

# LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

3 February 2012

VOLUME: 04 - 12

### LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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(Updated Weekly)

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*Thank you*

### FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK LAE ISSUES

The LCCI finally sat down with the Deputy Prime Minister and a team of Ministers, when Alan McLay had breakfast with them last Sunday morning. At the breakfast meeting were:

Honourable Belden Namah Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Forests  
Honourable Sam Basil Minister for National Planning and member for Wau Bulolo Open  
Honourable Jamie Maxtone-Graham Minister for Health  
Honourable Mark Maipakai Minister for Inter Government Relations  
Honourable Bart Philemon Minister for Public Service and Member for Lae Open

I was accompanied by Mr. Ian Chow the Manager for Lae Biscuits and David Wissink the Community Relations Manager with MMJV.

With the respective Ministers present, the breakfast meeting provided the perfect opportunity to raise some of the issues identified by the Lae Chamber as hampering the development of Lae City as a centre for future investment. In brief we raised:

1. **POWER** – when the Ministerial Team travelled to Morobe from Port Moresby on Saturday evening, the Air Niugini flight was unable to land because there was no power at Nadzab which meant no runway landing lights. The aircraft had to return to Jackson's and fly-back to Nadzab when the power was back on.  
Hence my request for a reliable power supply to Lae met more than sympathetic ears. I pointed out that there is a shortfall in the Power available to Lae City, which results in frequent blackouts and the need to load shed the available power. We know that PNG Power has plans to upgrade the generation capacity of the Ramu hydro station, and they have talked about a 40 MW station at Malahang for a while. Lae City needs a 40 MW of power now to meet the immediate shortfall in power supply to the city.  
The DPM and National Planning Minister agreed to discuss our needs with PNG Power boss Tony Koiri for the immediate installation of a 40 MW power station.
  2. **POLICE and CRIME** – The LCCI pointed out that the riots that took place in Lae in early November were the result of the build up of Street Gangs, vendors and hawkers around the city, especially at Eriku and the bus stops. Friday's newspapers highlighted a concern by the Morobe Leaders that most of the problems that made up the petition to the Governor and the Minister for National Planning have not yet been addressed. The LCCI warned that if these matters remain unresolved, there is likely to be further demonstrations and outbreaks of trouble.
- **Eriku Police Station**  
In recognising that there remain huge crime problems at Eriku, the LCCI decided to assist with the design and construction of a Police Station at Eriku, to be built at a more sensible location on the Niall reserve. We have been in discussion with the Police Commanders on what is required.

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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.

**LAE ISSUES (Cont)**

At the Sunday breakfast meeting we were able to present to the Honourable Sam Basil, a submission for the Eriku Police Station, which included a detailed plan done by Designslope Architects arranged and paid for by Able Constructions; quotes for construction of the building; a list of required equipment, weaponry, manpower and vehicles prepared by the Police Metropolitan Commander. I indicated that a good proportion of the costs will be met by traders at Eriku but we will rely on the Government to fund a fair share.

Minister Basil said that he is confident that his department will give this project very favourable consideration.

• **Equipping other Lae Urban Police Stations.**

At the request of the LCCI, the Police Metro Commander prepared a list of maintenance and equipment requirements for the other Lae Urban Police Stations, which we handed to the Deputy Prime Minister on behalf of the Police. The list included costs of renovations, equipment, weaponry, manpower and vehicles. The DPM agreed to discuss this submission with heads of the Departments concerned.

3. **The need for an Urban Authority to extend beyond the current boundaries**

The existing Lae Urban Local Level Government is redundant as most of the recent developments have taken place beyond the current City boundaries. Therefore there is a need to look at a more relevant Urban Authority to cater for the needs of the entire Urban area. Because funding is a perennial problem with the current authority, a Commission along the lines of the NCD Commission should be considered which will be able to generate the necessary funds to provide the services to the ratepayers of the City.

The Minister responsible, the Honourable Mark Maipakai said that he will send a team from his Department to visit Lae City, and investigate the need for a more relevant Authority for the Lae Urban area.

4. **Land and the availability of more Land for Urban development**

Lae is a growing city like POM and other centres in the country but the lack of available land is making it difficult to expand businesses or for new investors to establish in the city. This is driving up land prices and rents. The Government since Independence have freed up virtually no Land for Urban development in any city in the country. In Lae the Ahi Landowners have been trying to Mobilize their own land for appropriate development for years. The LCCI recommended to the Ministerial team that the National Government look at means to free up more land for development in Lae City. We further recommended that the Government provide financial support to the Ahi people in their desire to mobilize customary land for appropriate Urban development, and to look at whether this scheme could be used as a model for land mobilization throughout Papua New Guinea.

