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Recollection of Glenn Summerhayes' relationship with the Papua New Guinea National Museum and Art Gallery

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Glenn's relationship with the National Museum and Art Gallery (NMAG)

Professor Glenn Summerhayes' interest in Papua New Guinea (PNG) archaeology began in 1986 when he worked on pottery from Jim Specht's fieldwork in North Solomons (Autonomous Region of Bougainville) for his MA dissertation at Sydney University (Summerhayes 1987). The Solomons research eventually paved the way for numerous archaeological projects in the Bismarck Archipelago, the north and south coasts of Papua New Guinea, the Central Highlands (Goilala) (Summerhayes et al. 2010), the northern fringes of the Papua New Guinea Highlands (Simbai-Kaironk) and the Sepik–Ramu trough.

During this time, the head of archaeology at PNG National Museum and Art Gallery (NMAG) in Port Moresby was Dr Pamela Swadling, until 1999 when the position became nationalised. National archaeologists such as Nick Araho, the late Herman Mandui, and Alois Kuaso worked in the prehistory branch and trained under Dr Swadling to be stewards of Papua New Guinea's archaeological and cultural heritage. Araho reported to Swadling as a principal curator. A few years later, Mandui joined as an impact archaeologist. He was followed by Kuaso in 1997 as a traditional sites curator—a junior role that Kenneth Miamba occupied in 2016 after Kuaso became the Deputy Director. Glenn has worked with four generations of PNG National Museum indigenous archaeologists.

Glenn's intimate connection with the prehistory staff from the museum began more than 36 years ago when he first set foot in Port Moresby. The late Herman Mandui was Glenn's closest colleague in PNG. Besides Mandui was the late Baiva Ivuyo, technical staff within the prehistory branch, and Kuaso, who was once a student of Glenn's at The Australian National University in Canberra. Henry Arifeae is another close colleague of Glenn's; they have worked together in PNG on many projects. Glenn is a great friend of NMAG and a stalwart of PNG archaeology. It will be a sad day when he finally hangs up his field boots and we no longer see him in our corridors.

PNG is everything to Glenn, a country where he devoted much of the energy and time of his career as a researcher, and a place he called a second home. A particular province in PNG he loves the most would be New Ireland, which he always calls 'Bilas peles' [beautiful place]. It was also during fieldwork in New Ireland that he met his wife.

On 2014 Queen's Birthday, Glenn was made an Officer of Logohu (OL) in Port Moresby, in recognition of his contribution to archaeological heritage and research in PNG.

His contribution to Papua New Guinea archaeology

Glenn's contribution to PNG archaeology is immeasurable. He is one of the few international archaeologists who has frequented the country despite its diverse cultural complexities, geographical constraints, remoteness and isolation, and sometimes negative stories in the media. He has contributed indispensable knowledge to the understanding of the prehistory of Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.

In quest of the Lapita Cultural Complex, Glenn spent many years working in the Bismarck Archipelago and the north coast of Papua New Guinea. He has worked in Bougainville, New Ireland, New Britain, Central Province, Manus, Morobe, Madang and the Sepik. He also spent a few years on the south central Papuan coast, particularly Yule Island.

To further understand prehistoric exchange and interaction between the Austronesians and Papuan groups, he also undertook numerous projects on the mainland of New Guinea. His energetic pursuit of PNG archaeology has paid off with the two most significant discoveries up in the Ivane Valley of Goilala District, and the Simbai-Kaironk Valley systems of Middle Ramu District.

In 2009 Glenn led a team of archaeologists and students into the Ivane Valley of Goilala. The discovery of the 50,000-year-old archaeological site in the Ivane Valley of Goilala District in the Central Highlands of Papua New Guinea is a significant achievement for the archaeology of Sahul and the country (Summerhayes et al. 2010). Not only did it set the earliest chronological age for the settlement history of the inhabitants of New Guinea and the Pacific. It was a discovery that also explained occupation and survival strategies in higher altitudes, and demonstrated that the colonisation of New Guinea and offshore islands was a rapid process. Today, we can hear bureaucrats and politicians in Papua New Guinea making profound statements, boasting about PNG's 50,000-year-old settlement history, 854 plus languages and diverse culture, in both the national and international arena.

In 2017 Glenn and a team of researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) excavated a pottery site in Simbai, New Guinea Highlands. It was a very significant discovery that highlighted a possible route that may have facilitated the movement of people and ideas, domesticates and cultigens via the Sepik–Ramu corridors into the highlands, along the coast and across the Pacific.

