



The Campus This Week

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BSIT students take learning outdoors in Raunsepna field trip

OUR VISION

Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development

OUR MISSION

To develop into a sustainable University through delivery of innovative research, quality teaching and learning, developing staff and students as alumni agents for positive change.

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MORE than 60 tourism students took part in a memorable field trip to Raunsepna recently, where they experienced first-hand the cultural and ecological richness of the Baining area of East New Britain.

The two-day field trip brought together first, third, and fourth year students from the Tourism and Hospitality Department.

This is the first time the department has organised a trip combining students from different years of study.

Field trip team leader, tutor Emma Oliver said the field trip was designed to immerse students in a real-life setting that connects tourism theory with traditional PNG heritage; and aimed to expose students to potential



▲ Members of the group that took a scenic hike to the natural rock bridge and pristine swimming pools, showcasing the area's eco-tourism potential.

eco- and cultural tourism products, build community partnerships, and support sustainable tourism education by exploring natural landscapes, traditional knowledge, and heritage sites.

Ms Oliver said students participated in guided group tours, site assessments, cultural performances, and community interactions.

Activities included a visit to an ancient cave with

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External members of ENBPG Audit Committee visit UNRE



◀ External members of the Audit Committee for the East New Britain Provincial Government paid a courtesy visit to the university on Monday this week. They were received by staff from the Internal Audit Unit. Pictured (from left) are UNRE's Ms Alice Hosea, Department of Finance (DOF) Deputy Secretary Subnational PFM Mr Tom Tiki, UNRE's Ms Shirley Sorulen, Assistant Auditor General Mr Simon Vungta, and DOF Senior Internal Auditor Ms Maryanne Varage.

Through jungle trails and sacred traditions: A field trip to remember

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preserved wall markings, a hike along a historic missionary trail known as *Donkey Track*, and a trek to natural rock pools and a scenic bridge.

The group of 14 students (4 males and 10 females) that went on the "cave hunting" expedition, trekked for nearly seven hours through tropical jungle and rugged mountain terrain to reach the ancient cave hidden in the inner gorges of the Lasul Baining ranges.

Speaking about the trip, third year student Martin Rindy said it was the best experience he has had in his life.

"This field trip is a real eye opener for me. It showed me that there is so much more to enjoy in nature and why we must protect our eco and wildlife tourism," he said.

He said he enjoyed the traditional spear dance and the interaction with the locals as well as the opportunity to bond with students in other years and those he normally did not interact with.

For many other students, the

highlight was witnessing the full Baining Fire Dance, performed overnight in its sacred ancestral setting.

The program also included two other culturally significant events - a Dukduk welcome ceremony and the initiation of two boys into manhood.

Andrea Wilson, also in her third year, said the trip helped her see the importance of protecting eco-tourism sites.

"It showed me how communities manage and preserve their biodiversity," she said.

"Even with challenges like the language barrier, it was a great learning experience."

Students were expected to take part in all activities, conduct interviews, observe local customs, and collect data for their assignments.

They were accompanied by six academic staff and two support personnel.

The Tourism and Hospitality

Department thanked the Raunsepana clan leaders and community for opening their land and lives to the group.

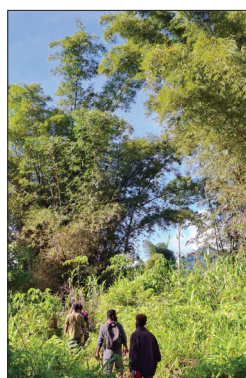
"We extend our deepest gratitude to the Raunsepana community, clan leaders, and cultural custodians for opening their land, hearts, and sacred practices to our staff and students," Ms Oliver said.

"Your generosity and hospitality made this learning experience meaningful and unforgettable."

She also thanked the University Management and the School of Sustainable Resource Management and Business Studies.

"This trip wouldn't have been possible without their support and the commitment to student-centered, experiential learning."

Though the visit lasted just one day and one night, it has left a lasting impact on the students - academically, culturally and personally.



Photos courtesy of the Department of Tourism and Hospitality.