



Marcus Brandt &lt;pngmark@gmail.com&gt;

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**PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunion - November 2024 Newsletter**

1 message

**PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunion Committee**

&lt;PNG.KLS.SPLC.Reunion@96613245.mailchimpapp.com&gt;

Reply-To: PNG.KLS.SPLC.Reunion@gmail.com

To: pngmark@gmail.com

Fri, Nov 29, 2024 at 7:49 PM

**PNG/KLS/SPLC 2025 Reunion Newsletter*****The journey to the Reunion starts here!*****November 2024 Newsletter****GREETINGS WANTOKS****Look for these things in this newsletter:**

- **Wokabout Wantaim Wantoks** - a guided tour in PNG with Professor George Weiblen
- **Our next “Keeping in Touch” Zoom Gathering March 8 (U.S. & Eur.)/March. 9 (Aust.), 2025.**

- Our next **PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunion** October 2 - 5, 2025

### Links to our website:

- Mark Singh-Hueters' videos, including the latest Zoom Gathering in October
- Recent Obituaries



### Wokabout Wantaim Wantoks

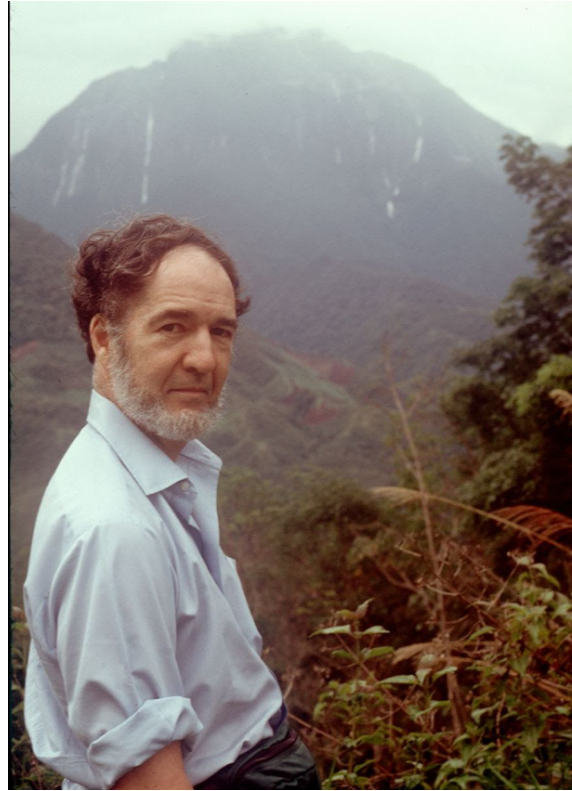
Have you wanted to return to PNG but have been hesitant to do so due to logistics? Then we have an opportunity for you. Professor George Weiblen, who spoke at our last three reunions, is setting up a two-week guided tour for interested MKs and family members. As George describes it, the focus is "in support of biodiversity and cultural renewal." Beginning with a tour of the Binatang Center, "This two-week excursion to Nagada, Amele, Baitabag, and Middle Ramu aims to introduce participants to the work of Binatang Center in rural communities."

George is in the organizational phase of the tour for either May or September 2025.

While it isn't 'set-in-stone', please [click on this link to our website](#) for the daily itinerary and other details about this unique opportunity.

If you are interested, be sure to contact

[Professor Weiblen at his email: gweiblen@umn.edu](mailto:gweiblen@umn.edu)



**Join Us for Our Next Zoom Gathering  
Saturday March 8, 2025 from 1-3 pm CST**

Times:

Central USA - 1 pm

Europe - 8 pm

Australia (AEST) - 5 am Sunday March 9

Special Guest

**Jared Diamond**

Topic:

**"Birds and People in New Guinea: Constructive Paranoia"**

Jared Diamond is an author, researcher, and teacher of Geography at UCLA. He met the Mesplay family at Karimui in 1964 while on his first trip to New Guinea to study birds. They shared interests and enjoyed many happy hours playing music and discussing all things New Guinea. Over the past 60 years, Jared returned to New Guinea 20 times, always to a different area. While studying in different regions, he was frequently the only European in a village. He commented, "Once you've been to New Guinea, the rest of the world is boring."

*We will be hearing about his research of the birds of Papua New Guinea and how and why he coined the term 'constructive paranoia.'*

His last visit to Papua New Guinea was in 2007 and his last visit to Indonesia New Guinea was in 2019. Recent projects involved designing natural park systems for the governments of New Guinea, Indonesia and the Solomon Islands.

He is a prolific writer and renowned author and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his 1997 book, *'Guns, Germs and Steel'*. We hope you can join us in March and would suggest checking his website and even reading one of his books beforehand.

Here is a link to his personal [website](#).







Two colorful Birds of Paradise - Paula (Schulz) Mitchell collection

Sulfur-crested Cockatoo at the Lae Guest House - Paula (Erickson) Bergs collection

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## Save the Date!

### Our Next PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunion:

Thursday October 2 to Sunday October 5, 2025

at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center, Farmington, Minnesota

<https://mtolivetretreat.org/>

Welcoming, interesting, and informative sessions are being planned!

**Thursday:** arrival after 3 pm, settle in, dinner at 6 pm followed by an evening getting reacquainted.

**Friday:** Jared Diamond (via Zoom), George Weiblen (in person), Barbara Carlyon (via Zoom)

**Saturday:** afternoon - hilarious Looney Lutherans comedy hour led by Greta Grosch, (her parents were missionaries in Lae), sharing good-natured fun about "growing up Lutheran". Evening Remembrance Service.

**Sunday:** closing worship, lunch, PowerPoint, final sharing and "God Be With You".

*You can look forward to re-connecting with old friends, maybe some you haven't seen in decades! Enjoy stimulating conversations, excellent presentations, special music, displays, and good food.*

Note: the reunion coincides with the 50th Anniversary of PNG Independence.

**Put the reunion in your calendar**

**October 2-5, 2025, at Mt Olivet!**

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2023 Reunion - preparing special music for the Saturday evening service.

### Links to our [Website](#)

- **Wantok Playlist** - put together by Mark Singh-Hueter. This month, we feature the two videos from our most recent Zoom Gathering in October titled, *"Quintessential Pictures of PNG"*. [Click here for the first hour](#) and small group discussions. [Click here for the second hour](#), small group discussions and a slide show post Zoom.
- **Rest In Peace** - in the past three months, we've been contacted about the passing of these three wantoks: Richard Hammer, Eric Theile, Bage Yominao. Click [here](#) to read any information we've received.

**Please note that we have a new email address**  
[png.kls.splc.reunion@gmail.com](mailto:png.kls.splc.reunion@gmail.com)

The 2025 PNG Reunion Planning Committee  
Mark Brandt, Kay (Edwards) Horntvedt, Tim Johnson, Dawn (Daechsel) McLean,  
Paula (Schulz) Mitchell, Grace (Senff) Payne, Else (Helbig) Schardt, Cynthia  
(Mansur) Schoonover, Gary Schoonover, Mark Singh-Hueter, Dianne Tuff, Les  
Walck.



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