

EAST TIMOR ACTIVIST PAUL STEWART
ON WEST PAPUA 2000—2010

WEST PAPUA OPEN DAY
SUNDAY 11 DEC, 2022

2pm

Memorial for the Martyrs & Heroes:
Philip Karma, John Lawrance, Bishop Hilton Deakin

2.10pm

Paul Stewart OAM and Publisher David Tenenbaum

2.40pm

Tony Milliman, Jane Cameron (Walking on Water)

2.45pm

Drs. Jacob Rumbiak, West Papua 2023

3pm

Dr Toscano's Auction for WP Rent Collective
Zoom Audience: Chat with Jacob Rumbiak

3.20pm

Coffee & Cake

Buying for Christmas at our Shop



PAULIE
STEWART

All the Rage

The story of Paul Stewart's recovery from his brother's assassination by Indonesian troops in 1975 is also an inspiring journey along East Timor's road to independence from the Indonesian Republic. But threaded sparsely across the engaging memoir is also the dirty campaign by Australian Prime Minister John Howard against the West Papuans' equal right to equal right to self-determination. This most pernicious of elected law-makers, whose family owned copra plantations in New Guinea until 1962 (see David Marr's *Howard's hidden past*) aimed to "de-link the situation of East Timor from West New Guinea in the public mind, domestically and internationally, including Indonesia" (see Ruth Verrier's government-commissioned *Is West Papua another East Timor?*). Just months after East Timor's referendum in 1999 (to which he sent the Australian Defence Force to quell Indonesia's scorched earth violence) Howard dispatched a posse of Foreign Affairs bureaucrats to 'advise' the editors of Australia's major media not to report on West Papua and the Vice-Chancellors of universities to exclude the topic from student curricula.

Against Howard's poisonous script, West Papuan activists had no chance of publicising atrocities in West Papua, let alone their local endeavours, without Paul's experience as a journalist with veteran knowledge of the 4th Estate. Below are examples where his passion and artful advice scarified the prime minister's directive and forced Australians to remember West Papuans are Melanesian, not Asians, and still own their right to self-determination. **PAGE 3** is a photo of Rev. Martin Luther Wanma in October 2000 being driven around Melbourne in a gold ferrari: scintillating enough for the Herald Sun to publish alongside text about an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) about to be signed by Australian trade unions with West Papua.

PAGE 4 is a photo of Jacob Rumbiak's pig Yabon in The Age newspaper a year later, on the steps of Victoria's Parliament House, alongside text about West Papua's extraordinary MOU with mainstream churches, religious organisations, and the unions. **PAGE 5:** another photo of Yabon in The Age, taking a stroll through the CBD, advertising the first seminar on West Papua in decades. (Yabon's political activism was funded by individual Australian unions, including the Maritime and Telecommunication unions (*see Yabon the pig, Symbol of justice and peace in West Papua*))

PAGE 6: in 2002 Paul organised photo-stories in The Herald Sun and The Australian of RMIT University's investiture of Jacob Rumbiak as Senior Research Associate and 'leading scholar on Indonesia and West Papua'. The Indonesian Government immediately objected to this recognition of their (escaped) political prisoner and black-listed the university. **PAGE 7:** Somebody leaked PM Howard's insidious injunction against ABC-Radio JJJ recording a Concert for West Papua in 2003, which included Paul Stewart's Dili Allstars, and bookings escalated from 200 to a full house of 2,500. **PAGE 8:** the courage of 43 West Papuans' odyssey in a traditional double-outrigger canoe around their huge homeland and across the dangerous waters of Torres Strait to Mapoon in Far North Queensland, and their searing accounts of oppression by the Indonesian government aroused Australian civilians, journalists, cartoonists, photographers, NGO's and politicians. Even Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone turned on the prime minister and a month later issued the Papuans protection visas. **PAGE 9:** a diplomatic fight between the Indonesian and Australian governments over the 43 Papuans lasted for twelve months and expressed most publicly by the nations' celebrated cartoonists. **Twelve months later** the people rendered Howard only the second Prime Minister in Australian history to lose his seat. At the same time, his nemesis, Paul Stewart, who had resolutely kept the lights on for West Papua, was hospitalised with chronic kidney disease, a debilitating condition remedied eighteen-months later by the miraculous arrival of a donor-kidney.

