

# The winds of change take on Ela Beach

By Anna Solomon

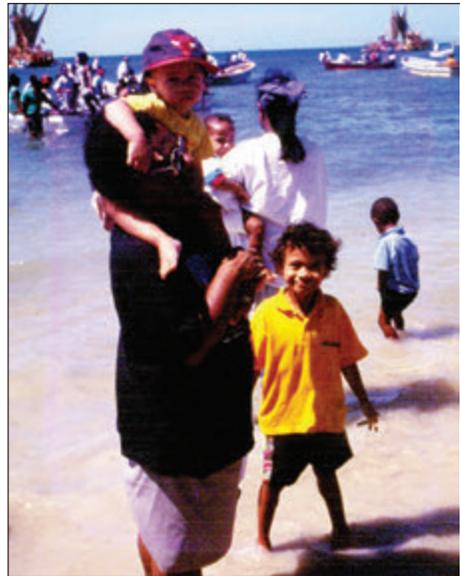
WHEN I read the front page headlines of a daily paper on Friday 10th February about the K55 million facelift for the iconic Ela Beach, it was enough to make me travel down there to see what remained of this piece of my childhood memories, before the dozers went in to change it forever. On arriving at the beach, I noticed work had already started at the eastern end across from the SDA church.

For those of us who were born and raised in Port Moresby, Ela Beach holds a special place in our lives. It was there that important ceremonies like the Queen's Birthday parade and other major events were held at the oval which is now part of the IEA Tafe College. Back then the Ela Beach oval was the biggest field in town for public gatherings until the Sir Hubert Murray Stadium in Konedobu was opened in 1969.

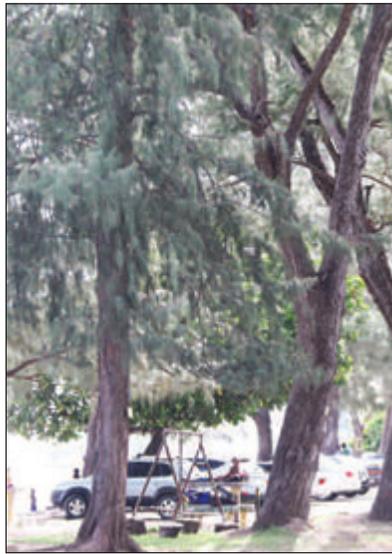
Nearly all the Primary 1 school children in the mid-60s looked forward to the end of the year school picnics on the clean white sands of Ela Beach and a rare opportunity to use the new public swimming pool at the bottom of Musgrave Street. It was also a big deal for us to go into Ela Beach in those days because it was the place that led into town, where the expatriates lived in their white painted houses in the surrounding hills and where the big shops of Steamships and Burns Philp were located on Champion Parade.



Motuan women dance on the beach at the arrival of the Hiri Moale lagatois in 1994.



Enjoying the cool waters of Ela Beach with my children, 1994. Photos Don Niles.



Casuarina trees on Ela beach before being pulled down. Photo: Nicky Bernard.

casuarina or yar trees has always been a familiar part of this stretch of Port Moresby as far as I recall. Back then before any kind of cement and stone landscaping was done to the beach, these trees as well as the okari, poinciana and coconut palms provided shade for the beach goers.

As the years went by and the population of city expanded Ela Beach was the only public reserve with a beachfront people could enjoy safely within the city. This was where I went with my family some weekends to enjoy the sea breeze and let the

children play in the sand. During the Hiri Moale Festival, we would make the trip there to watch the graceful lagatois sail in to the shores.

Whenever we went to Ela Beach, I enjoyed sitting close to casuarina trees just to listen to the gentle whistling or sighing sounds created by the wind passing through their leaves.

