



PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
AUSTRALIA ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

**Papua New Guinea Australia Alumni Association**

**2020 Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 5 August 2020 | 11:30am**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Notes/ minuted actions	Responsible
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p> <p>The President, Dr Rangou welcomed members to the 2020 PNGAAA AGM and open the meeting with a word of prayer.</p> <p>She apologised for the deferral of the AGM from 25 June 2020 to 5 August 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions. She acknowledged that this year's AGM was quite unique to past AGMs as it was the first time for PNGAAA to host a virtual AGM with members connecting from different parts of Papua New Guinea.</p> <p>She advised members that while the pandemic posed serious threats and challenges to the economy and businesses, Papua New Guineans and especially members needed to be vigilant and adjust to working in the new normal. The pandemic had impacted on PNGAAA planned activities as face to face activities and travels to chapters were suspended indefinitely.</p>	Dr Janet Rangou
<p><b>2. Apologies</b></p> <p>John Jambert, Iola Tamtu and Noelynn Minimulu.</p>	President
<p><b>3. Review of actions from previous AGM: 2019</b></p>	President

<p><b>Action item:</b> Kia-Henry Nema expressed concerns about the election process and ask if PNGAAA could improve on this in the next election.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> PNGAAA is exploring online voting system and other online platforms for the next election in 2021.</p> <p><b>Action item:</b> Revised PNGAAA Constitution circulated to members.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> This has been done.</p>	
<p><b>4. Accepting 2019 AGM minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- President asked for acceptance of meeting minutes</li> <li>- Meeting minutes accepted</li> <li>- Joe Willie of NCD Chapter moved the motion seconded by Kia-Nema Henry of NCD Chapter.</li> </ul>	President
<p><b>5. President's report</b></p> <p>The President presented her report July 2019- June 2020 highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted that this was the national executive's first term of three years in office</li> <li>• Acknowledged the continuous support and partnership with the Australian High Commission through the Australia Awards PNG program</li> <li>• PNGAAA inaugural alumni conference held in July 2019 and the theme was: Innovative approaches for the sustainable development of PNG. The conference attracted over 20 alumni presenters from across PNG and Australia and showcased the great work alumni are doing in their organisation and communities and in the various sectors (agriculture, mining, health, education etc)</li> <li>• The 2018 Alumni Awards coincided with the PNGAAA's inaugural conference and the Austrade Education Roadshow. The event recognised and celebrated the significant contributions of alumni in various categories: Alumni of the Year, Australian High Commission Women in Leadership, Community Service Engagement, Entrepreneurship and Young Leader. The event was</li> </ul>	Dr Janet Rangou

witnessed by alumni and Australian universities which attended the Austrade Education Roadshow. It was even more special for some of the Australian universities who witnessed their alumni receiving awards.

- First engagement with Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape – PNGAAA NCD Chapter hosted an alumni café event on ‘New Procurement Commission Reform’ and Hon. James Marape was the keynote speaker. The event attracted other ministers including the Governor of Central province. This was the first in the history of PNGAAA to host the Prime Minister of PNG 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. This brings the total number of PNGAAA chapters to eleven. The PNGAAA executive were aware of the challenges of managing these chapters and the need to ensure that they were adding value to members, were active and operational in all aspects.
- 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 rugby jerseys and raised K35,000. Monies raised supported the Rainbow kids foundation. The dinner also attracted corporate organisations who purchased tables.
- Launched the PNGAAA Ambassadors program on October 2019 with 22 provincial ambassadors trained to be advocates for PNGAAA in each province
- Hosted an alumni café on agriculture to discuss and understand the Government’s initiatives to reinvigorate the agriculture sector. Speakers included Hon. Governor Allan Bird and former APEC Ambassador Ivan Pomaleu
- Overseas learning trip by PNGAAA executives along with partners from The VOICE Inc, Transparency International and CMIC for a leadership learning visit to the Philippines in November 2019,

supported by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

- Supported the Australia bushfire appeal by hosting a breakfast in January 2020 and Prime Minister Hon. James Marape was the keynote speaker. PNGAAA raised over K360,000. Special thanks to the Enga Provincial Government, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Morobe and Eastern Highlands provincial chapters and individuals who contributed to this worthy cause
- Continued to support high level public diplomacy engagement with the Australian High Commission

The President also reported on the following key activities:

#### **Financial membership**

Dr Rangou informed members there was a slight increase in financial membership between 2018 (1009) and 2019 (1026) which demonstrated the increase of members over the years since 2017.

