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## **Welcome to the Summer Edition | December 2019 APNG Association News**



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### **President's note**



Hello everyone. With the year coming to a close and people winding down for a well-earned Christmas break, our newsletter reflects back on this year's events.

I'd like to start by acknowledging the passing of long term Life Member and former President of the Association, Mr Hank Cosgrove, who died from ill health. Mr Cosgrove was an integral part of the association and contributed broadly to many facets of the community. A well-known public figure particularly in regional Queensland for his role in establishing the [Drovers Reunion](#), his passing marks the end of an era and he is sorely missed.

The Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on May 13 at the United Service Club in Spring Hill with more than 35 members and guests enjoying a two course dinner and beverages. The AGM formalities proceeded smoothly and we had the privilege of having Mr Geoff Scahill, General Manager, [Abt Associates](#) as the dinner's guest speaker. Geoff shared a range of insights, which we've provided as a short interview in this edition.

In September, Mr Scott Cowie, General Manager, Technical Services at [PanAust](#) gave a detailed overview of progress on the Sepik Development Project at a Business Breakfast event, which was well received. The committee also attended a number of events throughout the year and responded to numerous queries from members and interested persons regarding PNG and Australia. We were proud to provide assistance where we could, or connect individuals to the right contacts for further guidance, support and networking opportunities.

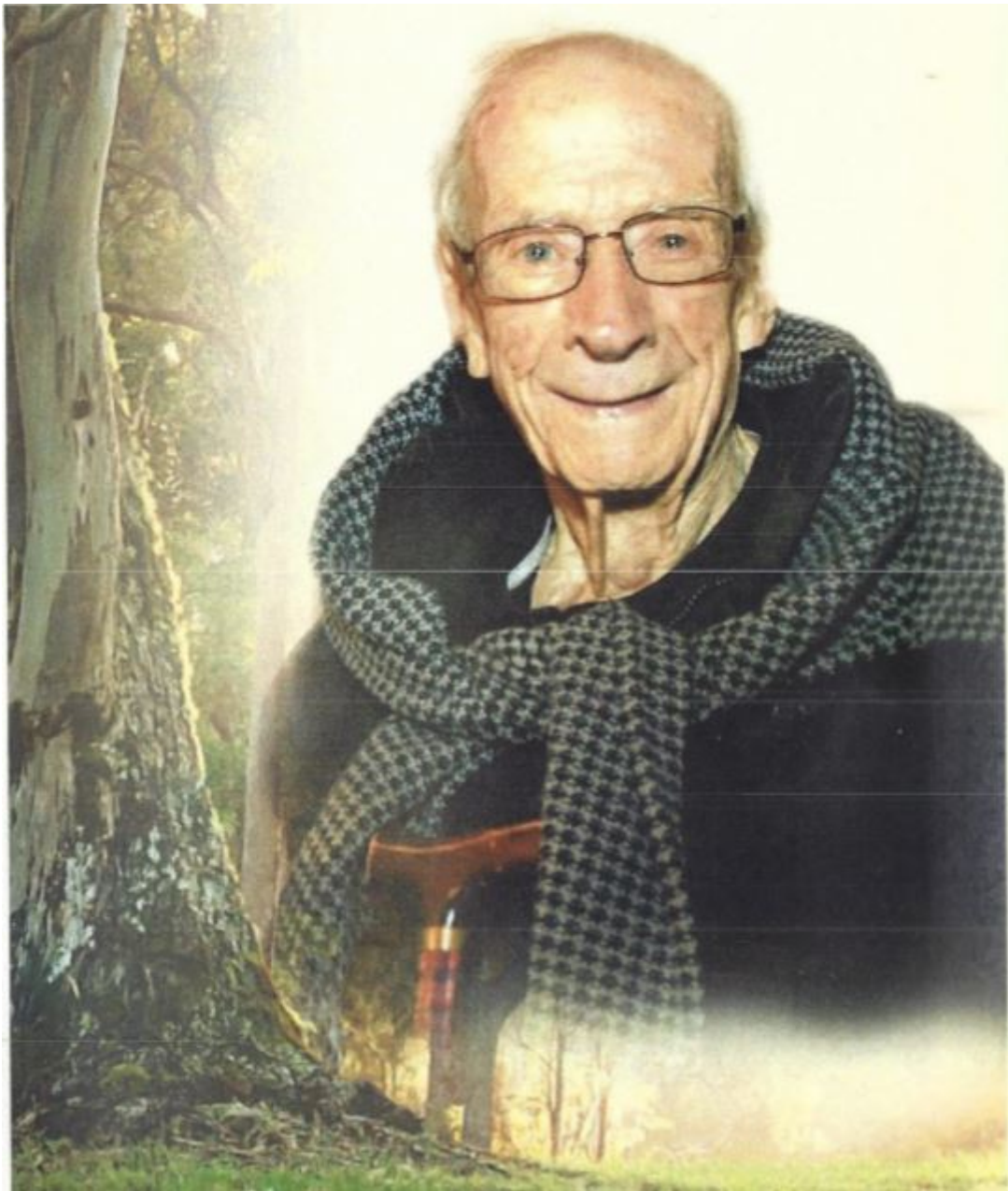
The association is run by a dedicated team of volunteers, and I'd like to thank our outgoing committee members Joe Dowling, Trina Kedeia and Jim Morison for their support over the years. We wish them all well, especially Trina who has moved her family to Port Moresby to take up a new position with Brunel. Thank you to our other committee members who renominated for 2020 and a warm welcome to Maryanne Kepui who is the new Secretary.

