



1/11/2018

2017 Festival Report

National Kenu & Kundu Festival



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Introduction

The 2017 National Kenu & Kundu Festival (NKKF) was held in Alotau, Milne Bay Province from **Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th November 2017**. This year's festival was officially launched in Alotau on 5th August and preparations commenced in full swing with the theme, 'Restoration of Our Cultural Heritage.'



The NKKF Executive Committee is steered by Chairman Harold Tabua, former Deputy Mayor of Alotau town, with the support of Vice Chairman Joe Wanogili, Treasurer Kelebi Loniko and Secretary James Koisien. A working committee made up of 20 experienced and able-bodied individuals within the local

community supports the Executive Committee in organising cultural groups, semi-permanent infrastructure development, logistics, dialoguing with business houses and local government, marketing and sponsorship.

The National Kenu & Kundu Festival is a major tourist attraction for Milne Bay Province drawing in domestic and international attendance.

Background

The National Kenu and Kundu Festival was established in 2003 as an initiative of the National Cultural Commission and the PNG Tourism Promotion Authority after strong lobbying by the late John Kaniku and supporters of NKKF. The first festival in 2003 attracted 300 participants.

The National Kenu and Kundu Festival features and show cases some of the unique cultural values of the different traditional societies, canoes and dances currently in existence in Milne Bay Province and Papua New Guinea.

It also shows to the world, most essentially an authentic way of life that was defined and established initially by our ancestors. It was refined through generations; where knowledge and skills were passed through our ancestors via word of mouth or practical means by observation and actual implementation. It is indeed the link that holds together and bridges the gap between the ancient and sometimes traditional sacred paths and routes undertaken by our ancestors and the contemporary culture in existence today.



The Official Launching

On the 28th February 2017, the Milne Bay Provincial Government through the former Chairman for Tourism Mr Napoleon Liosi, after consultation through The Office of the former Governor, appointed Mr Harold Tabua as the NKKF Chairman 2017 - 2018. An Executive Board along with a working committee identified soon after.

The launch was held at the festival grounds on the 5th August with the support of Pick n Pay Supermarket who made a cash donation in cheque of K10, 000.00. The launching was attended and supported by representatives of the Milne Bay Provincial Government, the Milne Bay Tourism Bureau, Masurina Trading Company and Pick n Pay Supermarket.

The Planning & Preparation



On the 22nd September 2017, the Executives and working committee reps held their first official meet at the Media Centre conference room. Discussions involved the negotiations with service suppliers for supply of timber to start building works, repair to the jetty, repair to the main festival house, dialogue to begin with possible sponsors, advertising and announcements to attract dance groups and performers to register as participants at the festival to be held from the 3rd – 5th November.

At the confirmation of the grounds layout, building works started on the 23rd October. Working in conjunction with local building and electrical contractors, PNG Power, Water PNG, Milne Bay Provincial Government, Alotau District Office and the corporate business community, ground works were completed in time

for the start of the festival on the 3rd November.

The 2017 National Kenu & Kundu Festival

Opening – In attendance at the opening of the festival was the Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Charles Abel, Minister for Tourism Hon. Emil Tammur, CEO for PNG Tourism Promotion Authority Mr Jerry Agus, Milne Bay Provincial Administrator Mr Michael Kape, Milne Bay Province Chairman for Tourism Hon. Elami Iko, Governor for Central Hon. Robert Agarobe, AULLG Town Mayor Hon. Gita Elliot, senior government officials and distinguished guests.

Pledges and Donations – Governor for Central Hon. Robert Agarobe made a cash donation of K20,



000.00, Minister for Tourism Hon. Emil Tammur made a pledge of K50, 000.00 (yet to be collected), Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Charles Abel made a donation of K25, 000.00 from the Office of the National Treasury and

another donation of K25, 000 from the office of the Alotau Urban Local Level Govt, the AULLG made a donation of K5, 000.00. The festival has also had large support from local and corporate business in cash or kind in and outside of Alotau.

Participants – the festival participants range from local string bands, 5 key performers, local electric bands, visiting electric bands from outside Milne Bay, traditional and contemporary dance groups, choir groups, solo artist performers, drama groups, sailing canoes, and others.

This year's festival was privileged to also coincide with the return of the Danish filmmaker Thor F Jensen and his Milne Bay master sailor counterparts Sanakali John, Justin John and Job Siyae who helped sail a Milne Bay sailing canoe named *Tawali Pasana*, over a 14-month journey starting in Milne Bay waters at Tawali Resort, circumnavigating the whole of Papua New Guinea and West Papua. This expedition was supported and sponsored by Consort Shipping, the National Kenu & Kundu Festival Committee and media coverage sponsored by South Pacific Post (Post Courier).



