work is ensuring that the food, beverages and cosmetics people in the US buy are free from harmful pathogens (germs). My typical day involves running validation studies, essentially high-stakes quality control. When food producers want to switch to our advanced testing methods, they send their products to me and my team first. We compare our modern molecular tests against the 'old school' traditional methods

“

During my research in the Galapagos Islands, I served as an ecological detective.

”

required by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). While traditional microbiology can take weeks to yield results, our technology delivers the same precision and sensitivity in a fraction of the time. In an industry where time is money, we help companies get their products to the shelves faster without ever compromising on consumer safety.

Q: What is the most rewarding part of your job?

A: The most rewarding part of my job is the people. My role allows me to bridge the gap between complex lab data and the real world by connecting with everyone from local farmers and lab technicians to the

CEOs of major American food corporations. It is incredibly fulfilling to help these diverse partners understand how our technology keeps their products safe. Internally, the experience is just as vibrant because I collaborate daily with a 'dream team' of brilliant researchers, engineers, and our sales and marketing departments. Seeing how all these different moving parts, from science and engineering to business, come together to lead the charge for food safety in the US is what makes every day truly refreshing.

Q: What was the hardest challenge you faced while building a career in North America?

A: Building a career in North America as a Papua New Guinean has been a journey of resilience and adaptation. My first hurdle was the deep homesickness of being so far from my family, especially since our community in St. Louis is quite small; however, I found a second family among the diverse international student community at my university. Adapting to the fast-paced, individualistic culture of the US was another significant shift, particularly the financial pressure of supporting myself in a stronger economy. Navigating the complex immigration system was perhaps the most technical challenge, but I am proud to say I am here on an O-1 visa. This is a 'specialised ability' visa reserved for those with exceptional expertise in their field.

Q: What is your advice for young Papua New Guineans who want to become scientists?

A: My best advice to young Papua New Guineans dreaming of a career in science or any other field is simple: be fearless. From a young age, I looked at airplanes and dreamed of travelling the world, and I realised that education was my ticket to that life. I didn't wait for a handout or a lucky break; I applied for every scholarship under the sun and refused to let my circumstances define me. Coming from a simple, single-parent home, I am the first in my family to reach this level of education, and I achieved it by trading a victim mentality for a vision. ■



SUMMIT BAR, HILTON PORT MORESBY REVIEW

It's 6.30 on a Thursday evening and Summit Bar on level 15 of the Hilton Port Moresby is buzzing. At the front of the room, near the bar, a musician is turning out some very respectable covers. At the back, a private function seems to be winding up. Some patrons have opted for the relative tranquility of the balcony, offering a twilight view of the city. Smartly dressed staff breeze around providing table service.

All this comes as a surprise to me. First, I am impressed all these people have managed to find what is the only public venue on the top floor of the hotel. Second, the last time I visited, shortly after the hotel opened in 2018, Summit was a rather low-key whiskey bar.

These days it identifies as a cocktail bar, though a full range of drinks is available. The signature cocktail list leads with Clarified Milk Punch ('rum, port, mango, condensed milk, cream cheese, milk and lemon juice come together in a surprising way'). Popular cocktail classes run every Saturday, where you can learn how to mix your own (booking essential).

There's also a snack menu, comprising mainly share plates (spring rolls, chicken lollipops, gourmet fries), though you might want to keep the ceviche verde (marinated fish, lime chilli, extra virgin olive oil) all to yourself.

Summit is highly recommended, either as a place to kick back after work or to tack on to a visit to PNG's quintessential fine-dining experience, Mumu, also in the Hilton precinct. ■



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Tuesday to Thursday 4pm to 10pm, Friday 4pm to midnight, Saturday 3pm to midnight.

STYLE:

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DRESS CODE:

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PRICE:

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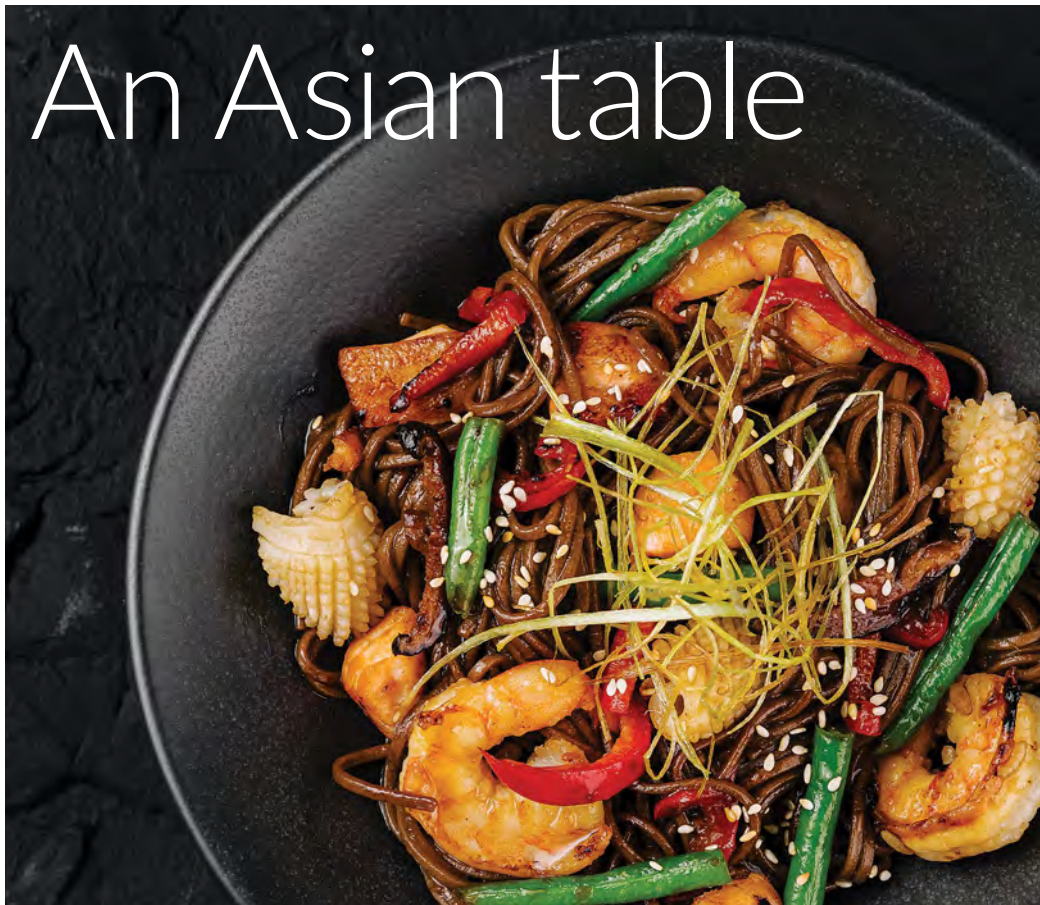
OUR FAVOURITE DISH:

Ceviche verde.

IN A PHRASE:

Classy but lively.





An Asian table

Port Moresby's diverse dining scene includes a strong Asian influence. *David Soroda* picks three Asian restaurants where the food, atmosphere and hospitality impress.



FUIGUI

COMFORTING CHINESE AND MALAYSIAN CLASSICS

"Taste and portion sizes have remained steady for over a decade."

Fuigui Village Restaurant is all about consistency. Its menu leans heavily into Chinese and

Malaysian staples, balancing hearty flavours with comforting textures. While the decor is modest, the restaurant's reliability has made it a favourite for quick lunches and relaxed dinners.

- Location:** Kawai Drive, Gordon.
- Signature dishes:** Highland chicken rice, laksa, nasi lemak chicken.
- Facilities:** Casual seating, straightforward layout.
- Ambience:** Simple, efficient, family friendly.
- Price:** Mid-range.
- Open:** Daily 10am–9pm.

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JAPANESE SOUL FOOD IN VISION CITY

"A cosy environment with ramen bowls that keep customers coming back."

Managed by a Filipino team with a Chinese chef, Hosi Ramen blends multicultural expertise into



a distinctly Japanese offering. The ramen bowls are rich and satisfying, while the VIP rooms create a communal hotpot experience that resonates with PNG's love of shared meals.

- Location:** Vision City Mega Mall.
- Signature dishes:** Tonkatsu ramen with roast pork, spicy ramen.
- Facilities:** Main dining area (up to 40 guests), four VIP rooms for hotpot.
- Ambience:** Cosy, modern, intimate yet lively.
- Price:** Affordable to mid-range.
- Open:** Daily 9am–9pm.



ASIA AROMAS

DINING BY THE HARBOUR

"Sweeping harbour views paired with freshly steamed coral trout."

Asia Aromas is about atmosphere. With its prime harbourfront location, the restaurant pairs Chinese and Thai cuisine with sweeping views of Port Moresby's waterfront. Whether indoors, in private rooms, or outdoors under the night sky, diners enjoy a setting with wow factor.

- Location:** Harbourside West, Stanley Esplanade.
- Signature dishes:** Coral trout, stir-fried noodles, curry.
- Facilities:** Indoor seating, private rooms, outdoor tables, catering services.
- Ambience:** Upscale, waterfront romance, ideal for business or leisure.
- Price:** Mid- to upper-range.
- Open:** Daily, lunch and dinner. ■

PICTURES: ANTON DOBREA (MAIN) & DAVID SORODA



WINE GURU

Q: What do the different shapes of wine bottles mean?

A: Like many traditions in the wine industry, the use of wine bottle shapes to differentiate wine can be traced back to France in the 18th century. There is much debate as to how the practice started but the shape of a wine bottle tended to tell you what sort of grape variety was being used in the wine.

There are four main types of bottles (and up to a dozen variations).

The Bordeaux bottle is the most common type we see – straight-sided and tall – and it tends to hold varieties like merlot, malbec, cabernet sauvignon, semillon, sauvignon blanc and chenin blanc – varieties that hail from that region.

The Burgundy bottle is a bit more rotund with a shorter neck and is used for chardonnay and pinot noir, Burgundy's prime exports.



The Alsace or Rhine bottle is what we associated with riesling, pinot gris and gewürztraminer, sweeter fruit from these regions.

And the Champagne bottle is used for most fizzy drops and has thicker heavier glass so the bubbles inside can be contained safely.

These days, the shape of a wine bottle does not mean anything, really – no winemaker is forced to use a certain type of bottle, and it all comes down to aesthetics. But the wine industry loves tradition.

The colour of a wine bottle does have some effect on what is inside. A darker green or brown bottle can help keep out damaging ultraviolet light so this can be useful if you plan to cellar your wine for a long time; clearer glass will simply not age a wine as well.

Do you have a wine question? Email us at paradise@businessadvantageinternational.com.

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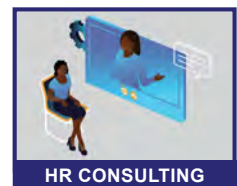


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WELLNESS

High blood pressure is a growing problem globally, fuelled by changing lifestyles, urbanisation and continually shifting dietary choices.

Formally known as hypertension, high blood pressure is a condition that occurs when the force of blood against artery walls remains persistently elevated. The condition can be damaging, and if left unchecked can lead to complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney failure and vision loss.

The first step to reversing its effects can be changing your diet and lifestyle for the better, says Dr Randall Zusman, director of the Division of Hypertension at Massachusetts General Hospital Heart Centre.

Here are five lifestyle changes to help lower your blood pressure.

1 QUIT SALTY FOODS Ultra-processed foods like packaged snacks, cereals, soups and takeaway food are often loaded with excess salt. Instead, choose low-sodium versions of products you love and instead of salt use flavour-boosting herbs and spices like garlic, pepper and hot sauce.



2 ADD POTASSIUM-RICH FOODS Potassium is a mineral that helps lower blood pressure and it's found in plant foods, especially bananas and potatoes.

3 CUT ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION Complete abstinence often does not work with those used to a daily tippie but adopting moderation – which means no more than two standard drinks per day – can go a long way to helping lower blood pressure.

4 EXERCISE IS KEY Physical activity keeps your heart and blood vessels in good order, which in turn keeps blood pressure low. It's best to adopt a combination of aerobic exercises like walking, running or swimming with weight training, either by using body weight or gym equipment.

5 RELAX Meditation, yoga and progressive muscle relaxation all help achieve an emotional state linked to lowering blood pressure, Dr Zusman says. ■

Seek medical advice before starting exercise or modifying diet.



