

# LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

29 June 2012

VOLUME: 25 - 12

### LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

Room 5, the Professionals Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
P O Box 265, Lae 411  
Morobe Province  
Papua New Guinea

Tel: (675) 472 2340  
Fax: (675) 472 6038

E-mail:  
[lcci@global.net.pg](mailto:lcci@global.net.pg)

Website:  
[www.lcci.org.pg](http://www.lcci.org.pg)

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*Thank you*

## FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

### ELECTIONS

#### 2012 National Election

Our disappointment when the polling for Lae was deferred by one day from the nominated day Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June was adequately expressed in our notices to members and the subsequent paragraph in Wednesdays newspapers. The Provincial Electoral Manager said that when the polling teams left to prepare the Polling Stations at 5 AM on Tuesday it was so wet, that they decided to defer the Polling to Wednesday as they feared papers and electoral equipment would be damaged. Surely there are plenty of dry places that could have been used for the voting to be conducted. As it turned out the rain was all over by 8 am and the elections could have proceeded unhindered. There should be no deferral of the voting unless there was an actual emergency. If rain was to have made polling impossible, then the polling could have been extended to the following day.

There is obviously a problem with the enrolment process, as so many eligible voters were not enrolled in Lae like so many other electorates in the Nation. This would not have been so bad, had the voters not voted in the last elections, but many eligible voters were turned away not having a name on the common roll – even though they had enrolled or had voted last time. The Electoral Commission says it encouraged eligible voters to enrol but it is obvious that there should have been more awareness and that a better mop up system should have been adopted.

It constantly amazes me how any people actually get around to voting at all, as there are just so many obstacles in the way. Even if the prospective voter is registered then he or she must stand around in queues for hours or has to go from one polling booth to another until they find where they are registered to vote.

When the electoral commission asked the business houses to assist their employees to vote on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, most companies went out of their way to help, by giving time off and some even gave the whole day off. The deferral of the elections by one day meant that the time off was taken on Tuesday and further time had to be allowed for the workers to vote on Wednesday. The loss of time, especially the loss of production in many of the manufacturing companies, will never be made up.



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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.

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## ELECTIONS (Cont.)

### URBAN SECTION OF HUON GULF OPEN ELECTORATE

As advised by notice to members yesterday, voting for the Lae Urban section of the Huon Gulf Open Electorate was also deferred from Tuesday. Unable to be held on Wednesday as first advised due to insufficient ballot papers, these polls are open for voting today.

The previous member for Lae Open and current candidate Bart Philemon indicated that the deferral of Tuesdays voting for the whole of Lae, may have not been only because of the inclement weather, but may have been due to a lack of ballot papers, equipment and preparedness by the Lae electoral teams. The delay in the Urban Huon Voting certainly indicates that this may well have been the case.

In general the disappointment and frustration on many eligible voters in Lae, who were turned away from these polls because their names had not been registered, is outrageous. Many people wanted to take this opportunity to play their role in making a difference in the next Government of the Country, and now find that they have been robbed of this chance.

This complaint seems to have been made in every electorate across the country and is being touted as an indication that the elections have been a failure. We have seen the same problem that of the non-enrolment of eligible voters occur in previous elections although it seems worse in the current elections. The Electoral Commission must make a real effort to correct this defect in the electoral process, otherwise it will get to a stage where people will refuse to enrol or vote, or take some other drastic step.

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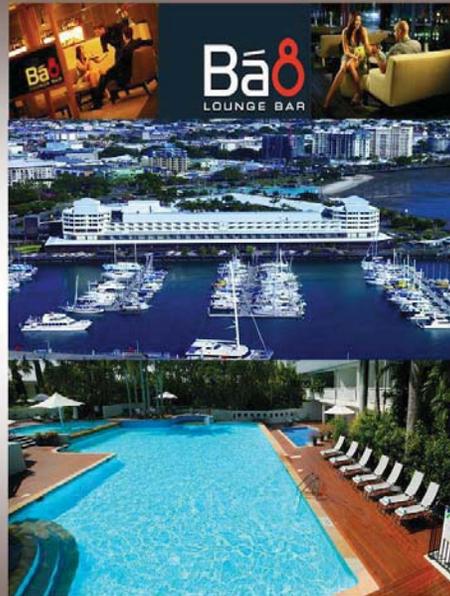
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## The PNG Cancer Relief Society

The PNG Cancer Relief Society is organizing a mega raffle the details of which will be announced in August after the Daffodil Golf Day. One of the prizes will be Airfares to Cairns courtesy of Airlines PNG and two night's accommodation at the Shangri-la Hotel in Cairns who have agreed to support our cause. Please see below for current special offer from the Hotel.

