

ISSUE 72

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Ron Sumsum
Chief Executive Officer

Partnership extends to an Interim Leased Aircraft

QANTAS; -our new codeshare partnership which commenced in November 2015 gained further momentum when we leased a Qantas Boeing B737-800 aircraft to assist our own international operations from mid-February through to the end of April 2016 whilst our Airbus undergoes a planned maintenance programme in Singapore.

To date, Qantas have performed to expectations and we are grateful for their assistance.

Tri-Partite Partnership

At the time of writing, it is no wonder that the three-way partnership of Melanesian carriers including ourselves, Air Niugini and Air Vanuatu have not settled their planned operations due to the non-resolution of the reservation systems between the three carriers. We trust this will be resolved soon for the betterment of all our travelers throughout Melanesia and if nothing, maybe the ASPA (Association of South Pacific Airlines) AGM in Honiara in May will shed some light on the subject.

Airbus Maintenance

Our Airbus affectionately known as the BUS went to Singapore for its planned maintenance on 18th February with an expected return to service on or around 5-7th April 2016. Sadly this will not be the case as it has been further extended to around the end of April due mainly to the supply of parts not being readily available to support this maintenance programme albeit, most were planned and were available, some had to be manufactured and at time of writing, a firm date of return is yet to be confirmed. We expected this to firm up by the time this magazine goes to print.

We certainly look forward to having our little old 'French Lady' back in service with a renewed look of resilience to last a further four years.

DASH8 Maintenance

The Dash8 registered as SOL went into maintenance with Hawker Pacific in Cairns on the 1st of March and was due to return at the end of March. Again for much of the same reasons as the BUS, the Dash will be returning to service on or around the 18th of April and we have extended the current schedule with our three Twin Otters and Islanders to cater until the Dash returns in full splendor to maintain our very consistent domestic services to the people of Solomon Islands and for this...we also look forward to its return.

Our Business

Times continue to be tough for our airline and some neighbouring partners mainly due to weakening numbers of travelers to Solomon Islands from our main market source Australia. Whilst saying this and monitoring the competitor with its almost predatory pricing in the market, we continue to hold our market share at less than desirable returns for the type of business

WELKAM FRENS

To all our valued customers

we perform considering almost sixty percent of our costs or more are paid in USD and another 20% in AUD so one can see that the earning power in SBD does not travel too far outside of Solomon Islands.

Needless to say the effects of the two significant Cyclones hitting our Melanesian brothers firstly in Vanuatu last year and recently in Fiji has also had an impact on travelling numbers and whilst we have to weather these types of acts of Gods...we extend our hands & hearts out to those affected.

It is prudent management that we review our total operations to seek further cost efficiencies and identify those areas that need to be pruned, or at least controlled, and allow for options to find and apply more modernisation and safety aspects of our business to flourish beyond just being an airline of convenience as we are obligated by our charter to provide a safe and efficient airline for country and its people. Our goal is to ensure Solomon Airlines maintains its place as the National Carrier of Solomon Islands not only for now...but takes its place as an essential service provider well into the future. It would help immensely if the shareholders, 100% Government owned took its place beside the National Carrier in good times and bad...in a truly PROUD WHOLLY OWNED NATIONAL CARRIER.

We recommend reading ahead

- Cultural Identity > the red feather money of Santa Cruz
- Local destination > check out Honiara's next best thing, Haydn Restaurant at the new Coral Sea Resort & Casino
- Kurukuru champions > our champion football players off to Futsal World Cup in Colombia
- Sensational Rosie > Solomon Islands' budding singing star
- Unsung war heroes > Coast Watchers of WW2
- Lastly, our international destination this edition> take the family with you to Canberra

Solomon Airlines are proud of our efforts in promoting our diversified cultures and Hapi Isles and as the National Carrier. We are the only ones promoting our country with a vengeance together with SIVB, our Visitors Bureau partners.

This is unparalleled as NO OTHER AIRLINE flying to the Solomon Islands actively pursues to put their own time, funds and efforts in the promotion of Tourism to our Hapi Isles no more-so than Solomon Airlines.

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Tengiu tumas.

Ron Sumsum
Chief Executive Officer



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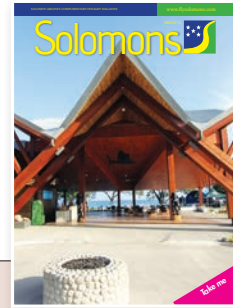
Solomons



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WHAT'S ON WHEN & WHERE

2016



APRIL

APRIL

Eastern Fun Run

MAY

MAY

Spear Festival (Makira Province)

Vaka Tepe (War Canoe Festival, West Province)

JUNE

JUNE

Huki (Banana) Festival (Makira Province)

JULY

JULY

Independence Day

AUGUST

AUGUST

WWII Commemoration - 71st anniversary

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER

Chief Festival (Isabel Province)

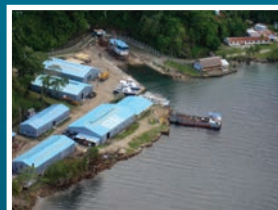


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OUT & ABOUT

Fashion



November to remember! Models strut their stuff on the catwalk at the annual fashion and design show in Honiara last November.

Now, the island's budding and enterprising designers are already busy preparing for their annual fashion and designer week, usually held in Honiara in November each year.

Association of Solomon Islanders in Creative Fashion is behind the fashion show and it held its annual meeting in March to pave the way for its 2016 event

More information can be obtained from the Association's Facebook page.

Contact: Association of Solomon Islanders in Creative Fashion page on Facebook.

Photos: ASICF

Handicraft

Solomon art was a hit at a recent exhibition in New York at which top quality carvings, buka ware baskets and shell money jewellery were in display. Husband and wife owners of Nautilus Books & Gifts, Naomi Tozaka and Richard Majchrzak represented Solomon Islands during the 4-day Artusan Resources @ NYNOW Tradeshow. Its usually held twice a year and attracts more than 30,000 buyers from 80 countries across the globe.

Photo at right: Naomi Tozaka (3rd from left) with fellow Pacific Island exhibitors pictured with His Excellency Collin Beck, Solomon Islands' Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. @ Nautilus Photo.



Homestay

B17 is the next best thing in west Guadalcanal these days, when it comes to accommodation. Named after a US bomber plane that sunk in waters nearby, B17 offers home-stay accommodation for visitor - locals and foreigners alike.

Its conveniently located on a beach, not far from amazing diving spots which featured lots of World War II wrecks.

Photo: Karl Bourou



Place to be when out in Langalanga Lagoon in Auki, Malaita Province. Serah's Lagoon Hideaway is a true hideaway, ideally located in the waters of Langalanga, famous for its artificial islands and shell money.

Photo: Alisa Vavataga

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The advertisement features a photograph of professional golfer Lydia Ko in profile, wearing a blue visor and shirt, looking intently at a golf hole on a green. The background shows a vast, open landscape with rolling hills under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Makira's Secret Surf Cult

Expedition cruising expert Roderick Eime, visits Star Harbour on the remote island of Makira (San Cristobal) and the villages of Tora and Namamrau.

On 18 February 1974, the Royal Yacht Britannia made a call on Star Harbour on the remote island of Makira (San Cristobal) and to the villages of Tora and Namamrau, probably because it was here that Captain Gibson R.N., of



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'The last section requires wading in the dark gloop to make our landing point.'

HMS Curacoa, declared the southern islands a British Protectorate. Her Royal Highness was treated to a right royal welcome by her Commonwealth subjects.

Our own early morning arrival is nowhere as auspicious as our two fully-loaded Zodiacs head toward tiny Star Harbour where a small inter-island freighter is unloading at the little wharf. At the end of narrow Namuga passage, the gnarly red mangrove forests (Rhizophora) all along the water's edge create a scene reminiscent of the 'Lord of the Rings' movie. We keep an eye out for Orks just in case.

