

Just One Of Those Day

Laugh and weep with this all-too-real tale of life in a Manila suburb.

by Johanna Castro

It was one of those days. And don't we all have them, when everything that can, and some things that can't, go wrong. Mostly all at the same time.

I suppose the day dawned much like any other, although I find the relative calm of this period quite hard to remember, because shortly afterwards the children came bounding into my bathroom with terrible tales of decomposing smells (probably dead bodies, I was reliably informed) in the playroom toilet. Indeed, this new smell was quite unlike any other we have experienced in our subdivision, and to its nefarious credit, there have been quite a few. This smell

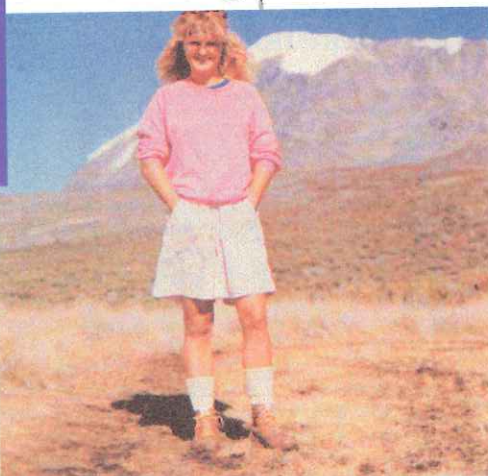


once I deviated, to a time-share salesman, that we would never holiday in the same place twice. Ever. We certainly wouldn't sign along that dotted line. He left us stranded at a remote, 'to-be-developed' spot somewhere south of anywhere inhabited, without wheels or telephones, presumably in order to teach us a lesson. For 15 years we paid good heed.

that I have to admit that since living

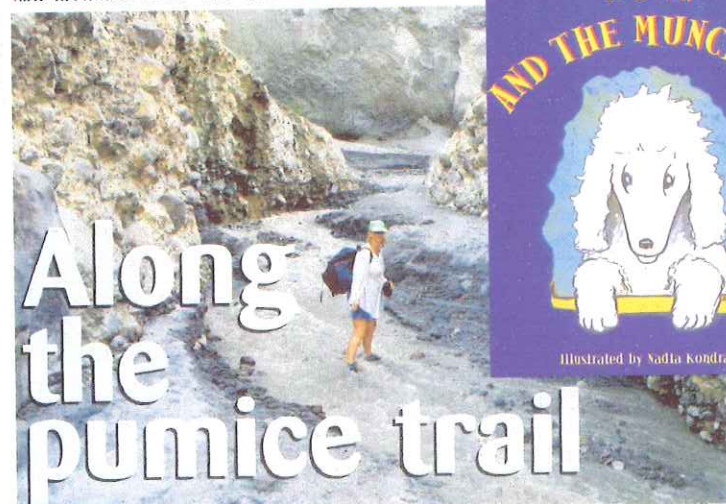


Tropical



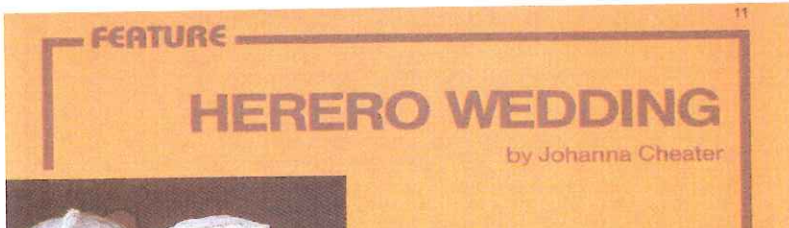
text and pictures by Johanna Cheater

age spot



Along the pumice trail

Johanna Castro describes a journey to the top of the recently erupted Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines.



KILIMANJARO SUMMIT MEETING

the best times to visit to avoid the crowds. It's then that you'll get a real taste of village life, when the fishing boats go out, lobster pots no longer lie dormant on the quay and the villagers stand and chat. Perhaps then you'll hear tales that can add more chapters to the story of a fascinating village. **Johanna Castro**

PHOTOS: JOHANNA CASTRO

DUNG AND THE MUNCHINGS
(A story for children and some adults)

JOHANNA CASTRO

This is the story of a naughty pebble called Dung (a dog with attitude) who strays from his rich owner, Maramba. Starving and thirsty he adopts a nearby family called the Munchings - move out of necessity (not choice), he will tell you. The naughty children, Flek and Flea, want to keep Dung forever but Dung has other ideas.

Clovelly

Tumbling down a wooded cliff-side between two treacherous North Devon shipping landmarks - Morte Point and Baggy Point - is Clovelly - a higgledy-piggledy collection of whitewashed cottages connected by a thin thread of cobbled street.