



MINUTES - Australian South Seas Islanders (Port Jackson) 21st June 2014, St Johns Town Hall 132 St Johns Road Glebe NSW, 12.00pm-6pm

- Meeting Called by: Ms Emelda Davis-President ASSI.PJ
- Facilitator: Greg Sutherland (supported by Blanch and Kirsten)
- Note taker - Media
- Time Keeper: Melina Fakatava

Purpose of the Meeting: The aim of the meeting is for the Chair of the National ASSI Working Group, Mr Greg Sutherland to feedback on his national consultations with ASSI communities and discuss ASSI.PJ perspectives on Checklist and Guide-Federation Model (National ASSI representative body) for the national constitution developments.

Meeting scheduled for 12 midday, meeting started at: 1.35pm due to Greg Sutherland being an hour and half late.

Danny Togo – ASSI.PJ Vice President had to leave at 1.30pm due to personal stand on time management.

Attendees:

1. Shireen Mallamoo:Elder/Cultural Adviser - ASSI.PJ Board Member
2. Emelda Davies-President, ASSI.PJ
3. Danny Togo-Vice President, ASSI.PJ (left)
4. Shola Diop- Treasure, ASSI.PJ
5. Melina Fakatava- ASSI.PJ Board Member
6. Mereani Niuqila- ASSI.PJ Secretary
7. Lola Forester
8. Loyla Midiana
9. Telesia Loto'aniu
10. Vinasia Loto'aniu
11. Zechary Wone
12. Binette Diop
13. Blanch Sutherland
14. Greg Sutherland
15. Kirsten Sutherland

Opening address: Greg Sutherland acknowledgement of country and thanks to ASSI.PJ for hosting the meeting as well as apologies for being late.

Greg Sutherland opening comments:

- The work done by people to get us to where we are has been very beneficial
- Considerable tasks still to get the work done
- Simple task from Greg's perspective in coming up with constitution there are instructions in what that should look like
- ASSI.PJ made valuable contribution and we are able to launch off that
- The processes of the Wantok's were palatable or not palatable that's democracy at work there's days I get bowled over.
- These tasks aren't about being popular
- Attempts to create unity aren't always going to happen due to demographics eg: cultural, political and heritage
- NASSIGWG have been tasks to come up with a constitution
- Greg's not a candidate for any future committees / elections and wont go beyond the election process, one reason is health
- Process for ASSI constitutional development is simple
- Being NASSIGWG Chair allows for change management / criticism due to not running for election. The purpose is to get the project at hand to an ends.
- How far have we come 20 years after recognition. What has changed for ASSI in regards to housing, education, social justice etc 'Not much of anything'
- Greg's personal perspective is all efforts to get up local, state, national bodies haven't worked due to the personalities instead of looking at the task at hand
- Emelda is very persuasive in regards to PJ Sydney perspective and spoke of other NASSIGWG members Dallas Fewquandie, Mable Quackawoot, Dennis Bobongie
- Two other members on NASSIGWG now that Greg has checked with Gilbert and Tobin – Fiona Bobongie (nee Mann) (Townsville) and Fiona Mount (Tweed)
- Our role is to come up with a constitution for a not for profit company limited by guarentee then that committee is to look after the national interest of everybody
- Greg speaks on ASSI history
- With due respect, Lola Forester asked to refrain from ASSI history talk and progress to business of the day since the ASSI.PJ members have a great appreciation of ASSI history given the work done to date.
- Lola Forrester

suggest we move forward with the purpose of the meeting due to time constraint as everyone has been waiting for more than 1 and half hours and some people have already left.

Contents of the Document and comments from the members present.

