



LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

30 August 2013

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LAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.

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The website is maintained by Kuakawa Business Solutions on support@kuakawa.biz.

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Thank you

FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

CHANGE OF THE GUARD

The long serving AUSTRALIAN HONORARY CONSUL for Lae, Phil Franklin handed over the reins of the position, to Alan McLay in a ceremony during a buffet dinner hosted by the Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms. Deborah Stokes at the Lae International Hotel this week.

www.postcourier.com.pg

Lae to benefit from Aust aid

By FRANCO NEBAS

LAE will benefit directly from the agreement signed by the Australian and Papua New Guinea government on additional assistance to PNG.

Her Excellency Ms Deborah Stokes said this during the official buffet dinner to thank the outgoing Honorary Consul for Australia, Phil Franklin, in Lae yesterday.

Mr Franklin was replaced by long time Lae resident and president of Lae Chamber of Commerce, Alan McLay.

Ms Stokes said a Joint Understanding was signed by the two governments in July this year for additional Australian assistance to PNG, especially in health, education and law and order.

She said this will include Australia being partner with PNG in support of the reconstruction and management of the Angau Memorial hospital.

"This includes funding of senior management personal to operate under an independent hospital board, accelerated funding support

for the implementation of the redevelopment master plan and scope of works, and 50 per cent of the capital costs associated with the reconstruction," she said.

PNG will fund the remaining 50 per cent and ongoing recurrent operational cost.

Ms Stokes said Lae would also benefit from the 50 Australian Federal Police personnel who under the Joint Understanding will be deployed to PNG to strengthen community policing and evidence based operations.

"The police will be deployed to Port Moresby and Lae before Christmas, where they will work hand in hand with RPNGC officers in advisory and mentoring capacities," she said.

She said PNG was like Australia, blessed with being rich in natural resources, but also with particular challenges to the economy from such riches.

"Australia is working closely with the PNG government to support the establishment of a credible sovereign wealth fund," she said.

Phil has been the Honorary Consul to Lae for 20 years, and was able to recount many incidents – some amusing – during his speech to accept a certificate of appreciation signed by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The dinner became a highlight of the visit by Ms. Stokes and her team of Australian experts, at which she was able to visit a number of institutions and businesses including the new Lae Port, Angau Hospital, University of Technology and Trukai factory. She also met senior Provincial Public Servants including the Administrator as well as business leaders.

Ms. Stokes led three information sessions with respective experts, on the following topics:

1. New online Australian Visas
2. Opportunities for national and local business in Lae associated with the Resettlement Programme, and
3. The official opening of the AusAID Emergency Relief Supply Warehouse in Lae.

Ms. Stokes left Lae very impressed by the city's focus on manufacturing industries with the advantage of being centrally located for easy distribution of manufactured goods to the bulk of the country. For this reason, Lae was the natural site for the Emergency Supply Warehouse.

Reports on these information sessions appear on following pages.



OUTGOING Honorary Consul Phil Franklin, left, Her Excellency Deborah Stokes, and incumbent Alan Maclay at the handover ceremony

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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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The Australian Government simplifies Visas

The Australian High Commissioner and Immigration specialist Scott Mann advised Lae businesses of the PNG Online Visitor (subclass 600) Visa.

For people intending to travel to Australia on a temporary basis for tourism or business purposes.

- Tourism includes holidays, recreation and visiting family and/or friends.
- Work is not permitted except for business visitor activities.

Business visitor activities includes attending a conference, negotiations or an exploratory business visit.

To find out more information or to lodge an application please visit the [PNG Online Visitor](http://www.png-online-visitor.gov.au) page or go to www.png.highcommission.gov.au/pmsb/visas.html.

What do I need to lodge an application online?

A PNG Online Visitor application can be lodged anywhere there is internet access. You can apply yourself or you can arrange for another person to make the application on your behalf.

If you choose to apply yourself, you will need access to a scanner and credit card. You can also provide your email address to receive timely communication about your application.

About the PNG Online Visitor

The PNG Online Visitor was introduced as a result of the close working relationship between the Australian and Papua New Guinea governments and to make it easier and more convenient to apply for a Visitor visa.

The PNG Online Visitor provides clients with an additional visa lodgement option. PNG citizens applying from PNG will now be able to apply for a visa to visit Australia without having to present or post their visa applications to the Australian Visa Application Centre. Processing times for the PNG Online Visitor are also fast where all relevant documents have been provided.

