



A day in the life of ...



Damian lives with his parents in Port Moresby, the capital city of Papua New Guinea.

Damian's story

My name is Damian and I am 11 years old. I am doing grade three and I live with my parents in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. I really love playing games like running races and soccer which I play at school with my mates. My favourite food is rice and sweet potato. My favourite subject at school is mathematics and when I grow up I want to become a teacher.

My school has more than 1,000 children and there are around 46 children in my class. There are no computers or televisions at school but we do have some basic sports equipment like volleyball nets and basketballs. I start school at 8.00am and finish at 2.30pm. I walk to school each morning and walk back each afternoon. It takes me about one hour to walk to school unless it rains - then it takes me longer!

For breakfast I usually eat leftover food from the previous night's dinner which my mum heats and prepares. At times I just eat flour balls. If there is no breakfast my mum gives me some money to find something to eat at school. At lunch it's usually dough balls or biscuits. After school I go straight home to do my homework. Because there is no electricity in our house, I have to do my work while it is still daylight. But in the night I can also light candles to do my homework.

When I don't have any school work my mother expects me to help her out with cooking or washing dishes. I also fetch our water from the nearby water supply which is shared with six other families.

On the weekends I am usually out with my mother selling cooked food along the road side market. I normally go to bed between 9.00pm - 10.00pm. On the weekends my parents allow me to visit with my friends. This is the only time that I am allowed to have fun with my friends.

DID YOU KNOW?

In PNG, about 30% of children do not attend school regularly.

Michael's story

My name is Michael and I am 15 years old. I am doing grade seven and I live with my parents in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. I really like playing rugby. My favourite food is rice and sago. When I leave school I want to be a radio technician - at school, maths is my best subject.

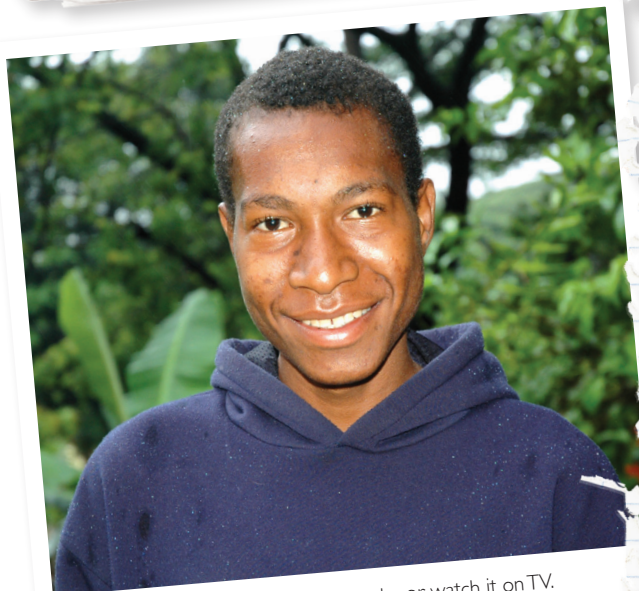
My school has about 1,500 children and we have 27 kids in my class. We don't have any computers or televisions at school - or even sporting equipment!

Usually I would go to school without breakfast because my parents cannot afford to provide three meals a day as they are both unemployed. I am given 2-3 kina (A\$1) a day for my lunch. It's not really enough for me but that is what my parents can afford. At times when there is no money I go to school without lunch money at all. Sometimes I miss school to avoid getting hungry. I walk to school each morning and it's about an hour walk from my house.

I normally go to bed quite late, usually after 10.00pm. Most nights I am out watching videos in our community. On the weekend I am at the local field playing rugby or watching it. The only thing I know about Australia is that rugby league is played there. I like to watch it on our local television.



Michael helps prepare a family meal.



On weekends, Michael likes to play rugby or watch it on TV.

For You To Do!

1. Imagine you have been asked to interview Michael or Damian about their lives.
 - Prepare 3-5 questions you will ask.
 - Put yourself in their shoes and write the answers you imagine they would give.
 - Role play your interview in front of the class.
2. Write down your own story and list the similarities and differences between your life in Australia and Michael or Damian's life in PNG.