



23rd September 2013

Dear Community associations, Leaders, Academics, Youth, Elders, Friends and Families,

The Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) (*ASSI.PJ*) interim national body formally invite you to participate as a delegate from your organisation or as an individual community member at this year's Wantok 2013 national capacity building forum funded under the Australian Commonwealth Government's Senator Kate Lundy as Minister for Sport, Minister for Multicultural Affairs' under her 'Community Cohesion Grants Program'.

Our venue this year is proudly sponsored by the State Library Queensland (*SLQ*) Australia from the 1st 2nd and 3rd of November 2013, daily times 9am to 5pm. (*address: Stanley Pl, South Brisbane QLD Australia 4101 (61.7) 3840 7666*) <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au>

2013 marks a significant 150 years for Queensland since 55,000 South Sea Islanders (95% male) were bought to Australia on 62,000 indentured contracts to establish sugar, maritime and pastoral industries. Many of these men and women did not return to their Island homes and 15,000 —a third —lost their lives to common disease to which they lacked immunity. During the implementation of the White Australia Policy a mass deportation of some 7,000 SSI's occurred, and 1,500 were allowed to remain under humanitarian circumstances. Several 100's had crossed the border into NSW in the 1890's and 1900s to escape the more severe conditions in Queensland.

For NSW, 2013 marks 166 years since the first South Sea Islanders were bought to Eden by entrepreneur Ben Boyd who had already used Aboriginal, Maori and Pacific Islands labourers in his whaling industry ventures. Worried about not having sufficient labour for his pastoral properties, in 1847 he decided to experiment with bringing in a Pacific Islanders workforce, without waiting for government permission. This was a human disaster.

Australia is home to some 300,000 - 400,000 migrant Pacific Islanders (PI) and a further 40,000 – 50,000 South Sea Islander (SSI) descendants of the Blackbirding era.

The ASSI.PJ interim national body encourages those of PI descent and the broader community from within Australia and internationally to attend Wantok 2013 in support of recognition for the 80 islands that were affected by the Blackbirding era between 1863 – 1908.

Our PI families and community representatives are significant within Australia's economic base, bilateral relations and carry political clout in relation to United Nations platforms and Australia's relations with its Pacific Islands' neighbours. Together we are a strong contender for rightful recognition of our Forefather's and the ongoing PI's contribution to one of the richest countries in the world.

This year's program will see a democratic vote in favour of a national representative secretariat and a committed representative board from all regions across Australia to continue the momentum of the past 20 years. There will be additional Wantok capacity-building workshops hosted at Tweed Heads Northern New South Wales (NSW) and Mackay Queensland as well as Vanuatu and Solomon Islands

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Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) Limited.

PO Box 117 Pyrmont, NSW 2009 mobile: +61 (0)416 300 946 fax: +61 2 9571 4326 email: assi.pj@gmail.com ABN: 95143172589

during 2013 / 2014. The Vanuatu and Solomon's workshops will focus on ASSI / SSI reconnection with community, culture and families.

The program will also commemorate 150 years of survival for Australian South Sea Islander descendants, presenting an academic panel that addresses the history and current demographics of the ASSI / ATSI and Pacific Islander connections across Australia and the Pacific. There will be an interim national body report and a Wantok Working committee panel, as well as ASSI Associations and community perspectives on recognition, past and present day.

The *call* for a national recognition came out of a Brisbane forum of Australian South Sea Islanders, Vanuatu Government officials and Paramount Chiefs in October 2011, which saw an official coordinator committee appointed and the ASSI.PJ President and Vice President nominated as the main coordinators for producing Wantok 2012 Bundaberg QLD. The ASSI.PJ branch is a not-for-profit organisation, which is located in Sydney, NSW, Australia. Although ASSI.PJ is based in Sydney, it is an organisation that manages events and public relations activities for Australian South Sea Islanders and broader communities throughout Australia.

The special guest speakers are being discussed as we progress through the final planning stages, therefore any recommendations or participants you wish to put forward from your organisation, community or cultural perspective will be kindly considered over the next three weeks.

We will be collecting feedback on our community and its issues through delegates attending the Wantok 2013 Conference. It will be used to shape further capacity building for ASSI's and assist in the implementation of a national and international action plan to move our South Sea Islander communities and countries of origin towards a better future for our families.

Please find attached your registration, which is necessary for entry as seating is limited. All details requested are compulsory to ascertain the demographic of those attending. Should you fail to complete the form in its entirety your incomplete registration can delay your confirmed seating.

Lastly, nomination, proxy and voting guidelines and selection criteria are being drafted for distribution to your communities and associations in the immediate future.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on phone 61. 2. 95188981 OR 61. 2 + (0) 416 300 946 or email assi.pj@gmail.com for further information.

Yours sincerely,



Emelda Davis - President (m: 0416300946)
Encl: Wantok 2012 Information Pack



REGISTRATION FORM

FRIDAY 1ST TO SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2013 (3 days) - TIME: 9.00AM TO 5.00PM

STATE LIBRARY QUEENSLAND – AUDITORIUM 1 – STANLEY PLACE, BRISBANE 4101

TITLE: _____ (Mrs, Ms, Mr)

First name: _____

Surname: _____

State which organisation you are a member of or Other:

Date of birth: _____ Country of birth: _____

Island / s you identify with:

Home address:

Postal address:

City: _____ Post code: _____ State _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email address:

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Days Attending (circle) All days Friday Saturday Sunday

Relevant Health Issues

Allergies:

Special Requirements:

Comments:

This form registers you as a member of the national representative body and is consent for images and photo's to be used as part of our reporting and documentary processes in support of the ongoing recognition for Australian South Sea Islanders.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ **2013**

**Please return this form to Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) Ltd
P O Box 117 Pyrmont NSW 2009 or scan and email to assi.pj@gmail.com**

ALL DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

*If you have any questions please contact us on P: + 61.2 (9518 8981) or Mobile: 61. 2 (0416 300 946)
ABN 95143172589*

Wantok 3 day Program (draft)

Venue: 2nd Floor (Auditorium 1) State Library Queensland Brisbane.

Pre event registration highly recommended due to seating availability

8:00 am Registration and demographic documentation.

Day 1: 9am-5pm 1) Welcome to Country 2) Opening ceremony 3) Historical panel (a)
4) Debrief Wantok 2012 5) National body structure 6) Government
commitment versus Questionable delivery.

Day 2: 9am-5pm 1) Academic historical panel (b) Aboriginal Torres Strait Islanders Australian
South Sea Islander (b) 2) Wantok working committee debrief 3) Interim
National Body update 4) Nomination process

Day 3: 9am-5pm 1) Voting / Outcomes / Resolutions of Wantok 2013, 2) Closing ceremony
/ prayers

Extract from - Minutes of Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) interim national body National Body Structure and Selection Criteria discussions for Wantok 2013.

Date: 5 September 2013 Attendance ASSI.PJ Board & Strategy Team:

1.Emelda Davis reported on recent ASSI.PJ activities: 1.Recognition of ASSI by the NSW Parliament. 2.Recognition of ASSI by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. 3.Sydney 150 recognition panel 20th August 2013. 4.Media success with regards to the two preceding events as well as with the Professor Clive Moore lecture in Queensland.

2.Duane Vickery lead the discussion for the proposed Secretariat structure for the ASSI National Body that was to be voted on at WANTOK 2013 in Brisbane, in November 2013.

The Secretariat structure decided on was as follows: 1.The Secretariat would be controlled by a democratically elected, central organizing group, which would be supported, by Ethics Council and 8 elected ASSI registered members (including 2 youth 18-30 years and 2 non ASSI (non-voting)) from the ASSI community. (*definition of Ethics Council – Moral principals that govern a persons or organisations behavior or the conduct of an acidity*)

2.The key work of the Secretariat would be undertaken by an existing registered ASSI organisation, which would be democratically elected at WANTOK 2013. Nominations for this position would be sought prior to WANTOK. The nominated organisations and details of their achievements with regards to ASSI affairs would be posted on the ASSI.PJ website and facebook page one month prior to WANTOK 2013.

3.The nominating organisations if elected were to build on the momentum established by ASSI.PJ over the past 18 months on all matters related to the social, political, educational and economic goals of the organisation.

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4.Guidelines for the proposed Secretariat were informed by the following ideas. a. It was to be a voluntary organisation (Funding of key administrative or board positions could occur when grant monies were received from Government or other sources for the administration process: At present there are no funds available).

b. The transparency and best practice with regards to all the financial and administrative activities of the Secretariat, and the protection of its officers, would be insured by services given pro bono by a well respected legal and accounting firm (in discussions with the Communities relations commission).

c. The organisation would be founded on the original cultural, social economic vision agreed to at WANTOK 2012 and implemented by ASSI.PJ.

d. The organisation should allow for: Membership (proposed \$10 per year) from all ASSI registered persons who were of ASSI descent (voting rights).

e. Memberships (proposed \$10 per year) from other ASSI registered parties who were supporters of ASSI (no voting rights).

4.The Secretariat structure must be able to be voted and made effective through the implementation of a democratic election process which would be conducted at WANTOK 2013.

5.The list of selection criteria for nominating registered ASSI organisations was as follows. The organisation must be able to demonstrate: 1. Stability within the management structure of their administration 2. Effective management

3. Registration as with either ORIC or ASIC 5. Capacity to lobby Australian Commonwealth/State/Territory government and SSI governments and agencies 6. Effective marketing and media promotion 4. List of achievements with regard to ASSI affairs in the last 5 years (2008 – 2013) 5. Relationship capacity building and effective partnerships to further the ASSI work at a regional,

State/territory/Commonwealth/International levels.

ALL DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

If you have any questions please contact us on P: +61.2.9518 8981 or Mobile: 0416 300 946
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LOCATION OF STATE LIBRARY QLD



Forum held on level 2 the SLQ **AUDITORIUM 1**



GENERAL INFORMATION



Access: SLQ are family friendly with space for prams, baby-changing and feeding. They have disability access, parking, facilities and adaptive technologies to access our collections.

TRANSPORT:

Phone: 131230 for all public transport information
www.translink.com.au

By bus: **Catch bus to** Cultural Precinct Busway Station in Melbourne Street South Bank then either walk (approximately 10 minutes) or Bus #444 Chartered bus temporary set-down in Stanley Place, South outside the SLQ

By train: South Brisbane Station, corner of Melbourne and Grey Streets, South Bank.

By City Cat and ferry:

The CityCat and City Ferry terminals are located at South Bank CityCat Terminal

By foot: The State Library is a short walk from Brisbane's CBD via Victoria Bridge, Kurilpa Bridge or the William Jolly (Grey Street) Bridge

Parking: \$15 flat rate per day

Police Address – Glenelg St, South Brisbane phone: emergency 000
or 07 30334111

Ambulance 000 or authorised transport 131 233

Hospital Mater Hospital: Raymond Terrace South Brisbane 4101
Ph: 07 31638111

Medical centre 2b/189 Grey St South Brisbane QLD 4101 Ph: 07 3844 6600

Coles Cnr Mollison St & Boundary Rd, West End 4101

Woolworths Shop 17 West End Markets 69-79 Boundary St, West End 4101

Markets South Bank Markets and West End Markets on Saturday and Sunday

Casino Treasury Casino – 130 William St, Brisbane 4000

Entertainment QLD Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art and QLD Museum are neighbouring SLQ

ACCOMMODATION

Rooms priced from \$20 - \$120 per night

Riverside Hotel South Bank

20 Montague Rd, South Brisbane 4101 Ph (07) 3846 0577

Base Brisbane Embassy Hostel:

214 Elizabeth St, Brisbane 4000. Ph (07) 3014 1715

Base Brisbane Uptown Backpacker:

466 George St, Brisbane 4000. Ph(07) 3014 1715

Somewhere to stay Motel:

47 Brighton Rd, Highgate Hill, 4101. (07) 3333 2964

Metro Hotel Tower Mill:

239 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill 4000 Ph (07) 3832 1421

Best Western Astor Metropole Apartments:

193 Wickham Terrace City, Spring Hill 4000

Ph (07) 3144 4000

Abbey Apartments:

160 Roma St, Brisbane 4000 Ph (07) 3236 0600

Park Regis North Quay:

293 North Quay, Brisbane 4000 Ph (07) 3013 7200

Rendezvous Hotel Anzac Square:

255 Ann St, Brisbane 4000. Ph (07) 3001 9888

Ibis Brisbane:

27-35 Turbot St, Brisbane 4000. Ph (07) 3237 2333

YMCA/YWCA-Hotel George Williams:

317-325 George St, Brisbane 4000 Ph (07) 3308 0733

Wantok 2012 - Civic Centre

Bundaberg Queensland

Australian South Sea Islanders National Conference



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Vanuatu Indigenous Descendants Association
P.O. Box 232, Port Vila, Vanuatu - Tel: (678) 25559 / (678) 7748050 / 5688776



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