

**Interview by Jemma Purdey with Jaking Marimyas, Port Moresby, 17 December 2014**

**Diploma of Teaching, Canberra College of Advanced Education, 1974; BA (Education) QUT/UPNG sandwich program, 1994 in Australia**



[00:00:34]	From Morobe and grew up in a missionary family. Her father was a local pastor, assisting the expat ministers at the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea. Her mother was domestic assistant to the early missionaries when she was young. Before being a pastor her father was a local policeman.	Family background; Childhood
[00:03:51]	Her grandparents on both sides were pagans and practiced polygamy but her father was converted as a young man. Her father didn't go to school but was recruited to be a policeman. Her parents came from the same village and had an arranged marriage. The missionaries started a school at the mission station and learnt to speak in the local 'church' languages of Yabin and Kote.	Family background
[00:06:48]	Jaking started school when she was about seven, at the village school, where local teachers taught her to read in her local dialect, Yabin. After four years she went to the station school where the expats, who were German, American and Canadian, taught in English. Most of the teachers were qualified teachers, young and single, and the curriculum was Australian.	Childhood; Early education; Connection with Australia
[00:10:44]	She had an abstract idea of Australia. They used books that had been adapted to include Papuan features and were printed in PNG. When she was fourteen and had finished at the station school she went to a girls boarding school that was about two hours away by boat. She was the fifth and youngest child. When he was twelve, her older brother got a church scholarship to go to school in Brisbane so he told her about Australia when he came home for holidays. He	Connection with Australia; Early education; Family background

	was away for eight years. She had her first trip to Australia when she was in her early twenties.	
[00:14:50]	In 1966 she went to another boarding school, a high school, in Lae. She was in the first group of girls to go to the school which had been a boys school. At high school, she liked reading and the library had a lot of books. The girls boarding school was isolated and a beautiful place, they were self-sufficient and grew their own food. On weekends they would have international day dressing up in the missionary's clothes and looking at photos. The teachers were all expat women and were very good role models.	Early education
[00:20:20]	At the high school there were lots of boys and only 21 girls, it was a shock at first but they learnt to cope. They were restricted in the high school and missed the girls school. She didn't get the marks to go on past Year 9 so went to teachers college in Lae. Her older brother was a teacher before going into church work. Her sister only did Grade 2 because places at school were limited and the church tried to spread education around to different families. She had an arranged marriage to a local man. The brother who went to Australia studied social sciences at university then worked with the airlines before becoming a farmer and later a politician in the new government. He did that for twenty years (just lost in the last election). The brother above her also went to high school.	Early education; Teachers' college; Family; Connection with Australia
[00:26:30]	She wanted to be a nurse but decided to go to teachers college, for two years, and enjoyed it. She taught in the local primary school for two years. At that time, in the 70s, there was a localisation program and, after teaching for two years, she was invited to go back to the teachers college where she lived with expat teachers to learn another way of living. She lived in a house with three expats, one was her teacher from high school and living next door was a teacher from her girls school. Then she was sent to Canberra College of Advanced Education for ten months to upgrade her certificate to a diploma.	Teachers college; Early career; Studying in Australia; Scholarship opportunity
[00:29:54]	The Lutheran Church ran the teachers college but the diploma studies were funded by the Australian and PNG governments. She went back to the teachers college in 1973, then went to Canberra in 1974, with five other trainee teachers, three male and two female. Her husband was one of them. They got married in 1975 and worked together as teachers. This was her second trip to Australia. The first was in 1973 with the YWCA for a week's international convention in Brisbane. There were young	Teachers college; Studying in Australia; Living in Australia; Connections with Australia; Family

