



PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2020

Introduction

Greetings members and observers.

On behalf of the Papua New Guinea Australia Alumni Association (PNGAAA) Executive, I welcome you all to the 2020 PNGAAA Annual General Meeting.

I understand this is the first time PNGAAA is running an AGM virtually, as a result of the current circumstances of COVID-19, and it is likely that this will be the new norm for the next six to 12 months at least, where our activities are conducted using online platforms. And it is already happening with weekly webinars run by the Secretariat.

I thank you all for your understanding and acknowledge members who are joining us from the provinces and Chapter representatives from our 11 provincial chapters, and alumni members from the National Capital District.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the Government of Australia through the Australia Awards program for their continuous support to PNGAAA and alumni more broadly around PNG. Thank you for the great partnership. And I acknowledge the representatives from the Australia High Commission (AHC) and Australia Awards PNG who are joining us virtually today as well.

This is the PNGAAA's National Executive's first term of three years in office and I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report covering the period from July 2019 to June 2020.

Before I go into the detail of the annual report, I would like to summarise some key achievements during our first 12 months in office.

- **Inaugural PNGAAA Conference** – PNGAAA held its inaugural alumni conference in July 2019 on the theme: Innovative Approaches for the Sustainable Development of PNG. The conference attracted over 20 alumni presenters from across PNG and Australia and showcased the great contributions alumni are making in their organisations and communities and in the various sectors (agriculture, mining, health, education etc.)

- **2018 Alumni Awards** – The 2018 Alumni Awards coincided with the PNGAAA’s inaugural alumni conference and the Austrade Education Roadshow. The event recognised and celebrated the significant contributions of alumni in various categories: Alumni of the Year, AHC Women in leadership Award, Community Service Engagement Award, Entrepreneurship Award and the Young Leader Award. The event was witnessed by alumni and the Australian universities that attended the Austrade Education Roadshow. It was an even more special for some of the Australian universities who witnessed their alumni receiving the alumni awards.
- **First engagement with Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape** – PNGAAA NCD Chapter hosted an alumni café event on ‘New Procurement Commission Reform’ and the Hon. James Marape was keynote speaker. The event attracted other Ministers including the Governor of Central province. This was the first time in the history of PNGAAA that it had the opportunity to host the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea at one of its events.
- **Launch of two new provincial chapters, East Sepik and Western Highlands** – in November 2019 and February 2020 respectively, adding to the invaluable network of alumni around PNG.
- **Hosted a successful 2019 Annual Dinner** – speakers included the Acting Prime Minister, Hon. Sam Basil and the then Australian High Commissioner, Mr Bruce Davis. PNGAAA auctioned two framed PNG Kumul Jerseys and raised K35,000. Monies raised supported the Rainbow Kids foundation. The dinner also attracted a higher number of corporate organisations that purchased tables compared to previous years.
- **Launch of the PNGAAA Ambassadors program** with 22 provincial ambassadors trained to be advocates for PNGAAA in each province.
- **Overseas Learning trip** by PNGAAA Executives along with partners from The VOICE Inc, Transparency International and CMIC for a leadership learning visit to Philippines-supported by DFAT.
- **Supported the Australian Bushfire Appeal** by hosting a breakfast in January 2020 that was joined by the Prime Minister James Marape as the keynote speaker. PNGAAA raised over K360,000. Special thanks to the Enga Provincial Government, ARoB and EHP Chapters and the individuals who contributed to this worthy cause.
- Development of a draft **PNGAAA Five-Year Strategic Plan** to ensure that the Association has a clear road map to success in the near future.

I will now provide some more detail on PNGAAA’s activities and achievements over the past 12 months in line with our priority themes and objectives.

PNGAAA Growth

Chapter Growth

Our provincial chapters provide great opportunities to: support alumni stay engaged and participate in professional development activities; provide a platform for networking opportunities; and advocate for Australia Awards and the AHC for public diplomacy purposes.

