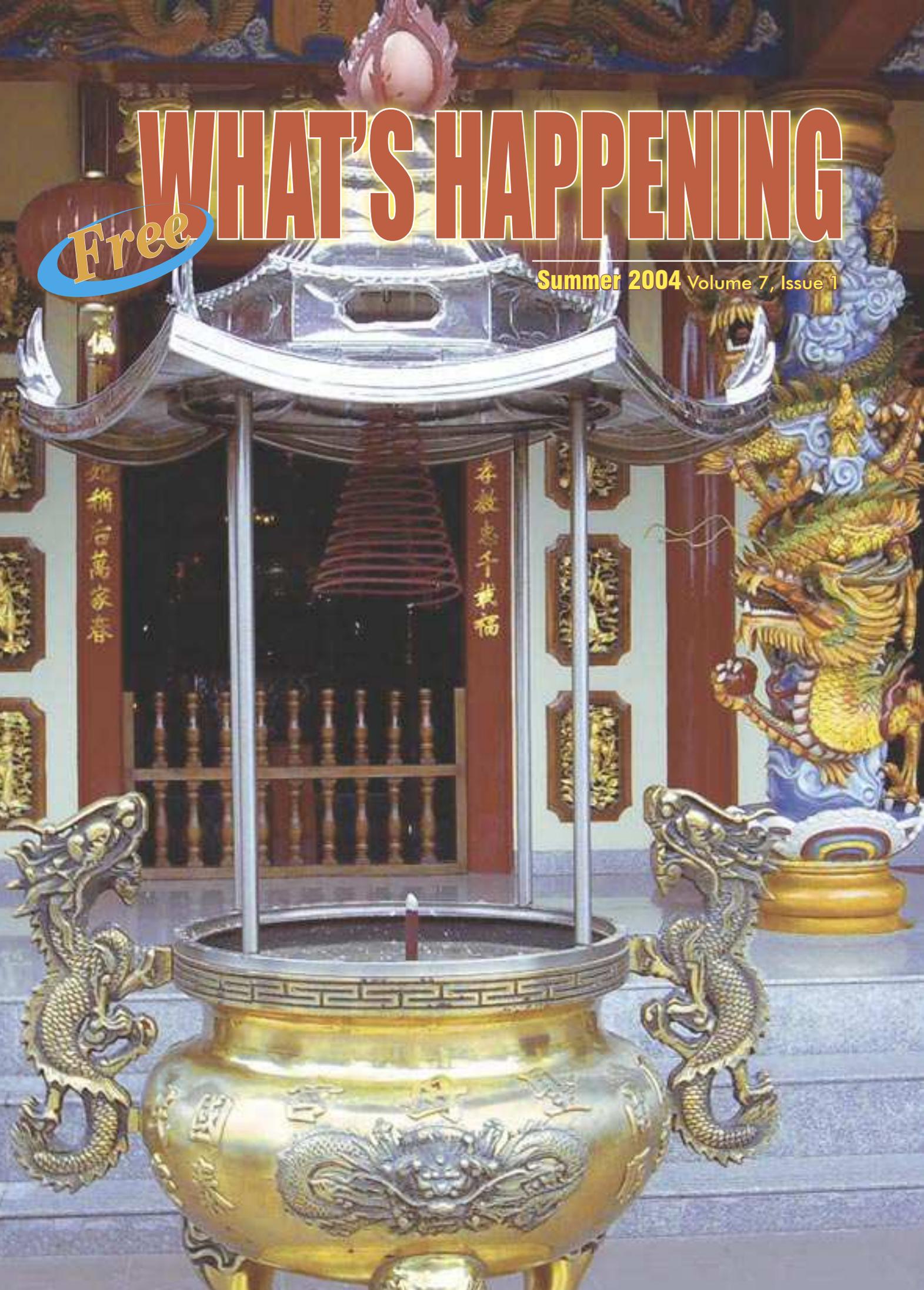


WHAT'S HAPPENING

Free

Summer 2004 Volume 7, Issue 1



Tourism Information For North Sulawesi

To our guests,

We hope that your visit to North Sulawesi will be interesting as well as pleasurable! In order to really get the feel for North Sulawesi we urge you to get out of your resort and have a meal in town, go to the mall and have an Espresso or head up to the highlands where the cool air will surely relax you and your friends.

