



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

13 April 2012

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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The newsletter can be located at:
<http://www.lcci.org.pg/resources.html>

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

ELECTIONS AND OTHER ISSUES

The week started with the threat of disruption in Lae. The Police received a letter from the Unitech students during the Easter weekend, to request permission to march from Taraka to Lae on Tuesday to conduct awareness at the Niall Reserve over the Election and Judiciary concerns. The Police were hesitant to give permission as there are still issues left over from last Novembers riots. After insistence from the students and promises that the event would be conducted peacefully, the Police agreed to allow the march to proceed.

The Police contacted me over the weekend to advise members of this event. They also wanted assistance with fuel, as due to administrative reasons the Police fuel funds had run out. The Lae Chamber had already assisted the Police with fuel over the Easter break. Even though the students promised not to cause trouble, it was imperative that the Police were kept mobile during this demonstration, as there was no guarantee that opportunists would not cause strife. Fortunately the Chemcare group came to the rescue of the Police and opened the bowsers at Freddy's Family Store for the Police to fill up on Tuesday. Amalpak were able to help refuel two Strategic Police Operational vehicles.

We were very pleased that there was no trouble on Tuesday and it is a credit to the students and their leaders that they were able to keep a tab on this event. The idea of making the public more aware of what their parliamentary leaders are doing was indeed a very responsible and worthy stand by the students. The fact that the public showed little interest is probably a lethargic reaction to the constant barrage of new Parliamentary acts and reversals by the Politicians. The lack of real interest no doubt helped keep the event trouble free.

The LCCI believes that the National Elections should be held without unnecessary delays. To postpone the elections will see a continuation of political uncertainties that are becoming almost a daily occurrence. Political stability is paramount to good business and is the hallmark for future investment from both domestic and international sources. If the Electoral Commission believes there are flaws with the Lae Common Roll, then we can assist by using our extensive network, as has already been offered.

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Commerce Inc.

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Objectives
of the LCCI

- To promote the business interests of the private sector;
- To further the economic development in Lae;
- To ensure the provision of services and utilities essential to such development;
- To provide a representative body for business people, which government can consult;
- To promote support or oppose legislation; or take any other measures to improve the business community;
- To provide a forum for discussion of private sector goals;
- To pool the strengths of business people so that together, they can accomplish tasks that each one alone cannot achieve;
- To promote the economic viability of the area, so those current businesses will grow and new ones will be developed locally;
- To provide business with a common voice.

PNG Cancer Relief Society
SHAVE FOR CANCER

A Hair Shaving evening is arranged as a major fund-raising event for the Cancer Relief Society. Funds raised from this event will go toward a NATIONAL CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

The idea is for volunteers to have their head shaved. Each volunteer will have a sponsor to be "auctioned" for their hair shave.

The PNG Cancer Relief Society is the fundraising arm of the PNG National Cancer Treatment Centre, which is the only such centre in PNG. The Society's aims for 2012 are:-

- Obtain a CT Scanner
- Open a Brachytherapy Unit
- Open a cancer day ward
- Embark on a National Cancer Awareness Campaign

The hair shaving event will take place at the Lae Yacht Club at 6:30 PM on Tuesday 24th April 2012.

Information for Volunteers and Sponsors is available from:

Mrs. Andrea Niblett on - 76710202

Mr. Murray Fletcher on - 71037347 (the Professionals Lae)

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REGIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEMS

Australian Government - AusAID Media Release – 13TH April 2012

Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr today said the value of investing in regional Tsunami early warning systems was confirmed following this week's earthquakes off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia.

Senator Carr said Australia's regional neighbours received an Indian Ocean wide tsunami warning just seven minutes after the 8.5 magnitude earthquake occurred at 6:38pm Australian Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday 11 April.

'Early warning systems are critical to saving lives and to reducing the risks and costs of natural disasters caused by tsunamis.

'Our region gets more than its share of natural disasters and early warning systems are now agreed as essential to limiting their impacts.'

Senator Carr was speaking at a United Nations General Assembly debate on Disaster Risk Reduction where he praised the partnership between Australia and Indonesia in managing the risk of disasters in the region.

'It was a great relief to all Australians and our regional neighbours when the Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre issued a nil tsunami threat for Australia within 24 minutes of the earthquake.

'I am advised by the Joint Australian Tsunami Warning Centre, which is operated by Geoscience Australia and the Bureau of Meteorology that all warnings issued as part of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System were delivered within normal operational timeframes.

'Following the devastating tsunamis in the Indian Ocean in 2004 and in Japan last year, the international community has become acutely aware of the value of investing in disaster risk reduction.

'Australia is a strong supporter of international efforts to reduce the risk that natural disasters pose in developing nations - particularly countries in our region.

'In May 2005, following the Indian Ocean tsunami, the Australian Government committed \$69.8 million over four years (2005-09), to the Australian Tsunami Warning System initiative.

'This initiative:

- provides a comprehensive tsunami warning system for Australia
- supports establishment of an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system
- helps facilitate a tsunami warning system for the South West Pacific

'Through the Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction, the Australian aid program has provided support to Indonesia's Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) and Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMMKG) to assist in quickly estimating the impact of earthquakes.

'In eastern Indonesia, Australia is also supporting a program with funding of \$1 million to assist communities to identify priorities for disaster risk reduction through mapping the parts of their community that are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters using a free 'wiki-map'.

'And in the Pacific, Australia has upgraded equipment at monitoring stations in 12 countries to strengthen tsunami warning capacity and measure sea level changes,' Senator Carr said.