5. **Lae Port** – The LCCI's request to get the development of the Lae Port speeded up was dealt with by the DPM, who declared that the Government had injected a further K100,000 into the ADB funded Tidal Basin project, to allow the major dredging and construction contracts to be awarded next week.

6. **NADZAB** – The DPM promised K100,000 for the urgent renovation of Nadzab's immediate needs. At the breakfast he agreed with the LCCI to make necessary improvements to enable the airstrip to take International Flights. The DPM confirmed that K5 million had been allocated for the NADZAB access road after promised by Prime Minister O'Neill in August last year. Of this allocation only K200,000 had been spent on grading the road, and the rest remains unspent. Mr. Namah promised to get this road upgraded as soon as possible.

7. **Business in Lae** – The LCCI advised that before deciding to protect industries such as the controversial Naima Rice Project, the Government must consider the existing businesses, their infrastructure and the benefits that flow back to the Government. Lae is the home of the three largest rice importers and distributors in the country, and employ 3,000 workers with this figure multiplied 4 times by the people who rely on these jobs. All this may be in jeopardy if the subsidized project is approved.



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**RABAUL QUEEN DISASTER**

The disaster which is still unfolding, the sinking of the MV Rabaul Queen in the early hours of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February is likely to be the worst shipping disaster in the nation's history.

The 1983 built passenger ship MV *Rabaul Queen*, with a gross tonnage of 259 flagged in Papua New Guinea sunk due to the bad weather in the notoriously dangerous Vitiaz Straits. The operator is Star Ships Shipping a subsidiary of Rabaul Shipping. The ship capsized at a position North East of the Gagidu station at Finschhafen, with the coordinates of 06° 31.5'South 147°59.7' East, between 0600 and 0630 on Thursday. The number of passengers on board the boat is likely to be about 350 (there are claims that the number could be as high as 500, but the true number won't be determined until the full manifest is made available) and so far 247 have been rescued. The people on board the vessel were mainly from the New Guinea Islands Provinces of East and West New Britain, New Ireland and Bougainville. Many of the people on board were students to be enrolled or returning to Unitech or the Lae based National Polytech College.

A distress call from the Rabaul Queen was picked up by the RCC (Rescue Coordination Centre) in Australia at the time of sinking, and they were able to divert several Merchant ships to the area very quickly. They also appointed one of the ships Master's as the scene coordinator. These vessels were to become a very important part of the rescue operation.

The National Marine Safety Authority (NMSA) requested the assistance of coastal vessels to join in on the search and engaged 3 helicopters to provide air surveillance and rescues. The Australian Marine Safety Authority's dedicated search and rescue Dornier aircraft based in Cairns quickly arrived on scene to assist. The Dornier has multiple life rafts on board and the capability to drop them to survivors in the water.

By 2AM on Friday morning the first 116 survivors arrived at Angau Hospital, where they were examined and apart from being wet, cold and miserable and apart from suffering from Hyper-thermia most had sustained no injuries and were released to the care centre set up at the Morobe Disaster centre next to Angau. A few were detained at Angau mainly with respiratory problems, caused by aspirating oil and sea water, with a few showing early signs of pneumonia. Further survivors arrived in the morning and

Can you help with clothes that are urgently needed?



throughout the day, making up the total of 247 survivors (up to the time of writing this). The search for survivors had turned to surveillance of the coastal areas and villages along the coast.

The details that have been released have been very scant and it is only natural that many relatives and parents are very distressed and anxious to receive information about whether their loved ones have survived the disaster. The Morobe Disaster centre is preparing a list of names of the survivors, which will be released to the Chambers for our publication, when completed. The West New Britain Governor is sending a representative to Lae to handle the affairs of the West New Britain passengers on the boat.

The latest on Sunday morning is that the bodies of 3 adult people, one Male and two females were picked up in the Milne Province near the Trobriand Islands, by the MV Bougainville Atolls and brought into Angau Hospital Sunday Morning.

The Morobe Disaster Relief centre has made a call for clothes for the rescued people. If you can donate clothes, please bring them to the care centre that has been set up at the Disaster Office, between Angau Hospital and the Huon Gulf Motel. The person to contact is Patilias Gamato the Deputy Provincial Administrator on Mobile 736 73396, but he had asked that calls be restricted to urgent matters only as his hands are full.

We received the following message from the World Chambers Federation:

Dear Alan

In watching the SBS Australian news today, I've learnt of the terrible news of the ferry disaster.

We can only imagine the heartache being felt by the chamber and its community following this tragedy.

From all the team at WCF, we send our prayers.