Applicants should note there are reduced documentary requirements for those who have held an Australian visa in the past two years. Please see the [Document Checklist](#) for details.



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ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE LCCI WEBSITE

More and more companies are promoting their business through the LCCI Website. At the moment this can be easily set up and is currently operating as a free service. Go to your LCCI website at www.lcci.org.pg and see what is on offer.

As well as this you will see that many companies have linked their website to the LCCI website. The benefit of this is that potential clients may just hook up after seeing your business when browsing our Website. If of course you run an advertisement on the same page, the potential customer may see exactly what he or she is seeking to find.

Click here to - [Contact the LCCI Website to find out how!](#)

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH THE NEWSLETTER

Whilst we do run regular paid advertisements in the newsletter, we have a standard offer to Profile your business, as a one off opportunity – free of charge deal. All we need is for you to put together information on your business, what it does and the main contacts. This can be up to one page in size with limited graphics. Send it electronically to the Chamber and we will include it in the next newsletter publication **Free of Charge.**

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Business Opportunities

A Power Point presentation was made by the Australian High Commission at an Information Session on business opportunities associated with the Resettlement Programme, in the Lae International Hotel on Wednesday this week.

This presentation was to have been made available to the LCCI in time for today's newsletter but due to internet problems this has not been possible. It will be sent to members when it is received.

Neill Skill, the Deputy Assistant Secretary (Immigration and Citizenship), said that the program is committed to give local and national businesses as much opportunity to participate as possible.

So far the Manus Asylum temporary Centre has been expanded with 400 person accommodation being completed this week on an existing soccer field. The expansion of a further temporary centre at Lorengau will wait until after the Federal elections in Australia.

As reported in the following article, two companies Decmil (manage contracts) and Red Sea Housing (housing facilities) were selected to get the project underway and completed urgently. They have the internationally recognised qualifications to get projects moving in a hurry and Toll Logistics were used to make sure the project was run smoothly.

There is still a lot of work to be done – Refugees accommodation; Staff Accommodation (200 Bedroom); Primary Healthcare facility; Office Accommodation; Recreational Facilities, Office Block, Warehouse; Welfare Centre with consulting rooms etc.

Also there will be employment opportunities for tradesmen from all trades. Interested companies are asked to register their EOI at regionalinfrastructure@immi.gov.au (I will confirm this email address when I get further documents). All companies associated with the project will need to supply proof of having at least 50% PNG Workforce and provide training and mentoring for PNG Nationals (need for a detailed local participation and engaging plan). It was noted that the existing contracted companies Decmil and Red Sea Housing, will also need to comply with the 50% PNG workforce and Local Participation Plan.

It is envisaged that most food will be sourced from PNG, with only a small amount to come from Australia.

Further information will be made available when it is on hand.

AusAID Emergency Relief Supply Warehouse

On Thursday morning Ms. Stokes accompanied by Mr. James Hall, Deputy Head of Aid PNG officially opened the AusAID Emergency Relief Supply Warehouse in Lae. This warehouse is in the Express Freight Management yard, with the entrance from Able-Tasman Street.

The warehouse carries non-food supplies for instant dispersal for any disaster relief emergency.

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**Business Advantage
article of the week!**

**More stories are
available on the
Business Advantage
Website.**

[Business Advantage](#)



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Business Advantage PNG

YOUR GATEWAY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE REGION

Briefings for local businesses on accessing Manus Island contracts

29 Aug 2013 by [Business Advantage](#)

The Australian Government has moved to allay fears that Papua New Guinea companies will lose out on valuable contracts as the Manus Island detention centre is developed by holding business briefings this week.

While Australian Government has reached an agreement with the O'Neill government to expand the asylum-seeker detention centre to cater for as many as 6,000 people, local businesses have complained that so far, non-PNG companies are the only beneficiaries of the new contracts.

According to Chey Scovell, Chief Executive Officer of the Manufacturers Council, local businesspeople were frustrated to learn that a Saudi Arabian company, Red Sea Housing, would provide accommodation. An Australian company, Decmil, has been given an AUD\$137 million contract to build a new processing centre in the island's capital, Lorengau.

Scovell said local companies could provide these services.

A deputy secretary of Australia's Immigration Department, Neil Skill, is in the country this week to talk to local business leaders about how they can take advantage of contracts. Skill has been briefing business people on Manus Island, and in Lae and Port Moresby.