The villages come into view and comprise just a few huts and a timber guest house, the 'Star Beach Lodge.' Our objective is two small villages beyond the 'port' accessed by a narrow, muddy channel through thick mangroves, the last section requires wading in the dark gloop to make our landing point.

In a delightful fashion that is now the norm wherever we visit, our party is escorted by skipping, giggling kids of all ages enjoying the

unusual spectacle of clumsy white Europeans trudging through their village. The discovery here is the mysterious jungle surf cult enjoyed by the young boys who fashion rudimentary surfboards from slats of sago palm pinned together with bamboo spikes. The technique is mainly to catch the shore breaks in boogie board style, but a few are keen to show us they can stand on their little boards too. When the soft wood gets messy around the edges from contact with the sharp volcanic rocks, a quick trim with a machete brings the board back into shape.

From what I learn from the owner of the boarding house and village chief, Alfred, this little fraternity apparently evolved after a visit from a bunch of Aussie surfers back in 2008. The local kids were fascinated by the heroic antics of the sun-bleached blokes riding the swell coming in from the south at Namuga and mimicked them every day with whatever floating object they could find. The sago palm boogie board is a development that took some months of trial and error.

Makira has since become one of the Solomon Islands' surfing hotspots, with intrepid surfers in search of that elusive perfect wave turning up every so often to ride the secret beach break on Tora. Experts say the best season for waves is October to April when long period ground swells regularly hit exposed north-facing coasts including Malaita, Ysabel and Makira.

At the end of our visit it was here in the farthest village of Tora that I deposit an overnight bag full of surplus clothes, books and school material and it is with great delight to read my kids' 'Pirate Treasure' Fisher-Price pop-up book to the throng of kids who quickly gather. "Can you find the buried treasure?" I think it is me who has found the treasure here in tiny Tora.



More info: www.heritage-expeditions.com,
www.surfsolomons.com and www.visitsolomons.com.sb

To fly to Makira (San Cristobal), Solomon Airlines operates 5 days a week to Kirakira Airport. Book on www.flysolomons.com



Young surfer fashions his sago wood 'board' with a machete

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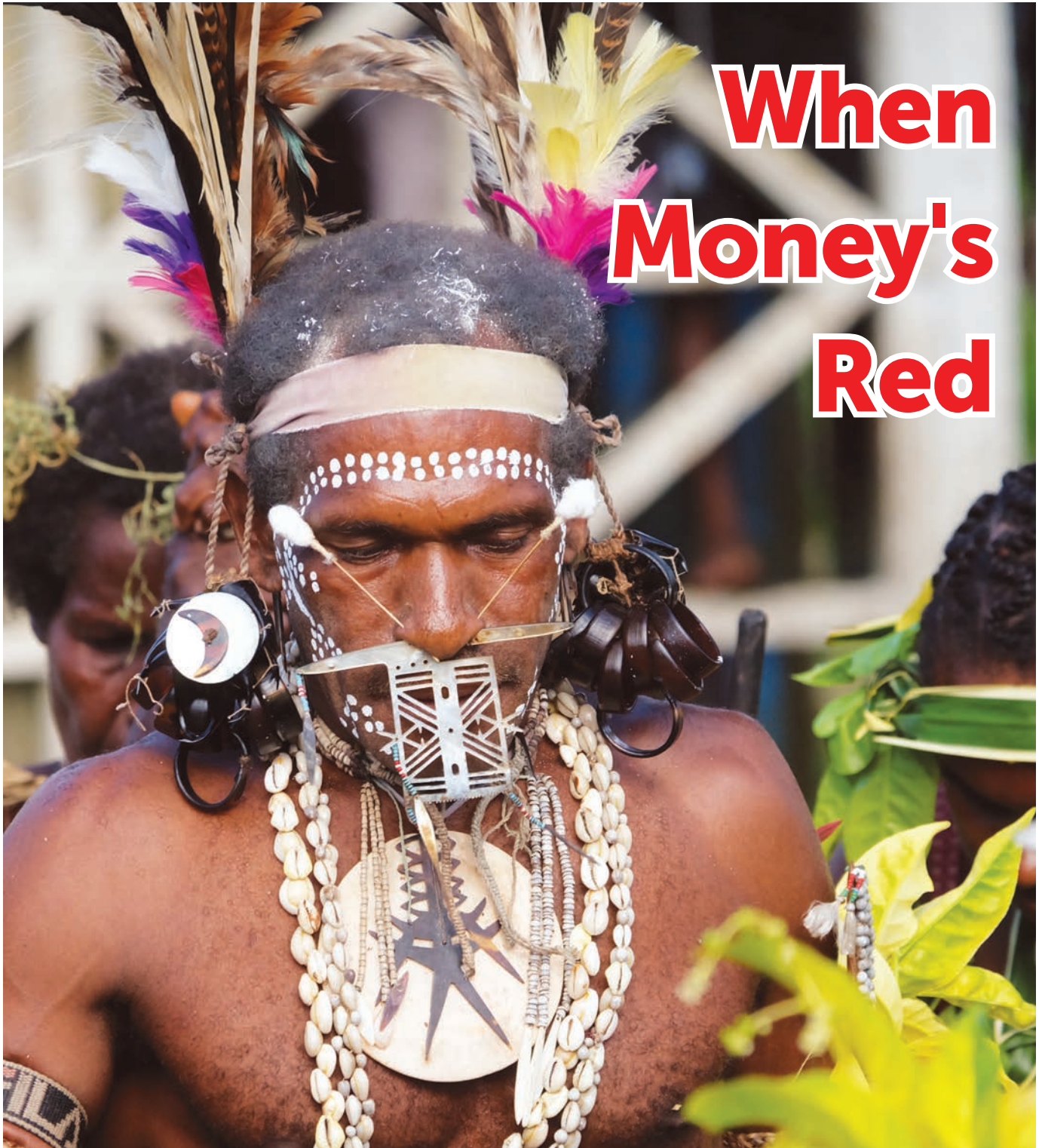
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When Money's Red

Men with facial decorations (Nelo)

Roderick Eimes

It is all the fun of the fair here in the little village of Noipe on Nendo (Santa Cruz). The kids are chasing each other around the green while

the elders sit under a shady tree chewing betel nut surveying the scene with satisfaction. Exquisite handcrafts are laid out in a tent as well as pop corn, fresh green coconuts and traditional sago pudding with dried fish.



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Heritage Expeditions vessel, Spirit of Enderby, is anchored off the little port village and a small fleet of local tipper trucks ceremoniously unload us from the backs as the official events begin. With introductions to senior islanders made, including the much-loved local female government minister, Joselyn Wesley Ipei, a raucous bullhorn kicks off the formalities with more traditional dancing and rituals.

Apart from the energetic and theatrical greetings, we are about to learn of another unique kastom here on Nendö, the tradition of red feather money.

While other parts of the Solomons use intricate shell constructions as currency, the people of Nendö create their legal tender with the tiny red feathers of the local Scarlet Honeyeater, cardinal myzomela. The long red strips, called tevau, comprise tens of thousands of these minute feathers are worn on the woman's head in a flat coil and can be valued at more than SB\$100,000 (approximately US\$12,000).

“Red feather money rolls (Tevau) must be one of the rarest and most unusual forms of money in the world and utilises the skillful art in its creation,” expedition leader Suzanne Noakes tells us as we watch the intricate process of making the coils. “It is highly valued because of the limited supply of red feathers which are plucked from the small scarlet honeyeater.”

Apparently the little birds are plucked while alive and then released. Whether the poor little creatures survive the shock of this intrusion is unknown.

As many as 50,000-60,000 feathers are needed for each money coil. Firstly grey pigeon feathers are glued together using sap, then a narrow strip of red feathers is glued along the edge of each platelet.