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A QUICK GUIDE TO TRAVEL eSIMs

What you need to know about the new, easy way of staying connected overseas. *Bronwen Gora reports.*

What's an eSIM? A SIM card in digital form that is embedded in your phone. The tiny eSIM chip identifies you to networks as a mobile phone subscriber. A relatively new technology, eSIMs are the current game changers for wireless technology, streamlining the way we all connect.

What do they do? Allow you to connect to local providers around the world. Depending on the eSIM provider, you can choose to connect within a country, region, city – or globally. Multiple plans cater for different needs and budgets. For instance, an unlimited international data plan from Simify allows sports fans to

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To purchase an eSIM visit an online retailer, choose the best plan for you, then click the link or scan the QR code sent with your receipt.

”

stream games in full HD, while the Saily Ultra unlimited data plan comes with perks like airport lounge access and line priority to lure business travellers.



eSims are quickly catching on as an essential travel item.

Where do I get them? Online retailers. There are over 120 eSIM providers worldwide so finding the best one for your needs involves research, trial and error, and visiting comparison websites like esimdb.com.

Is it easy to activate an eSIM? Yes (although some can be trickier than others according to reviewers). To purchase an eSIM visit an online retailer, choose the best plan for you, hit 'buy', then click the link or scan the QR code that will be sent with your receipt.

Which phones can they be used on? Modern phones are generally compatible with eSIMs. For instance, Apple iPhones from SE and Series 13 and up are compatible: users simply open 'Settings', tap 'Cellular' then 'Add eSIM'. Android users tap on 'Network & Internet' in

Settings, then 'SIMs' or 'Mobile Networks', to learn if their phone is compatible.

What are the advantages?

Convenience: Acquired and activated in minutes; removes the need for hotel Wi-Fi, hunting for places to connect and using free public internet services where security isn't guaranteed. Your own number remains active: A big plus, eSIMs work alongside your physical SIM.

Time saving: Removes the need to hunt for physical eSIM sellers after setting foot in a new destination.

Instant connection: Buy your eSIM in advance and it's ready to go on arrival.

Multiple eSIMs: Some devices store from two to five eSIM profiles along with your physical SIM so you needn't juggle two or more devices.

More to offer: eSIM plans often have flexible and pay-as-you-go options.

Money saving: eSIMs are designed to be less expensive than using data roaming with your carrier back home.

What are the drawbacks?

Most eSIM plans are data only. Those offering phone calls and text messages are still in the minority mainly because travellers can easily use the likes of WhatsApp or Messenger; some popular eSIM plans sell out fast; and it can be inconvenient if your eSIM-compatible device becomes inoperable – accessing and transferring the eSIM can be tricky, potentially leaving you unconnected until resolved. ■



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Healthy legs

Compression socks are advantageous for several reasons, including that they have been found to reduce instances of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) on flights. For those unfortunate enough to develop this condition, compression socks have also been found to reduce the risk of complications following DVT treatment. Sockwell Men's Elevation Firm Graduated Compression Sock is ideal for flying and travel, prolonged sitting or standing, exercise, recovery and pregnant women. The socks are also suited for those who work in professions that demand prolonged standing: nursing, healthcare, retail or even construction. From 250PGK; amazon.com



High jump

This lightweight jump rope is perfect for anyone who likes staying fit while travelling. The KSY Jump Rope is designed and produced from the experience of Guinness World Record jump-roper Kim Soo Yeol. Long enough for tall people, any excess length can simply be cut off. Cords are also easily adjustable and tangle-free, and the handles are anti-slip. 73PGK; amazon.com



Fresh bites

If you like taking your snacks and meals on the go, then it's hard to go past a premium product like the Takenaka Bento Bite Box Dual. The Japanese-style box offers a variety of different-sized compartments across its two airtight levels, the top tier snapping into the bottom tier, so your snacks stay safely stored. It also contains a fork, removable partition and secure strap. 190PGK; takenakabento.com



Pack well

Protecting your devices from moisture is imperative in the tropics, and the water-resistant 24-litre Fieldsmith Linked Pack by Patagonia is designed to do exactly that. Made from durable 100 per cent organic cotton canvas with a lightweight lining, the pack also has mini haul handles, an easy-open cinch top for quick access and an internal 15" laptop sleeve. A large exterior pocket is convenient for essentials, and the hidden zippered pocket is ideal for can't-lose items. 498PGK; patagonia.com.au





Write style

Some old-fashioned traditions remain in our tech-driven world, and one is the Blackwing 602 pencil. A cult item, the pencil was designed in the 1930s with such quality it quickly became a necessity for legendary creators worldwide from authors to Disney animators, composers and architects. The Blackwing 21 is the manufacturer's tribute to the craft of woodworking, each pencil made with special finger-jointed slats. The pencil's firm graphite is perfect for measuring and marking cut lines and then measuring them again. 152PGK; blackwing602.com



Travel tales

Here's a product for those who still love putting pen or pencil to paper while they travel, or like to journal. The A5 Refillable Journal by Aspinal of London comes in smooth antique brown, handcrafted in England with its 144 pages bound in full-grain leather. The journal can be personalised: choose between blank or lined paper to best suit your needs, and purchase refills separately. 805PGK; aspinaloflondon.com

Neatly stowed

This electronics accessory case by Thule is perfect for travel or work. The Subterra 2 PowerShuttle helps organise portable chargers, cords and accessories in a variety of secure pockets and elastic loops. You can protect large items like headphones in the main compartment while charging your phone on the go with the exterior phone pocket – it's fitted with a slot for the cord to pass through. 205PGK; amazon.com



Cool running

The HeatGear Wordmark Men's Sleeveless tank by Under Armour is a performance base layer – the one you put on first and take off last. It's designed to be extra comfortable so you can move no matter what, made from innovative fibre NEOLAST, a high-performing alternative to elastane that provides powerful stretch, durability, comfort and improved wicking. The four-way stretch material moves better in every direction and the mock neck construction gives added coverage. 190PGK; underarmour.com.au



Carry all

Versatility is everything when it comes to bags and that's why the North Face Borealis Tote scores top marks. Its two carry handles can be used in one hand or over one shoulder, and the back handle connects to straps that run down the back of the bag so that when you put your arms through each rear strap it becomes a backpack. Genius. There are also two exterior side pockets to hold water bottles or sandals, as well as a small front pocket for lip balm and keys that attach to the included leash. And there is even a padded laptop sleeve. 375PGK; thenorthface.com



Sleep tight

The Infinity Pillow is designed so you can twist, wrap and bundle its versatile Möbius shape to fit the needs of the space you're in, whether it's the window, aisle or middle seat, on the road, or at home with the whole couch to lounge on. Neck support, lumbar pillow, window pillow, desk pillow, eye mask, noise-muffling pillow – you've got them all in this unique design by Amsterdam-based BCXSY. It's machine washable too. 240PGK; infinitypillow.co



SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

Untethered, Science Fiction and Fantasy from Papua New Guinea

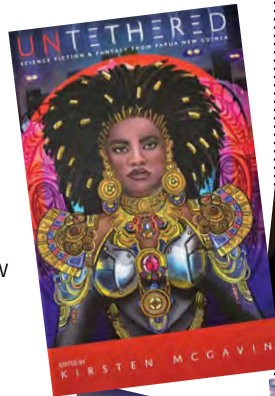
Edited by Kirsten McGavin (Kokomo Ink)

Untethered is an anthology of 12 short stories by Papua New Guinean writers that takes readers into fantastical, supernatural and imaginative worlds.

Inspired by their cultural connections to the land and its people, the authors explore a range of ideas including alien invasion, ghostly revenge and magical creatures.

Untethered is more than an escape into the fantastic, according to Kirsten McGavin, who edited the book and contributes one of the short stories.

She says it explores issues from identity and free will to colonial legacies and technological evolution. "It is a journey to the heart of what it means to be Papua New Guinean."



WAR

Ellen Savage and the Heroes of AHS Centaur

By Grantlee Kieza (HarperCollins Australia)

Available as an audiobook

The Australian hospital ship *Centaur* set sail from Sydney to Port Moresby on May 12, 1943, to pick up wounded military personnel in Papua New Guinea. But two days after leaving Sydney Harbour the ship was sunk by a Japanese torpedo fired from a submarine south of Moreton Island on the Queensland coast.

The ship had already made two voyages to PNG to repatriate the wounded and was again clearly illuminated on its third voyage. It was also painted with bright-red crosses on its sides to indicate it was a hospital ship.

The torpedo struck about 4am when most people were in their bunks, with fire engulfing the ship, which sank in just three minutes in water 2000 metres deep.

There were only 64 survivors of the 332 on board, including Ellen Savage, who was one of 12 nurses on the voyage.

Savage was the only nurse to survive and despite severe injuries that included fractures and burst eardrums she tended to other injured, many with severe burns, on a makeshift raft. She helped beat off circling sharks and led group prayers to boost morale until they were rescued 34 hours later by a US destroyer.



AUTOBIOGRAPHY

On My Own Terms

By Adam Reynolds (Simon & Schuster)

Available as an audiobook

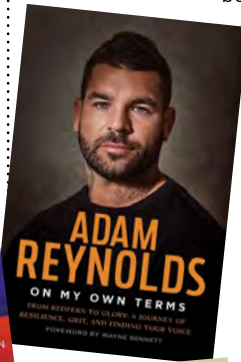
Brisbane Broncos captain Adam Reynolds has announced that this is his final season playing in Australia's National Rugby League (NRL), so his autobiography makes for timely reading.

"I wanted to write this memoir now, while I'm still in the game, because there's so much I've learned on and

off the field that I think is worth sharing," Reynolds told his fans on Instagram. "It's not just about the goals, but the setbacks, the doubts, the moments people don't see."

The 36-year-old NRL icon covers a lot of ground in his book, including his rise from being a working-class kid living in the tough Sydney suburb of Redfern to the heartbreak of his split from the South Sydney Rabbitohs in 2022.

Reynolds has played in two NRL grand final victories – with the Rabbitohs in 2014 and the Broncos in 2025 – and is the second-highest points scorer in NRL history.



MEMOIR

Finding My Way

By Malala Yousafzai (Hachette)

Available as an audiobook

Malala Yousafzai, 15, was travelling home on a bus from school exams in Pakistan in 2012 when the Taliban boarded and shot her in the head.

The Taliban had been infuriated by her activism. She had been advocating for females to have access to education, against the wishes of the Taliban, which at that time had banned girls from attending school.

Yousafzai was in a critical condition and was eventually transferred to the UK for medical treatment. The attempted killing sparked an international outcry and in Pakistan two million people signed a 'right to education' petition.

She not only recovered from the gunshot but increased her advocacy and became the youngest Nobel laureate, being awarded the Peace Prize in 2014 at the age of 17.

Based in the UK, she continues her advocacy to this day.

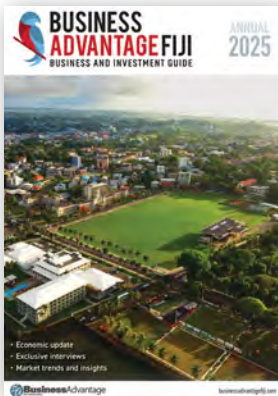
Her latest book, *Finding My Way*, traces her path from high school loner to a reckless college student to a young woman at peace with her past. ■



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MADE IN PNG

A SPECIAL REPORT

PICTURE: ISTOCK



LOCAL & GOOD

Papua New Guinea's manufacturing sector is wide and varied, and in this special feature we celebrate some of the country's success stories in the sector. We also discover that there's cause for optimism, with strong growth predicted for 2026.



PICTURE: ISTOCK



Some PNG companies are hatching plans to expand into poultry, joining major players such as Mainland Holdings in the sector.

PNG MANUFACTURING LOOKING UP

Most PNG manufacturers are looking to grow this year by supplying both local and international customers. *Nadav Shemer Shlezinger* reports.

If current investment trends are any indication, then the 'PNG Made' logo could soon appear on more products than ever before.

A majority (63 per cent) of manufacturers are planning to substantially increase their capital expenditure this year, according to the 2026 Business Advantage PNG / Westpac PNG 100 CEO Survey.

These results are backed up by Murray Woo, Chairman of the Manufacturers Council of Papua New Guinea, who says that existing manufacturers "have increased their investment in the country".

Additionally, he says, "a number of companies are looking for import replacements

due to supply chain issues, which has increased our membership as companies start investing and manufacturing locally".