We trust you all have a safe Christmas break with family and friends and a prosperous 2020.

**Nick Currey**  
**President**

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**VALE Hank (Harold) Cosgrove, 20/02/1932 -  
18/05/2019**



The Australia Papua New Guinea Association extends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Hank Cosgrove. Hank was a driving force behind many endeavours, with his passion for life and sense of adventure making him a well-liked and respected figure in many communities.

Hank was a life member of the Association taking on many committee member and President roles, which he enjoyed and thrived in because of his long affiliation with PNG where he worked for 18 years in Lae for the Department of Works. It was during his time in PNG that he met his wife, Berry and had two children, Stuart and Beverley. In his eulogy to his father, Stuart said that the time spent in PNG was some of the best times he can recall.

“Dad was very funny at times, he was also extremely knowledgeable about most things and was one of the best story-tellers in the world. He instilled a lot of important life skills in me that I continue to follow today.”



Hank was a local icon and an inspiration to many, and his legacy lives on through the connections he made with those fortunate enough to cross his path.

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## AGM - Guest speaker, Mr Geoff Scahill



### Who are Abt Associates?

**Geoff:** Abt Associates' forerunner in Australia, JTA International, was founded in PNG with the then CEO, Jane Thomason winning an Australian aid funded health sector project in 1999. Today, we are known as Abt Associates where PNG represents over 60% of our work. In PNG, Abt Associates has over 430 employees, 80% are Papua New Guineans – and work in the health and education sectors, with our largest portfolio being the Australia PNG Governance Partnerships a number of private sector clients.

### What is donor funding?

**Geoff:** Donor funding or Official Development Assistance (ODA) is defined by OECD as *government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries*. Australia spends 0.232% of gross national income on aid, well below the target set by the United Nations of 0.7% of gross national income for developed countries.

### **What was Australia's contribution to ODA this year?**

**Geoff:** Australia's ODA to PNG in the 2018-19 financial year was \$578 million, increasing to an estimated \$607.5 million this financial year – representing 15% of Australia's total ODA budget. In PNG, more than 80% of Australian Government Funding is managed by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). PNG's aid funding has been concentrated from Australia – we have been PNG's largest donor, with Australia contributing over 70% of PNG's aid and development funds from OECD countries.

### **What are the focus areas of that funding?**

**Geoff:** The focus is on social (health, immunisation, border protection), trade (\$6 billion 2-way trade) and development assistance targeted at:

- promoting effective governance
- enabling economic growth and
- enhancing human development.

Abt Associates is committed to being part of the thinking and delivery to support Papua New Guinea's growth and we hope to continue to develop strong relationships.

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## **PNG High Commissioner visit**



Mr John Kali, CMG OBE, High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea, based in

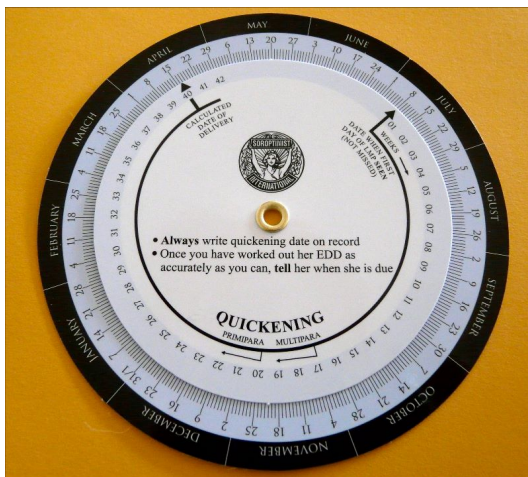
Canberra recently visited Brisbane.

