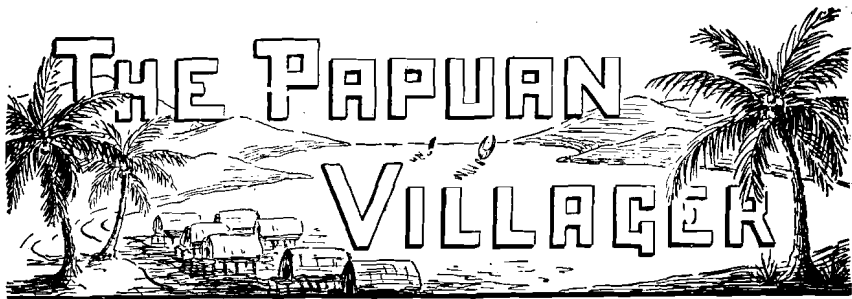


# THE PAPUAN VILLAGER



Vol. 10, No. 3  
March, 1938

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Published by the Government Printer, Port Moresby, Papua

Price: Two Pence  
1s. per annum in Papua  
2s. per annum, post free  
elsewhere

## Birds that Cannot Fly

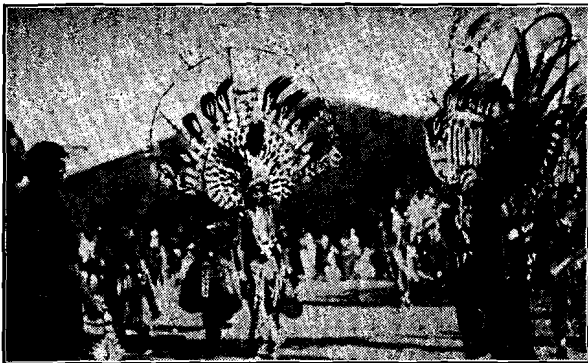
Some subscribers have been writing about the cassowary, a big bird that cannot fly. But he is not the only one. He has some relations in other parts of the world. They have all come down from the same long-ago ancestor; but, since they have lived so long in different places, they have become different themselves. They are the Ostrich of Africa, the Rhea of South America,

the Kiwi of New Zealand, and the Emu of Australia.

Their long-ago ancestor gave up flying for some reason; and ever since his children, and children's children, have walked on the ground. They all have very small wings, long necks, and long, strong legs.

### The Ostrich

The ostrich is the largest of all birds. He sometimes stands 8 ft. high; he can weigh 300 lb.; and his



Dancers at the Parade Ground—Visit of the "Stella Polarix"

A. & K. GIBSON PHOTO

wife's egg weighs 3 lb. (It is said to be as big as 18 ordinary hen's eggs.)

The ostrich can run very fast—26 miles an hour. He has only two toes, and one of them is very big and solid. He could give you a good kick with it.

In Africa they chase the ostrich on horseback for sport, and sometimes they catch him with the "lassoo" (a long loop of rope which they throw about his neck as he runs). And the native hunters kill him with poisoned arrows.

But they also keep ostriches just as we keep fowls. The birds live together in big farms, and from time to time the cocks have their beautiful tail feathers pulled out. European women sometimes wear these feathers in their hats, and on their clothes, and so they are valuable. (The Editor hopes no reader will pull any more tail-feathers out of his rooster because he hears this.)

The ostrich is rather a fierce bird, but he makes a good husband. He takes turns with his wife at sitting on the eggs. She sits by day and he by night.

#### The Rhea

The rhea is not so big as an ostrich but it is said he can run as fast or faster. His wings are not big enough to fly with; but when running he raises one of them to catch the wind like a sail; and then he can leave the fastest horse or dog behind.

But the hunters catch them with "bolas." The bolas are weights joined together by long cords, and these are thrown at the rhea as it runs. Flying through the air the cord gets tangled around the bird's legs and it falls to the ground.

The rheas are even better husbands than the ostriches, for the males sit on the eggs all the time. Each husband has a number of wives and each wife a number of husbands. And as several females lay in the same nest the eggs make a very mixed family.

