



"Our stories told just for you"

*We pay tribute to our friend and leader.
Rest in eternal peace GC Sir Michael Somare
-1936 - 2021-*

Mar - April 2021 | Issue #21



MELANESIAN NEWS

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

| Ship cuts off power to Madang Island

| A Weekend in Madang with Kalibobo Spirit

Power restored to local Madang island



Pictured from centre: Rodney Selan, Stanis Giliab, representatives of Kosaye, PNG Power and other local LLG leaders.

Following the alleged claim that an Asian logging vessel had abruptly cut power supply to Krangket island, a 150kVA generator was successfully installed on the island.

A pleased village council leader, Rodney Selan, thanked the efforts of PNG Power, Kosaye Electrical, Sir Peter Barter, the assistance of many individuals and the people of Krangket island.

"I am pleased that the people of Krangket, especially our school children, they can have good electricity to study and to do their school work"

The generator was sold to the agents of the logging ship who purchased the generator for the people of Krangket.

Ward President, Stanis Giliab said that the generator will be only a temporary result to the power outage.

"We will hold these ship agents accountable; we will ensure that they do pay for the repair of the submarine cable."

A spokesperson for Kosaye Electrical added that the installation of the generator on the island finished at a successful "ahead of schedule time-frame."

"The project itself was initially scheduled to run over a period of 4 weeks, but we managed to complete it successfully with zero incidents or accidents in 2 weeks."

Resort presents new membership pass incentives

The Madang resort has invited guests to start purchasing their very own membership pass, as described by MTS' Operations Manager, Wesley Hantan.

"This is a new initiative to start building close ties with frequent customers and the various people who enjoy our facilities."

The resort has created two unique passes to allow their guests as well as the general public.

"We have created a Club Kalibobo and a Pool Pass Membership," said Wesley.

Wesley added that Club Kalibobo has a variety of unique incentives, "once a person purchases a Club Kalibobo membership pass."

The resort has also recently re-filled their Olympic sized swimming pool and have allowed customers to purchase a Daily Pool Pass.

"Besides a Pool Pass Membership, we also allow a Daily Pool pass, which can be purchased at the resort's reception area," said Wesley. Call 4222766 or email, reservations@madangresort.com

Discover Scuba Diving
TODAY!

K550
per person

*Learn how to Dive
in Beautiful Madang*

Call: 4222766 or
Email: nda@madangresort.com

Wasim han **OLGETA TAIM.**
Werim mask **OLGETA TAIM** sapos yu raun raun long taun o namel long ples.

EM INO SIK BILONG OL WHITE MAN TASOL

Tultuls and Luluais from the Territory of New Guinea



Badges belonging to Sir James Sinclair. From left, a Luluai badge, a councillor badge and a Tultul badge.

An expert in historical Australian badges explains the history of the Tultul and Luluai badges.

Dr William Mira, an Associate and past President of the Australian Numismatic Society had described the Tultul and Luluai badges as a unique part of PNG history during the German and later the Australian administrative era.

"These badges are and will be the only tangible reminder of Papua New Guinea's period of colonial administration."

The system of government created the Tultul and Luluai institution during the German administration, "this was later continued by the Australian administration until the Pacific War," said Dr Mira.

The institution of Tultul and Luluais did not present their members with badges until after the highlands of New Guinea were explored.

"it became obvious that the wigs and ornate hair style worn by many warriors

precluded the use of caps, the badges were introduced because of this."

The unique badges that were issued during the Australian administration also had two (2) 2mm holes, "one was drilled at 9 o'clock and the other at 3 o'clock," marking the sides of the badges as described by Dr Mira.

These holes could be worn around the wigs of the warriors, later did a third hole appear at the top of the badges, "later the size of the hole increased to 3mm, a third hole was then drilled at the top part of the badges, at 12 o'clock."

Before the independence of Papua New Guinea in 1975, more and more badges were worn around the neck and the 'cap-phase' (wearing it around the head), "this became phased out before the independence, which also saw the introduction of Local Government Council badges."

"The Luluais and Tultuls cherished their badges and it is a reminder of Papua New Guinea's colonial era."

