

What's Happening

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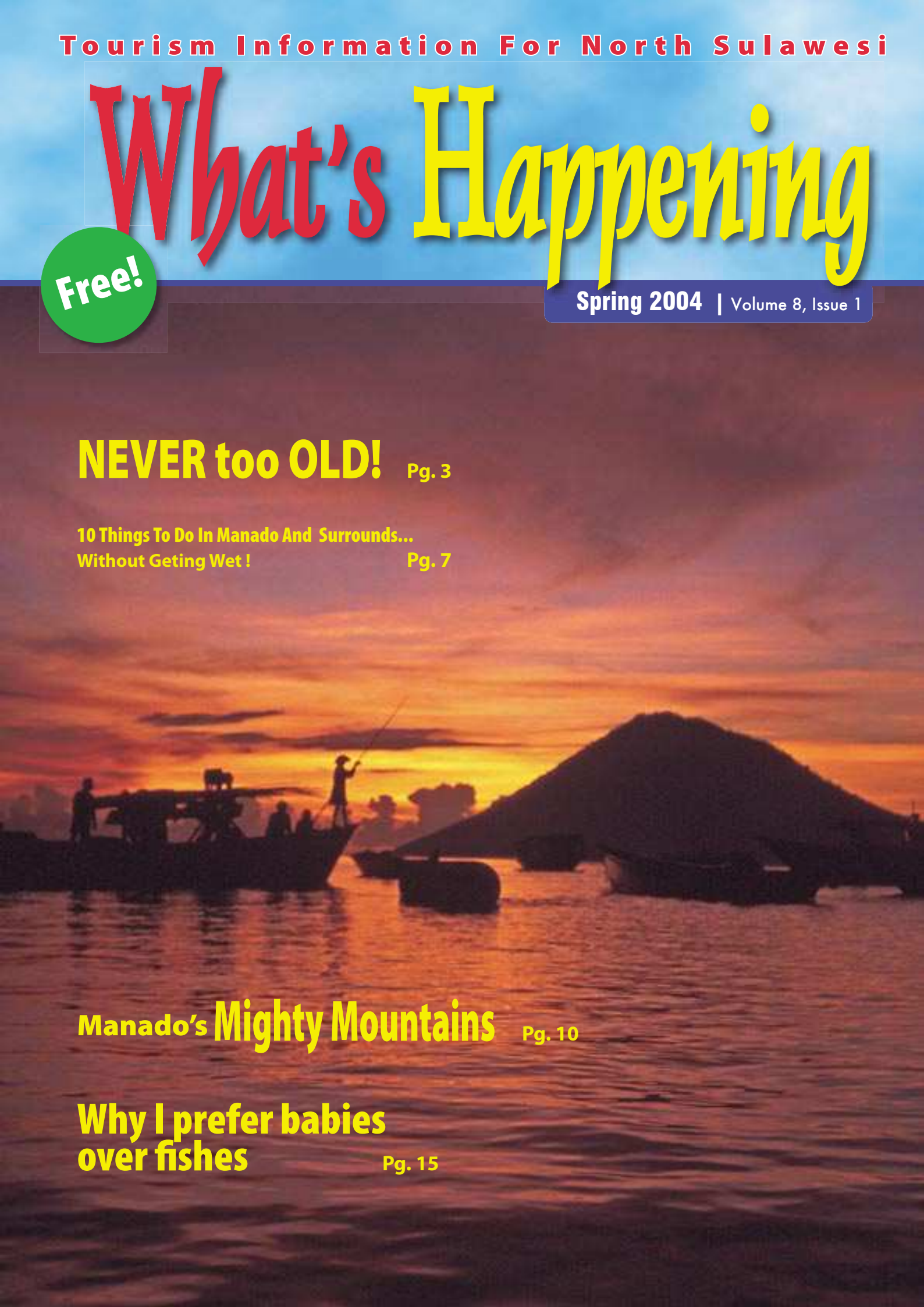
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To our guests,

Welcome to North Sulawesi, we hope that your stay will be a pleasant and enjoyable one. As everyone is aware the area of Aceh was almost completely obliterated by the Tsunamis that struck on December 26. In this regard, we would like ask that as you enjoy your time here in North Sulawesi that you contemplate how luck we all are in that we were spared this time.

