Throughout its colonial history, the people living in the region surrounding Tumolbil, Papua New Guinea, have been hesitant to accept the boundaries and categories imposed on them by foreigners by simply refusing to engage in the very discourse that is based in boundaries and categories. This paper explores the ways this discourse of boundaries, categories, and property rights has been co-opted by young formally educated men of Tumolbil, Papua New Guinea and how this discourse interacts with a local discourse of land rights primarily based in clan origin stories. The two discourses do not conflict and the new discourse has not replaced the old. Instead, the two discourses have found a symbiotic relationship, using one another in the creation of a new ethnic identity, Nekalimin, with geographical boundaries that include a promising gold and copper mine prospect currently under exploration.