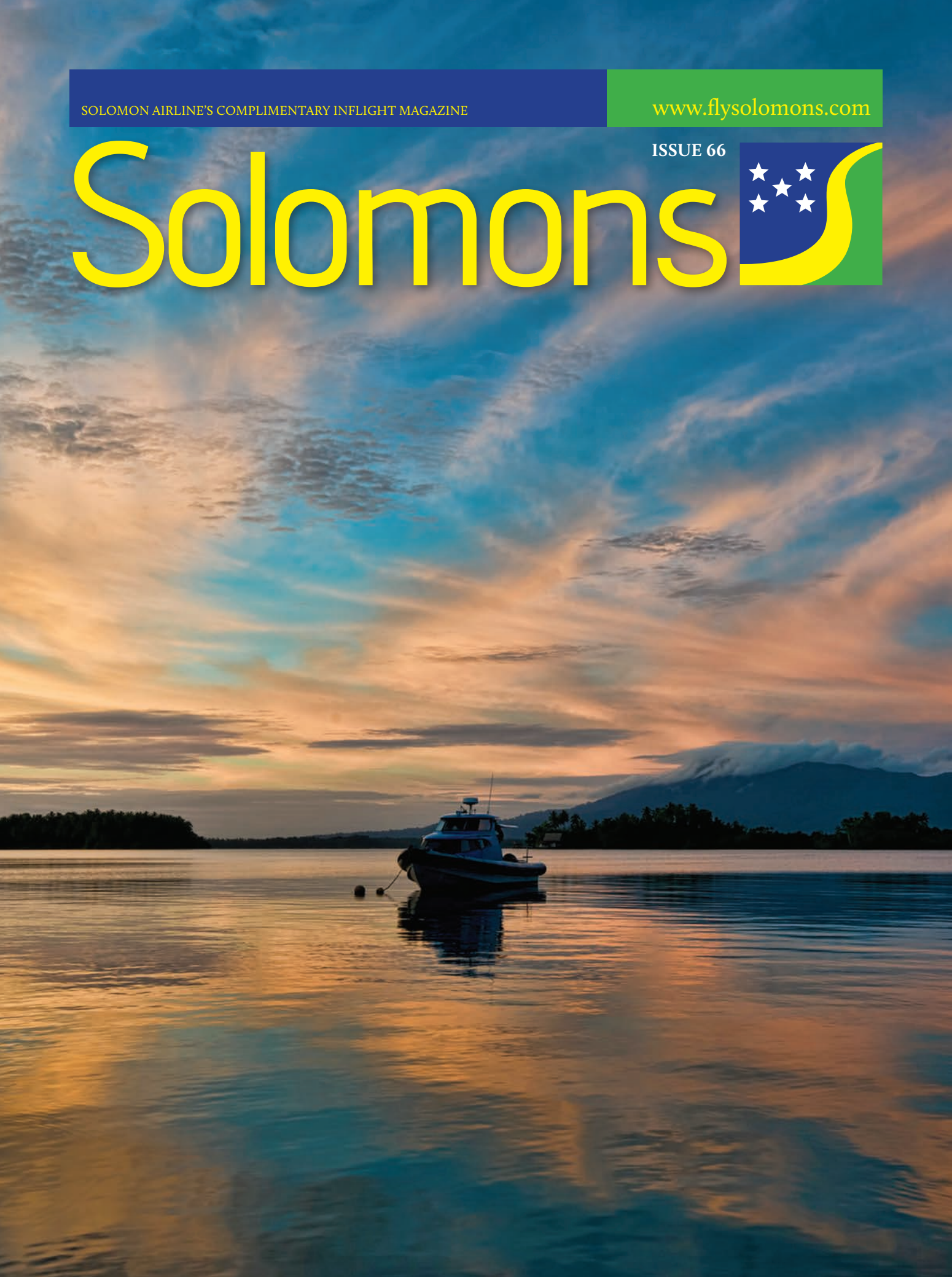


SOLOMON AIRLINE'S COMPLIMENTARY INFLIGHT MAGAZINE

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ISSUE 66

Solomons



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Ron Sumsum
Chief Executive Officer

WELKAM FRENS

To all our valued customers

aircraft whereas NO other operator into Honiara was able to. This has given Solomon Airlines an edge in that we can now carry heavy cargo and place them into ULD's and or Pallets which we have also invested in as well as the ground equipment to load and offload these devices. All in all we believe these investments will take us well into the future.

Stories ahead

In this issue, sit back, relax and read about-

- Wogosia Spear Fighting in Makira Province
- Diving the Roviana Lagoon near Munda
- Rafting on Lunga River in Honiara
- Malaita's lost tribe

The Great Wet Test

With the recent disastrous flood event partially behind us, followed by the tsunami warning with an earthquake registering 7.2 and associated tremors, one wonders what is next! But then again, one can be positive and say that from every negative event, some positives should prevail and we are waiting!

April had seen many flights cancelled both Domestically and Internationally and whilst most of these cancellation were related to the closure of the main Henderson Runway due to the flood prone Lunga River banks bursting and taking much debris and even a leaf house and deposited them on the main runway, the inclement weather that ensued also affected our domestic flying. We remained on the ground at least for a period of a few days prior to launching flights again even with the Mataniko River and Bridge effecting transportation of our staff including pilots, and our passengers.

This was a test, a real test of the resolve and fabric of the DNA of Solomon Airlines and its staff, as well as of society; first to overcome the events that unfolded then to review our procedures to ensure that best practices applied for such future events. This is still in process and we will all be better for this in the end.

Air Freight

In late 2013, we purchased some equipment and ULD's to ensure we had the ability to differentiate our product from other carriers into Solomon Islands besides the passenger product which we believe we have the best.

This means that we were able to take Unit Load Devices (ULD's) in our

These are but a few storylines to feature in this issue and there are more interesting read also in this issue.

I am happy to add that the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau (SIVB) and Solomon Airlines are treading closer ties and after a recent joint marketing meeting, I am advised that the future is brighter than ever for our scarce resources to be shared and when you consider tourism to Solomon Islands, we need to be on the same page and walking the same line to achieve Government objectives of a sustainable and growing tourism Industry.

Safe journey to one and all and as usual, please feel free to pen a line to us to advise whether our services have achieved your expectations and if not, what needs to be done to better attend to your needs. Write to our Operations & Commercial team at gkraus@flysolomons.com and he will ensure a suitable response to continue our journey to being the "Best Little Airline in the Pacific."

Tengiu tumas.

Ron Sumsum
Chief Executive Officer



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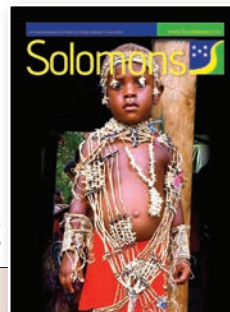
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Solomons



INFLIGHT MAGAZINE ISSUE 66

May/July 2014



Cover photo:
Rhonna Marita

CONTENTS

Wogosia Spear Fighting 12

A welcoming tribal festival

Lets "Ko" River Rafting 18

A lazy Sunday on the Lunga River

Solomons Under the Sea 26

Joanna O'Shea captures Solomons underwater world

Accessorise with Shells 34

Sela lo Sea handcrafted jewelry

A Remarkable Young Man- 36

A profile of Jason Kelly

The Incredible Roviana Lagoon 40

Cover caves, wrecks and trenches all in a single dive

Hong Kong 46

A place where dreams touch the sky

Solomon Airlines Fact Sheet 52

Route Maps 54

Contact Information 55

Airline News 56

Solomon Star Guide 58



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OUT & ABOUT



Banana (Huki) Festival

On the heels of the annual Wogasia Festival in Santa Catalina (May) is the Makira Banana (Huki) Festival in Kirakira, the provincial capital of Makira from June 4 – 8. Makira is known for its wide variety of bananas hence the title. You could say it's a celebration of the abundance of the humble fruit on the island. Highlights include: The Kirakira Weekend Escape, 65-kilometre road relay, Banana Pageant, all-female panpipe group (panpipe playing is generally a male domain), string bands, and a host of other activities involving the use of bananas in cooking, beverage, floral art, and costume. The event will be the first of its kind for Makira and expected to be an annual activity. Contact: Noel Mamau | T: 50073 | M: 7699688 | nmamau@gmail.com



Q-Bar

It's the new licensed sports bar in Honiara complete with six pool tables. Location: Along Hibiscus Road, behind Hot Bread Kitchen. Q-Bar is owned by a former Toll Flight operations officer Elizabeth Mao who says: "In the future we would like to introduce international rules for pool competitions." Current pool rules are SBD\$10 per person per game; winner plays on. Although a members-only bar, guests are welcome at SBD\$20 per head. There's a private room for hire with one pool table. Opening hours: Monday - Sunday 4pm until late. Contact: Q-Bar | T: 23307 opening hours only | enquiries@qbar.com.sb



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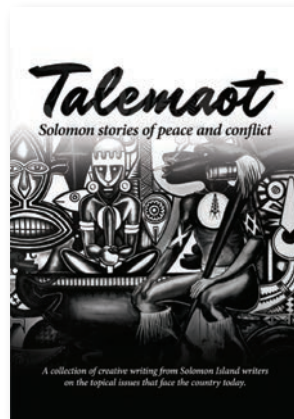
Akuila Talasasa Arts Festival



Previously scheduled for 2013, the inaugural Akuila Talasasa Arts Festival will now be held over two days June 26 – 27 in Gizo. The festival will focus on promoting art and culture in the Western Province. Expect the following and more – Artistic activities, demonstrations (local basket weaving, wood carving, stone carving, painting), and performances (traditional bamboo bands and dance). The festival is named after the late Hon Akuila Talasasa, who passed away just prior to the 2012 Festival of Pacific Arts. Contact: Marc Fitcher | M: 7755429 | atfafestival@gmail.com

Solomon Literature

“TALEMAOT: Solomon stories of peace and conflict” was launched in December 2013 and authored by Solomon Island writers. The book features poems, short stories, and short film scripts and portrays topical issues in Solomon Islands today through creative writing. Issues vary from politics, disasters family disputes, friendships, humour to tragedy. TALEMAOT authors include Chelcia Gomeze, Regina Lepping, Georgianna Lepping, Fred Percy Maedola, Anthony Maelasi, Julian Maka’a, Christina Mitini, Jasmine Navala-Waleafea, and Vinnie D. Nomae. The book’s publication was possible with support from the British High Commission in Solomon Islands and the United Nations Development Programme’s Strengthening Capacities for Peace and Development project. TALEMAOT is available for sale in Honiara at the Lime Lounge café and Museum Shop for SBD\$110.