As we all rely on the sea to be a significant component of the success of our businesses, we certainly feel a strong affiliation with many of the affected residents of Aceh, who also saw the sea as a fundamental part of their livelihood. It is the sobering realization of the force of nature that prompts the seaside community of Manado to ask that when you return home if you can possibly assist the seaside communities of Aceh decimated by this tragedy, that you look towards a charity of your choice to give something to the persons that are left in Aceh.

We have done a bit of research and if you do not have a charity in mind, we found Mercy Corp. Since 1979, Mercy Corps, (www.mercycorps.org) has provided more than \$710 million in assistance to 76 nations and actually have persons in Aceh at the present time, as well as permanent offices in Jakarta. Feel free to check them out and see how they rate/accountability record- <http://www.charitynavigator.org>

Enjoy, relax and remember, without the friendly people of North Sulawesi your vacation would not be the same.

Best regards,

Jeremy H. Barnes

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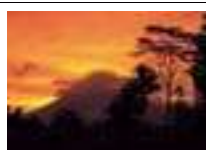
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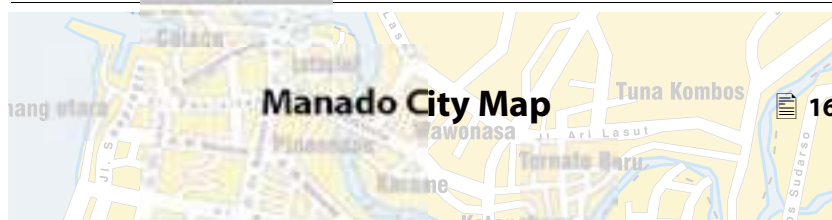
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Cover photo:

Manado Tua
Mark Erdman



Special thanks to USAID's Coastal
Resources Management Projects
for their support of this tourism
publication.

NEVER too OLD!

North Sulawesi sets another record, maybe. In August of this year, Inga Behr landed at Sam Ratulangi Airport, she was traveling with a group of 15 other divers who came to explore the clear waters of Bunaken and the mucky waters of Lembeh Strait.

As she was considered a VIP, simply because of her age, she was met personally by myself and the head of Immigration, and at that point she was whisked through without having to wait in any of the lines that sometimes occur at the arrival section at the international airport. Immigration was most accommodating and she too, appreciated it!!

Let me tell you a bit about Inga, she was born on September 8th 1922 in Bulgaria, she escaped to Switzerland in 1942, where she studied in preparation to receive her PHD in chemistry. Now this is where it gets vague, and I believe that she still keeps it that way intentionally, and this is all she said, "I was chemistry researcher at the Weizman Institute in Israel for 6-7 years, where she met her husband and moved to the US in 1962." As they were coming from South Africa she was able to obtain a work visa based on her background; hence she sponsored their children and her husband. Her husband was employed by Caltech, was this the time when the cold war was in its' prime? In 1969 Inga decided it was time to make a change in her life, she recalls that after she took a position collecting shells (for a museum) she became quite interested in the sea. This began her sojourn into the underwater world; in the same year she completed all the scuba class work but had to redo it as she never completed the open water portion until 1972 when



she finally received her Open Water rating at the age of 50.

In 2001 she stopped diving for a few years as her husband was quite against the sport.

But this did not stop her, after a one year sabbatical from the sport, she met Patty Shales from Aquatic Image, Los Angeles- www.Aquaticimage.com who has kept her diving ever since. Her destinations have included Caymans, Vanuatu, Fiji, Borneo, Papua, Sipadan, Komodo, Fiji, Haiti, etc. You name it! Until 2 years ago, she biked every year and joined International Bike Adventure.

When at home she enjoys spending time with her son & daughter and of course her four grandchildren. None of them dive ☺

Inga spent 6 nights at Tasik Ria Resort and 6 nights at Lembeh Resort.] ■JHB

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"I was a **TEENAGE TURTLE'S** Nursemaid"

Anyone visiting Bunaken Island in the Bunaken National Marine Park (B.N.M.P.) here in Sulawesi Utara, R.I., would come to the same conclusion reached by many visitors: This special place is the epitome of the stereotype of "Paradise".

Scratch the surface of this enchanted wonderland of natural beauty and mystery, and a visitor would also come to another conclusion: that the reality of this "Paradise" is very often at odds with our preconceived notions.

