



# MELANESIAN NEWS

P A P U A N E W G U I N E A

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## PROJECT RECOVERY



A Project Recover team composed of 8 scientists from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of Delaware, and the Bent Prop Project lead by Dr. Andrew Pietruszka and accompanied by a representatives of the PNG National Museum and the US Embassy visited Madang Province to locate and document missing US aircraft shot down in WW2. Their mission, supported by the US Government was to locate the missing aircraft based on records that have been extracted by the various institutes involved with the project.

The scientists used the Kalibobo Spirit for accommodation which was also used as the base for the project and utilized the Dallman Diver, a professional dive boat owned by Niugini Dive Adventures based at the Madang Resort.

The search began near Wangat Island where a known B25 crashed and over the past 30 years had become a well known dive site. The search then continued towards Sek Island where they discovered one US and 2 Japanese aircraft. They interviewed many of the people from Kananam and Sek who were able to locate the site where it is believed one airmen was buried, they were also told that a dog tag collected was possible taken to Kar Kar Island which would later be investigated.

A memorial service was held for the airman missing in action from the aircraft and the American Flags from this ceremony will be held by the team until remains are recovered, identified, and the family contacted by the US government. At that time they may be delivered to the family of the airmen who lost their lives.

Following the visit to Sek, the scientists travelled to Lalok Village and the entrance of the Minjim River where locals told the team of an aircraft that had crashed into the river mouth during the war. Possible evidence of this crash included aircraft debris used by the people in nearby villages.



Whilst working at Lalok, the Kalibobo Spirit anchored at Garagassi Harbour, beside Gorendu Village which was the home of the famous Russian Naturalist and explorer, Nicholai Mikloucho-Maclay where over the past few years the Melanesian Foundation had constructed a sea wall to prevent erosion which would have caused the memorial erected in 1871 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first visit of Maclay to Gorendu who arrived on the Russian Frigate, the Vitiaz.

The last exploration took place along the coast of Madang Township between the Country Club and Madang Lodge where photographs obtained showed a US aircraft crashing close to the coast at a depth of between 150-200m.



The equipment used by the Scientists includes powerful remote control submarines that were programmed to record metal and other unusual shapes that could be an aircraft or other object. When such unusual shapes appeared, the scientists dived to confirm exactly what appeared on their monitors based on the Dallman Diver and the

Kalibobo Spirit which took many hours to decipher the reading from the various devices and transducers utilized.

The Project Recover team will share their findings with the US government and Papua New Guinea Government. It is hoped that the information obtained by this project can be used by the US government to eventually recover the remains of missing crewmen and negotiate the remains to be sent to the families.

Dr Pat Scannon, a medical Doctor spent some time inspecting and discussing the fate of another aircraft which crashed near Siar Island where it is believed the survivors were taken to Nobnob, beheaded by the Japanese and buried at Amron.

Upon departure, Dr Pietruszka expressed his entire satisfaction with the project during a dinner hosted by Sir Peter Barter at the Madang Resort. He praised the crew of Kalibobo Spirit as well as the friendliness of the Madang people who has been so helpful to his team of scientists and said they hope to return later in 2017 to undertake further underwater explorations.

Sir Peter responded stating that such a mission could help to improve the poor image of PNG internationally, specially in the USA which was a major market for tourism in PNG.



## Persistent tropical foraging in the highlands of terminal Pleistocene/Holocene New Guinea

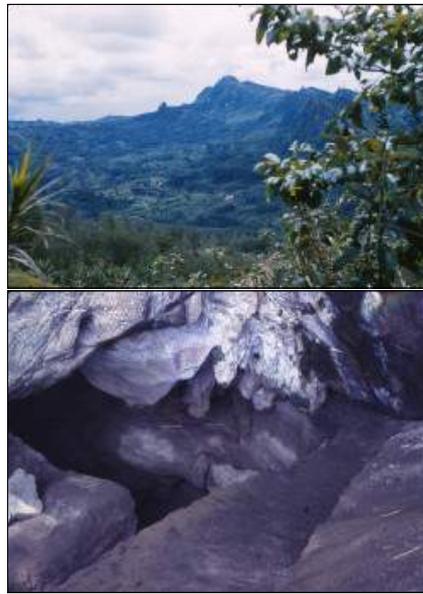
Patrick Roberts, Dylan Gaffney<sup>3</sup>, Julia Lee-Thorp and Professor Glenn Summerhayes

