

PNG Tourism Promotion Authority has new CEO



The PNG Tourism Promotion Authority has a new Chief Executive Officer.

He is Peter Vincent, who before his appointment as CEO, was Marketing & Promotions Manager with the TPA.

Acting Minister for Culture & Tourism Peter O'Neill, together with TPA Board Chairman Nick Kuman, announced the appointment of Mr Vincent during a Press Conference at the TPA Board Room on Tuesday, May 06, 2003.

Mr O'Neill is pictured at left congratulating Mr Vincent on his appointment

"This appointment signals an end to the constant bickering and uncertainty and appointments and removals that had plagued the Tourism Promotion Authority and the industry over the last five years," Mr O'Neill said.

"The appointment is need at this time when the focus of the Government is on Export Driven Economic Policy' of which the tourism industry is one export sector that needs to be seriously developed and promoted.

"There is huge potential within the industry and that must be tapped for the benefit of the industry, the people, and the Government."

Mr O'Neill commended the current TPA Board for initiatives that are now being taken to restructure the organisation and to ensure tourism contributes to National Government policy objectives.

"With the permanent appointment, there will be continuity and stability at the TPA, which affects achievements of National Government policies on tourism and economic development, and the implementation of various plans and policies and programs," he said.

"Further, this appointment was done from within the organisation and the Public Service to give effect to create career path and to ensure continuity of programs and providing security to the staff and the stakeholders of the tourism industry."

Mr O'Neill and Mr Kuman also announced the appointment of Ms Erigere Singin as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of TPA.

Ms Singin had been Acting CEO since the termination of John Kambowa late last year.

Mr Vincent was a Management Cadet with Air Niugini, rising to the position of Acting General Manager - Commercial.

He worked at Air Niugini sales offices overseas and was involved in promoting and marketing PNG as a tourist destination.

He has served for over 24 years with the national airline in various capacities.

"In my career with Air Niugini, I worked in just about every port in PNG," Mr Vincent said.

Aged 46, he is from Yangoru in the East Sepik Province, and is married with four children.

Mr Vincent was eventually appointed Marketing & Promotions Manager with the TPA, and had various times had been Acting CEO until this appointment.

Ms Singin is promoted and appointed to the Position of Deputy CEO.

She is a career officer who served with the National Broadcasting Commission, and Department of Culture & Tourism and Tourism Development Corporation – the predecessors of TPA.

She also served overseas and was the Regional Manager – Momase and Manager – Liaison & Coordination.

She was, over the last five years, at various times the Acting CEO of TPA and immediately before this permanent appointment.

PNG Coffee Festival & Trade Fair a success



The 3rd PNG Coffee Festival & Trade Fair, held in Goroka on May 2 and 3 was a resounding success.

Hundreds of people, the majority of them school children, passed through the gates of the Raun Raun Theatre over the two days.

There were over 70 stalls, 19 sponsors, and increased media presence – a far cry from the inaugural event in 2001, which had only 11 stalls.

VIP guests included Australian Deputy High Commissioner Nicholas Coppel, Goroka MP Bire Kimisopa, Tourism Promotion Authority Chairman and Gumine MP Nick Kuman, Post – Courier Managing Director Bob Howarth, and Coffee Industry Corporation Chief Executive Officer Ricky Mitio.

Mr Kuman is pictured above (left) presenting TPA's contribution of K1000 towards the staging of the event to organiser Norman Carver

People came from as far away as Port Moresby, Lae, Wau, Madang, and other Highlands provinces to witness the event.

And true to its name, the Festival was a true promoter of PNG coffee and agriculture, as well as small business.

It also proved to one and all that Goroka is still "alive" despite many businesses having left the Eastern Highlands capital in recent years.

Tourism Promotion Authority Chairman, Nick Kuman, commended Mr Carver for staging the event.

"We want to market his product on the world market," he said. "We will continue to support you in the years ahead."

Warwagira and 9th National Mask Festival



The popular Tolai Warwagira and 9th Mask Festival will be held in the beautiful volcano town of Rabaul from July 9 to 19.

First up is the Warwagira from July 9 to 15, followed by the Mask Festival from July 16 to 19.

The National Mask Festival was initially introduced in 1995 and is staged as an Annual National Event to promote the mask cultures of Papua New Guinea.

The Melanesian genre of masks specifically has to do with spirits and mostly ancestral spirits.

These types of masks, which we now call the "tumbuan" in Tok Pisin, are found in Melanesia.

In Papua New Guinea, mask cultures are found in the New Guinea Islands, the Momase Region and Gulf Province.

