

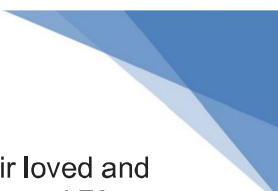
· HONOURING THE LIFE OF ·

JOHN NIGHTINGALE



6th May 1947 - 19th May 2020

John, 'Hummingbird', 'Papa Guria', you touched the lives of many and you will be sadly missed.



With great sorrow, NGIP Agmark Limited wish to share the sad news that their loved and respected Managing Director, John Nightingale, died of cancer on May 19th, aged 73.

John was the pioneer Independent Cocoa Trader who took the PNG Cocoa export monopoly away from colonial plantation companies when he established Agmark Pacific Limited in 1988. Agmark rapidly became PNG's largest Cocoa exporter. John and Agmark single-handedly catapulted the prices offered to farmers upwards to reach over 80% of European market price, a level that has been world best practice ever since.

His company, Agmark Pacific Limited later merged with the New Guinea Island Produce company to become the NGIP Agmark group and later NGIP Agmark Limited.

John Nightingale arrived in PNG in early 1971 and purchased his first plantations and coastal shipping vessels in 1975. He later managed New Guinea Cocoa Exports Co. until 1988 when he formed Agmark. He was Managing Director of Agmark Pacific Ltd until the merger with NGIP Co Ltd in 2005 when he became Managing Director of NGIP Agmark Ltd, a position he held until his death.

John grew up in Victoria, Australia and studied Agricultural Science before starting a career selling agricultural chemicals in Australia and later in pre-independence New Guinea. He traveled widely in Papua and New Guinea before settling in Rabaul where he married Darrie Padir in the days when 'mixed' marriages were uncommon. John had no regard for the prejudices or conventions of the day and was never happier than when he was going against the flow. He was devoted to Darrie and devoted to seeing Papua New Guinea develop. John and Darrie were a formidable trading partnership and their company quickly became a household name. John became a PNG citizen at Independence and remained a PNG citizen for the rest of his life.

John's commercial skill and quick-thinking approach to everything he did earned him the nickname 'Hummingbird', a name that stuck with him for over 4 decades.

'Hummingbird' had 5 overwhelming passions, all of which he loved and pursued wholeheartedly and enthusiastically. These were his Family, his Business, his Staff, the farmers of Papua New Guinea and of course the sport of Rugby League.

In 1991 he was one of 3 founding sponsors of the Rabaul Gurias team. For the next 29 years his team was at the forefront of semi-professional PNG Rugby League, funded always by private sponsorship and acquiring a reputation for both sporting excellence and excellent sportsmanship. John acquired a second nickname, that of 'Papa Guria'.

In business, John experienced some setbacks. Firstly, the Bougainville crisis in 1989 and secondly the Rabaul volcanic eruptions of 1994. Characteristically it was Hummingbird who was the first Cocoa Trader into Bougainville while the blockade was still in force and it was Hummingbird and Darrie who resumed Cocoa buying in Rabaul just a few weeks after the eruption. John knew that without Cocoa his farmers would have no livelihood and he spared no effort to ensure that Agmark were there when needed by the Cocoa community.

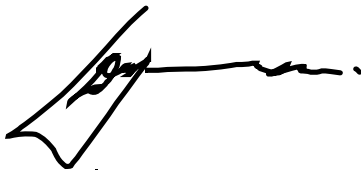
John, 'Hummingbird', 'Papa Guria', you touched the lives of many and you will be sadly missed by many and for many years to come.

You were a giant amongst men, we who are left behind give our thanks for your life. We salute you without reservation and we wish you God Speed on your final journey.

We send our condolences to 'Mama Guria' Darrie, to John's sister Judy, to John & Darrie's children James, Nemika and Steven, to grandchildren Marley, Denzel, Troy, Silas and Isaac, to the hundreds of staff of NGIP Agmark, to the 4000 shareholders of the company John created, to the Cocoa farmers who John empowered and enriched, to all Guria players present and past and to the tens of thousands of spectators to whom John helped bring the enjoyment of watching the greatest game being played as it should be.

"The idea is not to live forever, but to create something that will."

For and on behalf of the board.



Donald Manoa
MBE, Chairman
NGIP Agmark Limited



Nicholas Lyons
Director
NGIP Agmark Limited

