



PEF UPDATE DECEMBER 2010

In this update....

-The new dive compressor is in operation, exploration of the house reef and reefs in the immediate area of Pulau Pef, already underway.

-Yanniek, Maya's trusty assistant finally takes a dive underwater for the first time and is filled with pride at her achievement; Ami pays a quick visit all the way from Bali, and being a certified diver, goes on her first dives around Pef.

-Work on the walls of the first completed building, the Senior Staff house, begins: a process of weaving and tying leaves in keeping with local Papuan tradition.

-In Bali, Ami makes arrangements for the first dive boat, PEF II, to travel to Papua -expected to reach the Pef before the end of the year.

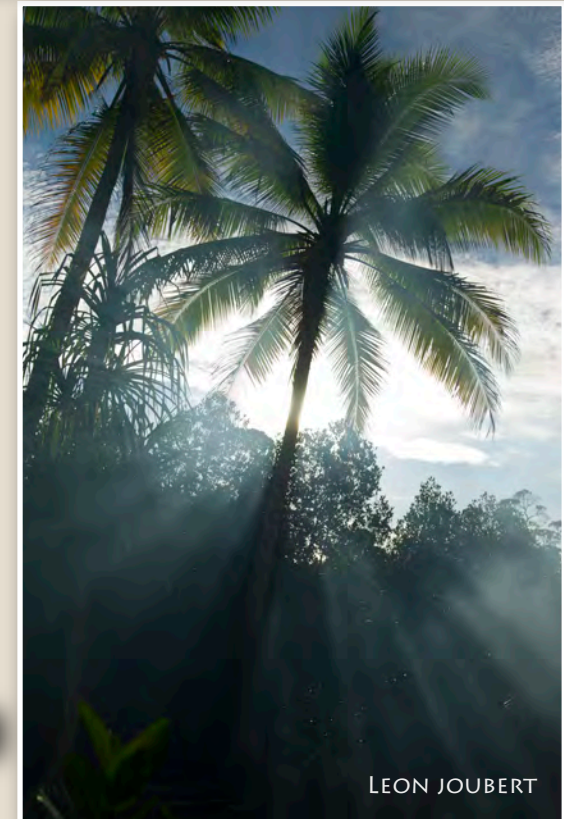
-Three young Papuans from the neighbouring village show promise as potential dive guides, and so Armin, Sabine and Nikson take them diving for the first time.

-The Papuans return to their villages for Christmas, and a New Year begins on Pulau Pef....



FOLLOW
THE
ADVENTURE
ON
PULAU PEF!

Early morning on Pulau Pef



Exploration of the house reef reveals that there is a great variety of fish, corals, and large coral bommies; to date we have seen the full spectrum of reef fishes, plus mandarin fish, wobbegongs, sweet-lips, batfish, black tip reef sharks, bump head parrot fishes, turtles, pygmy seahorses, giant clams, ghostpipe fish, razor fish, blue spotted stingrays, nudibranchs, shrimps, clown fish and even the endemic Raja Ampat walking shark!

The Pef 'in-house' professional Imaging team, Claudia and Leon, begin to document the dive explorations - feel the wonder of the house reef through their images...





