

# Pacific Islands Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland

[ PISUKI - formed in 1981 ]

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 14th November, 2020

Online, via Zoom

2pm (Waiting Room opens 1.45pm)

**THE Society's AGM this year, because of the Covid-19 restrictions, will be held online. The full AGM notice, with agenda, and other meeting papers will be e-mailed in advance of the meeting. This notice has been sent by post to those who have not provided a contact e-mail address.\* This e-mail is an abridged version: those attending the meeting should have the full notice to hand when joining us on Zoom.**

The AGM will be followed by

**A Keynote Address**

***Trends and Convergence in UK-Pacific Relations***

**To be given by**

**Ms Melanie Hopkins**

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**Melanie Hopkins** began her career as a management consultant before moving across to the Civil Service. With the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, she has undertaken postings to Turkey and Cuba, and to the UN, and has also been seconded to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In London, she headed the Australasia section of FCO and, in 2016, was appointed British High Commissioner to Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, and Tuvalu, and Head of the South Pacific Network - the first female to hold this role. She has two daughters, who have been transformed into 'ocean warriors' following their time in the Pacific. Ms Hopkins completed her tour as High Commissioner in Suva in August 2020.

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**Zoom Security.** We ask all members who are **planning to attend our first virtual AGM** to respond to this e-mail advising their **full names and e-mail addresses**. For **family memberships** wishing to attend, please list everyone who will be viewing from your device. This is important as not all e-mail addresses reflect your given name (first name and surname) and

many devices simply describe themselves as e.g. 'Jill's iPad' or 'Roger's PC' or even simply 'J' or 'Z'. This presents a problem for the Zoom host(s) (who may not know everyone by sight) especially if you choose not to share video, as it's not always easy for the host identify Zoomers when deciding whether or not to admit you via the Zoom Waiting Room. Thank you.

Having said that, I shall, as always (when we meet at in the Penthouse at New Zealand House, which has tight Security) prepare a **'Security List'** of those attending in alphabetical order by surname, which (in normal years) assists our Membership Secretary in chasing up subs for the current year, and which has proved very useful in other Zoom Meetings where a number of participants require admittance in short space of time. **A private link with instructions on how to join the Zoom AGM will be sent in advance of the meeting, to all who have expressed a wish to attend.**

**Restriction on Numbers.** This year, Council has decided to limit numbers at the AGM to paid-up Members + VIP guests invited by Council, which of course includes the London High Commissions. [This may be reviewed in the light of nos. accepting.]

If you receive this e-mail and you are NOT a member of the Society, you may be a lapsed member, who we feel might like to renew.

**Elections.** The terms of office of two **COUNCIL MEMBERS** expire this year: **Dr Michael Scott** (Solomon Islands) and **Ms Senimili Kamikamica** (Fiji) are both offering themselves for re-election. If you wish to nominate a candidate, please advise the Secretary by responding to this e-mail.

**Membership.** Please let us know if your contact details change, or if you would prefer not to be on our mailing list - or, indeed, if you know of anyone who would like to become a **Member of the Society**. New members are always welcome. Please consider renewing your Membership, if for some reason you've not paid a sub recently. This can most easily be done via the Membership Form. To view/download [a Membership application/Renewal form, please click here.](#)

\* **Note:** Inevitably there will be e-mail bounces from those who have forgotten to advise our **Membership Secretary, David Evans**, or the Secretary of their updated particulars. Please don't forget to let us have your new postal address if you have moved. As always in recent years, we will include Members whose e-mail addresses have bounced in our upcoming AGM postal mailing to **Members who are not on E-mail**/or have chosen not to share an e-mail address.

We welcome **Chevening and Commonwealth Scholars from the Pacific Island Nations currently in UK.** If you are in contact with members of this year's cohort, we'd be grateful if you could put them in touch with the Society, so that we may issue a personal invitation. As Members will know, they are Honorary Members of the Society whilst in UK.

Sorry to be rather long-winded, but virtual AGMs are a new experience for most of us. Any matters not addressed in this e-mail will be included in the next e-mail, which will also include some News Items.

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Meanwhile, I'm sure you'll all wish to join PISUKI's Chair and Council in congratulating our Fijian friends on the 50th Anniversary of Independence - celebrated on 10th October, with messages from HRH The Prince of Wales, the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, and many others prominent in the UK diaspora: YouTube video links below, kindly shared by the Fiji High Commission in London:

- FIJI50 HRH The Prince of Wales & Major General Eastman MBE - <https://youtu.be/zyenQehLkRY>
- FIJI50 Commonwealth & Trade - [https://youtu.be/YIT\\_7S5JEvg](https://youtu.be/YIT_7S5JEvg)
- FIJI50 VIP Celebration Messages - <https://youtu.be/eWG16GUE1ow>

Vinaka!

**Chris Luxton (Mrs) - Hon. Secretary** - *Landline: 020 7937 4159*

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