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## CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

<b>NAME OF PRESENTER:</b>	<b>NICK ARAHO</b>
<b>TITLE OF PAPER:</b>	<b>ALIA ROCK and the Archaeology of the underworld or underwater, Papua New Guinea</b>
<b>THEME:</b>	<i>Specific Session 1: Underwater Cultural Heritage</i>
<b>PAPER ABSTRACT:</b>	
<p><i>Alia Rock-located in the centre of the multi million dollar Newcrest owned mine on Lihir Island-though a central pillar in the customary belief of Lihirians of New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea in the transitioning from the earthly visible plane to the spiritual underwater world, once Lihirians die- has been exposed to intense scrutiny, impact, and debate as part of ongoing efforts to balance between minimising impacts while simultatenously trying to mine in the vicinity. The discussion will present an opportunity to explore the dual nature of the feature- in itself a large and prominent feature which comprises a surface component visible to the eye (pinnacle), yet connected to the underworld by an underwater component (sea and under water cave) that derives its meaning and purpose by supporting an unseen component on the promise of of providing safety of passage to the next world for the dead. The setting of the feature-both surface and underwater will provide context for discussions on ongoing problems, issues, protocols , conservation, and management issues that allow interfacing between local communities, Papua New Guinea Government development policies and the agendas of a multi-national Australian/Canadian mining company.</i></p>	
<b>BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:</b>	
<p><i>Archaeologist at the National Museum from 1984-2009, then Project Archaeologist with ExxonMobil from 2011-2014, currently Project Consultant with National Museum in Papua New Guinea, since 2015.</i></p>	