Resort renovates its facilities



An aerial view of the resort's swimming pool and Haus Kibung

Madang's historical resort is undergoing a 'touch-up' with their facilities.

The Madang resort has recently completed refilling its Olympic sized swimming pool, renovated its wharf (marina), long term accommodation facilities and the Haus Kibung conference centre.

The resort's management

has allowed the halt in tourism to be a time-period, "to upgrade and to do a little touch-up on our usual facilities," said Vince Barubia, Madang resort's assistant manager.

The Madang resort is one of the most historical resort's in PNG and it continues to deliver on its services, recently winning an Excellence Award.

Madang Pays Tribute to Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare



Robert Banasi (pictured right) with other members of the MAM group with the commemorative artwork of the late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare.

The Madang community had organized a peaceful march on Monday the 1st of March to commemorate the life of the late Grand Chief, Sir Michael Somare.

The peaceful march was organized by the East Sepik and the Madang students from DWU.

Present during the event was Sir Peter Barter who commended the efforts of both provincial groups, other students and the Madang community.

"I witnessed 1000 East Sepik Students and Madang students who marched peacefully, with no assistance from the Provincial Government."

The peaceful march then ended with a 'Haus Krai' ceremony at Madang's Laiwadan Oval, which saw more students and several Madang community members attend.

Many members of the

community asked why the Provincial Government was absent during the 'Haus Krai.'

"It is a shame that our leaders cannot attend these types of events, but we are used to their absenteeism, at least we have our mam (Sir Peter) with us."

Madang Arts Maniacs (MAM) also showed their tribute to Sir Michael through two murals of the late Grand Chief.

Robert Banasi, MAM's team leader, said that the paints were purchased by MTS and the Madang Lodge.

"Sir Peter and the Madang Lodge assisted us to create an artwork, to show our respect to the Grand Chief."

Sir Peter has asked the Madang people and the people of PNG to respect Sir Michael and his family's wish, "we have to respect his wish, to be buried at his home in Wewak and to not be paraded around the country."

MPIP remembers Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare



Late Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, Lucy Maino (Miss PNG), Molly O'Rourke (MPIP Representative) and Sir Peter Barter during a dinner at the Madang resort's Haus Kibung.

Miss PNG Pacific Islands Pageant, would like to express our deepest condolences to Lady Veronica Somare, children Betha, Sana, Arthur, Dulciana and Michael Jnr, all the grandchildren and Family, on the passing of Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare,

the first Prime Minister of PNG and the Father of this nation.

He is gone but will never be forgotten.

Many people will remember him for many reasons. We will remember his love, respect and humility.

A leader from a thousand tribes, a proud Papua New Guinean

Sir Peter Barter remembers his political and his personal relationship with the Late Grand Chief Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Somare.

"It has been an absolute privilege to have known the great Grand Chief, we have shared some good and bad times together," said Sir Peter as he laughed while recalling his fondest memories with Sir Michael Somare.

Sir Peter Barter was and still is one of Sir Michael's friend. A relationship that was forged for over 50 years, Sir Peter and Sir Michael first met when Sir Peter was only 26 years old. "I was a young pilot flying in PNG, who had just met this short young ambitious Papua New Guinean who had a vision that surpassed everyone during our time."

"I later had the privilege to fly Sir Michael and other members of his Pangu led government throughout PNG." During the days flying for Sir Michael, Sir Peter noted Sir Michael's vision for PNG to become an independent country. "Sir Michael had a great vision when embarking on his desire to make PNG an independent nation, many people at the time raised their concerns, saying it was too early for independence."

"I also recall particularly in many parts of the highlands, they were very hostile and they vigorously argued, they wished to remain administered by Australia, the rest is history." Whilst many people did go against Sir Michael's vision for independence, Sir Peter mentioned that Sir Michael and a few notable leaders did achieve the country's independence. "Michael with Julius Chan, Albert Marokiki, John Guise, John Poi and a few others achieved this vision on the 16th of September, 1975."

