



# ROAR

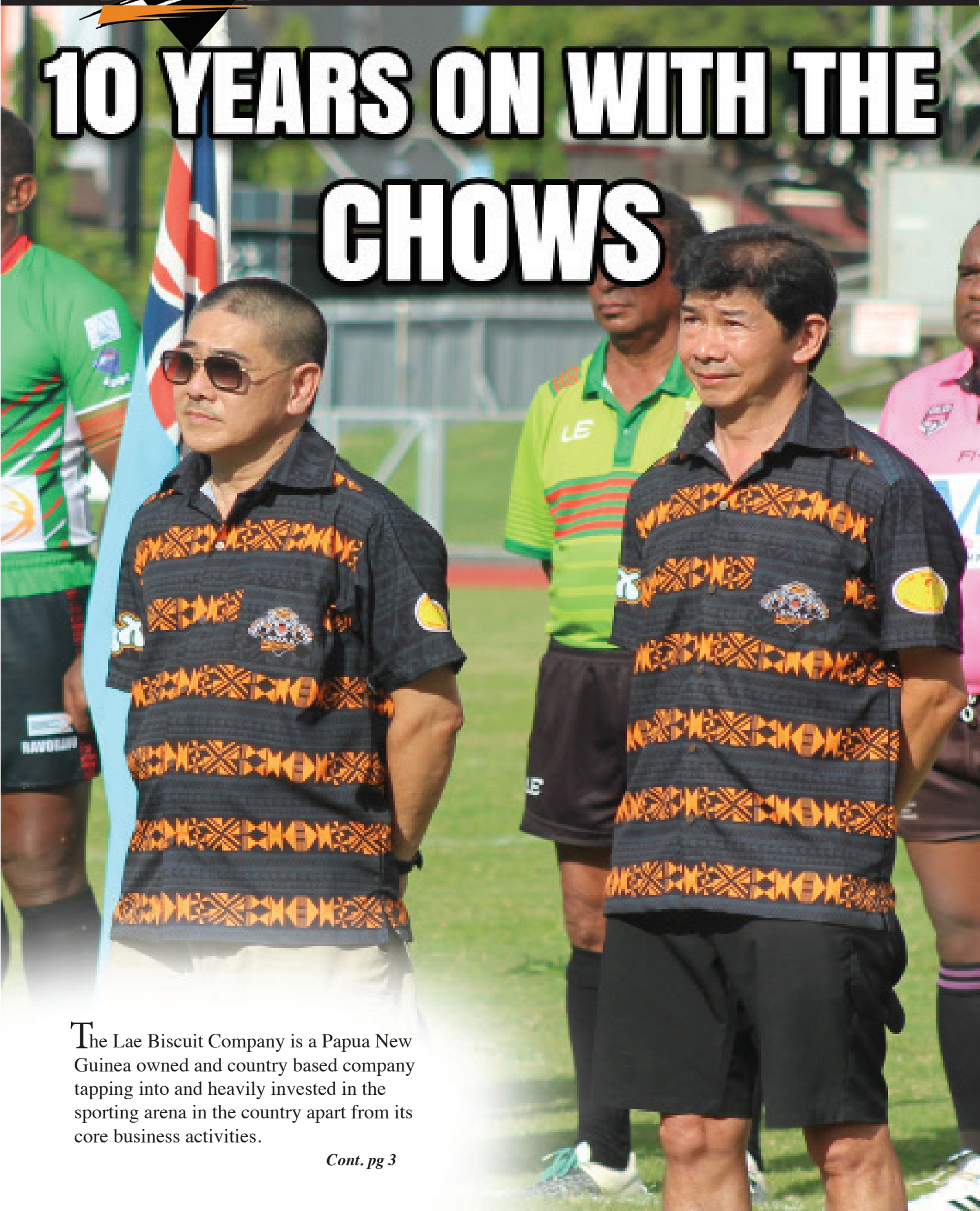
OFFICIAL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



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# 10 YEARS ON WITH THE CHOWS



The Lae Biscuit Company is a Papua New Guinea owned and country based company tapping into and heavily invested in the sporting arena in the country apart from its core business activities.

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# Forward

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The 'Roar' is an exclusive weekly newsletter of the Lae Snax Tigers rugby league franchise club.

The 'Roar' is a commemorative publication of the Snax Tigers in 2020 marking 10 years in the making.

As the Tigers head into season 2020, its more than just another season having achieved benchmark results within a short span of 10 years currently as the reigning and three times Digicel Cup premiership winning franchise in the semi-professional Digicel Cup competition in Papua New Guinea and defending three times Melanesian cup champion.

