

## PNG/KLS/SPLC - Feb 2025 Newsletter

1 message

PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunion Committee

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Fri, Feb 14, 2025 at 10:41

AM



## PNG/KLS/SPLC 2025 Reunion Newsletter

***The journey to the Reunion starts here!***

February 2025 Newsletter

### **GREETINGS WANTOKS**

Look for these things in this newsletter:

- **Wokabout Wantaim Wantoks** - a guided tour in PNG with Professor George Weiblen
- Our next **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' Reunion and Zoom videos**
- **Recent Obituaries**

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### *Wokabout Wantaim Wantoks*

Professor George Weiblen just returned last week from a scoping visit to PNG for his proposed **"Wokabout Wantaim Wantoks"**. Tentative dates are set for 7-21 September so that participants might share their experiences at the reunion in October.

He has created a form for folks to indicate levels of interest and ask questions: [click here to access the form](#)

George had a wonderful experience in PNG except upon returning from the 'bush' to learn that his public lecture sponsored by the US Embassy in Port Morseby was cancelled and his USAID proposal was paused by executive order from the Trump administration. With the change in US diplomacy, support from wantoks on wokabout could be critical in sustaining his humanitarian & environmental work in Madang. Photos, video, and more information about the wokabout can be viewed [here](#)

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

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

World Clock Times:

Central USA - 1 pm Saturday

Europe - 8 pm Saturday

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.

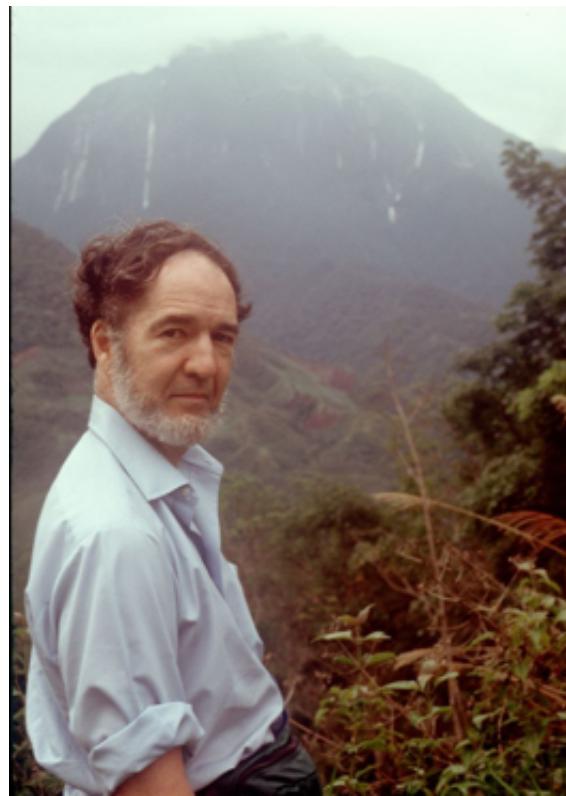
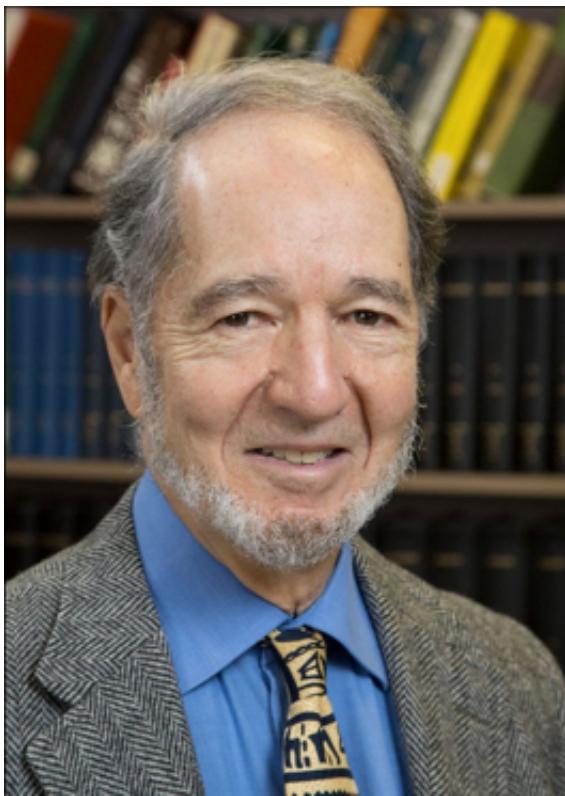
He is a prolific writer and renowned author and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his 1997 book, *'Guns, Germs and Steel'*. He suggests reading his 2012 book, *'The World Until Yesterday'* which deals with PNG and other traditional societies.