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"WITH OUR EXTENSIVE REPRESENTATION, WE ARE IN A POSITION TO MEET ALL YOUR CAR HIRE ARRANGEMENTS"

Australian Government - AusAID Media Release - 12 April 2012

Richard Marles, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs & Parliamentary Secretary and Foreign Affairs.

PNG - SECURING A PROSPEROUS FUTURE

An international gathering of political leaders, academics, business and community representatives is meeting at Deakin University in Geelong today and tomorrow to discuss the opportunities and challenges facing contemporary Papua New Guinea.

This two-day symposium, '**PNG: Securing a Prosperous Future**' is being co-hosted by Deakin University's Alfred Deakin Research Institute and Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs and Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Richard Marles.

Among the attendees are high-profile PNG political leaders including Minister for Public Service, Bart Philemon, and the Opposition Leader, Dame Carol Kidu.

**Two Day
Symposium
PNG SECURING
A PROSPEROUS
FUTURE**

Deakin University

Mr Marles said Australia was well aware of the fundamental changes occurring in Papua New Guinea.

'What is happening in PNG should resonate with Australians because, like us, our closest neighbour is experiencing a truly historic resources boom.

'PNG will make decisions now which will shape the sort of country that it will become in ten, twenty and fifty years time. PNG has been dealt a strong hand but now is the time to play the right cards.'

PNG: Securing a Prosperous Future is being held at Deakin University's Geelong Waterfront Campus, 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong from 9am on 12 April and continuing at 9am on 13 April.



Visit the Lae International Hotel new website.

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For more information call us on phone 472 2000.



LAE ROADS REPORT

LAE ROADS

In view of the standoff between the PNG Government and some of the Contractors on the Lae City Roads Rehabilitation Project (LCRRP) the Lae Chamber of Commerce arranged a meeting of the contractors and the acting First Assistant Secretary (Operations) of the Department of Works, last Tuesday. In arranging this meeting we were mindful of the threat to close roads that the contractors have been working on, in an effort to force the Government to pay the substantial backlog of unpaid claims.

The Contractors that came to the meeting were - FTM Construction, R & Sons Construction, Dekenai Construction and Cameron Construction. Mr. Brian Alois, the a/FAS of DOW promised to return to DOW Headquarters and see if he could sort out the unpaid claims. We will continue to keep in contact with Mr. Alois to check on the progress.

Our main objective is to get the work on the roads started again and finished off. We do appreciate the newly finished roads but we also realise that the unfinished sections will deteriorate in the rainy season and we could be worse off than before the road-works started.

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A FOCUS ON THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA RESOURCE SECTOR

PNGREPORT

The latest edition for February 2012 of this magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Read the reports on the ROAD WARRIORS (The unforgiving Highlands Highway), MONEY LAUNDERING (looking under the carpet), BLASTING (Orica sets the standard) and LOGISTICS (Shipping on the Fly) when you get your free copy of this February edition, which can be reserved by contacting Wendie on 472 2340 or by emailing us at lcci@global.net.pg

WHAT WILL BE ON OFFER IN THE Morobe Show this year



Looking for a marketing and promotions alternative?

The sky is the limit when it comes to the Morobe Show Society's remote controlled motorised blimp.

It's the only blimp currently operating in PNG and offers an unobscured, captivating view of sponsor's logos and messages during special events.

You can hire the blimp and operator for K2000/day plus gas and signage.

Enquiries: info@morobeshow.org.pg

Rest In Peace JACK STACKPOLE

For those who remember Jack Stackpole we regret to advise that he passed away last week. Keith was the original to owner of the former Truecast Foundry.

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Read this important
announcement from
BOC PNG LIMITED

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BOC PNG MEDICAL AND INDUSTRIAL GAS SECURE

BOC hereby advises that the supply of medical and industrial gases remains secure despite a damaging property fire at the company's facility in Lae, Papua New Guinea late Friday night.

The Gas & Gear retail store, embroidery room, sales and logistics administration area, and main welding and safety products warehouse were destroyed by the blaze.

Thankfully all personnel are safe and no injuries have been sustained.

BOC is working with relevant authorities in PNG to determine the cause of the fire. BOC takes the safety and care of employees, customers and the community very seriously.

The site's gases operations were unaffected in the incident, meaning the supply of specialty medical and industrial gases will continue as normal.

The main administration building comprising the finance, IT and Senior Management sections was also unaffected.

Unfortunately, some of our welding and safety customers may be impacted, depending of product availability.

However, BOC does have back up stock at our other warehouses in PNG, one nearby in Lae and the other in Port Moresby. BOC has also taken immediate action to import fast moving product from across our BOC network in the South Pacific to ease demand.

This week, BOC is sourcing temporary Gas & Gear and warehouse space in Lae and will keep customers advised when we acquire these essential properties.

All of our customers' embroidery requirements will be completed locally in PNG, either at Port Moresby by BOC or outsourced as needed.

BOC apologises to its customers for any inconvenience these unforeseen circumstances may cause.

BOC is treating this incident with the highest priority and is acting quickly to re-establish our normal capabilities in Lae. We will ensure we keep our customers updated with the latest information as it comes to hand.

If you have any questions or concerns during this time, contact our Sales Team on sales.lae@boc.com.pg or call 675 472 2377.

BOC Papua New Guinea Ltd
Mangola St, Lae
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sales.lae@boc.com.pg


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ANNUAL PNG INDUSTRY OVERVIEW, 2012

Your free copy is now available at the LCCI office for collection

This latest Issue 7 of 2012 has just been received at the Chambers and is jam packed with the latest information on Industry in Papua New Guinea. Visit our office to collect your free copy or contact Wendie on 472 2340 and book a copy to ensure that you are not too late.