



**PUBLICITY RELEASE**

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**COWBOY AND MARIA IN TOWN**

Urban drift in Papua New Guinea is depicted in **COWBOY AND MARIA IN TOWN** screening in the international documentary slot on Maori Television (Tuesday March 7 at 8.30 PM).

Attracted by the myths of town life and the chance of work, people from villages all over Papua New Guinea have settled in the towns. A film by Les McLaren and Annie Stiven, **COWBOY AND MARIA IN TOWN** tells the story of two such migrants living in the settlements that surround the capital, Port Moresby.

Cowboy is a reformed 'rascal'. Unemployed, illiterate and with a jail record, he invents an electric guitar out of scrap materials and plays his distinctive rock'n'roll on street corners – earning just enough for his family to get by.

Maria lives an equally precarious existence. Seasonal gardening and her husband's small income as a night security guard are their means of survival. Only her resilient humour keeps her going when inter-tribal conflicts, inflamed by frustration and alcohol, erupt in the settlement.

Cowboy and Maria are vital players in the new urban Papua New Guinea. Their interwoven stories highlight the consequences of urban drift where traditional and Western values meet.

These intelligent and determined optimists are far from being Third World victims. They go about their daily lives with humour and imagination, rising to the enormous cultural changes that confront them.

Released by Ronin Films, **COWBOY AND MARIA IN TOWN** screens in the international documentary slot on Maori Television on Monday March 7 at 8.30 PM.

**Ends**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COWBOY AND MARIA IN TOWN**

<b>Year</b>	2003
<b>Censor</b>	Parental Guidance Recommended (PGR)
<b>Duration</b>	60-minute documentary film
<b>Language</b>	English

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