



Picture: Mr & Miss Madang Pageant at the Madang Resort's Haus Win Restaurant.

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MELANESIAN NEWS

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- PG2 Madang Resort, 98% vaccinated staff
- PG2 Locals approve MTS' Boutique Island Resort proposal

Madang Pageant, a 'COVID restriction' success

The annual Mr. & Miss Madang Pageant was a success, which took place under strict COVID-19 protocols said Dr Martin Daimen, the Consultant Physician at Madang's General Hospital.

Dr Daimen said that the event held at the Madang Resort's Haus Win Restaurant had adhered to all the COVID-19 protocols and was authorized to take place.

He was a guest speaker during the event that took place last Saturday the 24th of July.

The Mr & Miss Madang pageant had more than 220 people who attended the event, "under strict COVID protocols," said Sir Peter Barter, Madang's senior statesman and the Managing Director of the Melanesian Tourist Services Ltd (MTS).

"With our recent milestone achievement of 98% vaccinated staff, we adhered to every single COVID-19 protocol."

The event had more than 23 tables of 10 people, "all tables had hand sanitizers and all tables also had ample spacing between them," said Sir Peter.

Wesley Hantan, MTS' Tours & Operations Manager and Leoshina Kariha, the former Miss Madang



The crowned Miss Madang for 2021. Naomi Alickson with the former Miss Madang, Josie Nicholas.

Resort and Miss Pacific Islands were hosts for the event.

Wesley said that the COVID-19 protocols was a regular reminder throughout the event.

"We reminded the guests who attended the event to avoid shaking hands, to always wear their face masks when they were moving around the restaurant."

Wesley also commended the effort of the Madang Resort team.

"The team from the Haus Win Restaurant and the entire Madang Resort staff have proven to be able to work under pressure and to allow such an event to take place."

"This shows our capability to host any event whilst adhering to the COVID-19 protocols."

The Mr & Miss Madang Pageant is an initiative of the Madang Resort and is facilitated by both the Madang Rotary Club and the resort.

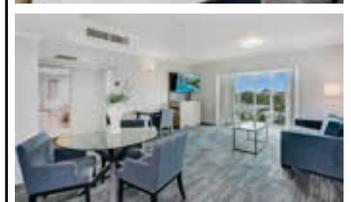
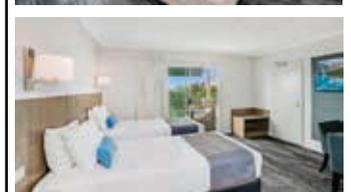
"I would like to thank the Madang Resort, MTS, Madang Rotary Club, Madang Provincial Health Authority (MPHA), Divine Word University (DWU), Madang Brian Bell, Country Women's Association (CWA), Madang Chamber of Commerce, other organizations, institutions and individuals who have purchased a table or had assisted with the success of the event," said Mr Steven Kaipa, Madang Rotary Club's President.

The event concluded with the crowning of Naomi Alickson (Miss Divine Word University), as the Miss Madang for 2021 and Nigel Totona (Mr Country Women's Association), as the Mr Madang for 2021.

The Madang Resort's contestants, Catherine Lalen (Miss Madang Resort) and Thomas Dedmai (Mr Madang Resort) were both crowned as Mr & Miss Charity for 2021, they were both 1st runner up to potentially being crowned as the Mr & Miss Madang.

The Cairns Sheridan Hotel's Refurbishment

The Cairns Sheridan Hotel has undergone a major refurbishment where all its rooms have been refurbished. The lobby area will be completed this month, whilst the entire exterior of the hotel will be completely repainted.



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Madang Resort achieves 98% of vaccinated staff



Staff from the Madang Resort patiently waiting to be administered with their second dose of the Oxford AZ vaccine. Picture taken at the Madang General Hospital's Haus Win.

Madang's historical resort is proud of its staff who have been vaccinated and are now receiving their second dose of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine, said Sir Peter Barter, Melanesian Tourist Services Ltd (MTS) Managing Director.

Sir Peter says the decision that the staff have made to get vaccinated is a selfless decision that can bring back the country to normal.

"This achievement is amongst the best of any Company in PNG and a testament in your commitment to eradicate the virus from PNG."

The resort had previously facilitated a successful COVID workshop with Dr Livingstone Tavul, a former specialist with the PNGIMR's Vector Borne Diseases Unit.