#### The Kiwi

The kiwi is a good deal smaller, and he is not a very fast runner like his cousins. His proper name is "Apteryx." The meaning of that dreadful-looking word is simply "without wings." For the kiwi's wings have become so small that you cannot find them except by searching among his feathers. He has no tail at all.

The kiwi lays the biggest egg for its size of all birds. It is famous for that. It is also famous among Papuan house boys because it gives its name to the polish they put on their *Taubada's* boots. Next time you clean them just look at the picture on the top of the lid.

#### The Emu

We now come to a very close cousin of the cassowary. He is called the emu, and he lives not far away in Australia. He is a bigger bird than the cassowary, though not so fine to look at. His feathers are a dull brown colour.

He is a good runner and a good kicker. Those who hunt him have to go *after* him on horses. They tire him down, and when they have caught him they seize him at once by the neck, so that he cannot kick. The emu is the best of all husbands; he sits on the eggs for 60 days.

#### The Cassowary

You should know all about your own cassowary: his sharp toe, his

brightly-coloured head and neck, his way of gobbling down fruit, and so on. We should like to hear more from some reader who has not yet written. We suppose he sits on his eggs like his cousins; but no writer told us about that.

#### Postage Stamps

Postage stamps are very much like money. But there is one big difference. A shilling can be used again

marked, it must never be put on a letter again. That postage stamp is dead.

Some boys have been putting used stamps on letters and the Treasurer has asked the Editor to write about it. He is not very angry with the boys because they do not know the rule. But it is a rule, and it must not be broken. A man can be punished for putting used stamps on letters.



Papuan Stamp—Unused

and again. It passes from hand to hand and is used many thousands of times.

But a postage stamp may be used only once. You have to pay twopenny for a twopenny stamp. Then if you put it on a letter the Post Office will carry your letter to your friend. They "cancel" the stamp which means that they make a mark on it with ink. Once it is cancelled, or

#### A World Cruise

On 27th February, the *Reliance* came to Port Moresby. She is a very big ship—19,821 tons with three great big funnels. She was so well fitted-out that she had a little garden on board with lots of flowers. The passengers are travelling round the world for a holiday.

The *Reliance* started her voyage or

"cruise" from New York and she has been to Europe, Suez, India, Singapore, Java, Thursday Island, and Port Moresby. From there she will go to Sydney, Fiji, Honolulu, and San Francisco. You can look at the map of the world if you have got one and see where she has gone.

#### A Passenger Left Behind

The *Reliance* entered Port Moresby harbour twice on the same voyage. She was supposed to leave at 7 p.m.; but, thinking all her passengers were aboard, she left about 6.30 p.m. But one man was left behind. He sent a wireless to the big ship and she had to come back and get him.

#### Tale of the Tail of a Pig or The Pig and the Pigeon

We read in *The Papuan Courier* of a man of Hohodae who owned some pigeons. They were very good pigeons, said to be worth 5s. each.

The pigeons used to walk and fly

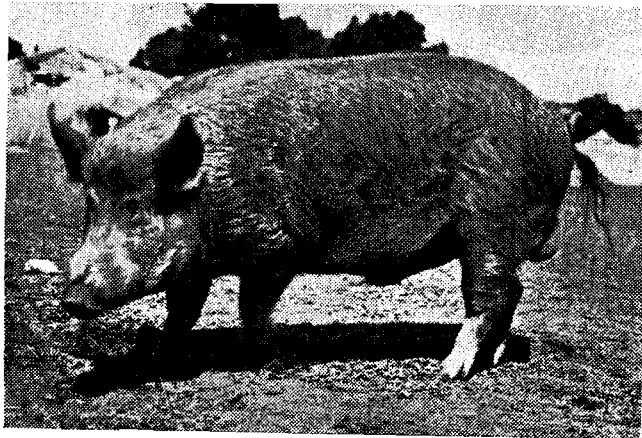
about the village. But one day another man's pig caught one of the pigeons and ate it. The wife of the pigeon-man saw the pig doing this, and she was very angry. She said to herself, "We shall make a case about this"; and, to mark the pig, she cut its tail off. There could then be no mistake—that pig was the pigeon-eater.

But the pig was not frightened or sorry, for a day or so after it killed and ate another pigeon.

