

## KOLOBANGARA ISLAND

*Sos lo life bilong iu, me, everiwan*

Kolombangara Biodiversity and Cultural Festival – June 2011

## SPECIAL KOLOBANGARA FESTIVAL EDITION

### MASSIVE KOLOBANGARA CELEBRATION

What a week! 3,000 people joined the celebrations at Ringgi on Kolombangara on 13-17 June to dedicate the 400m conservation area and compete in competitions. Everybody had smiles on their faces. There was music, sport, traditional dancing, marching and lots of officials. Kolombangara Island Biodiversity and Cultural Festival was a huge success and felt like a week-long party!

Thanks for all the hard work by many people that made the festival so good. KIBCA was helped both by Kolombangarans and people from other islands alike.

KIBCA would especially like to thank Event Coordinator, Sue Vave and Technical Officer, Andrew Cox.



*Kolombangara Warriors Salute the VIP party*

### SO WHAT IS THE CONSERVATION AREA NAME?

There is still no official name for the conservation area on Kolombangara above 400m altitude.

The competition to find a Nduke name was very popular. KIBCA received 130 entries. They contained many old stories about Kolombangara and its culture. Most people were happy to give the conservation area a new name, but some were not. There was confusion that KIBCA was renaming existing features like Mt Rano or even Kolombangara Island. This was never the plan. Since the naming was sensitive, the KIBCA Executive decided to delay the naming until October 2011 and do more awareness meetings with Kolombangara people.

### FESTIVAL VIDEO – ON SALE NOW

Buy a professionally made video of the festival for \$50.



*Easy Rust from Kuzi performing the Festival Theme Song*

KIBCA recorded the event on video, along with the Festival Welcome Song and the popular Festival Theme Song, Mt Rano, by Kuzi Band, Easy Rust.

The DVD has a 27 minute video of the main events, along with separate video of the traditional dancing and interviews with KIBCA.

### FESTIVAL VIP PARTY

Many asked who was in VIP party? The party was:

**Gordon Darcy MP**,  
Solomon Islands Minister  
for Finance, Member for

Gizo/Kolombangara

**Mofat Fugui**, SI Minister of  
Environment

**Tia Marsol**, Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment,  
Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology  
**Jointly Sisiolo**, Ministry of Environment

**Pie Robert**, Deputy Premier, Western Province

**Christian Mesepitu**, Min. for Tourism,  
Sports and Culture, Western Province

**Francis Dugan**, Western Prov. Env  
Officer, Western Province

**Donald Saepio**, Chairman, KIBCA  
**Douglas Hiva**, Interim Chair,

Kolombangara Island Council of  
Chiefs (KICC).



*Mofat Fugui, Minister of Environment  
and Danny Philip, local member, are  
welcomed by Kolombangarans*



*KIBCA Chair, Donald Saepio  
gives the Keynote Address*

## FESTIVAL COMPETITION RESULTS

### SOCCER – KIBCA CUP

Winner received the KIBCA Cup trophy and \$4,000. Second prize was \$2,000, third prize was \$1000

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Maelean Jungle** (Leona Village, Vella Lavella)  
*Team Members: Barrington (Captain), Jaspar (Deputy), Adrian, Zaru, Zoro, Kazuala, William, Brandy, Hiromana, John.*
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Brothers United 2** (Vao Village, Kolombangara)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Vavanga SC Green** (Vavanga Village, Kolombangara)
- 4<sup>th</sup>: DN United White** (Noro, New Georgia)



Grand Final Score: 1-0.  
Playoff Score (winner of third place): 2-0.  
60 teams participated playing a total of 60 round robin games and 18 knockout games over five days. Format was seven a side with 20 min per game. Prizes donated by **Hotel Gizo** (first prize and part of second prize)

**KIBCA Cup winners, Maelean Jungle (red, front) won 1-0 to Brothers United 2 (blue, back) in the Soccer Grand Final**

### NETBALL – KIBCA CUP

Winning team received the KIBCA Cup trophy and \$2,000, Second prize was \$1,000, third prize was \$500

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Manighisi** (Manighisi Village, Kolombangara)  
*Team Members: Celestine (Captain), Maggs (Deputy), Mata, Vidix, Madu, Eulah, Domu, Clera, Connie, Umata.*
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kena Hill** (Kena Village, Kolombangara)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ringgi Evergreen** (Ringgi, Kolombangara)
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Poitete Red** (Poitete, Kolombangara)
- Grand Final Score: 26-13.