Our reason to ask this of you: the only way to truly experience the really authentic Minahasan culture is to get out with the people of North Sulawesi. When you are in a resort or hotel the staff have been trained to cater to your needs, they speak English and they really try to make your stay a memorable one. Once you go out into the country however, there you receive the best treatment that you will ever receive anywhere in the world, kids running after you, grandmother's smiling and many others just saying, "Hello Meester", repeated 5 times until you acknowledge them.

Even after being here eight years, I still enjoy the thrill of being welcomed with open hearts, by the people of North Sulawesi!

So get out and enjoy both the wonders of Bunaken & Lembeh Strait as well as the countryside, North Sulawesi has so much to offer, but most of all, the people of North Sulawesi are the true wonders of this wonderful province.

Warm regards,
NINNY RUATA BARNES

Editor: **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

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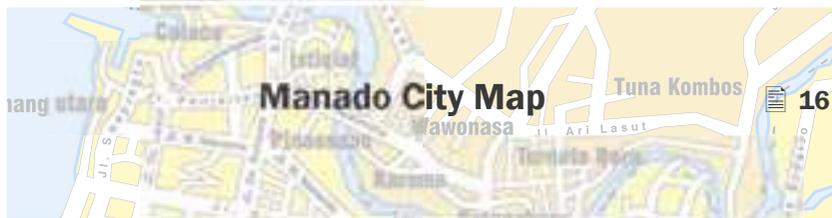
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Cover photo:
Ruben Simon

General Manager
Ritzly Hotel



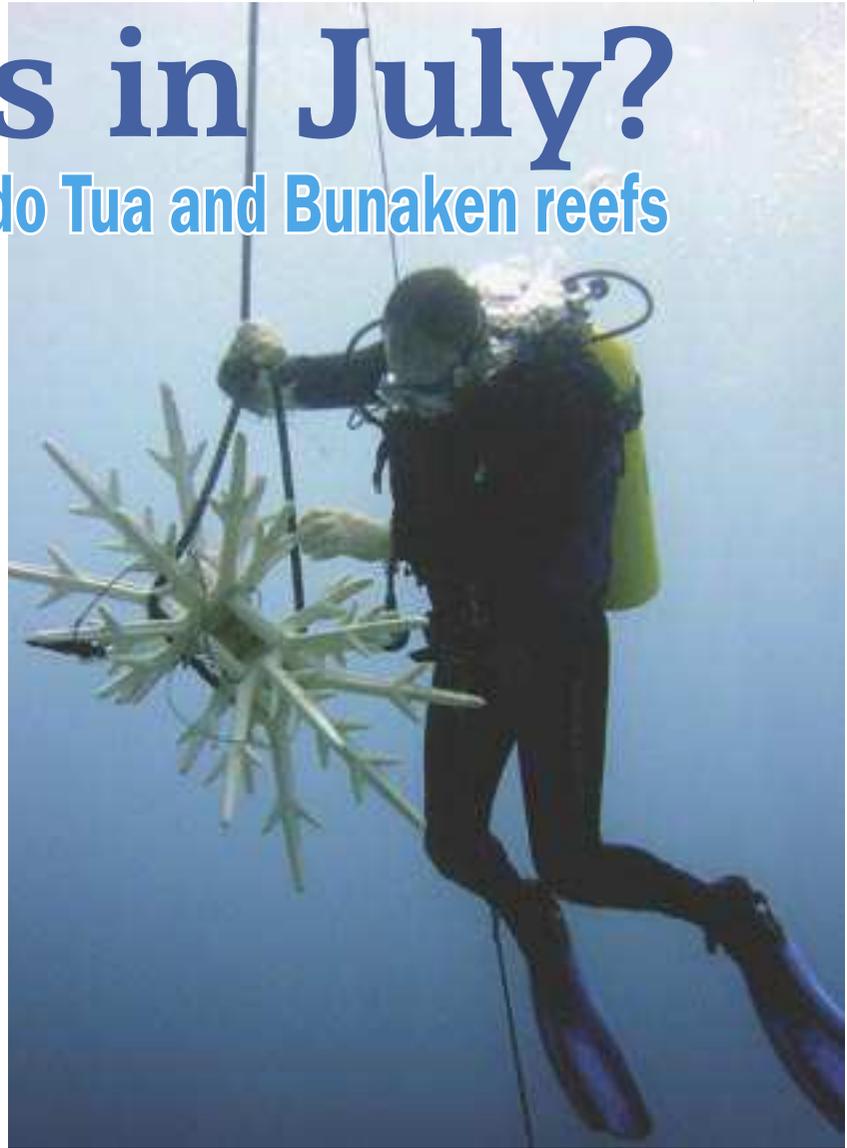
Special thanks to USAID's
Natural Resources Management
Project for their continued
support for this tourism
publication