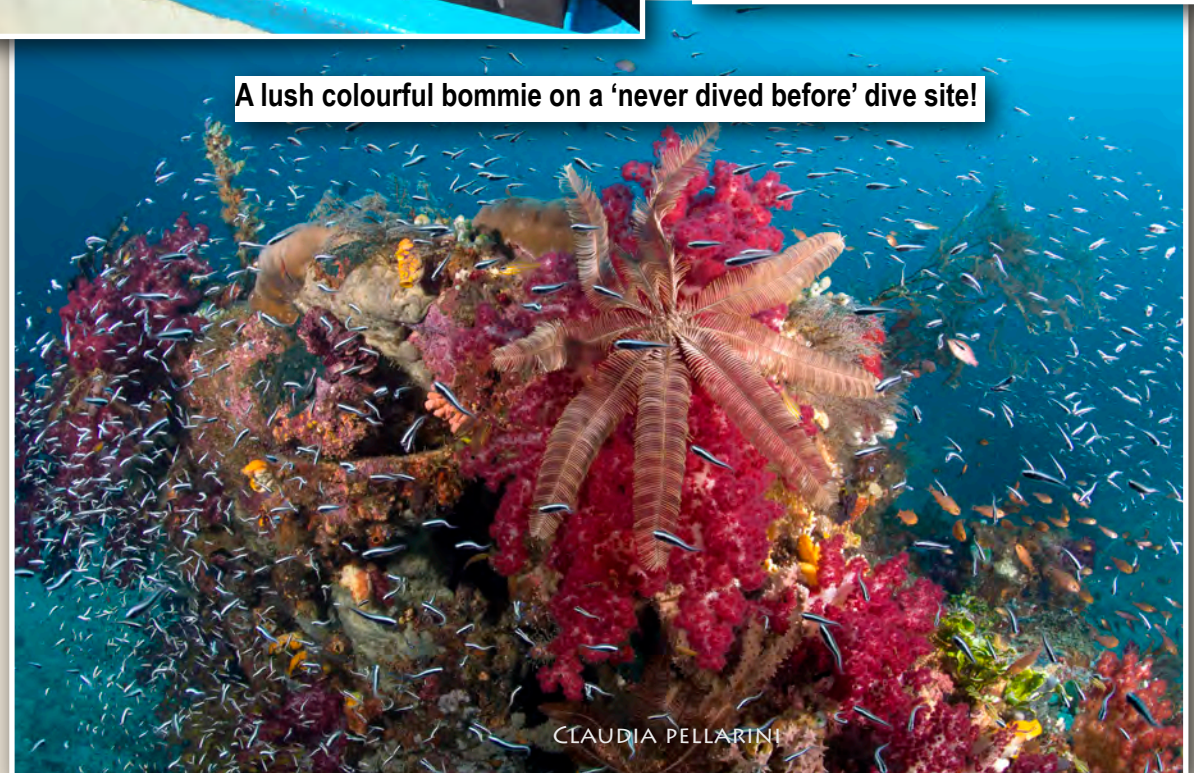
Ami pays a visit to Pef, and being Balinese, finds the time to do warm-up yoga exercises on the jetty before the dive boat departs; Yanniek joins in – of course the guys find this hilarious!



Yanniek's first dive... a dream come true...



A lush colourful bommie on a 'never dived before' dive site!



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Claudia, Ami and Maya enjoy the warm water in the tropical rain.



One day the villagers brought a little 'cuscus', a shy nocturnal marsupial which is resident on Pef. It has large eyes and a prehensile tail with which it clings to tree branches. The cuscus must have fallen from a tree and he was found in the water, clinging desperately to a branch. The poor bedraggled animal was distraught and had some scratches on his face. The carpentry team immediately got to work and built him a little 'home' where he was fed bananas for a few days until he regained his strength. One night, the door was deliberately left open, and off he went...



The villagers continue to deliver construction materials...



CLAUDIA PELLARINI

...and the women also start to regularly bring vegetables and fruits to sell, with their children often in tow.



On the construction site, the traditional method of weaving palm leaves one by one into the prepared framework and fastening them with traditional 'tali' (rope), is in full swing!



The 'tali' (rope) is collected in the forest by the villagers, delivered to the island, and then prepared for use while the bamboo scaffolding is built. In the meantime green bundles of the special palm leaves are delivered. The leaves are known as 'daun bobo' and come from a specific palm-like plant that thrives in the mangrove swamps in the Raja Ampat. These must be ordered at short notice while they are still green, so that when they are inserted into the walls, they retain their elasticity.



Once everything is in place: the framework is in place, the 'tali' and the leaves are ready, the tedious work of threading the thousands of leaves one by one, and tying them into place begins.



The electrician Mas Wanto busies himself with the wiring in the Senior Staff house...



And meanwhile, the doors and shutters are being fitted, but first a quality check by the 'big chiefs', Mas Moch, Mas Busro and Maya...



And in an opposite corner of Pef, more workers busy themselves with the next roof...