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**Update on the activities of the PNG Cancer Relief Society.**

Thank you to all who have supported the PNGCRS over the last 12 months. The number of companies and individuals that have supported the cause are just too numerous to mention but its pleasing to see the efforts and generosity of all to such a worthy cause.

**Thank You- Golf Day 2011.**

The Society would firstly like to express their gratitude for the support of Oil Search for its support in arranging the 2011 Golf Day major fund raising event of 2011. The event was a major success thanks to the tireless efforts of the company's representatives. **The funds raised from the day amounted to K109,430.** Not only did the event make a considerable contribution to the Society's funds but the day was very enjoyable for all participants and this has ensured the success of the 2012 event. The organizing committee members are already receiving enquiries by previous and new participants for the coming event. Interest is being expressed not only from companies in Lae but also from business houses and organizations from Goroka, Madang, Mt Hagen, New Britain and other centres.

**Other fund raising activities**

The Society recently organized a head shaving event at the Lae Yacht Club. The society raised approximately K35,000 from this activity. The Lae Yacht Club Ladies Circle also organized a fund raising dance on behalf of the Society and while funds are still being collected it is anticipated that approximately 30,000 kina will have been raised. We are most grateful for all the effort made by the organisers and the assistance of the sponsors for this event.

A Mega Raffle is also being organized and we have already obtained donations of major prizes for this event. It is anticipated that the raffle will be drawn in November 2012.

**Intended utilisation of funds**

It was agreed by the committee that the main assistance which the Society could give in treating cancer would be to assist in the acquisition of much needed medical equipment in order to improve existing detection, treatments and widen the range of cancers which the Centre is able to treat.

The order of priority for these acquisitions was deemed to be as follows:

**Kina**

- CT Scanner 1,300,000 (estimated)
- Fibrescopes 20,000
- Brachytherapy Machine 140,000
- Brachytherapy Sources 72,000
- Histopathology Machine 227,000
- Low energy X-ray machine 600,000 (estimated)



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*The purpose of the various items of equipment is as follows:*

**a) CT Scanner.**

CT stands for Computer tomology- The machine is able to pin point areas of cancer in the body and thereby enable both earlier detection of cancer and also enable radiologists and oncologists to be far more specific in their treatment plans. This machine is an essential piece of equipment in all Cancer Treatment Centres.

**b) Fiberscopes**

These are basically cameras which can be used to identify throat cancers and also to extract tissue samples for testing.

**c) Brachytherapy Machine**

This machine facilitates the treatment of cervical cancer, one of the biggest killers of PNG women

**d) Brachytherapy Sources**

These are tubes which are inserted manually to provide treatment for cervical cancer. This is for replacement of existing tubes which have lost their potency.

**d) Histopathology Machine**

This machine enables tissue samples to be tested for cancer. Currently all samples have to be sent to Port Moresby for evaluation taking weeks and delaying the treatment of patients.

**e) Low Energy Superficial X-Ray Machine**

This machine enables the treatment of Skin Cancer. There is currently no functioning machine in PNG

**Progress so far with the proposed acquisitions:**

Obviously this was a very big wish list; however it was thought that unless the Society strived for the acquisition of these major items nothing would happen. The results of our efforts, following in the order of the priority list above, are as follows:

**a)** Initial enquiries were therefore made by Dr. Niblett, the Cancer Centre Oncologist for the acquisition of a **CT scanner**. This involved contacting various experts in Australia to ensure that the machine which was identified was an appropriate Wide Bore machine suitable for review of Cancer patients and also of general use to Angau Hospital. In the process of making these enquiries the Health Department became involved and there is now a firm commitment by the Health Department to acquire two scanners, one for Lae and Port Moresby. While this process may be delayed due to the elections the committee decided that given the commitment and the extensive communication between, Dr Niblett, overseas specialists, The Health Department and Tenders Board representatives it was better for the Society to move down the list and leave the acquisition of the CT scanner to the Health Department.

**b)** The Society has already made a payment of K20,000 for two **Fiberscope's** and they are in the process of Delivery.

**c)** The Society then placed its concentration on the **Brachytherapy Machine**. This again involved some re-search and also the assistance of a volunteer who recently visited the Hospital and gave invaluable assistance in the establishment of a Brachiotherapy facility/ area for the machine to be located. It was then decided to contact the Port Moresby Cancer Relief society to see if they could go 50/50 on the acquisition of the machine. The Chairman of the Port Moresby Society on hearing our request from Doctor Niblett arranged for funds from the Gaming Board to be allocated for the purchase of the machine and payment has already been made to the supplier. Delivery is underway.