Christmas in July?

Snowflakes carpet Manado Tua and Bunaken reefs

Divers visiting Bunaken National Park this year are excused for any confusion caused by the winter wonderland scene on two reefs off Manado Tua and Bunaken Islands. Not to worry – the large snowflake-shaped ceramic EcoReef modules are part of a reef rehabilitation program run by park villagers and dive operators from the North Sulawesi Watersports Association (NSWA) and sponsored by the Seacology Foundation (www.seacology.org)

The Manado Tua rehabilitation was conducted over the course of 3 weeks in early 2004, with villagers working in close coordination with 13 dive operators from the NSWA and the staff of USAID's NRM project to transport, assemble and install 620 EcoReef modules (www.ecoreefs.com) in front of Negeri village. Seacology awarded the EcoReefs grant to Manado Tua villagers in recognition of their strong commitment to preserving their reef systems and the fisheries that depend upon them by setting up a series of five "no-take" fish sanctuary zones around their island. The villagers requested that Seacology fund a reef rehabilitation program for a roughly one hectare stretch of reef that was once the most productive fishing area on the island before blast fishers leveled the reef over 15 years ago. Sadly, there has been no natural recovery in this vast rubble field, though the placement of 33 clusters of EcoReef modules is meant to stabilize the substrate, provide an



immediate shelter for reef fishes, and promote recovery of this reef area into a productive fishery area once again.

After dive operators donated boat and staff time to transport 900 boxes of ceramic components to Manado Tua, the villagers set up two enormous outside workshops to assemble the non-toxic ceramic modules. Men, women and

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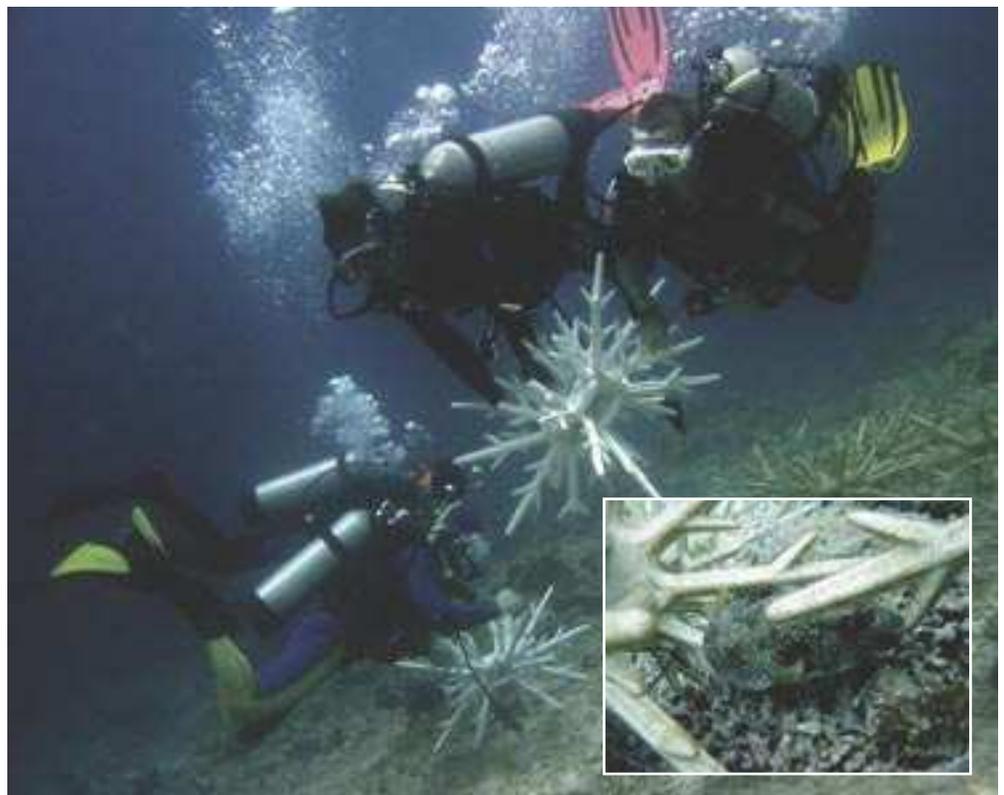
children worked side by side for 3 days to assemble and epoxy the modules. Upon completion of the assembly, approximately 60 NSWA divers then donated several hundred hours of dive time to install the modules on the barren rubble field.