It was not until nearly 20 years ago that I read the story of the avenue of these casuarina trees from an excellent book on Port Moresby by Ian Stuart called *Port Moresby Yesterday and*

along the beach for the railway tracks, the sea started to wash away the sand at an alarming rate. Mr Herbert. W. Champion who had seen casuarina trees growing in similar conditions in Mailu, asked the missionary there for some seedlings. Champion then planted these seedlings along the beach and they grew and prevented the sea from eroding the shoreline.

That was the story of the original casuarina trees of Ela Beach. Many of them have been replaced or cut down over the years to accommodate the extension of the road until today, 103 years later when many more will be removed to make way for a four lane road, which a politician described as "fantastic achievement for NCD". The city authorities have assured residents that they can plant advanced trees within the landscaping of Ela Beach to ensure that what is replaced is suitable or even better.

Ela Beach has had its share of white elephants which cost a lot of money and were later abandoned or remain unused such as, the informal sector craft market at the eastern end, the amphitheatre in the centre and a sea park at the western end. Will this so-called facelift to this public reserve add some more?

Maybe 50 years from now, if there are any casuarina trees left in the vicinity, the wind blowing through their branches might whistle in glee at the fantastic decision by the leaders to spend K55 million or maybe it will sigh in sorrow at the loss of yet another iconic feature of Port Moresby. Only time will tell.



Carry a plastic bag when strolling out for a buai break...



Skin the buai and drop skin in plastic bag...



Chew buai...



and spit into plastic...



Tie the plastic tightly..

Throw away plastic at the rubbish tip near you...



Rubbish Drum

# YOUTH SAY...

Josiah Ururu Kana

**Do you think we need more women in the parliament or not and why do you think as such?**



**Name:** Jonaven Kopi  
**Age:** 25  
**Province:** Central

**Opinion:** We should allow more women candidates because traditional in our society, male are often dominant and thus, gets more seats in the parliament. And males also contribute to more corruption but I believe we need more mothers in our parliament because they are more responsible in the family and can look after children so they will definitely guarantee good leadership.



**Name:** Esseneth Audayu  
**Age:** 19  
**province:** Gulf/ Central

**Opinion:** yes, we need more female leaders because most of the time it's always the men. I suggest more women in parliament so there will be gender balance.



**Name:** Helen Mou  
**age:** 20  
**Province:** Central

**Opinion:** Yes, I think we should involve more women leaders because often there are too many men in the parliament and they don't make fair decisions. I suggest more women leaders for gender equity and fair decisions to prevail.



**Name:** Marthis Marape  
**Age:** 22  
**Province:** Southern Highlands

**Opinion:** Yes, I think we should because nowadays, women are more able to take on the responsibilities that only men used to take. And also, when there are more men in the parliament, they usually approach national issues from a men's perspective, likewise for women's case as well. So we need more women for fair decision making based on integrating the male and female perspectives to create a balanced approach on national issues. And finally, we need more women because they can also voice issues that affect them such as Gender-based violence and others alike.

## From Rastafarian to Christafarian - A Christian Reggae

**CHRISTAFARI** is a Christian reggae band formed in 1990. It is centered on the personality of ordained religious minister Mark "Tansoback" Mohr (born October 23, 1971), an American, born-again Christian. Until the age of 17, Mohr was a Rastafarian. The essential goal of Christafari is to promote Christianity to all people; including Rastafarians.

As a rebellious drug addicted youth, Mohr found an affinity for reggae music and became a marijuana grower and Rastafarian after a visit to Jamaica in 1986. He became well-versed in reggae music and learned Jamaican patois, the dialect prevalent in most reggae music.

In 1989 the seventeen-year-old Mohr stopped using marijuana and committed his life to Christ at JH Ranch, a Christian camp. Two weeks later at another Christian youth camp Mohr wrote and performed his first gospel reggae song "Give Me Everything I Need" at a talent show. The bass-player that day said; "So you're no longer a Rastafarian, you're a Christafarian." The name stuck.

Initially called the "Christafarians" Mark was backed by the "Steadfast" crew for his first few



Christafari tour poster

shows (September and October 1989). Eventually Mohr shortened the name to "Christafari", (pronounced Christ-a-far-eye) and pieced together his own band members.