Sincerest condolences,

Anthony

**Anthony Parkes**

Director

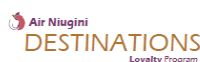
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## BANANA FESTIVAL

**Save PNG**, a locally owned and operated Markham Valley organization, will be hosting the **Markham Banana Festival** with the theme "Food is Life" during the Easter Holidays from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The event will celebrate the unique culture, foods and traditional arts of the Markham people.

The operators have secured partial funding for the event but are looking for more collaborative partners to assist with contributions, to ensure that the festival is a great success.

Want to find out more - contact:

Jennifer Baing the Festival Coordinator  
B-Mobile 76419845: Digicel 72173750  
e-mail [savepng@gmail.com](mailto:savepng@gmail.com)

We will provide a Profile of the event in next weeks News Update.



## COMPANY PRO-FILES

The Lae Chamber of Commerce advises that your company profile can be included in our Weekly News Update, at no charge to you. We encourage you to send the layout with the appropriate phrasing and any graphics or photos (as long as they do not take up big bytes).

This profile will not only reach our 250 Lae members but all Chambers around Papua New Guinea and other associated addressees.

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## **PNGREPORT**

The latest edition for January 2012 of this magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Read their report on the Lae Riots when you get your free copy of this January edition, which can be reserved by contacting Wendie on 472 2340 or by emailing us at [lcci@global.net.pg](mailto:lcci@global.net.pg)

## **CRIME**

Guard Dog Security reported that this is the homemade gun and bullet used in an attempted hold up on Saturday night near the golf club – the security men hit one rascal with bumper of the car and managed to get the firearm but the rascals escaped.



Be extremely cautious as there is a noticeable increase in criminal activities at the moment. Our advice is that if need be, beef up your security

AUSTRALIA WEEK OF-  
FERS AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO SEE  
A VAST RANGE OF  
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## Australia Week 2012

Monday 5 to Sunday 11 March 2012

### Festival Events Program

#### Monday 5 March

##### Official Launch

The Australian High Commission will officially launch Australia Week 2012 and our featured exhibition. The launch will be followed by a reception.

*Venue: Chancery Foyer, Australian High Commission*

##### Feature Exhibition

**John Gould** is an award-winning Australian artist, who, as a child with severe dyslexia, found a passion for visual arts. A trained artist, Gould has held twelve major exhibitions of sculpture and paintings and participated in thirty group exhibitions since 1978. His work has been collected by the ANU, the University of New England, Lord Alistair McAlpine (UK) and private art collectors worldwide.

Gould's work will be exhibited during Australia Week alongside the work of celebrated PNG artist Ratoos Gary. Gould and Gary have a Wollongong connection - Gould taught art at Wollongong TAFE, and Gary studied in Wollongong with famous Australian painter and sculptor, Bert Flugelman.

Gould will be selling his work (purchases made after exhibition). He has proposed that ten per cent of all sales be donated to a charity chosen by the Australian High Commission.

*Venue: Australian High Commission foyer.*

[www.johngouldartist.com](http://www.johngouldartist.com)

[www.pasifiknau.com/PNG/Contemporary\\_Art/PNG\\_Art/Pages/Ratoos.html](http://www.pasifiknau.com/PNG/Contemporary_Art/PNG_Art/Pages/Ratoos.html)

#### 7:00 pm Australian Short Film Festival

The Australian High Commission will screen Flickerfest, a popular Australian short film festival. Students studying film at tertiary institutions in PNG will be encouraged to attend.

*Venue: University of Papua New Guinea Main Lecture Theatre*

#### Tuesday 6 March

##### 3:00 pm Austrade - Australia PNG Business Council Function

Guest speaker: TBC

*Venue: Australian High Commission Chancery Foyer*

#### Wednesday 7 March

##### Community Concert

Australia Week artists will perform in front of thousands of locals at Tubuseria Village in Central Province. This is an opportunity for the artists to engage with members of the public unable to attend ticketed events.

*Venues: Tubuseria Village*

##### Australian Defence Force Golf Day

The Australia Defence Force will host a Golf Day at the Port Moresby Golf Club.

##### 3:00 pm Austrade - Australia PNG Business Council Function

A repeat of the Austrade - APNGBC Function in Lae.

*Venue: Lae International Hotel*

##### 7:00 pm Restless Dance Theatre

**Restless Dance Theatre** is Australia's leading dance company working with young disabled and non disabled people to create dance theatre and run workshop programs. Restless Dance Theatre is a place where dance is used as a mode of expression which allows people to speak eloquently to everyone. Restless Dance Theatre is an integrated dance company where the art is made by young people for a diverse audience: <http://restlessdance.org/>. During Australia Week, Restless Dance Theatre will perform and participate in workshops.

Restless will also participate in workshops and present for schools on Thursday 8 March.

