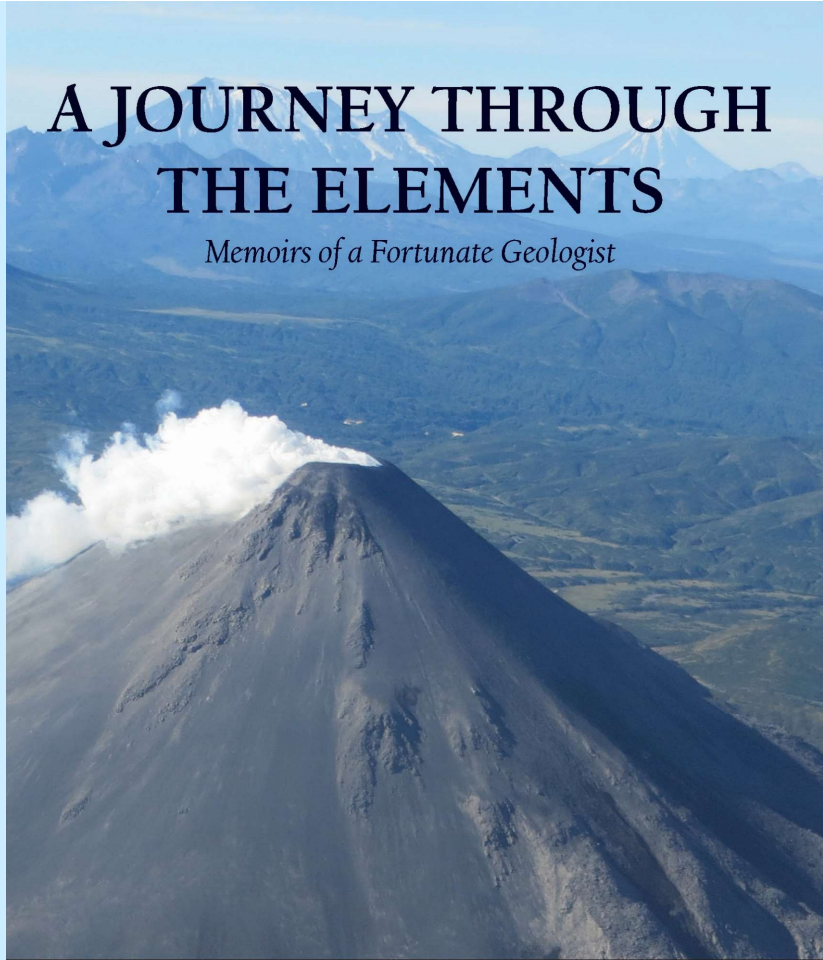


A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ELEMENTS

Memoirs of a Fortunate Geologist



Garry Lowder

With a Foreword by Prof Ross Large AO



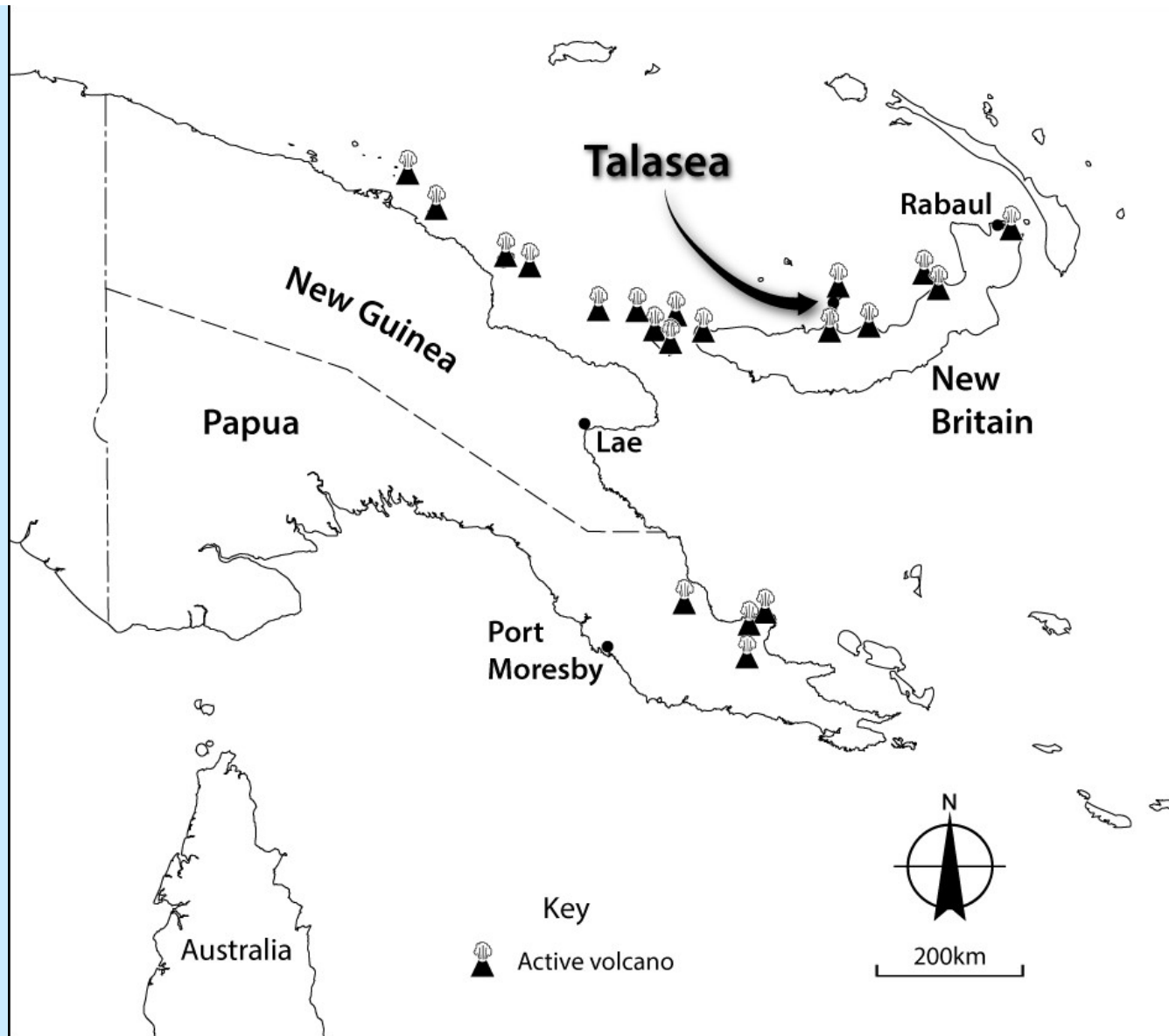
A JOURNEY THROUGH THE ELEMENTS

*“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s
what you see.”*

Henry David Thoreau
American writer and polymath
1817 - 1862

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 1967

Map of PNG, showing
location of Talasea
and the active
volcanoes of PNG





Margaret goes shopping in Rabaul, 1967

All of this was buried under ash from Tavurvur volcano in 1994



The “Bung”
(market)
in Rabaul

Three of six Japanese landing barges sit end to end inside one of many tunnels dug into volcanic ash of the Rabaul caldera

