



PAPUA NEW GUINEA  
AUSTRALIA ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 30 June 2021 | 5:00pm**

**Virtual meeting via Zoom**

**AGM Minutes**

Notes/ Minutes Actions	Responsible
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p> <p>PNGAAA Vice President Dr Pamela Kamya welcomed everyone to the PNGAAA 2021 Annual General Meeting. She provided the President's report on behalf of Dr Janet Rangou who was on compassionate leave.</p> <p>She encouraged everyone to reflect on the past year. Dr Kamya said that it has been tough for many. She added many have lost loved ones during this period, and some may have lost work, business and other opportunities. She applauded members for their continued commitment to invest in the Association.</p> <p>Dr Kamya said many things have changed for us since March 2020 when the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic. The PNGAAA, with support from the Secretariat, in conforming to the new normal, continued to observe restrictions in social contact gatherings and the AGM was no exception.</p> <p>She thanked members for their continued commitment and acknowledged members who were joining from the provinces, including representatives from the 11 provincial Chapters, and members from the National Capital District.</p>	<p>Vice President</p>

<p>She expressed PNGAAA's greatest appreciation to the Government of Australia through the Australia Awards program for its continuous support to PNGAAA and alumni more broadly around PNG. She said the Association was committed to strengthening this partnership in the years to come.</p> <p>She acknowledged representatives from the Australian High Commission (AHC) and Australia Awards PNG who joined the AGM virtually.</p>	
<p><b>2. Apologies</b></p> <p>There were no apologies.</p>	<p>Vice President</p>
<p><b>3. Review of actions from previous AGM: 2019</b></p> <p><b>Action item:</b> Milne Bay Chapter proposal writing workshop</p> <p><b>Response:</b> PNGAAA Secretariat conducted a webinar on grants proposal writing in September 2020.</p> <p><b>Action Item:</b> PNGAAA to plan a small dinner in early 2021</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Network dinners held in respective chapters on 11 February 2021.</p> <p><b>Action Item:</b> Kia Henry-Nema to draft a concept note on discussions about the UN Development Goals.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> In progress</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p><b>4. Accepting 2020 AGM minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Vice President asked for acceptance of meeting minutes</li> <li>-Meeting minutes accepted</li> <li>-Willie Kilamanu of NCD Chapter moved the motion seconded by Henry-Kia Nema of NCD Chapter.</li> </ul>	<p>Secretary</p>

<p><b>5. President’s Report</b></p> <p>Dr Kamyra presented the June 2020 President’s report and highlighted the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key highlights of PNGAAA events</li> <li>• Women Alumni Mentoring Initiative launch</li> <li>• Morobe Chapter annual plan soft launch</li> <li>• Alumni Café on Climate Change and International Girls in ICT Day</li> <li>• 2020 Alumni Awards</li> <li>• International Girls in ICT Day alumni café</li> <li>• Chapter development</li> <li>• Launch of two additional chapters deferred</li> <li>• Ongoing chapter engagement</li> <li>• Executive Liaison Officers (ELOs)</li> <li>• Chapter network dinners</li> <li>• Presentation of the PNGAAA Chapter dashboard by respective ELOs</li> <li>• PNGAAA Secretariat provided dashboard update for the following chapters on behalf of Dr Rangou: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enga – The chapter recently voted an interim executive, and a member of the chapter won the 2020 Entrepreneurship Award during the Alumni Awards celebration in February 2021.</li> <li>2. Eastern Highlands – progress of activities and engagement impacted by COVID-19. A member of the chapter won the 2020 Community Service Award during the Alumni Awards celebration in February 2021.</li> <li>3. Western Highlands Chapter -the PNGAAA Secretariat highlighted that this Chapter is unique as Jiwaka and Southern Highlands provinces have joined the chapter.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p>President/Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer</p>

4. Manus Chapter – engagement with members impacted by COVID-19.

- Dr Kamyra (PNGAAA Vice President and ELO), provided dashboard update for the following chapters:
  1. Morobe Chapter – She recognised the strong nature of partnership model shown and the vibrancy of the chapter with increased engagement and delivery of current activities.
  2. ARoB Chapter – Dr Kamyra acknowledged the Referendum Elections and congratulated fellow alumni and member elect Amanda Masono.
  3. East Sepik Chapter – She noted that the passing of Grand Chief Sir Michael T. Somare affected most of the chapter’s activities and she also congratulated the chapter as one of its members received the Alumni of the Year Award which was a highlight for them. The chapter had three alumni grants approved.
- Martina Yauieb (PNGAAA Secretary and ELO) provided dashboard update for the following Chapters:
  1. Madang Chapter – Martina mentioned she provides ongoing support to the chapter executive through virtual meetings. However, she pointed out a drop in chapter membership. She acknowledged the chapter executive for working as a team to open its bank account and for the successful hosting of the networking dinner at the Madang Resort in February. She added that one alumni grant from the chapter was approved and three alumni are participants in the Women Alumni Mentoring Initiative (WAMI).
  2. NCD Chapter – She pointed out that COVID-19 challenges affected most of the Chapter’s activities. She also highlighted three activities hosted by the

Chapter and acknowledged that the chapter has the largest number of alumni members.