**d)** The society will send a TT on the 12<sup>th</sup> June to acquire the **Brachytherapy Sources**.

**e)** The **Histopathology** Machine has been approved for purchase by the Hospital Board from its own savings on other projects and shipment is in process.

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(f) **The Low Energy Superficial X-ray Machine** is therefore now the main focus of the fund raising. The Society already has funds exceeding K250,000 which can be allocated to this acquisition and we are hopeful that the Port Moresby CRS will assist with the acquisition.

With support being given by the Society and given the constant pressure from Dr. Niblett substantial progress has been made in obtaining this much needed equipment and we look forward to being in a position to acquire the **Low Energy Superficial X-ray Machine** later this year.

### Other activities and achievements

i) *Obtained numerous donations of equipment and time as follows:*

Food Liquidizer

Water Dispenser and a supply of water for patients.

Two colour televisions for the cancer wards

A 2000 gallon water tank

Installation of concrete base and plumbing for water tank

Water Pump

New concrete access to Brachiotherapy unit.

ii) *Continued to supply money where needed for:*

Bus fares for patients

Vegetables to make liquidized nutritious soups for patients who can swallow whole foods

Medicines which are sometimes in short supply.

iii) *Spent K7731 on the acquisition of renal stents which are essential for cervical cancer treatment.*

### Conclusion

The Society continues to make significant progress in saving and enhancing the lives of cancer patients. We once again acknowledge all our supporters who have helped the Society to achieve its objectives and we look forward to your ongoing support.

Kind regards

**Shelley Knox**  
**President**

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#### LCCI WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

*The LCCI newly re-vamped WEBSITE is up and running.*

*It is located at [www.lcci.org.pg](http://www.lcci.org.pg)*

*The website is easier to use with more useful information and provides some easy to use tools that you will find very handy for your business.*

#### ICC News Alert

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#### LCCI WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Most visitors to the new LCCI website have reported that it is functioning well and is a very interesting site.

Kuakawa Solutions a Sydney based company with strong PNG links has provided a most helpful service to develop this site.

Some members have seen that details of their company are not yet included in the **LCCI MEMBERS SECTION**. A quick message to the LCCI has this fixed immediately.

Please send any further comments or suggestions on the website direct to our email address – [lcci@global.net.pg](mailto:lcci@global.net.pg). The website is at [www.lcci.org.pg](http://www.lcci.org.pg).



ICC publishes new volume of Banking Commission official opinions Paris, 28 June 2012

ICC announced today the publication of ICC Banking Commission Opinions 2009-2011, the latest volume in a series of renowned books of Commission Opinions dating back more than four decades.

<http://www.iccwbo.org/News/Articles/2012/ICC-publishes-new-volume-of-Banking-Commission-official-opinions/>

Still on hand are a few PNG REPORT April/May edition.

Collect your copy before we run out

# PNGREPORT

The latest edition for April/May 2012 of this magazine is now on display at the Lae Chamber of Commerce. Read the reports on the HIDDEN GOLD TRADE, JUDICIAL BILL CONTROVERSY, BIG BAD AND UGLY FREIGHT and FREEDOM'S LAST STAND, when you get your free copy of this April/May 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). or just come into the chambers and pick up your copy.

Second edition of:

## Made in PNG

The second edition of 'Made in PNG' - [www.madeinpng.com](http://www.madeinpng.com) is now in production and will be out at the end of August this year, and will be available through the LCCI.

The flagship publication of PNG's manufacturing, agribusiness and downstream processing sectors has three aims:

1. showcase the best of PNG produce, both primary and processed
2. raise the profile of these sectors both within PNG and internationally
3. promote PNG exports to enhance the "Made in PNG" brand in the eyes of international buyers.

It is produced by Business Advantage International in partnership with the Manufacturers Council (and with the support of LCCI).

Paid advertising opportunities are available.

At the same time, producers are also encouraged to submit information and images about their products/commodities (editorial coverage is free of charge).

For more information contact Robert Hamilton-Jones on [rhj@businessadvantageinternational.com](mailto:rhj@businessadvantageinternational.com) or +61 3 9935 2977.

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## NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE PRIVATE SECTOR SURVEY

This is a final call to all our participants in the Private Sector Survey to return all the completed questionnaires for data entry. We anticipate having all completed questionnaires in by the first week of July.

The LCCI will receive the completed questionnaires and pass them on the NRI.