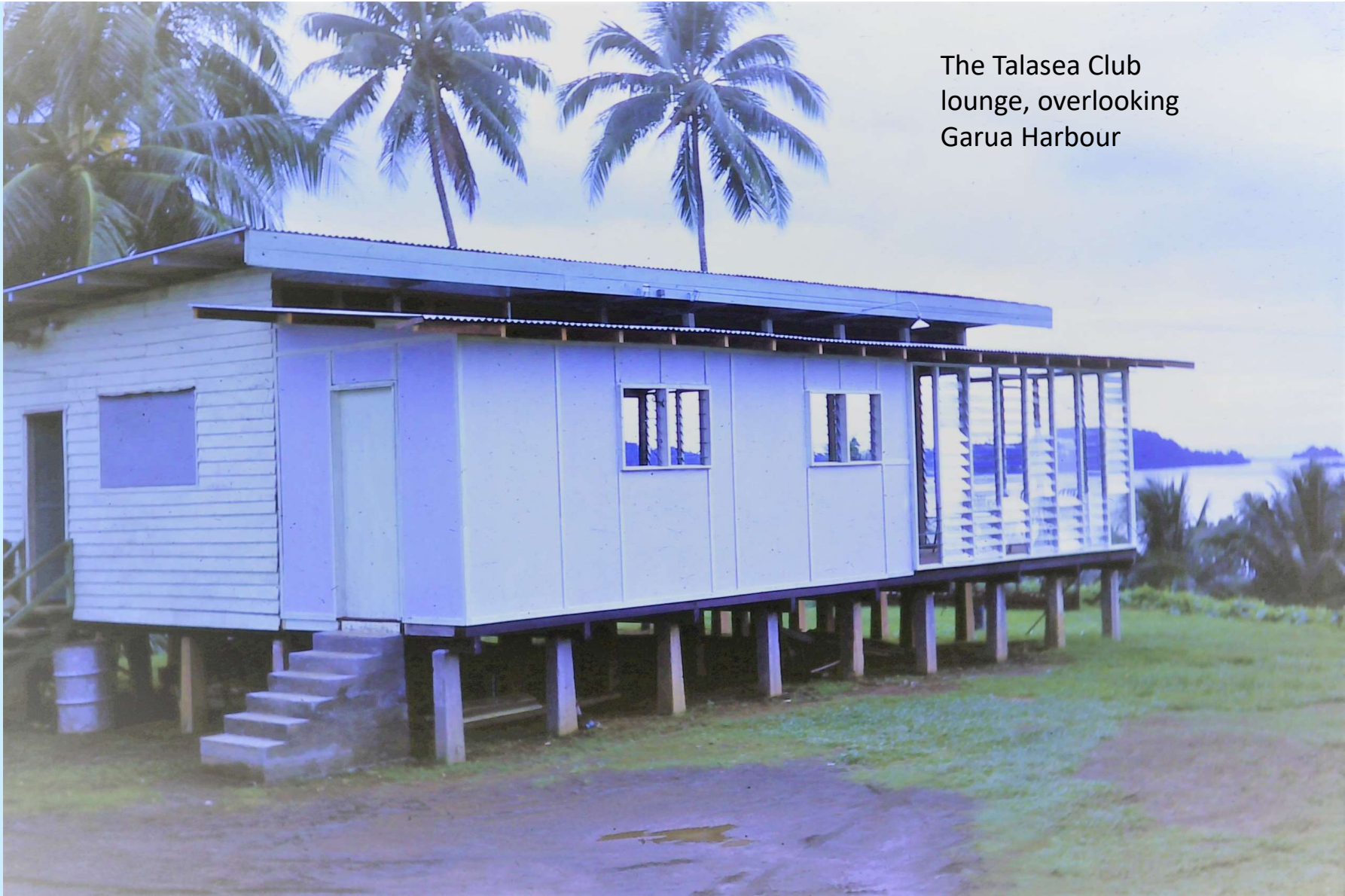


The tunnels were dug by 600 British soldiers captured in the fall of Singapore; only 18 of them survived



The Talasea Club -
accommodation

The Talasea Club
lounge, overlooking
Garua Harbour





WW II Hudson
bomber on Talasea's
pre-war airstrip



Arrival in Bulu Muri



Margaret in the *Haus Kiap* in
Bulu Muri



The *Haus Kiap* - our
home in Bulu Muri

The view from
the *Haus Kiap*
in Bulu Muri



Cooking this fish
in alfoil caused
great concern to
the village
women - they
thought we
were using
paper!



An aerial photograph of a large, irregularly shaped volcanic caldera. The caldera is filled with a dark blue lake. The surrounding landscape is a mix of dark and light brown, indicating volcanic ash and some vegetation. The sky is a pale blue with a few wispy white clouds. The text "The volcanic caldera at Lake Dakataua – the lake is 11km across" is overlaid in yellow. Other labels in white identify "Bulu Dava" on the left, "Mt Makalia" in the center, and "Bulu Muri" on the right. A white text box at the bottom explains the historical context of the mountain.