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

We hope you can join us in a couple of weeks.

**Register for the Zoom Gathering by clicking on the blue tab below.**

Registration for March Zoom Gathering



Jared Diamond





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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## Our Next PNG/KLS/SPLC Reunion

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

**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 of getting reacquainted.

**Friday:** MK Nexus session (see info below \*). Jared Diamond (via Zoom), George Weiblen (in person), Barbara Carlyon (via Zoom).

**Saturday:** Morning - MK Nexus session continued. 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".

\* ***"Getting to know you...getting to know all about you..."***

Let's *get to know each other better* through the *\*MK Nexus: A Conversation with Friends*. We are all invited to share with the group a brief, three-minute vignette about growing up as an MK and how it has influenced our world view and who we are today. Our experiences may have had an impact –positive or negative– on our outlook. Spouses are also invited to share insights from their point of view.

**Are you willing to give it a try?** Eight of the planning committee have already done a trial run and found it to be very enjoyable, both in sharing and in listening to stories and insights of others.

A prepared three-minute vignette (approx. 430 words) is to allow as many attendees as possible to share their views.

This opportunity, the *MK Nexus*, has been developed by Fred Brandt and Dawn (Daechsel) McLean, and is based on, and grows out of, some of the insights Ruth van Reken shared with us the last couple of retreats. For more insight and information on how to prepare for and be involved with this opportunity, please follow this link: [MK Nexus A Conversation with Friends](#)

***PLEASE, seriously consider being a part of this  
"conversation from the heart among trusted friends!"***

## Reunion Reservation Information

On **April 15th**, we will send reservation information to everyone via email and will begin accepting reservations for those who plan to attend the full 3-day Reunion (Oct. 2nd 3pm through Oct. 5th 2pm) and stay on-site at Mt Olivet.

On **June 1st**, we will open reservations for “day scholars”, those planning to stay off-site, attending the Reunion for daily events, meals, and use of Mt Olivet amenities.

**Fees** for motel and individual dorm attendees: Rates cover all program and facilities costs for 3-day Reunion stay with all amenities, Reunion activities, meals and breaks.

Motel Rooms - these are double rooms with 2 double beds

- double, \$472 each person
- single, \$631

Dorm Rooms - \$418 (dorm room capacity 4-6 men or women)

- **Full payment for all reservations will be due on August 1st, 2025.**

*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.*

**Put the reunion in your calendar**

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



2023.Reunion\_

From the left - Lisa (Mesplay) Turvey, Les Walck, Christy (Mesplay) Moyer.

Back left - Mark Brandt, Darlene (Daechsel) Schnuelle, Mark Singh-Hueter, Keith Moyer.

### Links to our Website

- **Wantok Playlist** - put together by Mark Singh-Hueter
- Zoom Gatherings - [click here](#)
- Wantok Reunion videos - [click here](#)
- **Rest In Peace** - in the past three months, we've been contacted about the passing of these two wantoks: John Sandager and Carson Dron. (A Memorial Service for Dr Dron will be held in the St Peters College Chapel on Friday 21 February, at 10:30am. The college is unable to livestream it so will record the service. Once we have the link, we will put it on our website)

Click [here](#) to read any information we've received.

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

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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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