The terminal Pleistocene/Holocene boundary (approximately 12–8 thousand years ago) represented a major ecological threshold for humans, both as a significant climate transition and due to the emergence of agriculture around this time. In the highlands of New Guinea, climatic and environmental changes across this period have been highlighted as potential drivers of one of the earliest domestication processes in the world. We present a terminal Pleistocene/Holocene palaeo environmental record (12–0 thousand years ago) of carbon and oxygen isotopes in small mammal tooth enamel from the site of Kiowa. The results show that tropical highland forest and open mosaics, and the human subsistence focused on these environments, remained stable throughout the period in which agriculture emerged at nearby Kuk Swamp. This suggests the persistence of tropical forest foraging among highland New Guinea groups and highlights that agriculture in the region was not adopted as a unilinear or dramatic, forced event but was locally and historically contingent.

Transition from the terminal Pleistocene to the Holocene witnessed increasingly intensive human manipulation of plant and animal resources that resulted in genetic and phenotypic changes in various species as part of what has been termed the 'origins of agriculture'<sup>1</sup>. This process has been cited as one of the most significant ecological moments in human evolutionary history representing a shift in human interactions with the natural world that was to have global environmental ramifications. The emergence of this new form of subsistence has elsewhere been linked to dramatic climatic and environmental processes witnessed across the terminal Pleistocene/Holocene transition and into the Holocene yet the horticulture-style cultivation seen in the tropics is often ignored in such discussions. This is despite the fact that active human manipulation of plants and animals, including deliberate anthropogenic burning of forests to encourage plant growth and the deliberate translocation of small mammals<sup>10</sup>, occurred in tropical forest environments as early as 45 thousand years ago respectively.

It is now evident that one of the clearest and earliest examples of the mutualistic relationship between humans and their plant-foods comes from Kuk Swamp in the tropical highlands of New Guinea. Here, in a montane tropical rainforest and grassland ecotone, terminal Pleistocene human foragers moved and tended the tropical plants of yam (*Dioscorea* sp.), banana (*Musa* sp.) and taro (*Colocasia* sp.) taxa until these species were fully 'domesticated' during the Early–Middle Holocene. Although decades of research has described the archaeological sequence of Kuk Swamp, little is known of foraging behaviour elsewhere in the New Guinea Highlands and the drivers behind the intensification of tropical plant manipulation at this time. As in other regions, it has been suggested that this process was stimulated by climatic fluctuation across the Pleistocene/Holocene boundary. However, there are currently no detailed, well-dated, 'on-site' palaeo environmental records, directly associated with forager behaviour, in this region to support or refute such hypotheses.

We applied stable carbon and oxygen isotope analysis to small mammal tooth enamel from the archaeological site of Kiowa which is located at a similar ecological and altitudinal position to Kuk Swamp in the Central Highlands of New Guinea and, to produce a well-dated, palaeoenvironmental sequence associated with terminal Pleistocene/Holocene forager behaviour. Throughout the sequence, large core tools and small retouched flakes were found associated with a large faunal assemblage dominated by fruit bats (Aproteles bulmerae), cus-cus (Phalangeridae), ringtailed possum (Pseudocheiridae) and macropods (Macropodidae) (Unlike at Kuk Swamp, there is no evidence for local landscape modification or a shift towards plant cultivation during the Holo-



cene with the presence of these fauna remaining stable throughout the duration of site occupation. Isotope analysis of archaeological small mammalian fauna such as those identified at Kiowa is an increasingly popular method of local palaeoenvironmental reconstruction due to their high frequency (and therefore large sample sizes), small home ranges and high habitat discrimination.

Kiowa archaeological site, a, View towards Mount Elimbari and the Kiowa site in Chimbu.

*View into Kiowa (NAW) rock shelter during excavations. Both photographs were taken by Sue Bulmer in 1960.*

**Glenn Summerhayes with Judy Field and Ben Shaw are planning to return to PNG later in 2017 to undertake further archaeological research at Simbai in the Madang Province and again in 2018 to work on Karkar"**

*(This is an abbreviated paper, we apologise for any errors in its reproduction in MN.—Editor)*



### BLAST FROM PAST—R.R. Shaw

**Robert (Bob) Shaw was an aircraft engineer in PNG I guess about 45 years ago. He sent me an email today and I would like to share the contents with readers of Melanesian News. For more details about his novels go to his website. I quote his email:**

My novels so far are 'Island in the Sky' set around Mt Wilhelm, 'Fire Cult' set mainly in Madang and Karkar Island. 'Fire Cult' frequently mentions your resort and mentions a fictitious manager 'Peter Butler'. So far I have received no flak from you and assume you were okay with that or haven't read it? My third novel 'Devil's Chariot' is currently with Penguin and has constantly been rejected as being far too violent. It is a fictional projection of the Sandline affair and suggests what may have happened if brutal mercenaries and helicopter gunships had reached Bougainville. (I followed your involvement in negotiations with interest).