Celley's Restaurant



Recently relocated to the perimetres of Honiara is Celley's Restaurant. New location – Zome, a locally owned motel off town limits. Celley's meals are appetising and worth every cent. Contact: Celley's | M: 7524398 | celleyscatering@gmail.com

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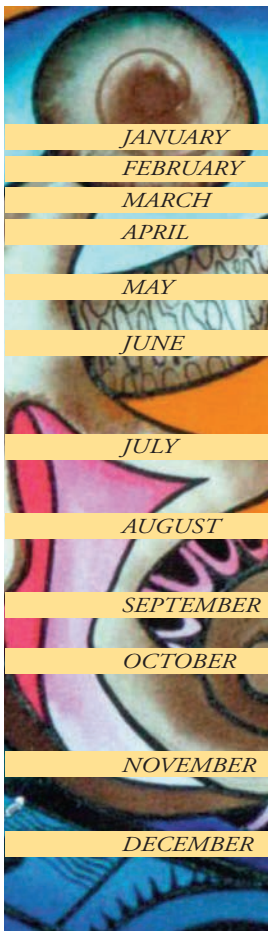


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2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Papatura Surf Comp (Isabel Province Between 6-16th Jan)

Dolphin Migration (Honiara)

Isabel Second Appointed Day

*Reef Booming (Beginning of best Snorkelling Season)
Eastern Fun Run*

Spear Festival (Makira Province)

Vaka Tepe (War Canoe Festival, Western Province)

Central Province 2nd Appointed Day

Temotu Province 2nd Appointed Day

Banana (Huki) Festival, Makira

Akuila Talasasa Arts Festival, Gizo

Independence Day (National Day)

Thavinago (Harvesting of Food & Fruit, Isabel Province)

Renbel 2nd Appointed Day

Malaita 2nd Appointed Day/Cultural Week

WWII Commemoration - 70th anniversary

Gizo Half Marathon

Flysolomons Marathon (Guadalcanal)

Chief Festival (Isabel Province)

Stunt Mullet Fishing Competition (Lola, Western Province)

Beginning of Green Turtle & Leatherback Turtle Season (Tetepare, Western Province)

Birdwatching Season (Oct - Nov, Malaita Province)

Flysolomons Marathon

Surfs Up

Land Crabbing Migration

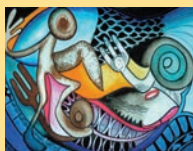
Lagoon Festival (Munda, Western Province)

Carol in the Islands (Honiara)

Gizo Mile Run (Western Province)

Western Province 2nd Appointed Day

... and connect with Solomon Islands on the Internet



The excitement of Solomon Islands is now on the Internet. Sites featuring diving, fishing, holidaying and travelling in our islands are appearing on the World Wide Web. Here's a sample, not in any particular order.

If you've any sites you recommend we add to this list, e-mail editor@ibi.com.fj with the URL for the site.

Share the excitement of the Solomons

Solomon Islands Web Directory

GENERAL

Solomon Airlines
www.flysolomons.com
Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau
www.visitsolomons.com.sb
Immigration – Entry Requirements
www.commerce.gov.sb/Divisions/Immigration/Immigration_Requirements.htm
Customs – Duty Free Allowances
www.visitsolomons.com.sb/travel-infor/customs

ACCOMMODATION

HONIARA
Heritage Park Hotel
www.heritageparkhotel.com.sb
Solomon Kitano Mendana Hotel
www.kitanomendana.com
King Solomon Hotel
www.kingsolomonhotel.info
Pacific Casino Hotel
www.solomon-hotel.com
Raintree Cafe Bed & Breakfast
www.raintreehoniara.com

GIZO

Gizo Hotel
www.gizohotel.com
Sanbis Resort
www.sanbisresort.com

Fatboys Resort
www.fatboysgizo.com

MUNDA

Agnes Lodge
www.agneslodge.com.sb
Zipolo Habu Resort
www.zipolohabu.com.sb
Tetepare Eco-Lodge
www.tetepare.org

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www.uepi.com
The Wilderness Lodge
www.thewildernesslodge.org
Matikuri Lodge
www.matikuri-lodge.com

ISABEL ISLAND (FERA & SUAVANAO)

Papatura Island Retreat
www.papatura.com
Kagata Village Stay
www.kagatasurfingfrens.com

MARAU

Tavanipupu Private Island Resort
www.tavanipupupu.com

ACTIVITIES/TOURS

HONIARA

Tulagi Dive – Honiara Diving
www.tulagidive.com.sb
Travel Solomons – Tours
www.travelsolomons.com
Extreme Adventures – Diving and Day Trips
www.solomonadventures.com

GIZO

Dive Gizo – Gizo Diving & Tours
www.divegizo.com
Kolombangara Island - Birdwatching
www.kolombangara.org

MUNDA

Dive Munda – Munda Diving
www.mundadive.com
Go West Tours – Tours
www.agneslodge.com.sb

MAROVO LAGOON (SEGHE & GATAKAE)

Kayak Solomons – Kayaking Uepi
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Solomon Dive Adventures – Diving Gatakae
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OTHER SERVICES

Foreign Investment Board

www.commerce.gov.sb/Divisions/Investment/default.htm

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www.solomon.com.sb

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As the air fills with adrenalin, they face off, everyone itching for the fight to begin...



Wogosia Spear Fighting

A welcoming tribal festival

WORDS AND PHOTOS: **JENNY METZLAFF**



AT FIRST LIGHT, WE STROLL DOWN TO A REMOTE BEACH on the tiny island of Santa Catalina in Makira Province and wait for the warriors. As dawn breaks, we hear men scream ‘waaaahoooo,’ beckoning their foes to face them. As the morning sun peeks through the parting clouds, two long lines of men decorated in palm fronds, mud and charcoal, race towards each other and stop just metres apart. On the one side, the Amuea Tribe stands, on the other side, the Ataua Tribe. As the air fills with adrenalin, they face off, everyone itching for the fight to begin and an opportunity to spear a man who has crossed him over the past year.

In early June 2013, we joined a small group of tourists daring enough to travel to the far east of Makira Province in search of an annual tribal event, the Wogosia Spear Fighting Festival. We’d heard stories about the Wogosia spear fight around Honiara; of people being impaled, losing eyes and getting knocked unconscious by hurtling spears. This was surely a ‘not to miss adventure’ during our time in Solomon Islands.

The flight to the neighbouring island Santa Ana, on board the Twin Otter aircraft of Solomon Airlines is an adventure in itself. We fly low over Guadalcanal, then along the coast of Makira, over the finger-like coral reefs in Star Harbour, and into the short tree lined grass runway at Santa Ana. There we are greeted by our guide, Blessing, who gives us a rundown of what to expect. He warns of long nights, explains the many rituals involved, and ‘strongly recommends’ that we stay out of the way of the hurtling spears. It all sounded a little ‘extreme;’ what did we get ourselves into this time?



...our fears are alleviated by the warm reception and the vibrant, welcoming, village life. We felt at home instantly.

From Santa Ana we took a small boat, 20 minutes across to Santa Catalina, where we were met by screaming warriors, with a whole village of smiling faces, men women and children, greeting us with typical Solomon Island friendliness and hospitality. As we’re taken into the home of our host family, where we will stay throughout the festival, our fears are alleviated by the warm reception and the vibrant, welcoming, village life. We felt at home instantly.

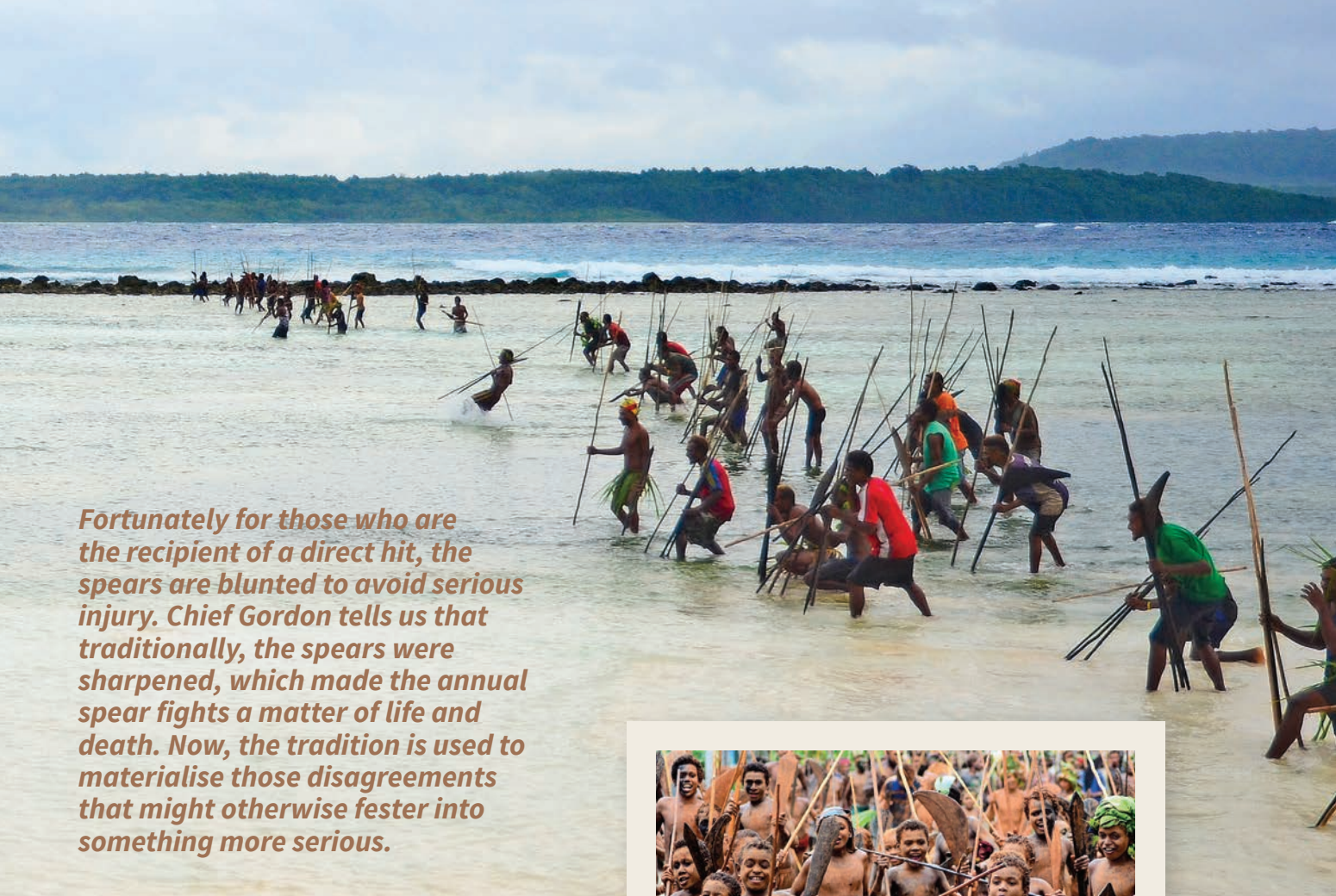


Over the following days, we're encouraged to join in the festival activities, which are much more than just the spear fights. It all begins when the female visitors join the island women on their walk to Faraina, the highest point of the island, where their root harvest is grown and stored in leaf huts. We return to the village with ingredients for making traditional pudding ('toatoa' in the local Owa Riki dialect) in preparation for the last feasting. The male guests join the men and boys to gather their conch shells and take them to the beach to be washed. From then on, the sounds of chanting and conch shells being blown provide an eerie musical backdrop to the festivities.