However, he cautions that the Iran war, and rising fuel costs, will increase operating costs for all manufacturers.

POULTRY PLAYS

Taylor Pacific is a prime example of the trend towards increased capital expenditure. It joined the ranks of PNG manufacturers in 2024 when it purchased Hugo Canning Co, producer of the Ox & Palm corned beef and Ocean Blue tuna brands. It followed this up in 2025 with the acquisition of 50 per cent of Sepik Fresh Poultry.

“

Existing manufacturers have increased their investment in the country.

”



Murray Woo, the Chairman of the Manufacturers Council of PNG.

PICTURE: MORGAN ROBERTS

Jeremy Fry, the Chief Executive Officer of Taylor Pacific, says his firm has an investment plan aimed at addressing the lack of protein in the average Papua New Guinean's diet, through providing affordable options.

"We see our role primarily as a protein player. Whether it's chicken, fish or beef – we want to be involved in it," Fry says.

Stage one of the plan centres around table eggs and broilers, which Fry says will provide fresh – rather than frozen – chicken at scale in Port Moresby for the first time.

"We're building sheds, clearing land, and look forward to processing our own chicken," Fry says, adding that he expects to bring the Stiepel Fresh eggs to market in May and fresh chicken meat by August.

Another big manufacturer planning to increase its investment in poultry is PNG Forest Products (PNGFP). Although best known for the engineered wood products that it produces out of its sawmilling and manufacturing plants in Morobe Province, PNGFP has other diverse interests too – including a small existing poultry business.

"There's room here for about four or five big chicken producers," says PNGFP Executive Chairman Tony Honey, adding: "We want to move from about 30,000 birds a month up to about 200,000." ➤



PACIFIC REACH

PNGFP has sold its wood products domestically since 1954 and only branched out into exports a few years ago. But what started as a way to get access to more foreign currency soon became a lucrative sales channel in its own right, with the firm now exporting more than one-third of its plywood – primarily to Australia and New Zealand, where its products are mainly used in bridge decking, sub-floor construction, exterior cladding, bus flooring and highway noise barriers.

“

A majority (63 per cent) of manufacturers are planning to substantially increase their capital expenditure this year.

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The experiment has been so successful that PNGFP is now planning to invest in additional kiln capacity and peeling lines to improve efficiency and reduce waste.

“I see growth in New Zealand,” Honey says. “Carter Holt Harvey, one of the biggest plywood producers (in New Zealand), has shut down. That will affect a lot of the retailers that need to buy our stuff, so they’ll be coming back through our distributor, we hope.”

Pacific Industries is another longstanding PNG manufacturer with export ambitions. For more than 80 years, the food and beverage manufacturer had a single production facility in Rabaul. That all changed in 2024 when, six years after winning the exclusive PepsiCo bottling licence for PNG, it opened a PGK90 million can and bottle facility in Port Moresby.

The new facility in the capital now handles 70 per cent of Pacific Industries’ manufacturing needs, with some of the Rabaul plant’s capacity earmarked for a potential foray into the Solomon Islands.



SP Brewery Managing Director Ed Weggemans.

“The shipping lanes circle around from Rabaul to Honiara to Fiji and then back, so Rabaul would take on capacity once we get that,” says Everett Chue, Director at Pacific Industries.

POSITIVE IMPACT

While most manufacturers are planning to increase capital expenditure in 2026, business growth isn’t necessarily the only motivation.

As a subsidiary of the Heineken Group, South Brewery is signed up to its parent company’s goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. In 2026, it completed upgrades to its Lae production facility, including installation of solar panels on the roof and expansion of warehouse capacity, according to Managing Director Ed Weggemans.



The ‘PNG Made’ logo could be seen more often if current investment trends continue.

In addition to helping meet net-zero commitments, Weggemans says the upgrades will give the business the ability to meet any future increase in demand – including any flow-on boost from a final investment decision on the Papua LNG project, which is anticipated this year. ■



A PNGFP bridge at Rakia Gorge in New Zealand.

PICTURE: BUSINESS ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL

PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY PNGFP





TRUKAI INDUSTRIES LIMITED

INVESTING IN PNG'S RICE FUTURE

Since 2022, the Trukai Smart Farmer Program has strengthened rice-farming skills across Papua New Guinea through partnerships with Unitech and PAU, and has newly signed an agreement with UNRE to expand training into the New Guinea Islands region.

The 20-week program equips farmers with practical training in irrigated rice farming, helping communities build sustainable livelihoods and supporting national food security.

To further develop commercial-ready farmers, Trukai launched a paid internship program in 2024 at its Erap Farm in Morobe Province. Over three months, interns gain hands-on experience in large-scale rice production, machinery operation, and post-harvest techniques. So far, 16 interns have completed the program.

For industries, communities, and visitors alike, the Smart Farmer Program highlights PNG's commitment to local skills, innovation, and a stronger agricultural future.

For more information, please email us at: Enquiries@trukai.com.pg



PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY KONGO COFFEE



A PNG COFFEE SUCCESS STORY

From small beginnings, Kongo Coffee has grown into one of PNG's biggest and best coffee brands.

For more than 30 years, Kongo Coffee Limited has been a part of Papua New Guinea's coffee journey – growing, buying, processing, roasting and exporting premium grade PNG coffee to many destinations around the world.

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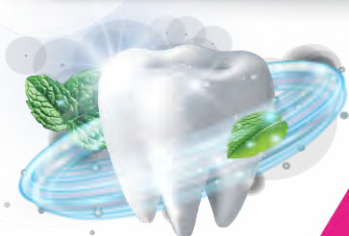
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operations, Kongo Coffee has now grown to become PNG's biggest roaster with the most modern roasting facility.

Kongo Coffee is available in supermarkets and shops throughout PNG, and used by leading catering operations in the resource sector. The coffee is also available in leading supermarkets in the Solomon Islands.

Beyond roasting, Kongo Coffee plays an active role in partnering with local small to medium enterprises (SMEs) in many provinces in PNG to brew and make available to consumers high-quality, 100 per cent locally produced coffee.

Kongo Coffee is the official importer and distributor of premium quality Bravor Bonamat coffee brewing machines, parts and accessories. The company provides training and support to its SME partners to enhance their businesses and ensure that they brew and offer consumers PNG's own locally produced coffee. ■

“

Kongo Coffee plays an active role in partnering with local (SMEs) in many provinces in PNG.

”



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PNG MADE



PICTURE: BU ENERGY



For almost two decades, BU Energy has been part of Papua New Guinea's daily rhythm – the early-morning market runs, road trips on the Highlands Highway, long workdays, late-night study sessions, big moments of celebration and everything in between. It is a brand that has grown with PNG, shaped by its people, its hustle and a unique way of doing things.

BU is manufactured and distributed by Coca Cola (PNG), and first hit the shelves in late 2007, arriving in a small can. As the energy drink category expanded across the country, BU carved out its own space – not just as another drink, but as PNG's own.

Today, BU returns with a refreshed identity, one that brings

the energy of the brand to life like never before. The new design (pictured left) bursts with vibrant colour and striking patterns inspired by PNG's lively personality. It's modern and bright, and crafted to stand out in coolers, kiosks, trade stores and supermarkets across the country.

While the outside has evolved, what's inside remains true to what Papua New Guineans love. BU continues to deliver its signature, uplifting taste supported by a blend of B-group vitamins, which the maker says help the body produce energy.

Coca-Cola Europacific Partners PNG says that what sets BU apart is its sense of place. BU is made in PNG. It is crafted for PNG tastes, PNG lifestyles and PNG energy. ■

Pacific Foam Limited
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PNG MADE

www.pacificfoam.com.pg
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Pacific Foam's joinery in Lae manufactures lounges and other furniture.

DREAMING BIG

Papua New Guinean company Pacific Foam is celebrating 48 years of continuous operation in 2026, something it couldn't have dreamed of when it started in Lae in 1978.

The company was the first manufacturer of polyurethane foam and sleep products in PNG.

It still manufactures those products – including a wide range of Siip Isi foam and Dreameasy spring mattresses – with operations in Port Moresby and Lae.

It has also diversified into other areas such as upholstered

furniture, wooden furniture, soft furnishings such as curtains and blinds, as well as injection and blow-moulded plastic products, PET bottles and caps, printed flexible packaging and cardboard cartons.

The company's joinery in Lae manufactures wooden lounges, dining sets, boardroom tables, doors, cabinets, coffee tables and any number of bespoke wooden furniture items made from locally and responsibly sourced kwila and taun hardwood varieties.

The company employs about 150 people, of which 96 per cent are PNG nationals. ■

SUPPLIED BY PACIFIC FOAM



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SMOKEHAUS

STIEPEL



PORT MORESBY — On a humid Tuesday morning, the scent of burning timber has been replaced by something far more alluring. Behind the glass doors of the Kina Bank compound, where Cameron Rd. meets Waigani Drive, the charcoal-blackened walls of Pacifica Smokehaus gleam with an almost liquid depth. They smell faintly of linseed oil and smoke, a permanent reminder of the fire that created them.

This is not an accident. The walls were subjected to *shou sugi ban*, a traditional Japanese wood-burning technique that preserves timber by charring it. Here, it was sealed with linseed oil, resulting in a textured, tactile façade that feels ancient and utterly contemporary at the same time. It is a fitting entrance for a store dedicated to the proposition that barbecue is not just cooking; it is craftsmanship.

Pacifika Smokehaus opens its doors this week as a new kind of destination for the nation's capital—a specialty barbecue emporium that imports some of the finest protein on the planet and pairs it with tools built to last generations.

The shop is proudly supplying Jack's Creek Wagyu out of Australia, a luxury brand that recently added to its already glittering trophy case. At the World Steak Challenge in London in November 2025, Jack's Creek dominated. The producer took home the title of *World's Best Wagyu* for its grain-fed purebred sirloin, along with a staggering eight gold medals.

Pacifika Smokehaus is bringing that gold-medal standard to Waigani. The team is offering cuts including porterhouse, eye fillet, scotch fillet, massive tomahawks, T-Bones, and local veal. Every single steak hitting the

counter carries a marble score of 8 or 9- that guarantees the buttery texture and deep umami flavor Wagyu is famous for.

But a great steak demands a great blade. Recognizing that the right tool elevates the BBQ, PSH has forged a collaboration with iNyathi Knives, a South African workshop with a deeply personal history.

Pacifika will carry a selection of these high-end implements. The lineup includes a heavy Kukri rendered in Damascus steel with its distinctive, water-like grain; a fillet knife honed from surgical steel for precision; a robust boning knife and brisket knife in stainless steel; and the versatile all-rounder, a Chef's knife, also forged from Damascus steel. Each knife carries the story of a father who rose before dawn to shape blades, and a son committed to continuing the legacy.

The attention to detail extends to the leather goods. The store offers handmade cowhide aprons that are both rugged and crafted—arguably the finest you will find in the country for standing over a hot grill. And for those who want to take their craft to the finish line, Pacifica is hand-making its own sausages on-site, blending premium spices with quality meats.

In a city of rapid change, Pacifica Smokehaus feels built to last—and is the first of its kind in the Pacific.



ADVERTISEMENT

PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY NEW GUINEA FRUIT COMPANY

Honey production by the New Guinea Fruit Company.



The New Guinea Fruit Company has been connecting PNG's agricultural heritage with tables at home and abroad since 1997. The company is one of PNG's pioneers in honey and fruit downstream processing.

The company works together with farmers to grow and deliver the freshest, highest quality products nurtured in the country's fertile soils and pristine environments.

It has a philosophy of empowering communities by collaborating with smallholder farmers across the Highlands and Morobe.

"We ensure that our products not only showcase the best local produce but also contribute to livelihoods," the company says. ■



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THE WHOLE KIT & CABOODLE

Kit buildings produced by PNG Forest Products are proving a winner across the country.

Across Papua New Guinea, the demand for reliable infrastructure continues to grow. From classrooms and health facilities to administrative offices and staff housing, communities and industries alike need buildings that are durable, practical and able to be delivered efficiently across a country known for its challenging terrain and remote locations.

PNG Forest Products (PNGFP) has been meeting that challenge for decades.



PICTURES: SUPPLIED BY PNGFP

The Mutzing Health Centre in Morobe Province built by PNGFP.

FROM SEPIK WETLANDS TO THE WORLD'S FINEST LEATHER

Sustainable crocodile farming in Papua New Guinea is creating livelihoods, protecting wildlife, and producing some of the world's most sought-after luxury materials.

