



Singsings, Sutures and Sorcery

A 50 year experience in Papua New Guinea:
 A dokta at large in the land of the unexpected
 Anthony J Radford
 Mosaic Press
 9781743240601
 \$45.00 *R.R.P.*

Papua New Guinea is 'The Land of the Unexpected'. Surely no one has written a book on PNG quite like *Singsings, Sutures & Sorcery*.

This story begins in the late 1950s, when as a medical student the author is dropped into an isolated enclave of Europeans surrounded by mountains in the Central Highlands of New Guinea. Four years later, he returns, going on to establish comprehensive training programmes in rural medicine, while serving as the only doctor for 50, 000 people. After a decade, he leaves PNG, returning on numerous occasions as a consultant over the next 40 years...

Smell the smoked-filled thatched tropical igloos in which the highland people lived. Travel the Highlands Highway. Share his extraordinary professional life, doing things his peers at home never dreamed about, and trace his relationships with both villagers and the growing group of educated people of the country. Learn if pythons can swallow crocodiles and how he became the 'Keeper of the Royal Bedbugs'. Walk in his garden with the world's biggest butterfly. Climb Mount Wilhelm the nation's tallest mountain and cross the Kokoda Track. Re-live the terrible explosion of the erupting volcano of Mount Lamington. Join in the world's most colourful outdoor parties with dancers bedecked in Bird of Paradise plumes. Try speaking Pidgin English.

Revisit PNG with him as he observes the changes in the newly independent country and renews relationships developed over half a century. And finally, join the welcome home with garlands, dancing and feasting, tears and laughter as his family return for the first time in 40 years to the village alongside the hospital where they had lived...

The story covers a 50-year experience in PNG from pre-self-government with missionaries, miners and administrators to a country listed as one of the most corrupt, violent and least comfortable places in the world in which to live, one still struggling to forge an identity and assert itself as an independent nation. Magnificent photographs, a glossary and an index complement the text..

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