In 1993 Mohr enrolled in Biola University and received his ordination in 1997.

Their first album, Reggae Worship, reached the Billboard Charts and created a buzz in the industry, garnering the attention of DC Talk's tobyMac who then signed the group to Gotee Records. Soulfire proved to be an early success for the fledgling Gotee Records. Valley Of Decision spent 15 weeks in the top 10 of Billboard's "Top

Reggae Albums" chart. The label began as a production company. Originally intending to produce Out of Eden's Lovin' the Day, they couldn't find a label to sign the act to, and so began distributing the band's material on their own.

WordSound&Power marked Christafari's departure from Gotee and the birth of Mohr's Lion of Zion Entertainment record label. The album was nominated in four categories in the 2000 Caribbean Gospel Music Marlin Awards. Christafari then released Dub-Sound&Power, the band's first dub album and arguably the first Christian dub album ever recorded.

After this the group released Pal-

abra Sonido Y Poder (Word Sound & Power), the group's Spanish debut that featured the single "El Amor De Mi Vida" (No. 1 in 11 Latin American Countries).

After this Christafari released Gravity (2003), Gravitational Dub (2004) and their first children's album Reggae Sunday School (2005). 2007 Marked the release of Christafari's To the Foundation. Christafari toured 180 shows in 20 countries in promotion of To the Foundation.

In early 2009 the group headed back into the studio to record their 20th anniversary album "No Compromise" with subsequent tours in Europe, Latin America and the USA. In late 2009 the band went back into their studio the "Zionic Sounds Dub Lab" to record their second Spanish album, Reggae De Redencion.

This project was released in mid-2010. In late 2011 they released two dub albums; Majestic Heights in Dub and Dub Shots. They also released Gospel Reggae Praise, a compilation project.

In 2012, Christafari released Reggae Worship: A Roots Revival, their first worship album in almost 20 years. This breakthrough album once again catapulted them onto the Billboard Charts.

The CD debuted at No. 3 on the

Billboard Reggae Chart, No. 10 on Billboard's Christian Albums Chart and No. 39 on the Independent Albums Chart.

Nearly nine months after this album was released, Christafari jumped to No. 1 on the Billboard Reggae Albums Chart. This marks the first time in Billboard's history that a Christian artist has secured the top spot. The band was also featured on ABC Family's The 700 Club, and TBN filmed a live concert appearance in Hawaii for a special broadcast.

Each of Christafari's following albums Reggae Christmas, Greatest Hits Vol. 1, Greatest Hits Vol. 2 and Anthems have all hit the #1 position on the Reggae Billboard Charts.

In 2009 Christafari started their own film company called "Rank and File". The group now has over 40 music videos on YouTube including hits like "Hosanna," "Oceans" and "Here I Am To Worship" that have a few million views. Ever since the band decided to become full-time musicians in 2012, they have had a busy schedule ministering around 150 times a year in the poorest of countries. So far Christafari has ministered in 70 countries, 46 states, at two Olympic games and before the president of the United States. (from Christafari website page).

# Maiden adventure

By Philemon Tame

**MAIDEN journey into the remote depths of Mt Giluwe with my childhood brothers, Dopson, Ismael, Malachai, Rangip, Yakap, Rasputin and Rorowa, in 2004 is a cherish experience. We all were attending Malke Community School in Tambul District, Western Highlands Province.**

Our journey to ascend the peak of Mt Giluwe, the second highest mountain in Papua New Guinea with the height of 4,368m, started one fine afternoon as our class teacher, Mr. Mark Dupi, permitted the class to depart for home.

Mt Giluwe frontiers Western Highlands Province and Southern Highlands Province, and my village, Malke, rest at the base.

It would take us less than two hours to reach the prairie of the summit through the tropical jungle, was what I was told at the time. I went straight home after school and bagged adequate number of raw sweet potatoes, without my mother's knowledge, which she left to prepare dinner. And my companions did the same and we all met again at a planned location where the trekking way starts.

