

INTRODUCTION

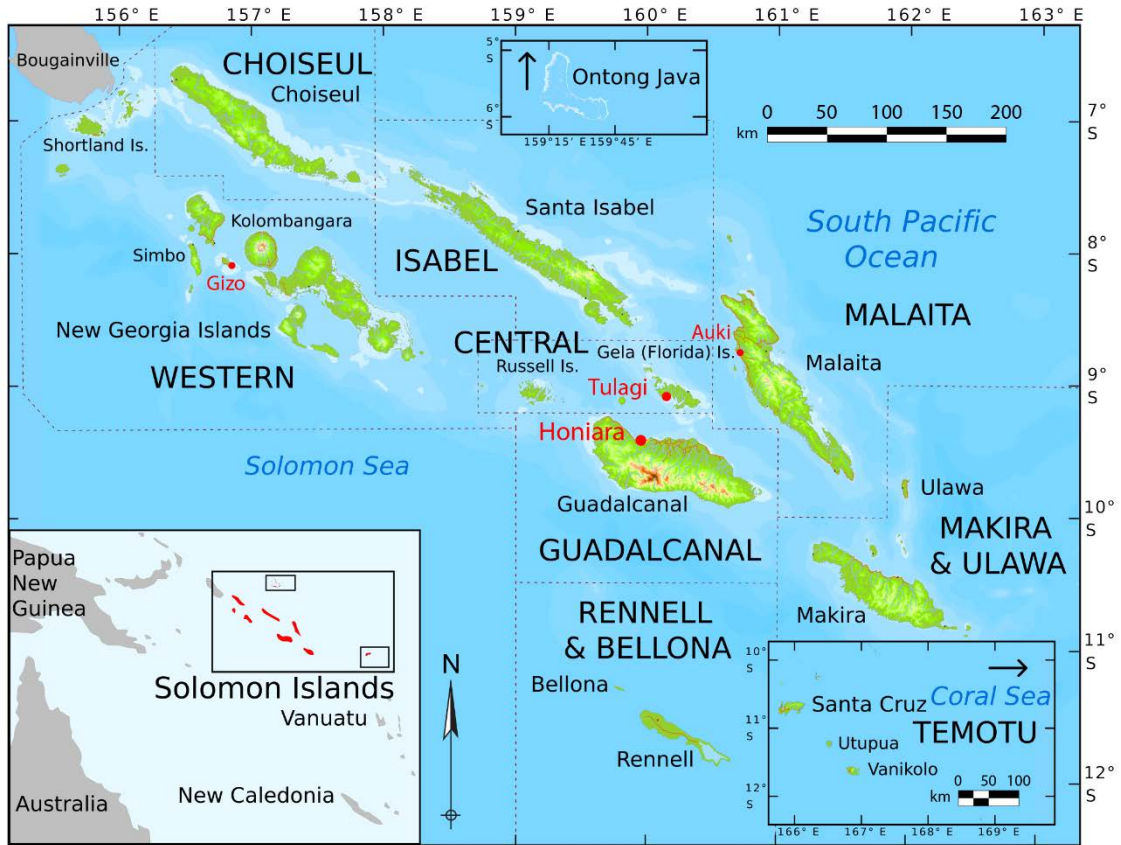
The first chapter of this book is entitled 'As Beautiful Above as Below', which is one the tourist slogans for Solomon Islands. Another slogan is the 'Happy Isles', denoting the happy, disposition of the people. Both images are accurate. This book is a tribute to the people of the nation.

Solomon Islands is a Pacific nation with a population of around 650,000, which is large by Pacific Islands' standards but small internationally. The Solomon Islands nation is a beautiful 1,500 km-long tropical archipelago on the eastern side of the Coral Sea opposite northeast Australia. The nation is neighboured to the northwest by Papua New Guinea, to the east by Nauru and Tuvalu, and to the south by Vanuatu and Fiji. The majority of the islands are mountainous and surrounded by coral reefs, lagoons, beaches and mangroves. There are a dozen substantial islands—Guadalcanal is the largest and highest, its Mt Popomaneseu reaching 2,355 meters (7,726 feet). There are over 900 smaller islands, some of which are isolated atolls. The major islands form a double-chain, beginning south of Buka and Bougainville (part of the archipelago, although an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea) and converge again at Makira (San Cristobal). The five main islands of the independent state of Solomon Islands—Choiseul, Isabel, Guadalcanal, Malaita and Makira—vary from 150 to 190 km in length and 20 to 50 km in width. In the northwest, New Georgia, smaller but still substantial, is part of an island group of the same name. To the south, separated by 400 km of ocean, the Santa Cruz Group, the Reef Islands, Vanikolo and Tikopia and other more scattered islands are also part of the modern nation.