- Shane Koniel (PNGAAA Treasurer and ELO) provided dashboard update for the following Chapters:
  1. Milne Bay Chapter – Shane noted that it is an active chapter and acknowledged the great leadership of the chapter president. He added that the chapter has distributed hundreds of library books to over 40 rural elementary and primary schools in Milne Bay. He acknowledged attendance of Honourable Member Charles Abel MP at the networking dinner in February. He mentioned that the chapter has an active bank account.
  2. East New Britain Chapter – Shane stressed that there is a need for continuous improvement. He acknowledged two grants being implemented in two remote locations of the province.
- Vice President Dr Kamyia presented the chapter traffic lights and explained what each colour meant for the chapters' performance against the specific areas highlighted in the table.

***Feedback and response from chapters***

- Beatrice Mahuru acknowledged the need for NCD Chapter to improve on its engagement with members.
- East Sepik Chapter also reported the need for the chapter to start again after COVID-19 and the passing of Grand Chief affecting chapter activities.

**Action:** Chapters to look at priority action workplans and start engaging with members and implementing activities.

## **Financial Membership Report**

Dr Kamyra invited Treasurer Shane Koniel to present the PNGAAA financial membership and financial report.

- Financial membership update – 3% increase of financial growth due to AAPNG funding (12% increase) while a decrease of 11% of private membership renewals.
- Shane went through the five chapters with financial reports and how much will be reimbursed to each chapter.
- Dr Kamyra called a motion to accept the chapter financial membership reimbursement to be endorsed by members present.

### ***Questions***

Dorothy Kukum, interim President for Enga Chapter queried reimbursements for Enga Chapter.

***Response:*** Mr Vartovo supported the Treasurer by advising that all chapters are to open bank accounts and provide quarterly financial reports to be eligible for reimbursements.

***Motion to accept the financial membership report:*** Beatrice Mahuru (NCD Chapter President) accepted, seconded by Ruth Selou (Manus Chapter President) that the report be accepted, and reimbursements endorsed.

***Action:*** PNGAAA Secretariat to facilitate reimbursements for the five chapters.

### **Engagement with Australian High Commission**

- Dr Kamyra highlighted the engagement of the Australian High Commission in the following PNGAAA events:

- Virtual launch of the Women Alumni Mentoring Initiative cohort one by Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Caitlin Wilson
- PNGAAA virtual network dinners address by Australian High Commissioner, Jon Philp
- Morobe Chapter annual plan soft launch attended by Consular General, Paul Murphy
- Secondary Schools Scholarships Program networking event in Lae attended by Consular General, Paul Murphy
- A breakfast event in Madang Province hosted by Australian High Commissioner, Jon Philp

### **Professional Development Workshops and Webinars**

- Dr Kamyra highlighted the following professional development workshops delivered between July 2020 and June 2021
  - Toastmasters Speechcraft
  - Counselling
  - Clinical Leadership Management
  - Entrepreneurship
  - STEM
- There were about 22 webinars conducted
  - 586 participants
  - 352 females
  - 32 participants with disabilities
  - 12 webinars were on Alumni Grants Scheme
  - Ten webinars were on topics relevant to the pandemic and general interests.

### **Secretariat Update**

Dr Kamyra invited Dr Kaye Eldridge and Samson Vartovo to provide updates from Australia Awards PNG (AAPNG) and the PNGAAA Secretariat.

- Australia Awards strategic update –Dr Kaye Eldridge, Facility Director for AAPNG, thanked the PNGAAA and acknowledged alumni for pivoting partnerships across their activities. She went on to provide an update of the AAPNG activities as follows:
  - Long-term Australia Awards Scholarship – 2021 awardees awaiting to be mobilised to Australia.
  - In-PNG Scholarships – nursing, midwifery, and teaching – 400 awardees studying in 12 partner institutions.
  - Short Course Awards – there are three ongoing short courses in PNG through hybrid mode by Australian providers (two in STEM in Secondary, and one in Counselling), two new Short Courses starting; Social Research Methods for Public Servants (need for research skills in public servants) and Disability Inclusion (targeting secondary schools, universities and higher tertiary institution).
  - Secondary Schools Partnerships – Support for 12 partnerships for secondary education between PNG and Australia.
  - Movement in Higher Education space – started with short course for university leadership. Stressed that higher education has been a space where AAPNG have been supporting for some time and continues to be a priority.
  - Alumni Engagement – currently developing an Alumni Engagement Strategy. Dr Kaye outlined the importance of increasing engagement and reaching out to alumni in very remote and rural locations across PNG.

