

**The Maututu dialect of the Nakanai language,
West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea**

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West New Britain is one of the five provinces of the greater New Guinea region. The Nakanai language which belongs to the Austronesian language family with the subgroup of Malayo-Polynesian is spoken by the Nakanai people of the Hoskins and Bialla area in that province. Nakanai has five dialects: Losa, Bileki, Vere, Ubae and Maututu. The accent and speech sounds spoken in these areas vary a little too. This talk will focus only on the Maututu dialect of the Bialla people which cover an area of six villages. There are stories of how some of the areas in the Maututu got their names. Some of the verbs spoken in the Maututu dialect also have more than one meaning. The talk will also cover some of the differences from the other dialects and investigate the increasing influence of Tok Pisin on this local variety which might lead to its extinction in the near future.

