

24 Eruini Street
Waikanae
New Zealand
robbie_petterson@sil.org
22 November 2023

Executive Committee, Linguistic Society of New Zealand
<https://nzlingsoc.org/who-we-are/executive-committee/>

Dear members of the executive committee

Re: discussing possibility of a relationship between LSPNG and LingSocNZ

I am writing on behalf of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea, for which I am the Treasurer. The LSPNG Annual General Meeting (held in Ukarumpa, PNG in September this year) asked me to discuss with you the formation of some sort of relationship between our societies, given that we have common goals concerning linguistics and the languages of the Pacific, and, especially, because we need some help.

Our society has been around since 1967, and although it appears to have died after 1997, it was resurrected and has been active again for the last ten years. We have an online journal coming out each year since 2014, and our old printed publications from last century are also now all online at <https://www.langlxmlanesia.com>. The online journal was set up thanks to the efforts and expertise of our editor, Dr Olga Temple (of the University of PNG). However, in other areas, we, as an executive committee, lack the expertise required. In particular, as Treasurer, I am commissioned to approach you because of one of our biggest points of need – an efficient membership fee-paying system.

In brief, at the moment most of our members are based overseas and pay their fees either in cash (if they are in PNG for a conference), or via online banking to our account in Papua New Guinea (see <https://www.langlxmlanesia.com/joining-lspng>), but this doesn't work well, so most of us are not able to pay at all.

The reason our fee payments do not work, I think, is because we are based in a “third-world country” with a financial system that has risks, especially in a context of international money-laundering and corruption. The result is that some international financial payment systems charge exorbitant currency conversion fees, and others do not even recognise the PNG Kina as a destination currency. (New Zealand is exceptional, and the ANZ, for example, allows fee-less payments from NZD to PGK!) The PNG banking system itself is also unhelpful, frequently blocking access to our account for weeks or months after we make small mistakes (such as password mistypes, or forgetting to log in at least once a month), and they will not allow us to set up a Visa credit card payment system (such as LingSocNZ has) because they cannot see any evidence of any financial traffic to justify it (a catch-22 situation).

I will be attending the LingSocNZ conference in Auckland next week, and look forward to meeting some of you there, and hope we can discuss in person how some sort of relationship between our societies can be worked out, which, as our AGM hopes, will be to our mutual benefit.

Yours faithfully
Robbie Petterson (for LSPNG)

LingSocNZ Exec

Dr Julia de Bres J.deBres@massey.ac.nz (President)

Dr Tony Fisher A.Fisher@massey.ac.nz (Treasurer)

Dr Elaine Ballard e.ballard@auckland.ac.nz

Dr Julie Barbour julie.barbour@waikato.ac.nz

Dr Eleanor Ridge E.Ridge@massey.ac.nz

Dr Sasha Calhoun Sasha.Calhoun@vuw.ac.nz

Dr Lynn Clark lynn.clark@canterbury.ac.nz

Dr Simon Overall simon.overall@otago.ac.nz

Dr Victoria Chen victoria.chen@vuw.ac.nz

Dr Sydney GJ Wong

LSPNG Exec

President: Sakarepe Kamene (UPNG) kamesaka@upng.ac.pg

Secretary: Patricia Paraide (UPNG) patricia.paraide@upng.ac.pg
(replacing Ray Stegeman of SIL)

Treasurer: Robert Petterson (SIL) robbie_petterson@sil.org

Assistant Treasurer: Kipli Minol (UPNG) kminol@upng.ac.pg

LLM Editor: Olga Temple (UPNG) sttemple@upng.ac.pg

Ordinary member: Andreas Noreewec anoreewec@gmail.com

(The list on the website has not been updated yet.)