While the Manado Tua villagers have pledged patience in allowing 3-5 years for the rehabilitation project to increase coral cover and fish abundance in the area, the results after just 5 months have amazed divers and villagers alike. Both coral-dwelling and schooling fishes have rapidly moved in to the once barren area, and the modules are now covered with encrusting coralline algae, bryozoans, tunicates, and the first coral recruits. Even more exciting, coral transplants have biologically cemented themselves to the modules and resumed growth in less than a month. Given this outstanding initial progress, it is hoped that within five years the area will once again support a thriving

reef and associated fisheries.

NSWA operators have been so impressed with the results that they will be assisting a second installation of approximately 300 EcoReef modules, also funded through Sea-cology, on Bunaken Island in late July 2004. Divers and snorkellers interested in assisting with the assembly and installation should enquire with any NSWA operators (full list at (www.bunaken.info) or (www.divenorthsulawesi.com)). Assembly will start by 16 July, with installation following during the 20-24 July time period.

••• **Dr. Mark Erdmann** is the North Sulawesi Provincial Advisor for USAID's Natural Resources Management Project and a 2004 Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation.





Chinese Temples

In And Around Manado

Manado has long been home to a sizeable Chinese community since the earliest trading days. Although Manado boasts the highest concentration of churches in Indonesia, there are several Chinese Temples that are well worth visiting.

In the centre of town, on the fringe of the "Empat Lima" shopping and market area, is the Ban

Hing Kiong Temple. The original building was constructed 300 years ago but it has been altered and painted numerous times over the years.

The ubiquitous dragons and wafts of incense will instantly transport you to a different location and you may well feel that you are in Hong Kong or Mainland China. The 3 alters inside the main room are lovingly adorned with offerings of food

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and drink. They are flanked by huge red candles and Chinese banners. Despite its busy location, the Temple exudes an oasis of calm and it is possible to spend some minutes of quiet contemplation.

Fifteen to twenty minutes drive from the centre of town is the Tiong Tan Lie Goan Swee Temple in Liwas, opened in 1997. This somewhat quieter location allows for a large grassed area in front of the Temple and is famous for the Cap Go Meh festival held once a year on the 15th of the first month of the Chinese Lunar year. More vigorous participants go into a trance and pierce their flesh with needles and blades. Not for the faint-hearted, but an interesting glimpse at another culture, nonetheless.

Heading out of town and over to the port location of Bitung, the large Seng Bo Kiong Temple is the newest in the region having just opened in 2002. This large decorative building has beautiful bronze incense burners and opulent dragon carvings. There are also 3 large alters on the inside and



the huge red candles slowly burning down which are a common feature of all the temples.

There are smaller temples around the area and so often you can glimpse small alters inside the houses and shops of the Chinese community. Despite a turbulent past in Indonesian history, it appears that places of worship for the Chinese are now welcome in North Sulawesi and is a testament to the harmony that exists in the region.