...the main building that will house Maya's office, the dive center, admin office and guest toilets, is closest to the jetty walkway, steadily shows signs of progress...



...the poles are set for the restaurant over the water...



A view of the main building from the walkway...



Back in Bali,
Ami is hard at
work in the wee
hours of the
morning,
seeing the new
dive boat off on
its long journey
to Papua...



On the island, the divers cannot wait for the new dive boat, the PEF II.



Sabine and Armin in front of their tented, temporary, but functional dive centre and filling station...



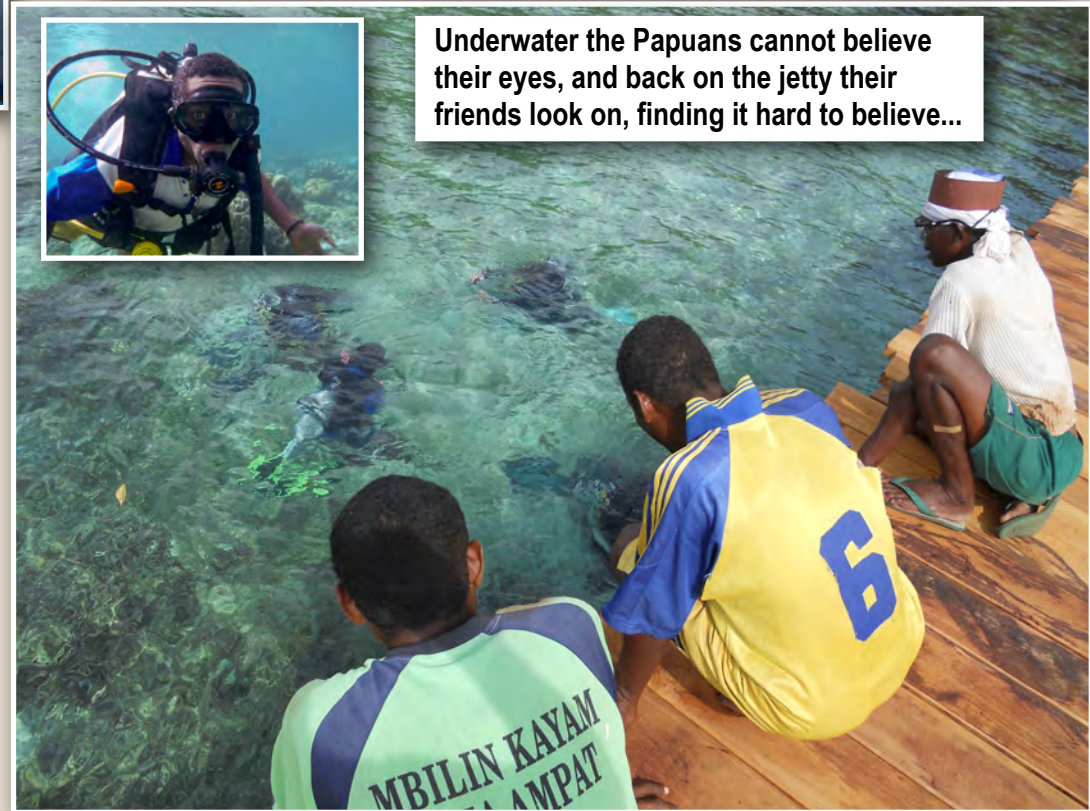
The resident island 'comic' Leon stays fit, carrying tanks!



Underwater the Papuans cannot believe their eyes, and back on the jetty their friends look on, finding it hard to believe...



Potential future dive guides embark on their first dive!





Pak Markus hails from the neighbouring village of Mutus and worked for many years for a chinese grouper fisherman, and he knows the area around Pef very well. He accompanies the diving exploration team, guiding them in their search for new dive sites, and 'fishy' reefs. Pak Markus no longer fishes for grouper...



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Could it be that 'someone' is looking for Pygmy's? (!)