The newsletter is a sporting publication of the Lae Biscuit Company sponsored franchise that entails the game to game overview of the Snax Tigers now, and looks back on the years down the line when it all started reaching its 10th season in 2020.

The Roar provides fans, supporters, sponsors and the wider rugby community the exclusive insights to the Lae Snax Tigers franchise preparedness towards upcoming matches and reviews of the previous challenges along the season.

You will get to read, see and know the Tigers each match team line ups, the reshuffles, the predictions and reviews.

And it's exclusive in the 'Roar' before it makes news in the rest of the media outlets.

The concept is a joint initiative of champion coach of the Lae Snax Tigers, Stanley Tepend and my editorial input as a Lae based freelance media personal given my association with the franchise and the franchise owners, Ian and Adrian Chow since 2016.

Layout and graphic artwork is tailored by Fred Cook Jr, a Lae based graphic artist, videographer and professional photographer.

The newsletter is published by the Lae Biscuit Company and content produced and edited at my end.

Thank you to coach Tepend for acknowledging and bringing to fruition the initiative.

Above all a special thank you to Ian Chow and the managements of the Lae Biscuit company as well the Lae Snax Tigers for always giving me the opportunity to grow in my profession as an avid Sports Reporter.

In this inaugural issue of the 'Roar' we welcome season 2020 giving prominence to key makers of the franchise club and importantly the man himself, coach Tepend's ongoing drive behind the Lae Snax Tigers.

You saw it, read it and heard it first in the Roar.

**Frankiy Kapin**  
*Editor*

## EDITORIAL

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**FRANKIY KAPIN**

*Writer / Editor*

**FRED COOK Jr**

*Photographer / Graphics*

For editorial feedback or to order a copy of the next issue, email the editor on **[nationalradaz@gmail.com](mailto:nationalradaz@gmail.com)** or reach me on mobile number **70279294**.





Lae City is home to the industrial hub of PNG yet how many of these companies that induce the government of PNG to label Lae the so called industrial hub of PNG contribute to sports in Lae or PNG as a whole on a continual basis?

Companies and businesses that give to corporate challenges obviously are in for the give and take. And all along there is nothing to show for the industrial hub of PNG giving back to sports in Lae city now and in the long run.

Currently Lae City contributes three of the 10 teams in the National Soccer League yet how many of the multimillion industrial companies in Lae city have seen fit to back one of these clubs let alone two rely on the Morobe provincial government and one has the utmost backing of the Lae Biscuit company. Soccer is shifting to the Oceania professional league preferably next year or 2022 and where does that place the rest of soccer elites to be able to participate equally when there is nothing to show for the corporate backing at the current semi-professional soccer in PNG.

When the Lae Biscuit Company took on the responsibility as the Lae Snax Tigers franchise sponsors 10 years ago, so too came the setbacks and if ever looking back will make one want to revisit, changes and tough decisions were made and you wouldn't want to go back.

Today the Lae Snax Tigers have created a winning culture the way the team is run, managed and continues to strive on.

Today the Lae Biscuit owned Tigers is one team in the Pacific that our neighbours look up to and learn

from. If the legendary Australian Kangaroos and Brisbane Broncos Petero Civenociva didn't admit so, and I promise you in less than five years from now, Fijians will match the rugby league that is displayed in our semi-professional Digicel cup. At the end of the Melanesian cup challenge on Saturday 29th February in Lautoka (Fiji), I asked a few Fijian players their observation and they definitely looked up to the Tigers but promised, getting there is not that far now they have tasted the flare of rugby PNG promotes.

Whether it's soccer or rugby league, being successful reaching a certain level of professional competitiveness requires a committed and willing financier specifically a business partner. The government cannot be relied on to be day to day financier of sporting clubs as they (Govt) too have their seasons to be lenient and relied upon by the people. It's a point in case in PNG, you scratch my back, I scratch your back.

For the Lae Biscuit Company and its sister companies, reaching sound competitiveness level for our sporting elites is more than just a corporate approach of giving back to the community. It's about Papua New Guineans being successful in sports and staying up there, whatever and wherever the sport.

And the Chow brothers stand to be patriotic Papua New Guineans backing the two most competed PNG codes being rugby league and soccer through franchises Lae Snax Tigers and Lae City FC representing not just Lae, but the rest of PNG wherever it may be.



# TIGERS PRIMED FOR B2B PREMIERSHIP

It's the game rugby league in Papua New Guinea is more than anxious to see it coming so whoever faces the Lae Snax Tigers in the opening round of season 2020 gets the people's choice.

