

PETER MIVA

Policy, defends it and justifies its objectives.

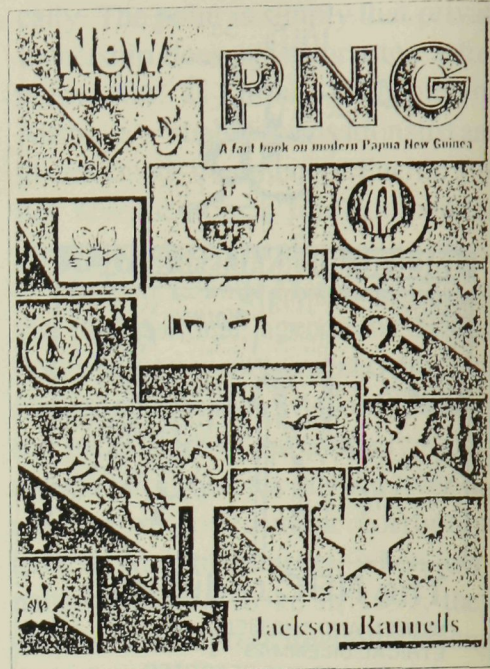
Fr Diosnel Centurion, then of the Divine Word Institute, discusses the prophetic role of Christian media and the edition editor, David Robie, examines some of the ethical dilemmas posed by the policy.

Anna Solomon discusses the role of women in the media, and a transcript of Australian TV journalist Deborah Richards' ABC *Four Corners* documentary 'Bush Bugarap' and its very good interview with then Forest Minister Tim Neville is published. Veteran *Times of PNG* (now replaced by the *Saturday Independent*) columnist James Pinder, alter ego of Paul Cox, has his share of input, where he examines the progress and growth of the PNG news media in the past 25 years. Former radio journalist Sorariba Nash relates the disturbing trends in the Government offices.

Uni Tavor, the stepping stone for some of the Pacific's most talented journalists, gets credit when journalism student Jessie Waibauru gives a chronology of its early years leading to its present state of being a valued tabloid newspaper.

David Robie describes the occupational hazards of being a journalist, himself spending some time on the *Rainbow Warrior* before the bombing.

Clear, precise and detailed, this volume is a good opportunity for readers to study the work of journalists in the region — and the journos themselves. Excellent, too, for libraries.



DAVID ROBIE

Lecturer in Journalism,
University of Papua New Guinea

Basic facts about PNG journos can depend on

PNG: A Fact Book on Modern Papua New Guinea, Jackson Rannells, Melbourne: Oxford University Press, Second Edition, 1995, 312 pp. ISBN 0-19-553679-7. Price: K21

WHAT DO barramundi, birds of paradise, the Censorship Board, village courts, malnutrition, *Wantok*, PMVs, Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan and the Pangu Pati have in common? They're all featured in the second edition of Jack Rannells' handy *PNG: A Fact Book*.

In fact, 'handy' is an understatement.

ment. Although this 212-page reference book is designed primarily for the country's schools, it is an indispensable aid for any newsroom library. And it is a must for any self-respecting PNG journalist.

Even visiting journos here on assignment would find it useful to get their background facts right.

They'd learn, for example, that *commercial music* recording in PNG began in 1949. But the introduction of inexpensive cassettes and players in the 1970s brought a boom ... The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) began recording in 1977, Chin H Meen in 1980, Vista in 1981, and Pacific Gold in 1983. By 1994, more than 3000 commercial recordings had been released. Ninety two per cent of them were from PNG studios, which featured popular and gospel music. EM TV began showing video clips of PNG music in 1990 ...

Purari River in the Gulf is PNG's 'third-biggest river in terms of volume. Its Wahgi, Tua, Kaugel, Erave and Lamari tributaries drain an area of 33,000 sq km in the central and southern Highlands. The Purari empties into the shallow Gulf of Papua, where the soil it carries has created a large delta.'

Pyrethrum 'is a poisonous chemical made from dried Highlands daisy flowers ... [it] grows best higher than 2100 m above sea level, where it gets very cold at night... The chemical [spray to kill insects] is produced in a factory at Kagamuga, WHP. Exports totalled K367,000 in 1992. The United States

is the major buyer.'

Television: 'PNG is one of the few countries in the world where television is an advertising-supported, private business rather than a government service. The Government exercises only a few controls, such as banning the showing of pornography and techniques for committing crimes. Media Niiugini (Em TV), the only company operating in early 1994, is a subsidiary of Australia's Nine network. It uses satellite to broadcast from eight towns ... EM TV estimates a regular audience of more than 400,000 ...'

This is an updated and revised second edition of the popular fact book that first appeared five years ago and was twice reprinted in 1991 and 1993.

As Rannells admits in his foreword, 'Writing a fact-oriented book in an emerging nation is a challenge. Updating the book can seem like madness. Earlier reports have been discontinued. Their formats have been changed. There are wide discrepancies between old and new data. Who knows which to believe?'

Indeed, as he points out, Government departments change names, functions, locations, and personnel. 'People who were helpful before are no longer there. Then list of problems goes on and on.' Since the original edition was compiled in the late 1980s, Papua New Guinea has had a national census, parliamentary elections, economic problems from the Bougainville crisis and several other upheavals.

DAVID ROBIE

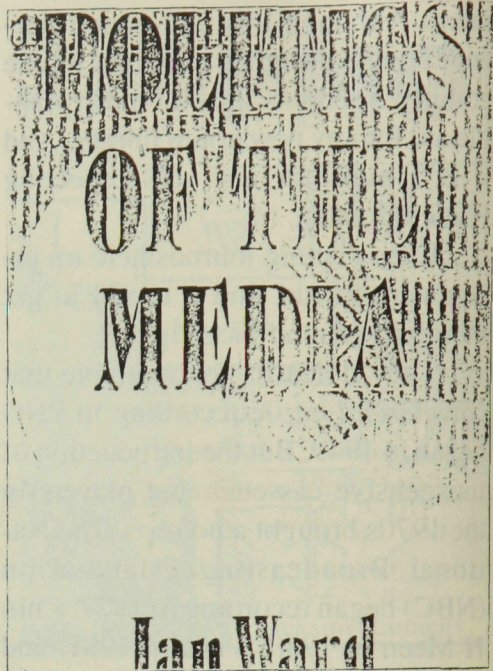
Among the many people Rannells acknowledges for their help in preparing this fact book is his wife, Eve. At the time of the first edition she was PNG Collection Librarian at the National Library and now she is Law Collection Librarian at the University of PNG.

The *Times of Papua New Guinea* and its successor, the *Saturday Independent*, have been quick to recognise this book's value by running a series of double-page educational fact spreads' on the country's system of government and the provinces.

What does the book say about the now deceased and lamented *Times*? 'Another weekly [in addition to *Wantok*] published by Word. Founded in 1980, it analyses PNG and world political and economic news.'

Disappointing. Rannells could have been more informative than that. In fact, the whole 27-line section on newspapers needs to be extensively expanded with more detail in the next edition.

Still, this is a small blemish on what is generally a fine reference volume.



DAVID ROBIE

Lecturer in Journalism,
University of Papua New Guinea

The blurring of the lines between PR and journalism

Politics of the Media, Ian Ward, Melbourne: Macmillan Educational Publishers, 1995, 322 pp. ISBN 0-7329-2789-7. Price: Not supplied.

LIKE MANY countries, the pressure of 'fax journalism' is a problem in South Pacific nations. Fax or hacks journalism?

Enterprising public relations offices in mining or petroleum companies, chambers of commerce, and Government departments and ministries know that they can easily get their