

Preserve Culture in New Ireland.

Imagine if all our different tribes and villages lost their cultural ways for eternity! For years, our province's various culture and natural beauty has been one of the main attraction of this region and all our cultures have shaped our way of life. Culture is valued here because it is what makes us unique, taught us respect and given us significance in our beliefs and values. Today, modernisation has influenced many people and our cultural ways will gradually die out. To save our province, we need very efficient ways of preserving our culture. Four ways of doing this include creating a museum, preserving tribe and village grounds, having a culture week, and having our youths participate in all cultural events.

To begin with, an effective way of preserving our culture is by creating a cultural museum that would preserve culture from all the various islands in our province. This museum would display cultural artifacts, bilas, ~~perpest~~ perspectives on our history, records of daily life in our culture and more. With careful documentation and artefact preservation, our culture can be recorded and remembered regardless of its future. It would be shared and even understood by those from different backgrounds and heritage. This museum would be focussed on our culture and heritage, bringing people together and creating support. Certainly, this would prevent our culture from disappearing. This is a very convenient way to preserve our culture, and it would be respected and also survive globalisation as our world continues to grow.

Furthermore, preserving the lands in which our villages rest on will play a significant role in saving culture in New Ireland. Everyone knows that culture refers to our ways of life, traditions and also ~~our way of life~~ people. Land is something that makes up our culture and it must be preserved to sustain our relished ways of living. For years, our tribes and clans have lived and thrived on their land, valued it and carried out their traditional customs. Being part Lihirian myself, we have various customs here and our land always brings us great importance and also pride to our to our different clans. Gardens are made to cater for the needs of the villagers and customary purposes and ceremonies like bride price. 'Haus Bois' are also made on our motherland ~~it~~ is important because it is used and valued as a cultural step to manhood for boys all over New Ireland. Various traditions

also take part place on our land and even the ocean such as the shark calling tradition on the West Coast of Central New Ireland. Our ways of living must be preserved so that we can sustain our way of living on our motherland. There are many ways of preserving our land and it must be done to save our natural environment and our culture in New Ireland. This is by far one of the most effective way to sustain our culture.

In addition, another way of preserving our culture in our province is by having all schools to have a culture week that will bring our various traditions closer and give an opportunity to all students to connect with our ways of life. I strongly believe that this will benefit all students from our province and also sustain our culture. During this period of time, it will enable cultural diversity of all the various traditions in New Ireland and bring our culture major significance. Students from our heritage would be able to share their villages beliefs and traditional songs, dances, legends and also customs. They would also have the opportunity to visit elders and learn about some basic skills used in tribes. Doing this would definitely preserve our culture and keep our traditions and beliefs from being forgotten or dying out.

Lastly, to preserve our culture our youth need to be directly involved in all the Government's plannings. This will be good because they will be able to reach out to their elders and eventually carry forward our values and heritage. This is where the Culture and Tourism board can assist to save our traditional ways from extinction. I strongly believe that we all must promote our youths to participate in the important events because ^{they} ^{are} our future generation and will carry our traditions on.

To conclude, to preserve our culture in New Ireland, we must create a museum, preserve our tribal lands, have a culture week and promote youths to participate in all cultural events. Our province is blessed with such cultures and traditions that it fits perfectly with our environment and so we all must take immediate action to ensure that our old traditions will never die out. Save our culture in New Ireland!!!

by Tristan Vanis, Yr 8, Lihir International School.