During our first term, we launched two new chapters in East Sepik and Western Highlands. This brings the total number of chapters to 11. These 11 provincial chapters manage their own alumni activities in their area and comprise NCD, Morobe, Eastern Highlands, Milne Bay, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Madang, East New Britain, Manus, Enga, East Sepik and Western Highlands.

We also have potential new chapters in development which include New Ireland and West New Britain and hope to launch these two chapters in the next 12 to 24 months.

Whilst we are excited with the increased number of PNGAAA chapters, we are also aware of the challenges of managing these chapters and the need to ensure that they are adding value to our members; and are active and operational in all aspects. The Chapter report card at the end of this report provides a status report on each chapter.

My Executive recognises the challenges in the Chapters and will endeavour to work with each chapter in the new normal or niupla pasin. This is reflected in the PNGAAA COVID 19 Plan July 20 – June 21 which will be presented at this meeting.

I would also like to welcome on board the 300 Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct alumni who have joined PNGAAA. The presence of Australia Awards In-PNG Scholarships and Precinct alumni in the provinces will increase membership and add value to the provincial chapters, especially in the health and governance sectors.

Membership growth

Australia Awards PNG provides financial support to PNGAAA through the payment of first year membership for Australia Awards alumni (long-term scholarship graduates), Short Course or Fellowship alumni (short-term) and In-PNG Scholarship alumni, representing significant funding to PNGAAA. We thank Australia Awards for the ongoing support. In turn, PNGAAA needs to demonstrate that we are providing valuable services to our financial members.

There has been a slight increase of financial membership between 2018 (1009) and 2019 (1026) that demonstrate that PNG members have been increasing over the years since 2017. Table 1 below gives some comparisons.

Table 1: PNGAAA Financial Membership, 2017 - 2019

Financial Membership/Year	2017	2018	2019
Australia Awards paid members	658	527	539
PNGAAA Membership renewal	173	482	487
Total membership	831	1009	1026

There is consistency in PNGAAA members renewing their membership in 2018 (482) and 2019 (487). PNGAAA continues to promote and facilitate its membership through the following mechanisms:

- Our ANZ EFTPOS machine provides members with an easy option to pay their membership (and is brought along to networking events, PD workshops, chapter visits and promotions)
- Strategic and targeted promotions of an annual membership drive through the PNGAAA social media platforms, chapter visits and radio networks (NBC/FM)
- Participation in professional development workshops and application for alumni grants requires you to be a financial member
- Member value propositions, such as providing value in terms of benefits vis-a-vis the membership fee.

The challenge for PNGAAA relates to renewals after the first year of membership, hence we ensure that participation in the professional development workshops and grants requires financial membership. Table 2 below shows financial members by province for 2019.

Table 2: PNGAAA Membership by Province, 2019

Province	Total Members	Financial Members
NCD	2,089	512
Milne Bay	127	47
Morobe	313	55
Madang	228	31
Eastern Highlands	257	70
East Sepik	106	40
East New Britain	226	35
AROB	145	25
Manus	65	12

New Ireland	88	30
Simbu	42	14
Western Highlands	73	35
Jiwaka	44	5
Gulf	17	8
Western Province	60	10
West New Britain	59	22
Central	49	23
Enga	106	10
West Sepik	35	15
Southern Highlands	29	13
Hela	20	8
Oro	20	6
Grand Total	4,238	1026

Alumni Grants Scheme

Australia Awards PNG supports PNGAAA with an Alumni Grants Scheme (AGS) targeting its financial members across Papua New Guinea. The AGS was reviewed at the end of 2019 and a renewed approach was finalised early this year. The AGS is now more user friendly, inclusive and accommodates all categories of alumni. It has three category values, including grant categories up to K4,000, K10,000 and K30,000 and it has three rounds per year, including April, July and October. The first round of applications under this renewed approach closed on 31 July 2020. Alumni are encouraged to submit COVID-19 related grants, which will be considered as a matter of priority.

In this reporting period, a total of 13 grants proposal were approved, worth a total funding of over 300,000 kina (refer Table 3 below). There were 11 grant proposals approved in November 2019 under the previous AGS terms and implemented in 2020 while two COVID-19 related grants were approved recently under the revised AGS.

