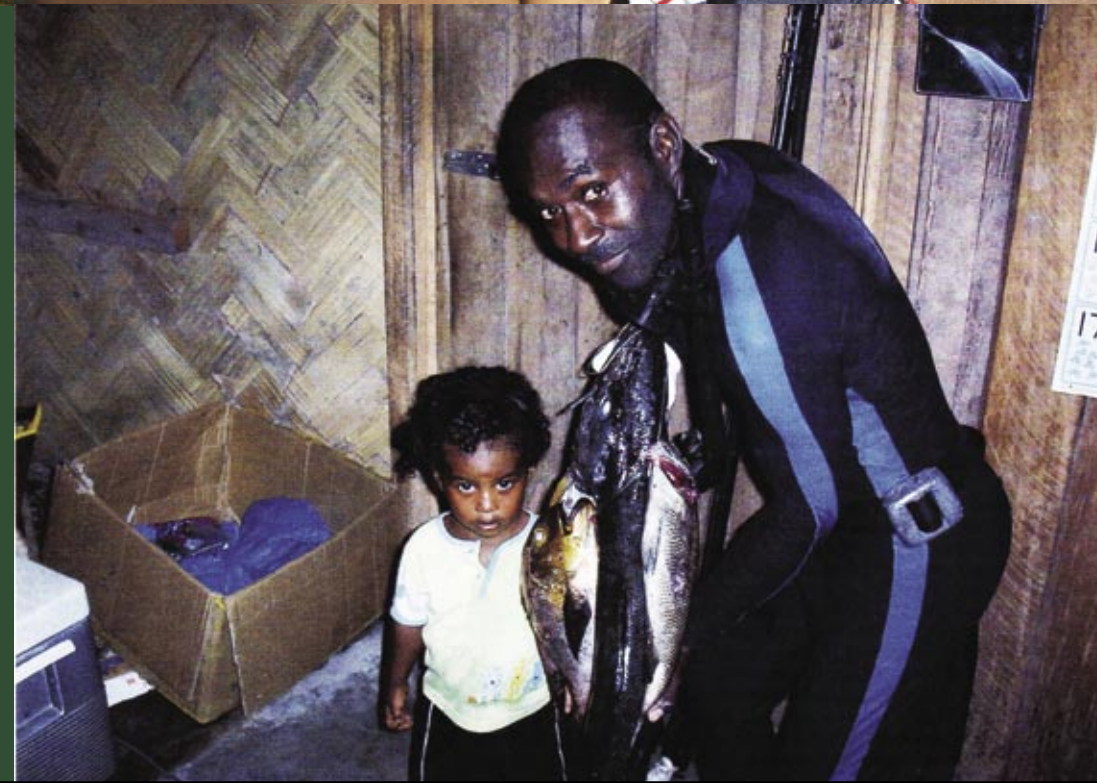




Melanesia is a vast region. To the west is the island of New Guinea, and the east are the Bismark - Solomon Archipelago. Further east are the islands of New Caledonia, Vanuatu and Fiji. Such a large area is also peopled by many races and cultures. Melanesia alone contains more than half of the indigenous languages spoken on earth.



Top: Children of the Bauro Highlands, playing on a single rubber tube on the Ravo River. (Photo: Charles Tatahu). Above: Village kid and mother on the Sepik River, Papua New Guinea. (Photo: Suzanne Noakes).

Top: Children of Barana village, Guadalcanal Island. (Photo: Patrick Pikacha). Above: Father and son after a days spear fishing, Bougainville Island. (Photo: J Rutana). Above right: Child with pet snake, Guadalcanal. (Photo: Patrick Pikacha).