Woman wearing red feather coil

Generally, 10-12 metres long, the Tevua is used as currency for important payments in life like bride price, purchasing pigs or very large canoes.

The celebration comprises men and women in costume chanting and stomping rhythmically in a circle. The men, in particular, with mother of pearl decorations through their noses and feather adornments are a striking vision. Dried nut shells tied in bunches to their feet add a musical percussion to the performance.

“The beautiful and valuable mother-pearl-decoration is called "Nelo" in Santa Cruz language,” Joselyn informs me, “and it is pierced through the nose during dancing like we’re seeing now.”

Today the event celebrates an older couple returning to the community circle after a period of mourning and the joy is too much for everyone to resist and soon the throng grows to almost fill the entire circular arena. At the day's conclusion we are sent on our way after a touching and clearly heartfelt farewell that included more songs, "hip, hip, hoorays" and shaking hands with every member of the village, young and old. It's a clear demonstration to us all how the power of responsible tourism such as that delivered by Heritage Expeditions builds bridges between cultures and reinforces the value of maintaining traditional practices in remote communities.

More info: www.heritage-expeditions.com and www.visitsolomons.com.sb

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Coral Sea Resort Casino

By Liz D. Jacobs

Looking for a great place to eat? Check out the carpark! A diner's full carpark shouts out delicious food in demand.

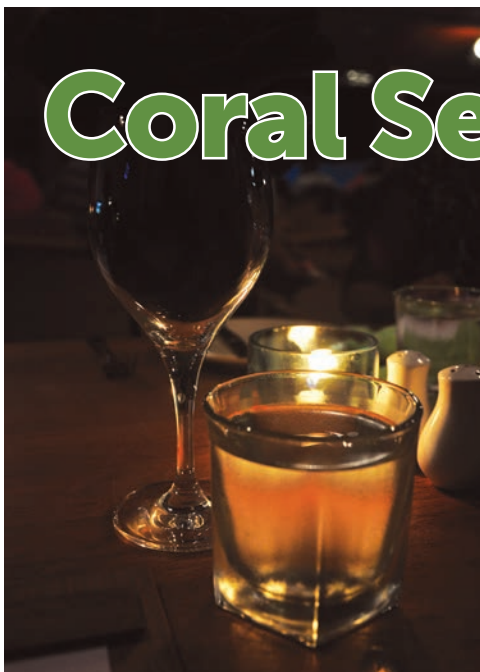
As I did Coral Sea Resort and Casino's carpark, jam packed all the time I passed along Mendana Avenue, Honiara in the Solomon Islands. Someone told me 'go check it out, the place is always full, must be good food!'

A burning altar greeted us as we drove in with its golden flames offering a tribal ambience to the night.

Spectacular statues of a bare breasted Solomon woman and man met us at the entrance and the seductive musical allure of young Solomon men serenaded the crowd.

Instantly, I wanted to be here, to drown in the magic of this place.

Joyce's warm smile guided us to our table at the side of a large, cavernous room with golden balls suspended from a lofty ceiling bursting light all around Haydn's Steakhouse.





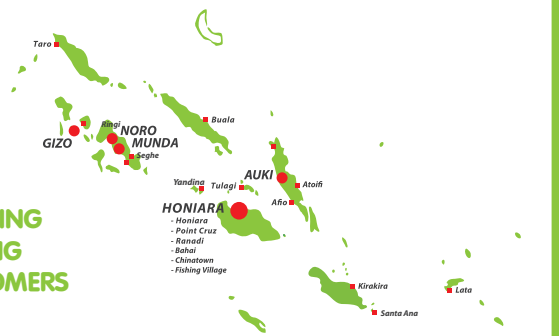
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“Originally it was intended to be a steakhouse but you can’t eat steak seven days a week and Honiara has become such an international metropolitan we decided to add more to the menu than just steak,” said Food and Beverage Manager Irish/Australian Steve Cameron told me.

“Haydn’s is for everyone.”

The room reflected his words; full with diners, workmates meeting, families, lovers, and friends, people from all races and walks of life.

Haydn’s is one of the signature experiences that are Coral Sea and Casino resort. Step off the restaurant into two casinos if you have a taste of the gambler. The resort under development in stages will also offer 120 rooms and five long stay villas all to be fully open in two years.

A light sea breeze cooled the night as I sipped my Cosmopolitan an urban legend whipped up with vodka, chatted with Joyce and dug into my generous serving of crispy crunchy Salt and Pepper Squid entrée on a bed of greens.

I ate like a famished lion, the squid devoured with such Pacific appreciation of ‘oh my God...that is delicious!’ licking my fingers to the smiles of the beautiful young Solomon maidens that attentively wait for my next command.

Humming to the crooning sounds of Run Away With Me I realise I feel so comfortable. The busy grind of Honiara traffic, the dust and potholes are far away. I’ve escaped into a haven.

Finding the perfect place to dine in Honiara can be a real challenge. Either the eating space is too claustrophobic, or the food too basic, or the price too costly, or maybe there isn’t just enough variety on the

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menu. Sometimes what's on the menu isn't available at all!

Haydn's at Coral Sea Resort and Casino redefines all that, the food is divine, prices affordable and you get to dine in a splendid setting. The airy, open space welcomes nature in; the hum of the ocean accompanies the singers' musical cadence.

Shortly, Food and Beverage Manager Irish/Australian Steve Cameron waltzed in with Homemade Duck Spring Rolls – the spring onions wrapped in succulent duck meat bursting freshness in my mouth. 'Whoa...this dish isn't just a meal, it's medicinal,' I exclaim feeling my nasals clearing.

It cleared my palate for more of the evening's delights.

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"Fruits and vegetable are all locally sourced, the menu is changed every

now and then because local food supply is seasonal, it rains often and it can be hard to source local ingredients.

"However, we are passionate and committed to achieving a standard and maintaining it."

The night's delights kept coming, steak and slice of cheesecake so divine, light and creamy topped off with coffee. Yum! Full, satiated and yet I didn't want to leave just yet. I walked down the dreamy walkaway stretching from Haydn's to the stormy sea, and thought 'I could stay here, sleep here; silly go home! At least I know where I'm heading the next time I hit Honiara, Coral Sea Resort and Casino, an enthralling dining experience! 



