

EDITORS NOTE



Patrick Pikacha
Editor

It is always a challenge putting together **Melanesian Geo**. This new issue 6 has been no exception. In piecing together this publication, I am pleased to see that the magazine is covering stories not only from the Solomons and Fiji, but also from other Melanesian countries, like Vanuatu. In past issues we've covered stories from Indonesia and New Caledonia.

Each time, our articles cover a broad range of stories. This issue is no different. Stories in this edition include adventures in Matantas on Vanuatu's island of Santo, the submarine volcano of Kavachi 25 nautical miles off the islands of Gatokae and Vangunu in the western Solomons, threat of undersea mining to the seabed and marine organisms, the threat to Fiji's sago palm, conservation and how it is serving communities in a rapidly changing world, the importance of agro – forestry on Choiseul island, a recent marine natural survey, and the of a rare tree products destruction species in the Solomons. Finally there is a travel story on Marovo who's marine environment is becoming Lagoon, and terrestrial is becoming development threatened by such as logging and mining.



Orchid of Solomons

Melanesia is also a very colourful and vibrant region. To capture some of this uniqueness we have included page spreads of photographs in this edition. We hope photographers may wish to contribute to this column in the future. Not only are there photographs of the regions rich biodiversity such as the many orchids some of which are printed in this issue, but we've put a human face to the region as well, by adding a page spread of photographs of mainly children.

The challenge for us now and in the future is to create solid partnerships with organizations and institutions that believe in the principles and efforts we advocate in the printing of this magazine.

I hope you find something interesting in this edition. You may also visit our website at www.melanesiangeo.org. We would like to hear from you.

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of those who have supported the printing of this issue of MG. Your continual collaboration and support in the printing of this grassroots publication makes a difference.

Melanesian Geo

PRODUCTION TEAM

Founder/Editor: Patrick Pikacha
ppikacha@pacific-ocean.com
ppikacha@gmail.com
Assistant editor: Tamara Osborne
osborne.tamara@gmail.com
lakebalass@yahoo.com
osborne.tamara@gmail.com
Contributing editor: David Boseto
dboseto@yahoo.com
Prepress layout: P Pikacha

ADVERTISING & DISTRIBUTION

Email: ppikacha@pacific-ocean.com

CONTACT ADDRESS

PO Box R36, Ranadi,
East Honiara, Solomon Islands

In Fiji Contact:

P. O. Box U26.,
USP Laucala Campus, Suva

SUBSCRIPTION

A free pdf copy is available via email. Email: dboseto@yahoo.com; lakemalass@yahoo.com; or ppikacha@yahoo.com or by logging on to www.melanesiangeo.org

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The Editor, PO Box R36, Ranadi, Honiara,
Solomon Islands (or) by Email to
ppikacha@yahoo.com

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All submissions may be sent to:
The Editor
MELANESIAN GEO
PO Box R36, Ranadi,
Honiara, Solomon Islands

or in Fiji: P. O. Box U26.,
University of the South Pacific, Laucala
Campus, Suva, Fiji

or by email to:
osborne.tamara@gmail.com (or)
ppikacha@yahoo.com

The articles and views conveyed by the writers are their own, and do not necessarily represent those held by the publisher and editor. Articles included in this publication may be accurate only at the occasion it was firstly acquired from the writers. Thus some articles may be changed whenever and with no notification.

MELANESIAN GEO is published at least three tims a year for the purpose of dissemination of important issues affecting society and the environment throughout Melanesia.

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Letters



I simply wish to commend you and your 'team' on the current May-September issue! It contains so much interesting information and wonderful imagery, presented in a very professional way and I am most impressed. I have seen the odd issue in the past but this is the best to date, for me anyway. [and not just because of the extensive Fiji coverage] I believe there is a real need for *Melanesian Geo* and I wish you continuing success in your efforts.

Kind regards
Robin Yarrow
Vice Chair, National Trust of Fiji Islands

Your new website and your magazine looks superb - congratulations on the wonderful magazine and brilliant photos!
Very best wishes

Kay Weir
Editor, Pacific Ecologist
Pacific Institute of Resource Management
PO Box 12125
Wellington, New Zealand

Congratulations for ensuring the continuity of *Melanesian Geo* through this new web address. Your latest issues 4 and 5 are very informative and well structured.
Keep up the great work of awaring the public about the uniqueness of our Melanesian region through it's biodiversity and conservation issues.

Regards,
Exsley Taloiburi
Australia

Melanesian Geo

www.melanesiangeo.org

DISTRIBUTION

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AWARENESS AND EDUCATION SUBSCRIPTIONS

Limited quantities of **Melanesian Geo** are also available at Conservation International Solomon Islands Program.
Melanesian Geo can be found onboard the following flights for your reading pleasure;



Melanesian Geo read by village communities in rural Solomons.