



## Park inspires care for biodiversity



For year eight and nine students (pictured) at Lihir International School, caring about biodiversity now means more than classroom lessons after they visited the Port Moresby Nature Park.

For these students, it also means performing and advocating sustainable and conservation practices in every way possible, whether at home, their communities or in school – an approach that aligns well with Newcrest’s commitment to safety and sustainability.

The 20 students, nine of whom are local *Lihirians*, visited the Port Moresby Nature Park as part of a camping trip to Port Moresby and Kokopo, which focused on various topics under the subjects Humanities and Social Sciences, and Making a Living.

“Our students loved how each exhibit mimicked the animals’ natural environment. They were also thankful that the Park, in partnership with various stakeholders, is progressing with its Breeding for Sustainable Populations Program after learning that

some species are critically endangered in the wild,” said their teacher, Elizabeth Laien.

The Nature Park’s Education Manager, Shirley Mogi, said Lihir International School was the first fly-in school this year to participate in the Park’s curriculum-based school excursion program.

“We have welcomed schools from different provinces, and it has always been a privilege for the team to deliver our message on conservation,” she added.

The students learnt about the importance of protecting and conserving Papua New Guinea’s native plants and animals, including the iconic birds of paradise, tree kangaroos, cassowaries, reptiles and parrots.

Newcrest is supporting the Port Moresby Nature Park’s three different species of tree kangaroos including the endangered Matschie’s, Goodfellow’s and the vulnerable Doria’s tree kangaroos.

Under this partnership, Newcrest has provided

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K400, 000 to the Nature Park as part of a three-year program to construct a Tree Kangaroo Research and Rehabilitation Facility that will house up to 18 tree kangaroos.

The facility will enable conservation, research opportunities, and a Breeding for Sustainable Tree Kangaroo Population Program.

“Safeguarding the future of our people is important and we must do that by protecting our biodiversity. Our partnership with Port Moresby Nature Park is part of that journey. It reflects our commitment to safety and sustainability in PNG and aligns with our strong biodiversity policy and management standard,” said Newcrest Country (PNG) Manager, Stanley Komunt.

Furthermore, he said Newcrest’s biodiversity policy aligns with the International Council on Mining Metals and World Gold Council requirements and outlines the company’s commitments to protect and manage biodiversity values related to Newcrest operations. ■



Various sessions during the excursion.

A Huon Tree Kangaroo [Also known as Matschie’s tree kangaroo].

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