Australian writer Trevor Shearston spent seven years teaching and travelling in Papua New Guinea (PNG) between 1968 and 1976. Shearston arrived in the Southern Highlands just 15 years after its people had first contact with whites.

In PNG, Shearston witnessed rites and traditions now lost. They were the most formative and extraordinary years of his life, and continued to influence his work for the following four decades.

Daily life in PNG was unpredictable, immediate, raw and at, times, very dangerous.

Trevor Shearston’s experiences as a young ‘nation builder’ moved him to reveal the true impacts of colonization on all involved, including himself.

Trevor Shearston’s novels and stories set in PNG - *Something in the Blood*, *Sticks that Kill, White Lies, Concertinas, A Straight Young Back,* and *Dead Birds* - were driven by a rejection of romantic and dishonest views of the colonization of that country. His works are highly regarded as accurate observations of life and politics of that time.

Trevor Shearston recently quipped that“*writers must be mad, they spend their working lives talking with imaginary people”*.

This photographic montage of Trevor Shearston includes (with his permission) ghosted sections from photographic slides shot by him in PNG during those seven years.

This work is intended to portray the writer in the solitude of his study, filled with the

characters, voices and drama which come to life in his work.