Solomon Islands in Pictures came about from a request to provide a book for the Solomon Islands Government which can be used to showcase the nation, both at a diplomatic level and as a learning tool to be used in schools. The concept is to have a book that is predominantly made up of pictures, some historical but mostly modern, with short introductory texts at the beginning of each chapter and captions for each image. There are over 450 images, most of them photographs, but there are also a few drawings, one painting and three maps included.

In 26 chapters, *Solomon Islands in Pictures* displays the nation in a way never before attempted. The beauty of the natural environment and the people shine through on every page. Historical and contemporary development is displayed in pictures arranged in an order that tells a story. The chapter themes have been selected to provide a rounded visual account of this important Pacific nation.

Clive Moore and Simeon Bourou



Solomon Islands, showing the Provinces, the two capitals, Tulagi and Honiara, and Gizo and Auki, the two major provincial towns. (Cartography by Vincent Verheyen)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation of many individuals and institutions made this book possible. The majority of the photographs were taken or collected by Clive Moore; these have been supplemented by other historical and contemporary images. The list of authors on the title page includes all individuals whose images have been included, but not institutions or governments which also participated. Photographs taken by or in the collections of more than 40 individuals have been included. Acknowledging the origins of photographs, some of which date back 100 years, is not always easy. In some cases, multiple set of photographs exist in different collections, and over many decades Clive Moore has also collected and been given copies of images. His collection dates back to 1974 and sometimes predates the same images being added into institutional collections.

The origins of some of the images lie with collections held by the Australian National University Archives, British Museum, Anglican Diocese of Melanesia, Charles Templeton Crocker Expedition Archives, National Library of Australia, Peoples Republic of China, Queensland Museum, Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands, Solomon Islands Government, Solomon Islands National Archives, Solomon Islands National Museum, Solomon Islands Ports Authority, *Solomon Star*, South Pacific Commission (now the Pacific Community), State Library of Queensland, United Nations Organisation, United States of America Government and National Archives, Young Women's Christian Association (Solomon Islands), and *Walkabout* magazine. Our thanks for their co-operation in making these images available.

Ben Burt at the British Museum has been generous with his assistance in enabling access to the photograph collections of Patrick Barrett, Thomas Edge-Partington, David Lloyd Francis, Robert Lever, Tom Russell, John Tod and Robertson (Rob) Wright. In the cases of the Patrick Barrett, Thomas Edge-Partington, John D.M. Hearsh, Mike Lee, Tom Russell, Alexander Wilson, Brian Taylor and John Tod collections, we have direct permission from the photographers or their descendants to use the images. Peter Flahavin provided copies of Second World War photographs he obtained from the United States of America National Archives, which, with acknowledgement, are open to public access.

The origins of some of the collections are extremely complex. Just because photographs were held by an individual does not necessarily mean that they took the original images, and there are multiple copies of some photographs scattered through various collections. For instance, the family of Alexander 'Spearline' Wilson allowed the British Museum to copy his photographs, then also lent them to Clive Moore to copy: the Fryer Library at The University of Queensland now has an equivalent set. The British Museum has copies of the Deck family photographs, but so does the Australian National Library, and Deck descendants also gave Clive Moore copies from their own files, which we have used in this book. Our thanks to Patricia Braga for enabling access to the Deck collection. The 1906 photographs by John W. Beattie are held in several collections: our copies come with a set owned by the Anglican

Church of Melanesia, which they have held since Beattie travelled on their vessel, *Southern Cross*, to create his wonderful images. Our thanks to Bishop Terry Brown and Dr Abraham Hauriasi, General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, for arranging this. The Solomon Islands Government Information Office also assisted by providing images. Many libraries now use the concept of Creative Commons which allows online access to the older photographs in their collections at a high resolution size. Significant numbers of the older images are now beyond copyright. If there are any issues in regard to ownership of the images, we will make corrections and acknowledgements in any later addition.