Papua New Guinea's wetlands are home to two iconic species, the saltwater and freshwater crocodile, long embedded in the cultural identity of river communities.

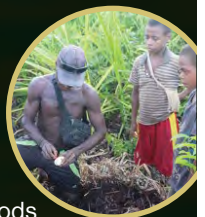
What was once a traditional resource has evolved into one of the country's most successful models of sustainable commerce.

Following early overharvesting in the mid-20th century, a regulated system was introduced, bringing together government, communities, and industry. At the centre of this transformation is Mainland Holdings Ltd, which established its crocodile farm in Lae in 1980.

Today, Mainland Holdings operates under globally recognised conservation frameworks, working closely with CEPA and international bodies to ensure ethical, sustainable practices.

Through its model:

- Rural communities supply eggs, live crocodiles, and skins
- Families earn reliable income supporting education and livelihoods
- Wetland ecosystems are actively protected
- More than 230,000 eggs have been safely collected and incubated through community programs, demonstrating the scale and success of this partnership.



This is conservation not as theory, but as a working economic system.



For further enquiries contact:

Mainland Holdings Limited, Portion 479, 8 mile, Lae
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MAINLAND HOLDINGS LIMITED
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Manufactured in PNG using locally grown plantation pine, the company's NiuHomes range of modular kit buildings provides engineered infrastructure solutions designed specifically for PNG conditions.

At the heart of the NiuHomes concept is a simple but powerful idea: buildings that can be manufactured locally, transported efficiently and assembled reliably anywhere in the country.

The range includes education facilities such as classrooms, laboratories and dormitories, as well as health infrastructure including aid posts, rural health centres and hospital wards. Office and administration buildings provide practical solutions for government agencies, businesses and resource sector operations, while staff housing options support teachers, health workers and project personnel.

Because the buildings are produced as modular kits, they can be transported to remote districts where conventional construction is often slow and costly. Once on site, the

structures are assembled quickly, helping communities access essential facilities sooner.

The strength of the NiuHomes system lies not only in its design, but also in its local origins. All timber used in the buildings comes from renewable plantation forests in Bulolo and Wau, managed under PNG Forest Authority oversight.

The timber is processed to Australian Standards and pressure-treated to protect against termites, rot and fungal decay – essential in PNG's tropical climate.

PNGFP's Bulolo manufacturing operations are also powered by the company's own hydro-electric generation, allowing renewable timber to be processed using clean energy.

The result is infrastructure that is both sustainable and built to last. From forest to finished building, the entire process reflects the strength of PNG industry and the value of locally manufactured solutions.

Employing more than 1500 Papua New Guineans, PNGFP transforms local timber



A rural double classroom that comes in kit form from PNGFP.

resources into buildings that support education, health care, government services and industry across the country.

From classrooms and clinics to offices and workforce housing, PNGFP NiuHomes demonstrates what 'Made in PNG' truly means – local resources, local manufacturing and infrastructure built for the future of Papua New Guinea. ■

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PICTURE: SUPPLIED BY PUREWATER



“
 The business is widely recognised throughout the country.
 ”

PURE & SIMPLE

This year marks 30 years since Purewater started providing purified drinking water to customers in Port Moresby and across Papua New Guinea.

The business is widely recognised throughout the country and has been awarded internationally for its commitment to its quality management and food safety systems. These operate within an ISO-compliant quality management system framework and are subject to routine audits by SAI Global Intertek, the Asia-Pacific region’s most reputable independent supplier of conformity services.

Purewater’s investment in its quality management and food safety has enabled the business to establish itself as PNG’s premier provider of bottled drinking water for household and commercial customers.

Among its customers, Purewater has found favour with most of PNG’s major organisations, particularly those with structured, properly managed occupational health and safety systems. These customers include banks, foreign missions, oil and gas operators, mine sites, and military detachments that operate in the country from time to time. ■

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Future-proofing PNG's ports

PICTURES: PNG PORTS CORPORATION



Lae Port, where the international terminal wharf will be extended.

With a major program of port upgrades underway, and a new focus on investing in facilities that support business growth, PNG's key ports look set to become drivers of greater prosperity. Nadav Shemer Shlezinger reports.

Work is underway on the first of five key port redevelopments that Neil Papenfus, Chief Executive Officer of state-owned PNG Ports Corporation Ltd (PNGPCL), says will deliver essential infrastructure "suitable for the next 50 to 100 years".

Kimbe Port in West New Britain, which handles around 75 per cent of Papua New Guinea's palm oil exports, is being upgraded with the help of a PGK260 million concession loan from the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP), in close partnership with the PNG government through PNGPCL. The 18-month project began in August 2025 and is focusing on two key areas: marine and land works.

"It's no secret that a lot of our port infrastructure has deteriorated, so consequently we've got a huge program (at Kimbe)," Papenfus says.

In further good news for the people of West New Britain, he notes that Pacific Marine Group and Global Construction, the contractors carrying out the work, are currently employing around 70 PNG workers, with up to another 150 to be employed once onshore works commence. The companies are also engaging directly with local technical schools.

"It's a pretty exciting economic boost for the region," he says.

This year will be "really busy" for PNGPCL, Papenfus notes, with a focus on completing





Kimbe Port in West New Britain (left); Neil Papenfus, the CEO of PNG Ports Corporation (below).



PICTURE: STEFAN DANILJCHENKO

planning and approvals and enabling the works required to commence construction of four additional AIFP-funded projects in 2027.

In Lae, PNG's busiest and largest port, work will begin on the extension of the international terminal's wharf, adding considerably greater capacity and enabling it to accommodate some of the largest vessels in the world.

Upgrades will also commence at Daru, Oro and Kavieng ports, all financial loss-making ports connecting rural and maritime communities that PNGPCL operates under its community service obligation (CSO).

"Kavieng Port will move to a new location, south of the existing one, which is not a suitable port. This offers huge opportunity in terms of cruise vessels and other bigger vessels being able to come, it's a deeper and safer approach," Papenfus says.

Additionally, PNGPCL has secured €63 million (PGK322 million) in finance from the European Investment Bank and the French Development Agency to upgrade the port at Rabaul, with a focus on improving environmental standards, water quality and waste management, and on integrating renewable energy.

"A lot of focus will also be on supporting cruise vessels and local industry and tourism," Papenfus adds.

Finally, PNGPCL will self-fund upgrades to two other CSO ports, with a PGK38 million

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In Lae, work will begin on the extension of the international terminal's wharf, enabling it to accommodate some of the largest vessels in the world.

”

program at Lorengau on Manus Island and an additional program at a small wharf just off its Madang port.

In a move designed to drive great economic activity, PNGPCL is also investing heavily in the new 350-hectare Lae Industrial Park, situated adjacent to Lae Port at the Lae Tidal Basin.

The park, which Papenfus hopes "will be operational in 18 to 24 months," will be aimed at businesses in downstream processing, particularly related to agriculture, fisheries and manufacturing. The park's application for special economic zone status recently received 'concept approval' from the National Executive Council.

"We genuinely believe this is the future for Morobe and for PNGPCL," Papenfus says.

"It's an example as well of us investing directly in economic activity, and we hope to consequently drive the activity through the ports."

Papenfus, whose involvement with PNG's maritime sector dates to the construction phase of PNG's first major gas project, PNG LNG (completed in 2014), believes the heavy investments made over the past decade since leave him confident the country is ready for the next wave of resources projects.

"Nobody was ready for PNG LNG at the time. We struggled on the wharves ... it was a tremendous learning experience in a very short period," he recalls.

Now, he says, "the country is in far better shape for the projects going forward, given that so much of this infrastructure has been built in response to the original boom. Port Moresby's international port at Motukea didn't exist at the time, the Lae Tidal Basin didn't exist at the time – all this has been built since." ■

Strictly Business stories kindly provided by



PNG's industry leaders reveal their thoughts on the economy



PICTURES: BUSINESS ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL

At the PNG 100 CEO Survey breakfast. (from left) are Westpac's Justin Smirk and Andrew Cairns, Business Advantage International's Andrew Wilkins and Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Rio Fiocco.

Since 2012, the data collected by the PNG 100 CEO Survey has revealed trends in business confidence among business leaders. So, how confident are PNG's leading businesses about 2026?

Business Advantage International and Westpac presented the results of the 2026 PNG 100 CEO Survey at a special Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry breakfast earlier in the year.

Among other things, the survey asked Papua New Guinea's chief executive officers how their profits performed in 2025 compared to their expectations.

According to 55 per cent of respondents, their profits exceeded expectations, 30 per cent said they met expectations and 15 per cent said profits fell short of expectations.

This was an even better result than last year's survey, when 40 per cent of CEOs said profits beat expectations and 30 per cent said they met expectations.

The survey also asked how profits are likely to perform in 2026, compared to 2025.

Most CEOs expressed optimism, with 72 per cent expecting profits to exceed 2025, and an additional 22 per cent expecting profits to be about the same. Less than six per cent of CEOs expect profits to fall this year.

Again, this pointed to an even greater level of optimism than the previous year, when

“

Most CEOs expressed optimism, with 72 per cent expecting 2026 profits to exceed 2025.

”



65 per cent of CEOs expected profits to rise and 25 per cent expected profits to be stable.

The survey asked respondents for their capital expenditure plans in 2026.

In another bullish signal, 72 per cent of CEOs forecast an increase in investment for the year, with a majority (52 per cent) forecasting a 'substantial' increase. An additional 13 per cent said capital expenditure would be around the same in 2026 as it was in 2025, while 15 per cent flagged it to be lower.

In last year's survey, 67 per cent of CEOs said their businesses were planning greater capital expenditure, while 22 per cent said they were planning the same level.

The survey asked respondents to indicate their recruitment intentions for 2026, compared to 2025.

The responses were positive overall, with 57 per cent of CEOs expecting to increase their head count and 37 per cent saying they would maintain current staffing levels. Less than six per cent of CEOs said they would reduce head count.

Last year's survey was similarly positive for job seekers, when 56 per cent of CEOs expected to increase staff levels and 43 per cent expected to maintain their head count. ■

The 2026 PNG 100 CEO Survey was conducted by Business Advantage International (publisher of this magazine) between November 2025 and January 2026. The survey included senior executives from a representative sample of PNG's largest companies, across all sectors of the economy.



Business leaders listen to a presentation at the CEOs' breakfast in Port Moresby.



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With a long-standing presence in PNG's business landscape, we continue to support organisations across a wide range of sectors and services. As we celebrate this milestone, we are excited about the future ahead and the role KPMG PNG will continue to play in shaping the next 60 years.

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Predictions for GDP growth

With improved export receipts and the prospect of major resources projects starting this year, PNG's economy is set for a sustained period of growth.

Papua New Guinea's economy is expected to grow by four per cent this year, according to the PNG Government's National Budget. The International Monetary Fund's own growth expectations align with those of the budget, while the Asian Development Bank is forecasting 3.6 per cent GDP growth in 2026.

Underpinning this growth will be strong prices of key export commodities – and not just gold and copper, which both hit all-time highs early this year.

Cocoa and coffee have also been trading at historically high prices these past two years, delivering increased revenues to the

agriculture sector, which supports the bulk of PNG's largely rural population.

Bank of Papua New Guinea figures reveal that deposits into PNG's banks from businesses in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors almost doubled between June 2023 and June 2025.

Both cocoa and coffee are expected to remain above historical averages this year, while the price of PNG's largest single agricultural export, palm oil, is expected to remain steady.

However, growth in the economy is not uniform. Many businesses focused on serving the domestic market, such as retailers and manufacturers, are reporting patchy trading



Cocoa and coffee have been trading at historically high prices.

conditions, with their margins challenged by a depreciation in the kina.

The GDP growth predictions do not factor in the anticipated economic boost that would follow final investment decisions (FIDs) for the TotalEnergies-led Papua LNG project and Twinza's smaller Pasca A offshore gas project. Both gas projects are expected to reach FIDs this year. ■

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5 QUESTIONS FOR DANNY ROBINSON, CEO OF CREDITBANK

CreditBank PNG has experienced rapid growth since receiving a PNG banking licence in 2024. In this interview, the bank's boss shares the key drivers behind the bank's rise, reveals what's next and provides his outlook for the banking sector.

Q: How has CreditBank PNG performed since its launch?

