

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 Lagoon, and terrestrial environment 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](http://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; lakembalass@yahoo.com; or ppikacha@yahoo.com or by logging on to [www.melanesiangeo.org](http://www.melanesiangeo.org)

**MELANESIAN GEO** is a grassroots magazine of society and the environment in Melanesia. It is also a student initiated environment magazine in Solomon Islands and Fiji.

## PUBLISHER

Melanesian Geo Publications  
PO Box R36, Ranadi, East Honiara  
Solomon Islands

All article contributions may be send to:  
The Editor, PO Box R36, Ranadi, Honiara,  
Solomon Islands (or) by Email to  
ppikacha@yahoo.com

PLEASE NOTE THAT UNSOLICITED  
MANUSCRIPTS ARE ACCEPTED AND  
SUBJECT TO REVIEW.

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

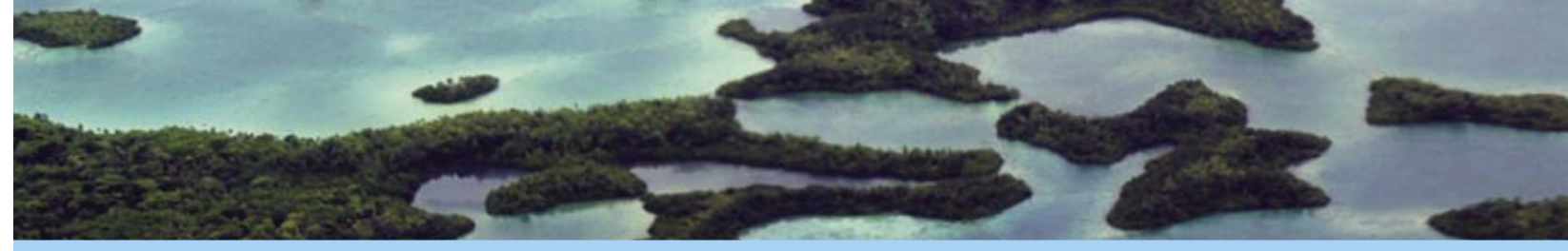
or in Fiji: P. O. Box U26.,  
University of the South Pacific, Laucala  
Campus, Suva, Fiji

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.

Printed in Fiji



# 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](http://www.melanesiangeo.org)

## DISTRIBUTION

**Melanesian Geo** is available in the following countries. **FIJI** University of the South Pacific Book Centre, Laucala Campus, Suva. **SOLOMON ISLANDS Honiara:** Ril Marketing; Lime Lounge; Nautilus Bookshop; Island Handicrafts; Paper Plus; Honiara Post Shop. **Western Province:** Antech Internet Cafe, Gizo Town.

**NOTE:** If you would like to be a distributor for **Melanesian Geo** in any of the following countries, FIJI, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, VANUATU, NEW CALEDONIA, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA please contact us.

## 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.