Recently, while on holiday here, I had the profound opportunity to see and learn first-hand (pun intended) the collision between the modern world and the natural one. Here in Manado, Sulawesi Utara, a city of 450,000 people, there is a large population of Buddhists. Numerous Temples dot the city and surrounding countryside. Nearby these Buddhist enclaves are the bustling, teeming marketplaces where local merchants ply their goods beneath taut plastic tarpaulins, atop crudely fashioned wooden tables. It is possible to purchase nearly anything in these markets: clothing, audio and video CD's, electronics, hardware, books and magazines, produce and fresh fish. It is here the local populace purchases their food—mainly fish, a staple of their diet since time immemorial. The variety of fish is astonishing— and heart breaking. Several times a month, the local Buddhists venture into the marketplaces, and search among the fish vendors for



the illegally caught and traded Sea Turtles. The Sea Turtle is considered a sacred animal in the Buddhist religion, and they are purchased by the local Buddhists for reintroduction into their native habitat, the Big Blue of Manado Bay.

In June 2004, I was a guest at Murex Dive Resort in the small village of Kalasey, about 15 Km. West of Manado, a lovely dive resort overlooking Manado Bay and the B.N.M.P.



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One afternoon, as I sat in a quaint gazebo, filling out postcards and drinking a mug of the delicious local Kopi (Coffee), I was privileged to witness the sacred ceremony in which the Sea Turtles were released back into the ocean from the "House Beach" at Murex Dive Resort.

Like a good tourist, I quickly grabbed my camera, and along with the other guests began to take pictures of the ceremony. We all watched in fascination as two Buddhist Monks prayed and blessed the 4 turtles arranged on the ramp leading to the beach.

After 15 minutes or so, the prayers and blessings were ended, and it was time for the turtles to return to the sea. Here, my story might have ended, as the turtles took to the waves like racehorses from the starting gate. All, except one.

One of the turtles remained at the beach break, feebly trying to make its way back to shore. It was obvious there was something wrong with this particular turtle, of a species known as the Hawkbeak Sea Turtle. Some of the guests and staff of Murex brought the creature up onto the beach and laid him on the hull of a boat, where they attempted to feed him. Theories and conjecture about the eating habits of the Hawkbeak were bandied about, and one unfortunate guest even received a nasty-looking bite on his finger trying to feed the turtle!

Soon, the gapers and onlookers drifted away one by one, to pursue other interests.

My curiosity was raised however, and with the consent of my host's I managed to scrounge up some fresh fish, and a pair of chopsticks from the kitchen. (I was determined not to suffer the same fate as that of my fellow guests.)

And so I embarked upon a new and exciting career: Marine Wildlife Veterinarian. By this I mean, I became the Teenage Turtle's nursemaid!

At first, the ailing creature could barely lift its head.



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After some trial and error, I soon found a way to hold his jaws open with the chopsticks, and force some of the fish I had cut into small pieces, into his mouth. He



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And so, I came to a conclusion that many other visitors here in Bunaken National Marine Park might come to: That as the stewards of this land and the oceans around it, we must all "lend a hand" in the preservation of our natural world. Even with all my effort at being a Teenage Turtle's 'nursemaid', I couldn't ever be sure that he would survive long enough to lead a normal, healthy life. But at least, I would know that I tried, and that is all we can ask of ourselves: To Try.

For surely, if we don't all try to 'lend a

hand', and take care of Mother Nature, then Mother Nature will surely find a way to 'take care of us'.

EPILOGUE

On June 16, 2004, Tinkerbell was released back into the Big Blue of Manado Bay from the House Beach at Murex Dive Resort. He hesitated at first, as if unsure of himself, then went deep. A local scuba diver saw him soon after, munching on soft coral.

Mark Bauerlein: Mark Bauerlein is a Chef from Vail, Colorado.

He spends most of his free time snowboarding and chasing Nona-Bokis. He plans to return to Manado soon, and vows never to serve Snapper Soup again. ■

10 Things To Do In Manado And Surrounds Without Getting Wet !

1. Horseback Riding - A great chance to see some beautiful scenery in the cooler climate of Tomohon, an hour's drive from Manado up in the Highlands. Matani Stables ensures a leisurely ride and a memorable experience.

2. Sample fresh seafood at Kalasey - Just 15-20 minutes from the center of Manado is the waterfront section of Kalasey, which boasts a stretch of fish and seafood restaurants offering a variety of dishes to suit all budgets. Select your own fish and pick a sauce or cooking style to suit your taste.