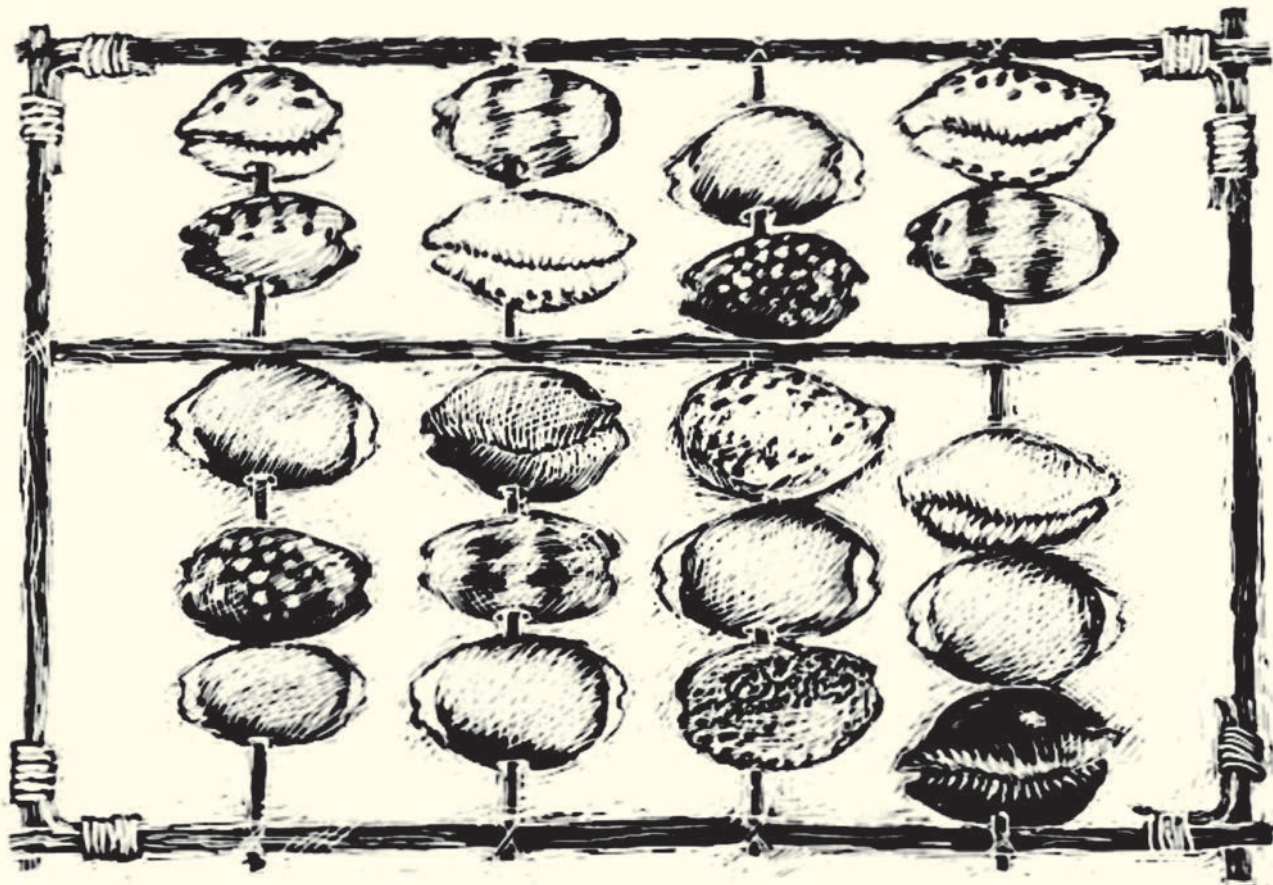
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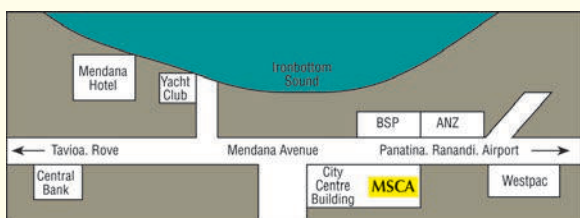
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Crafty weavers

By Liz D. Jacobs

EVER SAW A TREE turn into a pretty handbag just like that?

I did and it made me stare for the longest time. On Rendova Island in the Western Province, there are a group of women who wile away the afternoon hours making a bag called bilum.

Bilum depending on their size can carry larger goods like shopping or hang as a small beetle nut pouch around a chewer's neck.

They laugh, chat and discuss serious family happenings, their musical cadence interrupting the afternoon quiet. The infectious laughter and camaraderie drew me out of the rest-house made from sago palm leaves.

Jillian Piko was just starting to weave.

"What's that Jillian?"

"Owe it's a bag I'm making. Do you know how to make one?" she asked with a cynical smile on her face.

"I will if I try you know," I replied all too smugly.

"Here come on over," she called proceeding to remove the end of the string from between her toes and stuck it in mine.

"No, don't clutch it too tight," she exclaimed watching my toes gripped at the string but miserably failing to keep it in place.

The ladies laughed at my feeble attempts at weaving.

The string felt different. It was too rough. Not the usual string or twine from the shop.

"Did you buy this from Munda?" I inquired after the string.

Jillian translated my question to the women and more laughter erupted. I felt rather silly standing there, those beautiful ebony faces adorned with the pearliest white teeth staring at me and getting a good laugh at my expense.

What's so funny? I thought. I felt stupid.

"This is not from a shop. We take this from the tree you see there," she pointed out a tree just a distance away.

How? The tree Jillian was showing me is called a Gavu. They strip off bits of bark and dry it in the hot sun for about three days. Once dry, they can divide it further and twist it into strings.

It's tough work that takes hours. It's good fun though especially when all the women's heads are bowed together with a little transistor radio spouting music from the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation studios in Honiara. Leni Delavera reads the news and they 'shh' 'shh' 'shh' each other and for a moment quiet reigns as they listen to the journalist. All the while, their nimble fingers steadily weave, their toes releasing the Gavu string in concert.

In many other parts of the Solomon Islands, plant strings have been replaced by the store bought varieties.

But on Rendova, the women are keeping it natural. It's isolation from anywhere slightly developed is a significant reason for this,



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thankfully so I thought. Dependence on natural resources from the dense forests that adorn the mountain ranges of Rendova is helping preserve a relationship increasingly remarkable, rare and unique in a time when even remote Pacific island countries are being couped by a manufactured goods mania and losing traditional craft knowledge.

Bilum bags sell like hotcakes. In the village, they can fetch SBD 50. At the Munda market on New Georgia Island two hours away by canoe cavorting over feisty waves, the price is around 200. The Honiara market offers an even higher price around SBD 400.

It's not just about money though. They love these relaxing moments weaving Gavu strings, comparing patterns and reliving funny tales.

The day's labour consists of long walks into the forests to plant crops and fetch food. Then there's washing, cooking and other cleaning to be done as well. Winding down weaving Gavu strings takes the place of television soaps so loved by women in towns and cities.


It also serves the other important role of passing down cultural knowledge and skills of survival to the next generation. Young girls sit around watching their mother's weave.

It's the way Jillian and her two sisters learned weaving. They observed their mother Hezolin Piko who is the community pundit on weaving. Sixty-six year old Hezolin doesn't weave so much anymore but she enjoys the conversations, every so often dropping weaving pointers to the younger women. Jillian has girls of her own now. They too learn by watching.

Only Ruth Paina's weaving something different. It's a basket made



from coconut fronds. It will be used to store clothes, root crops and other small household items. There's hardly a plastic basket to be seen in these women's homes. Their skilful fingers weave natural 'magic' producing craft and helping maintain a rich Pacific heritage that must be protected and maintained.

Air connections to Rendova is via Solomon Airlines daily flights to Munda. 



Kurukuru *flies high*

By PRIESTLEY HABRU

The five a-side soccer played on smooth turf as in a basketball court called Futsal has become the latest sport Solomon Islands is famous for.

Our national futsal team called the ‘Kurukuru’ has just qualified for the third time to the 2016 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Colombia that would be held from 10th September - 1st October in the South American cities of Bucaramanga, Cali and Medellin.

Solomon Islands Football Federation (SIFF) gave the men’s national Futsal squad the name ‘Kurukuru’ which is the lingua franca or pijin word for a pigeon derived from the bird’s cry of ‘kru kru kru’.

Kurukuru’s dominance in the Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) since the 2008 FIFA Futsal World Cup Oceania Qualifiers can be traced back to as early as 2000 when some of the current national players were introduced to the sport.

Futsal as a sport was introduced in Honiara by Pastor Brian Codrington and his wife Sarah in December 2000. They were in Honiara to participate in the relief and development works of Samaritans Purse, an international aid and development organisation.

Pastor Brian and Sarah were from the Dural Sport and Leisure Centre, a ministry of Dural Baptist Church in Sydney. They decided to introduce Futsal to children under the age of 14 as a way of rehabilitation following the social unrest on Guadalcanal of 1998.

“So the seed was planted. Dural Sport and Leisure Centre, a ministry of Dural Baptist Church, would seek to assist in the establishment of a viable sporting ministry to the people of the Solomon Islands. Since that time an ongoing ministry has been established with the mission of: Making the difference in the Solomon Islands by: Using the vehicle of sport to build community and impacting that community in a



powerful way that sees lives changed. Because of the expertise Dural Sport and Leisure Centre has in Futsal and because of the Solomon Islanders passion for football, Futsal has blossomed in the country,” Dural Sport and Leisure Centre stated in its website.

