



Ghanaians Queensland

Ghana Australia Association of Queensland Inc.

Annual Report 2012-13

President's report

2013 has been another stepping stone year for Ghanaians Queensland as we continue to work towards revitalising the association. During the 2012-2013 term, our goals were to:

- increase the number of financial members
- increase the number and variety of activities held by the association
- increase the number of non-association activities, which the association participates
- become more visible within the African community and the wider community
- appoint a youth leader and develop our youth to be more active within the association
- commence a fundraising and sponsorship program to generate more funds.

This year, the association continued to grow in numbers. However, we didn't grow financial membership to our desired result. I urge everyone, new and old, to become financial members by paying their dues in order to allow the association to provide more free and subsidised events. The task of increasing financial membership has been challenging, which I hope the new Management Committee will continue to pursue.

In line with our goal of increasing activity numbers and variety, we introduced the Fun in the Park event and supported our Muslim community with their Eid al Fitr celebrations. We also continued the traditions of holding an end of year party and Independence Day celebration.

This year we also introduced Ghanaians Queensland merchandise as an initiative to raise funds. We were not able to appoint a youth leader and I encourage the new Management Committee to work towards this in the year ahead.

I would like to thank the Management Committee and Ex-Officio members for their service this year. My thanks also to the community for their support during the year, and the various people who in one way or the other contributed to making the events we have held this year a success.

I have enjoyed being part of the Management Committee over the last two years as Community Relations Officer and then President. Although I will not be contesting for a Management Committee position in the coming term, I will continue to support the association in any capacity I can.

Amma Ahenkorah

Community communication

Communications

We updated our contact database for community members to make sure everyone's details were up to date. This has helped our email and SMS messages reach as many people in the community as possible. We didn't send out as many *Talking Drum* community updates as we could have. There is still a community need and request for general news and activities in the community, including births, graduations and celebrations. The appointment of a Community Relations Officer dedicated to sourcing and sharing community news will be a good way of engaging the Ghana diaspora.

Facebook

Our Facebook page continued to be the most active communication platform for the community online, with our friends growing to 427, increasing by over 100 this year. It continues to be a great way to engage young members of the community and share news, pictures and videos about activities in Queensland and back in Ghana.

Supporting the community

Supporting students

With many of our international students out here on their own, we supported our graduating students with Management Committee members attending ceremonies to cheer on and honour their achievements. Representatives from the association joined Ghana's Deputy High Commissioner in witnessing the graduation ceremony of Ghanaian students at Griffith University. We also welcomed and supported study groups from Ghana throughout the year, including holding welcoming and farewell BBQs.

Football team support

The Ghana football team continues to represent our community well. The team participated in several tournaments, including the Refugee Day Festival Football Tournament and the African Football Association tournament. They also turned up to participate in the Fun in the Park activity during Easter. There is an opportunity to more widely promote the games of the football team to ensure more people in the community turn up to cheer them on.

Events and activities

Independence Day Celebrations

In line with our goal of increasing activity numbers and variety, we held our first ever Independence Day Concert. It featured renowned Ghanaian artist Afro-Moses. It was well attended not only by the Ghana Community but by the wider African community and was a fantastic way of celebrating Ghana's National Day.

Fun in the Park

We also introduced Fun in the Park as an event to coincide with Easter. This event was also well attended by the community. The volleyball and football activities kept both young and old active in a successful event.

Africa Day Festival

Once again we took part in the annual Africa Day Festival and used it as a platform for our goal of increasing the association's visibility. At the festival, we launched our association merchandise, including craft items directly from Ghana and Ghanaians Queensland T-shirts. There has been a good response to the merchandise, allowing us to raise funds for the association. Ghana was the only African association to hold both a country stall and a food stall, with our Jollof and groundnut soup selling out at the Ghana Chop Bar. Many in the community turned out to support the food stall and also provide a Ghanaian presence at the event.

Republic Day Picnic

We celebrated Ghana's Republic Day with The Republic Day Picnic, which was attended by the Ghana Deputy High Commissioner.

Eid al Fitr

In August the management committee and some members of the community joined our Muslim brothers and sisters in Eid al Fitr celebrations which marked the end of Ramadan. This was a major step in recognising the Muslim members of our community.

Community representation

We held meetings with the Ghana Deputy High Commissioner in July. Management Committee members also attended meetings and events to represent the Association and the Ghana community at formal events, including the *I Am Here* theatre opening night, African Women's Dinner and the Young African Australian Star Awards.

Administration

Management Committee

The Management Committee met three times during this term to plan activities and discuss community issues. This was in addition to regular email and phone discussion about association and community matters.

Association membership

One of the major challenges we faced again this year, as with all other years is collecting membership dues. Our association relies on financial contribution from members to keep it running. We use the money to pay for administrative bills like our website hosting, post office box and bank fees, among others. There will need to be more proactive effort by the next management committee to encourage membership.

Opportunities for the future

Establishing a Ghanaians Youth Group

We identified this opportunity last year to establish a Ghanaians Queensland Youth Group. Unfortunately, we did not implement it this year. It is still a worthwhile and needed initiative that we should pursue in 2014. This will ensure we are engaging the large youth population in the community.

Financial Statement 2012-13

		Notes
Financial Position (Sep 2012)	\$2,911.92	a
Overall income	\$6,404.20	
Overall expenditure	\$7,717.73	
Overall loss	-\$1,313.53	
Cash at bank as at 26/10/13	\$5,026.08	
Funds to be reimbursed (See note 1)	\$2,992.03	b
Current financial position (Oct 2013)	\$2,034.05	
Net loss	-\$877.87	c
End of year celebrations		
Income	\$1,815.98	
Expenditure	\$1,353.75	
Independence		
Income	\$3,119.52	
Expenditure	\$3,571.15	
Fun in the Park		
Income	\$0.00	
Expenditure	\$335.28	
Africa Day Festival		
Income	\$858.70	
Expenditure	\$1,565.89	
Republic Day		
Income	\$140.00	
Expenditure	\$379.81	
Administration/miscellaneous		
Income (membership dues)	\$470.00	
Expenditure	\$511.85	d

Notes

- A. This was our current financial position at the time of the our last Annual General Meeting
- B. This is money spent by Management Committee members for association events that require reimbursement.
- C. Part of the net loss is due to the money expended on creating the Ghanaians Queensland merchandise. Sale of the remaining merchandise will generate funds for the association next year
- D. This expenditure includes the 2012 AGM expenditure, African House hire for the Eid al Fitr celebrations.