Shortly after midnight on our second night, we join the village in using coconut leaf keel to beat the ground, in what is known as the cleansing of the land. In the pouring rain and darkness, we join a mob of young men, boys and girls as we run through the village, smacking the ground with the stems. The screaming, laughter and slapping of the stems echo through the village as we race through whilst older women stand beside their huts flinging burning embers, rancid coconut cream and water full of rotting fish guts into the crowd. It might sound a little awful, but everyone has a great time.

Early the next morning, as the first rays of light peek over the horizon, we walk with the entire village to Nama'a beach to watch the first spear fight. When the sun reaches the correct height, giving the fighters enough light to spot their target and block hurtling spears, the chiefs give the nod and five minutes of outright war break loose. Cousin vs. cousin, brother vs. uncle, tribe vs. tribe, the eight-foot spears are hurled across a distance of less than ten metres. A few elderly women patrol the lines, using sacred chants to redirect a dangerous spear off target or even snap a spear mid-flight. Most of the spears are blocked by their small shields or dodged gracefully, but those that find their mark result in numerous cuts and bruises.

Fortunately for those who are the recipient of a direct hit, the spears are blunted to avoid serious injury. Chief Gordon tells us that traditionally, the spears were sharpened, which made the annual spear fights a matter of life and death. Now, the tradition is used to materialise those disagreements that might otherwise fester into something more serious. And at the end of the five minutes of madness, all the men come together amongst laughs and hugs. Disputes resolved. At least for now.



Fortunately for those who are the recipient of a direct hit, the spears are blunted to avoid serious injury. Chief Gordon tells us that traditionally, the spears were sharpened, which made the annual spear fights a matter of life and death. Now, the tradition is used to materialise those disagreements that might otherwise fester into something more serious.

Back at our hut, our host Richard debriefs on the battle against his cousin. “He is a big strong guy, who throws his spears with great accuracy and power. Three spears hit my shield, and a corner of the shield was torn clean off by one, but he didn’t hit me. I came close a few times but didn’t get him. His weakness is his defence so if I throw accurately in this afternoon’s final fight; I will surely get him.”

As the fighters lick their wounds, the women walk back up the hill to Faraina, where they chant seductive songs whilst chewing beetle nut and shredding banana leaves in preparation for their dress. Meanwhile, the men and boys paint themselves for battle with the rich red mud.

As the sun begins to set, everyone returns to the beach for the last show. Finally, all the young boys on the island march into town with spears, screaming, covered in muddy war paint, and with smiles from ear to ear. The older men wait impatiently to avenge the morning’s battle. When the fighting begins, it’s with even greater ferocity than the morning’s duel. Spears sail through the sky like a medieval raid, splashing around the fighters’ waist deep in the ocean, and skimming into the crowd standing behind the big men on the beach. After less than five minutes, it’s called to a halt. But with scores not yet settled, it takes a chief another few minutes to wade down the middle of the firing line waving a large stick to get the last of the spears to stop flying, and for the smiles and hugging to begin.



Finally, all the young boys on the island march into town with spears, screaming, covered in muddy war paint, and with smiles from ear to ear.



LOCAL DESTINATION >>

As the men make their way back to the village, unmarried boys group together and await the girls who enter the village in a single file. The girls and the female tourists are dressed from head to toe in a banana leaf dress, carrying a small stone to be thrown at the boy of their choosing before they race off into the ocean, leaving a trail of costume in their wake. After washing off the mud and sweat accumulated during the festival everyone returns to the village for tama - the shared feast of motu fish and pudding made that day. The conch shells are hidden away, not to be touched until the next Wogosia.

The whole festival has a Christmas-like feel to it, with many of the events revolving around activities and special foods, and all involving the children who seem so full of joy and enthusiasm. It's wonderful to see the traditions of the Santa Catalina people continued through the festival, and we find ourselves feeling not like tourists, but part of the community.

On the last day, we bid a teary goodbye to our host family, and the charming people of Wogosia, who made us feel so welcomed. It certainly wasn't as 'extreme' as we thought it might be, but it is an experience that will resonate with us for a very long time. >>



The whole festival has a Christmas-like feel to it, with many of the events revolving around activities and special foods, and all involving the children...

FACT BOX

When and Where

Every year the Wogosia is planned for late May/early June depending on the correct alignment of the sun and the moon. Santa Catalina Island is located off the eastern tip of Makira Island, Solomon Islands.

How to Get There from Honiara

Solomon Airlines have regular flights from Honiara to Santa Ana Island, Makira Province. Santa Catalina is a 20-minute boat ride from there. www.flysolomons.com

Tours can be arranged through the Solomon Islands Visitor Bureau. Upon arrival, guests are adopted into the family belonging to their hosts, and they are housed in traditional huts within the villages. The villages provide all food and drink. Be sure to bring extra spending money for the markets after the festival. Some very beautiful and unique carvings can be found on Santa Catalina.

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Perspective is everything and from that angle, the river and vegetation that flanked the banks of the Lunga looked larger than life.



SITTING ACROSS FROM MY CHIEF PADDLER

and gripping the ropes on either side of the inflatable rubber boat, I dunked my head backwards into the cool waters of the Lunga River. Perspective is everything and from that angle, the river and vegetation that flanked the banks of the Lunga looked larger than life.

But that's not why you must call Anita Emmett of Ko Kama Rafting Adventures to book a river rafting session with Team Ko Kama. Honiara has a limited number of activities to be enjoyed on a Sunday and this is a perfect activity for a lazy day, weather permitting.

From pickup to dropoff, Anita and her crew ensure you are well kitted for the four to five-hour adventure. That means life jackets and an esky per boat for two people packed with burgers, snacks, fruits, juice boxes and bottled water.

The water had some strength on that Sunday in March. A light rainfall overnight guaranteed a light to moderate flow, which Anita says could be swifter depending on rain quantity the day prior. Whether you spend four hours or six hours on the Lunga is dependent on water flow.



LOCAL DESTINATION 



In the Guadalcanal language Ko means water and Kama means big, an apt description of the long, bendy, and wide Lunga River. This is the same Lunga that features prominently in Solomon Islands' World War Two accounts of the Battle of Guadalcanal. Ignore the kava-toned water; the river is prone to soil runoffs when it rains and could even turn as brown as Milo.

Getting to the Lunga gorge is a bumpy ride on the Mt Austin road passing through grassland vistas and pine plantations. Once on the river guests are given lifejackets and pair up. Sturdy wooden paddles do the job and it helps if the lead paddler knows a few steering techniques.



Getting to the Lunga gorge is a bumpy ride on the Mt Austin road passing through grassland vistas and pine plantations.

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On that note, here's a big thank you to Nelson of the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau for giving up his Sunday downtime to river raft with me. Nelson shouldered the bulk of the steering while I floundered about the inflatable boat doing things like: Dunk my head backwards in the river (unintentionally falling into the river's coolness), waved to folks along the banks, had enough time to snap some photos, and got a head start on the esky contents.

Loud hornbills arrest the hazy daze. Wild ducks and unusually large butterflies add to the wildlife attraction. Land stops provide opportunities for photography, a dip in the river, and walking repeatedly upstream just to get swept down by the current.



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LOCAL DESTINATION >>>



Ko Kama operator Anita Emmett is a longtime resident of Solomon Islands and having experienced the Lunga years ago, she wanted to share the fun.

Anita recalls: "In 2006 we did a trip down Lunga River on tyre tubes; it was fun but took us about seven hours. I wanted to do it again and thought I must start up a business and let everyone else enjoy it." >>>

Contact: Anita Emmett

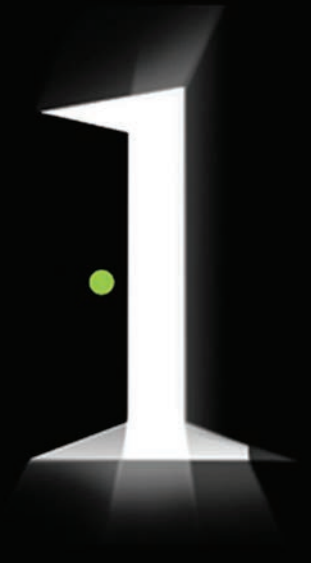
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IT IS ALSO THE APTLY TITLED PHOTO BOOK self-published by Australian dive enthusiast Joanna O'Shea. In *Solomons Under the Sea*, Joanna captures in still photographs the surreal beauty of life under Solomon waters from tunnels to soft coral to marine life to the barnacled memorabilia of machines of war.