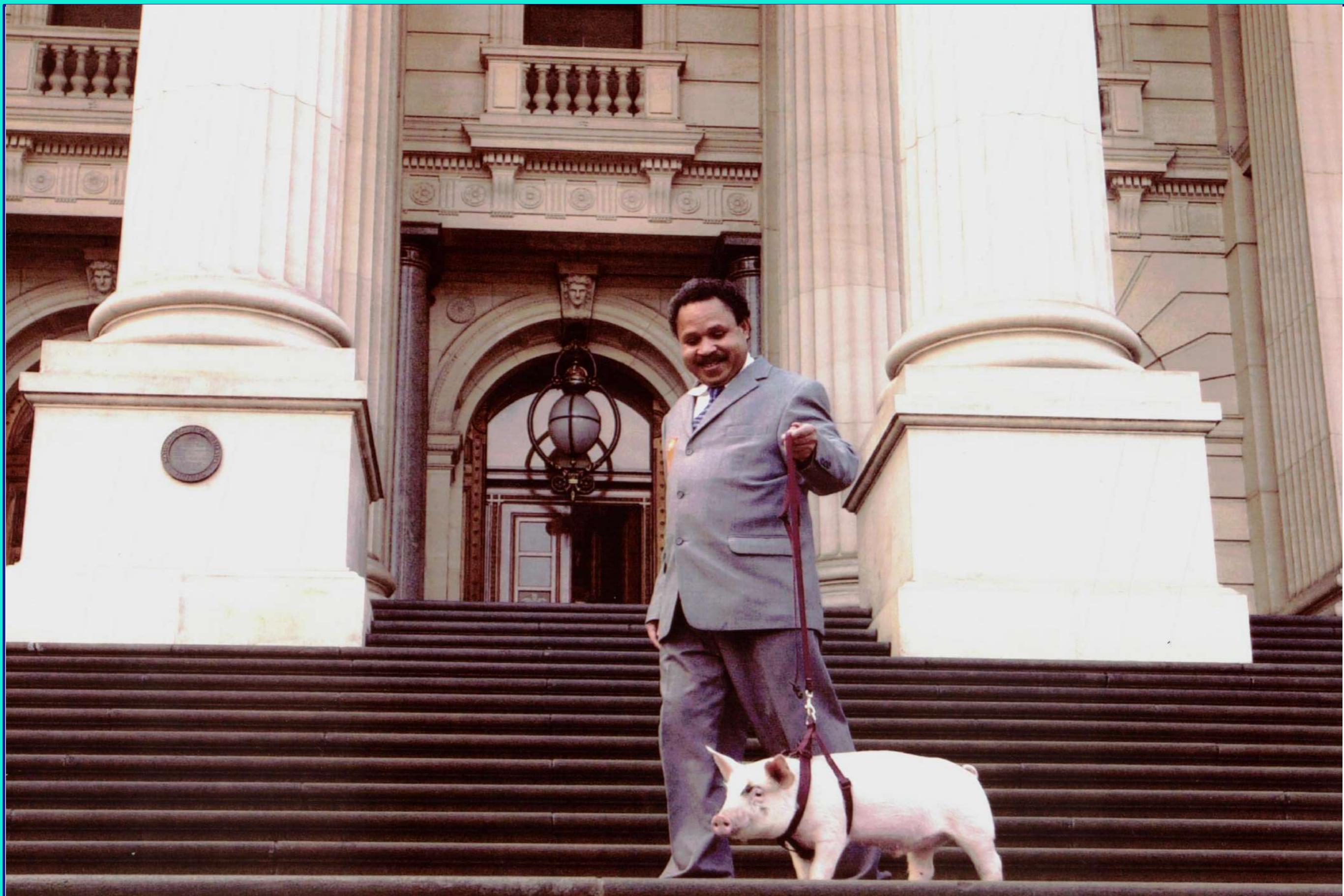
Howard's hidden past, David Marr, the Age, 10 June 2006 <https://www.theage.com.au/national/howards-hidden-past-20060610-ge2hs2.html>