The Dural Sport and Leisure Centre played a pivotal role in enhancing Futsal development in Solomon Islands by sourcing funds from Samaritan’s Purse Australia Overseas Aid Fund, Australian Government funded Community Sector Programme (CSP) under AusAID, Football New South Wales (NSW), Capital Football and some individuals from Australia and Solomon Islands who wish to remain anonymous.

Such assistance included indoor balls, shin pads, socks, goal posts and goal nets, bibs, whistles, pumps, apparel, playing strips and funding the entry fees for Solomon Islands’ participation in the Australian National Futsal Championships for both boys and girls age groups.

The ‘Futsal Forging Communities’ programme under CSP allowed the speedy rollout of the training of players, coaches and administrators into

the provinces of the Solomon Islands.

Current President of the Malaita Football Association (MFA) Mr. Eddie Omokiro was also instrumental in kicking off Futsal in Honiara by organising competitions and identifying talented players.

The spine of the current Kurukuru squad is among those who first took up Futsal when it was introduced in Honiara whilst they were still in primary schools and they were selected to represent Solomon Islands in the Australian National Futsal Championship in 2004 and 2005.

“Kurukuru captain Elliot Ragomo, Jack Wetney, James Egeta and Francis Lafai were all part of winning Junior Solomon Islands teams in Australian Nationals (2004, 2005) as 13 and 14 year olds- so too Micah Lea’alafa, Samuel Osifelo, Robert Laua in 2006 as 14 year olds.

“George Stephenson, Coleman Makau and Anthony Talo also



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“In spite of a lack of facilities and resources in every way they persevere to make the best of what they have. Reaching the pinnacle of Futsal competition for a third consecutive World Cup is an amazing achievement. I have been privileged to be a part of their journey into great futsal players and fine ambassadors for their nation,” said Pastor Brian who travelled to Fiji to witness the Kurukuru winning all five Oceania qualifying matches at the Vodafone Arena in Suva in February 2016.

Now with Brazilian Juliano Schmeling as head coach, the Kurukuru players are shooting Solomon Islands to the global stage once more with a mixture of veteran and new players who are still in their 20s.

SIFF President William Lai salutes all for the moral support thrown behind Kurukuru Futsal Team as they prepare for Colombia.

“May I personally thank and acknowledge the official sponsors Our Telekom, Solomon Island Government, Dural Sports and Leisure Centre, Solomon Islands Port Authority, DJ Graphics, Solomon Airlines and others.”

He also thanked Honiara businessman Mr. Yoshi Sato for his personal sacrifices to the Kurukuru Team since 2011 and in bringing the Brazilian coach Juliano through personal arrangement to initially coach a local Honiara football club Marist FC.

Solomon Islands first participated in the 2008 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Brazil where they suffered huge losses with a record for the worst defeat in the history of the Futsal World Cup, when they were

toured Australia to participate in Australian Nationals as part of other teams that reached the semi-finals.

“That is 10 out of the current squad being given a taste of high class competition at a young age,” Pastor Brian Codrington said.

“I have been involved in the Solomon Islands since the year 2000 and I continue to be inspired by the commitment of these young men over the years. From their introduction to the sport as 10 or 13 year olds they have overcome every possible barrier to success.



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trounced by Russia with two goals to 31.

At the 2012 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Thailand, Kurukuru also finished last of their group, suffering heavy defeats to Russia and Colombia, but did obtain their first World Cup win, beating Guatemala 4–3.


On a regional level, Kurukuru won the 2008 Oceania Futsal Championship, and successfully defended their title in 2009, beating Fiji 8–1 in the final and then again in 2010. They are the current Oceania champions.

Kurukuru team also holds the world record for the fastest ever goal scored in an official Futsal match. It was set by Captain Elliot Ragomo, who scored against New Caledonia three seconds into the game in July 2009.

Now the most loved sport team for Solomon Islands, there is a nation-wide call for a Futsal Stadium to be built which was promised by successive governments and reiterated by current Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare.

A national ‘nest’ for the Kurukuru bird would mean that the nation and indeed the Pacific Islands should expect more young Kurukuru to continue to grace the futsal court and make Solomon Islands’ green and yellow colours fly higher in this much loved sport of Futsal.

The onus now is on Captain Ragomo and his charges to emulate their success on the regional level at the world stage come September.

Colombia, here we come! 

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Rosie Delmah hits the World musical charts

By Priestley Habru

Rosie Delmah is currently Solomon Islands teenage music sensation.

She has reached beyond her own shy world to a global appeal following her reggae cover of Britain's musician Adele's 'Hello' featuring Jamaica's Conkarah.

Rosie's collaboration with Conkarah whose real name is Nicholas Murray, on 'Hello' was produced in 2015 by another young Solomon Islander Masilobo Ray Jack aka 'Baka Solomon' under the Shefram Studios in Honiara.

However the initial idea for the collaboration came from Brisbane-based Torn Parachute Video and Music Production Company.

Torn Parachute Production comprises brothers Karl and Andrew who are originally from Solomon Islands and now live and work in Brisbane.

They initially worked with Conkarah in producing his video clips and various other Pacific Islands artist.

Until December 2015 release of 'Hello' Rosie was the 2014 Solo Icon singing contest winner whilst



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concentrating on her education.

She hadn't lost interest in music though since she was very young and always listened to international artists like 'Adele' who was one of her favourites.

It was her interest in singing and seeing her potential to excel as a female musician that her family contacted Torn Parachute to get her career off the ground.

Torn Parachute's Managing Director Karl Bouro admitted the



only way to do it was for a collaboration with Conkarah who was already a recognised musician on the global stage.

Conkarah himself has earlier said he was a big fan of Rosie. The Jamaican-born reggae artist said the first time he heard Rosie sings, he was 'blown away' by her voice.

Karl Bouro who is also Rosie's manager approached Conkarah to

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Rosie and Conkarah's live performance brought to life their rendition of Adele's 'Hello' with a reggae touch that was uploaded online on December 22, 2015 after completing the audio sound track and the music video by Torn Parachute Production.

It became an instant hit online via Facebook and YouTube and gone viral to even topping the World Reggae Music Charts in the United States of America and other countries around the world.

Rosie has since recorded another of Adele's cover song 'When We Were Young' which received many excellent reviews online from fans at home and abroad.

Karl who is now the Manager of the Rosie Delmah music label said Torn Parachute is now the legitimate production company with license to produce, upload and manages the young musician's benefits from her talents.


He noted that there have been interests from international music agents, famous labels and even superstars offering Rosie huge money deals and contracts. Thus Karl as her manager under Torn Parachute Production label is still weighing its options on those offers.

Karl said Torn Parachute is continually building Rosie's career as the transition from being a shy, unknown teenager to the global stage would be too much for her. As such her manager would like to build her own authentic brand and image as a 'shy girl with a lovely big voice' and keep her talents as natural as possible.

Rosie who is currently attending Bishop Epalle Secondary School in Honiara is of mix Malaita, Guadalcanal, Renbel and Indian parentage.

Following her rise to stardom she and her team at Torn Parachute have been invited to be part of Solomon Islands delegation to the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam in May.

"Thank you for all the support and this will be my first ever trip out of Solomon Islands. We will be filming the full tour from Solomons to Guam and will be uploaded to my Youtube channel," the 16 year old posted on her Rosie Delmah Face Book fan page.

This would be her first trip out of the comfort of her own family, but could be the start of many more trips to come as her career is just beginning to kick off the ground. 

do the song with her.

"I'd wanted to do a cover of 'Hello' in a reggae style but it was Rosie's manager who actually suggested it," Conkarah said in an early interview.

He had done some collaborations with Solomon Islands artists like 56 Hop Rod, Jah Boy and Sammielz.