"As a young pilot, I did have the privilege to witness the lowering of the Australian flag and the raising of the brand-new PNG flag," said Sir Peter. Historically, Papua New Guinea gained its independence without bloodshed, "this in itself was an amazing feat assisted by the Australian Government," added Sir Peter.

Sir Peter's understanding



Sir Peter Barter and the late G.C. Sir Michael aboard MTS' Melanesian Discoverer.

over what Sir Michael Somare had achieved was further understood when he himself was elected by the people of Madang. "Following the accidental death of Bruce Jephcott, I was asked to contest the Madang Regional Seat and was accepted by the Madang people, this is when I began to understand why Michael achieved so much and a lesson that we can all live by in this ever-changing life."

As a good friend of Sir Michael, Sir Peter watched as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea represented his country among other well-known leaders, "he never seemed to lose his identity or his culture and he was always proud to talk about PNG, he never lost Kurau in the Murik Lakes from his heart."

Sir Michael was to Sir Peter, a very flexible person who was open to anyone and everyone, "the ability to maintain the trust of the grass root people in the villages and then stand tall amongst the great leaders of the world was a trait that I've never seen in any leader in today's PNG." The many positive traits of a leader were found in Sir Michael, as described by Sir Peter, "another unique trait that I found in Michael was his ability to reconcile and forgive."

"So many times, I've witnessed people criticize his style of leadership, which several cases had caused him to lose his position as Prime Minister through various votes of no confidence, yet he rose back again and again." Sir Michael's ability to reconcile differences, "not to hold grudges is unmatched amongst world leaders."

Sir Michael's ability to

understand and respect the many cultures was vital in creating unity, "in a country of thousands of cultures and 850 languages." Sir Peter recalled one of Sir Michael's proudest moments, "his proudest moments would be the opening of the National

was inevitable, "his legacy will live forever and serve as an example to everyone in the future." A legacy of the founding father of the nation, retold by a friend, "he touched the lives of many who came in contact with him, his generosity, credibility and the image he painted worldwide was nothing short of amazing."

"I have personally shared so many experiences with my dear friend and I am blessed to have known Sir Michael for 50 years."

Extending his condolences to the Somare family, Sir Peter said that his last moments with Sir Michael was nothing short of a blessing. "I had the opportunity to speak with my good friend just prior to his passing, I couldn't hold back the tears and I ask everyone to



Sir Michael Somare with Former American President Bill Clinton.

Museum, the National Parliament house and also his disgust when the carvings were removed."

Sir Michael was a firm Christian believer, "wherever he went, he was always able to attend Mass with his wife Lady Veronica." Sir Michael lived by his Catholic Faith his entire life, "it was also by the grace of God that he was given his last sacrament by Cardinal Sir John Ribet."

"He chose wisely with his family and he was always happy to be surrounded by his immediate and extended family that spanned past the East Sepik."

Sir Michaels passing

respect the Somare family and Sir Michael's last wish to be buried at his home in Wewak."

"On behalf of my family, the Madang people, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Lady Veronica, Sana, Bertha, Arthur, Dulicana and Michael Jnr (Mooks)." Sir Peter said that he is confident that Sir Michael is in God's embrace. "I am confident that he rests in heavenly well-earned peace."

"I thank God for allowing me to share a part of his life on earth and I do look forward to meeting him again."

The Last of the Von Trapp Musical Family: The story of Maria Franziska von Trapp

Featured in many films and in the hearts of many worldwide, the iconic film 'The Sound of Music,' touched the hearts of many. However, the famous film was indeed based on the lives of the Von Trapp family.

The Von Trapp family consisted of 7 children, their father Capt. Georg and mother Agathe Whitehead. Agathe sadly died from the scarlet fever in 1922 as their third eldest daughter, Maria, recounts her family's life.

Maria Franziska Von Trapp came from a family that loved music. "Sometimes our house must have sounded like a musical conservatory. You could hear us practice piano, violin, guitar, cello, clarinet, accordion, and later, recorders. We would gather in the evenings to play Viennese folksongs on our instruments with Father leading on the violin."

The illness that took the life of Agathe, Maria's mother, also crept its way into Maria's life, "but I didn't die, as a result of the illness I was too sickly to walk three miles to school every day. The doctor advised that I stay home," as Maria wrote.