3. Visit the Tangkoko National Park and see the world's smallest primate - The 2 hour drive to the Park was previously a nerve wracking, bone jarring affair, but the road has vastly improved and the scenery along the way is worth the journey in itself. The Tarsius Spectrum is a shy little beast (about the size of a box of cigarettes) and can only be viewed at dawn or dusk when it scurries back into or out of its hiding place in the trees. The Black Macaque Monkey can be viewed in family groups and those with keen eyes for birds, may also spot the Hornbill high up in the treetops.

4. Climb a Mountain - Volcanoes abound in the Minahasan region and there is a slope to suit even the meekest of mountain climbers. We recommend Mt Mahawu for those seeking a leisurely stroll with a slight challenge at the top. The view towards Tomohon, Tondano and beyond is breathtaking, and well worth the time to get to the top.

5. Seek out a Chinese Temple - Dotted around the region are a number of Chinese temples symbolizing the contribution this section of

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Planning for Improved Tourism Management in North Sulawesi



Behind the scenes most visitors see of stunning seascapes, volcanic vistas, dolphins, tarsiers, or other funky critters, there are major efforts underway to improve the quality of tourism in North Sulawesi that would benefit guests, the local people, and still keep nature at the center of the attractions.

In 2004 a North Sulawesi Provincial Sustainable Tourism Working Group was formed with members from the Tourism offices of the Province and the local districts and cities, the North Sulawesi Water Sports Association, the Pacific-Asia Travel Association (travel agents, hotel, and dive operators), the local Universities Tourism and Coastal Management departments, Bunaken Management Board, leaders of the coastal communities and other advisors. Their objectives include helping to define a vision for sustainable tourism, and to focus on developing a strategy to achieve that vision.

The Sustainable Tourism Working Group began in September to help define the region's vision for sustainable tourism. They ran a workshop with leaders from all

relevant stakeholders to first learn the concepts of tourism management and the definitions of nature-based vs. environmentally-friendly vs. pure ecotourism, with major media events to share this information with the public. They are now completing a round of consultations with various groups to get their feedback and will end this search for a vision with a public forum and consultation. Hopefully this will result in some guidance as to the "flavor" of tourism for North Sulawesi, a mix of community based programs, resorts and business tourism for both Indonesians and international guests. In another attempt to gauge the willingness and capacity of North Sulawesi in tourism, an assessment of the potential for community-based tourism was conducted in 82 villages. Each village was visited and interviewed to see its environmental features, its cultural strengths and the willingness of the community to participate in community-based tourism. This analysis, conducted by community leaders, resulted in 82 village profiles that describe the strengths, weaknesses

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threats and opportunities for the village in community-based tourism. This supports one outcome of the collective vision in that everyone sees the coastal communities as an integral part of the character of North Sulawesi and empowers the community leaders in the discussions with the Sustainable Tourism Working Group as they build the tourism strategy next year.

North Sulawesi and Bunaken National Marine Park are being nominated in February 2005 as a Natural World Heritage Site (part of a series of 6 Indonesian sites). The evaluation process will take at least 18 months, but this will mark North Sulawesi as one of the most precious and unique marine sites in the world. World Heritage guide lines recommend that the visitor to the site see nature and the culture of the area through the eyes of the community, and that they should share in the benefits of local tourism.

The communities in North Sulawesi have already begun to work on coastal management and conservation. More than 19 villages have set aside community fishery reserves which also serve as potential tourism (non-extractive) snorkel and diving sites. In addition there are 5 mangrove sanctuaries declared that might soon also lead to a mangrove boardwalk or similar attraction. In addition, there are two communities in Bunaken National Marine Park that have installed ECO-REEF snowflake shaped artificial reefs to help speed recovery of damaged coral areas. Each of four major districts have developed community forums who are learning and sharing coastal management skills and looking to develop community-based enterprises. To that end, a group lead by the


Provincial Coastal Management Board is working with a team of community leaders and an economics professor from the university to do an assessment of the feasibility of various livelihood activities succeeding here in the coastal communities of North Sulawesi. More than 25 traditional activities, categorized as handicrafts, food products and mariculture were reviewed for their ability to generate effective sustainable income and a portfolio that describes the various enterprises was published and distributed, followed by training in these skills for community members. A similar portfolio of ecotourism or community-based tourism activities will be produced in early 2005, followed by a small grants program that will allow community people to learn and start-up new enterprises. v

One additional exciting activity is the planning for the establishment of a marine protected area in Lembeh Strait, Bitung. As divers know, this very special place harbors a wealth of wild and strange animals in "the world's best muck diving site". A new program has begun to establish the first city-level Marine Protected Area in Indonesia in this site, in recognition of the need to protect this special area in the middle of a busy port city. Hopefully, this new MPA will be declared in 2005,

and the city will begin its management.

