

Honaira is a Ghari language name for the piece of land west of Point Cruz, the site of today's Yacht Club, the Kitano Mendana Hotel and old Government House (now the site of the Heritage Park Hotel). *Naho-ni-ara* means 'facing the Ara', the place where the southeast winds meet the land. Now home to more than 100,000 people, Greater Honiara sits on a curving section of Guadalcanal coast, with no natural sheltered port other than small Point Cruz. Honiara was once home to interrelated kin groups based in three villages—Matanikau, Kakabona and Lungga—the lands of which in the second half of the nineteenth century were absorbed into foreign-owned coconut plantations. During the Second World War, the area was overrun by the Japanese and, after months of fighting, was taken back by the Americans. They built five airfields and a substantial military base. After the war, the British decided to use the American facilities as the basis for what is now the city of Honiara.

HONIARA
General Location Guide

Legend

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| Primary Road | Church | Sea Level |
| Secondary Road | Water Point | 100-150 |
| Footpath | Small | 150-200 |
| Power Line | Medium | 200-250 |
| Water Point | Large | 250-300 |
| Sea Level | Small | 300-350 |
| Water Point | Medium | 350-400 |
| Sea Level | Large | 400-450 |
| Water Point | Small | 450-500 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 500-550 |
| Water Point | Large | 550-600 |
| Sea Level | Small | 600-650 |
| Water Point | Medium | 650-700 |
| Sea Level | Large | 700-750 |
| Water Point | Small | 750-800 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 800-850 |
| Water Point | Large | 850-900 |
| Sea Level | Small | 900-950 |
| Water Point | Medium | 950-1000 |
| Sea Level | Large | 1000-1050 |
| Water Point | Small | 1050-1100 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 1100-1150 |
| Water Point | Large | 1150-1200 |
| Sea Level | Small | 1200-1250 |
| Water Point | Medium | 1250-1300 |
| Sea Level | Large | 1300-1350 |
| Water Point | Small | 1350-1400 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 1400-1450 |
| Water Point | Large | 1450-1500 |
| Sea Level | Small | 1500-1550 |
| Water Point | Medium | 1550-1600 |
| Sea Level | Large | 1600-1650 |
| Water Point | Small | 1650-1700 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 1700-1750 |
| Water Point | Large | 1750-1800 |
| Sea Level | Small | 1800-1850 |
| Water Point | Medium | 1850-1900 |
| Sea Level | Large | 1900-1950 |
| Water Point | Small | 1950-2000 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 2000-2050 |
| Water Point | Large | 2050-2100 |
| Sea Level | Small | 2100-2150 |
| Water Point | Medium | 2150-2200 |
| Sea Level | Large | 2200-2250 |
| Water Point | Small | 2250-2300 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 2300-2350 |
| Water Point | Large | 2350-2400 |
| Sea Level | Small | 2400-2450 |
| Water Point | Medium | 2450-2500 |
| Sea Level | Large | 2500-2550 |
| Water Point | Small | 2550-2600 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 2600-2650 |
| Water Point | Large | 2650-2700 |
| Sea Level | Small | 2700-2750 |
| Water Point | Medium | 2750-2800 |
| Sea Level | Large | 2800-2850 |
| Water Point | Small | 2850-2900 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 2900-2950 |
| Water Point | Large | 2950-3000 |
| Sea Level | Small | 3000-3050 |
| Water Point | Medium | 3050-3100 |
| Sea Level | Large | 3100-3150 |
| Water Point | Small | 3150-3200 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 3200-3250 |
| Water Point | Large | 3250-3300 |
| Sea Level | Small | 3300-3350 |
| Water Point | Medium | 3350-3400 |
| Sea Level | Large | 3400-3450 |
| Water Point | Small | 3450-3500 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 3500-3550 |
| Water Point | Large | 3550-3600 |
| Sea Level | Small | 3600-3650 |
| Water Point | Medium | 3650-3700 |
| Sea Level | Large | 3700-3750 |
| Water Point | Small | 3750-3800 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 3800-3850 |
| Water Point | Large | 3850-3900 |
| Sea Level | Small | 3900-3950 |
| Water Point | Medium | 3950-4000 |
| Sea Level | Large | 4000-4050 |
| Water Point | Small | 4050-4100 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 4100-4150 |
| Water Point | Large | 4150-4200 |
| Sea Level | Small | 4200-4250 |
| Water Point | Medium | 4250-4300 |
| Sea Level | Large | 4300-4350 |
| Water Point | Small | 4350-4400 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 4400-4450 |
| Water Point | Large | 4450-4500 |
| Sea Level | Small | 4500-4550 |
| Water Point | Medium | 4550-4600 |
| Sea Level | Large | 4600-4650 |
| Water Point | Small | 4650-4700 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 4700-4750 |
| Water Point | Large | 4750-4800 |
| Sea Level | Small | 4800-4850 |
| Water Point | Medium | 4850-4900 |
| Sea Level | Large | 4900-4950 |
| Water Point | Small | 4950-5000 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 5000-5050 |
| Water Point | Large | 5050-5100 |
| Sea Level | Small | 5100-5150 |
| Water Point | Medium | 5150-5200 |
| Sea Level | Large | 5200-5250 |
| Water Point | Small | 5250-5300 |
| Sea Level | Medium | 5300-5350 |
| Water Point | Large | 5350-5400 |
| Sea Level | Small | 5400-5450 |
| Water Point | Medium | 5450-5500 |
| Sea Level | Large | |