••• **By: Louis Lane**



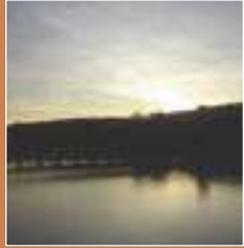
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Sulawesi

END END

Our trip began on Wednesday, 28th of April when we boarded the Garuda flight for Makassar, all went well and we were met at the airport by our friend Hakam and guided through the baggage mess that accompanies travel in Asia, especially in older airports.

We stood curbside while the bus pulled up, a 7 seater L 300 – this was our excuse for driving approximately 2000 Km to Manado- Sulawesi end to end. We checked into the Pantai Gapura hotel in Makassar where we greeted by the friendly staff! Off to our room and a quick swim before hitting the mall- boring but yes we could find something in Makassar that were not available in our small town of Manado.

I now need to explain the bus adventure; we had come to Makassar to by a bus and the only way that we could get the bus there with a bit of adventure thrown in, is to drive it from south to north across the equator. So the family and I, Ninny (my wife) and our two children Malcolm (9 yrs old) and Nadya (7 yrs old) decided that a road trip was in order, so off we went.

Thursday came early 6 AM, as unfortunately we had a schedule to meet- get the bus in to the repair shop for new brakes, window tint and all oil changes. We left the bus and relaxed a bit during the day – the bus was ready at 5 PM. We then provi-

sioned the car for what we imagined would be our 3-month trip through the jungles of Africa. Our list included, the tool kit, flashlight, two tire pumps, repair kit, snacks, drinks, and enough clothes for 2 weeks if we didn't wash anything!!

Friday morning; another early morning as I needed to check the email for business- 5 AM wake up- boy is Makassar nice at 5 AM- wrong --NOTHING IS NICE AT 5 AM!!

After a great breakfast, we loaded everything into our bus and off we went, due North- don't stop until Toraja- the kids were wound up and ready for the trip- Mom & Dad, not sure



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we were, but we survived until they fell asleep. Passing through streets lined with grapefruit and melons we headed towards Toraja- we stopped for coffee at 1:30 PM, had some quick snacks and back on the road till 4 PM. We arrived at the Heritage Hotel where we received a warm greeting from the staff- we had been there less than a year ago and they still remembered us!! We had covered only 349 KM, many more to go.

Check-in, dumped the luggage and changed clothes and out to find Mart's Café- great Torajan food and some of the best guides (if you need one) you will find in Toraja. It also acts as a clearinghouse for information on the road to Poso and beyond. We had a great dinner, local black mushroom soup and the Pemesaran (pork in local Torajan spice – order 2 hours before). We finished about 9 PM and then went to fill up the fuel tank; sorry gas stations close at 9 PM sharp- oh well, there is always tomorrow!!

Rising again at 5:30 AM, we hurriedly packed, made coffee and shot up to a great buffet breakfast, filled to the brim the kids were ready to sleep, we thought. We left at 7:30 and drove straight through to Tentenna, we got lost once and had to back track for 15 minutes, not bad considering the Trans-Sulawesi Highway is devoid of signs. This brings up my next observation- the word highway always meant a road with lights and six lanes, the Trans Sulawesi Highway has helped me to redefine the word simply because lights don't exist, bumps, severe depressions in the road (especially in the mountains) and hairpin turns abound!! The road to Palopo was fine, straight and no holes, however, once we started going up into the mountains towards Pendolo and then Tentenna all of the obstacles of developing countries manifested themselves on the road North. Arriving in Tentenna it was just as we had remembered it in 1998, lacking infrastructure but with one saving grace, the eel (fried) from Lake Poso is fantastic, the local name "sogili" is what you need

to ask for. We turned in early (staying at the Eedatu Cottages Rp 80,000 including breakfast) as we were starting early the next morning with the hopes that we could reach Gorontalo by Sunday evening.