So, as you go about your leisurely days of sunning and swimming, just be aware that the communities, private sector and government of North Sulawesi are working hard to improve your experience here and to provide them with a world class, sustainable and exciting natural setting for your recreation. ■





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Letting Off Steam

Just before the village of Lahendong on the road to Sonder south of Tomohon there is a small sign on a particularly nasty bend in the road indicating the entrance to natural hot springs and a chance to see just how angry the earth can be in this part of the world. You can spend some time here observing the gurgling mud pools, watch steam emerging from hissing fissures in the moonscape conditions, see small pools of bubbling water and a small lake with steam rising across its expanse. There is a vaguely sulfurous odor but don't let that put you off as you can easily spend a couple of hours here enjoying the dramatic surrounds or relaxing in the bathing area fed by hot springs. It is advisable not to stray from the marked paths as the ground is quite fragile and you could quickly find yourself sinking with potentially disastrous consequences.



A rice paddy comes right up to the edge of this amazing landscape providing a luscious green backdrop while pine trees provide a cool respite from equatorial sun. There are picnic tables scattered throughout the area as well as a kiosk and a restaurant where you can savor traditional Minahasa food. ■ By Farjar



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Manado's Mighty Mountains

The landscape surrounding Manado is crowned by a series of dramatic volcanoes, most of which are easily accessible and offer varying degrees of a climbing challenge.

Most recently I added two more to my list of conquered volcanoes in the region: "Manado Tua" and one of the "Dua Saudara" slopes.

Mt Manado Tua, the majestic island volcano situated in the middle of Manado bay, was the first on my agenda. It has become somewhat of an icon for Manado and is generally one of the most memorable islands you will glimpse from your aircraft on your approach to the city.

The easiest way to get there is to charter a boat from the harbour in the centre of town. Depending on the time of year, boat charters are around Rp. 300,000-400,000 for the day, and would be worthwhile with a group. Ask your boat driver to take you to the main beach where you will need to meet with the village head to ask for permission to climb and to assist you with locating a guide. It will be necessary to climb with a guide, as the "path" is almost impossible to find alone.

The climb is steep (as expected for a volcano) and winds its way through thick vegetation. It is a hot climb tackled during the heat of the day, so start as early as possible. It took us 3 hours to get to the top but unfortunately it is difficult to get a good 360-degree view due to the trees. You may need to descend a little way to get a clearer photo back to Manado or over the rest of the islands.

The climb back down again will take you about 1.5 hours and this will be when your knees will get the most hammering. Perhaps the benefit of climbing Manado Tua is the prospect of a swim once you get to the bottom. You can then take advantage of the rest of your boat hire to go out snorkeling at any of the sensational spots surrounding the island.

Several weeks later I was off tramping up another slope, one of the two mountains "Dua Saudara" (the two siblings), on the other side of Manado. The two mountains are in the



Tangkoko Nature Reserve located on the road towards Bitung. Again it is necessary to get approval from the local village head and to source a knowledgeable local guide. This is jungle terrain and the flora and fauna is stunning. If you are lucky enough, it may be possible to sight macaque monkeys and perhaps the famous hornbill bird soaring through the tree tops. As we head into the damper months, certainly the trek up will be a slippery one and the misty upper slopes seem somewhat eerie in the steaming tropics. Moss and lichen hanging from the trees is more reminiscent of the deep south in America.

Walking at a steady pace it should take the average trumper 3.5 hours to reach the top. The views at the peak are well worth the effort. On a clear day it will be possible to see across Bitung Harbour and Lembeh Strait and out toward Bangka Island. The towering Mt Klabat will be right beside you and you might feel that could be your next challenge.

With all climbs around the Minahasa area, it is necessary to take one or two reliable guides, lots of water and don't forget your insect spray. Walking boots would be helpful but I climbed all the volcanoes just wearing running shoes and that was adequate (after all, the local guides manage just with flip-flops so clearly fancy shoes aren't all that necessary!).

