

## Jim Specht's Brilliant Career—A Tribute

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**ABSTRACT.** Jim Specht's career at the Australian Museum spanned almost thirty years, over half as Head of Anthropology. In his capacity as Division Head, field expedition leader, museum curator, scholar and friend he had an enormous impact on both the anthropological and museum worlds. Although much of his work focuses on the western Pacific, its ramifications have been felt across the world. In this brief overview we highlight some of his more outstanding achievements.

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James Richard Specht (Fig. 1) has had a rich, rewarding, long and varied career that has positively impacted on an untold number of people across the globe. The four of us have felt the “Specht effect” in different ways but for each it was an enriching experience. As co-researchers, close colleagues, teachers, students and long time friends, in different times and places, we have embraced the breadth of Jim's knowledge, leadership, experience and zest for life. Jim's tenure at the Australian Museum began in June 1971. He retired in November 2000. In this tribute a small sample of Jim's contributions to archaeology, museums, indigenous peoples, friends and colleagues is highlighted.

### Jim Specht and New Britain Archaeology

Jim Specht paid his first visit to New Britain in 1965 as a Ph.D. scholar of the Australian National University, continuing to visit until and beyond his retirement from the Australian Museum. The advances of the intervening years in our knowledge of the prehistory of the island and its place in that of the wider region are testimony to the value of a long-term commitment. His own research, and that of many others, came to benefit from his ever-increasing familiarity with the archaeological resources of his chosen study areas and his constantly renewed association with the local