A: Results have exceeded expectations, with 70 per cent of new customers opening accounts entirely online through our digital app without ever having to come into the branch. Customers can use the app to verify their identity, set up login details and access a Visa debit card instantly. We've opened accounts in all 22 provinces.

We've had significant corporate interest from companies looking to open accounts for all staff, where we've sent team members to their location and onboarded those employees. It's been an outstanding success for us.

Q: What are the key reasons customers are choosing CreditBank?

A: The Visa debit card has been a big winner. We've had customer after customer travel overseas and

use their card without any issues whatsoever. Giving customers access to their account without having to take cash or foreign currency has been a big winner for us.

Our other major drawcard is our fee-free banking. When customers regularly deposit part of their salary – whether weekly, fortnightly or monthly – their monthly account-keeping fee is waived. On top of that, customers using our Visa debit card or credit card also avoid EFTPOS and ATM fees nationwide.

We are also emphasising improved service and security through our mobile app. If a customer loses their wallet or debit card, they can immediately log into the app, using facial recognition if enabled, to block the card.

Q: Now that you're well established, what are your plans for 2026?

A: CreditBank recently launched a highly competitive fixed-rate home loan at 4.99 per cent for the first 12 months. This offer applies to new home purchases and refinancing, giving customers full access to the bank's products and services.

We believe our mobile app and online banking app are best in class in PNG.

We're rolling out EFTPOS terminals to our business customers and that is encouraging other new commercial customers



Banking executive Danny Robinson.

PICTURE: BUSINESS ADVANTAGE INTERNATIONAL

to come onboard. We're also looking at things such as SoftPOS for customers instead of having a chunky EFTPOS terminal.

Q: What is your view on the increased competition in PNG's banking sector?

A: New market entrants are looking to expand their product offering. The challenge always is making sure that your systems, your capability and your apps are fully functional from a customer perspective.

We're very confident about our capability and our functionality. We are seeing other established banks increasing their focus on customer experience, including their digital offerings, which we think is a good thing for everybody. We think that's a case of them reacting to the competition in the market that we've been able to create for our new bank customers.

Q: Can you share your outlook for the PNG economy?

A: We're very positive about the economy. We do expect some positive news in the not-too-distant future in relation to some of the extraction industry (projects) – and that will drive further growth.

The middle-market segment is expanding, supported by rapid adoption of digital technology and increasing smartphone use nationwide. ■

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The Paradise Quiz

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE REGION?

1. What is the name of Papua New Guinea's new team in the Australian National Rugby League?
2. What body of water separates PNG and Australia?
3. Was PNG's Timothy Akis famous as an artist, a poet or a wood carver?
4. What is sweet potato called in PNG?
5. The previous issue of *Paradise* included a story about a famous cricket team that played in PNG in 1975. Can you recall the team?
6. Can you name the four distinct regions of PNG?
7. Who was the world religious leader who visited PNG in September 2024?
8. Who won the Australian Open men's tennis tournament in January and who did they beat?
9. Which Pacific nation's flag is light blue and features the UK flag in the top left corner?
10. What is the top-selling car in Singapore: Toyota, BYD or BMW?
11. Do more billionaires live in Hong Kong or Singapore?
12. Can you name India's Prime Minister?
13. Where is Guadalcanal, famously known for the fierce fighting that took place there during World War 2?
14. What is the currency of Samoa: the Samoan dollar, the tala or the peso?
15. Loco moco (pictured) is a popular comfort-food dish of rice, a meat patty and a fried egg with gravy. Where does it originate: PNG, Solomon Islands or Hawaii?



Sudoku

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

Rating: ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

		2			7		1	
5			6					3
		4				6	7	
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	5	3				7		
2					5			1
	7		3			4		





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Wheel Words

Area, Earn, Mare, Mart, Near, Pare, Part, Pear, Perm, Pert, Pram, Ramp, Rant, Rapt, Rate, Ream, Reap, Rent, Tare, Tarp, Tart, Tear, Term, Tern, Tram, Trap, Apart, Arena, Attar, Namer, Prana, Prate, Reman, Remap, Tamer, Taper, Tetra, Tramp, Treat, Entrap, Mantra, Marten, Matter, Natter, Parent, Patter, Rattan, Tamper, Tarpan, Tartan, Trepan, Mantrap, Pattern, Rampant.

9-letter word: APARTMENT.

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

The Paradise Quiz

1. PNG Chiefs. 2. Torres Strait. 3. Artist. 4. *Kaukau*. 5. West Indies. 6. Southern, Highlands, Islands and Momase. 7. Pope Francis. 8. Carlos Alcaraz beat Novak Djokovic. 9. Fiji. 10. BYD, a Chinese car that was first sold in Singapore in 2014. 11. Hong Kong had 66 billionaires resident in 2025, while Singapore had 49. 12. Narendra Modi. 13. Solomon Islands. 14. Tala. 15. Hawaii.



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ARRIVALS LOUNGE

PAPUA NEW GUINEA VISITOR GUIDE

Out and about

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



Port Moresby from the air ... the capital city has a population of 756,754 according to the National Statistical Office's 2024 Census.

CLIMATE

Except for the Highlands, Papua New Guinea has a warm tropical climate. The wet season in Port Moresby is from December to April.

COMMUNICATIONS

Internet: Web access in Port Moresby has improved immensely in recent years. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available at hotels and at Jacksons International Airport.

Phone: International phone roaming is possible in PNG, but it can be costly. A cheaper option is to buy a local SIM card and pre-paid credit (including data packs for smartphones). Major mobile networks are Digicel, Telikom PNG and Vodafone. Mobile data is available in cities and towns but may not be available in rural areas.

ELECTRICITY

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

ARRIVING AND GETTING AROUND

Arrival card: PNG launched the PNG Digital Arrival Card (PNG DAC) on October 1. It has replaced the traditional paper-based passenger card for all travellers entering the country. The PNG DAC can be completed online at pngdac.ica.gov.pg up to three days before travel.

Airport transfers: For arrival/ departure in Port Moresby, hotels provide a complimentary transfer.

Car hire: Major companies include Hertz Car Rental (+675 325 4999/+675 7235 2442) with a self-drive rate of PGK270–485 a day. With a driver it is PGK612–868. Avis Car Rental (+675 324 9400) day rate is PGK315–435 with a PGK4600 bond. With a driver it's an additional PGK15 per hour. WB Transport Systems (+675 341 3541) day rate is PGK300–1500. With the poor state of roads, especially in Lae, 4WDs/SUVs are recommended.



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

Taxis: Recommended firms are City Loop (+675 7715 9338) and Comfort (+675 7615 5663); Expedient Limited (+675 7232 9990) provides shuttle services. ODESH (+675 7981 8832/+675 7408 6270) is Port Moresby's first taxi and chauffeur on-demand booking service. See odesh.net or download the app.

HEALTH

Serious medical conditions can be treated in Port Moresby at the Pacific International Hospital, Paradise Private Hospital and Port Moresby General Hospital, which have emergency services. Some conditions may require treatment outside the country. Travellers should ensure they have adequate health cover. The cost of medical evacuation can be high. Visitors should also note that malaria is prevalent in PNG and there have been cases of measles and tuberculosis.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

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

MONEY

PNG's currency is the kina (PGK). Banks and ATMs are located around Port Moresby, Lae and almost all urban centres.

SHOPPING

BNBM Home Centre: Located at Gordons, sells everything from building materials to homeware and tech items. See facebook.com/BNBMPNG.

Brian Bell Home Centre: Sells a wide range of white and brown goods as well as sportswear and manchester. There are outlets at Boroko and Gordons with a smaller shop at Vision City. See facebook.com/brianbellgroup.

Foodworld: Has two outlets – Waterfront and Gordons. Considered the best grocery shops by many. The Waterfront outlet has a home centre, salon, eye care, clothing and tech shops. There is a Popi's cafe at both locations.

Rangeview Plaza: Opposite Vision City, the plaza has a big grocery shop, clothing stores and a salon. The spacious dining area upstairs has multiple food vendors and a playground. There are stalls outside where local artisans sell their crafts, paintings and toana wear. See facebook.com/RangeviewPlaza.

Stop & Shop: It has outlets all over the city, but recommended locations are at Harbour City and Waigani Central (also home to Jack's of PNG, Prouds and Hardware Haus). Small businesses are set up in the car park selling *meri* blouses as well as local art and crafts. An outlet has opened at 8 Mile. See cpl.com.pg.

Unity Mall & Supermarket: This complex at the Steamships compound in Waigani has small businesses selling PNG-designed outfits, crafts and accessories. You can also find a pharmacy and several hair stations. The eateries offer local cuisine, snacks and coffee. The supermarket sells

fresh local vegetables sourced from all over the country. See unitygroup.com.pg.

Vision City: Centrally located in Waigani, the mall has everything from groceries to clothing stores, pharmacies, salons and even a carwash service. The only cinema (Paradise Cinema) in the country is on level 2. You can also find a night club (The Cosmopolitan). Take your pick from the many restaurants and food vendors at the Food Junction. See visioncitypng.com.

MARKETS

Banana Market: Located within the secure Adventure Park premises at 14 Mile, 30 minutes outside the city. Despite its name, you can find a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables sourced from the gardens of surrounding communities. Open 7am–5.30pm.

Boroko Market: Next to Santos Stadium, this popular market has a great range of local produce. There is limited parking but there is a general understanding to park along the side street with caution. Open 7.30am–5pm.

Ela Beach Craft Market: At the IEA TAFE campus opposite the beach. Held on the last Saturday of each month. Support artisans from nearby Motuan villages and small businesses that sell paintings, *bilums*, as well as woven baskets, mats and *tapa* (tree bark) cloth sourced from rural parts of the country. Organised by the Ela Murray International School. Tel. +675 302 3800. Open 7.30am–midday.

Gordons Market: Next to the Gordons police station, it's the biggest market in Port Moresby with two levels. Well organised, you can find everything from various greens, root crops and

seasonal fruit. There is ample parking and security. Open 7am–6.30pm.

Holiday Inn Craft Market: Held on the third Saturday of each month in Cassowary Park. Paintings, wooden carvings and pandanus mats are just a few of the items on sale. Proceeds from the vendor fees (PGK20) and the craft market's sausage sizzle go to charity. Open 8am–1pm. See facebook.com/holidayinnandsuitesportmoresby.

Koki Fish Market: Built over the sea, this fish market is the biggest one-stop shop for seafood. Fish like tuna and red emperor caught by local villagers can be cleaned and cut for you. Open 6am–6pm.

Moresby Arts Theatre Craft Market: Located at Waigani (next to Parliament House) find local art, carvings, pottery and jewellery. Enjoy the barbecue, live music and movies for kids. Some craft days have cultural dances and performance art shows. Held on the first Saturday of each month. Entry PGK2. Open 8am–1pm.

PAU Sunday Market: Pacific Adventist University, 30 minutes outside the city, has a market every Sunday, starting at 5am. There's produce from the school's farm, including cucumber, watermelon and corn, as well as cooked food from the Pacific.

POM City Markets: If you're after traditional crafts as well as a whole range of novelty products from small business owners, they regularly set up at the Vision City amphitheatre, National Museum & Art Gallery and Food Republic PNG carpark. They also host the Harbourside Night Markets at the Harbourside Precinct, which includes live music and food. ➤



See facebook.com/pomcitymarkets for upcoming dates. Tel. +675 7007 3046.

Some of these locations (as well as all food markets in general) are known for crime so it isn't recommended that you go alone, or without your own security.

HOTELS

PORT MORESBY

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

Citi Boutique Hotel: The Citi Boutique Hotel is a three-star property in Boroko. It has 60 deluxe queen and twin rooms, a business centre, cable TV and free Wi-Fi. There's also a day spa and beauty salon, restaurant, bar, karaoke room, and a rooftop terrace. The hotel provides free airport transfers. See facebook.com/citiboutiquehotel. Tel. +675 300 1300.

Citi Serviced Apartments and Motel: There are two Citi Serviced Apartments and Motel properties, one block located at East Boroko and the other at Manu. They are set in safe and secure grounds. The apartments are fully kitted out. They include cable TV, free Wi-Fi, washing machines, dryers, fridges, fans and air conditioning. Housekeeping is also provided. See facebook.com/citiboutiquehotel. Tel. +675 300 1300.

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



The Lamana Hotel in Waigani.

