

# Island Escape

September 2006, somewhere over the Pacific Ocean, an Air New Zealand Boeing 777 transports a young pearl jewellery designer to the international jewellery markets of Hong Kong.

Thirty years ago on a very different flight, an Air New Zealand DC10 arrived in Rarotonga, carrying a youthful Australian family on the adventure of a lifetime.

Bored with the duties of a suburban housewife and never seeing a husband that typically worked 12-16 hour shifts as an electrical engineer, the housewife rebelled and literally escaped to the little known islands of the South Pacific with a friend and mentor.

Having visited Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands, the intrepid duo arrived in Rarotonga. After falling in love immediately with their new surroundings, they then returned to their respective lives; although one life was about to change forever.

With two young children in tow and much to the chagrin of their friends and neighbours, the Bergmans abandoned the suburbs of Melbourne for an unheard of future, on an unknown island.

Like I said, that was thirty years ago.

Since that time, my family has built a company specializing in Cook Islands Pearls.

Relocating to the northern group Island of Penrhyn for 5 years in 1976, my parent's collected natural pearls for European and Asian markets.

By the late eighties, Black Pearls were being produced in the Cook Islands and were in constant demand. So our family company evolved to include them and became the first local company to specialize in this new gem.

Today we operate four shops on two islands and our specialty remains Cook Islands Pearls.

As this flight lands in Hong Kong, I retrace the footsteps of my mother who began this journey three decades ago.

On the occasion of our thirtieth anniversary, I warmly welcome you to our Black Pearl Jewellery Boutiques to experience a part of our continuing family adventure.

And I take this opportunity to bid you Kia Orana and welcome to my adopted home.

My name is Ben Bergman, Pearl Jewellery Designer & Director of Bergman & Sons, Black Pearl Jewellers of the Cook Islands.

Kia Manuia.



**Bergman & Sons** est 1976  
Cook Islands Black Pearls 

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