Financial Summary

The Committees opening balance as at the beginning of the year was K307.86 carried over from 2016 Festival. Through a sponsorship and marketing drive the Committee was able to raise from scratch K175,000.00. Internal revenue generated amounted to approximately K9,000.00. Thus Total Income generated for NKKF 2017 was K184,092.76.

The 2017 Festivals expenditure totalled K365,547.91. The Committee has settled K181,455.15 in expenses thus leaving an outstanding balance of K194,287.64 yet to settle. Current balance in the Festival account is approximately K2,637.61.

Outstanding Pledge – The Minister for Tourism, Arts & Culture Hon. Emil Tammur's pledge of K50,000.00 still outstanding and yet to be released from The PNG Tourism Promotion Authority.

Evaluation

Lessons learned after the completion of a somewhat successful Festival is that you can never start too early in organizing, planning and staging an event of this size. An event of such magnitude requires a small team of NKKF personnel working in the background beginning January in planning the 2018 NKKF with a small budget for wages, administration and communication.

Recommendation for the Way Forward

Work should begin in January with the following milestones;

- Incorporation of the National Kenu and Kundu Festival Association, including Constitution and Rules of Association.
- NKKF Official Annual Planning Calendar 2018 - Creation of an Official NKKF Annual Planning Calendar with milestones as a lead up to the festival on the **2nd – 4th November 2018**.
- An NKKF Organizational Structure – Creation of the NKKF Organizational Structure that outlines the positions and responsibilities of each member in the Executive and working committee.
- Professional Website Creation, Emails, existing Facebook page administration update
- Creation of Marketing and Sustainability Plan
- Creation of Operational Documents and Records
- Establish a formal and transparent accounting system

Seeing the importance of such planning the Milne Bay Provincial Government has supported this initiative with the release of a small budget for a team of experienced planning consultants under the National Kenu & Kundu Festival to start work on the above objectives.

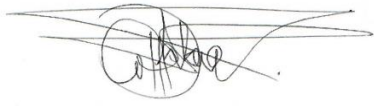
With regard to the Festival itself, the following needs to commence in the 2nd quarter of the year as part of the planning and programming of the festival;

- Beginning in mid-march dialogue must commence with the local communities, education department and schools.
- Dialogue must begin with war canoe leaders, sailing canoes, etc. to ensure their participation in 2018.
- Upon confirmation from the local communities of their participation a program of activities can be drafted which acts as the basis of activities to be staged at the 15th National Kenu and Kundu Festival.
- Dialogue to begin with following stakeholders for observations and opinions;
 - MBPG
 - PEC Chairman Tourism
 - Milne Bay Tourism Bureau
 - Local Tour Operators
 - Service Providers

Conclusion

Due to the steady decline of the Festival in previous years the current Committee with its Chairman at the helm; Mr Harold Tabua has had little to no support in preparations for the 2017 National Kenu & Kundu Festival. Although a request was made by the Provincial Government for the previous 2016 NKKF Committee to make an official hand over of administrative and accounts acquittals, this did not eventuate.

Unphased the Current committee set out to ensure a Festival was delivered on time. However, this has left a large debt that must be settled as soon as possible in order to have the support of the local community who are the life and heart of the Festival.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harold Tabua', enclosed within a circular stamp or seal.

Harold Tabua

Chairman 2017 - 2018



Appendix A

TENTATIVE FESTIVAL PROGRAM 2017

Morning – 03rd Nov 2017

7.00 am- All participating culture groups to arrive.

8:30am – Master of ceremony Mr Raga Lakani announces festival program.

9:00am – Arrival of Dignitaries' for the official opening of the festival – welcome by Misima Cultural Group from Cameron High School

9.25am - Peroveta Song by Waluma culture groups | Prayer & blessings by pastor invited.

9:30am -**Official opening of the festival by Deputy Prime Minister and Alotau Open Member Hon.Charles Abel.**

9.35am - Welcome remarks by Chairman of festival Mr Harold Tabua

SPEECHES

9:40am - by Town Mayor Hon Gita Elliot

9:45am - Huhu LLG President Hon Helena Metoa

9.50 am- Patron and Governor of Milne Bay Hon John Luc Crittin

10:00am - Tawala cultural group from Hagita Secondary School

10:20am – EALEBA culture group KVTs

10:40am – Wadubo cultural group from Wamira village, Weraura RLLG

11:00am – Goyabala cultural group from Dobu RLLG

11:20am – Mailu Island cultural group from Mailu Island, Abau, Central Province

11:40am – Kadakada cultural group

12.00 noon -LUNCH

Noon

12:00 midday – Live Stage Band entertainment

12:30pm – **Highlights of the festival..Hollie Maea band from Gulf province**

Afternoon

1:00pm – Buluwagalagala Local String / Power Band from Bwanabwana RLLG, Samarai Murua District