Questions	Greg Sutherland's, Mabel and Dallas Comments	Members Comments
1:What is to be the name of the unincorporated association?	Two suggestions, i.e, National Australian South Sea Islanders Association or National Australian South Sea Islanders Representative Body	Majority suggest the name to be: National Australian South Sea Islanders Representative Body –Sounds stronger/more influential as there are so many associations or clearer / specific with objectives
2:What are the purposes/ objects of the unincorporated association	Not for profit organization- Constitution to come up	Emelda reminded people: the Mission Statement came from a majority of 400 + members that were present during Bundaberg conference in April 2012. This could be used as an example to adopt, redraft or build on.
<p>Draft that came from Bundaberg 2012 conference:</p> <p>Example Mission Statement: (from 400 people at the 2012 Bundaberg national conference)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advance the cultural and economic condition of Australian South Sea Islanders through good governance and leadership. <p>Modeling ASSI values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiring the shared vision of ASSIs • Enabling ASSI people to cat • Challenging the process • Encouraging and supporting ASSI people • Operating effectively and with influence in different cultures <p>Draft Vision Statement</p> <p>We are a national body which acknowledges and believes in the unique ways that Australian's of South Sea Islander heritage contribute to the broader Australian society. This contribution reflects our South Sea Islander heritage and will be recognized by all Australian's because we are of: One Spirit; One Mind; One Voice – community seeking prosperity based on respect.</p> <p>Other suggestion from ASSI.PJ member:</p> <p>We take pride in our contribution to the nation both socially and economically like our forefathers did historically in the formation of this country.</p>		
3:Do you wish to have different	There should be from each State Body	State organisations, registered local organisation, ASSI community groups with

<p>categories/classes of membership?</p>	<p>Association except for those states without any association</p> <p>Eg: Cairns Townsville Gladstone have no association</p> <p>G&T advise whether they are an Inc. Assoc determine how their vote should be</p> <p>Individuals should not be alienated but an organization needs to verify eligibility to be a member of a national body eg: identity certificates</p>	<p>basic membership, non ASSI membership, Individual</p> <p>Registered organisations need to verify identity of individual applicants</p>
<p>4:Fees</p>	<p>National body to agree for any fees applied</p> <p>Eg: news letters, posting requires a fee</p>	<p>No fees initially to build membership but need to advise community of process and later fees and charges can / will apply.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Suggestion:</p> <p>\$20 p/a individual membership fee</p> <p>board to decide fee structure</p> <p>ASSI.PJ agree that there should be a membership fee</p>
<p>5:If you do wish to have a number of membership categories/classes, what rights would you like to attach to each class?</p>	<p>Cairns Townsville Gladstone have no assoc. some are based on family.</p>	<p>Non SSI spouse membership or other</p> <p>ASSI.PJ recommends</p> <p>Youth 18 – 25 In alien with government policy</p> <p>Full membership (ASSI descent)</p> <p>Associate membership (talk not vote)</p> <p>Individual membership</p> <p>Local ASSI community organization needs</p>

		to endorse / identify member applicants
6:Would you like a standard application form for membership to be attached to the back of the constitution as a schedule?	Application to be attached to the ASIC registered organization / LTD by guarantee	yes
7:Would you like it to be a requirement that an application for membership must be signed by an existing member?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shireen – people know whos from the community • Emelda – DATSIMA could assist with refining / authenticating identity in the long term as partnership development
8:Do you wish to set eligibility criteria for admission to membership or to each category/class of membership if you have multiple classes?	<p>There are no existing members. One of the suggestions from up North to look at the scenario of the think tank idea to come with at least 100 members from across Australia to get the thing started to vote for 8 to 10 board members (for 12 months) – which will refine structure, mission statement etc</p> <p>G&T said we have to get the charity status so people can support and once that's in place we will need a trust.</p>	<p>Lola: How do you know the eligibility of each individual is a South Sea Islander</p> <p>Aunty Shireen: People do know people.</p> <p>Emelda suggest for a search for a partnership with board and Pacific Islander's communities especially for: Fiji, PNG, Loyalty Island, and Samoa. In good faith and goodwill to accept each membership</p>
9:How many days notice do you wish to provide the member in relation to their expulsion?		<p>Why should anyone be kicked out?</p> <p>There should be a code of conduct explained in the application form. Lateral bonds from within the community on South Sea Island.</p> <p>A generic legal letter / template from Gilbert and Tobin that can be adapting to</p>