His works have been highly influential in encouraging archaeologists and scientists around the world to focus their attention on Papua New Guinea. His inspiring undergraduate lectures in universities and schools during his visits have been the catalyst that attracts a growing number of young Papua New Guineans to take up studies in anthropology, archaeology and cultural heritage studies every year at PNG universities. We thank Glenn for his infectious enthusiasm and we hope that his school of thought will continue to inspire interest and research in PNG archaeology.

His support for NMAG

Had all the previous National Museum archaeologists still been around at this time, they would have recalled and mentioned in detail all that Glenn did to support NMAG. Below is what we have heard and observed during the last five years at the PNG Museum.

Good books on Papua New Guinea are hard to find in Port Moresby. Glenn would bring books to the National Museum or send a few copies with colleagues coming for fieldwork. We have gone through several books on the prehistory office shelves and found his signatures to be good as new. Some were translated versions on early German expeditions of the Sepik and the Admiralty Islands, a book project Glenn and others had been working on for some years.

Besides books, there was a donation of field equipment and gear for the branch and staff members. The prehistory staff members' personal field gear includes several gifts from Glenn. On the shelves are pieces of equipment that Glenn and colleagues donated and have been used by everyone who came to NMAG for research. We would not hesitate to exhibit these if we were asked to by any museums.

He also assisted former staff members on many occasions to attend international conferences and symposiums in many places in the Pacific, Australia, New Zealand and Asia. He ensured that the faces and voices of indigenous PNG archaeologists could be seen and heard in the international arena.

In preparation for the 2018 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, the PNG National Museum refurbished its gallery spaces. A new exhibition was required but the time was insufficient. Glenn volunteered and wrote a didactic text and produced a map for the Lapita Cultural Complex and movement into the Pacific for the archaeology gallery.

In October 2019, Glenn successfully secured a Marsden Grant for major archaeological research in the lowland Middle Ramu area of Madang. He negotiated for two potential candidates from PNG to undertake postgraduate studies—a master's and a PhD—in archaeology at the University of Otago before he calls it a day.

A colleague and friend

Besides being an eminent scholar, Glenn has also proven to be a great friend of NMAG staff, students and many Papua New Guineans he met during his work.

Jemina Haro is a Technical Officer in the Prehistory Branch at NMAG (2015–2021):

I came to know Professor Glenn Summerhayes back in 2015. He came to NMAG to see the late Herman Mandui (Science Research and Consultancy Deputy Director). That time I got to introduce myself and meet him. I saw Glenn sitting at the Prehistory office chewing betel nut. I thought to myself, 'This white man is chewing betel nut?' He knew I was curious. He said he only chewed when he came to PNG to do work.

In 2016 we worked with his team on Motupore Island. I saw how great he worked and how the students looked up to him as a great mentor and talked well about how he has contributed to Papua New Guinea archaeology. Having read a few articles by Glenn he has done a lot for PNG archaeology.

I also worked with Professor Summerhayes on our Simbai–Kaironk trip in 2016. He led a team excavating one of the sites (Fundum), which was likely to be one of the oldest places where people lived in the Simbai–Kaironk valleys. He is a great man. I commend him for his research work in PNG.

Kenneth Miamba is a Traditional Sites Curator in the Prehistory Branch at NMAG (2016–2021):

In 2005, Glenn came to my high school (Brandi Secondary School) in Wewak and gave a talk on PNG archaeology that inspired me to study anthropology and sociology at the University of Papua New Guinea in 2007. I then met Glenn in June 2016, just after three months of employment with the National Museum and Art Gallery in Port Moresby. At the time Glenn (with Jim Allen, Anne Ford and Nick Sutton) was accompanying the staff and students from the University of Papua New Guinea on fieldwork to Motupore Island outside Port Moresby.

I was naïve and a bit shy to approach Glenn at the beginning without knowing that we would later be close friends and colleagues. I spent a few days on the island with the team and left for Aitape with other colleagues from the University of Papua New Guinea and the Notre Dame University, USA. A year later, Glenn and a team of academics, including students from the University of Otago, NZ, and UNSW, Australia, returned to Port Moresby for fieldwork in Simbai, Middle Ramu District of Madang Province. Jemina Haro (technical staff) and I from the museum accompanied the team on that trip.

There were a good number of us. We split into two teams, Fundum and Kaironk. Glenn picked all young fellows and had us in his team, the likes of Dylan Gaffney, Bennetine N’adrose and myself, a young local cook from Simbai Guest House and a few local youths, both males and females. We were excavating a 30,000-year-old site up on Fundum ridges, a saddle connecting the Bismarck and Schrader Range, overlooking Simbai Valley, eastward towards Ramu River and Kaironk Valley, westward down the Sepik River.