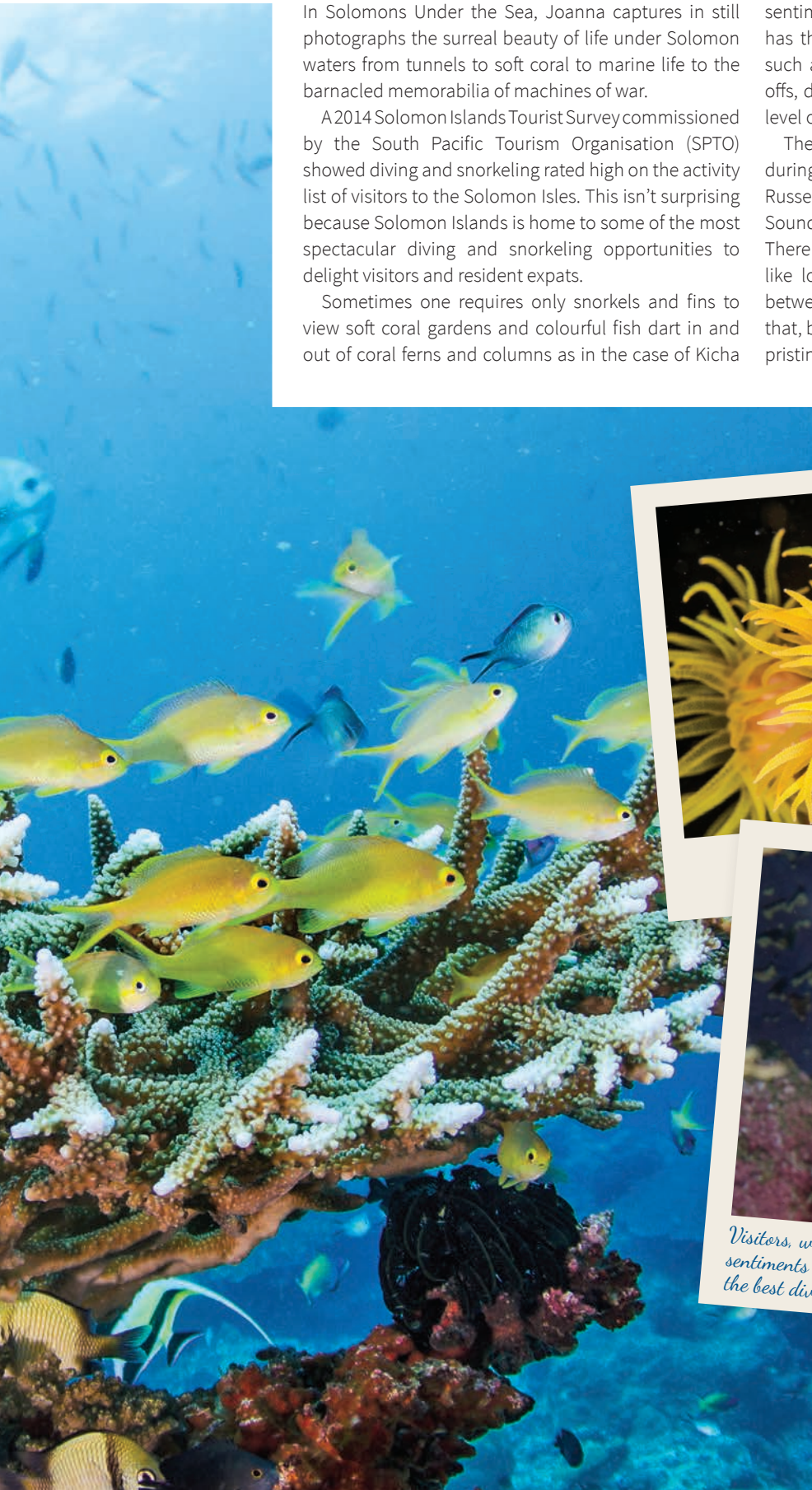
A 2014 Solomon Islands Tourist Survey commissioned by the South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO) showed diving and snorkeling rated high on the activity list of visitors to the Solomon Isles. This isn't surprising because Solomon Islands is home to some of the most spectacular diving and snorkeling opportunities to delight visitors and resident expats.

Sometimes one requires only snorkels and fins to view soft coral gardens and colourful fish dart in and out of coral ferns and columns as in the case of Kicha

on Gatokae in the Western Province.

Visitors, who have dove Solomon waters echo similar sentiments expressed by Joanna: "Solomon Islands has the best diving in the world. Few countries offer such a variety of dive sites; it has reefs, wrecks, drop offs, drift dives, cave dive, sites to suit every diver and level of experience."

The photos in *Solomons Under the Sea* were taken during Joanna's dive escapades in the Florida Islands, Russell Islands, Western Province, and Iron Bottom Sound (off Honiara) – key dive locations in Solomons. There are other spots of interest within the provinces like locally managed marine areas (Arnavon Islands between Choiseul and Isabel and Hatara in Marau) that, by their protected nature, offer priceless visuals of pristine marine environments.



Visitors, who have dove Solomon waters echo similar sentiments expressed by Joanna: "Solomon Islands has the best diving in the world."

LOCAL DESTINATION >>



Of her underwater experiences, Joanna says: "On a dive site like Bonegi or Maravagi, literally every square metre is covered in coral or sponges, and if you look closely enough you will usually find hidden fish or shrimps or crabs or other critters living inside the coral and sponges. I love going slowly on dives, finding things like camouflaged scorpion fish, tiny pygmy seahorses and beautiful nudibranchs."

All proceeds from the sale of the book and photograph prints go towards The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to support ongoing management of the Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Area (ACMCA).



...if you look closely enough you will usually find hidden fish or shrimps or crabs or other critters living inside the coral and sponges.



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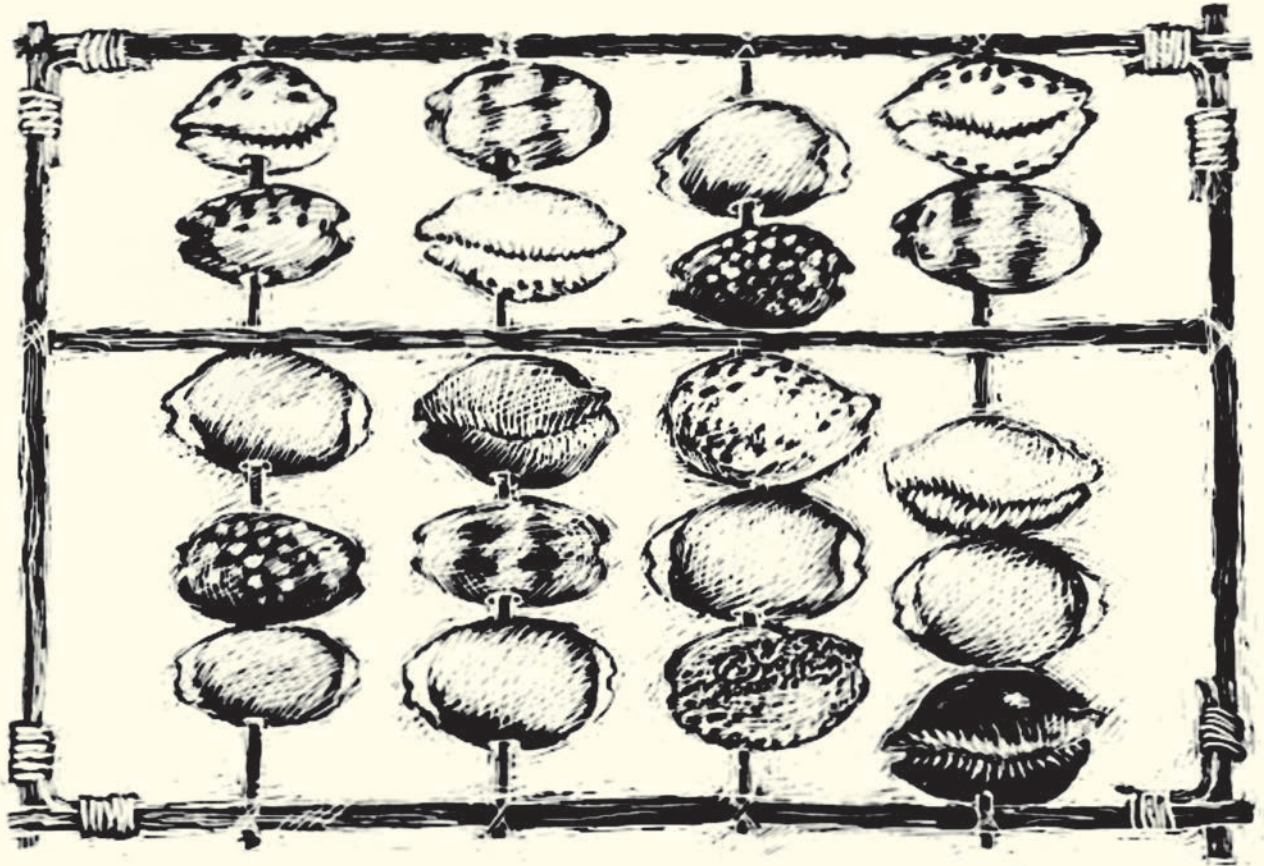
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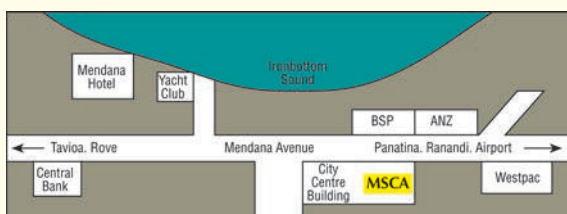
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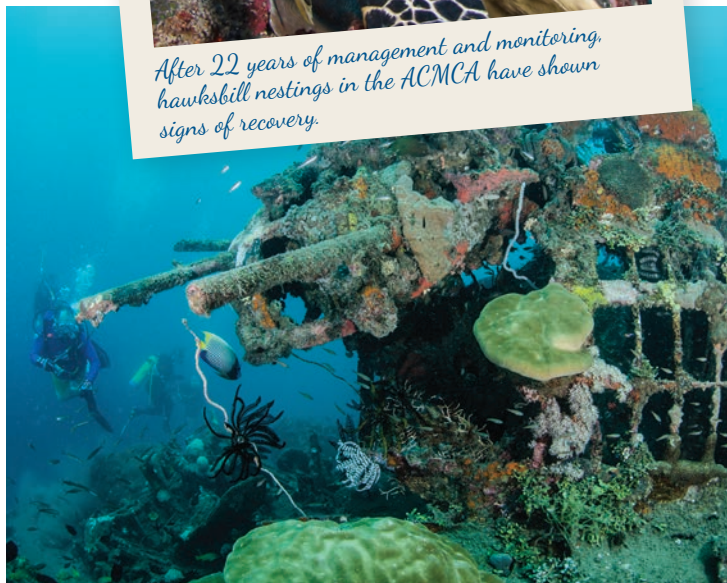


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After 22 years of management and monitoring, hawksbill nestings in the ACMCA have shown signs of recovery.