		each individual. (attached in constitution)
<p>10:How would you like to deal with members that fail to pay their membership fees? For example:</p> <p>Would you like a provision that gives the board the right to expel a member for failure to pay the membership fees? If so:</p> <p>how many days would you like to set as the time limit after which the board may expel members for non payment of fees?</p> <p>how many days after receiving the expulsion notice do you wish to give the member to make a response in writing or request a review?</p>	<p>Association has no money so we need fees to be paid to help out with administration and organizational costs. It is up to the board to say yes or no to the membership fees.</p>	<p>Lola: There should be a reminder sent out for a certain period.</p> <p>Emelda suggests a period of 30days.</p>
<p>11:How many days notice do you require for members in relation to an Annual General Meeting?</p>	<p>21 days as per ASIC</p>	<p>Emelda suggests 30days.</p>
<p>12:Would you like to include provisions permitting the chair to exclude a member from the general meeting in certain circumstances? If so, what circumstances should we include?</p>	<p>If any member's unruly behavior is brought about under influence of alcohol or drugs. Not to go by the 4 rules as suggested by Michael Chapman.</p>	<p>The floor agreed that members should all be dealt with respect for each other as we are all related in any way or other.</p>
<p>13:What number would you like to set as your quorum of members for</p>		<p>As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to</p>

the meeting?		NASSIGWG / G&T
14:What process for the election of a chair of a general meeting would you like to introduce?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
15:Do you wish to give the chair discretion to adjourn the meeting at any time?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
16:Would you like the chair to have a casting (or second) vote in the event of an equality of votes?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
17:Would you like the ability for votes to be conducted by poll?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
18:If you choose to allow votes to be conducted by poll, how many members or what percentage of members should be able to call for a poll?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
19:Would you like members to vote by proxy?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
20:If you choose to permit proxy voting, how much notice is required prior to the meeting in order for the proxy to be valid?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
21:Do you wish to include a provision allowing members to make decisions and pass resolutions without the need to		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T

hold a meeting?		
22:Would you like to include particular descriptions and provisions relating to “office bearers” such as treasurer, vice-secretary, past-chair/passed-president?		As per Emelda’s recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
23:Would you like the position of chair and secretary, together with any office bearer positions you may wish to include, to be elected directly from the members, to decide amongst themselves on who should fill such positions.		As per Emelda’s recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
24:What would you like to set as the minimum and maximum number of board members		As per Emelda’s recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
25:How often would you like board members to be subject to re-election? Should there be a maximum period of time, either consecutively or collectively, that a person may be on the board?		As per Emelda’s recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
26:Failure to attend a number of consecutive meetings		As per Emelda’s recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T

27:Are board members to receive any payments?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
28:Would you like to include a provision that requires a board member to be a member of the organisation?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
29:What powers do you wish to confer on the board		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
30:What number would you like to fix as a quorum for the board?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
31:Would you like the chair to have a casting (or second)vote in addition to his or her own personal vote where there is an equality of votes?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T
32:If a member has not provided a registered address, electronic or otherwise, what method of notification do you wish to use?		As per Emelda's recommendations on previous document that went to NASSIGWG / G&T

Lola Forester, can we discuss your thoughts and ASSI.PJ will come back to you on our recommendations for constitutional developments. AGREED by all.

Greg Sutherland's personal thoughts:

People applying for this position must demonstrate a national focus. This is a National representative body.

- Issue is to get 8-10 people in place for 12 months as NASSIRB
- The concept is supported by G&T to expedite the formation
- Rotary has funded 2,500 for an ASSI think tank of 20/25 people to travel to Mackay in the near future
- Locations we will invite from – Cairns, Innisvale, Townsville, Berdekin, Rockhampton, Gladstone Sunshine Coast, Tweed, Lismore and Sydney x 2, Gilbert & Tobin x 2 - a 1 day in and out workshop on constitution.
- From think tank 20/25 will be asked to recommend from your associations suggest 3 or 4 people to get us our first 100/120 members for the organisation
- The 100/120 are then responsible to elect the first 8-10 board members who are nominated from an association
- The 100/120 selected go off and vote on the 8/10 nominated
- 8/10 elected vote on a chair
- If the 8/10 want to replace the chair the chair stays the director but they can replace the chair through an internal vote
- Going through the AEC wont be personalising the voting process in setting poll in eg: Gladstone for 5 people it will be postal
- Sub committees are the discretion of the 8/10 board that will decide on task or specialist commitment of those groups eg: international relations, Finding family, youth
- People seem to think that ASSI.PJ were sacked and I have advised on my travels when asked that they have handed over they were not sacked.
- Wantok has bought together community groups in Mackay particularly that have not spoken in years.
- Gilbert and Tobin will have a draft constitution on the once I have completed the consultations and suggested holding off on the next NASSIGWG newsletter until the draft constitution is ready.
- Final consultation are in the Berdiken