Lae Snax Tigers franchise owner Ian Chow adds on, it definitely would be the bonus to win a back to back premiership in season 2020 for Snax Tigers.

"We have done it in season 2016 and 2017 and would be the icing on the cake to end season 2020 with a second back to back premiership on our 10th anniversary," Chow said.

Chow said Tigers bench player are just as good as the team's top players so they don't have any problem to fill in any vacuum.

He said given a shorter season and it's never been trialled in the life span of the semi-professional challenge, it's going to be tough but stepping up to the ranks with the return of the SP PNG Hunters players and the second tier NRL players, the Tigers local players are just as good as the rest.

"The intensity of the game will be very extreme and everyone will go all but I trust my old guns like Roy Kela and Tiger Emere who are deadly tractors that can carry on the momentum to the end.

It's only one round and you got no second chance and you got to win every game as it's a do or die or a

grand final each game and it's more exciting than ever. And that's how the game is today but I am confident just as the coach that everyone is just as good, even the bench players," Chow said.

He said undoubtedly 10 years of being in the competition has been the most successful with five minor premiers and three premierships and Tigers looking at making it four this season to be the undisputed.

Chow said competition in the last five years has gone better than some 30 years ago and Tigers have proven to stand out when it matters toughest the most.

He adds rugby league by far has gone up to be the best in the Pacific apart from Australia and New Zealand and thanks to the current management.





# CREDIT TO THE CHOWS: TEPEND

The 10 years of the Lae Snax Tigers celebrated in season 2020 is very big for the franchise and the franchise owner Ian Chow says Tigers head coach Stanley Tepend.

Tepend said for him personally the eight years to now since taking the helm of the Tigers cannot be more than a prouder achievement if it wasn't for the Chow family, specifically Ian and Adrian Chow.

Tepend said players have come and gone before him and now within his reign it's a long time to be playing an important role in the Snax Tigers franchise.

Tepend said he is not inconsiderate of the development years when the club started and it was tough and wasn't easy but the unwavering commitment of the franchise owner pulled them through.

He (Ian Chow) came in knowing that Lae is the second biggest city of Papua New Guinea and he had to step in and enhance the club to maintain its status in the country as well overall to give back to the community of Lae City.

"Everything that he (Ian) put in place and I know that being a smart businessman behind the success of the Lae Biscuit Company he knew exactly what to expect when he committed to what is now the Lae

Snax Tigers," Tepend said.

"He would have known exactly what the outcome and success of the Tigers would mean for the franchise as well the rest of the Lae Biscuit Company as whole," Tepend said.

He had a vision and just as any businessmen would do, this is part of what he has planned.

"You fast forward from 2011 to 2020 and the success of the franchise today has helped in a way to build the Lae Biscuit Company as a whole.

Yes in everything, you start off is shaky, but you bear the fruits later and for me personally in the 8 years I realised the need for time to be put in and the effort to build the success and achieve the goals and it doesn't happen overnight but eventually.

And I'm grateful for the Lae Biscuit company and the sponsors for sticking by me and having good support staff and team manager and having that stability of the sponsor is what has built the success of the club.



# SNAX TIGERS THROUGH THE YEARS



The determination to drive to success can be summed up by the achievements of the Lae Snax Tigers within the 10 years in the semi-professional Digicel cup. 10 years on in season 2020 and the Lae Biscuit sponsored franchise is aiming for the second shot of a back to back premiership. The last back to back premiership was in season 2016 and 2017.

The 10 years of the Snax Tigers is incomparable to the rest of the other franchises since Tiger's inaugural season in 2011.

But the success of the Tigers battled setbacks of creating an impression in the starting years slapped with losing streaks, and the evident dismay displayed by the infield undisciplined actions of the players.

Even the first three seasons is indicative of the club finding its footing that saw the change of coaching hands from Joe Varani in 2011 to Steve Malum in 2012 and Stanley Tepend taking over the reign in 2013. This time the franchise owner and management letting down its guards to stick with Tepend, and the rest is history now marked with the 10th

anniversary.

Obviously the start to any pathway is not always smooth and the Tigers were indeed no different in the encounters of the leading years. Nevertheless, hard and tough decisions had to be instituted in order to see change.

Tiger's co-franchise owner Adrian Chow recalls in the starting five years the difficult in-field battles to produce results at the same time deal with undisciplined performances and put up with violence riddled rugby.

Adrian admits the success of the Snax Tigers comes aback changing the way people and especially team members think and play rugby league in this country. Adrian indicates that that the next five years is history to now.

Franchise owner and Lae Biscuit Company chairman Ian Chow sums up that in a short 10 years the Tigers have claimed three premierships, three Melanesian Cup titles and coming out on-top of the normal rounds to clinch five minor premierships in the Digicel cup.