Is West Papua Another Timor? Dr J. Ruth Verrier, 27 July 2000, [Verrier, Is West Papua Another Timor, 2000](#)

Yabon the pig, Symbol of justice and peace in West Papua, Louise Byrne <https://dfait.federalrepublicofwestpapua.org/document/pig-symbol-of-peace-in-west-papua/#yabon-a-symbol-for-justice-peace-and-freedom-in-west-papua-short-story-2000-words>



Australian Trade Unions Memorandum of Understanding with the West Papua independence movement, signed on 24 October 2000 in the RMIT Theatre in Melbourne, advertised by the Sunday Herald Sun on 19 October 2000 with this bold photo of West Papua's Pastor Martin Luther Wanma riding around the Albert Park race track in a gold Ferrari.



'FREED PORKER, NOT FREE PAPUA, HOGS LIMELIGHT' (Royal Abbott, The Age, 14 August 2001). West Papua's MOU with Australia's mainstream churches, religious organisations, and the trade unions was signed in Room K, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne.

Pork avenue, just the place for a road hog

The Age 27 Aug 2001, P3



Walkie-porky: Yabon, pictured in Melbourne's city centre, is a Very Important Pig right now. It will be his job to lead the West Papua delegation to the Yumi Wantaim seminar, coinciding with PNG's 26th anniversary of independence, which begins on September 15 on the banks of the Maribyrnong. FILIPIC HEATH MISSEN

'WALKIE-PORKY: YABON, PICTURED IN MELBOURNE CITY CENTRE, IS A VERY IMPORTANT PIG RIGHT NOW. It will be his job to lead West Papua's delegation to the Yumi Wantaim seminar, coinciding with PNG's 26th independence anniversary, on 15 September on the banks of the Maribyrnong River' (Heath Missen, The Age, 27 August 2001)

Jacob Rumbiak's investiture as *Senior Research Associate and Leading Scholar on Indonesia and West Papua* at RMIT University on 7 August 2002, organised by Professor Paul James. The Indonesian Government promptly black-listed RMIT, emailing all its education institutions with 'advice' not to send their students to the Melbourne university.

Research win for Papuan activist

Jim Buckell

JACOB Rumbiak is one refugee who has felt the warm embrace of the Australian community.

A leader of the West Papuan independence movement and its chief proponent of non-violence, Mr Rumbiak was last week invested as a senior research associate at RMIT University.

He was granted refugee status by Australia following an attack on the car in which he was travelling as an observer of the East Timor election in 1999.

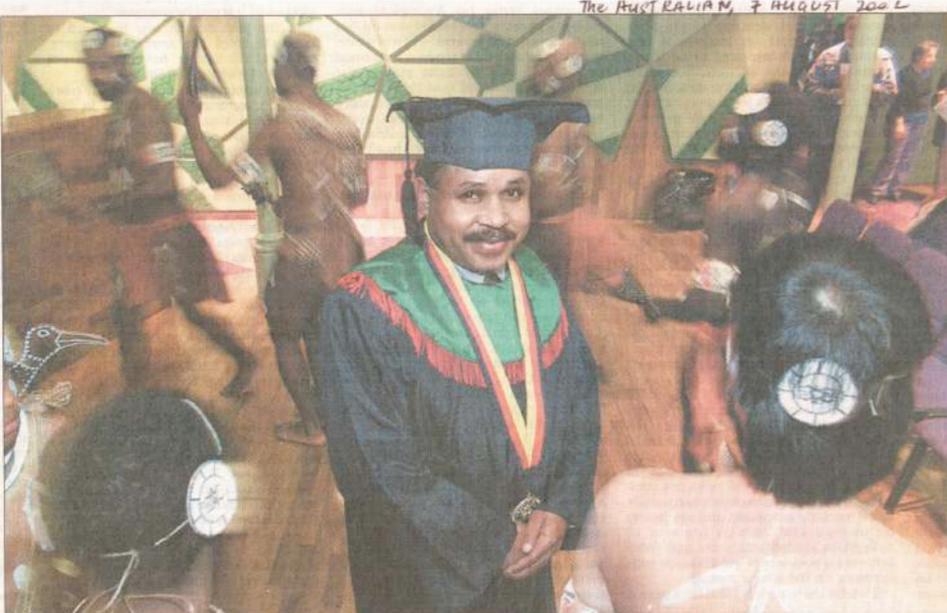
Mr Rumbiak is no stranger to violence at the hands of the Indonesians. He had not long been released from 10 years' imprisonment when the attack occurred. During his incarceration he was repeatedly tortured and was held for two years in an isolated cell at the top of a stone tower.