PNGAAA continues to promote its membership through the following:

- ANZ EFTPOS machine provides members with an easy option to pay their membership (brought along to networking events, professional development workshops, chapter visits and promotions)
- Strategic and targeted promotions of membership drive through the PNGAAA social media platforms, chapter visits and radio networks (NBC/FM)
- Participation in professional development workshops and the alumni grant scheme requires one to be a financial member

Dr Rangou noted that the challenge for PNGAAA relates to renewals of annual memberships and have put in place the above actions to address this challenge.

#### **Alumni Grants Scheme (AGS)**

Dr Rangou informed members that the AGS was reviewed at the end of 2019 and finalised in early 2020. She added that it was now user friendly, inclusive and accommodates all categories of alumni, has three categories (category 1 up to K4000, category 2 up to K10,000 and category 3 up to K30,000) and three rounds per year (April, July and October). The

second round of calls for applications closed on 31 July 2020. Alumni were encouraged to submit COVID-19 related grants as they will be considered as a matter of priority.

In this reporting period, a total of 13 grants proposal were approved with funding of over K300,000 (three-hundred thousand Kina). There were 11 grant proposals approved in November 2019 under the old AGS and implemented in 2020 while two COVID-19 related grants were approved recently under the revised AGS for categories 1 and 3 respectively.

#### **Professional development (PD) workshops and webinars**

Dr Rangou mentioned that a total of eight PD workshops were planned to be delivered between July 2019 and June 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the delivery of five PD workshops which were scheduled between February 2020 and June 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of face-to-face activities and PD 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.

She said there were 11 webinars conducted between April and June 2020. Five webinars focused on topics relevant to the pandemic and aimed at supporting alumni manage stress, work and effective communication while working from home. Another five webinars were delivered on the AGS and one was delivered on PNGAAA for Precinct alumni. Altogether, 390 participants attended these webinars at 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.

Dr Rangou highlighted that 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 the online platform 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 who are doing their PhDs at Australian universities attend some of these webinar sessions.

**Chapter report cards**

The President concluded her report by presenting the chapter report cards highlighting the status report per chapter and how each chapter was progressing against their annual plans.

**Questions**

**Andrew Mclymbee:** Thanked the President for the very comprehensive report. He asked regarding the Australia Bushfire appeal if the Western Highlands Chapter could continue with the fundraising drive.

**Response:** The Secretariat through Mr Vartovo informed all members that fundraising efforts towards the Australia Bushfire appeal has stopped forthwith.

**Martha Wame:** Milne Bay Chapter members are interested in undertaking a training in grants proposal writing similar to the Eastern Highlands Chapter and if the Secretariat could assist organise this.

**Response:** Mr Vartovo noted the request and will plan an online session.

**Action:** Secretariat to run webinar on grant proposal writing.

The report was accepted at the meeting. Moved by Brian N'Drelan from the Morobe Chapter and seconded by Andrew Mclymbee from the Western Highlands Chapter.

**6. PNGAAA Financial Audit Report**

Mr Shane Koniel, Treasurer, presented the 2019 financial audit report. He noted that the report was forwarded to members who were present and will be published on the PNGAAA website after endorsement at the meeting.

Shane Koniel

He presented the statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2019. He highlighted an increase in total Income of K269,058 in 2019 compared to K246,742 in 2018. The successful annual dinner and membership payments contributed to the increase income in 2019.

Total expenditure in 2019 was K184,717 compared to K169,825. This showed an increased in expenditure in 2019 with the annual dinner contributing to the increased expenditure.

Mr Koniel further informed members that the total revenue for 2019 was K269,058 and total expenditure was K184,717 resulting in a surplus of K84,341.

He also went through the statement of assets and liability for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Mr Koniel concluded his presentation by acknowledging that 2019 was a very successful year and he applauded the previous executive under the leadership of Dr Kavanamur for setting the foundation which the current executive built upon when they came into office in June 2019. He predicted that the 2020 financial year would be very challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President thanked the Treasurer for the well- articulated presentation of the 2019 financial audit report.

#### **Question**

Brian N'Drelan (Morobe Chapter): Noted the increased in financial memberships in 2019 and asked of that figure, how many were renewal of memberships and how many were new memberships paid for by Australia Awards PNG (AAPNG)?

**Response:** Dr Rangou recalled the previous slides on memberships and advised that in 2019, AAPNG paid for 539 new memberships while 487 existing members renewed their memberships. She stated that it was an ongoing challenge for members renewing their membership. Mr N'Drelan noted this and encouraged all members to be active by renewing their membership fees annually.

President called for a move to accept and endorsed the 2019 financial audit report.