But the greater onus laid in the hands of Tepend to weave out ex-

pected results year in year out.

Tepend taking over the reign as head coach of the Snax Tigers in season 2013 proved his worth handing the club's first minor premiership title the following season in 2014 at the end of the normal season rounds.

Yep, so long as it's a step away from the grand prize, and in a country where rugby league is the nambawan sport, you can't expect to be an overnight champion without considering the challenge put up by the rest of the other franchises. It would be daunting and takes time, but to remain up there is a different story.

Tepend surely had his mind set on the task and in the following year of season 2015 made sure the Tigers clinched two straight minor premierships despite falling out of the finals series for the eventual premiership cup.

Consistency and being always able to improvise on your current failures for the better becomes evident as Tepend manoeuvres the Snax Tigers to the club's first Digicel Cup premiership title in 2016 aback three straight minor premierships since 2014. pg4



You can win a premiership but to win the same champions trophy on a double minor premiership and eventually the premiership in the same season is a record for the Lae Snax Tigers in Papua New Guinea.

For the record, the Lae Snax Tigers is the only franchise setting the benchmark of claiming four minor premierships in a row in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Though the Tigers are yet to reach a three in a row Digicel cup premiership, the franchise have claimed back to back premiership in 2016 and 2017 but bowed out of the quarter finals in 2018 in an attempt to make it three in a row. And last season (2019), the Tigers never drooling on the past rebounded securing the minor premiership and eventually the 2019 premiership title adding to three premierships entering season 2020.

And it only gets more than better when the record becomes a double minor premiership and eventual premiership championship and its three times in three seasons is an absolute benchmark achievement on its own.

Still 100 percent record winning the grand final without a loss according to former PNG record holder athlete, Sandy Katusele. Ten years seems a short time to achieve an undisputable three

premierships, five minor premierships and reached an unquestionable predictive outcome whenever the Lae Snax Tigers enters the field of play.

But the road to success is still pursued and is never easy getting there.

If there is one franchise in the Papua New Guinea semi-professional Digicel cup rugby league competition who can master returning the favour or simply count their odds from behind to change the tide, and the Snax Tigers have comparably reached that level.

Many are the catalysts and factors that have either worked or working progress, and the mind-set behind is Tigers head coach Stanley Tepend, dubbed the Super coach. Today co-franchise owner and brothers Adrian and Ian Chow point to a change of mindsets to be disciplined and simply bring out a different rugby is at the core of the Lae based Snax Tigers.

Flipping the coin to the love of rugby and its positive desires in PNG takes time but a maturing step for the Tigers to where it is now.

“We wanted to change the way we play. To play hard and tough and a clean game,” Adrian said.

And winning the 2019 championship, Ian adds that the results of the Tigers is proving of discipline and commitment.

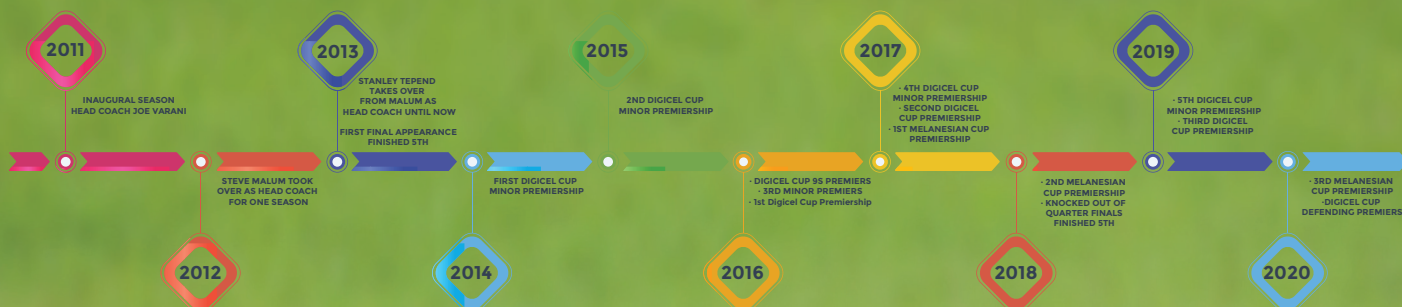
Chairman of the Tigers franchise Joe Kramer says it's more than just winning now but to win now, next year, in two years' time and all the seasons to come is the focus for the Tigers.

Today the compliments that have been shared from the proven results of the Tigers is about setting the next level of rugby on and off the field.

