



**Journal of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea**  
ISSN: 0023-1959

Vol. 29

December 2011



# Language & Linguistics in Melanesia

The Journal of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea  
ISSN: 0023-1959

Vol. 29, December, 2011

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## EDITORIAL

Forty-four years ago (in October, 1967), the Linguistic Society of Papua and New Guinea (LSPNG) was formed at the University of Papua New Guinea “to promote the study of linguistics and to provide for its members a forum for discussion” (Kivung, Vol. 2 No. 1, 1969). The Society held “monthly meetings during the academic year, at which original papers were presented and special topics discussed” (ibid.). *Kivung* (originally, a four-monthly journal) came to be in April, 1968. Through the years, it grew in influence and reach. Renamed *Language & Linguistics in Melanesia (LLM)* in 1981-1982, the journal acquired even more popularity worldwide. One of the most important ambitions of its ‘pioneers’ was to train local Melanesian linguists.

The Linguistics programme at the University of Papua New Guinea is now staffed mostly by indigenous linguists, a testimony to Kivung/LLM founders’ efforts to awaken linguistic thought in Melanesia. After a rather prolonged hibernation,<sup>1</sup> the maiden online issue of LLM (Vol. 29, 2011) is unfolding in your browser, thanks to LSPNG conference decision<sup>2</sup> to revive the journal in the digital format.

The re-birth of LLM online ([www.langlxmelanesia.com](http://www.langlxmelanesia.com)) is another living testament of LSPNG Founders’ success in engendering and nurturing Melanesian linguistics. Indigenous linguists of the region have now joined the ranks of the journal’s veteran editors and are ready to carry the torch ignited forty-four years ago. Linguistics in Melanesia has now found its voice in LLM online; the power of the Internet will make it heard around the world.

### **Kenneth M. Sumbuk**

Managing Editor LLM

University of Papua New Guinea

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

As the editor of what was then Kivung -- way back when ... -- I must admit to considerable disappointment when Kivung's successor, Language and Linguistics in Melanesia, ground to a halt and ceased publication. The languages of this part of the world reflect an amazing cultural heritage, an amazing diversity, and for these reasons alone they deserve their own journal.

It is thus a very great pleasure to see that LLM has at last been revived, and will be made available in its new online format. I congratulate all of those associated with the rising of the phoenix from the ashes, most notably Olga Temple, who has worked very hard to get LLM rolling again; and I wish all those associated with the journal the very best in their efforts to document the languages of our region.

### **John Lynch**

Associate Editor LLM

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<sup>1</sup> LLM Vol. 28, 1997 was the last link in the almost 30-year-long chain of publications

<sup>2</sup> September, 2011, hosted by SIL in Ukarumpa