Table 3: Approved Alumni Grants July 2019 – June 2020

Organisation	Activity	PGK
PNGAAA- Lucille Solomon, Gulf	Training of Midwives and nurses at the Kerema Hospital	24,600
SUSAS – Lyn Ubu, EHP	Training women in the community on Financial Literacy and Business Skills, EHP	30,000

<i>EHP Chapter – Kelvin Waukave</i>	Research Analysis Training	25,100
<i>PNGAAA – Lina Pandihau, NCD</i>	Distribution of Library Books into East Sepik and Enga remote schools	30,000
<i>Chuave Youth Foundation – Dr Lawrence Gerry, Simbu</i>	Training & Awareness on TB around Autonomous Region of Bougainville	22,400
<i>Pepik Farmers’ Cooperative Society – Roselyn Andreas, Jiwaka</i>	Introduction to Agribusiness training	24,000
<i>Warapipe Trade – Nicholar Boas, Morobe</i>	Training on Floriculture. Training women on floral biology	30,000
<i>Goustu Integrated farm – Jack Demas, Western</i>	Solar powered pump for Irrigating underground water supply to be irrigated to farm fish, livestock grazing and crop products	30,000
<i>Mt Olga Fish Farming Cooperative Society – Brian Yak, WHP</i>	Building the capacity of the Mt Ogga cooperative society members on inland fish farming and breeding fish	30,000
<i>PNGAAA – Dr Ken Ail, Morobe</i>	Undertake research on the conceptual and historical performances of PNG’s mineral taxation regime.	28,100
<i>PNGAAA-Brian Kwaragu, NCD</i>	Massage Therapy Training workshop	30,000
<i>Western Highlands PHA – Jolly Kulimbua, WHP</i>	Installation of Tuffa Tanks and wash basins including training and awareness on COVID 19	28,000
<i>PNGAAA – Richard Farave, NCD</i>	COVID 19 Awareness at Saraga Settlement	4,000
<i>Total</i>		K336,200

Alumni continue to apply for grants to implement impact projects in their communities. Grants are not restricted to chapters but can include all alumni, across PNG. It is great to see alumni from Gulf, Western, Jiwaka and Simbu utilising the grant mechanism to support their community initiatives.

Alumni Activities

Professional Development Workshops

Australia Awards PNG continues to support the PNGAAA with professional development opportunities. A total of eight professional development workshops were planned to be delivered between July 2019 and June 2020, however, the COVID 19 situation meant that five of these workshops could not be delivered. This resulted in the delivery of only three professional development workshops as shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Professional Development Workshops, July 2019-June 2020

Course	Total Participants	Females	Males	PwDs	Location	When
Toastmasters Speechcraft	28	20	8	1	Mt Hagen	Aug 2019
Counselling	34	22	12	0	Lae	Oct 2019
Alumni Ambassadors	24	12	12	0	Port Moresby	Nov 2019

The Toastmasters Speechcraft targeted In-PNG Scholarships alumni, mainly midwives, nurses and primary school teachers. The Counselling workshop targeted alumni involve in counselling and the Alumni Ambassadors workshop trained 24 alumni to be advocates for PNGAAA in the provinces.