From government to sports administrators, former and elite players as well the general public, other franchises have a lesson to learn from the Tigers when it comes to the holistic approach of a team's positive results.

“That is the way franchises in PNG should be managed. We should be thinking ahead to the Australian National Rugby League (NRL). And instead of thinking about going and playing rugby in the NRL and we should be thinking about NRL players coming and playing here,” Sports Minister Wesley Raminai said.

A driving force behind the Tigers is having reached a level of confidence every time the team takes the field no matter who the challenger is, and sticking together to the game plan to reach set goals. The Tigers are defending the Digicel cup premiership in season 2020 and with a much shorter season than the usual affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, a win every match comes at all cost.





# A TASTE OF TRULY FIJI



No wonder it's been awarded the World Travel Awards in 2019 because the Sigatoka River Safari in Fiji gives you a shivering "wow" excitement experiencing the rest of Fiji in just one day.

Current Digicel Cup champions and incumbent three times Melanesian cup winners the Lae Snax Tigers were privileged to experience Fiji in just one day along the Sigatoka River, as truly the heart and soul of Fiji.

Take on the Sigatoka River safari and all you think of is seat belts throughout the trip while gripping intensely to the jet boat borders, for that exhilarating, heart stopping and if you are that lucky, the first in a long time as a non-Fijian experiencing the Bula land.

To compensate a hard fought to glory rugby league season (2019) eventually crowned the Papua New Guinea National Rugby League champion franchise and adding to a rising three premier-ships in the semi-professional rugby competition in the country, Lae based Snax Tigers jetted off up the Sigatoka River in Fiji on 27th February, ahead of their

2020 Melanesian Cup premiership challenge against Fijian champion, the Ravoravo Rabbitohs at Lautoka's Churchill Park the following weekend on 29th February.

For the Snax Tigers, jet rocketing up the Sigatoka River will be an unforgettable escapade experience of a lifetime yet rewarding.

Destined for the wet cruise, the scenic Sigatoka river cruise takes me back to similar rivers in Papua New Guinea so wide open reaching 10-20 metres and curving banks with the river surface reflected by the brownish illuminating bottom of the river.

Sigatoka River sits idle more than 100 kilometres overlooked by the stretch of the Sigatoka range and we were able to reach our destination after just 26 kilometres and about two hours on the waters, arriving at Nalebaleba village, one of 69 villages from five tribes that sits along the Sigatoka River.

The communities are primarily traditionally oriented accustomed to two main modes of transport, horses and bullocks.

Our jet boat captain and tour guide captain Leps (first name)

humorously says, "I know back home you have Ford and Massey. Here we have John Bullock in the Sigatoka valleys. That's our tractor."

And along our trip the sight of horses was extensively evident so captain Leps clarifies that when horses were introduced to Fiji, it was at Sigatoka province that horses were first introduced. "That's why up here our sports, you either play rugby union or you do horse racing. That's our sports," he adds.

According to captain Leps, horse racing at Sigatoka is different to Australia's Melbourne cup. "Ours is just two horses running a total of 900 metre straight course and people do good bets for the races. That's how we socialise with each other for those living in the lower, middle and upper valley of Sigatoka range bringing their horses together every Thursdays for the race."

Rugby union is very big in Fiji with many tournaments year around. When Fiji won a first ever gold medal in rugby 7s in the 2016 Olympics, Fiji had a public holiday for one month, four weeks of celebrations.

Fiji is the only country that has a seven dollar note because of that gold medal.

"They put the rugby boys on one



side and the other side instead of the queen they put the coach and captain,” Captain Leps laughs off. Sigatoka has produced the best and finest of rugby union talents in Fiji continuing to do so today. It is as well at the mouth of the Sigatoka River where you find the Sigatoka sand dunes, a famous training ground for the Fiji rugby unions.

From some 500 years ago until now it is customary not to touch the chief’s head known to be very disrespectful and records show that English Methodist missionary Reverend

Thomas Baker touched the head of a chief in this Western part of Fiji along highlands of the Sigatoka range and was killed and eaten in 1867. His leather boots was cooked for four days and eaten and only the sole of the boot can be found today at the Fiji Museum in Suva.

It was at Sigatoka

province in 1867 when the last person was eaten and the practise of cannibalism stopped in Fiji.

Sigatoka is the last province in Fiji to be converted to Christianity from a tribe of very strong traditional warriors.

Fiji is well known for its traditional lifestyle and gatherings always having the presence of Kava.

While there are many positive reasons to drink Kava including stress relieving and upset stomach, Kava has been a Fijian herbal medicine. If you can’t sleep at night and drinking Kava will make you forget morning. Fiji Kava is exported largely to America and now comes in tablets.