Two among the group, Rasputin and Rorowa, automatically became the tour guides for it was their second time to hike. We all were excited and started our walk. The track became thinner at one instance as we reached the dense forest. The courage of the leaders diminished as the track became further slimmer and eventually disappeared.

I and other five of the eight men trekkers shifted our blames to the leaders, Reagan and Rorowa, when we lost the track in the thick forest.

However, in our itinerary, we trekked through different forest vegetation, saw wildlife of all species including bird of paradise, possums, tree kangaroos and native orchids to name a few. This was an exciting and demanding trek and fully recommended for active people with some hiking experience which we already had. We now forget to search for the

main track and had to break through the dense forest with its floor jammed with bush vines. Those obstacles prompted us to put all our efforts together either to rediscover the old track or to trek through to meet the prairie.

Our option to trek through the impenetrable forest floor flourished. We exhausted our vitalities in the process of constructing new track with bush knives which everyone possessed one each. Our empty stomachs were the cause of the delay in reaching the prairie. Eventually, we completed our first chapter of the excursion.

The atmosphere was covered with nor cumulus neither stratus. The stars seen easily through the clear blue sky, commenced to brighten up their rays to chase the shadow of the emerging Friday night. The weather condition ignites the keenness of the climbers with a different mood. They were already in a new world, experiencing new land of natural wilderness, breathtaking landscapes, tropical jungles, high mountains and fascinating flora and fauna.

To unblemished his guiltiness of misleading his maiden trekking brothers to an unusual jungle ways, Rorowa actively collected dried branches, accumulated them at a certain location to make fire and Rasputin assisted his comrade. We collectively put hands to build a hut near the fire place for the duration of the first night. Dinner was kaukau, cooked using traditional method. Overnight temperatures fall below zero at our base camp which depriving us of warmth from the burning fire's heat and light. We managed to sustain until dawn.

Saturday morning was bright as the day before and expedition to the two summits starts. Trekking took us through grassland, past innumerable tarns and lakes without expecting home comforts. The climb was magnificent but it's wild, and remote. Summit is an old shield volcano with vast alpine grasslands. Ancient lava plugs form the two summits, which offer superb views over the Highlands.

The tour involves travel to a remote area where medical facilities

are not available. Altitude sickness is the major health risk. People with limited physical fitness, known heart or breathing problems, persons prone to migraine headaches should not attempt to climb further than base camp. Altitude sickness occurs if you do not take in enough oxygen to meet your body's requirements. This can be avoided if you climb the slopes at a steady pace and do not overly exert yourself, and if you remember to take deeper and more frequent breaths than normal.

Wet or stormy weather occurs at any moment. This may slow your walking pace and may even prevent you from reaching the summit.

The streams emerging from the alpine are exotic and still vastly unexplored. Considering the vast areas of mountainous terrain, the only way to get from village to village is to fly or walk. A couple hundred compatriots are the tour guides to several expatriate trekkers.

As we reached the base of the summits, afternoon was dull. Fogs overwhelmed the summits which appreciably reducing the visibility and prevented us from trekking further to the top. Our mission was not accomplished and retreated to the base camp.

Dull weather consists of visible cloud water droplets and ice crystals suspended in the air covered the alpine's surface chasing us. Foggy weather associated with extreme cold which allocated our pace of walking at a fixed rate.

Our good readers please, stand by for Part II of Maiden Adventure in the next Wantok Today in four weeks' time from now.

Thank you.



Native trekking towards a peak that locates where the forest stops.



Tambul Valley in Western Highlands Province rests at the foot of Mt Giluwe.



A Tour Guide rests after long trek. Background is the track leads to the summit of Mt Giluwe.



Locals climbed the peak of Mt Giluwe and posed for the camera as the low laying clouds overwhelmed them.