The volcanic caldera at Lake Dakataua – the lake is 11km across

Bulu Dava

Mt Makalia

Bulu Muri

A 3,000m mountain stood here until about 1200 years ago



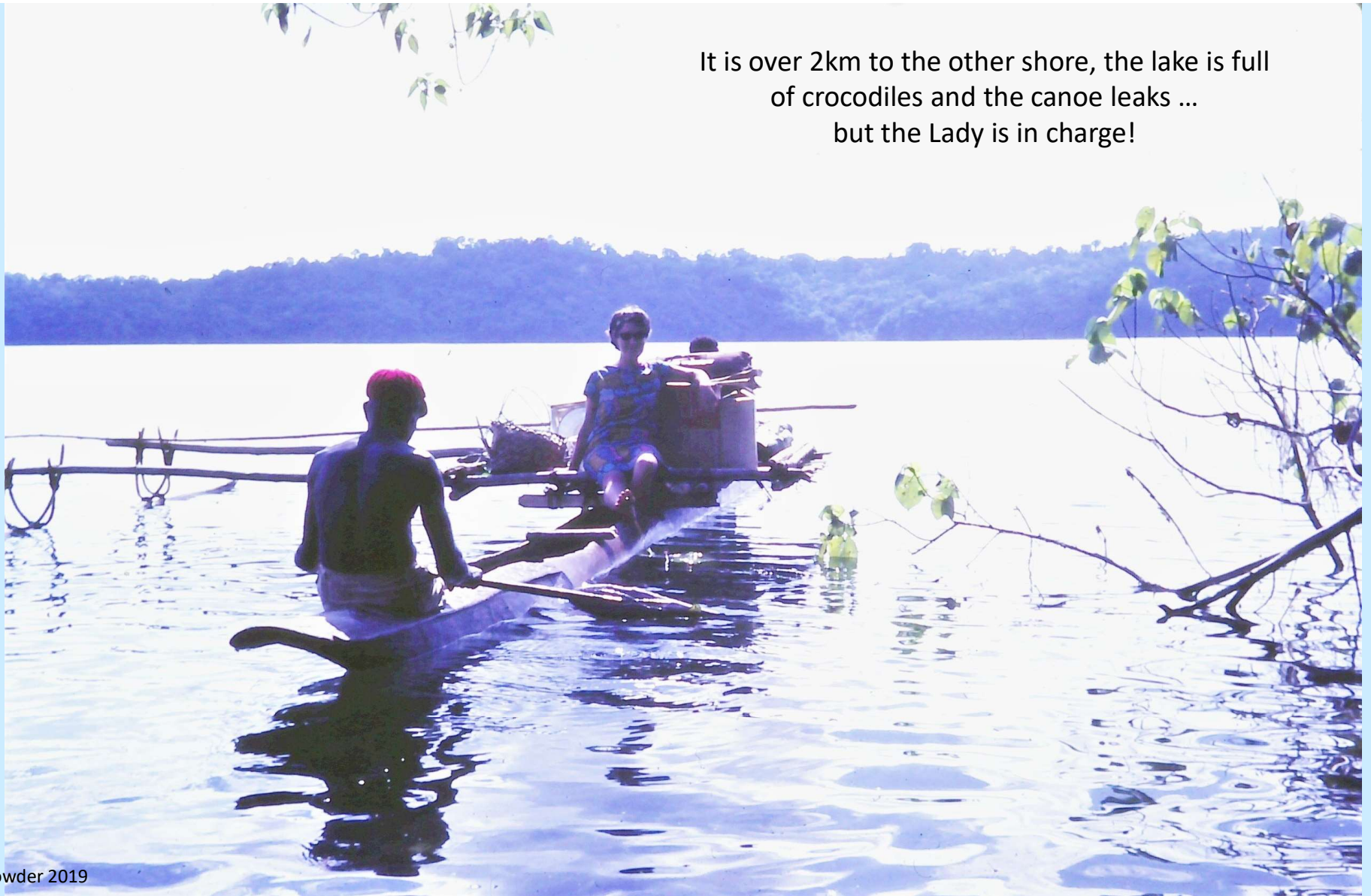
Utu

Peter

Gari

Utu's canoe on Lake Dakataua was our
sole means of transport around the lake

It is over 2km to the other shore, the lake is full
of crocodiles and the canoe leaks ...
but the Lady is in charge!