Pregnant women drink Kava to ease pain when giving birth but profoundly the secret about Kava is that is when women want to stop having babies, they offer their men a lot of Kava making them to go to bed early and wake up late.

So in Fiji Kava is known as the family planning drink.

Anyway heading into the village after about two hours jet boat ride up river reaching our destination at Nalebaleba village, we were ushered into the awaiting villagers for the welcome ceremony.

At Nalebaleba village the Tigers team were greet-

ed into the main community hall and traditionally welcomed the Fiji way, of course the Kava was the welcoming treat after exchange of verbal introductions and gifts by our tour guides from the Sigatoka River safari tours.

Simultaneously the women went around lacing the team with garlands while the men served Kava to the team and at least one cup of Kava signifies our content in being received into the community.

Oh and half a handful of white powder sprinkled

on our cheeks makes us as new born and special to the society.

The team were served lunch soon after and the room cleared off the plates and cups and leftover food for the party to begin.

The local men came out strumming their guitar and singing in traditional lingua backed up by the women as everyone joined in dancing to the local tunes to end the day.



But what an eventful day it was welcomed by the Nalebaleba community who expressed their best of gratitude to the Tigers for choosing the trip and best of luck to the clash in two days’ time against the local champion.

And a farewell song sent us making our way back to the Sigatoka river bank for the return leg of the trip reaching our camp in Nadi.

And standing out in the trip was the jet boat spinning similar to the common donut spiralling done by race cars on land. But along the waters of the Sigatoka River we held onto our last breaths as the skipper called out and spiralled for the 360 degrees donuts.

Whenever in Fiji and choosing a tourism adventure, remember I told you that the Sigatoka River Safari is a must do in Fiji.

The Sigatoka River Safari is simply unforgettable and is truly the heart and soul of Fiji sightseeing.

Opened in 2006 you can book online through email address [Safari@sigatokariver.com](mailto:Safari@sigatokariver.com)

Until then, Bula Vinaka.



# LAE BISCUIT AND COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Lae Biscuit Company stood out to strengthen both front-liners and our people during the Covid-19 State of Emergency in Papua New Guinea. Over the course of the SOE, the Lae based biscuit maker donated up to K200,000 worth of Lae Biscuit Company household products, the Toti Biscuit and Snax Noodles delivered to the 'Sapotim Wantok Foundation' led by Prime Minister James Marape in Port Moresby apart from other significant donations throughout the country.

This is the commitment by the company to stand by the people in these hard times brought by the effects of Covid-19.

And as the nation battles measures to contain any eventual rise of Covid-19 and its spread in the PNG, primarily through the health, police, defence, education, churches and other relevant departments of government so too is the greater call for the business community to be partners.

The Lae Biscuit Company is PNG owned producing PNG made products and supporting local employment encouraging distribution of wealth in the country. The Lae Biscuit Company support to various bodies including our prisons, police, health workers, and churches, provincial government, sporting bodies, NGOs and individuals reached the unprecedented respectively, through its

household products Toti and Snax Biscuits and Snax noodles continued throughout the course of the country's SOE.

This included donations reaching Madang's Beon prison and Madang Community policing with more than 200 cartons of Toti Biscuit.

Madang volunteer group, Madang Arts Maniacs (MAM), who are heading Madang province media and awareness campaign on Covid-19 received backing of Lae Biscuit Company as well.

Back home in Lae City, the Lae Biscuit Company as well donated cartons of Toti Biscuit and Snax Noodles to support the work of the Lae Media in collaboration with the Kristen Radio station of the Lutheran Church in PNG carry out ongoing awareness through radio in the Morobe province. Almost 400 Engan students studying at the University of Technology in Lae received more than 250

cartons of Lae Snax noodles, Toti Biscuit and Wheat meal packs and 200 cartons of the Lae Biscuit Company new enhanced Toti Cheese flavoured biscuit presented to Buimo prison female detainees to be shared with female officers of the Buimo prison, apart from 500 cartons of Lae Snax noodles donated to the Buimo prison as a whole to suplicate their meals. The Papua New Guinea Athletics Union received 50 cartons of Snax Noodle from Lae Biscuit Company and more than 3,000 cartons of Toti Biscuit and Snax noodles were donated to frontline personnel in Lae city manning the SOE including the Lae Metropolitan command and staff of Angau general hospital receiving more than 1,500 cartons of Toti Biscuit and Snax noodles respectively from the Company apart from the 1,600 cartons of Toti Biscuits donated to the Catholic Highlands Diocese.