**Netball Champions Manighisi receive the KIBCA Cup**

Playoff Score (winner of third place): 21-3  
20 teams participated playing a total of 30 round robin games and 8 knockout games over four days. Format was seven a side with 14 min per game. Prizes donated by **Dive Gizo** (half of first prize)

### DRAWING CONTEST

Winner in each category received \$100

#### Junior Category (Grades 1-3)

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Rahe Martin** (9 years old), Grade 2, Poitete Primary
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Luzenta Foata** (8 years old), Grade 2, Poitete Primary
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ketty Wetego** (10 years old), Grade 3, Poitete Primary

#### Senior Category (Grades 4-6)

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Alex Moss Aruhane**, Grade 5, Ringgi Primary
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Junior Pio** (11 years old), Grade 3, Jack Harbour Primary
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sannielyn Masuhaara** (11 years old), Grade 4, Poitete Primary
- Drawings were about the biodiversity of Kolombangara Island.



**Junior Drawing Contest Winner, Rahe Martin, Poitete Primary**

52 entries were received in the Junior category and 34 entries in the Senior category. Entries were received from Poitete, Jack Harbour and Ringgi primary schools. Prize donated by **JS Store, Ringgi. Solomon Star** has agreed to publish the winning drawings in each category.



**Senior Drawing Contest Winner, Alex Moss Aruhane, Ringgi Primary**

## SPEECH CONTEST

The winner in Junior category received \$100 and the senior category the winner received \$200. Both winners presented their speeches to the Minister of Environment at the Festival official ceremony.



*Izian Zuadi*

### Junior Category (Forms 1-3)

**1<sup>st</sup>: Izian Zuadi**, Poitete CHS

(Poporo Village, Kolombangara)

### Senior Category (Forms 4-6)

**1<sup>st</sup>: Tony Baronia**, Ringgi CHS  
(Boboe Village, Kohingo)

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Lomila Lio**, Betikama NSS  
(Kukundu Village, Kolombangara)

A speech of 3-5 min was presented on the topic of why it is important to protect biodiversity on Kolombangara Island and what is the best way to do this.



*Tony Baronia*

Nine speeches were presented in the Junior category and four speeches in the Senior category. There were participants from Ringgi CHS, Poitete CHS and Betikama NSS.

Prize donated by **JS Store, Ringgi. Solomon Star** has agreed to publish the winning speech in each category.

## SINGING AND MUSIC COMPETITION

Winning team in Instrumental Music, Most Popular Act and Song: My Island Home categories received \$200.



Winner of Original Song category received lunch or dinner for ten people at Fat Boys Resort, plus petrol for return Kolo trip.

### Instrumental Music category:

**1<sup>st</sup>: Conservation Ambassadors** (Rarumana Village, Papara Island).

*Members: Nasia Pae, Ramotaka Gonna, Alpheaus Rob, Lomae Ado, Zaka Sasa, John Mego Boti, Punai Leve, Barington Sasa, Isi Boara, Saleni Melo*

### Song: My Island Home category:

**1<sup>st</sup> Pinokoi** (Villa Village, Kolombangara)

*Members: Lupa Patini, Solame Wale, Elsie Gideon, Olivia Napthalai*

Original Song (about Kolombangara Crater, with Nduke verse):

**1<sup>st</sup> Echoes of Rano** (Ringgi, Kolombangara)

*Members: Massive Timothy, Kelo N, Ryan Gideon, Olivia Napthalai, Louise T.*

### Most Popular Act Overall:

**1<sup>st</sup> Tinago** (Hapi Village, Kolombangara)

*Members: Aeda Genie, Dinneh Muse, Betty Muse, Merelino Muse*

Prizes donated by **Fatboys Resort** (Original Song) and **Wing Sun Store, Gizo** (Instrumental Music, Song: My Island Home)

## THE NEW KIBCA LOGO

KIBCA has a new logo, launched at the festival.

Behind the letters 'KIBCA' is the outline of Kolombangara viewed from near Gizo. This outline reveals *Nina Goele*, the sleeping woman, that has deep cultural meanings to the Dughore people of Kolombangara.

The version in colour is green like the forests, with blue at the bottom representing the sea and red at the top, showing a sunset over the mountain.

The logo was designed by former Ringgi resident, Joe Fairlamb, now living in Adelaide.