Hiker and a Tour Guide posed for the camera at the ultimate peak of Mt Giluwe.



Stream emerges from the alpine prairie of Mt Giluwe.



Work currently being done on the Rainbow Heights road.



“Spiderman” Carlos enjoys riding around the yard after returning from school.



Some of the residences of Rainbow Heights who enjoy life right at the very top.



Angie provides a service to the top Heights residences with her market sales of basic items including soft drinks, noodles, biscuits, lollies, rice, sugar, tinned fish, flex and top cards.

# The beauty of life and developments at Rainbow Heights

By Veronica Hatutasi

ONE of the new areas currently being developed in the National Capital District is Rainbow Heights, located in the Rainbow area of the Gerehu Suburb.

The area boasts of about 20 of what could be classified as modest medium to high covenant residential houses so far, with more homes still being constructed, and, road infrastructural development taking place, to date.

The houses are perched on the hilly slopes of Rainbow, in an arrangement of 4 in a row, starting from the base of the hill right up to the very top which is home to a large “Bigman Model” house, one of the few such models in Port Moresby City.

The view from the hill top is magnificent, as Gerehu, Rainbow, NRI, UPNG and beyond can be sighted from one end while on the other side of the valley below is the new back road via Baruni to town and on the valley right below the hilltop, is a residential housing estate comprising of high rise residences build by a Korean company. The compound has a mixture of expatriates and some Papua New Guineans.

At night the view is even more awesome as the bright city lights of Rainbow and Gerehu, the National Research Institute (NRI) past the University of PNG, and residences on the valley below along the back road through Baruni to town, light up giving an array of Rainbow colours.

For anyone intending to visit Rainbow heights, one can either choose to drive past the Rainbow Stop n Shop road and straight up until the gate manned by security guards is reached and follow the road up to Rainbow Heights, or through the entrance from the back road just past NRI.

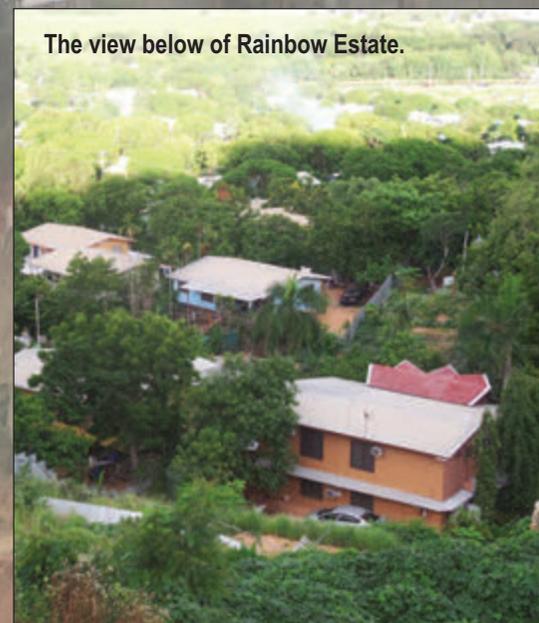
For those travelling by foot, there is a shortcut which could be easily follow, but one must have the stamina to climb the steep hill, but again, a good exercise to maintain one’s good health.

Life at Rainbow Heights is peaceful, quiet and secure with securities patrolling the area to ensure the safety of the residences.