An Immigration Department statement from Canberra said Skill would 'provide an overview of the type of work to be undertaken at the permanent centre at Lorengau and the type that could be expected if the Lombrum centre is expanded further'.

Chey Scovell told *Business Advantage PNG* he hoped the briefings would outline the means by which local business people could access contracts.

How Australia's election could affect Manus Island

Australians go to the polls on 7 September to elect a new parliament. The outcome is likely to affect the country's immigration policy and by extension its arrangements in PNG.

If re-elected, the Labor Government's current policies would continue:

- Asylum seekers who arrive by boat will never be settled in Australia
- They will be sent to Manus Island or elsewhere in PNG for assessment
- Genuine refugees will be resettled in PNG
- The agreement will be in place for at least the next 12 months
- There will be no cap on the number of refugees to be settled in PNG
- Manus I detention centre to be expanded to house 3,000, up from its original capacity of 600
- Labor will increase Australia's refugee intake from 13,750 to 20,000 per year; at least 12,000 of those places to be quarantined for those refugees in overseas camps.
- *If elected, a Liberal-National Coalition Government would:*
- Direct the Australian Navy the turn boats back to Indonesia when it is safe to do so
- Establish a military-led response to border protection called Operation Sovereign Borders
- Mandatory detention for all boat arrivals
- Offshore processing on Nauru and Manus Island
- Boost capacity on Nauru to house 2,000 people, eventually up to 5,000
- Impose behaviour protocols on asylum seekers on bridging visas
- Prioritise claims of asylum seekers in refugee camps over claims of boat arrivals
- Maintain Australia's refugee intake at 13,750.



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Australian Elections

Will you need to
vote?

How will you be
able to vote?



Australian federal election

An Australian federal election and will be held on 7 September 2013.
Voting will be available at Australian High Commission,
Port Moresby (Godwit Road Waigani, NCD)

Voting Times

Monday 26 - Friday 30 August between 0900 - 1600

Monday 2 - Friday 6 September between 0900 - 1600

Saturday 7 September between 0900 - 1600

If you are unable to vote in person, you can apply for a postal vote by contacting the Australian High Commission (AHC), Port Moresby who will send you via email or fax a Postal Vote Application form (PVA) which you will need to fill in and return it to the AHC. If the criteria are met the AHC will then send out the appropriate ballot papers through the post which you will need to post back to the AHC.

You must be enrolled in Australia for your vote to be counted.

To check if you are enrolled go to www.aec.gov.au.

You can contact the Australian High Commission at www.png.embassy.gov.au, by calling (675) 325 9333 or by email ahcpmsb_consular@dfat.gov.au.

More information on the Australian federal election is available from www.aec.gov.au, or by calling +61 2 6273 8606

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**Crime Continues in
Lae**

Although the Police have certainly curbed crime significantly this week, there is still enough crime to indicate that everyone must still take all precautions necessary.

This morning a Guard Dog Security Services vehicle was attacked and shot at when picking up clients staff, at three mile.

Therefore our advice to all members is to continue your vigil, make sure you report any suspicious vehicles and unknown groups of people near your house or place of work. Secure your premises at all times and employ a security guard if possible. When driving lock all the doors and windows of your vehicle and avoid going into unknown or notably unsafe areas. Steer clear of unknown groups of people.

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LAE ROADS

You will have seen the tender notices in the newspapers over the past few days, for upgrading sections of the Lae Roads. These are summarized as follows:

1. TENDER NO. CSTB NO: 2916 - Provide Consultancy Services for the Survey and detailed design for reconstruction of **Milfordhaven Road to 4 Lane traffic Road from Milfordhaven/Markham Road Junction to Lae Main Wharf gate** (2.0 km), in the City of Lae, Morobe Province.
2. TENDER NO. CSTB NO: 2917 - Provide Consultancy Services for the Survey, geotechnical investigation and detailed design for the construction of the **Independence drive from Unitech Main gate to Bumayong Market** (4.12 km) in Morobe Province.
3. TENDER NO. CSTB NO: 2918 – Pavement Rehabilitation and Concrete surfacing of **Milfordhaven Road (1.0 km) from Huon/Milfordhaven Road Junction to Bumbu Police Barracks Junction and Butibam Road (1.1km) from Chinatown Roundabout Junction to and Butibam/Markham Road Junction** (package 2) in Lae, Morobe Province.
4. TENDER NO. CSTB NO: 2919 – Pavement Recycling, Stabilization and Asphalt surfacing of **Boundary Road, Buimo Road, Cassowary Road, Mangola Street, Malaita Street and Jawani Street** (Package 3) in Lae, Morobe Province.
5. TENDER NO. CSTB NO: 2920 – Pavement Recycling, Stabilization and Asphalt surfacing of **Telikom College Road, Igam Barracks Road, Orion Road, and Rigel Road** (Package 4) in Lae, Morobe Province.
6. TENDER NO. CSTB NO: 2921 – Pavement Recycling, Stabilization and Sealing of **Busu Road from Malahang IFC gate (Ch0+00km) to Bumayong Market (Ch6+29km)** Package 5, in Lae, Morobe Province

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Tenders are out
For upgrading 6
Further roads under
The LCRRP

LAE ROADS (Cont)

These tenders will see a proper design and redevelopment of the mentioned roads, which will link most of the planned roads under the Lae City Roads Rehabilitation Project.

The roads that are seemingly in a real mess at the moment are the ones that were started to be reconstructed with bitumen and then were stopped, so as to have the scope changed to cement. These are Bumbu Road from the Salvation Hostel to Kamkumung Bridge (FTM) and Markham Road from the Coronation Drive Junction to Chinatown (EW1). The excessive rain of course made the uncompleted work become a real mess.

We understand a tender for the reconstruction of Aircorp Road has already been approved by the CSTB and that a contract has been signed.



The LCCI has operated the Business Mentoring Programme in Lae for 10 months which has already seen many successes.

As mentioned last week the Lae Chamber of Commerce is an agent for the Pacific Business Mentoring Programme. The aim is to strengthen business enterprises (especially the smaller to medium sized) and to foster employment through a mentoring facility aimed at Lae Businesses. After our first 10 months we have established a good base of clientele, but as the programme is expanding, we are now looking at adding further clients:

- The feedback from existing Lae clients is extremely positive.
- We are looking for businesses that drive the economy (agriculture, export, import substitution, manufacturing)
- The New Zealand mentors are experienced business people and have helped many business owners with valuable input in all sorts of areas including marketing, financial understanding, staff issues etc
- The programme is free of charge and sponsored by NZAid
- Interested people should get in touch with Wendie at the Chamber on 472 2340 or at info@lcci.org.pg.
- New client intake in October will be on a first come first served basis. Only a few seats are available. Grab the opportunity now!

We do thank the members, who after reading our article last week made valuable introductions to future clients. We still have a few places, so if you believe that an established company would benefit from this programme, ask them to contact Wendie or provide their details to Wendie so she can follow up.



Broadcast Message

Monday-19th August 2013

To: All our Value Clients in Lae,

This is an email broadcast to inform you, our valued clients in Lae & PNG that our team of technicians had started PBX Relocation exercise over the weekend from Huon Gulf Post Office for installation at Lae Top-Town Post Office.

All EMS Logistics & Huon Gulf Post Office Landline communications have been re-linked to this exchange; Our Call Center CSO-Ms. Ginia Simeon & Mary Ravu have been also relocated to Lae Post Office site to manage this task.

They will take/screen all our Operations in-coming landline calls and flag to stakeholders concerned via our company CUG phones.

Our Current status:

- EMS/Huon Gulf PO Landlines have been relocated to Lae Post Office,
- Communication link via emails is highly encouraged – emails not affected during this move

EMS LAE CALL CENTER - Toll Free No. 180 4999 Fax No. 472 2761

- CSO – Ms. Ginia Simeon – 7204 2011 / Ms. Mary Ravu – 7204 2066
- GEN/EMAIL : emscallcenter.lae@postpng.com.pg

PHONE LINES

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|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| • EMS LAE Call Center | - 473 0500/ 473 0508 | 7204 2011/ 7204 2066 |
| • Sales & Marketing | - 473 0517/ 473 0519 | 7204 2053/ 7204 1178 |
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| • Finance & Admin | - 473 0524/ 473 0500 | 72042066 |
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Post PNG Ltd through its EMS Logistics Business Unit extends its sincere apologies for any inconveniences caused & assures that your pick-up call is important to our business; our Customer Service Officers will activate in timely manner.