# LAE SNAX TIGERS LINEUP



**VS WAGHI TUMBE - ROUND 1 - 2020**



**1. JOEL JOSHUA**

**2. JOSHUA LAU**

**3. JOKEDI BIRE**

**4. RODERICK TAI**

**5. ANDERSON BENFORD**

**6. MARK TONY**

**7. CHARLIE SIMON ( captain)**

**8. ROY KELA**

**9. NOEL JOEL**

**10. MARK PITI**

**11. JOHN ANDY**

**12. TIGER EMERE (v. captain)**

**13. ISHMAEL BALKAWA**

**RESERVES**

**14. EDWIN IPAPE**

**15. BUTLER MORRIS**

**16. JOEJOE WALAMAS**

**17. NICKSON WAKI**

**18. SYLVESTER NAMO**

**COACH. STANLEY TEPEND**

**ROUND 2**

**12 JULY 2020**

**VS CENTRAL DABARIS - POM**





Make no mistake that every team running out into season 2020 of the Digicel Cup is eyeing the Lae Snax Tigers.

Pre-season preparations has all been about putting down the Tigers come season kick off.

As if you could even imagine the respective clubs pinning up the Snax Tigers poster in front of their nose as they inhale the dripping sweat from their bodies pumping up the masculine.

But that is realistically what it is.

In 2019 the Lae based Snax Tigers have had one of the most commendable seasons of the semi-professional Digicel premierships competitions under the watchful eyes of PNG Rugby administrations as well as our neighbouring Pacific Island rugby fraternities. The franchise owner and Lae Biscuit Company Chairman Ian Chow simply sums it up as, success in sports and life has simple rules-commitment, discipline, determination, pain, suffering and family.

I for one remembers Ian telling me, everyone starts somewhere to getting there.

But the greatest responsibility lies on the shoulders of Lae Snax Tigers head coach Stanley Tepend, carried forth by the strength of a small and dedicated team of training and management staff yielding the hard yards, week in week out.

Where there was a starting point to reaching 2020 as the milestone 10th anniversary year is the culmination of setting goals and working towards achieving the goals in the leading years.

At the end of the 2020 Melanesian Cup in Lautoka, Fiji, coach Tepend admits, we have ticked one of the boxes and there are other boxes laid barren to be

ticked.

This was the simple message of achievement that has been realised with prompt and concise adherence to instructions, meeting training conditions and the charisma to play by the Snax Tigers outfit.

Ticking the boxes, realising the results and capitalising for the better all comes down to setting the benchmark right and working towards the targets. In the end knowing how to get there before we arrive is the bond that is building the winning culture in the Lae Snax Tigers.

Season 2020 will go down in the memories of the remaining and senior players who have snatched the helm of the club for a while now including Robert 'SOE Controller' Vuia, Roy 'King' Kela, Ishmael 'Sezzy' Balkawa, Charlie 'Chicko' Simon, Noel 'Noksie' Joel, Enoch Sine, Anderson 'Waitman' Benford and captain Tiger Emere.

But the season couldn't have been better without the moral boosting inclusion of Edwin Ipape and Edene Gebbie from Australia alongside trail-blazer Sonny Wabo and the introduction of Sylvester Namo, Nathan Millie, Israel Balio, Elijah Peter, Joseph Konz, Nickson Waki, and Macquaine Gabriel welcoming the return of Warren Glare. Nevertheless the bulk of the 2019 premierships winning team led by former captain John Andy is back alongside Butler Morris, Joe Joshua, Jokedi Bire, Joshua Lau, Junior Rop, Mark Piti, Mark Tonny, Nicky Aure and Roderick Tai. Nevertheless, kudos to the rest of 2020 as we bring out the best of the Lae Snax Tigers celebrating 10 years in the making.



# STAKES ARE HIGH FOR US: TEPEND



We know the spotlight on us and the focus drawn to us as the season kicks off so we can't be too complacent given outcomes of the last season and recent outings but we can be just as sure of ourselves to work extra harder.

Stanley Tepend the Head coach of defending Digicel Cup champions, the Lae Snax Tigers, indicates as round one of season 2020 gets underway.

Tepend said every year the Snax Tigers try to keep all aspects of their game the same knowing that they can't be too comfortable.

Tepend said and by setting the benchmarks high on the team itself drives the success of the Snax Tigers to bring out the competitiveness from its rivals.

"We can't deny the fact every team is focused on us and that's good but we just have to be focused on ourselves keeping our standards continuously high.

Each year everyone starts on ground zero and it doesn't mean we are champions from the previous seasons puts us ahead of everyone but sets a bigger target on us for everyone to hit the target," Tepend said.