## KIBCA IN NEW ZEALAND

KIBCA Coordinator, Ferguson Vaghi, attended the Pacific Forestry Conference in Auckland, New Zealand. It was a good event to open up doors for KIBCA through meeting other organisations and conservation experts. It was also a chance to visit Rangitoto National Parks in NZ and Lamington National Park in Queensland and meet WWF Australian and the National Parks Association Queensland. It was a very productive visit because many things can be used on Kolombangara.

## NEW AWARENESS PROGRAM

For the rest of 2011, KIBCA will be travelling around Kolombangara to ask villages what they think about managing the Kolombangara conservation area and its name. Tell us what you think.

## PM DEDICATES KOLOMBANGARA CONSERVATION AREA, LARGEST IN SOLOMONS

Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Danny Philip, has backed Kolombangara landholders at the Kolombangara Festival last week, as he pledged to support the island's 400m conservation area.

In the first visit by a Prime Minister to Kolombangara Island, Prime Minister, Danny Philip, officially dedicated the 20,000 ha Kolombangara conservation area, the largest in Solomon Islands.

He said, "It is a wonderful idea to demark a special area for conservation". He said it was "a landmark action that the people of Kolombangara garem."



*Prime Minister Danny Philip dedicating the conservation area*

“In the midst of logging and environmental destruction you have the courage to have a conservation area.” Ferguson Vaghi, KIBCA coordinator, said, “It is now clear that there is broad support for our conservation area above 400m.”



*Custom Dancers from Isabel*

“KIBCA is also pleased that the Government said it was close to finalizing the Protected Areas Act that might be an important way to support our conservation area. If there is landholder support after our awareness program and the Government is ready, we hope to be the first to use the new legislation,” said Mr Vaghi.

After the official welcome and speeches the Prime Minister visited Imbu Rano Lodge, a specially built lodge for scientific research and tourists on the edge of the conservation area.



*The 20,000 ha Kolombangara conservation area, in the centre of Kolombangara above 400m, is the largest in the Solomon Islands.*

### HONEY TRAINING PROGRAM

KIBCA is organizing workshops to train village representatives on how to set up a honey project. There will be one workshop in the north of Kolombangara (15-19 Aug) and another in the south (in Oct). Those trained will be able to borrow a set of specialist honey-making equipment from KIBCA.

The project is a collaboration between KIBCA and the Western Province’s Agricultural Department. Equipment is provided by a grant from WWF Melanesia.

This is a good example of the helpful partnerships KIBCA often has between community-based organisations, government and industry.

### SPONSORS - *Leana Hola!* – Thank you

KIBCA thanks the following financial supporters for making the Festival possible.

#### MAJOR SUPPORTERS

General financial support for the festival:

**AVI - Australian Volunteers International**  
**KFPL**

**Solomon Islands Government**

**WWF Melanesia**

**Hotel Gizo (Soccer prize)**

#### Minor Supporters

**Saltai, Noro** (Naming Competition)

**bemobile** (Naming Competition)

**JS Store, Ringgi** (Speech and Drawing Comp)

**Dive Munda, Gizo** (Netball Comp)

**Fatboys Resort** (Soccer Comp)

**Wing Sun, Gizo** (Singing Contest)

**DJ Graphics, Honiara** (T-Shirt discount)

### UPCOMING EVENTS 2011

#### Aug

15-19 Honey Training for Sth Kolombangara (Ward 12)

22(tbc)KIBCA Executive meeting and training, Sausama

29 Departure of Technical Officer, Andrew Cox

**Oct** Honey Training for Nth Kolombangara (Ward 26)  
KIBCA AGM

### MORE INFORMATION

Visit the KIBCA Office, on the left half way up the main hill at Ringgi and say hello to the KIBCA staff:

- **Ferguson Vaghi**, KIBCA Coordinator, on 740 1198 or [coordinator@kibca.org](mailto:coordinator@kibca.org)
- **Andrew Cox**, KIBCA Technical Officer, on 751 4395 or [andrew@kibca.org](mailto:andrew@kibca.org)

### ABOUT KIBCA

Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Association is a local member-based organisation formed in 2008 to represent Indigenous Kolombangarans and their interests in conservation of land and marine areas of Kolombangara Island.

KIBCA, with landowners, manages the largest conservation area in the Solomon Islands. KIBCA finds ways to help Kolombangara people gain social and financial benefits from conservation. Visitor info:

[www.kolombangara.org](http://www.kolombangara.org)