"This success is also due to the COVID Questions and Answers booklet," said Sir Peter.

The 16-page booklet that was authored by Professor Glen Mola, endorsed by NCC, UNICEF and WHO has now been distributed throughout PNG.

Jelta Wong, the Minister of Health, had reassured Sir Peter that he will assist in the distribution of the booklet.

"The booklet and the workshop that we had attended has removed all fear and doubt regarding the virus and the vaccine," said Thomas Dedmai, MTS' Operations & Tours officer.

Dr Martin Damien, a consultant physician at the Madang General Hospital also commended the staff at the resort.

"Congratulations to the resort team for taking a step towards getting many staff vaccinated, the company is protecting itself against the

pandemic."

The Madang Resort proudly has 98% of its staff who have been administered with the AZ vaccine, with a half of its staff population recently receiving their second dose.

The AZ vaccine gives the human body a 66% resistance said Dr Livingstone during the workshop held at the resort earlier last month. "This is the first dose, and the second boosts the bodies immunity to 99%," he said.

"I hope that many other Papua New Guineans, including organizations and institutions can follow the example set by the resort," said Leoshina Kariha, the former Miss Madang Resort and Miss Pacific Islands.

Leoshina was in Madang for the Mr & Miss Madang Pageant, she was among 257 students at the Divine Word University (DWU) to receive their first AZ vaccination dose.

Sir Peter urged other Papua New Guineans to take the step towards protecting the future of this country, "enough of listening to fake news, think of the future of this country - the future of your children - get vaccinated," he said.

Through the Melanesian Foundation, the non-profit organization has already produced several badges to present to their staff and any other people who get vaccinated.

"We have several thousand of badges enroute from Melbourne that should be handed out to people after they're vaccinated," said Sir Peter, the Chairman of the Foundation. "Hopefully, this should encourage more people to get vaccinated."



Niugini Dive welcomes Papua New Guineans to Discover Scuba Diving

One of Madang's Pioneer PADI - Certified dive centre has officially launched a promotion to encourage local Papua New Guineans to start diving in Madang.

The Niugini Dive Adventures' (NDA)'s Chief Dive Instructor, Nathan Yavala said that the new promotion initiated by NDA and the Melanesian Tourist Services' (MTS) Tours & Operations Division will attract Papua New Guineans to start learning how to scuba dive.

"Just this month we had a lot of local Papua New Guineans, here in Madang and even some in other centres, who have already finished their dive lessons and are now very much attracted to Scuba Diving."

Tetsuya Nakamura, NDA's former Japanese Dive Instructor said that scuba diving wasn't just meant to be a form of leisure activity.

Tetsuya was interviewed recently during an email conversation with MTS' Marketing Division.

"Scuba diving opens a whole new world of opportunity, scuba diving opens a world of exploration, curiosity and it



Michaleen, Tetsuya (left) and Nathan (right) during Michaleen's first Open Water Dive.

encourages people to protect the ocean."

MTS' newly appointed Executive Secretary, Micahleen Mckenia, who was also the former Miss Niugini Dive Adventures during the Miss Madang Pageant in 2020 said that diving promotes a feeling of conservation towards all marine life.

"I have always been fascinated with diving, and I will always promote the conservation of the ocean," said Micahleen. "It is through such packages as the Discover Scuba Diving that ordinary Papua New Guineans can grow their interest in protecting the best attraction in this country."

MTS' Tours & Operations Officer, Thomas Dedmai, who proudly has an Open Water Dive Certification said that the package is

affordable and should attract more people to try out scuba diving.

"The package is created to attract more, so the more people a person can bring along to share their experience with, the cheaper it becomes."

NDA still engages local communities to assist them with weekly clean-up-campaigns, "we will always promote the well being of our marine ecosystem and we hope that Papua New Guineans can share our love for the ocean," said Nathan.

NDA can be contacted through their email: nda@madangresort.com. MTS' Tours & Operations Division can be also contacted through phone: (675) 7999 1665 or via their email: operations@mtspng.com

MTS' Boutique Island Resort, approved by Locals

A local Madang clan has recently agreed to lease their island to Madang's pioneer tourism company.

The Melanesian Tourist Services (MTS) had recently discussed a potential business proposal at Tab Island with the Siar Village's Waifun Clan.