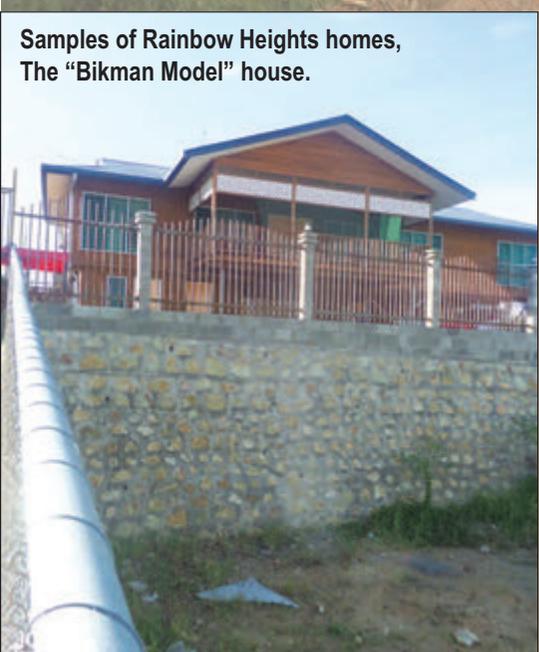
Children enjoy the safe environment at the heights and especially in the afternoons when the onslaught of the Port Moresby heat has died down, children play around their yards or take strolls from the hilltop to the base and vice versa.

Even some working adults enjoy walking home from the Rainbow bus stop right up to their homes up at the Rainbow Heights.

To add to the splendour and beauty from the top Heights, after a shower of rain and “Over the Rainbow” skies, is the pure bliss one feels watching from the veranda of the house, of the formation and setting of a rainbow graced by its splendid array of colours.



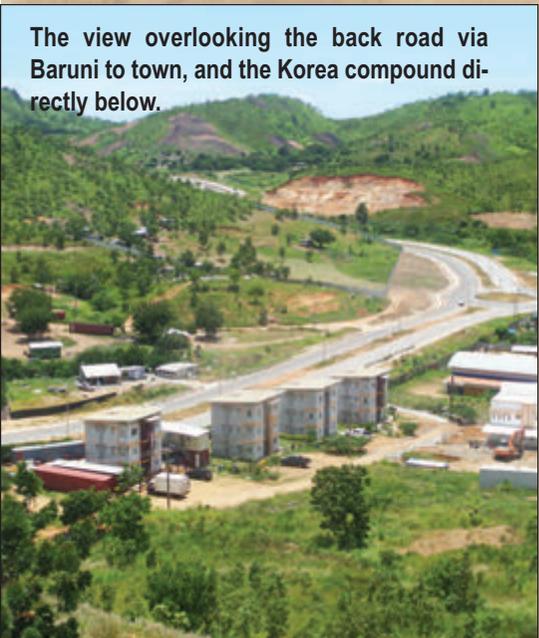
The view below of Rainbow Estate.



Samples of Rainbow Heights homes, The “Bikman Model” house.



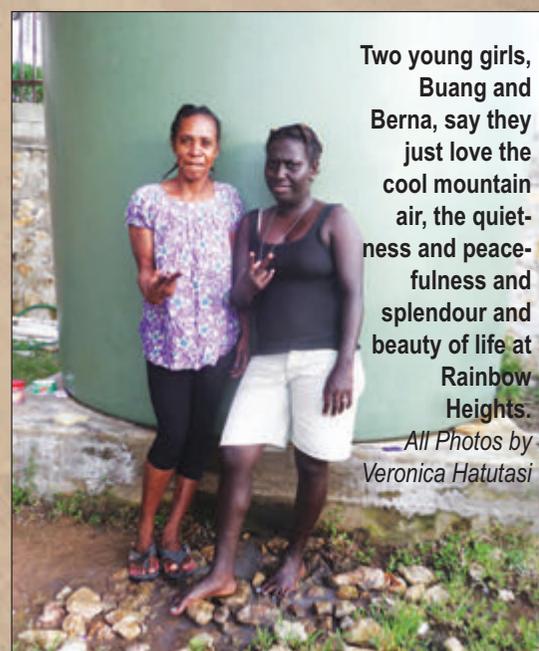
Two brothers, Tyler and Carlos, playing around their family house, this time, posing on the steps.



The view overlooking the back road via Baruni to town, and the Korea compound directly below.



Another residence nestled on the hilly slope.



Two young girls, Buang and Berna, say they just love the cool mountain air, the quietness and peacefulness and splendour and beauty of life at Rainbow Heights.

All Photos by Veronica Hatutasi