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Papua New Guinea Post - Courier [Port Moresby] 15 Dec 2004: 8.[Hide highlighting](#)**Abstract (summary)**

CANBERRA: Researchers at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) have identified early warning signs that could predict a coral bleaching event several months ahead of a deadly heat wave. A world authority on coral bleaching, Dr Ray Berkelmans of AIMS, said patterns had emerged over 12 years of tracking sea temperatures. Coral bleaching has been a consistent problem in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In our search for indicators to help us forecast bleaching events, we've found unusually intense cold water, upwelling at the edge of the continental shelf, signals a change in tropical ocean currents and weather patterns which are then usually followed by bleaching, Dr Berkelmans said in a statement.

ADELAIDE: New imaging technology could be used to detect terrorists as easily as it could find cancer, researchers believe. Devices using TeraHertz, or T-rays, are being developed in laboratories around the world that will like never before see through clothing, packaging and other objects. Safer and clearer than X-rays, T-rays are emissions between infra-red and microwaves. T-rays enable scientists to analyse the composition and density of things the rays contact, and also to image them. Most molecules vibrate in the TeraHertz frequency, so if you can detect them with T-rays, you can get a very good fingerprint, said Professor **Derek Abbott**, from **Adelaide University**.

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Vanuatu's new Govt line-up

PORT VILA: Newly appointed Prime Minister Ham Lini has named his new ministerial line-up. Mr Lini came into office last weekend after a vote of no-confidence in former prime minister Serge Vohor. Sam Dan Avock is the new Speaker of the House, while the former Leader of the Opposition, Sato Kilman, is the new Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. The five ministers who resigned from the Vohor government last week have all been rewarded with a portfolio in the new-look Lini government. The ministers crossed the floor in protest of Mr Vohor's refusal to accept the Cabinet's rejection of his decision to grant diplomatic recognition to Taiwan.

Coral bleaching identified

CANBERRA: Researchers at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) have identified early warning signs that could predict a coral bleaching event several months ahead of a deadly heat wave. A world authority on coral bleaching, Dr Ray Berkelmans of AIMS, said patterns had emerged over 12 years of tracking sea temperatures. Coral bleaching has been a consistent problem in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. In our search for indicators to help us forecast bleaching events, we've found unusually intense cold water, upwelling at the edge of the continental shelf, signals a change in tropical ocean currents and weather patterns which are then usually followed by bleaching, Dr Berkelmans said in a statement.

Double standards concern

SUVA: The Republic of Fiji Military Forces has stressed that double standards should not be applied as more government officials face coup-related charges. In a press statement, the military said the government regulations should always supersede the presumption of innocent until proven guilty. One example given by the military was former minister George Shiu Raj who resigned from office before police investigations began. However, the former vice president Jope Seniloli continued to receive his pay and other benefits even after he was found guilty of taking an unlawful oath. The RFMF said the payments made to Mr Seniloli were illegitimate and should have been addressed long ago.

Device to track terrorists

ADELAIDE: New imaging technology could be used to detect terrorists as easily as it could find cancer, researchers believe. Devices using TeraHertz, or T-rays, are being developed in laboratories around the world that will like never before see through clothing, packaging and other objects. Safer and clearer than X-rays, T-rays are emissions between infra-red and microwaves. T-rays enable scientists to analyse the composition and density of things the rays contact, and also to image them. Most molecules vibrate in the TeraHertz frequency, so if you can detect them with T-rays, you can get a very good fingerprint, said Professor **Derek Abbott**, from **Adelaide University**.

Pay rise for civil servants

SUVA: Civil servants in Fiji will share an extra \$F9 million in a special Christmas payout next week. This follows the signing of an agreement between three trade unions and the Public Service Commission on Monday. The Viti National Workers Union, Fijian Teachers Association and Public Employers Union negotiated the cost of living adjustment with the Public Service Commission. The 24,000 civil servants will have the extra pay in their pay packets before Christmas next week. Commission chief executive Anare Jale said the payment will cost the Government \$F9 million. The 2 per cent increase for 2004 is effective from January 1.

Fish stocks under protection

HONIARA: Fish stocks in the Pacific Ocean are now under new protection following the inaugural meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission held in Pohnpei, Micronesia. Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency Feleti Teo welcomed this positive step towards sustainable management of the region's tuna. Mr Teo said the new commission meant tough decisions on how to manage fish stocks would be taken jointly between Pacific island states and the countries with distant water fishing fleets. The great fishing powers like Japan, Korea, the United States, the European Union, China and Taiwan must now sit with us around the table to decide how we make sure there are fish for the future, for our children, Mr Teo said.

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