Arnavon Islands

The Arnavon Islands (Kerehikapa, Sikopo, Maleivona and the Laieana Reef) are a significant rookery for the hawksbill turtle, one of six turtle species found in the Pacific. After 22 years of management and monitoring, hawksbill nestings in the ACMCA have shown signs of recovery. Research conducted by Dr Richard Hamilton, the Arnavons lead researcher, shows that: “Following the national ban on commercial hunting in late 1993 and the establishment of the ACMCA in late 1995 the number of nests laid in the ACMCA has more than doubled.”

Now jointly managed by Isabel and Choiseul communities, the Arnavon conservation area continues to be supported by TNC.

Recommended Dive Spot

Joanna O’Shea’s dive tip - Twin Tunnels in the Florida Islands. She says the site is “unique because of two big lava tubes in the reef; you can descend into either tube, floating gently down the large tunnel, and come out in a cave on a reef wall at about 36m.”

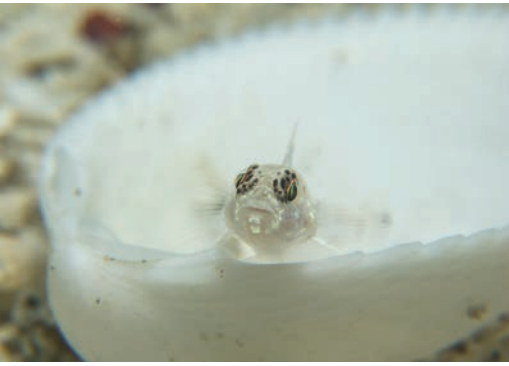
“This dive is great not only for the lava tubes, but for the huge schools of fish that swirl around the sea mound, and the fabulous reef on top. There are lots of fans with pygmy seahorses, barrel sponges full of hairy squat lobsters, there are cuttlefish, octopus, eels, rays and literally hundreds of species of fish and corals. It’s a dive that never disappoints, no matter how many times I go there, it’s like a wonderland.” >>

Contacts:

Order Joanna O'Shea's book and photo prints online at joshea.smugmug.com

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WHEN IN SOLOMON ISLANDS, accessorise as most islanders do with shells whether you're male or female. And you don't have to be a metro-male to complete an island print shirt with a shell necklace or other naturally occurring material strung into beads. While you can get shell adornments easily wherever you are in Solomons, online shopping is an option.

Sela lo Sea, Solomon pidgin for shells from the sea, is an online jewelry business with a coastal/ocean theme owned by Geanene Gower-Radford, an Australian of Solomon/Chinese extraction. Targeted primarily at women, Sela lo Sea is based in Australia, but Geanene sources most of her shells from Marau Sound on Guadalcanal province where she grew up. The rest is sourced from the Honiara municipal market and New Zealand (paua shells). Geanene is conscious to take only what she needs and to not overharvest ocean resources.

All Sela lo Sea pieces are fully handmade and Geanene's



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“I’m very careful not to destroy traditional designs and customary meaningful pieces, so I’m selective of what I make or modify. When you wear my necklaces you should feel special because they’re one-offs.”

handiwork, as she explains: “embodies Pacific Island craftsmanship and design.”

“Everything I design has to have some element of the ocean or coastal living. Because I am aware of the environmental and sustainability issues, I have limited the production of each design and have focused on recycling products rather than taking more than we need from the ocean. For example, the shell money bracelets were an idea that came to me after observing people discarding broken necklaces, which I collected over the years.”

“I’m very careful not to destroy traditional designs and customary meaningful pieces, so I’m selective of what I make or modify. When you wear my necklaces you should feel special because they’re one-offs.”

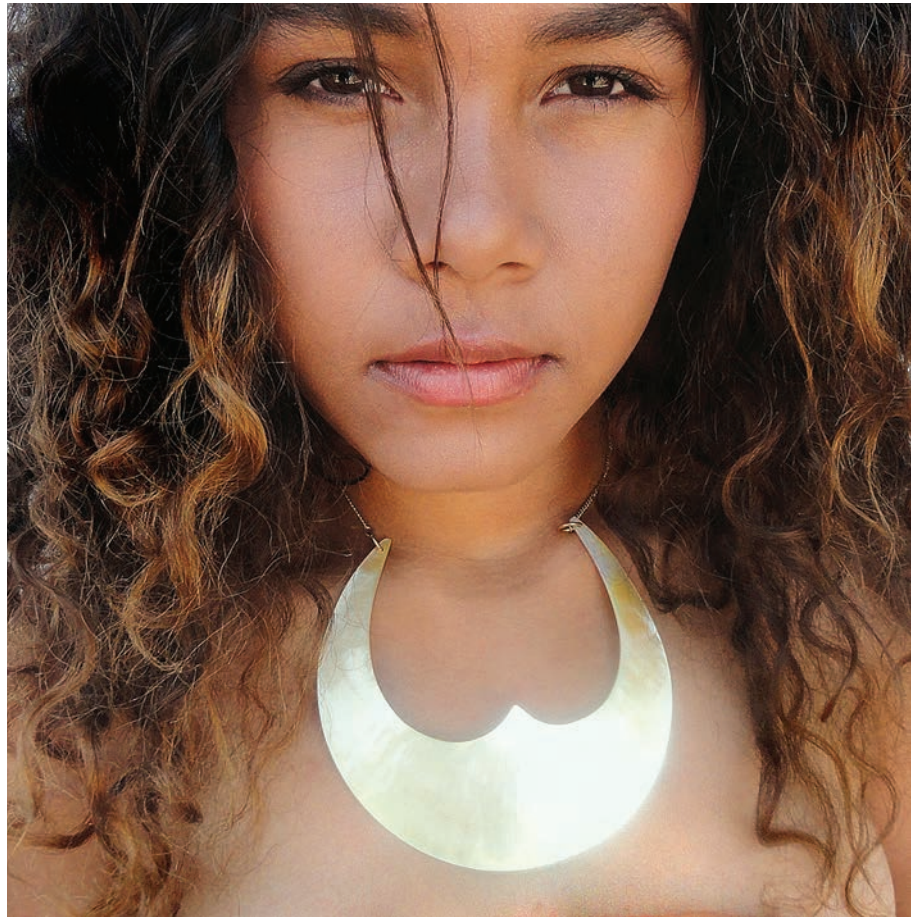
Handcrafted Sela lo Sea shell accessories come in three styles: Seaweed collection (target: high-end market), Reef range (shell hues depict reef colours and coastal living), and the Shell Money collection - a mixture of recycled shell money necklaces resembling traditional Solomon Islands cultural objects.

The Sela creator compliments her jewelry with a range of products like eco-friendly bags, sarongs (an essential clothing item in practically every Pacific Islander's wardrobe), and flowers to tuck behind your ear.

"We need to keep life simple," she says, "Less is more."

Geanene, like every business-minded person, has progressive plans in exploring other natural mediums and markets for her tropically inspired products. Recently she has started selling in the Maldives and would eventually like to focus on Pacific outlets.

"The principles and spirit of Sela lo Sea was started by my late father Iain Gower, who began producing Solomon Islands jewelry in the 1960s. As a young girl, I used to help him with the design and manufacture of his jewels. Today I've taken it to the next level while trying to keep my father's spirit of manufacturing quality and personalised products." ➤



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A Remarkable Young Man- A profile of Jason Kelly

WORDS AND PHOTOS: **DON SILCOCK**

YOU KNOW THE FEELING... you arrive alone, don't know anybody but it seems like everybody else is the best of friends!

So it was when I stepped on to Uepi Island in May last year, as my arrival coincided with the end of a two-week mission to the Marovo Lagoon by a large party of American and Australian doctors, surgeons and nurses.

You could say that I felt a little bit out of place that first night.

There I was on my first trip to the Solomon Islands, eager to dive and photograph the reefs and wrecks of the Marovo area only to find myself surrounded by some very serious medical expertise.

Not only that, but they had spent the last two weeks conducting medical clinics in Seghe, the main town in the area, plus the many villages across the lagoon and had clearly "bonded" in to a cohesive and very happy team!

One of the things I love about scuba diving is that you meet all sorts of interesting people who, because of their shared interest in the sea are easy to strike up a conversation with, no matter what their background is.

But that first night I was relegated to the sidelines with very little to contribute, but fascinated none the less, by the shared passion of these medical professionals and what they had just accomplished.

It turned out that they were all volunteers for the Marovo Medical Foundation which is organised and run by Suzanne and Allan Daly of Salt Lake City in the USA, but coordinated locally by a young man called Jason Kelly.

Jason is the youngest son of Jill and Grant Kelly, the part-owners of Uepi Resort, and he has grown up in the Marovo Lagoon with a clear affection for its people and their situation, so much so that he has taken it upon himself to try and do something about it!

Those efforts are currently focused in two main areas – the hospital at Seghe, the main town in the area, and development of a sustainable timber forest that actually provide long-term benefits to the people of the lagoon.



Seghe Hospital

For the 20,000 people of Marovo Lagoon, Seghe Hospital is the only source of medical support and as recently as 2009 it did not even have a reliable source of power or running water.

Suzanne and Allan Daly have succeeded in raising the funds and find willing participants to change all that and, thanks to their efforts and those of Jason who volunteered to act as the hospital administrator and overall project manager, the hospital now has a 10kw solar power system, a reliable water system, new stainless steel ceiling fans throughout and properly screened windows to keep mosquitos and malaria at bay - plus new accommodation for the excellent nursing staff.

But, the most impressive addition to the hospital was the new operating theatre built entirely from charitable donations and project managed by Jason.



The theatre is built and equipped to a very high standard and was used for the first time in May by the visiting team from Marovo Medical Foundation, who conducted a total of 38 surgical operations.

No wonder those doctors, surgeons and nurses were so happy!

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Plus, because there is limited harvesting of forests, only 1-2 trees per hectare every 5 years, and care is taken that there is minimal damage to the environment.

Jason is a remarkable young man, who is clearly determined to make a real difference.

