

NEW!

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND CREATURES OF MELANESIA

JANUARY - JUNE 2005

Melanesian

Yea

issue 1

**New
Guinea's
Shrinking
Tropical
Glaciers**

Melanesia's

fragile environment

>Plus Protecting Fiji's frogs





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RIGHT Superb fruitdove (*Ptilinopus superbus*), Gizo Island, Western Solomon Islands.

features

6 Protecting Fiji's frogs

Fiji's frogs, the ground frog (*Platymantis vitianus*) and the tree frog (*Platymantis vitiensis*) are found only in Fiji and nowhere else in the world.

8 Melanesia's fragile environment



Calanthe spp.

A brief overview of the threats and challenges to Melanesia's terrestrial environment.

12 Freshwater fish in Melanesia

In Melanesia we urgently need to describe our native



COVER

Frog of *Platymantis* spp., Kolombangara Island, Solomon Islands. Commercial logging in the Western Solomon's may threaten habitat and survival of native frogs, some still unknown to science.

freshwater fauna before it is too late.

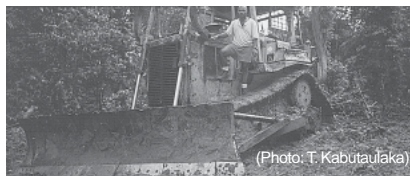
14 The shrinking tropical glaciers of New Guinea

While most of us think of the tropics as unbearably hot and sweltering, very few realize that it is possible to find glaciers close to the equator.

20 Balancing our precious resources Social and economic factors are directly related to pressures on natural resources.

22 Western Solomons under assault

Logging does not only damage the environment, but it also brings changes to



(Photo: T. Kabutaulaka)

communities and society as a whole.

30 Fishing for Parrotfish in Solomon Island

The decline or removal of parrotfishes from reef ecosystems can have

enormous and catastrophic consequences given the vital functions they perform.

32 Live reef fish trade in Solomon Islands

But, when considering that fishers and communities were paid SI\$5.00 kg⁻¹ and SI\$0.50 kg⁻¹ respectively, while similar species of the Humphead Wrasse were sold at US\$180 kg⁻¹ overseas, the fishers communities involved in the trade have undoubtedly being exploited.

36 Island hopping

In December 2004, together with four young adventurers and four adults, we journeyed all the way through the northern chain of islands...A trip that saw us travel a total of more than 500km's by outboard motor.