Ela Beach Hotel and

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

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

Grand Papua: This premium hotel is now part of the Raddison group and features 156 suite rooms (short and long stay), an executive floor, gym and conference facilities. The separate restaurant and bar areas are popular for business meetings. Centrally located. See coralseahotels.com.pg/grand-papua-hotel. Tel. +675 304 0000.

Hilton Port Moresby: The capital city's newest luxury hotel opened in late 2018 and is in the government district 10 minutes from the airport. There are five restaurants, an executive lounge, six meeting rooms, a convention centre, swimming pool and fitness centre. All rooms in the 15-storey

hotel include floor-to-ceiling windows. The accommodation includes standard rooms, executive rooms and suites. See hiltonportmoresby.hilton.com. Tel. +675 7501 8000.

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

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

Loloata Island Resort: This island resort, 40 minutes from Port Moresby, opened in late 2019. There are 68 rooms (including some overwater suites and villas), a day spa and two restaurants. Day passes are available for visitors who aren't staying overnight, and shuttles are provided from Port Moresby. The island is perfect for swimming, snorkelling, diving, walking or just lounging beside the pool. See loloataislandresort.com. Tel. +675 7108 8000.

Sanctuary Hotel Resort & Spa: The hotel is an oasis in the city, located 10 minutes from the airport in North Waigani. There is a lot of greenery in the hotel grounds and a large aviary, which includes the bird of paradise. The hotel, close to government offices, has a business centre, a day spa, swimming pool and a restaurant with a traditional PNG menu with a contemporary edge. It also has rooms and facilities with ramps for people with disabilities. Tel. +675 303 7400.

Shady Rest Hotel: Located at Three Mile, seven minutes from the airport, this affordable hotel has 74 rooms, including newly built executive rooms, conference facilities, a day spa and salon, a small gaming lounge, a tapas lounge, the Indian-inspired Cellar Restaurant and Mr Mike's Pizza Company. See shadyrest.com.pg. Tel. +675 323 0000.

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

LAE

Crossroads Hotel: A 45-room facility at Nine Mile. The hotel has a Japanese-themed teppanyaki restaurant with Asian/Western fusion menus, full bar service, a well-equipped gym, Wi-Fi and complimentary transfers to both Lae City and the airport. Tel. +675 475 1124.

Hotel Morobe: A centrally located boutique with 38 elegantly



decorated rooms. See hotelmorobe.com. Tel. +675 4790 100.

Huon Gulf Hotel & Apartments:

Has comfortable rooms, conference rooms and a pool, located in the industrial part of town. The restaurant offers Italian cuisine and there are two bars. See coralseahotels.com.pg/huon-gulf-hotel-apartments. Tel. +675 7999 0100.

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

Lae International Hotel: The city's premier hotel has a range of rooms, including deluxe executive

suites, full bar service, conference and banquet halls, a gym and pool. See laeinterhotel.com. Tel. +675 472 2000.

Lae Travellers Inn: An affordable option, offering clean and comfortable rooms. There is a car rental service on the inn's premises and their restaurant offers curry takeaway. See laetravellersinn.com. Tel. +675 479 0411.

EATING & DRINKING

PORT MORESBY

Airways Hotel: Port Moresby's ritziest hotel has several places to eat. If you're after fine dining, Bacchus is the place to go. For something more casual, go poolside to Deli KC or 7C's past reception. The Vue Restaurant

has a buffet each morning, lunch and evening. The Filipino-themed buffet is a winner. There is also an a la carte menu and stunning views. The tandoori dishes come highly recommended. If you're after a drink, have cocktails and beers at the Balus Bar. For an exclusive experience, head to the Havanaba Bar to enjoy a cigar with your pick of top-shelf wines and spirits. See airways.com.pg. Tel. +675 324 5200 and +675 7373 2600.

Akura: An elegant dining and lounge bar at Harbourside that is a popular spot for after-work drinks. Try their beef vermicelli salad or pop in for Taco Tuesday. Tel. +675 7320 7777. See instagram.com/akurapng.

Alibi Bar & Grill: At the Harbourside precinct, open for

lunch and dinner daily. There's a kid's playground if you're making it a family day. Fridays and Saturdays bring in a big night crowd and the bar stays open until late. Try their platters: the Surf & Turf, Meat Lovers and the Fisherman's Basket with a view of the harbour. See facebook.com/alibipng. Tel. +675 7320 7777.

Ang's Restaurant: No-frills Chinese hidden away in an industrial block opposite Brian Bell's Gordons Plaza shopping centre. Roast duck is the signature dish. Tel. +675 323 0863.

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

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

Aviat Port Moresby Club:

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

Crown Hotel: For fine dining, choose Rapala Restaurant, its menu a mix of Western and Middle Eastern dishes. It's open 6pm to 10pm. All-day dining is available at The Cafe, opens at 6am. Every Saturday night, the hotel hosts an International Street Food Festival, featuring popular dishes from around the world. See crownhotel.com.pg. Tel. +675 309 3000.

Crowne Plaza Residences:

The Port Terrace Restaurant & Bar has views of Fairfax Harbour, and all-day dining. It's open 6.30am to 10pm. Try a power juice for breakfast, chicken parmy for lunch or chilli lobster for dinner. The extensive menu also includes burgers and steaks, as well as share plates. Great spot to watch the sunset with a beverage, with wine, beer, spirits and cocktails on offer. See portrestaurant.com.pg. Tel. +675 308 3100.

Cuppa Cafe: Has a rustic setting with great breakfast options, pasta dishes, burgers and salads. The snack bucket – a large bowl of fried chicken, onion rings, prawns, battered fish, spring rolls and chips – is perfect for sharing. Try their coffee or a range of healthy smoothie combos. Tel. +675 302 8666.



The Mumu restaurant ... the casual and elegant eatery at Port Moresby's Hilton Hotel offers traditional PNG-style cooking.

Daikoku: The extensive Japanese menu has teppanyaki, donburi bowls and a large range of sushi. 'All-You-Can-Eat' grilled skewers available every Thursday night. You can find them at Stop & Shop Harbour City (first floor) and the Harbourside Precinct. See daikokupng.com. Tel. +675 7375 3130.

Duffy Cafe: Known for excellent coffee and homemade cafe-style food and bakery items, Duffy has three locations: at Harbourside, Gordons and Jacksons International Airport. You can order your breakfast ahead of time for those busy work mornings. You can also find their bread on sale at Waterfront Foodworld. See duffypng.com. Tel. +675 325 8528.

Dynasty at Vision City: This may be the biggest restaurant in Port Moresby. Its size, its chandeliers and its gold decor make it a favourite for balls, dinners and parties. The menu is huge, too, with pages of Asian dishes. The crispy lemon chicken is a favourite. See facebook.com/100064086213057. Tel. +675 302 8538.

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

Ela Beach Hotel: Drop in to Salt Restaurant for casual all-day dining, including curry, burgers and wok dishes, or pizza at Enzo's. The Beachside Bakery has a great range of sweet treats and coffee that you can enjoy in outdoor seating. See coralseahotels.com.pg. Tel. +675 7998 6510.

Fusion Bistro: A fusion of flavours from China, Thailand and Vietnam. Located in ENB Haus, Harbour City. Takeaway available. Tel. +675 7196 6666.

Gateway Hotel: The hotel's dining options include the Wild

Orchard for breakfast and dinner buffet daily, Jackson's Gaming–Restaurant–Bar, which has a rooftop bar with views of the airport, as well as claims to the best lamb rack in town, Sizzler's Family Restaurant for value dining (PGK60 buffet), while Enzo's Express does quick lunches, coffee and pizza. Deli Cafe serves excellent milkshakes and the hotel's own range of bread and pastries. See coralseahotels.com.pg. Tel. +675 7999 0200.

Grand Papua Hotel: The elegant Grand Brasserie has an a la carte menu of modern European cuisine, as well as buffet options – Asian on Tuesday and seafood on Friday. The Grand Cafe, on Douglas Street, has barista-made Goroka coffee, fruit juices, freshly made salads and sandwiches. The Grand Bar – with stylish marble, high ceilings, timber floors and window shutters – has a light menu and is a popular place to wind down after work. See coralseahotels.com.pg/grand-papua-hotel. Tel. +675 7999 0000.

Hilton Port Moresby: The hotel has five eating areas including Mumu, which is named after the traditional earthen oven of PNG, and serves traditionally inspired dishes. There's also a top-floor lounge bar called Summit, cafe-style dining in Copper in the lobby level, all-day dining and a breakfast buffet at Feast, including a Southeast Asian buffet every Wednesday night, and quick bites, such as sandwiches and coffee, at Halo in the convention centre foyer. See hiltonportmoresby.hilton.com. Tel. +675 7501 8000.

Hilton Residences: The Host Deli, Bistro & Bar on level two has a relaxed modern vibe with



ample seating options. The Super Bowl (roasted cauliflower, falafel, poached egg, chickpeas with hummus, labneh and haloumi) comes highly recommended. If you're on the go, the delicatessen bar offers fresh fruit, pastries, sandwiches and desserts. Opens at 6.30am and stays open till late for drinks. See hiltonportmoresby.hilton.com. Tel. +675 7501 8000.

Holiday Inn & Suites: The Kopi Haus Restaurant has breakfast from 6am, lunch and dinner. It has a la carte as well as a buffet, with the cuisine including PNG flavours. Expect themed buffets (such as barbecue and flavours of Asia) from Wednesday to Friday. The poolside Gekko Bar opens at midday and includes a big screen for sports telecasts and tasty bites to go with a range of wines, cocktails and local and international beers. See ihg.com. Tel. +675 303 2000.

Hosi Ramen: As the name suggests, this Japanese restaurant at Vision City specialises in ramen (noodles served in broth with meat and vegetables). A party of up to 15 people can opt for a hotpot session. Tel. +675 302 8555.

Jeanz Cafe: A family-friendly cafe with ample seating that proudly serves PNG Arabica coffee. Located in Gordons Plaza, it has a great range of salads, pastries and sandwiches. See gordonsplaza.com.

Kofi "N" Kai: A cafe located in BNBM Home Centre with ample lounge seating. Try the ham and cheese croissant or indulge in dessert options like Oreo cheesecake, carrot cake or the almond and pecan tart. Tel. +675 775 74399.

Korean Garden: An affordable menu at Vision City that includes a do-it-yourself barbecue, as well as traditional favourites such as kimchi and gimbap. See facebook.com/koreangardenpng. Tel. +675 302 8534.

Lamana Hotel: Choose from options including Spices Restaurant (Indian), the Italian Restaurant, Cafe Palazzo and PNG's biggest nightclub, The Gold Club. The 360 Bar has great night views, and exclusive birthday fireworks can be organised. See lamanahotel.com.pg. Tel. +675 7373 0600.

Loloata Island Resort: The private island has two restaurants. Bootless Bay is spacious with high ceilings and an open-plan style that provides a panoramic view of the sea. They serve a highly recommended breakfast and lunch buffet. The vibe at night makes it the perfect spot for a dinner date. The Beach Club upstairs is a great spot for special events like corporate dinners, birthdays and weddings. See loloataislandresort.com. Tel. +675 7108 8000.

Lucky Lucky: Informal but classy Thai cuisine at the Nambawan Super Plaza. Town and harbour views, alfresco dining. Go-to dishes include pad Thai noodles and the charcoal-grilled pepper beef sirloin. Tel. +675 7995 5264.

Mojo Social: This casual Mediterranean-inspired bar and restaurant is on the ground floor of PWC Haus at Harbour City. Tapas-style dishes, risotto and pizza are among the offerings. Try the new Mexican dishes during a regular Taco Tuesday. See mojofood.co. Tel. +675 7995 5264.

Pentagon Entertainment: On the former Laguna Hotel premises.

Guests can enjoy indoor and outdoor seating. There is also a family-friendly pool area. Try some of the signature dishes like biryani stuffed roasted chicken, crispy pork sisig, and salmon in an orange glaze. Tel. +675 325 1068.

PGO!: PNG's first online delivery service. Their vendors include Burrito Central (Port Moresby's first Mexican takeaway), Port Terrace, The Dirty Kitchen, Abus na Kumu (translates to 'meat and greens'), Fusion, Kopibin, Mr Mike's Pizza, The Cellar, Juice Bar and Marcus Kitchenette and Catering and many more. See phipax.com.

Port Terrace: Fast becoming a popular lunch and dinner spot, the restaurant and bar is in the Crowne Plaza Residences.

There are grilled dishes, share plates like a seafood or sticky pork ribs platter, and homemade pasta dishes. There's a new cocktail to try every month. See portrestaurant.com.pg. Tel. +675 308 3100.

Red Rock Bar: Located at Dogura, 6 Mile (along Magi Highway). Be prepared for an uphill drive to the bar but it's worthwhile for the spectacular sunset. Try the Red Rock burger or sizzling lamb and pork with a table in the outdoor area. Tel. +675 8214 7357.

Royal Papua Yacht Club: Relaxed, spacious and open to non-members. Comfort food, draught beer and an open-plan bar area showing sport on large screens. There is a themed ►



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cocktail night each Thursday. See rpyc.com.pg. Tel. +675 321 1700.

Seoul House: This restaurant specialises in Korean, Thai and Chinese cuisine, cooked on a hotplate in front of you. The dishes include a seafood platter of coral trout, mussels and shrimp, and Singapore-style chilli crab. Seoul House is tucked away in a garden oasis compound in Five Mile. The owners also have a cafe at the Jacksons International Airport, Hotspot. Try the black forest cake and croissant sandwich while waiting for your flight. Tel. +675 7823 3075.

Shady Rest Hotel: The Indian dishes at the hotel's Cellar Restaurant draw high praise from reviewers on TripAdvisor. The restaurant also prides itself in its steaks. Mr Mike's Pizza Company is a takeaway located at the hotel and has classic pizzas, such as Hawaiian and margarita, as well as gourmet pizzas such as the Mediterranean, which is packed with feta, olives, mushrooms and more. Bakeology Cafe & Bakery offers alfresco dining surrounded by lush greenery. Enjoy a range of sandwiches, salads, pastries, desserts and freshly baked bread. See shadyrest.com.pg. Tel. +675 323 0000.

Stanley Hotel and Suites: This Waigani hotel has several restaurant choices. On the 19th floor, the Silver Leaf offers intimate fine dining with stunning night views. The Executive Lounge (for guests staying on the 14th to 18th floors) offers breakfast, all-day snacks and cocktail canapes. A walk up the stairs from the lounge takes you to the Mezz Bar, which offers premium spirits. There is also a smoking deck. The chic tapas-style Monsoon

Lounge is on the ground floor. Green Haus restaurant has all-day dining, including buffet dinners with live cooking stations. Choose your own combo at the new juice station available at breakfast and lunch. The serene Rainforest Cafe, close to the check-in area, has coffee, desserts and pastries. See thestanleypng.com.

Tandoor on the Harbour: Come here for a curry with great bay views. The butter chicken with garlic nan is classic. See facebook.com/tandoorontheharbour. Tel. +675 3201 910.

Tasty Bites: This cosy traditional Indian restaurant is tucked away in the town centre in Hunter Street near Crowne Plaza (ANG Haus). A great spot for quick and affordable meals. Try the vegetable noodles with chicken strips or the pizza menu. Deliveries available. Tel. +675 321 2222.

Tribes Coffee Club: This cafe has two locations: Oasis building in the Steamships compound, Waigani, and Lawes Road, Ela Beach. All-day dining available. The seafood platter with crab, shrimps and the catch of the day is a dinner favourite. Tel. +675 321 0455.

Tuna Bay Resort: Located in Taurama, just five minutes from Manu. Enjoy battered fish and chips, char-grilled rump steak and boneless chicken that comes with a side of garden salad and chips. There is indoor and outdoor dining, with bay views. Tel. +675 7920 8777.

LAE

Bulolo Golf and Country Club: Lae's newest restaurant has an a la carte menu with indoor dining and an outdoor deck overlooking the course. The Bulolo T-bone

steak is said to be among the best in the country and is sourced locally. Try 'Papa Tony's Pizza', a stone-baked pizza created by the club's chefs. See facebook.com/bulolocountryclub. Tel. +675 7358 7161.

Bunga Raya: This local favourite, serving Malaysian-style Chinese, is located next to the Lae Golf Club. Be sure to try the stuffed lettuce cups, laksa and claypot tofu. They've added boba milk tea and their own range of fruity sodas to the drink's menu. See facebook.com/bungarayarestaurant. Tel. +675 472 7177.

Cafe 411: There's a cosy atmosphere at this casual cafe next to Hotel Morobe on Coronation Drive. The Western-style menu includes finger foods and PNG coffee. Try the T-bone steak with mushroom sauce if you're after something hearty. Tel. +675 479 0100.

Huon Club: This private members' club offers air-conditioned facilities, comfortable lounge chairs, an expansive deck overlooking the Lae Golf Club, a fully stocked bar and Foxtel to preview all the racing and sporting events. Open on Wednesday and Friday, members can enjoy regular lucky key draws and a barbecue menu. Inquiries to Lae Golf Club. See laegolfclub.com.pg. Tel. +675 472 1363.

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

Lae Garden Restaurant: The Asian menu includes staples such as crispy chicken, butter prawns

and the Malaysian dish nasi lemak. The elegant restaurant, inside Hotel Morobe on Coronation Drive, offers breathtaking views of the city from its balcony. A great venue for big dinner parties. Tel. +675 479 0100.

Lae Golf Club: The club is excellent for a few sundowners as you overlook the stunning green with access to the excellent bar. Apart from golf, you can enjoy the basketball and tennis courts. See laegolfclub.com.pg. Tel. +675 472 1363.

Lae International Hotel: Home to three restaurants – Lulua's Italian Pizza, Vanda and Kokomo – which serve an array of international cuisine, including Indian and seafood buffets. The Sportsman's Bar (aka Jack's Bar) is a good place for a nightcap. See laeinterhotel.com. Tel. +675 472 2000.

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

Mountain View Restaurant: Located at the Crossroads Hotel at Nine Mile. Try the newly curated menu, which is a mix of Western and Pacific cuisine. Ramu steaks are a favourite. Great spot for cocktails and wine. See crossroads-hotel-lae.mydirectstay.com. Tel. +675 475 1124.

Ocean Restaurant: Located at Aviat Club, it's a popular seafood spot. Offers authentic Asian cuisine and local dishes. See facebook.com/p/Ocean-Restaurant-Lae-100049129045632. Tel. +675 7370 3045. ■



MINI GUIDE TO TOK PISIN WORDS/PHRASES

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

- *Where do I find a taxi?*
Bai mi painim taxi long we?
- *One coffee with milk, please.*
Wanpela kap kopi wantaim milk plis.
- *Where is the toilet?*
Toilet istap we?
- *How much is this?*
Hamas long dispela?
- *Thank you very much.*
Tenkiu tru.
- *You understand English?*
Yu save long tok Inglis?
- *Where is my bag?*
Bag bilong mi istap we?
- *Where can I change my money?*
Wanem hap bai mi ken senisim moni bilong mi?

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

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

NUMBERS

- 1**
Wan
- 2**
Tu
- 3**
Tri
- 4**
Foa
- 5**
Faiv
- 6**
Sikis
- 7**
Seven
- 8**
Et
- 9**
Nain
- 10**
Ten



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New CEO for Air Niugini



Air Niugini's Chairman Karl Yalo (left) with new CEO Alan Milne.

Air Niugini has appointed Alan Milne as Chief Executive Officer. The Chairman of the Board of Air Niugini, Karl Yalo, says the appointment comes at a pivotal time for the national airline as it works through its re-fleeting program and strengthens operational reliability and financial performance.

"I am pleased to announce that Mr Alan Milne has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Air Niugini Limited, following approval by the National Executive Council," he said.

Alan Milne is an aviation executive and engineer with more than 44 years of aviation experience across PNG and Australia, with a track record in engineering, operations and airline leadership.

He served as Air Niugini's CEO from 2018 to 2020, departing as the COVID-19 pandemic began to reshape global aviation. Before that, he held a range of senior executive roles with Qantas, including leadership responsibilities spanning engineering, operations and maintenance. He also served as CEO of Skytrans Airlines in Australia

from 2020 to 2025, supporting the development and growth of regional air connectivity. He is double university degree qualified, a licensed aircraft engineer and a qualified pilot.

"His deep understanding of the complexities of airline management in the Asia-Pacific region is exactly what is needed at this time for Air Niugini," the Chairman said.

He said the Board and shareholders have set clear expectations for the new CEO, with emphasis on safety, operational performance, customer experience, workforce stability, and disciplined delivery of the re-fleet transition.

"Mr Milne will work closely with the Air Niugini Board and with our partners – including the National Airports Corporation, Niusky, Airbus and other relevant international organisations – to advance the airline and ensure a smooth transition to the next-generation fleet.

The Chairman thanked Captain Samiu Taufa for his service over the past six months.

"I thank and commend Captain Samiu Taufa for his diligent service as Officer in Charge over the past six months. This has been a busy and demanding period, including peak travel operations, and Captain Taufa rose to the challenges. He will continue in his role as General Manager Flight Operations and will work closely with Mr Milne." ■

Games baton comes to PNG

The Commonwealth Games baton relay took place in Papua New Guinea in January, with Air Niugini carrying the King's Baton from Port Moresby to Rabaul early on Saturday January 10 on board an Airbus A220 flight.

The baton was accompanied by PNG Olympic Committee President and Vice President of the Oceania National Olympic Committee's Executive Board, Emma Waiwai, together with British Deputy High

Commissioner Niall Cullens. On arrival at Tokua airport, the delegation was welcomed by East New Britain Governor Michael Marum.

From there, the baton journeyed across all four districts of the province: Kokopo, Pomio, Gazelle and Rabaul.

The relay was highlighted by vibrant traditional performances and visits to iconic landmarks, showcasing the rich culture and beauty of East New Britain.



British Deputy High Commissioner Niall Cullens, PNG Olympic Committee President Emma Waiwai (with baton), and Team PNG Glasgow Chef de Mission Elaine Lorive.

The relay travels to 74 Commonwealth countries and territories, each receiving and carrying their own baton, leading up to the Games in Scotland from July 23. ■



Air Niugini celebrates women's day

Air Niugini's female workforce (pictured) came together with enthusiasm and pride in March to celebrate International Women's Day, embracing the theme 'Give to Gain'. The day serves as a reminder of the achievements of women across the globe and reinforces the airline's commitment to promoting gender equality within the company and beyond.



Air Niugini staff took the opportunity to share inspiring personal experiences and words of encouragement. Many reflected on the importance of

recognising women's contributions, fostering a supportive environment, and advocating for equity for all. ■

AIRLINE AIMS FOR HIGH-QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Air Niugini has started a customer experience improvement program as part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening service standards across the airline.

An initial workshop in Port Moresby in January brought together employees from across the company to align on how the airline can deliver a more consistent and supportive experience for passengers across the full journey – from booking and check-in to boarding, inflight service and baggage handling.

Air Niugini acknowledges that the most recent festive period was one of its most challenging operational periods in recent years, with flight disruptions causing inconvenience for passengers.

The disruptions have reinforced the importance of improving how the airline communicates with customers, supports frontline teams, and applies clearer systems and processes to manage disruption more effectively. The current customer experience improvement work is focused on ensuring passengers are treated with care, kept informed and supported consistently across the network.

Air Niugini's former Officer in Charge, Captain Samiu Taufa, said this year



Air Niugini staff at the January workshop to improve customer service.

represents an important opportunity to reset expectations and move the airline forward.

"This year is about changing the narrative and moving Air Niugini forward. We are committed to service transformation and to empowering our people at all levels to serve with passion, discipline and empathy. Our customers deserve more than simply purchasing a ticket – they deserve to experience the warmth, care and respect that reflect who we are as Papua New Guineans and how we take care of people."

While the introduction of new Airbus A220 aircraft will enhance comfort and reliability, Air Niugini recognises that a high-quality

customer experience is delivered through people, communication and consistency.

Customers can expect progressive improvements as the initiatives in the customer experience improvement program are implemented.

Meanwhile, Air Niugini signed a strategic agreement with the Institute of Technical Education Services (ITEES) in Singapore earlier this year to strengthen technical training and capability development for its workforce.

The agreement was signed during the Singapore Airshow, marking an important milestone in Air Niugini's ongoing commitment to operational excellence and workforce development.

ITEES is the international business arm of the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) in Singapore, established to share Singapore's vocational education and training expertise with organisations around the world.

Under the agreement, ITEES will provide specialised technical training for Air Niugini, drawing on its extensive experience in aviation and technical education.