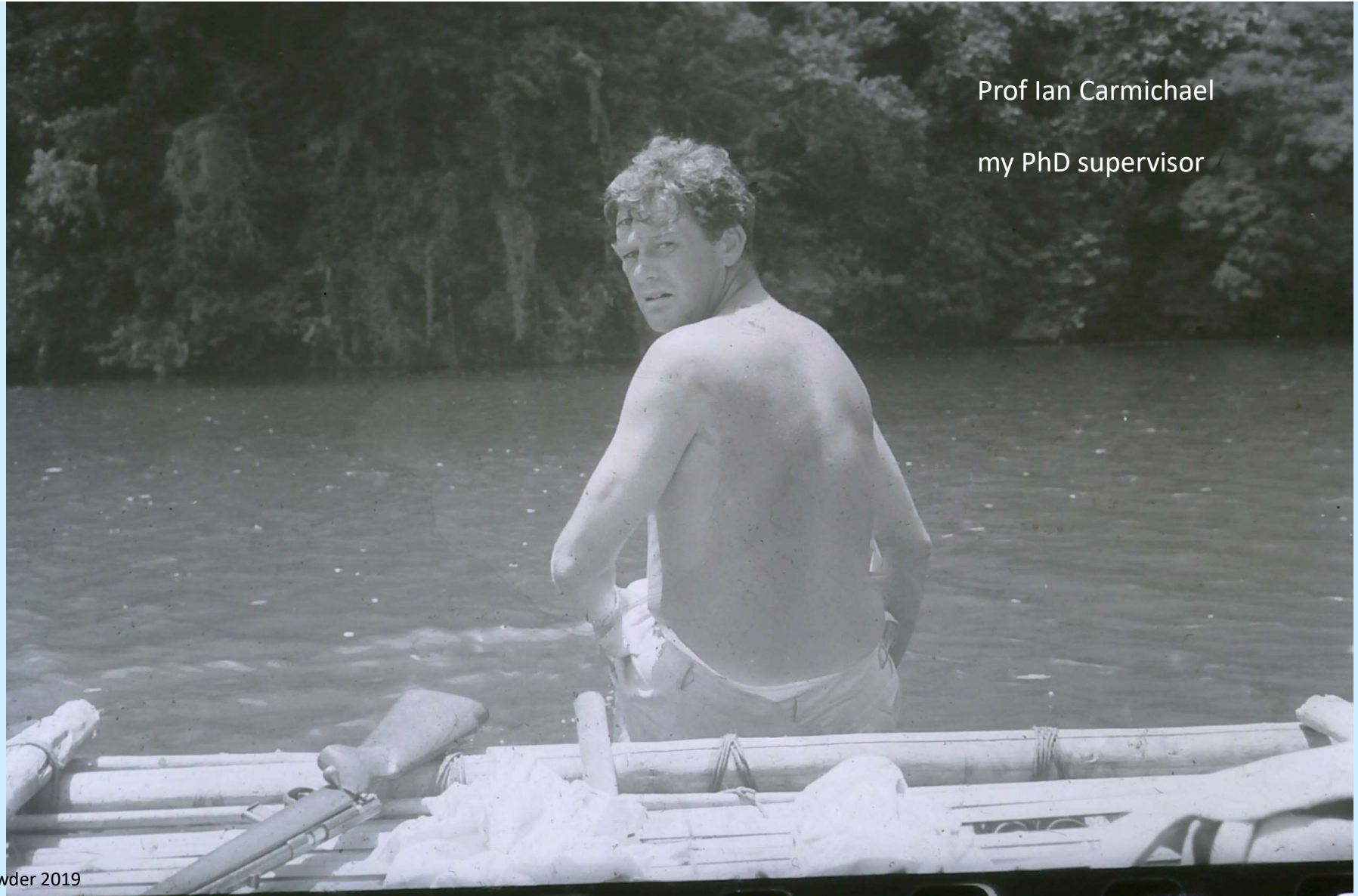


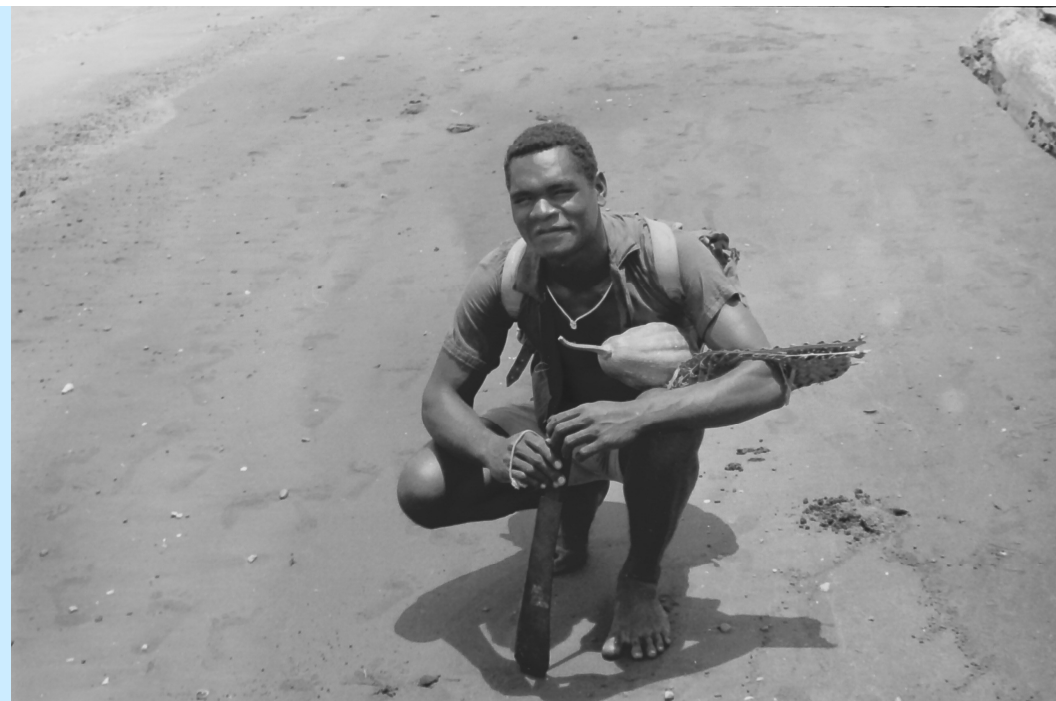