I was intrigued to understand why he had decided to devote so much time and energy into helping improve the lives of the people of Marovo Lagoon.

Jason explained that the catalyst for his involvement had been the request in 2009 to interpret at a meeting with Seghe Hospital officials.

As that meeting progressed he realised for the first time the selfless way the nursing staff were trying to go about their duties.

Despite extremely limited resources they were doing everything they possibly could for the people of the lagoon, so he decided that he should get involved and help.

The rest, as they say, is history! >>

Giving back to Marovo

Logging does not have a great reputation in Solomon Islands and stories abound of old growth forests ravaged by temporary logging camps that leave the traditional owners with very little to show for it apart from the horrendous environmental devastation.

Jason, who graduated with a degree in International Business Management, wanted to establish a sustainable model to carefully and selectively harvest old growth forests in a way that would preserve bulk of the Lagoon's rainforest, while maximising the amount the owners get for the high-quality timber.

His basic concept is to develop a growing number of village-based timber harvesting operations that work to a forestry management plan, that meets the standards laid down by the highly regarded UK based Forest

Stewardship Council (FSC), and are able to sell their premium products directly into major markets in Asia and Europe.

In those markets there is a strong demand for high quality timber certified to FSC standards and, by selling directly, the benefit to the traditional owners is up to twenty times what they would get from the logging companies.



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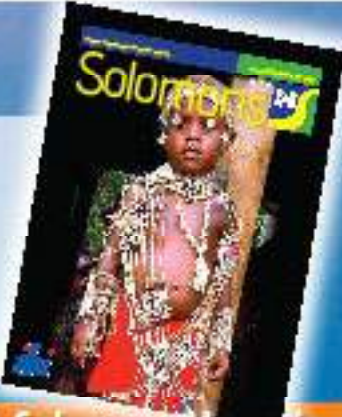
Each edition of the magazine is carefully designed to include a range of interesting articles about the Solomon Islands, personalities and developments of interest to both tourists and business travelers.

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The Incredible Roviana Lagoon

WORDS & PHOTOS: DON SILCOCK



It really is a significant body of water that extends for over 50km eastwards from Munda, and is bounded by a chain of barrier reefs and islands lying 2-4km offshore.

THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING QUITE SPECIAL about watching your carefully packed dive gear being loaded in to the cargo hold of a small plane. Obviously you must be going somewhere off the beaten track and thoughts of the adventures that lay ahead always fill me with a sense of wonder and excitement!

So it was last year as I boarded the flight from Honiara to Munda, the stopping off point for the incredible scenic Roviana Lagoon on the south-west coast of the island of New Georgia.

I was doubly excited this time though because I had finally made it to Solomon Islands, an area of the Indo-Pacific that has long been on my personal "bucket list."

The flight from Honiara would take me north-west over the scenic Russell Islands group towards Munda and the start of a journey of exploration around New Georgia Province.

Munda – the gateway to the Roviana

As the plane makes its descent into Munda I gain a real appreciation of the actual size of the Roviana Lagoon for the first time. It really is a significant body of water that extends for over 50km eastwards from Munda, and is bounded by a chain of barrier reefs and islands lying 2-4km offshore.

It's truly a spectacularly site and my expectations for what lays ahead rise even further!

I have read everything I can find about Roviana and the role it plays in the overall ecosystem of this part of New Georgia - for within the lagoon the tectonic gods have created a series of relatively shallow but sheltered environments that are interspersed between deep channels, which provide unobstructed passage for the waters of the Solomon Sea to enter.

Rich with nutrients from deep trenches and basins to the south, these waters produce the perfect conditions for fish to aggregate and spawn, which means the Roviana Lagoon can almost be considered as a gigantic nursery and larval trap for the area.

Munda is both the epicentre of the lagoon and the largest town on the island of New Georgia, and consists of a number of small villages that grew around a colonial era coconut plantation at Munda Point.

During WWII the Japanese built an airstrip at Munda which they managed to conceal for some time from Allied forces by suspending coconut palms on cables across the runway, so that it was not visible from the air.

The subsequent discovery led to a lot of bombing runs on the area resulting in temporary closures of the airstrip while the Japanese made repairs to get it back in operation. It also meant that there is still a lot of unexploded ordinance in the rainforest that surrounds Munda.

The original airstrip is the site of the current runway, which while I was there was approaching the end of a significant upgrade to allow jets to land and a major part of the project had involved the safe disposal of all those unexploded bombs.

Dive Munda

One of the great things about traveling to remote locations is that you meet some really interesting people and the British owners of Dive Munda, Graeme Sanson and Jen Will, personify the British in the South Seas to a tee.

In their 6th year as residents of the Roviana Lagoon, their British bulldog determination to overcome the odds, whilst still enjoying themselves and doing what they do best, was positively uplifting and at times extremely amusing!

Both keen technical divers and instructors, they have managed to assemble all the “stuff” associated with doing this safely in a remote location in their small dive shop at the side of Agnes Lodge, the main (and only) hotel in town.

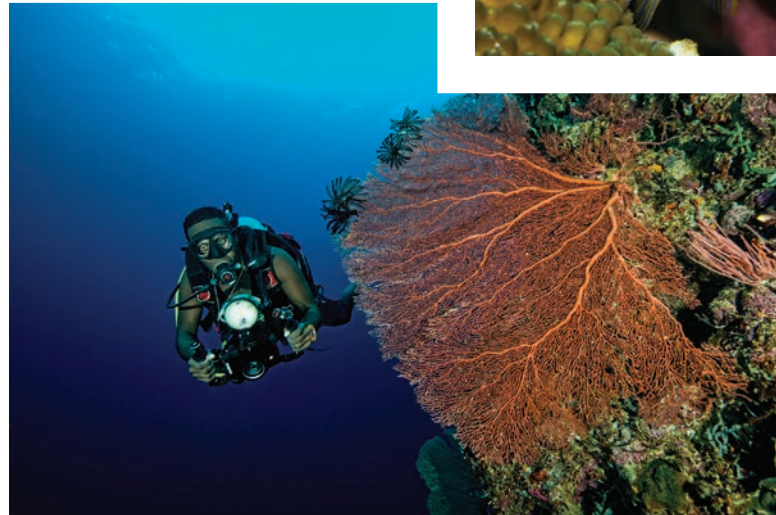
Being a humble air diver, I had to listen stoically to their many stories about deep cleaning stations at 55m where oceanic silver tip sharks come in for a touch up and polish.


Or the limestone formations and cave systems of the lagoon, together with the numerous WWII ship and plane wrecks of the area that are still to be located, but all that is for another story!

Diving the Roviana Lagoon

There are many sites to dive in the Roviana Lagoon, both inside the barrier islands and on the outside.

The best, and certainly the most adventurous dives, are to be had on the outer sides of the barrier islands where you will find walls and slopes washed by the oceanic currents of the Solomon Sea and the biodiversity associated with those current flows.



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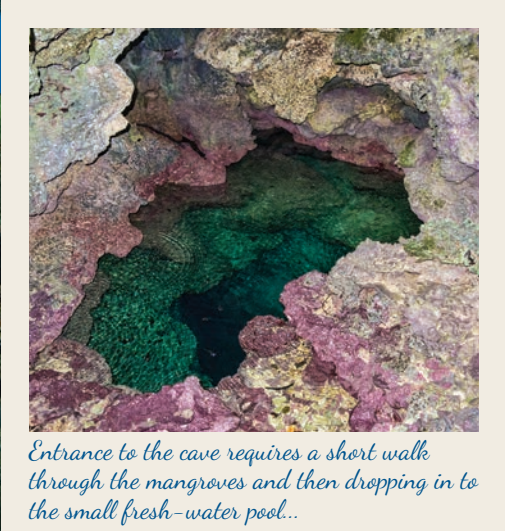
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More hard corals than the softer variety, but very rich none the less, and all bathed in the deep clear blue waters that create stunning photogenic backdrops to the pelagics that patrol in them.

Probably the most iconic dive inside the lagoon is the Cave of the Kastom Shark, which is about one hour's boat ride from Munda and located in the mangroves of one of the many islands. Entrance to the cave requires a short walk through the mangroves and then dropping in to the small fresh-water pool that is the start of a vertical shaft that leads into two large connected chambers.



Entrance to the cave requires a short walk through the mangroves and then dropping in to the small fresh-water pool...

A guide line has been laid all the way through and, although you reach a depth of 35m at one point, the whole experience is pretty laid back and non-threatening to my untrained cave diver perspective!

The exit from the cave takes about 10 minutes to reach from the entrance in the mangroves and leads you out on to a steep wall where pelagics prowl on a regular basis.

Similarly no trip to the Roviana Lagoon can be concluded without a pilgrimage to the wreck of the Bell P39 Aerocobra wreck.

I think every diver would like to discover their own wreck, but Graeme and Jen have actually done it when they located the WWII fighter sitting serenely upright on the sand in 36m of water inside the lagoon.



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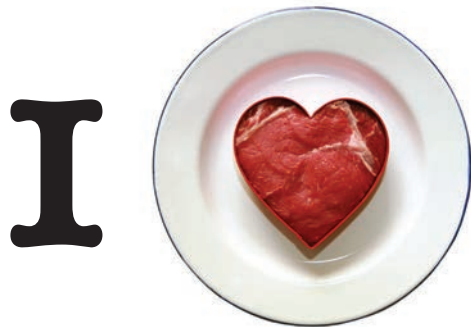
The wreck is reasonably intact and comes complete with its own school of sweetlips, which appear to have no fear of man whatsoever, and is also a “must-do” dive.

Graeme Sanson has not been able to identify the plane or its history since he discovered it in April 2011, but believes it was shot down on a combat mission as the ammunition trays have rounds in them but are not full.

Altogether I spent 12 days in Munda and had many amazing dives, but if I had to pick a favourite it would be Nusa Roviana Wall, which we first dived almost as an afterthought one afternoon. Down at 35m was the most amazing deep water reef, flush with both hard and soft corals, black coral trees and teeming with fish while in the blue large schools of jacks and barracuda patrolled looking for their next meal.

As we watched a squadron of eagle rays passed overhead and as I pondered whether it could ever get any better the frantic signaling of Graeme Sanson drew my attention to the Great Hammerhead that was cruising up the channel just 2m to my right!

If only I had taken the wide-angle camera.