Webinars

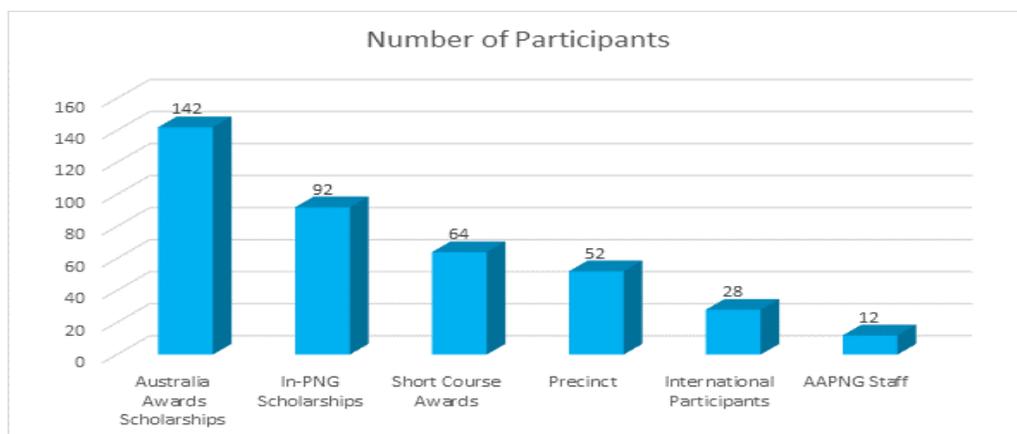
Due to the COVID 19 situation and consequential suspension of face-to-face activities and professional development workhops, PNGAAA in collaboration with Australia Awards PNG explored innovative solutions to continue the delivery of professional development activites to alumni by using online platforms.

Eleven webinars were conducted between April and June 2020. Five webinars focused on topics relevant to COVID-19 and aimed to support alumni manage stress, work and effective communication while working from home. Another five webinars were delivered on the AGS information sessions and one was delivered on PNGAAA for the Precinct alumni.

Participants

Altogether, 390 participants attended these webinars for an average of 35 participants per webinar. Of this total, 243 (62%) were females, 23 (6%) Persons with Disabilites and 28 (7%) were international participants form the Asia-Pacific region including Australia and New Zealand.

The two diagrams below shows alumni from the different sholarships modalities who participated in these webinars, including international participants and AAPNG staff.





Highlights

Many participants had never engaged in webinars before nor had a profile on 360alumni. The webinars provided an opportunity for them to create and activate their profiles on the 360alumni platform. The webinar topics were relevant to the current circumstances and alumni feedback suggested that they found the topics useful. For some, this was a new experience attending online webinars and using zoom for the first time.

The webinars attracted participants from the Asia-Pacific region (Fiji, Vanuatu, Indonesia, Cambodia and Laos) including Australia and New Zealand. We also had current awardees doing their PhDs in Australian universities attending some of the webinar sessions.

Lessons Learned

- A high percentage of alumni who RSVP'd for the webinars could not join due to unforeseen developments/priorities.
- Morning sessions did not suit schedules of most alumni therefore timings were revised to midday which saw an increase in participation.
- Most alumni had not used Zoom before and had issues connecting. We started to send out instructions on how to connect which helped many especially those who work in government organisations.
- Internet connectivity remains the major challenge for many alumni

Other alumni activities

Apart from the professional development workshops, webinars and the Alumni Grants Scheme that are offered to members, PNGAAA organised a range of alumni activities in the chapters and provinces. Table 5 highlights notable PNGAAA events delivered between July 2019 and June 2020, noting that since March of this reporting period, PNGAAA suspended all face-to-face interactions and activities due to COVID-19.

Table 5: Other Alumni Activities, July 2019 – June 2020

EVENT	PROVINCE	DATE
Inaugural Alumni Conference	National Capital District	Jul 2019
PNGAAA and Austrade Networking	National capital District	Jul 2019
2018 Alumni Awards ceremony	National Capital District	Jul 2019
WHP Chapter Consultation & Networking	Western Highlands	Aug 2019
NCD Chapter Networking	National Capital District	Sep 2019
PNGAAA Annual Dinner	National Capital District	Nov 2019
East Sepik Chapter Launch	East Sepik	Nov 2019
Alumni Café on Agriculture	National Capital District	Dec 2019
PNGAAA Australia Bushfire Appeal Breakfast	National Capital District	Jan 2020
PNGAAA-ACIAR Networking	East New Britain	Feb 2020
PNGAAA Leadership Retreat	Western Highlands	Feb 2020
Official launch of WHP Chapter	Western Highlands	Feb 2020

PNGAAA hosted an alumni café on agriculture to discuss and understand the Government of Papua New Guinea’s initiatives to reinvigorate the agriculture sector. Speakers include Hon. Governor, Allan Bird and former APEC Ambassador, Ivan Pomaleu.