Dr Kamyra thanked Dr Eldridge and invited Mr Vartovo to provide the PNGAAA Secretariat activity update.

- PNGAAA Secretariat activity update – Mr Vartovo provided the following updates:



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The alumni biennial conference – this will take place in September and the closing date for expressions of interest has been with a flier going out after the AGM.</li> <li>- Call for nominations to register will be out soon for a virtual regional GEDSI Leadership Summit in Philippines. Two alumni will be participating in the summit.</li> <li>- Samson stressed the importance of payment of membership to access professional development workshops and the Alumni Grants Scheme.</li> <li>- He encouraged alumni to update their 360alumni profiles on an regular basis.</li> <li>- Alumni Grants Scheme – Good number of applications coming in and encouraged COVID-19 related applications. Round two closes on 31 July 2021.</li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5. PNGAAA Financial Audit Report</b></p> <p>PNGAAA 2020 audited financial report was presented by Mr Koniel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The statement of income and expenditure highlighted that COVID-19 affected most fundraising activities resulting in more expenditure and less income for the period.</li> <li>• Most income was from the Australian Bushfire and annual membership subscriptions.</li> <li>• Statement of assets and liabilities showed a total accumulated fund of K244,205 for 2021 going forward.</li> </ul> <p><b>Question</b> Beatrice Mahuru (NCD Chapter): Noted the budget deficit and queried why income was less.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> Dr Kamyā responded clarifying that income generating activities were affected due to most fundraising</p>	<p>Shane Koniel</p>

<p>activities such as fundraising BBQs, annual dinner among others, were affected by the COVID-19 restrictions. The only income was from membership subscriptions.</p> <p>The president called for a move to accept and endorse the 2020 Financial Audit Report.</p> <p><i>Action: PNGAAA 2020 Financial Audit Report was accepted and endorsed. PNGAAA Secretariat to publish the report on the PNGAAA website for members to access.</i></p>	
<p><b>8. Election of the PNGAAA Executives</b></p> <p>Dr Rangou informed members that the term of the current executives will expire in June 2022. Dr Rangou noted the need for bringing elections forward due to the National General Election happening in June also.</p> <p><b>Question:</b> Beatrice proposed extending the term of current executives for another year and hold the election in 2023.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Dr Rangou responded noting that the PNGAAA constitution sets the benchmark for elections and must be strictly followed.</p> <p><b>Remarks:</b> Dorothy of Enga Chapter supported Beatrice’s call to extend the term of current executives.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Dr Rangou requested if a poll can be done through survey monkey to consider the two options brought forward.</p> <p><b>Additional Remarks:</b> John Jambert from WHP Chapter reiterated that the PNGAAA constitution is the benchmark and a legal binding document and if there are changes to be done then there should be considerations to review the constitution to capture the proposed changes.</p>	<p>Dr Janet Rangou</p>

<p><b>Motion:</b> Dr Kamay call to move that the two options be put on the survey monkey.</p> <p><b>Response to move:</b> Dr Rangou moved, and Beatrice seconded.</p>	
<p><b>9. A.O.B</b></p> <p>a) Constitutional amendment to clause 8.2 regarding membership.</p> <p>Dr Rangou called for a move to accept the amendment to clause 8.2 of the constitution.</p> <p><b>Move Motion:</b> Dorothy from Enga chapter moved, and Mr Ted Alau of Madang Chapter seconded the motion to accept amendments to clause 8.2 of the constitution.</p> <p>b) Vaccination rollout – Dr Kamya noted the need for frontline health workers to be vaccinated. Dr Kamya stressed and highlighted the importance that although it is a personal choice, 80% of alumni are frontliners and there is a need for vaccination.</p> <p><b>Move of Motion:</b> Dr Rangou moved that PNGAAA should take it as one of its priorities to advocate for the rollout of vaccination.</p> <p><b>Remarks:</b> Ms Mahuru supported the need for vaccination rollout.</p> <p><b>Remarks and way forward:</b> Dr Kamya asked for strategies to advocate for vaccine rollout with Dr Rangou sharing her</p>	<p>Samson Vartovo</p>

*experience of advocating for vaccination during her late husband's hauskrai.*

***Move of Motion:*** *Dr Kamya moved that a vaccination rollout committee be formed. Dr Rangou supported to move the motion seconded by Ms Mahuru.*

***Action:*** *Vaccination rollout committee to be formed and an alumni café on vaccination to be held.*

Dr Kamya closed the meeting.

Start of meeting: 5:00pm

End of meeting: 8:00pm