

PNG CRUISE - Feb 2015

Photos and comments courtesy of Rita Hall



On the 14th February a small group of 10 members set off on a 14 day cruise from Brisbane to PNG. The journey included visits to 7 different Island locations displaying a varied amount of Australian influences, depending on the level of our involvement in the area before Independence came to PNG. There were many families and friends going back to the area to see how things were progressing today and it was interesting to hear their individual stories, Pam and David Cotton had spent 3 years in the country and were able to let us in on the cultural aspects of PNG.

Arriving in Madang it seemed they do not see a ship the size of the one we were on visit very often and we were considered important, and treated like VIP's – appropriate for Probus members!!!, with a public holiday being declared to coincide with our visit.

Rabaul although not the same as previous times owing to the Volcano erupting and covering a lot of the place with ash, had some interesting aspects from the tunnels created during the war by the Japanese to avoid detection, to the sight of the Volcano being so close for viewing. A short bus trip and walk was productive for the camera buffs.

On board ship activities and the culinary events was all put together with a willing and happy P&O crew.

Last but not least we had a lovely evening at Luke Mangan's Salt Restaurant celebrating Pam's 70th Birthday. Thanks David and Pam for all the organizing done on our behalf to help us enjoy the journey.



Ship ahoy!!!



Helen, Freda and Julie



Rita and John



David, Freda, Brian and Ros



John and the locals



The kids and mums



Great hat



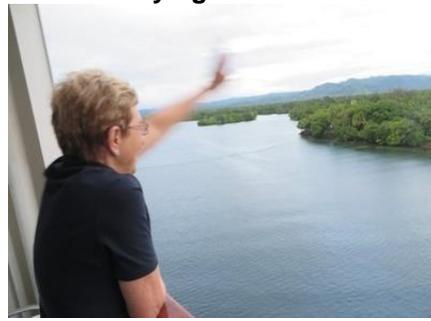
Brian trying out the canoe



The kids always steal the show



What is a LIKLIK store



so long



A right royal welcome



The whole town was there



Ros, Rita, Helen, Brian and Helen



So colourful



A great use for PVC pipes



More great hats



The mudmen



Yellow is in vogue



Never work with kids!!!!!!



Locals getting in the spirit



The fashion stakes



David, Helen, Rita and Pam



Volcanos were king



What a life



No motors here



Brian with the memorial to his friend



Pam and Rita



Japanese dugouts



2 boys enjoying our visit



More of the volcano !!



Pam and Rita checking it out



See the kids have it



Great view of the ship



Close up with the volcano



The remains of a Japanese plane



Ash and the lake



Helen, Brian and Freda discussing the food



Julie and David and more food



Rita, Ros, Helen W and Helen B



Great ship



Rita and the kids



Pam and the locals



Plenty of good food



The PNG group



Locals and their wares



Racing the ship



The mudmen



Oh what a sunset



David showing the locals how they photograph



What the!!!!###



No money in these hats



The water was so good



Wait for us



Brian, Helen B, Rita, Helen W and Ros



Today is the day



Pam and the Papparazzi



The big birthday bash



70 today



Farewell to the ship staff



Brian, Helen, David and Pam



Costumes were great



Local kids being kids



Ros, Helen and Brian