



## RMAP BULLETIN 15 OCTOBER 2004

### RMAP PROGRAM NEWS

**John Burton** has recently been employed by the RMAP Program as a Research Fellow for 6 months. John was a lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, 1985-91; then a Canberra based consultant working on social mapping and social impact studies in Papua New Guinea, 1992-2001; then Senior Anthropologist at the Native Title Office, Torres Strait Regional Authority, Thursday Island, 2001-2003.

At RMAP he will be revisiting two projects he worked on between 1990 and 1995 concerning the social impacts of mining at the Ok Tedi and Porgera mines in Papua New Guinea. At Ok Tedi, he led a field team of six that visited some 110 villages downstream of the mine in 1991, 1992 and 1994. Other team members at RMAP are Colin Filer, then joint co-ordinator of the Ok Tedi project and now RMAP's convener, and David Lawrence, now a Visiting Fellow at RMAP. At Porgera, he worked principally with Glenn Banks, a doctoral student in RSPAS, now at the Australian Defence Force Academy and a close associate of RMAP, and Susy Bonnell, of Thornlands, Brisbane. The new work will bring to publication a dozen unpublished reports from the earlier work and is aimed at securing funding for studies of the impact of mine closure at Ok Tedi, scheduled to cease production in 2010 (<http://www.oktedi.com/>), and Porgera, which on probable reserves (<http://www.placerdome.com/operations/porgera/porgera.html>) will cease production in 2012.

Together, the two mines contribute about 31% of PNG's export earnings. Closure will have severe effects at both provincial and national levels in PNG, and because of the strong integration of logistical support for these mines in the economy to North Queensland, has significant implications for the Australia-Papua New Guinea bilateral relationship.

John is located in Room 5027 on x55939 (6125 5939 from outside ANU)

### SEMINARS OF INTEREST

#### **Water security: Research & planning management challenges**

Paul Perkins, Adjunct Professor in the Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies (CRES), ANU. Recently retired as CEO of ACTEW Corporation  
Date & time: Monday 18 October, 5.30pm  
Venue: Forestry Lecture Theatre, Building 48, Linnaeus Way, ANU  
(National Institute for Environment Public Lecture)

#### **How scarce are Australia's natural resources, and how are they being managed?**

Bob Harrison, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)  
Date & time: Tuesday 19 October, 4.00 pm  
Venue: Seminar Room, Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, Level 5, Hancock Building West Wing (#043), ANU  
(ANU Economics And Environment Network (EEN) Seminar)

#### **New concepts for orangutan and nature conservation in Indonesia**

Sir dr Willie Smits, Director of the Schmutzer Primate Center in Jakarta, Director of The Gibbon Foundation, founder of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation

Date & time: Wednesday 10 November, 1.00pm  
Venue: Botany And Zoology Seminar Room, ANU  
(Botany and Zoology Seminar)

## RECENT ADDITIONS TO RMAP WEBSITE

### Conference Calendar

([http://rspas.anu.edu.au/rmap/conf\\_calendar.html](http://rspas.anu.edu.au/rmap/conf_calendar.html))

1. **Myanmar/Burma Update 2004** to be held at The Coombs Theatre, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU. One item on the provisional agenda that may be of interest is an **update on agricultural and environmental developments**.

Conference website: <http://rspas.anu.edu.au/polsoc/Myanmar/>

Registration: There is no registration fee but for administrative purposes it is requested that you register your interest to attend on the conference website above.

2. First announcement: '**Farming Systems and Poverty: Making a Difference**', to be held in Rome, 12-16 September 2005, under the auspices of the International Farming Systems Association (IFSA), with FAO and IFAD. Themes will be: (1) Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Policies in a Globalizing World; (2) Trade and Market Linkages; (3) Knowing and Learning Processes; (4) Development Strategies, Pathways and Synergies. Regional focal points for further information: VoTong Xuan (Asia) [v.xuan@cgiar.org](mailto:v.xuan@cgiar.org); Christine King (Australia & Pacific) [christine.king@uq.edu.au](mailto:christine.king@uq.edu.au). To subscribe to the Farming Systems Update listserv, please send a message addressed to [mailserv@mailserv.fao.org](mailto:mailserv@mailserv.fao.org) - in the body of the message write 'Subscribe Farming-Systems-Update-L'.