Then there was a case. The woman brought the pig's tail into Court as exhibit A.

But the Magistrate could not help her. The pig had not yet got a real habit of killing pigeons, and its owner did not know it was doing wrong. Besides pigeons ought to be able to fly out of the way. So the Magistrate told the woman to give back the pig's tail.

We hope the pig won't get the habit properly and teach it to its brothers and sisters.



Not the Pig that Ate the Pigeon

#### Retirement of Mr. Harris

The Treasurer, Hon. E. C. Harris, has left the Papuan Service after 30 years. He began in the Treasury at Samarai; and he kept on being promoted till 1927 when he was made Treasurer.

Besides serving the Territory Mr. Harris always found time for cricket. He was a very good cricketer himself, and he helped the Papuan cricketers in many ways. They will be sorry to think their cricketing friend has left, and will wish him all success in the future.

#### Miss Hitchens's Plane

Last month we told you about the young woman who flew from Sydney to Wau. She got off her track and came down in the grass many miles from the Wau aerodrome.

But some natives lived nearby and they were very friendly. She slept in their village. Next day they helped her clear away the grass. But when she tried to take-off the machine's wheel got caught in the grass and it turned over. Then luckily another plane found her and so she got to Wau.

#### Paper from Coconut Husks

Most of the paper that we use is made from wood pulp. This is wood that is crushed up very fine and turned into paper.

Another kind of paper can be made from *kurukuru* grass. There is lots of this grass in Papua and a big company, we hope, is to turn this into paper.

Now a Frenchman has discovered a way of making paper from coconut husks. It is said to be good and cheap. If this is true there are plenty of coconut husks in Papua for him to use.

#### Honour to a Native Missionary

Fifty years ago a missionary from the Gilbert Islands landed in Nauru. His name was Timoteo Tabwia. He and the missionaries who came after him made Christians of the Nauru Islanders.

Now they have been having a 50 years anniversary. About 1,000 people came together. The flags were flying and the band playing and everyone was singing.

This was in honour of Tabwia. They have put up a monument where he landed, and they had a play to show how he came ashore 50 years ago.

Tabwia is still alive. But he now lives on another island. He was too old to make the journey to Nauru.

#### Old Women Last

There is a story told of a European traveller who was wading a river with a lot of natives. He noticed that the old women were told to follow last of all. When the party got to the other side, the traveller asked why the old women had to come last. "Well, it's this way," explained a man. "A crocodile will not attack those who go first. The noise they make frightens it. So it waits for those who come slowly and weakly behind." The traveller would have liked to ask why the old women were picked on, but

thought he had better not. Anyway, he thought he had a good idea why.

—R.A.V.

## Native Contributions

### The Cassowary Competition

Ten people sent in articles for the Cassowary Competition. Their names are:—

George Scott, Catholic Mission, Yule Island; Vincent Arekeni, Anglican Mission, Dogura; another by Vincent Arekeni; Vernon Kaiogiogi, Dogura; Lucian Tapiedi, Dogura; Kenneth Osembo, Dogura; Carson Osembo, Dogura; F. Tuamingi Anvita, L.M.S. Yokea; Toa Opa, L.M.S. Yokea; Forova Hui, L.M.S. Yokea; M. Gera Kevere, N.M.A. Daru.

The best was written by George Scott; but some of the others will be published later on.

### The Cassowary

We always think of birds as being able to fly, but there are some that cannot fly at all, such as the ostrich, the emu, and our Papuan cassowary. Of these I wish to draw your attention on to the latter.

The cassowary is a very large bird, and rather a curious one too. This huge bird has lost entirely its power on the wing. They have wings but these are so short and useless you may never notice them. Their legs have

been developed at the expense of their wings. They have three strong toes on each foot and they kick sideways. Their legs are so strong that they may kill a dog with one kick. One may notice them among the tall grass for they range from four to five feet in height. When alarmed they are said to run at a wonderful rate. The leg bone, when nicely cleaned and carved, makes fine lime-sticks for chewing betel.