Crossing the bridge in Tentenna, as dawn light was just creeping into the eastern sky, we felt exhilarated, as we were getting closer to North Sulawesi. Poso would be the first and only big city in Central Sulawesi that we would pass through. As many people have heard of Poso, the record need to be set straight for now, there were no problems there. What we did observe was security posts from Tentenna to Poso, these posts were set up along the roadside and were manned by BRIMOB (special forces) and you were required to slow down to 30 KM with you window open so they could at least see who was traveling- we were never asked to stop. I stopped once, out of curiosity, and wanted to have my picture taken with the group of BRIMOB, no problem, in fact they were very friendly and welcomed a break that early in the morning. We passed through POSO at 8 AM Sunday morning





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and we did notice that the police were out on every street corner, sometimes three- four guys, but they were obviously not on high alert, just another day, smoking Kretak cigarettes and laughingly recalling experiences from the day or week before. We waved, they waved back, all was well.

At 12:15 and 1072 KM after departing Makassar we crossed the equator!! A rather large monument, with a village peering on from behind, became a Kodak moment!! We all got out of the bus and my lovely wife took the digital remembrances that we would treasure- how many kids get to drive across the equator.

The rest of the day passed

uneventfully as the green hills and blurring pavement was soon cloaked in the shades of dusk as the evening stars began to pop out in the clear sky. At 9:30 PM, 15 ½ hours after leaving Tentenna we were sitting in our favorite restaurant in Gorontalo, having shrimp prepared in a luscious butter sauce. After dinner we quickly located the Melati Hotel with Pak Alex as the host and bedded down in an AC room (Rp. 120,000 including banana pancakes for breakfast) with the kids, each with their own bed and a promise of only one more day before arriving back home in Manado. We were truly beat, 15 hours on a twisting, turning, up,

down corridor of kids, cows and holes is certainly NOT the same as the LA expressway.

With Gorontalo behind us, we watched the road being gobbled up by the mouth of the bus- Manado was in front of us beckoning, calling- we arrived before dark - we made it- 1994 KM after we left the hotel in Makassar, we rolled into Manado before dark and grabbed the kids favorite, KFC, yes we do have Kentucky Fried Chicken.

They deserved it, as they did have to put up with Mom & Dad for what we look back on as the greatest road trip to date!!

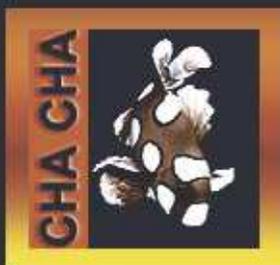
••• JHB



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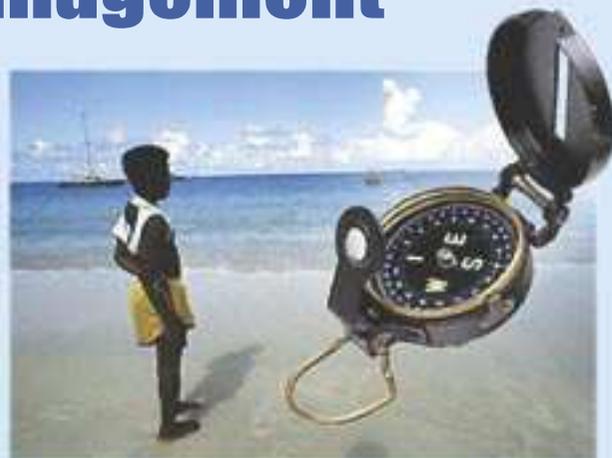
Summer School Coral Reef Island Management

The Sangihe- Talaud archipelago bridges Indonesia and the Philippines. They form a gateway between the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas, part of the landmass separating the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The population is estimated as 270,000 in 254 villages on 44 of the 128 islands which are inhabited by three distinct and several sub-ethnic groups.

The Sangihe Island chain runs 200 nautical miles (approximately lat 2-5° North) North-South between Sulawesi and Mindanao. They are characterized by steep sided active volcanoes, dense mixed tropical forest and plantations, producing cash-crop coconut, nutmeg and cloves and locally consumed breadfruit, banana and seasonal tree fruits. The islands are fringed with coral reefs with the waters drops rapidly to 5000m. The rich seas surrounding the islands support both reef and pelagic fisheries.

It has been observed that a severe lack of commercially important reef species has resulted from widespread coral bleaching throughout the archipelago, open access to illegal fishing from neighbouring countries and destructive fishing using bombs and cyanide. Fishermen also report falling yields from the reef fish and shark populations suggesting that all fish populations are close to fully or over-exploited.