There has been some recent activity on Mt Soputan so it would also be wise to get some safety advice before tackling the active volcanoes. If you require more specific details on climbing any of the volcanoes in the Minahasa area, please feel free to contact the writer via e-mail at rufijuno@yahoo.com. ■ Lois Lane

10 things to do....

continued from page 6

the community has given to the diverse "flavor" of Minahasa.

6. Shop like a local, visit the markets

- Two of the most interesting in the area are Karombasan Market in Manado and the Tomohon Market. The markets can typically be muddy and smelly but the sights and sounds are well worth the experience. Meat, vegetables, clothes, household items... you name it, a whole hodge podge of goods are on sale in these rabbit warrens. Particular to the Minahasan region; rat, bat and dog are on sale destined for the hotplate (for the squeamish amongst you, we do recommend you avoid the areas in the market where these are displayed). Take your camera and don't forget to haggle like a local.

7. Relax with a traditional massage

- The road wary amongst you may wish to indulge in a luxurious massage to knead away those travel tensions. A traditional massage can be a mildly brutal affair if you are unaccustomed to an Asian massage, but you can be sure that every muscle in your body will get attended to. For a little lighter pampering you may want to opt for a cream bath (Indonesian scalp, head and neck massage and hair treatment) or the more familiar facials, pedicures or manicures. There are a number of salons in Manado offering a variety of treatments all for a fraction of the price you would pay in the West.

8. Buy a basket or local pottery

- On the road leading to Tomohon is a number of small roadside stalls selling a variety of woven baskets that make interesting souvenirs and help support a local cottage industry. Further on at Pulutan, you can purchase locally produced pottery and view first hand the potters at work.

9. Be brave, eat like a local - OK, it can be said that sampling true Minahasan delicacies can qualify you for a place on the TV program "Fear Factor", but if you do have a cast iron stomach and a strong sense of adventure, then a fiery serving of rat, bat or dog could well be to your liking. Vegetarians however, need not apply.

10. Souvenir Shopping - It is true that Manado is not a shopping mecca, but you can pick up some handy souvenirs in and around the town. T-shirts are a popular favorite along with coconut serving spoons and carvings from throughout Sulawesi. There is a good selection at the small shop located in the little Minahasa house down the road from the Post Office, and another on the road to the airport and up to Tomohon, just pass the gas station in Winangun. ■ By Lois Lane

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Summer School Follow up

Kri Untung Suropati cruised into Karatung harbour on 8th July 2004, a navy warship with an unusual mission – bringing 33 students from Eastern Indonesia and myself from Newcastle University, England, to the remote island chain of North Talaud known as Nanusa Watunapato.

The Summer School was the brainchild of The Indonesian Perpetual Ocean Foundation (Yayasan Laut Lestari Indonesia/YLLI), which is committed to raising awareness and promoting cooperation to protect Indonesia's beautiful seas for future generations. Besides the 35 undergraduates in marine science and fisheries, there were 30 local people from Nanusa who went back to school for a month of study and practical field work, gathering data about the ecology and economy

of their area.

The Summer School was facilitated by 10 staff from YLLI's IKANN or FISH Program (Inisiatif Keberlanjutan Alam Nelayan Nusantara/Fisherfolk of Indonesia Self-Help) with the support from 15 experts from 11 partner institutions, including the Government, Churches, Universities, NGO's, commercial diving operations and other interested international companies. IKAN Nusantara empowers stakeholders to help themselves; discussing what they need to protect and manage their rich marine resources in a sustainable way. These future experts in marine disciplines were given valuable field experience they would normally not be able to obtain on campus. Local people became practical scientists themselves,

gathering data about their islands, using techniques which they can use for management in the future.

The 'Wet Team' gathered data about the diverse and productive ecosystems surrounding the islands: coral reefs, seagrass, algae and the few remaining mangroves. The 'Dry Team' interviewed a hundred homes in each village to create

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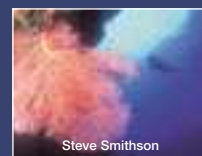
a map of the community's social economy.