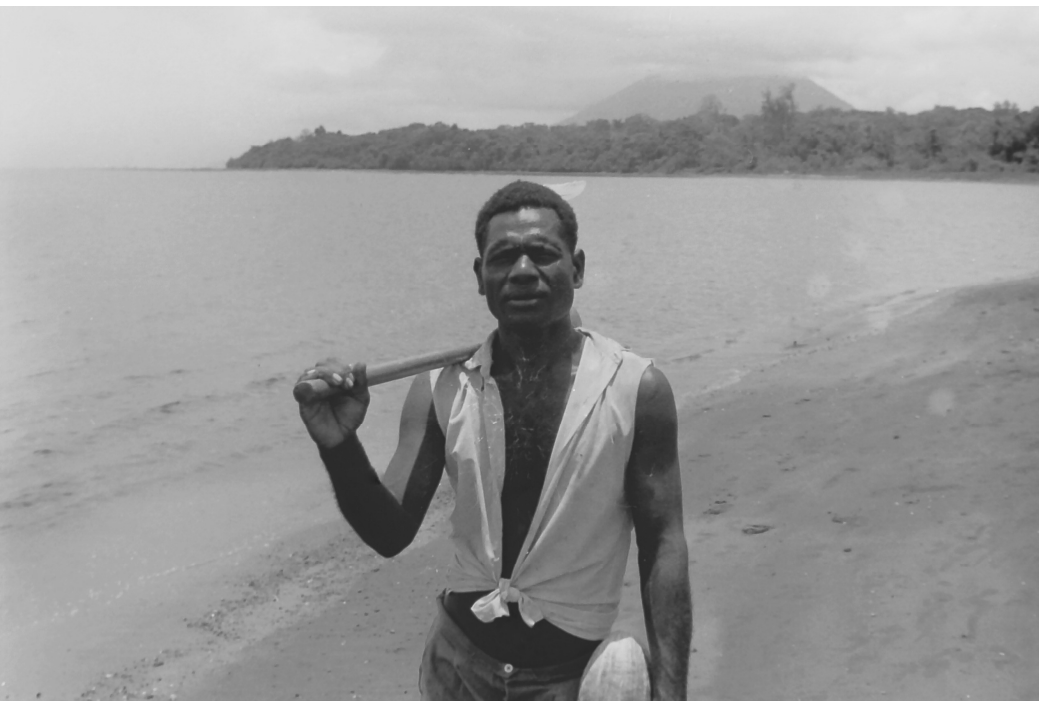
Mt Wangore volcano, as seen
from Volupai Plantation