Mr Jimmy Ovia, Brisbane Acting Consul General hosted a small reception to welcome the High Commissioner and also took the opportunity to officially open the new [Brisbane Consulate offices](#), located at 316 Adelaide Street.

Mr Kali gave a short speech acknowledging the strong relationship between PNG and Australia, the role of the Consulates and the new Prime Minister James Marape's vision for PNG going forward. He also advised about the changes to visa applications with the new on-line application process accessible here: <https://ica.gov.pg/>.

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## Laukautim Mama Yu



As part of the Association's donation program for PNG projects, we were approached by [Soroptimist International](#) (SI). SI were in the process of getting printed 1,000 new obstetric wheels for PNG doctors, midwives and medical staff.

An obstetric wheel is used by doctors and health professionals to calculate when a mother became pregnant and estimates when the child delivery date is due. This information is important to make sure the mother attends regular prenatal clinics, and also to time a supervised delivery by a experienced midwife or doctor, especially if the birth is likely to have complications.

Infant mortality is still very high with 53.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2017. We hope that this small donation can help to reduce infant and mother mortality in PNG. The wheels are being distributed by SI to all PNG Provinces health staff.

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## Business breakfast: The Sepik Development Project - a nation building pathway for Frieda River



On September 18, we were privileged to have Scott Cowie, Pan Aust General Manager Technical services present at a business breakfast that attracted over 120 members and guests. Scott provided a comprehensive overview of the [complex project](#) that comprises four components including:

- the Frieda River Copper-Gold mining operations
- Frieda River Hydroelectric Project that is also the waste rock and tailings storage facility
- Sepik Power Grid Project and
- Sepik Infrastructure Project.

The project will be a potential game changer for the region with a long mine life and Hydroelectric Dam with 100-year life. PanAust have submitted an EIS and this is currently under review by PNG and Sepik governments. Timing for gaining all approvals and community consent is likely to take a number of years. PanAust have said they are committed to getting it right, rather than fast tracking the process.

Thank you Scott and the PanAust team who attended and also stayed on to answer questions.

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## Upcoming events

### **Placeholder: APNG Association AGM in late February**

In 2020, our AGM will be held earlier in the year. Details will be provided soon but place a diary holder now for the dinner and guest speaker event. You won't want to miss it!

### **Reminder: Membership fees**

The [APNG Association website](#) will be updated in the New Year with a link to renew your membership via Trybooking. Refer a friend/colleague, and if they join you will receive a further \*5% discount off the ticket price at the next member event. T&Cs apply.

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## Wantok corner





## Ken Fairweather's debut novel goes on sale

Former PNG trucker, farmer, politician and self-confessed larrikin, Ken Weatherall's debut memoir *Farewell White Men* is a colourful character's account of the people and events that have shaped Australia's volatile neighbour. The book is peppered with outrageous anecdotes from his time in PNG that give some insight into the country's complex culture, politics and way of life.

*Farewell White Man* is self-published and available from Collins Bookstore Smithfield (Cairns), the University of Papua New Guinea or online through [www.farewellwhiteman.com](http://www.farewellwhiteman.com).

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## Your feedback is welcome - take our survey

We exist to encourage collaboration, stimulate business opportunities, promote education and share information. Please take our short 3 minute survey to help us understand how we can better serve you in 2020.

Click on the [survey link here](#).

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## Contact us

If you'd like to talk to know more about this edition, sponsor an event, or become a member, don't hesitate to reach out to the committee via [info@apngassociation.com](mailto:info@apngassociation.com) or connect with us via LinkedIn.

## **2020 Executive Committee**

[President - Nick Currey](#)

[Immediate past President - Gayle Carrick](#)

Treasurer - Justin Humphrey

[Secretary - Maryanne Kepui](#)

Member - Sheryl Guthrie

[Member - Mark Flood](#)

Member - Professor Robin Cooke

Member - Mathew Bennett

[Member - Darren Caufield](#)



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