Conkarah said he is not strictly reggae, but like to fuse reggae with different genres so there will always be aspects of reggae in his music.

He explained that the name Conkarah has become his outlook on life, conquering every obstacle, and conquering all parts of the world spreading good vibrations, and sweet reggae music.

And he has conquered the Pacific region, Asia, Australia and more so Honiara where he has called 'home'. He performed with Rosie for the first time on stage in February 2016 in Honiara as an opener to Hawaii-based Samoan singer J Boog and his visiting band.



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WWII HEROES:

The Coastwatchers

The role Australian Coastwatchers and Melanesian scouts played during the Battle for Guadalcanal

Of the eight battles comprising the so-called Battle for Australia of 1942-43, the fate of Australia hung in the balance during four of those battles namely, Coral Sea, Midway, Kokoda and Guadalcanal. During the six month war of attrition between Japan and the United States for control of Guadalcanal in the then British Solomon Islands, Allied Forces came perilously close to defeat. Had Guadalcanal fallen,

the Japanese would have succeeded in their objective to isolate Australia and cut it off from American aid, exposing Australia to the theorised invasion of the Australian mainland. Coastwatchers, it must be remembered, played a vital role in the ultimate US victory at Guadalcanal.

On the jungle-clad hills above the north-western tip of Bougainville







Island, Australian government officer and Coastwatcher Jack Read monitored the movement of Japanese aircraft and warships between Rabaul and Guadalcanal. The stretch of sea separating the Solomon Islands into two roughly parallel island chains would become known as "The Slot" when Japanese warships used it for their nightly hit-and-run raids on the beleaguered US Marines on Guadalcanal. Those nightly raids were called by the US Marines the "Tokyo Express."

On the south-eastern tip of Bougainville, Coastwatcher Paul Mason had withdrawn to the jungle-clad hills above the town of Buin when the Japanese arrived. Mason had lived for twenty years on Bougainville and knew the area like the back of his hand. Mason also monitored the movement of Japanese aircraft and warships through the Solomon Islands.

On Guadalcanal, Coastwatcher Martin Clemens, the senior British official on the island, had withdrawn from the administrative centre at Aola to the hills overlooking the northern coastal plains of Guadalcanal when Japanese military flying boats from nearby Tulagi Island began to show interest in his station. During June and July 1942, from the hills above Lunga Point, he monitored progress by the Japanese on the construction of the vital forward airfield that was later captured by US Marines and named Henderson Field. Control of that airfield would give the Americans a vital strategic advantage in the lengthy Battle for Guadalcanal. Driven constantly deeper into the hills by Japanese patrols hunting him with dogs, Clemens was nevertheless able to employ his loyal Melanesian scouts to keep the Japanese airfield at Lunga Point under observation, and was able to

give the Americans timely warning when the airfield was nearing completion. Twenty thousand US Marines were landed at Lunga Point and Tulagi on 7 August 1942, arriving just in time to prevent the Japanese bringing their airfield to operational status.

The Japanese responded to the American landing on Guadalcanal with fiercely determined efforts to save their vital forward airstrip. Within one hour of the American landing, a large Japanese bomber group with Zero fighter escort formed over the Japanese base at Rabaul and headed for Lunga

Point. If the Japanese had been able to attack without warning, the large American landing fleet at anchor off Guadalcanal would have been very vulnerable. The Australian Coastwatchers on the island of Bougainville now played a vital role in providing the Americans with advance warning of Japanese bomber formations heading for Lunga Point.

"The Coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific." - United States Admiral of the Fleet, William F. Halsey.

At 10.30 am on the first day of the American landing, Coastwatcher Paul Mason, from his hideaway on a hill commanding a view of the sea passage to Guadalcanal, observed the Japanese bomber formation passing overhead as it headed for Lunga Point. He quickly transmitted the radio message "twenty-four torpedo bombers headed yours."

Mason's message gave the Americans 45 minutes warning before the Japanese bombers arrived at Lunga Point. Landing activity ceased immediately, and the transport ships weighed anchor and took up anti-aircraft positions. Paul Mason's warning also gave time for fighter aircraft from the aircraft carriers of the American naval covering force to reach an altitude over Savo Island, about 32 kilometres (20 miles) northwest of Lunga Point, where they could intercept the Japanese formation. An American destroyer was slightly damaged but the vital transport ships escaped damage. Very few of the Japanese bombers returned to Rabaul.

Later that same day, Mason gave warning of a formation of Japanese dive-bombers heading for Lunga Point. Again, the warning enabled the transports to disperse and the American fighters to be on station over Savo Island when the Japanese bombers arrived. No ships of the landing force were damaged, but at the end of the first

day, the Japanese had lost thirty of the fifty-one planes they had sent against the American landing force.

Early on the morning of 8 August 1942, or Day 2 of the Guadalcanal landing, Coastwatcher Jack Read, aided by local tribesmen, was struggling through dense jungle up the side of a steep ridge on northern Bougainville with heavy radio equipment. Read was looking for a high location from which he could obtain better radio transmission and reception. He heard the sound of aircraft engines, and looking up, he saw a large number of Japanese twin engine bombers with Zero fighter escorts heading in the direction of Guadalcanal. Read quickly set up his radio and transmitted the message: "from J.E.R., forty bombers heading yours." The message was relayed via Townsville, Australia, to Pearl Harbor and thence to the American landing force at Guadalcanal.

Once again, American Navy fighters were stacked at various altitudes over Savo Island to intercept the Japanese bombers and the transports weighed anchor and dispersed. However, on this occasion the Japanese changed course before reaching Savo Island. They turned east while still 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Savo, and then, avoiding the island and the stacked American fighters over it, the Japanese bombers swept in at treetop height from the north.

Having cleverly side-stepped the American fighters on patrol over Savo Island, the Japanese pilots were expecting easy pickings among the crowded transports at Lunga Point. Instead, they flew into a storm of anti-aircraft fire put up by the transport ships and their warship escorts. Most of the Japanese bombers were shot down, and the Americans suffered only serious damage to one destroyer and one transport.

If the first three Japanese air strikes had reached the anchored American transports at Lunga Point without prior warning, and while troops and supplies were being unloaded, it is likely that the success of the American landing would have been gravely prejudiced.

Coastwatchers Clemens, Read, Mason and decorated Solomon Islander scout Vouza all survived the war. Martin Clemens and his men came down from the hills to Lunga Point and offered his services as adviser on the local terrain to the first Marine Division. He and the Solomon Islander scouts under his command gave valuable service to the Americans during the Guadalcanal campaign. Read, Mason, and their men were all later evacuated from Bougainville by American submarine in July 1943 when Japanese troops were closing in on them.

United States Admiral of the Fleet, William F. Halsey, later paid tribute to the enormous value of the early warnings provided by Australian Coastwatchers when he said:

"The coastwatchers saved Guadalcanal, and Guadalcanal saved the South Pacific."

In addition to their vital intelligence gathering function Australian Coastwatchers and their invaluable Pacific Islander scouts rescued 75 prisoners of war, 321 downed Allied airmen, 280 sailors (including US Navy Lieutenant John F. Kennedy), 190 missionaries and civilians and hundreds of Melanesian people who risked their lives for the Allies.

"They watched and warned and died that we might live." 



Sir Jacob Charles Vouza MBE, GM

Equally as famous and perhaps more so, is the courageous Jacob Vouza who was captured by the Japanese while on a dangerous patrol and beaten and tortured to near death.

Refusing to give any information to his captors, he was left for dead. When Vouza regained consciousness, he freed himself and crawled four miles back to Allied lines in order to deliver vital intelligence. When met by Martin Clemens, the Australian said he could "barely look at him" because of the severity of his wounds.

Vouza survived the war, passing away in 1984 at the age of 84. For his exemplary bravery, he was presented with the Silver Star and Legion of Merit. In 1979, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II. In addition, he was awarded Great Britain's George Medal and a scholarship fund was set up in his name to assist underprivileged Solomon Island children in attaining a better education.