The Indonesian Perpetual Ocean Foundation (Yayasan Laut Lestari Indonesia) is working with many partners to address the threats to these unique and beautiful places. The foundation has scheduled an intensive Field School in July for potential coastal managers from Eastern Indonesia, currently finishing their studies at universities in Manado,



Maluku and Papua.

The Summer Field School is an approach aimed at addressing the critical threats faced by the most remote small islands of Eastern Indonesia. The irony is that these small populations living in relative poverty are surrounded by such natural abundance yet they are rapidly being degraded by natural phenomena and unsustainable exploitation with the threat of destruction. Without active participation from the communities living in these areas, overstretched government resources will be applied to late to save these natural resources. Through investigating the opportunities with the communities of Nanusa, the Summer Field School will provide sufficient information for the establishment of long-term sustainable management.

The Ministry of Marine and Fisheries support this initiative as part of their search for an applicable approach to small island management. We hope to show to the communities of this border area that the Government of Indonesia is trying to address their needs and find practical ways to support the ongoing development and conservation of Indonesia's unique and priceless coral islands.

The goals of the program are:

- Developing young human resources to address field situa-

tions in managing the small islands of Eastern Indonesia

- Develop a practical field school approach that can be used throughout Eastern Indonesia to start a process of sustainable resource management and development.
- Record and reproduce visual and written documentation of the summer school in order to support replication of such activities in other island chains of Indonesia
- Raise the awareness of coastal communities of the need for and their ability to better manage their natural resources for their short and long-term benefit
- Develop a communication network between individuals and groups of young graduates

studying fisheries and marine sciences in East Indonesia

- Provide a baseline of resource exploitation in Nanusa sub-district, and provide strategic directions to the new District Government of the Island District of Talaud

With the development of Indonesian human resources the foundation believes Indonesia will continue to provide suitable fishing grounds for the local populations as well as being a world-class dive destination for generations to come.

For more information please contact:

• • • **Elshinta S Marsden**

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What's Happening

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メナド・ブナケン滞在記 / 第一話 「ジュゴンの棲むブナケン島周辺」

ダイバーやスノーケラーが増えるにつれ、ブナケンの国立公園内でもけっこうその目撃報告を耳にするようになった哺乳類動物ジュゴン。やはりダイバーやボートの音に警戒するせいか、スノーケリング中の目撃例のほうが多いのは言うまでもないが、かくいう私もブナケンのハウスリーフで、頻繁に現れるドルフィンに水中で遭遇したいがために、海を漂う流木になりきって呼吸すらも控えめにしてドルフィン待ちスノーケリングをしていたある日、突然思いがけなくそのチャンスがやって来た。ジュゴン、といっても一頭ではなく、体長1メートル少々ほどの小型のジュゴンの上に、なんとベイベージュゴンがしっかりしがみついている「お母さんジュゴン」が、ベイベーと共に丸い小さな目を更にまん丸

くして、こちらをしげしげと見つめながらすれ違ったのである。これが私めのジンセイ初めてのジュゴンとの遭遇となった。後に数回に渡って目撃したジ



ュゴンは、皆違う個体なので、このあたりでファミリーを形成していると思われる。それにしてもその巨体ボディは圧巻！ 初めて見たあの「お母さんジュゴン」は子供ではなかったのかと思うほど、他の個体はとにかくデカイ！全長3メートルを越す巨体ジュゴンでさえ、5メートル級のジュゴンの前では子供のように見える。中級ボディーの2頭がこちらに興味を示して近

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づいてきて覗き込まれたときは、緊張のあまりその場に固まってしまったほど。そのまま抱きつかれてもしたらどうしようかと真剣に焦った瞬間



だった。事実フロリダの淡水に棲むマナティーなどは、人間を見てパートナーと間違えて抱きついてくることがある、と聞いたことがある。まあ彼らは2頭だったのでその必要もなかったのか、こちらを面白そうにのぞきこんでからまた泳いで行ってしまった。その巨体からは想像つかないほど、彼らの泳ぎは優雅そのもの。いつも微笑スマイルを浮かべているような口の形といい、丸っこい体からは優しげなイメージまでただよってきて、人魚