8.1. Modern-day map of Honiara. (Solomon Islands Government, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey)



8.2. This 1945 photo shows the American military base that became Honiara. (UQ FML, Alexander Wilson Collection)



8.3. Honiara Airport in the 1950s. This was on the site of Fighter II airfield from the war, which has now become Ranadi and the Honiara Golf Club. (Solomon Islands National Archives, Anglican Church of Melanesia Collection)



8.4. In the 1950s and 1960s, Mendana Avenue, the main street in Honiara, was lined with Poinciana trees. Once very beautiful and shaded, today the trees have gone and the avenue is lined with shops and offices. The building in the right of the photograph appears to be Central Police Station. (Alan Lindley Collection, in Clive Moore Collection)



8.5. Modern-day Mendana Avenue showing a typical traffic jam, 2014. (Christopher Chevalier Collection)



8.6. Point Cruz and the business centre of Honiara, 2007. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.7. West Honiara, 2007. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.8. Honiara waterfront showing the area around the United Church, the South Sea Evangelical Church and Central Market, 2007. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.9. The Matanikau River, Chinatown, and the National Referral Hospital on the shore, 2007. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.10. The 'Fishery', Honiara's Malaitan Fishing Village on the beach front at Kukum, 2008. This is one of the areas allocated for 'village style' living in the 1950s. On the other side of the road are the old Malaria Centre and Woodford International School. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.11. Central Bank of Solomon Islands, with Central Police Station in the background, Mendana Avenue, 2010. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.12. Mendana Avenue and the Solomon Islands National Museum, 2004. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.13. Monument to Alvaro de Mendaña, the Spanish explorer who led the first European expedition to Solomon Islands. Situated at the National Museum, it was unveiled in 2014. Mendaña and his crew landed near this site and named Point Cruz (Point Cross). (Christopher Chevalier Collection)



8.14. Mendana Avenue, 2008. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.15. War memorial and police barracks, in Mendana Avenue, Honiara, 2006. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.16. A comfortable Kola`a Ridge house, 2008, surrounded by fruit trees and thick vegetation. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.17. Luxury up on the ridges, 2012. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.18. Housing in Honiara can be modern, or a mixture of modern and traditional side-by-side. This small sago palm leaf thatched house was under construction on Skyline Road in 2005. (Clive Moore Collection)

8.19. Many Honiara families maintain an outside kitchen, in the style used in villages. This typical Honiara family at Vura in 1995 is eating food around their outside kitchen. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.20. This is typical of the houses constructed by the Housing Authority, at White River, 2008. (Clive Moore Collection)

8.21. Squatters' houses at the back of White River, 2005. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.22. Children playing outside a White River house, 2008. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.23. A modern home at Kobito, Honiara, 2015. (Clive Moore Collection)



