

Basic Detail Report



ANMS1279[143]

Title

Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Denis George and others
at Milne Bay

Date

1977

Medium

Photographic paper

Dimensions

Overall: 88 x 130 mm

Name

Photograph

History

After leaving Australia in 1966, Denis George moved to Papua New Guinea and established the Samarai Pearl farm on Pearl Island in Milne Bay province. Despite opposition from various interests, John Guise who was then a member of the House of Assembly supported him. He established a school of pearl culture that he named after John Guise, to train locals in diving for shell, making equipment, tending pearl shells, seeding pearl shells and processing half pearls. The project comprised a number of village pearl farms that functioned in association with the 'mother farm' where George performed technical operations, provided material, processed, and sold the pearls. His family worked alongside him. The Milne Bay Pearl Farmers Association was set up in 1973 to protect individual interests of the participating pearl farmers and in 1975 the official opening of the Milne Bay Pearl Industry took place, under the auspices of the now Prime Minister Sir John Guise. The pearl culture industry at Milne Bay received considerable attention in 1977 when Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited Milne Bay and saw a demonstration of pearl industry activities.