The principal clan, who have ancestral rights to the island, had conducted their first meeting and was witnessed by their clan elders.

Tamlong Tab, the clan's spokesperson



said that they have all agreed to lease the island to MTS and have also agreed to MTS' proposal to develop the island into an eco-friendly Boutique Island Resort.

"I for one, I represent my clan and

all its members, the young and the elders," said Tamlong. "We have agreed that MTS take charge of the island and develop it into something which we can all be proud of."

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Madang Airport's road to completion



The Madang airport will undergo three stages of work, stages 5, 6 and 7. The airport has already undergone Stages 5 and 6 with Stage 7 work planned to commence during mid August. There will also be a new terminal that will be open early 2022.

Australian High Comm Launches COVID Booklets

The Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Jon Philip was recently in Madang to launch Melanesian Foundation's 'COVID QnA' booklets.

The launch included the Chair of the Madang Provincial Health Authority (MPHA), Dr Charles Kalana, MPHA's CEO, Fidelis Waipma, Dr Martin Daimen, Dr Sammy Thomas, resident UNICEF, Dr Arnold Calo-oy, Justice Vergil Narokobi, Divine Word University's President, Prof Fr Phil Gibbs and staff of the Madang Provincial Hospital.

The booklet was published and designed by the Melanesian Foundation and was funded by the Australian High Commissioner to PNG, Kumul Petroleum and Ok Tedi Mining Ltd.



His Excellency Jon Philip and Sir Peter during the launching of the COVID booklets and the Oxford AZ vaccines at the Madang General Hospital's Haus Win.

MTS' Boutique Island Resort, approved by Locals

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MTS has already engaged the local clan by purchasing paints to assist them to create notices, to prohibit people from littering and respecting other people on the island, "it has become a hub for criminal activities and many people go to that island, unrestricted and unsupervised by an authority," said MTS' Tours & Operations Manager, Wesley

Hantan.

The local clan has now engaged their local youth members to camp on the island, "we have already asked our young boys to camp out on the island and to keep a look out for any unwanted activities that will take place on the island," said Tamlong.

MTS will commence its planned 'Boutique Island Resort' mid 2022.

Sheridan hosts Aussie Paralympics swim-team prior to Tokyo Olympics

The Cairns Sheridan Hotel had successfully accommodated the Australian Paralympics swimming team prior to their departure to the Tokyo Olympics.

The Cairns Sheridan is a business subsidiary of the Melanesian Tourist Services (MTS), "with an exceptional service, the staff at the Sheridan are capable of providing the best to any guests choosing to stay at the hotel," said Sir Peter Barter, MTS' Managing Director.

Cairns Sheridan is situated in a prime location, the closest hotel to the International Airport and a 10 mins walking distance from the Cairns CBD.

"This makes the Cairns Sheridan a perfect choice for any person transiting through Cairns or for leisure travel."

Young Barter Manages Hotel



Cairns' Tropical Heritage Hotel has never been better, said Sir Peter Barter, a proud grandfather and Managing Director for the Melanesian Tourist Services (MTS).

Sir Peter said this following Jordan Barter's appointment as the Manager for the Tropical Heritage.

"Jordan is a very intelligent young man, and I try to not speak on behalf of him as his grandfather, but he does have a good head on his shoulder."

The 22-year-old grandson of Sir Peter, Jordan has gladly taken on the role as the Manager of the hotel and has successfully managed the hotel on his own.

Besides managing a hotel, Jordan has already acquired his Private Pilot's License is currently training towards achieving his Commercial Pilot's License.

Madang's Tropical 'Giri Giri' curry



Papua New Guinea is one of the largest island nations in the Pacific, surrounded with more languages than any other country on this planet, its people and the traditional food have now blended with modern dishes creating a vast array of colourful and tasty treats for the locals and for any visitor coming into the country.

Located on the northern tip of the country, the little town of Madang has seen tremendous change from the World War and through to its Japanese, German (even Russians) and its Australian administrative days. Thriving from its agriculture, Madang is also blessed with its tremendous number of coral-laced islands and its pristine marine ecosystem. What better way to experience this than to taste one of Madang's most famous seafood dishes?

25-year-old Benson Togineta is one of Madang Resort's youngest chef that impresses many with his special dish, which he admits he perfected over years of working as a kitchen porter. The Madang Giri Giri (Geeree Geeree), is a delectable seafood dish that is cooked in a mild curry accompanied by the tender cream of the town's local island coconuts.