### Hunting Them

There are several ways of catching them. Some people hunt them with nets. They lay out the net in the form of a semi-circle, and then go round and have a chase with their dogs. If one gets caught they close up and spear it. These birds are noted to be very timid; but when with her young she is said to be a very dangerous foe.

Others lay traps for them. They watch for the animal's favourite place and there they set their traps. Of course the people hunt them with guns too.

### What They Eat

They live on bush berries and nuts, on grass and other green herbs in the bush. It is said that they would give a well-laden tree a few smart kicks in order to let fall some of the fruit thereon. Like our tame fowls they swallow small stones and other hard substances to help them digest their food.

### Its Feathers

The feathers of the cassowary are not so



Yam Harvest, Trobriand Islands

very pretty in colour, yet they are often in demand. The colour of the feathers is dark grey, or rather black. The head and neck are loosely covered with short feathers. The other part of the body is thickly covered except the legs which are quite bare. Some people use the feathers for head-dressing when at a dance. Good dusters are also made from its feathers.

### The Eggs

The female, which is smaller than the male, lays eggs. The eggs are of a greenish colour dotted with little white spots. One being measured was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Like most birds I suppose she lays at the breeding period of the year. One very seldom finds a dozen in a nest. Sometimes they are just laid on the bare ground. Sometimes little bits of sticks and leaves are raked together, but even the best nest is a very crude affair. The egg shell when nicely cleaned makes a very pretty ornament.

### Conclusion

I will conclude by adding the following tale which I have heard. It is said that once upon a time this huge bird used to fly about like the rest of the birds. Being a very big bird it used to eat up almost all the fruit so that the other birds could scarcely find enough to eat.

So one day all the birds had a meeting of how they could get rid of Mr. Cassowary. One of them said, "We will play a trick on him, and by doing so we will be able to break his wings."

So they made a big feast and invited Mr. Cassowary. The birds had already selected for themselves two bits of dried sticks and had placed them under their wings.

When all had enjoyed the feast and were well satisfied, one of the birds boldly addressed the cassowary saying, "Now Mr. Cassowary we want you to try and break your big wings." "Friend," said the Cassowary, "break first your wings and then I'll break mine." To this they quickly agreed. Each one had his turn to break his wings, but each time deceiving the Cassowary by breaking the little sticks hidden under their wings, instead of their little bones.

"Now it is your turn," they said. Not knowing it was a trick he began picking at his wings with his great beak. In a very short time he had his wings hanging and powerless.

"Now," said the other birds, "for being so greedy you will no more live with us in the air but eat what falls on the ground." So, saying this, they flew away leaving poor Mr. Cassowary to his fate. Poor Mr. Cassowary tried to follow but in doing so fell to the ground. From that time on he stayed and lived on the ground.

This is the end.

[By George Scott, Catholic Mission, Yule Island. This article wins the 5s. prize.]

## Miss Riley's Life in Papua

Miss E. W. Riley landed in Port Moresby in 1930. She came to teach the Papuan children, and to help our country. She wanted us to understand knowledge and to become Christian boys and girls.

She used to teach the children at Metoreia, the first L.M.S. station in Papua. By her work so many boys and girls know school wisdom, and some of them succeed in the Government examinations.

She wrote one book in English, another in Motu language, because she knew well about the Motu and how to use it.

This is a wonderful thing she did for all Papuan Christian churches. Now many Papuans who understand English can read these wonderful stories about those who are in the Bible. So the most we think about her work is that she wrote a book filled with wonderful things when having her holiday.

Now that is a sign of her vast love to all Papuan people. Also she was a leader of the Papuan Girl Guides and so long as she reigned she taught much special advice. And she was one of the love-abiding persons in her lifetime.

All we people stood in Hula church one morning and Velepara said, "We send a message of sadness to her five big brothers and her mother and father." She wrote when she was with them, "I am coming back to my adopted country." A few months later she was buried in our land.

[By Renagu Liga, Raukele Mission schoolboy, Hula.]

## A Great Day at Buna

It was a welcome change for the villages of Buna District to hold a sports day and dance on Saturday, 1st January, 1938. Old and

new acquaintances would be revived, and a very pleasant day would be spent in a very comfortable manner.

