


# SwireNews

 SWIRE

3rd ISSUE 2009



# CONTENTS

## Newsire 1



## Features

The Upper House  
– Breaking with  
Tradition **10**



Leadership with a  
Difference **18**



## From the Archives

Blue Flue **24**



## In the Community 28



## In Your Shoes

Eco Warrior **26**



*The Swire group is a multi-national, multi-disciplined commercial group, with its principal areas of operations in the Asia Pacific region, and centred on the Greater China area. Hong Kong is home to publicly quoted Swire Pacific, whose core businesses are grouped under five operating divisions: property, aviation, beverages, marine services, and trading & industrial. John Swire & Sons Ltd., headquartered in the UK, is the parent company and corporate co-ordinator of the group. In addition to its controlling shareholding in Swire Pacific, John Swire & Sons Ltd. operates a range of wholly-owned businesses, including deep-sea shipping, cold storage, off-shore and road transport logistics services and agricultural activities with main areas of operation in Australia, Papua New Guinea, East Africa, Sri Lanka, the USA and the UK.*

*Please send material to the Editor, GPO Box 1, Hong Kong, or email us at [msw@jsshk.com](mailto:msw@jsshk.com). For pictures, we welcome prints, colour slides or computer graphics in JPG format (500dpi and 20cm x 16cm), and digital photos taken by cameras with 8 Megapixels or above.*

*Swire News is published in Hong Kong, by the Group Public Affairs Department.*

Copyright©2009

---

**Maisie Shun Wah** Editor

---

**Charlotte Bleasdale** Deputy Editor

---

**Cindy Cheung** Manager

---

**Barry Chu** Manager Design/Production



# ECO-WARRIOR

**As part of its commitment to supporting rainforest studies in Papua New Guinea, Steamships Trading Company has sponsored a post-graduate scholarship for a young national intern biologist based at the Papua New Guinea Institute of Biological Research to study overseas. Junior Novera, 28, has been awarded a one-year scholarship to study for a Masters Degree in Environmental Science at the University of Lancaster in the UK. This is the first international post-graduate scholarship that Steamships has supported in the field of environmental bioscience, and is part of the British High Commission's Chevening Scholarship Programme.**

"I come from Kunua village in the North West District of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. I am the eldest son in my family, with two brothers and two sisters, and my father is a subsistence farmer and my mother a nurse. I did my primary schooling at Kunua – though this wasn't a smooth six years' education, as the Bougainville crisis was reaching its peak in 1988 and 1989; fortunately, I managed to complete my primary education in 1995. In 1996, I went on to Bishop Wade Secondary School and after completing Higher School Certificate, I was selected to the University of Papua New Guinea to do my Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Biology and Chemistry. Having completed my BSc. in 2005, I joined the Wildlife Conservation Society-PNG programme, based at Goroka in Eastern Highlands Province, as an Intern Research Biologist.

As part of an ongoing study by WCS-PNG on wildlife use by local communities in rural PNG societies, I then completed a hunting study for my Honours dissertation on game animals consumed by the rural communities in PNG. This was a collaborative

and comprehensive study of a subject that impacts on the survival of many species in PNG and also the survival and health of the majority of the human population. About 86% of the people still live in rural communities and they practise subsistence agriculture, hunting and gathering. My task was to collect data on the hunting practices of the Mianmin people in the Telefomin District of Sandaun Province, who depend almost entirely on subsistence hunting for protein. There were significant differences in the prey killed by men and women: males captured more mammals and birds; women captured more reptiles and amphibians.



The study addressed factors affecting the availability of game animals to hunters and will help us design proper management protocols for sustainable hunting practices. In the long run, similar hunting studies would also enable us to identify factors such as the spatial distribution and ecological requirements of wild game species, key land-tenure systems, land-use changes and political, socio-economic and ecological transitions



affecting wild game conservation. Governments, resource owners and conservation-minded stakeholders would be able to use the knowledge gained to formulate socially sound and environmentally friendly management protocols to help conserve wild game species and sustain rural communities' dependency on bush meat for subsistence use.

PNG is so blessed with its natural resources – timber, minerals, gas, marine life, to name a few. It is also rich in biodiversity, hosting about 5 % of the world's total biodiversity. Natural resources are mainly extracted for the economic growth of the country. Obviously, a country needs money to sustain itself as a nation and these resources are the key; however, if people don't act to minimise, mitigate or remediate the harmful effects of logging, mining, agriculture etc, then there is going to be calamity as a result of nature not being balanced. Mining, logging and agriculture are the anthropogenic factors contributing most to the damage done to the environment in PNG, yet more and more rural communities are venturing into logging and mining for huge – and fast – money.

My dream job since childhood was to become a military pilot and I didn't have any clue whatsoever about conservation – even when I was doing my undergraduate degree at UPNG. I was first inspired to become a conservation biologist when I attended two training courses hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in 2004 and 2005. After attending these courses, I started to realise the fundamentals and challenges for biodiversity and conservation in PNG. In PNG, conservation is very challenging and it's not an easy task for individuals, NGOs, the Government and other stakeholders dedicating their time and efforts to create a healthy green environment. I am proud to be a conservationist and to work towards preserving

the earth's natural biodiversity and creating a better place for men to live in. This is the approach that the Papua New Guinea Institute of Biological Research (PNGIBR) – a newly formed NGO which I am attached to – aims to achieve in conserving PNG's biodiversity: build capacity for future biologists, raise awareness of how the environment can be saved from detrimental impacts and find possible solutions.

This scholarship is a dream-come-true for me, as I have been aiming to further my studies since completing my Honours degree. There are environmental issues in PNG which need to be solved at a local and global level by people with innovative new ideas. One way is through the provision of scholarships that give scholars opportunities to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge, get the exposure and at the same time build networks and collaborate with people who share a common interest.

This is my first overseas trip to the United Kingdom, which I am finding so interesting and very different from PNG. I am slowly adapting to the climate, food, people. I look forward to learning as much as possible here at Lancaster University and especially to gaining skills and knowledge which are applicable to the PNG context. In terms of biodiversity, the UK is very different from tropical countries like PNG. However, this is not limiting me as I continue my education journey: for my Masters dissertation I am planning to do a project on wildlife consumption and management in PNG or the tropics – I am still working on a possible project but it's going to be a paper on wildlife use and management. All in all, it is a great exposure and experience for me and I am very thankful to Swire and Steamships for investing in me. After completing my studies, I plan to go back to PNG and put my studies to use for the betterment of PNG and the world as a whole." ■