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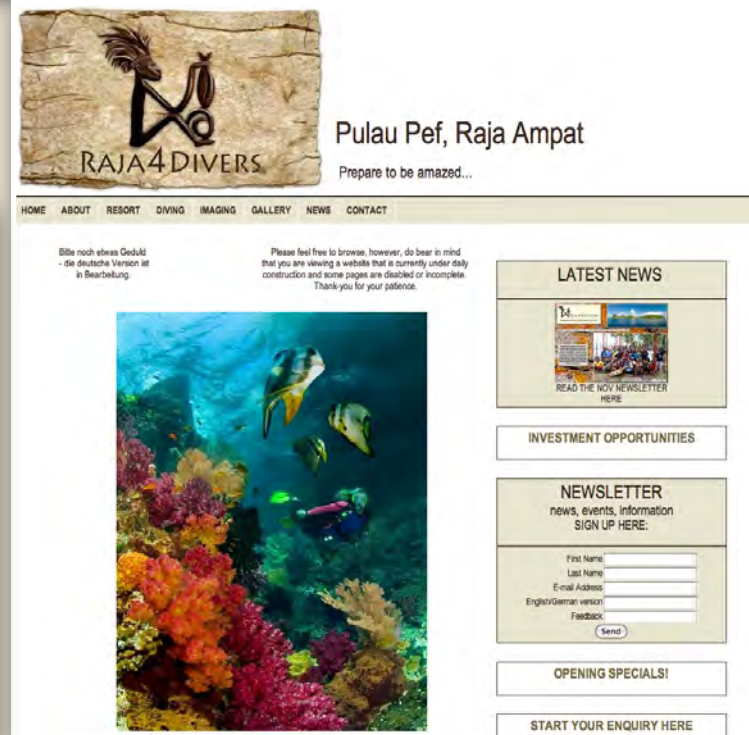


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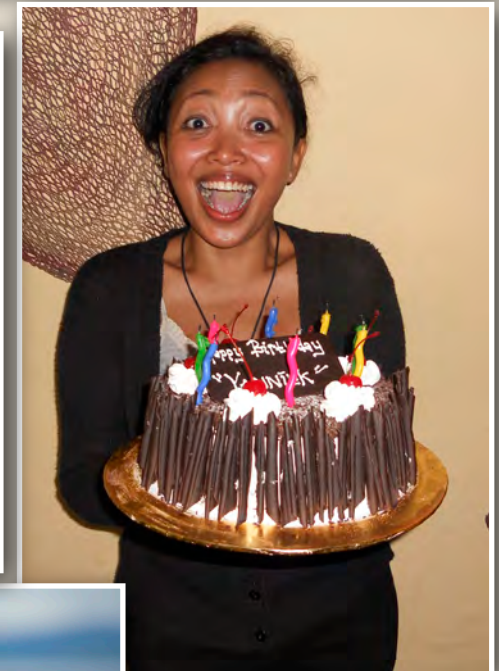


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Our 'in-house' imaging professionals, Claudia and Leon, in their temporary 'tented Studio'! Their equipment cannot wait to move into the new air-conditioned, climate controlled underwater Imaging Studio (neither can they!) They keep themselves very busy- on a daily basis, they document all aspects of the progress on Pulau Pef, with both stills and video, including insects and birdlife. They join the exploration survey dives with both underwater stills and video gear to document all the new sites and collect images for website and stock. They liaise with the ISP, keep Twitter and Facebook updated, monitor the official 'info' e-mail address, handle bookings, create bookings material and processes, create the 'in-house' videos, keep their finger on the pulse for marketing strategies...and work like crazy on the all important website!!



Some fun images of happy, proud and crazy 'Pefians'!



The Papuans return to their villages for Christmas celebrations, but before they go, we are treated to a traditional drumming and fluting dance procession up and down the jetty!



Countdown to the New Year 2011 on Pulau Pef!



All the best for the New Year! Sampai Jumpa (until next time!)
The Raja4Divers team

Follow the adventures
on Pulau Pef in the [newsletters!](#)
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And so the project is in full swing on a scale un-paralleled in the Raja Ampat, powered by Swiss efficiency, and supported by a motivated and professional team.

Attractive investment opportunities exist, so if you would like to contribute and be part of this historic event, contact [invest@raja4divers](mailto:invest@raja4divers.com) to find out how!



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