Tepend said for the Tigers their first priority is getting the team ready and ticking all boxes in the lead up preparations.

"We know all teams are better and smarter with a new season and changes in new coaches, players and standing out is inclusion of SP Hunters and former Kumuls as well overseas players but it brings a positivity in the knowledge of the game to be better," Tepend said.

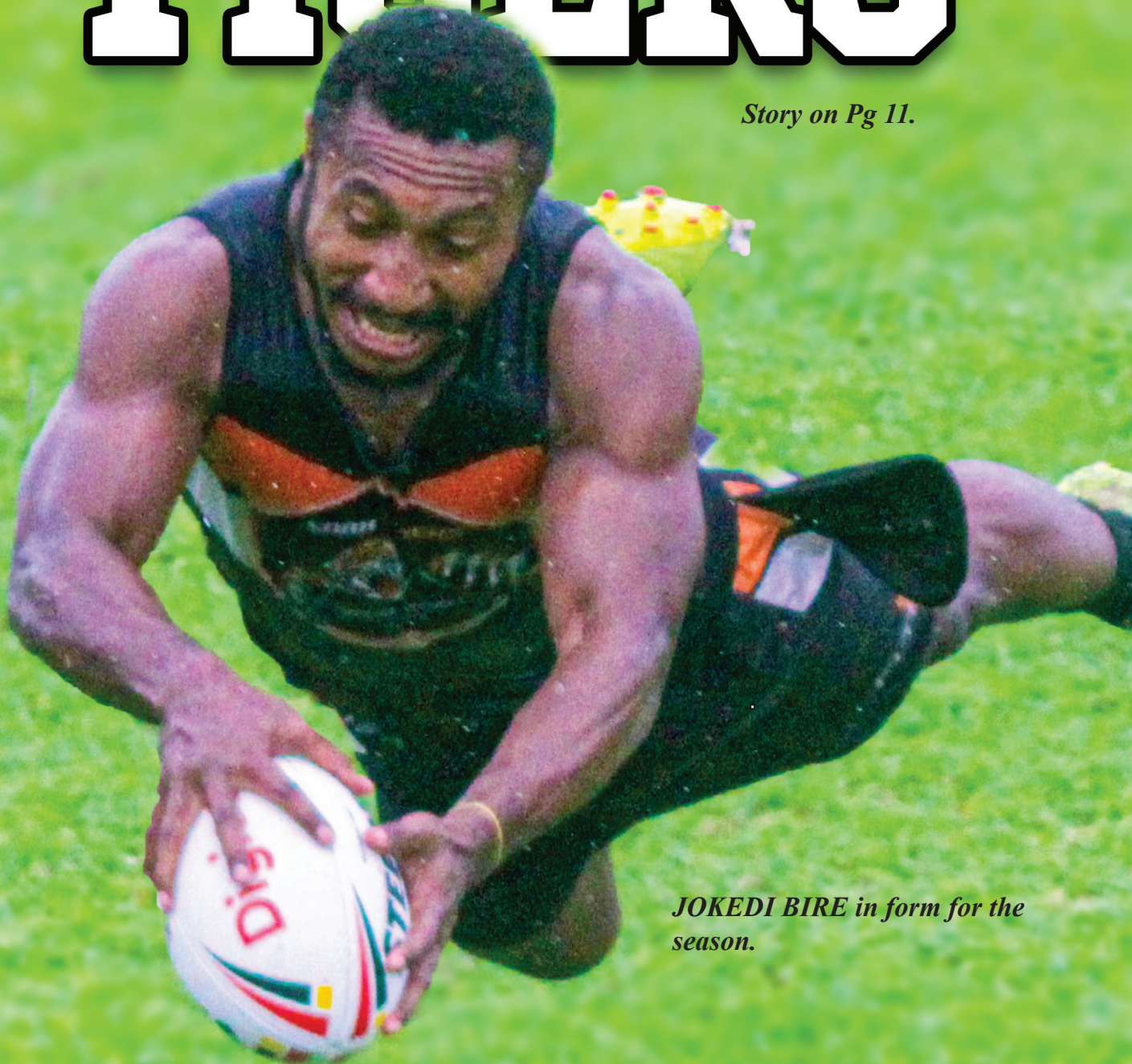
Tepend said in all his side can't be too worry about who the other teams and the players are but key for tigers being a benchmark team is just to make sure their preparations meets targets they have set on themselves.

"We can't talk much about the other franchises but more so emphasizes on ourselves and that's what we can control when the game starts," the three premierships winning coach said.



# ALL EYES ON THE TIGERS

*Story on Pg 11.*



*JOKEDI BIRE in form for the season.*