

### Papua New Guinea to Australia 3 to 10 December 2000

This was the fifth delegation from Papua New Guinea to visit Australia as guests of the Council. The five-member delegation was led by the Hon Alfred Kaiabe MP, Member for Komo-Margarima Open from the National Alliance Party.

Through an eight-day program, the delegation visited Canberra, Sydney and Rockhampton. A number of former delegates assisted with the program and the Council extends its sincere thanks to them and to all who participated in the program.

The **Canberra** program involved a number of activities including:

- a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP (USA 1986);
- a meeting with the Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Meg Lees (China 1986);
- a meeting with the Chief Government Whip, the Hon Michael Ronaldson MP (USA 1991);
- a meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration, the Hon Peter Slipper MP;
- a meeting with Mr Bruce Edwards (Japan 1992) from the Federal Secretariat of the Liberal Party;
- a meeting with the National Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, Mr Geoff Walsh;
- a luncheon hosted by the President of the Senate and Patron of the Council, Senator the Hon Margaret Reid, with former delegates Senator Grant Chapman (Japan 1992) and Mr Gary Hardgrave MP (USA 1994); and
- a wreath laying ceremony and tour of the Australian War Memorial.

The program in **Sydney** included:

- a tour of Homebush Bay site with Ms Caroline Staples (PNG 1997) from the Olympic Coordination Authority;
- a meeting with the Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC (USA 1994), Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Ports and Assistant Shadow Minister for Rural Health;
- a briefing on the Australian union movement by Ms Alison Peters, Labor Council of NSW organised and attended by Mr Damien O'Connor (USA, 2000);
- a meeting with Mr John Brogden MP (USA 1994), Shadow Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning; Sydney Water; and Youth Affairs;
- a luncheon at Parliament House co-hosted by the President of the NSW Legislative Council, the Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann MLC and the Chairman of Committees in the Legislative Assembly, Mr John Mills MP, also attended by former delegates the Hon Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MLC (USA 1993), the Hon Tony Kelly MP (USA 1987), and Hon Amanda Fazio MLC (Japan 1992); and
- a dinner, hosted by AMP, with former delegates Ms Virginia Wallace (Japan 1999) and Doug Doyle (Japan 1999) and included Mr Alastair Kinloch Government Affairs Executive, AMP Government Affairs.

The delegation then travelled to **Rockhampton** for a program arranged by Ms Kirsten Livermore MP (China 1996) and Ms Melinda (Mick) Schneider (Japan 2000) which included:

- a tour and morning tea at a pineapple farm;
- a tour and lunch at St Brendan's College;
- a meeting with Hon Vince Lester MLA (NP), Queensland State Member for Keppel and Cr Bill Ludwig, Mayor of Livingstone Shire Council;
- an informal meeting and afternoon tea with the Deputy Mayor of Rockhampton, Cr Dell Bunt and Councillors Rundle, Swadling and Green;
- a bush dinner dance at the historic Glenmore Homestead; and
- a barbecue lunch on "Moonlight", a cattle farm, which included a meeting with Ms Kirsten Livermore MP (China 1996), Federal Member for Capricornia.

This was regarded as a highly successful visit. The delegation was delighted to have met with a range of political figures at the Federal, State and Local Government areas, and to learn about Australia's diverse political system. Delegates were also pleased to have met so many former delegates and were grateful for their involvement in the organisation of the program and for the friendship extended to them during their visit.