

Interview by Jemma Purdey with Ita Kemba, Port Moresby, 16 December 2014

Master of Information Systems Management, UNSW, 2002-2004



[00:00:14]	Originally from Central Province, Ita is married with four children. One passed away when they came back from Australia in 2008. The children had a very good time in Australia. She is the eldest of eight, the youngest is the only boy. She had responsibility to go far as the eldest, normally girls were not encouraged to go far. Her father was a government administrator and wanted his children to all be educated. He had done Grade 6. Her mum was a housewife, did Grade 2 and could read, she was the only girl with eight brothers. Ita grew up on in Kupiano but moved to go to boarding school in Lae when she was seventeen.	Family background; Childhood; Early education
[00:03:35]	She liked school and her teachers were all ex-patriots. One primary teacher from England encouraged her to pursue an education. The head master of Kupiano school was from Australia and organised a student exchange, with five others, for a month to Lake Bolac, in Victoria, when she was sixteen. It was different and new, wearing shoes and high heels, going on a plane, eating with knives and forks. They paid for their own passports, visas and pocket money and the school paid for everything else. They went to school in Victoria and stayed with Australian families then brought Australian students back with them to their village.	Early education; Existing connection with Australia; Arriving in Australia; School exchange experience
[00:07:47]	[Story about a bushfire in Lake Bolac while she was there, it was reported in the newspaper in 1977.] She kept in touch with friends she made until they grew up.	Friendships; Connections with Australia
[00:10:39]	Those two teachers and the exchange experience inspired her to study in Australia. She had contacts in Sydney through the church and they	Motive to study in Australia; Existing connections in

	helped get her a house and everything she needed when she went to Newcastle to study.	Australia; Living in Australia
[00:12:11]	After finishing school she worked in Lae for two years as a secretary in the church head office. That's where she met the Australian expats. Then she moved to Pacific Adventist College (now Pacific Adventist University, PAU) in 1983 as one of the founding staff. She became friends with Australians volunteering there, especially a family from Newcastle. She did her undergraduate degree at University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) then applied for a scholarship to do postgraduate studies in Australia and her friends suggested she apply to the University of New South Wales to be closer to them. She was accepted on her third application and went to Australia in 2002. She did a Master of Information Systems Management by course work.	Early career; Connections with Australia; Friendships; Undergraduate education; Scholarship application process; Scholarship experience
[00:15:07]	[Story about being enrolled in Information Systems Science by mistake but the liaison officer helped her and her scholarship was extended for six months.] She worked for Ferrero Rocher, setting up an archive system for them during the extra six months.	Studying in Australia; Work experience in Australia
[00:18:13]	She wanted to go to Australia and pursue her studies, see her friends and give her children the experience of living there. Her husband had studied in the UK and she wanted a similar experience. Before she went to Australia she had a work attachment in Wellington, New Zealand, for six weeks, arranged by PAU and the New Zealand government. When they went to Australia the children were in Grade 6, 5, 4 and Prep. They had been to international school at home and the family lived in a multicultural area in Sydney so the children blended in. When they went to the central coast for a holiday they felt some racism.	Motive to study overseas; International mobility; Family; Travel in Australia; Challenges
[00:21:41]	The children enjoyed school and made friends. Ita's husband got involved in the school community and did some work with the church. He didn't have a work visa. It was hard because the stipend was less than \$1000, it didn't go up for a family, and rent was \$500 a fortnight so they rented a room to a friend to make ends meet. And friends who worked at the Sanitarium factory gave them food. Their house was close to school and shops and close to the bus stop. There was a PNG community nearby.	Family; Friendships; Church community in Sydney; Living in Australia; PNG community in Australia
[00:25:19]	Ita arrived in January and her family came in April. She enjoyed her study, it was very interesting and she did group work with other international students. She still has contact with	Studying in Australia; Friendships; Professional network; Church community in

	a friend from Brazil and two from Indonesia. Friends from church took her children to Melbourne and Canberra and gave them money. The university organised outings for students but Ita didn't go.	Australia; Family; Leisure activities
[00:29:43]	She was there for nearly two years and came home in the middle of 2004. It was hard for the children leaving their friends and disrupting their school year. Ita went back to work in the library. She told her boss there were things she'd learnt that could be implemented but her boss didn't want to know. There were some problems with her boss and Ita considered resigning but the vice-chancellor arranged for her to be moved to another section and report to a different boss. When her former boss left Ita got her job and implemented what she had learned in Australia.	Scholarship experience; Returning to PNG; Family; Post-scholarship career
[00:32:37]	She introduced databases, new books and journals and got new shelving. She goes to Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) conferences and takes staff with her. PNG doesn't have an association like that. They run workshops and put the money they make aside to fund going to conferences. They want to buy kindles and tablets so students can read electronic texts. [Comments about subscribing to databases and how much it costs.] Her library is one of the best in PNG.	Post-scholarship career; Professional networks; Connections with Australia
[00:37:03]	She still has contact with her friends in Newcastle and one of her daughters is planning to visit there in 2015. Another daughter wants to study medicine in the US so they're looking for a scholarship for her. Her oldest daughter passed away when she was in Year 12. Ita's siblings? The next sister runs a contracting business. Ita also does some decorating for weddings and funerals and people pay her for it. [Discussion about a little ministry for widows that she and a friend have started, using their own funds, in a village, 3½ hours away. Her children come and help, especially the daughter that wants to be a doctor, and her friends in Australia send clothes and books.]	Friendships; Connections with Australia; Family; Community service
[00:42:33]	Ita's Australian friends came to PNG five years ago. They like doing outreach work and have done that in Thailand and Burma. ALIA conferences are always in Australia. She doesn't take the children when she goes to conferences but she will go with her daughter for the holiday. Her church friends helped set her up in Australia and Ita shared what she had with other friends who had less. It was a bit hard for her husband to leave his work in PNG but he was supportive of her studying. He applied to do a	Friendships; Connections with Australia; International mobility; Family

	PhD with the University of Western Sydney but he didn't have a scholarship so it fell through. Now he teaches at the university. He went to the UK on a UK scholarship.	
[00:47:29]	END	