Seeing how ill her daughter had become, Maria's father brought in a young governess to teach and to look after Maria and her other siblings.

Maria Augusta Kutschera was a young aspiring nun who became very close with Maria and her other siblings, "my condition brought Maria to teach me gymnasium. She came to us as my teacher and after three years she became our second mother," said Maria in a post on the Trapp family website.

Capt. Georg Von Trapp fell in love with her second wife Maria Kutschera, they both had three children, Rosmarie, Eleanore and Johannes.



A photo Maria Franziska Von Trapp. Photo courtesy of the Haring family

However, several key aspects of the real Von Trapp family were filters and altered, "this was due to the cinematic-lens," as described by a Journalist on Biography. A depression that had plagued the economy in the early 1930's, which had destroyed the wealth of the Von Trapp, "causing them to send away their servants." Capt. George, with his 7 children (from his previous marriage) had now resorted to turning their family passion into a method to make money. However, as described by Eleanor Von Trapp, "it almost hurt my father to have his family on stage, not from a snobbish view, but more a protective one," said Eleonore during an interview with the Washington Post in 1978.

Still in the 1930's, the Von Trapp family fled the Nazi-driven Austria for the US, not through the mountains as portrayed in the film, but on a train and whilst on a singing-tour. Whilst on in the US, Capt. Georg, "who did not know if we should go back to Austria, he took the bible and said, we will see what to do," said Maria. Capt. Georg opened the Bible on a page where God tells Abraham to take his family and leave. That was reassurance for him to migrate.

As described by Maria, Capt. Georg was also a lover-of music, a stark contrast from the father-role played in the



Maria with her family, picture courtesy of the Daily News and the Von Trapp family.



The Von Trapp family portrayed in the 'Sound of Music.'

film, "he loved singing with us," as described by Maria.

The Von Trapp's continued their singing careers and later purchased a 27-room family home in Stowe in 1950.

Maria later travelled to the island of New Guinea as a lay missionary where the recounts of her life was told by close and dear friends Eddie and Ute Haring.

"We knew our Maria for many years in Port Moresby. She was our son's godmother," said Ute. Whilst in Port Moresby Maria led a very religious and charitable life, "Maria always had prayer meetings in her house and would always be called to break-up fights in the villages around Port Moresby."

"We always warned her not to drive out there, but she said that she was protected by her faith."

"Maria visited us in Madang once for several weeks and stayed on our yacht, which

brought back happy memories for her. I was teaching that time in the International Primary school and she taught the kids dancing and singing. We had a special 'Maria Day' where we invited all parents and presented the dances while she played the accordion."

Maria Agatha Franziska Gobertina von Trapp lived a long and happy-life, "it was a surprise that she was the one in the family to live the longest, because of the illness that she suffered when she was young, she had a very weak heart," said Marianne Dorfer, who runs the Trapp Villa Hotel in Austria.

Her final days were spent playing the accordion and singing songs, songs that carried the Trapp family 'musical' legacy till her final passing on February the 18th -2014. She was 99 years old.

COVID's elite response-team visits DWU

Story by the Divine Word University's Communication and Marketing Division.

A high-level technical team from the national COVID 19 response in Port Moresby visited the Divine Word University in Madang on Friday 19 February 2021.

The team comprised of medical scientists and medical doctors are from the National Coordination Centre, the

Department of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The team is in Madang to assess the COVID 19 response in the Madang Province after the recent spate positive cases of COVID 19. The team has been visiting provincial health authority and other stakeholders to gauge the approaches Madang was taking against COVID 19.

2 Nights
K668

Madang Resort's Easter Special

Per person, twin share accom.
Valid ONLY for APRIL

Stay in 2 Nights Deluxe twin share accommodation, enjoy daily buffet breakfast, Airport transfers and a half day snorkelling harbour cruise.

Package does not include other meals, beverages, airfares and any other itmes of a personal nature.



www.facebook.com/salesmts



www.instagram.com/mts_png



www.twitter.com/salesmts