My latest novel is now complete, 'Cross of Goa' is attracting attention as a Da Vinci style thriller set all over the world including Alexishafen. About 5 chapters are set in and around Madang and Alexishafen based at the 'Madang Resort'. It is again owned and managed by a 'Peter Butler' who now has a role in the plot. I wanted to check if that is okay with you and if not it is a simple task to change both to fictional names? I know many of my readers stayed at your Resort after reading 'Fire Cult' so maybe there's spin off value here; any publicity is good publicity?

'Cross of Goa' follows a search by 'AvMar' salvage based in Port Moresby as they try to track down a lost Portuguese icon, a golden jewelled cross thought to be among the lost stolen hoard of wartime Japanese General Yamashita. I have an assessment critique with Linda Funnell of Harper Collins in 3 weeks and just tidying up the final draft. If you prefer I will email the first few chapters to set the story then attach those based in Madang and at your resort for your approval? You and your resort would definitely be mentioned in the opening credits.

Also if you have not read any of my novels I can post some gratis copies or you can read sample chapters at my website

[www.tropicanapress.com.au](http://www.tropicanapress.com.au)

**MADANG RESORT CHOSEN TO HOST THE PNG/ AUSTRALIAN BILATERAL CONFERENCE.**

Each year the Australia & PNG Bilateral Conferences are held bi-annually in Australia and Papua New Guinea. This important conference discusses many things that effect the relationship between the two countries including how aid money is spent in PNG, issues related to education, health, security, migration and other matters that affect the relationship between Australia & PNG.



Australia remains PNG’s largest donor and both Governments are represented by their Foreign Ministers who in this case was Pato Rimbik (PNG) and Julie Bishop (Australia) accompanied by a number of key Ministers from both PNG and Australia

The Madang Resort was able to offer the Kalibobo Kibung for private meetings between respective Governments, we provided a fleet of VIP vehicles to transport the Australian contingent and the Sana Room was used to host the formal bilateral meeting.

During the visit of the Foreign Minister, she paid a visit to the Resort Haus Kaving to meet the women vendors and the Divine Word University to celebrate Women’s Day.

The Resort has received a letter from the Australian High Commissioner and the PNG Foreign Minister thanking the Resort for excellent facilities and hospitality extended by the staff.



Top: Julie Bishop, Peter Dutton & other Ministers in Sana Room  
Above: Sana Room, Madang Resort  
Below: Julie Bishop, Charles Abel & Peter Dutton



**MADANG HOSTS THE PNG KUMUL WORLD LONG BOARD CHAMIONSHIP**



Through the dedicated work of the Tupira Surf Lodge at Ulingan Harbour, located 120kms north of Madang they were able to be selected to host this world event that attracted contestants from many countries that were accommodated at the lodge and a “tent city” to cope with the hundreds of international and national visitors.

In addition to the international visitors and contestants, literally thousands of people walked for up to 2 days to witness this international event that has sparked an interest in many young PNG taking up surfing.

The opening was marred by the absence of the Minister for Tourism and Sports Minister who cancelled at last minute and weather that bought down torrents of rain in the afternoon, with the rain came the wind and with the wind came the surf which remained all week providing plenty of challengers for the contestants.

Taylor Jensen & Chloe Calmon claimed historic win at Tupira, PNG.



Top: Surfing at Tupira, Ulingan Harbour, PNG  
Above: Madang Resort Marquee set up at Tupira Surf Lodge  
Below: Tupira Surf Lodge, Ulingan Bay, Madang, PNG



## 75th ANNIVERSARY ANZAC DAWN SERVICE



2017 is the 75th Anniversary of the start of the Pacific War. Tragedy brings people together and the Dawn Service this year will remember all the men and women who lost their lives in WW2. The Pacific War did not just include Australia and New Zealand, but also PNG which became a major battlefield and the turning point of the Japanese Imperial Army going further south. It also remembers the memory of the 1000 prisoners who lost their lives aboard the Montevideo Maru, through sickness, drowning, the Tol Massacre and other atrocities

that took place throughout PNG as well as those that paid the ultimate price for peace.