Benson starts of preparing the dish by selectively choosing his favourite seafood, "the Giri Giri is nothing without the basic seafood," says Benson.

"You'll need filleted fish, any fish would do, Prawns, oyster and calamari." Heating up a pan with a generous amount of olive oil, Benson says that the secret to the Giri Giri is in the way you heat the pan, "don't just turn the heat all the way up, you don't want to even hear the oil bubble," he said.

The sound of the pan hissing gradually filled the kitchen air as Benson added the filleted fish which he had already diced, next he added the calamari that were already cut into bit-size rings. The aroma of the sea, slowly drifted through the air as Benson whirled the pan with skills that he humbly claimed to be learnt over years of burning his own fingers with oil, "if you love something you have to get hurt a few times, that's the process we all have to take to master something," said Benson as he slowly added diced onions and garlic into the pan.

"Don't get too excited to throw everything into the pan at the same time," came Benson's advice, while he added the already peeled prawns and oyster. The generous amount of seafood was now covered with curry powder, chicken stock, grounded black pepper and white wine, "I usually add a little bit of salt, just a pinch, but why would you add salt to something that came from the sea?" said Benson while he chuckled to himself.

Benson whisked and slowly drew his face over the pan and he gave himself

a taste of the light orange content in the pan, "you don't even need to taste it, it already smells and tastes like curry," said Benson. "We are in the Pacific and what more to add to our lovely dish than some creamy coconut." As Benson skilfully cracked the coconut open, he smiled, "if you're not from the Pacific and you don't know how to open a coconut, that's acceptable," he said. "If you're from the Pacific and you don't know, I think it's time you come back home to the islands."

As quick as he had opened the coconut, Benson has already taken out the coconut's flesh and was now extracting the coconut cream. Adding the cream into the pan, as if anticipating of the final ingredient of the dish, the pan came to life again.

Giri Giri is served with rice, but Benson and the team of chef at the Madang Resort have created an innovative way to serve the curry. "Remember the other half of the coconut that we used to create the dish? We serve the curry into the other half of the coconut that we didn't use," said Benson as he creatively decorated the curry with oyster and finely sliced parsley.

The finished dish had a coconut shell that towered above a generous amount of rice and steamed vegetables.

What makes the Giri Giri dish different from all the other dish in Madang? "First of all, it does with the way the curry boldly confronts your taste buds, but then it is calmly creamed with the coconut flavour that smooths everything out," said Benson. "It is a bit like PNG, you have all this bad image being portrayed about us, but then you come here and you realize that it isn't so bad."

Madang Guest House welcomes ferry service



An artist impression of the Kalibobo Spirit. Image courtesy of SeaCats, Thailand.

A local Madang guest house owner has welcomed the Madang sea-ferry service initiated by the Melanesian Tourist Services (MTS).

Pholas Yongole, Tugutugu Guest House owner at Karkar Island said that the Kalibobo Express services will bring in a lot of business potential for Karkar Island.

"I'd like to thank MTS for its initiative into creating a sea-service to Karkar Island, this will provide the necessary travel that many people on the island as well as myself, will benefit from its business perspective as well as specifically targeting the domestic market."

Tugutugu is about 45 mins walk from the Kulili wharf and is only minutes' walk from an absolute breath-taking waterfront view, said Joe Saulagi, MTS' Cruise Captain.

MTS' Kalibob Express is currently undergoing its final stages of completion by SeaCats in Thailand.

The vessel will be due in PNG this coming September, but the final dates of arrival have yet to be finalised due to the current pandemic, said MTS' Managing Director, Sir Peter Barter.

"We are planning on the vessel arriving in early September, but this of course is subject to change due to the current global pandemic that has undoubtedly affected many imports."

Kalibobo Express will be able to take up to 150 passengers on its day schedules to Karkar Island with the inclusion of extended trips to Manus, the Admiralty Group of Islands, "comfortably carrying its passengers in a fully airconditioned vessel, with a kiosk at a cruise speed of 25kts," said Sir Peter.

The vessel will also be available for charter and will be based at the Madang Resort marina.

For inquiries, please contact MTS' Tours & Operations via email: operations@mtspng.com, or call: (675) 7999 1665.