He was frequently moved around by prison authorities and found himself at one stage in the same prison — Jakarta's Cipinang — as East Timor's President Xanana Gusmao, then in jail for his role in East Timor's armed struggle against Indonesian rule.

The two became friends, swapped ideas on independence and discovered they shared another passion — soccer.

Mr Rumbiak had been a member of the Indonesian soccer team, and scored the winning goal in a match that secured its victory in the Asia Soccer Championship Cup in Bangkok in 1984.

RMIT's Storey Hall in Mel-



New beginning: Mr Rumbiak being invested at an RMIT University ceremony featuring Solomon Islands dancers

bourne was crowded with supporters for last Thursday's ceremony.

A big contingent of fellow Melanesians turned out, including Malaitian dancers from the Solomon Islands in traditional costume.

The fellowship was a significant gesture.

One of Mr Rumbiak's key aims is to gain observer status for West Papua at international bodies, including the South Pacific Forum which meets in Fiji next week.

The research position is an acknowledgment of Mr Rumbiak's masters degree in geography from

the Scientific Institute of Education at Bandung in West Java.

Paul James, head of RMIT's Globalism Institute, where the research job is based, said the facilities would allow Mr Rumbiak to continue his work on negotiating with the Indonesian Government on full independence for West Papua.

In the past, West Papuans who came to Australia had been "marginalised on the outside of universities", Professor James said.

"What this means is that we can publicly move forward and Jacob can do research on how we can manage reconciliation in West Papua."

The province was annexed by Indonesia in 1961. The occupation was legitimised by the UN in an agreement between the Netherlands and Indonesia the following year.

The West Papuans had no say in the matter.

More than 100,000 West Papuans are estimated to have been killed since then.

Special autonomy was granted to the region by Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri in January, but military matters are still in Indonesian hands and observers say there is evidence of East Timor-style militia operating in the troubled province. Many

West Papuans associated with the independence movement live in fear of their lives.

A few months ago a close friend of Mr Rumbiak was poisoned.

Despite the targeting of independence leaders and their families, Mr Rumbiak remains committed to non-violence, which he believes is the only way forward in opening up dialogue with the Indonesians on independence.

A gently spoken man of 44, he said his research position was a great step forward for West Papua: "This is a new beginning for all of us to become peacekeepers, to stand for truth, justice, peace and love," he said.



Jacob with Paul Stewart (above) and Professor Paul James (below left) and photographers from The Australian and Herald Sun newspapers.



