

**30 November 2016**

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**DIRECTORS**

Chairman: Milan Jerkovic  
 Managing Director: Ron Heeks  
 Non-Exec Director: Mark Bojanjac  
 Company Secretary: John Lewis

**PROJECTS**

**CAMBODIA:**  
 Kou Sa Copper

**FIJI:**

Nabila Gold  
 Rakiraki Gold  
 Sabeto Gold-Copper  
 Vuda Gold-Copper  
 Cakaudrove Gold-Silver

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:**  
 Woodlark Island Gold

## WOODLARK – LAND DECLARATION CEREMONY

The Board of Geopacific Resources Limited (Geopacific) is pleased to share the news of the recent ceremony held at Woodlark Island to commemorate the return of customary land to the people of Woodlark Island.

Most land in Papua New Guinea is owned by the local people as customary land, this was not the case on Woodlark Island where large portions of the land were acquired during colonial times, later reverting to state ownership. The Hon. Benny Allan, Minister for Lands and Physical Planning, declared that three large portions of land representing approximately 75% of Island (60,440 hectares) are once again customary land. This was gazetted on 1 August 2016.

## Geopacific supports this momentous occasion for the people of Woodlark Island

The return of the land was celebrated with a land declaration ceremony at the village Guasopa, attended by Government officials and visiting dignitaries from Port Moresby and Alotau, the capital of the Milne Bay Province.

Expectant crowds, including executives from Geopacific, were treated to singing and dancing by local culture groups as they awaited the arrival of the official party by aeroplane. The official party comprised;

- Hon. Benny Allan, Minister for Lands and Physical Planning,
- Hon. Titus Philemon, Governor for Milne Bay Province,
- Hon. Gordon Wesley, Member for Samrai Mura District, and
- Jimmy Morona, Chairman of Murua United Clans Association.



**Figure 1: Official party with the plaque to commemorate the occasion**

**Geopacific Managing Director Ron Heeks said**

*“This was a momentous occasion for the people of Woodlark and it was a privilege to celebrate alongside them. It was also encouraging to be recognised by Government officials and local leaders as a partner of the people of Woodlark. We look forward to building strong working relationship that benefits all stakeholders, as we develop the Woodlark Gold Project together.”*



**Figure 2: Ron Heeks (centre) with Hon. Gordon Wesley (left) and Titus Philemon (right)**

All speakers gave particularly rousing speeches, which were well received by the crowd and punctuated with supportive cheering. Dignitaries welcomed Ron Heeks, Managing Director of Geopacific, and commended the company’s role in partnering with the people of Woodlark Island to bring about the development of the Woodlark Gold Project (Woodlark).



**Figure 3: Crowds enjoying the ceremony**



## What this means for Geopacific

### Impact on Geopacific and the Woodlark gold project

There is no impact on Geopacific or Woodlark Gold Project. Geopacific and Kula Gold Limited (Kula) are supportive of the return of land to its customary owners.

### Tenure

There is no change in tenure for the licences of the Woodlark Gold Project that are held in a Kula Gold Limited's subsidiary, Woodlark Mining Limited (WML). Geopacific is earning directly into WML under the terms of the joint venture.

The land on which the mining lease and ancillary licences have been excluded from the process and remain under state ownership.

Geopacific views all the people of Woodlark Island as equal and will continue to work and partner with them on this basis.

### Background information

Woodlark Gold Project is situated on Woodlark Island in the Samarai Murua District, some 300 kilometres east of Alotau, the provincial capital of the Milne Bay Province in Papua New Guinea.

Governor for Milne Bay Province – Hon. Titus Philemon

Member for Samrai Mura District (Local Member) – Hon. Gordon Wesley

Chairman of Murua United Clans Association (Woodlark Island) – Jimmy Morona

Minister for Lands and Physical Planning – Hon. Benny Allan

### CONTACT

For further information on this update or the Company generally, please visit our website at [www.geopacific.com.au](http://www.geopacific.com.au) or contact:

**Mr Ron Heeks**

**Managing Director**