Prof Ian Carmichael

my PhD supervisor /





My companions for the ascent of Wangore – Utu and Gabriel

"Masta bilong brukim ston"
sets off from Volupai for a
day climbing volcanoes





The Bulu Dava
school class and
their teacher

In 2005 this was
destroyed by a
new eruption.

The Mt Garbuna
crater and its
fumaroles in 1967.





Sulphur deposits inside the Mt Garbuna crater near Talasea in 1967 (l) and in 1986 (r), when I made a return visit by helicopter. The ground was hot underfoot and the smell of rotten egg gas was everywhere.

USA

1966 - 1970



En route to the USA in 1967 – we had just won the “Horse Race” competition and are receiving our prize from the P & O Commodore

My first exposure to recent lava (1915) – Mt Lassen in northern California, 1966



I am the very model of a modern graduate student!

INDONESIA

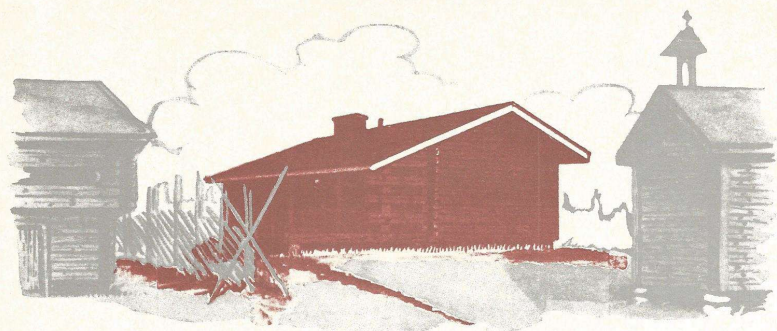
With some of my
“new best friends”
in Pontianak,
Kalimantan
(Borneo), in 1983





The preferred means of transport in Sulawesi, Indonesia, 1976

Alouette II helicopter, with John Dow in the front seat



SAUNA CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
OUR HONOURED GUEST

MR. GARRY G. LOWDER

HAS TODAY SHOWN EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH
OF CHARACTER (SISU) AND SURVIVED ALL THE
ENJOYMENT A RED-HOT FINNISH SMOKE-SAUNA
CAN OFFER

THE TEMPERATURE MEASURED
DURING THE TIME OF ORDEAL

94.2 °C
2015 °F

8TH APRIL 1987

OUTOKUMPU OY
PYHASALMI MINE

Tim Valtter
MASTER OF CEREMONIES



FINLAND



The lodge at Outokumpu: early in a balmy -13°C morning, April 1987

The Pyhasalmi sauna certificate:
recording my survival at a balmy 94.2°C

With colleagues Angus Collins and Paul Wilson on the frozen Kemijoki River in Rovaniemi, Finland;
the ice is over 1m thick (we hope)





On the Arctic Circle in
Rovaniemi



I try my hand at winter field work,
Finnish style

AUSTRALIA

With Michael Vickers – about to
enter the Hillgrove Gold Mine
near Armidale, NSW





\$900,000 in gold!
(at today's prices) from the
Paddington Gold Mine
near Kalgoorlie, WA


