

Interview by Jonathan Ritchie and Musawe Sinebare with Donald Gumbis, Goroka, 10 July 2014

MA, International Relations, UNSW, 2011-2012



PART 1

[00:00:20]	Donald is a political science lecturer and the director of the Centre for Melanesian Studies at the University of Goroka (UOG). Started at UOG in 2003 as a temporary tutor, in 2007 became a permanent member of staff. He did a Bachelor of Education, specialising in social science, at UOG and was invited to join the staff when he graduated. Between 2003 and 2007 he did a master's there and in 2011 got an Australian development scholarship to do a Master of Arts, International Relations, by course work, at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) for a year. It was a challenge but good to mix with many other international students there.	Career; Undergraduate education; Scholarship experience
[00:03:13]	While at UNSW was interviewed about his experiences in Australia as part of the anniversary celebrations of the Colombo Plan. Studying was a challenge because academic standards were high and material very current e.g. the war in Iraq. He learnt about using a more diplomatic approach to solve issues. He also studied international law and global politics. At the end of 2012 he got a Prime Minister's Pacific-Australia Award (PMPA) and did a three-month placement at the Lowy Institute for International Policy early in 2013. [Description of the work he did there.] It was very enlightening.	Scholarship experience; Studying in Australia; Scholarships opportunities; Leadership; Work experience in Australia
[00:07:58]	He could use what he'd learnt in Australia in his teaching at UOG and he was given the opportunity to direct the Melanesian Studies Centre. [Description of the centre's activities and	Post-scholarship career; Leadership



	groups he's involved in e.g. the team developing a national framework for sorcery issues in PNG.]	
[00:12:07]	His scholarship application was through UOG's staff development program and he was asked how he planned to use his studies to contribute to the development of PNG. His first choice was Flinders University but the selectors sent him to UNSW and he thinks it was a good decision. He hopes to go back and do a PhD in Australia. He also went to an expo in Goroka put on by Australian institutions and so had some idea about courses that were on offer. Doing the master's at UNSW and the placement at Lowy Institute has enabled him to do what he's doing now.	Scholarship opportunity; Community service; Motive to study overseas; Future plans for further study
[00:16:50]	[Comments from Dr Sinebare about the success of the university's professional development program.] What legacy would Donald like to leave? He would like to broaden future university teaching and learning models from textbook-based classroom mode to other ways of giving information, e.g. seminars, so PNG universities can focus on key issues of the region as they arise. The Korean ambassador is coming to speak next week about regional politics in Southeast Asia. Information in books can become out of date quickly. The profile of the centre has been lifted and he's documenting the centre's activities.	Post-scholarship career; Professional networks
[00:21:07]	[Comments about charisma and his profile as a returned scholar and sharing his knowledge, delegating to colleagues so they have the opportunity to learn these skills too and what he has learnt from his mentors.]	Leadership; Mentoring
[00:24:16]	When Donald came back he identified aims for the centre and has achieved two already – to present seminars and a series of public lectures. He also wants to expand to local radio and take the university to the community.	Leadership; Community service
[00:27:29]	Donald's wife also lectures at UOG and went to Flinders University on an Australian scholarship and received a PMPA. They went to Australia separately and hope to be able to go back together to do PhDs.	Family; Scholarship opportunity; International mobility

PART 2

[00:00:18]	Challenging times at UNSW? The mechanics of international law were a challenge but the student learning centre helped. Also, his social	Studying in Australia; Socialising in Australia; PNG community in
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	<p>life was very different there. His studies took a lot of his time but he set aside time for 'R and R' with friends from PNG who were also studying there. The induction program and pre-departure briefing were very useful in helping them adjust e.g. they were advised not to go to King's Cross. The Melanesian students met once a month over a meal to talk about regional issues and things that concerned them.</p>	<p>Sydney; Melanesian community in Australia</p>
[00:04:42]	<p>There was a Fijian student living in the same house as Donald, and a couple of students from Vietnam and Thailand. He also went on outings, organised by the International Students Centre, and met students from other Southeast Asian countries and Africa. [Story about Indonesian students asking why the Papua New Guineans spoke better English than they did.] He also met students from the US and Europe and this gave him confidence to speak with people from anywhere. He mixed with Australians in the course and they had heated debates e.g. about Manus Island. He feels most Australians know little about PNG.</p>	<p>Friendships; Living in Australia</p>
[00:09:02]	<p>He was sent information about the PMPA while he was studying at UNSW and did his placement straight after finishing at UNSW. The stipend for PMPA was the same as while he was doing the master's (\$1200). The total PMPA package was about \$25 000 and for the Australian Leadership Award about \$60 000. They went to Canberra and met the Prime Minister. The PMPA gave him a springboard for his leadership activities. He stayed in the same house when he did the placement at the Lowy Institute. The people he met at Lowy have been very helpful and he has written some blogs for the Lowy website.</p>	<p>Scholarship experience; Leadership; Leadership; Work experience in Australia</p>
[00:13:28]	<p>Before going to Sydney, he went to Australia as part of the Emerging Pacific Leaders Dialogue and visited Alice Springs and an aboriginal community. When he went to Sydney he realised Australia is a multicultural nation. He enjoyed travelling around Sydney and NSW a bit. Mostly people were friendly. He would encourage other Papua New Guineans to study in Australia.</p>	<p>Previous connection with Australia; Leadership; Professional network; Travel in Australia</p>
[00:17:20]	<p>Believes that PNG needs ethics and civics in the education system to reduce social tensions and teach people to look after each other. There are more opportunities for Papua New Guineans to</p>	<p>Returning to PNG; Future plans for further study; International mobility</p>



	study in Australia than in other countries. Donald applied for British and Fulbright scholarships. You can see when people have come back from studying in Australia the contributions they make to their institutions are massive.	
[00:20:12]	END	

