



PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, Inc.

Incorporated in New South Wales - ABN 35 027 362 171

Incorporating the former Rabaul & Montevideo Maru Society

PO BOX 453, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

Minutes of Committee Meeting of Monday 21st June 2021

The meeting was held via Zoom, commencing at 7.10pm

1) Committee Vacancies:

Chris P reported that he and Andrea had both spoken to Gaynor Kaad about the position of Secretary. Gaynor advised that while she was interested and committed to remaining a member of the PNGAA, she felt that after caring for her father for so long, she needed some down-time. Chris P thanked her for her consideration.

It was agreed that Roy be asked to prepare and circulate a mail chimp message to all members seeking expressions of interest for the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Events Co-ordinator. Chris P agreed to provide suggested wording to Roy.

2) Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for the period ending 31st May was noted and accepted.

3) Role and Function of the PNGAA

Chris P suggested that it was probably time to review the role and function of the PNGAA with a view to making it more contemporary and appealing to a younger cohort. It was important for the PNGAA to remain relevant if it was to continue to grow and continue to fulfil its primary roles which are to foster and encourage good relations between Australia and PNG and to provide a focal point for anybody with an interest in PNG. A discussion followed and it was agreed that the subject should be considered by everybody and discussed again at the next meeting.

4) Membership

It was noted that membership has been declining over the last few years and agreed that we should consider ways in which membership numbers could be increased. It was agreed that the subject should be considered by everybody and discussed again at the next meeting.

5) Alliances/Partnerships

Interaction with other groups was discussed. In Cheryl's absence, Chris P briefly explained the broad conversations with the Kokoda Track group, including potential joint activities, potential establishment of a home for PNGAA on their Concord site

which would potentially increase the number of visitors to the Concord site to the benefit of both parties.

Chris P also explained discussions he had had recently with Roxanne Pouru, the new President of the Sydney Wantoks regarding a closer alliance with that group. Roxanne is keen to integrate more closely with the PNGAA and Chris P will continue further discussions. Chris P noted that Steven Gagau stepped down as President of the Sydney Wantoks to bring in a younger executive team but will still be actively involved in mentoring Roxanne and her team. Chris P will be pursuing further discussions with Roxanne and will report back to the next committee meeting. Members of the PNGAA have a standing invitation to attend the BBQ events that the Wantoks have on a regular basis at Centennial Park.

6) Improving the Relationship with PNG.

Chris P noted that he wanted to follow up on the initiative started by Andrea to discuss the supply of ventilator equipment to Port Moresby General Hospital for the treatment of Covid patients. He advised that he had been referred to Dr Darren Wolfers at Prince of Wales Hospital as a potential contact with staff at Port Moresby General. Dr Wolfers could assist in ensuring that any equipment supplied by the PNGAA was in accordance with the requirements of medical staff at the hospital and to ensure that it would be properly, installed, serviced, etc to make sure that no donation was inappropriate or wasted.

Chris P advised that he had spoken with Dr Wolfers who is an anaesthetist at Prince of Wales Hospital and who until Covid, did regular surgery at Port Moresby General. He knows all the senior medical staff at that hospital. Dr Wolfers is an Australian born in Port Moresby himself so is an excellent conduit into the hospital. Dr Wolfers also suggested that we might like to consider assisting Lae Hospital.

Chris P will be discussing the matter further and will report back to the next committee meeting. Dr Wolfers noted that there is an urgent need for many different types of equipment and other medical supplies so this is another topic for further discussions to maximise the value of any donation by PNGAA.

It is also noted that subsequent to the committee meeting, Kalo advised that the Friends of Port Moresby General Hospital had also commenced a project to develop a playground at the hospital for children with cancer. This will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

7) Schedule of Committee Meetings for the Remainder of this Year.

It was agreed that Monday evenings at 7pm would be convenient for future committee meetings via Zoom, and that meetings should be held approximately every 8 weeks.

Accordingly, for the remainder of this year, committee meetings will be held as follows:

Monday 23 August
Monday 4th October
Monday 8th November.

8. Internal Communications

In the absence of a chat room for members on the PNGAA web site, it was agreed that a whatsapp page be set up for PNGAA committee internal communications. This is now active and although it won't fully replace email, hopefully it will provide an alternative means of communication between committee members.

9. Other Matters and Closure.

It was agreed that there are a number of other matters relating to the functioning of the PNGAA and that these will be listed as topics and future committee meetings.

Andrea advised that planning for the Christmas Lunch was progressing and that various venues were being considered including the Killara Golf Club. A report will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.