In addition to technical training, ITEES provides leadership and planning support programs, which can be tailored to Air Niugini's operational needs. ■





ENJOY OUR BIRD OF PARADISE IN-FLIGHT SERVICE

PLEASE ASK US

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

HAND LUGGAGE

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

TAKEOFF AND LANDING

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

SAFETY FIRST

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

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

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

CHILDREN AND BABIES

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

SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted on any Air Niugini flight.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

PILLOWS AND BLANKETS

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

CUISINE

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

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS FORMS

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

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

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



AIR NIUGINI FLEET



B767-300 – BOEING

- Length: 59.94m
- Wing Span: 47.57m
- Range: 8100km
- Cruising Speed: 857kph
- Power Plant: 2 x PW4000
- Normal Altitude: 11000 – 12000m
- Standard Seating Capacity: 188
- Business Class: 28
- Economy Class: 160
- Number of Aircrafts in Fleet: 02



B737-800 – BOEING

- Length: 39.5m
- Wing Span: 35.7m
- Range: 5000-5500km
- Cruising Speed: 810-850kph
- Power Plant: 2 x CFM56-7B27E
- Normal Altitude: 11300m
- Standard Seating Capacity: 154-162
- Business Class: 12-16
- Economy Class: 128-150
- Number of Aircrafts in Fleet: 03



A220-300 – AIRBUS

- Length: 38.69m
- Wing Span: 34.98m
- Range: 6700km
- Cruising Speed: 115-245 KIAS
- Power Plant: PW1524G-3
- Normal Altitude: 41,000 FT (Ceiling)
- Standard Seating Capacity: 138
- Business Class: 08
- Economy Class: 130
- Number of Aircrafts in Fleet: 03



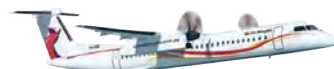
F100 – FOKKER

- Length: 35.53m
- Wing Span: 22.08m
- Range: 3000km
- Cruising Speed: 780kph
- Power Plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650-15 turbo engines
- Normal Altitude: 11000m
- Standard Seating Capacity: 101
- Business Class: 8
- Economy Class: 93
- Number of Aircrafts in Fleet: 04



F70 – FOKKER

- Length: 30.91m
- Wing Span: 28.08m
- Range: 3410km
- Cruising Speed: 743kph
- Power Plant: 2 x Rolls Royce Tay 650-15 turbo engines
- Normal Altitude: 11000m
- Standard Seating Capacity: 73
- Business Class: 8
- Economy Class: 65
- Number of Aircrafts in Fleet: 03



DCH8-Q400 – BOMBARDIER

- Length: 32.8m
- Wing Span: 28.4m
- Range: 3000km
- Cruising Speed: 670kph
- Power Plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW150A
- Normal Altitude: 7600ft
- Standard Seating Capacity: 76
- Number of Aircrafts in Fleet: 04



DHC8-315 – BOMBARDIER

- Length: 25.7m
- Wing Span: 27.4m
- Range: 1700km
- Cruising Speed: 510kph
- Power Plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney PW123E
- Normal Altitude: 6100m
- Standard Seating Capacity: 50
- Number of Aircrafts in Fleet: 05



DHC8-202 – BOMBARDIER

- Length: 22.25m
- Wing Span: 25.89m
- Range: 1800km
- Cruising Speed: 550kph
- Power Plant: 2 x Pratt & Whitney 123D
- Normal Altitude: 7600m
- Standard Seating Capacity: 36
- Number of Aircrafts in Fleet: 02



FALCON 900EX – DASSAULT

- Length: 20.21m
- Wing Span: 19.33m
- Range: 4500km
- Cruising Speed: 650kph
- Power Plant: 3 x Honeywell TFE731
- Normal Altitude: 7600m
- Standard Seating Capacity: 12
- Number of Aircrafts in Fleet: 01

Your health inflight

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

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

Blood Circulation / Muscle Relaxation

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Former or current malignant disease
- Blood disorders leading to increased clotting tendency
- Personal or family history of DVT

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

Recommendations

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

Jetlag

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

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

Recommendations

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



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

Cabin Humidity / Dehydration

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

Recommendations

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

Eating and Drinking

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

Recommendations

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

Cabin Pressurisation

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

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

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

Recommendations

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

Motion Sickness

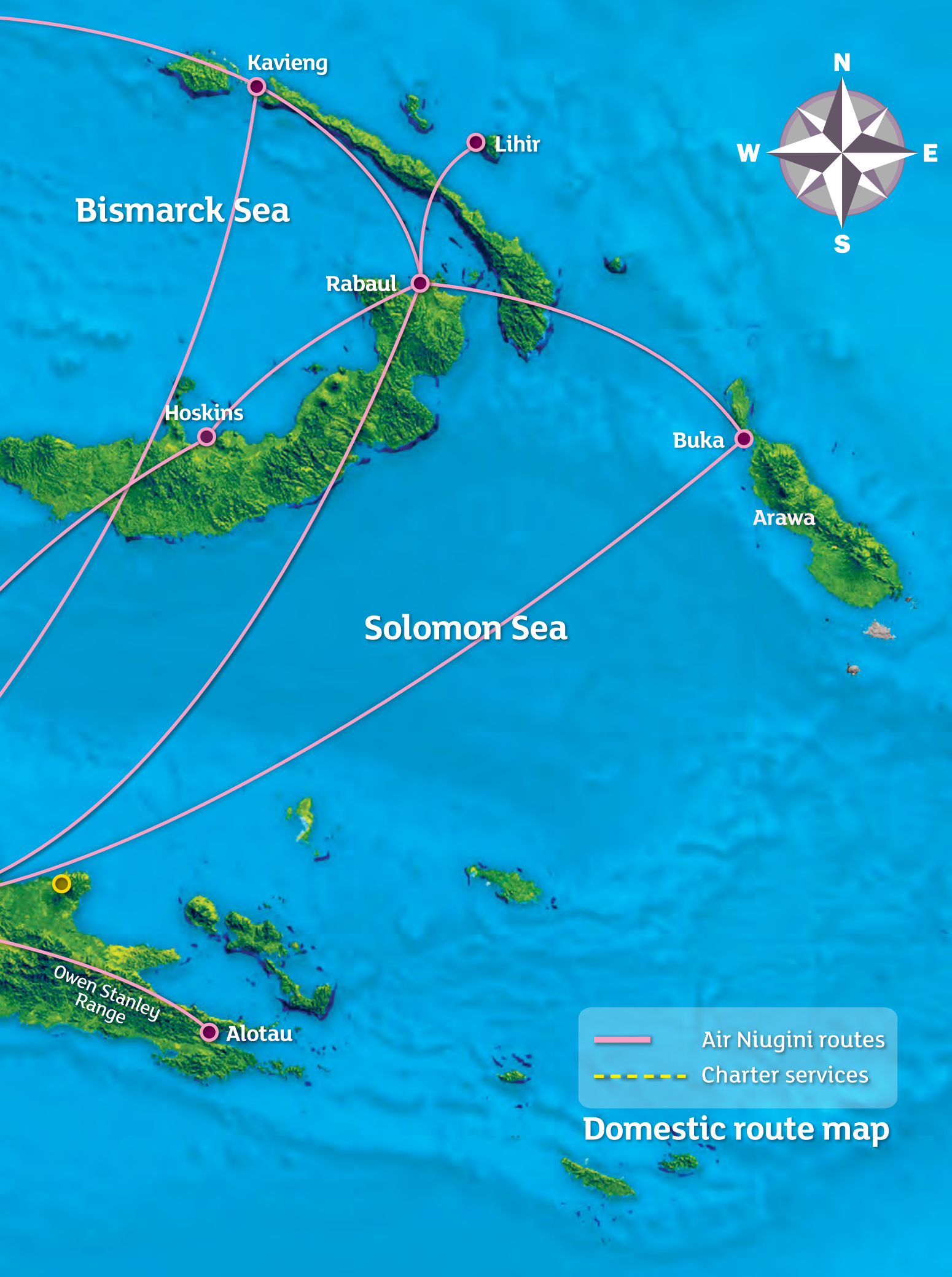
This ailment is caused by a conflict between the body's sense of vision and its sense of equilibrium. Air turbulence increases its likelihood because it can cause movement of the fluid in the vestibular apparatus of the inner ear. If you have good visual cues (keeping your eyes fixed on non-moving object),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

Recommendations

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



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www.airniugini.com.pg



Bismarck Sea

Rabaul

Hoskins

Kavieng

Lihir

Buka

Arawa

Solomon Sea

Owen Stanley Range

Alotau



Air Niugini routes



Charter services

Domestic route map



HONG KONG

MANILA

SINGAPORE

**PORT
MORESBY**

**INDIAN
OCEAN**

CAIRNS

BRISBANE

SYDNEY

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE MAP



PACIFIC
OCEAN



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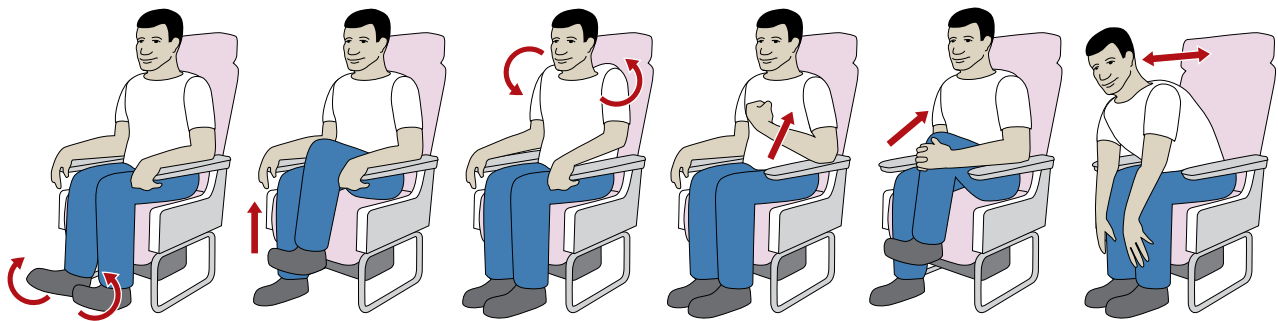


Your wellbeing



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

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



ANKLE CIRCLES

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

KNEE LIFTS

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

SHOULDER ROLL

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

ARM CURL

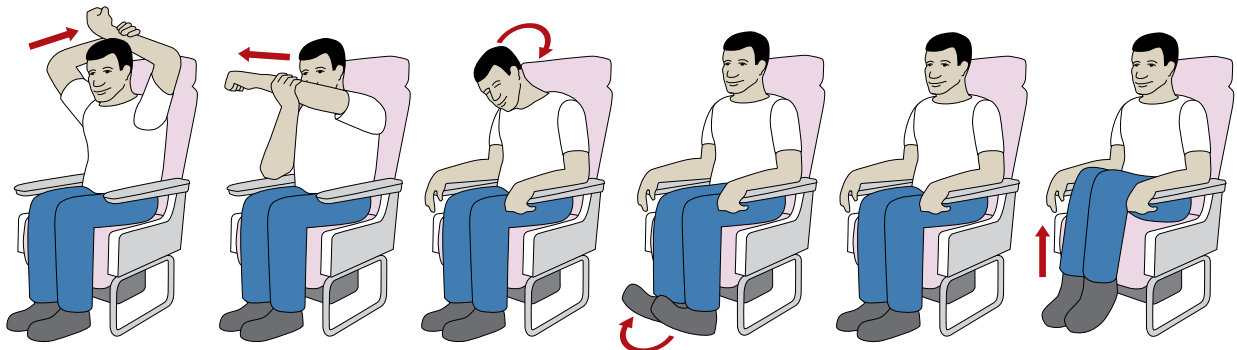
Start with arms held high at 90° angle - elbows down, hands out in front. Raise hands up to chest and back down alternating arms. Do these exercises in 30 second intervals.

KNEE TO CHEST

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

FORWARD FLEX

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



OVERHEAD STRETCH

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

SHOULDER STRETCH

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

NECK ROLL

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

FOOT PUMPS

Foot motion is in three stages.
1. Start with both heels on the floor and point feet upwards as high as you can.

2. Put both feet flat on the floor.

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

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The Constantinou Group of Companies was founded in the late 1950's, in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The group is a privately owned and operated family business spanning three generations with investments across the South Pacific.

We proudly invest in and operate various companies in the South Pacific. Our investments span over multiple sectors from construction, property development, property and business investment. The Constantinou Group of Companies believes that companies that will succeed in the future will be those that continuously invest in their people and environment.