*Venue: University of Papua New Guinea Main Lecture Theatre*

#### Thursday 8 March

##### 7:00 am International Women's Day Breakfast

To celebrate International Women's Day, the Australian High Commission and the Business and Professional Women's Group will once again jointly host a breakfast for business and community leaders, with speeches by women in leadership roles in PNG.

*Venue: Crowne Plaza Ballroom*

## Festival Events Program (Cont)

### **7:00 pm AUSTRALIA WEEK 2012 LIVE Concert**

The Australian High Commission will host a fabulous mix of Australian and Papua New Guinean artists to Port Moresby to perform in our Australia Week Live Concert. Artists will include:

**The Red Eyes** is a core group of seven multi-instrumentalist musicians that deliver an explosive live show combining masterful beats and shake the house dub rhythms with heartfelt lyrics that offer a unique spin on the broad reggae genre. The band is led on stage by enigmatic front man El Witeri (2011 APRA Songwriter Award Finalist). Recent release *Red Army* received critical acclaim including a nomination for Best Blues & Roots Album at the 2010 Australian Independent Record Label Awards and Album of the Week on PBS FM and Radio Australia.

**Busby Marou** is an Australian rock duo originally from Rockhampton in Queensland. The duo are characterised by their melodic guitar riffs and meaningful lyrics. The band primarily consists of Thomas Busby and Jeremy Marou, however several other musicians perform with the duo in concert. Jeremy is of Torres Strait Islander heritage, and both performers come from musical families. In 2009, the duo became one of five successful applicants for 'Break-through' – A Federal Government initiative supporting emerging indigenous contemporary musicians. The award assisted in the production of the band's debut, in June 2011, a record which includes their first hit single "Biding My Time". In 2010 they won the Indigenous Award at Brisbane's Q Song Awards and took out a Deadly for Most Promising New Talent in Music.

**Richard Mogu** hails from Amazon Bay, Milne Bay province on the south coast of Papua New Guinea and now resides in Port Moresby. Mogu has been a feature musician in PNG for many years, as a solo artists and session musician excelling in both traditional and contemporary style. Mogu is a multi instrumentalist. Whilst bass is his feature instrument he is also adept at bamboo flutes, garamut drumming, guitars and drums. Now through his relationship with Wantok Musik, he has released his debut solo album. Produced by Airi Ingram, Inagwe is an astonishing mix of contemporary and traditional PNG sounds. Mogu has created something distinctive and is part of the new sound of PNG.

**Telek** is a band, a man and, in some parts of the world, a legend. George Mamua Telek, or Telek as he is known to his legion of fans in PNG, has long been at the forefront of the local music scene. Telek's songs and his haunting voice, traverse many musical styles perfectly capturing the spirit of the proud cultural heritage of the Tolai people. Songs of the "midal" (magic charms) and "malira" (love magic) draw on Tolai culture blending contemporary grooves with Melanesian rhythms, enriched with textured environmental sounds.

*Venue: Gold Club, Lamana Hotel*

### **Friday 9 March**

#### **12:00 pm Australia Week Luncheon – 'Raising the profile of PNG in Australia'**

Guest Speaker: Parliamentary Secretary Richard Marles MP

*Venue: Grand Papua Hotel*

The event will include the awarding of prizes for an essay competition for Port Moresby Year 11 High School students.

#### **6:30 pm Sponsor Dinner**

A thank you reception for sponsors hosted by the High Commissioner at Bacchus Restaurant with guest Australian chef Andrew Fielke.

*Venue: Bacchus Restaurant, Airways Hotel*

#### **07:00 pm Australian Movie Night – 'Bran Nui Dae'**

*Venue: Madang*

### **Saturday 10 March**

#### **10:00 am Family Day**

The Australian High Commission will host a Family Day for AIDS orphans in conjunction with the Friends Foundation.

*Venue: Australian High Commission grounds*

#### **2:00 pm 'A Day of AFL'**

Curtain-raiser match between Papua New Guinean national and expatriate teams, followed by the main event: PNG Mossies v PNG Youth Team. Visiting AFL stars to play and coach.

North v South - PNG Women's League

Super Clinic (AUSKick) - 5 to 12 yr olds

Old Boys Game - PNG v Australia

AFL PNG Academy v Emerging Mosquitos (main game - excellent standard of football)

*Venue: Amini Park (free entry)*

### **Sunday 11 March**

#### **10:00 am 'Cricket: Battle of the Nations'**

'Battle of the Nations' cricket tournament, supported by Cricket PNG.

*Venue: Amini Park (free entry)*

#### **Throughout the week**

The Australian High Commission will partner with Netball Australia and PNG Netball to bring coaches and players to PNG to conduct clinics.