

## ***Lively tales from Papua New Guinea—the land almost lost in time***

**Bev Floyd**

*Lively tales from Papua New Guinea—the land almost lost in time* is an account of Papua New Guinea by an Australian who lived there from 1967 until 1975. It is a first-hand account of a young woman's discovery and adventure in PNG but also describes the people, the places and the highlights of an emerging nation and aspects of its history both modern and ancient.

Bev Floyd, was there when Australia was preparing to hand over the reins of self-government to Papuans and New Guineans. She taught at a local school in Port Moresby; lectured in mathematics at the Madang Teachers College and at the Dauli Teachers College in the Southern Highlands. She returned to Port Moresby to work on curriculum development.

Bev was intrigued by the people; she appreciated their culture and was a keen observer of the customs and political forces in play when she lived there. She says 'There was no television; no opera; no music festivals: There was, however, the marvellous excitement of living among people with a rich diversity of music, dance and social systems.'

While living in PNG she travelled to Lae and Rabaul and Wewak; sailed down the coast in a lakatoi; went to Mt Hagen for the highland show; walked along part of the Kokoda track; flew in small air-craft to off-shore islands, over volcanoes and around the central highlands.

She was in Port Moresby when independence celebrations took place. The town was looking good. It had rained the previous week and everywhere was green. Golden shower trees were flowering, giving the place a festive appearance. And there was such excitement. This moment had been coming for almost ten years. First self-government and preparation now was upon the new nation. Afterwards it seemed as if the local people had become more confident, ebullient. They had their own nation.

Finally, in 1975 after Papua New Guinea gained independence Bev decided to leave. It was a difficult decision as her heart had been captured by the twelve years spent there—by so many wonderful memories; lovely friendships; tremendous events.

50 years after first arriving in Papua New Guinea she returned to see how it was faring since independence. This was also a memorable experience. Her book can be obtained in book shops or purchased online at [www.boolarongpress.com.au](http://www.boolarongpress.com.au)

