

WOVEN

A STORY OF FRIENDSHIP, CULTURAL IDENTITY &
THE HOPE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS





WOVEN

Film synopsis

- A story of friendship, cultural identity and the hope for future generations.
-

• 'Woven' tells the heartfelt journey of two Papua New Guinean friends Auntie Elvie and Auntie Betty. Whilst touching on the traditional practices of weaving, it looks at the importance of cultural identity and explores the cultural disparity that migrant generations may experience when growing up in two different worlds. This is the story of lifelong friends and their hope for future generations.

• Auntie Elvie and Auntie Betty sit together on woven mats, talking about the process of weaving and how they have carried their Papua New Guinean customs and culture with them. Through the practise of weaving, they continue to honour and preserve their traditions. They discuss the many creations that can be made from pandanus leaves, including mats, baskets.

Mats: Mats are woven throughout symbolising the interwoven stories, lifelong friendship bond, family connections and the rich cultural heritage of Papua New Guinea.

Both Aunties introduce themselves and where they are from. Auntie Elvie shares her experience of raising her young children with her Australian husband Alan. She has maintained both Australian and Papua New Guinean cultures within the family, allowing her children to feel a strong sense of identity as both Australian and Papua New Guinean. By bringing these cultures together she feels confident that her children and grandchildren will continue to embrace and celebrate their cultural heritage.

Mats

Auntie Betty's story is very different. Her Australian born children have no connection with her culture and it's clear that this causes her deep sadness. Her ex husband was controlling and wouldn't allow her to take their children to PNG. Although she has shared stories and spoken to them about PNG, she feels that because they have never been there, they struggle to connect with the PNG culture.

mats

Auntie Betty shares that her greatest hope for her children is to one day take them back to her village, where they can learn more about their culture and connect with their PNG relatives, who they currently have no connection too.

mats

Auntie Elvie's hope is to pass down all her knowledge to her grandchildren. She has already started teaching them her language, so that when she takes them back they will be able to converse with the people in the village. She hopes they will continue to go to PNG, the family keep in contact with each other and the grandchildren continue to celebrate the PNG culture.

AUNTY ELVIE ROWE



Elvie Torome Rowe is a proud Wamiran Woman, with deep roots in the Wamira Village, Milne Bay Province. She grew up immersed in the Papua New Guinean culture and carries the richness of her people with pride. Although, she has called Melbourne home since 1988, the Wamira Village continues to hold a special place in her heart and remains home to many of her family members today.

Over the years Elvie has generously shared her cultural knowledge by assisting the Museum of Victoria Curators in identifying PNG artefacts. In recognition for her valuable contribution she was honoured with an Honorary membership, which she is very grateful to have received.

Elvie is actively involved in celebrating and showcasing the vibrant culture of PNG through song and dance, with Aunties and Bubus being the major contributors. They sing and dance at public and private events. Through her involvement she continues to keep the spirit, traditions and stories of the PNG culture alive. Inspiring future generations to embrace and celebrate their cultural identity.

AUNTY BETTY NEDA



Betty Laudin AtusamucO Tamaning Elwin was born, in Rabaul, East New Britain, Papua New Guinea. In 1972 she met her childhood friend Elvie Rowe, whilst attending the Bumng Primary school in Lae. Their friendship continued throughout their school years at Lae High school, where they played softball together. In 1983 Betty moved to Melbourne to reside. The move allowed her to reconnect with her childhood friend Elvie. They catch up regularly and speak on the phone every day.

Throughout Betty's life her customs and culture have remained with her, which she credits to her Morobe parents and their teachings. She continues to keep her culture alive by connecting with Aunties and Sisters from different provinces, in PNG and supporting initiatives that celebrate and preserve the rich Papua New Guinean culture. These meaningful connections keep her grounded and deeply fulfilled.

DIRECTOR & EDITOR



DIRECTOR

EDITOR

CAMERA

Anne McNeill is a Melbourne / Naarm based emerging filmmaker and photographer who is passionate about telling meaningful stories and connecting with people through visual story telling. "Woven" is her directorial debut and through her lens Anne seeks to preserve and celebrate the cultural legacy of PNG for future generations.

CREW



CAMERA & SOUND RECORDIST

Nicole Herrick is multi discipline creative who spans her wings across many genres including film making, photography, clothing design, art, furniture making, interior design as well as other creative crafts. She shares her creative pursuits on her You Tube channel to teach others that anything is possible and to follow your dreams.

CREW



CAMERA

Julia Forté is a Melbourne-based cinematographer, photographer and emerging filmmaker whose visual storytelling spans brand film, documentary, and narrative short. With three years behind the lens in short-form documentary and a body of work across premium commercial content, Julia brings both technical precision and an intuitive sensitivity to her craft. Her greatest strength is creating space where subjects feel genuinely at ease - allowing authentic moments to unfold naturally on screen. She is grateful to have contributed to Woven and to the stories it carries.

TRADITIONAL PAPUA NEW GUINEA VOCALS



Betty Neda

Weka Tarr

Elvie Rowe

Beryl Harding

Heato Koregai

MUSIC:

Traditional Papua New Guinean vocals by Aunties

Weka Tarr, Beryl Harding, Heato Koregai, Betty Neda & Elvie Rowe

Songs:

Beginning: "Koiki Mo" is happy singing. A Motuan song from the Port Moresby area of PNG.

End: "Eu Kaiyoni" is from Misima Island, Milne Bay Province. Meaning: We have come together to sing, but now it's time to go.

Image: Aunties Weka, Heato & Elvie



BTS