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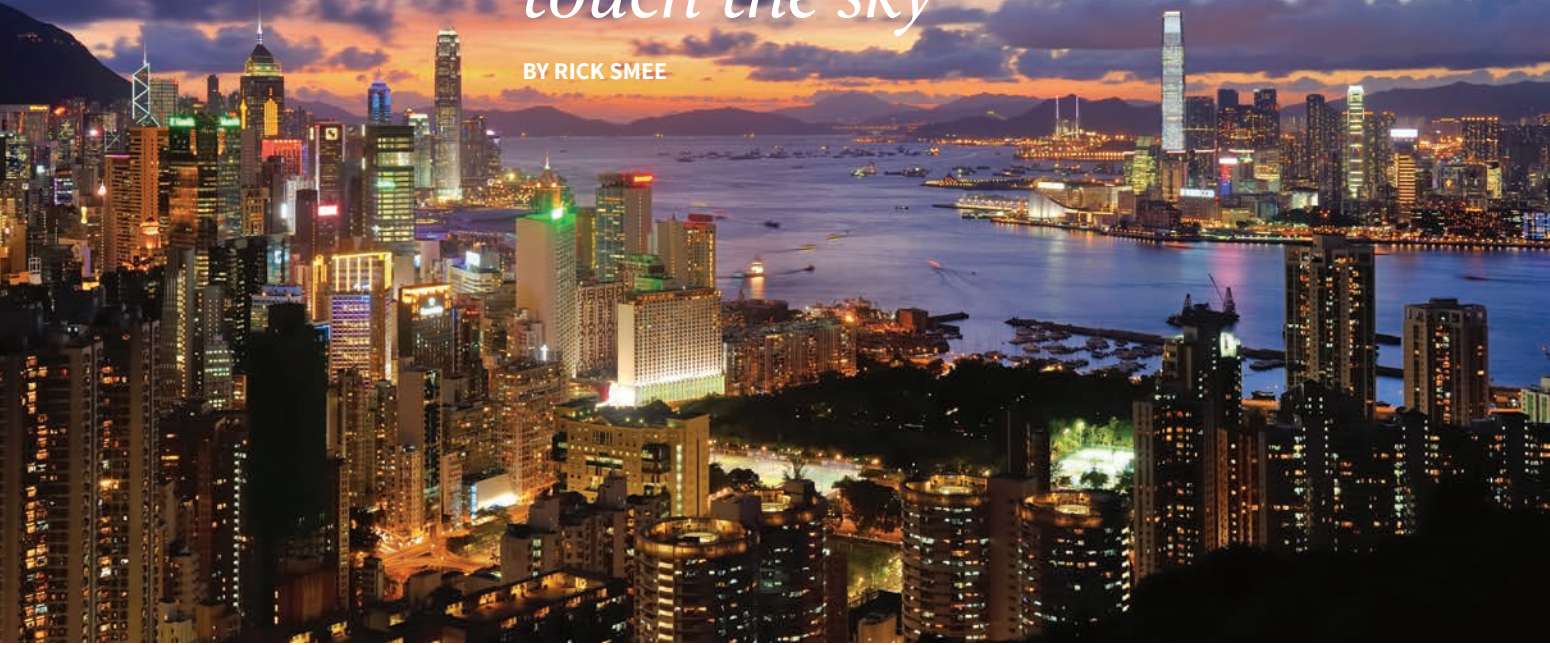
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MY FIRST MEMORY OF HONG KONG is swooping earthwards across the roofs of Kowloon towards Kai Tak International Airport in 1990.

What a ride, the approach across Victoria Harbour was breathtaking and worth the cost of a ticket alone. Those rip-roaring days have long gone since the opening of the new airport at Chek Lap Kok, a man-made island off the northern coast of Lantau Island.

Lantau is the largest of Hong Kong's 234 islands, and the gateway to a unique world of fun and excitement. The new airport is one of the busiest and home to the world's largest passenger terminal.

Employing more than 60,000 people Chep Lap Kok operates flights to more than 150 cities across the globe. It is a far cry from the old Kai Tak where people used to queue up for a table at one of Kowloons rooftop restaurants in order to enjoy the action of incoming jets.

Artefacts unearthed at around 100 sites in the territory and Pearl River Delta suggest the islands of Hong Kong has been inhabited since about 4,000 BC.

The first Europeans didn't arrive until the early fifteenth century. Then, as now, it was trade which drove Hong Kong. The pace of life was leisurely and things did not begin to change until the Union Jack was unfurled on 26 January 1841.

Although it wasn't until 26 June 1843 that Hong Kong formally became a British possession. At that time there were only about 3,600 individuals scattered around twenty villages and hamlets, with another 2,000 or so living on boats in the harbour.

China was occasionally visited by trading ships from India, Arabia and Persia, but Hong Kong remained a sleepy backwater.

A good way to look at Hong Kong is from its four major points. Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, New Territories and Outlying Islands.

From the outset, both Britain and China were satisfied with the terms of the Treaty of Nanking, which was duly signed on 29 August 1842.

Britain wanted access to trade with China and through gunboat diplomacy forced it to abolish the monopoly trade system and cede the island of Hong Kong to Britain in perpetuity.

At the time, Heung-Gawng (Fragrant Harbour) was not much more than a backwater, but it did provide the British with a deep, well sheltered, strategically located harbour.

Hong Kong Island



A trip to Victoria Peak is a must and a ride to the summit on the old peak tram is an experience not to be missed. The striking panorama of the South China Sea, reveals jagged, verdant mountains, while breathtaking vistas sweep downward past gleaming high rise apartments and office towers on to Kowloon, beyond to Macau and mainland China. I headed for Fun Central, Lan Kwai Fong.

More than 230 islands, most uninhabited are scattered across the waterways. Aberdeen was once a small fishing village, a haven for pirates and smugglers but today many come simply to sample the delights of floating restaurants.

The inhabitants of Hong Kong are known internationally as fearless gamblers and many in the recent past have proved the veracity of this belief by taking a swim in the harbour during warmer weather. Today in places like Victoria Park on Causeway Bay one may swim in relative safety from April to November.

Repulse Bay is renowned as Hong Kong's finest and most popular beach.; shark nets have been laid at 29 beaches in the region. Just across Deep Water Bay is Ocean Park, situated on a hilly peninsula and is well known as the foremost theme park in HK.

If anyone ever doubted the dynamism and creative genius which is Hong Kong, this is the place to visit.

Kowloon

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The advertisement features a dark background with a stylized pattern of white and blue circles and lines. The SATSOL logo is prominently displayed in white, with a blue Wi-Fi symbol integrated into the letter 'O'. Below the logo, the text "DIGITAL TV & INTERNET • WATCH ME" is written in white and blue. At the bottom, a promotional message is written in white, followed by contact information in blue.



simply without peer. It is a 21st century Aladin's Cave. Items such as jade, gold, pearls, silk, ceramics and porcelain, electronic goods, embroidery, Clothing and accessories, Lacquerware, Arts and Crafts are ready to delight and seduce any casual browser.

Antiques are a hot item within Hong Kong commodity markets but so-called 'Authenticity Papers' should be treated with caution and are often best put to other uses.

The best advice is, "take your time, enjoy the experience and hope that you will feel the same about your purchase tomorrow."

ATMs are readily available and credit cards are widely accepted but cash is still king. Designer goods are available almost everywhere but doing one's homework is essential. Made to measure suits can be a great acquisition with fabrics available from Italy, England and France, to name a few.

To obtain an extra pair of trousers is standard procedure and always appreciated in cases of emergency, or mis-hap. But a bargain is not a bargain if you get home and find it doesn't fit, or has no button-holes, possibly a sleeve missing, or it falls to pieces. Rather than risk any unpleasantness, I purchased a Chinese Opera on CD for my ex-mother in law, pre-set to very loud.

There is so much to see and do in Hong Kong. Kowloon has a Space Museum, Chinese Antiquities Gallery, Historical Pictures Gallery and many more. In the old days it was known as the Kowloon Walled City, with its crumbling, tightly packed walls, steaming sweat shops, gambling dens and plethora of illegal dentists (about 100) and their screaming patients. How I used to love that place.

New Territories

The Area known as the New Territories covers about 307 square





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mles (796 Sq kilometres) and is still a breathtaking world of delightful pockets of rustic, verdant beauty. Although the influx of immigrants has caused a little of its beauty to fade, visitors are often stunned by these quiet, places not far from the teeming crowds of Central Hong Kong. Gloriously ornate Buddhist and Taoist temples still add their beauty to an ancient world where the remnants of walled villages lay peacefully alongside beautiful tracts of isolated countryside and walking trails. High in the hills to the north-west of Sha Tin sits the Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery, where 1300 gilded, ceramic Buddhas were donated by worshippers.



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Outlying Islands

Lantau with its precipitous peaks, peaceful monasteries and white sandy beaches is a great getaway and attracts many weekend visitors, as does Disneyland, or the many facilities at the new International airport. Nearby Lamma Island is Hong Kong's third biggest and has the undoubted virtue of no cars.