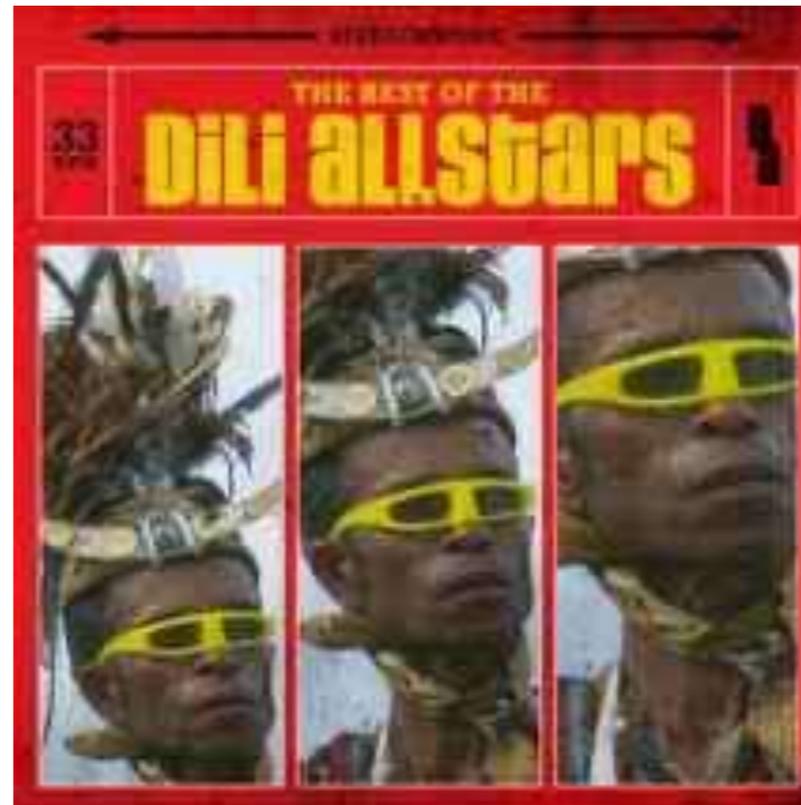
THE MORNING STAR CONCERT FOR WEST PAPUA

Melbourne Concert Hall, 28 Feb 2003

Morning Star Concert for West Papua was organised by David Bridie with the \$120,000 that his band *My Friend the Chocolate Cake* received from AMP for its use of a song in a television ad. The money also funded a band to travel from West Papua and the production of a CD *Black Paradise—Spirit of Mambesak*, and the publication of a photographic tome *West Papua—Follow the Morning Star*.

The concert sold-out (2,500 tickets) primarily because Melbourne's music, art, and activist communities didn't appreciate Prime Minister John Howard banning ABC-JJJ from recording it!!

Star players for the concert included East Timor's Dili Allstars (right), and the All Saints Church All Male Choir performing *Tri pela lik lik pig* with John Saffron as the pig(s) and 3D animation of the wolf's deception and greed ... as well as Not Drowning Waving, Bangarra Dance Company, The Black Brothers, Black Paradise, George Telek ... Senators Bob Brown and Andrew Bartlett, Andrew Denton, John Clarke, Bryan Dawe, Dave O'Neil ... Alex Lloyd, Lisa Gerrard, Peter Garrett, Paul Mac Biftek, Snog, Pnau's Nick Littlemore, and High Pass Filter.





