



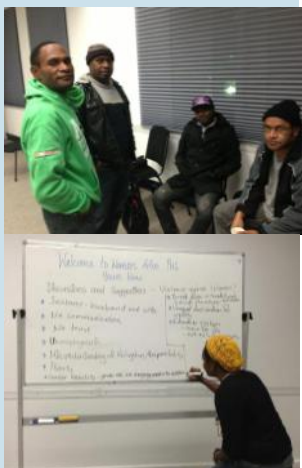
25-07-2013

RIP Rachael Gabb—We remember our sister and friend, Rachael, who very sadly passed away quite untimely on the 11th of July and was farewelled by her family and friends and the community on the 19th of July at the Greensborough Lutheran Church. You will be in all our hearts forever.

HAUS KRAI—MELB 14th May 2013

Haus Krai was a National mourning day for women by women. It was supported all over PNG by men and women as well as all the world where there were congregation of PNGians. Here in Melbourne, we facilitated a venue for the event which was well attended by everyone.

The outcome of the gathering was captured and a formulated document was forwarded on to the Administrators of Haus Krai, PNG. Hopefully we will see a more tolerable society where women and children aren't scared to walk down the street.



Greetings

Hello Wantoks.

Hope you are keeping warm as winter has definitely set in. It can be cold but then, it is also a beautiful season to rug up and enjoy different activities like skiing, snow boarding, etc.

It has also been a sad time for the PNG community of Melbourne with the untimely passing of our sister and friend, Rachael Gabb. We

will cherish her smiles and kind ways, as many different people were touched by her in different ways. May she rest in peace.

Anyway, as life must go on, we have a **fundraiser on the 10th of August** for the St Andrews Nursing College in Sapandai village, Ambunti, East Sepik Province. They are in need of some equipment such as Footscale, Ortoscope, etc., which we are fundraising for. If you are have a free Saturday,

please come along and support this worthy cause. There will be live PNG music by Andrew Kopada.

Please feel free to contact any of the committee members, or drop us a line to our email address: wantokgroupvic@gmail.com about anything or if you have an idea of a fundraiser, or if you want Wantoks Group and the community to help in any way.

PNG A DUMPING GROUND????

As you've seen or heard in the mainstream media recently, the hot topic is **"If you arrive into Australia by boat illegally, you are off to PNG"**. Is it only me or do you also think that this puts a bad connotation on Papua New Guinea's image? I hope I'm wrong.

The people of PNG have always welcomed other people but is the country ready for a sudden influx?? And is it being used as a dumping ground, or can we put a positive spin on it? Only time will tell.

Here's an article by Rowan Callick in Post Courier that sheds some insight into this undertaking by the two Govts:

"Reforged Aust-PNG ties 'extra-ordinary' By Rowan Callick Asia-Pacific Editor

Papua New Guinea's can-do Prime Minister Peter O'Neill is shouldering the burden of recasting his country's crucial relationship with Australia through a huge project that is likely to chew up much of his immense political capital. In contrast, the new asylum seeker deal is set to add massively to the political capital of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who started with

so little. The deal comprises the most extraordinary shift in the relationship between the neighbours — only a canoe-ride apart — since PNG gained its independence from an Australia led by Gough Whitlam, in 1975. It also comprises an immense challenge to the capacity of PNG to deliver — a capacity which has been proven in vast private sector projects such as the \$19 billion ExxonMobil led gas project, but has frequently failed in the public sector.

There is growing popular antipathy to Asian immigrants in PNG — reflected in crimes of violence and of theft, and protests and demonstrations that are increasingly focused on the unpopular manner in which small businesses, especially fast food and convenience stores, have recently been de-localised, chiefly by people from China. Papua New Guineans are very welcoming people, who are also overwhelmingly, staunchly Christian. Islam has had a low profile, with only a single, modest sized permanent mosque in the country, at Hohola in Port Moresby. But the prospect of many thousands of Muslim arrivals will pose a huge challenge to community coherence. Mr O'Neill — who dominates the post-Michael Somare

political world in PNG — now claims the support of 101 of the 111 parliamentarians, and used this majority this week to push through the first reading of constitutional reforms that will make it harder to set up a vote of no confidence in governments. He will have to find a way to present this new deal in a way that does not sound like recolonisation or doing Canberra's bidding, and that casts it as a win-win for ordinary Papua New Guineans, many of whom are doing it tough in the fight for housing and jobs. This will challenge even his immense political skills, which reflect in PNG the touch that Mr Rudd displays among voters in Australia. Mr O'Neill won a fortnight ago, a victory in the Supreme Court against opposition leader Belden Namah, who had sought to close down the Manus asylum seeker processing centre on the grounds that it was unconstitutional. The lawyer who took this case on behalf of Mr Namah said on Friday that he would resurrect it in the light of the new announcement from Brisbane, but faces long odds against achieving a different verdict. It remains unclear where the asylum seekers will be processed. The temporary centre on Manus island



Announcements

Happy 9th Birthday to Vicky.

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Happy birthday to Samantha Bandi.

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A big 19th Happy Birthday to Samson.

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Not forgetting Susa, Mansis Bandi—Happy Birthday.



Marj Walker is currently in Sogeri, PNG. Here, she is meeting with some ex-students of Sogeri, in Port Moresby.

State Schools Spectacular, held at Hisense Arena for two shows only, will proudly bring together students from Victorian government schools in a stunning explosion of dance, music and song with the show also celebrating a diversity of performance mediums that include choir, vocal, drama, circus and orchestra.

When: Saturday July 27 - 11am & 5pm

Good luck to all the kids taking part. :)

PNG A DUMPING GROUND??? Cont...

houses at present about 250 people, set to increase to 600 once the permanent construction for which plans have been made, is completed.

Thousands will now need to be processed on Manus — whose MP Ron Knight says he wants the island's airport

to be upgraded to international standard, and the Australian navy to patrol the extensive fishing zone, in return.

Mr Rudd also mentioned "other parts of PNG" — which could include a site adjacent to Port Moresby airport that is government owned, but inconveniently

houses about 3,000 squatters. Implementation of policy, in terms of time, quality and potential for corruption, has long been a challenge in PNG — and there is no guarantee that the vast new asylum seeker project will be immune.

The PNG scheme will require a considerably bigger restructuring of the whole aid budget."

Don't let Rudd Dump Refugees on Papua New Guinea

RALLY



Go along and have your say: SAT 27th, 1PM, State Library, Cnr Swanston and Latrobe St, City

Up and Coming Events

Put these dates in your calendars

July 27th—Tribal Night—BY PNGAAV
COLLINGWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN CENTRE
EDDY COURT ABBOTSFORD
MELWAY REF 2C 10H

10th August—Wantoks fundraiser for St Andrews Nursing College

Venue: Edinburg Gardens Community Hall

Time: 7pm till 12:30.

Gate: \$5 (Kids under 12 free). Adults—\$10

There will be drinks and hot dogs for sale (\$2). LIVE PNG Music by Andrew Kopada. Hope to see you there.

14th September 2013—PNG INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

Venue: Aboriginal Advancement Hall, 2 Watt St, Thornbury

Time: 6:30pm—12:30am

Entertainment: TBA

FREE EVENTS:

* **1st September (Sunday)—2013 Martyrs Day at St Peter's Eastern Hill.**

* **Open House Melbourne**— 27th and 28th July. More info here: <http://www.openhousemelbourne.org/>

* **Melbourne International Film Festival** celebrates 62 years as one of Australia's key cinema events and also one of the world's oldest film festivals. Held at various venues, the program features films from across the globe, special guests, Q&A screenings and much more with documentaries, short films and much more.

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