The toll taken on villages, churches, schools the forced evacuation of missionaries along with the devastation in a country that was totally ignorant of the purpose of the invasion yet took a major blunt of the allied and enemy forces who fought on their land..

The Dawn Service also remembered the work of the Coastwatchers who helped greatly to defeat the Japanese by communicating the positions of ships and aircraft destined to PNG, Australia and Solomon Islands.

This year we welcomed the visit of the offices and crew of the HMAS Benalla and Shepparton who will join us along with the PNG Police, CIS, PNG Maritime College, Nurses, which were inspected by Major Sean .Payne. From the Australian Defence Force..

The Dawn Service will be followed by a Gun Breakfast where all visitors and the general public will be served a meal donated by the business community in Madang.

MTS are proud to have played our part for 30 years in organising ANZAC Services in Madang.

## APEC CONFERENCE 2018



The Madang Resort & Kalibobo Village have been chosen to host one of the first APEC meetings outside Port Moresby in Dec 2017. We are expecting up to 300 delegates and visitors and the meeting will take place in the Sana Room.

Our maintenance and construction team are busily undertaking upgrades of all accommodation and we intend to construct a new Resort Pool within the grounds of the Resort providing a sandy beach, island bar that will extend the existing Olympic salt water pool. Work is expected to be completed in 2017.

## NATIONAL GAME FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP



Was held over Easter in Madang attracting more than 22 game boats from Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul. Whilst the weather conditions were ideal, due to the lateness of Trade Winds fishing was slightly affected but still provided plenty of action. Many Blue and Black Marlin, Yellow Fin, Rainbow Runners, dolphin and dog tooth tuna were tagged.

The Marlin Shoot out was won by Talio with a blue marlin estimated to be 120 kilos and a prize of K23,000.

The National Game Fishing Championship rotates from Madang, Lae, Rabaul and Port Moresby so it will be a further 4 years before it is held again in Madang.



## 2017 & 2018 SEPIK CRUISES

MTS have scheduled a number of cruises aboard the Kalibobo Spirit to the Sepik River. The cruises will be of 6 day duration departing and terminating in Madang and are limited to just 12 persons.

The cruises will cruise the lower and middle Sepik River and visit the village of Kopar, Mendam (Murik Lakes), Kambaramba, Tambanum, Timbunke, Kamindimbit, Aibom and Wombun (Chambri Lakes), Parembei and Kanganaman. Excursions are operated by the ships purposely designed fast tenders. Sing Sings and cultural events will be witnessed and aboard you will have access to a well stocked library, documentaries and listen to lectures about life on the Sepik River for the more than 70,000 people that live along the river.

**2017:** Jun \*02; Jul 07; \*Aug 11; \*Sep 07; Oct 06; & Dec 27

**2018:** Mar 02; Apr 13; May 11; \*Jun 01; Jul 06; \*Aug 10; \*Sep 07; Oct 05; & Dec 26

\*These cruises coincide with Madang, Mt Hagen and Goroka Shows. The rate in Kina is K7000.00 (\$3200.00) per person sharing twin/double cabin, all meals, excursions, village fees and cultural entertainment.

**The Kalibobo Spirit is available for charter to the Sepik River and the Islands in the Bismarck and Solomon Sea including the Trobriand Islands.**

## 2017 TROBRIAND ISLAND CRUISE

The Kalibobo Spirit will operate a special 8 day cruise from Madang departing to Salamaua, Tufi, D'Entrecasteaux, Amphlette and Trobriand Islands departing Madang on 16 October. Very limited space is available on this cruise.

## OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

**Madang Resort**—we are planning a resort style extension to the existing Olympic pool, a further 8 self contained apartments and upgrade of waterfront bathrooms. **David Thomas has been appointed General Manager.**

**Kalibobo Village**—all rooms are being refurbished in 2017 to be ready for APEC in Dec 2017. Refurbished Presidential suites are now open.

**Tropical Heritage Cairns**—We have begun refurbishing all rooms over the next 3 years. First floor is expected to be completed by June 2017.

**Cairns Sheridan Hotel** - All rooms have been recently refurbished, new beds, covered patio as well as normal routine maintenance.

**Kalibobo Spirit**— Will undergo survey in Cairns in November and return to Madang in December 2017.

**Niugini Dive Adventures**— Taka Yamaguchi returned from leave in May and is busy handling an influx of Japanese divers.



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