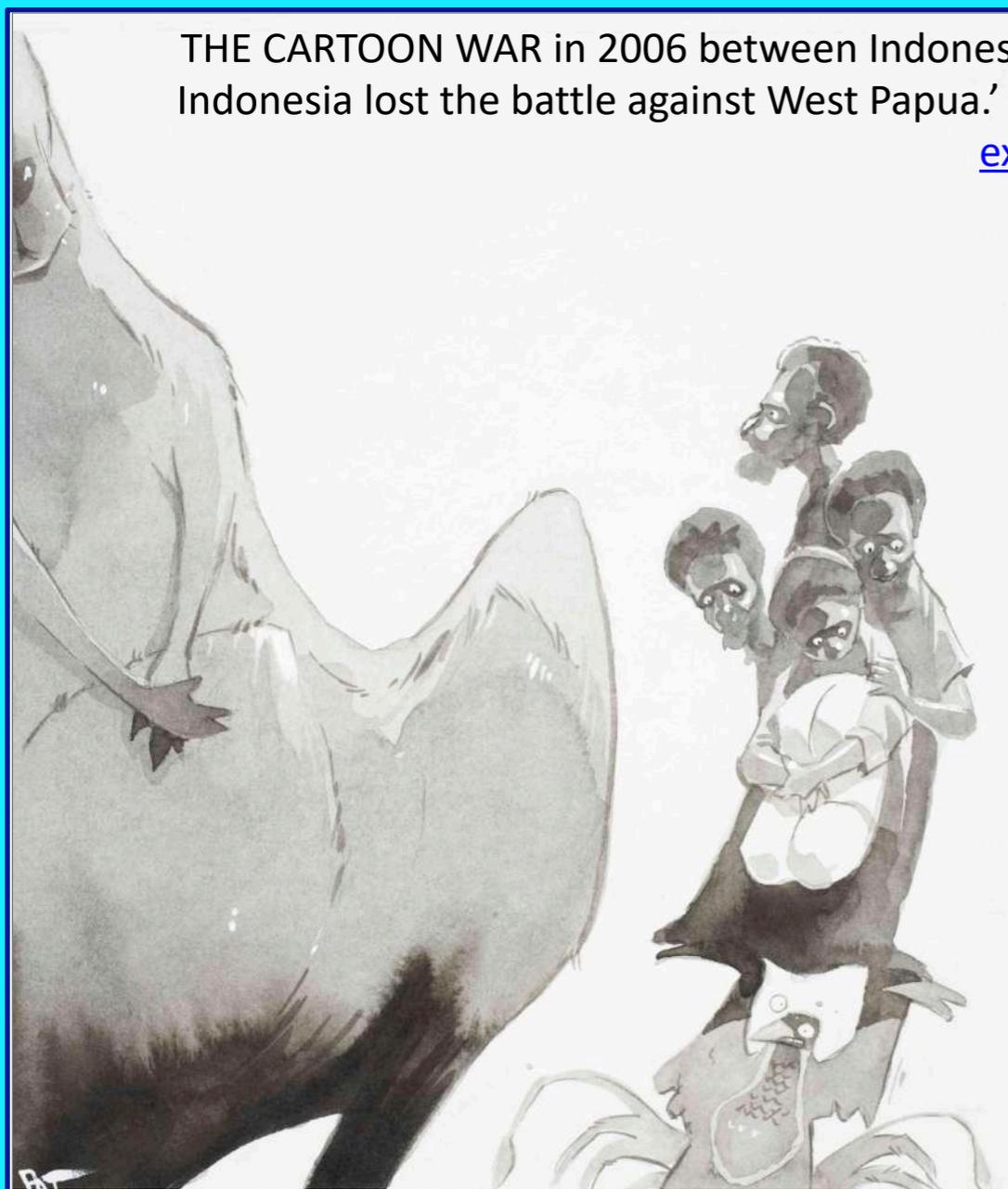
MAPOON ON THE WEST COAST OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA, 17 JANUARY 2006

Two helicopters circle 43 West Papuan asylum-seekers languishing under a tree after beaching their traditional double-outrigger canoe at Mapoon in Far North Queensland. One was a government helicopter, the other was media mogul Rupert Murdoch's helicopter with two Torres Times journalists. The Torres Times, usually a weekly, immediately globalised the image on the internet, forcing the Australian government to uphold the Refugee Convention and grant asylum to the political dissidents. The West Papuans were taken to Christmas Island for processing, and landed in Melbourne on 3 April 2006 with three-year protection visas. Paul Stewart's two bands, the Painters & Dockers and The Dili Allstars were part of a huge welcome concert at the Central Club in Richmond.



Jeffry Jikwa, one of the 2006 asylum seekers, working for Qantas in Queensland as an aerospace engineer. While Jeffry was studying at RMIT University, he was Paul Stewart's go-to-man for the Jesuit's Social Services 'Just Voices Speakers Program' where Paul has worked since 2011. The program provides empowering sessions to schools to inspire students to develop social justice messages. The program also provides a platform for the ALMA religious sisters' work with disabled and orphaned children in East Timor and Merauke in West Papua.

THE CARTOON WAR in 2006 between Indonesia and Australia over the 43 West Papuan asylum-seekers; or 'the year Australia and Indonesia lost the battle against West Papua.' All 29 cartoons at <https://dfait.federalrepublicofwestpapua.org/document/cartoon-exhibition-2006-the-year-australia-and-indonesia-lost-the-battle-against-west-papua/>



THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT ADOPTS A PRAGMATIC AND PRINCIPLED POSITION



PAT CAMPBELL *West Papua, welcome to democracy* Canberra Times, Jan 2006.

Indonesia's celebrated cartoonist FONDA LAPOD started the war with *The adventure of two dingo* published by Rakyat Merdeka on 27 March 2006.

JON SPOONER *The Foreign Affairs Department adopts a pragmatic and principled position* The Australian, 11 April 2006