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Take the family to Canberra

Canberra is the ideal destination for a family holiday that will excite and educate your family without breaking the bank. Whether your children are adventure seekers, budding scientists or creative types there's something that will appeal to every kid in the capital.

Start your visit by driving to the top of Mount Ainslie for a perfect view of Canberra's unique layout. Get your bearings and take in Lake Burley Griffin, many of Canberra's national attractions and the mountain ranges surrounding the city. See great views of the Australian War Memorial, Anzac Parade and Parliament House.

Make your way to the Australian National Botanic Gardens to spot native birds, get lost in the cool tropical rainforest and follow the 'Who lives here' children's discovery walk to see animal habitats, cool camouflage and food chains. Pack a picnic and watch water dragons sunbake by the waterfall or grab a bite to eat at the cafe while the kids play on the grass. Free admission.

Become a Museum Trailblazer and try the kids' activity trail at the National Museum of Australia. The 30 to 40 minute self-guided tour leads visitors through different galleries and the trail is designed just for kids as a fun way to explore the wonderful collections. Learn about Australia's history through the stories and objects on display and don't forget to collect your free 'Museum Trailblazers' sticker and activity trail booklet from the Information Desk in the Hall. Free general admission.

At the Royal Australian Mint you can see one of the world's



strongest robots make Australian coins. Count the 5 cent coins in the staircase and marvel at the giant colourful coins above your head. See fascinating coins from way back in history including tricky forgeries. Your children will be inspired to start their own coin collections and can even make their very own coin in the Mint Coin Shop. Free admission.



Explore Lake Burley Griffin from the water, by kayak or canoe, or hire bikes from Mr Spokes Bike Hire at Acton or Row 'n' Ride for a great way to see some of the top attractions that line the lake's edge — family and tandem bikes make for extra fun. For something a little different, take your teenagers for a spin on a segway-guided tour around Lake Burley Griffin with Seg Glide Ride. (Admission charge.)

Your kids can burn energy exploring the magical Pod Playground at the National Arboretum Canberra. It features acorn cubbies at various heights that are connected by rope tunnels and tube slides as well as climbing nets for younger children and banksia cubbies with music-making activities. With 94 forests of rare and symbolic trees planted across 250 hectares of rolling hills, there's plenty of space for kids to run and roam. Join a free guided walk and learn about the Arboretum. The Village Centre offers great views and Sprout Cafe, a good place to refresh with a coffee and bite to eat. Free admission.

Take the family to the house on the hill and see the biggest Aussie flag. Ride Parliament House's lift to the grassy roof top and marvel at the 81-metre flagpole with its imposing flag larger than the size of a double decker bus positioned over a pyramid skylight. Visitors are welcome to wander the public areas at Parliament House at their leisure or take a guided tour. Free general admission.

Let kids stand up, muck up, dress up, make up, think up and step up in a surprising space at the Museum Of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House. See the Great Kaleidoscope Cubby and explore The Right to Shelter in Play Up. The new exhibition will ask young visitors to imagine how different life would be without their bedroom,




favourite food or a warm jacket. By engaging with the activities in Play Up, children will think about their own rights and those of other children around the world, all while having fun! Admission to the Museum is just \$2 adults, \$1 children and concessions or \$5 family.

Kick back with the family at Braddon's newest niche The Hamlet and take your pick from a range of delicious food vans like BrodDogs, Mr Papa and April's Caravan. The new urban village on Lonsdale Street has become home to a fantastic array of street food vendors and foodies have been beating a path to The Hamlet's door since they set up shop on the vibrant street.

For the grown-ups and big kids:

Marvel at more than 130 works of the much-loved Australian artist Tom Roberts from his early days studying at London's Royal Academy in 1883 until 1931 at the National Gallery of Australia. The summer exhibition Tom Roberts runs until 28 March 2016 and includes the magnificent Big Picture painting of the 1901 Federation of Australia ceremony.

Another must-see exhibition is Encounters at the National Museum of Australia. Drawn from the British Museum's collection, rare Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander objects will be displayed. 





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Nation's Capital comes alive after dark: Enlighten 2016

Experience Canberra in a different light in March as Enlighten lights up the nation's capital up for the sixth year.

Set against a magical and illuminated backdrop Enlighten 2016 will feature a world class list of local, national and international performers, while stunning architectural lighting projections will illuminate some of Australia's most iconic buildings.

Over nine illuminated nights, Enlighten will provide a range of free and ticketed events for the whole family, as well as live music and a variety of roving performances.

This year's programme also sees the return of the popular Enlighten Night Noodle Markets - providing a bustling festival atmosphere

in the heart of the event with an array of authentic Asian eats and themed bars. 

For more information visit enlightencanberra.com

For more great family holiday ideas and places to stay in the capital, visit www.visitcanberra.com.au

Solomon Airlines enjoy good air links to Canberra with its partner QANTAS from its regular flights to Sydney and Brisbane.. Check www.flysolomons.com for more information

Canberra Outdoors



There's no better way to fully appreciate the capital's charm than from a hot air balloon as the early morning sun fills the valley

Love the outdoors? Canberra offers clean, green and wide open spaces that are perfect for relaxing or getting the heart pumping with more active endeavours.

Start your day with breakfast with the birds at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. On selected weekend mornings, a guide will take you on a bird-watching walk where you might see crimson rosellas, gang gang cockatoos and fairy wrens fluttering about, before you sit down to have breakfast in the cafe. On days when this guided event is not scheduled, enjoy breakfast in the cafe before going on your own stroll through the Rainforest Gully or Rock Garden. You may encounter the resident native water dragon lizards sunning themselves.


Nearby you can then take a lift to the top of Telstra Tower, which rises 195m above the summit of Black Mountain. You'll soon be able to see why Canberra is often called the Bush Capital. More than half of the Australian Capital Territory is comprised of parks and reserves, and pockets of bushland weave their way through all its suburbs.

Next, pack a picnic and take a leisurely 45-minute drive to Tidbinbilla on Canberra's southern outskirts. It has a couple of walking tracks that are less than two kilometres long and suitable for prams and wheelchairs. One goes through the Wet Forest Enclosure, a koala habitat, while you might spot platypus from the Wetlands Loop Trail. Emus and brush-tailed rock wallabies can also be seen in their natural environment. The Visitor Centre provides a great introduction to the reserve, with information about walks, ranger-guided activities and live animal displays.

If time permits, stop by the Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex, part of NASA's Deep Space Network. Check out a 3.8 billion-year-old piece of moon rock and discover what astronauts eat in space. The centre is one of three in the world that communicates with current space missions via one of the largest communications dishes in the Southern Hemisphere.

In the afternoon, why not hire a bike from Mr Spokes Bike Hire at Acton and take a leisurely ride around Lake Burley Griffin? The bikes come in all sizes, including tandems and family bikes make for extra fun. One particularly nice ride is through Commonwealth Park which is beautifully landscaped with interesting sculptures and tranquil ponds.

If you still have the energy, raise your pulse with a scenic walk from the Australian War Memorial to the top of Mount Ainslie for a great view of the city's planned layout designed by architect Walter Burley Griffin.

Before heading off the next day, rise early and take to the skies in a hot-air balloon as the early morning sun fills the valley and lakes with soft morning light. Enjoy the serenity as you drift above Canberra, sealing the experience with a Champagne breakfast just as the rest of the city is starting to come alive. 



Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve offers outstanding wildlife and natural experiences set within a beautiful valley framed by rocky-top

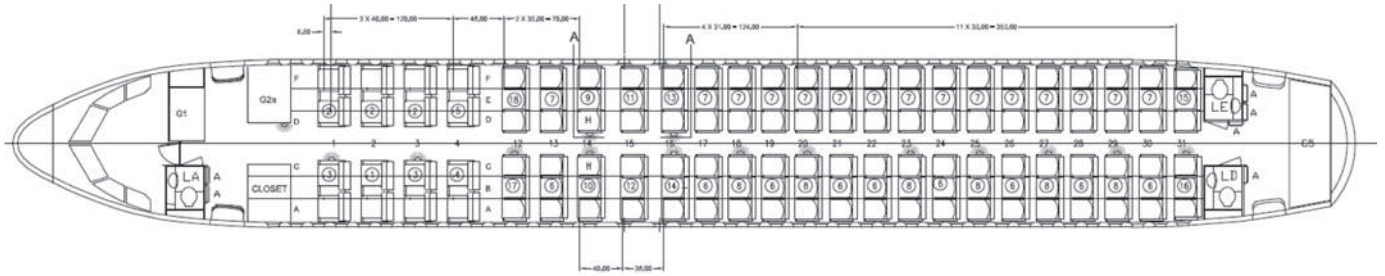


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Aircraft: A320

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

SOLOMON AIRLINES GENERAL INFORMATION

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Fax: +61 7 38604351
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0800 424980 (NZ)
Email: reservations@flysolomons.com

Fiji

Nadi Airport

Office 27, First Floor
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Email: solomon@connect.com.fj

WEBSITE: www.flysolomons.com

International Connections




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Eagle Farm
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Pacific showcase at the 2016 Canberra Multicultural Festival



A kaleidoscope of colors, sounds, sights, flavors and fun transformed Canberra at the 2016 National Multicultural Festival as it unfolded in Canberra city centre from February 12 to 14.

The iconic event united the Canberra community in a celebration and sharing of culturally diverse traditions, dance, food, performances, exhibitions, concerts and information in splendid fashion

The Pacific Island Showcase though has firmly cemented itself over the past decade as one of the key elements of the annual National Multicultural Festival. It's renowned for highlighting the delightful and fun culture and food of Pacific Island nations such as Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, the Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.

The Solomon Islands exhibition booth was for 3 days jam packed with people who wanted to discover this untouched paradise attracting an average of 200 to 350 visitors per day. Notable visitors were former RAMSI Special Coordinator Mr Tim George, RAMSI personnel who had served in Solomon Islands in the early days of RAMSI, former SI residents but who have since taken up citizenship in Australia post-independence and locals who resettled to Australia through marriage or work as well as those who have yet to visit the Hapi Isles.

Brochures, inflight magazines, business pamphlets and various flyers and handicrafts were on display creating much interest in a lot of people wanting to purchase the unique handicrafts and other products such as shell necklaces, tuna and the coconut oil products.

One of the main draw cards for SI booth was the free raffle draw for a return trip to the Solomon Islands proudly sponsored by Solomon Airlines. Out of a total of 300 plus entrants, a lucky winner, Ms Kitty Cheng was picked when the draw was finally made at the SI High Commission Office on the closing day of the festival.

Apart from the Solomon Islands staff at the High Commission in Canberra, two Solomon Airlines Staff member, Darlcy Riqeo and David Keru were able to represent Solomon Islands signifying the important role the national carrier places in promoting Solomon Islands in Australia.

Solomon Airlines leases Qantas Aircraft



Qantas Aircraft under lease to Solomon Airlines at Henderson International Airport.

Solomon Airlines, which enjoys a codeshare agreement with Qantas, has leased a Boeing 737-800 from the Australian carrier to serve its major Australian route to Brisbane and Sydney whilst its flagship Airbus A320 undergoes maintenance in Singapore

Solomon Airlines GM for Commercial & Operations Mr Gus Kraus said the arrangement allowed the airline to continue to provide a premium service to its customers on an important route.

The Solomon Airlines Airbus A320 is due back in service late April 2016.



Welcome to Solomon Islands – your hapi isles

Things to know as visitors to our shores:

Climate ... Tropically warm and humid with coastal day temperatures averaging 28C (82.4F). April to November tends to be drier and November to April wetter.

What to wear ... Light and casual. Keep brief beachwear for the beach.

Immigration ... Commonwealth, United States and most 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 (4.97 miles) from Honiara International Airport.

Airport Tax ... SB\$100 payable by passengers (12 years and over) boarding international flights, and these are generally added onto your air ticket.

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 of tablet. Maloprin is usually recommended.

Currency ... \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$2 Solomon Islands notes. Coins are \$1, 50c, 20c, 10c and 5c.

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 Saturday 8am – noon.

Banks ... Bank South Pacific opens Monday to Friday 8.30am to 3pm; ANZ Banking Group open Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm. Pan Oceanic Bank Limited opens 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday, and ts Panatina Plaza branch opens 10am to 1pm on Saturday.

Telecommunications ... Local and international calls may be made from Our Telikom public card phones which are in

prominent locations in Honiara and provincial centres or from GSM Mobile services. Telephone and Internet cards are readily available through shops, hotels and Our Telikom offices and bmobile and Vodafone outlets. GSM prepaid and postpaid mobile cards are available in Honiara, Gizo and in some provincial centres.

Tipping ... Not expected and not encouraged.

Transport ... Taxis and buses are readily available in Honiara. Rental cars are also available from Avis, Economy, Travel Car Solomon and Zome.

International air ... National airline, Solomon Airlines operate out of Honiara International Airport. Other carriers include Fiji Airways, Virgin Australia, Air Niugini and Air Nauru.

Domestic ... Solomon Airlines operates services throughout the country.

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

News Media ... The country has a vibrant media business offering choice in both English and Pidjin languages. Radio services are offered by state radio, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation and private operators PAOA FM and some religious bodies. Our Telikom relays BBC and other satellite TV networks while the Solomon Star and Island Sun are the two dailies, with a couple of monthly business and lifestyle magazines.

Provinces

The Solomon Islands is made up of 992 islands which are divided into nine provinces:

Choiseul - Provincial capital: Taro • **Central** - Provincial capital: Tulagi

• **Isabel** - Provincial capital: Buala

Renbell/Bellona - Provincial capital: Tigoa • **Guadalcanal** - Provincial (& national capital): Honiara

Makira/Ulawa - Provincial capital: Kira Kira • **Malaita** - Provincial capital: Auki

Western - Provincial capital: Gizo • **Temotu** - Provincial capital: Lata

The Solomon Islands are divided into nine provinces as follows:

Province	Area	Population	Highest Point	Capital
Guadalcanal	5,336 km ²	141,403	2,447m	Honiara
Central	1,000 km ²	27,928	510m	Tulagi
Western	5279 km ²	81,214	1661m	Gizo
Ysabel	4,014 km ²	26,310	1,392m	Buala
Malaita	4,234 km ²	159,923	1,303m	Auki
Makira	3,188 km ²	40,386	1,250m	Kirakira
Temotu	926 km ²	24,412	923m	Lata
Choiseul	3,294 km ²	25,870	1,060m	Taro
Rennell & Bellona	276 km ²	3,025	220m	Tingoa





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Pacific Casino Hotel

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Situated on the picturesque of Honiara seafront and set next to the largest and renowned casino in the Solomon Islands, Supreme Casino. Pacific Casino Hotel is ideal for business and leisure travellers alike. It is conveniently located approximately five kilometres from Honiara International Airport and the Honiara CBD. The hotel offers 173 spacious, comfortable and fully airconditioned rooms. Suites boast separate lounge areas and private balconies. Keeping the

comfort, convenience and ease of access in mind for international travellers, modern amenities includes IDD telephone, satellite TV with 24 hours in-house movie channels, refrigerator and coffee/tea service. Internet hotspots are available around the hotel and a wide range of services and facilities includes swimming pool, billiard room, fitness centre, laundry, internet cafe, car rental and conference room facilities.



Paradise Warmth Adventure

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- . Captain's Bar
- . Canoe Bar
- . Supreme Car Rental
- . Supreme Casino



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