	women, about her age (23), who were talking about global things and that really challenged her.	
[00:34:06]	In Canberra she was billeted with an Australian family who had lived in Africa. They had two young children. She liked them but moved to the YWCA in the city because it was closer to the college. [Comments about Papua New Guineans being different from Africans, being nervous about cooking Papuan food and liking the Australian food her host cooked.] The course wasn't that challenging because the students from PNG were only the second group to go through and the college was still working out what to teach them.	Living in Australia; Studying in Australia
[00:38:39]	She married in 1975 and had her first child in 1978. When she first went home, before she married, she taught in Lae and her husband taught at Wewak. After they were married she joined him there. They taught at a church teachers college and were the only PNG teachers there. The others were all expats. There were about 200 students. [Discussion about expat teachers and the gradual change in curriculum after independence.]	Family; Post-scholarship career
[00:43:23]	She continued teaching full time when her daughter was born and her husband was supportive. Her second child was born in 1979. There were many opportunities for doing courses in Australia but she didn't want to go with two little girls. In 1994 she and her husband were offered an Australian government scholarship together. By then they had six children, all girls between six and thirteen. The scholarship sponsored three children and Jaking and her husband paid for the other three.	Post-scholarship career; Family; Scholarship opportunity
[00:47:01]	They went to QUT for ten months, her husband did his second degree and Jaking did a split campus bachelor program – two semesters at QUT and two semesters at University of Papua New Guinea. The children all went to school. Her husband went early and found a house that was close to the university and schools. There were ten students from PNG who went together. It took the children a while to settle in, they had spoken some English at home. There were lots of things they had to teach the children e.g. using public transport. Brisbane was a big change. They had enough to live on with the stipend and their PNG salaries.	Studying in Australia; Living in Australia; Family; Challenges; Scholarships experience
[00:50:39]	They took time off to take the family to Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney on a bus tour. They stayed in a dorm room at a youth hostel. When they went home, in 1995, Jaking had to	Travel in Australia; Returning to PNG; Further study; Career

	finish her studies in Port Moresby so her husband applied for a job at the institute [Papua New Guinea Institute of Education?] and got it. The position included accommodation and they liked it so stayed in Port Moresby.	
[00:52:35]	The course at QUT was challenging but she had a lot of teaching experience and confidence by then. She was one of the older students, could meet the challenge and learnt a lot.	Studying in Australia
[00:55:07]	After finishing her studies she worked for six months at the institute then was invited to be a curriculum writer in the Division of Education. In 1996 she started as a junior officer and was promoted to assistant secretary. She was involved in an Australian project, the Curriculum Reform Implementation Project, aimed at helping upgrade the curriculum. Part of the project was to give curriculum officers with a BA the opportunity to do a master's by course work. She kept working but was given time to study with tutors from QUT, who came to PNG regularly for face-to-face teaching and also communicated via email. It was tailored to what they were doing in PNG. Eleven of them did it in two years as part of the bigger project.	Career; Leadership; Connections with Australia; Research collaboration with Australia
[01:00:10]	QUT has a strong connection and ran some courses for the teachers college people too. She and her husband didn't choose QUT in 1994, it was part of the program. QUT has a longstanding relationship with PNG teachers colleges. Jaking retired at the end of 2008 and went to live in Bougainville, where her husband was from (he died in 2007). In 2009 she worked as a consultant for six months with a Coffey Education Capacity Building Program as a support adviser to the provinces for their in-services. In 2010 she was invited to work on the survey and diagnostic part of a reading education project funded by Global Partners for Education (GPE) with technical support from the World Bank. She travelled a lot surveying reading in four provinces.	Connections with Australia; Retirement; Professional networks
[01:04:29]	She found that the reading situation is bad, especially in the early grades. Last year, teachers in two of the four provinces were trained in reading intervention and encouraged to apply it with their students. Next year the project will do a qualitative evaluation of the reading intervention. The project was extended to June 2015 but may be extended further. One of the components is to distribute classroom libraries – readers, textbooks and reference books, to all the provinces.	Research work; Reading levels in PNG
[01:07:19]	She hasn't been back to Bougainville, maybe	Family; Connections

	<p>after everything's finished. All but one daughter work in Port Moresby. She has six grandchildren, all boys. Her second-youngest daughter works for CARE International in Goroka. She has family in Australia, her brother's children are in Queensland and she keeps in touch with them. They went to study but are permanent residents now. Jaking hasn't been to any alumni meetings but she's heard of the PNG Australian Alumni Association. She gets newsletters from QUT occasionally.</p>	with Australia
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