1:30pm –

2:00pm - Kaikuwali Culture

2:30pm – Kadidi Bamboo / Kundu cultural group from Bonenau village, Daga RLLG

3:00pm – Kutu cultural group from Biman village, Daga RLLG

3:30pm – Gelu cultural group from Bunama village, Duau RLLG

4:00pm – Divinai Kahi Dancers from East Tawala, Huhu RLLG

4:30pm – Diri culture group from Top Town, Alotau

Evening

6:00pm - Live Stage Band entertainment

6:30pm – Highlight **Holimaeta Band** from Gulf Province

7.00pm – Naura Primary School/ contemporary arts

7:30pm - Auge cultural group Local String Power band

8:30pm - Diri String Band from Top Town, Alotau District

Morning – 04th Nov 2017

8:30am – Tufi cultural group

9:00am – Tupotupo cultural group from East Cape village, Maramatana RLLG

9:30am – Ipasus cultural group from East Cape village, Maramatana RLLG

10:00am – Armada of canoes sail out to welcome Thor Jensen and 3 x Milne Bay sailors canoe as they sail into harbor.

10:00am – Stage Band to entertain

10:00am – NKKF King and Queen parade and speech.

11.30 am- Announcement and presentation of 2017-18 NKKF King & Queen winners

Noon

12:00 midday – Highlight **Holimaeva Band** from Gulf Province

Afternoon

1:00pm – Maniaruwa cultural group Wadobuna village, Rabaraba, Weraura RLLG

1:30pm – Kweoma cultural group from Labai village, Kiriwina RLLG

2:00pm – Kanature cultural group from Kanature ward, Daga RLLG

2:30pm – Milne Bay Artists and Cultural Association from Alotau Urban, Alotau Urban LLG

2:40pm – **Waluma / Buluwagalagala culture group – present a re-enactment of the Kula Trade**

3:00pm – Modewa cultural group from Modewa village, Suau RLLG

3:20pm – presentation of the Circumnavigation crew led by Thor Jensen to festival

3:30pm – Isudau cultural group from Isudau village, Suau RLLG

4:00pm – Divinai Kahi Dancers from East Tawala, Huhu RLLG

4:30pm – Diri culture group from Top Town, Alotau

Evening

6:00pm - Live Stage Band entertainment

6:30pm – Highlight **Holimaeva Band** from Gulf Province

7:30pm - Auge cultural group Local String Power band

8:00pm - Buluwagalagala Local String Power Band from Bwanabwana RLLG, Samarai Murua District

8:30pm - Diri String Band from Top Town, Alotau District

9:00pm - Buluwagalagala Choir / Peroveta from Bwanabwana RLLG, Samarai Murua District

Morning – 05th Nov 2017

7:30am – Morning Devotion | praise and worship by YWAM | service led by Fr Dubabagi (Anglican Church)

8:00am – Sailing canoe race

8:30am – Koiduma cultural group from Wagohuhu village, Maramatana RLLG

9:00am – Dabora cultural group from Dabora village, Makamaka RLLG

9:30am – Pumani cultural group from Pumani village, Makamaka RLLG

10:00am – Goyabala cultural group from Dobu RLLG

10:30am – Mailu Island cultural group from Mailu Island, Abau, Central Province

11:00am – Buluwagalagala Ware cultural group from Bwanabwana RLLG, Samarai Murua District

11:30am - Tufi cultural group

Noon

12:00 midday – Live Stage Band entertainment

Afternoon

1:00pm – Maniaruwa cultural group Wadobuna village, Rabaraba, Weraura RLLG

1:30pm – Kweoma cultural group from Labai village, Kiriwina RLLG

2:00pm – Kanature cultural group from Kanature ward, Daga RLLG

2:30pm – Milne Bay Artists and Cultural Association from Alotau Urban, Alotau Urban LLG

3:00pm – Modewa cultural group from Modewa village, Suau RLLG

3:30pm – Isudau cultural group from Isudau village, Suau RLLG

4:00pm – Divinai Kahi Dancers from East Tawala, Huhu RLLG

4:30pm – Diri culture group from Top Town, Alotau

5:00pm – **Speech and video presentation by Thor Jensen at the Massim Museum, EMB**

Evening

6:00pm - Live Stage Band entertainment

6:30pm – Highlight **Holimaeta Band** from Gulf Province

7:30pm - Auge cultural group Local String Power band

8:30pm - Diri String Band from Top Town, Alotau District

9:00pm - Buluwagalagala Choir / Peroveta from Bwanabwana RLLG, Samarai Murua District