Adat tradition remains strong in Nanusa, especially the most remote island, Kakorotan, where people barter and exchange goods rather than using money. This is an area where people share freely with their neighbours. To respect the adat rules we did not wear red, and before stepping on an island took a small handful of sand to rub on our forehead. Apart from these more obscure traditions, respect for the sea is very important. The villagers also have traditional means by which to manage the fishing grounds called Mane'e. This occurs once a year during the month of May. At this time villagers gather to catch an great quantities of fish from areas that have been closed off in a protected area. Eha is another tradition which falls into the same type of limited harvesting by closing an entire area - land and sea - until community leaders declare it open.

One fact that seems to prevail, fishermen are saying fish are less abundant and harder to find, and few can afford the equipment to venture beyond the reefs and exploit the pelagic fisheries. Dramatic and unpredictable weather stopped most fishing during our stay. Despite this, larger all-weather vessels from Bitung and the Philippines are common, people are concerned by illegal exploitation of Nanusa's seas, calling for the intervention of the government to help them retain the rights to their fishing grounds. Buyers from Bitung offer inconsistent and low prices for their catch. In the past these problems have encouraged the use of cyanide, compressors and dynamite to catch high value species, sadly destroying corals and poisoning

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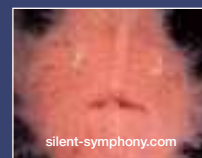
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smaller reef dwelling species in the process.

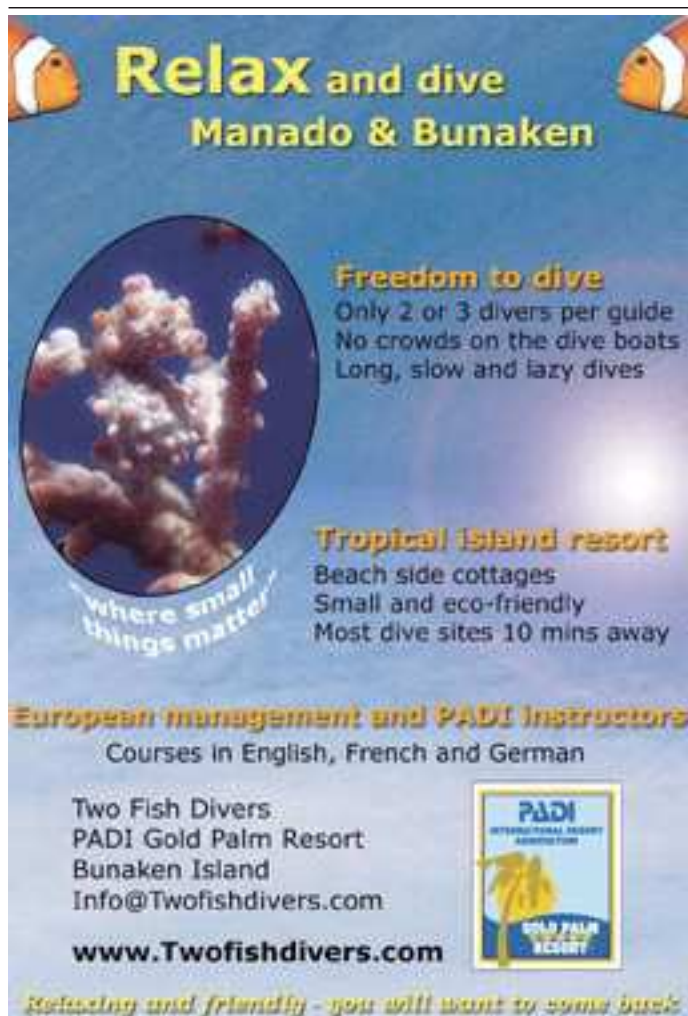
The Summer School program undertook a campaign encouraging the whole community, children and adults alike, to protect their resources; the mechanisms of games songs and educational films

will hopefully begin to bring about a change in the mindset of these wonderful island people.

At the end of the period after facts and figures were gathered the school's findings were presented to the newly appointed Bupati (Governor) of Talaud Dr Ellie Lasut, as well as the Department of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in Tahuna. Unfortunately, the news isn't good; despite the gin clear water, a shocking 70-80% coral is dead. Reasons for this tragic devastation include a massive Tsunami of 1992, the El Nino event of 1998 and the beginnings of a cyanide fishery. In order to begin to reverse this trend it is vital that the community undertake management and monitoring of their own reefs.

In this regard, the YLLI team continue to make regular visits to Nanusa, and are currently looking for resources to place a team there on a permanent basis.

