

Melanesian

Issue 7

Geo

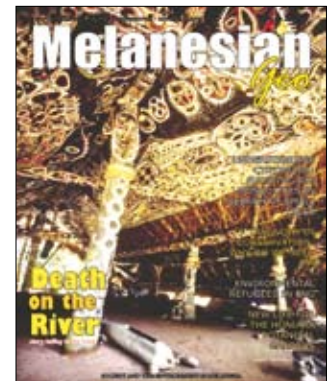
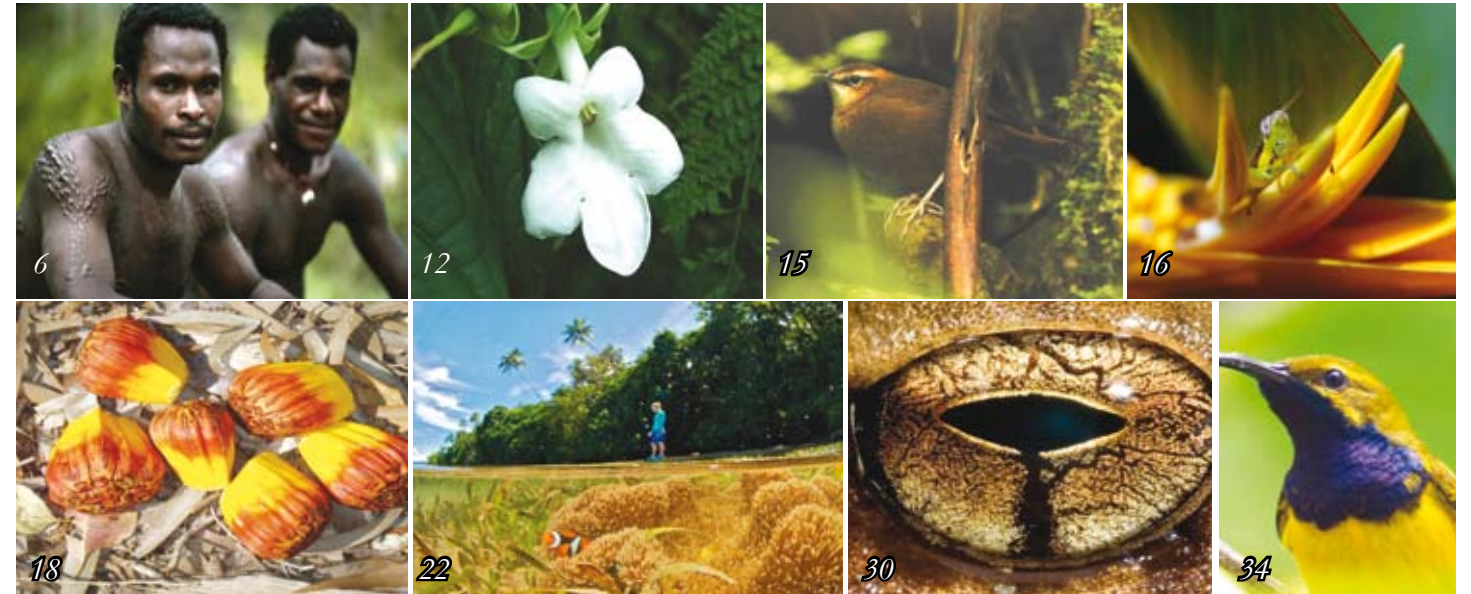
Death on the River

STORIES FROM THE SEPIK

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SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN MELANESIA

Wildlife Awareness & Monitoring of Melanesia



Cover: Haus Tambaran, Sepik, PNG (Photo: Mike McCoy)

6 Death on the River
Death with dignity is a subjective observation at best and in my case influenced by my own culture for I know it is only myself of those here who feels the way I do.

12 Understanding *Cyrtandra*
Present-day Melanesia is a particularly rich area for studying *Cyrtandra* and other gesneriads. Melanesia represents the confluence between two major bio-regions, Asia and Australia and with it two distinct lineages of gesneriads.

15 Fiji's Long-legged Warbler thriving
The Long-legged Warbler (or Long-legged Thicketbird) *Trichocichla rufa* is endemic to Viti Levu and Vanua Levu on Fiji. It is known historically from four specimens collected between 1890 and 1894 and a handful of unconfirmed sightings on Viti Levu, and one specimen in 1974 on Vanua Levu.

16 Restoring Honiara's botanical garden
The restoration project has been initiated by Solo Enviro Beautification and through the Honiara Beautification Committee has formed a management committee with Honiara City Council Forestry. The Honiara City Council and Ministry of Forestry are owners and managers of the Gardens respectively.

18 Taxonomy in Conservation
Taxonomy is the science of naming, identifying and classifying organisms. This can be in a

formal setting such as describing new species or the comparative study of the evolutionary relationships between species. Pacific Islanders have over hundreds of years practiced their own vernacular taxonomy where they identify one species from the other based on the shape, colour, distribution (e.g. coastal versus mountain trees) and to some extent the taste and smell.

22 Saving paradise: Conservation of Tetepare
This vast isle in the Western Province of the Solomons remains the largest uninhabited island in the South Pacific.

30 Unique embryo characteristics of native frogs of Fiji
Reproduction is the foundation on which a species survives, thrives or, failing this becomes extinct. Therefore, the study of reproduction is fundamental to conserving species, populations and, indirectly, the vitality of entire ecosystem.

34 Molecular Systematics: applying genetic tools to studies of Pacific biodiversity
According to an inventory survey conducted by the Forestry Department, Zeleboe land contains an average stock of 29,232 *Xanthostemon* sp occurring on 252 hectares of land. Hence, there is a stock concentration of 116 trees per hectare. It is the second highest tree concentration