In many ways, they are the most important cultural symbols of Papua New Guinea and identify our cultures from the rest of the world:

**The East New Britain Tourist Bureau,
Samson Tyotam Kakai,
Tourism Executive Officer,
ENBTB-Rabaul.**

Email: skakai@daltron.com.pg

Milamala (Yam) Festival on in Milne Bay



The Milamala (Yam) Festival will be in Kiriwina in the Trobriand Islands of Milne Bay Province for three days from July 30 to August 1.

Pictured left by ROD CLARK are Trobriand Island dancers

The festival will involve six villages and will feature the following:

- Day 1: Yam carrying and all the activities associated with that stage and dancing until about midnight.
- Day 2: Storing of the yams; awarding winners of gardening etc; Kula canoe racing; and dancing
- Day 3: All participating villages will take part in full cultural performances and feasting.

Village livelihood skills will be demonstrated and arts and crafts will be available for sale.

Air Nuigini has daily flights to and from Alotau and Airlines PNG flies from Port Moresby and Alotau to and from Kiriwina every Tuesday and Saturday. Current one-way fares per person are

K319 Gurney (Alotau) to Losuia (Kiriwina) and K505 POM (Port Moresby) to Losuia (2003).

For the more adventurous traveler, cargo boats sail from Alotau and service the islands for around K50 per person. Allow for up to two days travel, as they may call into either Esa'ala station or Gumwawana Island or some other islands en route.

Cameron Cultural Show: the Cameron Cultural Show will follow The Milamala Festival on August 1 and 2.

Heed the call of the conch shell and join the students of Cameron Secondary School in Alotau in their annual celebration of Milne Bay's culture and heritage.

Catch the rhythms of dances from all around the province, accompanied by chanting and the beat of the kundu drum.

Get a glimpse of real village life as the Cultural Village comes alive with families of students on hand to help performers dress and to coach them on the protocols of custom, to demonstrate traditional skills and to prepare feasts to mark the end of the festival.

Feast your eyes on the fruits of the creative imagination and artistic skills of Milne Bay artists and craftspeople in the Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

For the students, it is a journey to discovery of self and cultural identity; for spectators, it provides a window to a people's traditions, history and way of life.

Come and enjoy the experience.

Holy Name School Culture Week: Holy Name High School on the North Coast of Milne Bay is having its cultural show from August 4 to 8.

Further information can be obtained from the Milne Bay Tourism Bureau P.O. box 337, Alotau, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea. Telephone: (675) 6411503. Facsimile: (675) 6410132. Email: info@milnebaytourism.gov.pg. Website: www.milnebaytourism.gov.pg

HIGHLANDS REGION

Enga

- Enga Cultural Show – August 9, 10, 11

Western Highlands

- Mount Hagen Cultural Show – August 16 and 17

Eastern Highlands

- PNG Coffee Festival & Trade Fair – May 2 and 3
- Skin Bilas Festival – September 12 and 13 (National Cultural Commission Regional Event)
- Goroka Show – September 12, 13 and 14

SOUTHERN REGION

Port Moresby

- Hiri Moale Festival – September 12, 13 and 14

Milne Bay

- Cameron Cultural Show – August 1 and 2
- MilaMala (Yam) Festival – July 30, 31, and August 1
- Independence Day - September 16
- Milne Bay Agri-Cultural Show – October 25 and 26

Oro (Northern)

- Kundu Festival, Oro – June 12 to 14 (National Cultural Commission Regional Event)

Tabubil (Western Province)

- Hamamas Wik – September 22 to 27, Tabubil

MOMASE REGION

- 60th Anniversary of the recapture of Salamaua – September 11
- 60th Anniversary of the recapture of Lae – September 16

- Morobe Show – October 11 and 12
- Garamut and Flute Festival – November 14 and 15, Wewak (National Cultural Commission Regional Event)

ISLANDS REGION

- East New Britain Cultural Show – July 7 to 13, Rabaul (National Cultural Commission Regional Event)
- National Mask Festival – July 16 to 19 (Rabaul)
- Kontu Shark Calling Festival – (To be confirmed)
- Malangan Festival – (To be confirmed)

These are just the major shows and events held in the four regions of Papua New Guinea every year.

Smaller shows and events take place in the country throughout the year.

Colourful cultural activities from schools, church groups and communities also take place throughout the year.

Further information can be obtained from the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority, P.O. Box 1291, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Telephone: (675) 3200211. Facsimile: (675) 3200223. Email: info@pngtourism.org.pg. Website: www.pngtourism.org.pg.

Produced and published by Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority, 2nd Floor Pacific MMI Building, P.O. Box 1291, Port Moresby, NCD, Papua New Guinea. Telephone: (675) 3200211, Facsimile: (675) 3200223. E – mail: mnalu@pngtourism.org.pg. Website: <http://www.pngtourism.org.pg>

PNG Tourism Update
The Newsletter of the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority