

## **The 46<sup>th</sup> Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea Annual General Meeting**

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**Date:** 19 September 2014

**Chair:** Craig Volker (in the absence of Priscilla Kona)

**Time:** 09.30 am – 11.00 am

**Venue:** Alexishafen Conference Centre,  
Madang

### **1.0 Welcome**

Chair welcomed all the members to the Annual General Meeting and stated that the purpose was to discuss outstanding society issues.

### **2.0 Attendance**

#### **2.1 Present**

Craig Volker	Divine Word University
Olga Temple	University of Papua New Guinea
Don Niles	Institute of PNG Studies
Ryan Pennington	SIL
Stephanie Sageo-Tapungu	Divine Word University
Bob Litteral	SIL
Dick Thomas	University of Papua New Guinea
Mark Solon	University of Goroka
Robbie Peterson	SIL
Debbie Peterson	SIL
Neil Coulter	SIL
Phil King	SIL

David Gil	Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
Alan Rumsey	Australian National University
Francesca Merlan	Australian National University
Hiroko Sato	University of Hawaii
Robert Boyd	SIL
Brian Paris	Pioneer Bible Translators
Nigel Baro	University of Papua New Guinea/PNG Binatang Research Centre
Peter Maitz	University of Augsburg
Malinda Ginmaule	SIL
Fiona Silo	University of Papua New Guinea
James Slotta	University of California
Grant Aiton	James Cook University

## **2.2 Apologies**

Kilala Devette-Chee            University of Papua New Guinea

## **2.3 Absent**

Priscilla Kona                    University of Papua New Guinea

## **3.0 Agenda Items**

### **3.1 *Nomination of Executive (Chairperson)***

Olga Temple nominated Kilala Devette-Chee to be the Chairperson due to her incipient influential position with National Research Institute, and her location in Port Moresby.

Kilala is willing to stand, though she was not present due to an urgent meeting that made her return to Port Moresby.

**Affirmed by all:** Kilala Devette-Chee (UPNG) is the next executive (chairperson) of LSPNG

### **3.2 Nomination of Secretary**

Olga nominated either Priscilla Kona (UPNG) or someone from SIL, someone who could have constant contact with Kilala. Don Niles nominated Stephanie Sageo-Tapungu who accepted the nomination.

**Affirmed by all:** Stephanie Sageo-Tapungu is the next secretary of LSPNG

### **3.3 Nomination of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer**

Craig Volker suggested that Robbie Petterson stays on in this position, and Robbie accepted the suggestion.

Olga mentioned that she (& others with her) have many ideas for how to seek funding from government agencies for the association; possibly producing more work for the treasurer. Therefore, Robbie suggested nominating an assistant treasurer, someone who is local. Thus, Priscilla Kona was suggested, since she is in Port Moresby and is capable of filling in due to her location near fundraising opportunities.

**Affirmed by all:** Robbie Peterson continues his role as Treasurer and Priscilla Kona is the Assistant Treasurer of LSPNG.

### **3.4 Location/Venue for next Conference**

Craig Volker suggested Goroka to be the venue for the next conference. However, Olga Temple suggested Port Moresby because the government agencies and NGOs that count are all located in Port Moresby and, thus, will be more accessible to us. The other members disagreed warning that even invited politicians are unlikely to attend.

David Gil stated that Goroka would be a cheaper and safer alternative to Port Moresby, if the society is trying to attract graduate students to attend the conferences. Phil King

supported this suggestion, acknowledging the value of getting the University of Goroka students involved by having the conference there. Debbie Petterson also agreed that there was a possibility that politicians could attend even if it were held in Goroka.

All agreed for Goroka to be the venue for the next conference. However, the venue changed when Anne Marie Wanamp from the University of Goroka (via SMS) turned down the suggestion by explaining that university politics may prevent this from occurring.

After more discussions, **it was decided that LSPNG 2015 will be held in Port Moresby, followed by LSPNG 2016 in Goroka.**

### **3.5 *Date of the next conference***

After much discussion and deliberation from members from different universities in PNG and overseas, it was decided that **LSPNG 2015 would be held in the last week of June 2015.**

### **3.6 *Treasurer's Report***

LSPNG had a bank account with K 3000 in it in Goroka, but this account was locked (went "dormant") due to inactivity for a year, so the Treasurer moved the money to an SIL account for ease of access. Current balance is **\$327/ K784** after various expenses throughout the year.

Craig Volker stated that Divine Word University had quite a shortfall due to University of Goroka absence this year and asked for any shortfall to be met by extra LSPNG funds. However, he revoked this request when it was stated that LSPNG money was needed to be kept for maintaining the website.

Neil Coulter stated that SIL was happy to pay a yearly membership fee of about K200, but requested an official invoice in order to get the payments processed and Don Niles stated that IPNGS would also do the same.

It was agreed that **Craig Volker and Stephanie Sageo-Tapungu would provide an invoice in order to receive membership dues from SIL & IPNGS.**

### **3.7 Editor's Report**

All printed volumes of our journal, which started as *Kivung* (1968-1980) but was later renamed *Language & Linguistics in Melanesia* (1981-1997), have been scanned and made freely available online – a great achievement, which would have been impossible without SIL assistance (particularly, without Dr. Ray Stegeman's dedicated effort and unwavering support). Our journal has been recognized as an invaluable resource by linguists all over the world; SIL-International in Dallas, for example, have downloaded and archived all issues of LLM.

Language & Linguistics in Melanesia made a comeback as a free-access online journal of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea in November 2011, in accordance with LSPNG AGM 2011 decision in Ukarumpa. Its new digital format offers contributors an unprecedented flexibility in terms of MS submission deadlines. In line with current LLM policy, a new volume of LLM opens on Jan. 1 of each year, and closes on Dec. 31 – thus, Vol. 29 No. 1&2, Vol. 30 No. 1&2, and Vol. 31 No. 1&2 (plus the Special Issue 2012) have been published since 2011. The current Vol. 32/1 will remain open until December 31, 2014. LSPNG conference proceedings are published in No. 2 of each volume (proceedings of LSPNG 2014 will be published at the end of November 2014). All original manuscripts (unlike conference proceedings) are published after a thorough double anonymous review.

LLM Vol. 32/1 has only two papers this year so Olga asked the members to contribute/solicit publications for Language & Linguistics in Melanesia.

Neil mentioned that the no-deadline approach may be hurting LLM and suggested to have themes with their deadlines. The Editor, however, defended the considered LLM policy decision, citing its effectiveness in the past few years.

#### ***Position paper regarding education policy***

Robbie Petterson provided some of the first quantitative evidence for the failure of English-only education to non-English-speaking communities during this conference. The paper would be of interest to all stakeholders in Education PNG.

### **3.8 Publicity**

LSPNG needs publicity as many in PNG are not aware of its existence and purpose. Press releases, conference communiques and, of course, our online presence ([www.langlxmelanesia.com](http://www.langlxmelanesia.com) and the LLM FB page) make the important tools we should use more effectively to achieve that goal.

Don Niles suggested using the DWU Journalism students to do this publicity via their Public Relations network. Stephanie Sageo-Tapungu responded that she would try to get her students to work on this together with Craig Volker and citing Robbie Petterson's paper.

In addition, Don Niles wanted an explanation of what exactly was expected of DWU journalism students. Was it to come up with a statement that represents LSPNG's ideas, or general PR? Craig Volker suggested that the executive write a statement, then circulate the statement so that everyone can agree with it before making it public.

All agreed that **the executive will provide a statement which represented the official belief of LSPNG, and this would be published in the media.**

### **3.9 Fundraising**

Olga Temple stated that there would be a conference on sustainable development in November and the organizers raised K1 million by approaching government bodies for funding. Thus, Olga wants to follow this model for LSPNG fundraising as she was very hopeful about possibilities of funding through this method.

### **3.10 AOB**

- Debbie Petterson asked how the society could get its name out there, for instance, to connect policy makers with the linguists who can properly inform them about the real issues. Craig Volker suggested that a list of experts in specialized fields of linguistics should be publicized on LLM website as consultants that politicians or organizations could engage for various purposes

and projects. Phil King also suggested that it would be useful to open an official [lspng@gmail.com](mailto:lspng@gmail.com) account.

- Bob Litteral stated that Kilala Devette-Chee's scientific report needs to be published, as well as the official government policy of studying the vernacular for an hour a day; this information should be included in our public statement. That is, many people do not realize that the government had allowed an hour a day for studying the vernacular; they need to know what the law stated.

There being no further discussions, the meeting was brought to a close at 11.00 am.

**Scribe:** Stephanie Sageo-Tapungu

**Chair:** Craig Volker