East does not clash with West in Hong Kong. This place is built on a toehold in a teeming world of aspirational millions. It is a place where dreams touch the sky, hold a piece of it. >>





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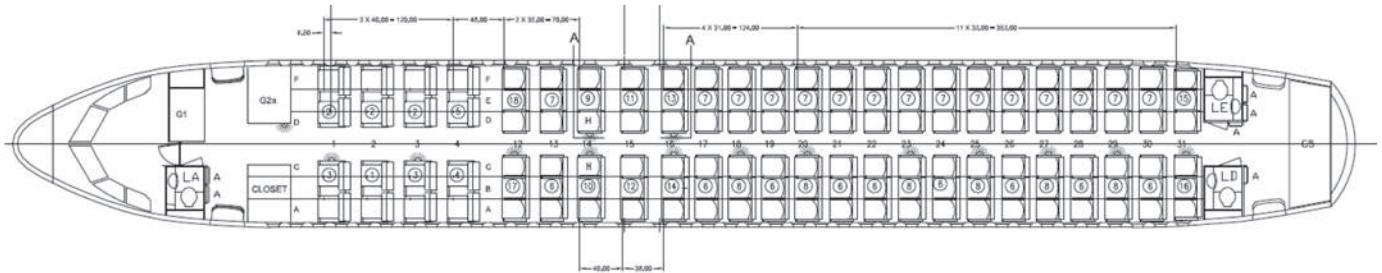


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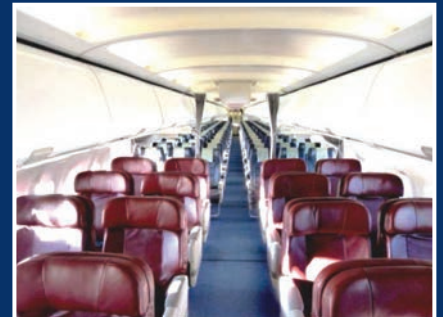
SOLOMON AIRLINES FACT SHEET

Aircraft: A320

Registration: H4 -BUS
Length: 37.57 m
Wing Span: 34.10m
Range: 3,000 nm
Cruising Speed: 830 kpm
Seating capacity: 136
Configuration: Business:16 Economy: 120
Current Routes: Brisbane, Nadi, Port Vila



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AIRCRAFT: Dash 8-102



Length: 22.25 m
Wing Span: 25.91 m
Range: 2040 km
Cruising Speed: 490 kph
Seating capacity: 36
Crew: 3 Crew including 1 cabin crew
Current Routes: Honiara; Seghe: Munda; Gizo; Kira Kira; Santa Cruz
Aircraft in Fleet: 1

AIRCRAFT: Twin Otter



Length: 15.77 m
Wing Span: 19.81 m
Range: 4 hrs 10 minutes
Cruising Speed: 338 kph
Seating capacity: 16
Crew: 2
Current Routes: All Ports in the Solomon Islands
Aircraft in Fleet: 2

BNI: Islander



Length: 10.86 m
Wing Span: 14.94 m
Range: 5 hrs
Cruising Speed: 257 kph
Seating capacity: 9
Crew: 1
Current Routes: All ports in the Solomon Islands
Aircraft in Fleet: 1

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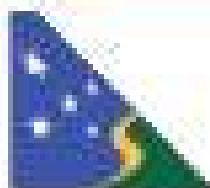
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The Solomon Islands are divided into nine provinces as follows

Province	Area	Population	Highest Point	Capital
Choiseul	1,191 km ²	141,401	1,047m	Marina
Central	1,008 km ²	17,011	976m	Tulagi
Western	1,174 km ²	11,218	1,011m	Uvea
Trial	2,013 km ²	18,721	1,191m	Ruata
Malaita	4,174 km ²	115,517	1,507m	Auki
SEML	1,181 km ²	22,161	1,100m	Makira
Tasman	926 km ²	14,411	917m	Lata
Malikula	1,193 km ²	10,071	1,300m	Toni
Island of Malaita	274 km ²	5,811	220m	Tuga

Country	Area	Population	Capital	Provinces
Salomon Islands	28,700 km ²	450,000	Honiara	Agriculture, fisheries and tourism
Australia	7.6 million km ²	21.6 million	Canberra	Agriculture, mining, manufacturing, services and tourism
USA	14,100 km ²	270,000	San Francisco	Agriculture, fishing, forestry, copper and tourism
New Zealand	18,074 sq km ²	3,800,000	Wellington	Fishing, agriculture, forestry
New Zealand	264,000 km ²	4.1 million	Wellington	Agriculture, forestry, services, manufacturing and tourism
Papua-New Guinea	462,000 km ²	6.1 million	Port Moresby	Agriculture, fisheries, forestry and mining
Vanuatu	12,100 km ²	200,000	Port Vila	Agriculture, fisheries and tourism

NEW CORPORATE TRAVEL CENTRE

IN LINE WITH ITS CORPORATE strategic plans for 2014, Solomon Airlines has now moved its Corporate Travel Center from the former Solomon Islands Government Printers building to the newly renovated and upgraded office on the ground floor of Tongs building in Point Cruz. It officially opened for business from Monday 14th April, 2014.

The new Corporate Travel Centre boasts some of the most user friendly office atmosphere, spacious and state of the art design added with a touch of comfort. It includes a corporate personal setting lounge to cater for our corporate clients' specifically targeting our Belama Members when they come in for their reservations and ticketing for travel.

General Manager for Commercial Services and Operations Mr. Gus Kraus remarked that it will be a whole new office experience quite unlike the rather unpleasant conditions in our old travel center and for which we would like to thank our corporate clients and the travelling public for their understanding and patience up until the opening of new travel centre. >>



Flood Donations to Red Cross

SOLOMON AIRLINES PRESENTED much-needed items of clothing, kitchenware and children's materials to Solomon Islands' Red Cross Secretary General Ms Joanne Zoleveke on Wednesday, 30th April. Red Cross will then distribute these items to those in need as a result of the recent flooding in Guadalcanal.

A total of about 30 or so bags, suitcases and boxes of these items were donated to the Red Cross Solomon Islands appeal that mainly came from Brisbane Airport stakeholders including Solomon Airlines staff and handling agent Menzies; for which their staff, after hearing the plight of the Airline's appeal, came forward to generously

donate their own homely items not otherwise needed but yet in good condition to be used here.

CEO of Solomon Airlines Captain Ron Sumsum indicated that "the airline was much appreciative to those stakeholders in Brisbane and in thanking them, indicated that the airline flew these items at no cost to ensure firstly that we looked after about 18 of our staff and families who were also affected by the disaster and following from this, there was over-supply due to the generosity of those involved in Brisbane and we gladly donated these to the Red Cross appeal."

In receiving the items, Red Cross Secretary

General Joanne Zoleveke thanked the airline and said that much more is needed to help those affected by the disaster, adding that the floods affected many people and families both in Guadalcanal and other areas of Solomon Islands.

General Manager Operations & Commercial, Gus Kraus, assured the Solomon Islands Red Cross General Secretary that whilst the appeal will still continue, the airline would support assisting in freighting all goods addressed to the Red Cross Solomon Islands at no cost on a space available basis throughout the month of May provided they were genuine donations for the floods appeal. >>





Solomon Star

Your Solomon Star Guide to the Solomon Islands

CLIMATE: Tropically warm and humid with coastal day temperatures averaging 28C. April to November tends to be drier, and November to April wetter.



WHAT TO WEAR: Light and casual. Keep brief beachwear for beaches.



IMMIGRATION: Commonwealth, United States and most West European visitors do not need holiday visas but need return or onward tickets. People intending to work must have a work permit.

HONIARA: The capital is eight kilometres from Honiara International Airport.

AIRPORT TAX: All relevant taxes are inclusive of ticket cost.

HEALTH: Malaria is a problem. Take anti-malarial medication a week before arrival, once a week during your stay, and for four weeks after departure. Consult your chemist or doctor about an appropriate brand or tablet. Maloprin is usually recommended.



CURRENCY: \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$2 Solomon Islands notes; coins are \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c, 5c coins.

BUSINESS HOURS: Government and some business offices open Monday to Friday 8am to 4.30pm with a one-hour lunch break normally beginning at noon. Shops and some offices open Saturdays 8am - noon.

BANKS: Bank South Pacific opens Monday to Friday 8.30am to 3pm; and ANZ Banking Group and Westpac open Monday to Friday - 9am to 4pm.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Local and international calls may be made from Our Telekom public card phones which are in prominent locations in Honiara and provincial centres or GSM Mobile services. Telephone and internet cards are readily available through shops, hotels and Our Telekom offices. GSM prepaid and postpaid mobile cards are available in Honiara, Gizo and planned deployment to all other provincial centres. Breeze Rifil cards are available for prepaid mobile top-ups. Our Telekom also provides ADSL broadband internet service through landlines or you can access the internet through Bumblebee wireless broadband hotspots located at major hotels, international airport terminal and Panatina Plaza.

TIPPING: Not expected and not encouraged.

TRANSPORT: Taxis and buses are readily available in Honiara. Rental cars: Avis, Economy, Travel Car Solomon, Budget Car Rental and Kosol Car Rental.

INTERNATIONAL AIR: Solomon Airlines, Fiji Airways, Air Niugini and Pacific Blue serve Honiara International Airport.



DOMESTIC: Solomon Airlines operates services to most parts of the country.

ELECTRICITY: 220-240 volts in Honiara and some outer island centres.

RADIO: PAOA FM broadcasts from transmitters at Honiara, Guadalcanal (97.7) and Malaita (101.7), Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation has medium wave and FM services. ZFM and religious stations broadcast in Honiara area. Radio Australia and BBC local relays are on FM in Honiara.



NEWSPAPERS: The English-language Solomon Star is the only daily newspaper and covers local, regional and international news. Other newspapers - Island Sun.

TELEVISION: Has one TV service ONE TV which is locally owned.



HONIARA ACTIVITIES: River rafting, golf, tennis, scuba diving, walks, battlefield tours, swimming, sailing, bush

walking and fishing.

SOUVENIRS: Solomon Islands law forbids unauthorised export of war relics retrieved from land sites or sunken wrecks. Consult the National Museum of the Solomon Islands for advice.



COMMUNITY SERVICE: Rotary Club meets at the Flamingo Lounge, Honiara Hotel, at 5.30pm every Tuesday. Soroptomist International of Solomon Islands meets on the first Mondays of each month at the Mendana Hotel at 5.15pm.





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VARIOUS CLUBS FROM DAYTON TO NIGHT – 11 RESTAURANTS CATERING TO ANY TABLE WANTED!

The hotel offers a wide range of services to meet the needs of Hoonah's business and leisure travellers. The hotel offers a wide range of services to meet the needs of Hoonah's business and leisure travellers. The hotel offers a wide range of services to meet the needs of Hoonah's business and leisure travellers.

Restaurants offer a wide range of dining options, including a full-service restaurant, a bar/lounge, a cafe, and a 24-hour room service. The hotel also offers a wide range of services to meet the needs of Hoonah's business and leisure travellers.

WONDERFUL ENTERTAINMENT – BAR, NIGHT CLUB & KARAOKE LIGHTS UP YOUR NIGHT LIFE

Restaurants offer a wide range of dining options, including a full-service restaurant, a bar/lounge, a cafe, and a 24-hour room service. The hotel also offers a wide range of services to meet the needs of Hoonah's business and leisure travellers.

RANDON & BIGGEST CASINO – CLASS SERVICE

Restaurants offer a wide range of dining options, including a full-service restaurant, a bar/lounge, a cafe, and a 24-hour room service. The hotel also offers a wide range of services to meet the needs of Hoonah's business and leisure travellers.

Relax, enjoy and make us at the Pacific Casino Hotel – a place where you can have it all !!!

