"Bugiau Village": An Urban Settlement in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

In 1989 a group of urban migrants from Morobe Province now living in Port Moresby took the opportunity of land becoming available in a newly opened up informal housing area to reconstruct their rural village in town. Utilizing traditional clan and village identities in a modern setting these urban dwellers have constructed a habitat and way of life that contradicts prevailing stereotypes of urban settlements in Papua New Guinea. The paper is based on a long-term association with members of the community and a period of residence in the settlement in 2000.

Keith Barber
Anthropology Programme
University of Waikato
Hamilton
New Zealand
k.barber@waikato.ac.nz