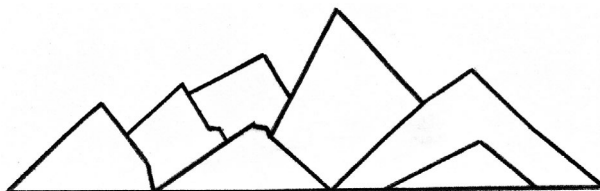


# PART 1. TIDAL WAVE FROM THE WEST

Melanesia has been invaded by a huge tidal wave from the West in the form of colonisation and Christianisation. Like any tidal wave, the West came mercilessly, with all the force and power, toppling over our earth, destroying our treasures, depositing some rich soil, but also leaving behind much rubbish. This Western tidal wave has also set in motion chain reactions within ourselves and a thirst for a better future.

— Bernard Narakobi (1980, 8)



This text is taken from *Roars from the Mountain: Colonial Management of the 1951 Volcanic Disaster at Mount Lamington*, by R. Wally Johnson, published 2020 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.