The health of reef systems throughout Indonesia has a direct effect on the quality of life of a community, and Nanusa is no different. The community has demonstrated a real desire to try creative and innovative ideas. We hope that as local understanding increases and the interest in marine science and conservation is broadened, the drive to be part of the conservation effort will not be a one-sided effort by scientists and NGO's, but the desire of the stakeholders themselves. ■



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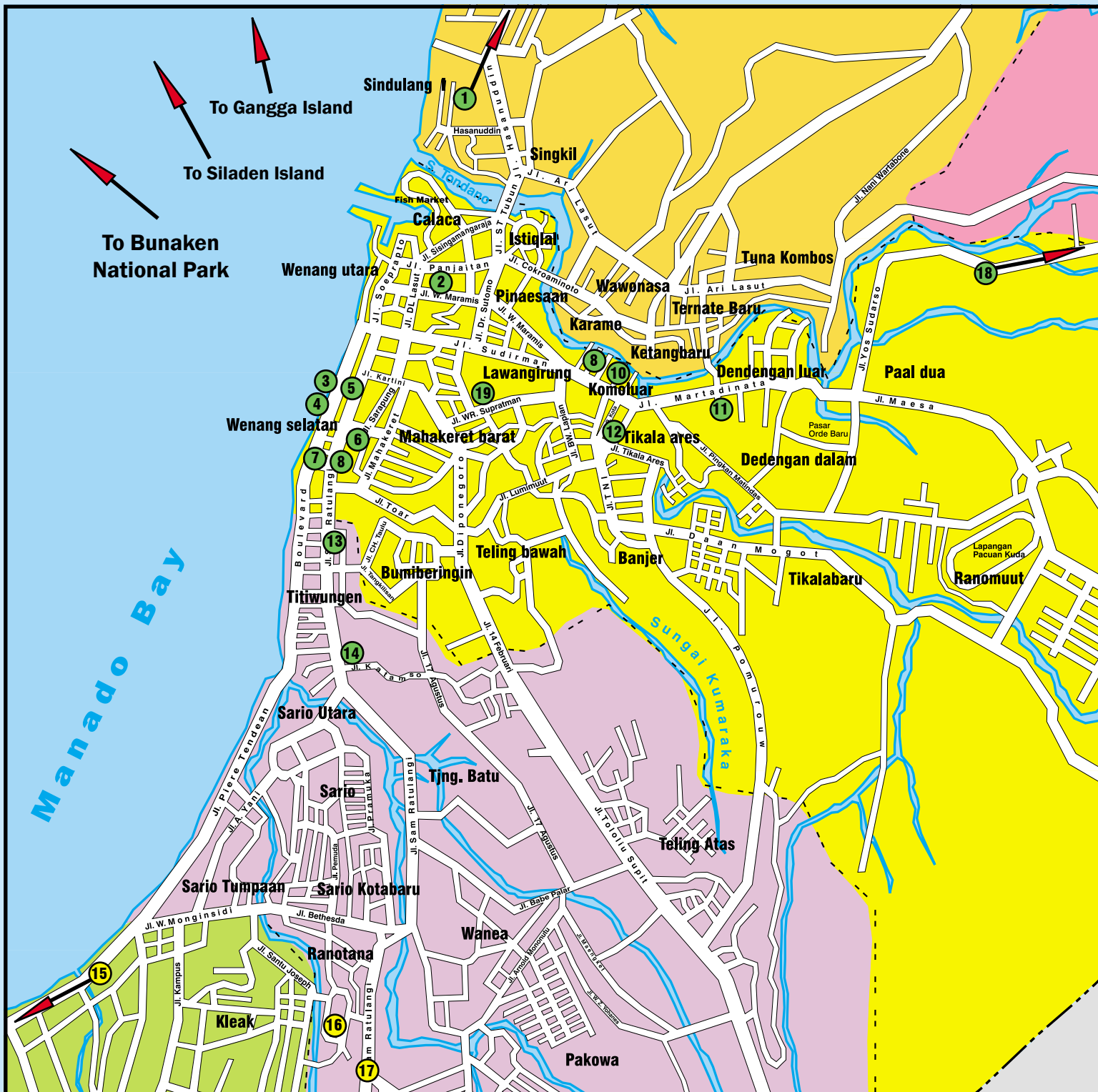
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