と間違われた、というマーメイド伝説にもうなずけるものがある。一度見た2個体などは、その鼻先（顔先？）に黄色のコガネシマアジの幼魚の小さな群れを乗せており、まるで彼らと一緒に鼻歌でも歌っているかのごとく体をスウィングさせながら私の前を通り過ぎていった。正にくまのプーさんのイメージそのものだったのである。こんな野生のピースフルな姿を時々私達までもが垣間見ることのできる幸運とそれを許す雄大な自然が残るブナケン島周辺。もう今後何が出てもおかしくない、「海の中の大宇宙」がここに広がることを再確認した出会いとなった。ちなみにジュゴンに会える可能性を上げるスノーケリングの極意「音をたてずに流木になったつもりで漂っていること」である。幸運を祈る！

••• By Reiko Downey

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MALL CULTURE AND Manado



Mall culture has finally hit Manado and one has to ask; are the Manadonese ready for it? I thought I'd investigate for myself.

Megamall is the first of the proposed malls to open and outwardly it does look like the "real thing". It's a nice building, newly painted with a clean cool interior. Right now, it's the eating and watering holes that are undoubtedly capturing the lions share of the revenue generated in the building (apart from Galael Supermarket and Matahari

Department Store, that is).

At last, a new venue to see and be seen. Given the popularity of the outdoor terraces in two of the eating venues, it's a wonder you don't see more of them in Manado. Eating and checking out the comings and goings of the local populace, two activities close to the hearts of all Manadonese.

For those like me who enjoy a cappuccino or a good shot of caffeine, then the welcome addition of real espresso machines are long overdue. To date, I've counted 3 espresso machines in Manado, which are 3 more than there were even up to 5 months ago. Considering Sulawesi is a producer of some of the finest beans around, it's long been a mystery to me why you couldn't get to sample a good dose of the black stuff.

Manado is one of those increasingly rare places in the world where you can experience escalator traffic jams. That is, a human traffic jam blocking the escalator because the person at the front



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is too terrified to jump on the moving contraption, not unlike a rabbit caught in the headlights of a car. It's quite quaint that in this day in age you can still find people unfamiliar with something the rest of us have long taken for granted.

In terms of shopping the mall doesn't offer a lot of variety, although the new Matahari Department Store is well worth a visit. If you are a young female weighing less than 46 kilo-

grams and with a desire to look like Britney Spears, than you are well catered for. If you're searching for a new pair of shoes or glasses, then you will also be likely to find something in your price range.

So, is Manado ready for Mall culture? Judging by the number of cars in the parking lot and people sauntering around, I'd say the Manadonese have embraced it with open arms.

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NOT A DEMONSTRATION Democracy In Practice



Don't worry, if you see lots of trucks filled with yelling screaming people all wearing the same bright colors, maybe red, yellow or even green- DO NOT FRET. Over the upcoming months you may be a witness to our fledgling democracy starting to take a firmer hold in the community and one manifestation of this is the rallies that take place for the various parties before the election period.

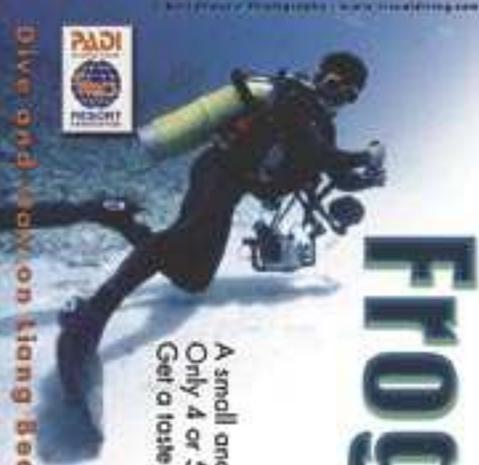
If you are a foreigner like myself, grab your camera



out of your bag take some snap-shots and wave- you will certainly be greeted back with will cheers, waves and shouts.

So don't think twice when you lucky enough to see democracy taking hold in my adopted country!!

... By: JHB



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