RUSSIA 2012

The only way to get around
in remote Kamchatka



Valley of the Geysers, Kamchatka



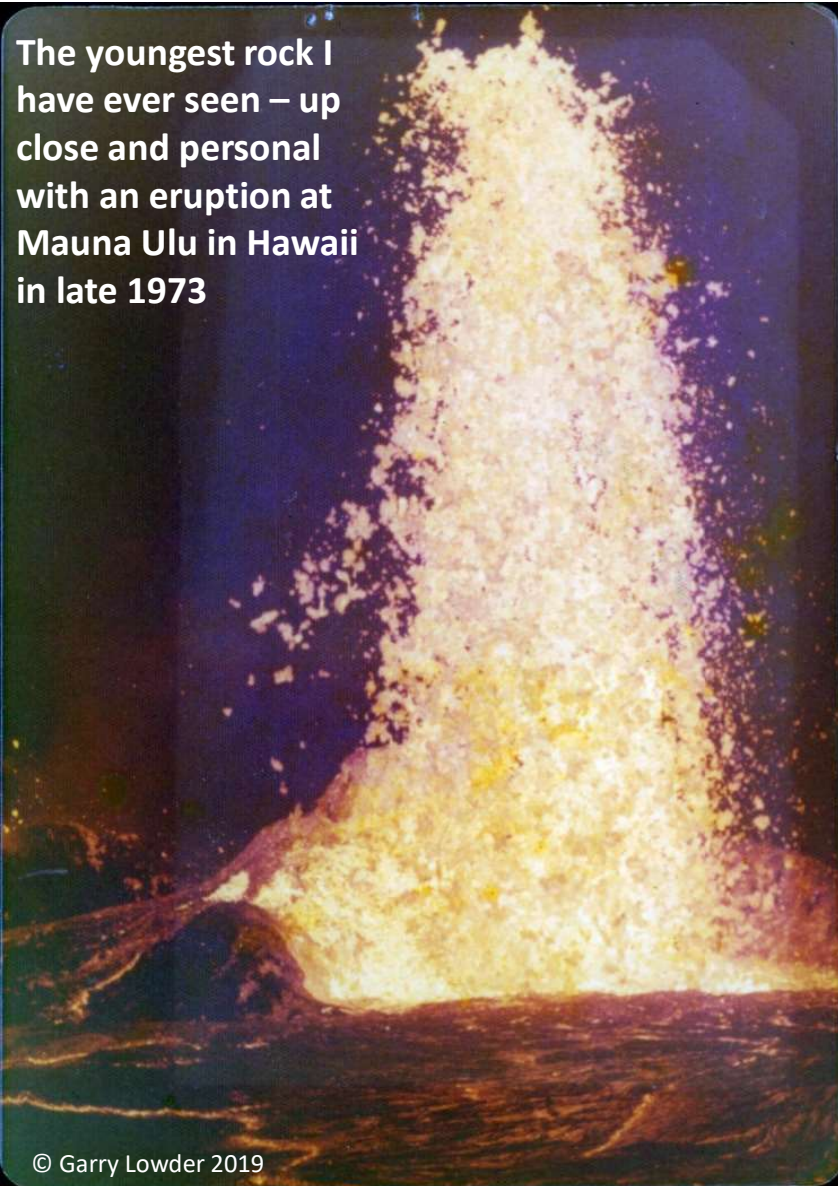
A man wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, light-colored trousers, a wide-brimmed hat, and a fanny pack stands in the foreground of a volcanic crater. The ground is rocky and covered in ash. In the background, the steep, barren slopes of the volcano rise, with several plumes of white steam or smoke rising from the crater floor. The sky is overcast.

Inside the active
crater of Mutnovsky
volcano, Kamchatka

With Sergei, our escort
(protecting us from the bears)
in Kamchatka, and his Kalashnikov



The youngest rock I
have ever seen – up
close and personal
with an eruption at
Mauna Ulu in Hawaii
in late 1973



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HAWAII



The same lava flow revisited
38 years later

NEW ZEALAND

Inside the crater of White Island –
New Zealand's most active volcano,
in 2017



With Haraldur Sigurðsson, Iceland's most famous geologist, at the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, Iceland, in 2015

ICELAND



KAMCHATKA – LAND OF FIRE AND ICE

Karymsky volcano – constantly active

CIVILISATION EXISTS BY GEOLOGICAL CONSENT ...

SUBJECT TO FURTHER NOTICE

Will Durant,

American historian and philosopher, 1885-1981