Each chapter usually begins with historical photographs, then proceeds to newer images. The photographs from recent decades are the strength and vitality of this collection. The vibrant colours of the scenery, the marine life and the personal decorations worn by Solomon Islanders makes this book an astounding collection. Particularly, we would like to acknowledge Mike McCoy, Pei-yi Guo and Christopher Chevalier for access to their collections. After Clive Moore, they are the three largest individual contributors. Only Chapter 19 on 11th Pacific Arts Festival has a single photographer as author, Pei-yi Guo. Simeon Bouro, Solomon Islands Ambassador to Cuba, is co-author. It was his mentioning to Clive Moore that he had no picture books of his nation at the embassy which was responsible for the initial idea behind this book. Simeon has also helped design the text, has assisted with identification of cultural groups and is responsible for the Diplomatic chapter.

We have chosen not to identify most individuals in the images, as in the wider sense they are part of the historical process and it seemed unfair to identify some but not others. Some of the photographs are of children from 20 years ago, who are now adults with their own families. Presumably they will eventually see their photographs in the book. We thank them for being part of this project.

The assistance of Peter Kenilorea, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs External Trade, is gratefully acknowledged, as is the help provided by High Commissioner Collin Beck and Ambassador Patteson Oti in identifying some of the individuals in early diplomacy photographs. Several individuals also read drafts of this book and made suggestions for alterations and improvements, or made corrections: Graham Baines, Christopher Chevalier, Brij Lal, and Max Quanchi.

Any misidentifications are the responsibility of Clive Moore and Simeon Bouro.

Clive Moore and Simeon Bouro

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Email: c.moore@uq.edu.au

THE AUTHORS

Clive Moore CSI, is an Emeritus Professor in the School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry at the University of Queensland. He is a leading Pacific historian whose major publications have been on New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands, the Pacific labour reserve, Australia's Pacific Island immigrants, federation, masculinity and sexuality. Inaugural President of the Australian Association for Pacific Studies (2006–10), in 2005 he was awarded a Cross of Solomon Islands, and between 2011 and 2017 was a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

His major Pacific monographs are: *Kanaka: A History of Melanesian Mackay* (1985); *New Guinea: Crossing Boundaries and History* (2003); *Happy Isles in Crisis: The Historical Causes for a Failing State in Solomon Islands, 1998–2004* (2004); and, *Making Mala: Malaita in Solomon Islands, 1870s–1903s* (2017). He published the digital *Solomon Islands Historical Encyclopaedia, 1893–1978* (2013) and edited or co-edited *The Forgotten People: A History of the Australian South Sea Island Community* (1979), *Labour in the South Pacific* (1990), *A Papua New Guinea Political Chronicle, 1967–1991* (1997), *Tell It As It Is: Autobiography of Rt. Hon. Sir Peter Kenilorea, KBA, PC, Solomon Islands' First Prime Minister* (2008), *Andrew Goldie in New Guinea, 1875–1879* (2012), and *Looking Beyond RAMSI: Solomon Islanders' Perspectives on Their Futures* (2014).

A constant visitor to Solomon Islands since 1976, he has an abiding interest in its history and people.

Simeon Bouro is currently the Ambassador for Solomon Islands to the Republic of Cuba (2013–). He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, Lae (1980–84) and was employed by the Forestry Division in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Solomon Islands from 1985 to 1989. He was transferred to the Trade Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1989 to 1992 and was subsequently appointed as Trade Consul in the then Solomon Islands Consulate-General in Brisbane, Australia from 1993 to 1998. From 1999 to 2001, he was Manager of Pacific Air Express in Solomon Islands. He was elected as a Member for East Honiara Constituency to the National Parliament of Solomon Islands from 2001 to 2006. In 2005 he was appointed as the Minister for Aviation and Communications.