Australia Bushfire breakfast event

In light of the recent tragedy that Australians experienced in one of their worst bushfire disasters, the PNGAAA came together to offer a small relief to our Australian neighbours and friends. PNGAAA hosted an ‘Australian Bushfire Appeal’ Corporate Breakfast on 24 January 2020 to help raise funds to donate to two reputable organisations at the forefront in providing relief to the lives of many Australians. Keynote speaker at the breakfast was Papua New Guinea’s Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape.

The PNGAAA raised Kina 363,630 through this breakfast and donation appeal. Proceeds were distributed equally to the NSW Rural Fire Service and Victorian Bush Fire Appeal for an amount of AUD\$77,697 each.

PNGAAA again expresses its sincere thanks to the Enga Provincial Administration for donating K300,000.00, the AROB and EHP chapters, Mt Giluwe Fish Farm and individuals who offered graciously to this worthy cause.

Engagement with the Australian High Commission

Engagement with alumni remained a high priority for the Australian High Commission (AHC) in 2019 and 2020. The AHC through Australia Awards PNG engaged with Australia alumni including PNGAAA through a range of public diplomacy events including:

- Alumni afternoon tea with the former Australian High Commissioner, Bruce Davis in Milne Bay Province, October 2019.

- Alumni afternoon tea with former Australia High Commissioner, Bruce Davis in Madang Province, November 2019
- East Sepik Chapter Launch and alumni networking event with the former Australian High Commissioner, Bruce Davis in East Sepik Province, November 2019
- Western Highlands Provincial Chapter Launch and alumni networking event with the new Australian High Commissioner, Jon Philp in Western Highlands Province, June 2020
- PNGAAA Executive dinner with the new Australian High Commissioner, Jon Philp in Port Moresby, June 2020.

Chapter Report Cards

Below is a brief report on each Chapter. Most chapter activities have been impacted by COVID-19.

Chapter	Activities	Key Achievements/Challenges
Milne Bay	<p>Progress against the Chapter Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing Distribution of Library Books • Days for Girls Menstrual Health Hygiene/Birthing Kits 2 Days in Aug 2019 • Quarterly General Members Meeting held in Sept 2019 • Partnership established with Massim Cultural Foundation Sept 2019 • Australian High Commissioners networking event, Oct 2019 - • BBQ Fundraiser Kenu Kundu Festival - roll out of membership drive Nov 2019. • Other activities planned between Jan 20-Jun20 were put on hold due to the pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milne Bay Days for Girls Chapter established after the Workshop. • Established a MOU with Massim Museum Foundation for an office space in exchange for members to look after the museum. • Ms Tina Mark (Vice President) and Dr. Hilda Audubo (Committee member) were Alumni Awards recipients collecting the AHC Women in Leadership Award and Community Service Engagement Award respectively. • Promotion of PNGAAA work and activities and networking with partners in Milne Bay • Maintaining our contact with membership through WhatsApp and social media updates • Hosted an afternoon tea networking event with the Australian High Commissions, Mr Bruce Davis in October 2019. • Chapter Annual Plan in place • Full Chapter Executive in place • Sound management of chapter financials.
Manus	<p>Chapter plan developed in January 2020 however focus and priorities changed due to COVID 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the time of the COVID 19 pandemic, alumni in the health and governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy SoE Controller in Manus is an alumnus • Draft Chapter plan developed in January 2020