Summary: Greg Sutherland wrapped up in stressing the importance of having a constitution in place. Have a committee elected, give them 12months to run, as there's enough well educated people in the community. A think tank is the way to go with selections from ASSI organisations and communities in youth, elders etc to come up with those first 100/120 members.

Emelda then in closing, thanked everyone for attending.

Mereani Niuqila closed meeting with a prayer.

Disbursed: 4.45pm

ASSI.PJ CONSTITUTIONAL DEBRIEF MEETING

29th June 2014 - 1pm to 6:23pm closed

Attendance: Emelda Davis – President, Danny Togo – Vice President, Shola Diop – Treasurer, Mereani Niuquila – Secretary, Graham Mooney, Lola Forester, Binette Diop

Summary: ASSI.PJ Board revisited the video recordings from constitutional meeting with Greg Sutherland and have agreed on the below dot points to be put forward to Gilbert & Tobin, NASSIGWG and the ASSI Community for wider consideration. Please bare in mind that theses points are just suggestions and collated feedback from those who attended.

ASSI.PJ board and members recommendation:

Shireen Malamoo suggested that we think carefully while nominating and voting, as it is very important that we have the right people representing us to be able to write submissions and have the savvy to work hard in a voluntary capacity and lobby the ministers on the needs for Australian South Sea Islanders.

Selection process if agreed for the first 100/120 needs to be a transparent process that the broader ASSI community agree with. How do we identify and verify their heritage? They need to demonstrate commitment track record in community development and in particular ASSI Affairs.

The Wantok delivery since 2012 has collated 1,000 registered community members with our largest numbers coming from Bundaberg conference participants that committed to a national voice and development of the terms of reference paper that has been widely distributed.

The 1000 members are owed the opportunity to participate in all phases of development as their democratic right. There are expectations of this current group to participate in the refined developments and the delivery for election as agreed by participants at Wantok Mackay.

Points for consideration that were raised at meeting:

Delegates election:

- No confidence in the suggested voting process in that it is culturally inappropriate and doesn't demonstrate transparency.
- Who are we to say who is worthy more than others in denying a democratic voting process.
- NASSIGWG was allocated the task to do the ground work in developing a national constitution and taking it back to community then elections.
- Young people should be strong voiced and politically minded to continue the recognition and work to be done for ASSIs. What young people have been encouraged and consulted to date.
- Nominees need the credentials and be committed to do the voluntary work regardless of other commitments. (availability to commit time/hours per week).
- We need strategic, diplomatic, open minded, flexible people who are able to get good results.
- Letters of support x 3 for all board applicants
- Media savvy and cyber connected
- Police checks pending criteria

- Establish a 'risk management team'
- Establish 'funding strategy team'

Constitution points for consideration of inclusion/discussion:

- The story of South Sea Islander History is an untold story, which is why it needs to be told nationally and abroad.
- Work smarter not harder principle to tackle the Government, and one day take it further to the UN.
- Constitutional statement (included) that recognizes and commits to our Pacific Island nations for future development of bilateral relations eg: finding family, economical and social needs etc.
- Blanket national insurance for NASSIRB to cover unregistered ASSI community groups / organisations.
- Friends of the NASSIRB are support groups who can be ex patriots that raise funds for the organization eg: ex patriots (people of influence) of the South Pacific Islands who have a sound knowledge and relationship with the Islands and Australian History. Individual humanitarians, Academic, Churches, Philanthropist, Kastom and Cultural objectives, (ASSI, SSI or Non ASSI) (there needs to be a commitment in the constitution to maintain/recognise such relations)
- Pacific Nations / Community need to be considered in terms of their membership as associate members.
- Kastom and Cultural practices should be respected due to knowledge and cultural connections that exist within our communities. (eg: Our forefathers name children with traditional names as a means of identity and cultural maintenance.)

Following Greg Sutherland meeting the below email sums up the next stage of development:

23rd June Greg Sutherland to NASSIGWG

Thank you.

Following discussions I had with Darren Filter of Gilbert & Tobin, I am keen to finish the consultations before we meet again.

This will allow us to go forward with confidence that we have discussed far and wide.

It is impossible to gather in everyone. I suggest we meet next Tuesday thanks.

Darren has also agreed that we now appoint the two other ladies to our /Working Group and I will officially contact them today.

We have the list of possible attendees to the meeting in Mackay to discuss a Draft Constitution prior to it going out to the National Community.

On option, which I prefer from Gilbert & Tobin, is that we then ask that 20-25 people to select 100-120 ASSI people who are the first members of the National "Council/Recognition Group/Association".

Having been tasked to do a job, we will have done it correctly. After the first year of office, the new National Body can then call elections etc and go about increasing memberships and setting up sub committees for Elders, Youth, Finance, International Representation and the like.

When calling Nominations we need to have a simple job description for candidates and they need to advise of their skills and abilities to be a National rep.

But is impossible to call on State Committees to nominate people as there are none in existence. People will need, I would suggest, to nominate, have a nominator from the 125 people and attach their bio or resume,

In the first term we need strategic think people as they must put a 3 year Strategic Plan into place. They also need to gather funding and credibility with all levels of government and inform the wider community of their role and existence.

I am off to another meeting now but will catch up with you all later.

Food for thought.

Regards

Greg

Greg Sutherland

CEO Skills Training Mackay

CEO Training & Employment Alliance

Chair National Australian South Sea Islander Working Group

Response from Gilbert & Tobin in ASSI.PJ requesting feedback from meeting with Greg Sutherland:

June 25th Peter Pereira, Darren Fittler

Dear Emelda,

Thanks for your email. It was good to meet with Greg last week and to hear of the progress that has been made through the consultation process. We hope the weekend's meetings in Sydney were productive as well.

Our discussion with Greg focussed on how we can get the national association off the ground as soon as possible. Most of what we discussed was not new; a lot of it was similar to what we have been discussing for some time now.

While we didn't agree that anyone in particular should be appointed to the working group in place of those no longer part of it, we did agree that if the working group followed due process there was no reason why the group couldn't bolster its diminished numbers to better get the job done.

So far as getting the job done goes, in terms of electing the first board of directors, we discussed the pros and cons of going to a full constituent based election (where all the many hundreds, if not thousands, of members vote) to elect the first board, versus a smaller group of people appointing the first board of directors who might only hold office for 1-2 years, but will allow the association to get off the ground before a full-scale election is held for a board of directors to hold office for a longer period of time.

It has been suggested that a meeting in Mackay to elect the first, temporary, board of directors would take place and although we made no suggestion as to how many people should attend that meeting, we note a couple of issues that would need to be resolved before any meeting took place. The first is to work out how to determine the candidates for the director positions, and the second is to determine who would vote in an election for those directors.

The process would have to be open and transparent but in the interests of expediency, not all South Sea Islanders might be involved. If this model ensures that the national association gets off the ground and onto its feet, then that could be preferable to trying to run a full-scale election from the

get go, which could run into all sorts of administrative and logistical hurdles. As the saying goes, “don’t let the best be the enemy of the good”.

Importantly, if the expeditious approach is adopted, some of the South Sea Islander community will need to be convinced that it is fair and right. The message is that this approach is temporary but best allows us to get on with the job of incorporating an association for all Australian South Sea Islander people.

regards,

Darren and Peter

Sincerely,



Emelda Davis – President

Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) Limited

PO Box 117 Pyrmont Sydney NSW 2009 Email: assi.pj@gmail.com Mobile: 0416300946

www.assipj.com.au

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/assipj/?fref=ts>