

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, Inc.

Incorporated in New South Wales - ABN 35 027 362 171

71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—30 March 2022

President's Report

CHRIS PEARSALL

Those members present at last year's AGM may recall that in my remarks I noted that it was my intention, in conjunction with the committee, to introduce some new initiatives to the activities of the PNGAA to attract new members and to retain interest and involvement by existing members. You will also recall that I also spoke about improving our cultural and friendship ties with Papua New Guinea (PNG).

PNGAA Scholarship Fund

Despite the curse of last year's COVID-19 lockdowns, I am pleased to report that the committee has achieved some of its objectives. Specifically, I am pleased to report that after much evaluation and discussion, the committee has agreed to set up a scholarship fund to support secondary school students in PNG in the pursuit of their secondary education. We will be starting with funding for two students from the West Sepik Province to attend secondary school in Wewak.

To ensure a proper level of governance and to make sure that the scholarship funds will be properly applied, we have been fortunate enough to gain support from Glenda Tekin, formerly a teacher in the Sepik area and also formerly a district schools inspector in PNG. She now lives in Wewak.

We have also identified Wewak Grammar School as providing the best choice for our scholarship students. Our scholarship fees for the two students will be paid directly to the school, who have agreed to provide us with reports on the progress of the students in conjunction with Glenda.

The total cost per student is estimated at approximately A\$3,000, which includes boarding fees as most students live in. Fees are usually paid in advance. We have chosen to support students from the Sepik area as students from these provinces have difficulty in paying fees due to the lack of family income and lack of employment opportunities for their parents.

Glenda is well known to the headmaster of Wewak Grammar School and has also assisted a group called the Tony Friend Scholarship Fund, set up in memory of Tony Friend, a former kiap in the Sepik area. The Tony Friend Fund is currently supporting 15 secondary students plus two nursing students who are studying at the Baptist Church Nursing College in Telefomin.

As soon as we have sorted out the process for awarding the scholarships in conjunction with Glenda, we will finalise arrangements for the first two students.

The committee plans to expand the PNGAA Scholarship Fund in due course once the first two students are in place, providing a very valuable and worthwhile contribution to the education of students in PNG.

Corporate Membership of the PNGAA

The committee has also agreed with plans to actively expand the number of corporate members in the PNGAA. Fee levels have been set and an introductory letter of introduction has been drafted to potential corporate members. We aim to begin rolling out the written invitation in July. The committee would be grateful for any suggestions as to potential corporate members. A copy of the invitation letter is available for interested members.

Sydney Wantoks

The committee continues to engage with the Sydney Wantoks with a view to identifying possible areas of joint fundraising and joint events.

I spoke more about these initiatives at the AGM, as well as reported on continuing interaction with Canada Bay Council about establishing a home for the PNGAA at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway site at Concord in Sydney.

In conclusion, let me say that I am always available to chat with any PNGAA member who has a good idea in relation to the continuing development of our Association.

2022 PNGAA AGM

The minutes and reports from the 2022 AGM held on 30 April 2022 are available for members on the PNGAA website at www.pngaa.org/official_business/

The Audited Annual Accounts, for the year ended 31 December 2021, are also included on the website, or members can contact the treasurer by email for a copy on treasurer@pngaa.net

PNGAA New Members

The committee welcomes the following new members:

Tom Adamson, Robin Anders, Janet Cooper, Leah Dunstan, Margaret Emery, Ian Harvey, Doug Hilton, Glen James, Gaynor Kaad, Malum Nalu and Heru Pinkasova.