	sectors are involved in various COVID 19 committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the chapter activities have been affected by COVID 19 • Full Chapter Executive in place • Chapter financials in order
Morobe	<p>Revised Chapter Plan developed in January 2020 and affected by COVID 19. Below activities in last six months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending networking event with special guest Jo Burston, CEO of Inspiring rare birds Gender at Lae International School. • Participated in Lae Cairns Sister Cities Forum and networking event. • Attended Diplomatic brief with the new Australian High Commissioner and his entourage visiting Lae. • Attended Morobe Arts and Fashion Show, coincided with evening cocktail and networking with Tradelink, Pacific Labor Scheme and Austrade Delegate attending Morobe Show • Participated in Morobe Show with a BBQ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Morobe Chapter alumni participate in the PNGAAA inaugural annual conference as presenters. • Morobe chapter alumna Mrs Cheryl Mondo-Mulas win the 2018 Australia Awards Entrepreneurship award. • 3 Successful Grant recipients from the chapter • Draft Chapter plan developed in January 2020 • A couple of chapter executives relocated to other provinces and chapter is in the process of electing new ones • Chapter financials have been reconciled and in order.
Eastern Highlands	<p>Revised Chapter plan developed January 2020. Implementation affected by COVID 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter members are active and have welcome alumni from the neighboring Simbu province to join the chapter • Initiated chapter activities through the AGS to run specific workshops for their members • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipient of three successful grants projects • Three members participated in the PNGAAA inaugural annual conference • Contributed over K1000 to the Australia Bushfire Appeal • Draft Chapter plan developed in January 2020 • Full chapter executive • Sound chapter financial management
Autonomous Region of Bougainville	<p>Draft Chapter plan developed in January 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to current political situation in AROB and COVID 19 pandemic, the Executive have not progressed any activities in the plan • Alumni supported the Australian Bushfire Appeal • 2x current AGS implementation in progress but impeded by the pandemic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributed over K5000 to the PNGAAA Australia Bushfire Appeal • Draft Chapter plan developed in January 2020 • Full Chapter Expectative in place • Chapter Financials are in odder
NCD	<p>Revised Chapter Plan January 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted two Alumni Café on National Procurement Commission and Agriculture • Supported the PNGAAA to host the 2019 Annual Dinner and the PNGAAA Bushfire Appeal breakfast in January 2020 • Lead the PNGAAA Australia Bushfire Appeal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister Hon. James Marape attended the Alumni Café on National Procurement Commission as Guest Speaker • Prime Minister Hon. James Marape attended the PNGAAA Australia Bushfire Appeal as Guest Speaker

	<p>donation drive at Vision City January 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted NCD Chapter meet and greet event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised Chapter plan developed in January 2020 Full Chapter Executive in place Chapter yet to open new account
Madang	<p>Draft Chapter Plan developed January 2020. Could not progress activities due to the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted the afternoon tea networking event with the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Bruce Davis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two chapter members presented papers at the PNGAAA inaugural annual conference Global alumni ambassador and President of Divine Word University, Prof Cecilia Nembou has been active member of the Chapter a keen supporter of PNGAAA Draft Chapter plan developed in January 2020 Full Chapter Executive in place Facing difficulties in opening their chapter account which was dormant
East New Britain	<p>Revised Chapter plan January 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted the PNGAAA-ACIAR networking event in February 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 alumni participated in the Toastmasters and Counselling workshop (nurses/midwives) Draft Chapter plan developed in January 2020 Full Executive in place Chapter account closed and in the process of opening a new account
Enga	<p>Inactive – plans by PNGAAA to visit Chapter was affected by the SoE restrictions. However, there are alumni in the province are active and participate in events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chapter has hosted a few visits from the AHC. Chapter members are comprised of mostly Associate members and Friends of PNGAAA. The Chapter has not been very active due to competing priorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x alumni member attend the PNGAAA Conference as a speaker. NIL Chapter Executive Dormant Chapter account which will need to be activated once new executive are voted in.
East Sepik	<p>Chapter launched in November 2019 by the former Australian High Commissioner, Mr Bruce Davis. Activities for 2020 were affected with the pandemic declaration in the country.</p>	<p>Nil activities after the launching. Chapter is still yet to open their bank account. Once account is opened, chapter can start conducting activities as per Chapter workplan</p>
Western Highlands	<p>Chapter recently launched in February 2020 by former Australian High Commissioner, Mr Bruce Davis.</p>	<p>Nil activities after the launching due to COVID-19. Chapter has yet to open bank account. Once account is opened, chapter can start conducting activities as per Chapter workplan</p>

Thank you and welcome any questions that you may have.