Glenn would check our progress at every 20-minute interval. He’d tell us about the book by Sir John Middleton on Karkar Island he read (in preparation for the Karkar project), retreated to the wind *haus* at a distance, smoke his cigarette, drink coffee and continue reading. At times some village elders would pop up and be invited by Glenn for a cigarette or coffee. We would hear an old version of New Guinea Tok Pisin coming from the thatched kunai roof, then followed by an outburst of laughter, as young Glenn lashed out his hilarious jokes.

During this time I got to know the persona of a great friend, colleague and mentor. One question he asked two other PNG colleagues and me on that trip, that is still fresh in my mind today, was: ‘If I have to give you a small grant, where would you want to spend it?’ I immediately responded that I would prefer to conduct archaeological research on the north coast of Papua New Guinea. He gave me an archaeology trowel and a tape measure and said: ‘Keep this; I have been keeping it for 12 years. It’s yours now, don’t lose it’. I received it with a firm handshake, a gesture that I regarded as prophetic for something better to come.

From then on, I got to know Glenn better. We returned to Simbai in mid-2017 to excavate a 2,700-year-old pottery site, a significant discovery in the highlands of New Guinea. Then, later on, two trips to Karkar Island. Slow and careful we walked on the rugged mountain tracks and the slippery rocks across the cold rapids of the New Guinea Highlands, and sailed on the choppy waters of the Bismarck Sea.

Working with Glenn is fun. There is no hurry. He always ensures those with him are well and happy and the job executed very efficiently. His love for archaeology and places in PNG is so intense. He is a great archaeologist who has superb public relations and field skills. The strength of his archaeology work lies in his character. He sees the positive side in every situation and every person. He has infectious humour. He is liked and admired by everyone who has met him.

One thing that gave Glenn the leverage to move around doing fieldwork is his mastery of pure Tok Pisin. He speaks an old version of Niugini Tok Pisin, something that he acquired while working in the Bismarck Archipelago and north coast of Papua New Guinea. In every community consultation in a village, he speaks in Tok Pisin and ends it with good humour. Here are popular lines from almost all of his talks in the villages that I have been with him: 'Mi wok moa long tripela ten krismas long planti hap bilong Papua Niu Guinea. Nau mi lapun nogut tru' [I have been working for more than 30 years at many places in Papua New Guinea. Now I am too old]. He used to stress the last sentence, which would make locals laugh. He is a friendly person. People get to approach him at ease. That enables him to get a great deal of information from locals very quickly.

Glenn knows well the social art of establishing a relationship and gaining respect from a New Guinean. As in every place in New Guinea and elsewhere in Melanesia, one must share to establish a relation, gain trust and make one another feel obligated. The two things that Glenn must have with him on fieldwork are coffee and British American Tobacco branded cigarettes, particularly Cambridge and Spear Rolls. Not that he loves smoking, but he shares a cup of coffee or a cigarette and cracks a joke to create friends. I have been around with Glenn in Madang for several field seasons. Elders would refer to him as *poroman* (friend), youngsters would call him papa, a few would humorously call him pater (father)—a word for a Catholic priest because of his grey hair and beard.

Glenn has a good sense of humour that also keeps those who work, and those around him, well at work and entertained. He would either say something or use facial expressions to express his sense of humour. During a busy day of work, one would hear a giggle or an outburst of laughter a few meters away from the dig site. Only to realise that people are chatting with him under the shades of trees or a temporary shelter.

Lukim yu! Gutpela poroman bilong mipela.

Loretta Hasu is the Manager, Access Education and Public Program at NMAG (2021):

Little did I know trowels would be a handy tool for archaeologists when I filled in my registration form at University of Papua New Guinea. Anthropology, sociology and archaeology was chosen as my major, fast forward to 6 months later and I read a notice outside the notice board of Kuri Dom building inviting students majoring in the strand and who have an interest in archaeology to submit their expression of interests for field research. Being the only female that year, I was fortunate enough to be selected to be part of Professor Glenn Summerhayes' team to Koil Island in the East Sepik Province.

Then, followed by archaeological projects on Yule Island along the coast, and to Kosipe in the hinterlands of the Central Province.



Figure 2.1: Glenn Summerhayes teaching Loretta Hasu field notebook recording techniques on Koil Island.

Source: Loretta Hasu.