People from every district assembled on the eve of 31st December, 1937. The next morning, 1st January, a multitude gathered together and marched around the parade ground led by Armed Constables with rifles and the interpreter in front with a flag. There could be seen about 800 or 900 people.

But the chief feature of the day's outing was a programme of athletic sports, which brought out numerous competitors and keen competition. The starter and handicapper was Mr. K. C. Atkinson, son of the R.M. Great interest was taken by the spectators in all events, and there were several very close finishes.

The following are the races and their results:—

### The Races

Men's Running Race (30 heats):		
First Prize:		Second Prize:
1 stick of tobacco ... ..	... ..	—
Semi-Final, small knife ... ..	... ..	heads
Final, <i>Bagi</i> ... ..	... ..	knife
Girls under 18 years (15 heats):		
1 stick of tobacco ... ..	... ..	—
Semi-Final, 1 tin of fish ... ..	... ..	1 tin of fish
Boys under 15 years (12 heats):		
1 stick of tobacco ... ..	... ..	—
Semi-Final, 1 tin of fish ... ..	... ..	1 tin of fish
Final, small knife ... ..	... ..	heads
V.Cs. (2 heats):		
1 stick of tobacco ... ..	... ..	—
Semi-Final, knife ... ..	... ..	1 tin of fish
Councillors (3 heats):		
1 stick tobacco ... ..	... ..	—
Semi-Final, 1 tin of fish ... ..	... ..	1 tin of fish
Final, scrub knife ... ..	... ..	small knife
Canoe Race (300 yards):		
1 stick of tobacco for each of crew ... ..	... ..	—
Semi-Final, 1 tin of fish ... ..	... ..	1 tin of fish
Three-leg Race (6 heats):		
1 stick of tobacco each ... ..	... ..	—
Tug-of-War: Police versus V.Cs.; 2 to nil		

### Greasy Pole:

This is very difficult and most of the time was spent in trying. About 30 or 40 boys tried this, at last a small boy of 12 years won it. The prize was 4 sticks of tobacco and one tin of fish was tied to it.

### Football

At one o'clock a football match, Gona against Sangara, took place; the score was 1 to nil. That ended the day's sports. But the ordinary visitors were not prepared for the highly organized sports gathering.

### The Dance

The dance started at 2 p.m. and it was quite interesting to both European visitors and also the natives as well. The parade ground was filled up with people and it looked like the great day of the Governor-General's visit in Port Moresby at the Parade Grounds last year. People with beautiful and various kinds of feathers made the parade ground look the best of its kind.

One of the best dances was a Kiwai dance done by two Delta and three Hanuabada boys, and also a Kaiva-Kuku dance by Gulf boys which was well carried out, and provided plenty of amusement. To the credit of the meeting it may be said that everything went off according to schedule, and there was no accident or mishap to mar the proceedings. The best of good feeling prevailed amongst the crowd, and the smiling faces to be seen everywhere afforded testimony of the enjoyment of the day. The weather was perfect, but it could be noticed that the ground was wet.

Mr. R. C. M. Turner, P.O., and Mr. K. C. Atkinson viewed all the events with much satisfaction. The whole programme was completed at about 6 p.m. It was the end of a perfect day.

Next day at 9 a.m. Mr. O. J. Atkinson, R.M., delivered a neat speech, expressing his pleasure at attending so happy a gathering. He said that such a gathering promoted good fellowship and proved the friendship that existed amongst the people of Buna Bay district as well as other people in every part of Papua.

The gratitude of the people was expressed by proclaiming that Mr. Atkinson was a kind man, and soon afterwards the visitors started off, making for home.

My best wishes to the readers for the coming year.

[By Toua Kapena, N.M.A., c/o R.M., Buna Bay.]

STORIES, Etc., ONLY TO BE SENT TO THE EDITOR. ALL OTHER COMMUNICATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, PORT MORESBY

"THE PAPUAN VILLAGER" BOUND VOLUME 1937 Obtainable from the Government Printer, 2s.

Printed and published for the Department of the Government Secretary by WALTER ALFRED BOCK, Government Printer, Port Moresby.—8805/8.38.