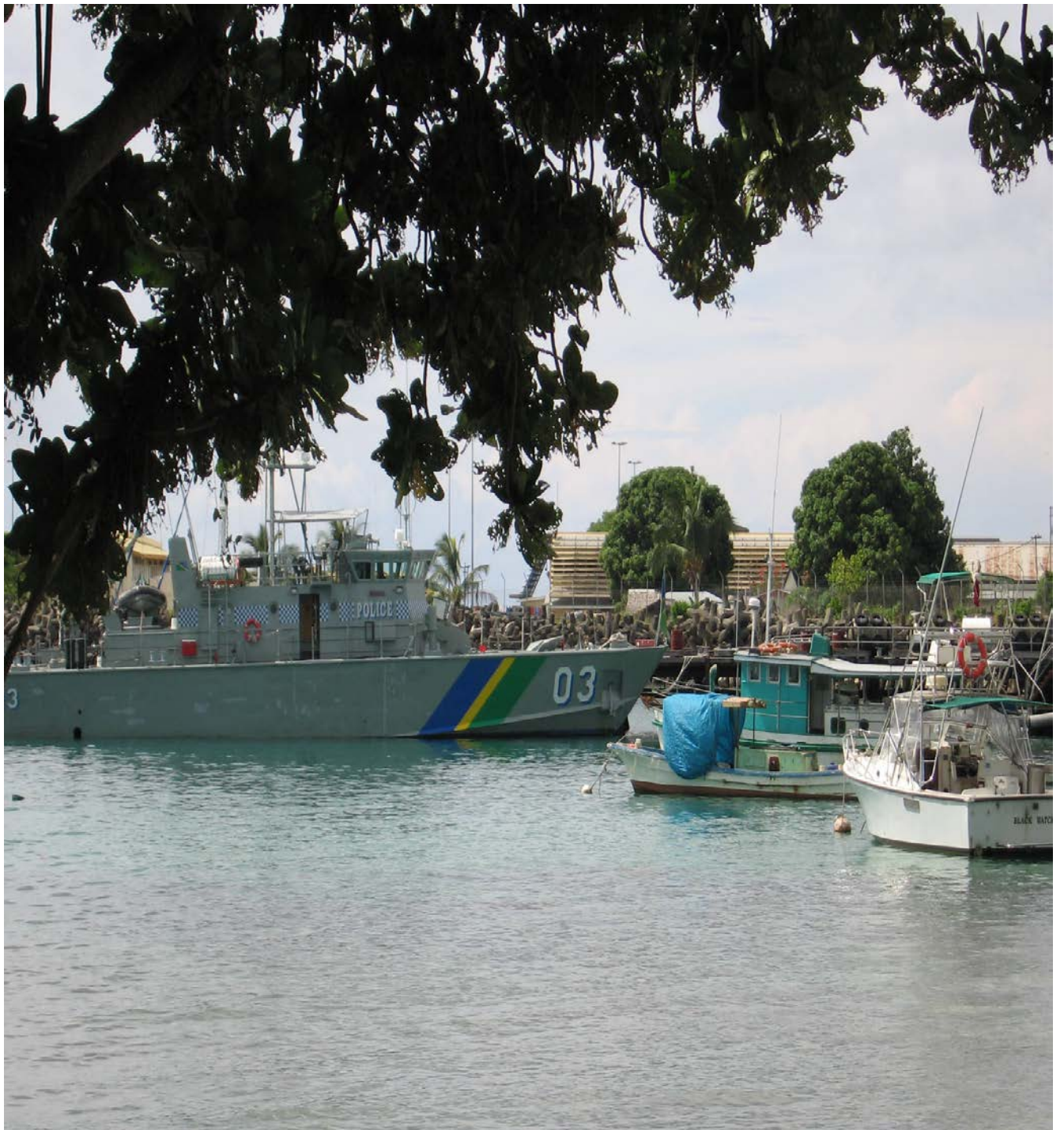
8.24. Households collect local plants, which grow in profusion. This is the front steps of the house above, 2016. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.25. A Honiara house, showing a variety of construction materials, and the on-going process of building, 2014. (Christopher Chevalier Collection)



8.26. There are vastly different standards of housing in Honiara. This AusAID expatriate household lived up on the ridges, replete with two four-wheel drive cars, a boat, a satellite dish and a power generator, 2014. (Christopher Chevalier Collection)



8.27. One of Solomon Islands Police Patrol Boats, 2006. (Clive Moore Collection)



8.28-29. One constant issue is that Honiara has overflowed its official borders, first into a National Park at the back and also onto Guale (Guadalcanal) customary lands. The ‘Tension’ years (1998–2003) (see Chapter 25) were partly about this. The outskirts of Honiara are used for gardens by the urban people. These two photographs were taken in 2007 and 2008. The first shows farming close to the boundary of Henderson International Airport, and second is of a cassava garden on a hill side inland from White River, just beyond Honiara’s urban sprawl. (Clive Moore Collection)