<p>Mr N'Drelan moved the motion to endorse the 2019 financial audit report as a true reflection of the financial activities in 2019. The motion was seconded by Jack Hulala from the Morobe Chapter.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> PNGAAA 2019 financial audit report accepted and endorsed. Secretariat to publish the report on the PNGAAA website for members to access.</p>	
<p><b>7. Annual Dinner</b></p> <p>Dr Rangou informed members of the status of the annual dinner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An executive decision was made to cancel the 2020 annual dinner due to the COVID-19 restrictions.</li> <li>• In collaboration with AAPNG, plan a small dinner in early 2021 to congratulate and farewell the 2021 Australia Awards Scholarship awardees</li> <li>• Plan ahead for the 2021 annual dinner in October 2021</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. PNGAAA and the Secretariat to plan a small dinner in early 2021</li> <li>II. Commence planning for the 2021 annual dinner</li> </ol>	Dr Janet Rangou
<p><b>8. Alumni Grants Scheme and Australia Awards PNG Update</b></p> <p>Mr Vartovo ran through a brief presentation on the revised AGS explaining the three categories of grants, grant values and the AGS application cycle which was now three rounds per year ( April, July, October)</p> <p>The President then invited Dr Kaye Eldridge to provide a brief update on the AAPNG activities.</p> <p>Dr Eldridge congratulated the PNGAAA executive and members for a tremendous year and having high-profile attendees at the respective events. She expressed her admiration to alumni especially in their efforts to addressing the COVID-19 in their communities and organisations. She acknowledged that the past six months have been very challenging and shared some developments on how AAPNG was addressing these challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 210 awardees were in Australia studying long term scholarships when COVID-19 emerged in March 2020. They had to adjust to remote learning, and they showed a lot of resilience and strength</li> <li>• Established PhD Awardees Support program</li> </ul>	Samson Vartovo Dr Kaye Eldridge



- on-award enrichment activities moved to online professional development and training
- Launched on-award grants programs to support access to extra training and professional development
- Introduced integration workshops online
- In March 2020, 78 course awardees were studying in Australia (agribusiness, entrepreneurship, STEM education). Due to COVID-19, they had to come back to PNG and continue their learning online.
- Moving forward, will continue with the scholarships cycle, 2021 applications have closed, going through eligibility compliance check, shortlisting, and selections in the next three months. Hope to mobilise end of the year to early 2021.
- Finalised selections for counselling and STEM teaching short courses, hope to mobilise them early 2021.
- In March 2020, over 300 In-PNG Scholarships awardees were studying in 12 partner tertiary institutions, working with these institutions to support the awardees complete their respective studies.
- Continue with the capacity development support to our partner tertiary institutions, e.g. developing e-libraries, family and sexual violence, child protection and disability inclusion.
- In terms of alumni, AAPNG look forward to continue working closely with PNGAAA and supporting them with professional development opportunities and grants including high profile engagement with the AHC.
- AAPNG is currently undertaking various case studies of alumni

In closing, Dr Eldridge reassured members that AAPNG very much values its partnership with PNGAAA and looking forward to many more wonderful opportunities despite the challenges of COVID-19.

President Dr Rangou thanked Dr Eldridge for the very insightful update.

#### Questions

Professor Cecilia Nembou (Madang Chapter) asked for clarification on the STEM education.

**Response:** Dr Eldridge informed members that the STEM education was focussed on developing teachers in STEM facilitated by the Queensland University of Technology. She further advised that STEM courses will be supported at the St Peter Channel College in East New Britain and the University of Goroka in Eastern Highlands through the In- PNG Scholarships focussing on STEM teaching.

**9. Any Other Business**

- 9.1 360alumni - Mr Vartovo reminded members to update their profiles on the 360alumni platform
- 9.2 Communities of Practice (CoPs) - PNGAAA currently searching for CoP facilitators in midwifery and agribusiness. The CoPs will be facilitated on the 360lumni platform
- 9.3 Women Mentoring Initiative expressions of interest closed this week
- 9.4 Henry-Kia Nema referred to the alumni conference on Innovative Approaches for the Sustainable Development of PNG held in July 2019 and advised that the GoPNG recently presented its updates on the UN Development Goals by the Prime Minister in July 2020. This would be great opportunity to organise an alumni café to discuss the report further. He will draft a concept note for this event.  
Dr Rangou welcome this initiative taken and also acknowledged Mr Nema's support in the past alumni cafes.

**Action:** Concept note on proposed event drafted by Mr Nema.

Secretariat

Close of business moved by Lynne Iarume, Eastern Highlands Chapter  
Seconded by Dr Kainaro Kravia, Eastern Highlands Chapter

Start of meeting: 11:30am                      End of meeting: 2:15pm

Minutes signed off by: President, Dr Janet Rangou \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: