

Name - Sharon Neville

Class - 7 (seven)

School - Lihir International School (LIS)

Preserving New Ireland's traditions and customs

The importance of preserving New Ireland's traditions and customs is exceptionally significant. Our culture is valued through all aspects of our life. If we do nothing to preserve our culture, we will lose it.

To begin with, teenagers are no longer treasuring their culture. Some teenagers may think that dressing up for Independence Day might not be "cool" or may think that other people will make fun of them. I believe that dressing up in your traditional bilas symbolises that you are honoured of being a New Irlander and you are proud of your culture. As you can see, we must be respectful of our traditional dressing and embrace the opportunities to wear them because if we don't, who knows what will happen to these customs and traditions in the future. If you want your children to grow up in a world where they can experience and enjoy their culture, we must keep these practices alive.

In addition, globalisation has also affected a huge part of our cultural loss. Nowadays, as people go travelling, they bring back unique and unfamiliar cultures back with them such as unknown foods, a different sense of style and music that we may not be used to and even different beliefs. These actions influence people to practice those particular cultures instead of our own which leads to the loss of our traditions and culture. Currently as children go

to school, they are to be taught how to speak in English which is extremely important, but also as we go to our homes, we must practise our traditional mother tongue. If we don't, sadly our own language will be forgotten and die out. In my opinion, while it is good to learn something new, we must never forget about the things that we have already learnt. If we all do this, we can all prevent the loss of our culture which is very crucial to us all.

Finally, during this time we live in, we are very lucky and fortunate to have technology. There are however, a few disadvantages to this. As more and more different and unusual devices are created, over time more of the New Ireland culture has been forgotten or not practised. As people of all ages are exposed to social media, they spend more time tied to their devices and less time exploring, learning and practising their cultures and traditions. When we are on devices, we must be mindful and limit our time on them so that we can experience the beauty of our culture and spend more time with our elders learning our traditions, songs and stories. It is also important to the community that elders have the opportunity to share with the younger generation.

As you can see, it is extremely important to value and preserve our culture and traditions so that our future generation can experience its wonders because once it is gone, we won't be able to preserve it. We must all be grateful and not take advantage of our land, resources and culture.