Learning involved theories in class and practicals in the field, starting with community consultation first and foremost then to navigating through understanding techniques used in archaeology; from surface finds and landscape survey, soil stratigraphy, then to choosing an excavation site and coaching through the excavation processes using a trowel and the documentation processes simultaneously. This exposed me and others who were part of his team to other experts who accompanied him, from collecting samples of trees for dendrochronology to collecting swamp soil samples for the study of plant macrofossil remains, ethnobotanical studies and the use of field equipment such as dumpy levels, cameras and, of course, the trowel.

Being a student learning under his command was a motivation for me to pursue further studies in the field that I had developed an interest in. Glenn sees the future, which lies in training the upcoming generations. His legacy lives on in the knowledge he has imparted on the younger Papua New Guineans. May his legacy live on!

Betty Neanda is a Senior Technical Officer in the Prehistory Branch at NMAG (2016–2021):

I first met Glenn in 2016 on a visit to the Motupore Island archaeological salvage project by the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and Otago University, NZ. The project involved young archaeologists from UPNG and Otago University, to help complete the thesis under their master's and PhD programs. A few staff members from the NMAG spent a week helping them in excavating the sites. During that time, I still remember Glenn, who was very welcoming and kind to everyone involved in the fieldwork. I was fascinated by his remarkable work. He makes sure everyone gets involved and understands the prehistory of the Papuan Region. I commend him for doing a lot of research about the prehistory of PNG.

Joyce Taian is Personal Assistant to the Deputy Director Corporate and Administration, NMAG (2003–2021):

I knew Professor Glenn Summerhayes way back in 2003 when I first started at the National Museum. He was the late Herman Mandui's best friend. The late Mandui used to call me his small sister. That's how I came to know Professor Summerhayes and often refer to him as a big brother.

During those days he chewed betel nut. He loved going out with his friends. Sometimes we went out together to have a few beers and smoke cigarettes at the late Mandui's residence. Sometimes we had fun out together during the fieldwork with the likes of the late Mandui, Nick Araho, Kari Heri, Baiva Ivuyo and Alois Kuaso. These are all Prehistory boys—sadly almost all have gone now. He is

one of the great professors to work with. He has contributed a lot to PNG archaeology. There is a lot to say about him. I have tears in my eyes recalling fond memories of him and the late Herman Mandui. I'll end it here.

Dickson Kangi is a Community Representative and Guide from Kalam Guest House, Simbai, Middle Ramu District, Madang Province:

I was an infant at the time Ralph and Susan Bulmer did ethnobotany and archaeological research in the Kaironk Valley (Wañelek). Most of my peers only heard of the Bulmers and met their field assistant, the late Ian Saem Majnep. Little did we know about archaeology or what it was all about. We are well vested with legends of our mythical ancestors, migration history and trading routes. Professor Summerhayes and the team's presence and involvement with the surrounding communities and the result of their work helped us understand that ancient people passed through our territory thousands of years ago. The importance of community archaeology is that locals get firsthand information and learn from archaeologists. It motivates and encourages us to preserve our archaeological heritage.

On behalf of the People of Simbai, I thank Professor Summerhayes and the team for the three years of work in Simbai and Kaironk valleys. Your friendship with the locals, school visits and contribution to the Kalam Community and our Guest House during the years of fieldwork means a lot to us. It is a good start, and we are looking forward to hosting and supporting your colleagues with any research of this magnitude in the future.

The Kalam Tribe wishes you the best retirement.

Henry Arifeae is the Cultural Center Coordinator at the NMAG (2001–2021):

I met Glenn at a backyard party at the Arifeae Estate Residence in 2001, when this 'dashing handsome guy' walked in and 'pipped': 'G'day, I'm Glenn ... mi wanpela archaeologist lo Australia National University, lon Canberra, Australia'. He was escorted in by the late Chief Archaeologist Herman Amaka Mandui (RIP). At first, I thought he was the local padre from the St Joseph's Catholic Church, around the corner from my house, in East Boroko. Herman laughed and said 'No! He is a colleague of mine ...' That was in 2001; fast forward, Glenn has been a personal friend/wantok for two decades. 20 years on and I must say 'I have learnt a lot from this maestro in the field of archaeology' and it is a very sad day for me to learn, he has finally called it quits from a vocation that has been his calling since leaving the Australian Public Service some time ago in the early years of his career!

Some of his famous quotes, in Tok Pisin: 'igo ... igo ... istap; na nau mi go simuk pastaim; you mas go lotu olgeta taim', and 'somewhere in New Guinea, husait i ken save, nobody knows!'

My family and I join in wishing Prof. Glenn Summerhayes all the best in his retirement from archaeology and acknowledge his immense contribution to this vocation in PNG!

All the best bro!

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